

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

# LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

**SUMMER 2017**  
20TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION

**75P**



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FAMILY OF 5 HAD A MIRACULOUS ESCAPE WHEN THEIR CAR CRASHED  
ON TO THE ROCKS AT LEE BAY ON FRIDAY 13TH(?) AUGUST 1957

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## LEE & LINCOMBE: 2017 DIARY DATES

Saturday 24 June 7.30pm	'Drift' –Yoga Barn, Lincombe: a special acoustic evening with this trio. Limited space, so booking essential. Contact Alex Giffoni (866743) or Paul Jaggers (862975) for details.
Thursday 27 July 2.00pm	Flower Show – Memorial Hall
Sat 5 Aug – Sun 20 August	Arts and Crafts Fair – Memorial Hall
Sunday 1 October 6.30pm	Harvest Festival Service – St Matthew's Church followed by Harvest Supper in Memorial Hall
Saturday 18 November 7.00pm	'Mammal Hands' – St Matthew's Church (promoted by Beaford Arts): 3 musicians – piano, drums & percussion, saxophones – producing their beautiful, inimitable music. Details to follow, but reserve the date now!
2nd & 4th Thursdays 10am – 12pm (term time only)	'Mini-Monsters' – Memorial Hall (Check dates and contact Becca Wyles 879001)
Fortnightly Wed & Thurs 10am - 4pm	Patchwork and Quilters groups – Memorial Hall (Margaret Hill 864257)
2nd Wednesday 10am – 4pm	Art Class – Memorial Hall (Brenda Keeble 267583)
Tuesday 7 – 8.30pm; Thurs 10 – 11 am & 6.30 – 7.30pm	Yoga classes (Gentle Yoga Thursday morning) –Yoga Barn, Lincombe (Alex Giffoni 866743)
Fridays 9.30 – 10.30am	Extra for summer: drop-in yoga – Grampus garden (weather permitting), followed by optional homemade vegan breakfast Bring own mat and cushion. Contact Alex for further information
Friday evenings from 8.00pm	Open mic nights at the Grampus Inn

Other events may take place. Watch out for information on the Fuchsia List or on posters.  
If you would like your event included in the next edition, *please contact a member of the editorial team.*

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## GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

It is always sad to record the deaths of village residents, but, unfortunately, two residents, both aged 82, have died recently.



Michael Kift from Highcroft at Allender Farm lived in North Devon all his life. Born in Combe Martin, he moved to Allender in 1942 and farmed there for the rest of his working life. His was the last local family to have a cart horse. He married Janet in 1958 and Janet jokes that a flock of sheep was more important to Michael than she was! Janet and Michael moved to the Highcroft bungalow in 1975 and brought up their 3 sons, Andrew, Robert and Simon. In his youth, Michael played a lot of football on the left wing and was also a great darts player at the Grampus in its early days as a pub. His other great love was going to Point-to-Point races. We send our sympathy to Janet and all the family.

Jim Hawkins from Wall Garden Cottage was born in Walsall. However, it was whilst in the RAF on Merseyside that he met the love of his life, Ruth, who came from Liverpool. Romantically, they met on a ferry across the Mersey! After leaving the RAF, Jim worked in the motor industry at GKN, and, for 22 years, they lived in Sutton Coldfield bringing up their 3 daughters, Carol, Sarah, and Noelle. Jim came to love Lee whilst spending holidays in the village and dreamt of retiring here. When a derelict cottage high above the village centre came up for auction, Jim bought it though he was still working in the Midlands. He lovingly renovated the cottage from 1988 and he and Ruth moved here permanently in 1991. We also send our sympathy to Ruth and all the family.

The death has also occurred of Tessa Ley. Although living for many years in Ilfracombe, Tessa used to live in Lee. She maintained links with the village and it was her wish that her funeral took place in St Matthew's Church. Our sympathy goes to Derek who is well known in the village.



On a happier note, it is good to greet new arrivals, including 2 babies born in recent months!

Emily Rose was born on 2 March to proud parents, Sarah and Dom Waddington of Lower Barn, Pludd. Emily is doing very well and, as her father has said, is already enjoying living in the village!

Derek Adams and Nina Draper of The Link are the proud parents of Caiden, born on 14 May. He is a welcome brother for Kyla who is very pleased to have a new arrival in the house.

There is a new family at Lincombe Manor and we send our warmest greetings to them. Colin and Jo Gibbs and their daughters, Izzi and Meg, are now living permanently in Auckland, New Zealand, where Jo continues as a senior medical executive and Colin runs his own IT business. So Lincombe Manor has been bought by the Jones family. David and Charlotte Jones have moved with their young 2 year old daughter, Verity, from West Down. However, they are currently working in a boarding school in Surrey and so are here intermittently at present. But Charlotte's mother, Bridget Moore, is here permanently, having moved from Somerset.

A warm welcome also to Vicky and Owen Rolfe who have moved to Windjammer, next to Blue Mushroom. Vicky comes from Combe Martin and Owen from Barnstaple, though they have been living in Webbery, near Alverdiscott for the last 10 years. The delightful scenery which they can enjoy whilst walking their 2 rescue hounds is a major reason for moving here, as is looking forward to enjoying a drink or two at The Grampus. They are less sure about the walk back up the hill!

