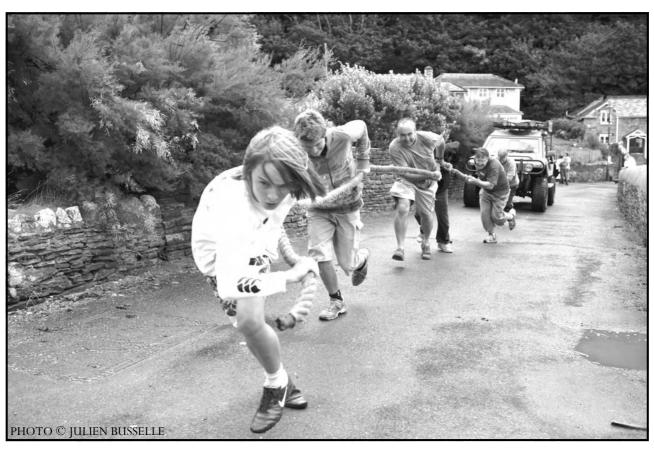
FOR THE RESIDENTS OF LEE & LINCOMBE VILLAGES AND SURROUNDING AREAS AND OUR VISITORS

# LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

**AUTUMN 2008** 

**50**P



FUEL CRISIS HITS LEE BAY! THE SEAFRONT HOSTS THE 'LORRY PULL' DURING THE GRAMPUS GAMES & TROLLEY RACE ON 31 AUGUST 2008

www.leebay.co.uk

#### LEE AND LINCOMBE – FUTURE DATES FOR 2008

#### **VILLAGE DIARY**

Friday 17 October 7.30pm Wine tasting, supper and auction of pledges – Memorial Hall

(Tickets £8 from Ian Stuart 863396 or Becca Wyles 879001)

Sunday 26 October from 11.30 am Autumn Bazaar – Memorial Hall

(locally made arts, crafts and gifts; refreshments all day; free admission)

Wednesday 29 October 7.45pm Flower Show AGM—Memorial Hall

Friday 28 November 7.30pm Race Night – Memorial Hall

(Enjoy a small flutter on the filmed horse races: Tickets £2 from John Walker 862265, Kate Madden 865591 or Janet Mayo 862453)

Sunday 30 November 10.00am Joint service with Mortehoe and Woolacombe – St Matthew's Church,

followed by coffee in Memorial Hall

Wednesday 3 December 6.30pm Christmas Bingo and mega raffle – Memorial Hall

(Full details elsewhere in the News)

Tuesday 16 December 6.30pm Village Carol Service – St Matthew's Church,

followed by mince pies and mulled wine in Memorial Hall

Wednesday 24 December 10.00pm Christmas Communion service – St Matthew's Church

Monday 29 December 12 noon Sponsored swim – Sea front

(Further details from Penny Measures and David Perry 866535)

Every Monday 10.00am—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

#### Greetings and Farewells



Although there are several houses for sale in the village, there have been very few arrivals and departures since the last edition of the News. However, we are very pleased to welcome Sally-Ann Lee and Stephen Dean, and their 11 month old son, Oscar, to Sun Penny Cottage next to the Fuchsia Tea Rooms. They have come from Windsor and Stephen is running Jan's Kitchen in Butcher's Row, Barnstaple. We hope they will be very happy in the village and, as always, it's lovely to have another young person to join the growing number of youngsters in 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.

#### Lee & Link'em News Team

Editorial team Gina-Luisa Hilborne Tel: 864876 gina@loveleebay.co.uk

Heather Booker Tel: 862409 Ian & Cynthia Stuart Tel: 863396

**Production** Ian & Cynthia Stuart Advertising Manager Heather Booker

**Delivery teams** Bryan & Helen Lye; Alun Dobson & Becca Wyles

#### LEE MEMORIAL HALL REPORT

In the middle of September, I wrote to all residents and households in the village and surrounding area to bring everyone up to date about the plans to improve the kitchen, toilets, storage facilities and sewage system, and to launch our major fundraising campaign. An insert about the events planned for the next few months is enclosed with this edition of the Lee and Link'em News. So I only need to write a brief report here.

I am very encouraged by the positive reaction from so many people to the fundraising campaign. We have already received a significant number of donations and there is good support for the next event — the wine tasting, supper and auction of pledges. I am writing this note on 30 September and I am very hopeful that we shall sell all the tickets for this event. We already have some excellent items for the auction and hope to obtain a few more. A list of items will be posted on the Hall and Village Notice Boards well before the event, but I do encourage you to get your tickets as soon as possible. The wine tasting will be great fun, the supper very tasty and the auction a splendid opportunity to bid for some very interesting items including a round of golf, an MOT test, dinner bed and breakfast for two at a first class hotel, a 3 or 4 night holiday for up to 6 people, a clay pigeon shooting lesson for 2 people and meals at high quality restaurants. Tickets for the evening are available from me (863396) or Becca Wyles (879001). Plans are well advanced for the following event — the Race Night on 28 November. Details of this event are included in the insert. Please support this event as well.

As I said in my recent letter, we shall be developing a Hall website and this should be up and running in time to publicise events in the new year. But, whether you have access to the internet or not, we are committed to keeping everyone as fully informed as possible about developments and the progress of fundraising including grants and events. If you have any queries at any time, please contact me or another member of the committee.

Ian Stuart, Trustee and Chairman of the Hall Management Committee

#### Subscribe to the Lee & Link'em News or view online

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

We offer postal annual subscription (3 issues) to non-residents who are unable to visit our beautiful villages. A paper copy can be delivered to your door for £3.00 per year. If you would like to subscribe, please contact the editors with your details and any remittance.

And now, thanks to sponsors, the Lee & Link'em News is also freely available online to read and/or download. Please visit www.leebay.co.uk and follow the links.





#### The East Wing - The Grange

LOCATED - 2 minutes' walk from Lee village centre
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GARDEN - Large, luscious and unfenced, with stream border
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"LOUISE
THOMPSONPASSMORE WILL
BE TAKING THE
LEASE OF THE
OLD
SCHOOLROOM"



"CHRISTMAS STILL SEEMS A LONG WAY OFF, BUT TIME WILL PASS QUICKLY!"

#### NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

The last month or so has been a busy time in the life of St Matthew's Church. The first highlight was the Harvest Festival on 14 September. It was a celebration of village life around the theme of 'The beauty of the earth – creation and creativity'. Inside the candlelit and beautifully decorated church, over 40 people were involved in the processions, readings, handbell ringing and the choir. Our special guest was the Bishop of Crediton whose infectious good humour was much appreciated. He gave a memorable sermon emphasising the importance of holding fast to all that is good. After the service, most people from the nearly 90 in the congregation moved across to the Memorial Hall to enjoy the usual splendid supper, prepared and served by the Friends of St Matthew's. All the collection of £216 has been sent to Water Aid, the charity committed to improving water supplies in areas where this basic need is not available. The produce used to decorate the church was given to the Susan Day Home.

The next highlight occurred on the following Sunday – St Matthew's Day. On 21 September, we had the double baptism of Jennipher Ann Hewitt and her mother, Cathryn. It was a fine and most enjoyable occasion. The church was almost full with the regular congregation and many family and friends welcoming Jennipher and Cathryn as members of the Church. Rev Giles commented that baptising mother and daughter at the same time was a first for him!

Another piece of very good news to announce is that Louise Thompson-Passmore will be taking the lease of the Old Schoolroom at the beginning of January to run the place as her studio and as a craft shop. As most people will be aware, this year has been a sad and unfortunate period for the Old Schoolroom. The previous tenant was unable to run her Gallery successfully and it shut completely in late August, having been closed for considerable periods during the summer. We are all delighted that Louise is going to run the Old Schoolroom and we wish her well. Her plans are exciting but realistic and we are confident that the Old Schoolroom will once again be an asset to the village. Louise was, of course, brought up in the village, was married in the church and her parents, Tom and Edna, still live here. So welcome home, Louise!

On Sunday 26 October, there will be an Autumn Bazaar in the Memorial Hall. There is an advertisement about it elsewhere in this edition of the News. It will be an excellent opportunity to buy arts and crafts made by local people who will have stalls at the Bazaar. Splendid refreshments will be available all day. So do come along to buy your gifts and enjoy the atmosphere of the Bazaar.

Christmas still seems a long way off, but time will pass quickly! This is the last opportunity in the News to mention special Christmas services in St Matthew's. As well as the regular Sunday service at 8.45 am and the midweek service at 9.00 am on Wednesdays, there will be 2 special Christmas services. On Tuesday 16 December, the Village Carol Service will take place at 6.30 pm. The handbell ringers will play carols from 6.10 pm and, after the service, there will be mince pies and mulled wine in the Memorial Hall provided by the Hall Committee. Then, on Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24 December at 10.00 pm, there will be the traditional Christmas Communion service with the singing of familiar carols led by the choir. The Church is always packed for both these services but we always manage to squeeze everyone in! All are welcome and we hope to see you at these and other services.

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

# COME AND BUY YOUR CHRISTMAS PRESENTS! AT THE

### **AUTUMN BAZAAR**

IN

### LEE MEMORIAL HALL

ON

### SUNDAY 26 OCTOBER 2008

FROM 11.30 AM

LOCAL CELEBRATED ARTISTS AND CRAFTSMEN WILL BE DISPLAYING AND SELLING A WIDE VARIETY OF GIFTS

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"THE BELL
THAT WOULD
SUMMON
UMPTEEN
CHILDREN TO
SCHOOL OVER
THE YEARS"



"CAPTAIN BRADLEY AND SIX CREWMEN DROWNED"

#### THE BELL

Just over two centuries ago, in 1797, a ship was launched in the faraway town of Lancaster, a good 200 miles north of Lee as the crow flies. This ship was to have an influence on the day to day life of many of the inhabitants of Lee, even some who were born 130 years later.

On the day she was launched, Europa carried on deck a brand new bell inscribed "SHIP EUROPA LANCASTER 1800". This bell was destined to become the bell that would summon umpteen children to school over the years. The story of how it got from Lancaster to Lee is as follows.

The Europa was built by the shipbuilding firm of Brockbanks of Lancaster in 1799 for Edward Salisbury & Co, for a price of £3660.

Brockbanks built at least five ships for Edward Salisbury & Co, between 1790 & 1800. They were Richard 1 in 1792, Clio 1 in 1796, Richard 2 in 1798~99, Europa 2 in 1799 and Clio 2 in 1800. They also built Europa 1 for Walter Richie & Co of Greenock. Most of the above ships seemed to have been built for the West Indies trade.

The Europa had a keel length of 70ft of 13ins x 13ins elm wood. The hold was 10ft 6ins deep and the bottom deck was 5ft 3ins, a total depth of 15ft 9ins. She had two decks and three masts, and was 101ft 1 inch long and 26ft 7 inches wide. She was launched on 26<sup>th</sup> March 1800, with a tonnage of 305 tons and was registered 1<sup>st</sup> April1800. The owners were Edward Salisbury, Nicholas Salisbury and John Baxendale, merchants from Lancaster. The appointed masters were Edward (Ramond) and William Bradley.

Her first voyage appears to have been to Martinique in the West Indies, under the command of Captain Kimmis / Kemmis. He was replaced as Captain in 1802 when William Bradley took charge of her. The second mention of this man as Captain is contained in The Bristol Presentments (Imports & Exports) for January 9th 1802, under Imports, which reads, "The Europa, William Bradey master, from St Christopher's" (The surname should read Bradley). Checking in the Felix Farleys Bristol Journal for January 2nd 1802 in Ship News, I found the following, "Came in since our last (Edition) The Europa from St Kitts."

In the 9th January report there is an inventory of the cargo of imports:

Tobin & co	118hhds			Sugar
Sir Richard Neave Bart.	40hhds	13trs		ditto
W.Scott	20hhds			Sugar
Protheroes & co	30hhds	3trs	1bl	ditto
S & J Span & co	22hhds			ditto
E. Baille & Son	118hhds			ditto
To Order	39hhds	18trs		ditto
Total	387hhds	34trs	1bl	Sugar

(Note: I think hhds means Hogsheads.)

