# Leeds & Broomfield

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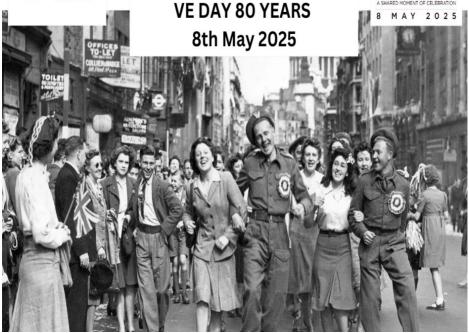
April 2025

Save the Date JOIN US
IN A SHARED MOMENT
OF CELEBRATION

Fish & Chips in the Village Hall and Lighting of the Beacon







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—Chairrman	Steve Bond	07472 760460
Memorial Hall – Bookings	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

 $Website: \underline{www.leedskent.org.uk}$ 

#### **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

Spring has sprung. The evenings are lighter, the day is longer, the weather is warmer. At least that's what should be happening at this time of year — along with the April showers which bring refreshment and energy to the growing plants. Life begins to re-emerge and things are all a little greener. (By the way, I hold that Spring begins on the date of the equinox when the earth is in the exact place in its orbit that the day and night are equal - March 20th this year - not March 1st which the weather forecasters seem to have adopted.)

Poets have long been inspired by the coming of spring, perhaps none more so than Alfred Lord Tennyson who penned these words in his poem of 1835, Locksley Hall.

"In the Spring a fuller crimson comes upon the robin's breast; In the Spring the wanton lapwing gets himself another crest; In the Spring a livelier iris changes on the burnish'd dove; In the Spring a young man's fancy lightly turns to thoughts of love."

Plato wrote that with a touch of lover, everyone becomes a poet. Others have written or said things about love too — some of which are intended to raise a smile. Mae West for example is reported to have said "Love thy neighbour — and if he happens to be tall, debonair and devastating, it will be that much easier." George Burns said that "Love is a lot like a backache, it doesn't show up on X-rays, but you know it's there."

The church's season at this time of year is Easter, and love is at the very heart of the season. We recall that Jesus said that greater love has no one than this: to lay down one's life for one's friends. Which is exactly what he did. He gave up his life for his friends. Who are his friends? That's the whole world – including you and me. This is not

love that is a fancy thought made lightly, or an amusing anecdote or quote, but love as deep as it gets. My favourite hymn is "When I survey the wondrous cross" and my favourite lines from that hymn are "see, from his head, his hands, his feet, sorrow and love flow mingled down. Did e'er such love and sorrow meet?" Jesus models love for us, and calls us to reflect his love in our relationships with others. The greatest commandment, he tells us, is to love God with all your heart and soul and mind and strength, and love your neighbour as yourself. Happy Easter!

Peter Callway Area Dean

## **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 email *lbkchurches@gmail.com* and Tracey will endeavour to help.

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



## **Church Services in April 2025**

6 April	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	9.30am	Leeds	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Café Church
13 April		Palm Sunday	
	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Celebration
	11.00am	Kingswood	Palm Sunday
	3.30pm	Broomfield	Afternoon Worship
18 April		Good Friday	
	10.30am	Kingswood	Good Friday Reflection
	2.00pm	Otham	Joint Benefice Reflection
20 April		Easter Day	
	9.30am	Leeds	Communion
	9.30am	Otham	Communion
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Communion
	11.00am	Langley	Communion
	11.00am	Kingswood	Family Worship
27 April	9.30am	Otham	Morning Service
	11.00am	Hollingbourne	Eucharist
	11.00am	Langley	Morning Service
	11.00am	Kingswood	Communion

