

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

# LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

SUMMER 2008

50P



PHOTO COURTESY STUART GROCE

HIGH SPRING TIDES COMBINE WITH AN INCOMING STORM TO  
CREATE A SPECTACULAR DISPLAY AT LEE BAY ON 10 MARCH 2008

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## LEE AND LINCOMBE – FUTURE DATES FOR 2008

### VILLAGE DIARY

Monday 21 July 6.00pm and every Monday until 25 August	Summer Evening Worship – St Matthew's Church (see notices and publicity to follow later)
Thursday 31 July 2.00pm	Flower Show – Memorial Hall
Saturday 2 – Sunday 17 August	Arts and Crafts Exhibition – Memorial Hall (11am - 6pm) Flowers and Organ Playing – St Matthew's Church
Sunday 31 August all day	The Grampus Games & Trolley Races – Meadow, Memorial Hall and sea front
Sunday 14 September 6.30pm	Harvest Festival Service – St Matthew's Church followed by Harvest Supper in Memorial Hall
Wednesday 3 December 6.30pm	Christmas Bingo – Memorial Hall (details to follow later)
Tuesday 16 December 6.30 pm	Village Carol Service – St Matthew's Church (details of other Christmas services to follow later)
Every Monday 10.00 am–12.30pm	'Mini-Monsters' – Memorial Hall (day sometimes alters – please check with Kate Madden 865591)
Saturday evenings from 8.00pm	Open mic nights at the Grampus
Sunday afternoons from 3.00pm	Acoustic sessions at the Grampus

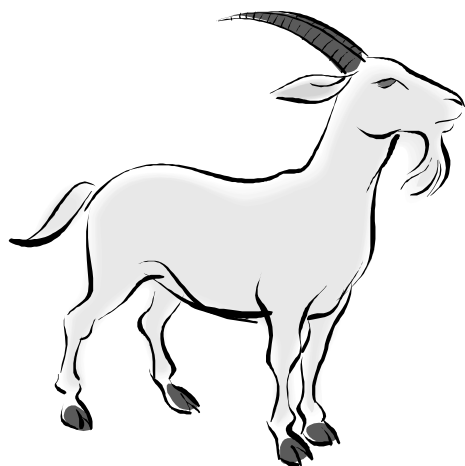
*If you would like anything included in the diary for the next issue, please contact the editors*

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### LEE & LINK'EM NEWS TEAM

<b>Editorial team</b>	Gina-Luisa Hilborne Heather Booker Ian & Cynthia Stuart	Tel: 864876 Tel: 862409 Tel: 863396	gina@loveleebay.co.uk
<b>Production</b>	Ian & Cynthia Stuart	<b>Advertising Manager</b>	Heather Booker
<b>Delivery teams</b>	Bryan & Helen Lye; Alun Dobson & Becca Wyles		

## GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS



After reporting a flurry of changes in the last edition, there have been very few in recent months. A notable departure, however, was Lyn Bushnell from Lincombe House flat, where she lived for 21 years. Very much a country woman, Lyn worked on Lundy Island for a number of years and has been a familiar face on many local farms over the years. Lyn's pride and joy are her goats whom she looks after meticulously and with whom she has won many prizes. Fortunately, Lyn has not moved far and now lives near West Down, keeping in touch with her many friends.

We are pleased that Windcutter now has a permanent resident. Sam Stafford, now a chef at 11 The Quay, has moved into the home

which his family has kept since the death of his grandfather, Lord Richardson, a few years ago. Welcome home, Sam!

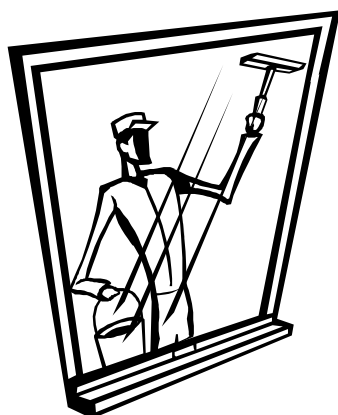


Sadly, Heather Matthews of Blackberry Downs died on 1 May. Always cheerful and positive, Heather fought cancer bravely for many years. She will be much missed on the Flower Show committee and as a member of the WI. We send our sympathy and best wishes to David and the family.



On a happy note, it is a delight to welcome two new babies to our community. Heather Anne Easy, the first child of Anne and Charlie of Mallard's Corner was born on 20 February. Then on 6 May, Jennipher Ann Hewitt was born. Jennipher is the first child of Cathryn and Richard of Sea View in Lincombe. So welcome yet more youngsters to the village!

As always, we apologise if we have missed anyone and will be happy to make amends in the next issue if you will let the editor know.



## **Need A Window Cleaner?**

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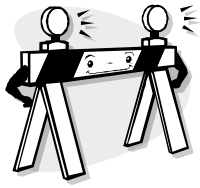
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## NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH



"WE ARE  
UNDERTAKING  
ALL THE  
WORK  
JUDGED TO  
NEED  
IMMEDIATE  
ATTENTION"



"EVERYONE AT  
THE CHURCH  
IS VERY  
PLEASED THAT  
THE FUCHSIA  
GALLERY IN  
THE OLD  
SCHOOL  
ROOM IS NOW  
OPEN"

We were all very sorry that the Annual Parochial meeting marked the retirement because of ill health of Paul Thom as Churchwarden and Church Secretary. To mark the Church's appreciation of all he has done over many years, the Vicar, Giles King-Smith, presented Paul with an engraved Dartington Crystal Bowl. At the meeting, Margaret Hill was re-elected as Churchwarden and Cynthia Stuart re-elected as Treasurer. Ian Stuart was elected as the other Churchwarden and Vice-Chairman of the Church Council and Janet Mayo was elected as Secretary.

You may have noticed some repair work taking place at the Church. We are undertaking all the work judged to need immediate attention by the architect who inspected the church last Autumn. As recommended by the architect, we are continuing to monitor other areas of concern as we plan the longer term restoration work which will be necessary before too long. The Church Council recognises that, in the short term, the needs of the Memorial Hall are more pressing. It agreed that the entire proceeds of the Spring Fayre would go to the Hall this year, rather than the usual split of one-third to the Church and two-thirds to the Hall.

The Baptism of Holly Kemp on 18 May was a lovely occasion. The Church was completely full with the regular congregation, family and friends as Holly's parents, Lucy and Luke, and her brother, Rhys, brought her to St Matthew's for the first time.

Everyone at the Church is very pleased that the Fuchsia Gallery in the Old School Room is now open. Fran Larcombe, her husband, Steve, and daughter, Ria, have put in a tremendous effort to launch the gallery and we wish them every success. A short article by Fran appears elsewhere in this edition of the News. Do support her!

