

Lee Residents Association

Est 1973

LeeResidents



*Hello Spring!*

Making a *difference* in Lee

Events, Developments, Lifestyle & Community

SPRING 2025



# Welcome to the Spring Review

We are grateful to all those who have contributed to this edition, which is full of articles and information about what is and has been going on in and around Lee.

Articles from other organisations that are included in the Review are generally printed as received and do not necessarily reflect the view of the LRA committee.

Lee Residents Association represents the interests of all the people who live and work in the area. It strives to improve the environment and make Lee on the Solent an even more attractive and thriving place in which to live, work, play and visit.



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## Upcoming event for our members

LRA committee members bring you the latest Events and Fundraising information in Lee.

MAY  
27

Tuesday 27th May at 7pm

### The Association's Annual General Meeting

This event will be held on Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2025, 7pm at the Methodist Church Hall. The Association's Annual General Meeting will be held. The meeting will be followed by a guest speaker to be confirmed.



## Membership

Thank you to all members who have already renewed. We often get new members joining by way of introduction from yourselves. Application forms are always available from the Book Shop, Lee High Street, The Mortgage Helpers, Lee Library Hub, Tesco Express, Pier Street or by the downloading form from our website [www.leeresidentsassociation.co.uk](http://www.leeresidentsassociation.co.uk)

### The greater our numbers the greater our voice

It is important that the LRA continues to reflect the interests of the residents as important issues will shift with the pebbles of time. Sand works better but this is Lee on Solent!

Please do contact us if you have any suggestions, what you would like to see more of or less of etc.

We currently only have a few Committee members who are assisting in various roles and are therefore spread very thinly – please contact us if you are interested in becoming a Committee member.

All Committee Members can be contacted on telephone **02392 344122** by email at [contact@leeresidentsassociation.co.uk](mailto:contact@leeresidentsassociation.co.uk) or by **mail placed in the Lee Residents Mailbox** in Tesco Express.

## Chair's Report

Thankfully, that is January and February out the way and what a welcome, wonderful start we have enjoyed for March. Although, at the point of writing this it is actually only the 2<sup>nd</sup>!



Yesterday we were delighted to have Matthew's Greengrocers join the High Street outside the Methodist Church. Such an amazing choice of beautiful, high quality fruit and veg, plants, pet food and more. The sun was shining and so many people turned up to support this new venture which is really needed for our community, so thank you Matthew for agreeing to come every Saturday until the end of October.

In February, Lee Residents Association applied for a grant from Councillor Graham Burgess to purchase street bunting. High Streets use bunting to create a festive and welcoming atmosphere, adding a splash of colour will hopefully enhance the overall ambience of our shopping area, making it feel more lively and inviting. This has been agreed and we are really looking forward to seeing the results in April.

**I hope you all enjoy the Spring 2025 edition of the Review and a huge thank you to all that have contributed the fantastic articles.**

Chair  
*Kealy Dingley*

### Committee Members

#### Chair LRA

Kealy Dingley

#### Vice Chair

Julie Palmer

#### Secretary

Ashleigh Evans

#### Treasurer

Brenda Bamforth

#### Events, Fundraising & Publicity

Ray Harding & Jackie Holley

#### Health & Wellbeing

Allison Roast, Julie Palmer & Jackie Holley

#### Planning & Infrastructure

Alison Roast & Co-opted Brian Mansbridge

#### Environment

Co-opted Michael Sheridan

#### Membership Secretary

Co-opted Tim Dingley

#### Media Secretary

Co-opted Julie Orr



## Manor Way Allotments – The Plot Thickens!

...Pigeons 1 Humans Nil!...

Well, gosh a lots has happened since July at the Manor Way allotments. Many sheds and greenhouses have popped up (and in a few cases have been taken for a ride by the wind!). All in all a thriving community of allotmenters have enjoyed their piece of vegetable heaven for £40 a year courtesy of Gosport Borough Council!

We have dug up our 11 rows of potatoes, which were planted in August. They came in all sizes, some were big, many were small. I never knew Badgers were so partial to potatoes. In the end it was a race to dig them up before the Badgers got all our roasties. Most faired well and tasted great - *yum yum*.

*Oh dear!*



Parsnips have been small but now the frost has arrived they are even tastier (or is that just my imagination). Of course you cannot have parsnips without carrots and wow the carrots have been spectacular.

Somebody told me not to water very much and let the carrots (and parsnips) grow deeper in search of their own water. Perhaps it did pay off and they tasted so *sweet* and *delicious*!

The onions grew from sets and we thought that would allow them to make better progress than from seed. They never really developed and we decided to leave them to over winter and see if they grow this season into the great big bulbs we had hoped for.

*But!*...and there is always a *But* ...the estimated 1,000 sprouts, which were destined for friends and neighbours for Christmas were all eaten by the Pigeons! Can you believe it?



I know not everyone likes sprouts but the local wood pigeons couldn't get enough of ours and the beautiful Large White butterflies, which are a delight to watch, were also planning an attack in the form of eggs and caterpillars.

Not a single sprout made it onto a dinner plate but at least local wildlife seemed to benefit.

