

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

LEE & LINK'EM NEWS

SUMMER 2026

£1



ROLL UP! ROLL UP! MARTHA AND LUCY SCARROTT
WELCOME VISITORS AT THE LEE SPRING FAIR - REPORT INSIDE

www.leebay.co.uk

GREETINGS AND FAREWELLS



It's all looking a bit empty, isn't it? Unfortunately all good things must come to an end, it looks like this could now be the case for our beloved newsletter. Please read Ian's article and maybe it can continue in some way after this year.

We haven't renewed any adverts for now but we do sincerely thank our advertisers for their continued support over the years. We have all worked as volunteers but for 30 years the advertisers, subscribers and purchased copies allowed us to cover the production costs, ensuring hundreds of copies were freely delivered to every home in the villages 3 times a year.

The reach of our publication has extended far beyond our valley walls. Over the years, we have been incredibly proud to connect with both subscribers and online readers far and wide, keeping people informed across the country and even as far afield as the USA and Australia. It has been an absolute privilege to serve our community, and we will miss being a part of your letterboxes.

With our warmest wishes and heartfelt thanks,

The Lee & Link'Em News team

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

FIRST AID REQUIRED?

Contact first responder Bill on 01271 862 906.
There are 2 defibrillators in Lee:
The Grampus Inn & Lee Memorial Hall.

CAR PARKING:

There is currently no car park at Lee seafront due to the hotel works. Visitors can use the Lee Memorial Hall car park, please note there is now an ANPR (automatic number plate recognition) payment system in place.

LEE & LINK'EM NEWS INFORMATION AND CONTACT DETAILS

Our thrice-yearly newsletter is delivered free to residents, and available to buy at £1 from The Grampus Inn or The Old Schoolroom Craft Gallery & Gift Shop.

We offer UK postal annual subscription (3 issues) too, delivered to your door for £9 per year. If you would like to subscribe, please contact the editors.

We are all volunteers, this publication is entirely non-profit and exists because of our advertisers, please support them. If you would like to advertise, all the details are online: loveleebay.co.uk/advertise

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 and follow the links.

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	Ian Stuart, Kate Madden, Robin & Lorna Ailes, Trevor Huggins	

Delivery teams *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.*

NEWS FROM ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH

I am pleased to report that things have gone well over the winter and spring period. With the help of the heating occasionally being left on overnight on Saturdays, we have had a pleasantly warm church for the Sunday service which most Sundays is at 8.45 am. The main event in this period was Easter and the church was comfortably full on Easter Sunday morning. With around a dozen in the splendid choir, it was good to have 42 in the church for the service. The church was also comfortably filled when it was Lee's turn to host the joint service for the 3 parishes of Lee, Mortehoe and Woolacombe which form our group of churches. This joint service is held by rotation in the churches whenever there is a fifth Sunday in the month.

Although the regular service is at 8.45 am, things are different on the second Sunday in the month when the service is at 10.00 am. The service is more informal, is led by members of the congregation and we have an interesting theme each month. For example, in May we looked at how it is possible to have different perceptions of truth. In June we are looking at the lives of John and Charles Wesley and, of course, singing some of Charles Wesley's finest hymns. The second Sunday in July nationally is Sea Sunday so there will be a nautical theme to the service.

We have a small and beautiful church which will welcome hundreds of visitors over the summer as well as others throughout the year. But keeping the church and its surrounds in a good condition requires much dedicated work. We are extremely fortunate that Simon Ailes takes charge of maintenance and the fabric of the church, the schoolroom and the surrounding land, including the rock face. Simon has kindly provided the following account of what has been happening recently and some of what is planned.

"While the task of maintaining the Church and Schoolroom is ever daunting, we are continuing with a programme of repairs and maintenance. In the year to date we have redecorated the vestry and repainted the



outside of the Schoolroom porch, which has improved the look for visitors to The Old Schoolroom Craft Gallery & Gift Shop. We have also undertaken roof and guttering repairs to the Schoolroom, which is part of an ongoing programme of maintenance. We further expect to coppice and reduce trees behind the church that are now overhanging the cliff face. Given limited funds, it's all one step at a time."

As well as our thanks to Simon, we continue to thank Louise and Daisy who so successfully run The Old Schoolroom Craft Gallery & Gift Shop which is owned by the church. As well as attracting many visitors to both the shop and church, they help in many ways such as opening and locking the church and, generally, being excellent tenants.