There are a number of special events to mention that will take place over the next few months. Firstly, for the first time, on Monday evenings during the main holiday period, we shall be holding a series of services under the heading of 'Summer Evening Worship'. The services will be at 6.00 pm each Monday from 21 July to 25 August. We are hoping that these services, with music, will appeal to visitors and local people alike. Full details will be published and advertised nearer the time, and everyone will be most welcome.

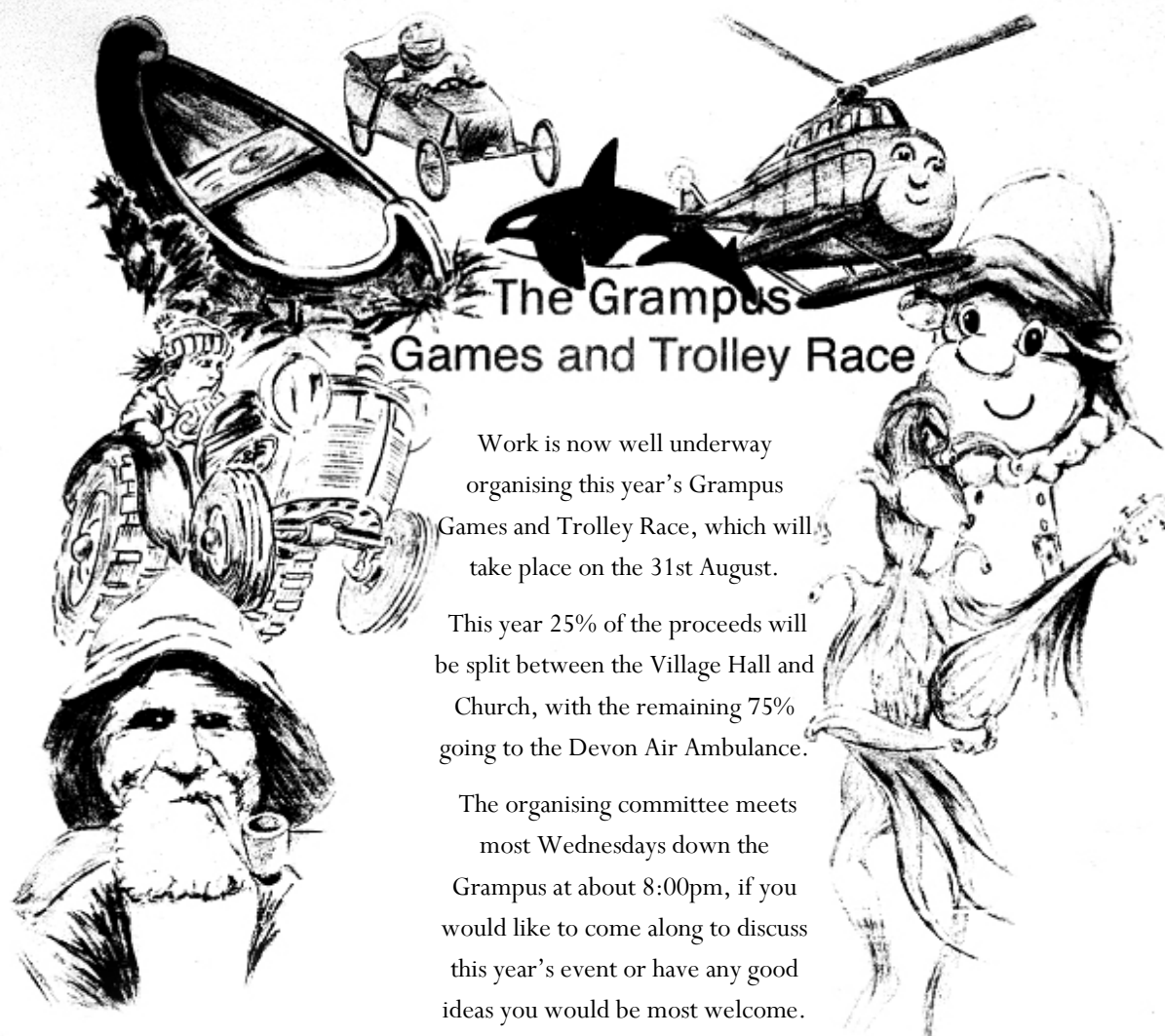
Secondly, we shall be continuing the successful arrangement of putting extra flowers in the Church to coincide with the Arts and Crafts Exhibition and also to have a number of different people playing the organ for an hour or so each afternoon at the same time. From comments in the Visitors' Book, we know how much both the flowers and the music have been appreciated and we hope they will give pleasure again this year.

Thirdly, we have a very special visitor for the Harvest Festival this year. The Bishop of Crediton, the Right Reverend Bob Evens, will be our guest. Bishop Bob is a wonderful character and, if you don't know him yet, you can be assured you are in for a treat! We shall be continuing to develop the very successful theme of recent Harvest Festivals of celebrating village life. So it will be a service for the whole community to come to and enjoy, and, as always, will be followed by the Harvest Supper in the Memorial Hall to which everyone is invited. There will be full publicity later, but do reserve the date now – Sunday 14 September at 6.30 pm in St Matthew's Church, followed at about 7.30 pm by the Harvest Supper in the Hall.

Ian Stuart, Churchwarden and Vice-Chairman St Matthew's PCC



## THE GRAMPUS GAMES & TROLLEY RACE



Work is now well underway organising this year's Grampus Games and Trolley Race, which will take place on the 31st August.

This year 25% of the proceeds will be split between the Village Hall and Church, with the remaining 75% going to the Devon Air Ambulance.

The organising committee meets most Wednesdays down the Grampus at about 8:00pm, if you would like to come along to discuss this year's event or have any good ideas you would be most welcome.

If you would like to enter a Team and/or Trolley, or know someone else who would, please contact Barry on 879755 or Edna on 866438.

As always with village events, any help on the day would be very much appreciated, please let us know if you can help - THANKS!

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## LEE VILLAGE FLOWER SHOW COFFEE MORNING - 05 MAY

Red Champion, Wild Hyacinth, Wild Beaked Parsley and of course multi-coloured Valerian - these were just a few of the hedgerow flowers that greeted locals and visitors to our Coffee Morning, held traditionally on the May Bank Holiday in aid of the Flower Show itself. The Committee and their respective spouses [spice?] worked very hard to make this Bank Holiday morning a colourful and joyous event. The cake and plant stands and the raffle, with prizes donated by supporters, raised the handsome sum of £360.75.

