

**Leeds &
Broomfield**

50p

Mar 2025

Scout Quiz Night

Broomfield & Kingswood Village Hall

Saturday 22 March

7.30pm

Tickets £10 each

Tables up to 8

Ring Alan : 843019

Includes Ploughman's Supper

Bring own drink and glasses



Church and Village News

PARISH DIRECTORY

Parish Administrator	Tracey Pavan	07516 159879
Churchwarden—Leeds & Broomfield	Maria Boreham	436296
Verger - <i>Broomfield</i>	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
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Leeds W.I.	Susan Wenham	07905 479870
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Memorial Hall – <i>Bookings</i>	Jane Steele	863481
Parish Council Chair - Leeds	Bob China	07971 861460
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

MAGAZINE MATERIAL

Please email copy for the magazine by 12th of the month to the Editor, Judi Taylor. Email : juditaylor4@outlook.com



NORTH DOWNS TEAM MINISTRY

A Wilderness Experience

Have you ever been in a wilderness? Well, it's not quite your favourite tourist destination, albeit there are many cities, like Los Vegas, that are built in a desert. We wouldn't choose to be in a wilderness, but it is often in such places of solitude that strength comes. A wilderness may be defined as 'a desert, a place of desolation or abandonment.'

Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days, where he fasted. Mark's gospel tells us that 'The Spirit sent Jesus out into the desert for forty days, being tempted by Satan. He was with the wild animals, and angels attended him.' This was just after Jesus had been baptised, 'when the Spirit descended on him like a dove and a voice came from heaven: You are my Son, whom I love, with you I am well pleased.'

What a tremendous baptism but isn't that sometimes just like life when we are on a high that our world comes crashing down. During his time in the wilderness, Jesus was sustained by the angels. It's good to know should we at times find ourselves to be in a wilderness, that Jesus has gone before us and is able to sustain us.

The wilderness is not all bad, it is the place where learning happens, where God has our attention as we are away from the busyness of life and God can speak and we can listen. A wilderness experience has many facets, physical or mental illness, financial struggles or family traumas. Many people have testified that it was during these 'desert experiences' that they felt God particularly close to them and their faith was strengthened, often feeling upheld by the prayers of others.

In the wilderness Jesus was tempted by the devil, but each time used God's word to combat the temptation. A great model for us when we are tempted to stray from the narrow path and the kingdom of God.

It's important to remember that the wilderness experience doesn't last forever. Jesus was in the wilderness for forty days, after which he came out of desert to begin his earthly ministry. Sometimes, when we are in the middle

of the wilderness, it's difficult to see our way out. That's when we may need the help of a friend, a counsellor, a guide. Someone to be with us in the good times as well as the more challenging times of our lives as well as praying to our heavenly Father.

Lent marks the period of forty days from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday. It marks the time that Jesus spent in the wilderness. Traditionally, it is a time when Christians give up something, often an item of food.

This year Ash Wednesday is on 5 March and Easter Sunday is on 20 April. I wonder what you will be giving up. Some Christians use this time not so much in giving something up but in doing acts of love, serving others in the community. Of course, such acts should not be reserved for Lent but after a period of six weeks, hopefully a pattern will develop that can be carried on throughout the year.

During Lent, we have a number of special Church Services in Leeds, Broomfield and Kingswood, most notably Mothering Sunday (30 March) and Palm Sunday (13 April). We also have a Lent Group, where we will be viewing and discussing *The Chosen*, Series 3, which is about the life of Jesus.

Whatever you are planning on giving up or taking on during Lent, my prayer, using the words from the Godspell song, is that we may see the Lord Jesus Christ more clearly, love him more dearly and follow him more nearly day by day.

Peter Roberts—kingswoodchurch@outlook.com

Reader/Licensed Lay Minister

Please join us for our
LBK Lent Group

**We meet to learn of the relevance of God's word in today's world, to help us in this we are looking at
*The Chosen - Series Three***

Join us at 7 Laurel Grove,
Kingswood, ME17 3PS at 7:15pm for refreshments.

