

The Letcombe Register



Issue 200

April 2022

VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
				<u>Pizza at the Pavilion</u> 4.00 - 8.30 pm	<u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9 - 10am <u>Tennis Junior Singles Tournament</u> <u>Daffodil Day</u> St Andrew's 2-5pm	
4	5 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall	6 <u>Tennis Mix in Session</u> 10am - 1pm	7 <u>Pilates w Rachel</u> 9.30 am Village Hall <u>Yoga w Diana</u> 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	8	9 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 - 2	10 <u>Holy Communion</u> Palm Sunday 10 am St Andrew's <u>Greyhound Inn Quiz Night</u> Big Dave 8 pm
Evensong 3 pm <u>WI - 'Mercy Ships'</u> 7.30 pm Village Hall		<u>Book Buffs</u> 7.30pm Greyhound Inn	<u>Film Club</u> 8 pm Village Hall <u>'Knives Out'</u>			
11	12	13 <u>Tennis Mix in Session</u> 10am - 1pm	14 <u>Pilates w Rachel</u> 9.30 am Village Hall <u>Yoga w Diana</u> 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	15	16 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 - 2 <u>Nature Reserve Work Party</u> 1.20-4.30 pm Football 3pm	17 <u>Holy Communion</u> Easter 10 am St Andrew's
Evensong 3 pm						
Collection Change →	18	19	20	21 <u>Pilates w Rachel</u> 9.30 am Village Hall <u>Yoga w Diana</u> 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	22	23 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 - 2 <u>Gardening Club Plant Market</u> 2.00 - 4.30 pm Village Hall
Evensong 3 pm						24 <u>Family Treasure Hunt</u> 12.30pm Cricket 1.30pm
25	26 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall	27 <u>Tennis Mix in Session</u> 10am - 1pm	28 <u>Pilates w Rachel</u> 9.30 am Village Hall <u>Yoga w Diana</u> 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	29	30 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 - 2	
Evensong 3 pm Voices of the Vale 7-9 pm Village Hall						

* Events shown in the Calendar depend on organisers keeping me up to date. They may also require booking in advance and be subject to last minute alteration. Items underlined are hyperlinked to make it easier to connect to email or website.

In this issue:

PARISH COUNCIL	2	LETCOMBES CONSERVATION GROUP	10
<u>ELECTRICS/HEDGEWORKS/CLEANING/BEAUTY/ESTATE PLANNING /FILM</u>	3	TTRO - 5TH MAY - LETCOMBE/CHILDREY (SURFACE DRESSING)	11
LADDERADS/ART WEEKS/ CARER/TREEWORKS/ SKIP HIRE /WINDOWS	4	NATURE RESERVE	12
<u>200 CLUB APPLICATION LETTER</u>	5	<u>TENNIS CLUB / BOOK BUFFS / GREYHOUND NEWS</u>	13
<u>200 CLUB APPLICATION LETTER CONT.</u>	6	<u>CRICKET CLUB</u> - FIXTURES & INFORMATION	14
<u>FILM CLUB / WANTED - CORRUGATED IRON / FOOTBALL CLUB</u>	7	<u>RG&VH / PIZZA AT THE PAVILION / FAMILY TREASURE HUNT</u>	15
GARDENING CLUB - TOPICAL TIPS AND PLANT MARKET	8	<u>CRICKET CLUB / SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB /GREYHOUND INN</u>	16
ST ANDREW'S / WI / PATCHWORK & QUILTING	9	<u>WASTE CALENDAR / VILLAGE CONTACTS</u>	17



Message from the Parish Council

Photo by Mike Price

As I pen this the weather continues to be exceptional for the time of year and I hope you are managing to enjoy the sunshine and longer days. Please be mindful however that the rates of Covid-19 are continuing to rise, so be sure to take the necessary steps to keep yourselves safe.

There has been much concern for those affected by the terrible events in the Ukraine, and a number of initiatives have been set up in and around Wantage to offer emergency support with supplies of clothing, blankets and medication being collected. For the latest on these and other nationwide initiatives please see the Wantage Facebook page or check the Vale of the White Horse Website. The requirements are changing regularly and this is the best way to ensure you can help contribute to the immediate needs. You can also donate money to the Disasters Emergency Committee at www.dec.org.uk, or indeed there are many other Charities to support including the Red Cross, Save the Children, Salvation Army, among others. Details on how you can offer support to individuals or families in your homes are continuing to be refined and the latest information can be found on the Government Website at <https://homesforukraine.campaign.gov.uk/>.