We now hope to buy our own exhibition vases rather than having to hire them, and are also very happy to be able to continue providing the flower displays in hanging baskets, and also the flowers at the entrance to the village.

And mention of these last – because it was she that usually provided them - brings me to the very sad death, after a long illness, of committee member Heather Matthews. Our thoughts are with her husband David and with her family and friends. Heather would often come to our meetings with interesting things she had noted so as to help the Committee to solve a problem. She might well have quoted Browning's poem:

The year's at the spring,  
The day's at the morn;  
The morning's at seven;  
The hillside's dew-pearled;  
The lark's on the wing;  
The snail's on the thorn,  
God's in his heaven;  
All's right with the world.

The Flower Show will be held in the Memorial Hall, Lee on the 31st July at 2pm. Schedules to the Show can be bought in the Village Shop by the Grampus.

Biggi Wright



## Southcliffe Hall

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Listen to the waves on the seashore  
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[www.southcliffehall.co.uk](http://www.southcliffehall.co.uk)

## LEE BAY JUNE 1958 - JUNE 2007 - BY LYNN MONEY

Each year I come, I see it still  
Up on the cliff above the old mill  
The ancient and rugged lone fir tree  
Standing sentinel over the Bay of Lee.

Fifty years since first I came  
And every year much remains the same  
The bay, the mill and the lone fir tree  
All are dear old friends to me.

How I wished for each summer to come  
To swim in Lee Bay in the bright warm sun  
To fish all the rock pools with net and pail  
And search for shells amongst the grey shale.

Much older now, I toil upwards past Damage Hue  
Through the gate, up the steps and out onto the view -  
Up and out on to the Downs of Lee  
Where I stand, at peace, between the sky and sea.

Down I walk, back to Gwythers and up Beach Lane  
To Chapel Cottage which still looks the same -  
On to The Gate House where owl and mouse are seen  
And where Denny's bridge now spans the stream.

The 'Old Farm' went and the 'Grampus' came  
'The Old Post Office' always looks the same  
The post office and shop that once I knew  
Are lost in the past - 'The Lych Gate' too.

St Matthews Church, the school and Memorial Hall  
Like the beach and the cliffs have not changed at all.  
The 'Old Maids Cottage' keeps its thatch  
And the valley fuchsias no where else can match.



In cottage, house, and manor I have pillowed my head  
And dreamed happily of past days that have sped  
By on the beach, in the village and on cliff paths close to the sea  
All of them cherished memories for me.

There are folk and homes too many to name  
To whom, and to where, my thoughts turn as I walk the lane -  
From out of the past ghosts and memories come  
As I look over the valley to the setting sun.

I came first with parents & brothers, then my own children three  
To this small rocky bay and the blue-green sea  
Grandchildren visit now, and they love it all, and, just as we,  
Hold close in their hearts the Bay and Village of Lee.

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A 30lb box of mixed joints,  
steaks and mince = £120

## THE FUCHSIA GALLERY

I should like to thank everyone who has visited the Gallery since we opened on Spring Bank Holiday Monday. I have been very encouraged by the positive comments made by many people about the works on display.

I wanted to open the Gallery in time for the Bank Holiday so that visitors to the Spring Fayre could also come to the Gallery and, of course, I wanted to encourage other visitors to come in during the holiday week. However, I am very aware that the Gallery does not yet have the full range of works that I intend to have. In particular, I am awaiting many textiles and some sculptures as well as more smaller and less expensive items. I hope early visitors have not been disappointed at the range of works. But, by the end of June or early July, I shall have a much fuller range. I do hope you will visit again if you have already been inside or will come at any time if you haven't yet visited the Gallery.

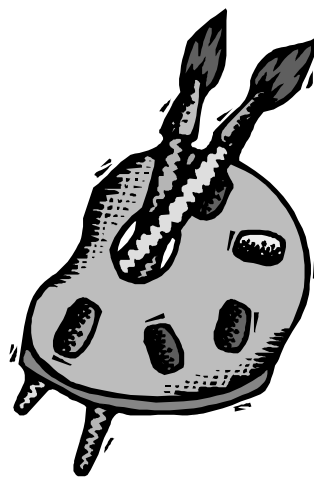
Bearing in mind that the Gallery is still being established, I intend to have a Grand Opening in late June or early July when it is fully established. Everyone in the village will be most welcome to attend. Please watch out for details later!

It is my intention to open the Gallery every day except Monday. Either I or my daughter, Ria, will be in the Gallery, sometimes supported by my mother or my husband, Steve. The Gallery will be open from around 10.00 am (sometimes earlier) until late afternoon.

I do look forward to meeting you.

Fran Larcombe

01769 561010 (home) - 01271 879575 (gallery)



### **The Orchard - B&B**

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## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE REPORT

Following the unsettling period in 2007 caused by the trend towards commercialism by the National Federation, our members once again enjoyed the programmes prepared for them, starting with the November Annual Meeting, when Margaret Hill was re-elected President. This was followed by Desert Island Discs presented by Mary Lethbridge, with Margaret Hood as her marooned guest. Margaret's choice of music reflected the high points in her life, usually connected with her love of music and delivered with a nice touch of wry humour.

December saw us battling high winds and torrential rain as we fought our way around the village on Santa's Safari Supper. I have been on several "safaris" organised for the long summer evenings in June, but I found myself enjoying the welcoming shelter from the elements together with good food and Christmas atmosphere, even more.

Margaret Hood was to the fore again in January when, as our Speaker, she presented her "Observations on Classical Music", together with highly entertaining performances on the piano to illustrate the periods of history.

Life on Lundy Island was the subject for February and could only be described with such first hand information by our own dear Bob Gilliat, who has fond memories of his stay on Lundy over several years as their Agent. His slides showed the enormous amount of work carried out during his term of office and we were fascinated by the personal insight he brought to his subject. Bob spoke fluently, without notes, but with deep affection and humour.

Mavis Rogers and Cynthia Stuart demonstrated their original recipes in March for cooking vegetarian meals and clever desserts, which were later eaten by the members and were delicious. At this point we realised that we had very talented ladies in our midst who had entertained us splendidly.

April was the Members Evening when our hard working Committee took a welcome break and the rank and file organised and ran the Meeting. Diana Lewis from Animal Ambulance was our Speaker, who described the rescue of animals in trouble, showing her total commitment and compassion. We ended the evening with an animal themed supper, consisting of hot-dogs, hedgehog cake, 'dog' biscuits, 'sheep' in a field of green jelly, and Kit Kat.

May was Resolution evening when we settled down to the serious business of discussing and voting on the issues raised across the country, before the National Federation presented them to Her Majesty's Government. The meeting ended on a humorous note, when members gave their holiday business anecdotes.