Time 7:30pm - 9pm.

Every Wednesday during Lent from 12 March

All Welcome!

Sonya & Peter 01622 843625



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LEEDS CASTLE
GOLF CLUB

Church Services in March 2025

2 March	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	9.30am	Leeds	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Café Church
5 March	7.00pm	Otham	Ash Wednesday service
9 March	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Methodist Celebration
	3.30pm	Broomfield	Afternoon Celebration
16 March	9.30am	Leeds	Communion
	9.30am	Otham	Morning Service
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Communion
	11.00am	Kingswood	Baptist Celebration
23 March	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
30 March	9.30am	Otham	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Joint Area Communion

Sorry about the separation of the Readings from the Service table this month but I have problems with my software....will try to remedy next month! Editor

Service Readings

- 2 March *Exodus 34:29-35.2 Corinthians 3:12-4.2. Luke 9,:28-36*
- 5 March *Isaiah 58: 1-12. 2 Corinthians 5: 20b-6.10. John 8 :1-11*
- 9 March *Deuteronomy 26:1-11. Romans 10: 8b-13. Luke 4: 1-13*
- 16 March *Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18: Phillipians 3: 17.4-1. Luke 13:31-35*
- 23 March *Isaiah 55:1-9 : 1 Corinthians 10: 1-13. Luke 13: 1-9*
- 30 March *1 Samuel 1:20-28. Colossians 3 :12-17. John 19: 25-27*



Broomfield and Kingswood Parish Council

Pop-Up Café

Kingswood and Broomfield Village Hall

Thursday 10th April

Thursday 29th May

Thursday 31st July

Thursday 21st August

10.30 – 12.30 pm

Come along, meet up with old and new friends
and enjoy a hot drink and a piece of cake!

Everyone welcome



This Month's Duties

St Nicholas

Readers

Mar 2/16 To be agreed 9.30am

Church Cleaning

Mar Mr & Mrs King

War Memorial

Mar Mrs J Dabbs

Brass & Silver

Flowers

Mar 2 Mrs Ryan Mrs B Evans

16 Mrs Ryan *Lent*

St Margaret's

Readers

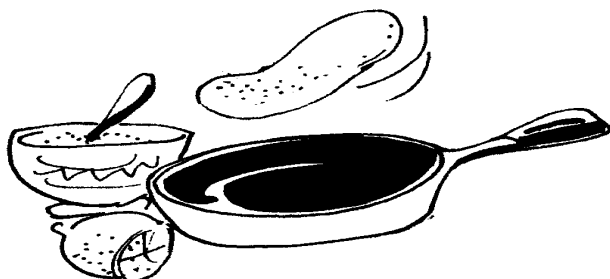
Mar 9 Mrs J Taylor 3.30pm

Church Cleaning

Mar 9 Mr & Mrs Bowman-Taylor 3.30pm

Pancake Day

4 March!





MOTHER'S DAY

3 course set menu & free gift!

£38*
pp

*£20pp deposit required. t&cs apply.

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LADS Panto 2025 - Robinson Crusoe

Robinson himself was played by Boris Dimitrou and he was full of energy and delivered his lines perfectly despite the annoying presence of his on stage brothers Spratt (Hrisi Gyuretsou) and Shrimp (Jack Brain). The three of them made a great slap-stick team. Their antics were watched over by their "Mum" Dame Crystal Crusoe (Paul Cordier) who struggled to keep them in line.

Emily Wheelhouse gave a great performance as the wicked pirate Capt. Blacktashe ably accompanied by her long suffering sidekick Winkle (Kieren Wallace) Their plan to steal the treasure map was thwarted by the Spirit of the seven seas Calypso (Kim Richards) and her new apprentice Magnum played really well by the youngest member of the cast Kristian Gyuretsou. Kim sang a lovely song in her role too.

Captain Crustacean (Mel Commins) , left the chip shop to sail the Jolly Roger off on a treasure hunting adventure accompanied by stowaways disguised as sailors, Polly & Molly Perkins. The squabbling sisters were played by Megan Wallace and Bella Lagden and their antics kept the crowd amused throughout. Bella's solo song was a hit as was the Captain and Robinson's duet.



