

The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

Issue 137 October 2016

Issue Editor: Jo Robson

Contact: Jo Robson, Daniels Orchard, The Leigh, GL19 4AG
01242 680257 joanna.robson@btinternet.com

Deadline for next month's Newsletter articles: Saturday 15 October
(Stella will be the Editor, but please send articles/news via Jo, thanks)



Marian, Jay, Lou, Rex & Ella would like to say a massive 'Thank You' to the villagers, and the parish, for their heartfelt condolences towards Mike's passing. We would also like to thank those that came along to Mike's Farewell Ceremony, your presence helped us make an emotional day feel very positive (in true Mike style!), and we loved hearing the fantastic, funny, and fond memories you all have of Mike.

MIKE BROWN – A TRIBUTE

It seems like only yesterday since Mum & Dad uprooted our Brown family from bustling London & Kent and, on the recommendation of Dad's desire for a new life in the country, moved us to The Leigh in the mid '70s. It was to be a dream location for us girls, and one that Dad never fell out of love with. He set to work on updating Stonehouse Cottage, inherited the largest veg patch (actually living 'The Good Life'!), and embraced sharing our new home with chickens, rabbits, pony, the inevitable cats and dog, and the naughtiest donkey...ever! Within a short while Stonehouse became the happy hub of our family gatherings, providing parties and Christmases in the country for all our London based folks.

From the word go Dad threw himself into the community spirit of Leigh life. He relished in learning from long-term villagers about real farming, always volunteering to help at harvest when needed. He got involved in the school and village committees, and with his ideas and artistic ability was instrumental in The Leigh's heydays of imaginative fayres, open days, treasure hunts...all which contributed in raising thousands for St. Catherine's church. Not forgetting that for 11 years, Dad was editor of this newsletter, and was responsible for bringing it into the world of colour!

More than anything Dad understood the true essence of village spirit lay in the art of conversation, helping and enjoying life with other villagers. In reflection, he and Mum have shared many a village event, flood (!), party, pub-crawl, and holiday with those they've made good friends with over the past four decades. And for us girls, we too had an abundance of fun growing up with the other village children...some of which are still our closest friends in our adult lives today.

For all the lovely reasons above, us girls would like to thank our Dad for having that foresight back in the 1970s...in knowing that The Leigh was the perfect place to live. Thanks for everything, Dad.

Jay and Lou Brown



The Leigh welcomes children from Belarus

Again we welcomed two children from Belarus - Polina and Karina. They were members of a group of children aged 9-11 years who arrived for a 3 weeks recuperative holiday supported by The Chernobyl Children's Charity - the local group is based in Churchdown. The Charity organises holidays for children from Belarus who have suffered childhood cancer - mainly leukaemia and thyroid cancers. The incidence of these cancers remains high and has been linked to the Chernobyl nuclear disaster of 1986.

Research reports that these summer holidays boost the children's immune systems as the dust in the summer causes the radiation levels to rise. It is therefore important for these children to leave their homeland for a few weeks to experience fresh air and clean food. Again the children had a memorable experience and this year's activities included sailing, rock climbing, laser tag, riding. The children also visited the Maize Maze, Forest of Dean, Drayton Manor and Gloucester Fair to name a few places. All these activities are donated.

This year we would like to say a big thankyou to Mary, Jeremy and Lucy - Chandlers Farm - who provided an afternoon of open house and farm activities for the children. The children had an amazing time and there was fun and laughter all round!

If you know of any activities which the children of the 2017 group may be able to participate in, or would like to be part of this exhausting but very rewarding experience, you can call us on 680997.

Dawn, Roger & Martha
The Church Hall, Church Lane



VILLAGE POND TIDY-UP

We're planning to spend a few hours tidying up the area around the pond as the weeds are taking over!

Please join us if you can on Sunday 9th October from 10am until 12.

Please bring your own tools and a flask and I'll supply the donuts!

Hope to see you there!

Nicky Walters



DATES OF NEXT FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS (St Catherine's Church):
Wed 9th November 2016
Wed 8th February 2017
Annual Parish Meeting – Wed 10th May 2017

MOBILE LIBRARY
14 Oct (15:10 – 16:40): Swan Car Park

LAST FRIDAY IN THE MONTH
Friday 28 October, 7.30pm
St Catherine's Church Brian & Janine on 680336

DEFIBRILLATOR

Norton Village now has a defibrillator permanently installed on the Village Hall outside wall (adjacent to kitchen window).

A training session has been arranged for:

Wednesday 5 October
7.30 – 9.30pm
Norton Village Hall



Everyone is welcome –
YOU could save someone's life!!!