## FIRST AID REQUIRED?

Call Bill at The Grampus Inn (with onsite defibrillator: 862906).

Welcome to our new residents! As always, we apologise for any omissions in greeting newcomers and saying farewell to leavers. Please let us know of any omissions and we shall rectify things next time.

## NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

I reported in the last edition of the News that the new lighting and heating scheme was just about finished. I am pleased to report now that it is complete and has been working successfully for a few months. We are very pleased with the results which have been enhanced by the redecoration of significant areas of the church, including some of the fine wall stencils. Tony Drury and Jimmy Campbell have done a splendid and highly skilled job in preparing and painting some of the damaged surfaces and in painting the intricate stencils. With the new lighting and heating and the restoration of some of the damaged paintwork, the church is looking really well. It reflects well on our small village and provides a welcoming place for residents and visitors alike. Some further maintenance work is still needed on parts of the church's fabric and we hope to tackle these areas fairly soon.

Services over Easter went well with the church nearly full on Easter Sunday morning. The monthly all-age service, usually on the second Sunday of each month, is developing successfully. As I said in the last edition, the idea is to provide something to appeal to younger people but with a firm structure and much substance to be valued by all ages. There is a theme each month and it is relatively informal in style with straightforward language. The next all-age service will be on Sunday 9 July at 8.45 am, then the next will be on 13 August. Everyone is most welcome at these and all services. With very few exceptions, there is a service every Sunday at 8.45 am. The next exception will be on Sunday 1 October when we shall have our traditional celebration of Harvest Festival. That seems a long way ahead at the beginning of June but, between now and then, we can enjoy summer in our beautiful valley.

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

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## LEE MEMORIAL HALL UPDATE



Spring brought the start of the many parties booked at the hall this year, two on one day in some cases. Following the first wedding booking at the beginning of April we have six more arranged throughout 2017. In addition to these we have AONB meetings and projects, musical events, including M'Larkey's summer ceilidh on 17 June and a local theatre group are planning to stage a production here. The hall becomes a polling station for a couple of elections, charity events, church refreshments and we even manage to fit in our regular users.

The Beaford Arts event with Brannigan back in March was brilliant and very well attended. Watching him play two guitars at once was amazing.

At the beginning of April we said goodbye to our caretakers Angie and Lauren as they need more time for their busy lives. We are very grateful for all their support and help these last few years. We should like to welcome our new caretaker Barry Jewell, already known to many in the village and happy to take on this new role.

Also in April we held our annual AGM and would like to welcome our new village representative Lucy Scarrott to the team.

At the end of April the committee took part in our annual spring clean. It was a fine day and lots of jobs on our 'to do' list were completed.

We now have our own hall website, [leememorialhall.co.uk](http://leememorialhall.co.uk). Many thanks to Alan Bannister for his hard work in creating this. If you want to use the hall for an event it is easy to access the hall calendar to check availability and fill in a booking request form online. There is also lots of information about the hall and it gets regularly updated with forthcoming events.

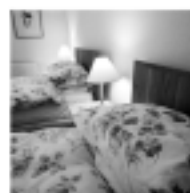
By the time you read this our annual spring fair will have taken place and hopefully raised additional funds for the hall and church.

Our next big fundraiser is the Arts and Crafts Fair. We are doing things a little differently this year and running it with a sub-committee and as well as many of our regular exhibitors, welcoming some new crafters and hopefully making the fair more interesting for everyone. It will run this year from Saturday 5th until Sunday 20th August. There will be a request for refreshment helpers and cake makers in the near future. We hope you will come along with friends and family to support us.

Summer seems to have arrived and, with it, our visitors. We hope they will notice our hall, and the meadow which is looking particularly lovely these days with much more regular attention.

Jane Johncock, Secretary

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## NEWS FROM THE GRAMPUS INN



Hello Friends,

My new greenhouse is already providing a variety of salads for our kitchen - can't be fresher than that! Also in there, looking hopeful and healthy, are tomatoes, peppers, dwarf French beans and a semi-mature peach tree. In the raised beds outside are a collection of herbs, runner beans, peas and squashes. Really 'local' produce.

The new brews of Orcardia, Ale & Bit(t)er, had their recipe 'tweaked' a little with the addition of not only local gorse flowers but a different yeast and 'dry-hopping' - adding hops to the cooler fermentation vats at the end of the brewing process to add a subtle extra flavour.

New specials from Helen, our chef, include:

Swiss Chard (very locally sourced from next door!)  
& Chickpea Curry

Gravadlax with Rock Samphire from the cliffs at the Bay  
Spaghetti with Wild Garlic Pesto

Wines. Latest addition is another of Louis' Finger Lakes wines. This is a Pinot Noir, with the same grape variety as used in Burgundy, producing a light-bodied, delicate and refreshing flavour.

