

The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

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Aug/Sept 2025

Editor Joanna Robson

Contribution email jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com

News from Coombe Hill & The Leigh residents is welcome by email, deadline for next issue is September 12, 2025

The Village Fete Was a Great Success

Despite the forecast for a 78% chance of rain it held off until we were all back home. The traditional event attracted visitors from near and far, and we were all treated to the glorious sound of the Cheltenham Community Choir within St Catherine's Church.

Many volunteers provided a variety of stalls: tombola, bric-a-brac, raffle, books, unwanted gifts, hot dogs, tea and homemade cakes. Besides the stalls there were many free games to enjoy, while the highlight of the afternoon was undoubtedly the Fun Dog Show. Owners and their 4-legged companions, competed for a number of classes, including the Best Biscuit Catcher to Best Fancy Dress.

The fete raised just over £1,000 (after costs) which was split between St. Catherine's Church and Sue Ryder (Leckhampton) Hospice. There are too many people to thank individually, but for all contributions large or small, thank you for your support. **Parochial Church Council**



There was something for everyone, from biscuit catching (dogs, not humans) fancy dress, games, facepainting and a full choir!



The Plight of Our Ground Nesting Birds

The Wildlife and Wetland Trust (WWT) monitored three curlew chicks which hatched on our ground on 10th June. These birds are extremely endangered. They were ringed and geotagged, and monitored regularly.

It would be wonderful to say they did survive! Sadly the news is not good. On Tuesday 24th of June all the chicks were thriving and travelling down to the edge of the canal with their parents - we guess looking for food in whatever damp margins they could find.

On the 1st July two had been predated. They identified one predator as a buzzard due to the droppings near the chick feathers. The other chick could have been killed by anything including fox and badger, it's tag was found with just a collection of chick feathers.

On the 3rd July the remains of the last chick was discovered near the badger sett in The Leigh. Such a tragedy! It has been a very hard year for our ground nesting birds and most of them have returned to their winter feeding grounds early. **Yvonne A**

Our Next Big Event

Make a date in your diary for the **Annual Horticultural Show**. To be held at Norton Village Hall, at 2.30pm, See overleaf for more information!

Saturday, August 9th

Horticultural Show

75 YEARS

9TH AUGUST

Be Part of Our History

Our much loved show began during WWII, when rationing meant everyone grew their own. It was a day out for all the family and for everyone to have fun. It was also a time for old rivals to settle scores and win the most prizes.

Besides the produce, skittles were a big attraction, with a live pig for 1st prize! Our oldest resident in The Leigh, Ken P, used to organise the darts, charging 6d for three darts. Other games were Back-Your-Fancy and Guess-the-Weight-of-the-Cake and a lucky dip bran tub. 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.



Junior Bakers or Men's class
Try making these simple scones and enter them at the show!
Easy and delicious!

Fruit Scones (makes 12)
500g plain flour
2 tsp bicarbonate of soda
4½ tsp cream of tartar
75g block margarine
75g raisins or sultanas
300ml milk
1 egg beaten for egg wash
Oven: 220°C/Gas Mark 7

Sift dry ingredients into a large bowl. Using fingers tips, rub margarine into flour until it looks like damp sand. Add the fruit. Add the milk and mix gently with a palette knife. Turn onto a floured surface and knead lightly to form a dough. Roll out to about 3cm thick. Dip the 6½ cm round cutter into some flour and cut out at least 10 scones. Bring scrap dough together, re-roll and cut a further 2 scones. Put scones on a greased baking tray, brush tops with eggwash and bake for 10 mins or until risen and golden brown.

Practice your skills, grab your schedule and enter now!

The event is held at Norton Village Hall, at 2.30pm showcasing over 80 classes. Children's classes free to enter, adult classes are just 20p per entry, with a dozen trophies, and cash prizes to be won. At the end of the show there will be an auction of donated class exhibits in aid of Gloucester Food Bank. If you just want to come and see what everyone else is up to, entry or visit the show is FREE.

Get your schedule from:

Coombe Hill Farm Shop, Jo R,
Oliver H, Mary C, Harriet R and Lucy C
or email nortonleighhorticshow@gmail.com



Henry K, (Above and top left) raced for Cheltenham Town Wheelers Club, came 3rd in U12s cyclo-cross race at Pitville Park, and won a top 3 medal at the County Club Championships (9-16 years) in Tewkesbury Swim Club team.

Hugo K, played doubles and singles in the Lawn Tennis Association Junior Championships, U8s Division 1 at Oxstalls Tennis Centre, and was placed 3rd overall.

Horticultural Show Activities

Closing date: Tuesday 5 August
Schedules available from:
nortonleighhorticshow@gmail.com

Children aged 13-16 years only

- 65. Animal model in fruit and/or veg
- 66. A4 'Landscape' - any medium
- 67. 1 black & white photograph 'Portrait' (head & shoulders max 6"x4")

Children aged 8-12 years only

- 68. Animal model in fruit and/or veg
- 69. An "eggbox monster"
- 70. An A4 coloured pencil drawing 'Transport'

Children aged 5-7 years only

- 71. Animal model in fruit and/or veg
- 72. Decorate a pebble - any medium
- 73. A5 Birthday card - garden related

Children aged 4 years & under

- 74. A4 Hand print painting



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.