Quite an adventurous mix of subjects so far this year, with more to follow, such as meeting at St John's Garden Centre and a Christmas Candlelit Supper.

If you are not yet a member, why not join us on the second Thursday of every month except August, when you will be made most welcome.

Brenda Keeble



## SUBSCRIBE TO THE LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

Our thrice-yearly newsletter is free to residents, and available to non-residents at 50p from The Grampus Inn.

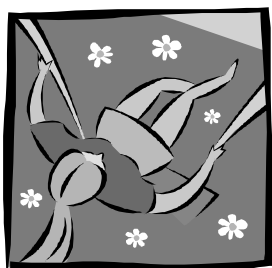
We offer two types of annual subscription (3 issues) to non-residents who are unable to visit our beautiful villages. Choose between:

- A paper copy delivered to your door for £3.00 per year
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“THE SPRING  
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GIVEN THE  
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WEATHER”



“THE NEW  
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10 MAY”

## LEE MEMORIAL HALL REPORT

Residents in the village and surrounding area received a letter from me in early June so, particularly for visitors and other readers, I shall just give a brief resumé of the main points of that letter and mention a few extra ones.

The Spring Fayre was very successful given the awful weather. It is a great credit to Tony Seymour and the many helpers that virtually everything went ahead either in the Hall, the marquee or under other covers. Attendance and takings were down, but the profit was still £1207. This is about £400 less than last year but, given the circumstances, was a good result. Many thanks to all concerned!

By the time this edition of the News is published, the weekend of consultation and display of proposed plans for the redevelopment of the Hall will have taken place. Hopefully, applications for grants will have been submitted, or will be about to be submitted, to North Devon Council and the Community Council of Devon. The proposals are much more modest than last year's unsuccessful bid to the Big Lottery Fund. However, the committee believes that the proposals, if implemented in full, will adequately meet the needs of the community for the foreseeable future and will provide an attractive venue for others to hire the Hall and bring in revenue. But implementation of even part of the proposals will require raising substantial sums of money within our community as well as attracting additional grants beyond applications to North Devon Council and the Community Council of Devon. You can be assured that we are investigating other funding sources rigorously and a sub-committee of the Management Committee will be embarking on fund raising activities. But we welcome suggestions of ways of raising money through grants, donations and pledges by individuals, or money raising events. If you have any suggestions, please contact me or any member of the committee. We shall keep everyone informed of developments.

As everyone in the village knows, the new play equipment was officially opened on Saturday 10 May. Full reports and pictures appeared in the local press so it is sufficient to say here that it was a lovely occasion attended by well over 50 people including nearly 20 children. The equipment is a notable addition to the facilities in the meadow. Another notable addition is the extension of the wild flower part of the meadow to twice its size last year. After Roy Dyer had supervised the removal of the grass by a JCB, Heather Booker and her gardener, David, spent an afternoon removing stones, preparing the seed bed and sowing half a kilo of wild flower seeds. This year, Heather has included cereals such as wheat, barley and oats. This is a way of introducing children, who may not have had the opportunity, of seeing some of their staple foods growing 'in the raw'. Thank you, Heather, for this excellent project and all your hard work!

The two main events of the summer in the Hall are, of course, the Flower Show and the Arts and Crafts Exhibition. The Flower Show is on 31 July, followed by the Arts and Crafts Exhibition from 2 to 17 August.

Ian Stuart, Trustee and Chairman of the Hall Management Committee

## LET'S NOT GET DRIVEN BARKING MAD



The Lee Siberian Husky team is taking its summer break, along with many giant ice lollies made in washing bowls. We're all hoping for a beautiful long summer when we can sit out and enjoy the tranquillity of the villages we all love. Residents and visitors alike will be sitting outside and listening to all the wonderful sounds of the Fuchsia Valley. One sound is not quite so welcomed by many though, the barking dog. Most people are perfectly happy to hear the guard dog occasionally doing its job when people pass by, or happy animals frolicking on the beach. The real stress and disturbance to people's lives starts with the dog that barks regularly for no reason.

Dogs bark because they are bored, lonely, attention-seeking, excited or frustrated. To stop your dog barking:

- don't leave him alone for long periods of time
- get him used to being on his own by leaving him, for short periods at first, in another room
- give him a toy or a bone, to keep him busy
- take him to obedience training to get him to obey your commands
- when he has been quiet for a while go back in and give him lots of praise
- consider leaving the radio on, nice and low, to keep him company
- take him for a walk before you go out, it will tire him out and make him sleep
- leave him where he won't see things which will make him bark, such as cats and people
- don't make a fuss of him just before you go out of the house - it will just make him miss you more and bark more
- don't leave him alone in your garden, as there are too many things to make him bark
- we never feed ours until they are all sitting silently, therefore rewarding perfect behaviour



No-one deliberately tries to upset their neighbours and may not even realise as most dogs bark when the owner is away. Yet one misbehaved dog can be a daily misery for many, and not only just those immediately next door. This summer let's make Lee and Lincombe ring with the sound of peaceful and content mutts snoring in the shade. For more advice contact the Dog Warden on 01271 388870.

Based on NDDC advice, researched by Stuart Groce, owned by 5 huskies and already living in a 'snoring dog' part of Lee

## Craft & Hobby Courses

Lower Campscott Farm - tel: 01271 863479

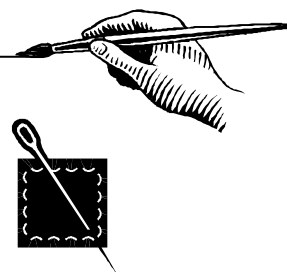
### Watercolour workshop

2nd Wednesday each month - tutor Brenda Keeble  
10am - 4pm, £10 per person, please bring your own lunch

### Patchwork

3rd Wednesday each month - tutor Margaret Hill  
10am - 4pm, £10 per person, please bring your own lunch

**NEW! Monday evening Patchwork course :7-9pm - £6.60**  
**Aerobics every Monday 9.30 - 10.30 am - £4 per session**



Come and treat yourself, have fun and learn a new skill!



“THE  
RESIDENTS’  
COMMITTEE  
WELCOMED  
THE  
INTENTION TO  
REFURBISH  
AND  
REVITALISE THE  
HOTEL”



“THE  
RESIDENTS’  
COMMITTEE  
IS  
CURRENTLY  
OPERATING  
THE  
TOILETS”

## LEE & LINCOMBE RESIDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

For those who missed the Residents' Association's Annual General Meeting on 14th May, this is an updated (and shortened!) version of my Chairman's report to that meeting.

