

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

LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

SUMMER 2006

50P



FOUR SETS OF COACHES AND HORSES WAIT ON THE MAIN ROAD
OUTSIDE THE LEE HOTEL (MOST RECENTLY THE FUCHSIA TEA ROOMS)

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LEE AND LINCOMBE – FUTURE DATES FOR 2006

VILLAGE DIARY

Public Notice: Please note that the road will be closed between Home Lane and the band stand at the seafront from 2.30pm - 6.30pm on 16 July 2006.

Sunday 16 July	The Grampus Games and Trolley Race
Thursday 27 July 2.00 pm	Flower Show – Village Hall
Saturday 29 July – Sunday 13 August	Arts and Crafts Exhibition – Village Hall Flowers and organ playing – St Matthew's Church
Sunday 17 September 6.30 pm	Harvest Festival service: 'A Celebration of Village Life' St Matthew's Church, followed by Harvest Supper in Village Hall
Sunday 5 November	Bonfire and Fireworks – Chapel Meadow followed by Supper – Village Hall
Tuesday 19 December 6.30 pm	Village Carol Service – St Matthew's Church followed by mulled wine and mince pies - Village Hall
Sunday 24 December 10.00 pm	Christmas Communion Service – St Matthew's Church

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

GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

Sadly, Lee lost one of its great characters when Bill Cook died in late March. A tribute to Bill appears elsewhere in this edition of the Lee and Link'em News.

Just as we sadly bade farewell to Bill, so it is with great joy that we welcome Sebastian Eveleigh, born on 25 February. Sebastian is the son of Kate and Angus and is a brother for Grace, now 2½ and growing up fast!

Georgina and Mathilda Manley have left Fuchsia Valley House. The new owners are carrying out alterations and, at present, the house is empty, although we understand it is becoming a holiday home.

St Eloi has been empty for some time, but we are now very pleased to welcome Karen and Nicky Crutchfield and their daughters, Esra (5) and Eve (1), to St Eloi. The family has moved here from Croyde.

Pauline French and Lisa moved recently from The Link in Lincombe to Combe Martin, and we are delighted to welcome another young couple, Derek and Gemma Adams, as the new owners. They have also moved from Croyde. Croyde's loss is our gain!

We are aware that several properties are likely to change ownership in the next few months, so watch this space in future editions! We understand that at least three other young couples are likely to be moving to the village. With several houses becoming holiday homes, it is a real pleasure to know that over the last year or so and in the near future, there has been a good influx of younger people. Taking a loose definition of 'younger' as up to around 40 or with young children, we think there are about 11 couples in this category permanently living in the village, with 3 more hoping to move in the next few months. One very encouraging sign of having more younger people can be seen in the plans for a play session mentioned later in this issue.

As always, we hope we have not left anyone off this note of arrivals and departures. We apologise if we have missed anyone and promise to make amends in the next edition if they will let us know.



NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

Easter was celebrated at a very well attended service on Easter Sunday morning. As always, the church was decorated to look its best and the splendid volunteers in the choir led the singing. The coffee morning on Easter Monday also went well with plenty of residents and visitors coming to the village hall.

The Annual Parochial Church meeting on 24 April saw all the officers of the church re-elected. Therefore, Paul Thom and Margaret Hill are continuing as churchwardens. Thanks to the generosity of many people in the village and of visitors, the treasurer, Cynthia Stuart, was able to present a healthy financial report. Everyone connected with the church is also very grateful to all helpers and visitors who made the Spring Bank Holiday fete such a success. One third of the profits go to the church, so church funds were boosted by nearly £600 as a result of the fete.

Last year, to coincide with the arts and crafts exhibition in the village hall, the Friends of St Matthew's organised some additional flower arrangements in the church, and I arranged for a number of people to play the organ at certain times each day. From the comments in the visitors' book, both innovations were welcomed by many people. Therefore, similar arrangements will be made this year for the period from 29 July to 13 August. Do visit the church during this period!

Writing about harvest before the main part of the summer doesn't seem right, but, as the next edition of the News won't be until the autumn, this is the only opportunity to write about what is being planned this year. After the success of the village carol service followed by a social gathering, we are planning the Harvest Festival around the theme 'A Celebration of Village Life'. We are devising a service to appeal to the whole village community and to involve as many people and aspects of village life as possible. The service will also include plenty of opportunities to sing lustily with the choir giving a lead. Afterwards, as usual, we shall move to the village hall for the Harvest Supper which is always an excellent feast! The date is Sunday 17 September at 6.30 pm. Everyone will be most welcome to what we hope will be a real village event. Watch out for posters nearer the time, but put the date in your diary now!