The cannibals on Thousand Island plotted to eat various members of the cast and their leaders Friday & Saturday were played by Sara Greasley and Jane Cowen. Their frightening song and dance left ensemble member Danny Silk cowering in a cook pot.

Danny along with other ensemble members, Anne Renel, Pauline and Chloe Silk, Heaven Lea and Xiania Zylstra, played villagers, a butcher, baker & candlestick maker, sailors on board the ship, and cannibals as well as lions in the jungle.

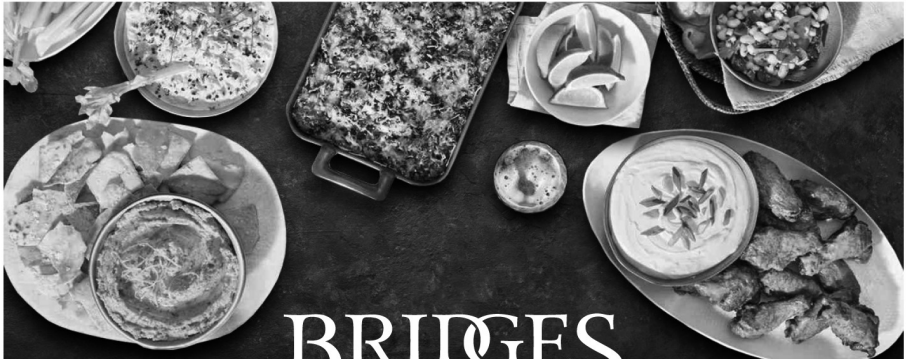
Kieren Wallace sang the opening song for the dance accompanied by Xiana Zylstra on violin. Jason Tharp from the George brought the house down with his risqué jokes as the town crier. Polly & Molly's dad, Peter Perkins, (Lesley Finlay) turned up in time to save the day. (despite it being Lesley's last Panto)

All was well in the end with the Dame and Town Crier singing a duet before heading off in the sunset together. The director Helen Apps steered the whole thing brilliantly and the audience loved the show. We got great reactions from each audience.

Oh well, we will have to do it all again next year.

A big thanks to our backstage crew, Scott Lagden, Tracie Carslund, Gemma Wallace, Nicki Humbles, Jane Newsome, Jemima Price, Laylah Casey and everyone else who helped make this show a success.

Paul Cordier



BRIDGES

FRIENDS • CONNECTIONS • FOOD

Wednesday Night Themed Buffets

5th March - Pizza & Pinot

12th March - Turkish

19th March - Irish

26th March - Tex Mex

6:00pm - 8:00pm • £20 per person



Throwback Thursdays

Running for both our lunch and dinner services, we shall showcase a traditional main course from days gone by in addition to our normal a la carte menu.

12:00pm - 3:00pm and 6:00pm - 8:00pm

£15.95 per person



For more details and to make a reservation call

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Ledian Gardens

The Grange, Kings Square, Leeds, ME17 1WL



Ledian
Gardens
Inspired in Kent

LEEDS CASTLE

Well, it feels like this winter just keeps on giving...from high winds to pouring rain, ice to sleet. I am sure I am not the only one counting down to spring arriving!

In an encouraging sign, the snowdrops are now out on the estate, hopefully shortly followed by the crocuses, daffodils and tulips. Our new Gardens and Grounds Manager, John Myers planted an extra 15,000 Spring Bulbs in Autumn so we are looking forward to a good show when the weather improves.

Much work is also underway in the grounds, with the Woodland Garden getting some intensive care and attention to get it ready for the coming visitor season.

January has been a busy month for repairing, conserving and getting the Estate into tip top form for the coming year. We have undertaken plaster repairs to the higher reaches of the Gatehouse Corridor, re-polished the entrance stone in Outer Hall of the Castle & repaired/repointed paving slabs on the East Terrace of the Castle, including fitting new damp proof membrane to prevent water ingress into the boiler plant room.

