

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

LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

SUMMER 2018

75P



MYSTERY PAINTING - DO YOU KNOW THE LOCATION OR THE ARTIST?
DATED 1909 AND CAPTIONED 'LEE BAY, DEVON' - MORE INSIDE

www.leebay.co.uk

LEE & LINCOMBE: 2018 DIARY DATES

Thursday 26 July 2.00 pm	Flower Show – Memorial Hall
Sat 27 July – Sun 12 August	Arts and Crafts Fair – Memorial Hall
Sat 25 August – Mon 27 August	Flower Festival in St Matthew's Church with lunches, teas and refreshments in Memorial Hall
Sunday 7 October 6.30 pm	Harvest Festival Service – St Matthew's Church followed by Harvest Supper in Memorial Hall
1st & 3rd Mondays 9.30-11.30 am (term time only)	'Mini-Monsters' – Memorial Hall (Check dates and contact Joe & Jen on 07877 465 323)
Fortnightly Wed & Thurs 10am-4pm	Patchwork and Quilters groups – Memorial Hall (Margaret Hill 864257)
2nd Wednesday 10 am – 4 pm	Water colour workshops – Memorial Hall (Brenda Keeble 267583)
Tuesday 7 pm – 8.30 pm; Thurs 10 am – 11 am & 6.30 – 7.30 pm	Yoga classes (Gentle Yoga Thursday morning) – Yoga Barn, Lincombe (Alex Giffoni 866743)
Friday evenings from 8.00 pm	Open mic nights at the Grampus

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.*
Please visit www.leebay.co.uk for the regularly updated calendar.




WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

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GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS

Following an absence of greetings and farewells to report in the February edition, we are delighted to welcome 4 new families to the village. Sadly, we also have to report the death of a well known village farmer. Fred Kift died on 18 May following a tragic accident on a quad bike. A family tribute to Fred appears later in this edition of the News.

Our newcomers include:

Old Maids Cottage. Suzannah and Bob Cryer took over the running of Old Maids Cottage in September 2017. Suzannah is a drama teacher and Bob is an actor and writer. They are based in Hampshire. To quote Bob 'We have three (young) maids of our own called Hope, Martha and Connie, as well as spaniels Charlie and Islay. We are looking forward to spending our high days and holidays in this little piece of heaven on the North Devon Coast and also hope to involve ourselves soon in the obviously vibrant arts and crafts community'.

The Mill House. Sarah Godwin and family are the new owners of The Mill House. They work their family arable farm in South Wiltshire, growing mainly wheat and oilseed rape, operate a grain store and also have a small wedding barn with accommodation in their recently converted stable yard. They have 2 children - Evie 22, who is in her last year at Kingston University studying Graphic Design and Jack 20, who is a second year at Newcastle University studying Zoology. They have 2 Basset Hounds, Dizzy and Spencer, who love people but not the sea.

Sarah apologises for coming from Cornwall! But she says they have always wished to buy a house by the sea to use for themselves and friends and family out of season and rent out for holidays in the

summer when we are harvesting and unable to escape from the farm. They intend that the Mill House will be in the family for many generations and assure everyone that their plans for the building are entirely focused on conservation and renovation, using a local conservation architect and local contractors. Sarah emphasises that the family fell in love with the Mill House as it is, so the last thing they want to do is change it, just make sure it is around for another 400 years!

Rose Cottage. Matt Dearden, originally from Hampshire, comes from London to Lee with long standing friends and family connections in the local area. He says he is looking forward to enjoying being in a village again after 18 years in London working as a TV producer. He is now a consultant and can work from home much more, which means Rose Cottage. He is aiming to reside full time at Rose Cottage from the end of the summer when a few big projects come to an end. Matt, partner Lyndon, and their families have visited Lee for many years and enjoyed many happy Septembers at The Old Vicarage before deciding to buy in Lee.

Lincombe House Flat. It is a pleasure to welcome a lovely young couple, Matt Hawkshaw and Hana Tuskova, to Lincombe House Flat. Matt is a local lad from Woolacombe and into the surf scene. He makes surf boards for Gulf Stream in Woolacombe. Hana comes from a spa town with a completely unpronounceable name in Slovakia. She is a health care assistant. They are enjoying living in the village and we wish them well.

FIRST AID REQUIRED?

