

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LEE & LINCOMBE VILLAGES
AND SURROUNDING AREAS AND OUR VISITORS

LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

SUMMER 2005

50P



BRIDGE OVER THE STREAM OUTSIDE THE GATE HOUSE IN VICTORIAN TIMES

www.leebay.co.uk

LEE AND LINCOMBE – SUMMER/AUTUMN 2005 VILLAGE DIARY

Saturday 25 June	MakePovertyHistory coffee morning—Village Hall
Sunday 17 July afternoon/evening	The Grampus Inn Trolley Race - on the road from the old Methodist Chapel through the village, and other entertainment at various locations

IMPORTANT: The main Lee road will be CLOSED on 17 July from 3pm until 6.30pm!

Thursday 28 July 2.00 pm	Flower Show – Village Hall
Saturday 30 July – Sunday 14 August	Arts and Crafts Exhibition – Village Hall
Sunday 18 September 6.30 pm	Harvest Festival service – St Matthew's Church, followed by Harvest Supper in Village Hall
Various dates	Live entertainment at The Grampus: look out for announcements

If you would like anything included in the diary for the next issue, please contact the editors (see back page)

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GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

Since the last edition of the Lee & Link'em News, there have been a number of newcomers to the village. We are pleased to welcome the following people and hope they will be very happy here:

Jo and **Colin Gibbs** and their young daughters, **Isobel** (6) and **Meg** (4), to **Lincombe Manor**.

Barry Jenkinson and **Kate Seekings** and their 3-month old son **Ben** to **Southcliffe**

Luke Kemp and **Lucy Hunt** are living at **Whitestone Farm**. They also have a 3-month old son; he is called **Rhys**.

It really is good to have these young children in the village!

LEE & LINCOMBE QUICK FACTS

- *The Great Storm of North Devon in 1910 ripped down part of the sea wall at Lee Bay requiring extensive rebuilding*
- *The galleried area where the organ sits in St. Matthew's Church is approached via an external stairway at the back*
- *The Grange and The Coach House were once one big chrysanthemum nursery and the flowers were taken by train daily for the London market*

NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

I'm writing this note the day after the Lee Spring Fayre, and this gives a very good opportunity to thank everyone who helped to make it such a successful event. As most people know, two-thirds of the profits go to the Memorial Hall and one-third to St Matthew's Church. The church relies heavily on the generosity of village people and visitors to help maintain it in good condition, and it is so encouraging that so many are willing to give their support. At the time of writing, it looks like the church will benefit by about £600 from the Fayre with a further £1200 going to the hall.

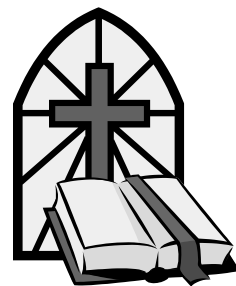
Easter now seems a long time ago, but the church was virtually full for Easter Sunday morning service; the choir only just fitted into the balcony, leading some splendid singing. The coffee morning on Easter Monday was also most enjoyable.

Since then, as far as special services are concerned, it has been one christening, two weddings and no funerals! On 13 March, another grandchild of Tom and Edna Thompson was christened – this one was a son for Sarah and Andy called Joseph Thomas; all five grandchildren have now been christened at St Matthew's. Then, on 7 May, Fleur Turner married James Christacos. You may have seen the photographs in the North Devon Journal of Fleur with her mother, formerly Jenny West, and her grandfather, Ron West. All three generations have now been married in St Matthew's Church, with Ron marrying a Bowden from Lincombe many years ago. The wedding was also notable in that there was a video and sound link from the church to the Memorial Hall so that about 50 extra people were able to watch the service on screen. So, with about 80 in church and a further 50 in the hall, this was probably the largest number who have ever witnessed a wedding in St Matthew's Church! On 4 June – a few days after this note is being written but before it is published – Dan Wilcock, from Seaview in Lincombe, is marrying his Dutch fiancée, Isabelle Pluimmentz. I'm sure everyone in the village sends their very best wishes to Joseph, Fleur, James, Dan and Isabelle.

Many of you will know that our Vicar, Giles, is having three months well-deserved sabbatical leave at present. Giles has been with us for over 7 years now, and this leave is an opportunity for him to study and relax for a longer period than is normally possible. We hope that Giles will return at the end of July well refreshed and looking forward to the next 7 years! Although we are sorry that Giles is not taking the services at present, we are having a variety of visiting clergy week by week so that is making things very interesting! The experiment of starting the service 5 minutes earlier at 8.45 am, so that things are less rushed before the person taking the service has to go to Woolacombe, has been successful and is now permanent.

With the summer upon us, the number of visitors increases, but, as always, everyone – residents and visitors alike – is always most welcome at the service every Sunday at 8.45 am. During the Arts and Crafts Exhibition in August, I am hoping to arrange for a number of different people to play the church organ at different times to provide an additional activity for visitors, and, after the summer, thoughts turn to Harvest. Harvest Festival will be on Sunday 18 September at 6.30 pm, followed by the Harvest Supper in the Memorial Hall. This is always a joyful occasion, so put the date in your diaries now, though we'll enjoy summer first!

Ian Stuart—Vice-Chairman, St Matthew's PCC



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SPRING IN FRANCE

It has been wonderful to experience our first French spring. After arriving last July to the washed out colours of high summer when all living things were drowsy in the heat and the grass had stopped growing I thought perhaps that we would not see a proper green English-type spring either. But I couldn't have been more wrong. All April it rained. Not necessarily during the day, but the nights threw it all down so that we weren't able to complete the swimming pool on schedule and instead, spent many weeks siphoning out unwanted water from the great clay pit that we began to think would never be a clean sparkling pool at all. But boy did it set the grass growing. I'm writing this on the last day of May and the farmers have been out all week working like beavers cutting and drying the hay. Silage crops were taken only a week or so before that. The grass in my fields will be cut next week and is already over four feet high and I'm not encouraged to walk in it at the moment for fear of the snakes. Not that we have any poisonous ones apart from the viper, but a six foot western whip snake doesn't need to be poisonous to set me screaming for home. And it's not easy to run in high grass!

