



NEWSLETTER

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

From the Editor

By Jonathan Batten

It was 415 years ago this month that a failed assassination attempt against King James I by a group of provincial English Catholics, led by Robert Catesby, eventually led to the yearly tradition of bonfire night on the 5th November.

The plan was to blow up the House of Lords during the State Opening of Parliament on 5th November 1605 as the prelude to a popular revolt in the Midlands, where a lockdown was threatened.

The conspirators, who included: John and Christopher Wright, Robert and Thomas Wintour, Thomas Percy, Guy Fawkes, Robert Keyes, Thomas Bates, John Grant, Ambrose Rookwood, Sir Everard Digby and Francis Tresham, limited their plotting meetings to six people at a time but were grassed up to the authorities in an anonymous letter.

The rest is history but, as we won't be having a village bonfire or organised fireworks this year, you may smell more than a whiff of cordite about this edition of the Newsletter and find a few fireworks in its contents. We have also sourced a special gunpowder-infused paper for the printing so that, when you have read it and extracted the Covid helpline flyer, you can roll the magazine into a tube, attach a stick, light the blue touch paper (see page 23) and watch it go.



If you do have your own fireworks in your garden, spare a thought for your neighbours and the local cats and dogs.

'Plogging' The Lee

Last month I was a foot soldier in a cohort of intrepid litter pickers attempting to clear up our roads and verges for the second time this year. It is, as always, a joy to pick up other people's rubbish including a discarded face mask – what sort of people do that?

In Sweden picking up rubbish whilst jogging is a recognised activity called 'plogga'. A combination of the words 'plocka upp', meaning pick up, with the language's word for 'jog', 'jogga'. It has mutated here to the word 'plogging' which now appears in English language dictionaries. The objective of plogging is to exercise while making the area in which you are doing so litter-free.

Now that sounds like something all local joggers could take up: if everyone picked up even one item of litter each time they went out for a run think how much more pleasant our village could be.

With all the madness in the world around us at the moment here is a song choice to cherish for this month:

*Smile though your heart is aching
Smile even though it's breaking
When there are clouds in the sky
you'll get by
If you smile through your fear and
sorrow*

*Smile and maybe tomorrow
You'll see the sun come shining
through
For you*

*Light up your face with gladness
Hide every trace of sadness
Although a tear maybe ever so near
That's the time you must keep on
trying
Smile, what's the use of crying
You'll find that life is still worth
while
If you just smile*

*Oh, that's the time you must keep on
trying
Smile, what's the use of crying
You'll find that life is still worth
while
If you just smile*

Of course we will not see you smile, as you will be wearing a mask, but it's about having the mindset.

Please send your contributions for next month's edition to the editor, Phil Harrison, by 12th November, at theleenewsletter@gmail.com

Your Letters

The Lee Covid-19
Helpline and Volunteers
To the Editor

Please turn to the leaflet included with this Newsletter and retain it for future reference. The telephone number you need is 07836 205105, if suddenly you are self-isolating or need to be shielded.

Don't be embarrassed or feel you are putting others out! If you need help, please pick up the phone. A good number of your neighbours in The Lee, Lee Common, Ballinger and Potter

Row have volunteered to help you – running shopping errands, collecting prescriptions etc. so you can stay safe and we don't spread the virus.

Of course, we hope this 'second wave' is barely a ripple in The Lee. But if it affects your family – please reach out for help – and stay safe.
The Lee Covid-19 Volunteers
07836 205105

Glow sticks



To the Editor

The Shop at The Lee has again been highly commended in the 'Local Community Impact' section of this year's Proud of Bucks Awards.

This section of the awards recognises the work of local groups in response to lockdown and the help that they provide to those in need at the local level. Bucks Council report that they received hundreds of nominations for these awards and the calibre of entries was very strong.

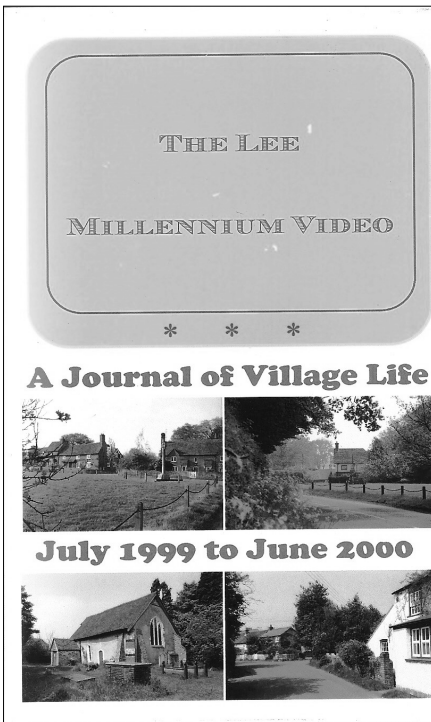
Well done (again!) to all concerned. The Lee can rightly be proud of its community shop.

