

# The Leigh & Coombe Hill

## Newsletter

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**News from Coombe Hill and The Leigh residents is welcome by email, deadline for next issue is AUG 14th, 2024**

### General Election, July 4th

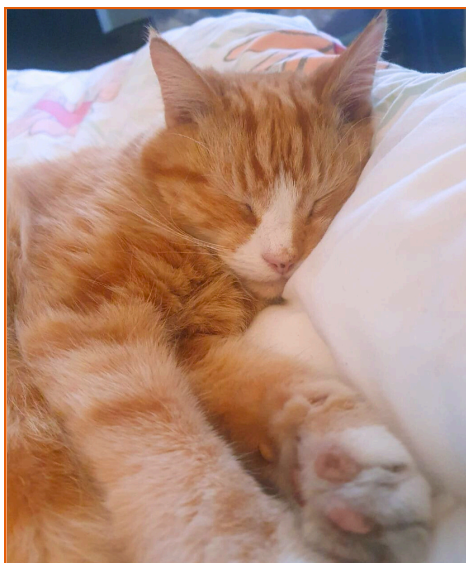
If you are new to the area, please note the postcode on your polling card is for the whole area, follow the signs off the A38 down Blacksmiths Lane and look out for the signs. The polling station will have a wheelchair accessible polling booth, pencils, magnifiers and large print ballot papers. You can take your phone into the polling booth to use a magnifier or text-to-speech app. There will also be a place for you to sit, if needed.

**Remember to take photo ID!**

**YOUR VOTE  
MATTERS**

Everything you need to know is on [www.wheredoivote.co.uk](http://www.wheredoivote.co.uk) including candidate's information and a route planner from your home to the polling station.

### In loving memory



Sadly, Tigger was run over in The Leigh at around 7.30am on 28th May. He was a cherished family pet who is very much missed. For such a small village there have been too many animal fatalities. Please take care when driving. **Katie H**



Lapwings (left) and Curlews, are among the ground-nesting birds needing peace and quiet between May and September

### A natural wonderland on our doorstep

Coombe Hill canal and meadows is one of the best places in Gloucestershire to see dragonflies and damselflies and to watch birds, particularly waders and migrating waterfowl. Also look out for birds of prey, hen harriers, peregrine falcons and goshawks.

With snipe, redshanks, oystercatchers, lapwings and curlews, this reserve is a haven for ground-nesting birds, which are easily disturbed by dogs and people. For this reason, dogs must be kept on a lead during the breeding season - between March and September. By sticking to the paths and waymarked trails, you can minimise startling any wildlife. Information and maps can be found on site or search online [www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/nature-reserves/coombe-hill-canal-and-meadows](http://www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk/nature-reserves/coombe-hill-canal-and-meadows)



In other nature news, for the first time in 23 years, Martin and I undertook 'No Mow May' on the lawn and to our pleasant surprise Bee Orchids appeared!

Meanwhile, ducklings and moorhen chicks have been spotted on The Leigh pond and now water lilies are in full bloom. Nature abounds! Jo R



### Another Recycling Option...

Dobbies Garden Centre, Tewkesbury will recycle all plant pots and compost bags. Opening hours include late night on Thursdays.

**Mon-Wed** 9am - 6pm

**Thursday** 9am - 7pm (Summer)

**Fri-Sat** 9am - 6pm

**Sunday** 10.30am - 4.30pm





# Heroes of the track and field

Below is Phillipa P from Coombe Hill, running in Man V Horse. In 43 years, the 24 mile race over hilly terrain has only been won by a human 4 times. Earlier this year, she also ran in The Lap. This gruelling race took her 16 hours to run 47 miles around Lake Windermere and raised £1,670 for GRI-UK, a charity for people with gene disorders.

Also pictured is Harriet R, enjoying a well-deserved ice cream after Race for Life. On a scorching hot day, it took her 38 minutes to complete the 5k. Having only begun training two months prior, it is an impressive achievement. The course took in Gloucester Park, Docks, Cathedral and finally, the High Street where dodging Sunday shoppers added to the fun. Harriet raised £495 for Cancer Research UK. The total raised by Gloucester 5k this year was £48,000.

Want to have a go? Race for Life is an annual event held all over the country, so you can choose your location and sign up accordingly. Unfortunately, Man v Horse is already fully booked for next year. However, if you fancy an energetic trip to the Lake District, there are still spaces in the September 2025 race. And if you don't think you can manage a 47 mile run, walkers are also welcome!