New activity. Yoga meditation in our garden, followed by breakfast, on Friday mornings commencing at 8.30am. Inside the Grampus if the weather is unfavourable. Alex Giffoni is the teacher. £10 per session plus £4 for breakfast.

Looking forward to welcoming you to your village pub.

Bill



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## GRANDFATHER'S CAR HAS GONE WRONG AGAIN!

During my early teens my Grandfather, Farmer Ernest Armstrong of the Old Farm, Lee, (now the Grampus), replaced his car nearly every year. This was not surprising as he bought his cars from car breakers, and when the road became visible through the floorboards it was back to the breakers for another!

As a young lad, with nothing better to do, I often did a few 'odd jobs' on his cars, one of which was to clean the spark plugs. When replacing them I once poured some engine oil into one of the cylinders as a prank. On starting the engine, Grandfather witnessed, to his alarm, clouds of blue smoke billowing from the exhaust. This, of course, cleared after a couple of minutes.

Another so called prank was to smear oil onto the exhaust manifold in the engine compartment. When the engine warmed up smoke could be seen, and smelt, coming from the engine.

Grandfather had very little knowledge of the workings of a car and, as far as I know, never knew the reason why his cars played up so much.

I remember on one occasion he was driving from Lee to Ilfracombe. As he attempted to climb Lee hill the car came to a stop and no matter how much he tried, the car was not having it! He managed to turn the car around on the s-bend, drove back to the farm, where he looked at the engine and other things and finding nothing amiss he checked the battery. At last he found the 'problem' as the levels were a bit low. After topping up the battery he again set off for Ilfracombe, but this time Lee hill was no problem at all! I can only assume that the second time he remembered to change to a lower gear!

Grandfather's knowledge of the Highway Code was very limited. I remember when he arrived at a give way sign or a stop sign he never looked to see if it was clear to proceed, instead he just carried on while blowing his horn. His thinking was that other motorists would hear him and give him a wide berth. As far as I know he got away with it.

A couple of cars later I decided it was time to do something useful for my Grandfather and I suggested that as the paint on his present car was in a poor state I could repaint it for him. This he agreed to (silly man!) and finding a tin of black

paint in the barn I set to and painted the car all over. I had not realised that the tin of paint was, I think, bitumen. At first the car looked quite smart, but a short while later the paint started blistering. The two paints were not compatible. I don't remember my Grandfather's response as I kept out of his sight for a few days.

A year or so later during the evenings when Grandfather was settled indoors, I used to 'borrow' his car for some driving practice. I found that a bent piece of wire did the work of an ignition key. I used to drive the car down the lane, across the stream, and into Chapel Cottage meadow, which was owned by my Great Aunt Maud Armstrong, where I got used to driving and manoeuvring. This must have done me some good as the following year I passed my driving test in Plymouth.

Well now I am approaching my 80th year and I think I have just about grown up! Just a minute, don't they say that elderly people start acting like children again? I can't wait!

Robert Daniel



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## A WINTER REVERIE

The driven rain throws itself at the windows and a great wind flails around the eaves. The small birds are nestled in the ivy cloaked hawthorn tree. The rich green leaves shelter them from the onslaught of wind and wet and they, with the robin, tuck their heads under their wings and await the calm that will surely follow the storm.

I, though, sit snug in my small house ensconced in my comfortable armchair heedless of the turbulence outside. Only half awake I am walking up out of Lee Bay taking the lane that leads on to Warcombe. I climb the steps just past Damage Hue and plod up along the grass path the leads out on to the cliff top. Here I stand and gaze out across the blue expanse of sea and sky taking deep breaths of salt air as the breeze brings me the scent of gorse, wild thyme and bluebell. I am alive awake and delighting in all about me!

I hear the tide washing up the beach in Sandy Cove bringing its treasures of shells, and bladder wrack that will leave on the air the smell of the sea as they remain trapped in the rock pools until the tide claims them once more. Ahead of me I see the green slopes of Lee Downs where heather and gorse blooms, and the tiny rock rose and where the sheep softly graze. At my feet I see a myriad of mosses and minute plants and the surprise of an early purple orchid a bee busily collecting the pollen to take back for honey for the colony. I hear stone-chats and a skylark singing, just a speck in the clear sky.

This is the Atlantic shore. The very western edge of England and my heart sings to be feeling and seeing all that which is about me – grassy slopes, blue sea and sky. I have travelled across from the east of England to this far west coast where atop these grey slate cliffs I lose the feeling that the world is weighing upon my shoulders and now, that I am on the shoulder of the world!

A clatter and thump! Sudden noise shatters my reverie. A part filled watering can has skudded and clunked across the patio in the wild wind and the Lee Bay memories have sped away into their corner of my mind. I shall always have them and when stress and weariness overcome at times they will be there waiting.

Lynn Money



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## 20 YEARS ON! THE LEE & LINK'EM NEWS: 1997 – 2017



It's 20 years since Kate Madden edited the first edition of the Lee & Link'em News in the Spring of 1997. Now in 2017 and 60 editions later, our village magazine is still going strong. Heather Booker took over as editor in 2000 and, since 2005, the editorial team has consisted of Gina-Luisa Hilborne, Ian and Cynthia Stuart, and Heather. Gina's IT skills ensure the production of a highly professional magazine. Every sheet of every edition since 1997 has passed through Ian and Cynthia's photocopier, the latest now getting very elderly! Heather's success with advertisers and other sponsors has meant that the News can be given to every household in the village free of charge. We are also indebted to our loyal volunteers who deliver the News.