Ian Stuart – Vice-Chairman, St Matthew's Church PCC



"WE ARE
PLANNING THE
HARVEST
FESTIVAL
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OF VILLAGE
LIFE'"



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IS NOW SENT
AROUND THE
UK AND EVEN
ABROAD"



“THE BRIDE
WORE A VERY
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DRESS OF
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“AFTER THE
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HAPPY COUPLE
LEFT FOR THEIR
HONEYMOON,
WHICH IS TO BE
SPENT AT
TEIGNMOUTH,
SOUTH DEVON”

SCOUT WEDDING

COPY OF AN ITEM FROM A HENDON NEWSPAPER, AUGUST 1934

Guard of Honour Formed by St. Mary's (Hendon) Troop.

WHERE THE BOYS ARE CAMPING

An event of great local interest took place in Lee, North Devon on Monday, 6th August 1934. The Parish Church of St. Matthew's, Lee, was filled to overflowing on the occasion of the wedding of Miss Mary Elizabeth Armstrong, the only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Armstrong, of the Old Farm, Lee, to Mr. Walter John Daniel, the second son of Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Daniel of 14, Sunnyhill, Hendon.

Mr. Daniel has been connected with St. Mary's (Hendon) Boy Scouts for some years and the Troop, which is camping at Lee, attended the wedding in full strength and formed a guard of honour at the church.

The service was conducted by the Vicar of Lee, the Rev. Brett Guyer, M.A., and the bride was given away by her father.

Mr. Theodore H. Peters, who is Assistant District Commissioner of No. 17 District of the London Diocesan Boy Scout Association and has been associated with Mr. Daniel in his scouting activities for many years, officiated as Best Man.

Mendelssohn's Wedding March was played as the bridal party passed down the nave, and the hymns were "May the grace of Christ our saviour" and "Lead us, Heavenly Father, lead us"

The Bride wore a very charming dress of white crepe gracefully cut and flared into a short train, and a coatlet trimmed with white fur. A handsome lace veil was held in place by a slender band of orange blossom, and she carried a bouquet of pink carnations. Her going away dress was a graceful pale green crepe frock and swagger coat of the same material, with a pink hat to tone. The bride's mother wore a smart dress in navy blue satin crepe, and Mrs. Daniel an attractive frock in black and white lace.

Among the guests, who numbered well over a hundred, were the bride's brothers, Mr. C. F. Armstrong and Mr. S. A. Armstrong, Miss Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. P. Armstrong, Mr. and Mrs. E. Cannon and Master J. Cannon, Mr. and Mrs. J. Spry and Miss D. Spry, and Mrs. Watts.

When Mr. Peters proposed the toast to the bride and bridegroom he referred to Mr. Daniel as his best friend and a man who had never let him down. The health of the guests was proposed by Mr. Armstrong.

After the reception the happy couple left for their honeymoon, which is to be spent at Teignmouth, South Devon. Later they will take up their residence at 9, Greyhound Hill, Hendon.

The bride and bridegroom were the recipients of many handsome and attractive presents from their many friends.

Bridegroom's mother, Table linen; Bride's mother, Dining room suite; Bridegroom's father, Cheque; Bride's father, Cheque; Mr. C. F. Armstrong, Blankets; Mr. S. A. Armstrong, Skeleton clock; Miss Armstrong, Dinner & breakfast service; Mr. & Mrs. P. Armstrong, Cutlery; Mr. & Mrs. Canham & Jack, Linen; Mr. & Mrs. J. Spry, Bedspread; Miss D. Spry, Brush & crumb tray; Mrs. Colley, Linen; Mr. R. Colley, Vase; Mr. W. Colley, Vinegar bottle; Miss K. Wragge, Cushion; St. Mary's (8th. Hendon) Scouts, Engraved statuette; Lee Women's Institute, Pewter cruet stand; Staff of Boots Chemists, Hendon, Smoker's stand; Mr. W. Moss, Vases; Mr. and Mrs V. Hill, Glass dishes; The Misses Burnham and Woodcock, Bread board and household wants indicator; Miss

SCOUT WEDDING CONTD.