We had promised our lovely neighbours home grown sprouts and just before Christmas we had to nip to the shops to get a stalk of sprouts! ... we did own up that they weren't ours!

It may be of interest that our Large White butterflies seek out the caterpillar food plants initially by sight, looking for shades of bluish green.

It is however their feet that really allow them to identify the plants to lay their eggs. Minute spines on all six feet puncture the leaves and by stamping, often known as drumming, they are able to sense the chemical makeup of the plant and in particular the presence of mustard oil (found in brassicas and also in Nasturtium).

Experiments have shown that the removal of all six of her feet prevents her from

laying eggs as she is unable to confirm the presence of the correct plant. (How cruel!)

The Large White is also unusual in that it lays its eggs in batches. Only 6 of the 59 British butterflies lay in batches (Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, three Fritillaries and the Large White).

Although unclear as to the exact reason for batch laying of eggs it seems that the female adult is often distasteful to predators. This allows her to be able to spend longer periods in one place laying eggs without being eaten. The caterpillars are also distasteful and can exist in large numbers contrasting with caterpillars laid singly on plants, which are more often camouflaged.

Garlic bulbs have been planted.

Traditionally planted on the shortest day and harvested on the longest. We broke the rules and used supermarket bulbs, which were already sprouting so these went in early. They seem to be developing well and the 3 rows of Garlic are looking good and healthy!

The short days and tricky weather are hopefully over and already the feeling is one of expectation...that's what the Badger, Fox and the Pigeons are thinking!!!





## Summer visitors to Lee-on-Solent Mark Wagstaff

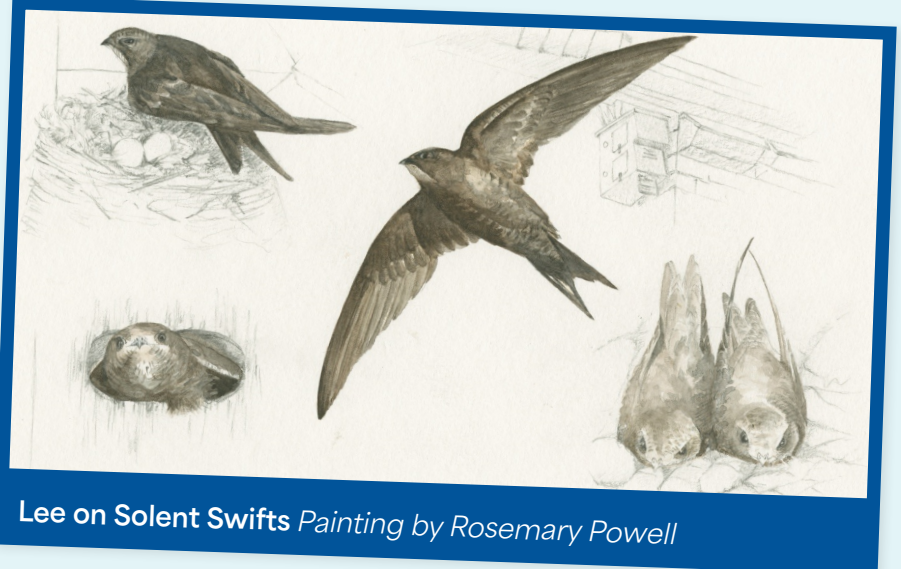
Those with a long memory might recall that I wrote a piece for this newsletter previously about the swifts that visit our house in Lee on Solent every summer. I thought it was a few years ago but was shocked to discover it is very nearly 10 years!

A lot has changed in Lee during that time and similarly the swift colony here has changed significantly too – so now seems a good time to provide an update.

Just to recap – I first started trying to attract swifts here about 30+ years ago. I put up the wrong sort of box on the wrong wall and not surprisingly – nothing happened. I then chanced on an organisation called Swift Conservation and they were wonderful at pointing me in the right direction ie use narrow boxes (to provide shelter from the sun under the eaves), pick the north wall if possible (for the same reason – it's cooler for any chicks) and lastly, play swift calls early morning and late evening as close to the boxes as possible and as loud as your neighbours will allow (fortunately we have wonderful neighbours who enjoy the swifts as much as I do).

Within a year we had our first nest here and not long after a second pair arrived.

And that's the way it stayed until about 4-5 years ago when I put more boxes up,



including some on my lovely neighbour Janet's north wall.

Between us we now have a total of 24 boxes – 6 at Janet's and 18 here.

I quickly ran out of space on the north wall so have had to use the south facing one but because the boxes are narrow and there's some shelter from the eaves they have proved to be just as successful as the north facing ones even in the hot spells we've had last year and the year before.

I think it helps if there are established nests on the north side first. I also re-started playing the calls at this time. Some logic in me said that if we had swifts breeding they wouldn't want to be 'bothered' by swift calls being played every day and I might risk losing them.

Thankfully that's not the case and re-playing the calls soon attracted more swifts – to the extent that we had 8 breeding pairs here this year plus 3 non breeding ones Janet had 3 breeding pairs and a single non breeding pair.

Between us the breeding swifts raised 23 chicks in 2024 and well over half the boxes are occupied – a far cry from the single pair just 10 years ago.

