

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

LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

AUTUMN 2010

50P



'THE FUCHSIA GLEN TEA GARDENS' WHERE ALL THE CROCKERY BORE
THE FUCHSIA EMBLEM - NOW 'THE GATE HOUSE', LEE.

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LEE AND LINCOMBE – DATES FOR THE REST OF 2010

VILLAGE DIARY

Thursday 14 October 7.30pm	Lee WI Open Meeting; all welcome, including men! 'Driving safely for longer' – Memorial Hall (Margaret Hood 871077)
Saturday 16 October 11.00am – 4.00pm	Macmillan Cancer Support Coffee Day – Old Schoolroom Craft Shop (Louise Passmore-Thompson 864067)
Saturday 23 October 7.30pm	Emily Portman (singer, writer musician, BBC nomination for folk award) – Memorial Hall (Promoted by Beaford Arts, tickets: Bryony Shaw 862906)
Wednesday 27 October 7.00pm	Flower Show AGM – Memorial Hall (Carolyn Weekes 863257)
Saturday 13 November 7.30pm	Barn Dance with live band led by Bill Harvey – Memorial Hall (Janet Mayo 862453)
Friday 19 November 7.30pm	Wine tasting, supper and quiz – Memorial Hall (Ian Stuart 863396 or Becca Wyles 879001)
Wednesday 8 December 6.30pm	Christmas Bingo – Memorial Hall (Ginny Potts 867212)
Monday 20 December 6.30pm	Village Carol Service – St Matthew's Church, followed by Village Social in Memorial Hall
Friday 24 December 10.00pm	Christmas Communion Service – St Matthew's Church
Every Monday 10.00am – 1.00pm	'Mini-Monsters' – Memorial Hall (Anne Easy 865588)
Every Monday 5.00pm – 6.00pm	Pilates – Memorial Hall (Penny Measures 866535)
Every Thursday 6.00pm – 7.00pm	Yoga – Memorial Hall (Alex Giffoni 07794 917675)
Fortnightly Wednesdays & Saturdays 10.00am – 4.00pm	Fuchsia Valley Quilters (Margaret Hill 864257)
Friday evenings from 9.00pm	Open mic nights at the Grampus (Bill & Bryony 862906)
Other Grampus events (see www.thegrampus-inn.co.uk)	Agnostics Anonymous – 11 Oct, 15 Nov, 13 Dec Book Club – 18 Oct, 22 Nov, 20 Dec Stitch 'n' bitch – 25 Oct, 29 Nov, 27 Dec 'Pot luck' supper & games – 13, 20, 27 Oct; 10, 17 Nov; 8, 15, 22 Dec Quiz nights – 3 Nov, 1 Dec

Please support our villages' activities and events!

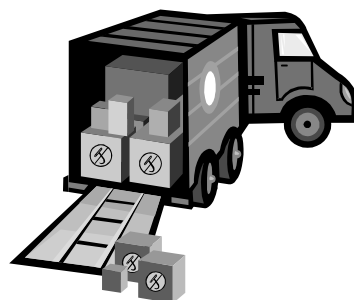
If you would like anything included in the diary for the next issue, please contact a member of the editorial team.

LEE & LINK'EM NEWS TEAM

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

GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

At the end of July, the Gibbs family left Lincombe Manor to begin a new life in Truro. Jo has been head-hunted from her post as Director of Operations and Deputy Chief Executive of North Devon Healthcare NHS Trust to be Chief Operating Officer at the Royal Cornwall Hospital at Treliske, Truro. Colin continues to run his Business Solutions firm from their new home in Truro. We send them and daughters Megan and Bethan our best wishes.



We are very pleased to welcome Aubrey Dickason to Seal Cottage.

While we hope not many residents will meet Aubrey professionally – he is a doctor in Accident and Emergency at North Devon Hospital – it is good to have a young, handsome doctor in the village! Aubrey's lovely girl friend, Lucy, is a final year medical student at Newcastle University.

We also welcome Joe Ertman and his family to Gull Cottage. Joe has now retired from running his own electronics business. Tom is a student at Hull University and Hannah is finishing her A-levels at Petroc. Originally from Bath, they have most recently moved from Barnstaple along with their two springer spaniels. We wish them every happiness in the village.



The village's newest arrival entered this world on Saturday 28 August weighing in at 8lb 10oz.

Oliver Edward Seekings-Jenkinson is the second son of Kate and Barry and brother for Benjamin.

All are doing very well, and we send many congratulations to Kate and Barry and very best wishes to Oliver - pictured below.



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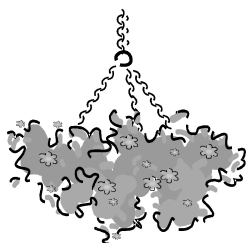


LEE'S YOUNGEST RESIDENTS

Our editor Gina-Luisa Hilborne's 6 month-old daughter Jolee Groce and Oliver Seekings-Jenkinson, aged just 5 days, meet up for the very first time!



“WE HAD 34
ADULT
EXHIBITORS,
WHICH IS THE
HIGHEST
NUMBER SINCE
2004, AND 20
CHILD
EXHIBITORS”



LEE FLOWER SHOW REPORT

Once again the community of Lee and Lincombe put on a wonderful show on 29 July. Thank you to everybody who entered and congratulations to all of the prize winners (as listed on the opposite page). We had 34 adult exhibitors, which is the highest number since 2004, and 20 child exhibitors, which is the equal highest (with 2008) ever. So well done all of you children. We all know how much work goes into growing, making and staging exhibits, so thank you everybody for all of your efforts.