By the 30<sup>th</sup> January 1802 The Europa had "Entered out". This usually meant that they had left the local tide area, and were waiting to sail out of the Avon River into the Severn Channel. Why they did not sail until late February is not known unless they were waiting for crew or repairs.

It appears as if The Europa sailed on Saturday  $20^{th}$  of February 1802, bound for Martinique in the West Indies, and was lost on the  $22^{nd}$  February in the Bristol Channel. Captain Bradley and six crewmen drowned. I do not think any of them were found, as I have searched the burial records of all the nearby churches for that year.

#### THE BELL, CONTD.

There is some confusion as to where she was wrecked. Two reports say on or near Morte Point, another two say the Bristol Channel, and the last two reports I have seen insist she was wrecked on the rocks in or near Lee. But I have stuck with Lloyd's list, no 4234, which reports that she was lost in the Bristol Channel, which could still mean Lee or Morte point.

It appears as if there was a large element of danger for any sail ship close to our shores. I quote from Shipwreck Index of the British Isles by R & B Larn:

"West of Ilfracombe is Bull Point, where the coast swings south, past the aptly named Morte Point, Morte Bay and Baggy Point, to make up the west and north facing shores of Barnstaple Bay. In days of sail its margins give a lea shore for any course between North and West. As a consequence sixty two ships were wrecked on this sixteen mile stretch of coast between 1799 & 1858 alone."

To try and get some idea of the weather at this time, I quote from The Gentleman's Magazine 1802 page 131:

"February 22<sup>nd</sup> on the late shipwrecks. The dreadful consequences of the late storms at sea on the British and other coasts, with which the daily papers for several weeks past have been filled. Near 200 trading vessels it seems, have been wrecked."

In the Sherbourne Mercury I found the following:

"Plymouth February  $26^{th}$  1802. Last night and all this day it has blown a tremendous hurricane at NNW and then suddenly shifting to NNE where it blew with increased fury as to become dangerous to those houses highly situated."

Somehow part of the wreck was salvaged. I have been told by an old man dead now for thirty years, that the ship broke up and part of it, with the bell attached floated back up channel to Hele, where someone salvaged the bell, which was then used at The Hele Mission Church.

John Mills Chanter enters the story when he became Vicar of Ilfracombe in 1836. I believe it is by his efforts that the church school in Lee was established. In 1849 he married Charlotte the daughter of Charles Kingsley. Their daughter Gratiana, after her father's death in 1887, wrote a book called "Wanderings in North Devon", which is a record and reminiscence of her father's life, with a preface by George Tugwell.

The only church school in Ilfracombe was over the old fish market, which in those days stood roughly where the clock tower stands now. The market was a rickety old building, and to reach the school you had to climb a staircase mounted on the outside of the building. When you finally reached the school, with its uneven and rough floor, you would assume you were in a hayloft rather than a school.

The school bell was the bell that had been salvaged from the Europa; somehow it had travelled from The Hele Mission Church to be used in the Church school. It is not known how long the school had made use of the bell, or indeed how long it had served duty at the Hele church. All I can say is that the bell had been salvaged 34 years before. For the next 24 years or so the bell was used at the school above the market.

Then, either the bell was given to the new church school in Lee when it opened at Easter 1860, or a little later, when the fish market was demolished to make way for shops and houses. At any rate for the last 148 years from then till the present day, the bell has remained at Lee, hanging in its wooden housing outside the school next to the church.

It has seldom been rung since the school closed for good in 1942.

Richard D. G. Howard, July 8th 2008



"SIXTY TWO SHIPS WERE WRECKED ON THIS SIXTEEN MILE STRETCH"



"FOR THE LAST
148 YEARS
FROM THEN
TILL THE
PRESENT DAY,
THE BELL HAS
REMAINED AT
LEE"

#### GRAMPUS GAMES & TROLLEY RACE



This year's Grampus Games & Trolley Race took place on the 31<sup>st</sup> August. The day dawned looking like the usual for this summer, i.e. wet & miserable. However, by the time the team races were due to start, it had cleared up a bit.

The first race, 'The Iron Man', consisted of two adults three legged from the top of the field, through a hoola hoop to the end of the field, then picking up a coloured baton and returning again through the hoola hoop and then passing the baton onto a junior. The junior then took it from the meadow down the road to the pub, along the footpath and track to the beach. Two adults then collected the baton and swam or waded with a body board out to a marker buoy manned by Nick, and back to the beach. The baton was then passed to the other junior and the whole process was done in reverse, ending at the finish at the top of the field, which had been the start.

This was followed by 'Paintball', when 60 paintballs were fired at a target board with

various-sized holes, with points being scored for each ball going cleanly through a hole and hitting the bottle behind. Distribution of the paintballs and who fired was determined by the team leader.

Various other games followed, including 'Bridge Building' using planks and blocks, 'Water Ball' which involved transferring water by various means from one container to another, and the 'Mini Digger Challenge', using a mechanical digger to pick up a ball and transfer it to a crate.

After a brief break, when homemade cakes, sandwiches and refreshments were served in the village hall by Cynthia and Ian Stuart, Becca Wyles and others, the team games transferred to the seafront. After a slight delay the Trolley Races

started. Each trolley free-wheeled down Lee Hill from Home Lane, across the seafront and up the hill the other side as far as possible. The best distance over 2 runs was scored. There were only 3 trolleys this year, which was disappointing for us. The winning trolley was driven by Matthew Sutton.

Bike races followed, where bikes (with chain removed) free-wheeled down the trolley race course, There was then a brief shower of rain which unfortunately dispersed the crowd of spectators.

The last team game of the afternoon followed. This was the 'Lorry Pull' along the seafront when the whole team pulled a lorry over a measured distance. It was timed from the start to when the back wheels of the lorry crossed over the finish line.

#### GRAMPUS GAMES & TROLLEY RACE, CONTD.

Points were awarded to teams in all the events and each team had a joker that could be played on any game to score double points.

The final scores were:

1<sup>st</sup> place with 72 points, the BLUE team, team members: Catherine, Jonathon Perry, Matthew Sutton, Rosie Collins, Zac Collins and Emma Perry. 2<sup>nd</sup> Place with 68 points was the Green team and 3<sup>rd</sup> place with 48 points was the Yellow team (RGB).

