

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

LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

SUMMER 2020

75P



A PHOTOGRAPH TAKEN IN THE VILLAGES IN 1883 BUT WHERE?
SEE INSIDE FOR THE 2020 VIEW AND MORE HISTORY.

www.leebay.co.uk

LEE & LINCOMBE: 2020 DIARY DATES

Lee and Lincombe remain on coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. Nothing to see here just yet.

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.

COVER PHOTO: THE MAIN ROAD AT LINCOMBE IN 1883



2020 PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF IAN STUART

The fascinating 1883 cover picture has come to us from Roy Dyer. Roy has lived here all his life and has lived for many years at 1 Whitestone Cottage. The photograph is of the road at Lincombe just before Old Tree Cottage on the way to Whitestone and Lee. Old Tree Cottage is now a lovely family house lived in for over 40 years by Jan and Eric Holmes and their family and where Jan still lives.

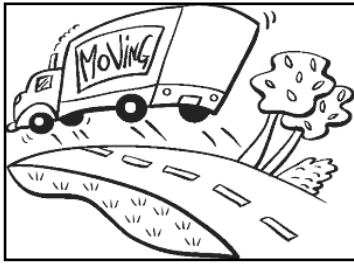
The two cottages on the right hand side have long since disappeared with The Link occupying the site but set back further from the road. However, the second one is of great interest to Roy. It is where his great grandfather and great grandmother lived. At the time of the photo, Roy's grandmother (his father's mother) Besse White was about 13. John Dyer, whom she was later to marry, was

14 years old at the time. They moved to Slade after they married.

Roy has researched census records before and after 1883. The 1841 census records 3 cottages between Lincombe Manor and Baker's Farm. One is Old Tree Cottage and the other two are opposite. Roy wonders if they shared a chimney or whether there is another one. There seems to be a ruin or another building on the right of the photograph.

The cottages had been pulled down by the time of the 1891 census. Although obscured by vegetation, Roy says there is a horse drinking trough opposite the pump which may have been linked with a spring.

GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS



We are sorry to bid farewell to Julia Waghorn and Peter Cresswell who moved on 1 May from Grey Cottage having been there for 19 years. They have moved to a small

village on the Glastonbury side of Bridgwater in Somerset. Julia has been a renowned caterer all her working life and most of us, at one time or another, have enjoyed her food at a party, wedding reception or other functions. After a break, Julia is hoping to resume her catering but on a reduced scale.

It is very sad to report the death of Ged Coates of Wayside, Lee, on Easter Sunday. A full tribute to Ged appears at the end of this edition of the News.

We are always pleased to welcome newcomers to the villages and to say farewell to anyone leaving. Please let us have relevant information for future editions.

FIRST AID REQUIRED?

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

LEE AND LINCOMBE DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

There has been a tremendous sense of community in the villages during these very difficult times, not least because of the setting up of the Lee and Lincombe Helpers Network. Its initiators, Kate Madden and Joe Steer, have kindly provided the following summary about the network.

In March it became clear that the coronavirus pandemic would have a profound effect on all of our lives. Kate Madden and Joe Steer formed the 'Lee & Lincombe Helpers Network' in order to help any residents in need. The idea of the network is for the less vulnerable residents of village to provide support to those more at risk.

Tasks carried out by the helpers have included picking up

and delivering essentials such as food and medical supplies for those residents who are unable to do so themselves. The group also offers emotional support where possible to those in isolation.

More than 20 volunteers make up the group that can quickly coordinate tasks via a 'WhatsApp' group.

Gina-Luisa also created an updatable webpage containing up to date information on local services that offer home delivery, as well as useful links to various important information related to the pandemic. Printed versions of this information were then distributed to those in the villages who are not online.



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NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

Like all other churches, St Matthew's has been closed since 23 March. At the time of writing this report, the church is still closed, but, hopefully, by the time this is read, the church should be open again on a limited scale. We hope the church will be open between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm on Sundays and Thursdays for private prayer and quiet contemplation. Information about safety and hygiene precautions, such as using the hand sanitiser on entering and leaving the church, will be clearly displayed. The gap of around 72 hours between openings is to allow any possible infection to die. We have no information as yet about the resumption of services but we hope it will not be too long.

Re-reading the church news in the February Lee & Link'em News is depressing. Plans for Mothering Sunday, Easter and the Annual Church Meeting clearly did not happen. However, with a sense of optimism, we hope that four occasions which are very much for the whole community will take place.

On Sunday 4 October at 6.30 pm, we hope to hold the Harvest Festival celebration service in church, followed by the usual splendid Harvest Supper in the Hall. Then on Remembrance Sunday 8 November, there will be the monthly all-age service in the church at 8.45 am, followed by a gathering around the War Memorial at about 9.30 am. This will include the reading of all the names on the memorial and the two minutes silence. It is always a moving occasion. Looking forward to Christmas, the village Carol Service will be at 6.30 pm on Wednesday 16 December with seasonal refreshments in the hall afterwards. Then on Christmas Eve at 10.00 pm, there will be the traditional Christmas communion service.

