

The Leigh & Coombe Hill

Newsletter

Issue no. 210

September/October 2024

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News from Coombe Hill and The Leigh residents is welcome by email, deadline for next issue is Oct 1st, 2024

Church carpark underway

St Catherine's is not just a church; it provides a social hub for numerous events throughout the year, for example, the forthcoming Italian Evening (see back page for details). To date, parking at the church has been hazardous in winter months.

As pictured below, the muddy parking area has had a coat of tarmac. This is just one of the many recent projects to benefit The Leigh and Coombe Hill, funded by the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is a charge that local authorities can set on developers of new housing, in order to raise funds to help improve the infrastructure, facilities and services needed to support the growing community. Dog poo bins, benches, bus stop shelters have already been agreed, and besides the recent tarmacing of St Catherine's car park, there are more perks to come.

The funding does not cover the church itself and as some of us are aware, the church organ packed up during Sally Ann and Dave's wedding ceremony. Mark White, a renowned specialist from Bristol, has had a look, and although the problem is serious, it may be possible to fix it at a reasonable cost.

Church Services are held twice a month.
1st Sunday in month – 10am Family Holy Communion
3rd Sunday in month – 6pm Evening Prayer (team lead)

Bell ringing is every Tuesday evening, 7pm - 9pm. If you fancy having a go, you're welcome to come along.



Sally and Dave get hitched!

Photo by Julie Bennett

Congratulations to Mr & Mrs Warner who were married at St Catherine's Church, The Leigh on 26th July. The happy couple met years ago at Young Farmers. Dave proposed to Sally on May '23rd, 2023 while on holiday in Jersey and the newlyweds returned to the same place for their honeymoon. Sally grew up in the village and has been seen in more recent years, walking a variety of dogs in all weathers. As a married woman she will be living in Newnham-on-Severn with Dave, but will still be part of our community and will continue with her dog walking and house sitting services. If you'd like to book her, call 07974 303426.

Nature's friend

Could this be our very own Marvel character, AquaMan? No, it's Councillor Theyer clearing the pond of weeds. This requires a delicate balance between allowing biodiversity to thrive and keeping an aesthetically pleasing feature of the village. The canal at The Wharf is maintained by Gloucestershire Wildlife, who also do a wonderful job of retaining a habitat that provides food and protection for wildlife.



Horticultural show

Visitors to Norton Village Hall were met with an array of prize winning vegetables, fruit, floral arrangements, flowers, preserves, cakes and liqueurs presented by 43 competitors showing 329 exhibits. As usual residents of The Leigh and Coombe Hill put up strong competition and gained many prizes notably:

Pippa H - dish of mixed fruit, sweet peas, pot plant and lemon curd

Katie H – peppers/chillies and succulent

Thomas C – won the under 4 years cup with his leaf picture

Mary C – beetroot, courgettes, herbs, floral arrangements and won the CE Price Memorial Cup for her bowl of mixed roses

Hannah G – potatoes, celery, melons and placed 2nd in the new compost competition

Harriet R was placed 3rd overall with her herbs, single flower buttonhole, homemade liqueur, lemon curd, flower arranging and baking, especially for her Summer Drizzle cake

Jo R came 1st and gained points in fruit and vegetables, flower arranging, baking, preserves, liqueurs and photography.

Many of the exhibits were auctioned off at the end of the prize giving which raised £129 for the Air Ambulance charity.

As you can see, the judges take their responsibilities very seriously. Pictured right is **Oliver H** scrutinising the homemade compost.

Please consider entering the show next year – it will be the 75th anniversary. The Horticultural Show is an important part of our social history!

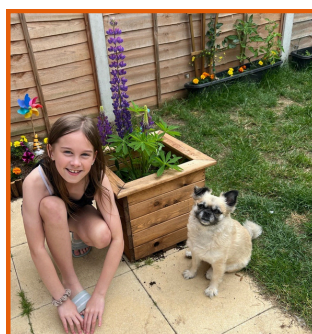


In our growing community we would love to have your photos and junior news. For example, personal achievements, fund raisers and special events.

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

Thomas C is a Big Winner!
Congratulations Thomas, for winning the Under 4 yrs Cup.



Esmae, 9, from Villard Close with her dog Betsy, next to a beautiful homegrown Lupin. Something for next year's Horticulture Show, Esmae?



Evelyn and Forest have painted Hide Me Rocks and hidden them around Coombe Hill for people to discover and hide again! So, if you spot a colourful rock, you know what to do!

Locally produced honey and eggs for sale



Overlooking Coombe Hill Nature Reserve are 10's of thousands of bees bringing in the nectar ready for this season's honey harvest. It's been a bumper year with one of the hives reaching 7 boxes high! This delicious local honey will be for sale at our honesty box by The Wharf Nature Reserve carpark, plus eggs from our Leg Bar, Leg Horn and Olive Eggers, with amazing colours that are almost too pretty to eat. **Adam S**

Look out for Hedgehogs

We are lucky enough to have nightly visits from 3 hedgehogs (including a baby hoglet). One of them joined us on the patio the other evening but took a wrong turning and ended up inside the house!

