Leeds & Broomfield

50p

Oct 2024



Wine and

Wisdom

Saturday 12 October Memorial Hall, Leeds

7.15 for 7.30pm
Teams of four to six
Supper with wine provided

Bring your own glasses
In aid of Leeds Memorial Hall funds

Tickets £10.00

(See page 13 for details)

Church and Village News

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Administrator	Tracey Pavan	07516 159879
Churchwarden—Leeds & Broomfield	Maria Boreham	436296
Verger - Broomfield	Derek Hadlow	861955
Borough Councillor	Gill Fort	861605
County Councillor - Leeds	Gary Cooke	694480
County Councillor - Broomfield	Shellina Prendergast	07970 461160
Craft & Natter	Jane Newsome	862558
Cricket Club - Secretary	Sarah O'Connell	880340
Football Club (Men & Ladies)	Colin Pitchers	670700
Friends of Leeds & Broomfield Churches	Pauline Royer	07711 830436
Leeds Allotments	Strutt and Parker	01227 473741
Leeds Amateur Dramatic Group	Lesley Finlay	862467
Leeds Playing Field	Sherrie Babington	01634 863719
Leeds/Broomfield Bellringers	Andrew Saunders	07948 715268
Leeds W.I.	Susan Wenham	07905 479870
Magazine Editor & Advertising	Judi Taylor	862316
Magazine Distribution	Humphrey Goodhew	861624
Memorial Hall – Bookings	Jane Steele	863481
Parish Council Chair - Leeds	Bob China	07472 760460
Parish Council Chair – Broomfield & Kingswood	Tina Clark	880929
Parish Clerk - Leeds	Sherrie Babington	01634 867173
Parish Clerk – Broomfield & Kingswood	Hayley Roberts	474190
Primary School	Fiona Steer	861398
Roman Catholic Priest	Fr. Peter Growney	752637
Scout Group	Alan Poulton	843019
Sutton Valence Gardeners' Association	Ross Vaughan	693837
Website : www.leedskent.org.uk	leedsparishcoun- cil@gmail.com	

MAGAZINE MATERIAL

Please email copy for the magazine by 12th of the month to the Editor, Judi



Harvest!

October is the month when many churches hold harvest festivals, thanking God for the year's harvest and, more generally, for the abundance which so many of us enjoy. So this month's magazine leader is a simple attempt to give a nod to farmers, the driving force behind our food supplies.

Having grown up on a farm, I am sure that I write this with a degree of bias. However, I think it's hard to argue against how hard farmers work, how farming culture is a wonderful part of our context, and how the challenges faced by those in the farming and growing industries increase each year. Whether it is the impact of climate change, changes in legislation and subsidies or some other cause, the challenges are huge and running a farm is a heavy weight to carry.

A recent National Farmers' Union survey found that the British public hold farmers and growers as one of the most favoured and valued professions, second only to nurses.

- 91% said they feel that farming is important to the UK economy.
- 89% of the public feel it is important that Britain has a productive farming industry.

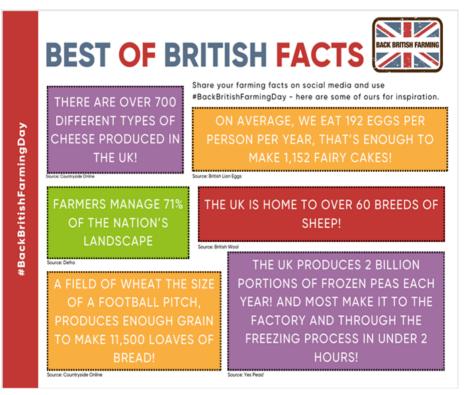
85% of people support increasing self-sufficiency in UK food production.

Despite our (semi-)rural context, we still live in a place where food so often comes washed and packaged, uniform in shape and size, wrapped in plastic, pre-chopped, etc, etc and we can quickly lose an appreciation of fresh foods in all their dirty, unpeeled, occasionally wonky, straight from the field beauty.

So how about this month, alongside taking a moment to be reminded of the incredible privileges we enjoy each day, we make sure to appreciate farmers a little more. Chat to your local farmer and ask how they are getting on. Take a footpath through a nearby field or orchard and be amazed by the natural industry. Seek out a source of local produce, be it fruit, eggs, meat, beer, or something else and support them not just once, but whenever you can. Next time you meet a tractor along a country lane, wind down your window and thank the driver for their service.