## Service Readings

6 April Isaiah 43.16-21; Philippians 3.4b-14; John 12.1-8

13 April *Isaiah 50.4-9a; Philippians 2.5-11; Luke 22.14 - 23.56* 

18 April Isaiah 52.13 - 53.12; Hebrews 10.16-25; John 18.1 - 19.42

20 April Acts 10.34-43; 1 Corinthians 15.19-26; John 20.1-18

27 April Acts 5.27-32; Revelation 1.4-8; John 20.19-31



## **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

**Church Cleaning** 

April Mr & Mrs King

**War Memorial** 

**April** Mrs J Dabbs

Brass & Silver Flowers

**April 6** Mrs Ryan *Lent* 

**20** Mrs Ryan Lent

St Margaret's

Readers

**April 13** Dr C Oakland 3.30pm

**Church Cleaning** 

**April 13** Mr & Mrs Bowman-Taylor 3.30pm

## LEEDS AND BROOMFIELD WAR MEMORIAL HALL

The Annual General Meeting of the Village Hall will be held on Thursday 22 May 2025 at 8.00 pm. All villagers and anyone with an interest in the Hall are welcome to attend.



## 40th North Downs Walk – 8 June 2025

Sponsored Walk for Cancer Research UK and your own selected charities The Rotary Club of the Weald of Kent are running our annual North Downs Walk on Sunday 8 June, starting at Harrietsham Village Hall. It is a sponsored walk, which has been held annually (except in 2020 due to the pandemic) since 1985 and has raised in excess of £600,000 for Cancer Research UK and the walkers' chosen charities.

2025 is Weald Rotary's 50th Anniversary year, and this will be the 40th Walk, so we have a double celebration and it would be wonderful if we could make it a record-breaking year.

There are alternative routes to suit walkers of all levels of fitness. The 1 mile and 3 mile routes are fairly flat; the 6 mile and 9 mile routes take in the beautiful North Downs, with stunning views across the Weald. We have water stations, including dog bowls (this is a dog-friendly event, so give your furry friends an extended walkies) and toilets en-route.

Walkers can start at any time between 8am and 11am and should be back in time for lunch. When you get back to Harrietsham, all walkers are given a free ploughman's lunch, strawberries and cream, and entertainment by local musicians. Come and make a day of it, and raise money for your favourite cause or charity at the same time.

Half of your sponsorship money will be donated by Rotary to Cancer Research UK. The other half is yours to donate to your selected cause or charity, which could also be CRUK but might include Scouts, Guides, school PTA, local church, sports club etc. This makes it a great way of raising money for your cause, with Rotary looking after all of the details.

Many thanks to our event sponsors, Family Funeral Service, who have underwritten all the costs of the event; every penny raised in sponsorship will go to the charities.

Visit our website at www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk to download registration forms, route maps and event posters, or to learn more about Rotary. For further details contact Chas, our walk committee chairman on 07831 449216 or at walkline@wealdofkentrotary.org.uk

## **North Downs Walk**

for Cancer Research UK







#### SUNDAY 8th JU **JNE 2025**

Register Online now at www.wealdofkentrotary.org.uk/north-downs-walk

The 40th North Downs Walk, in Weald of Kent Rotary's 50th Anniversary year.



A sponsored walk, starting and finishing at Harrietsham Village Hall, followed by a ploughman's lunch and live music. Choice of 1.3.6 and 9 mile routes.

50% of sponsorship money is donated to Cancer Research UK, and the other 50% to your choice of charity or good cause.

An opportunity for your own fundraising, with Rotary providing the organisation







All expenses are underwritten by our event sponsor, Family Funeral Service. Every penny raised in sponsorship will go to the charities.





Supporting CANCER RESEARCH UK



Cancer Research UK is a registered charity in England and Wales (1089464), Scotland (SC041666), the Isle of Man (1103) and Jarsey (247).
Registered address: 2 Redman Place, London E20 1JQ

## LEEDS M CASTLE

Hurrah, Spring is finally here! As I write, we have just had a stunning sunny weekend and I am sure I was not the only one out in the garden tidying up ahead of growing season. While the icy temperatures are set to return this coming week, it really does feel like Spring is here.

We still have reams of beautiful snowdrops out across the estate, with daffodils now starting to open en masse. Purple, white and yellow crocus are also out, as are the hellebores. Tulips are also developing well, let's hope they don't get damaged by the incoming frost.