MacMichael, Cut glass water jug; Mr. and Mrs. C. Williams, Biscuit barrel; Mr. and Mrs. C. Ley, Fruit spoons; Mr. and Mrs. J. Cousins, Jam pot; Mr. and Mrs. J. Brown, Dishes; Mr. and Mrs. J. Giddy, Hall brush; Mr. E. P. Le Quesne, Cutlery; Mrs. Pickering, Jug and bowl; Mr. and Mrs. Bale, Table linen; Mrs. Hocroft, Table linen; Miss Martin, Handbag; Mr., Mrs. and Miss Nuttall, Electric table lamp; Miss Densham, Table linen; Mr. W. Pugsley, Cruet stand; Mrs. Haig, Necklace; Mr. and Mrs. T. Bale, Teaspoons and sugar tongs; Mr. and Mrs. Fry, Bowl; Mr. R. Biggs,; Miss McIntyre, Electric table lamp; Mrs. Williams, Traycloth; Mrs. Watts, Cut glass vase; Miss Humphreys, Cheque; Mrs. Ley and Mrs. Turner, Sugar bowl; Miss Clement, Tea caddy; Mr. F. W. Wright, Barometer; Mrs. R. Taylor, Cutlery; Mrs. and Miss Blair, Electric table lamp; Col. and Mrs. Harrison, Pyrex dish and stand; Mrs. Cook, Cushion; The Misses M. and R. Lampard, Junket set; Mr. and Mrs. Nelson, Book ends; Mr. J. Dyer, Cheese stand; Mr. and Mrs. Langman, Linen; Mr. and Mrs. Luxton, Linen; Miss Toll, Egg stand; Miss Spry, Linen; Mr. and Mrs. Watson, Linen; Mrs. Field, Nightdress case; Miss Cole, Book ends; Mr. and Mrs. Dyer, Glass dishes; Mrs. and Miss Giddy, Cake stand; Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert, Glass flower bowl; Mr. and Mrs. A. Bale, Pillows, bolster and linen; Mr. and Mrs. Bowden and family, Salad bowl; Mrs. Hill, Lemon squeezer and dish; Mrs. Roulston, Glass dish; Mr. and Mrs. W. E. Trebble, Hand painted jug; Miss King, Table linen; Capt., Mrs. and Miss Duke, Cushion; Mrs. Kingdom and Miss Pullen, Vase; Mr. and Mrs. L. Cook, Jam pot; Mr. and Mrs. A. Blair, Bowl; Mr. and Mrs. Gover, Tea service; Mr. T. H. Peters,; Mr. and Mrs. C. Cook, Table linen; Mr. and Mrs. Pilley, Cheque; Rev. B. Guyer, Electric iron and table mats; Miss Green, Cut glass bowl; Mrs. C. Ransome, Lavender bowl.



“LEE
WOMEN’S
INSTITUTE,
PEWTER
CRUET
STAND”

[Thank you to Mr. Bob Daniel for this article - Ed.]



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LEE & LINCOMBE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM REPORT

The Chairman, Paul Thom, welcomed 33 members to the 39th AGM of the Association. In his address, the Chairman explained a major development in the year when the Japanese Knotweed Committee, which was formed last October at a special village meeting, requested to come under the umbrella of the Association so that urgent grant applications could be made. The Japanese Knotweed Sub-Committee was formed at the beginning of this year to absorb the former independent Committee and onto which two members of the main committee joined. This Sub-Committee operates independently and its funds are identified separately from the Association's own funds. Suitable public liability and other insurances to cover the Japanese Knotweed work have been taken out. The Association is delighted to help in a very worthy cause for the village.

The Chairman then commented on the possible closure of the public toilets on the footpath to the seafront which, although opened at Easter under the auspices of Ilfracombe Town Council, are still subject to discussions with the District Council over significant potential future liabilities which may arise. Your Committee is considering what action should be taken if it is decided to close the toilets and villagers may be asked to assist in any campaign decided upon. 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 Yvan Maurel who was retiring from the Committee. The Chairman concluded by thanking everyone helping with the Britain in Bloom display.

The Treasurer reported a £17 profit for the year which shows a substantial improvement over the previous year as a result of a large increase in members' subscriptions collected and to lower expenses. Although not in the Accounts under review, the Association is extremely grateful to the Flower Show Committee for a £60 donation received recently towards the flower displays in the village. The Secretary, Gina Hilborne, gave her report which covered various matters dealt with by the Committee during the year. The most important was the long-awaited introduction of speed limits. The signs are on order and are expected to be erected within some six weeks. There will be a 20mph speed limit from The Grange through Lee and 30mph from The Grange up the hill through Lincombe to Lincombe Cross. Car parking on the seafront has become a nightmare following the closure of the car park there. The Highways Department has been contacted and is considering how best to help with the situation. Following a number of questions, both reports were adopted.

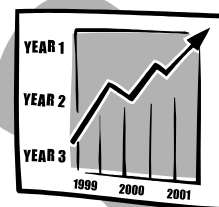
Mavis Rogers then gave an informative report on the progress of the Japanese Knotweed Sub-committee since its inception and plans for the future. See separate report in this magazine.

An increase in the annual subscription to £4 per household was approved. The 6 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), Paul Thom (862309) and Colin Wright (864485). With one unfilled vacancy, nominations were requested from the floor. Sebastian Birch (862453) was the only nomination and he was duly elected to fill the vacancy. There being no further business, the Chairman declared the AGM closed. Wine and cheese and refreshments were served to all members.

Paul Thom



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IN REMEMBRANCE OF ERNEST WILLIAM LEWIS COOK - "BILL"



The death of Bill at age 85 marks the end of the era of the Cook family in Lee. Many people will remember Bill as a friendly man with great character who recalled stories of past times in the village to locals and tourists alike. He and his predecessors ran the ferry boat between Lee and Ilfracombe, and were still involved with it when it closed in 1996.

Bill Cook was born in Lee on 25th October 1920. Although his parents lived in the White House on the sea wall, Bill was born in his grandmother's house, Vine Cottage, as she was the equivalent of the village midwife at the time. As a child he was to be found on Lee beach holding the boats for the boatmen who included his father and Uncle Charlie. He was taught all there was to know about working small boats out of the rocky bays of north Devon.

