

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

LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

SUMMER 2012

75P



A DRAMATIC VIEW OF THE STUNNING NORTH DEVON COAST
PEAKS OUT THROUGH THE FLORA OF THE NGS OPEN GARDEN AT CLIFFE, LEE

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LEE AND LINCOMBE – FUTURE DATES FOR 2012

VILLAGE DIARY

Wednesday 11 July 6.30pm	Evening service for the Coast and Combe Mission Community – St Matthew's Church
Monday 16 July 7.30pm	War time and other memories of young lads in Lee in the 1940s and early 1950s – Memorial Hall
Thursday 26 July 2.00pm	Flower Show – Memorial Hall
Sat 28 July – Sun 12 August	Arts and Crafts Exhibition – Memorial Hall
Sat 26 – Mon 28 August	Flora and Fauna Festival – St Matthew's Church and Memorial Hall
Sunday 30 September 6.30pm	Harvest Festival Service – St Matthew's Church followed by Harvest Supper in Memorial Hall
Every Monday 10.00 am – 1.00pm	'Mini-Monsters' – Memorial Hall (Kate Seekings 867068)
Every Monday 5.00 pm – 6.00pm	Pilates – Memorial Hall (Penny Perry 866535)
Fortnightly Wed & Thurs 10am-4pm	Patchwork groups – Memorial Hall (Margaret Hill 864257)
Friday evenings from 8.00pm	Open mic nights at the Grampus

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

LEE MEMORIAL HALL

WAR TIME AND OTHER MEMORIES OF YOUNG LADS IN LEE IN THE 1940s AND EARLY 1950s

**DO COME ALONG TO THE MEMORIAL HALL ON
MONDAY 16 JULY AT 7.30 PM**

**REMINISCENCES OF THEIR CHILDHOOD YEARS IN LEE DURING THE WAR
AND FOLLOWING YEARS BY ALAN KIFT, GERALD MILLS AND JOHN LEY**

**EVERYONE IS WELCOME TO WHAT WILL BE A FASCINATING EVENING.
IF YOU HAVE YOUR OWN MEMORIES OF THIS TIME, BRING THEM ALONG
TO SHARE WITH US AS WELL!**

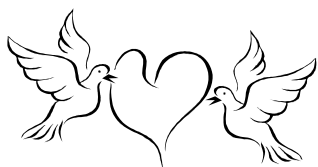
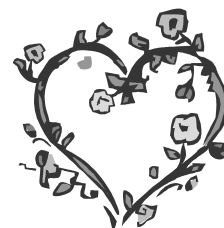
NO CHARGE – JUST COME!

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS. DONATIONS FOR HALL FUNDS WELCOME.

GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

Sadly, two village residents have died since the last edition of the Lee and Link'em News.

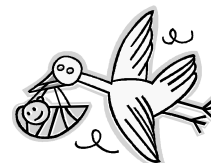
The death occurred in early March of Ruth Tubb of Springfield. Ruth and David moved to Lincombe nearly 8 years ago from the Oxford area and soon became part of village life. Ruth was also a familiar figure at the Woolacombe Medical Centre where she worked as a receptionist. Music was one of Ruth's passions and she was a member of many local choirs. She sang with the North Devon Choral Society and was a loyal member of the Church choir and handbell ringers, both of which performed on special occasions. She also performed with the Singing for the Brain Group and the Ilfracombe Concert Party. She took much interest in the Lee WI and was a member of the committee for a while. Ruth was diagnosed with cancer over 5 years ago and she bravely fought the disease with surgery and chemotherapy. She made a good recovery, but, then the cancer returned last year and, despite more treatment and much resilience by Ruth, she passed away in March. It was, however, a great joy to Ruth that her daughter, Victoria, gave her a granddaughter, Olivia last year and Ruth was able to celebrate Olivia's first birthday just a few days before she died. We send our condolences and very best wishes to David, Victoria and all the family.



Just before this edition was due to go to press, news came through of the death of Colin Wright of Ulfred, Lee. Colin was a very well known figure in the village and throughout North Devon. He will be greatly missed. A tribute to Colin appears elsewhere in this edition and our condolences and very best wishes go out to Biggi in her sad loss.

On a happier note, we are very pleased to welcome Sally Hanson to Seal Cottage. Sally has moved here from Surrey.

It is always a delight when new babies are born into village families. So a special welcome to William Hewitt who was born on 16 March. His proud parents are Cathryn and Richard of Seaview in Lincombe, and William is the brother of Jennipher. Mother and son are doing very well and it's good to greet the newest and youngest member of the village!



Many National Bus Passes will expire on the **31st March 2013**. If you have changed address since your original pass was issued, you will need to update your details with Devon County Council as soon as possible.

Remember - if we don't know where you live, you will not receive a new pass. Contact us on 01392 383688 or 01271 383688.



FIRST AID REQUIRED?



Call Sebastian (862453) or Bill at the Grampus Inn (862906)

The Grampus Inn also has a defibrillator onsite.



LEE & LINK'EM NEWS TEAM

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NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH



"ARVE
HENRIKSON,
ARGUABLY
ONE OF THE
FINEST
TRUMPETERS
OF HIS AGE"

A night to remember: The Barbican, London; The Sage, Gateshead; Trinity College Chapel, Cambridge; St George's Hall, Bristol; St Matthew's Church, Lee! What a privilege it was to have some of the world's outstanding musicians giving a concert in St Matthew's Church as part of a British tour that included some of the leading venues in the country. But, thanks to Beaford Arts and the energy and commitment of Bryony Shaw, this marvellous experience took place to a packed audience in the intimate atmosphere of the Church on 23 May.

The concert featured Trio Mediaeval, 3 female singers with extraordinary powerful and evocative voices, and Arve Henrikson, arguably one of the finest trumpeters of his age. Their programme was an eclectic mix of mediaeval sacred music, Scandinavian folk songs and ballads and some newly composed and improvised music, especially on the trumpet, producing a range of sounds hardly thought possible! The performers enjoyed their experience immensely ranking their welcome and the atmosphere of the Church to be amongst the finest of their tour. The audience, which included the Chief Executive of the North Devon Theatres Trust and the Musical Director of the North Devon Choral Society, came from a wide area and all were equally thrilled by this unique concert. The first part took place as dusk fell and, then, after a break for drinks in the Memorial Hall, the second half saw the nave and balcony of the Church entirely lit by candlelight, adding further to the atmosphere. Reflecting on the concert on my way to Exeter the following morning, I put on Classic FM on the radio and, within 5 minutes, Arve Henrikson was performing Haydn's trumpet concerto in a very different mood!