We had a very successful February Half Term with the Chaos in the Castle event receiving excellent feedback from guests. Featuring live performers as Lady Baillie's Butler, Mr Borrett and Mrs Hills, her secretary, this was a magical experience for families, requiring the solving of riddles, completion of challenges and uncovering of the secrets behind objects in the Castle misbehaving and moving around in response to the arrival of a peculiar new Desk.

The desk in question is a beautifully hand painted Secretaire (Writing Desk), designed for Leeds Castle by Lady Baillie's interior designer Stephane Boudin. The desk left the collection in the 1970's and we have been delighted to re-acquire it recently, thanks to a grant from National Lottery Heritage Fund. The Secretaire arrived a couple of weeks ago and is now on display in Lady Baillie's Boudoir.

We were pleased to secure funds from National Lottery Heritage Fund last year to work on a number of areas, including energy efficiency, green transport, carbon footprint and better access.

After completing a full estate access audit, we have been making improvements to accessibility in all its forms, working with groups like 21 Together (a local charity supporting families who have a child

with Downs' Syndrome). This has led to improvements in pre-visit Access Information on the website and the recent installation of a new ramp to access the Stable Yard Café.

In early March we introduced Sensory Packs for loan, including ear defenders, fidget toys and soft toys, to help people with sensory issues to have an enjoyable visit. These have been hugely popular already and it looks like we will need to introduce more!

We have also been working with Hollingbourne Station to introduce better signage for those who arrive by train to reach the Castle by green means. We had also arranged for the Stagecoach 10X bus between Ashford and Maidstone to call in to the Estate to make green travel more possible. We had also installed a ramp at our Estate bus stop to improve access for all. Frustratingly, after the recent departure of a senior Stagecoach colleague, this service has been withdrawn to Saturday only. We will continue to press for its reinstatement or replacement.

Main visitor season is coming up quickly now and our Easter Trail will be Horrible Histories themed, with a chocolate coin reward. Horrible Histories will be back for a Medieval Week over May Half Term, when the annual Joust will also be on site.

Mothers' Day is at end March this year and it is looking like all the daffodils (and potentially some tulips) will be out in celebration. You can book for a delicious Mothers' Day afternoon tea at the Castle View Restaurant.

15 March is our annual day offering free entry to National Lottery players, in recognition of the grants received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund. This is also the day that we launch the Pavilion Pre-Loved Book Shop for the season. We are looking for volunteers to help with this charitable fundraising activity, so please do get in touch if you are able to help!

Helen Bonser-Wilton, Chief Executive

## Kingswood and Leeds Scouts, Cubs, Beavers and Squirrels

The group were involved with the Reverse Santa, around Kingswood and Broomfield villages. This was where people gave gifts of food to Santa on his truck. The idea was that any gifts people gave were given to the Salvation Army to distribute to the deprived people. At the end, we all met up at Kingswood village hall and the group unloaded the truck and put it in to their cars.

The group helped in distributing Christmas cards around the village, there was a box in the Post Office so people could post their cards for a small donation to the group..

#### **SCOUTS**

We have 6 leaders, 8 girls, 10 boys and 5 new scouts have joined this term.

Some scouts took part in the district incident hike. This was an extremely challenging event and the scouts smashed it! Working together as a team to complete all challenges set and complete as a group. The weather was kind to them, and some of leaders enjoyed them selves.

Scouts wanted to fundraise some money for the section and decided they wanted to do a Christmas fair, and had a few crafty sessions making items to sell. They raised some donations towards the raffle and tombola. Scouts set up and ran activities and games, interacted with the public, and had fun.

As ever we are contributing to work towards our Chief Scout Gold badge. We've awarded 36 badges the previous term,

#### **CUBS**

We have 18 cubs.

In November the Cubs completed the book reader badge. To do this, each cub was tasked to read a short story, poem or tell jokes to one of the leaders whilst being recorded. We then edited the audio recordings by adding background music and sound effects and compiled these on to CD's as a full audio book collection. The cubs gave copies of the audio book to parents and guardians as Christmas presents. We also donated copies of the audio book to Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Hospital. We met Claire Ashby, Head of the Hospitals' charity, who informed us that our audio book would be put to good use to help entertain children on the wards.

