

Trains had been passing through the parish for some 85 years before Leire Halt was opened. It has been suggested that earlier attempts had been made for a station but the inaugural meeting on 17th January 1923 in the Leire Schoolroom proved to be the start of a successful campaign. The Rector, Rev A. E. Kimpton presided at the meeting and it was unanimously agreed that a committee be formed. It had been intimated by a Midland Railway official that it might be possible to do something for Leire if a strong appeal was made. Petitions were held by season ticket holders and general users, residents of Frolesworth and Ashby Parva supported by a letter to the Midland Railway from the MP Sir Keith Fraser. By the end of the year it was estimated that a station would cost £400 and the Midland Railway wanted to know how much the parish was prepared to give and £100 was a suggested figure.



The early part of 1924 got off to a poor start with low morale but in spite of the apathy in Leire it was decided to carry on. Arrangements were made for a garden fete, concert and requests for donations but the committee were still waiting for the final acceptance and payment terms from the company. By the middle of the year progress with the railway company was slow and hopes were beginning to fade with getting a halt.

On 18th August a poorly attended meeting was greeted with a letter that said Leire could have a halt and work would start as soon as the £100 was sent. The total funds collected to this point were £50-13s-6d (£50.67½) with promised donations of £26-16s-6d (£26.82½) leaving a balance of £22-10s-0d (£22.50). It was decided to send £50-0s-0d now and to call on all householders to meet the balance. The meeting was enthusiastic and augured well for a happy termination to the effort.

At a later meeting the committee received a letter from a delighted individual who expressed their pleasure at the success and if the balance could not be raised by donations they would borrow from the bank with guarantees.

At the meeting on 18th September 12 people were present and it was announced that the total raised was £82-13s-0d (£82.65), which received a hearty applause. An offer was made to lend the deficit if required, which also gained applause. However, the Rector made a full list of those not giving whom he had to call upon!

By January 1925 the £100-0s-0d had been raised without Ashby Parva who had not given a penny by donation. The fund raising for the halt was now over and the meetings focused on how to celebrate.

The opening day of 2nd March 1925 had arrived and the station was decorated with flags. The first train arrived at 7-50 a.m. from Rugby and from Leicester at 8.40 a.m. The 12.40 p.m. took 45 children and 15 parents to the pictures in Leicester. They had returned home by 6.25 p.m. and in the evening a bonfire was lit followed by a social at the school. 60 to 70 people attended the social, which was quite a crush and included music, games, refreshments and a talk. They danced till 12-30 a.m. and it was noted as one of the jolliest times ever had in the school.

The opening of the station was reported in the newspaper as follows: