



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Liz Macann

After a spectacularly lovely autumn, another lively social season is underway. Halloween, Bonfire Night, Roving Supper, Newsletter Dinner, walks, bridge, Harvest Festival, school events, carol practices, Santa's visit... no time to draw breath and with our two local pubs providing venues and victuals this is indeed the season to be merry. Though let's not talk about HS2!

It is also a time to reflect on how fortunate we are to be living in a war free zone when so much of the world is in the throes of horrific conflict and climate disasters. Let's count our blessings.

As we go to press, we learn of the sudden death of Bill Baxter, well known to many readers for his contribution to village life and the wider world. More details next month.

Any comments about the articles in this edition or new contributions for the next edition should be sent to December's editor, Jonathan Batten, at thelenewsletter@gmail.com by 12th November please.

Your Letters

To the Editor

I am writing in reply to the two thought-provoking letters regarding the churchyard in the last issue (sure they must have been planned).

Butterfly Count

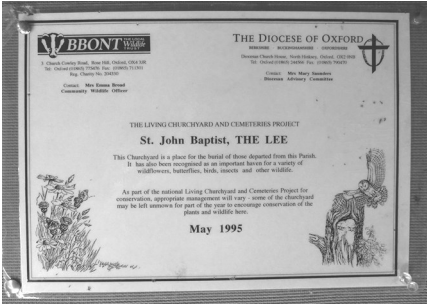
As part of The Big Butterfly Count 2023 I visited the churchyard on 29th July, a glorious sunny afternoon, for the regulation 15 minute survey in which time I recorded 51 butterflies from 10 different species: red admiral, comma, gatekeeper, small tortoiseshell, large white, small white, meadow brown, brimstone, painted lady and peacock. Plus I recorded holly blue and skipper after the 15 minutes.

Haven for wildlife

Earlier in June I noted 78 common spotted orchids, an improvement on the previous year's 55. Does anybody else note these things down? Along with the birds species I have recorded here – kestrel, tawny owl, chiffchaff, blackcap and spotted flycatcher, to name but a few – the site is a mini-haven for wildlife which should be encouraged; after all, they're all God's creatures, giving pleasure to those who witness the insects bouncing on the summer's breeze, with the insects forming a vital part of the food chain of the last three species mentioned above. In fact, insects form the basis of all life on earth, it's the increase in pesticides, herbicides and the obsession with tidiness that's contributing to nature's decline.

I personally know how Margaret feels on this matter, as she 'bent my ear' on the subject whilst I applied gold leaf to the family grave over twelve months ago, but as the site has been maintained

in an environmentally sensitive manner by diligent church wardens since 1995, it now contains a greater variety of species than the surrounding fields, so I would say... “think carefully before unleashing the strimmers.”



Don Stone
Sly Corner

Remember, remember...

To the Editor

The Parish Hall Committee looks forward to seeing as many of you as possible on Sunday 5th November for the annual village Fireworks and Bonfire night. Gates will open at 6:00 pm when food and drinks will be available for sale. Fireworks start at 7:00 pm. Due to insurance requirements the bonfire will not be lit until after the fireworks display has finished.

Wherever possible please walk through the Allotments from Oxford Street to the field entrance in Cherry Tree Lane. Entrance tickets are available at the gate at £6 per adult, £3 for children under 16, and £15 for a family of four. Please bring cash due to poor phone signal at the site. There will be no vehicular access to Cherry Tree Lane (other than for residents) so please do not try to park there – this is to ensure that the lane is kept completely clear for emergency vehicles.

Pippa Hart
Lee Gate

Can you remember?

To the Editor

I am writing in the hope that readers of The Lee Newsletter will be able to help me in my search for information and photographs.

My grandparents, Arthur and Annie Chadney, used to live at 2 Well Cottages, Lee Common. They lived there with my Nan, Fanny Rance, and their daughter, Dorothy Lyford (my mother). Annie died in 1980 and Arthur in October 1981.

My grandfather had an allotment up the lane from the cottage. He would be there every day as he had chickens. He was a tall thin gentleman who always wore his hat and smoked a pipe. Does anyone remember him? I remember playing on the old ‘witches hat’ roundabout swing that was opposite my grandfather’s allotment. My contact information is 07809 428354 or susangirling29@gmail.com. Fingers crossed.

Sue Girling (nee Lyford)
Formerly of Lee Common

Coffee, cake and contributions

To the Editor



Pippa Hart and I want to thank one and all for their generous and amazing support for the World’s Biggest Coffee Morning, held on behalf of

Macmillan Cancer Support on Friday 29th September.

The sun shone brightly and our amazing supporters came out in force. A combination of online donations and in person giving has raised an astonishing £2,352.65 plus any gift aid.

Thank you to the bakers, donors, buyers and raffle ticket purchasers! We are incredibly grateful and rest assured your donations will be put to great use.

Trish Swain
Chartridge

Christmas plans

To the Editor

The time to dig out the Christmas lights is upon us. Unravel the wires, check the batteries and bulbs and plan on what and where to put them up outside.