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

NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

Looking back to my notes in the February edition of the News, I can now report on a very successful Mothering Sunday service and breakfast. The ladies' choir sang beautifully and the breakfast was much enjoyed by the 50 or so people of all generations who were present.

The Easter services and the Easter Monday coffee morning also went well, though attendance at the Easter Sunday service was slightly lower than in recent years. However, the choir sang very well and I am most grateful to choir members who so willingly lead the singing on special occasions. It was good to welcome many people to the coffee morning, villagers and visitors alike, which was a very pleasant occasion. The Easter egg hunt was much enjoyed by many of the children who came.

A week or so after Easter, St Matthew's Annual Parochial Meeting took place. I am pleased to report that the accounts that were presented show a sound financial position which is particularly encouraging following the major work that has been done on the heating and lighting in the last couple of

years. The report, recently received following the regular 5 yearly inspection of the church building, revealed no major surprises so it gives the Church Council the ability to focus on keeping up to date with maintenance rather than major repair work. You may have seen one example of important maintenance work with the excellent job Alan Knowles has completed on the repainting and repair of the church railings. At the Annual Meeting, Margaret Hill and I were re-elected Churchwardens. Other officers and members of the Church Council remained the same.

The next major event will be the Flower Festival in the church with lunches and teas in the Hall over the August Bank Holiday weekend from 25 to 27 August. The theme of the Flower Festival will be 'Our Village'. We hope that village organisations will take responsibility for one arrangement each that reflects what they do so that the event is a real village community project. Please put the dates in your diary. Further publicity will follow.

Ian Stuart, Churchwarden & Vice-Chair St Matthew's PCC



Deliveries to Lee & Lincombe residents & visitors

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LEE MEMORIAL HALL UPDATE



Following a lingering, cold, wet and even snowy winter, spring has finally arrived in the village. Pixie Meadow is transformed with the fuchsia plants growing down the roadside verge, following the usual beautiful display of daffodils. What was a boggy field is now a lovely, cut grassy meadow with wild flowers and a much improved Heather bed. Our regular garden helpers can be seen every other week tidying and weeding and the flowers and bushes around the hall are coming into bloom.

During the cold winter the hall has been a warm and inviting haven for all our regular users.

The hall came to the aid of the Ilfracombe Red Petticoats dance group for several Thursday evenings when their regular practice location was unavailable.

Over the last few months the hall will have hosted six very different parties and celebrations, including Ian and Cynthia Stuart's 50th wedding anniversary. There was also a baby shower.

On 17 April, The North Devon AONB (Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) held another public event in the hall for species identification. They are becoming regular users too.

We held our hall annual AGM on 23 April. There was much to discuss including the change to our Constitution which is gradually being realised. It was pleasing to see a good number of villagers attending.

Paul Jagers put on another brilliant concert in aid of the Syrian refugees on 27 April. The Sound of Sirens returned to wow the local audience again.

Our first wedding reception of the year was in early May. The fairy lights in the meadow looked very pretty as they twinkled into the evening.

On 7 May the Flower Show committee ran their annual coffee morning, a preamble to the summer Flower Show. It was an opportunity to buy a programme and a Fuchsia plant to grow for the event at the end of July.

The Spring Fair on Bank Holiday Monday was a great success, raising a total of over £2,800. A full report of the fair is included later in the News.

Please remember we have a website which gives full details about forthcoming events and how you can arrange your own occasion. Please check the on-line calendar first and give us as much notice as possible if you want to hold a special event.

www.leememorialhall.co.uk

Jane Johncock

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COLLECTING MEMORIES



Sitting at home on a mountain top overlooking the Pacific Ocean, if I close my eyes, I can still walk across the beach at Lee with perfect recall. Treading carefully over the jagged rocks seamed with pink marble that sit below the Old Mill, I leap across the stream, and then avoid the slick green kelp-covered rocks below the sea wall that, when crossed in thin holiday flip-flops, can send you bottom-first into a rock pool. If I look up, I can see the short rusty pipe protruding from the wall that would unceremoniously dump waste water from The White House onto unsuspecting holidaymakers below. The White House was where I spent every holiday, every half term, every long weekend of my childhood. My great-grandmother, Charlotte Robinson (pictured below - "Daidie" as she was known to her family), bought the house between the wars and her grandson, my cousin Peter Richey, still lives there. Between them they have kept the house in the family for almost a hundred years. Five generations have a bone-deep bond to this house and its intimate connection to the sea. Despite being above the beach, in rough weather

the salt spray and seaweed made regular incursions, in much the same way that a previous owner of the Mill once declared to reporters, after a massive storm in the late 90s breached the walls of the house, "I bought this house because the sea is in my blood – but I never expected it to be in my living room!"

