

Lee Residents Association

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LeeResidents



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

AUTUMN 2025

# Welcome to the Autumn 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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### Membership 2026

A reminder that the **Membership Fee is due for renewal by 2nd January 2026 - £5 per household annually.** If you already pay by standing order you do not need to do anything as your membership will automatically be updated once the payment has been received.

Other members who wish to do so can pay by cash in a sealed envelope and deliver it to either the LRA post-box in Tesco Express, The Mortgage Helpers - 81 High Street, or Natures Creations -73 High Street. None of these locations are able to take card payments or give you change.

Your Membership ensures that we have a voice and can make a real difference to our community in Lee-on-the-Solent.

## Upcoming events for our members

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

|                          |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>NOV<br/>22</b></p> |  <p><b>Christmas in Lee</b><br/>Saturday<br/>22nd November<br/>12 noon - 8pm<br/><b>Lee-on-the-Solent</b><br/>Market Stalls &amp; Funfair<br/>Food &amp; Drink<br/>Entertainment<br/>Grand Draw<br/>Santa's Grotto from 4pm<br/>Light Switch-On at 6.30pm</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | <p><b>Saturday 22nd November from 12noon-8pm</b><br/><b>Christmas in Lee</b><br/>Stalls, fair and entertainment throughout the High Street and Pier Street.<br/><b>Everyone is welcome.</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <p><b>NOV<br/>28</b></p> |  <p><b>LeeResidents</b><br/><b>Social Evening</b><br/><b>LRA Members Event</b><br/>Come and join us for our Annual Social Evening<br/>Friday 28th November, 7.30pm to 10pm<br/>St Faith's Parish Centre, Bulson Hall<br/>Victoria Square, LoS, PO13 9NF<br/><b>£5 per person.</b><br/>Includes snacks, wine, soft drinks<br/>Picture quiz with prizes<br/>Raffle tickets available to purchase<br/><small>Please purchase your tickets in advance as they will not be available to purchase on the door</small><br/>Tickets will be available to purchase from 1st September until 22nd November<br/>Natures Creations, 73 High Street, LoS, PO13 9BU</p> | <p><b>Friday 28th November at 7.30pm</b><br/><b>Lee Residents Association Social Evening</b><br/>Join us on Friday 28th November 2025 at the Bulson Hall, St Faith's Church at 7.30pm. £5 tickets on sale from Natures Creations, 73 High Street, PO13 9BU. <b>This is a members only event. Please get your tickets in advance,</b> as they won't be available to buy on the door.</p> |
| <p><b>MAY<br/>19</b></p> | <p><b>Tuesday 19th May at 7.30pm 2026</b><br/><b>Annual General Meeting</b><br/>The LRA Annual General Meeting will be held on Tuesday 19th May,</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |



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

## Committee Members

**Chair** LRA Kealy Dingley

**Vice Chair** Dawn Raymond

**Secretary** Ashleigh Evans

**Treasurer** Brenda Bamforth

**Events** 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

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

## Chair's Report

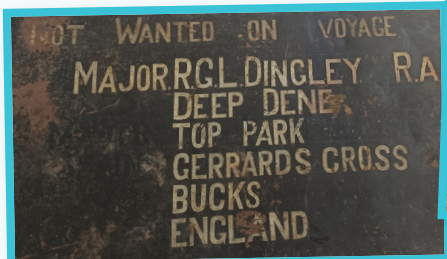
Where did the summer go? Time does fly when you are having fun and as we are so fortunate to be coastal dwellers, we are able to enjoy all the seaside activities. But it is now time to swap flip flops for wellies and enjoy the crisp autumnal walks around our beautiful country parks.

This year the people of Lee-on-the-Solent joined communities across the country in marking the 80th anniversaries of VE Day and VJ Day – how moments that brought and end to the Second World war shaped the peace we know today.

The events honoured the bravery and sacrifice of all who served, and celebrated the enduring peace won in 1945. With its proud naval heritage, Lee-on-the-Solent came together to remember those who gave so much and to ensure their legacy continues for generations to come.



On a personal level my father-in-law fought in Burma alongside the Gurkhas. Whilst clearing the family home attic a few years ago we came across his war trunk. Inside were all the letters that he had sent home and his Kukri (Gurkha knife). Like so many of those who served, he never really said much about those years, I felt enormous pride and was incredibly moved to have a small insight into his day-to-day life.



### This is an extract from a letter Roger wrote home on 14th May 1945

*Well I suppose you have had your victory flag flying on your Dingle-super flag pole in the garden and that you have all been wildly celebrating the great occasion. We heard the news well up to time on the wireless as we were waiting for it the same as you. We have read accounts in the newspapers and heard them on the wireless of all the things people have been doing in London etc and of the various speeches by the King and Mr Churchill.*

### An extract from a letter that he started on the 10th August and finished on the 11th

*What about the news? The Russian declaration of war and the atomic bomb. It seems like the best bit of news of the whole war. Great Scott, if only it comes off and has the effect it should do, if only the Japs had the least grain of common sense well – don't say it, it can't be true. Anyhow it is at the back of all our minds I'm sure but we don't say anything about it and hardly dare hope.*

11/8/45

*IT IS TRUE! I heard the BBC news at 9.30 last night and I could scarcely believe it at first.*

Chair  
*Kealy Dingley*

1410

REC'd  
31 MAY 1945

My dear Mother & Father,

Thank you very much for your telegram of birthday greetings which although it arrived in Bombay on the 27<sup>th</sup> did not reach me till the 6<sup>th</sup> of May, and also for your letter No 158. You said you had to write an ordinary air-mail as you could not get an A.M.-C. from P.O. Why you still constrist yourselves to those 2 waste money on them I can not understand. This was the quickest letter I have ever had from you - just under 8 days. Funny enough I saw in "S.E.A.C." that Brian Cooke had lost his election. He had mentioned him 2 or 3 times. Shocked to hear of you having snow again. Has it ruined all the fruit etc?