The last few years have seen a fantastic array of lights across the parish giving a real feel to a special time of year. Lighting up weekend is 2nd and 3rd December (Ballinger are lighting up at 5:00 pm on 3rd December). Don't be modest, just go for it.

14th December is also a date to save as Santa has confirmed that he will be visiting Lee Common and The Lee Green. He has so enjoyed his visits in the recent years that this visit is in his diary long before he has the rest of his schedule worked out.

There will be more details in December's newsletter.

Phil Harrison
Lee Common

Bridge Drive

To the Editor

Our annual bridge drive, in aid of St John the Baptist Church at The Lee, is back. It will be on Wednesday 31st January at The Lee Parish Hall starting at 1:45 pm. It will follow the same


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Prices on many items are lower than the larger shops so come along and buy locally, enjoying easy and safe shopping at The Lee.

Relax – it's Christmas!

By Symeon Economou

Throughout the year Shop at The Lee is staffed by just one person, usually a volunteer, and the ambience is one of gentle serenity. On Christmas Eve it takes around 10 of us, all beavering away like Santa's Elves, in what could only be charitably described as organised chaos. This is the culmination of weeks of planning, checking and double-checking, in order to fulfil over 50 major customers' orders. To give you an idea of scale, in just three or four hours we achieve nearly two weeks' worth of takings.

So, here we go again. Our online Christmas ordering system will be live from early November, offering our customers the opportunity to order from a wide range of mostly locally sourced foods:

- From Kings Farm – bronze turkeys, other poultry, all meats, bacon, sausages, cold pies and stuffing
- From our two local bakers, Jung's of Beaconsfield and Culture Bakery – artisan and standard white, brown and sourdough breads and rolls, authentic croissants



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- Fruit and veg from Chesham market – all vegetables, fruits and salad items, fresh from the market the day before
- Rural Pie Company – baked-to-order seasonal and standard favourite pies, sausage rolls and Jamaican patties
- The rest – milk, cream, etc from Martin The Milkman, eggs from Brill, some ethnic foods



The last order date for many items is Friday 15th December, however the last date for Rural Pie orders is Friday 1st December and that for Kings Farm is Friday 8th December.

Year after year many of our customers have entrusted us with massive orders and we invite you to do the same. The best way to order is online; you will find the forms on the web site at www.thelee.org.uk/shop.

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Whilst ordering online makes our job so much easier, hard copies are available in the shop for those without online access; we will then enter the order details on their behalf.

Once an order has been entered we send two different types of confirmation by email:

- An automated confirmation corresponding to the order that has just been placed
- A manually generated confirmation, showing everything that has been ordered across all categories, regardless of when the order was placed – this details everything that will be awaiting collection on Christmas Eve.

So, avoid the frantic stress of Christmas Eve shopping, let us to do what we do well, and join us on Christmas Eve, collect your order, and enjoy a glass of liquid festive cheer.

[As Symeon marks his tenth anniversary at Shop at The Lee, many thanks are due to him and the ever-supportive Sue for all that they do for the shop and the community. We are lucky to have them. Ed]

Newsletter Dinner 2023

By the Editorial Team

Invitations have been sent out to the annual Newsletter Dinner to all those who have contributed to the success of the newsletter in the past 12 months. The dinner takes place on Friday 1st December, at the Parish Hall, starting at 7:30 pm.

If you would like to come and haven't yet replied, please do so as soon as possible... and at the latest by Friday 17th November.

Meet and Greet

It's always good to welcome new families to the Lee and surrounding areas, so this month we say hello to Anna and Ben Lewry who have recently moved into Sly Corner

Hello.

We moved to the area from Bloomsbury a few months ago: this was quite a feat with one month old Leo and 17 month old Lizzie and no removal van! London was good fun before we had children but we can't really make the most of it anymore and we want our children to grow up with an appreciation for the outdoors and countryside. Ben is a keen cyclist and I love walking and climbing. We love how welcoming everyone has been in The Lee – it feels like a very special community for our family to be part of.

Musings

By Joe King



As the evenings draw in the band regathered in the snug. As always, a series of observations, comments and musings were aired.

A consensus was formed around the lanes becoming narrower and the observation made about how often a driver had to stop or pull over to allow an oncoming vehicle to proceed. It wasn't that long ago you were able to drive along without stopping for an oncoming vehicle. Why is this no longer the case?

The potholes and edge of the roads don't help; cars (like much of the population) have become wider but the main cause is the hedges. Whilst they are being cut and trimmed, they are not

being sufficiently thinned or cut back and every year they become wider. Put these three issues together and a stop-start journey is the norm. The hedges need a serious thinning, not just a trimming. [See also page 20. Ed]

We mused on what else has appeared in the parish lately. Glis glis appear to be on the march with reports of numbers of the little darlings being found in more than one house. No longer the lone one chewing their way through the wires. Time to dig out the recipe for 'edible dormice' then? Oh, hang on, they are protected species; put down your knife and fork.