The colony itself is big enough now to attract attention from non breeding swifts who arrive here a little later in the year looking for prospective nesting sites (they are called prospectors or sometimes ‘bangers’ as they fly up to a box and bang up against it looking for next year’s nesting site).

It’s not unusual in July to see double figures of swifts whizzing and calling around our house and on more than one evening I’ve counted more than 30. It really is a lively and thriving colony now.

One downside to this is that the increased activity also attracts predators and this year we had our first successful Sparrow hawk attack.

Luckily, my neighbour spotted the stricken swift on our lawn, scared off the hawk and although slightly



A Non Breeding ‘Prospector’ eyeing up next year’s nest (I hope)

injured we managed to get the swift airborne again.

Hopefully, the swift recovered but it was a close call and would have been very bad news if we had lost a breeding adult.

Ever since we started I’ve had all the chicks (and some of the adults) ringed by good friends from the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

I think we all appreciate that ringing is not everyone’s ‘cup of tea’ but there is a strict code of practice issued by the BTO and if you saw how the ringers care for the chicks and stick to the code you would be reassured I’m

sure that a few minutes outside the nest is worth it for any knowledge it might add to these mysterious birds.

We’ve not had reports of any chick rings being found to date (the chicks never return to the same nest site whereas the breeding adults always do).

It has been fascinating though to observe how some of the few adults that have been ringed have changed boxes.

Swifts pair for life but it’s inevitable that at some stage one adult will make it back here from Africa



but its partner might not. In that case the adult here waits a few days for its mate to turn up and if it's still no show after a week or so will try pair up with another adult asap.

They are only here for 3 months of the year so can't waste any time if breeding is to be successful. That might mean if there's another singleton in the colony without a mate the two might pair up and move into one box - and that has happened here.

There is one (huge!) downside to this behaviour though that you can probably guess at - if the original pairs mate turns up late there is all hell to pay if it finds its partner taken by another!

Vicious fights ensue (I've literally had to pull 2 adults apart that had their claws stuck in each other) and any eggs laid by the new pair are very quickly ejected by the original partner. Peace does eventually prevail though and whichever bird won the fight quickly gets down to raising a family.

As I mentioned earlier swifts are only here very briefly. All being well the adults return to the same nest each year and might live as long as 20 years although the average is more like 5-6 years. Some of ours have been returning for 10 years. We associate them with a UK summer and sure enough - that's usually a short lived affair!

They are one of the latest migrants to arrive (late April/early May) and one of the first to leave (late July/early August). That means about 12 weeks here which breaks down into a week or two pairing up and nest building, a few days egg laying (normally 2, sometimes 3 in a good year), 3 weeks incubation followed by 6 weeks feeding chicks until they fledge and then it's off back to Africa asap.

Their migration route is one of the longest known for birds at about 14,000 miles to Equatorial and Southern Africa but it's necessary as a swift's diet is exclusively insects so they need hot climates in which to find them. Subsequently, their time spent in the UK is over all too quickly.

I hope the foregoing has given you just a taste for what it's like having these wonderful birds so close.



The Very First Chicks Ringed at Lee on Solent



## PUTTING BOXES UP

in putting up boxes yourself then please learn from my mistakes and please be assured they are remarkably clean birds – no unsightly mess by or underneath the boxes. Pick a north wall if you can to start with and play the calls if your neighbours allow!

With eaves and soffits being plasticised these days (mine are no different) the nooks and crannies these birds need to establish a nest are rapidly disappearing so nest boxes are a real boon for them.

If you would prefer to avoid a ladder (swifts need about 5 metres height for their nests) then I can thoroughly recommend Hampshire Swifts who not only sell good boxes but will erect them for you at a very reasonable price (£40 to buy and erect per box which is a real bargain).

All they ask is a two storey house, reasonably good access and no walls with ivy etc. Their contact is [info@hampshireswifts.co.uk](mailto:info@hampshireswifts.co.uk)



Having got the boxes up and occupied the next step is to put cameras in them. This takes watching them to another level but it can work out quite expensive and is certainly not necessary.

Today's modern wireless cameras have at least made the task easier than drilling numerous holes in the walls to accommodate wires.

If you do take this step or if you have any queries about swifts and/or our colony here in Lee please feel free to contact me any time via the LRA website.

You're always welcome to come and see where the boxes are (you can't miss us in Leamington Crescent with 18 nest boxes on the house!) and if it's between May-Aug you can watch the swifts too. Lots of passer bys do!

PS. The painting on the first page of this article is by local artist Rosemary Powell. I asked her to try capture our birds and the ringing and she came up with this amazing painting. Much better than my photos! Rosemary's contact (with fellow artist and husband Dan) can be found at [www.powellwildlifeart.com](http://www.powellwildlifeart.com)



# A History of Lee-on-the-Solent National Coastwatch Station

## Early Days to its Present Role

### Humble Beginnings

Lee-on-the-Solent stands on one of the busiest waterways in the United Kingdom. Nearly twenty years ago, there was a clear need for a National Coastwatch Station to work alongside the Coastguard and the other emergency services, to safeguard the users of the Solent's beaches and waters.