At its latest meeting the Parish Council agreed that the format for the next meeting, to be held on Monday 16 May, would be face to face in the village hall, but with the option of joining by Zoom. This meeting is our Annual Parish Meeting and we hope that you will be able to attend. The usual measures of face masks and distancing will continue to be applied. If you wish to attend it would be helpful if you could advise the Parish Clerk so that we can properly accommodate the numbers. As usual the meeting will start at 7.30pm and be followed by the Annual Parish Council Meeting.

In previous editions of the Register you will have seen the proposed event to mark the Platinum Jubilee, and I can now confirm that the celebrations will start on Thursday 2 June, 1.30-4.30pm with a Village Cream Tea, with music provided by the Hendred Ukulele Group. This event is hosted by the Parish Council and is free to the village but we would welcome any donations for Ukraine from those wishing to contribute. Many villagers have stepped forward with offers of help, but if you can bake a cake or help with the actual running of the event please contact the Parish Clerk, or telephone me on 772900. There are proposals for games to be arranged for the younger village residents and we hope that this will be confirmed by the next register. On the same evening there will be the ceremonial lighting of a Beacon on the Ridgeway at Segsbury Camp and we are grateful to the Good family for allowing this to take place. Please come and join with your village neighbours and friends on this special occasion. Further events over the remainder of the Platinum Weekend are also being planned and more detail will follow in the May Register. We hope to see you there.

Now that the majority of the work has been completed on the Parish Council Burial Ground improvements the Parish Council is keen to revisit the guidance which sets out the requirement for keeping the Burial Ground in good condition for all to enjoy. Sadly lately there has been an increase in the number of plastic flowers etc being cleared into the compost bin and this means that further sorting needs to take place before the green waste can be recycled. If you do remove any plastic flowers or memorials please do not place these with the green waste, please take them away with you. As a reminder the accepted number of memorials is one, so again please be mindful of this. Thank you.

You will have seen signs around the village advertising the Daffodil Day Tea on Saturday 2 April, which will be held in the Church between 2 and 5pm. This is a new event so please come along and support it, and enjoy a delicious slice of cake and tea in the wonderful surroundings of our special Church. There will be plants for sale, and of course wonderful walks around the village.

Finally the Parish Council would like to wish you all a Happy Easter, with, we hope, a continuation of the wonderful sunny weather. Please continue to stay safe.

Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Parish Council.

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LETCOMBE FILM CLUB

**Letcombe Regis Village Hall,
Wednesday 13th April**

**Tickets £5 Doors open 7.30pm
Film starts at 8.00 pm**

Refreshments on sale - Wine, Beer and Tea/Coffee



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COMPUTER PROBLEMS? CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?

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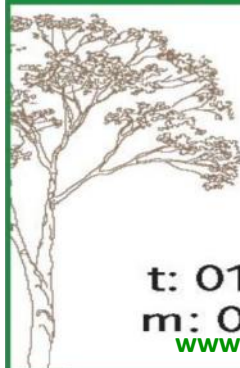
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Oxfordshire Art Weeks – Venue 222
14 – 22 May 2022, 10-6

FIRED

Ceramic & glass exhibition

Invited local artists and OxArts students

- Discover more about clay with Oxford Archaeology
- Clay & pottery supply stall by Bluematchbox
- Hands-on clay and glass taster sessions
- Outdoor firing demos
- Refreshments

The Cobb, Muster Point, Featherbed Lane, East Hendred, OX12 8JF
www.oxfordshirearts.co.uk for further information

LETCOMBE REGIS RECREATION GROUND AND VILLAGE HALL

'200 Club'

24th Season – commences April 2022

The Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Management Trust '200 Club' is about to enter its 24th year. The 200 Club is a key means by which the Trust raises funds for investment in and maintenance of the Recreation Ground and Village Hall. Some £95,000 has been raised over the past 23 years. About £45,000 of this has been won in prizes and £50,000 passed to the Recreation Ground and Village Hall Management Trust. Money raised in this way constitutes important 'locally raised' funds, evidence of which is essential for many competitive grant applications.