So, be optimistic. Put the dates in your diaries now!

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

LEE MEMORIAL HALL UPDATE



When we closed the hall back in February for a couple of months to begin work on the new floor, we had no idea of what was to come and just how long it would be unavailable and out of action. Here we are in June and we still cannot say when life might return to some normality.

It was fortunate that we made the decision to start our hall projects when we did. We were successful getting funding from a number of sources. Fullabrook provided

half the cost of the floor and additional funding came by way of County councillor Paul Crabb, from his community fund. Geoff Fowler, Netti Pearson and Daniel Turton each gave us funds from their own community councillor grant fund and the Rank Foundation also contributed. Apart from Fullabrook, the additional funds were split between the floor and a new play area.

We would like to thank all the contractors who played their part in transforming the hall, in providing a great



LEE MEMORIAL HALL UPDATE, CONTD.

floor that will last for years and years to come. We are also grateful that they were still able to work during this time and it all came together as planned. Charles Holloway and his company were responsible for the bulk of the work, being the removal of the old floor and underfloor heating, the excavation and preparation for the new floor. NMA Flooring laid the concrete screed. Bearman's Plumbing Centre was responsible for decommissioning and recommissioning the heating. Finally the new flooring was laid by North Devon Flooring. They did a great job and sorted out the odd repair and laid carpet in the clock tower at no extra cost, as they said, just to give something back to the local community.

There were other jobs that needed repair and alteration during the project and we are very grateful to Charles who came back time and time again to solve, fix and adjust various problems, to ensure the hall could be up and running again.

Except with COVID-19, it wasn't!

Sadly the hall is still closed and all the wedding receptions booked this year have been either cancelled or postponed. The regular village groups cannot meet here and other events, including hall events and other public bookings are, at the moment, being cancelled.

The better news is that we finally organised for the meadow drainage to be improved. Derek Adams and his colleagues carried out this work which involved laying land drains and also removing the old play equipment. This was well past its best and, with help from the funding above, we are installing a new play area with swings and tower. The expectation is that work on this will begin in early August.

We are very grateful to Matt Smith from The Grange who has been looking after the meadow. Whilst the Community Group at Hele were unable to come down and tend the borders around the hall and cut the grass, Matt has been doing the mowing, He has dug up and removed all the tree saplings individually at the top of



the meadow and, over time, will be returning part of it to a wild flower meadow.

With the decision to go ahead with the new flooring, play equipment and dealing with the drainage problems, we were prepared for our finances to be depleted. Then, with the arrival of Coronavirus, the hall had to stay closed and all our current bookings were cancelled. Therefore we were very relieved that we were eligible to receive the government's Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant of £10,000. This obviously makes a huge difference as our usual fundraising from the Spring Fair hasn't happened and recently we have had to make the decision to cancel the Arts and Crafts Fair too.

However, we still need to keep fundraising and we are very thankful for the 100 club. There are still a few numbers left so if you wish to join please contact our treasurer Edna Thompson (on 44edna@gmail.com) and/or download a copy of the direct debit form from the hall website.

We have had a virtual committee meeting and the trustees are keeping in touch with emails. The Annual General Meeting however will be held later in the year once we are permitted to have indoor meetings.

Although the hall is closed for now we are still happy to take future bookings. Please refer to our website: www.leememorialhall.co.uk where you can check availability on the hall calendar and find all relevant information.

Jane Johncock, Hall Secretary

NEWS FROM THE GRAMPUS INN - OUR VILLAGE PUB



The Grampus Family would like to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to everyone who has continued to support us during the lockdown. We are continuing to deliver groceries and homemade pub food 7 days a week. We also offer take-away items for collection – so you can still get some of our yummy chips or our cream teas

with homemade scones, or a bottle of wine or Grampus gin! We also stock basic items such as milk, bread, and vegetables; we have an extensive list of other items available.

Our goal is to ensure everyone has access to what they need without having to go to the shops if they are shielding or isolating. No order is too big or too small and there is no delivery fee.

If you would like to place an order with us, please ring the pub at 01271 862 906 or send us an email at thegrampusinn@gmail.com.

Thank you again for all your support.

Bill, Francis, and Kristy

DAYS GONE BY - MEMORIES OF LEE IN THE 1980S

I remember as a child, first walking to Lee village from Ilfracombe with my old school friend (also called Leigh), to visit her grandparents there. Something which would never be allowed these days. I guess we were just between 8 and 10? I only actually came to work in Lee at the Hotel during the mid 1980s.