In 2006, Dennis Whyte, who had been a NCI Watchkeeper on the coast of East Anglia, suffered a period of ill health and moved down to Gosport to be near his daughter.

Following his recovery, he was asked by the NCI to form this much needed Station.

He put an article in the Portsmouth News, requesting anyone interested to get together for an initial meeting. That meeting, chaired by Dennis, was held early in 2007 and was attended by eight people.

Given the enthusiasm and commitment of the attendees, the outcome was to pursue the formation of a Station based in or around Lee-on-the-Solent.

The next stage was to find suitable accommodation, with the necessary views of the Solent.



Various options were considered, but finally the decision was made to commence watches at Number 2 Battery on the beach near the Bay Café at Stokes Bay. The first watch took place, with only a pair of binoculars, a paste table and a Watchkeeper's estate car!

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of August 2007 the operation relocated to Elmore car park which had access to the beach and where the watches were conducted from the back of the same estate car, but now with the addition of a gazebo.

One month later, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, the Watch Station moved into the former First Aid hut located in the Beach Road Carpark in Lee-on-the-Solent, which is where it remains today.

The hut had been abandoned for some time and was in desperate need of repair and a few Watchkeepers undertook the necessary works.

However, the building was then flooded in the November storms and the ceiling collapsed. Once again Watchkeepers undertook the repairs, with a lottery grant of £9,616, and Lee NCI opened as the first Watch Station on the Solent.



## Development Over Time

Developments since those days have seen the installation of an increased number of radios to maintain a listening watch over the emergency channel but also other Coastguard channels and Southampton Vessel Traffic Service.

An enhanced AIS system was installed to identify shipping in the Solent, alongside various items of optical equipment.

The training of Watchkeepers has been greatly enhanced over time to ensure they can respond quickly and efficiently to an emergency. The building too has been enlarged to provide training facilities, and the position from which Watchkeepers look out over the Solent has been elevated. This all better enables the Station's active part in the UK Search and Rescue Operation.



## Today's Work of the Station

Now one of six NCI Stations covering the Solent, Lee's designated area is on an arc from Ryde to Fawley Power Station. Watches are kept during daylight hours with two/three Watchkeepers working a three-shift system in summer and a two-shift system during the shorter winter days.

The Station at Lee obviously has the beach as well as that stretch of Solent waters within its area. Watchkeepers therefore endeavour to keep swimmers, paddleboarders, windsurfers and kitesurfers safe, alongside the yachts and larger marine traffic.

As a result, we engage in beach patrols on each watch and these include giving advice and literature on staying safe in and on the water. Our Water Safety message is also carried out to assemblies in schools and community events.

Incidents in which the Station has been involved in recent months include a search for a distressed member of the public, a report of a vulnerable person in urgent need of help and of a windsurf sail washed up on the beach and concern for the owner.





### Fundraising Today:

Lee NCI, still manned entirely by volunteers, remains today, as in the past, totally dependent on fundraising to support activities and pay for all equipment.

By far the greatest source of income are the donations for second-hand books by the public from a position on the promenade, adjacent to the Station.

We remain eternally grateful to our community for its constant supply of books and for generous donations for the books themselves, and for supporting us at our own Open Day and at Christmas at Lee. Local businesses too are very supportive, hosting our collection tins, funding the recent acquisition of a defibrillator, and providing prizes for the Station's highly successful fundraising concert, so kindly played by the Sarisbury Green Big Band.

With our community's wonderful support, we hope to continue our work, started nearly twenty years ago, into the future!



### Royal Recognition

The many efforts by the early volunteers and subsequent improvements and enhancements by later volunteer personnel culminated in November 2024 with Lee NCI being given the King's Award for Voluntary Service, of which everyone at the Station is immensely proud.

The Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire will make the award at Lee-on-the-Solent Sailing Club on 18<sup>th</sup> March 2025.

The Station can now forever keep the initials KAVS after its name!

You can follow Lee NCI KAVS on Facebook and on our website:  
[www.leenci.org.uk](http://www.leenci.org.uk)

And if you would like to volunteer, either pop into the Station for a chat and an application form or email us on  
[lee.on.the.solent@nci.org.uk](mailto:lee.on.the.solent@nci.org.uk)

## Lee on the Solent Art Group

In 1972 Virginia Wade won Wimbledon, petrol cost 35p per gallon (now around £6.50!) and the fashion was for miniskirts and bell bottom trousers. It was the year when the number of people out of work in Britain reached one million! There were approximately 12 million vehicles on our roads compared with 41 million vehicles today! ... wow wee ...no wonder we can never get a parking space!

However, on Monday April 24<sup>th</sup> 1972 the first meeting of a group of residents interested in Art was held...and 44 people turned up!

### So... The Lee on the Solent Art Group was born!

Meetings were monthly and the array of demonstrators, mostly by members themselves, in the first year was spectacular...portraits in oil, screen printing, gold smithing, architecture, Chinese brush painting.

Paintings by the members were produced in great numbers and an exhibition was held in October of that first year with 109 pictures displayed on a Saturday afternoon and Sunday in the Red Cross Hall.