Colin Sully
Swan Bottom

A year in the life of The Lee

By Tony Rigby (expat. of The Lee)

During the 'lockdown' I had time to clear out old files and review media. During this process I watched some footage from the old 'The Lee Millennium Video' which, some will recall, was issued on VHS tape and the result of me being tasked by the village Millennium Committee to record the life and activities in The Lee Parish at the start



of this millennium, from July 1999 to June 2000.

Pyrotechnics

It occurred to me that the video was probably a unique comprehensive historical record of normal life in the The Lee, as it included the Flower Show, the Fête, Midsomer Murders, pantomime, shows, cricket, Old Church, New Church, suppers, dances, people, animals, seasonal views, parties etc.

Seeing it again is also a chance to remember us as we were and others who are sadly no longer with us. For example, you may have been in the school play, but 20 years on...?

The problem though, should you wish to watch the video again, is that you most probably do not have a working VHS player.

Revisit the start of this millennium with a DVD

I have therefore taken the opportunity to edit the content down to a more concise 59 minutes (losing 30 minutes of 'flab'), while still covering all events and 'happenings' and retaining Geoffrey Palmer's narration in full.

The result is now available on DVD – 'A Year In The Life Of The Lee' – and will be available to buy, exclusively, at the Lee Shop and its Christmas Market, for the benefit of Shop funds.

Please bear in mind that the picture resolution is not comparable to today's digital standard and was further reduced as a consequence of various data transfer processes.

Just sit back, relax and enjoy!

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Impressions of a protest: Jones Hill Wood

By Claudia D'Alessandro

Four years ago I was amongst a group of local people who went to the House of Lords to petition against HS2. The process of delivering a petition and arguing in front of the Select Committee was one I will not forget. The QC for HS2 seemed to have been chosen for his close resemblance to a bird of prey, and his words matched the sharpness of his features. How could we fight such a beast?

Four years on, I have had another taste of the sinister workings of this dubious organisation into which public money is being poured. At first, HS2 seemed a distant threat. We knew it was coming, had seen their vans which regularly dash up and down our narrow lane, the same lane they assured us they would not be using, regardless of people or animals. But HS2 had not really touched our lives at this point. A few vans parked in the field, land left fallow and empty, which would normally be planted or given over to livestock. We were still hoping it would just go away, that the government would realise that with the move to home working, it is even more of a vanity project, an empty idea, a train to nowhere.

Pigeon



Protesters have camped out for some time now in Jones Hill Wood. They are an eclectic group, encompassing many age ranges and people of different backgrounds with one thing in common. They love nature, want to preserve the environment and



Jones Hill Wood from Bowood Lane

want to stop HS2 from destroying ancient woodlands. Tree houses were constructed at the very top of the tallest beech trees. Protesters took on names such as 'Squirrel' or 'Pigeon' in honour of the creatures whose homes they were trying to preserve.

We went to visit the camp on their Roald Dahl open day, held on the famous author's birthday. He would have been 105. I remember meeting him when I was in primary school; a stern and rather grumpy figure, who reminded me of many of the characters in his books.

Willow effect



The wood sparkled in the soft autumn light. A wood fire burned and a pot of stew bubbled appetisingly. The children immediately felt at home and rushed off to play while we adults spoke to protesters about their experiences and aims. One earnest young man told us that he planned to write his thesis in a tree (he was studying ecology), while another told us of the peace to be found in the wood, away from the cares of the busy world. We were shown ancient fossils of marine creatures discovered in the wood, examples of fungi, evidence of animals and birds whose home is here.

A week later, what a difference! I had a message that HS2 had started to

fence off the wood and that protesters were asking for support. The weather had turned. Autumn winds and rain began to pick up, and with the winds, change blew through the wood. I hurried down after finishing work to witness what was happening.

Fences slash through the centre of the wood, men in orange jackets were positioned in the field, and as I started to cross, a policeman came leaping over to ask me (politely) to go around the edge, as this was now HS2 land. On entering the wood, a very different atmosphere reigned. With the soft sunlight gone, to be replaced by heavy grey skies and drizzle, the tension in the air was palpable. After dropping off some supplies to the main camp, I walked down to where the fences cut through the trees.



The wood is divided

Screech rocket



All along the barrier were aggressive looking figures, dressed from head to toe in black, complete with helmets, masks and sturdy boots.

