

The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

Issue 181 October 2020

Parish Website www.theleighpc.org.uk

Issue Editor: Jo Robson Deadline for next month's Newsletter articles: Friday 23 October

Contact: Jo Robson, Daniels Orchard, The Leigh, GL19 4AG 01242 680257 jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com

SPOOKY MASKS!!



Cindy W and Karen M have again been busy creating charity masks which would be perfect for Halloween and beyond. There are various designs to choose from and sizes (adult and child).

The chosen charity is the James Hopkins Trust - a charity which provides practical help for severely disabled, life threatened and life limited young children with nursing needs, aged 5 years and under, living in Gloucestershire.

Masks will be on sale at Coombe Hill Farm Shop for a suggested donation of not less than £3 but pre-orders/sales can also be made direct from the sewers themselves!

Please contact Cindy (cindy.colinw@me.com) for:



Please contact Karen (karen.d.morton@outlook.com) for:



Halloween is likely to be different this year, and I thought we could all do something similar to our Easter activity. If possible, please could you put up decorations, create a window display or carve pumpkins and hide a paper/foam/ceramic pumpkin so that the children (and adults!) can go on a walk to spot them all. Perhaps parents could provide sweets for the ones spotted (sorry!).

If you wish to join in, please could all decorations be in place by Wednesday 28 October until Sunday 1 November. If you are on the outskirts of the village and wish to participate, we will find a space for you adjacent to a safe walking route. Many thanks. **Katie H**

Looking forward to Spring.....



Would anyone be interested in planting bulbs around the village? If so, I'll put a container with some in by my gate, so you can help yourselves.

Thought this would cheer us up in the Spring. They will be the natural type, not the big garden blooms. **Joan W**

Cheltenham Animal Shelter

have requested our sewing skills to help create about 80 Xmas Stockings to hang on their kennels/cages for both dogs and cats. Last year they asked for donations of shoe boxes so this is a new idea!

So far myself, Stella and Cindy have offered our services and I wondered if anyone else would like to help...Stockings will be made from old duvet covers which Stella still has a supply of. We are looking for help with cutting out, sewing (machine or hand) etc. Suggested size 30cm long by 20cm wide.

Please let me know if you can help, or if you would like to make a donation towards the stocking fillings, that would be great too. Thanks, Sue W (witthers@todpool.com)



Parish Council Issues:

Please check the Parish Council website for minutes, planning, Newsletter, news and updates: theleighpc.org.uk

Harvest 2020 As the harvest is happening all around us, it is time to give thanks. Not surprisingly there will not be a Harvest Festival in church this year and no Harvest Meal to share.

Chris, Rich and Barry continue to keep the churchyard looking good and cared for, and we thank them for all the hours they give to this. As we will not be decorating the inside of the church this year, I wondered if we could put flowers or foliage on the graves of family, friends and the graves that no longer have anyone to remember them?

The PCC realises this is a big ask, but let's show our love of all the country folk that have kept our area rural for us to enjoy.

We suggest the weekend of **10 & 11 October** is appropriate. Any harvest contributions can be left in the church porch that weekend and will be passed to Viv T for the Tewkesbury Food Bank. Many thanks. Sue R, on behalf of PCC



Face Mask Project - Reports

Jane D - Gloucestershire Young Carers



I nominated Gloucestershire Young Carers through my work as a Social Worker, where I occasionally dealt with individuals facing life changing events such as a sudden illness, accident or trauma. In such situations where children are involved, normal family life suddenly stops too.

Particularly in single parent households, children are often expected to take on adult responsibilities. For example, helping a parent with dressing, shopping, cooking, cleaning etc. Unable to socialise or see their friends, these young carers become isolated and alone.

Gloucestershire Young Carers is a lifeline for many children, providing mentors, days out, help with education, as well as a listening ear and support when things get really tough.

When I phoned the charity to tell them about our £800 donation, they were ecstatic. One of their staff members had seen the collection box and masks at Norton Garden Centre, and tried to find out who was raising funds on their behalf. So imagine their delight when out of the blue they are given £800!

The lady on the phone said she was going to cry, she felt so emotional. On receipt of the donation, they sent the following email: "We cannot thank you enough for choosing Gloucestershire Young Carers, especially at the current time. What an amazing outcome to come from your local community spirit. Not only for the funds raised for the various charities you supported, but to help keep the front line carers safe with a supply of scrubs. Please pass on our thanks to every single person involved in producing the masks."

Cindy W – Maggie's Cancer Care



Maggie's Cancer Care in Cheltenham was my nomination for a local charity to benefit from the proceeds from the generous donations for the face masks we made. From my own experience the support offered at Maggie's is second to none for both cancer sufferers and their families. Their premises, which is a short distance from the Oncology Department at Cheltenham General, offers everyone a warm welcome, a cup of tea and homemade cake, as well as a variety of groups, classes and one to one with a cancer care specialist. During lockdown much of this has been on the telephone or online but there is always the opportunity to talk to someone.

