





The Letcombe Register



Issue 216

August 2023

VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall <u>(please book)</u>	2 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in Session 10am - 1pm	3 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	4 <u>Men's Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall	5 <u>Tennis</u> <u>Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2	6 <u>Tennis</u> Mixer 10.0am Cricket 1pm Cricket 2pm
7 	8 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall <u>(please book)</u> Football 6.30pm	9 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in Session 10am - 1pm	10 <u>Morning Prayer</u> 9.15am <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	11 <u>Men's Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall	12 <u>Tennis</u> <u>Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2	13 <u>Tennis</u> Mixer 10.0am <u>Holy Communion</u> 10am St Andrew's <u>Greyhound Inn</u> Quiz Night Big Dave 8 pm
14 	15	16 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in Session 10am - 1pm	17 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	18 <u>Men's Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall	19 <u>Tennis</u> <u>Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2	20 <u>Tennis</u> Mixer 10.0am <u>Nature Reserve</u> Work Party 1.00-4.30pm
21 	22	23 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in Session 10am - 1pm	24 <u>Morning Prayer</u> 9.15am <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	25 <u>Men's Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall	26 <u>Tennis</u> <u>Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2 Cricket 12.30pm	27 <u>Tennis</u> Mixer 10.0am <u>Lay Led Service</u> 10am St Andrew's <u>Register Deadline</u>
28 <u>Greyhound Inn</u> Garden Party 12 - 5pm	29 	30 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in Session 10am - 1pm	31 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall			

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* Events in the Diary rely on information received. They may require booking and are underlined if a link is available for an email address or website.

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Issue 216

Message from the Parish Council

The Parish Council met on 17 July and was pleased to welcome a good attendance of villagers interested in the ongoing village maintenance. We are experiencing an invasion of weeds along verges gutters and walls and would ask you are able to help in any way please contact the Parish clerk who is coordinating in the first instance. Cllrs Tom Griffin and David Barber are leading on this and a further meeting of interested parties will take place to establish an agreed schedule and method of weed control. Please again contact the Parish Clerk if you are interested in becoming involved.

As you will all know pot holes remain a significant issue in the village, and despite our continuing best efforts to report the problems, repairs are done on a seemingly random basis. Cllr Gordon Lundie has produced a comprehensive report which has been passed to the County Council and we hope that improvement works will take place before the Autumn weather arrives.

Following a successful refresher training on the use of defibrillators, the Parish Clerk is aiming to set up a comprehensive First Aid Training session in the Autumn. This will be open to all and take place in the Village Hall. Once a date has been confirmed details will appear in the Register.

The Parish Council are keen to arrange a Village Fete and in the first instance would like to invite anyone who may be interested in assisting to contact the Parish Clerk. Planning is in its infancy but we have had successful Fetes over many years and we hope it would be something that the community would support. I am sure many of us will remember the competitive duck racing on the brook together with sumptuous refreshments provided at fetes gone by. Do consider becoming involved in this community event.

The completion work to the Parish Council Burial Ground is scheduled for the Autumn and Cllr David Barber will be leading on this. Sadly some of the hedging planted last year did not survive the drought and will need replacing and there will be lavender and roses planted to provide a welcome point of arrival at the entrance. Already this area has taken on a more open aspect with views to the surrounding countryside reinstated, following the removal of the enormous leylandii.

We are due to hold our next meeting on Monday 18th September, 7pm in the Warborough Room and all are welcome to attend. In the meantime please enjoy what remains of the summer.

Cllr Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Parish Council



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CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?

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From Thames Valley Alert



Oxfordshire Trading Standards have shared a link to their Trading Standards website for scams. It is kept updated and relevant and is a useful go to site for information on scams for the community .

