



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Liz Macann

Well, it is by turns misty and mellow, but our autumn could do with a bit more sun, don't you think? However, mustn't grumble because so many aspects of life are now back to pre-Covid ways and others have got better than they were before – ask anyone who used to commute five days each week.

Though much talk now is about shortages and price rises, we in our hilltop villages have some social events to off-set the national media's doom and gloom. Globally it's to be hoped that the Cop 26 Conference will be more than 'blah' and real changes will take place as a result. This is too beautiful a planet to lose.

Inside this month's Newsletter you will find content reflecting all of that and of course the local issues which continue to dominate our own landscape, literally and metaphorically.

At the end of the month Hallowe'en will test the creativity of those households ready and willing to deck their doorsteps with cobwebs and cauldrons or at the very least to stock up on suitable sweets to avoid a scary prank.

Next month Jonathan Batten will be in the Editor's seat. Please email material for the December edition to him at theleenewsletter@gmail.com by 12th November.

STOP PRESS:

As we go to press, we learn of the death on 18th October of Elizabeth Stewart-Liberty. The funeral is being held at St John the Baptist, The Lee on Thursday 4th November at 11:30 am.

Reflections on Liz and her life will be included in the next edition.

Your letters

Santa

To the Editor

Following his very successful visit to Lee Common and The Lee last December, Santa has been in touch to say he wants to come back this year.

He is currently planning his route and will let us know when he hopes to be travelling through. It is likely to be around 16th December so worth making a note in your diary now.



Phil Harrison
Lee Common

New Kings Ash resident

To the Editor

I have been staying at home a lot, because Rocky Lane was closed by HS2 for most of October. Because of the erratic fuel supply and my nearest petrol station being at the bottom of the lane I have reduced my journeys to only essential ones. The lane was meant to close during September but at short notice this changed to October so any trips I have to make to Wendover now means a detour of 16 miles. What do HS2 care!

Anyway, now I have time to enjoy nature carrying on with its day-to-day business despite HS2 bulldozing its way through the countryside. Autumn is beginning to show its colours and the nights are drawing in. Deer are grazing in the field, their coats shining in the morning light and male pheasants strut around my garden

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looking proud with their golden-brown plumage.

One afternoon looking out towards the telegraph pole near my garden two magpies were harassing a buzzard who had decided to perch on top of the pole. They were flying around him and trying to pull his tail. The buzzard in turn didn't look too bothered, he just carried on preening his magnificent wings. He has been visiting this pole for a few days now and wasn't going to be scared off by these magpies who soon became bored with this game and flew away. Nature never ceases to amaze and delight me and there is always something that can make you smile.

These are things we can be really grateful for and not take for granted. We must all work to safeguard it no matter how small or great our efforts are. As my father used to say, "From small acorns great oak trees grow." Despite the things we see with HS2 felling ever more trees, tearing down hedgerows and concreting everything in sight we can look at our gardens and see what we can do to encourage wildlife. In return nature can always make us smile with its ever changing theatrics.

Johanna Jane Free
Kings Ash

Dangerous dogs

To the Editor

Last month, there was a series of postings to The Lee Forum describing incidents in which local residents, and their pets, had been injured by other people's dogs. Reference was made to www.gov.uk/control-dog-public: I have been encouraged to repeat some content here, as there may be interested readers who do not receive forum postings.

The Government website states that it is against the law to let a dog be dangerously out of control anywhere, including in a public or private place, for example in a neighbour's house or

garden. It goes on to explain that your dog could be considered dangerously out of control, if it injures someone or if it attacks someone's animal or makes someone worried that it might injure them if they tried to stop your dog attacking their animal.

Food for thought?

Colin Sully
Swan Bottom

The Newsletter Dinner 2021

By the Editorial Team

Having taken soundings from some of the regular attenders, we have decided not to hold a Newsletter Dinner this year. It would have been possible to plan something, with Covid precautions and pre-conditions, and a restriction on numbers, but it was clear that a great many of the regulars would still choose not to attend and, if we went ahead, much of the fun and purpose of the occasion would be lost.

Instead, we have decided that we will organise a 'summer' event next year (i.e. sometime between May and September) when hopefully we will all feel less constrained.

Meanwhile here's a picture from one of the recent dinners... can anyone place the year?



Re-engage

Small steps back to normality

By Anthea Hartley

At last! After three failed attempts to host our first tea since the beginning of the pandemic, we finally managed to hold a tea party on Sunday 26th September – albeit somewhat reduced in the number of guests.