After receiving their donation of £800, I had the following response:

It was lovely speaking to you earlier and thank you so very much for the wonderful surprise. £800 will help in so many ways, it really is appreciated. Please pass on our thanks to your community.

Everything we offer at Maggie's is free of charge. We believe that practical, emotional and social support should be accessible to everybody with cancer and their families and friends, when they need it, for as long as they need it.

We couldn't support these people without the generosity of our supporters. The hard work, skills and commitment of everyone who made a mask means so much. Every penny that was raised from them will go direct to our centre in Cheltenham. It really does make a huge difference and we are extremely grateful for everyone's kindness.

- £20 means we're here to support someone with cancer from the moment they're diagnosed.
- £40 will pay for someone with cancer to get expert benefits advice, helping them focus on their treatment and less on the struggle of supporting their family. In 2020 we claimed over £2million for our visitors here in Cheltenham.
- £300 pays for specialist cancer support for everyone who visits our centre each day.

I hope the above information is useful and more importantly, I want to thank you. It really does mean so much to us here at the centre you wanting to help. It really is a game changer for so many people.



Sue W - Cheltenham Animal Shelter

Cheltenham Animal Shelter (CAS) is self funding and I have been sending donations and collecting towels and blankets for bedding for some years. I was therefore pleased to be able to present a cheque for £800 collected from the sale of face masks produced by so many local volunteers. The reception I got from CAS management team was exceptional and full of gratitude and they sent the following letter.

"Cheltenham Animal Shelter would like to thank the residents of The Leigh and surrounding areas for their very kind donation of £800. We currently have 60 abandoned, stray, surrendered animals in our care seeking loving homes who will directly benefit from your gift.

The Coronavirus pandemic has had a major impact on our ability to raise funds, and many of our normal ways of generating income have been affected this year. In addition, the government's help for charities doesn't apply to animal charities like ours, so your support is more important than ever.

We care for more than 650 cats, dogs and small animals every year at a cost of about £650,000 so every pound counts!"

A little more about CAS: The Gloucestershire Animal Welfare Association and Cheltenham Animal Shelter has been helping animals since 1926.

We provide medical care for many of our animals and the ongoing love and care required until we can find them a new loving home.

Many of our dogs require behavioural training to give them the best possible chance of finding new homes, which we provide via our in-house specialists.

We educate the public about companion animal welfare through a variety of programmes and talks within the local community.



Gloucestershire Animal Welfare Association &
Cheltenham Animal Shelter



Creative Christmas 2021!

We are currently seeking unwanted balls of wool (double knittingish!) - please leave in Daniels Orchard's back porch. Many thanks.
Jo



Covid-safe COBALT Christmas and Greetings Cards Sale in Sandhurst



Sadly we won't be able to hold our usual sociable card sale day this year. However, we have still made lots of lovely cards which we hope you will buy in aid of Cobalt. Please phone 01452 731519 to arrange an individual appointment to come and choose your cards at a time to suit you from mid-October onwards.

The cards will have been "quarantined" for a couple of weeks before being made available for sale, and you are requested to wear a face covering and a new pair of disposable gloves while looking through the boxes of cards. *Yvette M*

Reminder from Tewkesbury Borough Council – Blue Bins:

We can recycle a huge amount from the kerbside - plastic bottles, paper, card, tins, cans, glass, foil, etc - but there are some materials, such as carrier bags, wood or old toys, that can't be recycled this way and should be taken to specialist recycling points.



The Annual General Meeting of the PCC

is normally held in April. This year due to Covid 9 it will be held on Wednesday 21 October at 3pm in the church. The AGM, which is open to all parishioners and those who attend church, is held to receive reports from the rector, treasurer, chairman, churchwarden and bell ringers.

Anyone on the church Electoral Roll may nominate and elect the churchwardens.

The PCC of St Catherine has become very small over the last few years, and it is only with the tremendous support of parishioners and worshippers that we can keep the church open.

It would be good to see you there so that we can show our appreciation and thank you personally, and I can assure you that there will be no attempts at arm twisting.

Sue R – Churchwarden & Phil C- Lay Chairman

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
1/4 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.

Norton Village Hall Annual General Meeting Wednesday 28 October 2020 7pm via Zoom Meeting

Please note: for those wishing to attend, please email PPembridge@aol.com, by Wed 14 October, so that Zoom meeting details can be forwarded.

However, if the number of non-Committee members exceeds 20 persons the meeting will be deferred for Zoom technical reasons.

Christmas 2020



Please start thinking about activities we can do over Christmas (meeting Government guidelines, of course) – hoping to promote some of your ideas in the next edition!!!!



A reminder that the village speed limit is 30mph – these skid marks, of 22 September, indicate that someone had a very close shave.

Please, everyone, be careful.