These are the NET (National Eviction Team). The silence was spooky. None of them spoke but stood staring across into the wood and at the protesters who came close to the barriers. If anyone approached or touched the fences, they would close in on them like spiders, creeping up to their prey. Protesters valiantly pierced the silence with rousing songs of "Rise Up!" and "There is no planet B".

The next time I visited, there was more action. Cherry pickers had been brought in, and men were going up into the treetops to where protesters were in the treehouses. The barriers around the shelters were being systematically removed, protesters deprived of belongings, and ropes and harnesses were being cut.

As the NET was drawn ever closer into the stronghold, the protesters seemed more and more vulnerable.

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Weekends: 8.00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

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shop@thelee.org.uk



Thames Valley Police join the NET

The parallels to the story of Fantastic Mr. Fox are truly unbelievable. Tunnels, with protesters holed up, tree shelters dismantled, machines used to destroy and dig out the protesters who have managed to hold out for a week.

It seems that winter is arriving fast and with it, the long icy fingers of HS2 beginning to tighten their grip over our beautiful land.

[See page 8 for this month's general update on HS2. Ed.]

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Shop news November

By Symeon Economou

While it is certainly true that Christmas won't be the same this year, Shop at The Lee is determined to maintain the traditions that have been established these last few years.

To this end the Shop at The Lee Christmas Food and Gift Fair is going ahead, albeit in a slightly different format – please see more details on page 7 of this Newsletter.

By the time this edition is published, the 2021 Lee Shop Calendar will be available. This year we are featuring the work of local artists in a useful and attractive format. They make a great gift for family and friends.

Selection box



As in previous years the Shop will be offering customers the opportunity to let us do the hard slog of the Christmas food and drink shopping. As usual we will have a full list of produce, almost all from local suppliers, including meat and poultry from Kings Farm Shop in Wendover, bread and pastries from Darvells in Chesham, everything dairy from Martin the Milkman and fresh fruit and veg from Prestwood.

This year customers will be able to order online, or using hard-copy packs available in the Shop. We will, as usual, assemble it all and have it ready for collection on Christmas Eve. For vulnerable customers, we will be happy to deliver everything to your door.

Before all of this the Shop is getting a facelift and some new

display units. This includes a new air conditioning system, new lighting, a lick of paint and a new food chiller and freezer. As well as looking smart this will make us significantly more energy efficient.

We would all like to thank our customers for observing the proper procedures, aimed at keeping our volunteers as safe as possible. For our part we have arranged the shop to enable one customer to be waiting inside while another is being served. Together with the outside canopy we hope that this will make queuing less uncomfortable.

Christmas shopping at The Lee

By Katie Michaelson-Yeates

Only a few days now until we open the Parish Hall doors to Shop at The Lee's Christmas Food and Gift Market 2020.

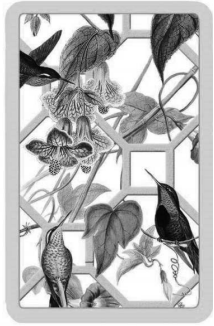
From Thursday 5th until Saturday 7th November, the seasonal market will be selling delicious food and drink, goodies to tempt you, chocolates, biscuits, cakes, stollen, panettone, relishes and much, much more.

Sparkler



Chris Field will have the tables heaving with the prettiest decorations. We will also have everything essential for present wrapping, charity greetings cards, advent calendars and Christmas crackers, plus 'pop and slot' festive scenes, playing cards and beautiful stationery.

Come along and buy locally, enjoying easy and safe shopping at



Beautiful playing cards

The Lee. We will be sanitizing shopping baskets, doors, surfaces and handles. Also, masks must be worn and a two metre social distancing.

The doors are open from 9:00 am until 3:00 pm. If you would like a timed slot, when the market is not open to the public, then please ring me, Katie, on 01494 837940, to book a time.

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Litter

By Pat Chinnery

I would like to say thank you to all who helped clear litter away from our local roads, etc.



Our collection was part of the Keep Britain Tidy campaign this year. Sadly, there was the usual rubbish just thrown from cars and much of the rubbish down Rocky Lane consisted of drink containers, cans, bottles and this year so much more take-away rubbish, I guess due to Covid.



Flying saucer



Several items of clothing were found. I know we have had hot weather but among the clothing was a swimsuit and a dress, as well as scarves and jumpers!

The day after the collection I saw Linda Pearce on her daily walk holding yet more litter. Thanks Linda for all you do to keep our lanes clear of litter.

