

# The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

Issue 153 March 2018

Issue Editor: Jo Robson Deadline for next month's Newsletter articles: Friday 23 March

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## ULTRAFAST BROADBAND IN THE LEIGH

Over the last few weeks Complete Utilities have been in the process of installing the ducting for Ultrafast broadband in the village. Obviously this will cause some disruption, mess and disturbance, however Complete Utilities are doing their very best to keep any inconvenience to a minimum.

Those of us who use the internet will understand how lucky and privileged we are for Gigaclear (in conjunction with Fastershires) to be bringing this new service to us. It will result in us having an ultrafast internet connection that is unbelievably fast and better than most places in the country.

Many people envy the cable services that Virgin Media offer to its customers in places like Cheltenham, but when the new service to The Leigh is finished our service and speed will far surpass those cable services. The main reason being that Gigaclear will be supplying a fibre connection all the way up to the router in your house.

With BT infinity and Virgin cable service some copper wiring is used which will always result in a limit to the speed one can achieve, for example the very maximum that BT can offer is around 70Mbps download with a Maximum of 20Mbps upload. Of course, for us in the village the long length of copper wiring between our houses and the BT cabinet on the A38 reduces those speeds dramatically, especially so the upload speed which can be as low as 1Mbps with the download between 10 and 20Mbps.



With the new Gigaclear true fibre service you can choose what speed you require from the lowest 50Mbps to 1000Mbps plus the bonus is that unlike the services offered by BT; if you opt for say the 100Mbps Gigaclear service you get that speed for uploads as well as downloads, the maximum upload speed where copper is used is 20Mbps and most of us will get a lot less than that.

In the past the upload speed was not important as most of us only downloaded and did little uploading, but in today's hi-tech connected world more of us are uploading to YouTube, creating websites and backing up our files via online storage, which takes a lot of time hence upload speed is as important as download speed. As an example a video I upload to YouTube using the BT fibre today will take getting on for 50 minutes to upload yet will only take around 30 seconds under the Gigaclear 100Mbps service.

At the moment Complete Utilities are only installing the ducts or small tubing, each reel you will have seen is measured to the correct length for each property and will terminate in the cabinet that will be installed around the corner by Leigh Farm. The large drum of orange ducting will be trenched up Blacksmiths Lane to the A38 where it will eventually continue along to Priors Norton to another main cabinet. This larger ducting will carry the main feeder fibre and electrical supply to the cabinet in the village.

Without going into too many technical details the actual fibre cable will be sent through the ducts by compressed air using a method called 'blowing', although the cable itself is only thin, most of the bulk is made up of the cladding around the fibre part, the actual glass fibre part that carries the signals is so tiny that it cannot be seen with a naked eye and is thinner than a human hair.

Once a fibre cable is installed from the cabinet to each property a small light is sent down the fibre to the termination end in the box or pot outside a property, and when viewed at the other end confirms that the cable is working. When in use the broadband signal from the computer and router in the house is converted to light pulses and sent down the fibre to other servers and computers vast distances away with hardly any deviation in quality as is experienced with copper wiring that we use in the village at the moment, hence ultrafast internet speed will at last be available to us putting our village broadband on a par with the very best available anywhere else in the country.

Gigaclear cannot say exactly when the service will be live but they are projecting it will be up and running by the end of 2018.

John Hewett



WHAT'S GOING ON AT ST CATHERINE'S CHURCH?

### COFFEE MORNING

Saturday 10 March  
10am

Surprise your friends  
with an Easter card this year!



-oOo-

The PCC have put an application into the Diocese for a new heating system. We are waiting for the go ahead from Gloucester. Our Architect has produced drawings for a glass screen between the side chapel and the nave, when we have permission for this the drawings will be available in church.

With this in mind, the PCC would like to host a Flower Festival this April to get the funds started. The altar in St Catherine's always looks beautiful so we know that we have lots of floral talent in The Leigh and the local area.

We would like to invite you all to a coffee and chat at the church on **Tuesday 6 March** at 6.30pm to get ideas. Anyone who can help in any way during the weekend of 28/29 April please come along.



Sue and Hazel

## Blue Light!

By chance I came into contact with Richard, one of the attending Fire Officers at the Hidson's garage fire.

During our conversation, Richard mentioned that he and his car came under a blue light (photo right) but left without one.

If anyone comes across the light, please could you return to me – the replacement has cost £360!

Many thanks. Jo



Who is this handsome 70 year old????

(“Don't tell 'em Robson” said Bob)

Mother's Day & Easter Gifts will be available at Coombe Hill Farm Shop during March

(part of Creative Christmas charity fundraiser)



## Mobile Library

Coombe Hill  
3.10pm – 4.10pm

Friday 2 March  
Friday 30 March



**Parish Council Meeting dates:**  
(always double check parish website)

Wed 9 May 2018 (AGM)

St Catherine's Church,  
The Leigh 7.30pm

## NORTON WI

Thursday 15 March  
7.30pm  
Norton Village Hall

"Decorating  
Cupcakes"

Frances Sweeney



For further info contact:  
Margaret Edwards  
01452 731218

Norton and The Leigh Local  
History Group  
Monday 26 March

## COTSWOLD FOLLIES

Talk by Mr Aylwin Sampson



Norton Village Hall  
Talk starts 7.30pm  
Entrance £2

There is no membership, just  
turn up and enjoy the talk  
Sue Phelps 07754 668898

## St Catherine's Church Services:

4 March – Evening Prayer 6pm  
11 March – Worship Together at Staverton  
10am  
18 February - Holy Communion 8.30am  
25 February – Palm Sunday Benefice Service at  
Sandhurst 10am

## WAINLODE WALKERS



We meet every Friday at  
9.30am for a walk of about  
4 hours, exploring local  
landscape and history.