With everyone having been double-jabbed and all our volunteers having had negative tests on the morning of the party, we were all set to enjoy our first reunion for nearly two years. The weather forecast was not brilliant but, to everyone's delight, the sun took pity on us and shone all afternoon. Now that travel restrictions have been eased, many of our volunteers and friends had leapt at the chance to visit

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far-flung family members, attend previously postponed weddings and birthday celebrations and to take a well-earned holiday in the UK – enjoying the last of the summer sun. So, although only about half the group was able to attend, it was a great start on our journey back to some semblance of ‘normality’. We numbered 16 guests at the tea and it was wonderful to be able to catch up on news and chat face to face once more. It was also the perfect time to welcome some new members to our Re-engage group and it was also a good moment for me to officially hand over the reins to a new Group Organiser.

It is 10 years since The Lee and Wendover group (then named Contact the Elderly) was first established and I felt that it was important that a younger person should step into my, somewhat

creaking, shoes. Fifty per cent of our volunteers are themselves now over 70 years of age and it is vital that we have some younger supporters to maintain and organize the group in the future.

To my great relief, and with much gratitude, Erica Cheetham has kindly agreed to become the new Group Organiser. Her boundless energy and unstoppable enthusiasm, along with her genuine interest in the welfare of the older members of our community, means that Erica will be the perfect person to take over the reins. Hopefully, Covid permitting, our teas will continue to take place on the third Sunday of each month and any enquiries regarding new members or potential volunteers should be directed to Erica in future.



I will, of course, continue to enjoy hosting teas at the farm and to remain as a Re-engage volunteer driver. During the pandemic, the Re-engage HQ in London took the opportunity to completely re-vamp its administration in order to comply with all the many regulations required by registered charities involving the elderly.

Unfortunately, the updating of databases, health and safety measures and general administration now requires a computer savvy, younger brain than mine – Erica ticks that box perfectly!

Let us hope that, having soldiered their way through the pandemic, our

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volunteers and elderly friends will now be able to continue to enjoy the friendship and community contact offered by our Re-engage tea parties.

To contact Erica, telephone 01494 837188 or 0791 8158688, or email erica@kingsvalefarm.com

Meet and greet

One of several newcomers to move into the area this year is someone who has swapped the busy streets of London for the more tranquil surroundings of the Lee and...

A breath of fresh air

By Jacqui Kean

It's early July 2020 in London and we are all tentatively emerging from the first lockdown which I seem to have survived through Zoom calls with friends, online pilates and yoga and many walks around Clapham and Wandsworth Commons in the spring sunshine. The biggest challenge is not being able to make my regular visits to my mum who is in a care home in Glasgow with rapidly deteriorating Alzheimer's disease.

Before Covid hit, having wound down my full-time career in marketing, I had been thinking about the future and where and how I might want to live. Living in a flat with no garden during lockdown crystallised for me what had been a vague idea – to move out of London, to have more space and access to the outdoors.

So, I put my flat on the market and it was very quickly under offer. I had already identified Chesham as a potential destination given the wonderful Chiltern countryside, proximity to London and the fact that I have friends in the area. On my first house hunting expedition I saw three real horror

stories and then, thankfully, at the end of the day found myself in October Cottage. It ticked all my boxes and most importantly felt like I could make it my home. The ensuing months were tricky, as the usual stresses and strains associated with moving house were compounded by the heart-breaking death of my lovely mum in early September.

However, on 23rd October I finally moved in. My first night was very memorable as my kind friends appeared with ready-cooked supper including all dishes and cutlery, mine being still in boxes. It was a lovely happy beginning to life in October Cottage.

Almost one year and two more lockdowns on, I feel very settled here. I've been busy doing work on the house and garden, discovering lots of

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wonderful walks and volunteering at Chiltern Food Bank. But the thing that constantly delights and surprises me is the friendliness of the community in Lee Common.

It really is the breath of fresh air that I was looking for.

A host of golden daffodils

By Helen Usborne

Or that's the plan! The idea was my sister's – Ally Cross (No 2 Barnaby/Tricia girl). We were trying to think of something that could involve family who attended our annual gathering over the August Bank Holiday weekend ('Camp') and the village as well as random people passing by. It was intended as a nod to Dad but also as an opportunity for

others to remember those that they had loved and lost.... not just as a lazy way of planting daffodils!