Another thing that caught the collective's eye was the news that a woman had taken her employer to a tribunal because they did not make allowance for her menopause. The tribunal judge ruled that she was in the

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right as the employer should have recognised her disability. Really? That is a bit like saying everyone with two legs is disabled. Surely disability is something out of the ordinary, an exception not the norm. Hold on a moment though, there was also something in the press about the ‘menopause’ where several public sector bodies have issued policies including, in some cases, an entitlement to a year’s break, for men supposedly undergoing “the change”. Medically, the “menopause” does not exist, unlike the menopause. It appears that the woke brigade have written policies in the name of equality. The world is really going bonkers.

Mine’s a pint.

Lee Common School

By Catherine May

In early October I was delighted to meet school councillors Jiya and Theo, in my role as school governor. The two Year 2 children proudly showed me the suggestion box they had made with the help of their friend Rosanna, and enthusiastically emptied out the slips their classmates had deposited. Lots of



ideas were for the outdoor area, including a helter-skelter, shop, soft play ballpark and – inevitably – a swimming pool! Other ideas included ice cream after school, more online maths games and even extending the school day to have more time for playing and learning. We decided more maths games was something we could ask the teacher about immediately; the swimming pool idea was considered and (to my relief) rejected by the children due to bugs getting in the water and how much space it would take up. We decided we would visit the classes together soon to talk about the role of the school council and to hear more ideas for school improvements before meeting the Head, Mrs Green, to present our favourite suggestions.



Theo and Jiya went on to tell me about the recent, very fun, football festival at Holmer Green, the rules they had been learning for staying safe on computers and their favourite yoga moves, which include Fox, Mouse, Snake and Gruffalo! We talked about their current favourite subject, History, in which they are learning about the Titanic. Filling me in on some facts from the tragedy itself, they were also hugely enthusiastic about the brilliant model ship their teacher Miss Taylor

Maria Martins

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has made for Swallows and Robins classes to play in.

One thing the children didn't mention was the Ofsted inspection visit in mid-September. The school was due an inspection, and the call came on 18th September, fairly early in the term. Any Ofsted inspection is a challenging experience, and the staff and governors appreciated the constructive and encouraging approach of the inspection team and the warm support of the parents of our pupils during that week. We expect the report to be published in early November, which should be in time for an update in next month's newsletter.

Back in time

By Phil Harrison

Following on from last month's historical reflection here are a couple more years gone by and their historical events.

1900 – 123 years ago

A year of many contrasts. The Labour Party was founded; the second Olympic Games took place in Paris as did the World Exhibition and the Central Line on the London Underground was opened. In South Africa the Boer War was at its height with the British Army capturing Bloemfontein (13th March), relieving Mafeking (17th May), annexing the Orange Free State (24th May), capturing Pretoria 5th (June), Johannesburg (31st August), and annexing the Transvaal on 25th October. King Umberto of Italy was assassinated as was the German Ambassador in Peking (by the Boxers).

1948 – 75 years ago

Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated (30th January) and the last British

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troops left India (28th February). Neighbouring Ceylon (Sri Lanka) gained self-governing dominion status. Burma as well as North and South Korea become republics. The State of Israel was proclaimed in May.

Peron won the election in Argentina; Chiang Kai-shek was elected President of China; Britain nationalised railways and electricity. The London Olympics commenced on 29th July and the US won 38 gold medals.

Postcard from the past

By Carol Addison

This month's postcard is one of my favourites titled *Great Missenden, Entrance to Village*. Although the card is not postmarked, I found this description of the scene in the book *The Missendens In Camera* by Clive Birch published in 1986.

"At the end of last century, the gateway to the ancient Abbey had been somewhat facelifted, the walls provided a convenient leaning point, and cattle were driven in leisurely fashion down the London Road. Life was clearly conducted at a sensibly tranquil pace."

Not staying in!

We continue our series in which readers tell us about events they enjoy and recommend, taking place outside of The Lee, but nearby. This month we focus on activities for the 'third age'.

University of the 3rd age

(u3a)

By Colin Sully

I was a latecomer discovering the u3a, an organisation that describes itself as "a collection of groups that run local and online member-led learning for those no longer in full time work across the UK"... but that



Great Missenden, Entrance to Village

description doesn't really do the organisation justice.

The local Chiltern u3a (Cu3a) currently has around 1,300 members and more than 90 interest groups. These groups are all led by members with an amazing amount of knowledge, experience and energy, on subjects as diverse as photography, technology, local and family history, opera, crime fiction, ballroom dancing, walking (slowly and quickly) and Scrabble. A full list of groups can be found at <https://www.chiltern-u3a.org.uk/Groups>



Membership is open to anyone who is not either in full-time work or has other full-time commitments and is happy to operate within the guidelines.

Try before you buy

Prospective members are welcome to attend two of the Wednesday afternoon general meetings. These are diverse presentations from experts in their subject area and held on the third Wednesday of each month at 2:30 pm in the Drake Hall of the Amersham Community Centre in the Chilterns Lifestyle Centre. If you are interested, email u3achair@chiltern-u3a.org.uk for details. After the talk, tea and coffee are available and there's a chance to meet fellow Cu3a members.