Details Sue Phelps 07754 668898

As featured on  
Coombe Hill Farm  
Shop Facebook Page



Colin Wiltshire's **Roast Pork Loin on the Bone** with roasted potatoes,  
parsnips and squash; carrots and purple sprouting:

It comes from "Tuscan Cookery" Arista al Forno. I have the joint chined, i.e. the meat loosened from the bone so that it can be stuffed with rosemary and garlic. I do a "Delia" to get good crackling by wiping the skin dry and leaving uncovered in the fridge for 24 hours to help dry out the moisture from the skin so it crackles well. Salt crystals, rosemary and garlic on the skin. Hot roast for 30 mins then slow roast from a couple of hours depending on weight. The joint in the photo was about 3 kg with bone. **Colin**



Meet the newest members of the  
Chandler family. Maria gave birth to  
eleven puppies - one of them,  
nicknamed Ivor, is being fed by hand  
as he a little bit behind his brothers  
and sisters!

Other news from Leigh End. Any day  
now our cows will be out on grass -  
always great to see them run and jump  
about when they are turned out. We  
are now in organic conversion. **Lucy**



If you have any pots of  
unwanted 'gone over' bulbs eg  
snowdrops, Tete-a-Tetes please  
drop them around to Daniels  
Orchard and I will plant  
somewhere in the village eg  
The Green. **Jo**

## Save The Date:

Après Royal Wedding Picnic  
and Rounders on Sunday 20  
May @ 2.30pm @ Daniels  
Orchard (weather permitting)



Norton, Leigh & District Horticulture Show

## Annual General Meeting

Thursday 5 April 2018  
NORTON VILLAGE HALL  
7.30pm

New members welcome – come along and see  
what is involved: 3 meetings, 2 plant sales & the  
Annual Show each year and lots of cake eating!



## NORTON RFC



Norton came from  
behind to beat League  
leaders United Bristol  
Hospital with a bonus  
point win.

This was the first time  
'Hospital' have lost this  
season and consolidated  
Norton's position as  
second in the league.

## QUIZ & PLOUGHMAN'S SUPPER

Saturday 17 March at 7pm  
Down Hatherley Village Hall  
£5 p/person (including supper)

All proceeds to SAMARA'S AID. Tables of  
6 - bring a team or join one on the night.

Please ring Margaret on 01452 730744  
(annmb1990@btinternet.com)  
to reserve a place and to ensure there is  
enough food.

## TABLE TOP SALE

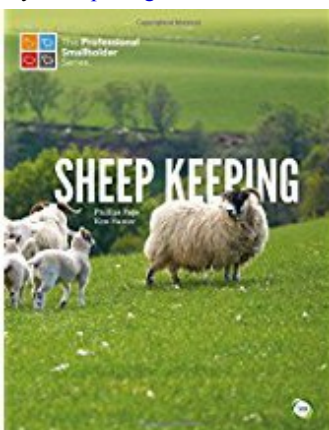
7th April 2018  
11am - 1.00pm  
Norton Village Hall  
In aid of Norton Church Funds

Tables to book:  
£10 for large table, £5 for small.  
Bookings to Jean Smith  
01452 730265  
or Lark Briggs 01684 540470

We have a published author in our parish.....

## Sheep Keeping (The Professional Smallholder Series)

By Phillipa Page and Kim Hamer



The Professional Smallholder: Sheep Keeping is a comprehensive handbook, providing veterinary relevant information to the sheep smallholder. As a sheep keeper have you ever wanted to go into more depth with your vet and gain expert advice that will keep your flock healthy and happy? This guide provides a depth of veterinary information to complement local veterinary consultations. Advice is offered on everyday issues such as feeding and nutrition, housing, organ systems and their function, disease, treatments and sheep behaviour. The authors guide the reader through different sheep keeping systems, organ biology, correct diet and nutrition, lambing time and the many problems that can occur at this time of year. The book is filled with helpful photographs and diagrams to help identify and describe diseases, what to look for in terms of abnormal behaviour and signs of disease. The chapter on routine husbandry procedures helps inform the reader how to prevent diseases through good practice. Sheep Keeping is a practical guide to common problems seen in small sheep flocks, suitable for experienced smallholder sheep farmers, but also relevant to new and prospective ones.

Thank you Amazon for your précis – my perfect bedtime read!! Jo

Norton, Leigh & District Horticultural Show

# Annual Plant SALE

Annuals \* Bedding \* Herbs \* Hardy Perennials  
Vegetable Plants \* Perennials

Friday 4 May 2018 | Saturday 9 June 2018  
Norton Village Hall | Coombe Hill Farm Shop  
7pm – 8pm | 10am – 1pm

Everyone Welcome, Free Admission  
All proceeds to help stage the Horticultural Show  
on Saturday 11 August 2018  
Over 90% of plants are less than £2.00