For those who haven't yet participated in the scheme, the Club sells numbers, each costing £24 per year. Approximately half the money received goes to supporting the Village Hall and Recreation Ground. The other half of the money is given out in prizes – typically five per month ranging from £5 to £50 with a top prize of £100 at Christmas. In addition there are two other monthly draws, details of which are given below. The amount of money available for prizes depends, of course, on how many numbers are sold. The Letcombe Register contains a list of the winners each month. During the 23rd Season, 240 numbers were sold raising £5,761 of which £2,735 was given out in prize money. Since 2017, the money received has been ring fenced for improvements to the Children's Play Area, and in 2022 £3,000 was added to this fund.

As happened last year, it would be preferable if you could make a Bank Transfer payment into the Barclays Bank account with the below details:

Account Name: **Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall**
Sort Code: **20-84-58**
Account No: **93353486**
Reference: ***Your name/surname***

Payment can still be made by cheque or cash directly to Ian Taylor, if you are unable to pay by Bank Transfer. Cheques to be made out to "**Letcombe Regis Village Hall**"

If you have received the letter via email/electronically, then if possible, please complete and return the slip below. Alternatively, contact Ian Taylor who can provide a slip to be filled out, or can fill it out on your behalf. You will then receive a receipt and confirmation of your number(s). Note you can purchase as many numbers as you wish and you don't have to live in Letcombe Regis to become a member. Anyone joining part way through the season simply pays for the remaining months.

If you'd like further information, please contact:

Ian Taylor, 200 Club Treasurer, Tara, Warborough Road, Letcombe Regis. Tel: 764677

Christmas Draw

The December draw will have the normal monthly prizes. In addition to the £100 prize in the main draw, there will be a £50 prize in the Special Draw and a £25 prize in the New Numbers draw. All the special prizes will be **limited to those who pay the full £24 to join for the whole season.**

Special Draw

Prizes will be given every month for those who did not win in the 2021-22 season. You must, of course, have bought a number for the whole of the 2021-22 season.

'New numbers' Draw

If you have not been a member of the 200 Club previously, or if you buy an additional number, you qualify for the 'new numbers' draw. This is also limited to those who pay the full £24 for the whole season.

Note. If a winner has left the area and cannot be traced, the money will be regarded as a donation to the 200 Club funds at the end of the season.

Please either print off the below slip, fill it out and return it to Ian Taylor, or ask for a slip to be filled out on your behalf if you have paid, or plan to pay via online banking.



Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall '200 Club'

Please allocate me/us _____ numbers in the '200 Club' (April 2022 – March 2023)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Tel No: _____ email: _____

I enclose £ _____ (**£24** per number)

Account Name: **Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall**

Sort Code: **20-84-58**

Account No: **93353486**

Reference: **Your name/surname**

Payment Method - please indicate your method of payment [ONLINE / CASH / CHEQUE]

Cheques to be made out to "Letcombe Regis Village Hall", not to the 200 Club

Return ASAP to Ian Taylor, 200 Club Treasurer, Tara, Warborough Road, Letcombe Regis

For Treasurer's use only:

Thank you for supporting the 200 Club in its 24th season (April 2022 – March 2023).

Your numbers are:

ONLINE / CASH / CHEQUE





Film Club

April Film: Knives Out (12)

Weds 13 April

After a feel good romantic drama for our March film we are changing the tone for this month with **'Knives Out'**, a 'who-done-it' murder mystery film. Released in 2019 it was hugely popular with both critics and audiences, taking its place in the top 10 films that year.

With a very strong ensemble cast including Daniel Craig, not in his familiar role as 007 MI6 spy but as Detective Benoit Blanc who is called in to investigate the death of a family patriarch played by Christopher Plummer in what was his last ever film role. Other cast members include Chris Evans (better known as Captain America in the Marvel films), Toni Colette who we saw recently in Dream Horse, and a great newcomer Ana de Armas, who subsequently appeared with Daniel Craig in his last Bond film, No Time to Die.

This is a clever and entertaining film about the complicated relationships in a wealthy, dysfunctional family. There is already a sequel in development, which is a sign of a popular film. Hope you can come along to enjoy it.

Film starts at 8pm; doors open at 7.30pm. Refreshments available. Entrance £5.

Next film:

Weds May 11 - Dark Waters

WANTED
corrugated iron sheets.
I am looking for 3 or 4 sheets
approximately 1.80 m long.
Neil 01235 769624



Letcombe Football Club

The last month has been a disappointing one for the football club, with four defeats and one draw from five matches. We narrowly lost 3-2 at home to Shrivenham development before losing another home game 3-1 against title chasing Kintbury Rangers. We drew 1-1 at Clanfield development, where we conceded a goal in the last few minutes, and then lost 4-1 away to Swindon Supermarine development who are second in the league. Our most recent match saw us lose 4-0 at home to Hungerford Town Swifts.