The combination of current village news and articles of historical and personal interest seems to have worked well and, since June 2015, the News has been supplemented by The Fuchsia List – our village email communications network, run by Gina and Ian, that enables relevant current information to reach the vast majority of households in the village quickly and easily.

Cynthia and I hold a complete set of the Lee & Link'em News and every edition makes fascinating reading encapsulating the evolving community over the last 20 years. Trying to successfully pick out just a few bits of news or articles from the wealth of 60 editions is a virtually impossible task, but, with apologies for omissions, I hope the following selection may be of interest.

Ian Stuart

### 1997

The well attended Biennial General Meeting of Lee Neighbourhood Watch was told that only four crimes had been reported in our area in 1996/7.

Tony and Pat Seymour with daughters Helen and Cathryn were welcomed to the Fuchsia Tea Rooms which they ran for many years.

A highly successful village open gardens day, organised by the Flower Show committee, was held on 1 June with 7 very contrasting gardens open to the public.

### 1998

Grahame Penn resigned from Lee Memorial Hall after 12 years as Chairman during which much had been achieved including the recent installation of a loop system with a Lottery grant.

The front cover of the summer edition had a superb historical photo of villagers and friends celebrating the coronation of the Queen in 1953.

The results of the Village Appraisal and public meeting were published.

## 20 YEARS ON! THE LEE & LINK'EM NEWS: 1997 – 2017, CONTD.

### 1999

Michael Rogers wrote a most moving article on his experiences in war-torn Vietnam.

Following the Village Appraisal, discussions took place about the possibility of forming a parish council for Lee and Lincombe, separate from Ilfracombe, though in the end this did not happen.

Plans were well in hand for a year of celebrations for the Millennium, including a group of hand bell ringers to welcome in the Millennium at noon on 1 January.

### 2000

A series of events took place during the year including a special cake in the shape of the Millennium Dome at the village Millennium Party, a Village group photograph (now in the Hall), a Quiz night, a mug for all the village children, a mystery coach outing and a 'Family Fun Time & BBQ'.

The Methodist Chapel was sold, much to the consternation of John Giddey, by then the oldest resident who had been born in the village. He also wrote an article on the tearooms run by his family over many years, including the most recent at Wayside.

### 2001

Lionel Hill concluded his second article on his incredible journey at the end of the Second World War from Italy to the Persian Gulf.

Lee moves into the digital age with its own website administered by David Beer at [www.leebay.co.uk](http://www.leebay.co.uk).

The Arts and Crafts Exhibition, intended originally as a one-off for the Millennium, is held again, organised by Brenda Keeble. Although now in a different format, it still continues.

### 2002

The ups and downs of 'The Whalers', the village darts team, got extensive coverage, including being at a Finals Night which was 'a bit of a shock to the system'!

FOR THE RESIDENTS OF L  
AND SURROUNDING AR

LEE & LINK

John Giddey's death on 22 June 2002 at the age of 96 was reported. He had spent most of his life in the village. Most notably, he was Churchwarden for 52 years.

The Bishop of Exeter preached at a packed St Matthew's Church at Harvest Festival and the 18 strong choir sang an adaptation of 'The Heavens are telling the glory of God' from Haydn's 'Creation'.

### 2003

Richard Howard wrote three articles on 'The Intriguing Story of Lee Manor'.

The Spring Fayre was its usual success, this year raising over £1,200.

'Life's a lottery', a play written by Natalie Sharpe, was performed by the Lee Village Players to an enthusiastic audience in the Memorial Hall to be followed by Snow white and the Seven Dwarfs the following year.

### 2004

Fran and Richard Nustedt left the Grampus after 16 years and new owners, Mandy and Mark Collins, took over the pub.

Lord Richardson of Windcutter, one of the most eminent physicians of modern times, died on 15

## 20 YEARS ON! THE LEE & LINK'EM NEWS: 1997 – 2017, CONTD.

LEE & LINCOMBE VILLAGES  
TEAS AND OUR VISITORS

# LINK'EM NEWS

August. The Times obituary said: 'John Richardson was a towering figure in 20th century British medicine'.

### 2005

The WI organised another Pancake Day race and coffee morning.

Re-organisation of bus services meant the village had 4 buses a day summer and winter Mondays to Fridays, the best it had enjoyed for many years.

Concerns about Japanese knotweed led to the setting up of a committee to tackle the problem.

### 2006

After the death of his wife, Betty, two years earlier, the death of Bill Cook at the age of 85 marked the end of the Cook family in the village. He and his predecessors ran the ferry boat out of Lee for several generations. The Flower Show was its usual success despite a very dry summer.

### 2007

The 10th Anniversary edition reproduced the cover of the 1st edition – a sketch of The Maids of Lee, and an article about the first 10 years of the News.

