

Lee Residents Association

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LeeResidents



Making a *difference* in Lee
Events, Developments, Lifestyle & Community

SUMMER 2025

Welcome to the Summer 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 events for our members

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

SEP
27

Saturday 27th September at 11am

The Big Bulb Dig

The Big Bulb Dig will take place on Saturday 27th September at 11am and we are hoping you will have help with planting. Meeting place opposite Hovercraft Museum.

NOV
28

Friday 28th November at 7.30pm

Social Evening

Come and join us for our Annual Social Evening at the Bulson Hall, St Faith's Church, Victoria Square, LoS, PO13 9NF at 7.30pm. Tickets are £5 per person, which include snacks, wine and soft drinks. There will be picture quiz with prizes and raffle tickets will be available to purchase.

Please get your tickets in advance (1st September until 22nd November from Nature Creations, 73 High Street, LoS, PO13 9BU), as they won't be available to buy on the door.



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 Mortgage Helpers, Lee Library Hub, Tesco Express, Pier Street or by the downloading form from our website 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, please do contact us if you have any suggestions, what you would like to see more of or less of etc.



Chair's Report

Welcome to the Summer 2025 edition of the Review, I hope you enjoy reading and please do feel free to feed back any suggestions. If you have an article that you would like to share, please do email this in.



This year we are seeing some changes to the committee this year Ray Harding was a committee member of the LRA for over 19 years working tirelessly on fundraising, events and publicity. He has recently moved to West Sussex to be closer to his daughter.

I have been lucky to have Julie Palmer as my Vice Chair for my first year. Julie has been a committee member for several years, so it has been good to learn from her wisdom. We are going to sorely miss Julie keeping us all on our toes!

Alison Roast initially joined the LRA in 1995 and was lead for the LRA Planning team. She was awarded Citizen of the Year for all the work for Lee-on-the-Solent, she couldn't be more deserving, and it has been an honour to work alongside her. We wish her all the best in her retirement.

A big welcome to Dawn who is the new Vice Chair and Nigel who has agreed to be Event Manager. The focus for Nigel will be the shopping area in Lee, looking for innovative ideas to bring the business and residential community together.

This year the LRA received a grant from Councillor Graham Burgess's devolved budget to buy bunting for the High Street so a big thank you to Graham. Phoenix Contract Cleaners kindly put it up and for one whole day the entire High Street was beautifully adorned with nautical themed flags...and then a never seen before giant coach came along!

We hope to put the missing bunting up again shortly.

Chair
Kealy Dingley

Election of Officers & Committee

Officers Elected

Chair

Kealy Dingley

Vice Chair

Dawn Raymond

Secretary

Ashleigh Evans

Treasurer

Brenda Bamforth

Committee Members

Jackie Holley, Nigel Raymond
& Tim Dingley



Committee Members

Chair LRA

Kealy Dingley

Vice Chair

Dawn Raymond

Secretary

Ashleigh Evans

Treasurer

Brenda Bamforth

Events, Fundraising & Publicity

Jackie Holley & Nigel Raymond

Health & Wellbeing

Jackie Holley

Planning & Infrastructure

Co-opted Environment Brian
Mansbridge & Co-opted Michael
Sheridan

Environment

Co-opted Michael Sheridan

Membership Secretary

Tim Dingley

The Review

Co-opted Julie Orr

Media Secretary & Admin

Co-opted Julie Orr

The Association welcomes new volunteers and committee members. Please contact us for more information, email contact@leeresidentsassociation.co.uk.

Annual General Meeting Report

The AGM on 27th May 2025 was attended by 40 members, and the four local councillors.

Discussions after the AGM formal business

The Chair would like to *thank...*

Councillor Burgess and Brian Mansbridge for their input as they stood in at the very last minute in place of the planned speaker.

Councillor Burgess gave a brief talk on his involvement with the Solent Sea-Rescue Organisation (an independent Charity) which was established to preserve or assist in the preservation of life and prevention of injury at sea on the foreshore of the Solent and on the beaches of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Working closely with the HM Coastguard on exercises, they are looking forward to working with the Bristows Helicopter Training Centre which is currently being built.

Councillor Burgess also mentioned a plan to move the shingle along the shore from Stokes Bay area to Lee-on-the-Solent.

Brian Mansbridge, co-opted LRA Member gave a brief talk about planning; here is a summary of the main topics covered:

- In 2007 the LRA Planning team created the Seafront Special Planning Document which has been adopted by Gosport Borough Council as a guideline for protecting seafront design elements. This ensures that developments reflect the original character of the area in terms of height and view. The LRA Planning team have also created another Special Planning Document which covers the planning in the West of Lee-on-the-Solent.
- Previously the LRA had been successful in reducing the planned height for the Interconnector and also the height of the building that replaced the Belle Vue Hotel.
- The new building for the Bristows Helicopter Training Centre is high to enable it to be fit for purpose as a wet training centre which enables it to simulate helicopters undertaking rescues in gale-force and fog conditions.
- Daedalus Waterfront was discussed, outline plans have been published and detailed information can be found on the website www.daedaluswaterfront.co.uk. Brian has been actively working with the developers and this is ongoing. The development of the industrial area has already started and future areas will be housing and open spaces. Parking for vehicles was raised as an issue ensuring properties and businesses had adequate parking to avoid them parking on corners and other areas. Councillor Bradley and Councillor Hayes are also involved in planning and are aware of the plans with the current buildings, some of which are being protected to delay further deterioration, and the also the development plans.
- The development of the Hovercraft museum with displays and more community engagement was welcomed.
- The placing of barriers on the slipway by Homes England was discussed in relation to the impact on jet ski users, and the difficulty of enforcement of the regulations of the King's Harbour Master.

Accounts

The accounts for the year ended December 2024, as published on Page 7, and circulated at the AGM were approved by Independent Examiner FG Hewitt who was thanked.