We intended to plant 200 to 300 bulbs but owing to a miscommunication both my mum and I went out to buy them and we ended up with 600. We left a mound of bulbs at both gates in the field where we camp, the village hold Bonfire Night and where villagers and visitors alike pass through on a regular basis. The poem fixed to the gates invited everyone to pick up the shovels provided and plant a bulb.

The take up was better than we expected and it was lovely to hear children and adults commenting and attempting to dig holes in the rock-hard soil at the beginning of September.

The rain fell and we heard fewer expletives. The last of the bulbs were planted by me on Friday 1st October. We'll see what materialises in the spring.



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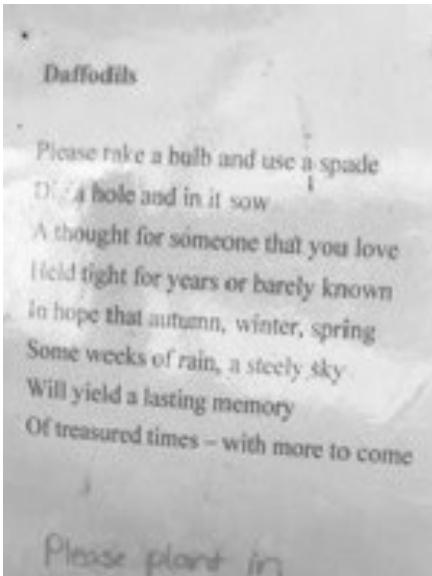
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MEMBER





The bad poetry was written by me after a few glasses of wine.

New beginnings



Old traditions

By Claire Gresswell Head Teacher,
Lee Common School

Last month I had the pleasure of sharing news about the school at the Annual Parish Meeting. The focus of the meeting was 'New Beginnings' and it was a joy to be able to outline the fresh start we have made at the school. It really does feel like a new chapter has begun.

However, in talking about returning the school to its rightful place in the heart of this parish, I am reminded that it is also important to keep hold of the things from the past that matter and the traditions that many hold dear. I am here to reassure

you that we will indeed be reinstating some old traditions such as maypole dancing and Easter Breakfast, as well as starting some new ones of our own.

One such event, that we hope will prove popular, is *High Tea at the Lee* organised by our very active and very supportive LCSA (Lee Common School Association).

They served a wonderful tea for residents in the village hall and a merry band of little singers and I were honoured to join them for a few moments. It was lovely to spend time out of school and meet some of our neighbours; the children made us very proud.



I think it is very important for the generations in any community to spend time together. With this in mind, I have added a special element





to the design brief for our upcoming library renovation. We would like to create a cosy corner to which we can invite local residents to come and sit, choose books from our ‘community book-swap’ and chat to some of our pupils. The final designs are not yet in and neither are the funds, but we hope the local community will want to support us when the project is launched.

I was delighted to see that I am not the only one to value bringing the older and younger generations together. At the time of writing, the marvellous Dame Esther Rantzen has just launched a wonderful new initiative called *Silver Stories* whereby young readers telephone elderly residents on a regular basis to read to them aloud. What a wonderful way to celebrate books and stories!

So, whether it’s Sports Days amongst the cow-pats, the dragon in the boiler room or The Borrowers under the floorboards, I hope to continue to create (and re-create) village traditions and happy childhood memories to last a lifetime.

Bright-Lee in December

By Phil Harrison

Remember last year’s December? Together we made The Lee community a place full of bright cheery Christmas lights outside our houses. We went overboard to make the villages a pleasure to drive or walk through. We gave our young the chance to smile with joy and wonder and the older generation the chance to groan and grimace at the excess.

We switched on across the community on 5th December and kept them burning brightly until 5th January, in some cases even longer.

Time to dust off the lights, check the bulbs and string them up again. Can we do better than last year? Be more creative? Maybe we can create several ‘Christmas Pudding Bushes’ to rival the splendid one at The Well House in Oxford Street.



Let us celebrate 2021 with lights, creativity and humour, and switch on Saturday 4th December.

Bridge too far?

By Rita Sully et al

In this recent hand North decided to open 1NT and South transferred to Spades; this seemed to have secured the contract.

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

Dealer: North

Vulnerability: None

N	E	S	W
1NT	pass	2♥*	pass
2♠			

* transfer bid

However, E-W held more points than N-S, so what do you think was bid? See page 18.

Forum Fred



Code of Conduct

It's been a busy month on the Forum with lots of interesting postings. A few people have made a posting and included in it the question "Is it okay to post this?" presumably on the assumption that it is easier to ask for forgiveness, than to ask for permission.