We welcomed back our past Chairman of many years, Jeff Tulett, to present the trophies. It was lovely to see Jeff and Beryl back in the village and also John and Jenny Massey (past Committee members) who had travelled down for the day especially for the show. They were all very impressed by the quality and quantity of entries and pleased that the show is still going strong.

This year we have managed to purchase vases from Ilfracombe Horticultural Society, which is sadly winding down. We usually borrow them and give a donation to the society, but were given the option to purchase them and so have secured them for future shows. The Flower Show funds the six hanging baskets in the village and contributes to the insurance with Ilfracombe in Bloom, we also supply the plants for the trough below the sign for Lee at the top of the village. This year we took £300 at the show in entry fees, raffle, donations and sales which just about covers the cost of putting on the Show. We rely on our coffee morning and plant sale in May to swell our funds and enable us to make these contributions to our village.

We are always on the lookout for new Committee Members as we are a small Committee and the majority are now finding the physical work on show day quite challenging. So, any strong young blood out there who is interested in joining us please contact me on 863257. Our meetings are relaxed and fun and not at all tedious.

Once again thank you to all of our exhibitors, without you we would not have a show.

Finally our A.G.M. is on Wednesday, 27 October 2010 at 7.30pm in the Memorial Hall. Look forward to seeing you there.

Carolyn Weekes - Show Secretary

WRINKLEWOOD POTTERY

We offer small classes for children from the age of 7 upwards on a Saturday. We like to give the children a hands-on experience of clay allowing them to be as creative as possible with adult guidance and support. We provide technical tuition to ensure successful outcomes.

Saturday Mornings from 10am to 12.30 or a shorter session for younger children from 2pm to 4pm

We also offer individual taster workshops during school holidays for locals and children on vacation.

Adult classes/taster sessions available by prior arrangement.

For more details, please ring Penny or David on 866535
Wrinklewood, Lee Bay, North Devon



LEE FLOWER SHOW REPORT, CONTD.

2010 Trophy List

Section A - Floral Art - Bowl <i>Runners-up: Dr G Humphreys, Bryan Russell</i>	Elizabeth Gilliat
Section B - Domestic - Replica Cup <i>Runners-up: Edna Thompson, Elizabeth Gilliat</i>	Ruth Hawkins
Section C - Produce - Produce Cup <i>Runners-up: Carolyn Weekes, Irving Kennard</i>	Dr G Humphreys
Section D - Cut Flower - Tugwell Cup <i>Runners-up: Dr G Humphreys, Marion Thom</i>	Carolyn Weekes
Section E - Pot Plants - Ken Brown Cup <i>Runners-up: Elizabeth Gilliat, Ginny Potts</i>	Carolyn Weekes
Section F - Handicrafts - Anne Duke Memorial Cup <i>Runners-up: Ian Stuart, Allyson Poore, Margaret Hill</i>	Bryan Russell
Section G - Children's Classes - Children's Cup <i>Runners-up: Sam Zeale, Jasmin Tucker</i>	Noah Zeale
Best Fuchsia Exhibit - Memorial Hall Cup	Carolyn Weekes
Best Perennial Exhibit - Cliffe Cup	Carolyn Weekes
Class 45 - Specimen Rose - Rose Bowl	Bob Gilliat
Class 64 - Chairman's Choice Fuchsia - Glass Trophy	Margaret Hill
Number of Points Overall - Challenge Cup <i>Runners-up: Dr G Humphreys, Elizabeth Gilliat</i>	Carolyn Weekes

Winners in Children's Classes

Class 72: Jessica Charlie, Jasmin Tucker; Class 73: Noah Zeale, Jasmin Tucker
Class 74: Daisy Passmore, Sam Zeale; Class 75: Noah Zeale, Nick Kennard
Class 76: Daisy Passmore, Jasmin Tucker; Class 77: Noah Zeale, Sam Zeale
Class 78: Christian Grose, Georgie Vallance; Class 79: William Miles, Bradley Merritt



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Nicki: 01271 855663 or 07773 703549

LEE MEMORIAL HALL REPORT



ment project is effectively complete. It has now been possible to repay the remaining interest-free loans that had been obtained to enable the project to reach fruition. We are now solvent and without any debts! When other funds and donations that have been pledged have been received, it will be possible to carry out a few other improvements. These will enhance and complement the rebuilding and development project which has cost about £120,000. It is good indeed that we have reached this stage less than 2½ years since the birth of the project. It was in the middle of June 2008 that outline plans were presented at a consultation weekend. From that weekend, many ideas were incorporated into more detailed plans.

The major fund raising campaign was launched in September 2008. Planning permission and building regulations were obtained by the summer of 2009. Invitations to tender were invited in September 2009 and the building work started on 1 November 2009. The building work was virtually complete by the end of February 2010, after which thorough cleaning took place and the original hall was redecorated. The Hall was reopened on 27 March 2010 with a splendid day of celebrating all the village organisations. Since then the Hall has been well used and we are looking at further enhancements. It has been a busy but exciting time!

