

# The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

Issue 167 July 2019

Parish Website: [www.theleighpc.org.uk](http://www.theleighpc.org.uk)

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Many thanks to everyone for all they did at the village Fete. Special thanks to Ken Preece for allowing us to use his field, without which we could not have done it.



## INSPIRATIONS

### THE WORK OF GRAHAME R. TUCKER

For those of you in The Leigh who have never met me, I am the person who, for many years, created the seasonal decorations in the nave and chancel of St Catherine's at Christmas time, and to this day continue to do so albeit on a smaller scale.

Following on from an award-winning teaching career spanning 36 years I have devoted my time to developing my passion for creativity, in various disciplines, but first and foremost my love of creating sculptures in wood, which are now placed in many private collections worldwide.

My enthusiasm for creating imaginative artefacts came, as I recall, when my late father asked me for what I wanted for my fifth birthday. I replied "a saw, hammer and a bag of nails please!" I am not quite sure what he thought of the subsequent creations, but he knew I was happy. I also owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to my art tutor Bob Hopes (no connection with the star) who saved me from following a career as an academic to developing my creative talents. However, the person I really owe so much to is my wife, Lynne who has always been so encouraging throughout my career.

So, what inspires me to create? It is simply having a love of the natural and man-made worlds.

However, at the same time I aim to create work which engages the eye using a technique I devised some years ago, which is a play on perspective. In each sculpture I attempt to deceive the observer into thinking the sculpture is three dimensional, or alternatively affords considerable depth, when in fact the sculpture is relatively flat. This can be seen in the accompanying images. If you attended the recent Fete, you would have seen my work at first hand in the Choirs of St. Catherine's. If you didn't, then do pop along to Three Choirs Festival in Gloucester later this month where I will be exhibiting.

The technique which I have developed over the years is very original and is admired worldwide, so much so that individual clients who collect my work often ask me to create pieces personal to them.

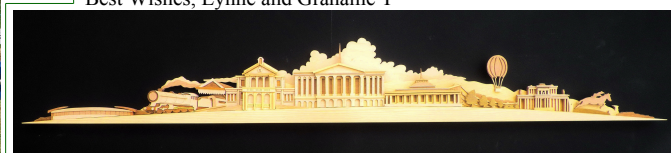
Although my work is a commercial venture, I also see it as way of raising funds to support our church St Catherine's and Nature in Art.

Very shortly, Lynne and I will be drawing (no pun intended) an end to our association with The Leigh after 27 years. We would like to take this opportunity to thanking those of you who have welcomed us and indeed, have become close friends. It is something we treasure immensely.

Best Wishes, Lynne and Grahame T



It was great to see so many of the villagers there chatting and entering their dogs into the show. Also what amazing weather - who would have believed. Hazel, Phil & Sue





## Mobile Library

Coombe Hill  
3.10pm – 4.10pm

Friday 19 July



## Parish Council Meeting dates:

Wednesday 10 July (Prov Planning)  
Wednesday 14 August (Full)  
Wednesday 11 September (Prov Planning)  
**St Catherine's Church,  
The Leigh 7.30pm**



## NORTON WI

Thursday 18 July  
7.30pm  
Norton Village Hall



The Lives of the Narrow Boat  
Women, their Children and  
Crafts

Speaker: Jill Ruiz

For further info contact:  
Margaret Edwards  
01452 73121800

## St Catherine's Church Services:

7 July - Evening Prayer, 6pm  
14 July - All Worship Together  
at Sandhurst, 10am  
21 July - Holy Communion 8.30am  
28 July - Evening Prayer and Holy Communion  
at Boddington, 10am

## Saturday 10 August 2019 Norton Village Hall

Vegetables, Fruit, Flowers, Wine, Preserves & Cakes

Show Schedule is now available from  
jorobsonmailbox.com or on Facebook  
@nortonleighanddistricthorticshow

## WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO OUR NDP?

Neighbourhood Development Plans were promoted as a way of local communities having influence over how their area would evolve over the next twenty years.

Leigh Parish Council agreed we should be part of this influence, and more than two years ago I chaired several meetings of Parishioners who contributed many ideas for the future of our community. In addition, many questionnaires were completed and analysed.