My earliest memories of Lee, in the late Sixties and early Seventies, were always set to the soundtrack of my father's 8-track tapes. Immediately on our arrival, his Akai hi-fi would be plugged into the questionable Bakelite electrical sockets in the White House, and the sixteenth century lime-washed walls would reverberate to the sounds of The Beach Boys. Though they were singing about the beaches thousands of miles away in California where I live now, to me they were always singing about Lee. When I hear "Do It Again", I don't see palm trees waving against a sapphire sky, I think of walking to the Grampus after dark, with nothing but an Ever-Ready torch to find our way; playing pooh sticks under the footbridge on Farm Lane; the overpowering smell of the seaweed as we rounded the corner of the sea wall and ran down the slope onto the beach. I remember the two ancient, white-haired sisters who used to run the Village Shop & Post Office. All the goods were on shelves behind the counter and had to be requested by name. As children, my sister and I were terrified of this taciturn twosome, who grunted and puffed up and down in their pink nylon overalls, retrieving articles we read from the shopping list given to us by our mother: baked beans, marmalade, and occasionally, much to our mortification, "STs". The songs have echoes of



COLLECTING MEMORIES, CONTD.

afternoons spend at Saunton, scrambling around in the sand dunes, hunting for the shells that looked like sunsets which could be found at the surf's edge, and stopping in Croyde for Devonshire 99's on the way back to Lee. I picture the long slog up the hill above the White House to the old Golf Course, stopping along the way to be hoisted up to look into the damp cleft in the rock we called "The Wishing Well" and the smell of wet bracken that would greet us as we emerged from the damp stone steps above the wooden gate bearing the sign "National Trust".

It was these memories that led me to start collecting pictures of Lee. The first picture I bought was a print by Louise Thompson that I saw for sale in The Grampus back in 1996. It caught my eye because a little section of the White House was featured in the corner and I remember to this day how sophisticated I felt handing over 45 pounds for my first piece of "art". A year later, my husband, who had grown his own attachment to Lee, wrote to Louise Thompson asking if she would take on a commission of the White House as a birthday present for me. She wrote back enclosing a wonderful, dark and wild print she had done, which has since hung in pride of place wherever we've lived. The launch of eBay provided a new source. I had a standing search for any item containing the words "Lee Bay Ilfracombe" and over the years have built up a sizeable collection of vintage post cards, paintings and prints. I am especially fond of a print that depicts Bill & Charlie Cook with their boats anchored at low tide – I can almost hear them calling out "Half hour trip round the lighthouse and



back!". Another favorite is a watercolor of the Old Mill at high tide, bought for me by my father to cheer me up after an injury.

COVER STORY - Mystery Painting

Most of the pictures are instantly recognizable, but the location of this turn of the century water color (pictured on the cover) has so far eluded me. I found it hidden in the lid of an inlaid writing box belonging to my grandparents, and is clearly labeled "1909 Lee Bay Devon" in pencil on the back. I would love to know if any current or former Lee residents can help me place it! There's a full colour version online at <http://loveleebay.co.uk/painting/> and please email painting@loveleebay.co.uk if you can help.

Louise Sandy

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LEE SPRING FAIR REPORT

The Spring Fair, held on Monday 28 May was, once again, a great success with both visitors and locals queuing to come into the meadow, some of them having enjoyed delicious light lunches and homemade cakes in the hall beforehand. The sun was shining and everyone was happy and eager to enjoy the many stalls, games, barbecue and cakes and to buy their raffle tickets in the hope of winning one (or more) of the lovely prizes.

Ilfracombe Town Crier and the Mayor of Ilfracombe came along and added to the excitement of the occasion and live entertainment was provided by Joe Steer's one man band, followed by many of his young students playing their guitars and singing throughout the afternoon, much to the delight of everyone - especially their friends and families.

This year our theme was 'pirates' and there were some amazing costumes worn by many of our stall holders and helpers and the meadow was decked with bunting and a 'Jolly Roger' flag flying from the flagpole to complete the picture.