ACCOUNTS

	MEMBERSHIP FUND	COMMUNITY FUND	RECREATION FUND	LEE CS FUND	TOTAL
1 Jan 2024 Opening Balance b/f	£5,245.52	£3,235.49	£1,156.69	£287.64	£9,925.34
INCOME					
Subscriptions	£5,342.87				
Interest	£238.80				
Daedalus Books		£264.00			
Draws		£176.00			
Donations	£65.00				
Coastguard	£175.00				
Boost		£99.60			
RBL		£27.50			
HCC Grant		£348.00			
Rec Project					
TOTAL INCOME	£5,821.67	£915.10	£0.00	£0.00	£6,736.77
EXPENDITURE					
Sum Up Charges	£5.13				
Equipment					
Bank Charges	£60.00				
Internet Services		£370.00			
Hall Hire (Social)	£690.51				
Boost		£60.00			
Notice Board		£347.76			
Review	£2,698.00				
Hall Hire	£75.00				
Daedalus Books					
Printing	£40.47				
Rec Project			£1,156.69		
Advertising	£25.00				
Poppy Wreath		£27.50			
Insurance	£198.79				
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	£3,792.90	£805.26	£1,156.69	£0.00	£5,754.85
CLOSING BALANCE Including Reserves	£7,274.29	£3,345.33	£0.00	£287.64	£10,907.26
Reserves	£1,500.00	£500.00			£2,000.00
Represented By:-					
HSBC Current a/c	£91.99				
HSBC Savings a/c	£10,815.27				
	£10,907.26				

Treasurer
Brenda Bamforth

Planning Report June 2025

Daedalus Waterfront

Detailed Planning Applications have appeared on the LPA website after many months beyond the outline application for the 'Daedalus Waterfront' (23/00061/OUT). The principle works will:

- Demolish existing buildings 94, 96 and 100. The hangar opposite Daedalus Village, Esmond Hanger, has already been demolished and site cleared
- Ground works have started by Blanchard Wells on the employment, industrial and office floorspace
- The conversion of existing buildings; the old cookhouse and adjoining accommodation blocks to dwellings
- with the provision of associated vehicular and pedestrian accesses. Car parking, hard and soft landscaping, trees, open space and associated infrastructure (to be called Daedalus Square)
- The conversion of listed buildings, the Wardroom & Westfield House some being retirement/care apartments
- Yet to be detailed 17,553 sq.mtr of commercial floorspace to provide a range of uses including employment and industrial, offices and retail (this is the land behind the hovercraft museum) possibly including hotel floorspace
- 4,485 sq.mtrs has been set aside for the Hovercraft Museum
- Up to 222 sq.mtrs community use floorspace and associated vehicular and pedestrian accesses, car parking, hard and soft landscaping, tree works, open space and associated infrastructure



Groundworks by Blanchard Wells on the Industrial Area between the Coastguard Hangar and Daedalus Drive

- The realignment of Hermes Road; with five bell mouth junctions; the provision of drainage and utilities infrastructure and associated works (some of this is by listed buildings and in the Conservation Area)

” The Daedalus Development Company wrote:

Daedalus Waterfront continues to make positive progress. The vision for the project is to deliver jobs first, and the team recently announced a partnership with local manufacturer Blanchard Wells who are moving into the Sir Douglas Evill Enterprise Zone. The vision for the project also sets out to save and celebrate the heritage, and the first phase to be designed and delivered by Daedalus Development Company will be Daedalus Square, with 31 homes within the historic barrack buildings. The partnership with the Hovercraft Museum continues to grow with plans for joint events later in the year. Finally, enabling infrastructure work will be taking place over the summer improving access and services, with details to be shared with the local community shortly. Keep an eye out for updates on www.daedaluswaterfront.co.uk

Even though we have yet to see the detailed planning application ground works have started on the Sir Douglas Evill Enterprise Zone (named after lieutenant-Commander Strathearn-Evill, the first commander of RNAS Lee-on-Solent)

Westfield House and the former Wardroom

Planning applications 25/00171 & 00173/LBA describe the alterations to Westfield House and the former Wardroom



Westfield Lodge

Planning application (25/00170/LBA) for Westfield Lodge, shown below, describes the proposed alterations for updating as a residence.

Comment by LRA Planning. The external character of all these Daedalus listed buildings is to be maintained, although there will be significant alterations and updating internally. We are lucky that Westfield House has remained fairly intact through its years of use by the military for accommodation and subsequently as offices.

It is believed this was originally built by the founders of Lee the Robinson family, as an example of the fine seafront property they were encouraging others to purchase to expand their new township to be an upmarket resort. This may explain the variety of styles evident externally on Westfield House and the intricate plasterwork used internally. As listed buildings, even though they will be subdivided internally as residences, their listed status dictates that as much as possible of the Victorian grandeur should be retained.



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 or by **mail placed in the Lee Residents Mailbox** in Tesco Express.

Bristow's UK National Search and Rescue Training Centre

Not part of the Daedalus Waterfront Plans.

Bristow's UK National Search and Rescue Training Centre.



This tall structure can be seen rising from Daedalus Airfield at the back of the CEMAST College, where Fareham Borough Council have approved (planning application P/23/1155/FP) the tall structure, pictured left. This is to allow Bristow's to simulate realistic helicopter rescue training over a pool and under a variety of environmental conditions. It will also include cliff-face rescue training and a range of supporting facilities to train personnel in the skills required for emergency rescue. Due to be completed this Autumn, access will be from Daedalus Drive with parking and landscaping: once complete it is claimed it will be a world class training facility.

Daedalus Airfield East of Control Tower, within the airfield viewing enclosure, is where the Lee-on-the-Solent and Stubbington RNA Branch and Fleet Air Arm Association have installed a commemorative stone. This is to remember the service and civilian personnel who served, fought and in some cases died serving HMS Daedalus/ Ariel over the course of its history.



Residents' may have noticed this large Seafront home with underground parking rising on the land beyond the airfield runway.

Various sources have advised this is to be the new home of

the Blanchard Wells family; the developer of the Sir Douglas Evill Enterprise Zone within Daedalus Waterfront.

A new Blanchard Wells main office is to be included in the enterprise area, so it will not be far to walk to work!

The land falls within Fareham's planning jurisdiction but obviously it must meet certain

parameters with respect to the airport's flight safety.

Ross House flats were built before the airport came into commercial use and is one of the reasons why the 'official runway length' stops short of the actual full length of tarmac as Ross House was built too high and close to the flight path.