The evening music at The Grampus started with the recently formed 'Devil Delta Blues Band'. This was followed with the second session being played by 'Parcel of Rogues'. The rain held off



and a mild evening meant that the music could be enjoyed under the stars with some dancing taking place on the grass. The Grampus provided a barbeque of organic burgers and sausages in rolls for the afternoon and evening.

Tickets had been sold by Edna and Mavis for a magnificent draw with in excess of 30 generously donated prizes. The first three drawn were:

- 1: Family Ticket to Lundy Island Mark & Mandy Collins.
- 2: Family ticket to the Eden Project Rachel Zeale.
- 3: Day out on South Devon Railway Catherine.

Other prizes included a voucher from the Brasserie at Woolacombe and tickets to The Milky Way.

Unfortunately, due to lack of visitor numbers and bad weather, the event was not as successful as in previous years, but a small profit has been made which will be split 75% to Devon Air Ambulance and 25% to Lee Village Hall and Church. As soon as we have a final figure it will be posted on the Village Hall notice board.

A big thank you to all of those who helped and supported the event.

Barry Porton. (Photos courtesy & © Julien Busselle.)



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"I WAS EVACUATED TO LEE IN JANUARY 1943 FROM LONDON"



"HE WOULD,
WITH HIS
HORSE AND
TRAP, GO
ROUND THE
VILLAGE
DELIVERING
MILK"

#### MEMORIES OF AN EVACUEE

During September there was a fascinating entry in the Visitors' Book in St Matthew's Church from Mr Ron Kirkwood in which he referred to his time as an evacuee in the village and as a server in the church from 1943 to 1945. Janet Mayo, as Church Secretary, wrote to Mr Kirkwood to express our delight that he had revisited the village and church and our interest in his entry. Mr Kirkwood has replied to Janet's letter and, after an opening introduction, this is what he wrote:

'My visit to Lee was a kind of pilgrimage I had promised myself for a long time. I am 75 and widowed, and I thought it was about time to recapture that part of my childhood which I remember with deep affection.

I was evacuated to Lee in January 1943 from London in which I was living in a children's home. Leaving London in the middle of the blitz and suddenly finding myself in a quiet country village was very traumatic! I was billeted with a Mrs White in that lovely bungalow that nestles on the cliff above the Bay. It was called "Damage Hue". She had a Mr and Mrs Clifford who looked after her and myself. I went to the village school in which, if my memory is right, there were about 12 of us. Later, we went to Ilfracombe catching the school bus from the bay.

I recall being introduced to the Vicar, Rev B Gayer, who asked me to be a server at St Matthew's Church. I think I must have looked angelic! He was a kind and gentle man. He gave me my first education in Christianity which was to play an important part in my future life.

The Church has not changed. Yes, the carvings and stencils are the same, the pulpit and the altar remain strong, the true strength of the church! One warm memory was, when the Vicar went to preach his sermon, he always made sure I had a comic to read! He would also give me a sixpence which meant candy from the old post office.

I have to say that, when I arrived into the village after 63 years, nothing had changed! One was stepping back in time. The "Old Maids Cottage" still the same, the Tea Garden still selling delicious cream teas and ice cream! (Editor's note: Mr Kirkwood is referring to the tea room at the Grampus which was a farm in those days and, like many other places in the village, had a tea room for visitors.)

I walked to the Bay and stood looking out from the sea wall, recalling that small boy playing on the rocks with his fish net looking for all those wonderful magic prawns and crabs found in the pools as the tide went out.

Life in the village was idyllic. There was much kindness and one felt safe and secure. I can also remember helping doing the milk round with the local farmer. He would, with his horse and trap, go round the village delivering milk from two large urns. I would collect the jugs from the residents, the farmer would with a large ladle pour milk into the jugs! More pocket money.

Life in the village did change in 1944 with the arrival of the Americans. They used to drive around in their jeeps and us boys would run after them asking for chewing gum. They would then throw us packets!

The other important occasion was once a month in the village hall. We would have a film show put on by the Ministry of Information. A full house was always assured.

#### MEMORIES OF AN EVACUEE, CONTD.

In September 1945, the war now over, I returned to the children's home in London. It broke my heart to leave this wonderful village of Lee. I am so pleased I made this visit. I remain indebted to the kindness and love the residents gave to a young evacuee. I realised, as I sat in this beautiful church, how much I owe to this experience.



I hope I shall return, maybe next year. Thank you for writing to me. It was good to share these moments.

Warm wishes,

Ron Kirkwood'

It is good for us to share your memories, Ron. Thank you very much.

#### LEE BAY FESTIVE DIP



An almost complete group photo, Superman and a few others missed the photo shoot.

Thank you to the hardy village folk who entered into the spirit and joined us for a swim and to their supporters.

We raised £370 from donations and sponsorship in 2007. Half was donated to the RNLI and half to the Village Hall.

This year we will hope to raise some more money for the same charities and we will swim at noon on Monday 29th December.

As usual we will have a glass of mulled wine and mince pie after the swim.

Anyone interested in a sponsor form, please email: penny@wrinklewood.co.uk or phone us on 866535.

Fancy dress welcome!



A regular swimmer, any guesses who?



"ILFRACOMBE TOWN COUNCIL HAS SINCE AGREED TO REIMBURSE US ALL THE RUNNING COSTS"



"WE ARE TO BE Allocated One dog Bin"

#### LEE & LINCOMBE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Although the Association's Committee has not had cause to meet since the beginning of July (probably a good sign), there are a number of developments to report.

You may remember from the last Lee & Link'em News that, in the absence of a clear commitment from the Town or District Council, we had decided to take the running of the Lee Public Toilets into our own hands. We have therefore been able to keep the toilets open continuously since the Easter holidays, cleaned and re-stocked five times a week and they have clearly been in constant use during that time. Initially, this was achieved by drawing on the financial reserves of the Residents' Association but I am pleased to report that Ilfracombe Town Council (ITC) has since agreed to reimburse us all the running costs — from when we opened them last Easter till this October's half term holiday. Their present declared intention is to repeat this partnership approach in future years.

As part of the deal transferring responsibility for the toilets to the ITC, the District Council has also paid for a modest refurbishment of the building. Most of that is now complete but we are still holding out for a few points — not least replacement of the new loo-roll holders, which are more like shredders — to be resolved.