As also announced in the Newsletter, the Hall committee is arranging two events before the end of the year. On Friday 19 November, we shall have a wine tasting, supper and quiz. Details will be announced soon but we anticipate a sell-out after the success of the previous similar event. Then on Monday 20 December, after the Village Carol Service in the Church, there will be a village social in the Hall to which everyone is invited. A seasonal drink and light refreshments will be served.

Ian Stuart, Chairman,
Lee Memorial Hall Management Committee

Many readers of the News will have received recently the latest Hall Newsletter (Number 11). I don't want to merely repeat what is in the Newsletter so this report will be brief. If you haven't had a Newsletter but would like one, please contact me (01271 863396) or go on to the village hall section of the village website as www.leebay.co.uk/villagehall and click on the appropriate link. You may also like to look at the entry about the Hall on the Community Council of Devon website at

www.devonvillagehalls.co.uk/lee.

The main news, as reported in the Newsletter, is that the rebuilding and develop-



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As the collective voice of village interests, the Residents' Association need to enhance membership numbers to ensure we continue to provide a respected and legitimate representation in the affairs of our village.

Join today. Only as a group can we achieve our mission of promoting and safeguarding the amenities of Lee and Lincombe and their surroundings, as well as pursuing matters of common interest to villagers.

An annual subscription is currently £5 per household and may be paid in the following ways:

BACS transfer using these details:
Lee & Lincombe Residents' Association
High Street, Ilfracombe, North Devon
Lloyds TSB Bank plc.
Account No. 00069925
Sort Code 30-94-52

If you are able to add a reference to your transfer, please make it your "*surname-house name*" or similar.

CHEQUE made payable to "Lee and Lincombe Residents' Association" and posted or otherwise delivered to:

Lee & Lincombe Residents' Association
c/o Rose Cottage, Lee, Devon, EX34 8LW

CASH handed to a Committee member in a sealed envelope marked with your name & address.

If you love Lee Bay, join today!





“THE OLD
MAIDS
COTTAGE, AN
ARCHETYPAL
DEVON
THATCHED
COTTAGE WHICH
FOR MORE THAN
A CENTURY HAS
BEEN A SYMBOL
OF THE VILLAGE”

PLANNING IN LEE - AND IN GENERAL

This year we've had two particularly high-profile planning applications in Lee, so I think it's worthwhile looking at them and at the planning process in a bit more detail.

The first concerned The Old Maids Cottage, an archetypal Devon thatched cottage which for more than a century has been a symbol of the village, and which has a very warm place in our affections. I guess we've all seen a Victorian picture postcard of this local icon, with an admiring comment on the back. It was falling into dereliction and an eyesore in the middle of our well-kept hamlet, so it was a great relief when planning permission was given to replace the modern but unsightly extension to the back with a better, more sympathetic albeit larger design. The original application was felt by the District's planning service and also by many residents to be totally unsatisfactory, and it was withdrawn. The second, rethought proposal, recommended for approval by Residents' Association and Parish [Ilfracombe Town Council], was finally passed by the planning officer under delegated powers.

The second even more controversial application was for refurbishing and extending the Lee Bay Hotel. Closed for several years, like The Old Maids Cottage it was rapidly becoming derelict and was doing Lee Bay no credit. The developers carried out an extensive and systematic consultation with the public and with statutory consultees such as the Town Council, the AONB authority, Natural England, The Environment Agency, and Devon County Council Highways, and in drawing up their proposals deployed a wide range of consultants. An application was made which was generally recommended for approval, although the Town Council on this first occasion recommended refusal. However some late-arriving requirements for flood alleviation from the Environment Agency prompted a further application and this was recommended for approval by most consultees including the Town and the Lee & Lincombe Residents' Association.

It was a clearly a matter of great interest to the village and its neighbourhood, and I therefore requested that the decision should not be delegated to the Planning Officer but should be put in front of the District's Planning Committee. I myself was precluded from joining the



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PLANNING IN LEE - AND IN GENERAL, CONTD.

committee, since it was deemed that because of Ulfrid's sewerage arrangements I had a prejudicial interest in the application.

The application was first considered by the committee in Barnstaple, at a session where anyone interested had the opportunity to express their opinion. In addition the scores of written or e-mailed submissions were considered. The committee nevertheless decided that it could not come to a satisfactory decision without a site visit, and a week or so later seventeen committee members spent a couple of hours examining in detail the site and its neighbourhood. Subsequently, after hearing once again the submissions of interested parties and after further wide-ranging discussion, the committee unanimously supported the application. This was evidently an exhaustive, detailed, democratic and transparent operation. Some details of development management have been left for the Planning Manager to negotiate with the developer, and I will be closely involved in this. Management of traffic movements during construction is a matter of particular concern.

The planning process is perhaps complex and difficult to understand, so I think it could be helpful to talk about it in more detail.

Before an application is made, especially if it is unusual or complicated, the wise applicant will discuss it in detail with the appropriate planning officer, and it is the planning service's remit to be as helpful and supportive in these pre-application discussions as possible. Such a discussion will ensure that the application is as far as possible in conformity with planning policies. Once the application is made the officer will publicise it, by a site notice, by a newspaper advertisement, and by a letter to neighbouring properties. The list of statutory consultees, such as the Parish, the Environment Agency, Devon Highways, Natural England, will also be notified and their comments invited. In our case the Lee and Lincombe Residents' Association [LLRA], while not a statutory consultee as such, is recognised as an important, capable and responsible body, and is always included in the list and its comments given proper consideration.