At fourteen he followed his merchant seaman father Lew and two uncles, who were Royal Navy men, to sea, as a seaman/cook on one of the last sailing traders. These were motor assisted ketches and schooners working around the coasts of Bristol, the English Channel and the Irish Sea.

Bill worked most of his time as a seaman for the Clark family of Braunton who were well known in the coastal trade, he mainly sailed aboard the iron ketch Mary Eliezer. All through the war he worked here and rose to the position of mate. In 1947 the coastal trade collapsed and the Mary Eliezer was sold.

Later that year Bill married Betty and he joined his father and uncle Charlie working small boats out of Lee during the summer; a mixture of trips to the lighthouse, ferrying to Ilfracombe, bringing passengers ashore from passing motor vessels, angling trips for local hotels, and fishing crabs and lobsters for the local market. In 1987 he retired and sold his boat the Pirate of Lee II to another villager.

He continued to work until his eightieth year, an unbroken record of fifty three years gardening for the Piley family. By now Betty's health was failing and he cared for her until her death in May 2004. With some help Bill continued to live independently at School House until this year when following a fall at home he died a few days later on 23rd March in North Devon District Hospital.

A funeral service was held at St. Matthew's, Lee on 3rd April. It was a sunny day and the church was full. Bill always believed that there was nowhere better to live than Lee and he will be missed by everyone who knew him.

[Thank you to Mrs. Pat Seymour and Mr. Jeff Tullett for this article - Ed.]



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CALLING ALL YOUNG FAMILIES!

Have you got one or more children under school age? Would you be interested in meeting up with other parents and their young children for a chat and for a play session for the children?

Kate Madden and Kate Seekings are thinking about starting an occasional play session in the village hall for children who live in the village and surrounding area. If you think you might be interested in joining a group organised by Kate and Kate, please contact one of them. Kate Madden's phone number is 865591 and Kate Seeking's number is 867068. They would be delighted to hear from you.



LEE WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

The Lee WI have had a very busy spring this year. If you read the last report you will know that we have celebrated our 80th birthday with a very successful lunch in the Memorial Hall.

We invited guest members Jean Jones, Elaine Huxtable, Mary Newcombe, and Pat Price, and two of our past presidents, May Pardoe and Gwen Gove. Unfortunately Barbara Tarran was unable to attend. It was really good to see some of our old friends who have moved away. We also invited the Lundy Group Presidents, County Chairman and National Chairman. The County and National Chairmen, had previous engagements, but the Group were well represented. It was a very memorable day, the food was fantastic and the sun even shone for the photograph. Sincere thanks to all those who made the lunch so enjoyable.

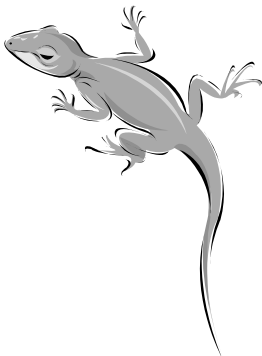
During the course of the lunch, with the help of other past presidents we recounted highlights of the last 80 years. The minutes and records of the very first meetings were read. My how things have changed! And then again, in 1955 Mrs J Spurgin, president, was campaigning for public toilets in Lee, where to put them, and who should be responsible for them!!

The Fuchsia Valley Quilter's first exhibition was a great success as well. We have had a lot of good feed back from visitors and other quilters alike. The exhibition didn't aim to raise a lot of money, but we still were able to give Project Linus UK, who provide quilts for traumatised children, £100, being the profits from the raffle. Several years ago Lee WI quilters made and donated 25 quilts to Linus. We have made enough to cover the cost of one or two special tutors next winter. Many thanks to all those who helped us erect the stands, and take them down again, the tea makers and stewards, the Memorial Hall for three days free, (in return for making a quilt for the Arts and Crafts exhibition) and all the quilters for their exhibits and donations for the raffle.

Margaret Hill - President



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BE HEARD
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AND MOVING
BELOW THE
BEDROOM
WINDOW ”



“A FAMILY OF
SAND LIZARDS
HAS TAKEN UP
RESIDENCE
UNDER THE
ELECTRICITY
BOX ”

LETTER FROM FRANCE

Thinking back to our arrival in the south west of France, now almost two years ago, I remember easily the thing that most affected me at the time. It was the sense of being somehow an interloper. Not in the way of being English in France. That, these days, is barely worthy of a mention as we continue to peacefully invade any hot spot in Europe that is available to us. It was that the area we chose to make our home, in fact, belongs not to the home owner - not even the gersois 'paysans' who have made the landscape their own over so many centuries, but it belongs to the animals. The birds, mammals and reptiles, who have total dominion in this most rural of regions.