It now remains for the Committee to consider what provision we might make over the winter, for instance by opening at weekends only, without unreasonable expense.

In vaguely the same vein, we have been pressing the District Council for a long time to provide a dog-bin service in the village. The existing bin on the footpath to the beach is serviced by volunteers from the Committee and is, in any case, showing its age and well overdue for retirement. You will therefore be thrilled to hear that we have learnt from our District Councillor, Colin Wright, that we are to be allocated one dog bin, to be provided and serviced by the District Council. Our present intention is to ask for it to be located near the sea front, where most of the abandoned 'offerings' are usually to be found – precise location yet to be determined.

Again after many months of pressure, we at last seem to be on the brink of having some work done by South-West Highways on the road all the way down from Lincombe to the sea. Whether that will be a complete resurfacing or just repair work is not clear at the time of writing but should be obvious by the time you read this. We have been told that the work will include the hideously and dangerously pitted bus-turning area at the entrance to the Lee Bay Hotel car park — something we have also been pressing for. At the same time, S-W Highways is currently repairing the bandstand (at the expense of the insurers of the truck which damaged it). Will they pull off a hat-trick by filling in the hole under the sea wall, too? Don't miss the next exciting instalment.

On a less parochial note, we have been following and joining in the debate about the future of local government in Devon. You may know that the Boundary Committee has recommended a single Unitary Authority for the whole of Devon. This would mean abolition of the District Councils and the transfer of all their functions, as well as those of the current County Council, to a single county-wide authority. Like the North Devon District Council, we have not opposed doing away with the arbitrary and wasteful division between District and County Council functions, but we equally support the District Council in arguing that Devon is just too big and too disparate for a single authority to be able to deliver any meaningfully local service. So far, it must be said, the Boundary Committee seems to have taken precious little notice of the arguments against their proposal and their local consultation process is a joke (our 'local' event, attended by ten people, was in Tavistock!). Clearly these things will have to be weighed in the balance when it comes to thinking about the pros and cons of a Parish Council.

Sadly, there is no news of substance to report on the future of either the Lee Bay Hotel or the Fuchsia Tea Rooms.

Sebastian Birch, Chair, sebastian.birch@talktalk.net

#### LEE FLOWER SHOW—31 JULY 2008

Yes, the Trophy presentation did happen on time, and the Rev Giles King-Smith presented the cups with his usual flair. He also drew the raffle tickets with great efficiency, so that the Committee could let the church have flowers, sell some of the excellent produce, clear the Memorial Hall, collapse in a heap to finish off one of Julia's lemon meringues, and get home in time for the 6 o'clock news.

Had someone asked me last year to get seriously involved in the Flower Show, I would have just laughed. I, who only know some selected plants and am just a hobby gardener, was asked to be its new chairman! This was a great challenge, but also, I felt, a great honour. I had to follow 21 years of Jeff Tulett's chairing. Well, I was reassured by the dedication of the standing committee, and here, a year later, we can all take great pride in a very successful show.



We try to make the show as attractive as possible to everyone in Lee and Lincombe. Those of you who managed to come saw an abundance of colour, breathed the various scents of the exhibits and experienced the transformation of the Hall into an exotic show. I would like to thank everyone sincerely who gave their time and skill to make this possible. I and the Committee were especially pleased with the great number of children's entries. We particularly congratulate Jessica Charly for winning the Children's Cup - well done, Jessica! We had eleven more trophies to be won, and here are the names of the winners in the various sections: Ginny Potts is the overall champion, taking home 6 cups - and yes they have to be polished - followed by Rob James, Margaret Hill, Ruth Hawkins and Biggi Wright [with two!]. Congratulations to you all.

All that remains to be mentioned is the date of our A.G.M., which is on 29 October at 7.45pm in the Memorial Hall Lee. Do come, bring new ideas, and have refreshments afterwards!

Biggi Wright, Chair



#### For Wills, Trusts, Powers of Attorney

Barry Jenkinson 01271 867068

barry@westcountrywills.com

- Protect your assets against long term care costs
- Ensure your partner's needs are protected after your death
- Make your wishes known after your death
- Ensure guardians and trustees are appointed to look after your children
- Make arrangements should you ever become mentally incapable
- Make sure a disabled child is cared for after you die.
- Ensure your inheritance worries are taken care of

#### WWW.WESTCOUNTRYWILLS.COM

#### MINI MONSTERS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP

Just a reminder that 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.

#### LEE CHRISTMAS CHARITY BINGO



Back by popular demand! This year in aid of Starlight, on Wednesday 03 December 2008, doors open 6.30pm for teas and coffees with eyes down as soon as we're full! Free refreshments during the interval.

All donations, draw or bingo prizes gratefully received.

Starlight Children's Foundation brightens the lives of seriously and terminally ill children by granting their wishes and providing hospital entertainment to help take their minds off the pain, fear and isolation of their illness.

Ginny Potts, 867212

# The Orchard - B&B Ginny & Geoff Potts



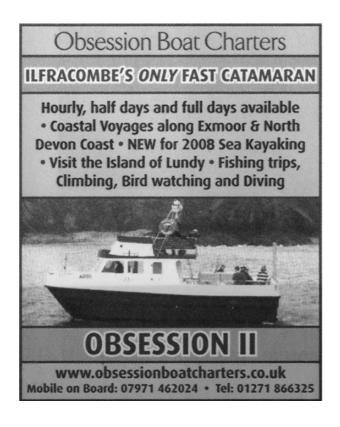
- Victorian House
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from Brian Holland (Yarnscombe)

FREE RANGE AND ORGANIC CHICKEN also FREE RANGE DUCKS

(Creedy Carver) by Peter Coleman



We make our own Sausage, Pies and Pasties

We also prepare Buffets for that Special Party

(quotes available)

LOCAL DELIVERIES

RETAIL/CATERING

#### Welcome to Autumn at The Grampus

Wednesday evenings are games evenings so if you're interested in any of the following, come & join us.

Dominoes, backgammon, whist, chess, Scrabble, pool, skittles, tiddlywinks.

There will be championships in each of the above games starting with skittles on Wednesday 14 January & ending with Scrabble on Wednesday 25 February.