The exhibition costs amounted to £5 (now about £50 per hour!) and 10% of sales money given to group funds (no change there).

Exhibitions have continued to be a prominent part of the group's activities.



We are very proud of the amazing skills of our members. As well as frequent displays at our monthly craft fairs we have been part of the annual "*Hampshire Open Studios*" an August event being held at the Holyrood church in Stubbington.

By January 1973 there were issues about using the Red Cross Hall (wherever that was in Lee) and over the next few years the meetings were held at Lee Primary School, the library and in members homes.

By 1978 the group home base was the Methodist Church Hall and we have been there ever since! Using the hall with all its facilities for meetings and the front lawn occasionally for exhibitions. We remain ever grateful for their kind hospitality.

Painting sessions were started in 1978 and have continued ever since, now called "Paint as you please" as an extra activity for paid up members. (Also known as "chat and coffee sessions"!).

Outdoor painting and sketching outings have long been part of the group activities and visits to Hollam farm and Little Fontley Farms in Titchfield were recorded in 1980.



In the past few decades, thanks to the generosity of car owning members, we have descended all over the county with our pens and sketchbooks to record landscapes and seascapes, woodland and industrial sites.

Coach outings have for some time been part of the group activities and great use has been made of the U CAN GO transport situated at St Faith's Church.

We have visited places as far apart as The Pallant Gallery in Chichester to the Russell Coates in Bournemouth, and The



Weald and Downland museum... where we could have spent a week sketching the different buildings and wildlife.

The advancement in our own painting skills has not been ignored and regular workshops are held so that members can indulge in a different aspect of artwork. Recent classes have included still life, displays, felt picture making, life drawing and pastel sketching.

Who knew what a variety of crafting skills that our painting members possessed?

A few years ago it was discovered that nearly everyone of our painters practised

another craft in their spare time and had a box of goodies in their homes waiting for new owners... so the monthly Art and Craft fairs began at the Church Hall. What a display!

Knitted items, woodwork, jewellery, painted models, table decorations, preserves. A fantastic showcase appreciated by locals and visitors alike.

For more than 50 years the backbone of the Art Group has been the Tuesday evening meeting hosting a demonstrators, a raffle, sales table and refreshments.

This coming year we intend to continue with the Paint As You Please sessions, outings, craft fairs and workshops. For more than 50 years this Art group has been available to the local community.

While the price of Petrol has increased by 50 times, houses by 50 times and so for fashion, well, anything goes and even the Postman wear shorts!

## Join Us

Our programme of events is available on the Lee on the Solent Art Group Facebook page, as are details of how to join us.

Alternatively you can contact Chris via email: [chrisnicholls50@gmail.com](mailto:chrisnicholls50@gmail.com) or call Chris on **07816 128060**.

Come as a visitor... you will be very welcome.

## Lee-On-Solent Bowling Club

About forty years ago, Lee residents John Colborne, Millie Carter and a group of bowlers wanted to form a bowling club in Lee.

At first Gosport Borough Council offered no help but later when the group applied with a petition with around 600 signatures of support in favour, an offer of the lease of a plot of land was made.

This was conditional on the costs for the construction and maintenance of the clubhouse and green being the responsibility of the proposed bowling club and this was accepted by the group.

The Club was registered in 1979 with John Colborne as Secretary and Colin Ford our First President.



Fundraising had now become vital. Millie Carter, who had previously been raising funds for her church, helped considerably and this allowed the bowling green to be opened in 1985.



Since then, the Club has grown in size and structure from its difficult beginnings to be the great Club it is today.

**This did not happen on its own but with the dedication of its members.**

Throughout the years, bowlers, both men and women, have given many hours of their time and talents to build the Club creating and maintaining the grounds and clubhouse along with all the other aspects of running a club.

The Club, with its large flat bowling green, is situated at the south-west corner of Lee recreation ground and has a very active and involved membership of about 130.

The Club, which is affiliated to Bowls England, Bowls Hampshire, Portsmouth & District Bowling Associations (Men's and Women's) and is a member of the Gosport, Fareham & District Mixed Triples League, has several men's, ladies' and mixed teams that play in local leagues suiting players of all standards.





Throughout the outdoor bowling season (early April to late September), the Club which has a licensed bar and full catering facilities, entertains visiting clubs to play friendly matches and offers a whole range of competitions and all year round social events.

The Club also holds an Open Annual Charity Day (Jill Cook Tournament) which, over the years, has raised many thousands of pounds for local charities.

Bowls truly is a sport for all regardless of age, sex or physical ability and is a great social game too.



It is a game of skill and healthy exercise which takes just a short time to learn the basics and the rest of your bowling career to master and play for life.

The Club has accredited coaches who are always willing to welcome persons interested in trying their hands at bowls.

The Club welcomes applications for membership and more details can be found on the Club's website at [www.leebowlingclub.co.uk](http://www.leebowlingclub.co.uk).

## Lee Horticultural Society Neill Ward

Our Society has been at the heart of the local community for over 76 years and we have over 200 members.