Concerned residents may write or e-mail their comments, and in our case are free to attend and talk at the LLRA meetings and the Ilfracombe Town Council's planning meetings where the application is discussed. The agendas of both these bodies are well-publicised on websites and notice boards, and at this consultative level interested parties have every opportunity to have their say.

If the application is simple and uncontroversial, the planning officer will inform the Ward Councillors, in Lee and Lincombe's case Bob Darell and myself, that he intends to decide it under delegated powers, and we generally allow this to happen. More than 95% of applications are decided under delegation in this way, making for speed, efficiency and economy of determination.

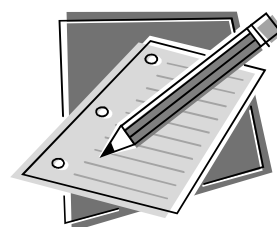
Decisions which are not delegated are brought before the Planning Committee, usually consisting of 15 to 20 councillors. The committee meets about once a month, and typically considers 4 or 5 more complex applications. The process is quasi-legal, and is tightly constrained by policy and by case-law. The committee always tries to arrive at watertight, totally defensible decisions so that a successful appeal to the Planning Inspectorate is unlikely – defending and possibly losing in such appeals would be a heavy and unwelcome expense to the Council and the District's taxpayers.

So, it's a complex process and a very legalistic process, but one which strives to be consistent, transparent and democratic, and which almost always delivers fair and acceptable decisions. And, I should add, in these cash-strapped times, one which we try to make as cost-effective as possible.

Colin Wright - District Councillor, Ilfracombe West Ward



"THE
COMMITTEE
UNANIMOUSLY
SUPPORTED
THE
[LEE BAY
HOTEL]
APPLICATION"



"THE
COMMITTEE
ALWAYS TRIES
TO ARRIVE AT
WATERTIGHT,
TOTALLY
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DECISIONS"

LEE W.I. REPORT

Our September meeting felt like the beginning of a new term at school, seeing old friends after the August break and hearing of the new procedures for correspondence, notices and reports. The old blackboard has been replaced by a display of everything we need to know, so no more chalk and verbal announcements by our efficient secretary, Margaret Hood. We shall have to adapt to these new-fangled ways as our President, Pat Seymour, and her Committee lead us towards more efficiently-run meetings.

Some Lee members have been very active during the summer months taking part in a W.I. Triathlon by walking and swimming, but still have to cycle to complete the trio. Volunteers will be cycling along the Tarka Trail in the next few weeks.

A well attended walk over Saunton and Braunton Burrows was led by Mary Breeds, ending with a fish and chip supper in Braunton.



Pat Seymour was taught to play croquet on a very wet day in July, followed by a knockout tournament for which she proudly displayed her medal for second place. Elizabeth Gilliat and Cynthia Stuart also played croquet but this time in September in the sunshine, but they also came home with medals for second place. Perhaps John Prescott would like to join our ladies?

Members were also impressed to hear that Ruth Tubb and Dawn Murphy had been canoeing on the River Dart in a ten "man" canoe. They received tuition and advice on what to do if they capsized and bravely paddled away. After a picnic lunch they paddled with the rip tide all the way back, a considerable distance I believe.



Other activities included a theatre visit to Plymouth to see "The Calendar Girls", an Apple-dore Historic Tour and the 90th birthday of the National Federation of Women's Institutes celebrated by a Beach Picnic.

Our Speaker for September was Anne Green, a nurse from the Warwick Practice, Ilfracombe, who demonstrated First Aid Techniques. We saw how to cope with basic life support until the paramedics arrived and in spite of the nature of the subject there was much hilarity. Although she was a demonstration model Ruth Tubb gave the vote of thanks for a valuable lesson we hope we never have to put to the test.

Husbands, partners and friends are welcome to our October Open Meeting when Mike Hall will help us to drive safely; members should arrive at 7.15pm, guests at 7.30pm.

The Annual Meeting and Games Evening is on 11th November and the year ends with a Christmas Dinner on 9th December, when Julia Waghorn, our local chef, will provide the meal.



We look forward to seeing old and new members at these meetings, so please contact Pat Seymour on 863628 or Margaret Hood on 871077 for more details.

Brenda Keeble, Press Officer

Mike Turtens
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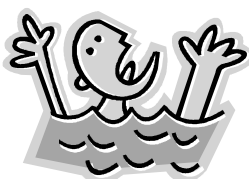
CAPTAIN BECKERLEG AND THE BET BY RICHARD HOWARD

Early on the morning of 3rd October 1895, William Richards, a labouring man, set out to gather laver from the rocks on the beach below the cliffs of Lee Down, with a companion. The rocks were slippery and still wet from the falling tide. Although there had been a force 10 gale during the night, the weather was still fairly mild, he mused, as he picked his way through the jumble of rocks at the base of the cliffs.

To a stranger it might seem that their progress was haphazard and rambling, but a local would know that they were following the easiest and quickest way across the rocks, learned from experience and men who had passed this way before. They arrived at a place Richards called Baggy beach, where he had gathered laver before, and they began to search the rocks and gullies.

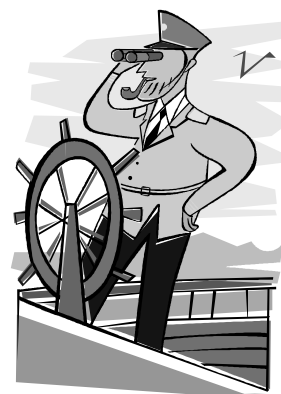
Laver is the local name for a type of seaweed; Purphyria Umbilical is much sought after by people of the coast, and can be eaten, after a lot of washing and preparation. It is in season from September to March.