The entry fee for each of the games is £2 in aid of the Village Hall Improvements Fund. A full list of the dates for each of the championships is available at the bar. Everyone will be made most welcome regardless of their expertise.



We will try to slip in some quiz nights as well.

Friday night is darts night & we have an open mic night every Saturday, starting at 9pm, all are welcome to sing or play, or just listen.

On the culinary side, Julia will be cooking her delicious Sunday lunches, served from noon to 3pm. The tea rooms have benefited from the cooking skills of not only Julia but also those of our brace of Carols who also provided attentive & cheerful service. Meltingly luxurious chocolate cake, (served warm with dollops of cream if you felt really indulgent!), scrumptious banana & almond cakes & freshly cooked scones with fresh jam have all received high praise from visitors.

We are planning 'cooking themed by country' evenings throughout the autumn & winter.

Sam, of 'Ultimate Frisby' fame, has moved on to higher things, studying European politics at Exeter University & then onwards to Paris. We wish him well.

The beautifully crafted tea room gate has now been installed with many thanks to Denny and Heather.

Bill Harvey, The Grampus Inn

#### 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



#### KNOTWEED - DO NOT READ THIS REPORT ALOUD!



At the risk of sounding paranoid, and after three years treating knotweed, the belief strengthens that the knotweed underground may be listening, ready with a counterstrike... So do not read this report aloud...

Risking the safer written word, the good news is that "we are winning"!

Despite the weather, most areas have been treated twice this year and it is looking good. Next year it is likely that treatment will only take place once, in the autumn. Of course, careful monitoring, particularly where there is soil disturbance, will continue as usual.

This year, a total of 39 hours was spent actually treating knotweed - as compared to 314 hours in 2006 and 158 in 2007. Admin hours were also down, and insurance is now our greatest cost.

Motivation still needs to be maintained, and in this context a big thank-you goes to Bryan Lye for his stalwart, unflinching hard work and general cheeriness throughout the year.

The group is becoming well known for its expertise by the Environment Agency and locally. Amongst other activities, it gave a brief account of the

project at the last Knotweed Forum meeting, and Slade is researching a similar project and benefiting from some of our knowledge and the offer of help from some of our experienced workers.

Thank you for all your words of praise and encouragement.

"Mavis Knotweed"

on behalf of the committee: Janet Birch, Sebastian Birch, Barry Jenkinson, Bryan Lye, David Perry, Mavis Rogers



# **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!



"SEMI-LIQUID
'GUNG' SHOT
ABOUT FIVE
METRES
UPWARDS....
& THEN
DESCENDED ON
THE
UNFORTUNATE
PAIR!"



"EACH NIGHT,
AFTER DAYJOBS WERE
OVER, WE'D
SIT,
UNDERWATER
ON THE END
OF THE SEWER
PIPE"

#### IN A PREVIOUS LIFE

The editorial team would like to run a series, under this title, as we suspect there are many interesting "previous lives" out there in Lee & Lincombe. So, please, take this as a personal invitation from the editors to write a contribution for subsequent issues. If you prefer, make it anonymous & keep us all guessing.

Way back in the early 1960s, there was a panic in the Ilfracombe Council offices. The sewer at Hele Bay, which had been suspect for some time, suddenly blocked completely. Something had to be done....FAST!

Two workmen were dispatched to the beach, between Hele & Coastguards Cottages, where the sewer pipe made its way to the sea. As the outward end of the pipe was below low-water level, they couldn't attempt to unblock it from the "open" end. So they got their pick-axes to work & knocked a hole in the accessible part.

The resulting column of semi-liquid 'gung' shot about five metres upwards....& then descended on the unfortunate pair!

Eventually, someone, somewhere, decided that a more acceptable permanent solution had to be found & contacted Engineer John Shearn (who was known as willing to tackle almost anything) to clear the sea-ward end of the pipe. John, not being a diver, employed a bunch of us "hobby divers" to do the dirty work.

This was the era of Jacques Cousteau, enthralling TV audiences with his diving exploits around the Mediterranean off his beautiful boat, The Calypso.

He had proper wetsuits, scuba bottles & professional demand valves.

We had homemade wetsuits that tended to come apart, ex-RAF compressed air bottles nicknamed "tadpoles" & some of us had made demand valves out of Calor gas regulators! We'd just formed the Ilfracombe branch of the British Sub Aqua Club, one of the earliest branches, & funds were non-existent. The money for the Hele job would come in very nicely, thank you.

If you've ever tried to control a water hosepipe with full mains pressure turned on when no-one is holding it, you'll have a slight idea of the difficulties involved in controlling a large fire-hose underwater. John's idea was to insert the nozzle into the "open" end of the pipe (out at sea) &, using an old wartime service pump with a Coventry Climax engine with the suction pipe slung over the side of the boat, pump high pressure water into the sewer pipe to gouge away the accumulated debris.

Controlling the water hose proved impossible; we were lashed around like a bunch of ants hanging on to a dragon's tail. There had to be a better way. I suggested to John that he make up a complex end nozzle for the hose with one nozzle pointing forward BUT four nozzles pointing backwards. He did & it worked like a dream. (Wish we'd patented it as such nozzles are commonplace now.)

Each night, after day-jobs were over, we'd sit, underwater on the end of the sewer pipe, stuff the hose up as far as it would go & watch the cloud of black silt drift away on the tide as from a factory chimney laying on its side. John, in the boat above our heads, could make sure all was well below by watching our exhaled bubbles coming to the surface.

Having cut a hole through the debris blocking the pipe, we passed a cable through from "our" end & out of the blow-hole made by the Council workmen & from thence up to the top of the cliff. There stood a tractor, jacked up, minus one tyre to use the wheel as a winch drum, with a long cable around it, to give friction grip. The cable was then attached to a length of very heavy chain, the whole forming an endless belt. This was alternatively

#### IN A PREVIOUS LIFE, CONTD.

pulled forwards then backwards through the sewer pipe until it was clear.

Then we had to lower three new sections of sewer pipe down the cliff to replace damaged sections. Tricky.

Not what one would describe as scenic diving!