Our house hadn't been lived in for over a year before we came. The grass was at least five feet high right to the honey-coloured stone walls of the house. The deer and wild boar could be heard snuffling and moving below the bedroom window during the night. The snakes had made the tall dry grass their own. The roof space was alive with the sound of hundreds of house sparrows. The frogs singing in the warm evenings were deafening. In the winter, as we watched television, the mice came down the chimney every evening at ten and made their way to the kitchen. When the swallows arrived in the Spring they flew boldly through the open windows into the rooms and settled on the beams intending to choose for themselves a holiday home for the summer.

Now, after much work adding rooms in the back of the house, putting in a pool and strimming and then mowing ourselves a large garden which gives onto the fields, nothing much has changed. The fact that we, our friends, guests and the dogs are in constant attendance seems not to have bothered any of them a jot. We don't live here - they do. We are just passing through.

The sense of being a passive observer of life going on around us, instead of one of the human movers and shakers, has not diminished and I am still a little in awe of it. Now it is early June and the hot dry heat has brought out the sunlovers and this year we have a few new kids 'on the block'. A family of sand lizards has taken up residence under the electricity box and we have watched this morning as a couple of them have raced across the gravel, presumably in the throes of passion as one chased another, only turning back to the safety of the honeysuckle as the two dogs were alerted and gave chase. Beautiful large lizards, brilliant green with black markings, they are a welcome addition to the reptile community of small undistinguished lizards, grass snakes, who nest in the manure heap, brash, green and yellow European snakes, tree frogs and enormous toads (often to be found swimming energetically round the swimming pool) that live right round the house. The boar, hare and deer keep mostly to the fields these days although are regularly seen while we are out riding (and Richard passed a family of ten boar recently when driving along the lane).

But the birds have no such manners. We have had to keep the bedroom windows closed during the last month to prevent the swallows, who incidentally, do not pay for the swimming pool water that they drink, from nesting in the bedrooms. I have had to clear away little mud pats in two bedrooms where they had started nesting, and one night recently, waking at four in the morning, looked up to see a couple of these 'lovebirds' sleeping on the oak beams immediately above my head. Perhaps what was even more strange was that they didn't wake up and fly out of the window until long after I had returned to bed with a cup of tea at eight in the morning!

LETTER FROM FRANCE CONTD.

And if that makes up the bulk of the wildlife within the immediate environs of the house, there is of course much to be seen in the fields.

Hay making has been in full flow over the last week or two and the skies have been swarming with red and black kites, sometimes as many as twenty above one field, circling and soaring over the tractor as it disturbs the mice and shrews from the hay field and a pair of kestrels have been screeching above the house and landing on the shutters, trying, I think, to catch some sparrow eggs or fledglings for their dinner. This is a very heavily farmed department. It provides an enormous proportion of the cereals for all of France and one of the guide books suggests coming to the Gers if only to visit the place to which so much of the agricultural subsidies are directed. 'Your taxes paid for it, so visit it' seems to be the message! And yet in spite of this agriculture we have a wonderful array of flora and fauna and a strong passionate following of 'hunters' who maintain the balance. Our fields are divided by inflated hedges, some maybe a hundred feet tall. We have reservoirs and lakes dotted everywhere - primarily to provide the water for the maize - which are meccas for water birds, and oak copses are preserved and planted on all farms. Whatever Richard and I may do and wherever we may go, this experience of living in the midst of such a heady mixture of wild flowers and wildlife will go with us. To have all this on our doorstep (or even in the house!) and not to be in a nature reserve is, I think, a rare thing, which will only become more rare as time goes on. It is indeed a privilege. But more than that, it is simply wonderful.

Best wishes,

Fran Nustedt



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RESERVOIRS AND
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EVERYWHERE -
PRIMARILY TO
PROVIDE THE
WATER FOR THE
MAIZE”

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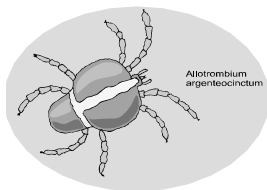
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GARDENERS BE AWARE OF LYME DISEASE



"THE GOOD
NEWS IS THAT,
CAUGHT EARLY,
IT IS EASILY
TREATABLE
WITH
AMOXYCILLIN"

One summer after working in the garden among long foliage, I found a small tick embedded above my elbow despite having worn long sleeves. I removed it by smothering it with a pad of cotton wool soaked in surgical spirit (strong alcohol works just as well or petroleum jelly) when it released its hold & came out jaws & all.

Didn't think anymore about it until ten days later when it started itching & the site of the original bite was surrounded by a small red halo. Warning bells began to ring as I remembered that 20 years ago, while working with the Red Deer survey team on Exmoor, Dr. Ratcliffe, a deer expert with the Forestry Commission, spoke of a "new" disease, well-known in America, caused by a tickborne spirochaete.

Left untreated, Lyme disease can affect many parts of the body with different symptoms & have long-term consequences. The good news is that, caught early, it is easily treatable with Amoxycillin.