I arrived as a naive 17 year old and was greeted warmly by the owners Mr & Mrs Prankerd (Mr and Mrs P to everyone else). They took me on initially as an office trainee, then permanently when that finished. For the next 3 years I worked at the beautiful hotel, with all its comings and goings, visitors and staff.

Looking back now, the owners were the best employers I ever had, and the kind that you rarely hear of these days. Each Christmas they made a trip especially to handpick a present for each of their staff. I still have the lovely pink jewellery box I was given. They encouraged the staff to be friendly and open and we were like one big family, especially those who worked there all year

round, not just during high season. 'The Ps' were caring and wanted the best for their guests as well as their staff and I'm sure I'm not the only one with fond memories of them and that time.

In the summer we were allowed to use the pool during our lunchtimes (special privileges for us girls in the back office!), where I would also occasionally look after Mr & Mrs P's daughter Sarah, and also sometimes in the huge old house they lived in behind the hotel up the lane. Those days seemed endless and carefree, and I'll never forget the beauty of the place.

Having moved away from the area some 30 years ago now, I've only recently discovered the sorry state that the hotel is now in. If only I had the money to resurrect it to its former glory I'd certainly do it in an instant.

Lucy Ashford

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THE LEE BAY HOTEL - DRAFT POLICY DESIGN BRIEF

A summary of the present situation from Paul Scarrott, the Secretary of the Lee & Lincombe Residents' Association (LLRA).

In my capacity as LLRA secretary (for the time being), the LLRA would really appreciate your views on the draft policy design brief for the Lee Bay Hotel site.

The brief is a requirement following the refused planning application in April 2019. It sets out the parameters for any future development. It has been prepared by Andrew Austin at Planning Policy in conjunction with the AONB Team and the Conservation Officer.

This concession to the beauty and heritage of the bay was a close call and hard won. It seems we may have travelled a long way since the proposal to build a large 21 unit gated housing development, with a block modern design, huge car park and few public amenities.

So, the council and the association are keen to hear the views of residents, homeowners, and members. The association would like to put forward, if possible, a unified response.

The policy brief takes into account national planning regulations, the local planning strategy, and the reasons for last refusal.

It makes ample reference to the Lee Conservation Character Appraisal and the architectural and aesthetic requirements therein.

Lee Bay Hotel Site – Design Requirements

In addition to the design requirements set out below, development will also be supported by BfL12 (if major – 10 or over units) and independently assessed by a Design Review Panel, funded by the developer. (BfL stands for Building for Life Assessment, and is a traffic light audit of whether there is sufficient infrastructure and amenities for such a development in small rural communities.)

Site Layout:

- Retain and convert the original hotel building (western building) to create a mix of residential and/or commercial uses, including tourism on ground and upper floors

- Demolish the later eastern extension and redevelop with well-designed houses on a similar footprint that reflects existing architectural qualities and local styles within Lee. Detached or semi-detached housing may be appropriate here but terraces are unlikely to be acceptable
- No new dwellings to be located south of the watercourse
- Detached or semi-detached properties may be appropriate on part of the former car park along the main road frontage
- South facing elevations should be designed to optimise opportunities for solar gain
- No new buildings to be sited in areas at risk of flooding
- A range of densities may be acceptable but the development must reflect the dispersed character of the settlement with clear open spaces between buildings

Scale / Bulk / Height:

- Provide a mix of house types and sizes that reflect local needs
- Any new build development should not exceed the height of the original hotel building to be retained

Roofscape:

- Maintain a varied roof-scape, with different roof forms and roof materials to add interest when viewed from elevated positions around the village

Vehicular / Pedestrian / Cycle Access:

- A single vehicular access solely to/from the main route in to Lee utilising existing site entrance
- Create new pedestrian access to/from Footpath 36 along the southern site boundary
- Create new pedestrian access to/from South West Coast path along the northern or western site boundary
- Provide an appropriate scale and range of car parking on site to meet anticipated needs for residents
- Retain and upgrade the existing public car park to the rear of Wrinklewood for tourism and local community use

Green Infrastructure:

- Retain and enhance the open character of the grounds and provide public benefit for tourism and local community use
- Incorporate landscape planting that can survive and flourish in a coastal environment and will enhance the local landscape character

THE LEE BAY HOTEL - DRAFT POLICY DESIGN BRIEF, CONTD.

- Ensure re-development delivers a biodiversity net gain
- Preserve and enhance the watercourse running through the site, removing culverting where possible


External Materials / Appearance:

- Reflect the local vernacular character of Lee
- Any external lighting needs to be designed to minimise light pollution on the AONB and to safeguard protected species

Waste Management / Recycling:


- Provide adequate off-street storage space for wheeled bins and recycling facilities
- Bin / recycling storage should be integrated within the development whilst siting and landscaping should reduce its visual impact
- Improve sewage treatment facilities within the site, serving the site and neighbouring properties

I can be contacted at pes-2@outlook.com and telephone 864723. Likewise Eric Couling, our Chairperson, at ericleedevon@gmail.com and telephone 871545.