The link is [Scams | Oxfordshire County Council](#)

200 Club Draw — No 5		August 2023
168	Thérèse CLARKE	£50
134	Jane CABLE-ALEXANDER	£25
47	John HOWARD	£15
128	Peter COLLINS	£10
51	Karen JOHNSON	£5
Special Draw:		
204	Jacqueline BERRYMAN	£25
133	Gillian SWIFT	£20
144	Alan PULLINGER	£15
104	Mel TAYLOR	£10
191	Phil DUNMORE	£10
217	Mary HARWOOD	£10
New Numbers Draw		
215	Mary HARWOOD	£5

Open Gardens 2023

One of the many benefits of living in Letcombe Regis concerns the contributions that people make to ensure the success of village events, Open Gardens this year being a case in point. We had over 250 attendees, a successful plant stall and a remarkable confectionary and refreshments offering at the village hall. This all meant that the event raised over £2000. I cannot thank enough those who opened their gardens, the volunteers who both produced a wonderful assortment of cakes etc., especially the delivery that came from Bowers Farm care of Georgina Hallward, and the team who did a remarkable job preparing the hall, serving, washing up and generally hosting the event. It is outstanding that within the village a variety of exceptional products can be made, a high quality of horticultural offering exists and that people are willing to give up their time to help. The proceeds will be distributed to a number of charities including The October Club in Wantage and St. Andrew's Church.



Letcombes Gardening Club - Topical Tips

We're approaching the end of summer now but take heart, as there are still lots to look forward to in the autumn garden as well. At this time of the year there can sometimes be rather a 'gap' before the autumn colour starts. However some plants will be rewarding you with lovely flowers. Clematis viticella can look glorious now with the bonus that it's easy to control as you just chop it all down to about 25cm from the ground in late winter.

You can collect seed from those plants that flowered earlier in the summer. If any of them are looking particularly tatty you can also start cutting them down now.

If you have any climbing or rambling roses that don't repeat flower or produce hips then it's OK to start pruning them now if you want to get ahead of the game.

You can also tackle your wisteria.

If you didn't divide your bearded iris last month (that includes me I'm afraid) then there's still time to do it this month.

Your dahlias should be flowering now so make sure you keep deadheading. You should then be able to keep them in flower for several more months yet. If the blooms are ragged then you may have a troupe of earwigs at work in your garden. You can trap these by putting flowerpots stuffed with newspaper upside down on sticks overnight. I'll leave you to decide what to do next!!

Lets now turn to the fruit and veg. The weather has been much kinder to the fruit and veg this season so hopefully you are producing some good crops.

You should be harvesting so much at the moment that you should hardly need to buy any veg from the supermarket; always a gratifying feeling! Continue to lift potatoes but leave lifting your onions until near the end of the month.

Make sure you keep picking runner beans as this will keep them cropping well into autumn.

Continue to feed and water your tomatoes and aubergines regularly otherwise both can develop blossom end rot. This causes black sunken patches and is usually caused by lack of calcium.

Well that's all for now folks so keep gardening!



Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Work Parties will continue on the third Saturday of each month in the autumn, but the Wildlife Discovery Event at the Community Nature Reserve replaces the next one on Saturday, 19 August, (1 – 4.30 pm). This is the



main outreach event of the year held by the Friends of the Community Reserve, and the first that has been possible since 2019. It is a free event that offers activities of interest to the young and not-so-young, including dissecting owl pellets, brook life, crafts, den building and much more. Do come along and bring your friends and/or family; a collection tin for donations to BBOWT will be available. If you are able to offer help with any of the activities, please contact Sheila Bailey on the Letcombe Valley email: letcombevalley@gmail.com - no

experience necessary! There will also be refreshments so if you could make a cake and bring it along any time after 12 noon on the day that would be much appreciated.

The Community Nature Reserve is home to a number of key species and is a specific wildlife 'hot spot' for chalkland habitats under threat nationally, namely spring-fed streams and remnant chalk grassland. August is a great month to look out for bush-crickets and grasshoppers, many of which are active now in the grass. Watch carefully for grasshoppers 'stridulating' by stroking pegs on their back legs against their front wings, and bush-crickets rubbing their front wings together instead. August is also the peak season for blue butterflies; six of the UK's nine regular breeding species will be flying this month. Especially where downland is managed for nature, it is the habitat for the Chalkhill blue butterfly, *Lysandra coridon* (right). The grassland creates a warm microclimate in which these butterflies bask in the sunshine. On sunny days look out for the most brilliantly blue butterfly species, the Adonis blue,



