

January 2021



# New Year Special NEWSLETTER

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

## From the Editor

By Colin Sully

Happy New Year... from everyone at The Lee's favourite newsletter. We made a resolution (before Christmas) that, because 2020 was such an extraordinary year, what better way to start the new year than with an extra edition. We don't normally produce a January edition – in fact we've never produced one, because of the difficulties in getting it written, edited, set, printed and distributed during the festive season, but this year we thought "What the heck?" Our thanks go especially to our loyal band of distributors for fitting in this extra edition.

Before leaving 2020 behind us, thanks must go to Phil Harrison, the Hartleys (for the idea of lighting the well) and all readers who took steps to brighten up the year end. Our centre pages pay tribute to them this month.

The start of 2021 also marks the start of the Newsletter's 20<sup>th</sup> year of publication – let's all hope there will be plenty that is cheerful to report this year, and that we will be able to enjoy all the things we missed last year.

Sadly, there are still few events definitely planned for the new year in The Lee, but there are some green shoots of recovery beginning to emerge. (*Now, where have I heard that before?*)

A warning! Our readers have quite a lot to say this month about HS2, so those of a nervous disposition may wish to avoid pages 17 to 22.

We resume our normal programme of publications in February, when Liz Macann will be the editor. Please submit your letters, comments, articles and pictures by 12<sup>th</sup> January to [theleeneletter@gmail.com](mailto:theleeneletter@gmail.com)

## Your letters

### A dog's life!

To the Editor

Hello villagers and fellow walkers, you may have noticed that Tarquin has not made any contributions recently. Sadly he has been wounded in action and it falls to me, his roomie, to tell the tale...



There we were, gambolling around the Park when a good-looking fellow rushed up to join us. To play we thought!! Whereupon he suddenly

turned nasty for no reason at all and within seconds Tarq was on the ground with this brute snarling and worrying at his neck. Well obvs I kept well back, no point in two of us getting beaten up, but our Person launched herself straight in (the Other Person didn't) and hauled old Tarquers out. The exchange that followed was brief but angry, and centred largely around the absence of muzzles, training and leads. We needed to get home and tend to Tarquin's injuries, which truthfully were mostly, though not entirely, his pride. He was very shaken up – well we all were. Totally spoil the morning!

Now here's the thing. We families of recent victims have done a tail count, and reckon there are now SIX dogs out there who cannot be trusted to socialise nicely and whose People don't/won't use any means at all to

prevent upset and mishap other than to raise their voice and hope that that will interrupt their dogs' full-on aggression. We don't want to see these characters in the distance or dread turning a corner to find them heading our way without restraint. We respectfully ask that the People concerned either walk their dogs on very long leads or put a muzzle on them whilst out and about.

Tarquin, I am sure, will be back soon; meanwhile he is making the most of his invalid status and getting extra biscuits.

Jinty

Lee Common

*[Editor's Note: A dog is 'dangerously out of control' if it injures someone or makes someone worried that it might injure them. A court could also decide that your dog is dangerously out of control if it attacks someone's animal or the owner of an animal thinks they could be injured if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal.*  
[www.gov.uk/control-dog-public](http://www.gov.uk/control-dog-public)]

## Santa's visit

To the Editor

Following his flying visit to Lee Common and The Lee on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> December (see page 11) Santa sent the following message to the Newsletter.

*"To see so many residents and children of Lee Common and The Lee was outstanding.*

*It was also very enjoyable from my perspective; the children were brilliant and to see the enjoyment and wonder on their faces when they see Santa was worth all the effort, it always is. I am so glad I was able to visit you."*

I can tell you that Santa enjoyed himself as well.

Phil Harrison

Lee Common

## FOR ALL YOUR PEST CONTROL NEEDS...

### VERMINATOR UK

- Wasps
- Rats & Mice
- Squirrels
- All flying and crawling insects
- Solar panel proofing against pigeons also undertaken



**THEY WON'T BE BACK**

**Call Tim Simmons  
THE VERMINATOR**

**07734 649305  
0808 1972 730**

verminatoruk.com | info@verminator.com

## Kissing Gates

To the Editor

During the lockdown we have discovered numerous new walks around the area. There are those with old-style stiles, wooden kissing gates and modern metal ones. Some of the earlier gates have memorial messages, some have signs from the Rambler's Associations and a large number have the names 'John and Jan Bradley'.