Remaining fixtures this season are :

Sat	26 th March	Letcombe	v	Cricklade	3.00
Sat	2 nd	Cricklade	v	Letcombe	3.00
Sat	9 th	Highworth Town reserves	v	Letcombe	3.00
Wed	13 th	Letcombe	v	Procision Oxford (cup @Faringdon)	6.30
Sat	16 th	Letcombe	v	Faringdon Town	3.00
Mon	18 th	Fairford Town reserves	v	Letcombe	3.00
Sat	23 rd	Wantage Town Development	v	Letcombe	3.00



Photo by Mike Price

Issue 200

Letcombes Gardening Club

Topical Tips

Spring is definitely here! While I am writing this the daytime temperatures are wonderfully balmy and lulling us into rather a false sense of security as at night they are plummeting way down. Don't be tempted to clear your greenhouse of the tender plants just yet!

You can lift and divide any perennials that have grown too large or lost their shape. You will generate new plants in the process as well by doing this. It will also give you the opportunity to remove any perennial weeds like couch grass from amongst the clumps.

Finally you may want to put supports in place before perennials get too large. Criss-crossing string between posts works quite well for this.

You need to start getting on top of those weeds now before they take over. Have a general clean up of the borders as you may also have some plants that didn't survive the winter. Think of this as an opportunity to try something new!

You can continue to plant deciduous trees, shrubs and climbers and, towards the end of the month, evergreen shrubs.

You should give trees and shrubs a feed with a general purpose fertilizer and don't forget to feed your roses as they come into growth.

It's not too late to cut back your late summer and autumn flowering clematis if you have forgotten to do it.

You can also prune fig trees and also lavender. Make sure you make your cuts above fresh growth when pruning lavender. It won't re-generate from old wood.

If you have a pond then you can divide marginal and bog garden plants now. Make sure you contain vigorous plants in aquatic baskets.

If you suffer from algal bloom on your pond then you need to provide some shade. You can do this by growing a water lily in the pond.

Now over to fruit and veg. April is another bumper 'seed sowing' month. However proceed with caution here. We can still get some frosty nights. Remember. The veg patch will always catch up but you'll never regain the time you've lost or the expensive seed you've wasted!

Continue planting seed potatoes and finish planting out onion sets. You can sow beetroot, carrots, parsnips, lettuce, spinach, spring onions, kohlrabi, radish, turnips, early peas and Swiss chard in situ. You can also think about sowing your runner beans, sweetcorn, courgettes and squash under glass although you do still have plenty of time for this so don't get panicky if we reach the end of April and you still haven't done it.

As the days get longer and warmer I could think of lots more things to keep you out there but I think that's enough to be going on with so just get outside and enjoy!

Gardening Club

This month we have our big event of the year - The Plant Market. This will take place on Saturday 23 April from 2pm to 4.30pm in Letcombe Regis Village Hall. Entry is free. There will be plants aplenty, gardening bric a brac, plenty of gardening advice and, most importantly, tea and cakes. Do come along and bring all your friends and family even if you only have a window box as you may find something you like and even if you don't you can sample the lovely cakes!



Issue 200

St Andrew's

April is nearly always an important month in the life of the church as it frequently coincides with the end of the forty days of Lent and the sorrow of Good Friday leading to the joy of Easter Sunday. This is the day on which we celebrate God's victory over sin and death. When Jesus rose again it was God's way of showing that He cannot be defeated.

This April in St Andrew's we have news that is both sad for us and the whole Benefice and joyful for our curate the Rev Andrea Colbrook. We have been blessed with the presence of Andrea for nearly three years but she will be leaving us in June. She has been appointed Rector of Ducklington and Hardwick Benefice near Witney. We wish her and all her family well for this new and exciting stage in Andrea's life in the church, but we shall miss her enormously.

There are other special days in April too. St George's Day and Shakespeare's birthday on 23rd and the Queen's 96th birthday on 21st. St George is not only the patron saint of England but of over twenty countries round the world. It seems appropriate that England's patron saint shares a day with our greatest poet and playwright. This year we should specially remember the Queen on her birthday in the year of her Platinum Jubilee, a unique event.

As I write primroses are creating a beautiful carpet on the grass in the churchyard and the daffodils promise a wonderful display around the church and throughout the village, ready for our Daffodil Day on 2nd April. Tea and home-made cakes will be available in the church from 2 till 5 pm. The money raised will be shared between the Church and the WI.