"WE ARE
DELIGHTED
WITH THE
QUALITY OF
THE WORK
OF THE
STAINED
GLASS
EXPERT"

Craftsmanship at its best: Many readers will have seen the scaffolding around the west wall of the Church in recent months. This has been necessary to allow for the removal and restoration of the fine rose window in the west wall and for the restoration of much of the stonework around that window, around the other windows on the west wall and in parts of the porch. We are delighted with the quality of the work of the stained glass expert, Bob Tucker, and the skilled stonemason, John Mayne, both highly recommended by the Diocese of Exeter and the Church architect. The rose window now looks magnificent and is complemented excellently by the major repairs that have been carried out on the stonework.

Work in earlier years to control dampness, mainly at the back of the nave and gallery, seems to have been successful, and now that the windows and stonework have been restored and repaired, the time has come to re-decorate those areas that need repainting. Considerable consultation and care have been taken with the Church authorities in Exeter, our chosen contractor and a leading paint manufacturer to ensure that the paint is both suitable for the interior surfaces of the Church and will blend as successfully as is possible with the existing paint. Samples of the existing paint have been provided for the paint manufacturer which has made the paints specifically to match the colours both of the base colour and of the stencils. The start of the re-decoration is planned for the beginning of July so it won't be long before this major project is complete.

However, whilst it will be great to have this restoration done, investigation of the other windows has revealed that two of them are now very fragile. These windows are the large window at the back of the church facing the road and the smaller window in the sanctuary facing the road. Both will need full restoration soon. So, at a likely cost of around £3,000, that is the next task!

NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH, CONTD.

Future events: Following the very successful Fuchsia Festival of 2 years ago, we shall be holding a Flora and Fauna Festival over the Bank Holiday weekend at the end of August. This will take place in the Church and Memorial Hall and promises to be a very interesting event. Full publicity will be given nearer the time. Harvest Festival this year will be on Sunday 30 September. As usual, this is very much a whole community event to which everyone is most welcome. The service will be at 6.30 pm in the Church, followed by the Harvest Supper in the Memorial Hall.

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

DO YOU LIKE A WALK?

Here at the Lee & Link'Em News we are looking for more help in distributing the newsletter. Currently we have a dedicated network of volunteers who walk around the villages 3 times a year delivering the Lee & Link'Em News.



Sadly, we may lose our primary Lee delivery team, Bryan and Helen Lye, who are considering pastures new. We thank them for their years of dedicated and prompt service.

So we would be happy to find one (or more) new teams to join our band of merry deliverers. All you need is to enjoy walking through Lee and would be happy to do so 3 times a year for the love of the Lee & Link'Em News!

Maybe you would like to be responsible for simply distributing to a small area around you? If so, please let us know and we can co-ordinate this.

Thank you!

WRINKLEWOOD POTTERY, LEE

David & Julian welcome commissions on any 'organic' theme, we produce individual pottery bowls, Harvest jugs and pitchers. Our pottery is rooted in the indigenous North Devon slipware tradition, which dates back hundreds of years, but please bear in mind that if you would like to give us a commission our pots can't be hurried, so we will need a bit of notice for commemorative pieces.



Dave throws the pots on an original, 'human-powered' Leach kick wheel, using a red clay as similar as possible to the no longer obtainable Fremington clay, but we still slip the pots with white pipe clay from Petersmarland.

Our pots are slipped in different colours using oxides then when leather hard Julian embarks on their sgraffito decoration. This is a time-ravelling labour of love, and these detailed scenes would traditionally have been reserved for ceremonial and commemorative pieces.

The final finish is our 'honey' lead frit glaze which is similar but safe version to the old North Devon recipes, and gives a rich range of earthy hues. This transparency allows the decoration to shine brightly through.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION
SEE OUR WEBSITE
WWW.WRINKLEWOOD.CO.UK
OR CALL DAVID ON 01271-866535**

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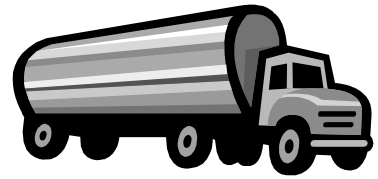
Our thrice-yearly newsletter is free to residents, and available to non-residents at 75p from The Grampus Inn or The Old Schoolroom Craft Gallery & Gift Shop.

We offer postal annual subscription (3 issues) to non-residents, delivered to your door for £4.00 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.

DEVON OIL COLLECTIVE

Everyone who read the last edition of the L & L News will have seen my article on the Devon Oil Collective – a new countywide oil buying scheme set up by the Community Council of Devon (CCD) with the aim of reducing the cost of heating oil each time a member of the scheme orders oil. Please see page 8 of the Spring edition. It can be seen online at www.leebay.co.uk and following the links if you no longer have access to a printed copy.



In essence, each month a local co-ordinator contacts members of the scheme to ask whether they want to place an order for heating oil. All the co-ordinators across the county then submit their local totals to the CCD. An expert then negotiates the best price from the national range of suppliers. The local co-ordinator subsequently advises you who the supplier is, the price per litre and the approximate date of delivery. After the oil is delivered you pay the company supplying the oil direct.

A number of households (and the Memorial Hall) have already joined the scheme and are very pleased with the savings they have made. I am also delighted to announce that Martin Johncock has kindly agreed to be the local co-ordinator for Lee and the surrounding area. That means that you have to do nothing other than tell him each month how much oil you want, if any. No more ringing around to get the best price – you get the best price negotiated for you on a countywide basis! Oil prices have fallen generally in recent months but are bound to go up later in the summer and into autumn and winter, so now is a very good time to fill up your oil tank.

If you haven't yet made enquiries and are interested in finding out more, either contact Martin directly for full information or contact the CCD. Here are their details:


Martin Johncock, Westclayes, Lee, EX34 8LN: johncock@ownmail.net ; telephone 01271 269751

CCD: telephone for a membership leaflet on 01392 248919 or go to the website www.devoncc.org.uk, follow the link to Devon Oil Collective and download the membership form. Fill in the form and either email it to oilscheme@devonrcc.org.uk or post it to The Devon Oil Collective, CCD, Unit 3-4 Cranmere Court, Matford Business Park, Exeter EX2 8PW.