Keep an eye out when driving through the village - another reason to slow down. **Nicky W**



Hedgehogs are solitary and nocturnal. During spring and summer days they wake up at dusk to venture out and hunt for slugs, snails, beetles, caterpillars, worms, birds' eggs; sometimes frogs, snakes and raid mouse nests for newborn young. They may roam over 2 - 4 km a night in a hunt for food, and as they search, will climb low walls, fences and even swim. They hibernate from November - March in piles of leaves, compost heaps, outbuildings etc. Always check bonfires before lighting.

Join us for a singingly good time...

Tewkesbury Choral Society is looking for new voices for the new season. **Where?** We rehearse in Tewkesbury Church of England Primary School, Chance Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 6RQ We perform our concerts in the magnificent Tewkesbury Abbey

When? Rehearsals are every Monday evening in term time (September - May) from 7.30pm - 9.30pm, starting Monday 9th September.

What? This season we will perform "A Ceremony of Carols" (Britten) and "Christmas Oratorio" (Saint Saens) in December, and "The Armed Man" (Jenkins) and "Magnificat" (Rutter) in May.

Who? All singers are welcome - we do not have auditions and you do not need to be able to read music. An ability to sing in tune and a willingness to do some homework are all that is needed.

How much? Our subscription is £100 for the whole season or £50 (Sept-Dec) and £55 (Jan - May). This represents very good value!

Find out more, look at our website (tewkesburychoral.org.uk) or contact Chairman, Christine Bennett (tewkesburychoral@gmail.com)

You may be interested to know that we are planning an overseas tour in the summer of 2025. **Oliver H.**

Events at Farm Shop

Sweetpea's Doggy Deli
sweetpeasdoggyden.co.uk

6 & 20 September 4 & 18 October

DoveCote Willow dovecotewillow.co.uk

8 Sept - Swallows 27 Sept - Hedgehogs

11 Oct - Hearts. 13 Oct - Pumpkins



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

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

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

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.

Chimney Sweep's annual visit. Book now!

While it's still (technically) Summer, it won't be long before the nights become colder. Local regular sweeps, Mr Bird and sons are planning to visit The Leigh on Monday 30 September @ £50 per flue. Payment can be made on the day using cash or a card. All those on my list will be contacted but any new residents who want their chimney swept on the day should ring me ASAP on 01242 680244 or email me anniehidson@hotmail.com to be added to their schedule (please also confirm your address and number of chimneys to be swept). **Anne H**

Parish Council Meetings. Have your say.

With the growing number of local planning applications, you may want to attend a meeting and have your say. The next full Parish Council meeting is 13 November. However, should additional meetings be necessary for planning issues, 11 September and 9 October have been reserved. Keep an eye on the Parish Council website theleighpc.org.uk

Norton & The Leigh Historical Society

Monday 23 September - **Dating Old Photographs**. Bring your old photographs and postcards. The speaker, Sue Rowbotham, will try to help to date them.

Monday 28 October - **Building a Mediaeval Cathedral**. Speaker, Peter Petrie, will be basing his talk on the construction of Gloucester Cathedral.

The meetings are held at Norton Village Hall. Doors open at 7.15pm for 7.30pm start. Cost is £3.00 per person, cash on the door.



Anyone for tennis in 2025?

The Wimbledon Public Ballot will open in September. Sign up to myWimbledon to be one of the first to hear about tickets to The Championships 2025.

Full information via Wimbledon.com



**FOR ALL YOUR PEST
CONTROL NEEDS**

Call Cat on 07814723982
RSPH qualified and fully
insured.



What are YOUR Digital & Technology needs?

Do you have difficulty with the NHS app, health and well-being apps, internet connectivity, accessibility barriers or digital literacy skills?



Please consider taking our **2 minute** survey. We are hoping to identify the areas of Tewkesbury Borough most in need of Digital and Technology Support.

We want to hear from you about the difficulties are experiencing with the digital world please **contact Lauren on 07467 923154 or email her at laurenw@grcc.org.uk** for more information

Italian Evening

Pasta dishes, freshly made pizza, a sweet and a quiz

Saturday 7 September
7pm
St Catherine's Church, The Leigh
£10 p/person or
£6 (12 years & under)



Please bring your own drinks/glasses

Please reserve your place by Thursday 5 September by calling/texting Karen on 07711 632256

CHRISTMAS and GREETINGS CARDS

10.30 am - 6.00 pm
Thursday 17th October

The Dovecote
Sandhurst Lane
Sandhurst GL2 9NR

(past church and follow signs)
Complimentary coffee and cake
Please come and bring your friends
In aid of Colbolt Appeal Fund

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