There will be services of Holy Communion at 10.00 am in St Andrew's on Palm Sunday (10th April) and on Easter Sunday (17th April). There will also be said Evensong every Monday at 3 pm. Prayer Group in the church is also on Mondays at 10.30 am but there will be **no** meeting of the group on Easter Monday (18th April). Details of all these services and those in the rest of the Ridgeway Benefice will be in the April edition of Signpost.

We thank the Lord for his blessings and wish everyone an Easter full of joy and peace, particularly bearing in mind the people of Ukraine.

Women's Institute

Our April meeting is on the **first** Monday in April, not the second. Don't miss it! Ken and June Brazier will be coming to tell us about Mercy Ships, and some of the things they have done to raise funds for this very worthwhile charity. Mercy Ships sends hospital ships to offer free health care and surgery to patients in the poorest parts of the world. This should be an inspirational talk. Visitors very welcome.



And don't forget our Daffodil Day on April 2. Enjoy a pleasant stroll round the village, and then drop in for tea at St Andrew's. Let's hope it's fine!

Patchwork & Quilting

5th - 9th April

King Alfred's Patchwork & quilting group Exhibition QUILTS ARE NOT JUST FOR BEDS
Vale and Downland Museum Free entry, sales table and raffle in aid of The October Club.





The Letcombes Conservation Group

Cowslips at Letcombe Castle

Spring has arrived in splendour and many signs of its glory are all around the village. During the 'lockdowns' it was refreshing to concentrate on the natural beauty in our surroundings and the same is true during the current global events. At Letcombe Castle the glorious display of cowslips, whose name may derive from cowpat as they were thought to grow in or near these, will be in flower this month, and in the churchyard many delights await such as the purple and pink chequered Snake's-head fritillaries and the Pasqueflower.



Whether or not Snake's-head fritillaries are a native species is debated but, whatever the origin, the nodding blooms have been adopted as the county flower of Oxfordshire. The purple Pasqueflower with a bright yellow centre is now rare on undisturbed, chalk grassland; in 2021 one came into bloom near the church gate on Easter morning living up to its name

which derives from 'paschal' meaning 'of Easter'.

Friday, 22nd April has been designated 'Earth Day' with the theme *Invest in our planet*. The day relates to everyone's involvement, *'Because a green future is a prosperous future. We need to act (boldly), innovate (broadly), and implement (equitably). It's going to take all of us... Businesses, governments, and citizens - everyone accounted for, and everyone accountable. A partnership for the planet.'* See [Earth Day 2022 | Invest in Our Planet™](#) for more details. The same call for all sections of society in the UK to move to greater action and investment in nature was endorsed by *Nature Positive 2030*, a joint report published in September 2021 by the UK's five statutory nature agencies (Natural England, Natural Resources Wales, NatureScot, Northern Ireland Environment Agency and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee). The report recommends embracing natural solutions to reverse biodiversity decline by 2030 and to ensure that nature's recovery plays a critical role in the path to Net Zero. The report sets out nine changes that can be delivered rapidly by national and local governments, landowners, businesses and others that will have particularly high impacts this decade. These range from ensuring wildlife thrives within protected areas on land and at sea and that wildlife habitats are better conserved outside protected areas, especially where integral to nature networks, to investing in habitat restoration and creation to strengthen nature networks that deliver for biodiversity and climate change. Outcomes for nature need to be integrated in development plans on land and at sea whilst tackling atmospheric and water pollution and developing the market for green finance. Developing the UK's evidence of nature-based solutions for climate change mitigation will support transformative changes underway and aid adoption of 'nature positive' targets.

Currently the UK is not on track to become 'nature positive' by 2030, however the aim is achievable. The report stresses the need to establish wildlife habitat on land-holdings and gardens, ensuring nature is enhanced through supply chains, and using the power in our wallets to choose nature-friendly options in what we buy. Read the report including a number of case studies from throughout the UK that demonstrate the ways in which nature recovery is already being achieved at [Nature Positive 2030 | JNCC - Adviser to Government on Nature Conservation](#). As Professor Colin Galbraith, Joint Nature Conservation Committee Chairman, states *'...everyone can play a part in future, helping to achieve a nature positive world by 2030, every contribution counts!'*

On this aspect, the BBC Ideas platform contains a series of 32 very varied, short videos featuring challenging ideas on climate change and sustainability. These are well worth viewing by any adult or child and include the title *What if everyone in the world planted a tree* at [What if everyone in the world planted a tree? - BBC Ideas](#). Do have a look.