HS2 update

By Colin Sully, The Lee Parish Council

On 1st October, the HS2 project announced the next tranche of local work, which includes further fencing, archaeological investigations and ecological translocations in the section of the line between Leather Lane and Rocky Lane. The full notification is at www.hs2inbucksandbox.co.uk in the 'Works in your area' section.

This programme, which will be carried out from a temporary compound accessed off Kings Lane, is planned to run from October 2020 through to January 2021, at which point the compound will be removed.

Road chaos

The project has access to the HS2 route, for these so-called 'enabling' works, via a number of locations along Potter Row, Kings Lane, Bowood Lane and elsewhere. Because of the narrowness of Kings Lane, they sought and obtained permission for its temporary closure in order to get their large HGVs in and out, to set up a compound for these latest works. Even with this access secured, an attempt was still made to put low-loaders carrying heavy plant down a different access point. This failed because of its total unsuitability, resulting in a further blockage and tailback on Kings Lane. In early October, with the evictions also taking place at Jones Hill Wood at the same time, the local area became awash with HS2-related lorries, vans and cars.

Z-firing fan cake



The Parish Council has again raised the issue of the use of these lanes with HS2 contractors and with Buckinghamshire Council, but the council's powers to prevent this 'enabling' traffic using these lanes appears to be limited, provided it stays below the threshold levels set by the Act and by highways regulations.

... and nearby

Meanwhile, the roadworks at Great Missenden have been extended into November, a further tranche of 'enabling work' has been announced at Great Missenden and finally a one-day closure of Potter Row is planned for Monday 9th November to instal traffic monitoring equipment..

Jones Hill Wood update

On 1st October, HS2 contractors moved in to take possession of their safeguarded section of Jones Hill Wood (see September Newsletter) and begin the process of removing the protesters, many of whom had secured themselves on platforms high up in the trees.

As reported elsewhere, (page 4), for over a week, the wood became a sea of HS2 security personnel, the National Eviction Team (NET) and Thames Valley Police officers, as fencing was installed to delineate and then clear the HS2 safeguarded area.

After eight days, which included 'Storm Alex' and the return of 'Swampy', climbing officers from Thames Valley Police scaled to the last tree camp, where they arrested the remaining trespassing protesters and charged them with aggravated trespass. A total of 24 arrests are understood to have been made.

At the time of writing, there are no protesters on HS2 safeguarded land.

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HS2 are conducting further ecological surveys and will then seek to obtain the necessary licenses before starting tree felling in the wood.



Forward plans

I presented a general update on local HS2 issues to Buckinghamshire Council's Chesham and Villages Community Board at the end of September. It is available online at www.thelee.org.uk/HS2latest and covers the then understanding of:

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

In October, The Lee and the Missendens' Parish Councils, and local County Councillors were finally given sight of the draft Local Traffic Management Plan drawn up by HS2 for the area (185 pages of it!)

I will summarise it for the next edition of the Newsletter and also put something on the website – well there's something to look forward to!

Bridge circuit?

By Kathryn Dickinson et al

With the points evenly spread between the hands on this deal, and with uneven distribution, it was unclear who would win the contract.

♠ 9

♥ K 9 8 2

♦ A J 7 3 2

♣ J 4 3

♠ 10 7 5 2

♥ 10

♦ K 8 5

♣ K Q 9 7 6

♠ A K Q 8 4 3

♥ 6 3

♦ Q 10 6 4

♣ 5

♠ J 6

♥ A Q J 7 5 4

♦ 9

♣ A 10 8 2

Dealer: South
Vulnerability: N-S

Double break



At our table W-E took the bidding to 4♠ doubled...

S	W	N	E
1♥	p	3♥	3♠
4♥	4♠	p	p
Dbl	p	p	p

... but did they make it? See page 19.

The Lee Cricket Club

By Patrick Walsh

For much of the lockdown it was looking like we would play no cricket at The Lee this season. We were all forced to sit in our

gardens during those endless days of clear blue skies in May and June pondering on what could have been. Boris's comment on cricket balls being a 'vector for the disease' seemed to confirm our worst fears. Then, all of a sudden at the start of July, there was a U-turn by the government and the ECB, and we were given the go-ahead to play, under strictly controlled conditions.

Fortunately our pitch had been lovingly maintained during lockdown by our team of volunteer groundsmen, Ed, Ben and Rob, and we were ready to play at a moment's notice. We had no problem getting players either, and were delighted that many who had not played for a few years came back to the club keen to don their whites again.

Jumping jacks



We have managed to complete half of a normal season, with the Saturday 1st and 2nd XIs each playing the other teams in their division once rather than twice.