The wildflowers are fairly similar to those we see in England but there appear to be more of them. Lungwort has been in flower in the woods all Spring and there are at least three types of orchid in my fields and lots of other wild flowers that I have yet to identify. The orchids are so numerous, in fact, that after our French lesson last Tuesday we sat around our friend's kitchen table peering over a vase stuffed full of them. Hilary, sitting beside me and who used to work for English Nature, bit back her disapproval but some of the fields here are dotted pink with so many fragrant orchids that it is hard to be too critical. Perhaps my favourite though is the bee orchid which grows all over the verges and never fails to make me smile with its unbelievable imitation of 'bees in flowers'. Two or three times, when out riding with friends, I have jumped off the horse to show them this amazing little flower that doesn't shout it's arrival like some of the more garish orchids but is all the more fantastic for a close inspection.

The swallows have been here in their thousands of course, diving over the swimming pools and lakes for their dinner and appearing rather confused as they flew into the newly renovated bedrooms, finding themselves sitting on curtain tracks instead of the lofty heights of the grange which was here last year. We have hoopoes, which are charming, and red and black kites aplenty over the fields, and of course, this years crop of baby coypu which are considered a pest here and can be shot at any time or alternatively, disposed of by the pest control man who will come out from Auch, but for those of us not concerned with the damage they do to the ponds and crops, they are lovely to watch at the field edges, so long as the dogs are discouraged from chasing them as they take no prisoners and many a dog has received a nasty and infected bite from their razor sharp rodent teeth. They were originally imported from South America for their skins but have, like the mink in England, gone feral. Unlike the mink however, they are not entirely wasted and appear on restaurant menus here.

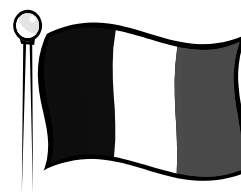
SPRING IN FRANCE CONTD.

On a political note, our French teacher, Chantal, is currently locked in battle with the movers and shakers of the Gers department trying to prevent them from carrying out their tree-felling programme. The Gers has a very limited amount of commercial and industrial activity, and no autoroutes that traverse it. This, though attractive to tourists, and giving us some of the cleanest air in Europe, leaves those who will be important with an inferiority complex apparently, and as the department also has had a bad reputation for road accidents in the past, the blame has been squarely, though maybe not fairly, laid at the door of the plane trees that line the roads. So down they will come with the help of massive grants of course. Working on the premise that it is not the trees that move into the road but the drivers who leave it, Chantal and many others are fighting this, what appears to them, trigger happy reaction, which, since it has been started, has made no difference to the accident rate anyway. Watch this space...

The other political football is of course the oui or non to the european constitution. (Note how I put european in small letters - how French is that!!) Yesterday they voted, I understand, a 'non'. Next Tuesday at our French class it will, without doubt, be the subject of the week. As I have been too busy and too lazy to keep up with French politics during this last year I will either learn a lot or understand nothing.

Our B&B has been great fun. We've met lovely people as ever, with the wife/girlfriend/children often riding with me in the evenings. Last week a couple came from England and ended up buying a house here - on their first visit to the area. I shall be taking a local building firm over there tomorrow to show them what needs doing and they hope to be over here permanently in eighteen months. The influx is not abating.

Fran Nustedt bertin11@wanadoo.fr www.gasconyretreat.com



"OUR B&B HAS
BEEN GREAT
FUN. "

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MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY

On Saturday 25th June, a coffee morning will take place in the village hall to raise awareness about and support for the MAKEPOVERTYHISTORY campaign.

Poverty is not just about a lack of money, it is about not being able to live a decent life, regardless of however much you try. The people of the richest countries have shown since Boxing Day last year that we value the

lives of all people in the world, that misery cannot be tolerated next to such prosperity. People of the world seem to agree on this, but world leaders seem not to.

With today's wealth and technological advancement, the way that our (elected) leaders choose to rule the world does make a difference between war and peace, health and death, smiles and tears; between a life of emancipation and a short one of misery.

Poverty has many causes, in many situations, but WE can bring change to three disgraceful ways that keep poor countries poor. If people want it, then our leaders must do it!

Trade Justice:

Because the richest nations make the rules to keep themselves rich & powerful and to keep the poor countries helpless, poor and dependent.

Drop the Debt:

Because it is a disgrace that incredibly rich nations should be asking incredibly poor countries £13 in repayments for each £1 given in aid!

More and better aid:

Because intolerable conditions for aid must stop – i.e. cut on public health spending, water privatisation, “forced” trade agreements; and because promises of greater help must be honoured.

Back to the Lee coffee morning; I am looking for helpers on the day, please call me beforehand (879477) if you are able to volunteer. Maybe would you like to participate and bake one of your delicious cakes for the occasion? Best to use fairly traded ingredients this time – nuts, fruit, coffee & cocoa, sugar and honey are easily found. Try Fair's Fair in Bear Street, Barnstaple, the fair trade shop.

The coffee morning will also include a small exhibition about global poverty, the MakePovertyHistory campaign and the work of different charities. All proceeds will be donated to ITDG (Intermediate Technology Development Group) an international organisation “working with poor communities to develop the skills and technology that will enable them to build a better future” – Practical Answers to Poverty.

“Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an ACT OF JUSTICE. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom” Nelson Mandela

If not now then when?!

If not us then who?!

Yvan Maurel



MAKE POVERTY HISTORY
TRADE JUSTICE. DROP THE DEBT. MORE & BETTER AID.

LEE & LINCOMBE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION 2005 AGM REPORT

The Chairman, Paul Thom, welcomed 26 members to the 38th AGM of the Association. In his address, the Chairman explained that as part of the Residents Association's consultative role, the Committee had considered 10 planning applications last year, of which there was no comment to make on 6 cases. Of the other 4 cases, there was no objection to 2 of them although certain aspects needed clarification and the remaining 2 cases were highly controversial and both were withdrawn. In 2 cases, the applicant attended a Committee meeting to explain their application and answer any questions. The Chairman thanked the retiring Committee, the Secretary and Treasurer for their dedicated work and support during the past year. Special thanks were due to Wendy Hunt and Peter Warmington who were retiring from the Committee. Adrienne Howard, Secretary for the past 30 years, retired also and was thanked for her exceptional contribution to the Association and the village. Adrienne was presented with a bouquet of flowers. The Chairman concluded by thanking everyone helping with the Britain in Bloom display.