As a prospective member you may also attend a meeting of one or two of our interest groups to see if they are right for you – please email the convenor (group organiser) of the group/s you are curious about.

Full details of Cu3a can be found at <https://www.chiltern-u3a.org.uk/>
[If you have an evening or day out to recommend to our readers, do send in some details to the Editor.]

Village Walk

By Liz Macann

The route this month was shorter than normal despite the sunny weather and it allowed for a variety of speeds, needs and the usual social toing and froing between the 14 walkers and assorted dogs. Coffee and cake in the church followed as usual and thank you to Judy for baking, Charlotte for washing up and Liz F for leading the way.



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Obituary: Carol Osborne



By Peter Osborne

Sadly my sister Carol died unexpectedly at her home in Sly Corner on Monday 2nd October. Carol was the eldest child of Mary Osborne, also of Sly Corner, and is mourned by her three brothers John, Pace and Peter Osborne, our families and all her friends.

Carol was born in India in 1945, where my parents were both stationed during the war. When they came home they bought a farm in Wales where I and my two brothers were born. Carol's first school was in the nearby

village where only Welsh was spoken. My father then took a post in Nigeria and spent the rest of his working life in West Africa as an agricultural development officer. We all went to schools in England but spent occasional holidays in Nigeria.

Carol trained as a nurse and worked initially in hospitals in England and Canada. She then began to travel on the most difficult overseas assignments mainly for the International Red Cross. She worked in Angola, Ethiopia, Sudan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Myanmar, and many other countries, often in remote and dangerous locations, responding, usually at short notice, to humanitarian disasters such as the devastating tsunami in Indonesia.



Our parents settled in Herefordshire and when she retired Carol planned a life in that part of the country. However when my father died it made sense for my mother to move closer to us in Great Missenden and we found the house in Sly Corner which was converted so Carol could live upstairs. Carol made a new life in Lee Common, worked for a while in the shop and was well known around the village. Always forthright in her views and sometimes feisty, those who knew her well will also recognise her



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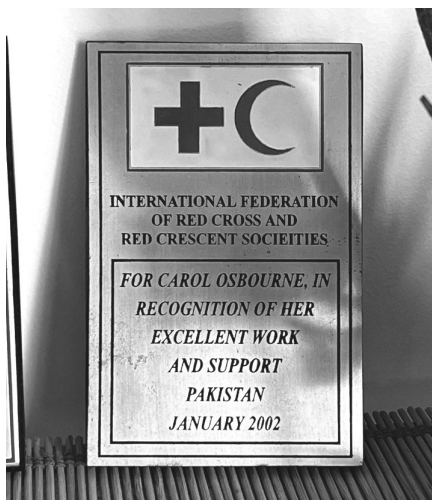
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kindness and generosity. She suffered from poor health for many years and latterly rarely left the house. She was especially vulnerable during Covid and as for so many this was the most difficult of times. She was an enthusiastic emailer and kept in regular touch with her many friends. She was devoted to her dog Cocoa who will live with us until we can find her a new home.

I and my brothers and my wife Jane would like to express our profound gratitude to the people of Lee Common, whose genuine desire to support those in the community who need a helping hand is quite remarkable. Carol's neighbours in Sly Corner have been wonderfully supportive over the years, in particular Sarah and Michael Dubus who have been exceptionally kind. Sarah was especially close to Carol and they shared a weekly sherry and gossip, the highlight of Carol's week.

It is difficult to imagine a world without Carol, a constant presence in my life, a complex character yet a loving sister and a good and loyal friend to all who knew her.



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Moments in time

By Diana Taylor

When I see old photographs of how things used to be

I wonder how the future seemed for the ancients of The Lee

What did they imagine, tracing skylarks in the sky,

Hearing night owls and watching bats or roe deer leaping by?

Could they imagine the sage-old oaks, irreverently brought down,

Beneath which are pugnacious borers claiming Earth beneath the ground,

Or that the meadows would be lifted where once hares ran

To be replaced by stupid vanity and the foolish whim of man?

Would they have thought the May fly would be robbed of her place to hatch?

Did they believe the end was nigh for the poacher and his catch?

As they crossed the hills, dependent on the seasons and strong boots,

What did they know of diggers tearing at their ancient roots?

There in the Methodist Chapel or the Oldest Village Church

Was there a time to encounter the loss of rowan, beech and birch?

NO! It was not possible. Ancient folk had not the imagination

To conjure beasts of metal engaged in such degradation.

What should we do, we modern folk who certainly have tried,

To stop the murderous monsters, when we witnessed terrain as it died,

What should we say to ancestors who knew those bygone ways?

What is the use of weeping during these destructive days?

Perhaps we can yet salvage some innocent time of bliss,

And still live happily in The Lee and feel fresh nature's kiss,

Look to the space around us. No urban sprawl is here,

We may rest and trace the skylarks, hear the owls and watch the deer,

Chase clouds and the sun above us. Wish upon the moon.

Try to count the countless stars, meet friends in the afternoon.

Today, I saw a rainbow arching across The Lee

I thanked heaven that I lived here. It's the very best place to be.