Significant other Lee-on-the-Solent planning applications

139-141 High Street Lee-on-the-Solent, the former Launderette site but now a cleared site.

(24/00385/FULL) The Local Planning Authority have again refused this second application as not fitting development almost at the centre of the Pier Steet Conservation Area. Whilst the LRA planning team was not enamored with the application, as a third story has just been crammed into the roof space and the ridge line lowered just enough so not to stand above the surrounding buildings; the over-height being part of the reason and earlier application was refused. Neither did it have any parking provisions for the residents. Nonetheless it would replace the ugly cleared site on our high street and on the frontage is a small shop. Hence we did not raise an objection but our comments included the “nonetheless it would be better for the town than the current demolition scar on the High Street” Perhaps the LPA planners thought, just as we expected that if approved, during the building process they would be granted a Variation of Condition (VOC) as the headroom on the building would be insufficient, a roust that has been used before in Lee.

20 Chester Crescent 25/00052/FULL, this application is to convert the over large garage that has been erected in the front of the house into a separate dwelling. There is a history of prior applications for this property not all have been approved.

Browndown Former Army Camp opposite Kingfisher Caravan site. Application 25/00096/FULL. Property developers Highwood held a public consultation at the Thorngate Halls in December and have lodged the above planning application with the LPA. Both the LRA and Gosport Society have objected as this site is specifically designated in Local Plan under Policy LP18 for tourism; with any development limited to being low rise. It is also sensitively located within and surrounded by designated Open Space. The area is also fundamental to the Strategic Gap that separates the urban development of Lee-on-the-Solent from Gosport’s residential margins. The application

and objections can be accessed on GBC’s planning portal and the developer’s consultation proposals can still be viewed online at: www.highwoodgroup.co.uk/browndowncamp.

Other Local Works

Brookers Field off Newgate Lane. The 90 Affordable Homes in development by Vivid Housing, east of the Newgate Lane Relief Road are now clearly visible as you pass by. Fareham lost the appeal against this development as the Planning Inspectorate wrote a long report along the lines it would have little impact on the strategic gap and Fareham had missed its housing targets anyway. Developers soon home in on a new road giving access to easy building land, especially adjoining an existing settlement. They also have an army of lawyers with years of experience in wriggling around weaknesses in any local plan. One hopes the temporary access from the Newgate Lane relief road, as a condition of the planning approval to only be in use for site development, is upheld.

The Immigration Removal Centre at Haslar. The justice department is converting the former Haslar Barracks which is the only significant regimental infantry barracks’ complex that survives in England from the years leading up to the Battle of Trafalgar (1805). Many of the original buildings survived on site even after the former barracks has seen more recent uses. In 1864 the site was converted and partly redeveloped as an army hospital to reflect the major reforms to military care of the injured after the Crimean War. For these reasons it is designated as a Conservation Area. The justice department and the military take some account of planning rules but with the over £100 million pounds redevelopment on site I suspect a lot of ‘reconfigurations’ are taking place: for sure a Napoleonic Era barracks did not have its own independent back up power generation plant on site. This is yet to be installed on the boundary beside Fort Road.

Introduction to the new Mayor of Gosport

It was an honour to be invited by the newly appointed Mayor of Gosport, Councillor Kirsten Bradley for a quick catch up at her parlour. Kirsten was appointed in May and has been incredibly busy supporting local groups and events.



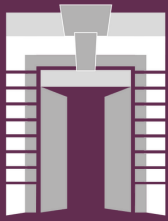
On Monday 23rd June Kirsten attended a flag-raising ceremony marking the beginning of Armed Forces Week, celebrating the vital contributions made by the UK Armed Forces to both national security and global stability.

Councillor Kirsten Bradley emphasised Gosport's strong military links, explaining that Gosport has the highest percentage of veterans among its population of any local authority in England and Wales at 12.5 per cent.

HMS Sultan, approaching its 70th year as a hub of naval engineering excellence, highlights how the Armed Forces contribute beyond defence through skill development, innovation, and community engagement.

Kirsten has promised to raise as much money as she can for her chosen charities this year which are Lee Hub Community Library, Marvels and Meltdowns who support families of children with autism and ADHD, and Andy's Man Club, a group open for all men over the age of 18.

These are all such worthy causes along with so many others and we wish her all the best with this important work.



What's On at Lee Hub?

Summer 2025



Over-60s Social Club

1st & 3rd Mondays

Pilates

Mondays 10:50am

Chair Yoga

Mondays 3:15pm

Feel Good Yoga

Mondays 6pm

Rummikub Club

Tuesdays 10am

Book Group

2nd Tuesday Monthly 7pm

Writers Groups

3rd Tuesday monthly 7pm

Veterans Club

1st Wednesday Monthly 12:30pm

Quilling

2nd Wednesdays monthly 10am

Menopause Together

Wednesdays monthly 6:15pm

Stitch and Yarn

Thursdays 10am

Coffee & Crochet

2nd Thursday monthly 3pm

Pilates Classes

Thursdays from 5pm

Saturdays

Home made cake sales, Teas Coffees,
Raffle & Tabletop sales

Free IT Hub, Remote Working & Gaming available

Special Events

Saturday 26th July 2pm: Guest author Lelita Baldock

Wednesday 27th August: 7pm: The History of Lee Tower

For tickets visit the library or our website

www.leehub.co.uk



**Community Café
every day**

Children's Clubs

Mondays 9:30am

Bounce and Rhyme (under 2s)

Saturday 10:30am-1.30pm

Crafts, toys & Lego

Craft Activities

Children's craft activities during the
school holidays

Book Group

2nd Tuesday Monthly 3:15 - 4:15pm



OPENING TIMES*

**Lending library, IT Hub,
Books / Jigsaw sales & Café**

Monday 09:30 - 16:30

Tuesday 09:30 - 16:30

Wednesday 09:30 - 16:30

Thursday 09:30 - 16:30

Friday 09:30 - 16:30

Saturday 10:00 - 13:30

*Subject to volunteer availability

**Lee Hub Independent Community Library
14 High Street, Lee-on-the-Solent PO13 9BZ**

023 9255 1047 www.leehub.co.uk

Registered Charitable Incorporated
Organisation in England No. 1193198



Gosport Citizen of the Year

Alison Roast – Gosport Citizen of the Year in recognition of her long service to Lee Residents Association



Alison was awarded Citizen of the Year for all the work for Lee-on-the-Solent. She has been an active member of the LRA for thirty years and has stepped down this year for health reasons.