So I'm pleased to report a church in good heart served by a small but loyal group of people both regular churchgoers and not, including those in our occasional choir who I'm sure will be leading the singing for Harvest Festival on Sunday 4th October at 6.00 pm. Put the date in your diaries!

Ian Stuart, Churchwarden

LEE SPRING FAIR REPORT



On Saturday 23rd May we gathered in Pixie Meadow and set up the party marquees in readiness for our traditional annual Spring Fair on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th May. We had invested in new party marquees this year and so our trusty helpers set to and, in record time, everything was ready for our stall holders to come along on Monday to set up their stalls and games in order for the fair to open at 1pm. We had all been anxiously watching the weather forecast for a few days prior to the fair but we need not have worried as we had wall-to-wall sunshine for the whole weekend, resulting in a heatwave!

So on Bank Holiday Monday we were very pleased to welcome the Mayor of Ilfracombe and the Town Crier again, and after a few words from the Mayor, the Town Crier declared the fair "Open!"

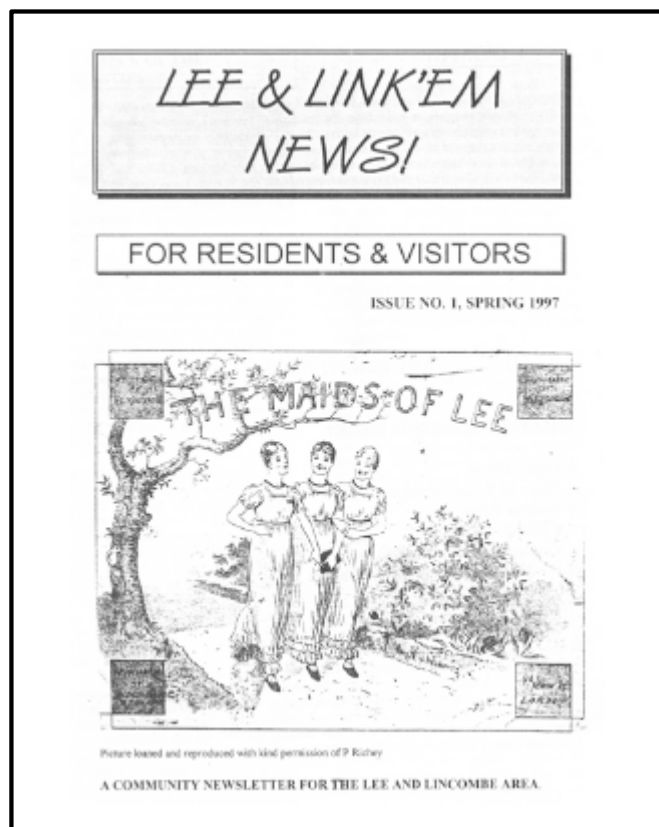
The theme this year was 'The Circus' and there was plenty of colourful bunting and some amazing outfits too!



There was a barbecue serving delicious burgers, a cake stall with some fantastic bakes and others including a plant stall, books, white elephant, a bar serving cider, beer and other tempting and refreshing drinks, tombola, a treasure hunt game, welly wanging, coconut shy, hoopla, hook a duck game, a raffle and even more, so something for all ages.



THE LEE & LINK'EM NEWS - IS IT GOODBYE?



SPRING 1997 - The first issue



SPRING 2009 - Snow comes to Lee on 3rd Feb 2009

One day early in 1997, Kate Madden spoke to me about starting a regular village newsletter. She was consulting others about her ideas, including the rather amusing pun in her proposed title. Her ideas came to fruition and the first edition of the Lee & Link'em News appeared in the Spring of 1997, describing itself as 'A Community Newsletter for the Lee and Lincombe area'. With the aid of many helpers and my copier, a printed copy was delivered to every house.

For nearly 30 years, it has continued to be delivered initially 4 times a year and, in recent years, 3 times a year, hopefully fulfilling its original aim. Over the years, many people have been involved with the project. As Kate's role lessened, Heather Booker took on a major role for many years and for the Summer 2005 edition, Heather was joined by Gina-Luisa Groce in the editorial and production of the News. Gina, ably assisted by husband Stuart, has been a vital part of every edition since. I, ably assisted until two years ago by my wife Cynthia, have continued to be involved in both editing and production. The delivery of the newsletter has depended on significant numbers of volunteers, some of whom have been with the team from the beginning.

