

# The Letcombe Register



Issue 188

April 2021

## VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1	2 <i>Good Friday</i>	3 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9-10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10-2	4 <i>Easter Sunday</i>  Holy Communion 3 pm St Andrew's Rev. Mary Harwood
5 <i>Easter Monday</i>	6 Revised Collection 	7 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9-10 Coaching 10-11 Book Buffs 8pm Zoom - for code <a href="#">click here</a>	8	9	10 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9-10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10-2	11 Holy Communion 10am on Zoom for code <a href="#">click here</a>
12  <u>Greyhound Inn</u> re-opens - Outdoors only (Rule of 6)	13	14 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9-10 Coaching 10-11	15	16	17 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9-10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10-2	18 Worship together 10am Zoom <a href="#">click here</a>  Holy Communion 3 pm St Andrew's
19  Bablakes road closure to start for 5 days - to 23rd	20	21 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9-10 Coaching 10-11 APC & PCC meeting See Signpost for details	22	23	24 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9-10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10-2	25 Holy Communion 10am on Zoom For code <a href="#">click here</a>  <u>Cricket 1pm</u>
26 	27	28 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9-10 Coaching 10-11	29	30		

### In this issue:

PARISH COUNCIL /BABLAKE'S WORKS & FIX MY STREET	2
STEP 2 OF COVID PLAN GRAPHIC / INTERIOR DESIGN / TREEWORKE	3
LADDERADS / ELECTRICIAN / BEAUTY THERAPIST/ WINDOWS ETC	4
BELLS & RINGERS OF ST ANDREW'S - PART 2	5
BELLS OF ST ANDREW'S - PART 2 / DAVID JOHNSON MP	6
LETCOMBES CONSERVATION GROUP	7
200 CLUB ACCOUNTS / 200 CLUB /CLEANING	8
FRIENDS OF LETCOMBE VALLEY NATURE RESERVE	9
TENNIS CLUB	10
LETCOMBES GARDENING CLUB / PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB INVITATION	11
PHOTOGRAPHIC CLUB 'PETS' RESULTS	12
RG&VH / LETCOMBE SPORTS CLUB	13
LETCOMBE CRICKET CLUB INFO & FIXTURE LIST	14
BOOK BUFFS / SPONSOR A BRICK / THE GREYHOUND INN	15
BINZONE INFORMATION / WASTE CALENDAR / VILLAGE CONTACTS	16

\* Most Events shown in the Calendar should be booked in advance, and could, currently, be changed at short notice. Please check the details before attending. (Items underlined in the diary are hyperlinked)

Past Registers are available to view, along with much more information, on the Village Website: [www.letcomberegispc.org](http://www.letcomberegispc.org)

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES, THE COBRA BULLETIN AND THE LETCOMBE REGISTER, DELIVERED DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK: [LETREGISPC@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LETREGISPC@GMAIL.COM)

To submit items email: [Register@oldstableyard.co.uk](mailto:Register@oldstableyard.co.uk) (They will generally appear in the order they were received.)



## Message from the Parish Council

The Parish Council met via Zoom on Monday 15 March, and were grateful for District Councillor, Paul Barrow's update on resolving the blocked 'grips' throughout the village. He confirmed a company had been found to do the work and that this will be completed by early April. This should go some way to helping with the redirection of surface water from the roadways to the ditch drainage network. This does not however resolve the issue of the blocked drains, which we continue to raise with the authorities. Please remain vigilant to flooding when travelling through the village.

Tree works have now been completed on the Millennium Green.

The PC considered the ongoing issues with the inconsistent internet speed and connectivity throughout the village. This is a priority for the PC and we are actively engaged with both the County and the District Councils to try to ensure we take up opportunities for improvement. Covid19 has had a significant impact on this with some roll out proposals coming to a halt. It continues to be a frustrating position for many of us. We will keep you informed of any progress either here in the Register or via the village email.

Touching on Covid19, thank you all for your continued adherence to government 'Roadmap' advice. Our community has remained healthy over the past year and we all look forward to less restrictions over the coming months. The PC are grateful to the local police and the PCSO who provide us with excellent support, particularly responding to some of the impacts of the greater number of walkers that now use the village for their recreation. Parking remains an issue especially at weekends, together with the waste left behind by dog walkers. If you see anything of concern please let the Parish Clerk know, so that we can follow it up.

The next meeting of the Parish Council will follow the Annual Parish Meeting which is scheduled for Monday 17 May, 2021. With current restrictions the PC has agreed that future meetings will continue to take place virtually via Zoom, so if you wish to attend please let the Parish Clerk know at least a week in advance so that the joining instructions can be sent to you.

Finally we would like to wish you all a peaceful, healthy and Happy Easter.

Jeanne Lapsley  
Chairman  
Letcombe Regis Parish Council.

### Criminal damage reported

Please be aware that four sections of the metal fencing and three posts have been damaged on the way out of Letcombe Regis. They are on the Bablakes Farmhouse side of the road between there and the far corner. The damage has been reported to the police and a crime number has been issued. The Parish Council would be grateful if anyone who has any information would contact the police.