Alison initially joined the LRA in 1995 to help build a community spirit in a growing town and over the last thirty years has been involved in organising many of the community events including meetings with the local councillors, the Police, the Health Centre, the Coastguard, The Alver Valley and Browndown and many more.

This led her to taking on campaigns and interventions for the benefit of the community. The current magazine, The Review was instigated by Alison when she was Chair, with a view to sharing local interest stories and information.

Alison was also part of and lead the LRA Planning team for 30 years and was held in very high regard by Gosport Borough Council planners for the way in which she represented many complex issues.



Alison Roast with The Worshipful the Mayor Councillor Kirsten Bradley
Provided by Gosport Borough Council

She has been praised for spending as much time as necessary helping residents with planning applications, planning objections and supporting them until the issues have been resolved, which in some cases has lasted for years.



Here is a list of just some of the campaigns she has been part of:

- Objection to the proposal of the Airfield becoming a gravel pit and refuse dump
- The year-long campaign to prevent ex-HMS Daedalus becoming an open immigration centre for 400 people
- The development of the Seafront Special Planning Document which was adopted by Gosport Borough Council, and ensured that the original character of Lee Seafront was preserved
- Ensuring the provision of some community infrastructure as Cherque Farm became a large housing development
- Constant campaigning to preserve the Fareham-Lee Strategic Gap, which entailed attending many planning inquiries to state the case against over development
- Countless planning representation on paper and in person against unreasonable developments within Lee
- Working with developers to improve the redevelopment plans of several sites including most recently Daedalus.

This long list only represents some of the many hours spent in organising events, volunteers and reading long government and planning documents, all in the interest of the Lee community at large. For someone who has struggled with increasing disability, Gosport Borough Council Citizen of the Year is unquestionably warranted.



Alison's speech on accepting the award:

"I would like to express my sincere gratitude to those who have put me forward for this award—it is truly an honour. However, I would also like to acknowledge the many people and volunteers with whom I have had the privilege of working over the years.

TOGETHER, as part of the Lee Residents and the local communities of Lee and Gosport, we have made a difference by caring for and supporting one another.

I have had the pleasure of meeting many remarkable individuals within other groups across the Borough of Gosport and within our Local Council. It has been both a privilege and an inspiration.

I accept this award on behalf of you all"

Alison's nomination was submitted by
Brian Mansbridge, Co-opted Member of LRA

Tai Chi in Lee-on-the-Solent

25 Years of Tai Chi in Lee-on-the-Solent

Liana Bower has been changing lives in our community by teaching Tai Chi for 25 years. Many students have attended her classes and experienced the many benefits that Tai Chi has to offer during that time.

What started as a once-a week-class in April 2000 has now grown to six sessions a week which covers all aspects of Tai Chi.

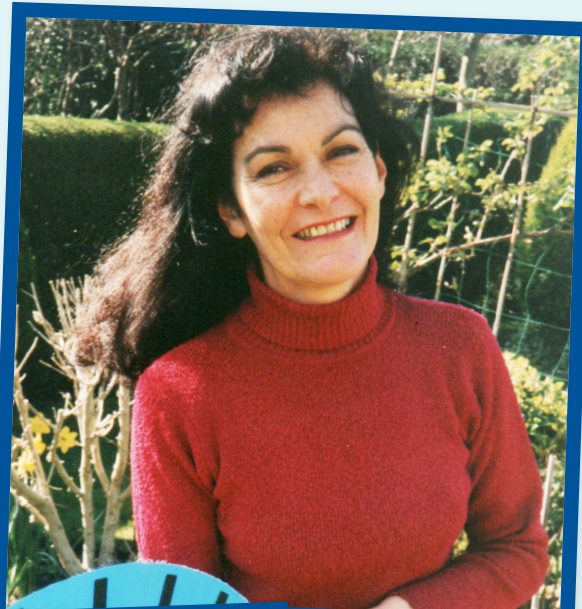
Here is a list of the many different forms you can expect to learn if you attend one of Liana's classes:

- Qi-gong exercises which are standing still breathing exercises for relaxation
- Several different lengths of forms (or movements) in the yang style
- Sword and Fan forms

Tai Chi is an ancient martial art originating in China and the slow series of different postures that flow into each other is an exercise for both mind and body.

These meditative movements induce relaxation and a sense of calm with the associated health benefits.

Dr Michael Moseley previously reported that he had observed studies which claim that it can lengthen your life, is healthy for your heart, can boost your immunity and improve brain function amongst many other benefits.



Liana learned Tai Chi with the Zheng Dao Lo Martial Arts Academy under the instruction of Nigel Ballard and Master Andrew Austin, Master Wang Yanji and Master Chen Lay. She has also been accredited with distinguished qualifications from Professor Li Deyin from the Longfei Taijiquan Association of Great Britain.

After training for six years she was invited to teach with the Academy and she chose to teach Tai Chi from a holistic point of view.

Liana says that as soon as she started going to lessons, she knew that she would be a life-long practitioner of Tai Chi. Practicing Tai Chi in her garden gave her vital respite from being a full-time carer for her mother.



Liana welcomes people of all abilities over the age of 18 to her classes and they learn Tai Chi in a fun, relaxed and friendly environment.

Her oldest newest student was 90 years old and even one of her students of 93 years old was practicing Tai Chi on her own balcony when classes were paused during the pandemic.



Once classes were allowed to resume outside in small numbers the students began practicing in Lee Recreation Ground, and many of them thought being outside made it an enhanced experience. Liana says one of the many things she loves about Tai Chi is that it can be done anywhere, with others or by yourself.



Liana grew up in Lee, her family had owned the shoe and leather shop Bower's for decades, and she attended both the infant and junior schools which just happen to be right next door to where her classes are held in the Scout Hut today.

As part of connecting with the community, Liana and her students have undertaken public demonstrations at various events including Chinese New Year at Lee Hub and many other venues.



