

# The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

Issue 184 January/February 2021 (4 pages, online only)

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

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Christmas star design, constructed and installed by Richard T and Chris W

## Christmas 2020: *Lights, Floods and Snow!!!*

Nativity scene in church porch beautifully created by Mary C, Karen M, Ange S and Pippa H.



Light displays over Christmas



## PERSONAL HEROES OF THE LEIGH 2020

I am so fortunate to have all you wonderful neighbours, most particularly in this year. So, I would really like to thank all the creative people who thought up diversions for the villagers in the first lockdown, organising ScarecrowFest, Easter activities, VE Day etc: Jo R, Stella B, Sue W and all others concerned. It was all good fun and so lovely to see people wandering through the village enjoying it all.



I would also like to thank my 'personal' heroes:

- Anne H and Andrew G who, together with my daughters, always made sure that I had plenty of 'necessities'. Most especially red wine!!
- Chris W who came to my rescue when my bedroom ceiling was dripping water and fixed my roof tiles.
- Roger B, Barry T and Martin P who all, within 20 minutes of a tree in my front garden splitting, falling and blocking Blacksmith's Lane, were here with chainsaws removing it so traffic could get past. Thanks also to Richard B and Sue T who, I believe, phoned BT and my phonenumber was replaced the next day.
- And, a HUGE 'thank you' to Martin R who spent Boxing Day pumping flash-flood water from the blocked drain outside The Croft. Water had already seeped into my kitchen after the deluge on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and more rain was forecast – thankfully it didn't materialise.

### Rain Stats:

23<sup>rd</sup> = 2.16"  
Boxing Day night = 0.82"  
27<sup>th</sup> (rain then snow) = 0.50"  
Oliver H



A few seasonal photos from around the village:

- a walk along Church Lane by Colin & Julie B
- A view from Ken's
- Ralph family creation (after a bit of a meltdown!)

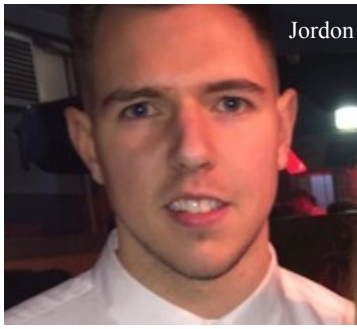


I am grateful to all these fabulous people but I feel we must all be grateful for having them as OUR neighbours – they are much appreciated.

Happy New Year 2021 to you all.  
Marian B







Jordon



## Christmas Masks - Wonderful News

We raised £303 by selling Christmas-themed face masks for the Jordon Wilson's Tribute Fund. All money to the fund is split between The Bone Cancer Research Trust and Reach, which helps children with upper limb differences.

Jordon was a lovely young man who sadly lost his battle with bone cancer at just 21. If you would like to know more about the charity set up by his parents go to [www.BCRT.org.uk/Jordonwilson](http://www.BCRT.org.uk/Jordonwilson)

A really special "thank you" to Cindy W, who made masks with me, Coombe Hill Farm Shop for allowing us to display and encouraging people to donate and, of course, the folk who donated/ordered masks.

We had thought that Christmas would be the last batch of masks - you never know we may be making Easter Masks!  
**Karen M**

## SANDHURST COBALT CARD GROUP



**Cobalt**  
Diagnosis • Research • Education

We are delighted and amazed to report that somehow, during this challenging past year, we have managed to raise just over £1,700. This money will be doubled by a generous benefactor, and will contribute to the purchase of a specialist machine to analyse blood samples immediately prior to a scan, thus eliminating the need for a separate appointment elsewhere beforehand, which will enable an urgent diagnosis to be made much more speedily.

A huge "Thank you!" to everyone who donned their PPE and came to buy cards, and to those who made generous donations.

Best wishes for the New Year from all of us, and we look forward to a safer and more sociable year in 2021. **Yvette M**

## CHURCH NEWS

- the Parish Magazine remains at £8 for 2021. If you wish to carry on with the magazine please pay your distributor by the beginning of February. Thank you to all who have delivered the magazines this year.

- the PCC would like to extend a "thank you" to everyone who has contributed to the upkeep of St Catherine's Church this year, either physically or with donations.

- the glass screen is now in place and we look forward to using the warm space that has been created for meetings and small gatherings as soon as we are able.

- St Catherine's Church will be open on Thursdays, 10am until 3pm, for quiet time/prayers.