Martin and I believe this is a commendable community project designed to reduce the heating costs of those living in rural areas and, collectively, help each other. We encourage you to join.


Ian Stuart

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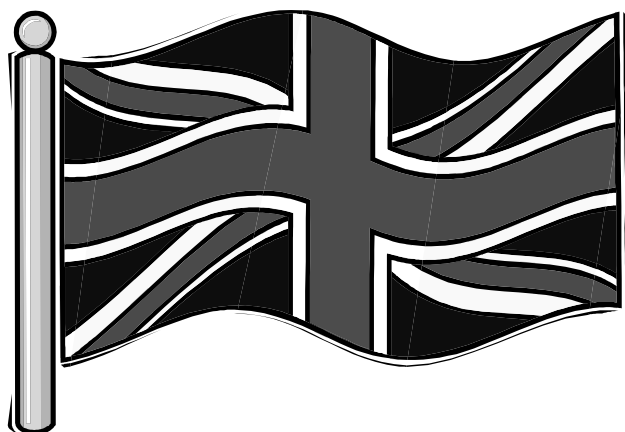
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'I LIVE HERE' JUBILEE PROJECT



The Millennium village group photograph in the Memorial Hall is a considerable source of interest and comment to villagers and visitors alike. The photograph records at least half the people who lived in the village and surrounding farms in 2000. It will remain a most useful historical document for many years to come. There have been many changes in the village population since 2000 and we hope that this proposed new project for Jubilee year will add to the 2000 photograph and make a record of the village population in 2012 in a somewhat different format.

We hope to record, in picture form, the population of Lee and Lincombe and surrounding farms in Jubilee year by

having a photograph taken of the people of each household in front of their house. The photographs would then be collated and an album produced with prints of each photograph. The photographs would also be available on disk for anyone to purchase at a modest cost. It might also be possible to have a photomontage consisting of very small prints of each photograph.

There would, of course, be no obligation to have a photograph taken and anyone's wish not to be included would be accepted without question. However, we hope that the majority of the population would be willing to be included.

If the project goes ahead we obviously need to support of most people in their willingness to have their photograph taken, but we also need the help of some willing photographers! A small group from the Hall committee will co-ordinate the project, but it would be good if several people would volunteer to take photographs so that the work is spread out. If you would be willing to take some photographs, please contact me (details below). I should be delighted to hear from you.

Assuming there is sufficient support for the project to go ahead, we shall send a publicity note to each household and then make contact to see if you are willing to be photographed in front of your house. If you are, we shall arrange a mutually convenient time for this to happen. We can do this sometime over the summer or autumn to allow maximum opportunity for as many to be included as wish to do so.

Several details are yet to be sorted out and we welcome any comments and suggestions at this stage. However, the general idea is to complete the project by Christmas with the Jubilee 2012 album completed and available by then.

If you would like to volunteer to help with the photography or have any comments or suggestions, please contact me on 01271 863396 or ian@leedevon.co.uk or call on me at Combelynchet, Lincombe.

Ian Stuart

Mike Turtens
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LEE MEMORIAL HALL UPDATE



The main event since my last update was the JubiLee Spring Fayre. We were extremely lucky with the weather as sun shone all day. The Fayre was well attended despite many other Jubilee events on locally around the same time. The ladies in the kitchen who provided refreshments didn't stop from the moment they opened at 12pm until the end of the Fayre! Thanks to the efforts of everyone involved – the sub-committee, people who helped with the setting up, stall holders, people who helped with the refreshments and the visitors – we raised £3160.13. Well done everyone. This year the proceeds are to be split 50:50 with the church to support them in their repairs and maintenance work.

Future events include:

- Wartime Memories of Lee' – led by some previous residents of Lee and hosted by the hall committee - 7.30pm on Monday 16th July
- The annual Arts and Crafts exhibition Saturday 28th July – Sunday 12th August
- Roaring Twenties evening with cocktails, casino, etc. – this will be held at The Grampus in October (details and confirmed date to follow)

Becca Wyles – Memorial Hall Committee Chair



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CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF LEE

Seeing all the different ages celebrate the recent Diamond Jubilee has set me thinking about my own happy childhood memories of living and being brought up in such a beautiful village.

But first, the tearooms – My very early memories were of The Post Office Tea room which was located opposite the front door of the Lych Gate. This was soon replaced by Gilberts Tea room which was where the Fuchsia Tea room is now. The Orchard was, in fact, called The Fuchsia Tea Garden, and just down the road was the very popular Old Post Office tea garden – usually with the old nine-seater Crossley Chara parked outside ready for hire. In those days, the Wayside was known as Giddeys Tearoom and the Gate House as The Fuchsia Glen tea garden. Chapel Cottage only opened for business in the later post war years. The Mill served beach trays and also hired out deck chairs. Teas were also served to walkers on Warcombe Lane, in the bungalow which is now a holiday cottage. So plenty of choice for Lee visitors in those days



They came by bus (half hour service at peak times, with an inspector based at the beach to control the queues and run the parcel service!). There were also four motor launches operating from Ilfracombe, one appropriately called the Fuchsia Queen and carried 60 passengers. Then there were the smaller number of cars and the hundreds of walkers. The big draw was always The Old Maids Cottage, with visitors queuing up to the church on a good day.

Many households made a good living by taking in guests during the season, supplementing the income of their gardening husbands. Myself, one of four children and our two cousins next door were looked after all the summer by a young girl who came over from Wales each year – she was called Maisie Morgan This allowed mother to look after the guests whom seemed reluctant to move away from the house in case they missed a meal. Breakfast, elevenses, lunch, afternoon tea and dinner. No wonder such famous people as T.S. Elliott and the actor Marius Goring came to stay!

I expect that there were many a wet day, but my memories are of glorious summer days spent on the vast exciting playground known as the beach. We all swam well at an early age and as we grew up we sometimes swam in convoy from the beach wall at high tide around to Sandy Cove and back, the water cool and clear. We boys played a game where we built castles of large stones and sand and then took turns to knock them down with well-aimed stones. Some days our mother would send us hot lunchtime meals via the bus conductor who would find us on the beach, probably receiving a threepenny tip for his trouble!