Last year she enjoyed helping 'Love Outdoors' and 'Find Your Thing' - both community projects to help people find new interests.

Liana says that for her, Tai Chi is a complete way of life.



What people think about Liana's Tai Chi

Marie

"Thank you, Liana, for your continued dedication to our community and the sharing of your knowledge, wisdom, and great sense of humour."

Sue

"I have started learning Tai Chi later in life and love copying the moves."

Jan

"I had been searching for a local Tai Chi teacher for years and found Liana's advert in Karen's chip shop. Best thing I ever found! I have been doing Tai Chi for 3 years now with Liana and she has taught me so much that I now go away on Tai Chi retreats. It is such a calming exercise to do with lovely like-minded people - I cannot thank Liana enough!"

Helen

"I started Tai Chi 14 years ago to reduce anxiety. Liana is especially good with beginners who will be welcomed in any of her classes. She likes to work with energies and anyone can benefit from Liana's qigong practice - a form of breathing and movement for health."

Julie

"I attended Liana's very first class in April 2000 and am a life-long fan of both Liana and Tai Chi. The more you practice, the more you get out of it and it is worth the time and patience it takes to learn and complete a routine."

Having practiced Tai Chi for over 31 years it has helped her keep her balance, flexibility and co-ordination and she has no thoughts of retiring. In fact, there is a school of thought that suggests that an older Tai Chi teacher is proof of the long-term health benefits.

Over the years classes have taken place in the Methodist Church, Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis and Squash Club, St Faith's Church, and further afield at Titchfield Community Centre and Fareham Leisure Centre.

Today Liana's classes are run from The Scout Headquarters in Salisbury Terrace, PO13 9DN

Tuesdays

9.30am to 10.30am, and
11am to 12pm

Wednesdays

10.30am to 11.30am, and
7.30pm to 8.30pm

Fridays

10.00am to 11am, and
11.30am to 12.30pm

For more information please contact Liana on telephone: **023 9255 1310** or via her Facebook page **Liana Tai Chi**.

Stay Steady, Stay Strong:

Local Exercise Classes Helping Older Adults Live Life to the Fullest

Paula and Becca

Looking to stay active, independent, and confident as you age? Steady and Strong classes are specially designed group exercise sessions that help older adults improve strength, balance, and mobility—key components in reducing the risk of falls and maintaining a full and independent life.

These evidence-based classes build on NHS rehabilitation programmes and are delivered in partnership with Hampshire County Council and Gosport Borough Council's Live Longer Better initiative, forming part of the area's Falls Prevention Pathway.

You can also find sessions across Hampshire—visit the Hampshire County Council website for locations and instructor contacts: www.hants.gov.uk/socialcareandhealth/adultsocialcare/balanceclasses

Each class is led by experienced, friendly instructors who offer full demonstrations and individual adaptations so everyone feels supported and safe.

You'll also learn why each movement matters—understanding how certain muscles work in daily tasks can improve your posture, movement control, and confidence.

TOP TIPS for Building Strength & Balance at Home



1

Try brushing your teeth while doing heel raises or mini squats near a sturdy surface.

2

While waiting for the kettle to boil, practice one-leg stands or heel-to-toe stands for balance.

3

Tag new movements onto existing daily habits—it's an easy way to make them stick!

Not sure if it's right for you?

Give us a call on 07951907264 for a friendly chat with Paula Lamb and Beccy Harvey, or come along to observe a session—you'll see first hand how supportive and enjoyable these classes can be.



At the end of every session, enjoy a free cuppa and a friendly chat, helping build social connections and new friendships—because staying strong isn’t just about your muscles!

Our sessions also provide access to information boards packed with useful resources on Adult Social Care, medical services, and home help options.

With over 50 years of combined experience in physiotherapy, rehabilitation, and group exercise instruction, we’re here to help. Whether you’re just starting your fitness journey or looking to maintain your independence, you’re in good hands.

If you’re online, check out Later Life Training’s “Make Movement Your Mission” on YouTube or Facebook—short, daily “movement snacks” perfect for staying active at home.

You can also explore the Chartered Society of Physiotherapists’ “Stronger My Way” programme for more guided options.



Join Us

We currently offer 10 weekly classes at three levels of difficulty—including:

- Chair-supported sessions for beginners or those with limited mobility.
- Music and Dance movement-based classes for a fun, rhythmic approach to exercise.
- Strength and balance circuits to challenge and build functional fitness.

No gym membership is needed, and classes are held in

©Gosport

©Stubbington

©Lee-on-the-Solent

©Rowner

We love what we do—and we admire every older adult who takes the step toward improving their strength, balance, and independence. We hope to see you in a class soon!

The Music Behind the Art Deco Kevin Dean

There are many wonderful examples of Art Deco architecture in Lee-on-the Solent including those along Marine Parade and Milvil Road. However, the largest example of art deco in the town are the tall graceful concrete arches inside St Faith's Church in Victoria Square.

If you have never seen them then next time you are in the vicinity, step inside the church building of St Faith's and marvel at the smooth sweeping lines of the art deco arches that reach up to the ceiling.

Pleased do marvel at the art deco, but for some of you an ever greater treasure can be found behind the art deco.

Look towards the right-hand side of the church and through the gaps in the arches and you may notice pipework belonging to a Sweetland Pipe Organ which is regularly played every week.

The organ is older than the church building, however, surprisingly when St Faith's Church was opened on 21st June 1933 there was no organ installed in the purpose built space provided.

The reason for the absence was because the organ for the new church building was still installed in the previous St Faith's church building, a temporary tin building constructed in 1894.

While the new church building was being constructed, services continued to be held in the "Tin Tabernacle" until June 1933 when the new church was moved into. The original tin church organ dated back to 1905 and had two manuals (meaning it had two keyboards) and one rank of pedal pipes.