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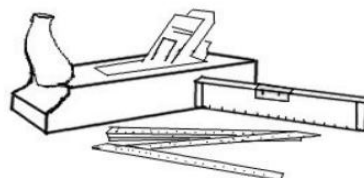
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CELEBRATING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY IN LOCKDOWN

VE DAY

75TH ANNIVERSARY

A SHARED MOMENT OF CELEBRATION

8 - 10 MAY 2020

Friday 8th May was the 75th anniversary of VE day. As the previous plans were no longer possible, Eleanor Scarrott came up with the idea of the villagers having a 'Stay At Home tea party' instead.

Residents were encouraged to come out into their gardens at 3pm and enjoy some tea and cake. Bunting was displayed around the villages and the union flag was raised outside the church. Some villagers used the opportunity to catch up with neighbours over the garden fence. Joe Steer prepared a playlist of music from the era including Vera Lynn, Glen Miller, Ella Fitzgerald and The Ink Spots. Joe setup his soundsystem to disperse the music through Lee and Paul Jagers used the same playlist with his soundsystem to provide the music simultaneously for the Lincombe residents.

It was beautiful sunny day and many villagers shared photos of their gatherings via social media. Although we were in isolation, the event gave us a chance to feel some sense of togetherness in these troubled times.



The table at Ivybank in Lee is suitably adorned with a Union Jack tablecloth and impressive cake display



Lincombe residents Carole and Barry sit out with their cuppas to enjoy the beautiful afternoon



Alongside her daughter, Sheila celebrates in the lane outside Meadowside in Lee



Joining in the festivities were Hilary and David Humphries out in their garden

CELEBRATING 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY IN LOCKDOWN



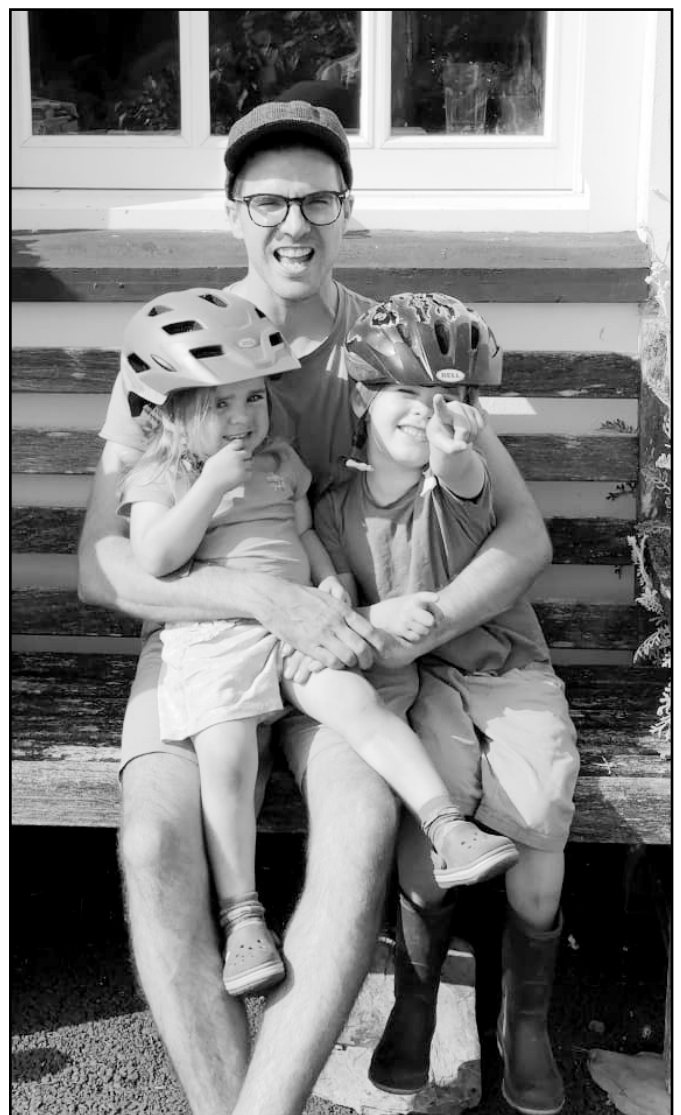
With the silver out for a very special tea and wonderful smiles, how splendid Cynthia and Ian Stuart look!



Living and loving the lockdown life are Grace and Angus with their afternoon teas



Master Peter Dobson and Becca Wyles taking tea and relaxing in the Lincombe sun



Joe Steer in charge of the tunes in Lee, with Tom and Meredith as assistant DJs

SPRING WATCH 2020



Each of us must have reflected in recent weeks on how lucky we are - once again - to call Lee our home and to have neighbours and friends at hand, willing to help and pull together whatever the cause.