Usually it would be boiled up until tender, and then fried with a coating of oatmeal in bacon fat.



Almost before they had time to start their search, they were alarmed to hear groans and cries coming from the rocks ahead of them. After a little difficulty in tracing the source of the cries, they discovered that they were coming from a man, struggling in the waves to reach the shore.

Dropping his bag and throwing off his coat, Richards dashed forward and dragged the man out of the water. He was in a bad way, very cold and totally exhausted. Dragging the man to the top of the beach, and into the lee of a rock that offered a little shelter from the persistent wind, they covered him with a coat and asked who he was and how he came to be in the sea. Before the man lapsed into unconsciousness, he replied that his name was Barzilla Beckerleg, commonly known as Barlow and he was the captain of a schooner from



Devon County Council

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Start IT – Word Processing with Spreadsheets	Wednesday 17 Nov	13:00 – 15:00pm	£187	£47	Two Lanes Ilfracombe
Start IT – Word Processing Internet & e-mail – Try it Out	Friday 05 Nov	10:00 – 13:00	£5	£5	Two Lanes Ilfracombe
Start IT – Word Processing Internet & e-mail	Friday 19 Nov	10:00 – 12:00	£187	£47	Two Lanes Ilfracombe
Start IT – Word Processing Internet & e-mail – Try it Out	Monday 01 Nov	13:00 – 16:00	£5	£5	Two Lanes Ilfracombe
Start IT – Word Processing Internet & e-mail	Monday 15 Nov	13:00 – 15:00	£187	£47	Two Lanes Ilfracombe

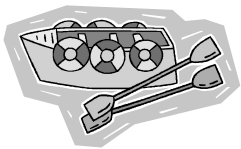
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“THERE’S A
MAN
WASHED
ASHORE
NEAR LEE!”



”IT’S
IMPOSSIBLE
TO GET A
MAN UP
THAT CLIFF.”

CAPTAIN BECKERLEG AND THE BET, CONTD.

Penzance called The Lanisley that was on a voyage from Neath in South Wales to Penzance. She had foundered just after midnight off Bull Point (actually 51.15 N 04.11 W) in the NW storm, with all 5 hands. Four of the crew were Mr R.G. Thomas, mate, John Davis, Richard Warren, and Phillip Gilbert. The Captain had been on watch when, about midnight, the wind was blowing from the North West and caught the Lanisley aback. She was laid low on the water and, before she could recover, another squall came down and she filled and sank. He only had time to grab a life belt before she sank. He had been in the water since that time.

Making the captain as comfortable as possible, William Richards went to get help. As he hurried along, he mused that if all that the man had managed to tell him was true, then the captain had been struggling in the water for a good 10 hours, and had been at least four miles off Bull Point when his ship had gone down. No wonder he was on his last ounce of strength.

The same morning, John Cousins was walking to Ilfracombe to collect his pension (he was a Chelsea pensioner who had fought in the Crimea, and was almost blind). He was close to the town at about 11 o’clock, when a man ran past him and shouted, “There’s a man washed ashore near Lee!”

This must have been William Richards who was later criticised for not going to Lee for help, or at least informing George Ley who had great knowledge of the cliffs and beaches. The next man Cousins met, he told to run and tell the coastguards. Later he learned that the place where the captain had come ashore was about two and a half miles from Ilfracombe, and only half a mile from Lee.

Eventually Richards returned with a doctor and some men with ropes. They tried to get the Captain up the cliff but failed, he being a big man. The effort weakened him further, so they returned to the rock shelter where the captain smoked a pipe and talked of the events of the night. He told them that they had sailed from Neath on Tuesday afternoon with a full cargo of coal.

Cousins got back from town, to the cliffs above the captain at about four o’clock in the afternoon to find hundreds of people peering over the cliff. He said to one gentleman near him “What! Have they not got the man up yet?”

”No.” the gentleman replied, “The lifeboat could not get near him until high water, but I believe they have him on board now.”

John Cousins said, “What a pity they did not let the Lee men know. They would have had the man up over the cliff and down to the hotel* in less than two hours.”

The gentleman replied, “It’s impossible to get a man up that cliff.”

John Cousins said, “I don’t think it’s impossible and George Ley will prove it any day.”

ABOUT THE SHIP

Lanisley of Penzance was owned by T.B.Bolitho of a consolidated smelting company. She was built in 1887 by Messers Harvey and Co. of Hayle, of iron; her registered tonnage was 148.22, but she had carried 240 tons several times. She was 104 feet long, 23.1 feet wide and 11.2 feet deep, and was fitted with steam gear for discharging of cargo.

CAPTAIN BECKERLEG AND THE BET, CONTD.

"Nonsense!" said the gentleman, moving away.

Later it became known that Captain Beckerleg had died just after the lifeboat reached Ilfracombe at about six o'clock. The steamer *Pride of Usk* had towed the lifeboat down channel to the scene. Five wives and nineteen children were left at Penzance without the husbands and fathers they depended on, but there was no appeal, as is the usual case as Mr Bolitho said they would all be taken care of.