Farming is there to be celebrated and our farmers are there to be supported and encouraged. Where would we be without them?!

Rev Rob











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Whether you're catching up with family, raising a toast with friends or celebrating the big day this Christmas, let us set the perfect festive scene for you to enjoy.

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Church Services in October

6 October	Trinity 19			
Readings	Mark 10 2-16	Mark 10 2-16; Hebrews 1. 1-4 and 2.5-12		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion	
	9.30am	Leeds	Morning Celebration	
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Harvest	
	11.00am	Langley	Morning celebration	
	11.00am	Kingswood	Café Church	
13 October	Trinity 20	Trinity 20		
Readings	Mark 10. 17-	Mark 10. 17-31; Hebrews 4.12-end		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion	
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist	
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration	
	11.00am	Kingswood	Morning Celebration	
	3.30pm	Broomfield	Harvest Communion	
20 October	Trinity 21	Trinity 21		
Readings	Mark 10.35-4	Mark 10.35-45; Hebrews 5.1-10		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Morning Worship	
	9.30am	Leeds	Morning Celebration HC	
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist	
	11.00am	Langley	Morning celebration	
	11.00am	Kingswood	Morning celebration	
27 October	Bible Sunday	Bible Sunday		
Readings	Mark 10.46-6	Mark 10.46-end; Hebrews 7.23-end		
Services	9.30am	Otham	Holy Communion	
	11.00am	Langley	Morning celebration HC	
	11.00am	Kingswood	Holy Communion	
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist	

This Month's Duties

		St Nicholas		
		Readers		
Oct	6	D King	9.30am	
	20	TBC	9.30am	
		Church Cleaning		
Oct		Mr & Mrs King		
		War Memorial		
Oct		Mrs J Dabbs		
		Brass & Silver	Flowers	
Oct	6	Mrs Turner	Miss E Chapman	
	13/20	Mrs Ryan	Mrs H Norman	
	27	Mrs Turner	Mrs B Turner	
		St Margaret's		
Oct	13	Readers		
		Mrs J Taylor	3.30pm	
Oct	13	Church Cleaning		
		Mr & Mrs Bowman-Taylor	3.30pm	



Our Ride and Stride Heroes!



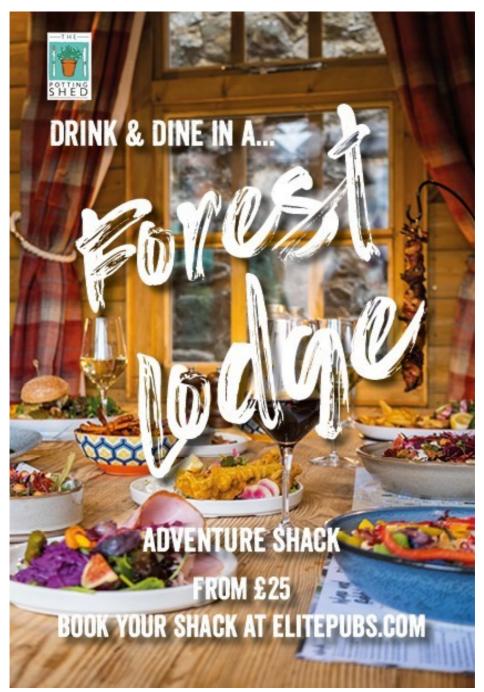
Broomfield Boomers

Many congratulations to our two heroic teams of walkers and bikers who completed visits to over 20 local churches to help raise

sponsorship funds for Friends of Kent Churches who often help with the cost of repairs to our Leeds and Broomfield churches

Leeds Striders





Re-Cycle your Bicycle



We need your used bikes and old tools!!!

Maidstone Riverside Rotary Club and Maidstone Lockmeadow Market are collecting used bikes and tools for Africa

We will send used bikes and tools to rural communities in Africa.

Those not suitable may be stripped down for parts or refurbished and sold to the community here in the UK

The next bike and tool drop off:



Lockmeadow Market (Car Park)
Barker Road
Maidstone ME16 8SF



Saturday 26th October - 9.00am to 3.00pm For more information call 07793 817226

For information about the Re-Cycle.org charity and their bike drop off locations visit www.re-cycle.org or call 01206 617865

Sutton Valence Gardeners' Association

Do you know that Sutton Valence has a Gardener's Association?