And despite those gigantic assassins destroying many a lane

We can forage in the hedgerows and scent the gentle rain.

Friends are here and about us. They mourn as we all wonder "Why?"

But the gift that The Lee has given us is one that cannot die.

It's the gift of a sacred blessing, nature and sweetest air.

It's the gift of neighbourly friendship of kindness and of care.

At invasion, we all feel angry. It is natural to be cross,

And to mourn much that we have cherished, whose destruction is our loss.

And yet we have abundance, a heritage few ever find,

Where neighbours get together to give help and to be kind

And when I see old photographs of how things used to be

And wonder how the past was for the ancients of The Lee

I wonder what the future holds for the young so happily raised here,

But most of all it's the present time that I hold especially dear.

Yes, the present time is the time we must prize whilst the seasons change in The Lee

For whatever else is happening now – it's the very best place to be.

The Lee in living memory

This month, we include an extract from Betty Fowler's memories, as published in the book 'The Lee in Living Memory – Voices from a special Chiltern parish', copies of which remain available at the Shop at The Lee.



Betty Fowler (1920 – 2010)

Betty lived for 30 years in Chartridge and then 30 years in The Lee, where she was community nurse and midwife. She recalls delivering local babies:

“**A**ll the babies were delivered at home. When they rang, I put my coat on and went and sorted them out. I

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never objected to the father being there. I used to feel a bit guilty because I saw the baby before anyone else. We had a list of things we needed to take. We needed two jam jars, which we used to boil up the instruments, in a pan like a fish pan. We needed a bed pan, weighing scales and a rubber sheet.

“They had to pay us for delivering the baby – thirty shillings for the first baby and the second baby was ten shillings; general patients had to pay two shillings and sixpence a visit. I didn’t like charging people. They could pay so much a week.

“The mothers lay in bed for several days. There was the odd case of thrombosis. They had a bath on the third day and then they gradually got back to normal. I used to bathe the babies for five days and the mother used to watch. I used to wrap them up

tightly. I was responsible up to the tenth day, and then the health visitor came along. We used to push for breast feeding.”

Bridge too far?

By Judy Hart et al

This recent hand set a bidding challenge for E-W and then a defence challenge for N-S.

♠ 8

♥ A K 5 3

♦ J 9 6 2

♣ Q 8 4 3

♠ Q 5

♥ Q J 9 8 7

♦ A Q 10 7

♣ K 7

♠ A K J 10 4 3

♥ 10 6 4

♦ K 5 3

♣ 2

♠ 9 7 6 2

♥ 2

♦ 8 4 2

♣ A J 10 9 6 5

Dealer: West
Vulnerability: All

At our table the bidding started:

W	N	E	S
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
2♦		pass	

How did our bidding progress and in what suit was the final contract? See page 24.

HS2 update

By Cllr Colin Sully

And it came to pass...

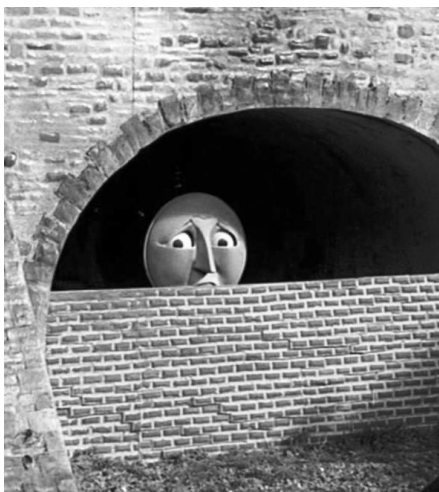
Last month I asked the question “Whose fault is it anyway?” I concluded that, when the HS2 project was originally conceived, the promoters really had no idea what would

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be involved, how long it would take, what the benefits would be, nor what it would cost; but the senior managers in HS2 Ltd and the rail industry lobby convinced the government of the day otherwise. Then, despite the case for the project slowly getting worse, successive governments never had the nous (or political will?) to realise this, even though many economists, rail experts and others have been warning them for over a decade.



A Newsletter reader emailed me to express this conclusion much more succinctly than I had. He described it as: “...overenthusiastic exploitation of government gullibility”.

And so it came to pass, at the Tory Party Conference 2023, that the current Prime Minister finally worked all this out. A bit late perhaps, but I suppose better late than never. Interestingly, the Labour party has also now accepted the same conclusion.

Where do we go from here?

Well, to Birmingham from Old Oak Common (OAC), that seems fairly certain, although not until

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sometime after 2028. Beyond that, it's still all a bit of a mystery.

Supposedly HS2 trains out of OAC (and possibly eventually Euston) will travel on to Manchester and other stations north of Birmingham on 'conventional track', but that raises more questions than it answers: importantly, how many trains and at what speed?