The lockdown has at least offered an opportunity (of sorts), to look at things differently and to appreciate the beauty and natural wonder of Fuchsia Valley and beyond.

The startling change in the seasons, witnessed in slow motion as each day unfolds, has taken us from a winter of extraordinary wetness to a spring of almost boundless sunshine and the bluest of skies, eerily silent of planes and unmarked by vapour trails!

And so, with traffic on the ground as rare as traffic in the sky,

the birds have really come alive. Blackbirds, robins and thrushes have been competing to appreciation and, with time to pay more attention to the bird feeder, the blackcaps, blue tits and even lesser spotted woodpeckers have all been watched and admired, along with their young, as the weeks have passed.

Out on the coastal path, the seals have reappeared in recent weeks in the bays between Rockham and Morte Point. Six were spotted spread out, enjoying the sunshine, bobbing up and down in the crystal-clear water (which have looked more Balearic than Bristol Channel!). Those strange easterly winds which brought all the good weather (and seemed to keep the water so clear during those balmy days in April and May) were a welcome adjustment from the first week of lockdown when we were lashed by those ferocious storms, when the waves did so much damage to the sea wall.

High above the waves (and the birds) around the lighthouse at Bull Point, it's always a special thrill to see peregrine falcons swoop below (however briefly as they flash past, taking a few seconds for the mind to identify them and their angled, aerodynamism!). On one occasion, peregrine falcon adults were accompanied by a shrieking, nervous youngster over Damage Hue providing a memorable moment, as have been the sights of the peregrines in action (poor pigeon!).

In the valleys, the bird song has dominated; white throats, goldfinches – the first call of the cuckoo on Easter Sunday –

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SPRING WATCH 2020, CONTD.

and stonechats. The wooded combs have also laid out and the carpets of primroses and bluebells now giving way to foxgloves, tall and elegant in an ever-changing array of nature's beauty.

The coastal path has provided sight after sight; of foxes slinking across the hillside, deer standing tall and still (watching before returning to their grazing or bolting with grace and ease out of sight, apparently depending on their mood) and a sole weasel (I think) emerging from the foliage in the Kinever Valley and darting from cover to cover.

Our first swallow was spotted on 14th April, darting between the fields on the road up to the Blue Mushroom and swifts appeared a week or so later, careering round together and clearly enjoying the mild weather and the clouds of insects above the fields. Far below, the family of wrens who made their home in the stone wall below The Old Vicarage seem to have successfully reared their young to a point where they flit from the wall to the walnut trees and cling, almost bat-like.



Despite the lockdown and the necessary caution, the natural world has continued; there is a lot more going on in our towns and villages than human activity - inviting us to stop and pause, to appreciate what is at once a part of - and yet detached from - our daily lives.

Matt Dearden

YOMER ORCHARD - LOCKDOWN LEGACY

A few weeks into lockdown, I felt compelled to post this picture of my two teenagers on Facebook inviting friends to celebrate how their kids were faring in these 'unprecedented' times. Many shared pictures of kids baking, gardening, studying – a few shared that they hadn't seen their children emerge from under the duvet in ten days and should they be concerned? The fact was, that I was immensely proud of my two, who had moved seamlessly from scholars to labourers, daily helping in the woods to plant our 'orchard'.

We are fortunate to own 10 acres of woodland in Lee. We are committed to diversifying the species in two areas of 1990's conifer planting, in particular an area of larch that we are fairly confident is infected with larch dieback. We have been thinning the larch in this knowledge and had decided we would like to plant some fruit trees. I discovered 'Orchards Live' (orchardslive.org.uk) last year having been directed there by my Facebook post 'seeking free or cheap fruit trees'. I attended their scion day and subsequent scion grafting course in Lapford village hall and learnt how to graft scions on to root stock. I successfully grafted 10 trees – my first foray into gardening of any kind really – so pretty pleased with myself. They were then entrusted into the careful hands of my lovely neighbour Eleanor Scarrott – as I didn't have a greenhouse to nurture them in. I promised to come and collect them shortly.

Over a year later I finally relieved Eleanor of their care when the current Coronavirus emergency provided the window of opportunity for planting.

And their planting has been a real family affair.

The woods are home to a lot of deer, so, if the trees were to survive, they would need some pretty substantial cages. Over a few weeks we planted each tree inside its own little Alcatraz. Grace and Seb have been brilliant, good humouredly digging pretty much all the post holes with a small trowel, and helping their dad install the posts from our felled larch and attach the fencing. Each tree has been planted with a little handful of earth and a wish from each of us, and the kids have given them nicknames next to their actual variety name - 'Brad' is a 'Bradninch Black', 'Eleanor' is a quince that she gifted us and which she had grown from seed from the quince next to Chapel Cottage. Some lack any identity due to the rookie mistake of not carefully labelling after grafting! I hope one day to be bringing fruit for identification to the 'Orchards Live' stall at the Rosemoor Apple Day.