We were directed largely by TBC who had made us a Service Village, which meant that at Coombe Hill we would have to allow for at least 22 new houses within our plan—this figure varied little over five years and indeed was incorporated in the Joint Core Strategy for Tewkesbury, Cheltenham and Gloucester.

Following all these contributions I presented a draft NDP in February 2018 for consideration and comment by TBC. This draft allowed for a development of about 22 houses on the site adjacent to The Swan (our commitment), and a small level of infill elsewhere in the Parish. It rejected fully the application behind the garage for forty houses. We also requested that the draft be published on our web site but were advised not to do so—advice since proved incorrect.

We were therefore somewhat surprised to find that TBC were now suggesting we should accept more than the 22 houses mentioned in the JCS, and even more surprised to find an email from a planning officer to the developer of the site at the rear of the garage suggesting they withdraw the application for 40 houses and resubmit for 80!!

Over the past year John Arkell and I have held several meetings with TBC, arguing our case not only about this over-development outside of JCS requirement but questioning whether they take any notice of the local community. The final insult was last week when at a Planning Committee, to which we had not been specifically invited, the two applications were agreed to be left to Officer's decision—the very officer who had sent the email.

As a result of this total lack of faith I have sadly decided not to proceed any further with our NDP. I am not willing to waste any more of my life negotiating with an authority that is not willing to support its community. At the next Parish Council meeting John Arkell has agreed to raise the issue as to whether we should continue, and if so who will take over Chair of NDP. As my final gesture I have written complaining to TBC, our MP, Local Councillor and Rural Authorities. If other Members wish to make complaints they should be made immediately.

Colin W



## Tewkesbury Summer Ale Festival



Having paid a visit to the Tewkesbury Winter Ale festival held over the first weekend in February at Watson Hall (made even more enjoyable thanks to the screening of the England Vs Ireland six nations match) I took advantage of a break in the weather to attend the first (Camra - Campaign for Real Ale) Summer Ale Festival held on Friday 7th & Saturday 8th June held in the grounds of Tewkesbury Abbey.

Ostensibly held as part of the Tewkesbury Together 2021 celebrations (900th anniversary of the consecration of the Abbey - hence the venue) it was more of an excuse for a trial run of the event and for real ale and cider aficionados to sample early tastings of local brews. Thankfully the organisers had the foresight to arrange a large marquee to keep the drinkers dry and the entertainers somewhere to perform without worry of the frequent showers.

Some 20 real ales (mostly from Glos, Wales and Worcs/West Mids) were on sale plus around 8 - 10 local ciders and perries. Decent hog roast was available along with the usual barbecue fayre. Entertainment (on Saturday) varied between a singer (Alex Chapman), Tewkesbury Brass Band and to add a quintessentially British touch the Miserden Morris Dancers.

According to the organisers, attendance exceeded expectations although everyone was in agreement that the opening times (11am to 5pm) needed to be extended into the evening for next year's event - probably dictated by the Abbey's own opening times - although it did provide a stunning backdrop - shame about the British summer weather. **Laurence M**

Phillipa Page from Coombe Hill Farm Shop completed her 100 mile challenge last month!! The weather was in her favour, which helped somewhat with the 100 miles of the Cotswold Way that she ran in 3 and a half days, sleeping in a tent and on a blow up mattress each night!!

A non-runner up until just over a year ago, she said "it was incredibly hard, painful and turned out to be a battle of mental strength as much a physical".

She raised £3,150 for her charity, the Superhero Foundation (founded by Gloucester adventurer Jamie McDonald) and is immensely grateful to everyone in this fantastic community that supported her via donations through the shop, online and via the coffee and cake fundraiser and raised such a large amount of money. The charity supports children and their families who require treatment that is not available on the NHS.



"Thank you so much, and if anyone is considering trying something that is out of their comfort zone, don't hesitate, do it, you won't regret it!"

Phillipa P



This month's Unsung Hero Award must go to Barry Thornton for his recent repair work on the style opposite us! Thank you very much.  
**Nicky & Rob W**