Polyommatus bellargus (left: male upper and lower wing markings), though the female's upper wings are sooty-brown, sometimes with a bluish wash. The second brood of these butterflies is on the wing this month. They live their entire life within a few square metres of chalk downland. Horseshoe-vetch is required as the larval food plant for both these butterflies. (All butterfly photos



credit: Gillian Taylor)

The most abundant butterfly observed during this year's Big Butterfly Count in the Community Reserve was the Gatekeeper closely followed by Meadow Browns (see the Register July issue), with Large Whites and Marbled Whites, Red Admirals, Peacocks, a Painted lady butterfly (right) and Small tortoiseshells. Small tortoiseshells are orange with black spots but have distinctive yellow spots on the forewings and blue spots along the wing margins whilst the Painted lady is mainly orange above, with black tips to the forewings that are adorned with white spots, and black spots on the hindwings and forewings. Painted lady caterpillars feed on thistles, mallows, common nettle and Viper's-bugloss, as well as various cultivated plants. This species cannot survive our winter in any form and recolonises mainland Europe during the summer from the desert fringes of North Africa, the Middle East, and central Asia before reaching the UK. The Painted lady, *Vanessa cardui*, is one of the most widespread species of butterfly, found right across the world with the exception of South America. Red Admirals, *Vanessa atalanta*, are also long distance migrants in the same butterfly family. Each spring and continuing through the summer, they migrate northward from North Africa and continental Europe. The subsequent emergence of new butterflies is from July onwards, these adults flying into October or November and typically seen on buddleias, flowering Ivy and rotting fruit.





Issue 216

Letcombe Football Club

The season has already started as we were invited to enter the Jim Newman Memorial Cup, organised and hosted by Clanfield F C. We played Kidlington reserves, who play in a division above us, and won 2-0 on penalties after a 2-2 draw, our goalkeeper saving all 4 of Kidlington's penalties. We then played local rivals Wantage Town in the semi final, and although they play two levels higher than us, we won 2-0. With many players at the Steventon Truck Festival, we could not repeat that performance in the final against Clanfield, and lost 0-9.

Our next competitive game is at home to Lambourn in the Faringdon Memorial Cup on Tuesday 8th August (6.30). If successful, we entertain Faringdon Town or Highworth Town development on Tuesday 15th. The league season starts on Saturday 19th.

Village Hall and Recreation Ground Management Committee



Following the resignation of Gill Gwalchmai from the Village Hall and recreation ground Management Committee, we have a vacancy. We have one interested party looking to join the group, but should you want to also be considered, please contact our Secretary, Elspeth Horridge, on letcombehallsecretary@gmail.com to register your interest by the 31st of August. Applicants should ideally live in the village, have an enthusiasm for committees, and want to roll up your sleeves and be heavily involved in the management of the village assets, such as the main hall and the surrounding cricket, football, tennis and riding arena. Contact Gordon Lundie on 07703 201241 if you would like to have more details.

I'd like to thank Gill for the huge amount of hard work and support she gave the committee and Village, to help develop a great playground proposal, and bring it to a stage where we have a great plan to take forwards. We give our best wishes to Gill, and know she will stay a close friend of this project as we move to the implementation phase, which shall be taken up by the other trustees.

Gordon Lundie
Chair of the committee



Volunteering at Sobel and Katherine House Hospices

Sobel and Katherine House Hospices are currently recruiting volunteers for Sobell House and Katharine House Hospices.

Within Sobell House we currently require volunteer support on our In-Patient Unit and Volunteer Drivers to help us in the transportation of our patients and equipment.

Bereavement Volunteers and Volunteer Companions are needed to support both Katharine House and Sobell House Hospice.