The Treasurer reported a £103 loss for the year. This was due to a combination of continuing the flower displays in the village without a grant from Britain in Bloom, lower subscriptions collected and several one-off expenses. In the plus side was a £60 donation towards the flower displays in the village from the Lee Flower Show Committee, to which the Association would like to record its grateful thanks. Action will be taken to reduce the loss in the current year. The Secretary, Adrienne Howard, gave her report which covered various matters dealt with by the Committee during the year. The most important was the strenuous efforts made to combat NDDC's proposed closure of the public toilets on the footpath to the seafront. Ilfracombe Town Council has agreed to take them over and after numerous legal delays, we are informed that the transfer should be completed shortly. Lee Bay Hotel has agreed to take on the cleaning of the toilets. We are extremely grateful to both of these parties for stepping in to save the public toilets. The Association has continued to press the Highways Department to reduce speed limits in both villages and a traffic survey was carried out recently. A meeting with Highways has been arranged to pursue the matter. Members' questions were then answered. Both reports were adopted.

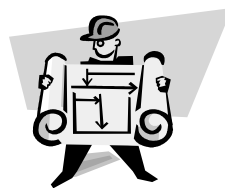
Possible changes to the Constitution were then discussed with particular emphasis on the requirements for a member being nominated for the Committee and on the attendance of members at Committee meetings. The consensus was to leave these unchanged but it was agreed that the agenda for Committee meetings should be displayed a week before the meeting to give members the opportunity to raise any queries with a Committee member before the meeting.

An unchanged annual subscription per household of £3 was approved. The 7 nominations received for the Committee were accepted and duly elected, as follows:

David Beer (Tel: 864317), Eric Couling (863257), Jim Hawkins (865499), Paul Jagers (862975), Yvan Maurel (879477), Paul Thom (862309) and Colin Wright (864485). There being no further business, the Chairman declared the AGM closed. Wine and cheese and refreshments were served to all members.

Paul Thom - Chairman

P.S. We are urgently seeking someone to take on the position of Honorary Secretary and anyone interested should contact me.



"THE
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LAST YEAR"



"STRENUOUS
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CLOSURE OF THE
PUBLIC TOILETS"

BUS SERVICES FOR LINCOMBE AND LEE

I wrote in the Autumn edition of the Lee and Link'em News about bus services to the village, expressing pleasure at the introduction of a Monday to Friday winter service for the first time for many years, but also expressing concerns about what might happen in the longer term. The summer timetables started on 29 May, and there is both good news and bad news to report.

First the good news! For the summer period, until the end of September, service 35 from Ilfracombe to Lee Bay will resume the normal pattern of 4 services each way on Mondays to Fridays, but, in addition, the service will run to the same timetable on Saturdays, giving a Saturday service for the first time for many years. The operator of service 35 has changed; Filers Travel has taken over from First Group, having entered an agreement with the County Council to run this subsidised service. The Lee Bay service is integrated with Ilfracombe Town services, and Roy Filer has bought a bus especially for use on these services and will be using a very experienced local driver. The other very good news is that Roy now has a contract to run these services for 5 years, and the contract includes a twice daily service throughout the winter on Mondays to Fridays. I am delighted that the County Council's experiment for a regular winter service to Lee Bay has been sufficiently successful for them to guarantee its continuation for 5 years. Quite a number of locals and visitors have used the service during the winter, and I do hope more will do so in the future to justify the County Council's decision to support the service. If you are 60 or over, do remember that, with the Devonwide half fare travel pass, the return fare from Lee Bay to Ilfracombe is only 85p – quite a bargain!

Now the bad news. For the new timetable, First Group has again diverted the Ilfracombe to Woolacombe service via Mullacott Cross instead of via Lincombe Cross. The bus company argues that there is too much congestion in the summer between Lee Cross and Lincombe Cross and their buses get delayed. However, it means that a regular service to Woolacombe and Mortehoe from Slade and Lincombe is removed, and there is only service 35 to Ilfracombe. A major consequence is that people are unable to walk one way between Lee and Woolacombe or Mortehoe and catch a bus back in the opposite direction, unless they travel via Ilfracombe. There is one exception each way to this. The 0800 from Ilfracombe does come via Lincombe Cross at 0813, which, though useful for pupils going to Woolacombe school, is too early for most other people. However, the 1531 from Woolacombe (1539 from Mortehoe) travels via Lincombe Cross at 1547, providing at least one opportunity to return from a walk to Woolacombe or Mortehoe.

Although there isn't anything that can be done to improve the Woolacombe service via Lincombe Cross for this summer, I shall renew pressure on the bus company to revert the service via Lincombe Cross in the winter, and, if it is still unwilling to do so for all services in future summers, at least keep some of them running via Lincombe Cross. The present summer service 35 until the end of September, operated by Filers Travel, is printed below.

Ian Stuart

ILFRACOMBE - LEE BAY via Slade

DevonBus 35

Monday - Saturday (Except Public Holidays)

	SD				30 F		30 F	
ILFRACOMBE Community College	-	-	-	1535	-	-	-	-
ILFRACOMBE Bus Station	0940	1215	1415	-	1715	-	-	-
ILFRACOMBE High Street Garage	0943	1218	1418	1540	1718	2030	2230	-
SLADE Saltner Close	0950	1225	1425	1545	1725	2035	2235	-
LINCOMBE CROSS	0955	1230	1430	-	1730	-	-	-
LEE Fuschia Tea Rooms	1001	1236	1436	-	1736	-	-	-
LEE BAY	1005	1240	1440	-	1740	-	-	-
	SD	SSH				30 F	30 F	
LEE BAY	-	-	1005	1240	1440	1740	-	-
LEE Fuschia Tea Rooms	-	-	1008	1243	1443	1743	-	-
LINCOMBE CROSS	-	-	1015	1250	1450	1750	-	-
SLADE Saltner Close	0830	0830	1020	1255	1455	1755	2035	2235
ILFRACOMBE High Street	0835	0835	1025	1300	1500	1800	2040	2240
ILFRACOMBE Bus Station	-	0840	1030	1305	1505	1805	-	-
ILFRACOMBE Community College	0845	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
CODE:	SD - SCHOOLDAYS ONLY				SSH - SATURDAYS, ALSO MONDAY TO FRIDAY IN SCHOOL HOLIDAYS			
	F - FRIDAY ONLY							

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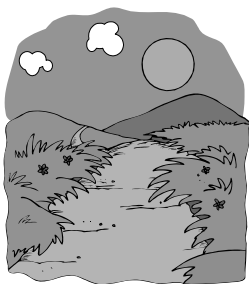
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"SATIRICAL NAMES ARE VERY COMMON IN ENGLAND, AND OUR LEE EXAMPLE IS "PARADISE" – A SMALL, STEEP, ROCKY FIELD, WHICH IS ANYTHING BUT HEAVENLY."