I have asked a number of people for information on the Bradleys to no avail. Maybe one of the Newsletter's readers could provide the missing information. Who are they, where do they live, why have they given us so many gates, did they choose which gates to sponsor and if so why?

More questions than answers.  
Typically Covid!  
Jessica Harrison  
Lee Common

## Meet and greet!

By Becky and Taj

It is so lovely to get an opportunity to contribute a "Meet and Greet" to the Lee Newsletter. My husband, Taj, and I have been bowled over by the warm welcome we have had in Lee Common. It is fair to say that we know more of our neighbours now, having lived in Lee Common for a few months than we ever knew in London!

Taj and I moved to Bugle Cottage from South East London in August with Maya, our daughter (who was then six weeks old). While we don't have family in the area, we were looking for more countryside and to be closer to both Taj's family in Watford and mine in Devon. Lee Common has been the perfect landing place for us.

We have loved being able to head off on walks straight from our front door and Taj has even started trail running. I have been able to get back into horse-riding – definitely an easier hobby to have here than in London.

We are so excited for all the village events that we have heard so much about and the time when we can invite people in for a drink or coffee without lockdowns getting in the way. We feel so lucky to have landed in a village with such amazing community spirit!

### Play like your heroes: rock, blues, slide and folk



Electric guitar and bass, plus  
acoustic guitar:  
lessons in your own home

Introductory lesson free:  
teenage, mature or senior

No need to read music, we use  
tablature – much simpler!

**Call Marcus on  
01494 837392 or 07841 670174**

# Forum Freda

## The Forum in numbers

The Lee Forum 2020 has now been running for a year, so Freda thought you might be interested in some statistics:

- There are over 600 members of The Lee Forum 2020, of whom 52% live within The Lee parish and a further 43% live in neighbouring villages.
- 333 people receive an email notification each time a new topic is started, of whom over two hundred also receive an email notification every time a reply is posted to a topic. Like listening to the radio it may feel as though remarks are addressed directly to you, but in fact Big Brother in the shape of your neighbours is watching!



### 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](mailto:info@abbeyfieldgreatmissenden.co.uk)

Find out more on our website

[www.abbeyfield.com](http://www.abbeyfield.com)

- The vast majority of the posts (33%) relate to items Wanted or For Sale. The next most frequent posts are Miscellaneous posts at 27%, with Can You Recommend at 10%. A full breakdown can be found at [www.thelee.org.uk/the-lee-forum/](http://www.thelee.org.uk/the-lee-forum/)

## I've got my blue jeans on

Although applications from Lee in London have more or less dried up, one was received recently from Wichita in Kansas; the reason for this is unclear as, not altogether surprisingly, Freda didn't get a response to the note enquiring as to what connection the applicant had with the village – so the assumption is that it has something to do with Wichita being the home of Lee Jeans.

Applications are starting to come in from people outside the immediate local area who seem to think that the forum is dedicated to HS2 news. In fact, posts on HS2 make up only 5% of the total.

## To post or not to post?

If you aren't quite sure whether or not a post is suitable for The Lee Forum 2020, please email [admin@thelee.org.uk](mailto:admin@thelee.org.uk) to check before posting. Freda's elves and moderators are always very happy to offer advice; they would far rather do so than have to contact the poster and remove/edit unsuitable posts after the event.

## A picture is worth 1,000 words

Last month's item on uploading pictures prompted further discussion and investigation, so here are some more tips:

### iPhone/iPad:

- At the point in the forum post where you want to **Upload Files** click on **Choose file**
- Pick the picture you want (presumably from **Photo Library**) ... but before you hit **Done** you

should get the option at the bottom of the screen to **Choose Image size**.

- Choose **Small**, then click **Done**

#### Windows PC/laptop:

- In Microsoft Photos, select the photo and click the three small dots at the top right to get a menu of options
- Choose **Resize**
- Click **Best for emails...messages**
- Save the resized photo and upload that rather than the original

### Privacy and security

All at The Lee Forum 2020 are very concerned about privacy, and protecting the security of the information posted to the forum. We vet applications, and ensure that you can't stay logged in for an extended period, to ensure that people can post their contact details for items wanted, for sale, lost, found etc. safe in the knowledge that they won't be seen outside our community.