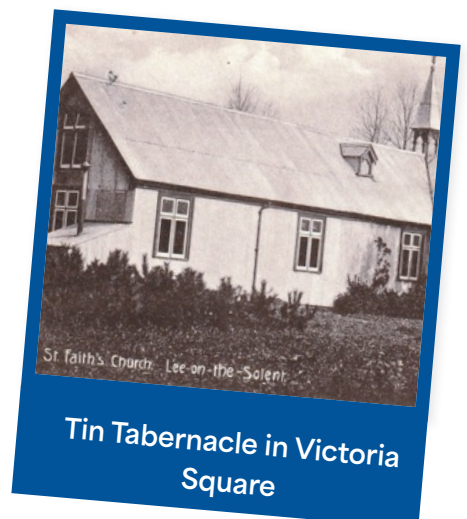
The organ was installed to the right of the altar in the Tin Tabernacle. Was it coincidence that the organ was placed in a similar position in the new church building?



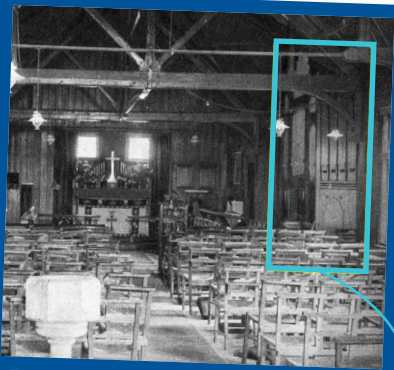
Organ behind the Arches



Sweetland Pipe Organ



Tin Tabernacle in Victoria Square



Tin Tabernacle Interior

The Sweetland Organ Company of Bath were commissioned to move the organ into the new church building during 1933 in which they both enlarged and modernised it for it's new future. The organ was dedicated by the Lord Bishop of Portsmouth in February 1934.

Servicing and modifications have taken place since that time and almost 30 years later in 1961/62 the organ was enlarged once again. In 1986 all the pipes were hidden behind a grille, which 30 years later was removed in 2005/06 as part of a £60,000 refurbishment that left the organ in the configuration we see today.

It is now time in 2025 to clean the organ pipes and electronics to redress the organ's exposure to damp. In particular, to clean out the mould that has built up in the pipes and also put in place measures to ensure no further damage occurs.

You are welcome to visit the church to view the church organ and learn more about it by using your smart phone to scan the QR code in the vicinity of the organ. St Faith's Church is open everyday of the week from 10am to 5pm.

For the full experience, come and listen to this magnificent musical instrument being played every Sunday at the 9.30am Parish Eucharist Service or at one of the special concerts that take place during the year.

For more information please visit www.stfaithslee.org

If you have any recollections or photographs about the Sweetland Pipe Organ in St Faith's Church please do let us know.



Solent View Medical Practice

All NHS General Practice (GP) surgeries are required to have a Patient Participation Group (PPG). This requirement is part of the NHS core contract for GP practices, which mandates that they establish and maintain a PPG. The purpose of a PPG is to involve patients in the planning and improvement of their GP services. Below are the details from Solent View's Medical Practice website.

Patient Participation Group

The Practice has a Patient Participation Group (PPG). This is a group of volunteers who meet with Practice Staff.

The purpose of the PPG is:

- to help the Practice with decision making and the development of services
- to help the Practice with promoting good healthcare
- to help inform patients about the local area
- to speak to the Practice on patients' needs, concerns, and medical interests
- to support the practice

Recently Honorary Alderman John Beavis took over as Chairman and along with others, are continuing to fight for the much needed second pharmacy. Below is the latest update.

Second Chemist in Lee

The proposed second Chemist and a following appeal were both refused by the NHS.

Despite strong and well-reasoned representations from both elected representatives and the local community during the recent Hampshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment

(PNA) consultation, the final assessment has regrettably grouped Lee-on-the-Solent with Gosport in a manner that overlooks the distinct demographic and healthcare needs of Lee's aging population. This shortfall risks creating serious inequalities in healthcare access for some of our most vulnerable residents.

On 9 May MP Dame Caroline Dinenage, Patient Participation (PPG) Members John Beavis and Alison Roast and Ward Cllr Stevyn Ricketts met with Director of Primary Care Hampshire James Roach to discuss serious concerns about the lack of a second Chemist in Lee.

Primary Care Director James Roach will stress local concerns to the Health and Well Being Board on the 12th of June to further discuss in the context of the Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment specifically for Lee on the Solent.

James has also agreed to address the PPG board meeting on 1 July.

A further submission for the second Chemist has been made with extended opening hours, a commitment of a minimum of 72 core hours to the NHS and public. With opening hours Mon - Sat 8:30am - 7:30pm (with no lunch break) & 10am - 4pm Sunday.

We hope that commonsense will prevail.

Support Second Chemist in Lee-on-the-Solent

Make your voice heard – act before 28 July 2025

Despite clear and growing need, Lee-on-the-Solent remains served by only one pharmacy. A previous application for a second chemist was rejected—largely due to objections from pharmacies outside Lee, and because the Hampshire Pharmaceutical Needs Assessment (PNA) wrongly included Lee as part of wider Gosport.

The PNA (2022–2025) concluded that Hampshire is "well-served" by pharmacies. But its metrics—such as "distance within five miles of a pharmacy"—fail to reflect the lived reality for many elderly, disabled, or car-less residents of Lee. The PNA did not consider Lee's unique needs as a growing coastal community with a significant elderly population.

What's different this time?

A new application has been submitted for a second pharmacy at 137 High Street (former Wine Bank), offering clear and meaningful benefits:

- **Extended opening hours:**
08:30–19:30 Monday–Saturday,
and 10:00–16:00 Sunday – no lunch closure.
- **Two private consultation rooms for patient care.**
- Full "Pharmacy First" services, directly supporting NHS goals by easing pressure on local GPs.
- **FREE** delivery of prescriptions

This is not just a second pharmacy – it is a modern, accessible, community health facility.

How *YOU* can help

📌 We urgently need local residents to send formal letters of support to NHS England before the deadline on Sunday **28 July 2025**.

✉ Email your support to:
PCSE.marketentry@nhs.net

📌 Quote reference:
ME3843-CAS-366406-X9P3Z5

✅ Ask for an acknowledgement of your submission in your email.

📅 **Final decision due: 3 October 2025**

Let's make sure Lee-on-the-Solent is heard, not overlooked. Support better healthcare access – support a second pharmacy.



The History Of The Daedalus Aviation Site Terry Coombes

Lee-on-Solent was established as a seaplane base in 1917, with the slipway in constant use.