What we lacked for in quantity we certainly made up for in quality, with our players managing to score two centuries, fourteen half-centuries, six five-wicket hauls and two hat-tricks! Special mention must go to Harry Rice for notching up four of those five-wicket hauls.

A shorter 40 overs per side, win-lose, format was introduced to the league games to allow extra time for sanitising hands and the ball every six overs, and this actually led to some thrilling finishes.

There was no promotion or relegation this year, but both of our league teams ended up in respectable mid-table positions.

Mini-rocket



As always we like to get younger players in our adult teams, and the 2nd XI often had three Under 13s playing in the team, and often making match winning contributions with bat, ball and in the field.

Our colts' season normally runs from May to mid-July, so the scheduled fixtures were wiped out by lockdown, but the coaches hastily arranged a set of friendlies with other local clubs, and we played these right through until early September – meaning that most of the kids ended up playing more cricket than they would have done in a normal year.

We all hope that next season we can get back to some form of normality – but if we keep seeing the quality of cricket that we have seen in this abridged 2020 season then it will be something special to behold.

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Services in November

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

St John the Baptist, The Lee

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

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

The Lee Old Church

1st 8:00am Holy Communion

Lee Common Methodist

1st 10:00am Gerald Tomkins
8th 3:00pm Dr Jo Prior
15th 3:00pm Gerald Tomkins
22nd 3:00pm Rev Adam Wells
29th 3:00pm Rev Nigel Wright

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

St Mary's, Ballinger

1st 9:30am Format tbc

Please contact Anne Ellis (837247) if you would like to attend as numbers are limited due to social distancing.

St Mary's is now holding a service on the first Sunday of each month and it was full on 4th October, when harvest was celebrated with a socially distanced congregation. The church was decorated with fruits from the hedgerows, flowers and vegetables from allotments and gardens; all of which gave us a glimpse of what life used to be like before lockdown.

Remembrance Sunday 2020: 8th November

By the Editor

As we go to press, we understand that there will be no service at St John the Baptist on 8th November, nor at the Old Church.

The national and local guidance for Remembrance Sunday is that, wherever possible, people should "commemorate at home" on that day, although some limited-scale events are being held, where Covid-19 risk assessments have been carried out and the numbers attending can be controlled.

As it is unlikely that there will be any organised event in The Lee on that day, any residents who chose to go to the The Lee Green are asked to respect the then applicable social distancing rules, traffic regulations and the private ownership of the Green.

Any further information will be posted on The Lee website and Forum as it becomes available.

John Barber – RIP

By Sheelagh Reeve

It is with great sadness that we heard of the recent passing of John Barber at his home in South Heath.

He was well known in the Lee as the man with the steam car that provided so many happy rides around The Lee Green during The Lee Fêtes over the years. John was also a regular member of The Lee Thursday walking group and will be greatly missed by many in the local area.

We knew John as he was our adjacent neighbour for about 20 years in South Heath when he moved into the area from Ley Hill, Chesham after marrying his late wife Hazel.

Salute



John was a lovely social person who would happily stop to chat about a variety of subjects especially when we saw him out walking with his dog, Lucy. His interests ranged from being a keen horse rider in his younger days to a model aircraft enthusiast who flew his model planes at Pednor model airfield and everything in between.

John will be sadly missed by those of us who got to know him and the lovely stories of his adventurous life that he shared with us.

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John with his famous steam car

John passed away after a short illness at his home in South Heath.



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Filming virus

By Jonathan Batten

Last month, after a tip off that some filming was taking place at the Cock and Rabbit, I ventured there to secure a scoop for the Newsletter.

Equipment and crew were in place but I then learnt that filming had been

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postponed as the virus had struck down a key actor.

Tourbillion



I've noticed some more recent activity, but no facts have reached my desk so this may be fake news, but here is a snap to record the day.

The Lee Parish Council news

By Hayley Farrelly, Clerk

Traffic through The Lee

We seem to be getting a lot more traffic through The Lee at the moment – more cars, vans and lorries – and more speeding.

This seems to be due to:

- the closure of the B485 at Chesham (until Christmas),

meaning that more of the Wendover – Chesham traffic is on Rocky Lane / Chesham Lane

- increased HS2 activity between South Heath and Wendover
- HS2 protesters camped at, and visiting, Jones Hill Wood
- roadworks and delays on the A413 causing ‘rat-running’ on the hill-top lanes
- increased building work on Chartridge Lane and locally.

Sadly, the long-awaited HS2 monitoring of hill-top traffic has still not started. The Lee Parish and County Cllrs continue to press HS2 for this to be prioritised.