We do have a Code of Practice for the Forum. It explains what the forum may be used for, the behaviour expected and the sanctions available to the administrators.

You will find it online at www.thelee.org.uk/code-of-conduct/ It covers such things as invasion of privacy and abusive content, as well as commercial issues. If you have any doubts about whether your post may violate this code, please contact the administrators of the forum at admin@thelee.org.uk before posting the message.

Job vacancies

One of the Code of Conduct policies is no commercial advertising (although we have relaxed this a little during the Covid crisis for the two village pubs). We are however allowing advertising for job vacancies, as we feel it is a



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beneficial service to residents to hear about such opportunities.

If you need some specific advice, please email giving details of the problem. 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/>. Not yet a member of the forum? Complete the application form at <https://www.thelee.org.uk/new-user>

Shop local this Christmas

By Katie Michaelson-Yeates

Just a few days until we open the Parish Hall doors to Shop at The Lee's Christmas Food and Gift Market 2021. Our fingers are crossed that this year the market will be back to normal and will take place on Saturday 13th November 8:30 am to 1:00 pm. As usual we will be selling delicious food and drink, goodies to tempt you, chocolates, biscuits, cakes, puddings, Stollen, Panettone, flavoured gin and vodka in decorated bottles, relishes and much, much more.

The prettiest decorations, plants and everything essential for present wrapping, charity greetings cards,

advent calendars, napkins and Christmas crackers. Plus an even bigger selection of the 'pop and slot' festive scenes, playing cards, fireside matches and beautiful stationery. There is a pets' corner, so our furry friends also can enjoy a Christmas meal.



Do come along and buy locally, enjoying easy and safe shopping at The Lee. We will be sanitizing shopping baskets, doors, surfaces and handles. Also, we would prefer masks to be worn for the safety of our customers and volunteers.



See you on the 13th November.

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And a word from Symeon Economou about.....

Christmas ordering

As mentioned on the Forum, the current supply difficulties will mean that some aspects of Christmas will come a lot earlier than other years.

We will, of course, be offering to take the strain of shopping for the festivities, with our usual Christmas Eve extravaganza. Last year we supplied over 50 families with over 50 turkeys, 200 loaves of bread and vanloads of fruit and veg, etc. Orders can be placed online via the shop's website page at www.thelee.org.uk/shop Printed forms are also available in the shop.

Village walk

By the Editor

Another of the regular village fixtures is back in full swing. The numbers aren't yet up to pre-Covid levels but the October walk had six walkers and seven dogs enjoying the autumn sunshine.

All are welcome with or without four legs in tow, all that is required is the energy to walk at a moderate pace for about an hour and a half. We meet usually on the first Thursday of the month on the village green. (*The walk in November is on the first Wednesday.*)

See you there....



The return of the Roving Supper

By Pat Lea

We have seen a good uptake for the Roving Supper which will commence at 7:30 pm in the Parish Hall on Saturday 20th November.

If you have requested tickets, but have not paid for them so far, please let Pat Lea have cash or cheque for £25 per head, made payable to The Lee Parish Hall, as soon as possible. We will only have a record of you coming once you have paid.

Also please remember we would like to see proof of vaccination.

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Life in all its fullness

By Revd Chris Haywood

It was a pleasure and a privilege to be invited to speak at The Lee Annual Parish Meeting on Thursday 7th October, especially in such esteemed company. I was honoured to be on the panel with our new MP Sarah Green and Lee Common School Headteacher, Claire Gresswell, both of whom set out their agenda, values and vision with clarity and obvious commitment. I hope I was similarly able to communicate my vision for the church in The Lee, with energy and enthusiasm.... at least! I was pleased to set out some thoughts on my vision for St John the Baptist Church in the community and get some feedback.

Fundamentally, my focus as your Vicar and my vision for the church is to bring life and bring it in abundance. As a church we seek to be confident in our faith, engaged in our community and supportive of those who approach us in need. We are keen to embrace and encourage new initiatives and directions, underpinned by a dedication to follow God's purpose for the church and the community.

As a church we seek to be:

- a presence in the community
- a focal point
- welcoming and open
- accessible
- engaged and involved
- enabling the community to celebrate and commemorate

We seek to serve our community and be responsive when needed and called on as well as being engaged with



local schools, community groups and initiatives and a part of the social fabric of the community. Most of all, however, we seek to bring life, and bring it in abundance with some new and exciting initiatives. I am optimistic about the future of the church in The Lee, its ability to more deeply establish its place in community life and its capacity to be available to serve when called upon.