The same night, October the 2nd, the Plymouth schooner *Mountblairy*, travelling from London to Bristol with a cargo of cement, was off Morte Point when she too was struck down by the wind flying to the North West. She lost her fore yard, two topsails, forestaysail and boom with about four foot of bulwark, but luckily did not founder.

THE BET

George Ley was well known in the area, he was a fisherman, and knew the sea cliffs from Morte Point to Ilfracombe better than any man in North Devon. He had rescued many people from danger, also countless sheep. He got to hear about John Cousins's conversation with the gentleman, and his conclusion that it was impossible for Lee men to take a man up the cliffs. It appears that George set a challenge of fifteen pounds, that Lee men would take a man off the beach, bound as if half-dead, and deliver him to the Lee hotel in two hours, after getting the news that the man was waiting on the beach. So sure of winning were the Lee men that they said if they lost the bet they would lose fifty pounds. A man called W. Hill, a horse cab proprietor from Ilfracombe, volunteered to act as the half drowned man, and the event was made known in Ilfracombe. Only George Ley was told the day it would happen, the other men had to wait until called upon.

On Friday 19th October 1895, a large crowd had gathered on the cliff top to witness the event. At the appointed time, around four o'clock, George Ley and his team of ten men began their attempt.

An iron peg was driven deep into the ground, to which was attached a rope that reached down to the beach, and John Cousins was detailed to take in the slack once they had started to climb upwards. The rope was a safety measure in case they slipped. The end of the rope was tied to the top of a short ladder that the team carried with them. The volunteer was quickly picked up from the same spot where Captain Beckerleg had lain, wrapped in blankets and strapped to the ladder.

The ascent began at five minutes to four and the worst part of the climb, up about fifty foot of near-perpendicular rock, was soon safely accomplished. Then, with the team of men each holding part of the ladder and Mr Hill still tightly strapped to it, they moved ever upwards towards the top of the cliff. About five feet from the top they had difficulty in getting the ladder over the clifftop, until the rope was used for the first time to haul the ladder upwards. The time from the beach to the cliff top was only fifteen minutes. When the ladder reached the cliff top a loud cheer went up from the crowd, and a photograph was taken to mark the occasion by Mr Kevern Batton. To carry the ladder and its cargo to the Lee hotel took about another sixteen or seventeen minutes. So from the beach to the hotel was easily done within the hour.



I believe the beach that Captain Beckerleg was found on is now known as Broadoar, and the way they got the volunteer to the top of the cliff was via a little known path called Leys path, which, presumably, George Ley had constructed some years before.

(*Lee hotel at this time was the building opposite The Old Maids Cottage.)

Captain Beckerleg was 47 years old at the time of his death.



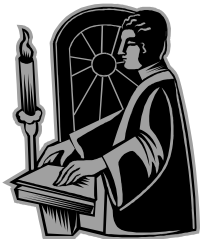
“CHILDREN MADE
NOTABLE
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FUCHSIAS AND
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NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW’S CHURCH

I am writing this note the morning after this year’s Harvest Festival and Harvest Supper. They were both most enjoyable and successful occasions. The Church was full for the service which was again a celebration of harvest and of village life. This year there was a particular emphasis on water – the essential ingredient of life – and the harvest of land and sea. The procession involved large numbers of residents carrying symbols to represent village life linked to harvest, the sea and water. It was a delight to see so many children in the Church, both in the procession and in the congregation. The singing was lusty, led by the excellent choir. The decorations and flower arrangements were splendid, and the candle lit Church presented a fine sight. The Vicar preached a most interesting sermon on the theme of the water of life, and the collection for Water Aid raised £260, including Gift Aid on some of the collection. After the service, everyone enjoyed a memorable supper in the Memorial Hall. This year the menu included fish pie as well as many other lovely items.

The main event at the end of August was the Fuchsia Festival. This was also a great success celebrating fuchsias in flowers, art and words. The Church was filled with examples of all kinds of fuchsia flowers and plants, many pictures and works of art, and writing about fuchsias. Children made notable contributions with their designs of fuchsias and some excellent poems. Lunches and teas were served in the Hall where there was also a sale of fuchsias and a display of the history of fuchsias. Quite a number of visitors and residents also took part in a quiz, searching around the Church, Hall and village for answers to the questions.

An important event occurred in a packed Exeter Cathedral on 12 September. On this day, Linda Walters was ordained to serve as part-time Curate in the parishes of Lee, Mortehoe and Woolacombe working with Giles, our Vicar. It is a long time since there was a Curate in the parishes and we are looking forward to getting to know Linda. She will be in St Matthew’s most Sunday mornings and Linda took part in the Harvest Festival service.



It won’t be too long until Christmas! There will be two special services in the Church to celebrate Christmas. On Monday 20 December, the Village Carol Service will take place at 6.30 pm. This will be followed by a seasonal drink and light refreshments in the Memorial Hall provided by the Hall committee. Then on Christmas Eve at 10.00 pm, there will be the traditional Christmas Communion service with the singing led by the choir. The Church will be candle lit and beautifully decorated for both services and, of course, everyone is most welcome to these services.

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

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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.

Friend or Foe

When I stand on the beach in Lee,
I'm fascinated by the sea;
It's sometimes quiet, but never tame,
And no two waves are just the same.

Usually it's rather cross,
Playing its game of pitch and toss,
As if determined to reclaim,
The cliffs confining its domain.

It's never known to fall asleep,
Rising twice daily from the deep,
To flex its muscles on the beach,
Where houses crouch just out of reach.