"'CLEAVE' ITSELF IS A VERY COMMON LOCAL FIELD-NAME ELEMENT, AND MEANS A STEEP ESCARPMENT – WE HAVE PLENTY OF THOSE."

FIELD NAMES IN LEE AND LINCOMBE

In an age when most of the population worked in agriculture, every field in Britain had its own name, and these names had a very real purpose in everyday life; but nowadays I doubt whether many of us could cite more than one or two fieldnames in our neighbourhood. Nevertheless they are still on record, in estate maps, in tithe apportionment documents and in wills, and I believe it would be very worthwhile to gather them together as a snapshot of our communities in previous centuries.

With the kind help of Peter and Mary Lethbridge I recently made a start at studying them, particularly with regard to Damage Barton and Yarde, and also parts of Warcombe, and I found several interesting examples.

Most local field names are simply descriptive, indicating size, shape, or quality of land. Thus "Seven Acres" is self-explanatory; "Hatchet Field" is a rectangular piece with a long strip attached; "Lumpy Land" has lots of rocks in it; and "Best Grass" is, well, succulent.

Satirical names are very common in England, and our Lee example is "Paradise" – a small, steep, rocky field, which is anything but heavenly.

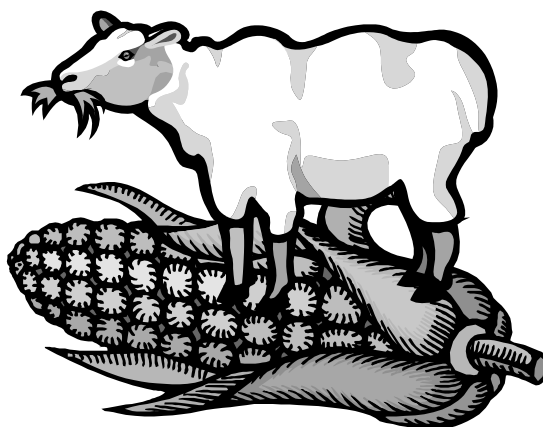
Some of the most interesting names are those which preserve dialect words now lost. So "Cantles" meant in mediaeval times "corners" or "portions"; "Arrish Cleave" or "Lower Oatharrish" preserves the obsolete dialect term for a stubble-field, or a field which after being cut is allowed to grow through again; "Colly Croft" is the black or smokey enclosure; "Fitching Cleave" might well mean the cleave where vetch grows. "Cleave" itself is a very common local field-name element, and means a steep escarpment – we have plenty of those.

Quite a lot of names are simply mysterious: what for example does "Higher Sweating Ham" mean? And there are plenty of "Frog Parks" in England, fields where frogs abound, but is this the meaning of our "Froak Park"?

One name that Mary and Peter found especially mysterious was "Shebbaneers", until they realised that this was simply "Sheep and Ears", a field that was good both for grazing and for growing corn. In fact they liked it so much that they transferred the name to their son's house!

I understand that in the '60s Women's Institutes up and down the country made a comprehensive record of local field names, and I would be fascinated to see such a document. I have looked for it high and low, but I can find no trace or recollection of it – it's not in the Women's Institute Information Centre nor in The Women's Library - and I would be most grateful if anyone can tell me where to find it.

Colin Wright



WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT—SPRING 2005

Awards for All Grant. A visit to Denman to learn wood finishing had been made by Biggi, Liz, Marion and Cynthia.. They brought the work they had done to the May meeting and explained what they had learned. Other members are there on a course as this is being typed. Future training trips to Denman are booked for 2005 and 2006 in various subjects. The Awards money concludes in October 2005 and all courses must be booked and paid for by then, when a report is sent to the Awards for All Committee.

There is a full patchwork group. Extra Fifi (find it and finish it) sessions have been arranged for the Autumn. Planning is in progress for an exhibition next year.

The Beach Clean Up combined with the Village Clean Up. It was a glorious day again and after lunch at the Grampus eight helpers went to the beach.

A successful Shakespeare Supper was held in the village hall with entertaining renditions by members and friends.

The Swimming Group will carry on as usual at the Woolacombe Bay Hotel organised by June.

Becca is organising more walks this summer for members to enable them to achieve the 90 miles W.I. target. The first one on the coast path was held recently.

Mavis, Pat and Mary, the Issues Committee, were not able to achieve publication in any W.I. literature to find out the views of other W.I.'s. At the next meeting they will discuss the democracy of this and what the next step of the committee should be.

The Literary Group has its maximum 16 members. An interesting variety of books had been tackled, some more popular than others, but the discussions over a glass of wine were always interesting, stimulating and thought provoking.

Pat Seymour—Press Secretary



“IT WAS A
GLORIOUS DAY
AGAIN AND
AFTER LUNCH
AT THE
GRAMPUS EIGHT
HELPERS WENT
TO THE BEACH.”

LEE ART AND CRAFT EXHIBITION – LEE MEMORIAL HALL

Daily 11am – 6pm

from Saturday 30th July 2005

until Sunday 14th August 2005

Make a date in your diary to visit the annual exhibition of local talent now in its sixth year. Entrance is FREE and you are invited to enjoy the variety of paintings and craft at your leisure. All purchases may be taken away on completion of the sale and there will be a raffle to raise funds for the Memorial Hall.

Many of our popular artists are returning this year and the Craft Section will be as varied and colourful as ever. Karen Wright will be joining us in the Craft Section, making a total of three generations from the Wright family.