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, that the Oxfordshire County Council

TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS THE USE OF AND WAITING ON THE HIGHWAY BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES

- LOCATION:** Letcombe Regis / Childrey, B4507
- REASON:** To facilitate surface dressing works
- DURATION:** Starting on 05 May 2022
The anticipated completion date is 06 May 2022 (date included). This will operate 05:00 to 20:00 (Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days.)
- ACCESS:** Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works

The "No Waiting" restriction means that wherever there are in place yellow "No Waiting" cones, you will not be able to park vehicles on the highway.

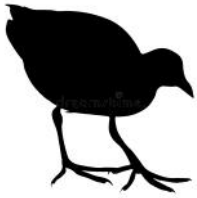
SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: via B4507, Ham Road, A417, A420, Majors Road, Longcot Road, High Street, B4000, Station Road, B4000, B4507 and vice versa

Paul Fermer
Paul Fermer, Assistant Director of Environment and Place

Date: 08 March 2022

Drawing No.	Revision	0												
Key														
	Road Closure													
	Proposed diversion route													
<p>SAFETY, HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION</p> <p>IN ADDITION TO THE HAZARD RISKS NORMALLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE TYPES OF WORK SET OUT IN THIS DRAWING, NOTE THE FOLLOWING SIGNIFICANT HAZARD RISKS</p> <p>CONSTRUCTION (ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)</p> <p>MAINTENANCE/DEMOLITION (ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)</p> <p>USE (ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)</p> <p>DECOMMISSIONING/DEMOLITION (ENTER NONE IF APPLICABLE)</p> <p>© Crown Copyright and Database rights 10003343 2016</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Rev.</th> <th>Date</th> <th>Purpose of revision</th> <th>Drawn</th> <th>Checked</th> <th>Approved</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> <td> </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>			Rev.	Date	Purpose of revision	Drawn	Checked	Approved						
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<p>Chris McElroy Deputy Director - Commercial Development and Economy Oxfordshire County Council County Hall New Road Oxford OX1 1BE Tel: 01865 210 1111</p>														
<p>Project title SURFACE DRESSING 2020/23 SITE 13. B4507 CHILDREY TO WANTAGE</p>														
<p>Drawing title DIVERSION ROUTE</p>														
<p>Drawing Status</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Scale @ A3</th> <th>Drawn by</th> <th>LA</th> <th>Checked by</th> <th>Approved by</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>N.T.S</td> <td>Date drawn</td> <td>05.10.2021</td> <td>Date checked</td> <td>Date approved</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Oxfordshire Project No. 8 File Ref</p>			Scale @ A3	Drawn by	LA	Checked by	Approved by	N.T.S	Date drawn	05.10.2021	Date checked	Date approved		
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N.T.S	Date drawn	05.10.2021	Date checked	Date approved										
Drawing No.	Revision	0												





Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Sometimes the familiar is overlooked in a search of something more unusual, but even wildlife that is widespread and resident all year round can be fascinating. On the Reserve lakes and the Letcombe Brook the moorhens have been busy pairing up to breed. The ritual begins with the male swimming towards the female with its bill dipped in the water, and eventually the two birds nibble at each other's feathers. Both birds build the nest out of dead vegetation and twigs placed amongst floating plants, or on the ground adjacent to water, and will defend it ferociously, photo credit: Charles J. Sharp (CC BY-SA 3.0). Not all the eggs in the nest will be from the same female as moorhens have a strange habit of putting their eggs in the nest of others. This is actually a survival strategy used to increase egg viability. Unfortunately, it's not always possible to tell which egg is from an intruder, so rather than risk her own brood, the recipient female accepts the new egg. During the breeding season, quite a lot of pair-swapping goes on too. However, moorhens are a species, like Long-tailed tits, which breed co-operatively meaning that the older chicks help the adult birds to rear subsequent offspring bringing them food and protecting them against predators in a family-centric model.



Distinguishing a moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) from the slightly bigger wading bird, the coot (*Fulica atra*) is sometimes tricky, unless you remember the 'r' is for the moorhen's red bill with a yellow tip; there is no 'r' in coot.