Its foamy fingers probe the shore,
As if it rules by natural law,
And when it gets the upper hand,
It will avenge the upstart land.

It once built the mountain ranges.
It's seen a billion years of changes.
It flung the continents to and fro,
And seems to want another go.

What gifts and terrors does it hold,
Is there a story not yet told,
A mystery yet to be revealed,
That lies below the sea concealed?

Every tear drop in the ocean,
Spends its life in constant motion,
Searching the shore eternally.
The endless everlasting sea.

Andrew Ailes





Southcliffe Hall B&B

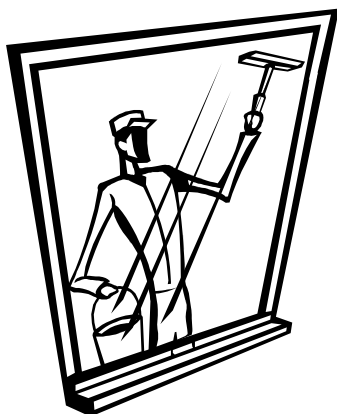
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FIRST AID NEWS?

The first thing you need to know – and remember! – is that there is now a defibrillator in the village. In case that leaves you mystified, a defibrillator is a device that can save a life in the event of a heart attack.

When a heart attack happens, every minute counts. We are a good 10 to 15 minutes away for the nearest ambulance, always assuming there is one available and that they don't, as in one recent case, follow their sat-nav down Warcombe Lane!

What we need here, therefore, is a number of people who are trained to recognise and deal with the signs of a heart attack – and who have access to a defibrillator that they know how to use. An Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) is a safe, reliable, computerised device that can analyse heart rhythms and enable a non-medically qualified rescuer to deliver a life-saving shock safely with a small amount of training.

That defibrillator is now with us. It resides in the Grampus, which is inhabited pretty well 24/7 all the year round. It is fully primed and ready for action – which, of course, we hope it will never need to see. It cost us £1534.13, £1200 of which is being met by a Devon County Council Investing in Devon Grant, arranged by Cllr Geoff Fowler. I am still exploring ways of meeting the balance, but the main thing is that the machine is there and available.

So if you even suspect that you or someone else is showing signs of starting a heart attack, you should ring 999 or an ambulance and then The Grampus (862906) straight away.

The defibrillator is, in fact, so automated that it is pretty foolproof, but we are nevertheless arranging for top-up training for those in the village who are already qualified first-aiders. We know of three of those, but if there are others reading this who would qualify and are interested, please give me a call on 862453.

But would you know how to recognise the early signs of a heart attack? Would you know the difference between that and, say, anaphylactic shock? Would you know how to deal with heatstroke or heat exhaustion – or, at this time of year, more likely hypothermia? Would you know the first things to do in the case of head or spinal or crush injury?

If you have no idea, or think you once knew but could do with reminding, then you might be interested in the British Red Cross's offer to run one or more first aid training courses, free of charge, here in the village Hall. What such training would cover could be very much up to us to decide, though there are probably certain basics that any course should deal with. If you think you might be interested, do please just pick up the phone and let me know. At this stage, I just need to have an idea of numbers and, if you have any, of your preferences as to timing and content. I would then do my best to try and set something up. A few people have expressed an interest in the past (please confirm, if you wouldn't mind) but the more, the merrier.

Sebastian Birch, Ivy Bank, 862453, birchmayo@yahoo.co.uk



“THERE IS NOW
A
DEFIBRILLATOR
IN LEE...
...IT RESIDES IN
THE GRAMPUS”



“WOULD YOU
KNOW HOW
TO RECOGNISE
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NEWS FROM THE GRAMPUS INN



After a busy summer, Bill and I are finally preparing for our quiet season, and have enjoyed spending a few hours cooking up plans to keep you entertained through those cold winter months! As ever, we will remain open throughout the year, serving food 12-3pm everyday, and 7-9pm Monday – Saturday. When things really get quiet, you may find we have escaped to the beach between 3-6pm, but generally there will always be somebody here.

Our season of “**pot luck**” **games nights** started this week with our ever-popular quizmaster, David Walker. From now until Christmas, we will be offering a different game every Wednesday night, with a “pot luck” supper for

£5 per person. From skittles to carom, scrabble to pool – there will be games to suit everyone! Details of the games and quizzes can be found on our website, and will be sent out each month to those on the mailing list.

Our monthly discussion groups also continue this winter, with **Agnostics Anonymous** and **Book Club** meeting on Monday evenings at 8pm. Both groups are open to everyone; please contact Bryony if you would like to know what subjects are planned for discussion at Agnostics; or if you would like to borrow a copy of our current book. **Stitch ‘n’ Bitch** continues on the last Monday of each month, and is the perfect way to prepare all those handmade Christmas gifts you’ve been planning!

Music continues to flourish at the Grampus, with our open mic’ nights on Fridays from 9pm. We have also been working together with **Beaford Arts** to plan a number of exciting arts and music events in the village. We have already enjoyed a magical evening in the church with Tunde Jegede and the African Classical Music Ensemble, and there will be more music coming to the village on Saturday 23 October when the outstanding **Emily Portman Trio** are playing in the village hall, along with support from Chris Millington. Please contact Bryony for tickets.