Throughout the day there was a constant queue in the Memorial Hall for delicious cream teas and refreshments and at the end of the afternoon all that was left were a few crumbs and the washing up!

There were more than 60 people involved in the planning and running of this annual event so a huge thank you to everyone and of course to all of our lovely locals and visitors who came along and supported us – it was all very worthwhile with the fantastic amount of £2804.79 being raised which will go towards helping maintain the Memorial Hall and St Matthew's Church in our beautiful village of Lee.

Edna Thompson

[Ed: We've compiled some wonderful photos over the next few pages, supplied by Edna Thompson and Paul Scarrott - thank you both!]



Ship's cooks Jane and Geoff working hard....no sausages left unturned!



Buccaneers Lucy and John invade Lee!

LEE SPRING FAIR PHOTO MEMORIES



Seb and David are left in charge of the wildlife



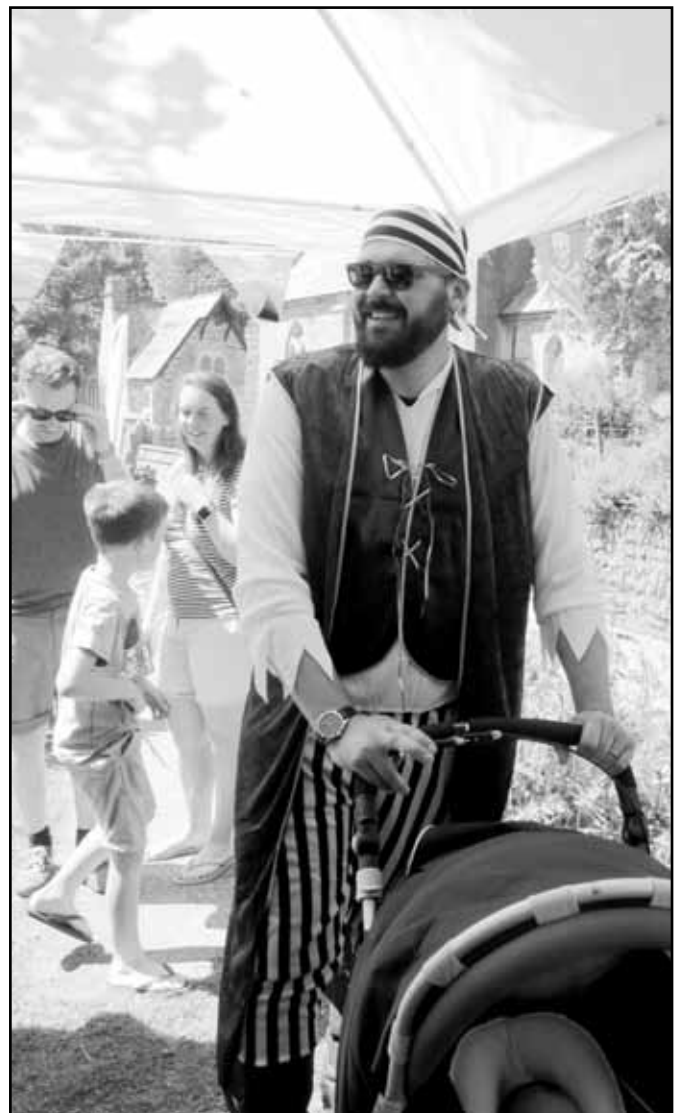
Matt from Rose Cottage takes a dead eye aim at the coconut shy - watch out!



Privateer Maia introduces a new hoopla stall to tempt seafarers



Owen from Windjammer selling all the booty at the White Elephant



Cap'n Kieran from Crowness introduces his young pirate son Oliver to the landlubbers

LEE SPRING FAIR PHOTO MEMORIES



Cap'n Bannister keeping mutiny at bay



Pixie Meadow becomes a gathering place for pirates of all ages to try for a pot of gold in the raffle



Thirsty pirates who have come ashore at Lee find refreshments a'plenty in the Memorial Hall



Privateer Maia does a roaring trade throughout the afternoon with a steady stream of pirates trying their luck for some fantastic trinkets and treasures

LEE SPRING FAIR PHOTO MEMORIES



Resident swashbucklin' musician Joe entertains the crowds along with some talented young pirate trainees



Bucketloads of treasure on offer at the raffle



Becca, Peter and Parrot in search of treasure and the welly wanging field



The Jolly Roger watches over all hands on deck at the hugely popular cake stall

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM & UPDATE

This year's annual general meeting took place on Tuesday 15th May at the Lee Memorial Hall. After receiving reports from the Chairman, Treasurer, and Secretary the members' committee was appointed for 2018/19. We were delighted to welcome two new committee members: David Biggerstaff from the Grange, and Owen Rolfe from Windjammer. The existing committee was unanimously re-elected with Paul Thom and Paul Scarrott re-adopted in their non-voting honorary roles of Treasurer and Secretary respectively. After the open meeting Eric Couling was invited to continue his role as Chairman, and Alan Bannister was gladly confirmed as a co-opted member in matters pertaining to the Hotel development.