Send to Jo for consideration at jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com



Calling all bookworms



If you love reading, email Sara at 13saraviall@gmail.com for information about a new book club. The date for the first meet-up is yet to be finalised, but will be on a Saturday lunchtime at The Swan every 4 – 6 weeks. If you're on the mailing list, you'll be contacted as soon as details are confirmed so don't miss out.

The first meeting will be a chance for everyone to get to know each other and chat about favourite and current reads. We'll also agree on a book to read for the next meeting.

Whatever genre you prefer, in whatever format, you'll meet a lovely bunch of people with a shared passion for reading. All welcome, no commitment, no fee. We look forward to seeing you there. **Angela I**

THANK YOU! From Rust Bucket Workshop

A huge thank you to everyone who dropped by my workshop during Cheltenham Open Studios week! I was thrilled to welcome nearly 160 visitors to my art space over the 9 day event. It was wonderful to catch up with friends and neighbours, and I was especially delighted to meet so many like minded creative people from the local area. The whole experience was fantastic, and I'm already looking forward to taking part again in 2027. Thanks again to everyone who made it such a special event!



Marty Jackman
Made from 1949
sandblaster, Burco boiler,
and other scrap

Norton & The Leigh Historical Society

Committee Room, Norton Village Hall, Monday 22 September
7.15pm for 7.30pm start Entrance £3. Everyone Welcome

The Gloucestershire Water Emergency - Dr Tim Brain
Dr Brain, who was Chief Constable of Gloucestershire at the time, will tell us about the 2007 floods from the Police perspective.



PARISH SERVICES

Coombe Hill Service Station

Open everyday, 6am - 10pm
Petrol, newspapers, groceries, alcohol, BBQ charcoal, firewood. Evri Parcel Shop

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. **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 Leigh Shed at GL19 4AF

Eggs, cake, fresh produce, preserves etc
8am - 10pm self-serve/contactless payment

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.

Gentleman of the Soil

The farmer will never be happy again
He carries his heart in his boots
For either the rain is destroying his grain
Or the drought is destroying his roots
In fact if you meet this unfortunate man
The conclusion is only too plain
That nature is just an elaborate plan
To annoy him again and again.

Submitted by **Frank W**



Vintage & Gift Sale for Charity

Sunday 28 September 2025 between 10am - 1pm A variety of interesting items will be sold to raise funds for charity.

At, Coombe Hill Farm Shop, GL19 4BH (A38)

Free Admission and Parking

100% of every item goes to:

Cheltenham Cobalt Cancer Unit and Dementia UK

Keep in touch, stay informed

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

FixMyStreet

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

Waste Wizard - How to recycle an item

[Waste Wizard gloucestershirerecycles.com](http://WasteWizard.gloucestershirerecycles.com)

Bin collection days

To find out when your bins are due for collection - just enter your postcode on this page:

tewkesbury.gov.uk/services/waste-and-recycling

The Leigh Facebook page- **Leigh Parish Community**



Parish Council

Chairman - **Anthony Bowness**

Vice Chairman/Chair Mentor - **John Arkell**

Responsible Finance Officer - **Karen Morton**

Highway Representative - **Richard Theyer**

Councillor - **Leigh Glazebrook**

With the growing number of local planning applications, transport improvements etc you may want to attend a meeting and have your say. The next full Parish Council meeting is **Wednesday 13 August, 7.30pm** at St Catherine's Church, The Leigh. However, should additional meetings be necessary for planning issues, 10 September and 8 October have been reserved. Keep an eye on the Parish Council - website theleighpc.org.uk

Chimney Sweep's annual visit

Make a date for your diary! Our local sweeps, Mr Bird and Sons are planning to visit The Leigh on Friday 3 October. All those on my list will be contacted but any new residents who want their chimney swept on the day should ring ASAP on **01242 680244** or email

anniehidson@hotmail.com to be added to their schedule (please also confirm your address and number of chimneys to be swept).

Approximate times will be allocated once I have the full list. **Anne H**

Note: During the sweep, they will carry out a visual service free of charge. Checking the condition of the fire bricks, rope seals, glass and metal components. If any of these need replacing, they will let you know and give you a quote based on the costs of the parts needed.



Anyone for Tennis?

The Wimbledon Public Ballot opens in September. Sign up to myWimbledon to be one of the first to hear about tickets to The Championships 2026. For the full information go to the official website Wimbledon.com

Book your Bulky Waste Collection

Need to get rid of an old, large item? Why not book a collection? It's £26.50 for one item, then £13.25 per item To arrange collection, call the Customer Services team on 01684 295010. Visit: tewkesbury.gov.uk/self-service

Church Services at St Catherine's

3 August - CANCELLED

17 August, 10.30am Family Holy Communion

7 September, 6pm Evening Prayer

21 September, 10.30am Family Holy Communion

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 October/November edition is **Sept 12th**. Email all communication to jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com