Damp squib



Bucks Highways have investigated the possibility of a sign saying “Road unsuitable for HGVs” on the road from Chartridge / Chesham but have been unable to find a location that fits within the regulations (there is already such a sign at the bottom of Rocky Lane).

Hummer



Local powers to set speed limits also seem unlikely to be changed any time soon. A review of limits now would require a full highways assessment, public consultation, Buckinghamshire Council (BC) internal committee and full Council discussion / approval process, and then legal amendments to statutory Traffic Regulation Orders. BC are not inclined to go down this route on the evidence available.

Bucks Highways will also not themselves initiate speed signs or cameras on this road. There may, however, be two possible ways forward for the parish council:

- a) make a bid to the Chesham and Villages Community Board for funding for such signs

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b) make a bid to the HS2 Road Safety Fund.

The Parish Council has indicated in principle that it would be willing to take-up these options: (a) first then (b), if (a) fails. We now need to prepare and submit the paperwork!

Coronavirus – local updates

BC continues to provide regular updates on Coronavirus in the county and its effects on local services at: <https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/>

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

In the parish, we are also pleased to see that the Covid-19 volunteer group is still active (see page 2) and encourage anyone that needs local support to contact them.

Basketball net

As you may already be aware, the Parish Council has removed the basketball net from outside the Parish Hall and has now disposed of it. This was due to the old stand being quite badly rusted and concern that it could cause injury. The PC is in discussion with the Parish Hall Committee about replacement with a similar stand and basketball net.

Playground / allotments

The canopy at the children's fort has been taken down, due to wind damage, and we are in discussion with the suppliers about a repair.

In October, volunteers from Lee Common School and the Parish Council cleared areas of accumulated waste in the allotments and on Lee Clump Road.

Parish Council meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th November at 7:30 pm. It will be held

online using 'GoToMeeting'. Anyone wishing to attend is welcome to do so, but should first contact the Parish Clerk at clerk@thelee.org.uk or telephone 07769 698652.

... and finally

A word of thanks, this month, to all our Parish Councillors who give so freely of their time on parish issues, whether it be roads, footpaths, allotments, the playground, planning issues, HS2 or the website/forum.

Unlike county councillors, parish councillors are all unpaid and are elected with no political party affiliation. They are in effect simply another group of parish volunteers.

Effluent-Lee

By Jonathan Batten

Residents of Swan Bottom were relieved and thankful when Thames Water sent their tankers to periodically empty the sewer at the bottom of Red Lion Hill, when the pumps had to be turned off last month, because of a blockage further up the line. Backing up of the pipes was alleviated by a regular supply of tankers, preventing the system from being overwhelmed.



Thunder flash

Things were really beginning to look difficult when there was a sighting of a temporary convenience being set up for use in the hedge along Lee Clump Road.



Broadband – why does it have to be so difficult?

By Paul Farrelly

These are the words I hear more and more as my residential and smart home consultancy services grow and is in no way disconnected from these incredible times we are all living in.

Thank goodness for the wonders of Broadband but what happens if it's just not working? As our homes become our offices, businesses and central family entertainment centres what would we do if we were all still on dial-up. Those of us of a certain age (and I don't mean that long ago

either) will remember dial-up modems and the joy of attempting your dial-up connection to either share a file or retrieve something from the internet. In short, computer networks have always been complicated and still are and to be fair they have become even more so as security and speeds have all increased along with the huge array of devices we want to connect to the internet.

Air bomb

It was back in the early noughties, 28th April 2005 to be exact, and I was a member of the senior management team at BT, when we announced 21CN. This was to be BT's 21st Century Network (hence the abbreviation – something we seem to do in IT and networks expecting everyone to fully understand the acronyms!!) and would revolutionise communications and especially data

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communication to this mysterious technology called IP. Whoops – another one of those dreaded acronyms – that stands for Internet Protocol. This is basically the language one must speak on the internet if you want anyone else, or really anything else, to understand you. It was a huge decision at the time and required around £10 billion of equipment and engineering to enable, what we hoped, would be the next big thing for BT.

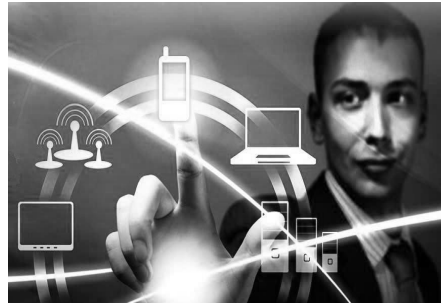
To be fair it was originally aimed at the UK business market both small and large as the internet/email and mobile communications started to boom. Remember this was still the domain of the geeks and techies and the first iPhone was still in early development and was not even released until 29th June 2007. That said, we knew it was coming and it was going to be a huge job installing all this equipment across the UK.