She also told us they were very keen to use our audio book to help with therapy for patients on the dementia ward and to play on the hospital radio as well as for use during those undergoing MRI scans.

In December, the Cubs raised funds for their section by singing carols at Morrisons Supermarket on the Sutton Road. They successfully .raised £140 entertaining the customers and staff with cheerful Christmas carols. A big well done to them, and for the end of term treat, the cubs got together for a game of bowling at Lock Meadow

#### **BEAVERS**

There are 22 beavers

They have been working on their Faith badge and had a trip to a local Mosque which was a huge success. Beavers also took part in Temperance day.

They have been fund raising (with the Squirrels) at Morrison's over Christmas and raised £170, money raised has been split between Hedgehog rescue, Demelza and Buttercups. These were chosen by the beavers. 4 beavers who have moved up to cubs will be issued with a Chief Scouts Bronze award.

#### **SQUIRRELS**

They have been working on their Faith badge and took part in Remembrance day. They raised £154 fund raising with the Beavers at Morrisons at Christmas.

If you would like to join the above sections, call Alan 843019

#### 100 Club

The winners:

## January

Mrs Carol Jones £20, Mrs Head £10, Mrs Bailey £10, Mrs B Turner £5

## **February**

Mrs Price £20, Mrs Lee £10, Mrs Gausden £10, Mrs Rookledge £5

#### March

Miss Raffell £20, Mrs Bosman £10, Mrs Drane £10., Mrs A Bowman £5 If you would like to join the 100 club, it costs £12 a year and have 4 prizes a month

## Ring Alan 843019 for more details

#### Alan Poulton Chair

## **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,

Apologies from Councillors Greef, Razell and Ingram

## 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**

No members of the public attended.

## Highway matters

Concern raised over lack of action on water leak on Foley Hill. Clerk again to correspond with KCC Highways and KCC Member Gary Cooke for action.

No response yet from KCC Highways over lack of give-way signs over bridge at the bottom of Penfold Hill.

Given that there are traffic lights on the road in front of Nottcutts which are not visible when driving towards them on the New Cut Rd , Cll China again asked why lights could not be installed by the Leeds school. These could be switched on during school hours to provide a safe passage for pupils and parents when crossing to & from the church car park. Cll Bernini to discuss with the KCC HIPS team.

## Clerk's report

No report.

## Chairman's report

No report.

## Financial matters

The current financial statement was approved.

## Report from MBC Councillor

Cllr Fort did not attend and no report received.

## Parish maintenance

A village litter pick has been arranged for April 5, meet in the Sports Field car park at 10am. HiViz vests, litter pickers and bags will be available please make the effort to help if you can. Further details from Mel Commins 07811217821. Steven Waring, the maintenance contractor, submitted his costs for 2025/2026

which although showed an increase were judged reasonable and accepted by the Councillors present.

#### **Devolution and Community Governance Review**

The Clerk advised that the matter was on pause given that the application by KCC had not been accepted

## 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. Cll Bernini to seek an alternative costing. Awaiting cost of new sign for the tennis court gate and children's play area. Clerk to progress. Replacement of low level barrier supports completed, awaiting to be painted when weather improves.

A policy document has been drawn up regarding the installation of a memorial bench in the sports field, this to be forwarded to the Leeds Drama group for acceptance.

Football parking problem. The PC have written to the Football Club reminding them that it is their responsibility to control the parking of their supporters. A response has been received stating that they are looking to see if parking can be made in the field opposite the car park but also that given the sports field car park is for use of those using the sports facilities, residents are also parking in it reducing the spaces available.

#### Church Car Park

There are now ten potholes in the car park needing attention. A quote of £1859.00 received which the Councillors present agreed to proceed with, Clerk to raise order.

There are also some seven potholes in the road leading to the church car park, Cll China has obtained a cost for the repair of these which has been passed onto the Church and if they are in agreement to pay, arrangements will be made to do all seventeen at the same time.

A pedestrian access from the church car park to be looked at. This will probably require the existing overhead beam width to be reduced by a metre and the upright nearest the school repositioned to suit thus providing access into and out of the car park for pedestrians without them walking across the vehicle path. Cll China to obtain a cost for the works.