Well I suppose you have had your victory flag flying on your Simpler-super flag pole in the garden and that you have all been wildly celebrating the great occasion. We heard the news well up to time on the wireless as we were waiting for it the same as you. We have read accounts in the newspapers & heard them on the wireless of all the things people have been doing in London etc & of the various speeches by the King & Mr Churchill.

Just received your letter No 157 Mur (14 days A.M.C.). I had no idea you would be at Thurston - so you were away at the time. I thought you were going in June. Anyhow I hope you had a very good holiday & decent weather. Was happy with you?

End of War in Europe

Of the whole war. Great Scott, if only it comes off & has the it should do & if only the Japs had the least grain of common well - don't say it, it can't be true. Anyhow it is at the be of all our minds I'm sure but we don't say anything about it a hardly dare hope.

11/8/45

IT IS TRUE! . . . I don't know

what to say. I heard the B.B.C. news at 9.30 last night. I could scarcely believe it at first. Stag & Ted were both in bed asleep & it took me about 10 mins thinking before I got it thru to them & then I had to ring up L.H. to tell them. Now we are wondering if the Jap offer will be accepted & we have been listening all day but have picked up no news yet far.

As things stand at the moment I stay here in a case as I have been told to get my boys off on leave & we had a few chaps to the other 2 Blys and Stag and Ted unfortunately. Repat is up to 3/8 again, at any rate for officers, and poor Ted is frightfully upset. He should have gone last month but now he won't get away until Dec. He doesn't mind so much for himself but is very worried about his wife. She having been expecting him, she is afraid she will have a complete nervous breakdown or something now.

We had a grand treat yesterday. An Indian film came here last night & as they had a British one too. A Mobile cinema came early & we had a private show-all ourselves in the R.H. Mess. It was the film "Lure" starring Gene Tierney. It is a pretty new film and quite good. I didn't go to the Indian film

Beginning of the end of the war Japan

# Solent View Medical Practice

## Patient Participation Group (PPG)

The Solent View Medical Practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a partnership between patients, carers, and practice staff, working together to improve the quality and accessibility of services at the Practice.

We know that many of our patients find eConsult difficult to use. The Practice is planning to replace this system with Accurx, a more user-friendly digital platform. The Practice team is currently mapping out how the new system will work to ensure it is both safe and effective for patients and staff. No implementation date has been set yet, but it will not be before next April, after the contract for eConsult expires.

### Pharmacy First

#### Faster Access to NHS Treatment

Pharmacy First is an NHS England service launched on 31 January 2024. It allows patients to receive advice and treatment for seven common conditions directly from their local pharmacy – without needing a GP appointment.

Pharmacists can provide professional clinical assessments and, where appropriate, issue prescription-only medicines (including antibiotics or antivirals). This helps reduce pressure on GP surgeries and provides quicker, more convenient access to care.

| Conditions covered                                |                   |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sinusitis                                         | 2 year & over     |
| Sore throat                                       | 5 years & over    |
| Earache                                           | 1 - 17-year-olds  |
| Infected insect bites                             | 1 year & over     |
| Impetigo                                          | 1 year & over     |
| Shingles                                          | (18 years & over) |
| Uncomplicated urinary tract infections (in women) | 16 - 64 years old |

### How it works:

1. Visit your local pharmacy and ask to speak with the pharmacist about your symptoms.
2. Private consultation: The pharmacist will assess your condition in a confidential setting.
3. Receive treatment: You'll be given professional advice and, where appropriate, medication to treat your illness.

In addition to Pharmacy First, they offer the following at Lee:

- Seasonal flu vaccination service
- Boots Macmillan Information Pharmacist
- COVID-19 lateral flow tests (eligible NHS patients)
- Discharge Medicines Review
- Hypertension Case Finding Service / Blood Pressure Checks
- Inhaler Recycling Scheme
- NHS Pharmacy contraception service - regular
- Emergency Contraception Service
- NHS Urgent palliative care medicines service

## Social Prescribers

### Connecting You to Support

Social prescribing helps people access non-medical support to improve their wellbeing, independence, and quality of life.

A Social Prescriber Link Worker can:

- Help you find local groups, activities, and community support.
- Accompany you to a first meeting or class if you need extra confidence.
- Connect you with services offering financial advice, home support, or mental health help.
- You can self-refer or ask your GP practice to arrange a referral. The service is tailored to your individual needs and is time-limited to help you establish ongoing community connections and support.

## JOIN US

### Joining the PPG

Younger members are currently underrepresented on the PPG, and we would particularly welcome interest from younger patients who would like to get involved.

There is also a vacancy for the PPG Secretary.

You can find out more about the PPG, complete an application form to join, and submit feedback from the Practice website:  
[www.solentviewmedicalpractice.co.uk](http://www.solentviewmedicalpractice.co.uk)

Update

## Second Chemist for Lee-on-the-Solent

The Solent View PPG continues to campaign for a second pharmacy in Lee-on-the-Solent to meet the needs of our growing and ageing population.