### Floods, Drains and Highways



We are very pleased to be able to mention again the up and coming works due to take place near Bablakes in April. This is to help manage the flooding that is suffered in that area. Please note the road in this area is to be closed between **19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> April** (inclusive) so it is advisable to be mindful of this when planning your route in and out of the village at this time. We are tirelessly working behind the scenes to get issues such as this resolved alongside blocked gullies and potholes. Our first port of call with such issues is to report them on '[FixMyStreet](#)' and we very much need your support here too. Please help us by reporting issues yourself on '[FixMyStreet](#)' so we can then follow them up if necessary. We are aware that there are some potholes that not long after being filled seem to appear again and it may feel frustrating to have to report them again, but we strongly urge you to do so until there is another system in place and the same applies for blocked gullies in the village too. Sadly during this period of lockdown there seemed to be a spate of fly tipping this was quickly resolved by reporting it on: <https://www.fixmystreet.com>

Cllr. Michelle Benton

## STEP 2

At least five weeks after Step 1, no earlier than 12 April.



Indoor leisure (including gyms) open for use individually or within household groups.



Rule of 6 or two households outdoors.  
No household mixing indoors.



Outdoor attractions, such as zoos, theme parks and drive-in cinemas.



Libraries and community centres.



Personal care premises.



All retail.



Outdoor hospitality.



All children's activities, indoor parent & child groups (up to 15 parents).



Domestic overnight stays (household only).



Self-contained accommodation (household only).



Funerals (30), wakes, weddings, receptions (15).



Minimise travel.  
No international holidays.



Event pilots begin.

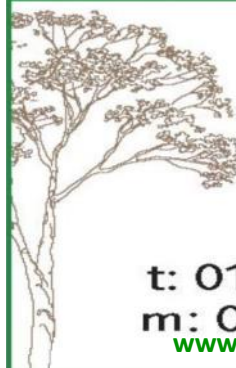


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**Registered Dietitian**

**Liane Reeves, BSc (Hons) Nutrition, MSc Allergy**  
HCPC registered, MBDA

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**COMPUTER PROBLEMS?  
CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?**

A locally-based service (from Letcombe Bassett) has been helping people here for the last 15 years  
**Moderate Rates Same Day Service**  
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**Sophie Sayer, Specialist Teacher, Dip SpLD**

I live locally and offer 1:1 specialist lessons using a multi sensory approach, supporting learners, aged 6 – 10 years, who have specific learning differences. Areas taught include reading accuracy and comprehension, spelling, writing and numeracy.  
I have a full DBS certificate and up-to-date training in Safeguarding and Child Protection.  
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## The Bells and Ringers of St. Andrew's, Letcombe Regis - Part 2

*Part of St Andrew's bell frame; the bell in the centre front of this view is an original bell cast in 1620 by Henry Knight of Reading.  
(Photo credit: J.M. Birch)*

The bells remained silent until 1999 when I was approached once more to train a new band for the Millennium. This was a direct response to the nationwide 'Ring in 2000 Campaign' designed to get silent towers ringing again in order to 'ring in' the Third Millennium. Starting on Jan. 7<sup>th</sup> 1999 Shirley Haines from Childrey and John Chamberlain from Faringdon came over once a week to help out and we trained a mixed band of adults and youngsters. Rob Andrews and Liz Stone (nee Manning) returned to ringing and we taught Christine Birch and daughter Catharine (13), Josie Alchin (12), Brian Ellison and son Malcolm (10), Tony Hine, Brian Stone, and Gary Sumption (of Letcombe Bassett) from scratch. The ringing chamber, which didn't look as if it had been touched for a hundred years (!), was cleaned and repainted. Rob Andrews spent eight hours painting the walls with white masonry paint and his Dad built new seats in the alcoves, a second hand carpet was laid and money was raised to pay for a new set of bell ropes.

We started ringing for Sunday Services on Easter Sunday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1999. By Friday Dec. 31<sup>st</sup> we were much improved and seven of the team rang open from 7:00 pm to 7:45 pm and later we were joined by nine friends and family and rang out the Old Millennium half-muffled from 11:30 pm to 11:50 pm and the muffles were removed. We lit our Millennium candles and Josie read out the Millennium Resolution. At midnight the tenor tolled 12 dongs then all six bells rang out joyously until 12:15 am on Jan. 1<sup>st</sup> in the year 2000! As we rang we could see through the windows the flashes from fireworks being set off all around the tower. Later on New Year's Morning all eleven of the team rang for the special Millennium service during which Malcolm read the prayer for the Third Millennium. On Sunday Jan. 2<sup>nd</sup> we rang again for a second special Millennium service during which Catharine read the prayer and our brand new bell ropes were blessed and dedicated.

As well as Sunday ringing and Thursday practice nights, we organised several joint ringing outings with the Childrey ringers, one to the Burford/Chipping Norton area (May 2000) and another to the Newbury area (June 2001). A number of experienced ringers from the Oxford Diocesan Guild (ODG) to which we are affiliated came along to help us out.