So we now have an 'Apple Tree Zoo' in the woods which is so far doing really well. Next year, I hope to expand it with this year's grafts – a further eight trees. I wonder if the kids will be able to help plant these ones? Will they be back at school or will the world look very different by then? Whatever happens, they will certainly remember the origins of this orchard, planted during lockdown - representing family investment and so much hope for the future.

Kate Madden

THE DORMOUSE DISAPPEARS

The modest moon adorns the dormouse;
it's mousy light a silken shawl.

The dormant trees out-stretch their shadows.

The tawny owl hoots the night's last call.

Eyes transfixed on what above her
glows betwixt the twigs and buds.

Buds are all grey squirrels left her,
save chestnut shells, catkins and sloe berry suds.

With ginger fur and a fluffy long tail,
an arboreal beauty seldom seen.

Could it be she likes seclusion,
or is she victim of exclusion?

Let's look closer at the clues, and
see what can be gleaned.

The farmer trims their hedge too often;
the way to lay a hedge forgotten.

But hazels can take years to blossom!

The dormouse disappears.

With aforethought to kill a rat,
one might sought a skilful cat,
but cats oft find a smaller catch!

The dormouse disappears.

And brambles are but weeds, you say;
their thorns which vex and cause disarray.

Blackberries barely compensate.

They're cleared!

The dormouse disappears.

Was it for hunger badger spared her?

No fox nor stoat nor weasel either?

Too bad that she's a slower breeder.

The dormouse disappears.

Were it not for climate changing,
lunatic weather, denialist loonies,
poor mouse; she would still be sleeping;
dormir sous la Lune.

Eyes transfixed on what above her
glows betwixt the twigs and buds.

Alas perhaps we've all eclipsed her.

Awareness brings an eerie thud.

The modest moon adorns the dormouse;
it's mousy light a silken shawl.

The dormant trees out-stretch their shadows.

The tawny owl swoops the night's last haul.

Phil Johncock, philthespoon, February 2020

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CREATIVE PEOPLE - LEE W.I. WANTS YOU!

Lee W.I.'s December craft entry is 'create a nativity scene'. We would like to extend this to the whole village, hopefully holding an exhibition in the Memorial Hall or church.

The idea is the creative folk of Lee - young and not so young - can show off their creative skills and join together to make a collaborative display. The 'scene' could be large or small, made of any materials - Lee boasts artists in so many media - stitching, painting, printing, sewing, willow weaving, etc. It

could be an element, e.g. the magi, angels, shepherds, Bethlehem town - anything goes!

More details later in the year but maybe, during these lockdown times, we can channel our creative talents - hoping this exhibition can unite us all at the end of this crazy year.

Enid Bowman

POPPY TRAIL

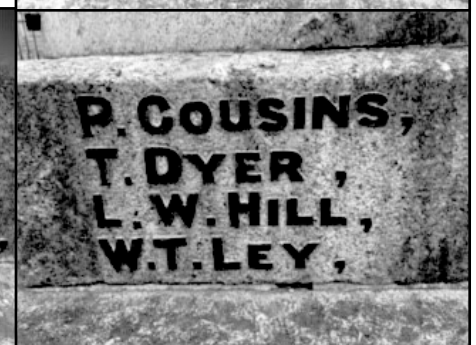
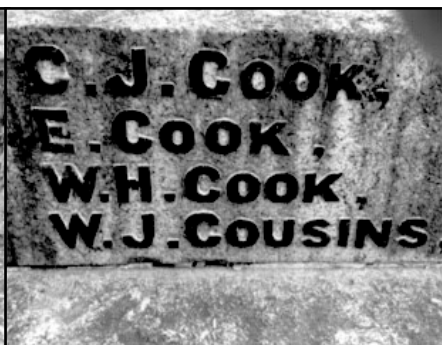
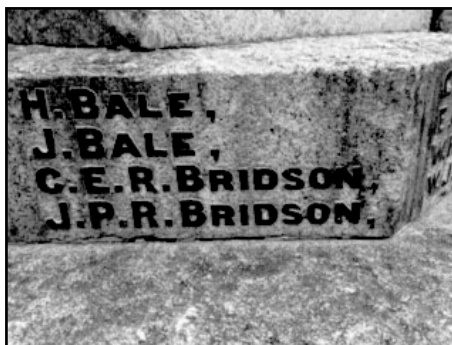
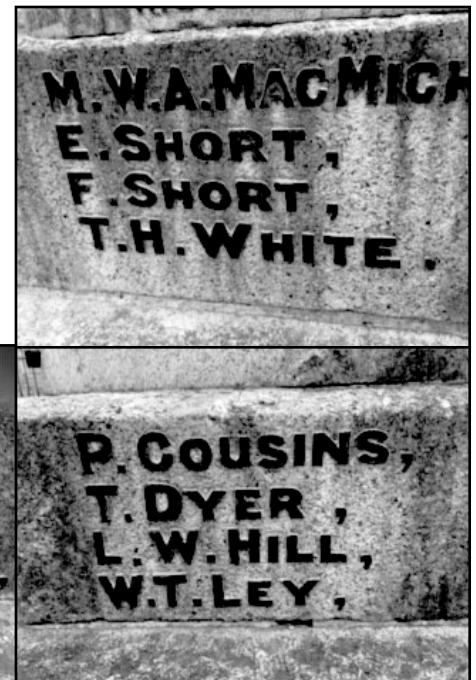
For the past few years poppies have been arranged around the Lee war memorial and the hall. It would be good to extend this slightly. The concept is that a Poppy Trail could be arranged around the village, passing the homes that those who have their lives for us all left to go off to war.