**Sue R**



## The Leigh Christmas Postbox

Thank you to everyone who used the Christmas Postbox or inserted their Christmas greetings in the December Newsletter – the amount raised was £286!!!

The money was split (according to donor wishes) between James Hopkins Trust (£150) and St Catherine's Church, The Leigh (£136).

Thanks also must go to my fellow card delivering elves: Lynn D, Janine B and Karen M. **Jo R**



## CALLING ALL BLANKETEERS!

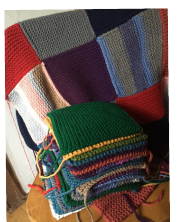
We are knitting lap blankets for elderly patients leaving hospital. If you'd like to join in this community project please find yourself a set of knitting needles or a crochet hook and get started.

We are making 8 inch squares, to then be sewn into lap blankets. Blankets are 4 squares x 5 squares, so 20 squares in all. If you can't make a square but would like to sew the blankets together, your help would also be appreciated, and if you have any spare wool you'd like to donate, that would also be very welcome. The project will run until 13th February, so please get knitting.

If you'd like to join the Blanketeers WhatsApp group, please contact me on 07970 945437. **Stella B**



Thank you! Hayley S has donated forty squares already made! A brilliant start to the Blanketeers Community Project and by chance, they're the perfect size too. Also Sue R has donated a crochet lap blanket in the style her sister has already been making for hospitals around the country. Thank you both for your donations, they're much appreciated.

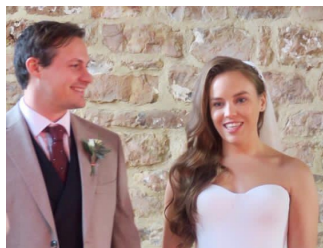


## FIREWORKS!

Can I politely remind villagers that if you are planning to set off fireworks (at whatever time of the year), it would be courteous to make your immediate neighbours aware in case extra arrangements need to be made for dogs, cats, horses etc (and sheep!). Thanks. Jo







**Congratulations** to Alice & Phil (daughter of Pete & Gill B of Coombe Hill) who married her Mr Wright (Philip) on the 12th of December 2020 at Priors Court, Tythe Barn, Brockworth - it was an amazing day.

Would just like to say a massive "thank you" to Roddy G, our very good friend, for his time driving Pete to the venue and having photos with Alice after the ceremony with his beautiful old Wolseley car. Wishing them both much happiness for the future. **Pete & Gill B**



Owing to social distancing etc etc, Ken P's family sat outside on Boxing Day and played a well rehearsed 'Happy Birthday' on their mouth instruments.

**Happy Belated \*\*\*\*\* Birthday, Ken!**

## Dog Waste Bins

Well they have arrived and have been installed, I am sure you agree they look very smart. They can be found at the bend on Church Lane and by the village pond. They have been paid for out of the Parish Council funds and will now be emptied weekly by the Council.

The 'trial bins' have been emptied and are ready to move to new homes for the next trial. The Parish Council are looking for suggested new sites at the Coombe Hill end of the Parish. So please do put your ideas forward. **Karen M**



A polite note to all dog owners that some villagers are genuinely 'frightened of dogs' and others have dog allergies.

In public places, you must keep your dog 'under control'. Generally, this means close to you and ideally on a lead. If they're not on a lead, they need to be under control in another way, such as paying attention to your voice commands.

This is a general comment and not aimed at anyone specific.

## Update on Parish Council Precept

At the Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 13 January 2021, it was agreed there would be a minimal increase in the precept used to run the Parish Council and to fund small parish initiatives (like the dog waste bins). The Parish Council recognised that it had been a challenging year for many families so kept the increase as low as possible. The cost of the increase applied for will be £1.99 per annum per household - approximately 17p a month.

**Karen M** - RFO (Responsible Finance Officer for the Leigh Parish Council) 07711 632256 if you have any questions.

## Norton Women's Institute 1924-2021



We had very much hoped to celebrate our 97th Birthday in February but a Global Pandemic rather changed things this last year. With many of our decreasing number of members in the vulnerable category, and the closure of the Village Hall, we have been unable to continue. Most of our members do not 'do' Zoom etc.

Failure over the previous two years to attract new members to join and take on roles within our WI has led to our difficult decision to close. This will take effect before the end of March 2021.