Of course the Church most enjoys celebrating and provides an opportunity to gather those that wish to share such occasions to celebrate. Our Harvest Festival on Sunday night was a good example. Picking up the rhythm of our rural context we celebrated the harvest and gave thanks to God for his provision. We especially reflected on his care for us, and the deep assurance we experience when we know we are secure in his care, which releases us from the preoccupations of life and the anxieties associated with them. I hope that the service was engaging, full of energy and uplifting as well as being thought provoking and reflective. Certainly Georgie and I enjoyed welcoming people back to The Vicarage afterwards for a harvest gathering and social over cheese and wine, hospitality we hope to repeat over the months and years we are a part of you.

Our next significant community occasion is Remembrance Sunday, on 14th November 2021, which we will mark with a Remembrance Church service at 10:00 am in the New Church and with a community act of remembrance around the war memorial which will incorporate the 2 minutes silence at 11:00am. I am privileged to conduct this important occasion and mark the day in an appropriate and fitting way.

With best wishes.

Services for November

St John the Baptist



14th 10:00am Remembrance service

Full information on our services will be published on The Lee Forum.

Contacts: *Vicar:* Revd Chris Haywood 01494 837566
Churchwarden: Trevor Pearce 01494 837601. *Treasurer:* David Stephenson 01494 867617. *Old Church Secretary:* Pam Garner 01494 837501.

St Mary's Church, Ballinger



7th 9:30am Remembrance Morning
Prayer followed by refreshments

Recent events at St Mary's

2nd October. Francis-Tide and a day long retreat was celebrated by the Franciscans in the calm of St Mary's.

19th October. W.I. games afternoon at the church and every third Tuesday of the month throughout winter.

23rd October. Chloe and Ryan Gould returned to St. Mary's after their recent wedding (see previous issue) to have Ryan's ring blessed.

Contacts: *Associate Church Wardens:* Maggi Cameron 01494 864790 and Anne Ellis 01494 837247.

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HS2 review

By Cllr Colin Sully

November 2021 marks the fifth anniversary of the last appearance by The Lee Parish Council (TLPC) and local residents in front of an HS2 Parliamentary Select Committee. What did we achieve... and what has happened since? It's time to take stock! *(See chart below.)*

STOP HS2

In 2009, the Labour government announced the formation of HS2 Ltd. In 2010, the new Tory government committed itself to the project with a total cost estimate of £33bn.

In 2010, STOP HS2 and HS2 Action Alliance were formed with the objective of challenging the flawed economic and environmental case. Both nationwide organisations had strong local connections and they both still exist. However, in the face of 10 years of HS2 support from both the Conservative and Labour parties, the activity and impact of these groups has now significantly diminished.

More recently, the campaign to 'Stop HS2' has been taken up by environmental campaigning groups, such as HS2 Rebellion: sadly, it appears, with the same level of overall impact on policy.

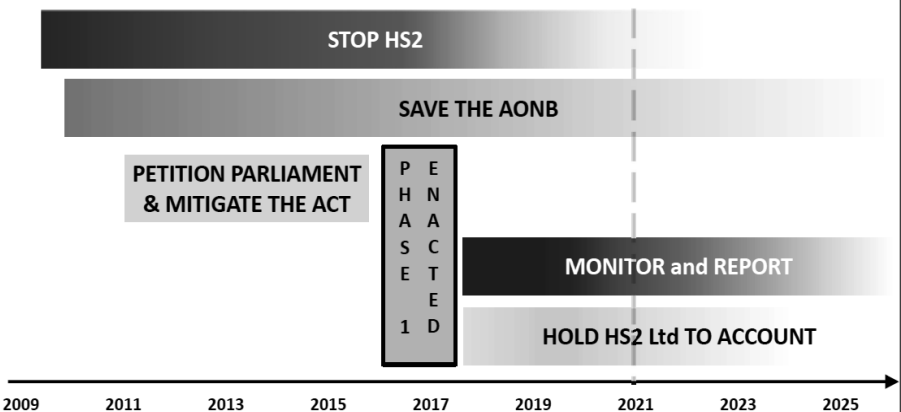
Save the AONB

In 2010, the Chiltern Ridges HS2 Action Group (CRAG) was also formed, partly to support the national campaigns, but also to examine the impact locally and across the Chilterns AONB.

In January 2013 detailed maps were published showing the route through the Chilterns. Legal actions followed on the grounds of inadequate Environmental Impact Assessments and the case was taken by the Action Alliance all the way to the European Courts, before being (largely) lost.