The aerodrome was opened in 1934 and commissioned as HMS Daedalus on 24th May 1939, this was the day the administrative control of the Fleet Air Arm was transferred to the Admiralty from the Royal Air Force and became one of four airfields thus transferred. Naval squadrons operated here throughout the war years.

A very momentous occasion occurred on June 6th, 1944, when more than 400 aircraft launched in support of the D-Day landings. These included Fighters and Transports from many allied countries. The transport aircraft mainly the venerable Douglas DC3 carried paratroopers across the Channel to jump onto the beaches secured by the allied troops.

In October 1959 it was recommissioned as HMS Areil as a ground training establishment, reverting to HMS Daedalus in October 1965 with routine service flying until 1993 which included a detachment from RNAS Portland of a Wessex 5 for Search and Rescue attached to 772sq.

There were regular detachments from the Southampton University Air Squadron with their Bulldog aircraft normally at Boscombe Down following the closure of Hamble.

Other University Air Squadrons also had detachments from time to time.



The Hampshire Police Air Support Unit operated initially the Optica then changing to BN2 Islanders.

All RN Air Engineer training was done at Lee from September 1970. There were 10 smaller Technical and administration sections based until closure in 1996.

781squadron became a resident unit with their Sea Devon, Sea Heron aircraft, Whirlwind then Wessex helicopters(the Admirals barge) before relocating to RNAS Yeovilton.

Lt Cmdr Geoff Pell marched the Navy out on 29th March 1996.

During 2014 Daedalus site hosted the D-DAY 70 commemoration hosted by the Lee Flying Association, 8 Douglas Dakotas arrived prior to the 6th June from the UK, USA, France, Hungary, Denmark, Norway, Switzerland and Finland. There were several Spitfire's and a P51 Mustang, a Beech D17 that operated from the site during 1944 amongst a host of other types.

Besides the paratroopers in full kit, many people dressed in period civilian and military clothing turning the event into as real as it could possibly be. There was a mass departure of the Dakota's on 6th June loaded with paratroopers.

At the end of 2014 the airfield needed to find a new operator and Fareham Borough Council stepped forward, the official opening ceremony was on the 10th March 2015.

Today and now known as Solent Airport, thrives a General Aviation airport, with Training School, Aero Engineering, Avionics and a Pilot Shop as well as the Coast Guard currently flying the Agusta Westland AW189 helicopters but will convert to the AW139 in due course.

Many recreational pilots fly in to sample the seaside and other delights the Solent area can offer as well as corporate helicopters and turbine and occasional small jets on business flights.

Flowers in Lee

Last year, after the issue of the Spring magazine a resident contacted the LRA requesting that there could be more bulbs to the west of Lee. The Horticultural Society kindly donated £50 towards the bulbs and I am pleased to say that we have now been granted permission by Gosport Borough Council to go ahead with planting them.

The Big Bulb Dig will take place on Saturday 28th September at 11am and we are hoping we will have help with planting. Please do come along with your dibbers and get involved. If you don't have a dibber come along anyway, The Horticultural Society will be there with some extra's.

We have also had requests from residents regarding the hanging baskets along the seafront. Gosport Borough Council have confirmed that these will be going up this month and I am also pleased to let you know that they will be going further along to Russ House.

As this article is about expanding the flowers in Lee for everyone's enjoyment it is the perfect opportunity to include a photo of the beautiful flower garden that has been created in Windy Ally by Nigel and Dawn from Natures Creations. What started as a few pots grew and grew as people kindly donated their own, there is even a Fairy Garden and Bug Hotel adding to the magic.





Training to Save Lives at Lee

Watchkeeper Initial Training & Continuous Professional Development at your Lee Coastwatch Station

Lee Coastwatch Station is part of the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI). NCI's objective nationwide, across all its stations, is the preservation of life at sea and along the coastline.



Lee NCI's watch area covers an arc from a line joining Browdown to the church spire at Ryde in the east, to a line joining Hill Head to Calshot in the west.



NCI has a Memorandum of Understanding with HM Coastguard which enables us to be part of the Search & Rescue community and support Coastguard and the lifeboats as needed.

All stations undergo a rigorous annual assessment to ensure they can keep their Declared Facility Status and so remain fully recognised as a Search & Rescue asset.

Watchkeeper Initial Training

To achieve the level of skill necessary for the NCI's stated objective, Watchkeepers are required to complete a HM Coastguard approved initial training programme. At its completion, they are assessed against a range of competencies.

These are all aimed at being able to

Spot Plot Report Respond

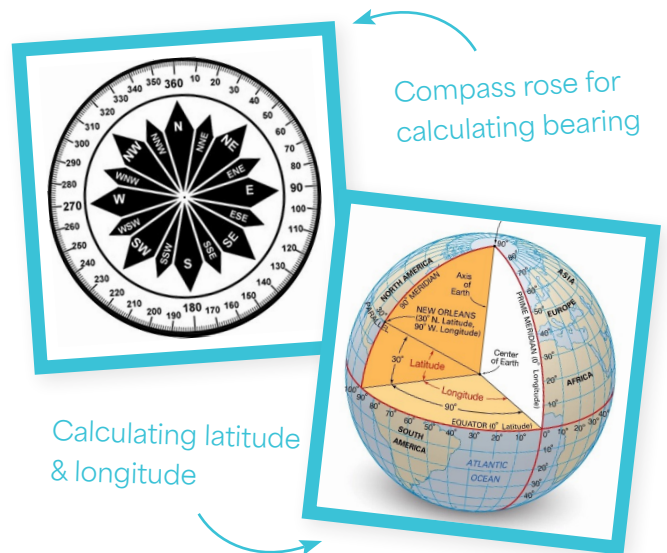
Key is a knowledge of the station's watch area and the major hazards and areas of particular interest and concern therein.

For Lee this is:

- The extreme vulnerability of beach users in or on these busy waters: swimming, on inflatables, windsurfing, kitesurfing, paddleboarding or kayaking
- The dangers of Bramble Bank where numerous vessels have run aground
- Identification of the many buoys
- Dangers of the rocky groynes
- The major shipping channels in our area
- The Solent's unique and demanding tidal conditions

When Watchkeepers spot a person or craft in difficulty in the water, they will need to report the 'casualty's' position to HM Coastguard.