If you would like to be considered as an exhibitor you can contact me on 01271 863367, no later than the first week of July, when the details will be finalised.

Brenda Keeble



"NOW, IN 1921,
AT THE AGE OF
60,
GRANDFATHER
TAKES ANOTHER
GAMBLE."



"ILFRACOMBE
COUNCIL, ALSO
IN 1922,
CONNECTED A
WATER SUPPLY
TO LEE"

"THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS" (PART 2 OF 3)

Grandfather's gamble in moving forty miles to a small farm at Slade Valley & then to a bigger farm "Allenders" was a success. Except for his two youngest sons, his children have "flown the nest". Several have sailed on the paddle steamers for employment in industrial South Wales. Mother said that one played cricket for Wales & another went from there to the U.S.A.

Queen Victoria's reign ended in 1901; her son Edward the 7th's reign ended in 1910; his son, George the 5th (1910 to 1936) is now on the throne. From the Crimean War against Russia to the Boer War in South Africa, the ANZAC war with Turkey to the Great War with Germany, our losses, both in men & horses, are numbered in millions. The countryside is in decline & thousands of workers are on strike & in the big towns & cities, some are begging in the streets.

Now, in 1921, at the age of 60, Grandfather takes another gamble. Whitestone & Pludd farms at Lee are becoming vacant, the tenant William Henry Watts, is retiring. There are 37 fields, a total of 177 acres, 0 rods & 34 perches. The long list of field names such as "Crooks Hill, "Normans Cleave" & "Greystones" fill half a page. Grandfather signs & his two sons witness the long complex legal document; he agrees to pay £220 pounds sterling per annum. Father sells all the milk, from door to door, with his pony & trap in Ilfracombe daily. Uncle Courtney markets the Devon Beef herd & there are two other workmen, Jim Dyer & Bill Dallyn.

Colonel Ralph Longstaff, DSC, of Twitchen Manor, Morteheo is the Landlord & the pages of legal jargon are daunting.

"The Landlord, his agents, his servants & workmen have free liberty to enter the said premises at any time. The Landlord reserves all timber, pollards, coppices & woods; all saplings & standills. He can search for, dig, work, dress, or carry away the produce of the mines, sandpits & quarries. He reserves all Game, Rabbits, Woodcocks, Snipe, Quails, Landrails, Wildfowl & Fish.

To protect the 'Stannays' there is a fee of £2.10s"

"The Tenant must plash, load & bank-up all hedges; he must give 10 days notice upon each breach of the soil for tillage, & on every acre, he must spread 3 tonnes of good Lime; 7 hundred-weight of Bone or 15 cart loads of Farmyard dung. After cutting hay meadows, they must be fertilised with 2 tons of good lime, mixed earth & 13 two horse cart loads of Farmyard dung per acre."

Grandfather signed this document on the 25th of March 1921. The following year, 1922, the Landlords solicitor sent him a letter taking back taking back a meadow for Ilfracombe Council to cut a new road down the hill to Lee. The solicitor asked Mr Yeo, a Blacksmith & Wheelwright, of Morteheo to arbitrate a reduction in the sum in the £220 rent. Mr Yeo decided that it should be reduced to £217.

The main road to Lee had always twisted its way into the farmyard at Whitestone & then turned sharply down to Pludd Farm. Everyone going to & coming from, the village of Lee, had to open & refasten the farmyard gate to pass along the road; now the two farms became more secluded.

Ilfracombe Council, also in 1922, connected a water supply to Lee; they built a covered holding tank with a pressure reducing valve in the meadow next to Pludd.

“THOSE GOOD OLD DAYS” (PART 2 OF 3—CONTD.)

Without this valve all the new taps in Lee would explode, & now 82 years late, it still serves its purpose.

My father, newly married to a Plymouth girl, lived in Pludd farm & his brother, Courtney, with his wife, lived at Whitestone farm with my grandparents. Father & his brother were using two horses to pull farmyard manure into a meadow one day. As Father unlatched the tail-board, his older brother tipped the dung onto him! You can imagine my mother's face as her new husband came down the lane absolutely smothered in foul smelling manure.

On April 4th 1922, Grandfather received a letter from the landlords solicitor. A Mrs Dyer of Ilfracombe had written to the Colonel to request permission to construct a “shanty-style” tea room in Grandfather's field, on the Lee Downs. Colonel Longstaff's letter “utterly forbids Grandfather to allow this to be built as the Colonel feels that visitors will trespass on the land, worse than they do now & they must go down to Lee for their ices & mineral water & not make a day of it on the cliffs”!

Grandfather had more than a decade of success at Whitestone & Pludd farms until he retired aged 72. Father who had worked for his father all this time, moved up onto the cliffs at Lee Downs.....into a “shanty-style” tea house!!!

He rented 2 fields & a galvanised iron bungalow from farmer Armstrong of Lee. It was from this bungalow that Mother, with the help of a maid from London, called Elsie, ran a successful ices & cream teas business. Father kept 3 Jersey cows & sold his milk from a can on his bicycle around the houses in Ilfracombe.

My elder brother & I although born at Pludd farm, (me “under a gooseberry bush”!), now lived a good life on the edge of the cliffs & walked down to Lee, where we were educated at the little school next to the church.

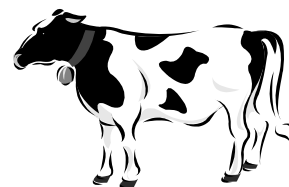
Whitestone & Pludd farm-houses are now residencies & the farm-lands are on the market for nearly one million pounds....making Grandfather's annual rent of £217, the equivalent of a weekly wage packet today.

“Farmer”.

[Ed: Thank you to the editor of Shammickite & to “Farmer” for permission to re-print this second instalment, & to Brenda Keeble for bringing it to our attention.]

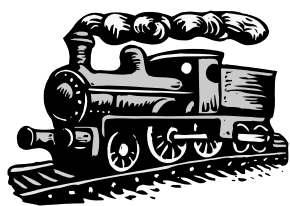


“AS FATHER
UNLATCHED THE
TAIL-BOARD, HIS
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HIM!”