In the local area, CRAG took the lead in developing an alternative proposal which included a full tunnel under the AONB. After much debate, this idea was accepted by HS2 Ltd as being feasible and environmentally preferred. However, what HS2 Ltd would not accept was that the CRAG

HS2 and The Lee: a time-line



tunnel proposal was more cost-effective than running the train on the surface. Research, analysis, reports and petitioning followed to try to demonstrate that a full tunnel ending just north of Wendover would, overall, provide a greater benefit/cost ratio.

Petition and mitigate

Such was the response locally that the Chilterns area (and The Lee parish in particular) generated more petitions to Parliament per head of population than any other area along the line. “If we can’t stop HS2 then we will do our best to protect the Chilterns” seemed to be the mantra.

Between 2014 and 2016 hundreds of trips were made by local residents and organisations to Westminster to present their cases to Parliament. Resistance by HS2 Ltd to accept local arguments became more resolute and other proposals for possible tunnel extensions emerged.

By the time petitioners reached the House of Lords, the groups had united behind the CRAG T2 long-tunnel. Alas HS2 Ltd continued to argue the cost-benefit case and their Lordships were unwilling to go against the Government’s ‘experts’.

Some concessions were won, including significant improvements to the ‘Need to Sell’ scheme, but overall little ground was conceded on mitigating the local impact of HS2.

In 2017, the Phase 1 Bill completed its passage through Parliament and received Royal Assent.

Monitor and report

CRAG (like some other local action groups) decided to step back from direct engagement, and instead support the parish councils, who became increasingly engaged with the project. In 2017 The Lee Parish Council took on the roles of:

- monitoring the project, informing residents what was happening and reporting concerns to HS2 Ltd and to the then Chiltern District and Bucks County Councils
- trying to hold HS2 Ltd to account to deliver on the commitments they had made during the Bill’s passage through parliament.

Holding HS2 to account

Working with others, TLPC has had some success in forcing HS2 Ltd to honour the commitments made, but all too often HS2 Ltd has been able to find ways of not delivering on the community’s expectations e.g. at Hunts Green Farm, on the design of key structures, on A413 traffic, on the use of hilltop lanes and more generally in the AONB.

In recent years, community engagement has become increasingly difficult, partly because of the time and cost pressures the project is now under, but also because of the politics of the project, Brexit, Covid, sub-contracting, protester actions and even the unitarisation of the local councils.

It is now clear that the HS2 project leaders see themselves only accountable to the regulatory bodies who have powers to sanction the project (such as the Health and Safety Executive, Natural England, the Courts of Law and, of course, Ministers). Holding the project to account at the community level has become even more of a challenge than might have been assumed five years ago.

Looking forward, TLPC will continue, as far as it is able, to keep residents informed as to what is (or might be) happening locally and, where we can, by supporting Buckinghamshire Council, hold HS2 Ltd to account to mitigate the local impact and protect the AONB.

Bonfire night

By Tony Lea

Just a final note to say the annual Bonfire and Fireworks will take place in Cherry Tree Lane on Friday 5th November. The gates will open at 6:00 pm with the bonfire to be lit at 6:30 pm.

Please do not park in Cherry Tree Lane so as to avoid blocking any emergency vehicles which might need access. There are posters displayed around the villages showing the cost at £6 per adult and £3 per child with a family of four at £15. There will be mulled wine, beer and wine for sale plus soft drinks and hot dogs. Please come along to what is a great family social occasion.

The Lee Parish Council news

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

Annual Parish Meeting

We were delighted that so many people came along to the Annual Parish Meeting (APM) on the evening of 7th October, despite an unfortunate clash with other local events. Minutes of the

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meeting will be posted on the website in due course for those unable to attend.

Thanks are due to the Parish Hall Committee for installing a new projector to help provide displays and a backdrop. We have also passed on to the Parish Hall Committee feedback that some at the back of the hall had difficulty in hearing. Now to start planning next year's meeting!

Grants available

One of the items touched on briefly at the APM was that The Lee is a part of the Chesham and Rural Villages Community Board.

The Community Board has a pot of money which it uses to make small grants to groups wanting to improve things and hold events in their local community. Recent grants include £200 for a Silver Sunday tea, and £3,000 to fund training and mentoring under the Be Your Own Boss scheme for 12 people.