The LHS holds two Flower and Vegetable Shows a year, the Summer Show 2025 will be held on Saturday 28th June and the Autumn Show on Saturday 6th September. Both are held at Lee Community Centre, Lee-on-the-Solent.

We do not expect an exceptional standard for show entries, many people are surprised at getting a “placed” entry at their first time of entering. There are many classes to enter apart from flowers and vegetables.

You can also enter Homecraft comprising knitting, cakes, jams & chutneys, knitting and crochet, flower arrangements and hanging baskets etc. There are also classes for children.

We hold Social Evenings with guest speakers. Members can make use of the LHS Trading Hut in Holly Bank where discounted horticultural supplies are sold.



## Join Us



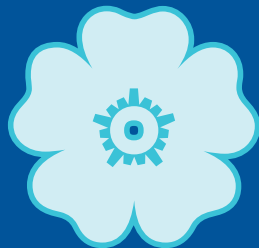
  
**Only £5**  
per household  
per year

We welcome new members of all ages to join us including those from allotments.

If you are interested in joining please contact the Membership Secretary Maggie Corke on **02392 551205** for more information. 

 Annual Membership for new members is only £5 per household for which you receive the Show Schedule and six newsletters a year.

 Please ensure that you have renewed your membership.



## Donations for Tools with a Mission

We also take unwanted tools which are refurbished by *Tools With A Mission* and sent to locations where they can be of benefit.

We take any trade tools and any working electrical items.

Thank you to all who have contacted the Lee Horticultural Society or visited the Society's Trading Hut in Holly Bank to deposit their old tools for all trades.

The response over the past 11 years in support of Tools for Self-Reliance has been wonderful.

We are taking tools to support Tools with a Mission see website [www.twam.uk](http://www.twam.uk) and look for the '**tools wanted list**'. The LHS Trading Hut is now open.

Donations can be made on **Thursday and Sunday from 10 am to 12 noon** and will accept any Donations of Tools and any working electrical items.

Once again, many thanks for your support.



## From Headmaster to our very own Lee on the Solent Womble!



When we first moved to Lee we were lucky enough to get chatting to a gentleman called Alan...he was, as always, out and about picking up litter (I call him uncle Alan!...by the way!).

We were laughing together about the fact that the real Wombles from Wimbledon Common...whose aim was to help the environment by collecting and recycling rubbish, reminded us of him!

Alan says he absolutely loves living in Lee and that he has been picking up litter here for over 20 years! Goodness me!...

Not only does he love being outside in all weathers, he also loves walking to keep himself fit and engaged with the outside world and so very much enjoys meeting lots of people along the way!

Many people thank him and he has even been given a box of chocolates!

But much more important than that...the good news is, that Alan has seen a reduction in the amount of litter that has been dropped, which makes him very happy indeed.

I don't know if some of you remember, back in the early 1990's, New York was in decline. Rather than "The Big Apple", TIME magazine dubbed the city "The Rotting Apple."

Crime levels were high, unemployment was rising and infrastructure was in a state of disrepair. New York's residents were simply resigned to the fact that this situation was the **new norm!**

The Mayor of New York at that time, Rudy Giuliani, was determined to pull the city out of its malaise by implementing an innovative policing approach based on the 'Broken Windows' theory.

At its heart, the Broken Windows approach relies on the notion that to change behaviours – perception is everything.

That's all very well but what on earth has this got to do with Lee...I hear you ask?...

Well by picking up litter and having pride in where you live has a knock on effect in so many ways. People are less inclined to throw litter if there's none on the ground, less inclined to vandalize, more inclined to look after the place where they live...hopefully! Well you know what I am trying to get at!

Come rain or shine you'll see Alan out and about and probably wearing his shorts! He wears his shorts nearly all year round and it's only when he gets freezy knees heading into winter that makes him put his Long-uns on! ...(that was my dads name for long trousers!).

Thank goodness for people like Alan, making a big difference to our lives! We are very lucky to have him live in our gorgeous little seaside town! Big, big thank you to Uncle Alan ... an amazing public spirited Octogenarian!

**What are we doing to our one and only beautiful planet? This unique and special place in the universe. The only home we have ever known!**



**PS:** a bit heavy going but did you know...according to litter statics:

**More than two million pieces** of litter are dropped in the UK daily. That's an incredible amount of rubbish disposed of irresponsibly. Each bit adds up and has a hugely negative impact on the environment and wildlife.

**Items of litter also make their way into our oceans as marine litter, which is a big global issue and especially here in windy Lee!**

- About **70%** of litter is food wrappers and packaging.
- Cigarette butts are the most littered item in the world – **5 trillion** cigarette butts are littered around the world every year... (yes you read it right, not million, not billion but Trillion!) The Cigarettes filter takes donkeys years to degrade...if only people would put the cigarette ends in the bin please!
- **9 billion tonnes** of litter ends up in the oceans across the planet each year.
- Animals most affected by litter in the world are all sea creatures – fish, whales, turtles, and dolphins – and more than **100,000** die annually after consuming or becoming entangled in plastic litter.
- Around **60%** of global water pollution is linked to littering.