Barrage



I must admit I did not appreciate at the time the important technology hidden inside 21CN. Deep inside the network diagrams on my PC at BT headquarters in London was this thing called Broadband. At first all my technical people were up in arms as this Broadband was aimed at the mass market and consumers but it was going to be faster than the main business technologies of the day and about a tenth of the price!! This was indeed true. At the time it cost a large bank like Lloyds or NatWest around £20k a year for each BT link to their branches and remember back then there were over 15,000 branches. The key was that, like all great technology developments, it was coming anyway and so you either embraced it or you became a dinosaur.

At this time I had spent the majority of the previous four months up and



down to BT's technology research centre called Adastral Park. Adastral Park is a science campus based on part of the old Royal Air Force Station at Martlesham Heath near Ipswich in Suffolk. There was a great team whose job was to try and make things simple, well at least to the average home user who wouldn't be a techie. We could not afford to have a BT engineer (now Openreach) spending two to three hours at every home.

The plan was for five million homes to go online in the first few years, which would be about 5,000 years of BT engineering time, therefore the boffins had designed the whole system to be self-installed. BT would send the hub to the customer through the Royal Mail and they would plug it in and bingo it would all work.

I have to admit even I didn't see the huge uptake in the use of Broadband for the services we now take for granted like iPlayer / Netflix / YouTube / Facebook / Instagram and Amazon but wow, hasn't it revolutionised our lives? The trouble is, it is just not that simple under the bonnet of the Broadband. I shall not even try to explain what's going on inside the smart hub, how the Wi-Fi works or how you can even watch HD TV on the internet in one room and be gaming online in the other, but needless to say, if it is not installed correctly you

will be shouting from the rooftops – Why does it have to be so difficult?

Crackling comet



I think those Broadband engineers back in the early noughties did their jobs a little too well. We think about Broadband as a utility, yet it really is not the same as water or electricity. That said, very few of us would start messing around with our electrical junction box with a screwdriver or start replumbing the house or adding a radiator with the water mains switched on and that is why I am receiving more and more requests for help for all things ‘smart’ for residential homes and home-based services.

So more than ever, think of your Home Broadband as a key residential service and asset. It will need some maintenance from time to time, it will need upgrading or a facelift as you use it more and as it is constantly evolving as we connect more things. It is also worth understanding a little more about how it works to ensure you are getting the best from it as well, so that when you want to use it, it’s just there when you need it.

Volunteers wanted

By Judy Hart

On 5th December from 10:00 am until 1:00 pm in the fields at Swan Bottom volunteers are needed to help plant 100 metres of hedge.

Chiltern Rangers will bring all the necessary equipment but please bring your own gloves. All Covid precautions will be in place.

Flower potting



This is part of a project run by Chiltern Conservation to increase the

biodiversity in the countryside. The woodland trust have become involved and will be planting eight acres of our land with native broadleaf species of trees.

Chiltern Conservation are also looking for volunteers to monitor the populations of birds and butterflies on the land. This would require about two days a year and they provide online training.

So if you think you can help please get in touch on 837328 or judy.elgood@gmail.com

Bridge breaker

Catherine wheel



Following the 9♦ lead, the contract went two down. However, being non-vulnerable, it was a good sacrifice, with N-S able to make 4♥.



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Under cover of the night

By Rita Sully



Blockbuster



A great many Newsletter readers are members of Book Clubs in the local area and beyond. With the winter soon upon us, we thought it might be interesting to see what they are currently reading. Here's a selection:

'The Enchanted April' by Elizabeth Von Arnim. Genres: Romance novel, Domestic Fiction

'American Dirt' by Jeanine Cummins. Genres: Fiction, Suspense, Thriller

'The Story of Lucy Gault' by William Trevor. Genres: Historical Literature; Irish Fiction

'Where the Crawdads Sing' by Delia Owens. Genres: Novel, Bildungsroman, Mystery, Coming-of-age story

'A Line in the Sand' by James Barr. Genres: Non-fiction; History; Politics; Culture

"This is going to hurt" by Adam Kay. Genres: Non-fiction, Humour, Autobiography

If you are in a Book Club, why not let the Editor know when your group chooses a new book – see page 2 for contact details.

Art4Lee

By Ruth Fowler

Last month, you may recall, I floated the idea of Art4Lee – an artistic social event to be held over the first May bank holiday. The artistic part would be an opportunity for people to showcase their talents by putting on an exhibition in their house or garden, whilst the social aspect would be the chance for everyone to stroll around the village viewing the various exhibitions.