We very much want to continue with this approach, but would ask that you:

- only post contact details for yourself, or details for others that are already in the public domain (for example for recommendations)
- do not forward notification mails containing personal information or contact details to anyone not a member of the forum
- do not post screenshots of forum posts containing personal information or contact details on any social media

*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](mailto:admin@thelee.org.uk) giving details of the problem. To join the forum, please fill out the application form at [www.thelee.org.uk/new-user/](http://www.thelee.org.uk/new-user/)*

# What a year!

By Symeon Economou



I must confess I am finding it hard to sum up 2020 on behalf of Shop at The Lee.

For obvious reasons there were quite a few lows, but also some inspiring highs. Being a 'cup half full' person, the lows are quickly forgotten



## Domestic & Commercial Electricians

For all your electrical needs

- ✓ Fault Finding & Repair
- ✓ Testing & Maintenance
- ✓ Extra Sockets & Lights
- ✓ Vehicle Charging Points
- ✓ Periodic Condition Reports

**Fully qualified & insured**

Call - 01628 522888  
[electrical@bpsltd.co.uk](mailto:electrical@bpsltd.co.uk)



but the highs will stay in my memory for a long time.

Amazing support from the 'old guard' volunteers and incredible cover from a new, younger, cohort who stepped up just when they were needed, many of whom do so much more than serving behind the counter. We had seamless supply from our trusted faithfuls – Kings Farm, Darvells, Martin the Milkman – and continuing faith and trust from our loyal customers, old and new.

One heart-warming event has been the introduction of a collection bin for the Chiltern Foodbank – the speed at which it fills to the brim is testament to the good folk of The Lee (in its broad geographical sense).

At the time of writing we are girding our loins for Christmas Eve, when we will be supplying a vast array of produce to over 60 customers. We will miss the usual bazaar-like hubbub due to the need to maintain social distancing, but the spirit will be just the same as always.

With sales unsurprisingly high we have used some of the surplus to smarten up the shop inside and out and, early in January, we will take delivery of some new energy efficient units which we hope to fill with the stuff you like to buy.

The shop committee is already discussing what we can do when we

can all come out to play again – I feel a pop-up restaurant coming on...

In the meantime, I have the privilege, on behalf of everyone involved with Shop at The Lee, of wishing all of our customers a bright, social distancing free and happy New Year.

## Rewilding project

By Judy Hart

**O**n a lovely sunny winter's morning, 27 volunteers gathered together to plant 100 metres of native hedging in one of our fields at Swan Bottom. The volunteers were a mixture of locals and a few who came with the Chiltern Rangers. It is amazing how quickly the work can be done with many hands. We all got stuck in and the 600 whips were planted and protected in the space of a couple of hours. Many thanks must go to all the volunteers for their hard work. The flints certainly didn't help!



The hedge is part of a larger project whose aim is to increase the biodiversity on the land. The next part of the project will hopefully take place in the new year when the Woodland Trust will plant about eight acres of native woodland.

The fields have all got public footpaths running through them, so please feel free to come and admire our handiwork and watch it grow in the future.

### 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

# Decorated with love and hope

By Pippa Hart



The tree outside the Shop at The Lee was decorated with the help of the pupils at Lee Common School, with their own specially designed baubles and messages of love and hope. In this season of giving gifts were offered, not at the manger, but for the Chiltern Foodbank.



# 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

# Happy birthday

By Peter Macann

The lovely big smile of Clare Chilton got even bigger last month. It was her birthday. Not only that, it was a landmark birthday.



As soon as the village community got wind of the fact that the great day was impending they wanted to contribute something to mark the event. A great many people filled up several birthday cards with all their good wishes and some sent individual cards. The shop also put together a

## 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.

hamper – including a celebratory Prosecco of course – and others sent presents including a plant, a scented candle, a home made cake and lots of balloons. It was just a small token of the warm feelings we all have for this popular, long-time villager with whom we are so familiar as she speeds up and down the road on her electric buggy.

Talking of which, she also received some bright head and tail lights for the buggy – so no excuse to not notice her on the road after dark. We just have to hope she is not gallivanting around under the influence of that Prosecco! If so... WATCH OUT!

## Bridge too far?

By Liz Ford et al

Here is a recent hand we played online, that challenged East-West to find the best game contract.

♠ K J 9 5 3

♥ 5

♦ K 3 2

♣ J 9 4 2

♠ 7

♥ 10 8 6

♦ 10 4

♣ A K Q 8 7 6 5

♠ A 10 6 4

♥ A Q J 4 3

♦ A Q J

♣ 10

♠ Q 8 2

♥ K 9 7 2

♦ 9 8 7 6 5

♣ 3

Dealer: West

Vulnerability: N-S

At our table the bidding started:

W N E S

3♣ p ?