Please reply directly to June Ralton, Voluntary Services Manager at PalcareVolunteerServices@ouh.nhs.uk



The Letcombes Conservation Group

This year's fluctuations in temperature and rainfall, plus the outbreak of wildfires here in the UK (photo: Cannich near Inverness May 2023), perhaps does not focus attention quite as dramatically as the current



extreme heat and wildfires elsewhere in the world. However, such changes are all linked inextricably to the facts that scientists have known for decades, and warned against, that *'Human-caused climate change is already affecting many weather and climate extremes in every region across the globe. This has led to widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people,* Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 2023 [AR6 Synthesis Report: Climate Change 2023 \(ipcc.ch\)](#). Concentrations of the warming carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere are at their highest in two million years, the world is now warmer on average

than at any time in the past 125,000 years and will get warmer still over the next decade because projected emissions of carbon dioxide from existing fossil fuel infrastructure, such as oil wells and gas pipelines, will exceed the amount of emitted gases required to stay under the target temperature threshold of a 1.5°C rise in global warming, even without new coal reserves being exploited.

The world's climate system is finely balanced so small changes have significant consequences. Hotter, drier weather has increased the scale, intensity, and frequency of destructive wildfires in many regions worldwide. Not only do these affect air quality, impact forests, savannahs, and grasslands, and create hazards for people and ecosystems, wildfires also create a positive feedback system further increasing global warming. Ecosystems outside those that typically experience wildfires, such as the Arctic permafrost regions, peatlands of Europe and tropical forests of Indonesia and the southern Amazon are likely to be more affected in future, further exacerbating global warming as current stores of carbon dioxide release vast quantities of the gas instead.

Nevertheless, in addition to improved management of wildfire risk and response, reductions in emissions can be achieved with governmental support. The price of electricity generated from solar and wind technologies has fallen, already being cost-competitive with fossil fuels, and switching to low carbon transport can achieve significant cuts in emissions from many sectors. There could be realistic plans to bring the Earth's temperature back under control, and warming back below the 1.5°C threshold, even after an overshoot, by achieving net zero emissions as soon as possible and employing large scale use of carbon dioxide removal technology. The UN secretary general's response to the IPCC report statement that *'There is a rapidly closing window of opportunity to secure a liveable and sustainable future for all'* was to recommend that all countries should bring forward their net zero plans by a decade.

Ecologists have researched the impact of the rate of climate change on wildlife. Just one example from Wytham Woods near Oxford illustrates the point close to home. Like many insectivorous birds in temperate zones, breeding Great tits, photo credit: Walter Baxter (CC BY-SA 2.0), rely on a short period of insect abundance to feed their young. How well individuals match the peak energy demands of their offspring with the peak abundance of particular caterpillars, strongly influences their success. Maximum reproductive success for individual Great tits breeding in Wytham Woods between 1961 and 2010 was reached when eggs hatched around 13 days prior to peak caterpillar abundance. Both moths and Currently Great tits respond to temperature and rainfall environmental drivers similarly with a variance of only five days between hatching and caterpillar abundance, insufficient to impact on either population. In contrast, under a high emissions scenario, the ecologists' model forecasts that by the end of this century Great tit eggs would be hatching up to two weeks after the peak caterpillar abundance, leading to population decline and probable extinction.



Climate change is undeniable and needs our action to avert disaster for much of Earth's wildlife and for humans. After all, *'If we aim for 1.5°C and achieve 1.6°C, that is still much, much better than saying, it's too late, and we are doomed and I'm not even trying,'* Dr. Friederike Otto, Senior Lecturer in Climate Science, Imperial College.



Book Buffs

The next meeting will be held in the Greyhound on Thursday 3rd August at 8pm when we shall be reviewing *'On Chesil Beach'* by Ian McEwan and any novel by Claire Fellowes or Lucy Atkins, both of whom will be interviewed at the Autumn Literary Festival in Wantage.

The new library book is *'Playing Nice'* by J P Delaney, the alternative being further time to read the two authors above.

St Andrew's

Sunday June 25th was Gardens Open day in Letcombe Regis. In church on Sunday 9th July The Revd Mary Harwood - who presided at the service - thanked all those who had opened their wonderful gardens. Christine Birch thanked those who had helped with the teas and the plant stall. The total raised for the church from the teas and the stall was £640.00 from the teas and £150.00 from Judy Vaughan-Williams' plant stall. A wonderful result, a good deal better than the last opening in 2021, and a fitting outcome for all the hard work that so many had put into the event.



