



The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

Issue 193 December 2021
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Christmas is just around the corner and with all the kind donations made for Christmas wishes, a number of articles have been lightly edited for inclusion. Thanks to all for their timely articles and best wishes for a fantastic Christmas and a prosperous 2022.

Articles for February's edition are required by 20th January (to above email address).

Festive Food at The Swan Inn

Friday 17th December at 7pm will see many residents from The Leigh and Coombe Hill descending on The Swan Inn at Coombe Hill for our annual Christmas evening meal.

Any readers who'd still like to attend are kindly asked to book directly with The Swan Inn and let them know you're part of our Christmas party (booking is under the name of [Chris H](#)). You'll need to let them know your meal choices in advance (menu available to download on their website/view on village noticeboard).



The Leigh Christmas Post Box



On Sunday 19th December from 3pm-5pm (thanks Paul and Jane), Denes Hollow will become 'Santa's Sorting Office', where village children - and a few helping adults - will sort Christmas cards and then deliver within The Leigh / Evington. All children from The Leigh are most welcome.

For those interested, please post your cards into the Christmas post box situated outside Little Holborn, Church Lane from 12th December. All cards MUST display a SURNAME to help the little elves - no need for addresses. The last posting day will be noon on 19th December 2021.

Any households with dogs running loose, which prevent delivery to your post box, may result in post being left by your gate etc.

Suggested charity donations (from £3 — made via the post box) would be gratefully received. This year we've chosen the James Hopkins Trust and St Catherine's church, The Leigh. Should you wish your donation to only go to one charity, please indicate on the envelope, otherwise, it will be split equally.

The James Hopkins Trust is 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.

Any enquiries / details of participating elves can be answered by calling [Jo R](#). 680257 or [Jane A](#). 680691.

Pull the other one



Mentioning I'm a bell ringer leads to a (surprising) number of people suggesting they'd love to have a try. To many, bell ringing is linked to a vision of monks dangling from a rope (as seen in a Cadbury's Dairy Milk advert) or that very amusing sketch from The Vicar of Dibley. Actually, it's not like that at all.

During a discussion planning the recent coffee morning at St Catherine's, Karen suggested it would be a good idea to offer, to those interested, a bell ringing 'tester' session during the coffee morning.

On the day of the coffee morning, 3 inquisitive ladies stepped forward to sample the bells — Sue, Mary and Sarah. And, as Bruce Forsyth would have said, "Didn't they do well".

Tuesday is bell ringing practice night. We start at 7:30pm and we'd welcome anyone who'd like to come along to take part (no experience necessary). Either call Phil on 01452 857180 / 07855054462, or just pop along.

We're a very relaxed group and we do enjoy a natter and coffee, as well as ringing!
[Phil C](#).





Platinum Jubilee Celebration Ideas Wanted

The Parish Council would like to hear your ideas as to how we should honour the Queen's 70 year reign.

Ideas could be in the form of a lasting legacy, or an event in June (all ideas welcome), but should be something that is equally appropriate to Coombe Hill, as to The Leigh.

Please share your ideas with one of the Councillors or submit your entry on the Parish website.



Parish Council Meeting

Next meeting: Wednesday 8th December at 7:30pm
Venue: St Catherine's church, The Leigh.

All residents of the parish are welcome to attend and the agenda can be viewed in advance on the noticeboard and website.

Keep informed via The Leigh Parish Council website theleighpc.org.uk, the village noticeboard, or contact the Parish directly on leighpc@hotmail.co.uk



Degree Congratulations

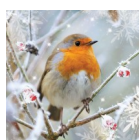
Well done to Charlotte on her degree conferral (BSc Hons, Disaster Management, Coventry University), which was presented at Coventry Cathedral on 18th November, and is now back full-time in the village.

Rest In Peace

Roddy Gilder, of Becketts Farm, Pancake Lane, passed peacefully away on Saturday 16th October, aged 77 years, with his family close by.

His funeral service, followed by burial in the churchyard took place at St Catherine's church, The Leigh on Wednesday 10th November.

Donations were generously made to St. Catherine's church.



Thanks to all who made a donation to our nominated causes.



Season's Greetings from everyone on the Parish Council. 2021 has continued to be a challenge for all sorts of reasons but has also helped to bring the community closer together. The Parish Councillors are looking forward to the new challenges that await them in 2022 and the chance to welcome the new Parishioners from the development at Coombe Hill.

John, Mary, Karen, Leigh and Richard



A very Happy Christmas and all Good Wishes for the New Year to all friends and neighbours in The Leigh.
Andrew (Island Cottage)



We wish all our friends and neighbours a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy 2022. Love to all,
Barry, Sue & Bentley xxx



We wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a very happy New Year. Best wishes.
Chris & Hayley



Wishing everyone a splendid Christmas and a happy, healthy 2022.
Sefton and Philip



Wishing all our friends a very Happy Christmas and a wonderful New Year. Best wishes from
Nicky, Rob and Ted



Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas and good health and happiness in the New Year.
Chris, Rita and Jessica Remfry



Happy Christmas to our friends in The Leigh and Coombe Hill.
Colin, Sue & Girls (Todpool)



We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy 2022.
Phip and John (The Croft)





Flora's Fabulous Book Launch



The book launch party at Cyder Press Farm for Stella Stonestreet's two novels 'How Flora Finds Her Fabulous' and 'Ready for Fabulous' was on November 7th. Starting at 2pm, there was a steady stream of guests throughout the day and well into the evening. Pink fizz, delicious little cakes and Flora's Quiz were all enjoyed while books were signed.

