

The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

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Deadline for August Newsletter articles: Tues 19 July

MY LAST NEWSLETTER

After nearly eleven years of editing this Newsletter every month, I find that I have had to hand it over to Jo Robson, for the interim, owing to my ill health. I'd like to thank all those people who have contributed to the newsletter over the years and also the distributors who have taken copies to the readers.

I'm sure Jo, who already contributes so much to this Newsletter, will make a fine job of editing it, so please do help her by sending in your articles.

Thank you all again,
Mike Brown



Winning "Odds" Team
Ruth Theyer voted "Player of the Match"

Score 11½ : 10¼

Losing "Evans" Team



Happy 90th Birthday to our Queen

Whilst Her Majesty was celebrating her birthday in the capital, the villagers of The Leigh were also commemorating the event.

A steady stream of parishioners, carrying hampers, bottles, chairs and anything thought necessary to help with the celebration of the Queen's 90th Birthday, threaded their way to Jo and Martin's barn which had been decorated with Union Jacks and transformed into a picnic place.

We comfortably organised ourselves, on a warm afternoon with a hint of possible rain, and then stood, drinks in hand, as John Arkell proposed a toast to the Queen.

A very pleasant few hours were spent talking, eating and enjoying good company. Jo and Martin's welcome coffee then preceded a visit outside, to work off the sandwiches, salad, cake and drink, with a game of rounders.

After sorting out the two teams, battle commenced. A keen and hard fought few games ensued, young and not-so-young, experienced and not-so-experienced, fit and not-so-fit battled it out under the watchful eye of Ref Jo Robson - photographs taken, people slowly started for home but not before the 'piece de resistance', which had been superbly organised, as the 'Battle of Britain Memorial Flight' of the Hurricane and Spitfire flew overhead to round off a lovely afternoon.

As we reached home the storm broke and we agreed that we had had a great time and how fortunate we had been with the weather.

Very many thanks to Jo and Martin for the arranging and preparation, we all thoroughly enjoyed the occasion. We just need another excuse for a get together now!

Brian, Janine (Bramley) and Rita (Remfry)

LEIGH VILLAGE FETE

Sunday 17 July
12 noon - 3pm

In aid of:

St Catherine's Church, The Leigh
Winston's Wish,
Sue Ryder Leckhampton Court
Glos Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre



4-8 July - raffle monies, stubs or unsold raffle tickets to:
Coombe Hill - letterbox of Frank & Josie Wragg or Coombe Hill Farm Shop;
Pancake Lane - letterbox of Grahame and Lynne Tucker;
The Leigh - letterbox of Daniels Orchard or red post box in Church Lane

Please drop off any donations of old china, books, toys, bric-a-brac, tombola prizes to the Church at any time.

17 July - Village Fete

On the day, donations of plants, cakes, jams etc would be very welcome as well as any late raffle ticket monies, stubs etc.

People of The Leigh Parish

Over the past couple of years I have been researching my family history with many interesting discoveries. As a subscriber to Ancestry UK I thought I would look at the census returns for The Leigh Parish including Evington and Coombe Hill.

Records cover the period from 1841 to 1911 and a census was recorded every ten years. In 1861 there was a total of 91 homes with 216 men and 211 females. As you would expect the majority of people worked on farms although several other trades were listed including wheelwright, coal merchant, two grocers, dress and boot maker and even a barrister.

At Coombe Hill there was a police station under the control of David Gough and two pubs-Swan Inn and Crown Inn. There were also still listed the last of the boatmen.

The largest farming family were the Chandlers with Joseph Chandler 150 acres, George Chandler with 274 acres at Leigh Court and James Chandler with 330 acres at Leigh End. Job Weston was a farmer of 20 acres and Tudor Cottage was a farm of 14 acres owned by John Morris. Leigh Villas was owned by William Hill a landed proprietor and the owner of Prospect House was recorded as a boat owner.

John Austin was the Vicar and the schoolmaster was Mr Pardington with fourteen pupils. I am sure today many of the family and house names can still be recognised.

By 1881 little had changed but there was now listed a Mr Palfrey, Mr Weston was at Brawn Farm and Leigh House was still occupied by William Hill.

