

# The Leigh & Coombe Hill

## Newsletter

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News from Coombe Hill and The Leigh residents is welcome via email, deadline for next issue is Jan 20, 2025



### Sparkles, No Bangs Party

What a successful evening with approximately 80 parishioners all wrapped-up warm and we were delighted to welcome new friends from Coombe Hill. The weather was very kind and we all enjoyed fire pits, hot chocolate, punch, hot dogs, sparklers, glow sticks and marshmallows.

As you can imagine it took a lot of goodwill and time to put the whole event together and we must thank Barry, Rich, Viv, Martin, Jo, Harriet, Georgina, Karen, Laurence, Charlotte, Tom, Rob, Anthony, Jane and especially John A for making the fire pits and providing all the wood, the Parochial Church Council for hosting at St Catherine's and the Parish Council for allocating CIL funding for the event.



### Leave the lovely leaves alone!

Norton News had an excellent article about the value of leaves, and so here is a shortened version of how championing the leaves in your garden will benefit you next year. Simply allow them to do what nature intended and don't sweep them up to obtain urban neatness. They provide valuable biodiversity to wildlife, insects, and will act as a weed suppressant, help retain moisture and act as a natural compost. A thin layer on your lawn will provide a natural fertiliser and next year you will have greener grass, and a happier garden.

### Another Christmas Charity sale success

A big 'thank you' to everyone who came along to Coombe Hill Farm Shop on Sunday 17 November for our Creative Christmas sale. A fabulous £703 was raised in three hours by selling locally-made and donated gifts and vintage items. All proceeds will be shared between Cheltenham Cobalt Cancer Unit and Dementia UK. **Jo R**



### Fund-raising Coffee Morning at St Catherine's

Sausage rolls were a firm favourite at the fund-raising coffee morning on 9th November, with delicious homemade cakes running a very close second. The morning raised £253 which will go towards ongoing running costs of the church. Thanks to Carol and Kate for all the baking and to everyone who attended.



### Ready for Christmas

Thanks to Richard T and Chris W for putting the star on St Catherine's ready for the Christmas Carol and Christingle Service on December 24th at 6pm. Come and sing your favourite carols and enjoy mulled wine and mince pies (mince pie donations welcome).







### The Leigh's Christmas Postbox:

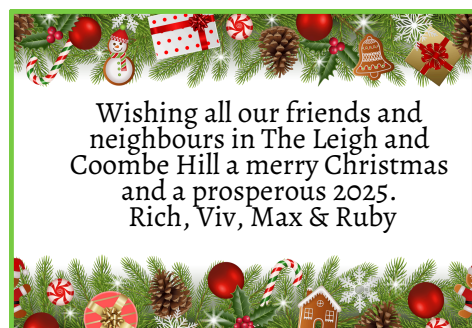
Post your Christmas cards to anyone in The Leigh and Evington at the box situated outside Little Holborn, Church Lane, between **8th and noon on 15th Dec**. Then, Daniels Orchard will become 'Santa's Post Office'. Big elves (Jo R & Jane A) will sort Christmas cards and then deliver within The Leigh/Evington. Any volunteer delivery elves would be most welcome (outfits are not provided!!).

All cards **MUST** display a SURNAME to help the elves, no need for addresses.



### Supporting Those With Sensory Loss

Suggested charity donation (from £5 - made via the postbox) would be gratefully received. This year's charity is the Forest Sensory Services - it is a small friendly independent charity providing support to those with sensory impairment. The charity was brought to our attention when we learned of the excellent support they had given to Dave (Sally C's new husband) over many years. The organisation promotes and encourages local people to remain as independent as possible. This is done by referrals, equipment, and support from qualified Eye Care Liaison Officer (ECLO). The charity depends on volunteers and fundraising.



**Season's Greetings** from the Parish Council. The Councillors are looking forward to new challenges in 2025 and welcome our new parishioners at Coombe Hill. John, Leigh, Karen, Richard, Anthony and Kate



## Children's Christmas Party



**Sunday 8th December**  
**2-4 p.m.**  
**Sandhurst Village Hall**

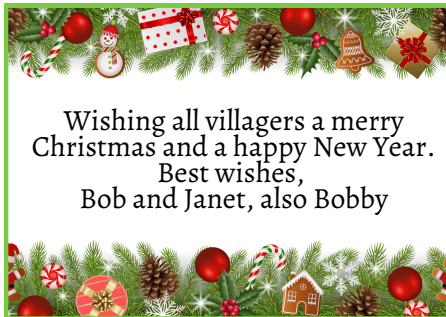
For all children in Sandhurst Norton, Twigworth, The Leigh Down Hatherley, Boddington, Staverton.

Games, crafts, song, story food, drink + surprise gift.