Therefore, initial training includes calculating bearing and range from the station, and latitude and longitude. This is known as plotting.



Tidal stream directional flow and speeds (dependent on tide times and whether spring or neap tides)

However, tidal streams will quickly move a person in difficulty from his/her original position, whilst tidal streams and wind will move a vessel. Therefore, Watchkeepers learn how to calculate wind and tidal drift so that Coastguard can be kept updated as the casualty travels with these forces.

We also learn how to calculate the depth of water at a casualty's position at any point in the tidal cycle. This will be important, for example, in the case of a drifting vessel.

When the station reports an emergency or potential emergency to Coastguard, it is known as an 'incident.' Responding to an incident is practised, either in a live situation when on a training watch and/or through exercises, as one of the most essential parts of Watchkeeper training.



Automatic Identification System showing vessels in the Solent

Other skills underlie Watchkeepers' ability to **spot, plot, report and respond**.

They are:

- Understanding the tides (including Spring and Neap tides)
- Completing of a RYA VHF Maritime Radio Course and proficiency in the use of the phonetic alphabet
- Being confident in the use of the station's Automatic Identification and CCTV systems
- Understanding Water Safety

principles & communicating them effectively to the public

- Recognising the International Code of Signals used in maritime, particularly those indicating emergencies and hazardous goods
- Compiling of a weather report
- Compilation of a Watch Log



DATE	SUNRISE	HW		LW		HW		LW		SUNSET	RANGE	SPRING %
		TIME	HT	TIME	HT	TIME	HT	TIME	HT			
16/06	04:50	03:10	4.3	08:36	1.2	15:59	4.3	21:01	1.4	21:20	3	55%
17/06	04:50	03:58	4.2	09:23	1.2	16:50	4.3	21:52	1.5	21:21	2.9	50%
18/06	04:51	04:54	4.1	10:17	1.3	17:45	4.3	22:52	1.6	21:21	2.8	45%
19/06	04:51	05:57	4.1	11:20	1.4	18:43	4.3	-	-	21:21	2.8	45%
20/06	04:51	07:02	4.1	00:00	1.6	19:43	4.3	12:30	1.4	21:21	2.7	40%
21/06	04:51	08:06	4.1	01:10	1.5	20:42	4.4	13:37	1.4	21:22	2.8	45%

KHM tide times and heights used by Lee NCI

BRAMBLEMET.CO.UK

WEATHER REPORTS FROM BRAMBLE BANK

Latest Report Wind Sea Atmospheric Conditions Tides Archives

Last Updated Monday, 16 June at 11:10 am (BST)

Wind More Details ▶

Mean Speed 2.2 kn (F1)

Highest Gust 2.6 kn (F1)

Direction WNW

Sea Conditions More Details ▶

Tidal Height 2.2 m

Tidal Surge -0.04 m

Atmospheric Conditions More Details ▶

Air 17.9 °C

Barometric Pressure 1029.3 mb

Visibility 0 nm

Status Reports

Southampton Harbour Master

For information about the Port of Southampton please visit the Southampton VTS Web Site using [THIS LINK](#).

Site Status

17 April 25 Bramblemet is operating normally.

Solentmet Support

Associated Sites

Chimet ▶

Cambermet ▶

Sotonmet ▶

Emsmet ▶

Bramblemet ▶

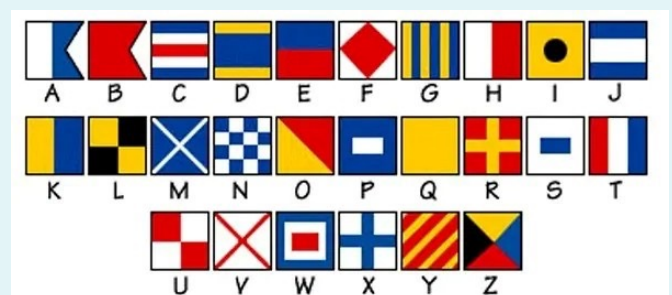
Chimet ▶

Larger map ▶



ANDROID APP ON Google play

Download on the App Store



Ongoing Professional Development

Incidents can happen at any time and so Watchkeepers must be able to respond immediately and effectively. Skills therefore must be kept honed! With this aim, regular plotting exercises are undertaken and checked throughout the year and an annual assessment/refresher of all skills needed on the 'Bridge' for each Watchkeeper is carried out by our team of trainers.

The station also looks to deepen and enrich Watchkeepers' knowledge and understanding of their role through visits and talks. We visit HM Coastguard at Kitescroft and Daedalus, and both Portsmouth and Southampton Vessel Traffic Services as well as the RNLI Training College and these visits are repeated as new Watchkeepers come through.

Similarly, we have had talks from a range of speakers, including Gosport and Fareham Inshore Lifeboat (GAFIRS), UK Border Force, and a former Pilot of Southampton waters. Our monthly station meetings too are used to provide reminders of key training and development pointers.

Lee NCI Watchkeepers make up a highly-trained, professional, and dedicated team who give freely of their time to Save Lives at Lee. We rely on the goodwill of our wonderful community to enable us to carry on doing this.

Thank you for all your support!

Spring in England



Blossom rain making blossom puddles.
Bluebells and daffodils in constant huddles.
New birds nesting, hear them sing.
Spring in England, is such a beautiful thing.

Wisteria growing in vibrant mode.
Tree flowers fading on trees so old
With new shoots showing, with new colours that sing.
Spring in England, is such a beautiful thing.

Solitary bees, looking for home.
Roses preparing for their summer show.
Sunflowers tiny, not yet giant things.
Spring in England, is such a beautiful thing

Swifts that dive so fast and low.
An afternoon moon, a murmuration show.
Gossamer webs and so many things.
Makes spring in England, such a beautiful thing.

Written on 24.04.25
by Andrew Brown



And if you think our training programme might be something you would like to pursue, please email us on lee.on.the.solent@nci.org.uk or pop into the station for an application form.



Tel: 02392 344122

Email: contact@leeresidentsassociation.co.uk