Our membership fee is £5 per year and this offers 10% discount at Rumwoods, Coolings the Potted Garden at Bearsted and other local Nurseries (T&Cs Apply)

We have four Talks this year and have two Shows. Members enter our Shows with produce from their gardens ie fruit, vegetables, flowers. Also, cookery and handicraft. Children can enter our Shows too.

To Join Contact Ross on 01622 693837 or email us on suttonvalencegardeners@gmail.com





Leeds Litter Pick Saturday 5 October

If you are able to help please join us at the Playing Fields in Upper Street, Leeds at 10am

Litter Pickers, Hi Viz Vests and bags supplied



Wine and

Wisdom

Saturday 12 October Memorial Hall, Leeds

7.15 for 7.30pm
Teams of four to six

Supper with wine provided

Bring your own glasses
In aid of Leeds Memorial Hall funds

Tickets £10.00

Please note tables need to be booked by Friday 4 October

Tel: Jane on 01622 863481 Or email jane.steele@hotmail.co.uk

LEEDS CASTLE

Well, it sadly looks like summer is all over judging by the rain currently driving against my office window! Still, it will soon be the season of gorgeous autumn colours, crunching leaves beneath your feet on walks and the excuse to drink hot chocolate regularly.

It is the time for tidying and getting the garden in best possible shape for strong flowering next spring. Our beautiful new wild flower meadow continues to flower and should do so well into Autumn. It has been lovely to see so many people enjoying the mown paths through it over the summer.

We currently have a new *Sublime Sculpture Trail* in situ, with stunning sculptures positioned throughout the estate. This runs until 6 October and is included in the annual admission ticket.

Looking ahead to Autumn and Winter, we have daytime *Hallowe'en* & Christmas experiences. During October Half-Term, children are invited to become Spell Seekers and interact with six magical beings around the Estate, before joining the Hallowe'en Ball and Fancy Dress competition. This was hugely popular last year, so we are hoping for good weather so everyone can enjoy it.

Shortly after October Half Term, we will be going into the *Fireworks Spectacular* Weekend on 9/10 November. This is always a fantastic spectacle and is already selling very fast, so do buy your tickets quickly if you want to attend.

From 23 November to 31 December, the Castle will be transformed into scenes from *The Nutcracker*, with live performers at weekends and during the school Christmas holidays. Many of you will have

enjoyed *Narnia* in the Castle last year, so we hope you will join us for this magical experience too. Both *Hallowe'en* and *The Nutcracker* are included in your 12-month ticket. We will also have a bookable *Nutcracker* themed Afternoon Tea (adults & children).

Christmas Lights Trail is returning for a third year, with 80% of installations new for this year, we also have great catering, marshmallow toasting and fairground rides, including a Big Wheel giving great views over the Castle!

Looking forward to the New Year (yes – already!), we will be running a Wedding Fair in January for those newly engaged couples who want to get married at the Castle. Aside from the Castle itself and the Maiden's Tower, we can also offer our newly refurbished Castle View Restaurant and marquees in several stunning locations for weddings. We know that couples want that unique touch on their wedding catering, so now offer a variety of different caterers for weddings and functions too.

We will be carrying out some conservation works during the winter. The Castle Moat Bridge will undergo stonework repairs, including a significant amount of re-pointing below the waterline. We will also be refurbishing the sluices that control the waterways on the estate.

Hope you have a lovely Autumn.

Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive



Notes from Leeds Parish Council

Welcome to newcomers to Leeds

Welcome to any new residents to the village. We hope that you will be happy here. Please don't be shrinking violets – come and support the village and its community in whatever way you wish.

Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillor Greeff & Councillor Fort

Parish Councillor Vacancy

Vacancy still open, no response to date. If you feel that you could contribute to the Village why not apply, contact the Parish Clerk for details.

Minutes of Previous Meeting

Agreed & signed as a true record. No declarations of interest.

Public Participation No members of the public attended.

Highways Matters

A20 working group discussion notes circulated to Councillors present.

Drain cover in road by school has been levelled off.

Cll Bernini to progress possible controlled crossing by school with KCC Highways. If you have concerns about pot holes and empty/damaged grit bins please either use the KCC website or advise the Parish Clerk. Leak at the bottom of Foley Hill still ongoing, Clerk to yet again contact SE & Southern Water companies.