On the following weekend a festival in Wantage was much appreciated by many of us in Letcombe Regis. This was "A Sustainable Church Flowers Festival" in the Wantage parish churches. The festival was designed both to support the floral designers of the diocese as they make the important switch towards a more sustainable future, and to showcase the beauty of local, seasonal and low-carbon flowers and foliage. All 808 churches in the diocese are being encouraged to adopt a sustainable approach and the festival demonstrated that beautiful arrangements can be produced without using flowers which have been flown half way round the world. And, importantly for our flower arrangers the use of oasis is we hope going to be discontinued - however helpful it is!

On Sunday 23rd July the bells rang out through the village and David Allchin, happily recovered from the dreaded Covid, presided at our lay-led service. Paul Thompson preached on the theme of the parable in the New Testament lesson from Matthew, concerning the wheat and weeds being sown together. We are lucky to have lay members of the benefice who preach and take services supporting the ordained clergy .

Next month's services can be seen as ever in the Signpost. But please note there will be no Evensong on Mondays in August. The services will commence again on Monday 4th September.



There are no meetings in August but the WI will re-convene in September. We look forward to welcoming new members then, when we have a fascinating talk scheduled.

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Free electric blanket tests

Oxfordshire residents are being encouraged to take up the offer of a free electric blanket check, part of Oxfordshire County Council's programme to ensure everyone is safe, as well as warm, this winter.

The electric blanket tests are normally very popular, with places limited. Therefore, they must be **pre-booked** by phoning **01865 895999** or emailing: duty.officer@oxfordshire.gov.uk

Dates for the tests are:

September:

- Tuesday 19 September – South Oxfordshire
- Friday 22 September – Vale of White Horse

October:

- Tuesday 3 October – South Oxfordshire
- Friday 6 October – Vale of White Horse

Testing electric blankets has taken place in Oxfordshire for over 20 years. The failure rate is still around 30 per cent, emphasising why it is so important to get electric blankets checked regularly.

The tests are free, as are the refreshments but remember to pre-book so come along and encourage any elderly neighbours to attend too. It is better to be safe than sorry.



Photo credit Mike Price

Letcombe Sports and Social Club

Details of the next "Pizza at the Pavilion" event on Friday 4th August are on the poster elsewhere in The Register (page 5). Pre booking on Thursday 3rd is needed to secure your preferred time slot.

The Sports & Social Club AGM was held in July. For those members who are interested in details of the AGM and the accounts, then please contact the Secretary by email on letcombesportsclub@gmail.com, and you can be provided with the link and password. The minutes will also be posted up in the Clubhouse.

Despite the weather having turned wet through some of July, the Club has been busy. The Saturday cricket team continue to win, and are through to a Cup Final which will take place at a neutral ground on Sunday 13th August. The Wednesday evening season finished earlier in July, with the team finishing mid-table. Sunday matches have been both friendly and competitive, and with the season getting towards the end, the Cricket Club will be planning the end of season work, as well as looking forward to an end of season celebration - hopefully with promotion to the next league up.

The football season will return soon, pre-season training has started, and some friendlies have been played.

If you are interested in finding out more about the S&SC, then please contact the Secretary.

Richard
Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club

The views expressed in the Register do not necessarily reflect the view of Letcombe Regis Parish Council

To submit an article please contact:

Francesca Engelmann,
2, The Old Stables,
Letcombe Regis,
OX12 9LD

Register@oldstableyard.co.uk

01235 769310

Past Registers are available to view,
along with much more information,
on the Village Website:
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LETREGISPC@GMAIL.COM

(FOR GDPR REASONS - THE LETCOMBE REGISTER
HAS NO ACCESS TO THE VILLAGE EMAIL LIST)

Deadline for inclusion is the 27th of each month.
Items will generally appear in the order they were received

August Waste Calendar

[Click Here for 23/24 Waste Calendar](#)

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
21	22	23	24	25	26	27	
28	29	30	31				
Grey Landfill Food waste				Green recycling Food waste Brown Garden Waste			