In addition to ringing half-muffled each Remembrance Day, following the 9/11/2001 terrorist attack on the Twin Towers in New York we did likewise on our practice night as well as Sunday Sept. 16<sup>th</sup> in respect to those killed in the tragedy. Some in the village will still remember Reuben Mercer, from 1957 to 1983 the Deputy Director of the Agricultural Research Council Radiobiological Laboratory (sited where Richmond Village is now). Amongst many other good works he was the founder of the Letcombe singers in 1963. At his Memorial Service on 11/2/2002 we rang half-muffled before the service and open afterwards. The news of the death of Queen Elizabeth, the Queen Mother, on Holy Saturday 30/3/2002 was announced at 5:45pm. By 7:00 pm seven of the team had been assembled and we rang half-muffled for half an hour. We similarly rang continuously for half an hour before her funeral on 9/4/02 and then the 'Nine Tailors' were tolled on the tenor: six blows to denote the death of a woman (nine for a man and three for a child) followed by 101 blows for each year of her life.

In March 2007 the then Rector, Alan Wadge, brought in a local Health and Safety 'expert' to assess the fire risk of our tower. He had difficulty climbing our steep, 20 foot (6.15m) wooden ladder and entering the ringing chamber through the trapdoor at the top. He advised that there was a very high risk should a fire occur and that ringing should cease immediately! Officers of the ODG who knew our tower well were consulted and pointed out there had never been an accident on our stairs in living memory and no fire had ever been recorded in the history of our church! An official of the Central Council of Church Bell Ringers declared that if we were prevented from ringing so would thousands of other towers including those of Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral! To mitigate safety risks smoke alarms and emergency lighting were installed, new treads on the ladder and railings at the top around the trapdoor area were added.

(cont. next page)

Ever since Easter Sunday 1999 up until the Covid virus Lockdown in March 2020 the bells have rung out for Services, Weddings, Funerals and Remembrance including ringing to commemorate the Centenary of World War One on 11/11/2018; for the Diamond Jubilee on 3/6/2012 and 5/6/2012; for Royal Weddings (Prince William and Kate on 29/4/2011, Prince Harry and Meghan on 5/5/2018); for Births of Royal Babies (Princess Charlotte on 2/5/18 and Prince Louis on 23/4/2018); and for Flower festivals, Fetes and Garden Open Days to provide the quintessentially English background music of church bells for the enjoyment of our visitors.

The team has changed over the years as people move on to other places, activities or higher education. During these years five more adults were trained: Dan Clark-Frew, Jenny Liddell, Mark McClintock, Toni Robinson and Caroline Wright. We were fortunate when Len Ash, already a bell ringer, arrived in the village. An additional 22 youngsters were trained to ring between those dates and these include: George Barber, Chloe Barton, Ben Bowden, Hannah & Kate Ellis, Alex, Nick & Joe Ereat, Lucy & Sophie Hannon, Tallulah Johnson, Alistair, Vicky & Nick Jones, James Kent, Dunstan Langrish, Henry & Arthur McClintock, Brennan Reeves, Katherine Robinson, Lily Shepherd and Matthew Wright. Many of these youngsters attended Training Courses, Young Ringers Outings and Events organised by the ODG and earned modules for their Duke of Edinburgh Award. In 2004 Katherine entered the ODG Young Ringers Award scheme and was presented with a Gold Award and the Alosin Rodrick shield for the learner making the most progress throughout the Guild. So a total of 13 adults and 42 young people have been ringers in our tower during the past 40 years.

The bells have been missed for almost a year now because of the Covid virus except for the Ellacombe apparatus being chimed at Christmas by Christine. There is no problem for one person to be in the ringing chamber alone! When they will ring out again 'properly' in the future remains to be seen.

Anne Williams February 2021

*Postscript: The bells were chimed again using the Ellacombe apparatus when services recommenced at St. Andrew's on Mothering Sunday, 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021. An inspection of the bell frame and bells will be conducted in May by Whites of Appleton after which team bell ringing will resume for services and for weddings this summer. Some of the current youngsters in the team are moving on to studies away from home and anyone interested in bell-ringing at St. Andrew's would be most welcome, do contact Christine Birch on 763529.*

## David Johnston MP

I was delighted that 2,620 people responded to my survey regarding Grove Station within just 2 weeks – thank you if you did. Some 98% of people respondents supported it being reopened! Over 90% said they would prefer it to a new bus service and 89% said they would use their car less if it reopened. We have stiff competition as there are 85 different bids to Government for stations or lines to reopen, but I will keep bashing away until we eventually succeed.



I continue to be frustrated with Royal Mail. Our postmen and women work hard but something is clearly not right as constituents have been complaining to me about mail deliveries for several months and the problem has been reported in the national news too. When I called a meeting with them last year they said they had gone from 'a letter service delivering parcels to a parcel service delivering letters' and it does seem to be the parcels they prioritise. Every fortnight I enter the ballot to have a debate in parliament about their service and hope I will be successful soon.