Moving ahead to 1911 the Parish was still largely a farming community but many of the farms had changed ownership some due to marriage. Mr William Poulton from Woodbine was a farmer responsible for completing the census and Prospect House was now owned by Lionel Mouser a farmer.

Albert Troughton was now head at Leigh Court employing eleven farm labourers. Sidney Chandler was the head of Leigh End who also employed a waggoner and a domestic groom.

William Clymo was the Methodist Minister at Coombe Hill whilst the Vicar at The Leigh was Arthur Lister from Bilston Staffs. The teacher was Edith Lucas from Leicestershire and there are now several residents from outside the area showing the greater mobility of people.

The lady at Leigh House was of independent means with three servants. New names that can be recognised today included Henry Palfrey, a farmer, and Henry Arkell who at only 25 was head at Stapling Farm with both workers and a servant. Evington Hill Farm and Villa Farm both showed employing a servant. Mr Cobb was a farm Bailiff at Becketts farm and the Swan had also become a hotel.

There was also a greater variation of professions including a Telegraph Messenger at the Post Office, a dressmaker, cooper, nurse, organist and even a chauffeur.

This interesting change in population would no doubt be even greater today with farming employing fewer people and the mix of professions increasing further and residents arriving from all over the country. It is however interesting to note the retention of several family names. Where will the Parish be in another hundred years?

Colin Withers

PLANT SALE

Thanks to Sam and Phillipa Page for hosting a Pop-Up Plant Sale on 11 June at Coombe Hill Farm Shop.

The £163 raised will go towards putting on the annual Horticultural Show on 13 August 2016 at Norton Village Hall

Karen Beeson



NORTON WI

Norton WI meet on the third Thursday of the month at Norton Village Hall.

Our next Social meeting is on Thursday 21st July at 7.30, Norton Village Hall, our Speaker this month is Ann Blagden, "Belly Dancing and it's History"

Newcomers very welcome, just turn up or contact Mary Lee, 01452 730814 for further information.



Norton, Leigh & District 69th Horticultural Show

Vegetables, Fruit, Flowers, Wine, Preserves & Cakes



Norton Village Hall
Saturday 13 August 2016

Doors open at 2.30pm
Prizes will be presented by Mr Eirwyn Jenkins at 3.30pm
Including an auction of donated exhibits in aid of the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity

Admission 50p (Children Free)

Hortic Show Schedules available from Jo Robson, Oliver Hidson, Mary Chandler, Janet Broughton and the Noticeboard opposite Leigh Farm
HAVE A GO!

Stella in Cambodia

Last year we held a quiz and tea in The Leigh in aid of my work in Cambodia and raised £746. The money went towards a water pump for my school at Snay L'a so we can now run a daily teeth cleaning program, secondly I had some desks and benches made for the class as up until then the students were sitting on the ground.

I am back in UK, fundraising again by giving talks about my work and have already been to a number of schools, business clubs, WI and coffee mornings. If you'd like to find out more about running a coffee morning or special event please contact me, I'd be delighted to hear from you. Or find out more about my work on facebook - Stella in Cambodia.

PS. I recently won a Social Entrepreneur of the Year award for my work, which wouldn't have been possible without the generous donations and support from all who have done so. Many thanks!



Industrial Farming Policy Petition

On behalf of all the people who signed the e-petition, you may be interested to know I presented the petition to the Mayor and Councillors at a meeting in the Council offices and made a short speech to convey the sentiments of the petition - to request the inclusion of a policy for industrial farming in their Development Plan so that everyone had a clear understanding of what they can expect and where the levels of acceptance might be.

Suggestions for the policy included location of development to be a minimum of 400 metres from any village resident who were not an employee of the farm, and to further consider standards for environmental issues, traffic nuisance and finding the right location that doesn't impinge on any resident's entitlement to enjoyment.

I was keen to point out that the petition was not against the evolution of farming in the Borough, but wanted to highlight the difference or long term impact of industrial farms in rural areas to those being proposed in villages or residential areas, in other words seeking agreement for this scale of farming to be located in more rural areas where it least affects other residents in the Borough.

If anyone would like to find out more about the progress of the proposal for an industrial poultry farm at Leigh Court, please check the planning application section on the Tewkesbury Borough Council website. **Stella Barnes**