To make this work we'd probably need approaching 10 exhibitors (more would obviously be better) but so far only half that number have definitely committed. I'd suggested anything from an open garden to a display of paintings, photographs, pottery, sculpture, carvings, tapestry or (for the younger at heart) Lego models.

Dragons eggs



Art takes many forms and the performing arts wouldn't be excluded, so anyone wishing to give a musical recital, puppet show, poetry reading etc. could also participate.

Refreshments are always welcome, so anyone wishing to display (or sell) homemade cakes, jams, chutneys, drinks etc. would also be able to set up a stall in their house or garden.

My neighbours think even more widely, and the offers to date include exhibitions of glass garden sculpture and village history.

If you'd like to join this illustrious group, please email me at ruth.fowler7@gmail.com or give me a call on 837438. I'm reluctant to concede that this might be an idea whose time hasn't come, so please step forward!

Liberty: the Bucks man

By Colin Sully

On Friday 4th December, the Cholesbury-cum-St-Leonards Local History Group will be hosting, online, a presentation by Will Phillips, the Keeper of Social History at Bucks County Museum. His topic will be ‘Liberty: The Bucks man, the London shop, the global style’.

Titanium salute



Will says: “Liberty, the iconic London shop, needs very little introduction, yet the story of his world-famous department store is full of surprises, from his historical connection to Buckinghamshire to the effects of wartime on the company’s creative vision.”

The Lee Newsletter readers may find this particularly interesting given the huge influence the Liberty family has had (and still has) on the history and development of our parish.

Membership of the Local History Group is just £10.00, for which you can attend all eight of the group’s meetings – whether held online or face-to-face – from October 2020 to May 2021, receive the annual Newsletter

Mike Lake

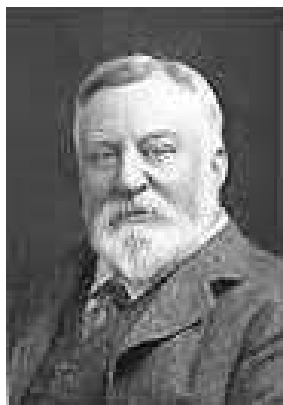
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and be invited to outings. Attendance for a single meeting is £4.00.

Please contact Richard Leat at the Local History Group for more information on 01494 758784 or at leatrj@yahoo.co.uk.



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Dear Diary

The fastest way to let everyone in the Parish know about an event you are arranging is to publish it right here in the Newsletter. Contact the Editor by the 12th of the previous month (see contact details on page 2).

November

Thursday 5th. Village Bonfire and Fireworks. CANCELLED

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

Thursday 5th. The Arts Society Ballinger. In Search of Lookadiya

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Kasperova: Musical Adventures in Russia. Lecturer: Graham Griffiths. Online.

Sunday 8th. Remembrance Sunday. See page 12.

Tuesday 10th. The Lee Parish Council Meeting. 7:30 pm. Online. See page 16.

Saturday 14th. Ballinger Christmas Fair. CANCELLED

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

Cancelled

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

Coming Soon

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

Friday 4th December. Liberty: the Bucks man. Online: see page 21.

Friday 11th December. 'Not-The-Lee-Newsletter-Dinner'. More next month.

Thursday 17th December. The Arts Society Ballinger. The Queen of Instruments: The Lute within Old Masters Paintings. Lecturer: Adam Busiakiewicz. Online.

Directory of local contacts

Ballinger Horticultural Society

Chairperson: Katherine Hersee

07801 948650, kjhersee@gmail.com

Membership Secretary:

jennywooding@btconnect.com

Ballinger War Memorial Hall

Bookings: Jane Ogden, 837379

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

Marian Tomkins, 837479

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

See centre pages.

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

Bookings: Judy Morgan 837787

The Arts Society BallingerChair: Lesley Wickham, 865480
ballinger@theartsociety.org**The Lee Cricket Club**www.theleecc.org.uk
Secretary: Mike Harris
07788 345555**The Lee Flower Show**

Chairman: Jonathan Batten, 837450

The Lee Newsletter

theleenewsletter@gmail.com

The Lee Old Church Trust

Secretary: Pam Garner 837501

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

Contact: 07845 029500

The Newsletter

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

We welcome letters and articles of interest and relevance to The Lee. Copy should be sent to the Editor of the month (see page 2) by the 12th of the month before publication.

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

To advertise or place an insert, please contact Paul Apicella on 837377 by the 12th of the previous month.

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

For queries regarding distribution contact Barnaby Osborne on 837382.

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

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To book the Parish Hall or Scout Hut

'phone Anne Barnett on 837796

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