The full 2018/19 committee comprises: Eric Couling, Carolyn Weekes, Pat Coates, Paul (Hon. Treasurer) and Marion Thom, Mavis Rogers, Elizabeth Gilliat, Trevor Greaves, David Biggerstaff, Owen Rolfe (co-opted), Alan Bannister (co-opted), and Paul Scarrott (Hon. Secretary).

Our Aims

"The aims of the Association are to promote and

safeguard the amenities of Lee and Lincombe and their surroundings, and to pursue matters of common interest to the villagers, having due regard to the area being subject to Conversation Policies."

We are all passionate about preserving the special attributes and loveliness of the villages, and we will work on your behalf, and with your support to do so. As our eldest resident stressed at the AGM, there is a clear need for the Association to stay active to protect the interests of the Villages.

The Lee Bay Hotel Development

The committee continues to oppose the Acorn Blue planning application and amendments, because of its scale, urban design, adverse impact on the landscape, and lack of amenities for visitors and the community. We believe it would create a gated community of second homes within the village and indeed, somewhat ironically, the development company named on the deeds is 'Lee Bay Village Ltd'.

The Friends of Lee Bay (FLB) co-ordinated by Heather Booker has produced a brochure, in conjunction with



Heather and Phil with "A Better Way" brochure

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM & UPDATE, CONTD.

the association and a conservation minded developer Friday Street Ltd, entitled 'A Better Way – for Lee Bay'. The brochure describes why most villagers and residents oppose the application, and importantly, puts forward a viable alternative. The fully funded proposal incorporates a boutique hotel, seafront restaurant, public walks and areas, and lower impact open market houses and affordable homes. The brochure has been distributed to every resident, every councillor, the planners, and other interested parties. Its production was a team effort, but special thanks go to Phil Johncock whose photographs made such a difference, and to Gina-Luisa and Stuart (Designhut and the Coach House) for its presentation and layout which is stunning. If you would like to join Friends of Lee Bay which is a network of permanent residents, holiday home owners, and visitors who want to keep Lee Bay special and beautiful, then please contact FLB at project@loveleebay.co.uk or visit <http://loveleebay.co.uk/friends/>.

In addition, we have made specific representations arising from the new North Devon and Torridge Local Plan and the current and proposed National Planning Policy Frameworks (NPPF). There is no mention of Lee or this development in the new Local Plan which sets out land use and building requirements for North Devon for many years to come. In fact, the plan is 3000 homes beyond the government requirement. The Local Plan also stresses the need for any new build in a protected or coastal heritage area to preserve and enhance the character and landscape. The NPPFs state that no major development (more than 10 houses) should be approved in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty otherwise than in exceptional circumstances. We do not feel the application meets either benchmark.

We continue to make our case to local councillors and other parties like the National Trust. At a recent Ilfracombe Town Council planning meeting, councillors had a tied vote on this application which is a move away from their unanimous support for Acorn Blue's proposal 12 months ago. The National Trust has an interest or charge on the lands that comprise the public areas of the development including the car park, café,

and toilets. We've met with their regional manager and written to the new Director General Hilary McGrady explaining that we think their interest could be mis-read as a tacit approval for this proposed large urban development.

Our position is supported by Historic England and the conservation officer who believe that the proposal will do harm to the heritage and landscape, and that its design is not in keeping with the character appraisal of the conservation area. Speaking of which, the conservation area has been extended, from 11 hectares to 20 hectares, now covering lands further up Home and Warcombe Lanes. The Economic Development Officer for the council believes the application will not improve the economy, tourism, or be of benefit to the community. There are over 200 objections online and the petition including online and written copy is now over 2000 signatures! A special thank you to Alan Bannister for organising this tremendous campaign.