## Street Lighting

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

#### Parish Events

The village will be celebrating VE day on May 5 by having a Fish & Chip evening in (Continued overleaf)

the Village Hall (vegan option available) followed by the lighting of the Beacon at the Church.

A summer fete is also being arranged in the Sports Field in June, details to follow. If you would like to help in one or ether event please contact Tracie on 077505372823

#### Date of next meeting

April 8 in the Village Hall at 7pm.

## **Update from your local MP Helen Whately**

Faversham and Mid Kent is under siege from development. This is the number one topic people raise with me at the moment.

There are currently five large developments in the pipeline across Faversham and Mid Kent. If they all go ahead the number of people living here will increase by more than the population of Faversham. I don't need to tell you that this will completely change the rural character of our area.

Before the General Election I lobbied successfully to change national planning policy to focus development in cities and urban areas. The plan was to raise density levels in inner London to those of European cities like Paris and Barcelona, build more homes on brownfield land in urban areas and regenerate parts of Leeds, Liverpool and York.

The new Government is reversing this. They have cut London's housing targets, and they are pushing more housing into rural parts of the South East like Kent.

I've always said I understand the need for more housing, and I know people need a roof over their head, but this scale of development in our countryside is something else altogether.

Before Christmas I introduced a new Bill in Parliament which aims to protect high quality land for farming. It's very hard for a Private Members Bill to become law, but if I succeed, it will stop large developments being built on Grade 1 agricultural land. We need our best farmland to be used for growing food, not houses.

In November, I was shocked when the Deputy Prime Minister took away Swale Borough Council's power to decide whether the Highsted Park development (8,400 new homes) should go ahead. That happened literally hours before a meeting when local councillors intended to reject the application; instead, the decision will be made in Whitehall.

It's hard to turn around the juggernaut of the UK Government, but there's still a fight to be fought. We are lucky to have committed campaigners who have set up groups to do just that. Four of the local groups are: Against Lidsing Garden Development, Save Our Heath Lands, Stop Winterbourne Fields and Stop Highsted Park Action Group. Apologies if I have missed campaign groups off this list – if so please do let me know.

With so much development coming locally, everyone is going to be affected. Even if there's no new housing planned in your parish, all the roads are going to get busier, along with more demand for local public services like doctors and dentists.

So can I urge you to get involved and support one of the local campaigns fighting these massive developments. You can find out more about them by searching online or check my website —www.helenwhately.org.uk for links.

Best wishes

Helen

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



## Sutton Valence Gardeners' Association **Programme**

Saturday 5 April 20% discount day for members at Rumwoods including 20% off in coffee shop.

Don't forget to take your membership card with you!

## Sunday 6 April - Spring Show

## Sutton Valence Village Hall

Doors open 2.15pm.

Come and admire the talents of our members

Our Membership is £10 per year and gives discounts at Millbrook Staplehurst, Rumwoods, Coolings The Potted Garden Bearsted and others

\* excludes special offers and sale items

Enquiries please Contact: <u>suttonvalencegardeners@gmail.com</u>

## **Annual Parochial Church Meeting**

11 May 2025

4.30pm

## St Margaret's Church Broomfield



This annual meeting, which is open to all, reports for both churches on changes to the electoral roll, parish activities and financial matters.



# Leeds Litter Pick Saturday 5 April

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





## 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 10 April 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 16 April 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



# Be part of organising fun, local fundraising events

Previous annual events include:

- · 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 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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# For Your Diary

**April** 5 to Easter Escapades : Leeds Castle

21

- 6 SVGA Spring Show—See page 20
- 8 Leeds Parish Council Meet: Village Hall—7pm
- 10 Pop Up Café—See page 7

LBK Lent Group - See page 4

- 10 Leeds W.I. Meet: Village Hall—7.30pm
- 16 Craft and Natter: Village Hall— 11am

May 8 VE Day –See page 15

- 11 APCM meeting: Broomfield church —See page 21
- 22 Memorial Hall AGM 8pm

June 8 North Downs Walk— See page 11

14 Leeds Village Big Lunch—See page 14



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