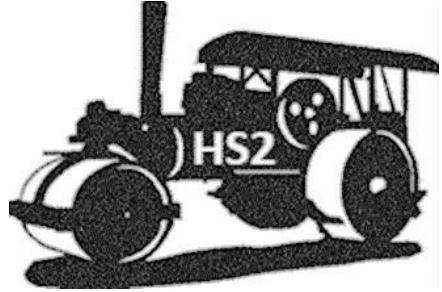
The design speed of Phase 1 is currently 250 mph and trains are on order capable of running at 225 mph (faster than anything else in Europe). The lines north of Birmingham are incapable of having trains travel at anything near this speed and 'through passengers' certainly won't want to change trains at Birmingham. So, is there really any point buying ultra-high speed rolling stock, if the through trains are going to travel the bulk of their journey at much lower speeds?

The problem is further compounded by the fact that it would be difficult (impossible?) to have some super-fast trains and some slower trains running together on the line between London and Birmingham.

Why this still matters to us locally is that if the design and running speed, as well as the frequency of trains, were to end up being significantly reduced, then a range of additional benefits might still be possible for communities along the Phase 1 route.



These are the questions that The Lee and Great Missenden Parish Councils asked HS2 Ltd when the latest review was announced at the beginning of 2023. We have now asked them again and will keep pressing.



On the home front

Locally, construction continues pretty much unaffected by the wider picture, with ALIGN due to take over some of the local surface construction from EKFB at the end of this year and the tunnel boring machines due to reach South Heath early next year.

The intermittent local highway closures will continue through the rest of this year. At the time of writing, the plans for road/lane closures are:

- B485 (Chesham Road): Full closure (24/7): 23rd to 27th October, then lane closure to 3rd November
- A413 (London Road): Overnight lane closures 23rd to 28th October and 30th October to 4th November, then overnight full road closure 20th November to 4th December
- Frith Hill (South Heath Leg): temporary road closure (11:00 am to 1:00 pm) on 15th November and 6th December.

For the latest updates on works in the local area visit www.hs2.org.uk/in-your-area/map/

Is it worth complaining?

Residents are encouraged to complain to HS2 Ltd whenever they

see or hear anything which they think could be better mitigated. There is a note on "*How to complain about HS2*" at www.thelee.org.uk/HS2complaints/

The Lee Parish Council update

From the Chair

By Colin Sully, Chair of The Lee Parish Council

There are many subjects over which the parish council has no direct control, but which we know are of great concern to residents. Here are three current issues on which the Parish Council is trying to make a difference.

Dogs out of control

We have had some disturbing reports over the summer about dogs and their owners being attacked in our area by other dogs. We have also heard of more dog attacks on farm and wild animals. Thankfully, we understand that at least one miscreant has been identified and action has been taken by Thames Valley Police. Hopefully their action will have the desired effect.

The law on dogs and their owners is really quite clear:

- dogs should always be under close control, when in public places
- dogs and their owners should not trespass.

So... any dog that chases / harasses / attacks other people or their dogs or other animals (whether wild or farm) is clearly NOT under close control. Any dog that runs across crops or runs into other people's gardens is NOT under close control.

The answer? Simple, when out in public, keep them on a lead!



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Anyone being attacked by dogs should report it to the police, using 999 at the time of the incident or 101 for reporting it afterwards.

Hedges



The summer has seen a huge growth in roadside hedges, and we are now well into in hedge-cutting season. Any hedge or tree on your property which overhangs the public highway (roads and footpaths) or obscures sightlines on the highway is your responsibility. Every other road user relies on you to maintain your hedge. Also, if an accident were to occur as a result of a lack of reasonable action, you could be found negligent and at least partly liable.

So, check whether your hedge obscures sightlines or overhangs.

If it all looks too big a job to tackle yourself, there are lots of people locally capable of doing some serious hedge-trimming for you.

Residents who identify a hedge that appears to be interfering with highway safety can also report it to Buckinghamshire Council at <https://fixmystreet.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>

Power outages



Fake news?

The area around The Lee has been experiencing increasingly frequent power outages. Many of these last only a few seconds or minutes, but all of them can cause real and sometimes serious problems for residents.

Taking a lead from Cholesbury parish, The Lee Parish Council took it upon itself to record (with the help of Forum members) all the reported outages over a week in early October and emailed UK Power Networks (UKPN) and our MP with the results.

Most seriously affected during the week we monitored appeared to be:

- Lee Common / Sly Corner / Ballinger Road (HP16 9 JP, JR, JU, JX, JY, LA, LD)
- Ballinger / South Heath (HP16 9 LF, LH, LJ, LN, LU, QL, QW)
- Chartridge / Pednor (HP5 2 RX, SH, SZ, SZ))

In a UKPN report to one resident they explained “... *there were three potential causes found. One was some minor electrical defects, which has been repaired. Another was some debris on the overhead line, which have been removed.*

“Our team identified four sections of the overhead line where tree branches were in close proximity. These locations are being surveyed by our tree trimming teams and

depending on access, we aim to have the trees cut within three weeks (by the end of October). We are confident that once these works are complete you will see a more robust and reliable supply of electricity to the area."

Another resident reported that UKPN suggested that when the power goes out momentarily it is often caused by an 'Auto Re-close', which recognises a problem and briefly flicks the power on and off to clear it.