Neither was cleaning the flanges of the large culverts supplying cooling water to the Yelland Power Station. They used to use a hard-hat diver to do the job which took him a week. The problem was the growth of marine mussels which found the constant flow of nutritious water very much to their liking & multiplied until they almost blocked the pipe to the power station.

One of the superintendents knew I had laid an electric power cable under the River Taw (by using a water jet to gouge away a trench in which to lay the cable which was promptly buried by the returning silt) so he asked if I'd like the job.

A huge cover, 3 metres wide & weighing about 5 tons, had to be lowered by crane onto the funnel-shaped cooling pipe exit. First job, clean off all the marine growth from the funnel's rim to ensure a good seal. Next, the tricky task of guiding the heavy lid down onto the precise position against the tidal current which made it swing out of place. Then holding it centred while with the other hand pulling the rope to signal "lower away" & all the time keeping all bits of diving gear - and oneself - well clear. Lid in place, it then had to be fixed with numerous G-clamps.

Visibility nil, it all had to be done by feel. Mission accomplished in just over an hour. They didn't employ the hard-hat again. Sorry mate!

After the water had been pumped out of the now sealed pipe, the inside of the system was cleaned of several tons of mussels & some two weeks later, the un-sealing was done, visibility still nil.

It wasn't all "work". That helped to pay for the enjoyable scenic diving around the coast especially just off Lee Bay on Pensport Rocks around the wreck of The Lemington or marvelling at the huge gatherings of brittle stars further out in the bay & all the other interesting marine creatures around this bit of coast.

We live in a beautiful area above & below the water.

Denny Booker.



"THE INSIDE
OF THE
SYSTEM WAS
CLEANED OF
SEVERAL
TONS OF
MUSSELS"





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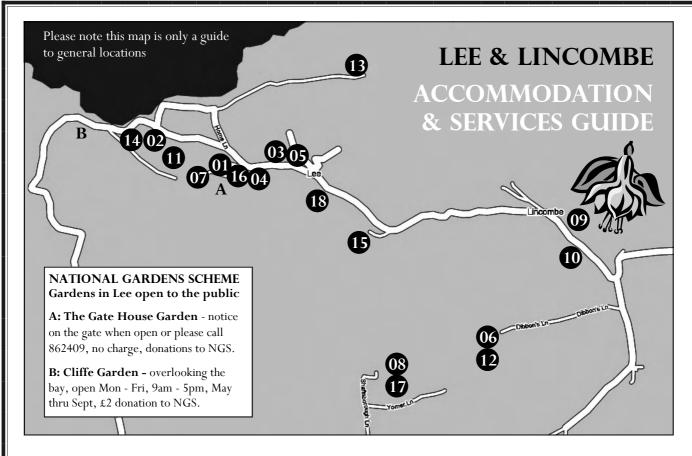
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2.	Hotel: The Lee Bay Hotel	CLOSED
3.	The Old Schoolroom	CLOSED
BED	& BREAKFAST	
4.	The Orchard - www.theorchardlee.co.uk - Mrs Ginny Potts	(01271) 867212
5.	Rose Cottage - Carolyn Weekes & Eric Couling	(01271) 863257
6.	Lower Campscott Farm - www.lowercampscott.co.uk - Mr & Mrs Cowell	(01271) 863479
7.	Southcliffe Hall - www.southcliffehall.co.uk - Kate Seekings & Barry Jenkinson	(01271) 867068
8.	Shaftsboro Farm - www.shaftsboro.co.uk - Margaret & Frederick Kift	(01271) 865029
9.	High Banks, Lincombe - Pat & Tony Seymour	(01271) 863628
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10.	Lincombe House (2,6,5) - www.lincombehouse.co.uk - Richenda S Carter	(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 - 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 - Mr & Mrs Duffield	(01268) 742162
16.	Brookdale Villa (11) - www.brookdale-lee.co.uk - Mr Bannister	(01923) 266989
17.	Shaftsboro Farm - www.shaftsboro.co.uk - Margaret & Frederick Kift	(01271) 865029
18.	The East Wing, The Grange (5+) - 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.

#### SPRING 2009 ISSUE DEADLINE - 01 FEBRUARY 2009

Article formats: typed in any PC text program and emailed to gina@loveleebay.co.uk. Please avoid using floppy disks or handwriting.

## LEE MEMORIAL HALL FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Full details of all events will be published well in advance, but please keep this sheet as a reminder of what is planned. We do hope that many of the events will interest you and you will support them. Some dates are now fixed and are given on this sheet. Others are not yet fixed but will be announced in good time. We hope to see you on many occasions!

#### Friday 17 October: Wine tasting, supper and auction of pledges

Details have already been circulated and tickets are now on sale at £8 each from Ian Stuart (863396) or Becca Wyles (879001). Six wines to be tasted; a tasty supper of paté, cheeses, bread and salad; auction of many interesting items. Bar for sale of wines, beers and soft drinks.

#### Friday 28 November: Race Night

Full details on the reverse of this sheet. Tickets now available from John Walker (862265), Kate Madden (865591) and Janet Mayo (862453). Food available but bring you own drink.

#### Monday 29 December 12 noon: Sponsored post-Christmas swim

Proceeds will be shared between the RNLI and the Memorial Hall. Take part or come and support (and sponsor) those brave enough to take the plunge! (Details from Penny Measures and David Perry on 866535)

# **Every Wednesday evening from 14 January to end of February: Games Championships at the Grampus**

A different game each week (skittles, backgammon, whist, pool, chess, dominoes, scrabble). For a modest entry fee for Hall funds, have an enjoyable evening out and, perhaps, learn a new game or display your skills!

#### January: Antiques valuation evening with talk from an expert

Bring your antiques and curios along and have them valued by an expert, and listen to his interesting talk about antiques.

#### January/February: Quiz night with supper

A chance to test your knowledge with friends and others in a convivial atmosphere.

#### Monday 2 March: Classical concert with dinner

Professional musician, Cressida Wislocki and some of her musical friends will give a concert of popular classical music. During the interval, dinner, prepared by Julia Waghorn, will be served.

#### March 19/20/21: Piano recital with wine and canapés

Concert pianist, Margaret Hood, will give a concert in her own home on each of these evenings. Proceeds from the concerts will go to Lee Memorial Hall, Mortehoe Church and Woolacombe Church. Lee's concert is on **Thursday 19 March** though, of course anyone can attend any one (or more!) of the concerts.