At home, we would play hide and seek, organise paper chases or play ‘cowboys and indians’. Bowling iron hoops down the village or “scooting” along on our wooden scooters which was also very popular. Beware if Farmer Armstrong (of The Old Farm and at that time owner of the Car Park) caught us playing on his property. I can’t remember who fixed it up, but we had a very popular swing fitted on a tree located up through the lane beside Brackenhurst. I still remember a mysterious covered well which we passed on our way to the swing. Has any reader with a long memory have any ideas why a well should be built there - nowhere near a house.

Perhaps not such a happy memory, but with a sense of achievement, I remember those long walks over the downs to school. Originally there was Bill Cook, his sister Mary (sadly passed away many years ago), cousin Joan Gilbert and myself, who walked those seemingly long three miles morning and afternoon, summer and winter. Bill’s father, as well as being the professional at Lee Golf Club, trapped rabbits and sold them to Spears, the fishmonger in Ilfracombe. Bill was sometimes tasked with taking a barrow load of rabbits to Spears on the way to school. The “barrow” comprised a box on pram wheels with a pair of handles to push it along. One morning, half way to Ilfracombe, a wheel collapsed and we had to carry the rabbits in to the shop before getting to school. I was about nine or ten at the time!



The village has changed a lot in recent years. A number of homes are now holiday properties, thus diluting the number of residents. On the plus side, there have been many new people settling in the village, bringing with them a variety of skills and abilities. Some work willingly for the village, somewhat allaying my fear about finding new faces to take over as *anno domini* takes its toll.

Lionel Hill

(Ed: updated, original published in 2000. For more trips down memory lane, don't miss 'War time and other memories of young lads in Lee in the 1940s and early 1950s' in the Memorial Hall on Monday 16 July from 7.30pm.)

THE PLEASURE AND PAIN OF AN OPEN GARDEN



“There is no gathering the rose without being pricked by the thorns” The Two Travellers, Fabels of Bidpai

Cliffe garden, as the name accurately suggests, clings optimistically to the northern coast of Devon in the village of Lee, near Ilfracombe. It comprises 5 acres of mixed formal garden and woodland, much of which was laboriously carved out in the 1920's from a field adjacent to Cliffe house. Owned privately, the garden is opened for charity under the National Garden Scheme between 1 April (significant I sometimes think) and 30 September every year. This has proved to be both a pleasure and an occasional pain and I will try to convey some of the challenges involved when on show for 6 months of every year.

We attract a wide variety of visitors, the NGSers, armed with Yellow Books and experience of many gardens; the holiday makers on day visits or staying in one of Lee's holiday homes; the walkers on the coast path side-tracked en route to Morte-hoe; the coach trippers deposited in the bay with an hour on their hands; the horticulturally knowledgeable, the lost and the bewildered. All are equally welcome. This diversity of humankind presents us with our challenge which is, quite simply, to try to please everyone all of the time. Perhaps I should rephrase that, of

course this is not the slightest bit simple, but still the aim remains.

So let us look at some different breeds of garden visitor and attempt to explain how we try to “please all”:

The Plant Hunters We try to label all plants with accurate Latin names, which is sometimes easier said than done, contending with wrongly named purchases and the botanists changing their minds every 5 minutes. In my own experience of visiting gardens it can be frustrating when the one plant you are desperate to identify isn't labelled. I must confess that labels are also imperative on those frequent occasions when you are asked a specific plant name and the brain instantly turns to mush. Our other visitors (The Wildlife of Cliffe) seem to enjoy moving labels around the garden and they are also vulnerable to the unruly boot of a gardener or over enthusiastic weeding. Hopefully there are plenty of interesting plants to keep these experts happily searching for the more unusual specimens we have throughout the garden including *Cantua buxifolia*, *Pseudopanax lessonii* “Gold Splas and *Stylophorum lasiocarpum*.

The Traditionalists It was a pleasure to meet a couple in the garden last summer who told me of their struggle to maintain a traditional “English” garden in Tasmania. Especially ironic as we battle on with various Tasmanian plants here including *Correa backhousiana*, *Solanum laciniatum* and *Leptospermum grandiflorum*. They admired the rose beds of Fragrant Cloud, Elizabeth Arden and Eroica and the herbaceous borders which their dry climate makes so difficult to maintain. Early in the season we have many large established Camellias and banks of Narcissus to herald the spring. Whilst late in the season the many varieties of fuchsia flower well into the winter months.

The Artists These are the lovers of colour and form. Colour is an important element in the garden and quite simply the more the merrier, there is no consulting colour wheels, RHS charts or even careful consideration. Our combinations are mainly down to instinct, a little daring and very often happy coincidence. Of course on this subject no one can be right or wrong, some love the pastel shades, some the hot colours, some the Barbie pinks, some the cool whites, whether it be flower or foliage. The herbaceous borders run through the spectrum from violet through to red (with white as an added bonus) planted in homage to Gertrude Jekyll. For those fond of the monochrome the mature *Magnolia “Alba”*, is the centrepiece of the Black and White Border. Form of course is also vital, from the dramatic *Furcraea longeva*, *Hedychium*

THE PLEASURE AND PAIN OF AN OPEN GARDEN, CONTD.

and *Melianthus major*, through the elegant *Miscanthus* and *Lysimachia clethroides* to the small but perfectly formed *Fuchsia thymifolia*, and *Taxus baccata* "Pygmaea" all of which add depth of interest to the garden.

The Children We don't have many children visiting the garden, generally most would prefer to be rock pooling in the bay below. However, with a bit of imagination there are as many treasures to find in the garden as under a wet rock and certainly less slimy! There are things to touch - the wonderfully tactile *Salvia fulgens* and *Stachys coccinea* and those to avoid touching most notably our large *Agave americana*. Lots of interesting scents including lavender and roses, and for a little sadistic fun *Vestia foetida*. *Arisarum proboscideum* is always a winner when in flower with its mouse tails poking out from the foliage. What better playground than the woodland, perfect for exploring and searching for pine cones from one of our mature Monterey Pines .

The Technicals Many visitors are interested in the mechanics of the garden, how it all works on a day to day basis. We are fervent composters, designated areas can be seen throughout the garden both for general garden waste and leaf mould , and we utilise seaweed as a precious free resource. Our beloved shredding machine provides us with mulches, reducing weeds and eventually adding organic matter to the soil. Propagation in all its forms is an invaluable and cost effective way of stocking the garden, ranging from seed sowing (many from HPS and RHS surplus seed schemes) to cuttings and divisions. We also benefit greatly from plant swaps with friends and neighbours.