Moorhens also have blackish-brown backs, separated by a white line from the blue-black body, photo credit: Alexis Lours (CC BY 4.0). The white patches under the tail are also distinctive, as are the yellow legs if they are visible. Moorhens appear to have a nervous twitch constantly flicking their white tail feathers which signals to any predator that the bird is awake, vigilant and ready to flee from attack. The more exposed a moorhen feels, the more rapidly it flicks. Even the orange-red bill with a bright yellow tip serves a purpose as health indicators. The red seems to be related to low levels of bacterial infection, and the yellow to blood parameters such as resistance to infection. The brighter the colours, the healthier the bird and hence more attractive as a mate. Coots are

almost entirely black in plumage, but they have a rather dirty-white bill and a neater white shield over the forehead, photo credit: Geni (CC BY-SA 4.0). Moorhens spend more time out of the water than coots and even climb trees. They are omnivores, eating everything from snails and insects to small fish and berries, whilst coots dive to eat waterweed and algae. When disturbed, moorhens usually take cover in nearby vegetation; flight is a short and laboured process. Classified in the UK as Amber under the Birds of Conservation Concern Red List (2021) their average lifespan is around three years. They are protected in the UK under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981.



Other wildlife to watch for in the Reserve this month include Large Red Damselflies (*Pyrhosoma nymphula*) around the pond. These are the earliest damselflies to emerge in the UK flying until late summer, and are one of our most common species, photo credit: [Quarti](#) (CC BY-SA 3). Signs of water vole activity may be more visible as they start to breed this month. Look out for burrow entrances in the bank, often with a nibbled 'lawn' of grass around the entrance, and piles of nibbled grass and stems showing a distinctive 45° angled-cut at the ends by the water's edge, or 'latrines' of rounded droppings. Sadly, since Kenneth Grahame wrote about Ratty and his friends in *The Wind in the Willows* in 1908, the UK has become one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world which is why the Reserve is so important for wildlife, as well as for the community.



The next work party at the Community Nature Reserve is on Saturday, 16th April from 13:30 to 16:30. Please meet near the lake notice board by 13:20 for the tasks and safety briefing. Tools will be provided, and refreshments mid-afternoon, but please take your own work gloves.

Village Treasure Hunt

Village Family Treasure Hunt

Sunday 24th of April 2022

Starts @ 12:30am followed by a BBQ lunch at the Pavilion

Any Family and / or friends are invited to a, **Letcombe Regis village walking Treasure Hunt**, + spot the tennis balls.

Collect treasure map from the Sports Pavilion between 12:30 & 1:30, for a one hour walking hunt around Letcombe Regis, returning to the Sports Pavilion for Drinks, BBQ lunch and [prizes](#).

To take part, please either: - ring Geoff on **762680** or text **T H** to **07772518938** or email [Tennis Club](#).

Entry £2 per team

Junior Open Singles Tournament

For Boys and Girls 11 to 16.

Fun event, OPEN to all Abilities, with handicap allowances

Saturday the 2nd of April 2022

Drinks and snacks provided 2:00 to 4 pm

All players will play for 20 minutes against each other and the 2 players who have won the most games will play a final.

Email letcombetennisclub@gmail.com or phone Geoff on 762680 to take part.

Membership Fees now due

Fees, again frozen at:-

Family £90

Adult £45

Junior £20

Child £10

Giving, 12 months unlimited use of our 2 all weather courts.

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 should have been auto-contacted.

Book Buffs



The next meeting will be held in the Greyhound at 8pm on Wednesday 6th April. We shall be reviewing 'A Street Cat Named Bob' by James Bowe and 'Landmark in Time' by Peter Adamson.

The new library book is 'Light Shining in the Forest' by Paul Torday, the alternative being any novel by Anne Tyler.



The Greyhound Inn

The Greyhound Inn is delighted and proud to be have awarded **Pub of the Year 2022** by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA White Horse Branch) and has secured a place in the 2023 Good Beer Guide. Our thanks go to the whole front of house team, but especially our very own Greyhound Guru Jinks, whom many of you know and who has been selecting and ordering all our real ales since we opened over 6 years ago. Congratulations to the team!



Letcombe Cricket Club - fixtures 2022

We are looking for teams to play Sunday friendlies, so please get in contact if you are interested.

We would also be delighted if you wanted to come along and play, or just join as a Social Member.