Norton, Leigh & District Horticultural Show

would like to thank the following sponsors of the 2016 Show for their support – without which, the Show could not continue:

Des & Karen Beeson
Bob Broughton
Mike Brown
Sid & Mary Chandler
Martin & Pam Griffiths (Norton)
Mark & Jayne Hanks
Oliver & Anne Hidson
Jeremy Phelps (Norton)
Martin Robson
Jean Smith (Norton)
Vera Topham (Norton)
Steve Troughton
Chris Walker
Colin Withers
Colin Wiltshire

Nature in Art
Staverton Building Supplies
TJH Contracting Ltd
Western Arable Ltd

Looking ahead to the 2017 Plant Sale – if anyone has any unwanted perennial plants, we would be pleased to come along, dig up, and take away!

Mary C, Oliver H, Janet B & Jo R

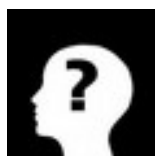
Creative Christmas

Sunday 20 November 2016
11am – 1pm
The Barn
Daniels Orchard

We are still looking for fabric, trimmings, buttons, used bottle bags for the apple juice, knitting wool, vintage crockery/retro items, wooden items which could be painted, picture frames (small/medium), wooden cotton spools, unwanted Christmas wreaths to deconstruct etc – any donations to Daniels Orchard. Thanks.

All proceeds to: Cheltenham Cobalt Cancer Unit, Dementia UK and Riding for the Disabled.

Karen, Jo & Jess



Quiz Evening

Cllr Mrs Gill Blackwell
Mayor for the Borough of Tewkesbury

Invites you to a Quiz Evening at Dowty Sports and Social Club, Down Hatherley Lane, Down Hatherley, Gloucester GL2 9QH
On Thursday 20th OCTOBER
7pm (quiz will start at 7.30pm)

Cost will be £5 per person to include a Buffet Supper. Teams – Maximum of 4 people.

There will be a Raffle in aid of the Mayor's Charities – Winston's Wish and the Stroke Unit at Gloucestershire Royal Hospital

Please RSVP by 6th OCTOBER to
gillblackwell6@hotmail.com **or**
Tel: 01452 859388

Payment can be made in advance, cheques payable to Mrs G Blackwell, 6 Kaybourne Crescent, Churchdown, Glos. GL3 2HL or on the evening itself.

COBALT

CHRISTMAS AND GREETINGS CARDS SALE

10.30am – 6.30pm
Thursday 13 October
at

The Dovecote
Sandhurst Lane
Sandhurst GL2 9NR
(past church and follow signs)

Complimentary coffee and cake
Please come and bring your friends

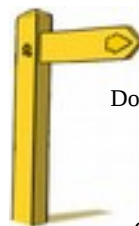
THANK YOU

Anita Sargeant has kindly volunteered to proofread the Newsletter each month.



Norton and The Leigh Local History Group

Old Paths of Gloucestershire
with our speaker Alan Pilbeam



Norton Village Hall
Monday 24 October
Doors open 7pm for coffee and biscuits
Speaker 7.30pm

Everyone welcome
Entrance £2.00
Contact Sue Phelps 01452 831280

NORTON WI

Thursday 20 October
7.30pm
Norton Village Hall, GL2 9LJ

Speaker: Patrick Howell

“Journey of a Lifetime”

followed by Refreshments and Friends

New to WI? New to the area?
phone Madeleine Clifford 01452 730682
for further information on joining us

ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH THE LEIGH

Services for October:

Sunday 2 - Evening Prayer 6pm
Sunday 9 - Benefice (Boddington) 10am
Sunday 16 - Morning Prayer for Harvest 11am
Followed by Lunch
(Full details - Sue Roberts)
Sunday 23 - Evening Prayer 6pm
Sunday 30 - All Saints Communion 10am

Coffee Morning

Saturday 16 October
10am - 12noon

Cakes, cards, coffee and raffle



As we are heading for an abundance of apples, this is my favourite apple cake – I use vanilla essence and I definitely use more demerara sugar and cinnamon than in the recipe – ENJOY!

VANILLA APPLE CAKE

9oz unsalted butter, softened
9oz golden caster sugar
4 eggs, beaten
9oz self-raising flour
1 vanilla pod, split, seeds removed and reserved
3 small Bramley apples, peeled, cored and cut into wedges
2 tbsp demerara sugar
¼ tsp ground cinnamon



Method

Beat the caster sugar and butter until pale and fluffy. Add the eggs, flour and vanilla seeds, then beat together to make a smooth batter. Tip into greased/baking paper lined 20cm tin, then lay the apple wedges on top, poking them halfway into the mix. Sprinkle with the demerara and cinnamon, then bake at 180°C (fan 160°C) or Gas 4 for 1 hour 5 mins or until skewer comes out clean and the sponge is risen and golden.

Jo Robson