I would like to thank everyone for coming to launch my literary career, especially Sarah Rudge and Sue Withers who were there to lend a hand on the day. With over sixty books sold and all the fizz gone, I'd say it was a fabulous start to the book tour which is now travelling around the country until Christmas. [Stella B.](#)



St. Catherine's Church

Christmas Choir Practice — Tuesday 7th December at 6:30pm

Our first practice (for the Christmas Eve performance). All are very welcome – great voices and not so great voices – this is more about taking part and having fun than being perfect! Like to take part and sing? Come along or for details contact [Ange S.](#) on 07752 120953

Christmas Lights Switch On — Friday 10th December at 6pm

Join your friends and neighbours for the countdown to Christmas — lights, carols, mulled wine and mince pies!

Christmas Wreath Making — Saturday 11th and Sunday 12th December

A couple of places are still left. To book, contact [Karen M.](#) on 07711 632256

Christmas Eve Family Carol Service — Friday 24th December at 6pm

A service with full participation including carols, blessing of the crib and Christingle celebrations. Everyone from our parish, including visiting friends and families, are very welcome to attend and celebrate Christmas together.

Curry Evening — Saturday 15th January at 7pm

Fancy a post Christmas curry with good food and company? Please call [Hazel C.](#) on 07894 571826 or email [Sue R.](#) at clivesueroberts@gmail.com to reserve a place. If you're able to cook a curry, please do let us know.

Norton and The Leigh - Local History Group

Future events for your diary at Norton Village Hall (doors open at 7pm and talks start promptly at 7:15pm) are:



28th February (Monday) - Invincible faith triumpheth - Malcolm Watkins
The story of the siege of Gloucester, based on the diary of the town crier of the time)

28th March (Monday) - Medieval builders and building techniques - John Putley

25th April (Monday) - The landscape legacy of the Normans - Alan Pilbeam
Churches, deer parks, establishment of the Forest of Dean etc.)

Everyone welcome. Entrance £3. Due to Covid-19 precautions, please wear a face mask. Hand sanitiser is provided. [Sue Phelps](#) 07754 668898 / 01452 731280

Open House Christmas Party



Stella will be hosting an open house Christmas party at Cyder Press Farm on Sunday 19th December between 2:30pm and 7:30pm.

All welcome. Bring a bottle or a plate of food and wear something Christmassy!

A reminder will be sent nearer the time but save the date now! [Stella B.](#)

Post-Christmas Walk

Come and join us for a village walk on Tuesday 28th December (weather permitting). Starting at 11am from the layby opposite Church Lane, we'll be heading for the Gloucester Old Spot.

2-legged and 4-legged friends welcome. Want to know more, contact [Nicky W](#) on 07817 938411.



Tewkesbury Winter Ale Festival

On Friday 4th February, around 7:30pm, a few villagers plan to head to the George Watson Memorial Hall in Tewkesbury for a few pints of real ale and cider. Contact [Laurence M](#) if you'd like details, or join us there.





Can you help us build our Benefice nativity scene?!

We have Mary, Joseph and Jesus but the rest of the people and animals haven't arrived yet!

Come and join in with a nativity built of life-size scarecrows! We would really love it if you could create your own life-size nativity character and display it in your garden during December to create a whole village nativity!

Then on Saturday 18th December, we are asking for your nativity scarecrow to make the journey to Norton Playing Fields, where they will find the stable with Mary, Joseph and Jesus inside. (We can't wait to see your kings and camels, shepherds and sheep, angels and stars and stable animals!)

From 1pm there will be people from the church to welcome you and your scarecrow. Then ... Join us for carols at 2pm and 2:45pm before the main blessing of the crib at 3pm.

★ In-between there will be free craft activities and refreshments for everyone to enjoy! ★

Any queries please contact Jean Smith on 07471 207327

(Please make sure your scarecrow is able to stand without you and that you are able to secure it yourself! Thank you!)

- We look forward to seeing you! -



THE CHRISTMAS OPEN EVENING

at Coombe Hill Farm Shop and Cow Shed Garden & Antiques
FRIDAY 10TH DECEMBER
5-8PM

Drop in and join us for complimentary mince pies and some late night shopping with:

Bnatural
Little Shop of Wonders
Mumfordcrafts.co.uk
and The Baking Bird for hot drinks

— even pick up a Christmas tree or dinner from the Farm Shop!



COOMBE HILL FARM SHOP

Open for business.

Wednesday & Sunday 10:00am – 1:00pm

Thursday 10:00am – 2:00pm

Friday & Saturday 09:00am – 2:00pm



Open for drinks and homemade cakes on Fridays, Saturdays & Sundays.



SUPPORT Local BUSINESS



General Building and Maintenance

Specialising in using recycled and reclaimed materials. No job too small—free quotations.

Contact **Chris W** on 07766 120656 or 01242 680711

Man and Tractor for Hire



Compact machinery, ideal for big gardens, paddocks, yards and buildings.

Contact **Richard T** on 07970 966801

Gentle Paws



Dog walking and holiday pet sitting for your pooches.

Please call **Sally C** on 01242 680249 or 07974 303426

Carmen's Medical Aesthetics



I'm a trained aesthetician and offer services such as anti-wrinkle treatments, dermal fillers and many more. Contact **Carmen** by email carmensmedical@yahoo.com or

07458 985008

Private Hire Taxi Services



AirLane Private Travel, based at Wharf Cottage, The Wharf, Coombe Hill is a small, family owned taxi business providing pre-booked transits to / from airports, seaports, sports arena, concerts, weddings and most other functions.

Travel in style in a 9-seater, fully sanitised vehicle, which can accommodate 8 passengers and luggage.

Contact **Jeremy** on 07931 861543 or via email at airlaneprivatetravel@gmail.com



Cow Shed Garden & Antiques

We're open until 2:00pm on: Thursdays, Fridays and Saturdays & until 1:00pm on Sundays.

Merry Christmas
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