February Half Term is coming up fast with an event entitled Chaos in the Castle. The concept is that objects in the Castle are misbehaving and moving around in response to the arrival of a peculiar new Desk. Featuring live performers as Lady Baillie's Butler, Mr Borrett and Mrs Hills, her secretary, this will be a magical experience for families. The trail requires families to solve riddles, complete challenges and uncover the secrets behind the chaos. The event is included in the 12-month ticket.

The desk in question is the Secretaire, a stunning hand-painted object created by interior designer, Stephane Boudin for Lady Baillie's

Cream Bedroom in the 1930's. It has not resided at the Castle for many decades, but we are delighted to have acquired it recently with the support of National Lottery Heritage Fund.

We were hoping the Secretaire would arrive in the Castle in time for February Half Term, but it is coming on a ship from the United States and has been delayed by severe weather. Fingers crossed for a timely arrival!

At the end of January, we held a Weddings Fair, showcasing the Castle, Maidens Tower, Battel Hall and Fairfax Hall all dressed in stunning fashion for weddings. We were delighted to welcome over 80 couples to discuss potential weddings at the Castle and everyone was wowed by the stunning floral displays, including floral chandeliers.

Since we changed caterers in 2023 and chefs more recently, the quality of food has gone up enormously with our new caterers Graysons. For all events like weddings, private dinners and conferences, we also offer access to five other excellent caterers, with a wide range of catering offers and price points to suit different requirements.

We have been working with an external consultant over the past few months to establish our Estate Carbon Footprint. We reviewed this recently and will be moving on to develop our plan and realistic timescales for achieving Net Zero Carbon. As you can imagine, with a large estate that operates 24/7 year-round, it is a challenge to achieve this, but we will focus initially on driving energy usage and external procurement down.

We will then plan for replacing fossil fuel-based heating systems with suitable heat pumps over time. (as that charity's finances allow). Finally, once we have reduced carbon emissions to the lowest we can, we will look at offsetting remaining usage, with initiatives like additional tree planting.

Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive

An update from your local MP Helen Whately

As an MP I hear from people about the problems they face and I often think about the challenges for our country. On the other hand, almost every week I meet someone who is doing something to make a difference and I am reminded that there's so much good in the world.

I am sure you know some of the people I mean. Whether it's someone who gets people together who would otherwise be lonely, gives local kids the chance to play a team sport, transforms a wasteland into a nature reserve, organises the community Christmas lights, runs an outstanding community business or any number of things I haven't even heard about, there are hundreds of people making a difference without expecting anything in return. In fact, maybe you are one of these people yourself.

I know these people do what they do out of the goodness of their hearts, but as their MP I would like to make sure they are recognised and thanked on behalf of us all. That's why, I have launched my first ever Unsung Heroes Awards – sponsored by The Kent Garden Show.

So, if you know someone who makes a difference, no matter how big or small, please nominate them. I promise the nomination form on my website only takes a second to complete!

You may wish to nominate an individual, a group, an organisation or a business. They might be doing something for the community that helps people, nature or animals, improves our environment, looks after our heritage, makes things better in the here and now or looks to the future. There are no hard and fast rules about what counts.

You can nominate as many individuals, community groups and businesses as you like but please ensure they have consented to be nominated. Nominees must live or be based within the constituency of Faversham and Mid Kent or what they do must benefit this area. If you're not sure, just pop their postcode into www.writetothem.com.

Winners will receive a certificate and a monetary donation to their cause or a charity/good cause close to their heart.

The nomination form is on my website <https://www.helenwhately.org.uk/>

The Helen Whately MP

UNSUNG HEROES AWARDS



**NOMINATIONS
NOW OPEN**



and the deadline to make your nominations is 6 April 2025.

Please check my website in the Spring or sign up to my newsletter at www.helenwhately.org.uk/newsletters to keep up-to-date about the awards and my work as an MP in general.

I look forward to receiving the entries and announcing the winners in the Spring. I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for everything they do that makes Faversham and Mid Kent the special place it is. And thank you for nominating!