The Residents' Association was very concerned about

the closure of the toilets and their uncertain future depending on a decision by Ilfracombe Town Council. The Lee Bay Hotel was under new ownership and 'will be subject to a programme of restoration and refurbishment to create a desirable place to eat, drink, meet and stay in the most fabulous of locations'.

### 2008

Mark and Mandy Collins and family left the Grampus and Bill Harvey, 'a notable musician', was welcomed as the new owner.

High spring tides combined with an incoming storm to create a spectacular display at the bay on 10 March. The new play equipment on the Hall meadow was opened on 10 May.

Major plans to improve the kitchen, toilets, storage facilities and sewage system of the Memorial Hall, together with a large fundraising campaign, were announced.

### 2009

A sudden blizzard hit the village on 3 February leading to much disruption and beautiful photographs. Fundraising for the Hall continued in earnest with over £72,000 raised by the summer, sufficient for plans to be submitted for planning permission with the hope of starting work in November.

Richard Howard's article on the Lost Teahouses of Lee identified 17 places that, at one time or another, have served teas to the public.

### 2010

The Memorial Hall was re-opened on 27 March following major rebuilding and refurbishment at a cost of about £120,000. Fundraising continued, including the launch of the 100 Club Lottery.

A defibrillator was installed at the Grampus with the help of a grant. Some residents had been trained in its use, though more were needed.

## 20 YEARS ON! THE LEE & LINK'EM NEWS: 1997 – 2017, CONTD.

### 2011

Redevelopment of Lee Bay Hotel was due to start in late Spring, but was delayed after the 'slight setback' caused by the failure of the firm engaged to undertake the work. Later reports said that there would be delays at least until 2012.

After a wet morning, the sun shone for the Spring Fayre and £3,300 was raised.

The Mini Monsters Parent and Toddler Group reported it was still going strong and was approaching its 5th birthday.

### 2012

Richard Howard wrote a major article about all the names on the Lee War Memorial.

Colin Wright died on 19 June 2012 after a remarkable career culminating in his significant contribution to the village as a Town and District Councillor.

Progress continued on the 'I live here' Jubilee project gathering information and photographs of people and houses in the village as a record of the village in Jubilee year.

### 2013

For the first time for many years, there was heavy rain for the Spring Fayre. However, the 'keep calm and carry on' mood of 54 helpers running 26 stalls and attractions ensured its success.

Dr Eric Holmes of Lincombe, a highly respected GP, died on 16 August. In 1991, he served in the Gulf war with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

The 'I live here' Jubilee project was published in book form as JubiLEE 2012 with a launch in the Hall on 26 October.

### 2014

There were two more sad deaths later in 2013 but reported in the Spring 2014 edition. Lionel Hill, born in the family home 90 years earlier, attended the laying

of the Hall's foundation stone aged 3 weeks! Although much of his life was in the RAF, he loved Lee and returned here in 1984. Denny Booker died aged 91. He was full-time mechanic on Ilfracombe lifeboat for many years and was a remarkable engineer and inventor.

The second phase of the Hall refurbishment, including the biomass boiler, underfloor heating, roof insulation and secondary glazing at a cost of about £50,000, was completed with the Hall re-opened on 8 March.

Further deaths included Max King at the age of 98 and Alf Keeble.

### 2015

Lee WI marked the centenary of the WI movement with a full programme of activities.

The saga of the Lee Bay Hotel site continued throughout the year with public meetings and surveys. A meeting of the District Council Planning Committee was still awaited.

The Fuchsia List communications network started in the summer.

### 2016

The village celebrated the Queen's 90th birthday with 'Clean for the Queen' beach clean and a red, white and blue theme at the Spring Fair.

The new Bishop of Crediton and one of the first female Bishops came to Lee for the Mothering Sunday service and breakfast.

Beaford Arts continued to promote interesting events in the village with 3 shows in 2016, two in the Hall and one in the Church.

### 2017 AND THE FUTURE

Hopefully, many more years of the Lee & Link'em News!

**L&L**  
NEWS



## VIOLA CHEESEANA



*The Maule Lake, at 2300m*

Lee twinned with the Upper Andes in Chile? Well not exactly. However I am sure villagers will be pleased to know that Martyn Cheese, long time resident of Silvercove, has achieved immortality by having an alpine violet named after him.

The new Encyclopaedia of Flowers of the High Andes, to be published later this year, will show a pretty violet officially named after Martyn who discovered it 45 years ago.

For many years Martyn worked with the acclaimed botanist and explorer John Watson. They met on plant hunting trips to Turkey in the mid-sixties and were working in Chile 45 years ago.