It is *not* necessary to have treatment just because one has had a tick, only if symptoms occur but as some of these symptoms may not arise for a while after the bite, remember the incident & mention it to your doctor. [Our vet has recently said he hasn't seen any Lyme's in pets this year but has heard it is increasingly reported in humans. - Ed (GH).]

The tick's main hosts are deer but small mammals are secondary hosts & these are the most likely to bring the ticks into gardens. It's probably not wise to garden in shorts

Why "Lyme"? The term was first used after a cluster of arthritis, associated with tick bite & rash, occurred in people living around Old Lyme, Connecticut, in the mid-1970's.

Heather Booker



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Thank you to Margaret & Alan Bannister

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ILFRACOMBE'S GLORIES.

FULL OF GORGEOUS SURPRISES: WHERE
EVERYBODY CLIMBS: LEE'S
TEA-COTTAGES.

By J. M. N. JEFFRIES.

ILFRACOMBE, Devon, Sunday.

Ilfracombe is the most cunning of places, full of the most gorgeous tricks and surprises. To keep the railway station then on the very top of the cupboard, like a pot of jam just out of the children's reach.

You go plunging down from the station and discover a small town in a cleft, with a High-street which makes you realise at favoured hours that if the pot is above the jam is here. Off this are some little passage-ways under arches, the sort of passage of which the entrance used to be blocked towards sunset in the Middle Ages with burghesses fingering their chins and saying, "Prithee, brave Master Barthelmy, go thou first."

In our safer days these picturesque passages do not lead to hiding miscreants but towards the sea. The actual span of sea which impinges upon the species of common which is Ilfracombe's deed, Ilfracombe has been altogether modest and unassuming.

ROCK POOL IN A COVE.

But now, say that you turn leftward, up the thumb hill, for there are two hills pinching the sea-span, which is really a rocky channel, like the thumb and forefinger of a hand. As you start to climb, one might say that there is the hint of a smile in Ilfracombe's eye. Modest and unassuming, indeed!

What is this! Majestic sights are breaking on you, cliffs rising firm from the waters, rocks over which the waters surge and eddy, elemental glimpses of the deep and of the mainland.

Look at that rock pool far below, that great pool so beautifully formed in a cove where there is a slope of grey sand.

On the sand or gravel and all about the environing rocks are seals in a hundred attitudes and mermaids and mermen are swimming in the pool or sunning themselves on its sides or upon flat niches of the crags.

At least that is what they look like at first, but our old friend, a closer scrutiny, reveals that the mermaids and seals are clad and in bright hues, and are Ilfracombe's bathers, or at least one batch of them.

If you had turned up the forefinger hill and followed on, you would have seen other sights as striking. A harbour so circling and hill-girt and so filled with old salts and their boats that you are half inclined to call it the salt-cellar.

Then rocky coves and sandy coves, reached by ferries or by paths dropping down from on high, each with its own contingent of pleasers, like a story complete in one number.

Fly back left to thumb hill and really progress this time and presently you are on the curves of the great Tors Walk.

Lots of people are with you, for everybody climbs in Ilfracombe: more superfluous chins vanish in the faintest of pink exhausts and more waists are found again in Ilfracombe than you would ever believe. All ladies and

gentlemen having lost or mislaid waists are advised to apply in person as soon as possible at the Lost Waists Office, Tors Walk, Ilfracombe, Devon, where a large supply of same is to be had.

SNUG VILLAGE OF LEE.

I may jest, but the great secret of Ilfracombe is that she is all hills, and then hills and valleys beyond, and then more hills and valleys. You pass from vista to vista, from lure to lure, but perhaps the loveliest of all is that journey of two and a half miles or so which most comers make in the afternoon to the village of Lee.

Is there anywhere extant such a heaven for tea, made of sun and of fuchsias, of cream and of glee, of

"WHY I GO TO ILFRACOMBE."

POSTCARD PRIZES.

Lovers of Ilfracombe are offered prizes for the best reasons, written on postcards, explaining "Why I Go to Ilfracombe." Entries, which must reach this office by Friday next, should Mail, Northcliffe House, London, E.C. 4."

Two guineas will be paid for the best postcard and half a guinea each for any other postcards printed in these columns.

orchards and merriment, bowers and sea, as the sweet little, snug little, green little, rose little, raspberry village of Lee?

It is difficult to think that Lee, lying below that splendid stretch of virgin woods, is something real. The cottages, both in its verdant centre, upon the hillside looking down on it and at its stone-and-smugglers, and by the water, have been turned into tea-cottages, with as little change as possible, except the addition with an open hand of blossoms of all kinds.

YOUR CHOICE.

There are six, seven, eight—I do not know how many of them—and it is hard to choose whether you will sit under bearing apple-trees, where ducks meander and a fountain tinkles and a creeper like foam covers half the side of an orchard house, or in nooks and ups and down amid roses by a stream, or on a smooth lawn under yellow umbrellas hemmed by more flowers, or sit amid a strath of marguerites on the hilltop, or let your eyes rest as in sleep upon the valley-depts from a familiar verandah, or under old oak beams or in the gardens of cottages which lip the rocks and seaweed—and withal in any of these take your tea.