Unauthorised traveller camps were the subject of my speech in the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Bill debate this month. The Bill has wrongly been accused of restricting our right to protest when actually the protest measures target actions we have seen by organised protest groups in the past year such as people gluing themselves to roads and stopping ambulances getting through, or shutting down printing presses because they don't like the editorial line of the papers involved. It is a wide-ranging bill that increases the sentences or time served for a wide range of violent and sexual offences, but it also clamps down on unauthorised traveller camps which are a regular source of distress in the constituency. At the time of writing, in 20 of the past 34 weeks there has been at least 1 such camp somewhere in the Vale or South Oxfordshire, frequently involving mess, noise, vandalism and other anti-social behaviour. The Bill will allow the police to remove such camps more quickly and impose stiffer penalties.

I had my first appearance on the BBC's Politics Live on 18<sup>th</sup> March, an interesting if slightly strange experience. Whereas you can see everyone's face when you watch on television, each of us panellists look into a black screen on our computers as we can't see anyone! We discussed various topics including the EU's latest silly comments regarding the supply and safety of the AstraZeneca vaccine, which has again been confirmed as completely safe. Despite the noise, we shouldn't worry – we've now vaccinated over 25 million people, half the adult population, and remain on course to see every adult offered a jab by the end of July. As ever, if I can help with anything then do email [david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk)



## The Letcombes Conservation Group

The tradition of giving eggs at Easter came from northern Europe with the Saxons. The Venerable Bede, in *De Temporum Ratione* (AD725), referred to the indigenous name for Eostur-monath as being 'now translated as *Pascal month*, and which was once called after a goddess of theirs named Eostre, in whose honour feasts were celebrated in that month'. In medieval times eggs were forbidden during the Lent fast so formed part of the celebrations on Easter Sunday. Eggs were given to the church as Good Friday offerings, and were also gifts from villagers to the lord of the manor. In 1290 Edward I purchased 450 eggs to be decorated with colour or gold leaf for distribution to his household.

Eggs of many birds have always been eaten, but the ground nesting lapwing suffered particularly around Easter. Throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries lapwing eggs were collected extensively in Britain for food. Rich and delicious, lapwing (or plover) eggs in aspic were a special favourite of Queen Victoria and Mrs Beeton's cookery books included various recipes. Over-exploitation even led to imported eggs from Holland in the 1880s. In an attempt to halt the decline of the species, the Lapwing Act of 1926 prohibited egg-collection. Easter-egg hunts, popularised by Queen Victoria for her children, are a relic of the collection of wild bird eggs at this time of year.



Another link to Easter customs is thought to derive from lapwings use of the shallow scrapings called 'forms' made by hares as nest sites. Hares literally lie-low from predators since, unlike rabbits, they do not burrow. Finding droppings alongside the eggs, or possibly even disturbing a hare sharing its shelter with a lapwing's nest, some egg collectors apparently believed that hares laid eggs. Hence the Easter Bunny with long ears!

There are resident Northern lapwings, *Vanellus vanellus*, in the UK throughout the year, though migratory lapwings arrive in winter during cold weather in Europe. The adult birds, called 'farmers' friend' as their diet clears pasture, ploughed land or estuaries of wireworms, leatherjackets and water snails, move to their nesting sites on open ground between March and June. Only one brood site is reared each year but, if the eggs are lost, up to four replacement clutches may be laid. The eggs hatch within a month, chicks walking and feeding within hours. The chicks then face a hazardous journey to grassland with damp patches or pools to be reared on invertebrates until they can fly at around six weeks. The adult birds will mob intruders or create a distraction display as a diversion to protect the eggs or chicks. (Photo: [www.rspb.org](http://www.rspb.org))



*Vanellus*, meaning 'little fan', relates to the undulating flight pattern while the name 'lapwing' derives from Old English meaning 'leap with a flicker in it'. Close up their characteristic feature is the long, black crest, perhaps explaining why they are called 'hornywinks' in Devon, and the feathers on their back shine iridescent green and purple giving them an alternative name of Green plover though from a distance the birds appear black and white. Other vernacular names abound such as 'pee-wit' from their distinctive call, or 'pie-wipes' in Norfolk, 'chewits' in Lancashire and 'peasiewheeps' in parts of Scotland – so much for local dialects.

Whatever their name, the species is in such decline again, with numbers down by 80% in England and Wales since 1960 and 27% in Scotland since 1987, that the Northern lapwing is classed as a 'Red list priority species of conservation concern' in the UK and 'Near threatened' globally on the International Union for Conservation of Nature Red List. Organisations such as Natural England have worked with farmers to encourage lapwings by leaving small areas of suitable land out of food production at nesting time. Fortunately in this area a few pairs may be seen still in the spring around the arable fields before the crops grow too high.

## 200 Club Accounts Year 22

1 April 2020 - 31 March 2021

### INCOME

Numbers sold - 224 @ £24	5,376.00
Donations	6.00
Building Society interest	2.53
Brought forward from March 2020	<u>255.17</u>
	<b>£5,639.70</b>

### EXPENDITURE

Prizes	2,620.00
Letter in Letcombe Register	15.00
Transfer to Village Hall funds	3000.00
Balance on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2021	<u>4.70</u>
	<b>£5,639.70</b>

### CASH IN HAND

Note 1 - No new numbers winners in February or March = £10 less in prizes	10.00
Donation	10.00
Balance 31st March 2021	<u>4.70</u>
	<b>£24.70</b>

Ian Taylor  
Treasurer 200 Club  
March 2021

I have reviewed these accounts prepared by the Treasurer and confirm they are in agreement with the underlying accounting records.