John takes up the story: "In February of 1972 we'd been exploring a richly biodiverse small green seepage bordering a stream which fed down into the Maule lake (in the Andes of southern central Chile) - a new location for us. We were just driving off when this tiny, insignificant violet with just

one flower caught the attention of one or both of us. As background, from our present perspective we know there are over 600 species of violets and pansies worldwide. The Andeans are one of their largest subgroups (sections), with 96 species now described, and more 'in waiting'. I was invited to give an illustrated talk on our Andean venture at Kew in the mid-70s, Afterwards I told the assembled glitterati of our interest in them, and asked to be put in touch with the expert there who might be able to identify ours and add to our knowledge. Imagine how you could have knocked me down with a feather when the most senior botanist replied, "You tell us, Mr Watson, you almost certainly know more about them than anyone alive." Consequently, although we took that solitary lakeside viola as a specimen for Kew, it was never identified there, nor has been to this day."

Andrew Ailes



*Viola Cheeseana, a fine specimen*

## LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

Our thrice-yearly newsletter is delivered free to residents, and available to buy 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 £5 per

year (price as of Summer 2017). If you would like to subscribe, please contact the editors.

Thanks to sponsors, the Lee & Link'em News continues to be freely available online to read and/or download. Please visit [www.leebay.co.uk](http://www.leebay.co.uk) and follow the links.



## North Devon Coast AONB Coastal Creatures Project



Coastal Creatures is an exciting two year project which focuses on the diverse marine and coastal natural heritage of the North Devon Coast AONB. As the AONB is 171 km<sup>2</sup> we decided to focus on four beaches: Combe Martin, Croyde, Westward Ho! and Lee due to their diversity. On these beaches we carry out intertidal species surveys with a team of trained volunteers as well as giving school and college groups the opportunity to join us on trips to their local beach to learn more about wildlife and help record it. We've also been conducting regular beach cleans and educational events focused on getting involved with citizen science activities along the coast.

Lee provides one of the most sheltered shores along the AONB, as a consequence the biodiversity on the shore is quite magnificent. You may see us from time to time on the beach carrying out surveys and running events. This September we are delighted to run our first 24 hour BioBlitz (details below) which is a mass surveying event open to the public. We hope to see you there.

To find out more about the project follow us on Facebook and Twitter @ExploreTheCoast or see our website: [www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk](http://www.northdevon-aonb.org.uk) For more information about the project and ways to get involved contact our Education and Interpretation Officer Cat Oliver at [catherine.oliver@devon.gov.uk](mailto:catherine.oliver@devon.gov.uk) or 07768 214597.

### Lee 24 Hour BioBlitz

10am 22nd -  
4pm 23rd September

Coastal Creatures is teaming up with Coastwise North Devon and the Marine Biological Association to run a 24 hour BioBlitz. The aim of the BioBlitz is to record as many plants and animals as possible within a time frame. We'll be using Lee Village Hall as our base camp and running activities and wildlife walks throughout the day plus exciting opportunities such as night-time rockpooling. Everyone is invited to attend the BioBlitz and come along on guided wildlife walks and help record species in and around Lee.

COASTWISE  
NORTH DEVON



## 2017 SPRING FAIR PHOTO DIARY

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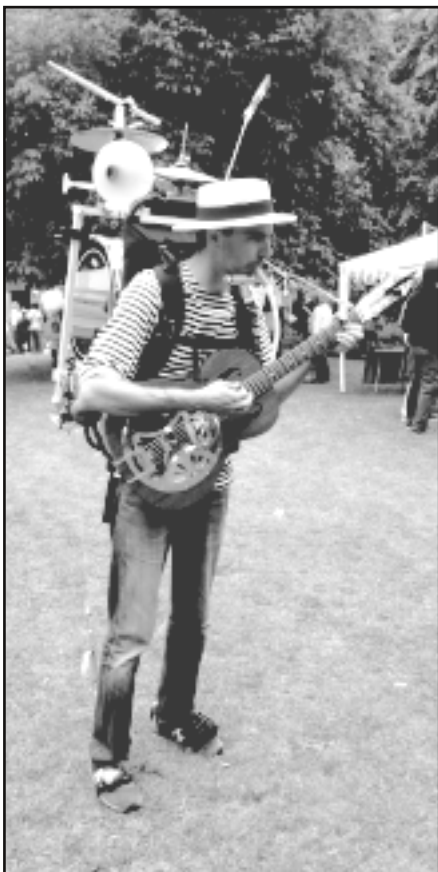
*Three fair ladies!*

PHOTO CREDIT: Paul Scarrott



*Joe Steer jamming with some more 'guitar heroes'*

PHOTO CREDIT: Edna Thompson



*Joe Steer's one-man band*

PHOTO CREDIT: Edna Thompson



*Alan Bannister getting into the seaside spirit*

PHOTO CREDIT: Paul Scarrott



*Andrew Ailes in a seaworthy outfit*

PHOTO CREDIT: Paul Scarrott



## REMEMBERING LEE BAY CAR CRASHES - OVER 40 YEARS APART



On Friday 13th August 1957, we were having lunch in The White House when we were interrupted by a bang. Through the window we saw dust rising from a gap in the sea wall, just above the house. My siblings and I were told to stay indoors while the grown-ups investigated.

It turned out that a black Vanguard descending from Morteohoe had smashed through the wall and fallen some 30 feet onto the rocks below, landing on its wheels. Its occupants - mother, father, and three young daughters - had climbed from the wreckage with only minor injuries, a deliverance that hardly seems possible, looking down on the spot today.