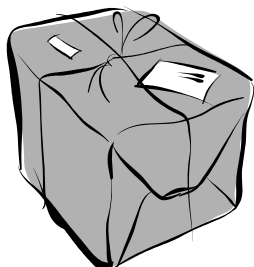


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“THE OLD
MAIDS
COTTAGE
WAS THE
FOCAL POINT
IN THE
VILLAGE”



“THE BUS
COMPANY EVEN
EMPLOYED AN
INSPECTOR TO
CONTROL THE
QUEUES AND
DEAL WITH
PARCELS SENT IN
AND OUT OF
THE VILLAGE!”

GREETINGS FROM DEVON!

With the natural decline of ‘born in Lee’ residents and the influx of many new home owners, village life has changed so much since pre-war days when this writer was a very young pupil at Lee school (now The Craft Shop), it seemed appropriate to take a walk back thru’ memory lane!

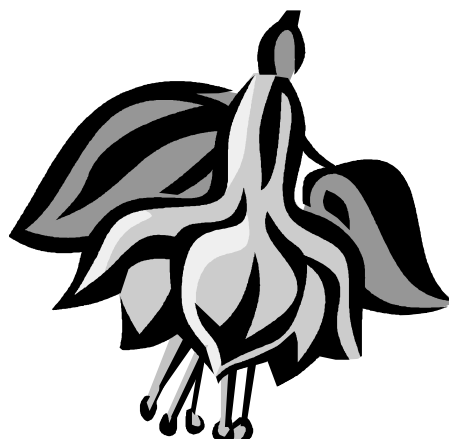
It is hard to believe what a bustling community it was in those days with the village crowded with both day trippers and guest house residents. The Railway station at Mortehoe was the arrival point for many holiday makers – heading for Mortehoe, Woolacombe or Lee. They also arrived by bus from Ilfracombe - a half hourly service at the height of the summer, and also by Motor Launches - normally an hourly service when the weather was right. Then, of course, there were the many walkers enjoying the views over the downs.

The Old Maids Cottage was the focal point in the village with queues forming, sometimes as far as the Church entrance, to pay for a conducted tour around. Tea Gardens abounded starting with Mrs Howcroft’s tea room, located above the School House, catching quite a lot of weary walking travellers. Coming down through the village one came to The Fuchsia Tearooms (now The Orchard) followed by The Old Post Office which in addition to being most popular, also ran a Taxi service. One car which was called “The Fuchsia Queen” was a nine seater Crosley with gleaming brass headlights. Owner Harry Taylor’s girth was such that he could hardly sit behind the wheel! He wore a wide leather belt which I always felt kept him together. A well known character, Farmer Armstrong, owned the Old Farm (now The Grampus) and his brother in law, Jack, ran the Old Farm Tearoom- which with its attractive gardens was always a favourite. Continuing, -The Gate House, beside the little rustic bridge, was called The Fuchsia Glen Tea Garden and my recollection is of the many yellow umbrellas usually on view.

Two Ladies who lived at Myrtle Cottage had a wooden chalet style shop on the left as the beach came into view. They worked in the winter painting shells and flat stones with Fuchsias and making Raffia mats. Then, facing the sea, was the Smugglers Cottage with its cannons displayed in the garden. Finally, and perhaps the most popular of all was The Old Mill House which served beach trays and hired out deck chairs for many years.

At the end of the day, many visitors had to face bus queues all along the beach wall to return to Ilfracombe. The bus company even employed an inspector to control the queues and deal with parcels sent in and out of the village! So, for those who enjoy the tranquillity of our village today – remember that it was not always so! Visitors added much to the incomes of families and, in those days, were very important.

Lionel Hill



LEE – A LOOK BACK IN TIME

Browsing thru' my old postcards of Lee, collected through the years, I came across one which was sold by the thousand at the Old Farm Tea Garden (now the Grampus) which I have reproduced here.

Lionel Hill

Why doan't ee take and write?

*Ow is it you never do write to we now?
Seems as if you you've forgotten we quite;
So I'm sending this 'ere
For it do seem purty queer
Why in world you never do write.*

*The poastman do pass every day
No there's nothin' for you, ee do say
It do strike like a blow
An' I feel west ye know
Cause yer' 'andwritin' don't come long our way*

*Is it rheumatic you've got in yer 'and
What tez else I caan't onderstand.
Hef yer ink is gone dry
You can still send reply
For black lead will supply yer demand.*



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FUCHSIA TEA ROOM AND TEA GARDEN

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TEL: 01271 863551

Email: pat@elcottages.co.uk

Opening Hours

Sunday to Friday 10.30 - 5

Plus Saturday 3-5 in July & August

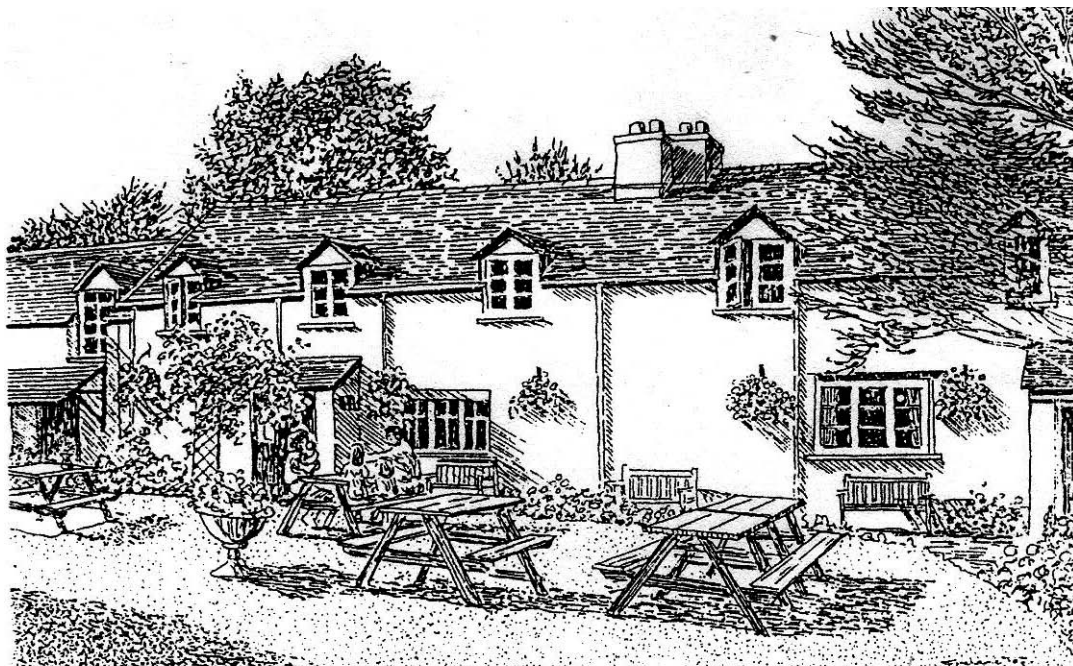
And Saturday also on Bank Holiday weekends 3-5