John Peskett  
Lime Tree House  
Letcombe Regis  
March 2021

At the time of going to press, there are still some numbers to be paid for. Each number costs £24. Cheques or cash can be put through my letter box:  
Ian Taylor,  
Tara, Warborough Road, Letcombe Regis, OX12 9LD  
Or payment can be made online.

The letter with full details about the 200 club is in the March Letcombe Register.

My phone number is 764677  
Or you can contact:  
[letcomberegis200club@gmail.com](mailto:letcomberegis200club@gmail.com)

## 200 Club



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Beth Trotter tells me that yoga should now be restarting in May when mixed households are allowed to meet indoors (from 17<sup>th</sup>)





## Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Now past the spring equinox, the hedgerows and woodland areas in the Reserve are blossoming with early flowers. With heart-shaped leaves framing the five oval, blue-violet, white pinky-mauve flower petals, the native Sweet violet, *Viola odorata*, is a low-growing perennial distinguished from the almost identical Common dog violet, *Viola riviniana*, by its sweet scent. The flowers and leaves have been used to make perfume since classical Greek times but strangely also contain beta-ionone, a chemical which temporarily closes off smell receptors. Sweet violets were used to create household deodorants in medieval Britain and in herbal medicine to treat headaches, depression and insomnia. Apparently pressed Sweet violets picked from Josephine's grave were discovered in Napoleon's locket at his death. Sweet violet flowers are edible, often candied and used to decorate cakes. Flowers and leaves also may be added to salads or used as a garnish. However, as important sources of nectar for woodland butterflies, it is important not to pick species like the Sweet violet which were previously widespread but are now increasingly uncommon. A word of warning, the goddess of springtime and flowers, Persephone, was picking spring flowers, including violets, when she was abducted by Hades, god of the Ancient Greek underworld. They are a simple plant to grow in your garden for culinary purposes – a much safer option.



On sunny April days large bee-flies, looking like a cross between a bee and a mosquito, might be seen visiting violet flowers, (photo credit: Gillian Taylor). A bee-fly has a brown, furry body and a very long,



thin, stiff tongue (proboscis). The bee-flies buzz and hover like bees but actually land on the flower with long legs, unlike bees, whilst feeding on the nectar in the flower spur that is inaccessible to any fly with a short proboscis. The other main difference is that bee-flies have a single pair of wings compared to two pairs in bees. There are nine species of bee-fly in the UK. The most common, *Bombylius major*, has a dark edge across the front of its wings in contrast to the rarer *Bombylius discolor* which has a spotty wing edge. Whilst bee-flies do not sting nor spread disease and are harmless to humans, they are parasitic on other species. The adults fly between late March and the end of May searching for nests of solitary bees, wasps and beetles and when they find one, hover near the nest entrance to lay their eggs into the surface of the soil. The hatched bee-fly larvae then feed on the bee, wasp or beetle larvae.

Bee-flies also feed on nectar from the primrose, *Primula vulgaris*, another flower associated with spring though it has a long flowering season from December to May.



Often primroses indicate an ancient woodland but cultivated varieties have escaped into the wild. The single, pale yellow flowers have five notched petals which form on the ends of upright, woolly stalks above a rosette of wrinkly leaves that are hairy underneath, (photo credit: Gillian Taylor). The flowers are a nectar source for pollinators such as Brimstone and Small tortoiseshell butterflies. Queen Victoria sent primroses her prime minister, Benjamin Disraeli, as his favourite flower. Perhaps she did not know that in mythology primroses represent eternal love

or that, in Irish folklore, primroses in the doorway protected the home from fairies.

## ***We have re-opened***

We are so pleased that Tennis & Coaching restarted on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March, providing an opportunity for all to get exercise that is so important at this time to our health & well being. Everyone is able to play with whoever you like, Doubles or Singles, however basic restrictions will still apply:-.

- All courts to be pre-booked online.
- Use your own rackets and balls, leave the nets up.
- Use the provided Hand Sanitizer before and after.
- Clean the key pad and handles with the provided wipes
- If there is someone on the courts shout to find when their session is ending, and keep a 2 m apart when exiting.
- Do not play if you feel unwell / have a temperature.
- At all times STAY ALERT & follow all the Rules.

The Wednesday and Saturday coaching has also restarted:-

Permitted (adults & children) n Max group size for adults is 12 adults per court & Max group size for children of 15, with **No** group socialising before/after.

Members can try out coaching via a [two-week free pass](#), and then the cost to attend a weekly group session is just £28 per month.

To register for a [two-week free pass](#) online, click on the class which suits you!

If you have any questions contact our coaching team on 0800 888 6030 or email [hello@nationaltennis.org.uk](mailto:hello@nationaltennis.org.uk).

## ***Membership Fees***

The committee has met to review the maintenance account, in order to decide on this year's fees, which are due on the 1st of April.