The Parish Council would be happy to help anyone who thinks they may be eligible in applying for a grant; in the first instance please phone me on 07704 909324 or email clerk@thelee.org.uk

Planning applications

The Lee Parish Council continues to review all planning applications and appeals within the parish, some more contentious than others. All residents are assured that applications are treated objectively and impartially, with any councillor who could be considered to have a conflict of interest recusing themselves from participating in the parish council's deliberations.

Finally, a reminder that the Parish Council continues to post notices to The Lee Forum, as we receive them,

of all planning applications within the parish, with a reminder to residents that if they have specific comments to make, they should respond directly to the planning authority.

If a resident wishes to make planning-related comments to the Parish Council, they should direct them to clerk@thelee.org.uk. Such comments will be taken into account by the Parish Council when forming its own view and will be unattributed.

HS2: local updates

By Cllr Colin Sully

Leather Lane trees

A meeting was finally held in October between the 'Save the Leather Lane trees' campaign group and the HS2 contractors, EKFB.

Whilst the group have not so far been able to persuade the contractors that a realignment of the lane to the north of the existing lane is feasible, EKFB have made significant changes to their plans for Leather Lane, which will result in around 50% of the trees under review being saved from felling.

This is a huge achievement by the group, and they are to be congratulated. Their campaign will have preserved more trees and ecology in the area than any other campaign... and without any protest camps or evictions. Well done!

Law enforcement

Talking of evictions, I don't normally say much about wider developments in these updates, however I noted recently:

- A court in London has ruled that the HS2 protesters who had tunnelled under Euston Square,



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were not guilty of aggravated trespass, as the judge had “*seen no evidence of them obstructing the legal activity of HS2 construction*”, which is bizarre, to say the least! These evictions are reported to have cost the taxpayers over £3.5m.

- Meanwhile, a judge in Oxford ruled that HS2 Ltd did have the right to clear and evict protesters from the Wendover Active Resistance Camp; that process started in mid-October and continues as I write.
- The Misbourne Environmental Protection Group has requested a Judicial Review of the decisions by the Environment Agency and HS2 Ltd to begin tunnelling under the Chiltern hills.
- Through the appeal process, a planning inspector has overturned



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Bucks Council's decisions not to approve HS2 construction traffic routes on the A413. Bucks Council are 'considering their position'.

It's good to know that the nation's legal services sector is continuing to thrive with HS2!

Road closures

The latest on road closures at the time of writing is that Rocky Lane, Bowood Lane, Leather Lane and the A413 should all be open on 1st November. We will continue to post any updates on the Forum as we receive them.

HS2 complaints

Formal complaints have recently been lodged with HS2 Ltd by residents in connection with Hunts Green (dangerous driving), Rocky Lane (protracted closures), Leather Lane (mud and stones) and rat-running on hilltop lanes.. There is an updated note on "How to complain about HS2" at www.thelee.org.uk/HS2complaints/

HS2 engagement

TLPC councillors continue to meet the HS2 Community Engagement Managers on a regular basis. If you have any local HS2 queries for the Parish Council, please send them to HS2@thelee.org.uk.

If you have questions or complaints for HS2 Ltd or their contractors, please go to www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area

Bridge too far?

At our table, West doubled North's 2♠ bid and East bid 3♥, making one overtrick.

Birthday parties

Do you have any friends, family or neighbours celebrating a special occasion in the village? We'd love to hear about them and see any photos that record the event.

Happy Birthday Joan

Joan Worsfold of Park Cottage had a wonderful time celebrating her 90th birthday in September.

Her family arranged a very enjoyable luncheon party for 14 at The Black Horse, Chesham Vale where Joan was presented with a beautiful cake made by Laura, her daughter-in-law. On her actual birthday she also enjoyed a cream tea in her garden with her daughter and son-in-law, Carol and Michael Addison, who live at Berrymead.



Cards, presents and flowers marked the occasion, along with another cake from the film crew filming Park Cottage for a new Netflix series.

To top off all these events Joan even made the pages of that week's *Take a Break* magazine, along with her son Stephen's new puppy, Dora. One was 90 years old and the other 90 days old!

And... Happy Birthday Tammi

Due to the inclement weather at the beginning of September, St Mary's was used as a venue to celebrate Tammi Riley Smith's 50th birthday.



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Christmas rations

By Diana Taylor

Wondering if we shall have all we usually expect in order to feast at Christmas, I was reminded of a time when, in my surgery, I came across a Baby Clinic Minute Book from the war years. Meetings such as those detailed must have been going on up and down the land as Christmas approached and village ladies set about doing their bit to keep everyone happy despite shortages.