Currently, Jaffer's, Boots, and Stubbington Village Pharmacies have all objected to the application. However, the proposal has strong support from:

- The Solent View Medical Practice
- The Patient Participation Group (PPG)
- Our Member of Parliament, Dame Caroline Dinenage
- Hampshire County and Gosport Borough Councillors

The proposed new pharmacy at 137 High Street (former Wine Bank) would offer:

- **Extended opening hours:** 08:30–19:30 (Mon–Sat) and 10:00–16:00 (Sun) – with no lunch closure
- **Two consultation rooms** for confidential NHS services
- **Full Pharmacy First service**, helping to reduce GP workload and improve access to care

The NHS Pharmaceutical Services Regulations Committee is currently reviewing the application, and a final decision is expected in November 2025.

**Let's hope that common sense prevails and Lee-on-the-Solent regains the second chemist it so clearly needs.**

**John Beavis MBE**

Honorary Alderman

Chair, Solent View Medical Practice PPG

# Community First

## Befriending Service

### Loneliness in the UK: A Growing Concern

According to the Office for National Statistics as of early 2025, approximately **24%** of adults in Great Britain report feeling lonely at least some of the time, including **7%** who feel lonely "often" or "always".

The recent survey also noted that rates of reported loneliness have remained relatively the same since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic which caused mass isolation. Back then even a simple weekly call from a befriender was a precious lifeline and it still is.

According to Loneliness Awareness Week, long-term loneliness is one of the most serious health concerns we face today, becoming as harmful as obesity or smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Research shows that by 2025/26, the number of people over 50 in the UK experiencing loneliness is projected to reach two million, which is a 49% increase since 2016/17. With Gosport's aging population reaching 25% for those aged 55+, 20,000 people, there is the potential for a lot more people in need of social support than most would think.

### Melva's Story



Melva and Heather

Community First were thankful to sit down with one of their befriending service users, Melva, and discover what brought her to the service and the difference it has made to her life.

“ I contacted Community First on the recommendation from a friend with whom I was discussing my situation caring for my husband, and having few opportunities to get out and about. My husband is 85, diagnosed with dementia, he is very forgetful though otherwise in good health, and good spirits. He no longer has any desire to leave the house, or to entertain. So our social life has dried up, much to my disappointment. The opportunity to meet up with a friend on a weekly basis is most welcome.

We meet every Thursday afternoon, Heather sometimes comes to my house where we have a good chat over a coffee in the conservatory, or the garden. Weather permitting, we meet at Stokes Bay, or Lee, for a walk along the beach. Or go out for a coffee.

What I appreciate is knowing I can count on seeing her, so any matters that are concerning me I know I can discuss with her. She listens and understands. She has been a huge help and I've grown to trust her. We get on very well; I feel we 'sing from the same hymn sheet'. I always look forward to Thursdays.”

### The Volunteer Perspective

The Befriending service is only made possible through the invaluable donations of time from volunteers. Those that truly emphasise and appreciate the service as much as those they're supporting like Melva's Befriending volunteer, Heather.

“ We get along very well and sit in her lovely relaxing garden or walk along the beach if the weather permits and enjoy a coffee together. The thing I enjoy the most is making her laugh, we have a similar sense of humour!

I have always volunteered, from reading to blind people when I was a student to night shifts at the Samaritans when I worked. After I retired and my husband died I joined Community First, I like to help people, have the time to do so, and helping others gives me satisfaction and a sense of being useful.”

### Community First's Befriending Service

Local charity, Community First (merged with Gosport Voluntary Action in 2024), has a Befriending service that is available free of charge to help older and isolated residents in Gosport, where a volunteer provides friendly conversation and companionship on a regular basis, over a long period of time.

The service is available in three different ways, users can access through telephone befriending, home visits and a CHAT Group (Come Here and Talk), held monthly at Community First's Gosport office.

### Similar support

Community First provides many other support services in Gosport with elements of befriending including an affordable and friendly gardening and home repairs/decorating service called Mend & Tend which Melva also cherishes.

Describing her experience with both her gardener and handy-worker she said - "I'm very happy, they are both approachable, cooperative and knowledgeable. I'm always very happy with the work they do."

### How to Get Involved

Whether you or someone you know could benefit from regular companionship or you're interested in becoming a volunteer get in touch today by contacting Laura Drew, Community First Wellbeing Administrator at **023 9260 4686 / [laura.drew@cfirst.org.uk](mailto:laura.drew@cfirst.org.uk)**

A referral can also be made in many ways - Adult Services; Health professionals; family; friends; as long as the person is aware of the referral being made.

With every friendly chat, walk, shared pot of tea, we're building a stronger, more connected Gosport, one friendship at a time.

Links to services' webpages for additional further information:

Befriending Service: [www.cfirst.org.uk/wellbeing/gosport-befriending/](http://www.cfirst.org.uk/wellbeing/gosport-befriending/)

Becoming a Befriending volunteer: [www.cfirst.org.uk/gosport-befriender-volunteer-role/](http://www.cfirst.org.uk/gosport-befriender-volunteer-role/)

Mend & Tend: [www.cfirst.org.uk/wellbeing/home-services/mendandtend/](http://www.cfirst.org.uk/wellbeing/home-services/mendandtend/)

# Autumn Planning Report

## Daedalus Waterfront

Details of the approved planning applications were included in the prior Summer LRA Review and are reflected in the recently updated Waterfront Website. This can be found at [www.daedaluswaterfront.co.uk](http://www.daedaluswaterfront.co.uk). There is also a Daedalus online newsletter, part of the front page is shown here:



- Reporting the support given to the **Victory Festival & Air Display at Solent Airport Daedalus**
- Updates the **Waterfront Development including:**
  - Progress on surveys across the site and finalising the planning work needed to start construction
  - A partnership with Blanchard Wells who are developing the Industrial area between the Coastguard Hangar and Daedalus Drive
  - Forecasting plans and details that will preserve heritage in the housing development of “Daedalus Square”

- Announcing roadside banners that will be on the fencing beside the hovercraft gate to provide images and information of planned development. (*Subject to planing consent within a Conservation Area*)
- Reporting progress on surveys and enabling works across the site to make it safe and prepare for restoration. (By author - many will have noticed the scaffolding in front of the Wardroom that was up early to prevent further deterioration and enable much needed renovation works)
- Reporting that the Hovercraft Museum has secured a Lottery Grant to help secure the long-term future of the Museum and its world-renowned collection.



An October view of part of the site that is between the Coastguard Hangar and Daedalus Drive designated for industrial development in partnership with **Blanchard Wells**.

After some initial groundworks the area is now being used for storage (shown with the Airfield Control Tower in the background). The detailed plans that expand on the initial outline proposals are expected soon. These plans should also advise on dust suppression measures that were missing during the groundworks that took place during the summer.

## The Overlord site, an additional building for Marine Concepts

This building on the former site of Overlord Hangar is providing additional industrial and office space for Marine Concepts, it drew concerns from nearby residents when proposed. The addition of acoustic fencing and changes to the landscaping during the planning process appear to mitigate its impacts for a site that was always identified as a brownfield site for industrial development. More housing is to be included in the Daedalus Waterfront Development, not far from other brownfield industrial development. Future residents are recommended to look closely at the outline development plans, the Design and Access Statement in particular, it gives a lot of details and even illustrates intended designs.



*These two photos show how the Overlord site looks today (October 2025)*

## 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, its Bristow's Search and Rescue training centre. This was reported in the last review, this is a similar view that shows the recently attached office buildings in the foreground and some evidence of the landscaping. It is due to be completed this year.



## Significant other Lee-on-the-Solent planning applications

**82 Marine Parade East**, where Marine Parade and Portsmouth Road merge opposite Elmore Car Park. **Application 25/00263/FULL** is for the erection of single storey detached outbuilding and boundary walls at the apex of the intersection of Marine East and Portsmouth Road. This is very similar to a former application for a garage in the same position that was refused by the Local Planning Authority, subsequently refused on appeal. In the new proposal the walls (with the height only quoted in the application as approximate) are almost as high as the refused garage.

The LRA has objected to the new application, highlighting that:

- There is little difference between the garage as refused previously and this proposal with a boundary wall of a similar height in the same position
- The high wall and outbuilding would have unacceptable adverse effects on the character and appearance of the host property and the locality
- By reducing the sightlines for cars and pedestrians at this busy junction it would add significantly to the accident risks

**139-141 High Street Lee-on-the-Solent**, the former Launderette site, now a cleared site. Following refusal of planning application **24/00385/FULL** the second attempt at developing this small High Street plot. What is to happen to this 'bombsite' gap in the High Street? The Local Planning Authority have refused a second application on planning grounds. Unfortunately the plot has too small a footprint to be commercially profitable from any development that has to be an important landmark within the Pier Street Conservation area. It's such a pity that the property speculator that purchased the former building did not take this into account initially. As a remote owner it is clear they have no local interest in maintaining the site as it becomes ever more overgrown.

**20 Chester Crescent 25/00052/FULL**, this application to convert the recently erected large garage in the front of the house into a separate dwelling has been refused. The planning Officer's refusal draws attention to contraventions to both National and Local regulations (in summary):

- Due to its prominent position within the front garden of 20 Chester Crescent it would be at odds with the established pattern of residential development in the locality and appear out of place
- Due to the retained access and driveway for main house it would create an unacceptable living environment for the occupiers
- It would leave inadequate parking for both residences

## **Browndown Former Army Camp opposite the Kingfisher Caravan site.**

### **Application 25/00096/FULL.**

Both the LRA and Gosport Society have objected as this site is specifically designated in the Local Plan under Policy LP18 for tourism, also any development is limited to being low rise. It is also sensitively located within and surrounded by designated 'Open Space'. GBC in their Planning Policy Statement have recognised the concerns expressed above and other issues. For those interested in the details, these documents have been added to the above application. Other queries exist over road configuration, drainage and flood risk. It is likely to be some time before any decision is made. The developer's consultation proposals can still be viewed online at: [www.highwoodgroup.co.uk/browndowncamp](http://www.highwoodgroup.co.uk/browndowncamp).

## **Other Local Works**

**Brookers Field off the Newgate Lane Relief Road.** The 90 Affordable Homes in development by Vivid Housing is now very apparent just to the east of the relief road, even if just driving by. Fareham BC lost an appeal against this development as the Planning Inspectorate predicted it would have little impact on the strategic gap. Local experience would question the veracity of this statement, more especially if you live anywhere near the only access route.

**Haslar Barracks off Fort Road** The justice department is converting the former Haslar Barracks into the **Haslar Immigration Removal Centre**. In common with all government department works not all the planning controls apply in the same way as for private or commercial development. (MoD is the more common example locally). There remains hope that the Justice Department and its many sub-contractors do not lose sight that it is also a Conservation Area; established to retain some of the character that identifies it as the last remaining Napoleonic Era barracks in the UK. `

**Fort Gilkicker a Scheduled Ancient Monument.** Since 2000 there have been 2 significant applications for restoration of the Fort and several renewals of the planning approvals. There were long delays, difficulties over access rights and changes of ownership. The current developers are proving to have the ability and finance to deal with all the complexities associated with renovating and converting the Grade II listed fort into 26 luxury dwellings. Not least was removing the heavy concrete capping that supported the WWII anti-aircraft guns and the built-up earth embankments around the fort. Less apparent but just as significant is the internal work that is taking place under the direction of a Conservation Architect.