The reduced court usage has had little effect on the rate of court deterioration.

To-date we have been unsuccessful in obtaining any financial support to help mitigate effects of Covid restrictions, so it was agreed that we must continue to achieve the LTA's recommended £3000/ annum maintenance contingency and that further fee discounts should not be applied.

However it was agreed for the 5th year running that the membership fees will not be increased remaining at:-.

**Family £90**

**Adult £45**

**Junior £20**

**Child £10**

New members should go to our website

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/LetcombeTennisClub/Membership/Join>, scroll down to the package you want and click [Join now](#). Existing members will be auto contacted.



## Letcombes Gardening Club

### Topical Tips

**A**pril is here. The days are lengthening, the evenings are lighter and the weather is gradually getting warmer. The garden beckons and there is no longer any excuse. April is a busy month.

I think we'll start with flowers. You can sow hardy annuals in modules this month but you may want to wait until the end of the month before sowing outside. You can still plant summer bulbs and hardy perennials so continue to support your local garden centre and online nurseries and keep buying!

Slightly tender perennials like penstemon can be pruned this month. Make sure you cut above fresh new shoots. Some plants benefit from thinning of the flowering shoots. You'll get fewer blooms but they'll be bigger. Phlox is a good example of this. As far as general tidying is concerned here's a little tip. If, like me, you tend to get a lot of self seeded forget-me-nots and you leave them to do their thing then just make sure they're not engulfing any perennials that are coming up and if they are then yank a few out.

I shall now move on to trees and shrubs. I haven't got too much to say here but it is 'evergreen' month. You can still move and plant evergreens at the beginning of the month. If you're just thinking of pruning then you can cut back any shoots that are frost damaged or any that have reverted on variegated specimens. You can also prune lavenders if you didn't do so last summer. Don't cut into old wood though.

Make sure you keep tying in climbers like clematis and honeysuckle and while you're doing this why don't you try a bit of propagation? If you pin a stem or two down in the soil it should eventually root and provide you with a new plant.

I probably need to mention lawns before I move on to edibles. Not a great interest of mine but important nevertheless. You can sow new lawns and repair patches from the middle of the month. You can also tackle any bumps or hollows by peeling back the turf, removing or adding soil and replacing the turf. Finally give it a good weed and feed.

April is the month when people tend to go mad with their veg plots but do be a bit cautious. We can still get late frosts, which can ruin all your hard work.

You need to finish your onion set and potato planting and continue to sow crops like carrots. You can also sow runner beans, sweetcorn, courgettes and squash under glass. It is now safe to plant greenhouse tomatoes into their final position if you have room!

I think I'd better call a halt now. There are loads more I could mention but I'm sure you can figure that out. Get out there and enjoy!

## Letcombes Gardening Club

**W**e had our last Zoom talk of the season last month but we still have one more event! We intend to hold an online Plant Market again this year as restrictions will prevent us from holding it live at its usual time at the end of April. It will take place over the weekend of the 15 May. More details of how you can join in will be in next month's register and all those on the Gardening Club members email list will receive an email shortly outlining the procedure.

## Photographic Club

**T**he Letcombe Photographic Club May subject will be:  
**"Something new, something borrowed, and something blue"**

The deadline for submission is the 20<sup>th</sup> of April.

Please send your images (max 2 per resident) as an attachment to [stevemikarics@gmail.com](mailto:stevemikarics@gmail.com)

Please use ONE of the following formats for your image - Bitmap (.bmp), JPEG (.jpg, .jpeg), PNG (.png) or your own camera's format.

The March photos (pets) can be found on page 12



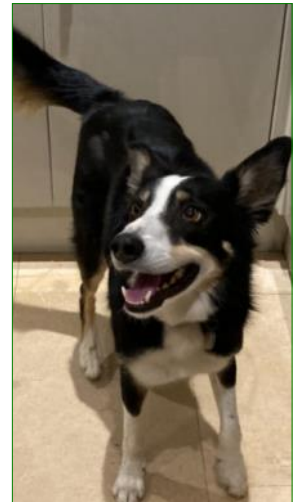
“Pets” The subject for May is - “Something new, something borrowed, and something blue”.



An old friend - Kristine Hitchcock



Lady Arabella - Jane Prior



Hudson - Jane Prior



Beak, feathers and fun - Kristine Hitchcock



Ziggy working from home - Vivien McCoubrey



Teddy - Steve Mika



Milly - Alexander Lapsley-Mika

## Village Hall & Recreation Ground

The weather has turned spring-like and it is good to see plenty of locals using the Recreation Ground for exercise and enjoyment. The eagle-eyed amongst you will have noticed that the hedges all around the Recreation Ground, Riding Field and Football Pitch have all been cut. Thanks go to James and the generosity of a local farmer in allowing the use of his tractor and hedge cutter.

As mentioned last month, the Village Hall is still expecting to reopen for most users from May 17th, which we all look forward to very much. If you are hoping to use the Hall later in the year, then please get your booking requests into Claire. You can check Hall availability on the Calendar here - <https://www.letcomberegishall.org/availability> before requesting a booking.