You make a choice if you can, visit the ancient cottage which houses the most splendid and most thoughtful white cat in England, and return over the cliffs, in the vivifying air, to Ilfracombe, hidden in its cleft like a key in the lock.

How many splendid doors Ilfracombe opens I scarce venture to say.

Mrs. Tom Shaw, wife of the Minister for War, has fractured an ankle and will be unable to keep any engagements for several weeks.

LEE & LINCOMBE
QUICK FACTS

- The Old Mill at the seafront was a working corn mill until the early 1890s.
- The Grampus Inn first opened for business on 17 May 1975, having previously been a farm and a tea garden.
- The villages are mentioned in the Domesday book, where Lee is described as part of the manor of Lincombe.
- The car park next to the Memorial Hall used to boast a working hand-powered petrol pump.
- Until the Memorial Hall was built, the Bishop's Stone outside it used to sit a few yards down on the corner of the entrance to Southcliffe Hall.
- A fatal coach accident took place at the bottom of Catskull Hill in August 1850 when the Rev. Samuel Beard was killed after the horse pulling his coach bolted and he was thrown out.

LEE MEMORIAL HALL

WE NEED YOUR VIEWS

Lee Memorial Hall Committee is seeking your views in order to ensure the village hall meets the needs of our community. If you have any suggestions which might help us to modestly improve the amenities, or the ways in which you consider it has already been successful, or to extend its purpose as a venue, we would be delighted to hear from you. Please leave your comments in the "newspaper box" by the door of the Old Post Office, the home of Bob and Elizabeth Gilliat, and address your reply "Hall Committee".

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NEWS UPDATE

A village Fayre was held on 29 May, the lively combination of stalls, food, games, pets corner, handbell ringers made it a very enjoyable occasion. The committee would like to thank all who helped to make this day so successful. 368 paying adults attended the event, raising a total of £1767. The next event, The Arts and Crafts Exhibition, will take place from Saturday 29 July until Sunday 13 August. We hope you will be able to join us and the artists for this delightful occasion.

Mavis Rogers Chairperson Lee Memorial Hall Committee



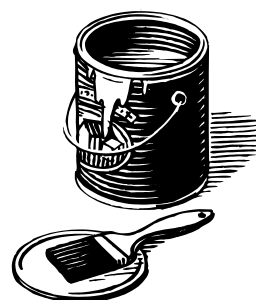
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JAPANESE KNOTWEED UPDATE THE BEGINNING OF THE LONG HAUL

The 3-5 year programme begins.

GOOD NEWS

A grant has been secured from the AONB Sustainable Development Fund and a second is in the pipeline from the NDDC Community Fund, totalling roughly 50% of our costs over the next three years.

We are very grateful for their support of our village project.

UPDATE

After discussion with local landowners, a planned programme for our valleys is gradually being implemented. This will take time, but is already taking shape.

- Southwest Forest is training five local people to assist with the control of Japanese Knotweed.
- Awareness of the impact of Japanese Knotweed on the environment is being raised.
- The continual updating of specialist advice, for example from the Environment Agency.
- Work has already begun at the Lee Bay Hotel, from Meadowside to the hotel boundary, and in other small areas.



WHAT CAN WE OFFER?

Information on the control of Japanese Knotweed.

- Trained and qualified personnel to assist landowners.
- Volunteers to assist with Japanese Knotweed control. (All workers, including volunteers, are insured.)

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Volunteer for an hour or an hour and a half to assist with the control of Japanese Knotweed. Contact telephone numbers: Janet Birch (01271-862453); Barry Jenkinson (01271-867068); Mavis Rogers (01271-862947).

THANK YOU.

Thank you to our volunteers and to those who are giving up time and work to train for the project. Thank you also to the Lee and Lincombe Residents Association for their assistance.

Lee Japanese Knotweed Committee: Barry Jenkinson (Chairman), Mavis Rogers (Secretary), Janet Birch (Press officer), Julia Waghorn, David Perry; representatives from Lee & Lincombe Residents Association: Paul Thom (Treasurer) & Colin Wright.

Mavis Rogers - Secretary

The Old Schoolroom Gift & Craft Shop



For gifts, local crafts, souvenirs & a large selection of cards

Open: Sun-Fri 11:00am - 5:00pm, Sat 2:00 - 5:00pm

Please come in and browse

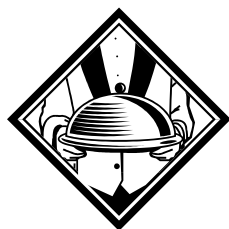
**JUST ARRIVED! Pop in and see the exclusive new collection of
Lee notepads, writing paper sets, notelets and carrier bag tidies!**

A BIG THANK YOU

The Lee & Link'Em News team would like to thank **Alf and Brenda Keeble** for their years of voluntary dedication in delivering this publication, as they have decided to retire and rest their weary legs, so a big "thank you" from all of us! We also welcome Alun Dobson and Becca Wyles to the delivery team, joining Bryan and Helen Lye in the exhausting task of distributing the Lee & Link'Em News to the 100 or so properties in the villages.