Why are we questioning the continuation of what by most standards could be regarded as successful? There are a number of reasons but notably because Gina-Luisa and I want to change what we do. In my case, I want to stand down completely. After almost 30 years of involvement with every edition, it is time to go! Gina-Luisa is happy to continue on the production side using her outstanding computing and editing skills, but needs other committed volunteers to take charge of sourcing articles and advertising.

So Gina-Luisa and I are putting this proposition to all our friends in the village or involved with the village:

- Following this smaller summer edition, we shall produce the Autumn 2026 edition to reach our 30th anniversary, but that will be the final edition unless a number of people come forward to form a new team to support Gina-Luisa.

Of course, we shall be delighted to talk to anyone who

THE LEE & LINK'EM NEWS - IS IT GOODBYE?, CONTD.

might be interested in helping to keep the News going and it might be that others who take over will want radical changes. One obvious change would be to go entirely digital. That would indeed be a radical change as we have prided ourselves over the last 30 years of arranging that a free printed copy is delivered to each house in the belief that most people welcome being able to read a copy at leisure and actually like the feel of the newsletter rather than a quick look at a screen. However, the cost of printing is significant and we have been dependent on our loyal advertisers (and a number of generous individual donors) to keep solvent. We have also had some small but useful income from sales at the Craft Shop and Grampus Inn. But advertising income has dropped a bit recently.

So there are a number of discussion points. But the fundamental point is clear. Unless some willing people come forward, the Autumn 2026 edition of the Lee & Link'em News will be the last.

If you would like to chat through what's involved and/or would think about being part of a new team, please contact Gina-Luisa on gina@loveleebay.co.uk or me on ian@leedevon.co.uk or 01271 863396.

To end on an optimistic note: in the 100 or so issues over 30 years, there is a great collection of research material about Lee and Lincombe. Some of it is information about people, places and events; some of it is photographic; some of it is advertising of things like holiday accommodation and visitor attractions. Some, sadly, are obituaries of village people; some is research that village people have done about their ancestors. I have a printed copy of every edition since 1997. Whatever happens, all of this material needs proper archiving in due course. It is very interesting!

I leave you with three of my favourite covers - the very first edition in Spring 1997, beautiful snowy images by Stuart Groce in Spring 2009, the hall before and after major building work in 2010, and some pictures of the Flower Show 10 years ago in Autumn 2016 - still going strong.

Ian Stuart

P.S. Don't forget we have the archive back to Summer 2005 available online: <https://loveleebay.co.uk/archive>