## Lee on Solent Sailing Club-LOSSC

Sue Wells & Julie Blandford

46 Marine Parade East, Lee-on-the-Solent, PO13 9BW

[www.lossc.org](http://www.lossc.org) 02392 360089

Hop aboard with us...

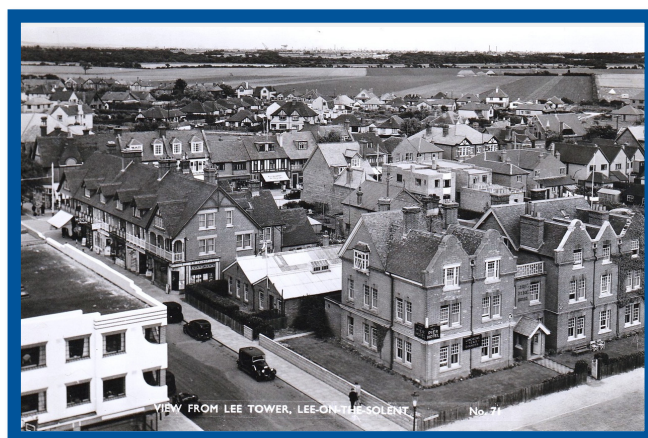
Enjoying the best views of the Solent, the splendid, modern home to the LOSSC is the town's own sailing centre. A short stroll further along the promenade we have our sailing site, the 'Signal Station' which is the base for our training, racing activities and the boat park.

Although a very active dinghy sailing club, we welcome non-sailing social members who can enjoy our vibrant social calendar throughout the year.



**The Clubhouse** has a balconied members' bar and meeting area, our chef's kitchen provides delicious food for lunch and evening dining on selected days.

A dedicated Snooker Room, hosting two of the best tables in the area, is bookable by all members. Additionally, a fully serviced function room with fabulous views over the Solent, is available for hire to members and non-members.



### Over 100 Nautical Years

The club was founded in 1909, which was 25 years after the founding of Lee on Solent by Charles E Robinson in 1884.

*'Seven men met in the Pier Meeting Rooms on 22nd June 1909 and proposed to start a club, with the object of encouraging small boat racing.'* (F. W. Blake, Dr L. Walker, E. Webb, J A H Hannen, Soole, Thomas, Walter G Loughborough)

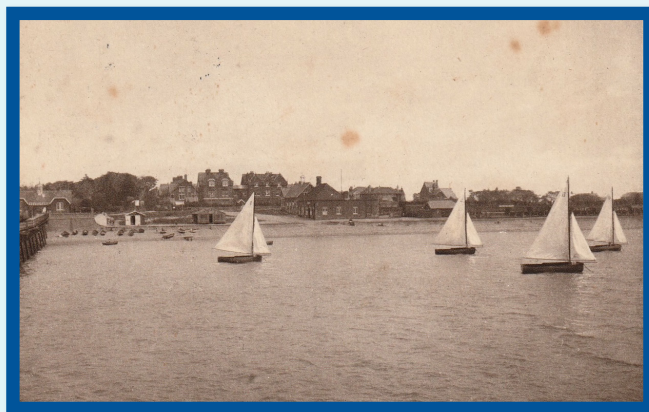


In those days, sailing often took place in the Metre Classes. These yachts had paid hands with sailing masters and/or skippers. The owners and what was known as the 'Afterguard', their friends, some females but mostly males, all dressed in white flannel trousers and caps, used to appear directly prior to the races and join their yachts from tenders.

Eighteen yachts designed by the legendary Charles E. Nicholson were built for the following year and were moored near the pier. These were the first of four classes of sailing dinghies owned by club members over the next 60 years.

The second one design fleet, came into being in 1914.

Then in 1934 the Mark I Seagulls appeared at Lee, as the skyline changed dramatically with the building of Lee



Tower in 1935. The fleet of racing yachts were now sitting at moorings off Elmore. The racing scene was very active until 1937 when a Force 10 storm destroyed all the boats. The Club was not willing to give in readily to the weather and 20 Mk II Seagulls were built, ready for the start of the 1938 season.

After the second world war, the boats had deteriorated and Charles Nicholson, who was then a life member of the club, designed the Mk III Seagull. Twenty of these were built by Camper & Nicholson at a price of £220 complete with sails, for Club members.



The Club even attracted Royalty! In the Club Regatta of 1948, amongst the Seagulls, 6 Metre Yachts and Dragons was the Duke of Edinburgh, in his Dragon 'Bluebottle'!



At first, the club had a boat house on the beach near the pier. Then between 1912 and 1954 the club rented and then purchased two army huts in Pier Street, between the Pier Hotel and the row of shops. These accommodated, a card room, two snooker tables as well as the bar. In 1953/54 the club purchased a property on Marine Parade East and altered it, with an extension to accommodate the snooker tables, with a bar and lounge upstairs. At this time, stewards were employed and lived in a flat on the premises

In the 50's and 60's races were held between teams from LOSSC, The House of Commons Yacht Club and the Imperial Poona Yacht club (you may well ask! It's a long story!). In the 60's there was an increase in younger members and other dinghies were introduced - Gp14s, Cherubs, Fireballs etc., producing some national champions in these classes.