Catering for all occasions

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**For menus and ideas, phone Julia on 01271 864360 or 07976 875870
email: catering@greycottage.co.uk**

NEWS FROM THE GRAMPUS INN

Here we are at the beginning of the season, the sun is shining and things are looking great at the Grampus.

As most of you know, from early in the New Year we have been undertaking major changes. It was a very big task, and to say the least it was not a very relaxing winter. Nevertheless we now have "probably" the best toilets in North Devon, and they are proving very popular. We are aware that it is difficult for some of our less able customers because of the stairs. But, fear not, the disabled toilet is well under way and will hopefully be open soon. Also a super new dining room, which is now non-smoking and pet-free. Food can still be served in the Bar where smokers and pets are welcome.



Opening hours vary until the peak season but snacks and light lunches are available from 12.00pm until 2.30pm daily. Evening meals are served from 6.30pm until 9.30 pm. Bookings advisable at all times. The shop hours are to coincide with pub opening hours but if you're desperate please come into the pub at any time.

Finally, Mandy and I would like express our thanks to all of those who have supported us through our recent trials and tribulations. you know who you are so thank you once again, we couldn't have done it without you.

Mark, Mandy and family

GRAMPUS GAMES & TROLLEY RACE

Dear Residents,

Please note that during the above event we have requested road closure between Home Lane and the Band Stand from 2.30pm to 6.30pm. Home Lane will remain open to traffic. Coastal walkers will be directed to the footpath between The Grampus and The Gwythers and marshals will assist them beyond this at the sea front.

If this directly affects access to your property and you need to use your car during the time of closure, please contact either person listed below and arrangements can be made to leave your car nearby (e.g. at The Grampus) earlier in the day or reserve a parking space for your use.

We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause.

This was a hugely successful event last year and we were able to donate £3,800 to Devon Air Ambulance. We are hoping to raise a similar or larger amount this year and would therefore like to thank you in advance for your co-operation.

Mark Collins - The Grampus Inn, Lee Bay

For further assistance please contact:- Mark Collins (862906) or Mavis Rogers (862947)



**The Grampus
Games and Trolley Race**

**TO BE HELD IN
LEE VILLAGE
16TH JULY 2006**

**IT'S A KNOCKOUT
(with a difference!)**

**Iron Man: Bridge Building:
Target Shooting:
Ray Mears Challenge:
Water Ball: Tractor Pull:
TEAMS OF 10 PLAYERS
(7 ADULTS 3 CHILDREN)**

**GAMES BEGIN at 9.30am at The Meadow & Beach
REFRESHMENTS available during the day in the Village Hall
TRACTOR PULL at 2.30pm at the Seafront**

TROLLEY RACE 4pm

**EVENING ENTERTAINMENT & BBQ
AT THE GRAMPUS WITH
PARCEL OF ROGUES
& HORIZON**

DONATION TO DEVON AIR AMBULANCE

**FOR INFORMATION OR TO ENTER A TEAM
Telephone 01271 862906**



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LEE OPEN TO
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**The Gate House
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appointment only,
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to NGS.

Cliffe Garden -
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WHERE TO STAY IN LEE & LINCOMBE



BED & BREAKFAST

Mrs Ginny Potts - The Orchard _____ (01271) 867212
Carolyn Weekes & Eric Couling - Rose Cottage _____ (01271) 863257
Mr & Mrs Cowell - Lower Campscott Farm _____ (01271) 863479
Julia Waghorn - Grey Cottage _____ (01271) 864360
Kate Seekings & Barry Jenkinson - Southcliffe Hall _____ (01271) 867068



SELF CATERING (MAX. PER UNIT)

Mr & Mrs Stuart - Lincombe House (2,6,5) ____ (01271) 864834
Chapel Cottage on Beach Lane (9) _____ (01271) 864257
Mr Y. Maurel - Woodstock (6,6) _____ (01271) 879477
Mr & Mrs Cowell - Lower Campscott Farm (8,6,6,4,4,4) ____ (01271) 863479
Mr & Mrs Rogers - The Blue Mushroom (2,3) _____ (01271) 862947
Penny Measures & David Perry - Wrinklewood (4) _____ (01271) 866535
Mr & Mrs Duffield - Crowness Cottage (4) _____ (01268) 742162
Brookdale Villa (11) _____ (01923) 266989

VILLAGE SERVICES

The Grampus Inn & Village Shop - (01271) 862906 - *please see article inside for opening hours*

The Old Schoolroom Gift & Craft Shop - *please see advert inside*

Catering Services—Julia Waghorn, Grey Cottage - *please see advert inside*



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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.

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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.