Sunday Lunch Roast. Licensed with meals

We deliver finger buffets & healthy buffets for children

Phone for details and menus

NEWS FROM THE GRAMPUS INN



THE GRAMPUS INN, LEE

As we approach the oncoming season with the start of Spring Bank Holiday, we are preparing for what we hope will be a beautiful summer.

Mandy and I would like to thank all our local customers for their support in the short dark days of winter. We held a very successful Mothering Sunday lunch, which was well supported by local residents.

There have been some changes going on at the Grampus. Keith has been working on what will be the new shop. We hope to cut the ribbon for all to see at the start of Spring Bank Holiday. The Post Office for the time being will remain in the old shop, but we hope in very short order it too will take up its new position.

Our big news is the Grampus Inn Trolley Race being held on Sunday 17 July. This will start with time trials at the top of the hill and come down through the village. We hope to have many competitors and all the profit from the event will go to the Devon Air Ambulance Trust, who will be performing a fly past later in the day. There are still some places left so why not get creative with your trolley and enter this exciting event, remembering "He who dares, wins"? We should be grateful for anyone who could offer help on the day—if you are able to do so please contact me on 862906.

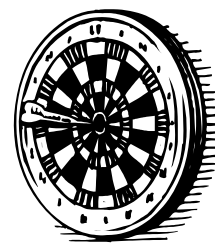
Finally our pub teams did very well in what was our first season. Should anyone like to come along and join our Pool, Skittles and Darts teams for the next season, please contact me.

Mark Collins

UNLUCKY WHALERS - MEN'S DARTS TEAM REPORT

TELUMQUE, IMBELLE, SINE ICTU, CONJECIT (VERGIL, AENEID 2.544)

My apologies if I have used this quotation before, however when I was at school, 'TELUM', I feel sure was always translated as 'javelin', or perhaps 'throwing spear'. Also, to those of us brought up with botanical Latin, the word 'ICTU' means a 'sting', thus rendering VERGIL's meaning slightly obscure without the context, which I have forgotten. This is not beside the point though, as those of you with access to books of a previous century will find the piece translated as:



UNLUCKY WHALERS - MEN'S DARTS TEAM REPORT CONTD.

"And he threw a feeble and ineffective DART", as that one could perhaps use for SINE ICTU, the phrase "without point", or even "pointless" to describe this individual throw, and also, to labour the point even further, all the throws made during the season by the Grampus Darts team, the Unlucky Whalers, but for the acquisition of a wooden spoon.

I like the parallel with the unlucky Aeneas, fleeing the wreckage of Troy, the remnant of his team scattered, homes and families lost; and all this damage to fortune and reputation because they were poor at DARTS and were foolish enough to take on a FIRST DIVISION SIDE, and in the rout that followed, lost most of their LEGS.

Aeneas, after some adventures with the sultry landlady of the CARTHAGE ARMS, went on to another watering hole where he founded a new team, who proved over time to be real first division material and now play as Juventus, AC Milan, Roma, etc. Is it possible then that the Whalers might lick their wounds, put on aluminium legs, fit new points to their darts, buy some hot shot foreigners and become once again perfect English gentlemen? (Sorry, Winners is what I meant to say!) I suppose unlikelier things have happened, so we must cross our fingers and hope. Better players may come into the side to replace those worn by age, disease and alcohol. The league may, once again, be transformed, to leave first division to cut each other's throats and the rest of us to have jolly evenings again in good company. Once upon a time, when we lost, it was close (10-8 mostly) – believe me it's no fun losing all one's legs. Frankly we might just as well have sent a cheque for an evening's beer and not bothered to turn up.

What was particularly galling to me was to see full teams, but with no particular pretensions, being reinforced with good keen players from the teams that disappeared last time round. This means they are never stretched to beat us, whereas we are always stretched just to put out a full team on the night. Even the Manor at Croyde seems to have an inexhaustible supply of young blokes, nearly all of whom are improving.

There is little more to say about a season with only two matches won. Mostly, the food is going downhill as well (only the Manor stands out in this respect) although I have heard visitors complimenting our chef. As regards play, I asked our long-suffering captain if there was anything he felt worth mentioning, but he said not, so I finish with the dismal fact that the House Cup was won by me this year. What does that say?

Formaggio Vecchio

POLLOCKS – POOL TEAM REPORT

Our first season in the league saw us collect the coveted prize of a wooden spoon, putting our skills on a par with the Darts and Skittles teams. On a personal note I felt I played rather well, winning two games that were only slightly soured by firstly treading on one opponent's guide dog, and then running over another in the parking lot before the game. Luckily his team mates were able to stop the bleeding and hold him up to play his shots.



Seeing as the team has only just started, we are all enjoying ourselves and working well together. A little more practice and confidence this coming season should see us a lot further up the table (towards the bar) and gaining more pints – I mean points – in the process.

The grand in-house play-off was won by Stuart Groce who played annoyingly well. Unfortunately his victory means none of us will ever play him for money again.

I'd like to thank all team members, especially Gina-Luisa for playing so well surrounded by drunken lecherous men and also those from opposing teams. Special thanks also go to Dave Overton who set the ball rolling, paid a lot of the subs and was able to get to the pool table unaided on at least two occasions. Finally Mark: good show to that publican for the food, beer, encouragement and use of the pool table. Most of us are now recovering from our hernia operations after having to move the table from one end of the pub to the other.