Best wishes

Helen

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

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.

Councillors present

China, Bernini, Springford, Razzell & Ingram Meeting chaired by Cllr China

Apologies

Councillors Greef, Fort and Cooke

Minutes of previous meetings

Minutes of previous meeting considered and deemed true. No interests declared.

Matters arising

No matters arising from previous minutes.

Public participation

Two members of the public attended.

Concern over car parking when football matches taking place on the sports field. Clerk to email Loose Lions FC reminding them of their commitment of ensuring driveways in Forge Lane and Brogden Crescent are maintained for residents use and where else drivers to park responsibly. Resident from Brogden Crescent asked if yellow lines could be considered to ease the problem. The chairman explained that this had been raised before and not only for that area but elsewhere in the village where parking is a problem. Reason for not considering were that no way of enforcing drivers and a reluctance to cover the village verges with yellow lines.

Highway matters

Concern raised over lack of action on water leak on Foley Hill. Clerk to correspond with KCC Highways for action.

Concern raised over lack of give-away signs over bridge at the bottom of Penfold Hill. Clerk to correspond with KCC Highways.

Concern again at the total lack of diversion notices by the contractor South East Water when part of the B2163 closed on Foley Hill at the weekend. As usual drivers paid no attention to the signage which resulted in the single track roads becoming bogged down with traffic causing severe damage to the verges and road surfaces and more importantly severely restricting access for emergency vehicles if needed.

Clerk's report

The Clerk advised that MBC & KCC had applied to be fast tracked through on the Government's devolution plans but this had been turned down. If in the future it

is given the go ahead concern would be over the position of Parish Councils as they could well be lost.

Chairman's report

The Chairman noted that loud bangs being heard in the fields around the village, these apparently caused by bird scarers installed by farmers.

He also raised the recent road closure mayhem and suggested KCC Highways are asked to hold a meeting with Leeds, Kingswood & Otham Parish Councils to try and work out more acceptable & workable diversion procedures.

Financial matters

The current financial statement was approved.

Report from KCC Councillor

Cllr Cooke did not attend and no report received.

Report from MBC Councillor

Cllr Fort did not attend and no report received.

Parish maintenance

Path down Penfold Hill cleared of leaves and litter.

Leeds Playground, field, tennis courts and Pavilion

Quotation received for refurbishment of the tennis courts, £30k for resurfacing, £17K for new fencing and £6K for adding five a side goals and basketball court.

Investigative action to be taken to see if funding available.

Sign required on tennis court gate advising who and what the courts to be used for. Clerk to draw up proposed wording for next PC meeting. Childrens 'play area sign to be replaced with more up to date wording. Clerk to advise.

Replacement of low level barrier supports completed. Pavilion toilet unblocked.

Path in front of Pavilion reported as a slip hazard, Cllr China to take a look.

Request by the Drama group to install a memorial bench in memory of Sue discussed. Clerk to write to LADS representative with procedure requirements.

Football parking problem already discussed during Public Participation.

Church Car Park

Church car park pot hole repair, quote of £1250.00 received this deemed excessive, alternative quote/s to be obtained. Church car park hedge to be cut during the school half term break.

Street Lighting

No lights reported out. Please contact the Parish Clerk to report concerns.

Parish Events

VE Day event planned on 5 May awaiting further details from resident group.

Date of next meeting

Tuesday 11 March in the Village Hall at 7pm.

Coffee Morning and Seed Sale



11am - 2pm

Leeds & Kingswood Scout Hall

Lenham rd

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Parish Administrator

If you need help with dates for church weddings or christenings or any other church services before a new Vicar is appointed, please contact our Parish Administrator Tracey Pavan on 07516 159879 or email

lbkchurches@gmail.com and Tracey will endeavour to help.

Sutton Valence Gardeners' Association

Are you a Sutton Valence Gardeners Association Member?

£10 per year gives you access to the following: -

3 general interest talks per year, 2 horticultural shows in April and September, notice of local open gardens.