How would you bid on and what contract do you end up in? See page 10.

# My Scout life

By Tom Brockett

*[Editor's note: This is the second part of Tom's recollections of some highlights of leading the Scouts, and the impact on him.]*

I introduced our first female Scout into the section and now, on leaving, the section is 50:50 girls and boys, which is fantastic as it gets the equality value into the section. Numbers have been built up to the highest they have ever been with 30 Scouts in the section. For a small village we are punching well above our weight for our catchment area.

## German Jamboree

Six Scouts were taken on a Jamboree adventure to Germany – a first for Lee Common to adventure abroad. I have to thank Del Jones for helping me achieve that dream. That adventure started the previous year, in 2016, when we met a German Scout troop in the Gower and I grabbed the opportunity to get their leader's email address to establish a link.

## Gold Award

Five Scouts progressed to achieving their Chief Scout Gold award, the highest, in the section, one can complete that allows Scouts to broaden their horizons in all aspects of life.

## Visits and adventures

A tour around the King's Troop, Royal Horse Artillery barracks in Woolwich was hugely enjoyed. It is very hard to get permission for this tour but my dad's links with the troop paid dividends with this adventure.

We won the first running of the Endurance 80 hiking competition



beating a team from Birmingham. We also won the Grimsdyke Hike orienteering competition one year.

Included in the programme that was offered to the Scouts was bringing in guest speakers, visiting Aylesbury police station where a Scout was invested, visiting Chesham Fire Station, where more Scouts were invested. Allowing Scouts to have a taste of driving under the supervision of driving instructor, Ed Boakes, within the safety of the car park. A mechanical evening studying car engine parts for the mechanical badge. A 24-hour camp locally, sleep overs in the Scout hut, practising skinning rabbits and much more.

My belief was not to plaster Scouts in as many badges as possible, but to give them memories, fun, stories they can talk about when they reach adulthood, life skills and confidence. Giving them freedom to explore their



# KINGSHILL

CARS FOR ALL OCCASIONS



**CHILTERNS**



**AIRPORTS**



**LONDON**

**01494 868699**

Email: [bookings@kingshillcars.co.uk](mailto:bookings@kingshillcars.co.uk)

interests and skills within a safe environment that had boundaries and not getting overconfident. To me that was more important as I had suffered from a bad school life as a result of being verbally bullied. The importance of increasing self-confidence really related to me because of my school life.



## Life changing experience

A story that will always stick with me is when one year, on Scout camp, I had a Scout with a fear of water and the dark. With words of encouragement and confidence building throughout the week, including a day out as a group in some caves on a boat taking this Scout outside their comfort zone, we managed to cure his fear. By the end of camp, we couldn't get him out of a kayak. That story sums up the importance of what Scouting does to help children.

*[The final part of Tom's tale of Scouting will appear in the next edition. Ed.]*

## Bridge too far?

**E**ast could bid 3♥ (showing a strong hand, with 5 card major and forcing to game). 5♣ then looks a tempting contract which makes, even with a heart lead. 4♥ also makes and achieves a higher score.

# Services in January

**P**lans for church services will be subject to review in line with Government guidelines at the time the services are due to be held. Please keep an eye on The Lee Forum for up-to-date news nearer the time.

## St John the Baptist, The Lee

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Revd Chris Haywood as our new vicar. He is expected to join us in Spring 2021. The full news story can be found online at <https://www.achurchnearyou.com/church/6002/news/31553/new-vicar-appointed/>

Revd Chris Haywood gave a reading, a short talk and the blessing at the online carol service for all four parishes.

We are always available via [churchall4@gmail.com](mailto: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). *Verger:* Bill Pearce (01494 785191). *Treasurer:* David Stephenson (01494 867617).

## Lee Common Methodist

3 <sup>rd</sup> 10:00am	Gerald Tomkins
17 <sup>th</sup> 3:00pm	Annual Covenant
	Revd Nigel Wright

If you would like to join us please telephone Gerald or Marian Tomkins on 83479. Masks will have to be worn and social distancing maintained. Sadly, we will not be allowed to sing but we hope to listen to some hymns.

We wish one and all a better 2021!

## St Mary's Ballinger

3 <sup>rd</sup> 9:30am	Format tbc
------------------------	------------

Contact Anne Ellis to book (837247).

