

The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

Issue 185 March 2021 (online only)

Parish Website www.theleighpc.org.uk

Issue Editor: Jo Robson Deadline for next month's Newsletter articles: Friday 19 March

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Great Progress from the Blanketeers!

For the last few weeks there has been a blur of wool and click-clacking of needles in 20 households. Blanketeers have been either knitting and crocheting squares, or coordinating 20 squares and sewing together to make a completed blanket. While some people have made a whole blanket, others have contributed to what I'm calling Friends and Neighbours Blankets - these have resulted in a fascinating mix of colours and textures that depict our diverse community beautifully.



At the beginning of this project I had hoped we could make 10 blankets, then with the outstanding effort of Josie W, who has crocheted 10 blankets on her own (!) that number doubled to 20. With the closing date upon us and with a frantic knitathon from Karen M, Rachel B, Nicky W and Cindy W we made one final blanket to complete a final total of 33!



Well Done and Thank You

The project has been helped by donations of wool, especially from Chris D, Sue W and Sefton H, but also from everyone who has bought their own wool. Also the volunteers who have sewn up the Friends and Neighbours blankets, especially Cindy W, Rachel B, Nicky W and Nicky's Mum. Well done to everyone who has had a go at knitting or crocheting for the first time and persevered with the frustration of dropped stitches. This has been such an enjoyable community project and from a personal point of view, coordinating the Blanketeers and learning to make something new has helped with the daunting prospect of yet another lockdown, so THANK YOU to everyone involved. **Stella B**



Litter Picking Parishioners!!

I generally take a bit of exercise walking along the A38 from Pancake Corner, around The Leigh village and back. During my walks I've seen so much rubbish littering our wayside verges. I have collected enough bottles, cans, wrappers, disposable coffee cups, fast food containers and even face masks to fill 3 black bin liners.



Litter is not only unsightly but it endangers our small mammals that live in our hedgerows and wayside verges. Some of the broken cans I have found would cause a nasty injury to a dog's paws etc.

On a recent stroll to The Leigh it was heartening to see 2 young girls from the village (sorry do not know your names) who were also picking up litter from our verges along the A38. Well done girls! (Editor's Note – I believe Emma-Jane and Georgina A)

Sadly, most people drive in and out of The Leigh so don't actually see how much litter there is lying about. It might be an idea to take a rubbish bag out when we do go on our walks and so pick up any litter we see lying around. I just wish motorists would take their litter home with them and dispose of it there! **Sophie W**

Sarah R has also noticed the amount of roadside litter.....

Leigh Spring Clean!!



I was wondering if anyone would like to help with a litter pickup around the Leigh and along a stretch of the A38 running past the village?

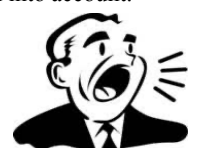
I walk along the main road on a regular basis and the amount of rubbish on either side of the main road is an extremely sad sight to see. All equipment, bags, gloves, litter pickers plus high-vis vests for safety, will be provided by TBC, although I would suggest bringing say gardening/work glove if you have them.

Please join me on Saturday 20th March for a "Spring Clean", between 10am and 1pm (weather permitting) - meeting in the lay-by opposite Church Lane. Social distancing will, of course, be a priority. **Sarah R**

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Hopefully you will all have received information about the proposed Leigh Neighbourhood Development Plan affecting everyone in the Parish over the next twenty years. I am pleased to say that we have already received several responses and comments which will all be taken into account.

We know however many more of you are concerned about changes in our Parish both now and in the future, and this is your one chance to be able to influence the way forward.



If you have not yet completed either the questionnaire on our website, or returned the paper copy we distributed, please do so as soon as possible. Go to The Leigh website and select Questionnaire on the main menu, or direct to the following link: <https://theleighpc.org.uk/questionnaire/>

If you agree with the plan then please complete a form in any case, and of course if you disagree then you must make your views known. All responses will be kept entirely confidential. **John Arkell - Parish Chair**

HOSPITAL IN NEED!

Birmingham have been in touch to let us know that they are running low on items for both Birmingham Children's Hospital and Birmingham Women's Hospital.

What they need:

Incubator blankets - (around 20 x 22")

Mitts

Booties

Hats - size tiny preemie - newborn

All colours welcome

Post to:

Birmingham Children's Hospital
The funding team
Steelhouse Lane
Birmingham
B4 6NH

HOSPITAL IN NEED

Following on from our amazing community blanket project many of us now have the knitting bug! Does anyone fancy knitting for Birmingham Children's Hospital? We have enquired of Gloucester's Scoo-B-Doo Neonatal Unit with a view to keeping it more local but they are not in need of anything at the moment. If anyone would like to join in, I will be sending a pack off at the end of March - please just deliver to me at Highfield House and include your name so I can mention all contributors in the following newsletter. Thanks in advance. [Nicky W](#)



GENTLE PAWS

A gentle Dog Walking service for your Pooch.

For further details, ring Sally 01242680249 or 07974303426

NEWS FROM ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH



- [Revd Suzanne](#) retired from the Benefice on 28 February. Revd Philippa will be the point of contact until the Summer, if she is unavailable churchwardens will take any queries about the church.

- [Mother's Day/Mothering Sunday](#) falls on 14 March this year. Originally the day (half way through Lent) when you were expected to visit your home church. It naturally became the day we made special for our mothers and other family and friends who "mothered" us. Let's celebrate all and brighten up the churchyard again, as we did at Harvest, with floral tributes to our family and friends no longer with us.

- It would also be lovely to make contributions to the [food bank](#) again, Please leave food in the porch and monetary donations in the box in the church - we will keep St Catherine's open on Friday 12 and Saturday 13 March. Many thanks [Sue R](#)

Date of the next Parish Council Meeting:
Wednesday 10 March
Zoom meeting details will be circulated



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



CRACKING NEWS....

Now that the flood water has gone down and Blacksmiths Lane is back open, so is the chicken egg stand at Bishops Cottage!



We have an exceptional mix of cross-breeds and heritage hens that provide us with the most beautiful nutritious eggs in a range of colours. They are fed a natural diet of locally sourced grains and greens, and live long healthy rural lives. [Hayley S and Yvonne A](#)



EGGSTRA NEWS...

Free range eggs also available from Priscilla (A38 between Church & Blacksmith Lanes) and Coombe Hill Farm Shop

WATER, FLOODING & DRAIN ISSUES

It is probably no surprise that water, flooding, drains etc were discussed at the February Parish Council meeting.

A useful Gloucestershire County Council link

[Essential flood guide:](#)

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/planning-and-environment/flood-risk-management/flood-guide/>

For those who have a river, stream, ditch or culvert running through, or alongside your property, you are probably responsible for its maintenance and the Waterside Living Guide is for you.

Someone who owns property which is next to a watercourse or has a watercourse running through it is called a riparian owner. Legally, riparian owners have certain rights and responsibilities relating to the stretch of watercourse that flows through or alongside their land.

It is not only farmers who are riparian owners. Homeowners may not realise that the ditch at the bottom of their garden belongs to them and that they may be responsible for its maintenance.

If you are a riparian owner, there are certain responsibilities which you have a legal duty to fulfil to help manage flood risk and protect the environment.

Full details can be found through the link below:

[Waterside Living:](#)

<https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/16776/waterside-living-leaflet-web.pdf>



SPRING IS IN THE AIR

please check out these adorable woollies on your daily exercise around the village



Just a reminder that the Newsletter will be requiring a new Editor from September 2021! I will detail a Job Description in the next edition. Jo