There are other special events in the pipeline this autumn. We are planning an **Ancestor Feast** for Sunday 7 November, which will be a unique evening of celebration and feasting as the year turns towards the dark. The evening is open to everyone and children are welcome. We are inviting people to bring a dish to share – whether savoury or sweet – that has been passed down to them from their parents, or Grandparents, or beyond. This will be a night to remember and give thanks to those who have gone before us, to share stories and memories, to feast and be merry in darkness of winter.

And there will be further feasting throughout December! We are hoping to offer a special festive menu in the week-ends running up to Christmas, and over the holiday season. There are also plans for another **festive Dinner Party**, after the success of last year’s dinner hosted by Julia; and we are already taking books for our popular **New Year’s Eve party**. Finally, 2011 might seem a little while away yet, but we are making plans for Twelfth Night and Burn’s Night in January.

What with all these plans, Bill and I could do with some extra help around the pub (and the garden)! We are always looking for talented and enthusiastic people to work at Grampus, so if you’re interested – or know of someone else who might be – please get in touch.

We look forward to seeing you over the coming weeks!

Bryony and Bill, Tel: 01271 862 906

Email: bryony_shaw@hotmail.co.uk - please contact me if you wish to be added to our monthly mailing list

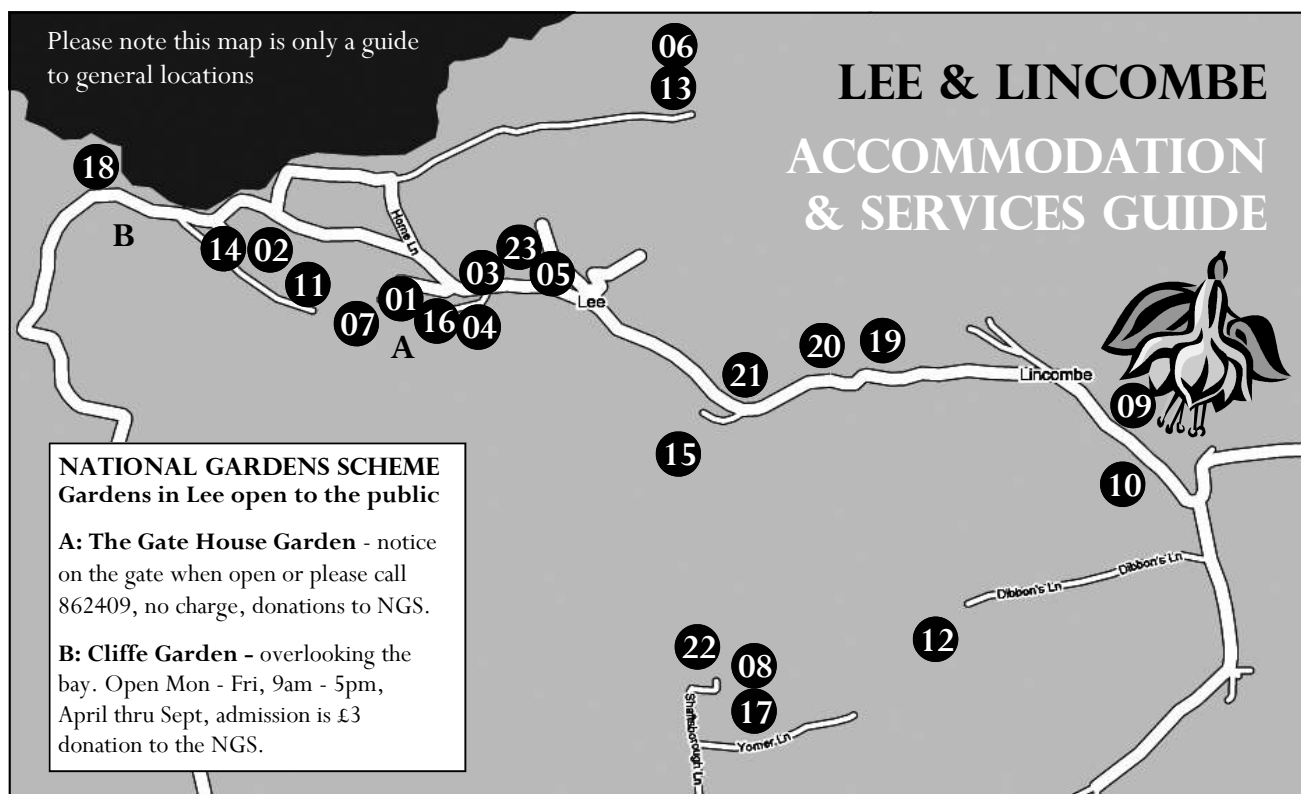


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2. Hotel: The Lee Bay Hotel _____ CLOSED
3. The Old Schoolroom Craft Gallery & Gift Shop - www.noonoo-art.co.uk - Louise Thompson _____ (01271) 864067

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8. Shaftsboro Farm - www.shaftsboro.co.uk - Margaret & Frederick Kift _____ (01271) 865029
9. High Banks, Lincombe - pat.seymour06@talktalk.net - Pat & Tony Seymour _____ (01271) 863628

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21. Rock End (4-6) - kateandgus@yahoo.co.uk - Kate Madden _____ (01271) 865591
22. Allender Farm (8,6,6,5,2+) - www.allenderfarm.co.uk - Jane & Jim Bridges _____ (01271) 866679
23. The Old Vicarage (15) - www.theoldvicaragelee.com - Amanda Robertson _____ 07973 963 887

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