The Daily Express reported the story, identifying the occupants as a family from Braintree. The car was written

off, and remained on the beach for several days. This brought out our latent delinquency, and we behaved like 18th century wreckers, plundering it for handles, badges and bits of trim.

Decades later, one of the daughters returned to Lee. Unfortunately I was out, but she spoke to a friend about her traumatic previous visit.

Winding forward to May 1998: I was working in the house when I heard another bang, and memories stirred. Outside I was confronted by the alarming sight of a heavy Saab, upside-down on the single-track section of road in front of the house, its bonnet resting precariously on the sea-wall. I saw smoke rising, presumably from burning oil, and for a few moments, until it abated, I feared that both car and house would catch fire.

While I fretted, some brave sea-front residents risked closer inspection, and kept the occupants company while the emergency services were called. They arrived remarkably quickly. Two children were rescued unhurt, but the driver and his elderly passenger were taken by ambulance to the North Devon District Hospital.

Later it was rumoured that the driver had fallen ill and lost control while descending the hill, and that his passenger had grasped the wheel in an effort to avoid the sea-wall. This abrupt manoeuvre caused the car to glance off the base of my front-garden wall before overturning.

Peter Richey





# DRIFT

'Hauntingly enigmatic' - folk / blues



**Saturday 24th June - 7.30**

**at The Yoga Barn - Lincombe & Lee**  
**Tickets £10 from Paul Jagers (862975)**  
**or Alex (xgiffoni@yahoo.co.uk)**

**DOORS OPEN 7pm**

**Please bring your own drink and cushion/festival chair**

## REMEMBERING JEANNE WILKINS OF MILLFIELD, LEE



*Teresa & Jeanne, 1934*

Jeanne Wilkins, who died on 12th October 2016 aged 101, had a lifelong love of Lee. It was easily her favourite place with endless happy memories over the years.

She first came to Lee as a schoolfriend of Teresa Richey in 1934, staying with her family at the White House, and after that she came frequently. She loved the view of the sea from the White House, the informality and friendliness of everyone in the village and climbing across the rocks. During part of the war she lived at the White House and also Park Cottage.

In 1946 her mother bought Millfield, which overlooks the bay and the White House, and she and her husband Geoffrey set about creating the garden. It was where they were happiest.

Her eldest son Michael was born at the White House in 1940 after a hectic rock climbing session trying to get to Ilfracombe without being cut off.

Family holidays were always spent at Lee and were set to a certain timetable. Swimming before breakfast, walks to the lighthouse and Rockham, scavenger hunts with the Richey family, fishing for mackerel with Charlie or Bill Cook and barbecues at Bennets Mouth in the evening, followed by games of racing demon and whist or scrabble. Gardening was obligatory and television was forbidden!

For financial reasons she decided to let Millfield and built up a network of tenants who shared her love of Lee. One tenant wrote in the visitors' book 'Disgustingly furnished for the price!' but one family are still coming after 42 years!

She took great pleasure in introducing her grandchildren to Lee (on the rare occasions she hadn't double booked the cottage with tenants). She hurtled through the North Devon lanes in her Beetle car, shooing any oncoming cars or sheep out of the way, taking them to the best local ice-cream shops, the cinema in Ilfracombe and to all her much-loved friends.

As she grew older she was often found pootling in the garden and teaching her grandchildren cards in the sunroom overlooking the bay.

She was pleased that her grandchildren and her great grandchildren loved Lee and being at Millfield as much as she did.

Rupert Wilkins (Jeanne's son)



*Teresa & Jeanne, 1960*

## REMEMBERING JEANNE WILKINS OF MILLFIELD, LEE, CONTD.

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*The Wilkins family at Millfield, 1950*