# Bright-Lee



By Phil Harrison

As we waved a farewell to 2020, the village residents set out to brighten up the area with Christmas lights.

Oxford Street was awash with light, as many homes dug out long forgotten strings or hung newly purchased chains of multicolours.

Crocketts Lane became a veritable feast of gaily lit eaves, hedges, bushes, trees and fences. The Jubilee Well, decorated by the Parish Council, subtly outlined the wellhead in festive illuminations for the first time. Talking of firsts, the school was beautifully lit up along the eaves and with curtain like drapes of lights in the windows facing the playground. The Parish Hall had tumbling snowflakes

projected onto its walls, and the oak on the green was sparkling with a moving multitude of fireflies up the trunk and in the branches.

Walking around the community, there were bushes looking like Christmas puddings, reindeer on doorsteps, windows twinkling in the early evening darkness, cheery Santas beaming out at one and all, and trees garlanded in joy.

We can safely say that we truly thumbed our noses at 2020, and were very Bright-Lee. With lighting, for the first time, of the well, the school, the parish hall and the oak on the green a new tradition may have been born. Appropriate since it was a bright star in the east that gave birth to what we know as Christmas.







# The Lee Parish Council news

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

## Vehicle speed indicators

**A**s Cllr Birchley reports on page 16, bids have been made for a feasibility study to install vehicle activated speed warning signs at several places on Rocky Lane / Chesham Lane / Swan Bottom. It is hoped that a decision will be made on this early in the New Year.

## Planning applications

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2021, for a trial period of three months, the Parish Council will be posting notices to The Lee Forum summarising all planning applications for which it receives notice. Full details will continue to be available on the Buckinghamshire Council Planning website.

Please note, applications will only be visible on the forum to residents of The Lee parish; it will not be possible to post comments or express views on the applications on the forum.

## Parking at night

An increasing number of vehicles are parking at night on our unlit roads. A reminder that the Highway Code clearly states:

- On all roads, vehicles **MUST NOT** be parked facing against the direction of travel.
- On roads with a limit greater than 30 mph (which includes the whole of Chesham Lane through Swan Bottom and Lee Gate), all vehicles **MUST** display parking lights when parked on the road at night.

## Fly-tipping

Buckinghamshire Council have put up several 'No tipping' signs in the

area, at what are known in the trade as 'grot spots'. Of course, the danger is that those with waste to tip will simply move on to another spot. The quicker tipping is reported, the sooner the authority may be able to take legal action (as well as removing the waste). You can report fly-tipping at <https://fixmystreet.buckscc.gov.uk/>

## The Lee website and Forum

By the time you read this, we should be about to migrate The Lee website and Forum onto a new, more cost-effective platform. From a user's perspective, nothing should change, and service should remain unaffected, except for a short downtime on the day of transfer. All our fingers are crossed!

## Waste bin collection dates

Residents are invited to download their new recycling and waste calendars from [www.chiltern.gov.uk/collection-dates](http://www.chiltern.gov.uk/collection-dates) The calendars last only

# Cromar Carpets Ltd

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

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

until the spring, when new collection vehicles are being introduced and changes to services may be made. Printed copies are available on request by calling 01494 586550.

### Returning Covid tests by post

We have been asked to remind residents that anyone returning a Covid test sample by post should use a 'Priority Postbox' with an NHS sticker on it. The one by Shop at The Lee is that recommended, with others nearby at the old Post Office in South Heath and the Post Office in Great Missenden. The post boxes at Swan Bottom, by the Jubilee Well, at Sly Corner and outside the Guild Room opposite the War Memorial are NOT 'Priority Postboxes'.

Finally, on behalf of The Lee Parish Council, I wish all residents a healthy and happy New Year. Stay safe.

## 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](mailto:lowerbassibones@yahoo.co.uk)

# From the County



By Patricia Birchley

**W**hilst Buckinghamshire Council continues to oppose the HS2 project, I recently sought better communications between the Council, HS2 Ltd and its contractors, and your locally elected representatives. There have been too many cases recently when we found out locally far too late about new developments e.g. the proposed new A413 roundabout at Little Missenden, the additional Great Missenden compound and the use of Potter Row and Kings Lane. The Council has confirmed that it will strengthen the team who support us as councillors in the New Year. Our thanks meanwhile to The Lee Parish Council, which is doing a magnificent job by helping us all to hold HS2 to account.