Julien Buselle – Pollocks Captain (press-ganged)

ORCAS – MEN'S SKITTLES TEAM REPORT

A fantastic first season saw us reach the dizzy heights of bottom of the league and wooden spoon winner, just like many of the other Grampus teams.

There were some amazing shots – by opposing teams. Notable games include being beaten by a man of 89 at Croyde, the 'drawn' Christmas Fancy Dress – lots of players exploring their feminine side, and our amazing top score of 429 at the Muddiford Inn.

A big thanks to all who turned out to play, especially Martin Cheese who could never decide if he played better with or without his glasses, but did top score in the final game where we beat the side who were top of the league! Sorry Luke!

A big thank you to Mark Collins for all his support and work in keeping the team together (and electrical sockets!).

We can only improve next season.

Alun Dobson



VILLAGE HALL NEWS

A new committee was elected on 16 March, constituted of the following representatives:



Holding Trustees

Women's Institute

PCC

Residents Committee
Village Representatives

Roy Dyer

Elizabeth Gilliat

Paul Thom (Treasurer)

Enid Bowman (Secretary)

Mavis Rogers (Chairperson)

Natalie Sharpe

Marion Thom

Colin Wright

Eric Couling

Kevin Mulcahy

Leslie Mulcahy

Tony Seymour

Caroline Weekes (Bookings Secretary)

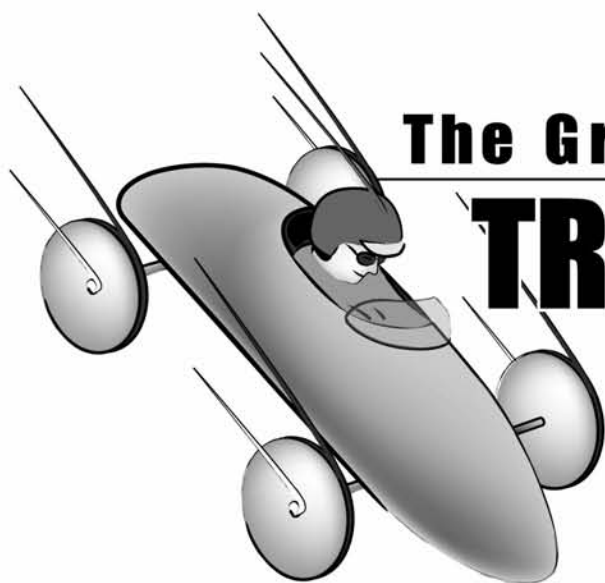
If you have any ideas or suggestions for our village hall, please contact one of the committee members. The hall is a great venue in delightful surroundings for private functions at a reasonable cost. Contact Caroline Weekes for further information on 863257.

Late News—I was very grateful to the committee and to members of the community who contributed so much to the Village Fayre and for the stalwart help of over 50 volunteers who enabled the day to run so successfully.

Mr Bill Cook opened the Fayre in delightful summer sunshine. Visitors remarked how much they had enjoyed themselves, buying from a variety of stalls, participating in games from the strenuous and the skilful to sheer chance, eating delicious food, and spending a few quiet minutes in the pets corner. In fact, a group from a city farm was so impressed that they took careful notes so as to replicate a similar event at their venue!

Although final figures are not yet complete, we expect to raise approximately £1850 for the Village Hall and Lee parish church.

Mavis Rogers - Chairperson of the Village Hall Committee



The Grampus Inn



TROLLEY RACE

Sunday 17th July 2005
Lee, Nr. Ilfracombe

12pm - At Lee Memorial Village Hall

Darts - Welly Wanging - Skittles - Aunt Sally - Medieval Stocks
Ferret Races - Aikido Demonstrations - Refreshments - Cream Teas

3pm - Road closes, racing begins

Individuals and teams race through the village in homemade gravity cars

1st prize in both classes is a barrel of ale

The Tony Reed Cup will be awarded for Best Fancy Dress

6.30pm - Evening entertainment & BBQ

£3 entry into The Grampus garden - HALF PRICE for all race entrants

Race Prize Presentations

Live Music with Parcel of Rogues & Horizon

BBQ

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Cliffe Garden -
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WHERE TO STAY IN LEE & LINCOMBE



BED & BREAKFAST

Mrs Ginny Potts - The Orchard _____ (01271) 867212
Caroline Weekes & Eric Couling - Rose Cottage _____ (01271) 863257
Mr & Mrs Cowell - Lower Campscott Farm _____ (01271) 863479



SELF CATERING (MAX. PER UNIT)

Mr & Mrs Stuart - Lincombe House (2,6,5) _____ (01271) 864834
Mr & Mrs Booker - The Gate House (2) _____ (01271) 862409
Mr & Mrs Cowell - Lower Campscott Farm _____ (01271) 863479
Chapel Cottage - Beach Lane _____ (01271) 864257
Mr Y. Maurel - Woodstock (6,6) _____ (01271) 879477
Mr & Mrs Rogers - The Blue Mushroom (2,3) _____ (01271) 862947
Mr Seymour - Eliots & Fuchsia Tea Rooms (2,6) _____ (01271) 863551
Penny Measures & David Perry - Wrinklewood _____ (01271) 866535
Mr & Mrs Duffield - Crowness Cottage _____ (01268) 742162
Brookdale Villa (9) _____ (01923) 266989

VILLAGE SERVICES

The Grampus Inn & Village Shop—booking advisable for evening meals—please call 862906

Summer opening times Mon-Sat: 11am - 11pm; Sundays: 12pm - 10.30pm
Food served daily Mon-Sun: 12pm - 2pm and 7pm - 9pm

The Post Office at the Village Shop

Open Tuesdays & Thursdays 9am to 12pm

Fuchsia Tea Room and Tea Garden — please see advert

The Old Schoolroom Craft Shop — please see advert



LEE & LINK'EM NEWS TEAM

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The opinions expressed by authors of the articles in the Lee & Link'em News are not specifically endorsed by the editorial team which cannot be held responsible for them.

AUTUMN 2005 ISSUE DEADLINE - 01 OCTOBER 2005

Preferred formats for articles: typed in any PC text program and emailed to Gina-Luisa or delivered on a CD.
Please avoid using floppy disks or handwriting if possible, thank you.