The "Naturalists" Although there are many formal and "hard" aspects to the garden, such as lawns, stone terracing and gravel paths we try to balance this with a relaxed form of planting. Minimal staking (perhaps too minimal sometimes, see north wind below!) allows plants to flop foppishly over paths and tangle through each other. *Geranium* "Bill Wallis" scrambling through *Fuchsia glasiowiana* works very well, as do self-seeded yellow nasturtiums running through *Teucrium hircanicum*. This make for an interesting untangling come the autumn and also unfortunately leads to some casualties not

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THE PLEASURE AND PAIN OF AN OPEN GARDEN, CONTD.

quite able to hold their own. We do not expect our plants to stand to attention and they are not expected to be flawless but hopefully give the impression of unrestrained abundance. The woodland paths zig zag and curl organically upwards and are lined with shade lovers such as Drimys winteri, Camelias, Enkianthus, and our new star Trochodendron aralioides.



The perfectionists— All I can say is they will be sorely disappointed and quote George Orwell “The essence of being human is that one does not seek perfection”.

Of course meeting people is one of the benefits of opening the garden and we have met many fascinating and intriguing people in the garden. They have travelled from around the world, the country and even the county. Highlights this year included an extremely elderly couple who valiantly walked up the very steep hill and fearlessly insisted on walking the whole of the garden. The South African man and his party who passionately pointed out plants to me that grew wild in his homeland such as the Watsonia and Schizostylis whilst I enviously drunk in every word. The

retired gentleman who called in to say he had as an apprentice many decades previously painted the wrought iron gates. The newly engaged American couple, so full of fun and enthusiasm, who wanted to get married on the lawn they loved the garden so much. The two young girls who told me they hadn’t wanted to visit the garden but were really pleased that they had “it was fun!”. And the man who told me he really loved the “wild bit over there” – which reminded me the Bay Tree Bed needed weeding!

There are several themes of conversation in the garden which seem to be repeated on a regular basis, these include:

The weather “Of course you are very lucky here with the weather.” True we are excused most frosts but like everyone we suffered in last years severe winter. As we are north facing the winter sun doesn’t rise high enough to escape the hill to the south and from mid November to mid February no sun touches the garden. Any frost stays frost for a long time with no sun to thaw it. We also suffer especially spiteful, salt laden northerly winds which rush round the garden burning all but the toughest of leaves.

Well drained Well you certainly would think so looking at the garden. However the combination of an average annual rainfall of 100cm, no winter sun, added to the underground spring water and the easily compacted silty soil mean mud pies for a large proportion of the year.

We gardeners often need treatment for a severe case of rising damp.

The slope By necessity of the geography of the garden, slope is always going to be a issue. In fact the slope adds a welcome extra dimension to the garden, plants can be looked at from above, below, as well as the usual straight on. The designers of the garden in their wisdom, however, put random steps just where you wouldn’t expect or want them. Down one step, up two, down one – is it me but doesn’t that even up? True, aesthetically it works but with a full wheelbarrow to hoik up and bounce down not quite so attractive.

Architectural Walls Again true, the



THE PLEASURE AND PAIN OF AN OPEN GARDEN, CONTD.

traditionally built walls are beautiful and a great asset to the garden but when you are frequently having to scrape Mind Your Own Business (*Soleirolia soleirolia*), from between each stone you can see the advantage of breeze blocks (only joking). They also serve as wonderful slug/snail hotels, although this is nothing that a good sharp poking stick can't cure.

Wildlife We are blessed with much wildlife, which can be a mixed blessing. From the state of the garden some mornings it is obvious our nocturnal visitors are real "party people". The lawn has been dug up in a badger feeding frenzy. Foxes mark their territory in a most basic way. Deer frolic and feast in the borders. Moles run riot and don't even get me onto the voles. The blackbirds throw the mulch everywhere and if I find out who has dug that large hole in the newly manured rose bed! But then all this is instantly forgiven when catching sight of a dolphin in the bay, a peregrine falcon flying overhead or even the glimpse of those pesky deer.

Then before we know it the end of September arrives, the signs are taken down, ropes removed and corsets loosened. Feeling how a supermodel must feel when she walks in her front door, slips on her furry slippers and baggy tracksuit bottoms, out of sight of the paparazzi, we can relax a little. The carpet is lifted and all the rubbish swept underneath in the previous months removed, the backs of borders weeded, plants cut back, tools left out at break times, songs can be sung with gusto and the occasional cartwheel performed on the lawn. The dewy autumn mornings are beautiful and peace encapsulated (fig 16). There is, however, along with the sense of relief a glimmer of regret and "perhaps one more week next year".

Opening the garden is definitely worth it for the interesting people met during the season. Those who tender good advice, share woes and joys, who say "you've made my day", in essence who speak the same language. Unfortunately there is the occasional person who doesn't "get it", those who race around at break neck speed, not looking but expecting to be entertained without any effort put in by themselves. As in all walks of life, there will always be those who see the weeds and those who see the flowers. This is not Disneyland, with limited resources we try to maintain an interesting, aesthetically pleasing plot which luckily for us is located in a beautiful part of the world. The odd wart inevitably pops up from time to time and we do our best to deal with it. Ultimately we have to please ourselves, that is the owners and the gardeners, and if anyone else gets pleasure then all the better.

And that brings us back to the question "Can we please all of the people all of the time?". Well what do you think?!

And of course if all else fails there is always the view.

Gill Heavens, Head Gardener, Cliffe garden, Lee



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WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

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**2nd Wednesday each month
10am – 4pm**

£10 per person
Please bring your own lunch

**Please contact tutor
Brenda Keeble
(tel: 01271 863367)
for further details**

Beach Fun with the National Trust this summer.



Hi everyone. Summer is truly upon us so umbrellas at the ready! Our new Beach Rangers have now been recruited, inducted and fully trained up and are **full of energy and raring to help** you make the most of your time at Woolacombe beach this July and August.

If you are heading down to the beach, book onto one of our **rockpool rambles** and be amazed at the crazy variety and lifestyles of creatures like sea hares and hermit crabs. Even adults that think they've seen it all will be astounded at the fish living in the rock face.

Starting on 7 July and costing £2 per person, these events are extremely popular so booking is essential.