Weekly races, the annual regatta and open meetings continue to be held for our large fleet of dinghies, all attended by our safety boats.

Inter-Club Races include the SLOSHH Series, which are arranged between the Seafarers, Lee on Solent and Hill Head Sailing Clubs every summer.

The Turk Trophy is another annual inter-club event for the sailing clubs of Gosport.

LOSSC is very proud to have produced World Champion sailors, National

Champions, Round the World sailors, America's Cup sailors, Olympic Coaches and Olympic Race Officers over the years.



Our present fleet sails RS400, 2000s, Aero class with multiple rigs, Solutions, Phantoms and Blazes. This 2025 Season we will host Open Events for Phantom, Blaze, Solutions and the D Zero Class National Championships.

For about 30 years we have run cadet training which provides safe, fun filled activities. Now, whether you've never set foot in a boat or have years of sailing behind you, we offer a training programme with something for everyone - young and old, novice or experienced.





LOSSC offers not only sailing opportunities for sailors of all levels but numerous social activities, snooker tournaments, formal dinners, entertainment evenings, dances, BBQs, coffee mornings, quizzes, meat raffles, sports on TV, charity events and much more.

Please contact us to arrange a guest visit or come along to one of our open days and you will be assured of a warm welcome.



## Solent Songbirds

Fridays 2-3:30pm  
Methodist Church, High Street, Lee-on-the-Solent

Solent Songbirds is a women's voice choir who meet on a Friday afternoon, in central Lee-on-the-Solent.

We have between 20-30 singers and welcome complete beginners, as well as seasoned singers!

The choir is non-auditioned and offers a free taster so you can see what we offer before committing to a term.



## OPEN DAYS: SPECIAL OFFER ON NEW MEMBERS JOINING FEES



**22<sup>nd</sup> March (Saturday)**

CLUBHOUSE  
11am - 4pm

**5<sup>th</sup> May (Saturday)**

SIGNAL STATION & CLUBHOUSE  
10am-6pm

Have a GO at sailing!  
(weather permitting)

Contact us on [marketing@lossc.org.uk](mailto:marketing@lossc.org.uk),  
[club-steward@lossc.org.uk](mailto:club-steward@lossc.org.uk)  
or on 02392 360089

For more information, or to book a **FREE** taster please contact Steph through her website:

[www.stephaniejayneamies.com](http://www.stephaniejayneamies.com)

We learn a variety of styles, including pop, folk, musical theatre, rock and sometimes even original songs written by our choir leader, Steph.

**”** *Songbirds provides fun and friendship with likeminded women. Steph makes it fun for everyone and in return you leave with a lighter heart and a big smile.*

- Choir member testimonial



# Gosport Older Persons Forum

**Upcoming Events:** 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025 Open Meeting at the Town Hall, Gosport - further details will be sent out by email and will be on our the website soon.

## Who are we?

The Gosport Older Persons Forum is an established independent group of Gosport residents aged over 55 and those with an interest in information for older people (carers, relatives etc).



## What do we do?

On behalf of older people in the borough we:

- Provide information
- Carry out consultations
- Promote health and well-being
- Hold information events

## The Committee

The committee can consist of up to 12 people and new members are always welcome. If there are more than 12 members an election takes place at the Annual General Meeting (AGM).

A list of the types of skills required for a committee role can be found on the Gosport Council's page ([www.gosport.gov.uk/gopf](http://www.gosport.gov.uk/gopf)). Above all else though, commitment and enthusiasm are what is needed. At present we meet monthly for 2 hours, mostly at Alec Rose House, The Anchorage, Gosport PO12 1LZ.

If you want further information, you can contact us by email or write to us at the address below.

## How do we raise funds?

We manage our own bank account, and we receive money from various sources, including grants and donations.

We also raise money through [easyfundraising.org.uk](http://easyfundraising.org.uk). If you use the internet to shop, please consider registering on this site naming the Gosport Older Persons Forum as the beneficiary. It will not cost you a penny!

## How can you get involved?

We welcome new members! Membership is free to all residents in the Borough of Gosport over the age of 55. Once you join your name will be added to our mailing list and you will receive details about our activities as well as useful information about issues that may affect you.

Information is generally sent by email but we can post newsletters (approximately twice a year) if required.

### Facebook page:

Gosport Older Persons Forum

### By email at:

[gosportopforum@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:gosportopforum@hotmail.co.uk)

### By post at:

Gosport Older Persons Forum  
C/O Gosport Voluntary Action  
Martin Snape House  
96, Pavilion Way, Gosport, PO12 1FG  
(this is a mail drop address only)



# LEE COASTAL WILD FLOWERS

Purple  
Hairstreak  
Butterfly

Grayling  
Butterfly

Yellow  
Horned  
Poppy

Green  
Winged  
Orchid

Changing  
Forgot-me-not

Dog  
Violet

Burnet  
Rose

Creeping  
Cinquefoil



# LeeResidents



**Tel: 02392 344122**

**Email: [contact@leeresidentsassociation.co.uk](mailto:contact@leeresidentsassociation.co.uk)**