## Hayley's Hens



**Duchess and chick, with Black Cheeks, Betsy and Spike the cockerel (at the back)**



Many people know Hayley from Cow Shed Garden & Antiques at Coombe Hill, where an ever-changing display of treasure can be found. At Bishop's Cottage, The Leigh, she is also known for her menagerie of rescue animals, in particular, a rather wonderful crew of chickens, bantams, guineafowl and geese. Assorted hen eggs, in a lucky dip of colours, are £2 per half doz.

## KIDS CORNER

In our growing community we would love to have your photos and junior news. For example, personal achievements, fund raisers and special events.

Simply send a good quality photo as a high resolution jpeg or PDF and tell us about the picture. Don't forget to include first name and just the initial for the surname (GDPR) and age, if you think it's appropriate.

Send to Jo for consideration at [jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com](mailto:jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com)

## Thanks to Evelyn & Forest



New junior residents of Lapwing Meadows have volunteered to deliver the newsletter in their part of Coombe Hill. Thank you girls, your help is very much appreciated.

### What to do in the school Summer holidays?

Nature In Art is just up the road at Twigworth. It has a program of children's workshops, a sculpture walk and a play area. With a British Wildlife Photography 2024 exhibition, an artist-in-residence and a cafe, it's great for grown ups too! Phone **01452 731422** or look online - [natureinart.org.uk](http://natureinart.org.uk)



Our local End of Season award winners at Tewkesbury Rugby Club are Arthur and Gus (Norton) plus William and Jack (Coombe Hill)





## Summer Events, St Catherine's Church, The Leigh

**1st Sunday** in month – 10am Family Holy Communion  
**3rd Sunday** in month – 6pm Evening Prayer (team lead)  
Bell ringing at the church every Tuesday evening,  
new members welcome, 7pm - 9pm.



### D-DAY VINTAGE AFTERNOON TEA

1940s D-Day themed  
Please wear family medals, bring along family  
photos, memorabilia etc (during and after war)

**Sunday 18 August**  
**2pm - 4.30pm**  
**£8 Adults**  
**£5 12 years & under**  
A family affair - all very welcome

Please book (preferably by text).  
via: 07711 632256 (Karen)/  
07752 120953 (Ange)  
Closing date: 4.8.24



## Come to the Parish Council meetings

If you'd like to know what's going on in your neighbourhood, the next Parish Council meeting is at St Catherine's Church on **Weds 14th August**. Everyone is welcome. Parish Councillors are elected to improve our local area's quality of life and environment. Occasionally there are additional meetings for planning issues. Find out more on the Parish Council website [theleighpc.org.uk](http://theleighpc.org.uk).

**John Arkell - Councillor & Chair, Anthony Bowness - Councillor, Leigh Glazebrook - Councillor & Vice Chair, Karen Morton - Councillor & Finance Officer, Richard Theyer - Councillor, Kate Tilling - Parish Clerk**

## What is so good about sourdough bread?

Instead of baker's yeast as the raising agent, a 'starter' is used - a culture of yeasts and beneficial bacteria that occur when fermented. Although sourdough has comparable nutrients to other bread, the lower phytate levels make it more digestible and nutritious, while the prebiotics help keep your gut happy. Look online and [theperfectloaf.com](http://theperfectloaf.com) tells you how to make your 'starter' and has easy beginner recipes. If you'd rather buy it fresh from the oven, come to the Farm Shop every Sourdough Saturday!



## Willow Workshop dates for your diary

**Sun 7 July** Dragonflies & Hearts £40  
9.30am - 12.30pm

**Fri 12 July** Relax with Willow £25  
Dragonflies 10am - 12pm

**Fri 23 August** Relax with Willow £25  
Alliums/Sculptural Balls 10am - 12pm

Book online [dovecotewillow.co.uk](http://dovecotewillow.co.uk)  
Held at the barn at Coombe Hill  
Farm Shop. Beginners welcome!



## AT COOMBE HILL

### Coombe Hill Service Station

Open everyday, 6am - 10pm  
Petrol, newspapers, basic groceries, frozen foods, alcohol, BBQ charcoal, firewood. Evri ParcelShop

### Approved Car Buying Centre

Offers instant valuations, car collection service, and same-day payments. please contact Shaun Taylor on 07836 777268 or [info@approvedcarbuyingcentre.co.uk](mailto:info@approvedcarbuyingcentre.co.uk)

### Coombe Workshop

Monday - Friday: 8am - 6pm  
Saturday: Appointment Only  
Highly qualified vehicle technicians. Honest, trusted, friendly and skilled MOTs, services and repairs. Specialists in classic and performance vehicles, tailored to our customers' needs. 01242 896333 [info@coombeworkshop.co.uk](mailto:info@coombeworkshop.co.uk)