At some point, as we had agreed last year, we will get the old riding club field levelled off and some grass seed sown on the area. There have been a few discussions in the past about what ( if anything ) this area should then be used for. If you have any thoughts or ideas on this, then please let myself or one of the other Trustees know.

The Trust has waived the rent normally paid by the Clubs who use the Recreation Ground ( Cricket/Football/Tennis/Riding ) for last year, as a small contribution to the Clubs who have had a difficult time over the past 12 months.

We will sadly be losing one of our Trustees, Karen, after the next meeting in May. I would like to thank Karen for her contribution through what has been a fairly eventful couple of years. This does mean that there will be a vacancy, so if any villager wants to find out a little more about what being a Trustee entails, then please contact myself or the Secretary, Elspeth on [letcombehallsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:letcombehallsecretary@gmail.com)

If you have any questions, or points you would like to raise about the Village Hall or Recreation Ground, then please either contact myself, or one of the other Trustees.

Our next Trust meeting will be on Tuesday 18th May, which will probably be held in the Sports Pavilion, Covid rules permitting.

Richard  
Chairman, Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust

## Letcombe Sports Club

As you will no doubt have seen if you have been on the Recreation Ground in the past 2-3 weeks, the work on the planned patio improvements are now well underway. Here is a picture from last week showing how well the work is progressing.

This will allow all users of the Sports Pavilion to enjoy the facilities even more, and with outside sports restarting on the 29th March, we are looking forward to reopening once the Covid rules allow. It is expected that opening times will be similar to last year, which were from 7pm on Thursday, 6pm on Friday, 1pm on Saturday ( sport dependent ) and 4pm on Sunday. As the committee is made up entirely of volunteers, these times will be subject to variation on occasion. The Bar Opening Times will be updated on the Sports Pavilion Calendar here - <http://letcombecc.co.uk/>



A good number of villagers are Social Members of the S&SC, and we hope they rejoin at the beginning of June, which is when annual membership is due. At just £12 each for the year, I am sure you will agree that it is very good value for money. New Members are welcome, you just need to be proposed and seconded by an existing Member who knows you.

If you want to find out more about the S&SC, then please contact the Secretary, Richard by email to [letcombesportsclub@gmail.com](mailto:letcombesportsclub@gmail.com).

Richard  
Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club



## Letcombe Cricket Club

After a very limited number of cricket fixtures in August and September last year, the Cricket Club is hoping for a full season of Cricket in 2021. Having the new patio and other improvements done at the Sports Pavilion will make the cricketing experience much better.

There are a total of 30 home fixtures, 14 on Sundays, 9 on Saturdays and 7 on Wednesday evenings.

The fixtures ( both home and away ) are all on the Sports Club calendar here - <http://letcombecc.co.uk/>, and also printed in the Register. You are most welcome to come and watch some cricket when you are able to, we are all a friendly bunch, and don't bite!

Investment is being made in ground equipment and a new practice net, which will improve the facilities, as well as help tidy up the look of the Recreation Ground.

If you are interested in knowing more about the Cricket Club, thinking of playing, or perhaps doing some umpiring or scoring, then please contact me.

Richard  
Secretary, Letcombe Cricket Club

### Saturday XI Cherwell League Division 7C

May			
Sat 8th	1.00pm	East & West Hendred II	Away
Sat 15th	1.00pm	Oxenford III	Home
Sat 22nd	1.00pm	Abingdon Vale III	Away
Sat 29th	1.00pm	Cumnor III	Home
June			
Sat 5th	1.00pm	Kingston Bagpuize II	Away
Sat 12th	1.00pm	Challow & Childrey III	Home
Sun 13th	1.00pm	Cropredy III ( Cup ) **	Home
Sat 19th	1.00pm	Steventon II	Away
Sat 26th	1.00pm	Risinghurst II	Home
July			
Sat 3rd	1.00pm	Sunningwell	Away
Sat 10th	1.00pm	East & West Hendred II	Home
Sat 17th	1.00pm	Oxenford III	Away
Sat 24th	1.00pm	Abingdon Vale III	Home
Sat 31st	1.00pm	Cumnor III	Away
August			
Sat 7th	1.00pm	Kingston Bagpuize II	Home
Sat 14th	1.00pm	Challow & Childrey III	Away
Sat 21st	1.00pm	Steventon II	Home
Sat 28th	1.00pm	Risinghurst II	Away
September			
Sat 4th	1.00pm	Sunningwell	Home

### Wednesday XI Serious Cricket Downs League Division 2

May			
Wed 5th	6.00pm	East & West Hendred	Home
Wed 12th	6.00pm	Newbury	Away
Wed 19th	6.00pm	The Bell Inn, Aldworth	Home
Wed 26th	6.00pm	West Ilsley	Away
June			
Wed 2nd	6.00pm	Hungerford	Home
Wed 9th	6.00pm	Hampstead Norreys	Away
Wed 16th	6.00pm	Kingston Bagpuize	Home
Wed 23rd	6.00pm	East & West Hendred	Away
Wed 30th	6.00pm	Newbury	Home