If you know of the residences that these brave men left it would really help. For instance, the Bridsons were based at Ivy Bank.

If you have any information you would like to share

please either leave details in the box at the end of the St Eloi Farm track or email enidbow@gmail.com.

Enid
Bowman



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.

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WATERCOLOUR WORKSHOP

Lee Memorial Hall, EX34 8LW



2nd Wednesday each month

10am - 4pm

£12 per person

Please bring your own lunch

Please contact tutor
Brenda Keeble

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bandalin@talktalk.net



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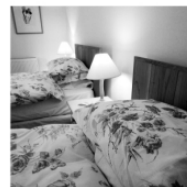
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Many thanks to our delivery teams. If you would like to help with delivering the News, one of the editorial team would be delighted to hear from you.

Ged Coates

July 1959 – April 2020

*All of us who knew Ged were deeply saddened by his sudden death on 12 April (Easter Sunday).
We are most grateful to Pat who has kindly written this moving tribute and supplied the images opposite.*

Ged was born in Stoke-on-Trent, where he showed an early interest in sport at school and played cricket and rugby for his school, St Joseph's College, but also played cricket for Staffordshire. It was a natural progression for Ged to work in sport. He did his honours degree in Education at Manchester, specialising in P.E. and history, where he also played rugby for Broughton Park. After graduating, Ged taught P.E. and some history at an all-boys comprehensive in Manchester. Here he also made some lifelong friends, some of whom he used to play rugby and cricket with in local leagues at weekends.

The opportunity to become Head of Games at a Preparatory school in Oxfordshire followed and Ged and his wife Pat, whom he had met in Manchester when both were students, moved south. Pat was working in a role that allowed her location to be flexible and both embraced the move. It was a weekend break in North Devon in the mid-nineties that started their love for this part of North Devon.

Apart from his love of sport and being a keen runner, running every day until reaching his fifties when his knees said "enough", Ged had become really interested in property renovation. He was also a keen cook, having first experimented with cooking as a student and never stopping! A property was bought in Croyde in 1996 as a project and, after 12 months, Pat was able to move there full time. Ged spent weekends there and lived in at school during the week for the next few years.

In their mid-forties Pat and Ged and their two rescue dogs, a Weimaraner called Millie and a GSP called Chip, headed off for a new life and more time together in Corsica. They completed a property renovation there and developed a successful holiday rental business. Ged also got to work on the land, planting a new olive grove to complement the ancient olive trees already there. They, and three different rescue dogs, returned to the U.K. after several years when family circumstances meant being so far away was becoming more complicated. They had also received an offer to buy the property.

In 2015 Ged and Pat purchased 'Wayside' in Lee as a complete renovation project. Lee was always their favourite North Devon village to where they used to escape when Croyde became too busy. Wayside seemed the ideal property to downsize to for a final move. Ged worked with the same builder he had worked with in Croyde twenty years earlier, and with whom he had remained in contact, to create a lovely home for himself, Pat and their dogs.