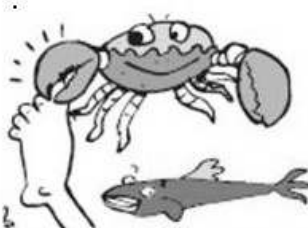
Not everyone likes slimy tentacles and boggling eyes so if a **volleyball or football game** is more your thing, then why not come along and find us on the beach near Mill Rock every Wednesday from 11am in the school holidays. All games equipment is free of charge to play with and no booking is necessary.

Other free events this summer include our **Family Volunteering day on Thursday 23 August**. Grab a granny and bring a brother to help us litter pick the strandline and then play beach games. Look for the National Trust feather banners near Mill Rock.

If being creative sounds more like you, then come along to our **Art Attack day on Bank Holiday Monday 27 August** where you can create whatever you like with the flotsam and jetsam we have collected over the year. Part of the nationwide 'Big Draw Campaign'.

Call the beach rangers on 07512 218241 for more information and to book.

Look forward to seeing you out there this summer.



Jemma Lowin, ranger: 01271 870 555
Jemma.lowin@nationaltrust.org.uk
Blog site: www.northdevon.wordpress.com
Registered Charity No. 205846



SEAL RESCUE AT LEE BAY!

Amethyst, a grey seal pup, was rescued on Boxing Day evening 2011 from Lee Bay. She had wounds around her neck and was malnourished. Weighing just 12kg, she was just a third of what her body weight should be. We had encountered her earlier in the afternoon on the beach, when she seemed to be attracted to our white German Shepherds, Leela and Tilly.

Later that evening, we found that the seal had managed to negotiate the slipway up from the beach and was travelling inland on the road! It's quite difficult getting advice on Boxing Day evening, but eventually, after contacting The National Seal Sanctuary, we were on our way to Hartland, with the seal safely in our old dog crate, to meet up with volunteers travelling from Cornwall. After initial treatment from a vet, Amethyst was taken to the RSPCA's West Hatch Wildlife Centre for further treatment.

Luckily, she made good progress and was transferred to the National Seal Sanctuary on Tuesday 20th March 2012 for her next stage of rehabilitation and to learn how to compete for fish with other seals. Over the months we have been in regular contact with West Hatch and Gweek Seal Sanctuary for updates on her weight and progress.

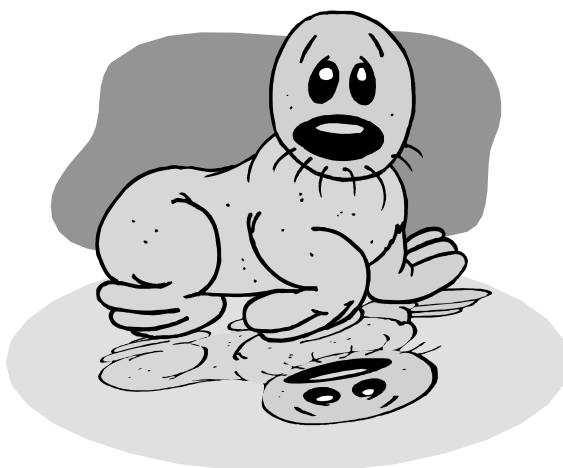
In April, our children arranged for her 'adoption' as a wedding gift! We were delighted to hear that on Wednesday 30th May Amethyst was released back into the wild at Gwithian in Cornwall.

You can find out about other rescues, stories and conservation work by visiting the website: www.sealsanctuaries.com

The 'pup season' usually starts in September and if you do find a pup on the beach please call the Sanctuary on 01326 221361, and follow this advice:-

1. **DON'T attempt to handle the pup.**
2. **DON'T attempt to put the pup back into the sea.**
3. **DO keep your distance.**
4. **DON'T ignore the situation.**
5. **DO tell the Cornish Seal Sanctuary.**

Penny and David Perry, Wrinklewood, Lee



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CUSTOMER FEEDBACK

LEE & LINCOMBE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION 2011/12 REPORT

1. Committee

AGM March 15th 2012 re-elected existing members

Chair: Eric Couling (863257)
Committee: Peter Bostock (855798)
Elizabeth Gilliat (864732)
Allyson Poore (879469)
Marion Thom (862309)
Carolyn Weekes (863257) and Honorary Secretary

Honourary Treasurer Paul Thom (862309)

On-line Administrator Gina-Luisa Hilborne



There is one vacancy left on the committee and anyone interested to join us please contact the secretary. It's good fun, we don't bite, and we all have a contribution to make.

Now in our 45th year and dedicated to uphold the traditional values of this unique village, below are just some of the many issues that we have dealt with in 2011/2012 .

2. Membership

71 members registered as having paid their subscription for 2012/2013. Fee of £5.00/annum held for another year. Carolyn will be delighted to receive outstanding subs.

3. Planning Applications

We have dealt with far fewer than the 29 last year. These can be seen on our website www.leeandlincombe.org.uk.

4. Upkeep Public Toilets

We are thankful to Ilfracombe Town Council for its grant to cover the opening of the toilets from April-October 2012. The committee rolled up its sleeves on March 28th to clean the building inside and out prior to the Council redecoration. Much improved.

5. Highways

Ongoing liaison to ensure potholes are attended to promptly. Verge "ploughing" and surface water drains flushed.

6. Hedgerows

A reminder that it is the property owner who is responsible for maintenance and trimming of their hedgerows and verges in Lee.

7. Lee Bay Hotel

We struggle to get a definitive statement as to the current position on the re-development of this site. We have approached the Council person whose responsibility it is to follow up approved plans and await his response.

8. Old Maids Cottage

I am sure you will agree that the restoration work has been carried out to the highest standards and the fresh thatch looks superb.

The Planning Application for a double garage block and workshop over was objected to and the application withdrawn.

LEE & LINCOMBE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION REPORT, CONTD.

9. Japanese Knotweed

Mavis Rogers and her team have done super job and application for additional grant will enable that work to continue and for training of extra members for her team. Sadly the hotel is letting the side down and knotweed is going untreated.

10. Himalayan Balsam

This invasive plant is taking hold in verges and in private land throughout the village. Whilst its pink blooms are attractive is becoming a problem. Highways dept are aware of the issue relative to road verges and advise we leave it to them as the plant is noxious.