There has also been a suggestion that as demand for electricity changes during the night, the switching of supply from one part of the network to another can trigger 'Auto Re-closes'.

Another resident, noting that the cuts often occur between midnight and 2:00 am, suggests that "it's more likely to be part of planned maintenance."

There is no evidence that these outages are HS2-related nor that it is related to squirrel or glis glis activity.

Whatever the causes, UKPN are encouraging us all to call in so they can build up a postcode map of the issue. The best advice is to call them (either 105 or 0800 316 3105). The more reports / complaints, the more likely it is to be prioritised.

The Parish Council is planning to hold another survey later in November.

Chiltern Ridges News

By Cllr Patricia Birchley
Chiltern Ridges Division
Buckinghamshire Council

Buckinghamshire students have excelled themselves again this summer with excellent GCSE and A Level results above the national average; we can be really proud of our


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local schools, 91.4% are good or outstanding. As Buckinghamshire Council Chairman, I have attended graduation ceremonies at both Buckingham University and the New Buckinghamshire University where wonderful young people have received their degrees in a wide range of subjects. Sir Nicholas Coleridge, President of Conde Nast International and Christina Lamb, international war correspondent for The Times both received Doctorates at Buckingham and our Lord Lieutenant was similarly honoured in High Wycombe.

It has been great to see parishioners at local events this summer. The Bucks County show on 31st August is widely held as the best one day show locally. Horses and livestock stole the day, and the Atkinson Action horses Cossack riding and dressage was superb. I met people from the villages at the show and

spent time talking to the Bucks Cadets, the Kimblewick Hunt, developers and local craftsmen.



Bucks Business First held a Business Leaders Lunch on 17th October at the Riwarz Indian restaurant in Beaconsfield, and has a busy autumn programme for local companies. Bucks Council supports local companies in attracting inward investment to the county, the King's Award, and by creating jobs and apprenticeships locally: the Jobs and Apprentices Show at the Elgiva Theatre on 23rd September was an example of what we do. Increasing prosperity and creating a clear and consistent vision is important to the Council, 80.1% of our residents are in employment compared to 78.2% in the South East. Almost 50% of Bucks residents are educated to degree level and only 4.8% have no qualifications.

We have all heard of the financial demise of Birmingham City Council and several others are on the brink of bankruptcy. Every year the task of delivering our services becomes more complex. 70% of our Council budget is spent on social services supporting the most vulnerable residents, this month we start to plan ahead for 2023/24. Extra money has been found this year to improve the roads but there is still a way to go, and HS2 has to take its share of responsibility for the heavy vehicles which are so unsuited to our local roads. Buckinghamshire has shown fiscal prudence, planning carefully and scrutinising our expenditure in public. We shall be studying forecasts and

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Please let me know if I can raise your concerns with officers at County Hall. You can contact me at Patricia.Birchley@buckinghamshire.gov.uk or on 07714 704017.

Forum Freda

It's been some time since Freda published any forum hints and tips, since when quite a few new members have joined The Lee Forum. Everyone's enjoyment of the forum is helped if members follow a few guidelines – these can all be found on the main help page of <https://www.thelee.org.uk/common-problems> but are also repeated below.



As ever, administrators Colin and Ruth are more than happy to help if you have any queries and can't find the answer on the [Common Problems](#) page. If you aren't sure whether or not a post might contravene the [Code of Conduct](#) – particularly with regards to advertising – again please get in touch and they'll be happy to advise. The best email address to use is always admin@thelee.org.uk as that way your message will be delivered to both administrators, which almost certainly means you'll get a faster response than mailing either of them individually.

The forum continues to go from strength to strength, so thank you to everyone for supporting both it and the administrators.

Village noticeboard vs parish pump

In days of yore, people found out about information either by reading notices on a board, or by chatting in small groups around the parish pump. The forum is more of a village noticeboard where information is published for all to see, rather than as a way for several hundred people to listen in to what is essentially a conversation between two people.

To that end, it would really help when you have items that are lost, found or just needing a new home, if you would provide your contact details when starting a new forum topic so that those who are interested



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can get in touch directly. If you are interested in replying, please contact the original poster directly rather than replying via the forum, which is like posting your reply on the village noticeboard for several hundred people to see.

Similarly please don't just hit 'Reply' to respond to a notification email, it's akin to replying to the noticeboard when you need to reply to the person!

The reach of the forum

The forum currently has more than 800 members, of whom over half receive an email notification for each new topic that is posted. Of those, the majority also receive email notifications for each reply.

When posting a reply it may feel as though you are just responding to the person who started the topic, but in fact you are replying to several hundred

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people! Please think carefully before posting a reply – **is it intended for one person or many?**

Politeness is key

Within The Lee, there are people with many differing opinions on politics, the environment, neighbourliness etc. Whilst the forum always encourages discussion, please remember that it should be welcoming to all and not used to disparage others' views or behaviour.

Advertising

The Forum wasn't designed for commercial advertising of goods or services – the place for that is here in The Lee Newsletter – it's there for small ads posted by people selling personal belongings. From time to time the forum administrators are approached by people wanting to advertise who are pointed in the direction of the newsletter, but sometimes members forget the T&Cs and post an advert anyway. They are always sent a quiet note to remind them, and in some circumstances the post is also removed completely.