## Hovercraft Museum

Living in a seaside place like Lee, we are lucky but sometimes we forget what we have on our doorstep. The Hovercraft Museum is one of them, so here is a little bit of history about the site the museum occupies.

HMS Daedalus was opened in 1917 by the Royal Naval Air Services (RNAS) as a seaplane training centre and later became the main establishment and administrative centre of the Fleet Air Arm. The two hangers the museum occupies date from that time.

The hanger at the front that overlooks the sea is a grade 2 listed building as its design is very unusual.

By the end of WWII HMS Daedalus was arguably the most important Royal Naval Air Station in the world playing a crucial role in the D-Day landings, it was the busiest airfield on the south coast. In 1959 the site was renamed HMS Ariel to reflect the electoral, radar and ground training emphasis.

In 1962 the Joint Service Hovercraft unit was formed with the aim of testing hovercraft in an operational military environment, and soon after the Air Station reverted to the name HMS Daedalus in 1965.

Daedalus closed in 1996 and although the ministry of defence retained ownership of the site, much of it has now been redeveloped.

The remaining part including the area occupied by the museum is currently owned by Homes England.

The museum being the only one in the world, offers the chance to see hovercraft from the initial experiments to hovercraft used in the James Bond movies and much more.

There are quizzes for the children to enjoy and hovercraft to explore; everyone from young and old are made to feel welcome from the staff who are all volunteers.

### NEW for this year

Come and join us for a filled morning of Christmas fun with a range of craft activities to enjoy. Meet some of Father Christmas's Elves who will share in the excitement and deliver a gift bag from Father Christmas to take home.

This event is running on selected dates between **22nd November** and **6th December**. See the website for further details. Bookings ONLY available online [www.hovercraft-museum.org](http://www.hovercraft-museum.org)

There is also a café and shop to relax in and get that little souvenir of your visit.

The museum is open to visitors on **Saturday** and **Sunday** from 10am until 4pm in the summer months and from 10am until 3pm in the winter months. **The museum does close from December until February for maintenance.**

## Inspector Shaladan

To the residents of Lee-on-the-Solent,

I am writing this as the newly posted Inspector responsible for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight Constabulary's policing response to incidents in your area.

As many of you may be aware I started my policing career at Gosport 25 years ago and back then it was the second busiest area to police, with a very busy night-time economy keeping me out on the High Street until the early hours - come rain or shine!

I was then transferred to Southampton, where I spent many years on response teams and then eight years on the firearms unit, before deciding to go for promotion. I am currently a Public Order Commander, which means I can be tasked to go anywhere in the UK to manage disorder or large-scale events of national importance. I have always held Lee-on-the-Solent in high regard, as a beautiful part of the South Coast and despite leaving the area to police elsewhere, I have often returned with my family to enjoy the seafront and shops in all weathers.

In my first few days I was made aware of what concerns you - the seafront. Whilst an area to be admired and enjoyed, it can attract anti-social behaviour and with it a whole host of other criminality.

I have also been made aware that the new Titchfield Bypass, which links in with Marine Parade, is used by those who have no consideration for the rules of the road.

I am listening to your concerns, which are echoed by your local councillors, and I will stress that I am currently looking to utilise the forces specialist units in conjunction with my officers to make a stand against this and make Lee-on-the-Solent a no-go area for anti-social behaviour.

I am currently training 12 more officers within my teams to use the speed radar equipment we have available to us. As a petrol head myself and someone who owns a classic car and rides a motorbike, I believe it is important to stress that with these additional speed enforcement patrols we will not seek to target those members of the community going about their lawful business, however we will target those causing a nuisance and committing offences, and using your area as a racing circuit. I will also look to reinvigorate Gosport's Community Speed Watch program, as I think it is important to tackle these issues together with the local community.

I am currently looking to provide Gosport and Lee-on-the-Solent with some night-time economy resilience over a Friday and Saturday night. Long gone are the days of specifically tasked officers who managed the increased public order incidents.

Whilst things are not as bad as they used to be, I still think there is a value in providing tasked officers responsible for patrolling areas such as the seafront on a Friday and Saturday Night.

I believe in being visible despite being restricted by various meetings, so I will ensure I am out in your area and will alert you to this through Hampshire Alert and Let's Talk Community Surveys. Feel free to come and meet me for a chat about local issues and we will see if there is a way forward in dealing with this in a constructive way. I look forward to seeing more of the community as I continue. We welcome your feedback and will keep you posted on future operations in your area.

Don't forget to follow my officers on the Gosport Police Facebook page for updates on what they are doing in your area.

Hopefully see you soon,  
*Inspector Shaladan*



## An Abundance of Acorns this year and the Beautiful Colours of Autumn



The arrival of autumn is marked by a tapestry of colours, red, coppers and ambers and sets us up for colder months, and this year you may have noticed, so many more acorns on the ground; in fact there are probably thousands more acorns than last year along with conkers, nuts and berries

A year like this is known as a **Mast year** which happens every so often in a cycle every four years or so. It isn't only oak trees that do this, other trees including beech, monkey puzzle trees, pines and spruces also produce extra fruit/seeds etc.