11. Beach Causeway

The poor state of the causeway has been reported to NDDC. Emergency work was carried out on the deepest holes but budget constraints prevent larger scale restoration at this time.

12. Lee Interpretation Board

In conjunction with Ilfracombe Tourist Initiative a grant has been obtained from AONB for an extension of the Ilfracombe Coastal Path/South West Coast Path Interpretation Boards to include Lee. Work is underway and it is proposed to mount a board by the Memorial Hall as a keyed information point for visitors.

The Committee thanks residents for their continued support and will continue to promote and safeguard the amenities of Lee and Lincombe.

Peter Bostock, Lee & Lincombe Residents' Association



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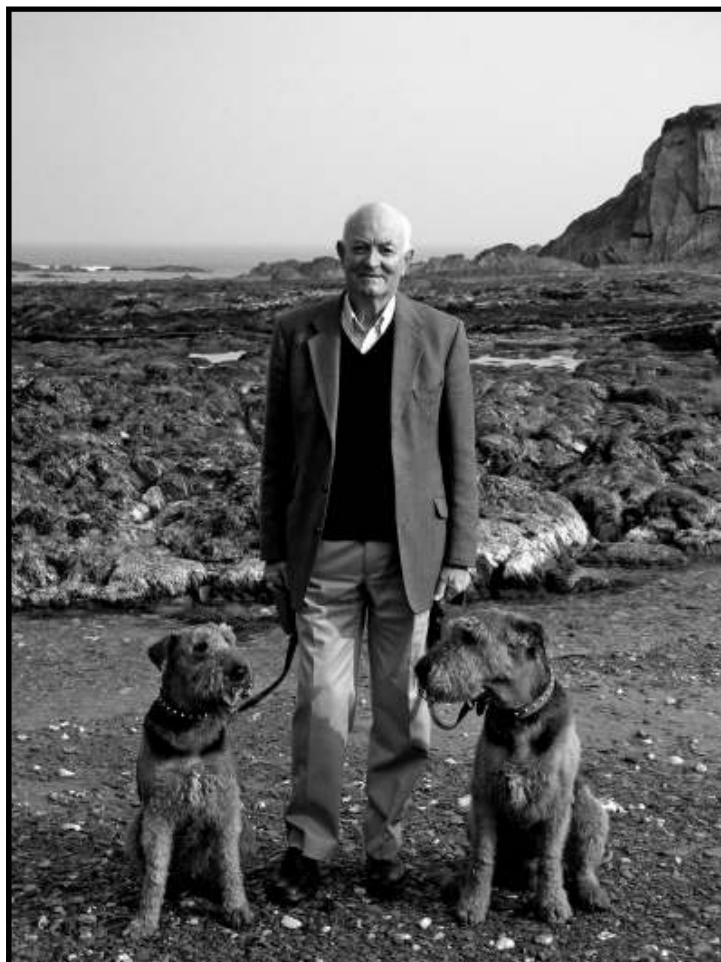
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Colin J. Wright



03 January 1935 - 19 June 2012

All of us who had the privilege of knowing Colin know that he was a remarkable man. His intelligence and learning were deep. His knowledge of the cultures and languages of many parts of the world was immense. He had an enormous commitment to serving his community in numerous ways. All these qualities he combined with an inquisitive and pioneering character, coupled with great modesty and unfailing courtesy and respect for everyone he met. He was, indeed, an exceptional person and a shining light to us all.

Colin's life and career was as varied as it was bold and adventurous. His mother was a trilingual Catholic Maltese educated in an English Convent. His father was a Cornish Methodist but served in the Royal Navy, so it was in Plymouth that Colin was born and spent his early years, including his primary schooling. A move to East Anglia meant that Colin's secondary education was in Ipswich where his brilliant command of languages became apparent. Indeed, he won a scholarship to read Modern Languages at Queen's College, Oxford University.

However, these were the days of National Service, so, before going to Oxford, Colin spent two years in his beloved Navy first learning then using Russian, working on the Baltic as a decoder in the days of the Cold War. Colin specialised in French and German at Oxford. His subsequent career was spent largely abroad and Colin made a point of learning the language of the country he was in so that he could speak in it to local people. So Dutch, Swedish, Polish, Arabic were added to Russian, French and German, as well as the Italian and Maltese he had learned from his mother. For the first part of his career, he worked for the UK's leading manufacturer of cranes, based in Sunderland, and became export manager for Eastern European countries. He spent much time in Eastern Europe, especially Czechoslovakia and Poland. Sadly, in Poland, Colin's first wife, Krystyna, was killed in a car crash and Colin was badly injured, spending six months in a Polish hospital.