The application could be heard at any time with monthly planning committee meetings. Our local councillors are unable to update us as to the current position. By the time of print and distribution you may know the outcome. Rest assured in either eventuality we will do our best to preserve the beauty of the bay and the interests of our members.

The Public Toilets

We continue to facilitate their opening, funded by Ilfracombe Town Council, for 6 months and their cleaning by Barry – who does a wonderful job and we all appreciate the pretty flowers outside.

The Defibrillator

A heart defibrillator is available 24/7 at the Grampus PH, telephone 862906. Its pads have been renewed and the equipment is fully charged. We have met with SW Ambulance onsite and they are happy with our arrangements, and we report back to them monthly confirming its good operational order. Remember in the event of a person having a heart attack your first

RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION AGM & UPDATE, CONTD.



Bill Harvey, our first responder, with the defibrillator at the Grampus Inn

actions should be to dial 999 and commence resuscitation if necessary. Bill Harvey is a first responder and in addition to defibrillator duties he has, in the last few months, assisted a resident with a broken hip (for several hours during the early hours) and administered to a walker who had fainted. Bill also remains first point of contact for council services in the event of flooding and has access to a supply of sandbags.

Miscellaneous

We have brought the various issues of parking (on bends), hedges and drains (the need to maintain), and Himalayan Balsam (proscribed weed) to the attention of members. We have replaced bins and made requests to the council concerning broken street lights and poor site security at the hotel (the boarding has now been improved). We have also requested that the slip road onto the beach is fixed.

14 planning applications have been brought to our attention, including three for the Hotel, and we have made representations on your behalf on five occasions. Only one of the applications that has been heard has been refused by North Devon Council. Where possible we have tried to facilitate resolution to persistent problems such as the regular discharge of sewage into the stream because of perceived negligence.

Subscriptions

The annual subscription will remain at £5 per annum. To date only 49 households have paid. We request that if you haven't paid you kindly consider doing so because: we are a community, we are active, working together as an association to affect the council and councillors is more effective than not, we are all volunteers, and ultimately if not supported the association will dissipate and we will be reliant on Ilfracombe councillors to act on our behalf.

The association's details are Lloyds Bank, Ilfracombe - Sort Code 30-94-52, Account No. 00069925 - also please add your name. Of course, you can pay cash to the Treasurer or any committee member if you prefer.

And finally, please feel free to contact any committee member if we can help in anyway to keep our villages beautiful, well cared for, safe and happy.

Paul Scarrott (LLRA Secretary - Pes-2@outlook.com) &
Eric Couling (LLRA Chair - ericleedevon@gmail.com)

LEE FLOWER SHOW - AROUND THE CORNER!



It's June – which means the Flower Show is just around the corner!! How are those fuchsias holding up?

This is your reminder to get arranging your flowers, practising your cakes, growing your potatoes, potting your plants, and creating your works of art!

If you think it's too late to enter, think again – the Flower Show Schedule is now online, so you can download and print your very own copy today: <http://loveleebay.co.uk/flower-show/> or <http://leebay.co.uk/flower-show-2018-2/>

TO WAR – A head's up to all our devoted villagers, last year one of our prized cups left the village! This year we have yet more entries from interlopers from outside the village (shock horror), they have won other shows, and are coming back for more, so together we must stand and in the words of Lord Kitchener...



ARTY INSPIRATION - -If you need any ideas for your arty projects, go and look at that sculpture in Sandy Cove to get your creative juices flowing.

BEANS BEANS, GLORIOUS BEANS – Last year we didn't get many entries in our produce section, like beans and tomatoes, but for all the healthy, clean eaters and/or dieters out there, beans are great! They're full of vitamin B and everything! Time to get out your gardening gloves and start that vegetable patch you've always been dreaming of.

MENS ONLY – a patronising and sexist category if ever there was one, eh? Prove us wrong and enter all the other Domestic categories or fulfil your destiny and make your mark in the men's own and get your piping bags at the ready to ice some spectacular fairy cakes.

PAINT OFF – If anybody out there watched the Great British Painting challenge and thought I can do better than that (and so do we) – here's your chance to prove it. This year our painting is entitled 'Woodland Life', so get your paintbrushes in hand and those canvases primed for a masterpiece in the making.