#### Wednesday 8 April: Easter Bingo and Raffle

Famed for her Christmas Bingo event, Ginny Potts has kindly offered to run a similar event for the Memorial Hall just before Easter. So 'eyes-down' and ready for another memorable event!

#### Various dates from Easter onwards: Cream teas

The Hall committee will lay on cream teas and refreshments at various times for the benefit of locals and visitors.

#### April: Ceilidh with folk band

An opportunity to dance the night away with traditional dances under the expert guidance and playing of Rosemary Baggott and her folk band.

#### Monday 25 May 2.00 pm: Spring Fayre

As usual, the Spring Fayre will take place in the Meadow and Hall on the late Spring Bank Holiday. Lots of fun and activities for everyone!

#### One Sunday afternoon in June: Hog roast and Jazz Band

This will be a family occasion taking place in the Meadow – the weather will be perfect! Paul Jaggers is bringing his Jazz Band to provide the music and accompany an excellent meal.

#### Ongoing: Buy a 'stone' for the new building

For £10 at any event in the Hall, sponsor a stone for the new building and see it grow on a chart in the Hall.

#### Ongoing: Notelets with pen and ink drawings of Lee Bay

Designed exclusively for the Memorial Hall by Emily Garnham Wright, these lovely notelets with two different views of the bay will be on sale at Hall events and, hopefully, in other outlets as well.

# RACENIGHT

# 28th NOVEMBER 2008

Come and enjoy a night at the races
At LEE MEMORIAL HALL
Food Available — BYO Drinks
LOADSA £££ TO BE WON!



### Racing starts 7:00pm

This will be a sell-out event, so get your tickets early!

Tickets £2 available from Kate 01271 865591

Janet 862453 or John 862265



# ILFRACOMBE & DISTRICT NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH SUMMER NEWSLETTER 2008

#### **News From Our Station**

Since the last NHW newsletter two new members of staff have both joined our team and are getting well known within their neighbourhoods. PCSO Hannah Mawby has moved from Ilfracombe to Braunton Police Station and we wish her all the best with her posting. We also said a fond farewell to our lovely Phil Bourne who recently retired. He served for many years as a PC and finished his time at Lynton Police Station. He was great fun both on and off duty and we hope he enjoys his retirement as much as he appeared to enjoy his career!

#### OFFICERS FOR YOUR AREA ILFRACOMBE EAST

PC 6828 Zoe Parnell PCSO 30414 Karen Grant

ILFRACOMBE WEST

PC 6747 Nella Barker PCSO 30373 Pete Hyde

ILFRACOMBE CENTRAL

PC 3525 Mike Warriner PCSO 30063 Katie Simpson

COMBE MARTIN

**BERRYNARBOR** 

PC 5363 Jim Kidd PCSO 30075 Ade Drury

WEST DOWN & WOOLACOMBE

&

PC 5831 Mark Hendry PC 30434 Vicky Gordo

PC 4970Martin Beck

LYNTON, LYNMOUTH & EXMOOR COMMUNITES

EXMOOR COMMUNITES PC 1008 Rob Greening

PCSO 30366 Grace Cleverdon

#### **NEW WATCHES**

Arlington Place Woolacombe with 17 households signed up

Burnside Ilfracombe with the membership to be confirmed

Larkstone Crescent & Champernowne Crescent Ilfracombe with 40 households signed up

Queens Avenue Ilfracombe with 50 households signed up

Barbrook & Caffyns Cross Lynton with around 25 households signed up

We would like to say 'WELCOME' to any new watches that have recently been set up.

Across the district we are looking to increase the number of watches, so if you know any areas that would benefit from being part of Neighbourhood Watch then please pass this information onto them.

'GETTING TOGETHER WITH YOUR NEIGHBOURS TO TAKE ACTION CAN CUT CRIME' **NHW** is about an active partnership with the police, it can

- Cut crime
- Cut the opportunity for crime
- Offer reassurance
- Encourage neighbourliness & closer communities

We are also in the process of updating the membership within the already established watches. It maybe sometime since you thought about who lives in your area, people move in & move away. Give it some thought there might be an opportunity to enrol some more members in your watch. Please talk to your PCSO who will be happy to help you with letters and advice.

#### **SPRING MEETING**

We held our second Spring meeting at the end of April, it was well attended by many co ordinators, thank you to you all. We had an input on DaCCWA ( Devon and Cornwall Watch Association ) This was new information for both officers and co ordinators alike! Later on in September representatives from the Police & Crime Prevevntion Panel will be attending a conference so we will await feed back from that event. Crime Prevention Officer Rick Napier also gave a very useful input on BOGUS CALLERS. If you are holding a NHW meeting of your own please ask your PCSO about offering this input, it's a short video to watch. It gives good advice for you & your neighbours and with out increasing their fear will raise their awareness and enable them to be confident in how to deal with such situations.

#### RECENT EVENTS

In partnership with other agencies there have been action days at Slade, Burnside in Ilfracombe & Queens Avenue in Ilfracombe. Amongst all the work that goes on with those days of resident action, it is a perfect opportunity to encourage membership to your watches.

Woolacombe fund-raising fun day has been postponed with a new date to be set in the Spring of next year.

If you are interested in holding an event, please talk to your local officer.

#### E mail us on

ilfracombe@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

**CRIME FIGURES** 1/04/08 – 30/06/08

1/04/08 - 30/06/08				
TORAL PRINTERS	2008	2007		
<b>CATEGORY</b>				
ALL CRIME	481	505		
HOUSE BURGLARY	8	10		
OTHER BURGLARY	22	29		
THEFT FROM				
M/VEHICLE	21	27		
THEFT OF				
M/VEHICLE	5	3		
ASSAULTS	60	69		
DAMAGE	131	120		
DRUNK	5	0		
CRIME REDUCTION = $-4.75\%$				
<b>Opening Times at Ilfracombe Police</b>				
Station 7 days a week				
8am _ 1nm & 2nm - 6nm				

Station 7 days a week
8am - 1pm & 2pm - 6pm
Closed Christmas Day & Boxing Day