## Local roads

Through the Chesham Community Board, the hilltop villages indicated that speeding on our rural roads is a current problem. Working through the Parish Council we are submitting a bid for a feasibility study to install vehicle activated warning signs on Chesham Lane and Chartridge Lane, possibly two in the parish and one further on in Chartridge. The Police have monitored speed recently in Chesham and found people speeding in their own road!

I have also asked twice for a new 30 mph limit in Kings Lane to curtail the speed of HS2 vehicles.

Jane MacBean and Nick Rose, both of whom sit on the East Buckinghamshire Planning Committee, continue to take a keen interest in the developments at Kingsgate Farm, which

propose six separate plots each with a 10,000 sq ft agricultural building.

Best wishes for a much better New Year as the vaccine reduces the virus and we can resume our normal lives! You can contact me by email at [patricia.birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:patricia.birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) or on 07714 704017.

## Saving Kings Lane

By Rita Ruttle

**I**ts quite a shock to see yourself on page two of the Sunday Times – a very cross old lady in a funny hat (yes, well...)



I was walking along Kings Lane, towards the supposedly temporary HS2 compound, when I was suddenly aware of a huge gap on the horizon. The magnificent 300 year-old oak tree had gone and a small group of people had gathered by the compound. Feelings of shock, rage, confusion and sadness swept over me as I made my way to the remains of the tree, which was not anywhere near the route of HS2. Challenged by the orange-clad security guards, who threatened me with arrest, twice, I continued to the tree. As they moved towards me I loudly pointed out that they, not I, were the trespassers, as HS2 had not

yet paid the farmers whose land they were on. According to their works notice, the ‘temporary’ compound was for access to their archaeological dig, but not to fell and clear Grim’s Ditch. The felling of the old oak appeared also to have been simply to ease access. (Part of the tree trunk still remained in situ at the year-end.)

Unbeknown to me I had been photographed by a professional, who later asked permission to submit it to the press. I gladly gave consent, and shared commiserations with her over the loss of Grim’s Ditch, the untimely netting of badgers, the threat to rare bats roosting in Jones Hill Wood and the blocking of nearby owl boxes.

### The reality of HS2 in the AONB

I am privileged to live in Kings Lane, loving the natural beauty and tranquillity of this ‘quiet lane’ in an area of AONB and have watched HS2

## Quality Building & Renovation Projects

Based locally, PVE Construction are well known for providing high quality work throughout the Chilterns and surrounding areas.

We specialise in both residential and commercial projects offering a wide range of services from individual home improvements to complete new build management.

Call us on **07771 863880** or visit us at [www.pveconstruction.co.uk](http://www.pveconstruction.co.uk)



**Professional Reliable Trusted**

move in with horror. This ancient narrow lane, with its thick hedged verges, wild flowers and bluebell woods is used by walkers, cyclists, horse riders and farmers in safety... until now. Sadly it is now a muddy quagmire, made dangerous to use due to the speed of heavy duty HS2 traffic, including lorries carrying wood chippings from Grim's Ditch and huge low-loaders for transporting heavy equipment during the day, and other HS2 traffic through the night.

While accepting the reality of HS2, it is shocking to me that the company has such absolute power, running roughshod along the whole route to Birmingham. It's no longer about 'the big battle' but a battle with them to keep their assurance, given to the House of Lords Select Committee, that they will not use lanes of our hilltop villages for their construction work.

HOME REARED MEATS  
LOCAL PRODUCE  
& HOME COOKED FOOD



Reopening  
12<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Chequers Estate | HP17 0UT  
SHOP Tues - Fri 10 - 6 & Sat - Sun 10 - 4  
KITCHEN Fri - Sun 10 - 4

[www.buckmoorendfarm.co.uk](http://www.buckmoorendfarm.co.uk)

Too late for Grim's Ditch and the ancient oak, but with their reputation of not keeping their word I fear for our lanes. Construction work is very soon coming our way.

So, in the footsteps of King Edward III who is reputed to have used the lanes, I am politely asking, pleading, with all you local peasants to unite, to weather the storm of HS2, to save our lanes. Bombard the County Council with letters and emails, write to your MP. Let's do all we can to win this small but very important battle.