Any funds we have will be held over for the next 3 years in case anyone would like to start up a new WI here in Norton. Should that be the case, please feel free to contact me and I will happily give further information. **Margaret Edwards, on behalf of Norton WI (Mme9edwards@gmail.com)**



**Just a reminder that the Newsletter will be requiring a new Editor from September 2021!**

## Neighbourhood Development Plan



Please keep an eye out for a NDP letter and questionnaire which will be hand delivered throughout the parish. Questionnaires can be completed online or on paper between 1 February – 14 March 2021.



**COOMBE HILL FARM SHOP**  
Open:  
Wed & Sun 10am – 1pm  
Thurs 10am – 2pm  
Fri & Sat 9am – 2pm



Open for  
takeaways only  
of drinks and  
homemade cakes  
on  
Fridays  
Saturdays  
& Sundays  
at the Farm Shop



**HEATHER COMPTON**

(wife of Brian)

**Sadly passed  
away on  
6th January 2021**

Resident of Malvern View, Coombe Hill since 1995. Heather loved living in the parish and always looked forward to reading the newsletter.

Heather loved gardening and used to open up her garden for open afternoons. In the late 90s, Heather used to work at the Coombe Hill Petrol Station and at The Swan.

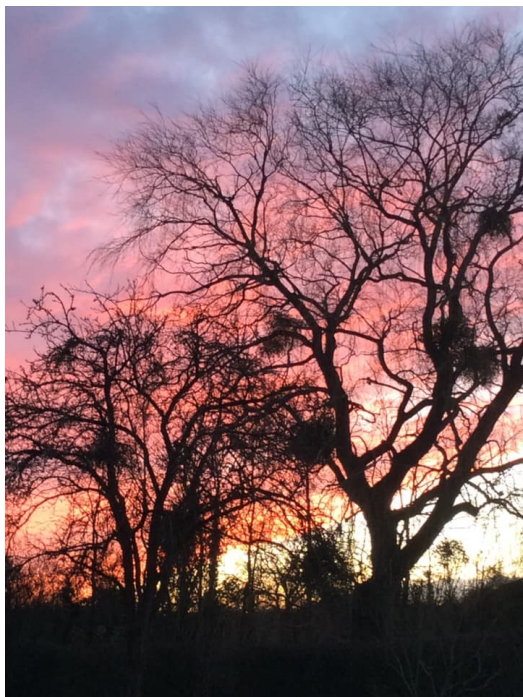
Heather's funeral took place on 19th January at St Catherine's Church, The Leigh. **Vicki C**



There should be lambs at Daniels Orchard from mid-February – excellent stopover for little ones during their lockdown exercise!!! (and for some big ones!)



Thank you to everyone who have submitted photographs for this edition. I have taken the liberty of using some photographs uploaded onto the parish Facebook Page for those who cannot access. Jo R



Sunset (Sue W and Julie B)



Down Deenes Road! (Alison H)



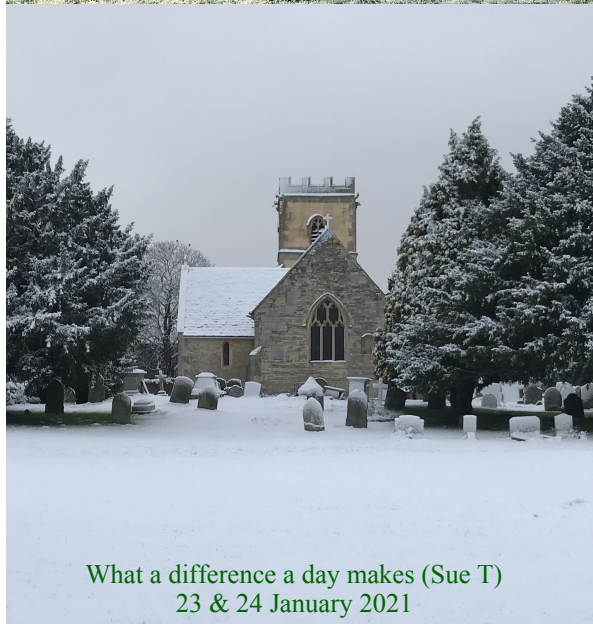
Frosty Walk (Rachel B)



Ice Art (Yvonne A and James A)



Christmas Day Sunset (Colin B)



What a difference a day makes (Sue T)  
23 & 24 January 2021