To book a place call

**07712229976**  
**[Graeme]**





## SEASON'S GREETINGS & BEST WISHES FOR 2025 TO OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS FROM ALL THE TRADERS AT COOMBE HILL



### Opening times

#### **Coombe Hill Service Station**

Open everyday, 6am - 10pm

#### **Approved Car Buying Centre**

Please call Shaun Taylor on 07836 777268

#### **Coombe Workshop**

Please call 01242 896333

#### **Coombe Hill Kitchen**

Call Kate on 07971 064872

**The Baking Bird** Open 20th - 22nd then closed until 11th January

#### **Coombe Hill Farm Shop and**

#### **Cow Shed Garden & Antiques**

Thursday 19th Dec 10am - 2pm

Friday 20th & Saturday 21st 9am - 2pm

Sunday 22nd 10am - 1pm

Monday 23rd 9am - 4pm

Christmas Eve - 9am - 12noon

Christmas Day, Boxing Day & 27th **closed**

Saturday 28th - 9am - 2pm

Sunday 29th 10am - 1pm

Then **closed** until Friday 3 January when we're open 9am - 2pm as usual.

**Natural Festive Flowers**  
Christmas Grave Flowers  
for your loved ones  
Made from all natural materials.  
Please contact Mary C to order:  
01242 680249  
Mary will also be at the  
Farm Shop on  
Saturday 14 December.



# Christmas Crafts

**Saturday 7 December**  
**9am - 2pm**  
**Coombe Hill Farm Shop**  
(GL19 4BH)

JOINED BY:  
THE BAKING BIRD  
COW SHED GARDEN & ANTIQUES

**FREE ADMISSION**

## Christmas shopping

**At Coombe Hill Farm Shop - Christmas trees & wreaths now on sale!**

**6th Dec** Sweetpeas Doggie Deli

**7th Dec** Craft Event. Free Admission.

Set amongst Christmas trees with The Baking Bird's fresh coffee and a treatise in Cow Shed Garden & Antiques.

**14th Dec** Natural Wreaths

**21st Dec** Doggie Deli







## Twixmas pub walk, everyone welcome!

The Community Christmas Walk will be on 29th December this year. We'll meet in the lay-by on the A38 opposite Church Lane at 11am (weather permitting) and will make our way to the Gloucester Old Spot for a few drinks and walk back. Everyone is welcome (children, dogs and well-behaved owners!) **Nicky W**

## New Year's Eve Fireworks, PLEASE NOTE!

If you are planning to set off fireworks over the festive season, as a courtesy, please let your neighbours know in good time in case extra arrangements need to be made for dogs, cats, horses and sheep! **Jo R**

## First Parish Council Meeting of 2025

Next Full Parish Council (The Leigh and Coombe Hill) meeting: Wednesday 8 January 2025, St Catherine's Church, The Leigh commencing at 7.30pm – all welcome

## Keep informed and have your say

Keep informed via The Leigh Parish Council website [theleighpc.org.uk](http://theleighpc.org.uk), the village noticeboard, or contact the Parish directly on [leighpc@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:leighpc@hotmail.co.uk) Better still attend the meetings or even volunteer to get involved.

## Tewkesbury Borough Council - Planning Portal

To view any pending planning applications go to: [tewkesbury.gov.uk/services/planning/](http://tewkesbury.gov.uk/services/planning/) - Planning Public Access - Search facility.

## FixMyStreet

Use this website to report potholes, blocked drains, broken signs, manhole trip hazards etc.

## Waste Wizard

Use this site if you're not sure how to recycle an item

Waste Wizard [gloucestershirererecycles.com](http://gloucestershirererecycles.com)

Also, particularly useful over Christmas and New Year, when bin days are out of sync, log on to Tewkesbury Borough Council to find out when your bins are due for collection - just enter your postcode on this page: [tewkesbury.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/](http://tewkesbury.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling/)

The Leigh also has a Facebook page- **Leigh Parish Community**

## Church Services

December 15th No service

December 24th Carols for Christmas 6pm - (see front page)

From the New Year the service dates are changing:

1st Sunday in month - 6pm Evensong - for your favourite hymns

3rd Sunday in month - 10.30am Family Communion

## Cashew Nutters - the perfect party nibble

This delicious, easy-to-make recipe has been sent in by Anne H, who's been making them for 20 years. No doubt they're a perfect pairing for one of Oliver's cocktails!

4oz (100g) butter  
2oz (50g) semolina  
3½ (80g) self-raising flour  
½ teaspoon dry mustard powder  
3oz (75g) strong cheddar cheese, grated  
Salt and pepper  
Cashew nuts

Measure all ingredients (except nuts) into a food processor and blend thoroughly. Take small pieces, about marble sized and press a nut into the middle. Bake on a greased baking sheet - 350F, 180C, gas mark 4, baking oven of Aga, for 15-20 minutes until pale golden.



**HAWKINS HOUSEKEEPING**

**A new cleaning service!**

**To find out more or to book in,  
please call Katie Hawkins on**

**07852 328329**



## More local eggs

We are lucky to have so many enterprising people in the community. Spotted recently in Church Lane are choose-your-own free range eggs for £1.50 per half dozen or £7.50 for 30 which is excellent value!

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 - 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 February edition is **January 20th**. Email all communication to [jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com](mailto:jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com)