Spring rainfall, temperature and winds during spring pollination often play in this phenomenon and the wildlife definitely benefit from the extra crop where the squirrels, rodents, deer etc use them as a vital food source to build up fat reserves for the colder months. The extra seeds, nuts and fruit also increases the chance of new trees taking root for us to enjoy in future years.

A clear view of retirement:

## Beloved ptician Mr Chan hangs up his lenses

Lee-on-the-Solent High Street will be looking a little dimmer this winter as High Street optician Kenneth Chan and his wife Karen, the friendly faces at Chan's Optometrist have decided to retire after 25 years of business and helping our local Community.

A fixture of our community since 2000, the Chans have seen many changes to both the High Street and to the many families that they have helped.

Having arrived in the United Kingdom almost 40 years ago from Hong Kong, Kenneth went to Eastleigh Technical College and then on to London City University where he studied to be an Optician.

Some patients remember him from Dolland and Aitchison in Fareham and then followed him to his new practice in Lee.



Kenneth will also be missed at Christmas-in-Lee where he sings songs from the shows and Christmas carols ably assisted by some of his friends from his singing group at Warsash United Reform Church.

Over the years he has also enjoyed playing Badminton and Table Tennis. One thing that has not changed has been the dedication to the patients that Kenneth and Karen have seen, sometimes having to refer them for treatments at specialist hospitals.

The loyalty of their patients has been shown by the number of them who still keep returning even though they have moved away - Bognor Regis, Wiltshire and even Sweden are just a few places patients travel from for their appointments.

*“It’s certainly been a journey” said Mr Chan from his consulting room surrounded by eye charts, frame fittings, and sharing lots of stories about families, friends and mutual acquaintances. ‘I’ve had the privilege of seeing children grow up and then come back as adults, and a few bring their children in for appointments.’ It is more than a job it’s about being part of the community. In fact, here is a quote from Mr Chan:*

**”** *‘I am humbled to have served the Lee-on-the-Solent community for the last 25 years. It was a wonderful journey to make so many friends in Lee.’*

Whilst opticians like Mr Chan are experts at helping you choose frames and lenses it is also about reassuring patients that the styles and aesthetics are going to suit them. A warm welcome and an attention to detail are hallmarks of this professional and successful business.

Thank you for your dedication over the last twenty-five years and we hope you both enjoy your retirement. You would be very welcome to come back and sing again at Christmas-in-Lee.

## M27 Junction 10

Improvement Scheme



### Christmas 2025 and New Year 2026

#### Closure of M27 between Junction 9 (Whiteley) and Junction 11 (Fareham)

Hampshire County Council have released information that there will be a full closure of the M27 between Junctions 9 to 11 over the Christmas 2025 period and the New Year 2026. This will allow the new underpass to be installed beneath the M27 just west of the existing A32 overbridge, north of Fareham.

The underpass is now under pre-construction as a concrete box on land next to and just north of the motorway which will be ‘slid’ into position using an innovative ‘box slide’ engineering approach. This method significantly shortens the construction time of the improvement scheme and will reduce the length of disruption to motorway users. There will be three new slip roads and a new dual carriageway to link the new slip roads to the existing road network.

People are encouraged to factor this closure into their travel plans over the festive period. Drivers should expect longer journey times so planning ahead, considering alternative routes or using public transport where possible is suggested.

More information and detailed travel advice will be available later this year. Work is expected to take place during the school holidays when traffic volumes are lower.

**Note** from Lee Residents Association: At the time of this article going to print we do not have further information regarding the exact closure dates. Here is the link to the website for further updates. We will also endeavour to post updates on our **website** and **Facebook page**. [www.hants.gov.uk/transport/M27-junction-10](http://www.hants.gov.uk/transport/M27-junction-10)



## Lee Coastwatch Station

Carrie Bendix, Deputy Station Manager

### Latest, Forthcoming and Ongoing Developments and Priorities

Life at our busy Station never stands still!  
And we would have it no other way.



This Autumn, we have welcomed the appointment of a new Station Manager, Nick Stanley.

Nick was in the Navy for forty years and now combines his extensive Coastwatch duties with a volunteer role at MacMillan Cancer Support.



Nick Stanley - New Station Manager

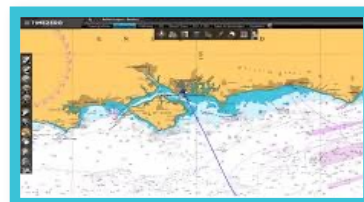
He has taken the helm of a very successful station which received the Kings Award for Voluntary Service (KAWS) just earlier this year, under the fantastic leadership of our former Station Manager, Jaye.

Nick hopes to build on these achievements by focussing on the following priorities:

- Ensuring the professional standards of all Watchkeepers are of the highest order.
- Continuing and building on the engagement we currently enjoy with the wonderful community we support.

The need for those high professional standards in our Watchkeepers is demonstrated by the range of incidents with which they deal.

In recent weeks, incidents have included a vehicle driving at speed on the beach, dangerous jet ski activity, concern for two children on inflatable crocodiles, both a yacht and a kitesurfer reported to be in difficulty, and another yacht which had lost its foresail and power.



The need for up-to-date software and equipment is also vital in achieving high standards of watchkeeping, and we are very excited soon to be taking delivery of

a new Automatic Identification System (AIS) called Time Zero. Alongside this, we will be installing a small radar system, a facility we have not previously enjoyed. Both these exciting innovations will greatly enhance our ability to track those on the water with a view to ensuring their safety. A full training programme for Watchkeepers on the new systems is planned, again to ensure those high standards. This will be in addition to our regular refresher training in readiness for our Declared Facility Status assessment in the Spring. We must pass this annual assessment to remain part of the Search and Rescue community.