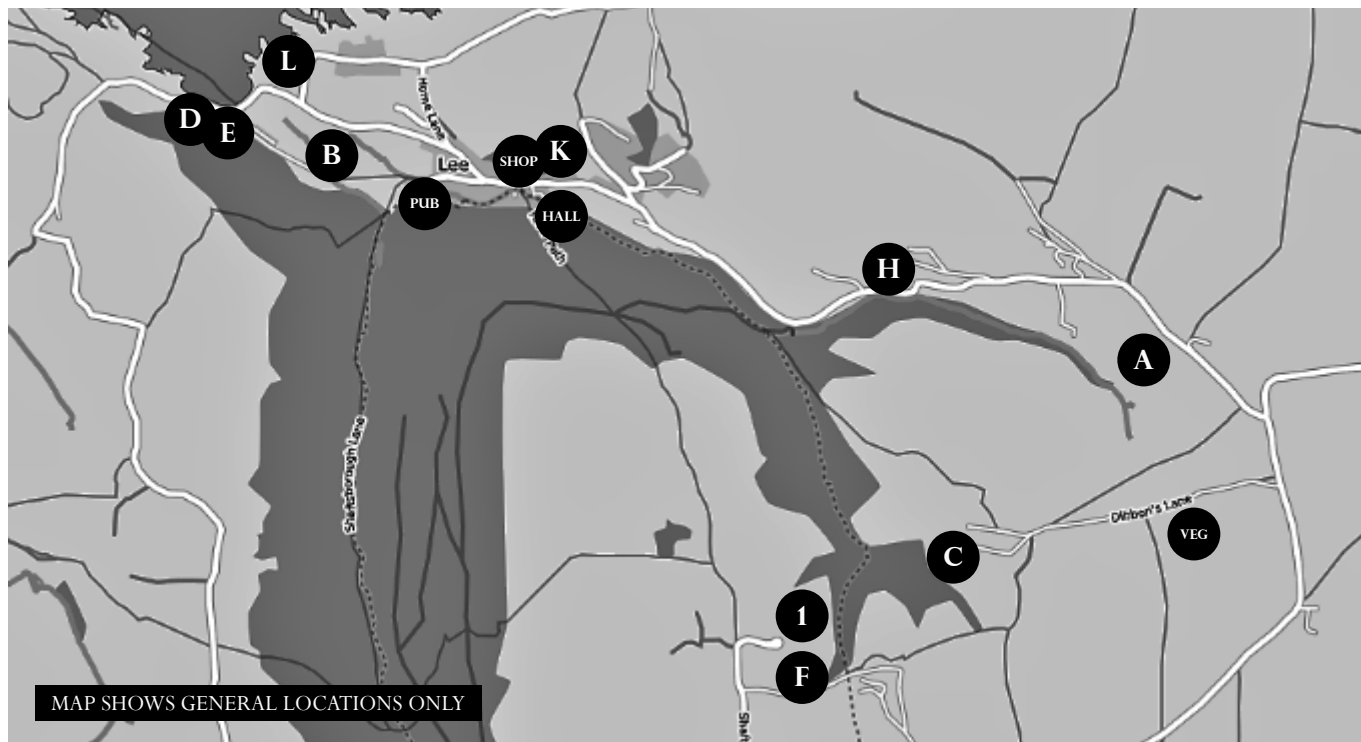


SPRING/SUMMER 2010 - Memorial Hall renovations



AUTUMN 2016 - Lee Flower Show photos from 10 years ago

LEE & LINCOMBE ACCOMMODATION & SERVICES GUIDE



VILLAGE SERVICES

- pub. The Grampus Inn - www.thegrampusinn.co.uk - Bill Harvey _____ (01271) 862 906
- shop. The Old Schoolroom Craft Gallery & Gift Shop - www.wildcoast.co.uk - Louise Thompson _____ 07493 173 320
- hall. Lee Memorial Hall - www.leememorialhall.co.uk - for hire: email Jo Mitchell _____ leevillagehall@gmail.com
- veg. Amary Farm - Organic Market Garden - Zoe Davis _____ 07368 339 387

BED & BREAKFAST

- 1. Shaftsboro Farm - www.shaftsboro.co.uk - Margaret Kift _____ 07860 800 157

SELF CATERING (MAX. PER UNIT)

- A. Lincombe House (2,6,5) - www.lincombehouse.co.uk - Richenda S Carter _____ (01271) 864 834
- B. Chapel Cottage on Beach Lane (9) - www.chapelcottagelee.co.uk - Ginny Potts _____ 07528 492 364
- C. Lower Campscott Farm (3,4,4,4,5,6,6,8) - www.lowercampscott.co.uk - Kathy & Tony Mortimer ____ (01271) 863 479
- D. Shell Cottage (4) - ginnypotts@hotmail.com - Ginny Potts _____ 07528 492 364
- E. Beach House (9) - ginnypotts@hotmail.com - Ginny Potts _____ 07528 492 364
- F. Shaftsboro Farm - www.shaftsboro.co.uk - Margaret Kift _____ 07860 800 157
- G. Advertise here - just £3 per year! _____ Contact us
- H. Lee Chapel (5 or couple) - www.visitleechapel.co.uk - Ginny Potts _____ 07528 492 364
- J. Advertise here - just £3 per year! _____ Contact us
- K. The Old Vicarage (15) - www.theoldvicaragelee.com - Amanda Robertson _____ 07973 963 887
- L. Millfield (6) - www.millfieldcottage.co.uk - Louise Morris _____ bookings@millfieldcottage.co.uk

The opinions expressed by authors of the articles in the Lee & Link'em News are not specifically endorsed by the editorial team which cannot be held responsible for them.

AUTUMN 2026 ISSUE DEADLINE - 1ST OCTOBER 2026

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