Chairman's Report

The Chairman voiced his disappointment over the cancellation of the Village lunch planned for the 24 August, cancelled due to inclement weather. On behalf of the PC he thanked the residents group for their hard work preparing and organising the events. He advised that Bearsted recently have had two new tennis courts constructed and wondered if the PC could obtain the cost for these with the view of obtaining a grant maybe to have the Leeds courts renovated.

Financial Matters The financial statement & payments were approved.

Report from KCC Councillor

Cllr Cooke attended the meeting and advised that with the change of parties in the borough the local plan was to be reviewed and changed. This will exclude any future proposals for a relief road!

He was asked to see if the grit bins cold be replaced where damaged and that where needed refilled before the onset of winter. He requested details of which bins needed attention and where they were located.

CII. Cooke expressed his disappointment and surprise over the planning consent given by both KCC & MBC relating to the Abbey Farm development.

Planning Matters No applications to consider.

Parish Maintenance

The bus stop shelter by Burgess Hall Drive is obviously not used, due in the main

to the mess inside it and the genaral state of the outside. Clerk to contact bus company. The pavement opposite Farmers Close down to Forge Lane has vegetation from residents' properties overhanging the path and in some parts such that pedestrians have to walk close to the kerb to get by. This is repeated on the pavement from Forge Lane to the bottom of Foley Hill and is so bad that opposite the Sports Field car park a road sign has completely disappeared!

Please be aware that if residents do not cut back their vegetation then the PC will have no alternative but to ask KCC do this and they will charge the relevant property owners.

The field at the end of the Church car park has been mown, the gate padlock found and the gate secured.

Build up of litter and rubbish at the field end of the Church car park is frustrating to see, given that there is a litter bin at the road end of the car park.

Build up of litter on the path between the Ashcroft cottages and the Church graveyard entrance and on this same pavement the PC will get the roses pruned and vegetation cut back.

All in all the village looks good other than the ever present litter which appears in the main to come from passing traffic. As we come into Autumn fortunately nature brings the growth rate to a minimum and the maintenance is reduced.

Leeds Playground, Playing Field, Tennis Courts & Pavilion.

Fence panels around children's play area have been repaired. Weeds etc around perimeter of the tennis courts have been treated.

An external supply on the Pavilion has now been installed.

Graffiti has appeared on the back of the Pavilion, if anyone knows who the artist is please ask them to desist. It has been noted that excessive litter etc is being placed in the litter bin outside the Pavilion. Whilst this is the place for it the cost to the village in having the bin emptied is rising so can the PC ask users of the field to take home as much of their litter for disposal as they can or place it in the MBC bin at the entrance to the car park.

Street Lighting

With the nights drawing in it is important that all the street lights are working. If you spot any that are not please contact the Clerk.

Church Path Lighting

The new Church path lighting along with the new Church floodlights are now fully functional coming on at dusk and off around midnight.

Resilience/ Emergency Plan

Draft plan now completed, Cll's to read though it ready for discussion at next PC meeting.

Date of next meeting

The next meeting of the Parish Council is in the Village Hall on Tuesday 8 Oct ober 2024 at 7pm

Update from Helen Whately your local MP



It's great to be back in Parliament standing up for Faversham and Mid Kent. Obviously it's different now that I'm in Opposition. Like most MPs I would always rather be in Government, but Opposition is a new challenge and I will make the most of it. I'm honoured to continue serving you all.

As well as representing our beautiful corner of the country, I've been appointed Shadow Secretary of State of Transport. That means I have work to do holding the Government to

account on their national policies like nationalising the railways, and I can put extra pressure on Ministers on local transport issues. For instance, I am already lobbying the new Government for an end to Operation Brock and to make sure Dover and Folkestone are ready for new EU border checks.

Also on transport, many of you have been affected by the closure of the A251. I certainly have been. I know Parish Councillors have been doing sterling work liaising with SGN and Kent Highways on behalf of residents. I will continue to support our Parish Councillors, including pressing for potholes to be filled while the road is closed, and to get the damage to passing places and verges repaired.

Earlier this week I put a question to the Justice Secretary about catapults. Catapults are increasingly being used to injure or kill livestock like sheep, wild animals like ducks, and even pets — including River the peacock in Boughton Monchelsea. It's horrible to see. Part of the problem is catapults aren't considered offensive weapons. I have asked the Justice Secretary to meet me to discuss how the justice system can deter (and stop) catapults being used to kill animals. I will also be taking this up with the Home Office.