The exception to this rule is Shop at The Lee, which is a community owned, not for profit shop rather than a commercial enterprise; additionally the Cock and Rabbit and Old Swan are permitted to post but no more frequently than once every couple of weeks. A blind eye tends to be turned to one-off posts by students trying to earn a bit of pocket money.

Bridge too far?

After West's rebid in diamonds, confirming a five-card heart suit, East had a choice to bid 4♥ or show the spades again.

At our table the bidding was:

W	N	E	S
1♥	pass	1♠	pass
2♦	pass	4♥	pass
pass	pass		

East could have rebid spades and ended up in 4♠. Whether in 4♠ or 4♥. declarer must lose two hearts and a club and, despite the potential to make, both contracts should be defeated with good defence, as there was a ruffing opportunity for N or S.

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

Thursday 2nd. The Lee village walk. 9:30 am on The Lee Green.

Sunday 5th. Bonfire Night Fireworks. Fireworks from 7:00 pm, gates open from 6:00 pm for refreshments, Garden Cottage paddock, Cherry Tree Lane.

Tuesday 7th and every Tuesday. Babies and Toddlers Group, 9:30 am to 12:30 pm in Ballinger Memorial Hall.

Saturday 11th. Shop at The Lee Christmas Food and Gift Market. 8:30 am to 1:00 pm at The Lee Parish Hall. See page 4.

Sunday 12th. Remembrance Sunday. 11:00 am at The Lee War Memorial.

Tuesday 14th. Ballinger Evening WI. 8:00 pm at Ballinger Memorial Hall.

Tuesday 14th. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall.

Continued overleaf...

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Saturday 18th. Ballinger Hall Christmas Fair. 10:00 am to 1:00 pm.
Saturday 18th. Roving Supper. 7:30 pm at the Parish Hall. See page 4.
Thursday 30th. Arts Society, Ballinger. The Musical Magic of Christmas. See website for more details.

Church Services

St John the Baptist, The Lee

Sunday 5th. Holy Communion (BCP) at the Old Church. 8:00 am.

Sunday 5th. Family Service at the New Church. 11:00 am.

Sunday 12th. Parish Communion (CW) at the New Church. 11:00 am.

Sunday 19th. Holy Communion (BCP) at the Old Church. 8:00 am.

Sunday 26th. Parish Communion (CW) at the New Church. 11:00 am.

St Mary's, Ballinger

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Sunday 5th. 9:30 am. Remembrance Communion followed by refreshments. Everyone welcome.

NB: The front garden at St Mary's is a memorial one and anyone who would like to do so is invited to place a cross, wreath or poppy in memory of a loved one at this special time of year.

Coming soon

Friday 1st December. Newsletter Annual Dinner. See page 6.

Saturday 2nd December. Lighting up The Lee. See page 3.

Sunday 3rd December. Lighting up Ballinger. 5:00 pm. See page 3.

Thursday 7th December. The Lee village walk. 9:30 am on The Lee Green.

Sunday 10th December. Fayrfax Consort. 7:30 pm at The Lee Old Church.

Thursday 14th December. Santa to The Lee. 6:00 pm followed by carols on The Lee Green.

Sunday 24th December. Christmas order collection from Shop at The Lee ... and not so soon!

Wednesday 31st January 2024. Annual Bridge Drive. Details next month.

Directory of local contacts

Ballinger Babies and Toddlers Group

Sophie Underwood, 07970 022190

Ballinger Hall Horticultural Society

Chairperson: Katharine Hersee

07801 948650, kjhersee@gmail.com

Membership Secretary:

jennywooding@btconnect.com

Ballinger War Memorial Hall

Bookings: Jane Ogden, 837379

Ballinger Evening WI

Contact: Jane Marsh, 837482
jane.marsh129@btinternet.com

Lee Common C of E School

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

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, The Lee

Vicar: Revd Chris Haywood, 837566.

Churchwarden: Trevor Pearce, 837601.

Treasurer: David Stephenson, 867617.

St Mary's Church, Ballinger

Associate Wardens: Anne Ellis,
837247 and Maggi Cameron, 864790
or maggi.cameron@hotmail.co.uk

Tennis Court @ Parish Hall

Bookings: Pippa Hart 07785 323232
(ideally WhatsApp)

The Arts Society Ballinger

Contact: Susanne Baker, 864893
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

The Lee Parish Hall Committee

Bookings: Pippa Hart, 837340

Chairman: Tony Lea, 837237

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 in the newsletter or place an insert, please contact Hannah Lane at hannahcmlane@gmail.com or on 07747 114640, 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: Paul Apicella, Ruth Fowler, Mary Godfrey, Liz Macann, Jen Ogley, Adam Speller and Colin Sully.

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Naphill
01494 565 555
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Stokenchurch
01494 509 377
stokenchurch@wyeres.co.uk

Lettings High Wycombe
01494 358 358
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Lettings Great Missenden
01494 864 225
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