

The Leigh & Coombe Hill Newsletter

Issue 207 March/April
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Thanks to everyone who has sent in articles for this newsletter. After three years as editor this will be my last one for a while. Please send any articles that you wish to share with other residents of The Leigh and Coombe Hill to Jo Robson by **19 April** at the following address — jorobsonmailbox@gmail.com

Parish Council Update

Thank you to all residents of The Leigh and Coombe Hill who attended an evening event held by the Parish Council at The Swan last Autumn. Your ideas for local improvements were appreciated and we were able to welcome some of our newer residents from the two Coombe Hill developments.

We've listened to your feedback and some of the initiatives you'll see (or have already seen) and which you asked for include:

- 'Welcome to' signs—The Leigh's has been installed already and one has been ordered for Coombe Hill (to be installed at a later date).
- Grit bins. 10 of these have been located at accident 'black spots' in both villages. They're dark green and contain bags of grit and a telescopic handle shovel for ease of spreading. These are for use by the nominated 'cold weather wardens'.
- Notice boards. A number of these have been installed (St. Catherine's Church and The Leigh (near the postbox) with others due for installation in Coombe Hill.
- Bus shelters—a decision has been taken to order a number of these at the most used bus stops in Coombe Hill and The Leigh. Watch this space!
- Finally, investment is being made at St. Catherine's Church. This will benefit all residents as the church is also used for community events such as coffee mornings, quiz evenings, craft events and parish council meetings. St. Catherine's is available for hire (for a nominal fee) and hopefully the money invested in enhancing the facilities will see more residents avail themselves of its facilities. Planned improvements include:
 - New PA system with a 'hearing loop' booster (due for installation mid-March)
 - Carpark upgrade is in the planning stage with enlarged areas of hard-standing
 - Overhead projector and screen will hopefully encourage more social functions — film night anyone?

Anyone wishing to volunteer to join a team to help plan and coordinate events would be welcome.

Parish Council and Parish Church Council (PCC)

St. Catherine's Church News

Further good news for St. Catherine's. To boost attendance, a decision has been taken to introduce a new pattern of Sunday services designed to encourage wider participation from the Benefice community.

A new pattern of services commenced in February as follows:

On the **first Sunday** in the month, there will be a family service which starts at 10am — listen for the bells ringing from 9:20am! This will be followed by coffee and plenty of time for a chat and a mingle.

On the **third Sunday** in the month, there will be a traditional Evensong service at 6pm with church organist Frances, playing all the favourite hymns. **PCC**

Church Warden

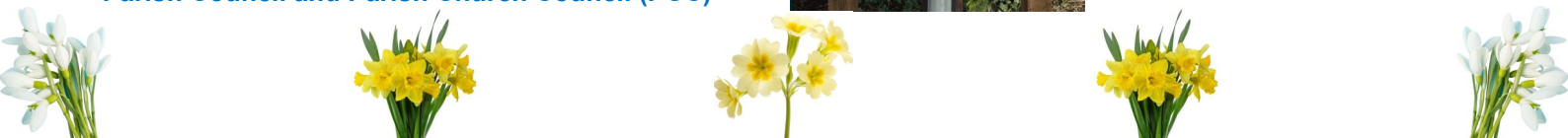
Many thanks for the good wishes and generous gift I received on Christmas Eve — my last as Church Warden.

My first service in St. Catherine's was a carol service 38 years ago although I had attended St. Stephen's when we first moved to the area.

Being Church Warden crept up on me almost 26 years ago when I started delivering The Magazine at Coombe Hill. As a family we have made many friends along the way in the parish and the benefice. We have had fun with all the fundraising and events.

So, from the bottom of my heart I want to thank you all (especially the Clergy and PCC backing group) for the support, friendship and love everyone has shown me.

Phil Cotton has kindly offered to step in as my replacement — thank you. **Sue R**





Coffee Morning

Saturday 16 March — 10am to 12 noon

The first coffee morning of 2024 will be held on the above date. There'll be the usual refreshments, cakes, sausage rolls and prize raffle. Proceeds go to St. Catherine's Church. It would be lovely to see you there and for new residents to come and meet your neighbours. **PCC**



Parish Council Meeting



Next meeting: Wednesday 13 March at 7:30pm
Venue: St Catherine's church, The Leigh.

All residents of the parish are welcome to attend and the agenda can be viewed in advance on the website.

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

Christmas Postbox

Thank you to everyone who used the Christmas Postbox or inserted Christmas greetings in December's Newsletter — a fantastic total of £250 was raised!

The money was split (according to donor wishes) between James Hopkins Trust (£145) and St Catherine's Church (£105).

Thanks to the Austins for installing / storing the postbox, Viv & Richard T for hosting, Jane A and Harriet R for sorting and to the card-delivering elves: Sue W, Karen M and the Austin family. **Jo R**

Norton, Leigh & District Horticultural Show

Plant Sale

Friday 3 May 2024
7pm - 7.45pm

NORTON VILLAGE HALL

Everyone Welcome
Free Admission

Cash Only



Thursday 10:00am - 2:00pm
Fri & Sat 9:00am - 2:00pm
Sunday 9:00am - 1:00pm

Twenty is Plenty



A number of residents have asked for the inclusion of a polite request to all road users to please slow down. There have been a number of near misses (including one reported to the police).

As there are no pavements, our roads are shared and pedestrians have right of way. Can anyone with a rental property or having goods/items collected/delivered, please ask their guests/driver to keep their speed down when driving in the village. **Karen M**



Gentle Paws

Dog walking and holiday pet sitting for your pooches.

Please call **Sally C** on 01242 680249 or 07974 303426