The past year has not been different from any other in throwing up plenty of issues that have proved controversial and been hotly debated, in the Committee as in the village. But I think we can take comfort from the fact that, though we have had our differences of opinion, often forcefully expressed, we stuck together as a Committee and were able to discuss the issues clearly and rationally and to come to – we hope – reasonably sensible conclusions.

As always, part of our staple diet was the steady flow of planning applications, where we tried to adhere to a strict policy of only intervening or commenting when we considered that an application raised questions of concern to the village as a whole, as a community and as a landscape. And there were enough of those to be getting on with!

The question that perhaps most taxed our corporate spirit as a Committee was the application by the Village Hall to erect children's play equipment on the Meadow, where the Committee had to accept that it could only represent the balance of opinion in the village as a whole if it fully reflected the arguments both for and against – though with a majority opinion in favour. It all now seems a long time ago and a little unreal; the equipment has now been ‘unveiled’ with due pomp and ceremony and is available for children to play on. Perhaps the most important thing is that the village has, as always, now adapted, survived and moved on.

There are three buildings in the village whose function has traditionally been to provide refreshment and hospitality to villagers and visitors alike: the Lee Bay Hotel, the Fuchsia Tea Rooms and the Grampus. But two of them, to the great detriment of the village, are currently closed.

The Lee Bay Hotel changed hands the year before last and the new management were keen to share with us all their elaborate, ambitious and – we all thought – promising plans for upgrading and refurbishment. When the hotel submitted their planning application for a first stage of alterations to the exterior and to parts of the interior at the sea end, to start over the winter 07-08, the Residents' Committee welcomed the intention to refurbish and revitalise the hotel, accepting that this would have to be done in stages and would by definition involve a degree of change. But, given the scale and importance of the building in the surrounding AONB, we considered that the rather brutalist and monolithic use of large amounts of plain white render, in particular, should be reconsidered. We also stressed the need to minimise local nuisance. In the event, however, the planning application was withdrawn and the hotel was closed at the end of the season and remains closed, with no immediate prospect of re-opening. It is currently, we understand, up for sale.

The Fuchsia Tea Rooms (watering hole number two) have been a legendary feature of this village for many years. But they are at present only that – a legend rather than a reality. As with the hotel, they have been closed for far too long and seem to face an uncertain future. So we were delighted by the news that their planning application for a single-storey extension to the tea-room area has been granted full permission, subject to a number of safeguards which we had requested. It really is vital to the well-being of the village as a whole that both the hotel and the tea-rooms should re-open and thrive as soon as possible. They are too big and too important to be allowed to lie fallow and we will do our best to take a constructive approach to future developments.

Meanwhile, the third Lee watering hole, the Grampus, is, I'm glad to say, enjoying a brilliant renaissance under the management of its new owner, Bill Harvey. The place is thriving and convivial, more full of life and buzz for more of the time than I have ever seen it, and is currently everything that a village pub ought to be.

## LEE & LINCOMBE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION CONTD.

On a different tack, back in February we wrote to the Council asking for a comprehensive and coherent approach to the condition of the road, which is our only link with one another and with the outside world. Since then, you will probably have noticed a rash of white lines on the road at various points all the way down from Lincombe to the sea. I understand from talking to those in charge of the operation that the intention is to patch the road in those places this year and then, as soon as the budget allows, to re-surface the entire road. When I spoke to them, that seemed to mean next year, but I have recently seen worrying suggestions that the County Council may intend to postpone that! (There is still also the outstanding issue of the appalling and dangerous state of the bus turning area down at the front, which is riddled with potholes getting deeper by the minute and which has not been marked up like the rest of the road. But we have flagged up the problem and must hope that common sense will prevail and that the area will be included in the repair programme before someone breaks their neck).

Then there is the question of dog-bins. There is currently only one such bin in the village, on the path down to the sea, originally provided and emptied by Mr and Mrs Booker. But nothing lasts for ever and it is now in serious disrepair and still, of course, needs to be regularly emptied. And one bin also simply isn't enough. We have had endless exchanges with the District Council on this subject for many years, asking for dog-bins to be installed in strategic places and emptied regularly – as they appear to be in other places in the neighbourhood. The District Council has now decided to go out to general consultation on the matter and we will, as a Residents' Association, be consulted; in fact, we expect to have a chance of a discussion with the Council Official concerned at our next Committee meeting. If you have views on whether or where dog-bins should be installed, do let one of us know.

The opening and operation of the public toilets behind the sea front is, however, the matter which currently causes us the greatest concern – not to mention hard work and expense. To cut a (very) long story short, the Residents' Committee is currently operating the toilets. These are the only ones for miles and are heavily used by walkers and other visitors. We would all suffer (don't think about it too closely!) if they were closed. They are actually the property and responsibility of Ilfracombe Town Council but, faced with their continuing closure and the imminent start of the season with the Easter Holidays, we decided that we had no alternative but to take matters into our own hands. So having found the keys and fought our way in past seized-up locks, warped doors, rusty hinges and piles of dead leaves, we cleaned the place up, re-stocked it with what such places need, found somebody in the village public-spirited enough to do the cleaning five days a week for a modest wage – and opened, so to speak, for business.

But these things don't come free. Last year Ilfracombe Town Council paid the Lee Bay Hotel £800 to operate the toilets (way below what it actually cost to do so). This year the council is investing some £4,500 in refurbishment (as yet incomplete) and will again, they say, contribute to their running. But, as Town Councillor John Swan told the AGM, the council consider that, given other demands on their budget, they cannot justify spending anything like the whole of what it would cost (at least £2000) to keep the Lee toilets open all the year round. At present, we are using the reserves of the Residents' Association to pay for this exercise, but that can't and shouldn't continue indefinitely.

We are going to have to think hard about this. It is not the only context in which, at the AGM and elsewhere, it has been suggested that we should reconsider whether we might not, on balance, benefit from setting up a Parish Council. (I think Sir Humphrey Appleby would have been proud of that sentence). This is, I know, a local minefield and we rush into it at our peril; but we can't skirt round it forever either, pretending it isn't there. So we have accepted a mandate from the AGM to look into the pros and cons and report back. Don't hold your breath.

But if you think you can help us sort out this or any other problems, do please let us know. We are all happy to be contacted at any time about anything. Your Committee are: Sebastian Birch (862 453) Eric Couling (863 257) Gina-Luisa Hilborne (864 876) Paul Jagers (862 975) Ginny Potts (867 212) and Carolyn Weekes (863 257). (There is room for one more; if you're interested in helping out, get in touch).

You are also most welcome to attend our Committee meetings if you are interested and are an Association member. The 2008 AGM adopted a change to the Association's Constitution giving you that right. In the same vein, if anyone at all would like to be kept in touch with what we are doing, please let us have your e-mail address and we will add you to the list for our (probably very infrequent and sporadic) e-newsletters.