10% discounts at these local businesses - Homeleigh Timber and Building Supplies Ltd, Millbrook Garden Centre, Coolings Potted Garden Nursery in Bearsted, Bijou Nursery in Wateringbury and Rumwood Garden Centre - on production of your current 2025 yellow membership card.

Plus, Saturday 5 April 20% Discount at Rumwood Garden Centre in Langley

Scout Quiz

Broomfield & Kingswood Village Hall

Sat 22 March at 7.30pm

Tables up to 8
£10 per person

Ploughmans provided

For tickets ring

Alan 01622 843019





On Monday 3 February, 11 pupils from Leeds and Broomfield experienced the joy of young voices. First we went to Kingswood School, we played some games and had some snacks before boarding the coach with other children from Aspire.

As we approached the o2 we sang some of the young voices songs and medleys, once we arrived at the o2 we had a long walk before we could eat our lunch outside the arena. With our bellies full it was time to enter the arena, we found our seats and began to practice.

The conductor gave some shout outs, we didn't get one but some of the Aspire schools did; he introduced us to the dancing group Urban Strides. We started singing and it was very joyful. When the practice ended we had our dinner, some people had brought lots of food! The 2 hour break felt like an eternity, the lights went dim and then the parents started to arrive ready for the show.

We began the show, it was very loud as there were over 8000 children there, we all sang together as we were one choir and one voice. The colourful lights shone bright in our eyes. The dancers danced like there was no tomorrow; the parents kept waving signs, there were some big Mexican waves across the whole arena. Towards the end we had a finale of Marley Magic, we were all really tired but still pushed through, as the night drew to an end we all packed up our things and headed off home.

It was a great experience and we're already looking forward to next year!

Lulu, Edie & Cindy



It's not what you think!

We are a small, perfectly-formed, friendly group of local women, who meet in Leeds Village Hall on the second Thursday of the month.

Yes, we do eat cake. Yes we do drink tea. But we also laugh a lot, learn a lot and go out a lot.

Meeting Coming up:

Thursday 13 March 2025

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 19 March 2025

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

You're Invited to Join Our Community Charity



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 now

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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- Curry and Soul evening

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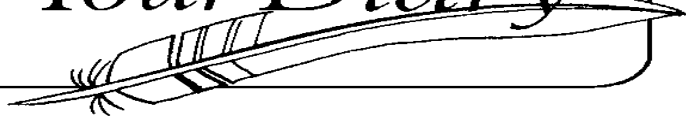
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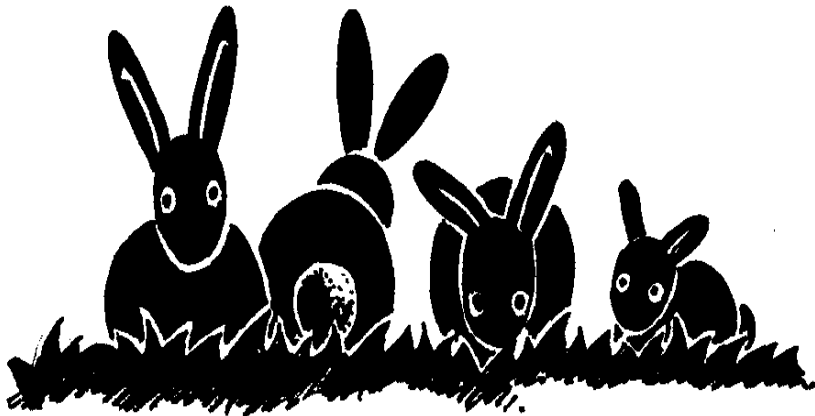


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For Your Diary



- Mar** 9 Coffee Morning & Seed Sale : Scout hut, Kingswood—
See Page 18
- 11 Leeds Parish Council Meet : Village Hall—7pm
- 12 LBK Lent Group - See page 4
- 13 Leeds W.I. Meet : Village Hall—7.30pm
- 19 Craft and Natter : Village Hall— 11am
- 22 Scout Quiz : Kingswood Village Hall—7.30pm See page 1



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