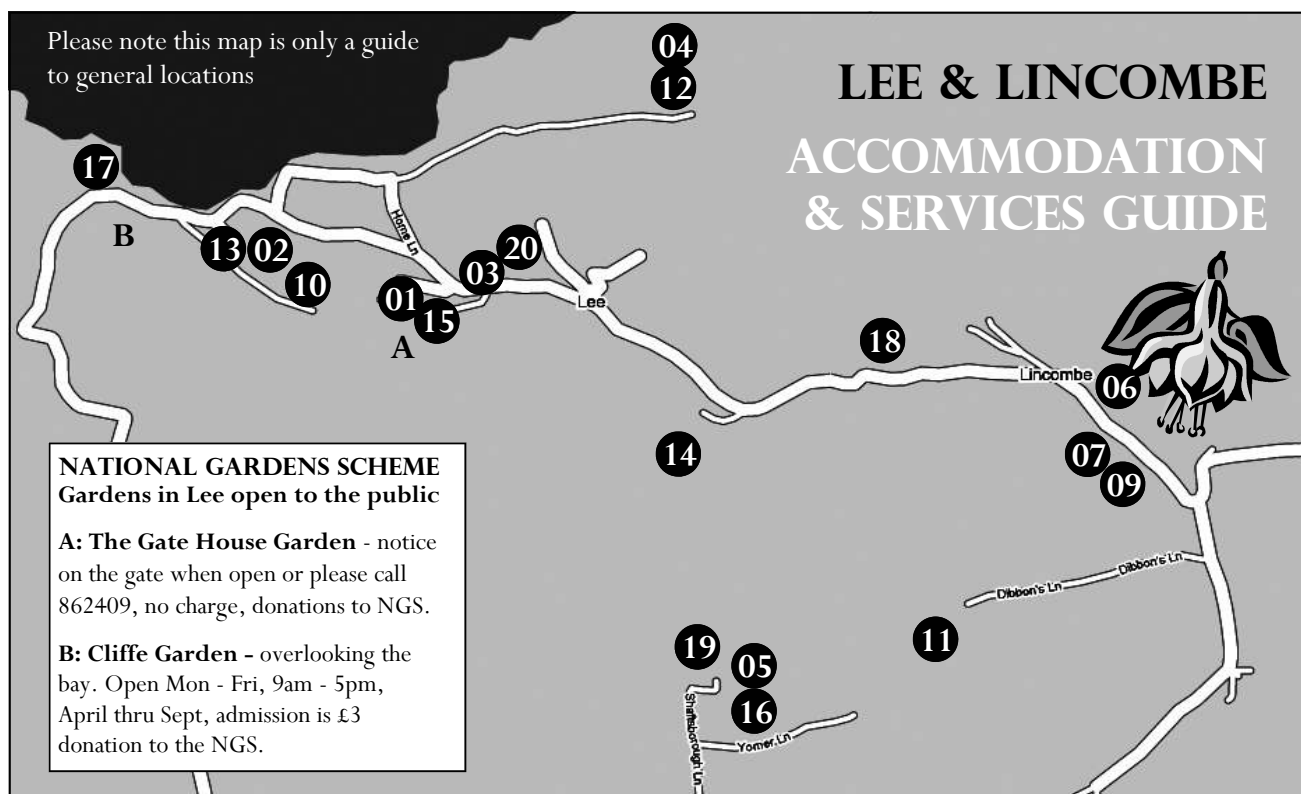
Fortunately, happier days were ahead. A holiday romance blossomed! Colin was lucky enough to meet in London a lovely young lady on holiday from West Berlin. The rest, they say, is history. Colin and Biggi were married in Berlin in 1967 and had 45 years of very happy married life together, with Colin now baptised into the Lutheran Church. At the time of their marriage, Colin had already planned a career move. He joined the management consultancy firm of Urwick Orr as a partner becoming senior partner in due course. He worked with major international companies such as BP and also with the Saudi Arabian government. By now, Colin and Biggi were living near Diss in Norfolk with the convenience of Norwich Airport and its connections to Amsterdam nearby.

After 17 years with Urwick Orr (now part of Price Waterhouse Cooper), Colin set up Colin Wright Associates working independently, but with the same sort of clients. Colin pioneered modern technology, recognising that you didn't need to work in London to be in touch with clients. With fax machines and, later, the internet, living in the East Anglian countryside and then in Devon was perfectly possible for a modern business man, full of new ideas. After much discussion, Colin and Biggi moved back to Colin's roots in the west country and how marvellous it has been that they chose Lee! They moved to Lee in June 2003, but it was far from retirement for Colin! His consultancy work continued apace and he regularly commuted to Paris to work for major French insurance companies. He and Biggi joined in village life with enormous enthusiasm becoming equally at ease in St Matthew's Church and the Grampus. Then, at the age of 72, Colin's commitment to our local community was expressed so clearly in his election in 2007 as a District Councillor for Ilfracombe.

The contribution Colin made to the work of the Council and to the wider community, especially in Ilfracombe, is astonishing. His drive and enthusiasm in working with other councillors and officers in advocating the regeneration of Ilfracombe won him the admiration of all who met him, including his political opponents. He was rightly proud of the way the District Council and Ilfracombe Town Council were increasingly working productively together. His becoming a member of the Town Council last year was a natural part of this co-operation. Sadly, ill health was now catching up with Colin and he was not able to bring his election to the Town Council to fruition.

Colin has borne his last illness with great fortitude, courage and dignity, supported admirably by his devoted Biggi. He maintained his lively interest in village and local affairs to the end. The world needs more people of Colin's calibre and the world – local, national and international – is a poorer place for his passing.

Ian Stuart



VILLAGE SERVICES

1. Pub, Tea Rooms & Village Shop: The Grampus Inn - www.thegrampus-inn.co.uk - Bill Harvey _____ (01271) 862906
2. Hotel: The Lee Bay Hotel _____ CLOSED
3. The Old Schoolroom Craft Gallery & Gift Shop - www.noonoo-art.co.uk - Louise Thompson _____ (01271) 864067

BED & BREAKFAST

4. The Blue Mushroom (2/3) - mushroomblue@btinternet.com - Mavis & Michael Rogers _____ (01271) 862947
5. Shaftsboro Farm - www.shaftsboro.co.uk - Margaret & Frederick Kift _____ (01271) 865029
6. High Banks, Lincombe - pat.seymour06@talktalk.net - Pat & Tony Seymour _____ (01271) 863628
7. Pensport Rock - www.pensportrock.com - Jackie Jackson _____ (01271) 863419

SELF CATERING (max. per unit)

9. Lincombe House (2,6,5) - www.lincombehouse.co.uk - Richenda S Carter _____ (01271) 864834
10. Chapel Cottage on Beach Lane (9) - www.chapelcottagelee.co.uk - Ginny Potts _____ (01271) 867212
11. Lower Campscott Farm (8,6,6,4,4,2+) - www.lowercampscott.co.uk - Kathy & Tony Mortimer _____ (01271) 863479
12. The Blue Mushroom (2/3) - mushroomblue@btinternet.com - Mavis & Michael Rogers _____ (01271) 862947
13. Wrinklewood (4) - www.wrinklewood.co.uk - David & Penny Perry _____ (01271) 866535
14. Crowness Cottage (4) - www.crownesscottage.co.uk - Irene Duffield _____ (01268) 742162
15. Brookdale Villa (11) - www.brookdale-lee.co.uk - Alan & Margaret Bannister _____ (01923) 266989
16. Shaftsboro Farm - www.shaftsboro.co.uk - Margaret & Frederick Kift _____ (01271) 865029
17. Damage Hue apartment (2+2) - www.damagehue.co.uk - Julien Busselle _____ (01271) 862876
18. Lee Chapel (5) & School House (4), combined (9) - www.visitleechapel.co.uk - Geoff Barker _____ 07870 239 973
19. Allender Farm (8,6,6,5,2+) - www.allenderfarm.co.uk - Jane & Jim Bridges _____ (01271) 866679
20. The Old Vicarage (15) - www.theoldvicaragelee.com - Amanda Robertson _____ 07973 963 887

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