Sebastian Birch, Chairman, [sebastian.birch@talktalk.net](mailto:sebastian.birch@talktalk.net)



## MINI MONSTERS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Mini Monsters Parent and Toddler Group continues to be enjoyed by many. We are especially pleased that several new babies are now regularly attending and children from neighbouring areas and from holiday homes in the village are occasionally paying visits. All this augurs well for the group's future survival.



As well as our regular meetings, some of the children were delighted to be asked to help out at the Mothers Day service at the church where they handed out the lovely flowers and were led by Giles in a stirring rendition of 'He's got the whole world in his hands'! Some of the parents also helped raise money for the Village Hall by trying their hands at face painting and running a toy stall at the May Fayre.

The Mini Monsters group were, perhaps, the most excited by the establishment of the new play area in the meadow and many attended the official opening and have been making excellent use of this new facility ever since. It really is a pleasure to wander down to the meadow for a swing and bump into a fellow parent and their children doing the same. Well done and thanks to all those involved.

We are currently meeting in the Village Hall on a Monday morning from 10.00 to about 12.30ish and as ever welcome all, locals or visitors. Please join us for the princely sum of £1.00 a child which includes copious amounts of tea and coffee for the adults and a snack and drink for the children. We have a fantastically stocked cupboard of child friendly entertainment and when the weather is fine often set up equipment under the tree in the beautiful meadow where the children can also enjoy the new play equipment previously mentioned.

Please contact Kate 865591 or Katie 867068 if you need any further information.




Mini Monsters enjoying refreshments at the opening of the play area

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LOCAL DELIVERIES

RETAIL/CATERING

## WELCOME TO THE GRAMPUS

After six months of "settling-in" here at The Grampus, I have been overwhelmed by the support I have been given by the people of Lee and Lincombe. Many thanks.

Cream Teas are back. We've re-opened The Old Farm tea room with an additional upstairs lounge plus the outside patio & garden areas. The day-to-day management is the capable hands of a brace of Carols who provide handmade scones & cakes accompanied by locally sourced fresh jam & clotted cream....& if you haven't ever tried fresh jam, it's delicious. The tea rooms are open from 11am until 5pm each day.



We've welcomed our new chef, Ian, an enthusiast of fresh, local food & with a wide range of culinary expertise. I have known and cooked with Ian over the last 7 or 8 years. His chilli con carne was a revelation to me, having sent off for special varieties of chilli (for taste rather than heat) beans and herbs.

The Village Shop is open 10am until 10pm. If you find yourself without a vital ingredient for a meal, hopefully we may be able to help. It is your village shop so do let us know what you would like stocked. We have a new range of environmentally-friendly cleaning products, produced in England, so save your septic tank from the losing battle against chemical cleaning agents & try some of these. Mavis, who should know, says they're brilliant!

The Village Shop stocks ceramics with the Grampus motif, made by Roger Cockram, a North Devon potter, which make a long-lasting souvenir of a visit to Lee, and we have just started selling Style's ice-creams, sorbets and sheep's milk ice-creams.

We have an open mic night every Saturday, starting at 9. All welcome to sing or play, have their arms twisted, or just listen. On Sunday afternoons there will be an acoustic folk session from 3pm.

There will be a Table Tennis Tournament but the date has not been fixed yet.

Finally, we should soon have a new entrance gate into the Tea Garden. Designed & made by Denny Booker of Lee, from North Devon chestnut wood, the final design features are still a not-very-well-guarded secret. Wait & see!!

Bill Harvey

### WRINKLEWOOD POTTERY CLASSES

Starting in the New Year, during those dark evenings of Winter we will be opening the workshop on a Monday evening providing facilities to throw pots (with tuition if needed!). Aspire to making tea pots, vases, mugs & bowls, we offer to help with decoration & firing.

Children's class planned for Saturday mornings 10am to 12.30pm during term time.

**Please contact Penny for details on 01271-866535**

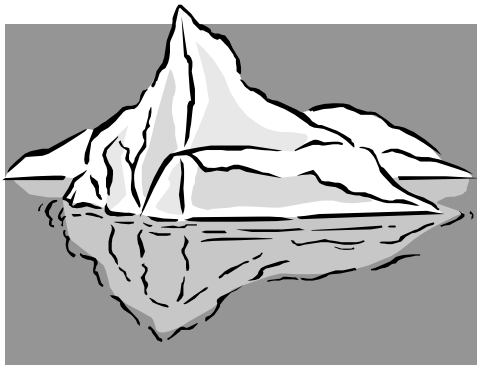
*Experiment with clay*





## COASTAL CLIMATE ACTION

Lee and Lincombe are among the villages along the coast between Ilfracombe and Croyde which are getting together to launch Coastal Climate Action, a network of people



living in the area who want to raise awareness of the challenge of climate change and want to get together to explore more environmentally-friendly ways of living.

The challenge of climate change is huge and the debate which surrounds it is fraught with controversy. It is all too easy to feel bewildered and powerless to change things – or even to take refuge in the view that it's all inevitable, it's not our fault and there's nothing any of us can do.

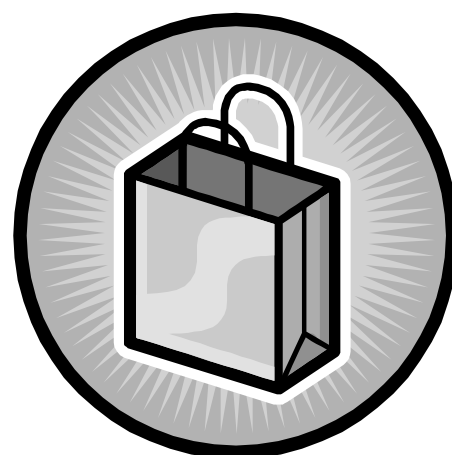
Coastal Climate Action starts from the premise that it's not inevitable, that it is significantly our fault and that there's plenty that each and all of us can do about it. We just need to know what and how. And to know we're not doing it on our own. We can each make a difference. Together, we can make a bigger difference.

Coastal Climate Action intends to work in various ways:

To provide information to help people to understand the problem and learn about the countless ways, big and small, in which we can all help to tackle it. We will be doing that mainly through our website ([www.coastalclimateaction.org.uk](http://www.coastalclimateaction.org.uk)) which is still in its infancy but which we hope will become a forum for discussion and for sharing ideas and information. We also intend, literally, to set up our stall at local events. Do come and join us.