I'M A POET, AND I DIDN'T EVEN KNOW IT – Fittingly, we had Pirates for the Spring Fair and now we have Shipwrecks for this year's poem. While technically there were no pirates in Lee, there were plenty of smugglers and wreckers – which always equals a good shipwreck or two! The BBC was even filming down in the bay about them. So, if that isn't some great inspiration, what is?

FUTURE OF THE FLOWER SHOW – On a more serious note, Flower Shows seem to be on the decline around the country, we know that closer to home the Ilfracombe show recently came to an end. Our amazing and traditional show has been going since 1930; however it can only survive through continued participation and villagers giving it a go. You may not be the best horticulturalist, baker, or crafter in the world, but hey ho as they say – it's the taking part that matters, and truer words can never be said. So, let's rally together, and make this a Flower Show to remember.

Lucy Scarrott



'DENNY BOOKER' HONOURED



Heather with 'Denny Booker' and the RNLI crews and volunteers

Volunteers and crews for the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI) turned out "en masse" to the naming ceremony for 'Denny Booker', at Ilfracombe Lifeboat Station on 16th March 2018.

The new ToolTrak launch vehicle, for the inshore lifeboat, was officially named in honour of Denny Booker. Heather Booker, The Gate House, had generously donated the full cost in memory of her dearly beloved late husband Denny who died on October 26th, 2013.

Denny and Heather moved into the village in the early 1970s, with Heather opening her garden under the National Garden Scheme since 1980. More recently Heather has been the driving force behind the Friends of Lee Bay, a network and campaign to protect and preserve our beautiful bay and landscape.

The ToolTrak is an entirely fitting memorial for Denny because of his love of engineering and his past involvement with the Lifeboat Station. In the 1970s after voluntary service with St John Ambulance and the Coastguard Rescue Team, he became full time engineer to the Ilfracombe

Lifeboat Station and part-time speed boat operator of his 'Tornado'. Denny was renowned for solving difficult mechanical problems. On several occasions he was called upon to restore the good working order of the lifeboat engines under difficult conditions at sea - this despite his sea sickness!

This particular ToolTrak was first off the production line of completely redesigned launch vehicles to enable them to push the Inshore Lifeboats over all the various terrains they encounter around the shores of the British Isles, including Eire. Mud, soft sand, pebbles & rocks must be crossed before reaching the sea and then launched at the right depth for the Lifeboat. They must be able to get the boat to the sea in all weathers and all states of tide.

The gratitude of the RNLI was superbly demonstrated by their full turn out of all volunteers, a lovely buffet and bottle of white wine to christen the 'Denny Booker' (although Heather did say that Denny loved red wine!), a speech by the Station Master, and a tour of the 'Shannon' class by Denny's modern-day successor Leigh Hunt. The 'Shannon' class is a magnificent £2 million, up to the moment, jet propelled,

'DENNY BOOKER' HONOURED, CONTD.

fully equipped with multiple redundancy, and an abundance of mind blowing technology for navigation, engine management, and rescue.

Heather was delighted the very next evening to see Leigh and his crew on a BBC documentary rescuing two men suffering from hyperthermia after they had jumped into the sea at Watermouth Cove to save their dog. Since the naming ceremony 'Denny Booker' has been in regular use helping to save lives and keep people safe at sea. It is sobering and yet marvellous to realise the crews are all volunteers who will

drop what they are doing, at a moment's notice, to turn out 24/7 in all weathers to save lives. It is equally heart-warming that others will donate so much to give them the equipment and amenities they need. Well done and thank you Heather.

Next time you pass the Gate House (or the community seat overlooking Borough Valley) take the time to admire the craftsmanship and engineering of Denny displayed by the woodwork and within the hydraulic mechanism of the main gate.



Heather with 'Denny Booker', Brian Nicholls (One of Denny's apprentices, their best man, and longstanding friend), Bill Harvey, and Eleanor and Paul Scarrott

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Fred Kift



30 December 1943 – 18 May 2018

Fred was born at Shaftsboro Farm 74 years ago. He always worked on the farm which has been in the family for a number of generations.

Fred was a farmer, a real old school farmer, a home boy, a provider, a producer of food for the table. He always thought ahead when it came to raising his poultry, his veg for the table, thinking of the year ahead for his family. He loved the days out logging and the days chatting to the walkers as they passed through the fields. He relished the banter between old and new friends. He left a mark on everyone's heart. He had this certain touch with a cheeky smile, a sense of humour that sometimes he would push a bit far! But he always left a mark on everyone he met, and left them with a smile and a memory.