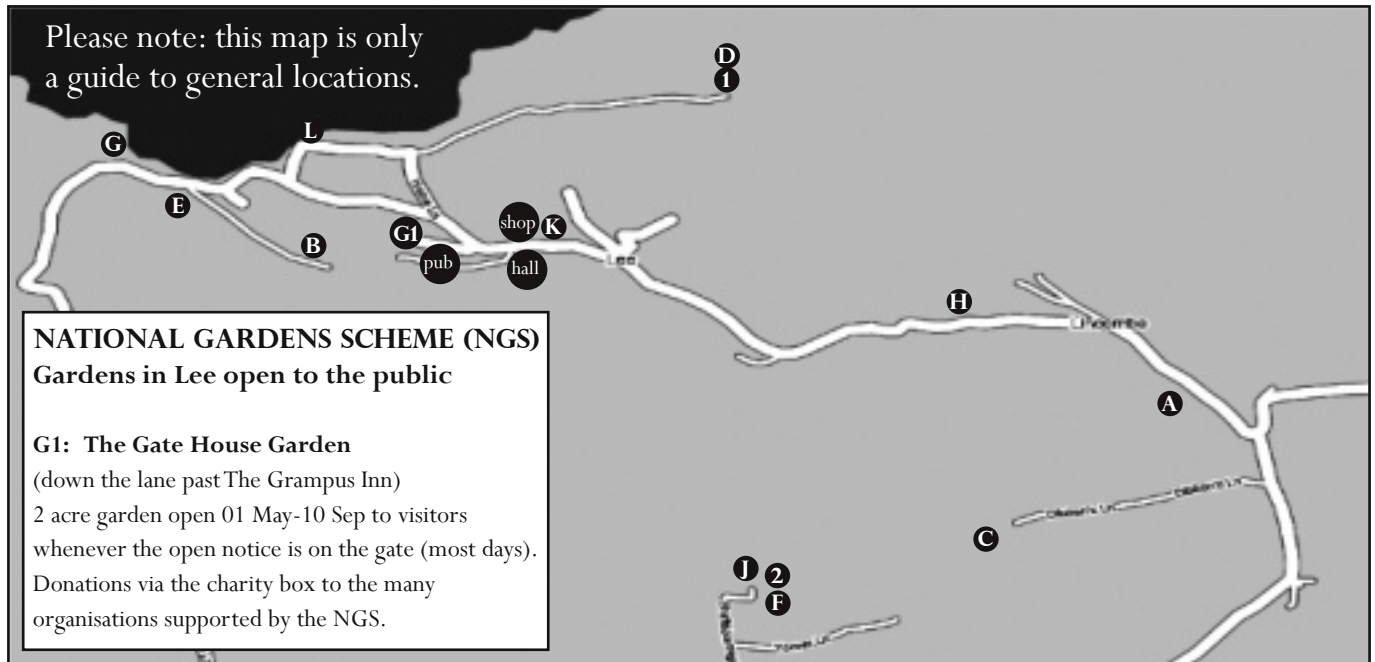
## LEE & LINK'EM NEWS TEAM

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<b>Delivery teams</b>	<i>Many thanks to our delivery teams. If you would like to help with delivering the News, one of the editorial team would be delighted to hear from you.</i>		



# LEE & LINCOMBE ACCOMMODATION & SERVICES GUIDE



## VILLAGE SERVICES

- pub. Pub, Tea Rooms & Village Shop: The Grampus Inn - [www.thegrampus-inn.co.uk](http://www.thegrampus-inn.co.uk) - Bill Harvey\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 862906
- shop. The Old Schoolroom Craft Gallery & Gift Shop - [www.noonoo-art.co.uk](http://www.noonoo-art.co.uk) - Louise Thompson\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 864067
- hall. Lee Memorial Hall - for hire: [leehallreservations@gmail.com](mailto:leehallreservations@gmail.com) - Martin Johncock\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 269751

## BED & BREAKFAST

1. The Blue Mushroom (2/3) - [mushroomblue@btinternet.com](mailto:mushroomblue@btinternet.com) - Mavis & Michael Rogers\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 862947
2. Shaftsboro Farm - [www.shaftsboro.co.uk](http://www.shaftsboro.co.uk) - Margaret & Frederick Kift\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 865029

## SELF CATERING (MAX. PER UNIT)

- A. Lincombe House (2,6,5) - [www.lincombehouse.co.uk](http://www.lincombehouse.co.uk) - Richenda S Carter\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 864834
- B. Chapel Cottage on Beach Lane (9) - [www.chapelcottagelee.co.uk](http://www.chapelcottagelee.co.uk) - Ginny Potts\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 867212
- C. Lower Campscott Farm (3,4,4,4,5,6,6,8) - [www.lowercampscott.co.uk](http://www.lowercampscott.co.uk) - Kathy & Tony Mortimer\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 863479
- D. The Blue Mushroom (2/3) - [mushroomblue@btinternet.com](mailto:mushroomblue@btinternet.com) - Mavis & Michael Rogers\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 862947
- E. Beach House - [www.beachhouseinlee.com](http://www.beachhouseinlee.com) - Zoë Scutts \_\_\_\_\_ [zoe@untitled.co.uk](mailto:zoe@untitled.co.uk)
- F. Shaftsboro Farm - [www.shaftsboro.co.uk](http://www.shaftsboro.co.uk) - Margaret & Frederick Kift\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 865029
- G. Damage Hue apartment (2+2) - [www.damagehue.co.uk](http://www.damagehue.co.uk) - Julien Busselle\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 862876
- H. Lee Chapel (5) & School House (2), combined (7) - [www.visitleechapel.co.uk](http://www.visitleechapel.co.uk) - Geoff Barker\_\_\_\_\_ 07870 239 973
- J. Allender Farm (8,6,6,5,2+) - [www.allenderfarm.co.uk](http://www.allenderfarm.co.uk) - Jane & Jim Bridges\_\_\_\_\_ (01271) 866679
- K. The Old Vicarage (15) - [www.theoldvicaragelee.com](http://www.theoldvicaragelee.com) - Amanda Robertson\_\_\_\_\_ 07973 963 887
- L. Millfield (6) - [www.millfieldcottage.co.uk](http://www.millfieldcottage.co.uk) - Louise Morris\_\_\_\_\_ [bookings@millfieldcottage.co.uk](mailto:bookings@millfieldcottage.co.uk)

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