To organise campaigns of practical action – things that even we in our North Devon idyll can do to improve our green performance. One such, for instance, will be to get together with local traders to get rid of the scourge of the plastic bag and replace it with stout re-usable cotton shopping bags.

To mount community green projects. In Woolacombe, we are already working on Community Gardens, where people can pool knowledge, energy, hard work and even land to create spaces where flowers, fruit, veg and community spirit can flourish. What about a micro-hydro scheme to harness the stream that bounces down the Lee valley, sell the power to the grid and plough the revenue back into the community?



We are still getting ourselves organised. We meet every now and then, sometimes a handful of us, sometimes more. We don't charge a subscription (so we don't have much money apart from a few donations). But if you're interested, either in just being kept informed of what we're up to or in perhaps taking part in one or another activity, we'd love to know who you are. All we ask is that you let us keep in touch with you now and then. If you have an e-mail address, that's easiest for us (we won't broadcast it; it'll just be between you and us), but a name, address and phone number would be useful too.

Sebastian Birch, Ivy Bank, Lee EX34 8LN -  
sebastian.birch@talktalk.net, telephone 862 453

## IT'S A KNOTWEED WALK

With dogged persistence, the Japanese Knotweed control group have continued their fight, and the good news is: they're winning!

For the first time, instead of cutting, treating and burning the knotweed, it's almost become a "walk in the park", with spot-spraying where appropriate. However, it will still be necessary to patrol Knotweed sites for at least three years after evidence of growth, and to always check these sites where there is any soil disruption. Should you notice a few large stands of Knotweed dotted about the village, fear not! They are logged for stem-injection in the autumn.

A glance at the Knotweed in Upper Slade gives a strong indication of the success of the project so far, but the team appreciates that it cannot rest on its laurels or SDK (stems of dead Knotweed); the project still needs to maintain its commitment and village support to ensure success. If you wish to contribute towards our costs, please forward donations to the address below. Every gift is much appreciated.

Our "street cred" is growing. The village project is on the JK Forum website; we are being asked for advice by others, and are beginning to prepare a village advice pack for general use. Very few villages have trained their own sprayers. This is a key factor in keeping costs down and providing effective treatment. Many thanks to all who have helped with contributions, work on site, and the Committee. A particular thank-you to volunteer Bryan Lye for his stalwart help and persistence.

"Mavis Knotweed", on behalf of the JK Committee, a sub-Committee of The Lee and Lincombe Residents Association.

Donations (by cheque, payable to "Lee and Lincombe Residents Association", and marked "Knotweed") may be sent to Mavis Rogers, The Blue Mushroom, Lee EX34 8LR



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- Ensure your **inheritance worries are taken care of**

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## MY FIRST YEAR AS A DISTRICT COUNCILLOR

It is now a year since the voters of Ilfracombe West Ward – including Lee and Lincombe – elected Bob Darell and myself to be your District Councillors. I've now had time to sit down and draw breath, and tell you something about my experiences so far. To begin with I ought to explain what my responsibilities are, and what I actually do.

First of all I'm a Ward Member, representing the interests of the four thousand or so voters in the Ward, this part of the job being shared with Bob. It involves helping people with questions say of noise or smoke nuisance, of litter, of dog mess, of vandalism, of parking charges and so on. Also, more generally, there has been a feeling that the District Council in Barnstaple hadn't been taking Ilfracombe's interests seriously enough, and one aspect of my job has been speaking up loud and clear for Ilfracombe, both in Council and in the Executive.

Some of the problem in dealing with people's worries and concerns is that most of them – very understandably – don't know and don't care about the difference in roles between the Town Council, the District Council and the County Council. To them it's all "the Council". In fact, most of the big ticket tasks, like schools, highways and homes for the elderly, are the responsibility of the County, while we in the District look after things like economic regeneration, rubbish collection, kerbside recycling and planning. We collect the Council Tax, but have to hand on 73 pence in every £ 1 to the County, and most of the rest to the police and the fire authorities, leaving about £150 a year per household for ourselves. So when people complain to me about the state of the roads – and they do, vehemently – I can only relay this through to the County Highways Department, perhaps with a bit more clout and persistence than a single taxpayer will. But I'll come back to this confusion about "the Council" later.

Another job I've got is as a member of the Executive with responsibility for a "portfolio". My portfolio covers the District priority "Good and Improving Services", and one of the ways the District is doing this is by setting up "One Stop Shops" – in the Civic Centre in Barnstaple, together with Town Council in the Ilfracombe Centre in the High Street, and by September this year in Amory House in South Molton. People can come along with any sort of problem and our intention is to deal with 80% on the spot, and pass the rest on to specialist staff, whether in the Town, the District or the County, face-to-face, by 'phone or by e-mail. The newly-opened Ilfracombe Centre has already proved a great success, and the numbers going there shows that it is filling a hitherto unsatisfied need. I am also concerned with carrying out research to measure taxpayers' satisfaction with our services, so as to pinpoint where we're going wrong, and I'm glad to say that satisfaction is growing. Things do inevitably go wrong however but we are also improving complaints handling, and the Local Government Ombudsman tells us that we do pretty well in this area.

A third role I have is Deputy Chairman of the Ilfracombe Harbour Board. At the moment this Board is little more than a committee of the Council; it however is well accepted that the Harbour can't be treated just as another District Council service like waste recycling or building control, but is potentially a business in its own right. Having an effective and attractive harbour is absolutely central to the regeneration of Ilfracombe, and one of the Board's jobs is to encourage public and private investment for improvements, while at the same time ensuring that harbour users and the general public have proper influence on what's going on.

So in a very short space of time I've had to learn a lot about a wide range of subjects, and I must say that it has been very interesting, and cheering, to find out what goes on in the public sphere in Ilfracombe and in North Devon as a whole. One thing, however, that horrifies me is the degree of micro-management imposed by Whitehall. Much more than half of our funding comes not from Council Tax but from central government, and they use this to force us to stick within very narrow guidelines. There is little genuine delegation, and our freedom to operate according to local needs is very restricted.