Old fashioned and set in his ways, stubborn and unable to move on, he still battled the elements of wind and rain, of the sun that baked the ground. Despite all his ill health, day in and day out, he still tended to his stock with a trusty dog and sometimes more than one trusty dog by his side. Fred loved his dogs and, through the years, has had countless numbers of dogs, all of whom were devoted to him. Never trained and never placed on a lead, every dog would always work for him in some way or another. With a few choice words from Fred, the dogs would split the sheep up or send them the wrong way!

Fred, you will be sadly missed by us all, from friends near and friends far, from the loved ones of your family to the people you just met. Fred, you touched every one with your heart. You have left a spark inside us all that we will always cherish and love in your memory. The spark will never fade; it will be there in the early morning sun and in the night time stars. We have seen sunny days that we thought would never end. We have seen lonely times when we could not find a friend, but we always thought that we would see you again.

- a tribute from the family



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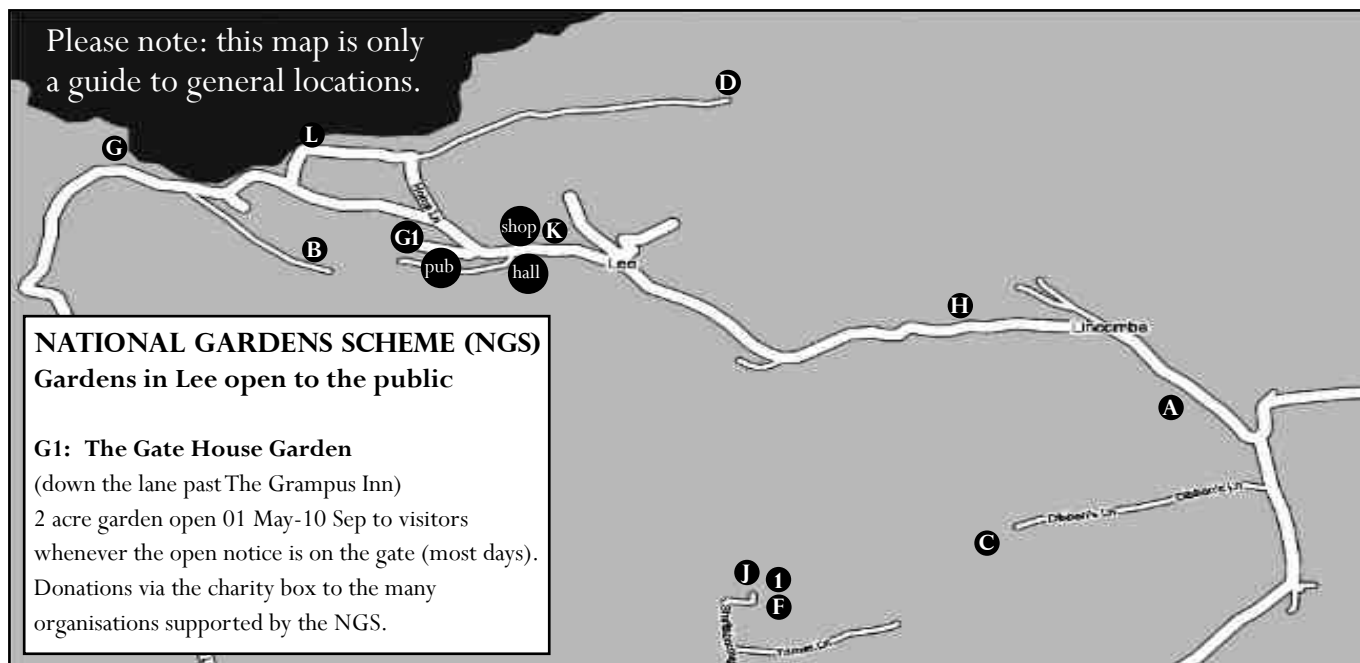
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- pub. The Grampus Inn - www.thegrampus-inn.co.uk - Bill Harvey _____ (01271) 862906
- shop. The Old Schoolroom Craft Gallery & Gift Shop - www.noonoo-art.co.uk - Louise Thompson _____ (01271) 864067
- hall. Lee Memorial Hall - for hire: leehallreservations@gmail.com - Martin Johncock _____ (01271) 269751

BED & BREAKFAST

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