### Sunday XI Friendlies

April			
Sun 25th	1.00pm	Holton & Wheatley	Home
May			
Sun 2nd	1.30pm	Challow & Childrey	Away
Sun 9th		TBC	
Sun 16th	1.30pm	Welford Park	Home
Sun 23rd		TBC	
Sun 30th	1.30pm	Cumnor	Away
June			
Sun 6th	2.00pm	Bladon	Home
Sun 13th	1.00pm	Quokkas **	Home
Sun 20th	2.00pm	Nomads	Home
Sun 27th	2.00pm	Wantage	Home
July			
Sun 4th	1.30pm	Strokemakers	Home
Sun 11th	2.00pm	East & West Hendred	Home
Sun 18th	2.00pm	The Bell Inn, Aldworth	Home
Sun 25th	2.00pm	Peasemore	Home
August			
Sun 1st		TBC	
Sun 8th	2.00pm	Kingston Bagpuize	Away
Sun 15th	2.00pm	Ramsdell	Home
Sun 22nd	2.00pm	Hanney	Home
Sun 29th	2.00pm	Bladon	Away
September			
Sun 5th	11.00am	President's v Chairman's XI	Home
Sun 12th	1.00pm	Oxon CC SS	Home
Sun 19th	1.00pm	Peasemore	Away

\*\* There is a double booking at home on Sunday 13th June which needs resolving. If the Saturday team wins this match, then there will also be a double booking at home on Sunday 18th July.

July			
Wed 7th	6.00pm	Hampstead Norreys	Home
Wed 14th	6.00pm	The Bell Inn, Aldworth	Away
Wed 21st	6.00pm	West Ilsley	Home
Wed 28th	6.00pm	Kingston Bagpuize	Away
August			
Wed 4th	6.00pm	Hungerford	Away



## Book Buffs

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 7th April via Zoom.

We shall be reviewing *'Wide Sargasso Sea'* by Jean Rhys and the alternative *'A Giver of Stars'* by Jo Jo Moynes.

The new library book is *'The Good Father'* by Noah Hawley, which will be delivered to you. Please return the *'Wide Sargasso Sea'* to the blue box outside Blandy's Barn as soon as possible. Thank you.

### Letcombe Sports and Social Club

#### Sponsor a Brick

For just £5, you can sponsor a brick in the new wall, and have your name recognised in a frame in the Club

To help with fundraising, we are offering Members and Guests the opportunity to "Sponsor a Brick"

All you need to do is contact James on [jameslssc01@gmail.com](mailto:jameslssc01@gmail.com) to offer your sponsorship. Payment can be made over the bar when we reopen, which will be on May 20th, if not before.

All funds go directly to Letcombe Sports and Social Club



### News from the Greyhound

At last, we are reopening soon! We are so looking forward to welcoming you back.

From April 12th until May 16th we are allowed to open for guests outdoors only.

Come and enjoy the company of family and friends (up to 6) in our pretty, sheltered and sunny garden.

Our kitchen will be open Wednesday to Saturday for lunch and dinner (reduced menu) and for Sunday lunch.

The bar will be open every day from 12-9pm (12-6pm Sundays).

You can book a table in our garden by visiting our web site or by email or phone. In case of bad weather, we understand if you'll have to cancel.

After May 17th, we hope to return to being fully open and get back to being a proper pub again!

Full COVID safety policies will remain in place and we will now be required to take the names and contact details of every guest with Track and Trace. Full toilet facilities will also be available. You will need to wear a mask if you go inside to the toilets.

Please note, our takeaways will be taking a break after Easter weekend while we prepare for reopening.

Last week of takeaways:

Friday 2nd April - Pub Classics and Friday Fix 6-8pm

Saturday 3rd April - Enjoy our 3-course Easter Feast - collect 2-5pm

Easter Sunday 4th April - our usual Sunday roasts 12-2pm

Happy Easter to everyone and we hope to see you soon!

Catriona, Martyn and the team

## THE GREYHOUND INN

LETCOMBE REGIS · OXFORDSHIRE

### Last chance to book your EASTER FEAST

Please book online by 10pm March 31<sup>st</sup>

A delicious 3-course meal showcasing the season, prepared and ready for you to collect on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> April to heat and enjoy at home.



### TAKEAWAYS UNTIL APRIL 4th

Friday Pub Classics 6-8pm

Sunday Roast Lunches 12-2pm

We are pausing our takeaways after Easter while we get ready to reopen our kitchen for garden service.

[www.thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk](http://www.thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk)  
email: [info@thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk](mailto:info@thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk)  
Tel: 01235 771969

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

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

Deadline for inclusion is the 27th of each month.

[Register@oldstableyard.co.uk](mailto:Register@oldstableyard.co.uk)  
01235 769310



## Waste Calendar

You can keep up to date information on collections and also any sudden changes if you download the Binzone app.

To download the app:

For PC click [here](#).

For iPhones click [here](#)

For android click [here](#)

You can find out more from the [VOWH waste collection information](#) site.

April 2021						
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		
Green Recycling Garden Waste Food Waste			Grey Landfill Food Waste			

Vale of Whitehorse Waste collection information  
can be found [HERE](#)