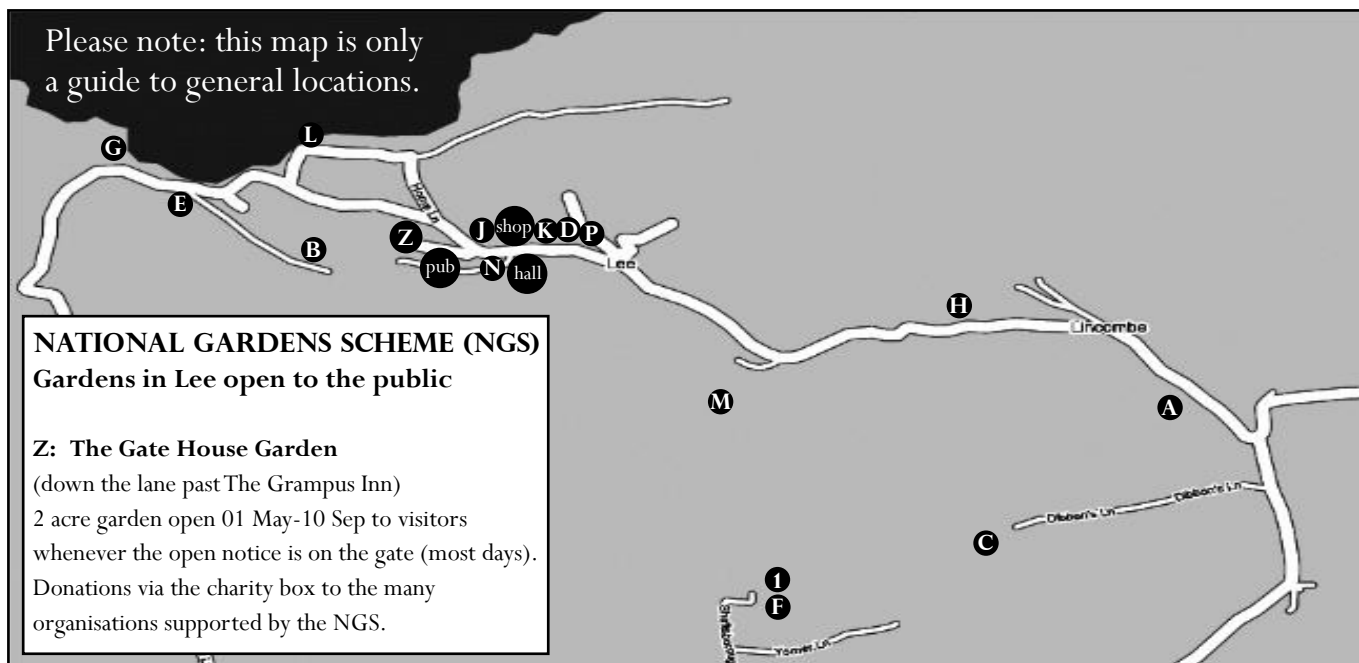
When the work on the house was completed, Ged set about refurbishing the greenhouse and workshop and creating a lovely garden complete with various fruit trees. In 2019 the opportunity came to purchase the land behind Wayside and Ged's latest project was the planting of an orchard in November 2019. He also started the repair of the Linhay which he wanted Pat to continue.

When Ged was diagnosed at the end of February, it was a complete shock as he had had flu that wouldn't shift but no other real symptoms to indicate how poorly he was. Unfortunately, following tests and a CT scan, Ged was diagnosed with bowel cancer that had spread to over 50% of his liver, making it untreatable.

Ged loved his life in Lee with Pat and the dogs and was a familiar sight on regular dog walks in the village. He also loved chatting with locals and visitors and catching up with friends after a weekend dog walk at The Grampus, weather permitting. He will be remembered as a quiet, modest man with a dry sense of humour. His biggest regret was, after all the work on Wayside, how little time he had to enjoy his life in his lovely Lee. Ged wanted a sign for the gate from Wayside's garden to the orchard reading "Ged's Orchard" and this will be done.



LEE & LINCOMBE ACCOMMODATION & SERVICES GUIDE



VILLAGE SERVICES

- pub. The Grampus Inn - Bill Harvey _____ (01271) 862906
- shop. The Old Schoolroom Craft Gallery & Gift Shop - www.wildcoast.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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SELF CATERING (MAX. PER UNIT)

- A. Lincombe House (2,6,5) - www.lincombehouse.co.uk - Richenda S Carter _____ (01271) 864834
- B. Chapel Cottage on Beach Lane (9) - www.chapeltcottagelee.co.uk - Ginny Potts _____ (01271) 867212
- C. Lower Campscott Farm (3,4,4,4,5,6,6,8) - www.lowercampscott.co.uk - Kathy & Tony Mortimer _____ (01271) 863479
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- F. Shaftsboro Farm - www.shaftsboro.co.uk - Margaret Kift _____ (01271) 865029
- G. Damage Hue apartment (2+2) - www.damagehue.co.uk - Julien Busselle _____ (01271) 862876
- H. Lee Chapel (5) & School House (2), combined (7) - www.visitleechapell.co.uk - Ginny Potts _____ (01271) 867212
- J. Old Maids Cottage (6) - www.sykescottages.co.uk/1022678 - Paul Hey _____ 07741 297004
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- M. Ravendere Retreats treehouse (2) - ravendere.co.uk - Kieran Fisher _____ 07950 994729
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