In November 1942, a month and year of bombings and casualty, the ladies of 'The Baby Clinic Committee' met to discuss the Children's Christmas Party.



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One item on the agenda was 'The Christmas Cake'. I cannot remember the names of the dramatis personae exactly, but it went something like this:

Mrs Bottomly opened the discussion with a promise of 4oz of margarine on the condition that others would also make contributions from their rations.

Mrs Shell offered an egg which prompted Mrs Field, Mrs Wall and Mrs Farmer to offer an egg each also.

Mrs Miller gladly pledged to donate half of her family's ration of flour and Mrs Stone said she would match that amount.

Mrs Honey, the postmistress, put her stamp on the donations by promising honey from her bees in lieu of sugar.

All that remained to be found was some fruit.

Mrs Berry had bottled cherries earlier in the year and offered these along with pears that she had stored on her pantry shelves.

Mrs Peel eagerly came forth with an offer of apples. She suggested that some dried rose hips could be used too and added that these would give extra vitamin C to the cake.

Mrs Brown felt that some of her Camp coffee could be spared to add colour to the mix and opined that all should be well provided the proportions of fruit to fat to flour and eggs was in keeping with a normal recipe.

As soon as Mrs Baker had encouraged committee members to deliver their promised ingredients to her, she committed to baking the cake on their behalf.

Miss Clarke thanked all present for their commitment and urged them on to 'Any Other Business'.

A tribute was then paid to Mr Gardener, the kindly gentleman who had acted as Father Christmas for so many years but who needed to step down this time. His place was to be taken by the new vicar, Reverend Beard.

Miss Clarke promised to ask Mr Gardener if he would be willing to lend Mr Beard his collection of gnomes which were part of the clinic's Children's Christmas Party tradition and gave delight to so many of the children.

The meeting then closed with everyone spurred on to their tasks.

This just shows what a small community can do when it pulls together in challenging times. The cake may not have been as fine a one as usual but working together to make something good must have been a special pastime as so many groups here in The Lee understand. Thanks to all of them.

St Mary's, Ballinger

By Margaret Cameron

The church is small and intimate for small functions and as a result Tammi's birthday (see page 19) was a very happy and joyous occasion.

We were so pleased to be able to help and will be very happy for St Mary's Church to be used again for anything else such as parties, meetings, concerts etc.

We also have a selection of second-hand paperbacks for sale if anyone is in need of something to read. The proceeds go towards the church's finances.



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Sundays: 7.30 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

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shop@thelee.org.uk

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).

November

Tuesday 2nd. **Ballinger BATS** meets in Ballinger War Memorial Hall every Tuesday, 9:30 to 11:30 am.

Wednesday 3rd. **Village walk**, normally first Thursday in the month. Meet on The Lee green at 9:30 am.

Thursday 4th. **Ballinger Horticultural Society** AGM and Talk on Alpines by Katharine Hersee, 8:00 pm, Ballinger War Memorial Hall.

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Friday 5th. **Bonfire and Fireworks.** See page 16.

Tuesday 9th. **The Lee Parish Council Meeting.** 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Saturday 13th. **The Shop – Christmas Market,** 8:30 am - 1:00 pm. See page 10.

Sunday, 14th. **Remembrance church service** and community act of remembrance. See pages 12/13.

Saturday 20th. **Roving Supper.** See page 11.

Saturday 20th. **Christmas Fair,** Ballinger War Memorial Hall, 10:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Thursday 25th. **The Arts Society Ballinger.** Meetings on the last Thursday of every month in Ballinger War Memorial Hall. Contact Suzanne Baker for details 01494 864893.

Coming soon

Thursday 2nd December. **Village walk.** Meet on The Lee green at 9:30 am.

Saturday 4th December. **Christmas lights switch on.** See page 8.

Thursday 16th December. **Santa due to visit Lee Common and The Lee.** (To be confirmed, see page 1.)

Wednesday 26th January. **Bridge Drive.** The Lee Parish Hall 2:00 to 5:00 pm

Directory of local contacts

Ballinger Babies and Toddlers Group
Sophie Underwood, 07970 022190

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 WI

Contact: Jo Laurie, 863492
watercolours@kitty4.co.uk

Lee Common C of E School

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

Lee Common Methodist Church

Graham and Susan Evans, 580016

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 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 Phil Harrison on 837469.

Other members of the Editorial team: Zoe Berkeley, Ruth Fowler, Mary Godfrey, Hannah Lane, 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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