Nick's priority of continuing and building on community engagement is key too because the station could not continue to go from strength to strength, as it has, without the amazing support of our community. Your donations of books and money keep the station afloat financially! Your interest in the station, chats at our book stall and bringing your dogs for biscuits are all highly valued by our Watchkeepers and do much to enhance the whole watchkeeping experience!



Some local businesses have kindly continued their financial support for our defibrillator this year. This important resource is available **24/7** to the community.

Furthermore, Lee Mini Market raised money for us at a recent event for which we were hugely grateful.

In turn, as part of our reaching out, we recently attended Lee Hub's Community Day and have hosted the Gosport Heritage Days in September. We are endeavouring to foster closer links with all our local sailing clubs and, at the recent Southampton Boat Show, we met numerous people we only usually see through the binoculars or hear on the radio!



On the left - Southampton Boat Show 2025  
On the right - At Lee Hub Community Day

We strive to be, and are made to feel, an integral part of the community we serve. Hence our desire to nurture and develop this wonderful symbiotic relationship going forward.

If you would like more information about the work of the station or if you are interested in training to join us, please email [lee.on.the.solent@nci.org.uk](mailto:lee.on.the.solent@nci.org.uk)

## u3a Stubbington

A very brief history of the u3a

Founded over 35 years ago, the UK u3a movement, (**University of the Third Age**) aims to encourage groups of people in their third age to come together and continue their enjoyment of learning in subjects of interest to them.



### University? Don't be put off by the word university.

The guiding principles are to promote lifelong learning through self-help interest groups covering a wide range of topics and activities as chosen by members not working towards qualifications but learning purely for pleasure. There are no group "teachers" either, just a friendly group coming together, sometimes in people's homes, to share hobbies physical or intellectual together. Or maybe you fancy trying something different now you have more time.

### Third age?

The 'third age' is defined by a time in your life where you have the opportunity to undertake learning for its own sake.

There is no minimum age, but a focus on people who are no longer in full-time employment or raising a family.

So, what are your interests?



At Stubbington u3a we offer something to interest everyone, some 68 groups in total (run by members who are all volunteers), a small selection of which below.

**Let's get physical** - we have groups ranging from strollers to hardier souls who regularly take on walks of up to 7 miles. If you prefer your walks to include nature, there is a bird watching/nature study group. There is also swimming and 10 pin bowling. Games your thing? We offer **Bridge, Canasta, Cribbage, Mahjong, Poker and Rummikub.**

For the artist/musician within there is **Poetry, Art Appreciation, Painting for Pleasure. Photography, Crafts and Creative Writing, a Men's singing group, Choir and a Ukelele group.**

**Like to Talk** How about a Discussion group or French conversation?

Loneliness. It is an opportunity for those who have lost a partner or are a carer for a disabled or sick partner to meet up once a week for an hour on a Saturday morning for coffee and a chat.

Stubbington u3a have an annual **Christmas lunch, Beetle drives, quizzes, musical evenings and a Cream tea in the summer.** We also have monthly coffee mornings on the last Saturday of the month in the morning, at the Guide Hut, Stubbington where you can meet committee members to enquire about membership etc.



Something a bit different **Criminology, Local History, Genealogy, Humour group. Maybe you fancy the Garden Club or a lunch group.**

We also run a group called **OMO (On My Own)**. This was set up to combat something that unfortunately afflicts a lot of people in today's society.

## Join Us

So, if you would like to join us, please come to our monthly meeting which includes a speaker.

This is on the **first Thursday** of each month at 2 o'clock at Holy Rood Church, Stubbington. Doors open at 1.30 and after the speaker there will be coffee, tea and biscuits in the hall when members of the committee will be pleased to answer any questions you may have. There is also a website for further information.

You **don't have to live** in Stubbington to join us either.

**WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU.**

## u3a Gosport

### Celebrating Lifelong Learning and Friendship in Our Community

#### Discover a World of Opportunities with u3a Gosport

For the readers of 'The Review', in Lee-on-the-Solent, an introduction to u3a Gosport may open the door to a vibrant world of discovery and camaraderie.

#### What is u3a?

The u3a is an international movement established to encourage those no longer in full time work or raising a family to continue learning, socialising, and sharing their skills. Each local u3a is run by its members, for its members, driven by the desire to keep minds & bodies active. u3a Gosport, founded in 1995, has nearly three hundred members & over forty Interest Groups.

#### The Spirit of u3a Gosport

The u3a motto is 'Learn, Laugh, Live.' At u3a Gosport, learning is not a chore but an adventure; laughter is a vital part of every gathering; and living means making each day rewarding, purposeful, and joyful.

u3a Gosport is always eager to welcome new members, fresh ideas, and enthusiastic volunteers.

### Join Us

#### How to Join u3a Gosport?

Prospective members may attend our **New Member Coffee Mornings, one General Meeting & two Interest Group meetings** whilst deciding whether to become a member of u3a Gosport.

Visit [www.gosport.u3asite.uk](http://www.gosport.u3asite.uk) or search online for u3a Gosport for more information.

#### Groups and Activities:

#### Something for Everyone

One of the great strengths of u3a Gosport is the breadth and diversity of its Interest Groups. Members have access to over 40 Interest Groups - Art, Board Games, Crafts, Criminology, Fine Dining, Forensics, History, Knitting, Music, Pickleball, Philosophy, Psychology, Quiz, Sea Dipping, Walking and more. Plus, regular monthly meetings, and a busy calendar of outings and events.