*P.S. Edward III ruled for 50 years (1327-1377). A successful ruler, founder of The Order of The Garter. Surely a good King? I think he would be sympathetic to our fight!*

## What price for twenty minutes?

By Johanna Free

**D**uring the first lockdown Kings Lane and the surrounding footpaths were a real solace for me. Red kites, lapwings and skylarks flew overhead and the deer watched me nervously in the fields. But what a difference a few months make. HS2 moved in with its lorries, security vans, dog patrols and orange clad 'worker ants'. Durham Farm was transformed into a compound with ultra strong spotlights that shone directly into our house. A beautiful oak tree cut down and a wood sheltering a section of Grim's Ditch reduced to jagged stumps. Even my garden fence with its anti-HS2 signs was photographed by the security team.

What has happened to this beautiful lane; what kind of environmental carnage has happened here?

I can no longer walk down this lane with the same joy again. It has been desecrated and defiled and for what?



Twenty minutes... twenty minutes!! Is a reduction in a journey time from Birmingham to London worth all of this? Of course not and this sorry story is all along the line from Camden to Birmingham, with people living on top of a building site, and many homes and woods reduced to nothing.

Is this the price for progress? Sadly yes and, by the way, at this rate HS2 will cost more than the International Space Station. What madness!

## HS2 across the Chilterns AONB

By the Chiltern Society

**O**n 23<sup>rd</sup> January between 10:30 am and 12:00 noon, the Chiltern Society is hosting a free online presentation and discussion of the impact HS2 is having on the Chilterns.

Using a mixture of maps, pictures, visualisations and aerial photographs the talk will show the impact at a number of locations across the Colne Valley Regional Park and the Chilterns AONB.

The talk will last for about 60 minutes with plenty of time for questions and discussion. This is the first of a series of updates which will

regularly show the impact as construction continues.

Keith Hoffmeister has been photographing the route ever since the plans were first revealed in 2010. He was also instrumental in establishing an [HS2 Photo Diary](#) which was recently launched on the Society's website.

Further details on how to register can be found on the website at [www.chilternsociety.org.uk](http://www.chilternsociety.org.uk)



*High Speed Line*

### **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](mailto:mersu@btinternet.com)

# HS2 update

By Colin Sully, The Lee Parish Council

**T**he main local concern about HS2, before the break, was the increasing use of hill-top lanes by HS2 contractors. Thank you to everyone who has written to or emailed our MP, the Minister, HS2 Ltd, Bucks Council, etc... it all helps (we think).



*HS2 on Potter Row*

County and Parish councillors met several times with HS2 Ltd and Fusion JV in December to discuss this issue. We made little progress in agreeing that these lanes should not be used at all for construction.

However, the concerns that we and residents have expressed have been noted and some reduction in the

## 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

use of Potter Row and Kings Lane can now be expected.

## Assurances given after AP4

The assurances given by HS2 Ltd after the House of Lords Select Committee hearings on AP4, about not using these lanes for construction, are seen by HS2 Ltd as only applying to the changes brought about by AP4 and therefore still allow them to use the lanes for 'other works'. Our view is that the AP4 changes included the introduction of the internal haul road, as well as the extension to the tunnel, and that it is in this context that the assurance needs to be seen i.e. construction traffic should be confined to the A413, B485 and the bottom part of Rocky Lane.

HS2 Ltd continue to maintain that they can, in theory, use any road they wish, subject to limits on Large Goods Vehicle (LGV) movements per day (24 each way) and that they have assessed that their usage does not lead to 'significant adverse impacts'. Our argument is that whilst 24 LGV movements per day may be a sensible limit on a modern two-lane highway, it is totally inappropriate on Kings Lane, where the road is unsuitable for any significant number of LGVs.

Having already lodged a formal complaint with HS2 Enquiries and our MP on this issue, the Parish Council has now registered the same complaint with the HS2 Construction Commissioner (see below).

## Overall traffic concerns

The other big local issue at the moment is the discovery that the volume of HS2 traffic predicted to be using the A413 during 2021-2023 is likely to be far greater than that envisaged at the time of the Bill. The reason for this is that no construction

traffic will now be arriving / departing our area from / to the north on the A413; it will all be coming / going from / to the south. Furthermore, the same applies to the construction sites at Wendover (south), Wendover (north) and Stoke Mandeville. This has come as a shock to local Parish Councils and we pressed our concerns with the Commissioners when we met them. We will be presenting our concerns again with HS2 Ltd in early January and will report more fully next month.

### HS2 Commissioners meeting

Local Parish Council and County councillors met with the HS2 Construction and Residents Commissioners in December to present a list of local complaints. The Lee presented on the inadequacies of the Local Traffic Management Plan and on the use of hill-top lanes. Other parishes presented on the proposed new Little Missenden roundabout, the Great Missenden Haul Road Compound, Jones Hill Wood and compensation payments. The two Commissioners appeared to understand and be receptive to the local concerns and will now feed them back to HS2 Ltd's senior management.