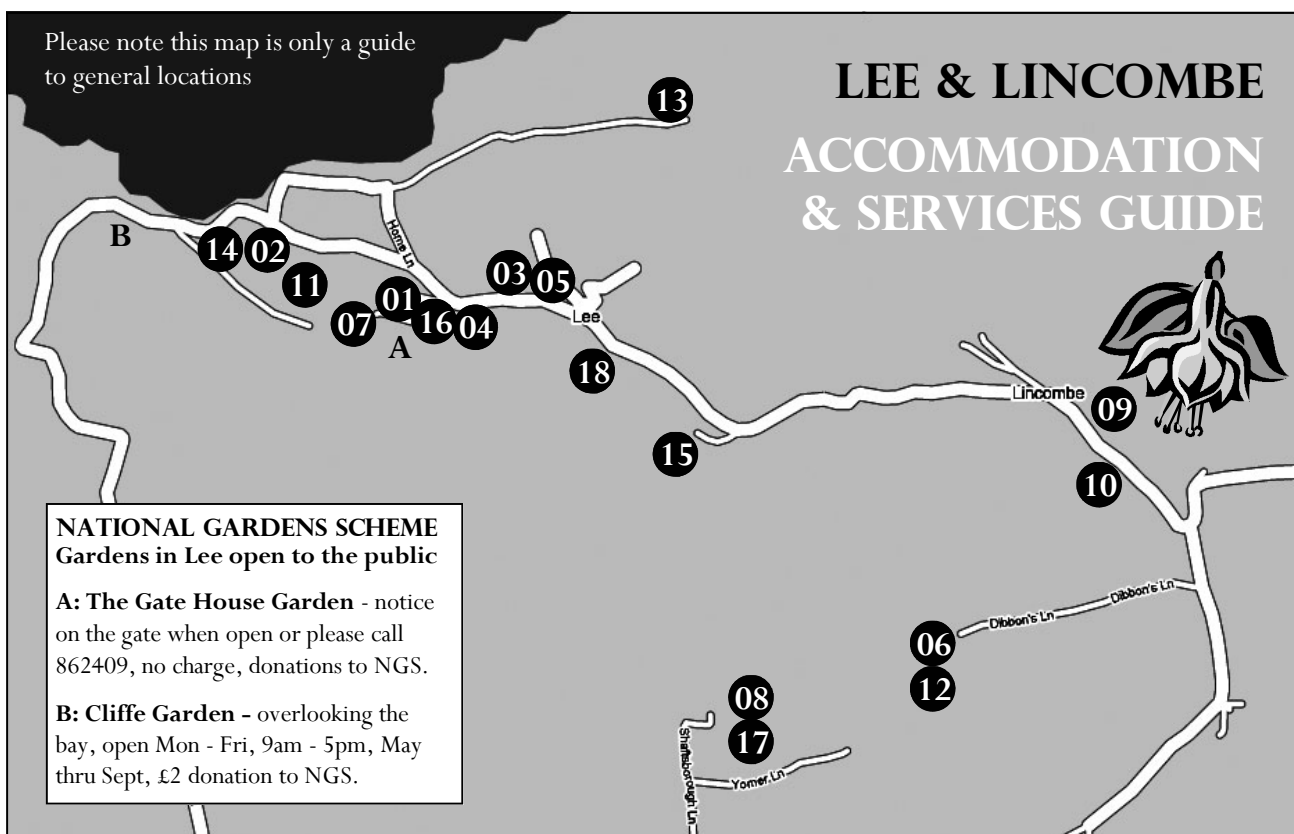
And here I come back to the issue which is occupying our thinking at the moment. As I said, it's very inefficient, confusing and expensive to have a District Council and a County Council working in the same area but with different sets of tasks. It has therefore been decided to reorganise the whole of local government in Devon, setting up so-called "unitary authorities" which would carry out all of these tasks. Two proposals for our patch have been put forward, one being a unitary Devon, covering everything and everywhere in the county outside Plymouth and Torbay, the other being a "Northern Devon", combining present North Devon and Torridge, together with parts of neighbouring districts, centred on Barnstaple. We'll know which by the end of the year.

So, as you'll have gathered, it's been very busy, very interesting, often frustrating, but on the whole highly rewarding. Roll on the next three years!

Colin Wright

Please note this map is only a guide to general locations

## LEE & LINCOMBE ACCOMMODATION & SERVICES GUIDE



### NATIONAL GARDENS SCHEME Gardens in Lee open to the public

**A: The Gate House Garden** - notice on the gate when open or please call 862409, no charge, donations to NGS.

**B: Cliffe Garden** - overlooking the bay, open Mon - Fri, 9am - 5pm, May thru Sept, £2 donation to NGS.

### VILLAGE SERVICES

1. Pub, Tea Rooms & Village Shop: The Grampus Inn - [www.thegrampus-inn.co.uk](http://www.thegrampus-inn.co.uk) - Bill Harvey \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 862906
2. Hotel: The Lee Bay Hotel \_\_\_\_\_ CLOSED
3. Gallery: The Fuchsia Gallery - Fran Larcombe \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 879575

### BED & BREAKFAST

4. The Orchard - [www.theorchardlee.co.uk](http://www.theorchardlee.co.uk) - Mrs Ginny Potts \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 867212
5. Rose Cottage - Carolyn Weekes & Eric Couling \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 863257
6. Lower Campscott Farm - [www.lowercampscott.co.uk](http://www.lowercampscott.co.uk) - Mr & Mrs Cowell \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 863479
7. Southcliffe Hall - [www.southcliffhall.co.uk](http://www.southcliffhall.co.uk) - Kate Seekings & Barry Jenkinson \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 867068
8. Shaftsboro Farm - [www.shaftsboro.co.uk](http://www.shaftsboro.co.uk) - Margaret & Frederick Kift \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 865029
9. High Banks, Lincombe - Pat & Tony Seymour \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 863628

### SELF CATERING (max. per unit)

10. Lincombe House (2,6,5) - [www.lincombehouse.co.uk](http://www.lincombehouse.co.uk) - Richenda S Carter & Shona L Kilby-Smith \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 864834
11. Chapel Cottage on Beach Lane (9) - Mrs Ginny Potts \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 867212
12. Lower Campscott Farm (8,6,6,4,4,4) - [www.lowercampscott.co.uk](http://www.lowercampscott.co.uk) - Mr & Mrs Cowell \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 863479
13. The Blue Mushroom (2,3) - Mr & Mrs Rogers \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 862947
14. Wrinklewood (4) - Penny Measures & David Perry \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 866535
15. Crowness Cottage (4) - [crowness.cottage@tesco.net](mailto:crowness.cottage@tesco.net) - Mr & Mrs Duffield \_\_\_\_\_ (01268) 742162
16. Brookdale Villa (11) - [www.brookdale-lee.co.uk](http://www.brookdale-lee.co.uk) - Mr Bannister \_\_\_\_\_ (01923) 266989
17. Shaftsboro Farm - [www.shaftsboro.co.uk](http://www.shaftsboro.co.uk) - Margaret & Frederick Kift \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 865029
18. The East Wing, The Grange (5+) - [www.loveleebay.co.uk](http://www.loveleebay.co.uk) - Gina-Luisa Hilborne \_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 864876

*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 2008 ISSUE DEADLINE - 01 OCTOBER 2008**

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