You can pick up one of our leaflets listing all our Interest Groups from the Lee Hub & other businesses in Lee. And there is a full list on our website.

Members can join as many Interest Groups as they wish & can apply to start new Interest Groups. All our Interest Groups are led and shaped by the members themselves. Anyone with knowledge or enthusiasm in a subject area can become a Group Co-ordinator, guiding others and fostering a spirit of collective learning & fun.

u3a Gosport offers something for everyone, a wealth of opportunities to remain mentally, physically, and socially active. And all for less than 60p a week, paid annually.

## Planting Bulbs for a Beautiful Spring

On a breezy Saturday, nearly thirty people from our area joined Lee Residents' Association and Lee-on-the-Solent Horticultural Society on the headlands opposite the Hovercraft Museum. The aim was to plant around 1,800 mixed bulbs in an area that hasn't been covered before and create a welcoming and uplifting environment for everyone to enjoy when spring arrives.



Lee-on-the-Solent Horticultural Society kindly donated £50 towards to cost of the bulbs and were involved on the day along with Lee

Residents' Association Committee. It was great to meet so many people from our community who cared about the area and wanted to be involved in our first bulb planting.

With so many willing volunteers, it took around an hour to plant 300 bulbs in each of the six beds. We used a variety of different tools that people had brought along, and it was agreed that using a 'dibber' was the most effective way to plant the bulbs. It was a great opportunity in getting people together, sharing knowledge and having fun with the aim of transforming the area into a vibrant display in the spring.

The bulbs were chosen for their mixed variety of colour and blooms and we look forward to seeing a sea of colour next year in the knowledge this was a community effort for all to enjoy.

If you have any ideas for future community projects and would like to be involved please contact us:  
[contact@leeresidentsassociation.co.uk](mailto:contact@leeresidentsassociation.co.uk)



### Quotes from People on the Day

Kealy

"I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone that came today, so many muddy hands made light work."

Jane

"I wanted to come down with grandchildren so that in the spring we can see all the beautiful daffodils along the seafront."

Cllr. Graham Burgess

"I am impressed with the people who have turned out to come and give a hand to make a nice yellow swathe on the headlands."

Brenda

"I have moved to a flat with a balcony and this is my chance to get in the garden."

Cllr. Stevyn Rickets

"It is nice to get out and put something back into the local community and help the volunteers."

Ian

"I am here because I love walking along the seafront, and I like to be involved in the community."

## Stronger for Longer

Why Exercise, Strength & Balance Really Matter as we age to Live Longer Better

By Becca Harvey and Paula Lamb

As we grow older, staying strong and active becomes one of the most important things we can do for our health and independence.

For those over 60, movement isn't just about fitness—it's about freedom, independence, quality of life and ageing the best we can. And the good news? It's never too late to start!

### The Power of Movement

Our bodies naturally change with age. We lose muscle mass, our joints may feel stiffer, and our balance can decline. But these changes don't mean we have to slow down or sit still. In fact, the opposite is true.

Exercise—particularly strength and balance training can help you:

- Stay steady on your feet and reduce the risk of falling
- Maintain muscle and bone strength
- Improve your heart health
- Boost your confidence, mood and energy levels
- Continue doing the things you love
- Improve your posture, body awareness and control

### Safe, Social, and Supportive

Improving strength and balance can be accessible and achievable by joining a local Steady and Strong class is the community. These sessions are welcoming, non-judgemental, social, specifically designed for people over 60 and cater for different abilities and exercise preferences.

## Join Us

### Tuesdays

📍 Nimrod Centre, Gosport

10:00-11:30

Steady and Strong Dance

11:30-1:00

Strength and Balance Circuits

1:00-2:30

Steady and Strong  
(with chair support)

2:30-4:00

Steady and Strong to Music

### Wednesdays

(Steady and Strong with chair support)

📍 Lee-on-the-Solent Tennis Club

9:30-11:00

📍 Solent Evangelical Church,  
Forton Road, Gosport

11:45-1:15

📍 Crofton Club, Stubbington

2:00-3:30

### Thursdays

📍 Crofton Community Centre,  
Stubbington

9:30-11:00

Steady and Strong Dance

11:00-12:30

Steady and Strong to Music

12:30-2:00

Strength and Balance Circuits



They are led by experienced instructors, with a focus on safety, correct technique, education and enjoyment. Adaptations are always available for those with mobility issues, joint concerns, or chronic conditions, so whether you're completely new to exercise, returning after illness or injury, or just looking to stay fit and meet new people—there's a place for you.

### Don't like group exercise?

How about a home workout of bodyweight exercises like squats, wall push-ups, or lifting light weights (even cans or water bottles) for strength training. Or investing in a static bike, cross-trainer, rower or swimming and other local leisure centre offerings?

Balance can also be improved at home. Try standing on one foot or heel toe walking when standing near your kitchen counter. Build balance training into your daily routine to build coordination and confidence.

### Final Thoughts: Age Boldly, Move Often

Exercising when you're older is about working at your capability. Whether you want to stay independent, reduce your risk of falls, feel stronger, steadier, and more energised or simply enjoy moving to music start today with little activity changes in your daily and weekly routines.

To find out more information about Steady and Strong classes, contact:

Paula Lamb: **07951 907 264** Becca Harvey: **07891 541 51**



**LeeResidents**

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