### Goodbye Grim's Ditch



*Grim's Ditch (before)*

Local resident Karl Neilson has produced a beautiful and moving picture of Grim's Ditch before and after HS2 got to work on it. You will find the video at [https://youtu.be/0y5u3jM8t\\_c](https://youtu.be/0y5u3jM8t_c)

### Forward programme

In December, Fusion JV also announced their local plans for the early part of 2021, which include:

- The Grim's ditch de-vegetation work will be demobilised, with no further removal of soil or 'tree arisings'.



*Grim's Ditch (after)*

- A 'bat house', will be built near Potter Row, and will be accessed using the internal haul road.

### 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](mailto:jason@jbrownfuneralservices.co.uk)



Recommended by  
The Good Funeral Guide

- Further archaeological surveys will use the internal haul road and, to a limited extent, other access points on Potter Row and Kings Lane, using light vehicles.
- Archaeological digs will continue at the Kings Lane compound, without excavated material leaving the site.
- A programme of work to prepare ground to receive tree planting near Jones Hill Wood will use the lower part of Bowood Lane for access.

### Local update – online?

As well as the Chiltern Society presentation (see page 19), the Parish Council is also planning to hold an online presentation soon, to update local residents on HS2 plans. Further details will appear in the Newsletter in due course.

## Pippa Hart Photography



Natural & Informal  
Black & White  
Portraits

01494 837340  
[www.pippahart.com](http://www.pippahart.com)

## Dear Diary

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

## January 2021

*Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup>. The Lee Parish Council Meeting.* 7:30 pm. Probably online, see website or contact the Clerk for details.  
*Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup>. HS2 across the Chilterns. Online Presentation and Discussion by the Chiltern Society.* Free. See page 19.

**Ballinger Horticultural Society**  
Please check the website for all up to date details: [ballingerhort.co.uk](http://ballingerhort.co.uk)

*Please check The Lee Forum in case of any last minute diary changes due to Covid. Not a forum member? Register at [www.thelee.org.uk/new-user/](http://www.thelee.org.uk/new-user/)*

## Directory of local contacts

### **Ballinger Horticultural Society**

Chairperson: Katherine Hersee  
07801 948650, [kjhersee@gmail.com](mailto:kjhersee@gmail.com)  
Membership Secretary:  
[jennywooding@btconnect.com](mailto:jennywooding@btconnect.com)

### **Ballinger War Memorial Hall**

Bookings: Jane Ogden, 837379

### **Ballinger Evening WI**

Contact: Frankie Little, 837659  
[frankie.little@btinternet.com](mailto:frankie.little@btinternet.com)

### **Lee Common C of E School**

School office, 837267  
[office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk](mailto:office@leecommon.bucks.sch.uk)

**Lee Common Methodist Church**

Marian Tomkins, 837479

**Lee Common Scouts****Group Scout Leader**, Chris Nevill, 864881

gsl@1stleecommon.co.uk

**Scouts**, Enzo D'Alessandro; scouts@1stleecommon.co.uk**Beavers**, Karen Bruton;

beavers@1stleecommon.co.uk

**Cubs**, James Bruton;

cubs@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 Ballinger**

Contact: Anne Ellis, 837247

anne.ellis1004@gmail.com

**Tennis Court @ Parish Hall**

Bookings: Pippa Hart 07785 323232 (ideally WhatsApp)

**The Arts 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@gmail.com

**The Lee Old Church Trust**

Secretary: Pam Garner 837501

**The Lee Parish Council**

Clerk: 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

Pippa Hart, 837340

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 12<sup>th</sup> 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 12<sup>th</sup> of the previous month.

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

For queries regarding distribution contact Barnaby Osborne on 837382.

Other members of the Editorial team: Peter Archer, Zoe Berkeley, Ruth Fowler, Phil Harrison, Liz Macann, Jen Ogley, Adam Speller and Colin Sully.

Printed by Orbit Press: Chesham. 01494 778053.

## 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)	



## Sales & Lettings

64 High Street Great Missenden

Buckinghamshire HP16 0AN

Tel: 01494 890990

email: [info@jeremyswan.co.uk](mailto:info@jeremyswan.co.uk)

[www.jeremyswan.co.uk](http://www.jeremyswan.co.uk)