Another problem rearing its head is hare coursing – a cruel and illegal activity that has no place in our community. I've been reassured that Kent Police are actively tackling this, and I'm grateful to those who've reported these incidents. If you see hare coursing happening – as for any crime in progress – call <u>999</u>. If you see the signs afterwards like dead hares please report it online to Kent Police. By spotting it and reporting it we can help to stop it.

Speaking of our countryside, I know many of you are concerned about the new government's plan to allocate huge numbers of houses to our local area. I share your concern. I'll be monitoring their planning proposals carefully and will do my

best to stick up for our area. That said, with such a large majority in Parliament the Government is unlikely to lose votes any time soon.

The most recent vote in Parliament was on the Winter Fuel Allowance. I voted to keep this but sadly the cut is going to happen, which means 18,000 pensioners in Faversham and Mid Kent will lose their payment this winter. There is a myth that because pension incomes have been protected in recent years by the 'triple lock' pensioners can afford to go without this extra help. That's simply not the case and I have received harrowing emails of how some are going to struggle this winter. However, if you are on pension credit you will still receive it. I suggest double checking to see if you are entitled to this on the government website. If you are not eligible but are really going to struggle please let me know and I can support you to seek help from the local council's 'Household Support Fund'.

If you would like my help with anything or would like to raise something with me please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Wishing you all the very best.

Helen helen.whately.mp@parliament.uk / 0207 219 6472



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- · Beer Festival
- · Afternoon Tea
- · Winter fairs
- · Curry and Soul evening



Friends of Leeds and Broomfield Churches Charity

No:1080363

Whether you're passionate about local historic buildings, looking to meet like-minded individuals, or simply want to have fun while making a difference, our charity group is the perfect place for you!

We need some more local support and therefore asking residents who care about Leeds and Broomfield Churches to join. Our charity was founded to raise money to help preserve the historic churches of these two villages and to prevent them from falling into disrepair.

We aim to raise money and have fun while doing it!

This is not a religious group.

The charity meets once every three

months in either Leeds or Broomfield Village.

Join

Contact Jenny for more information about joining 07970119467

If you don't wish to join the charity but would like to offer a donation please visit our website. https://www.friendslbc.co.uk/support-us



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Parish Administrator

If you need help with dates for church weddings or christenings or any other church services after Mark leaves us at the end of September and before a new Vicar is appointed, please contact our Parish Administrator Tracey Pavan on 07516 159879 or email <code>lbkchurches@gmail.com</code> and Tracey will endeavour to help.

FRIENDS OF LEEDS AND BROOMFIELD CHURCHES

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Meeting Coming up:

Thursday 10 October
All welcome. Non-members: £4.50
7.30pm. Leeds Village Hall

Join our Facebook Page @LeedsWI Email us at: leedsvillagewi@gmail.com

Or call Susan Wenham on 07905 479870

LEEDS CRAFT AND NATTER GROUP

WEDNESDAY 16 October LEEDS VILLAGE HALL 11am-1pm

A hot drink and biscuits will be provided

Cost £3.50 to cover costs

For more details please contact Jane Newsome 862558



FIRST AID COURSE 23rd NOVEMBER 2024

Do you want to know the basics of first aid? Would you like more information about using a defibrillator?

Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council are running an <u>ALL DAY</u> unaccredited First Aid Course at Kingswood and Broomfield Village Hall.

There are limited spaces therefore places can be booked on a first come basis at a cost of £10 to secure your place.

Please contact Hayley, Parish Clerk to book your place!



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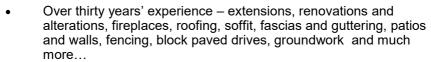
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For Your Diary

Oct 5 Litter Pick: —Playing Fields meet 10am

6 SVGA Talk—For venue contact Ross: 01622 693837

8 Leeds Parish Council meeting: Village Hall—7.00pm

10 Comedy night : Potting Shed—See page 9

10 Leeds W.I. meeting: Village Hall—7.30pm

12 Wine & Wisdom : Village Hall—7.15pm

16 Craft & Natter : Village Hall—11am

26 Recycle your bicycle/tools—see page 10

Nov 24 SVGA AGM—For venue contact Ross: 01622 693837



The views expressed in this magazine are not necessarily the opinions of the Editor or Publisher. Whilst every care is taken to present the articles with an innocent opinion, the Editor and Publisher take no responsibility for any effects the articles or advertising features may cause.

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Helen Whately MP

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