### Coombe Hill Kitchen

Catering for all party and event needs. Hot or cold. Delivered dinner parties. Afternoon tea. Try before you buy.  
Call Kate on 07971 064872 or email [kate@coombehillkitchen.co.uk](mailto:kate@coombehillkitchen.co.uk)

### The Swan Inn

Tuesday - Saturday 12 - 10pm  
Sunday 12 - 6pm  
Monday - closed

### Specials and discounts!

Tuesdays - Steak Night Special  
Thursdays - Burger night Special AND over 60's 25% discount. Loyalty cards. Blue Light 10% off for NHS, emergency services and members of armed forces.

### Coombe Hill Farm Shop

**Thursday 10am - 2pm**

With Cow Shed Garden & Antiques

**Friday & Saturday 9am - 2pm**

With Cow Shed Garden & Antiques and The Baking Bird

**Sunday 10am - 1pm**

With Cow Shed Garden & Antiques and The Baking Bird

**Farm Shop** sells fresh fruit, vegetables and locally reared meat. Free-range eggs. Chiller/freezer selection. Baked goods. **Cow Shed Garden and Antiques** sells a fascinating collection of decorative pieces, garden antiques and collector's items. A treasure trove of gift ideas. **The Baking Bird** serves delicious homemade cakes, artisan coffees, speciality teas, hot chocolate (try a Bobby Dazzler!) and refreshing cold drinks.



# Horticultural Show, Norton Village Hall, 10th Aug at 2.30pm

During WWII, the Food Produce Society held a show for homegrown produce, when rationing meant everyone grew their own. In 1950, with the advent of a new village hall, the event became known as Norton Show, (and later, Norton, Leigh & District Horticultural Show). It was a day out for all the family. It was a time for old rivals to settle scores and for everyone to have fun. Skittles were a big attraction, with a live pig for 1st prize! Our oldest resident in The Leigh, Ken P, organised the darts, charging 6d for three darts. Other games were Back-Your-Fancy and Guess-the-Weight-of-the-Cake.

A treasure hunt and fancy dress parade were also part of the annual entertainment. Nowadays, the show still celebrates homegrown produce, but its appeal has expanded to include photography, plants, and children's creativity.



There are over 80 classes in all. Children's classes free to enter, adult classes are just 20p per entry, with a dozen trophies, and cash prizes to be won, that's a bargain! At the end of the show there will be an auction of donated class exhibits in aid of Air Ambulance Trust. If you just want to come and see what everyone else is up to, entry to visit the show is free.



**Get your schedule from:**  
**Coombe Hill Farm Shop**  
**Jo R, Oliver H, Mary C,**  
**Harriet R, Lucy C**



**Class 64**

## Summer fruit drizzle cake

### Ingredients

6oz very soft butter, extra for greasing  
6oz golden caster sugar  
9oz self-raising flour  
2 large eggs  
2 tsp vanilla extract  
6oz fruit of your choice (diced)  
5oz granulated sugar  
1-2 tbsp juice - lemon, lime or orange

### Method

Heat oven to 180C/160Cfan/gas4. Grease & line a 2lb loaf tin. Put the butter, sugar, flour, eggs & vanilla extract into a large bowl & beat for 5 mins until pale & creamy until thick. Spread one-third of the mix into the tin, scatter over 50g of fruit. Carefully dot & spread another third of the mixture on top, scatter with another 50g of fruit. Finally, dot the rest of the cake mix over & gently spread. Bake for 1 hour until an inserted skewer comes out clean.

Poke the cake all over with a skewer, put remaining 75g fruit into a bowl with the granulated sugar. Stir in 1 tbsp of citrus juice with a fork, mash the fruit a little as you go. If a little dry add a splash more juice and spoon over the cake. Leave in tin until cool & topping is crisp and set.

## The Leigh and Coombe Hill Newsletter

We hope this newsletter helps our growing community connect. Please contribute stories that might be of interest to other residents. Simply send in a good-quality photo and an outline of the story, and we'll do the rest!

**To minimise our impact on the environment, please opt for a digital copy by email.**

Otherwise, one of our volunteers will deliver a printed version to you. If you do not wish to receive the newsletter at all, either let your delivery person know or email Jo R.

The newsletter is bi-monthly and is produced, printed and delivered by a team of volunteers. Deadline for the September/October edition is **August 14th**. Email all communication to [jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com](mailto:jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com)