Sports Pavilion
Bassett Road, Letcombe Regis
01235 767785 <http://letcombecc.co.uk>

Sunday XI - Friendlies

Saturday XI Cherwell League Division 7C

May

Sat 7th	1.00pm	Kingston Bagpuize II	Away
Sat 14th	1.00pm	Didcot III	Home
Sat 21st	1.00pm	Chalgrove	Away
Sat 28th	1.00pm	Wooton & Boars Hill II	Away

June

Sat 4th	1.00pm	Golden Sparrows	Home
Sat 11th	1.00pm	Challow & Childrey III	Away
Sun 12th	1.00pm	TBC (Cup)	Home
Sat 18th	1.00pm	Bampton	Home
Sat 25th	1.00pm	Harwell International	Away

July

Sat 2nd	1.00pm	Oxford III	Home
Sat 9th	1.00pm	Kingston Bagpuize II	Home
Sat 16th	1.00pm	Didcot III	Away
Sat 23rd	1.00pm	Chalgrove	Home
Sat 31st	1.00pm	Wooton & Boars Hill II	Home

August

Sat 6th	1.00pm	Golden Sparrows	Away
Sat 13th	1.00pm	Challow & Childrey III	Home
Sat 20th	1.00pm	Bampton	Away
Sat 27th	1.00pm	Harwell International	Home

September

Sat 3rd	1.00pm	Oxford III	Away
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Wednesday XI Serious Cricket Downs League Div 2 North

May

Wed 4th	6.00pm	Sutton Courtenay	Home
Wed 11th	6.00pm	Steventon	Away
Wed 19th	6.00pm	Wantage	Home
Wed 25th	6.00pm	East & West Hendred	Home

June

Wed 1st	6.00pm	West Ilsley	Away
Wed 8th	6.00pm	Steventon	Home
Wed 15th	6.00pm	Sutton Courtenay	Away
Wed 22nd	6.00pm	East & West Hendred	Away
Wed 29th	6.00pm	West Ilsley	Home

July

Wed 6th	6.00pm	Wantage	Home
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April

Sun 24th	1.30pm	Holton & Wheatley	Home
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May

Sun 1st	1.30pm	Challow & Childrey	Away
Sun 8th	2.00pm	Hanney	Home
Sun 15th	1.30pm	Welford Park	Home
Sun 22nd	2.00pm	TBC	
Sun 29th	1.30pm	Cumnor	Away

June

Sun 5th	2.00pm	Bladon	Away
Sun 12th	2.00pm	Wantage	Away
Sun 19th	2.00pm	Nomads	Home
Sun 27th	2.00pm	TBC	

July

Sun 3rd	1.30pm	Strokemakers	Home
Sun 10th	2.00pm	East & West Hendred	Away
Sun 17th	2.00pm	The Bell Inn, Aldworth	Away
Sun 24th	2.00pm	Peasemore	Away
Sun 31st	2.00pm	Bladon	Home

August

Sun 7th	2.00pm	Gully Cricketers	Home
Sun 14th	2.00pm	TBC	
Sun 21st	2.00pm	Kingston Bagpuize	Away
Sun 28th		No Game	

September

Sun 4th	11.00am	President's v Chairman's XI	Home
Sun 11th	1.00pm	Oxon CC SS	Home
Sun 18th	1.00pm	TBC	

Officers

President	Paul Bryan
Chairman	Jake Wagg
Secretary	Richard Taylor: 07901 711117 letcombecricketclub@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jake Wagg

Captains

Saturday XI	Jerry May: 07714 033651 Alex Simms (Vice)
Sunday XI	Neil Hall: 07807 991332 or 01367 242933
Wednesday XI	Bobby Jones: 01235 768182
Committee	Officers and Captains plus Tony Stock, Danny Taylor
Fixture Secretary	Neil Hall

Any doubt over matches contact the relevant Captain or the Club on 01235 767785



Issue 200

Village Hall & Recreation Ground

Bookings for the Village Hall have kept Claire our coordinator very busy over the past couple of months. As a reminder to villagers, please ensure you check the online Village Hall calendar for availability and book early to avoid disappointment.

The plans for the Children's Playground improvements are progressing with a couple of contractors having been contacted with a view to quoting for new equipment and improvements to existing equipment, as well as replacing the fence.

We are also considering what we can do for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations at the beginning of June. There will be a barbeque at the Sports Pavilion, and possibly some fun games for the children. More details will be published nearer the time. We will look to coordinate with other groups who are also planning events over the extended bank holiday weekend.

We have agreed a regular maintenance schedule for the Village Hall surroundings to ensure the area is kept tidy and doesn't become overgrown. Thanks go to the Parish Council who have helped organise getting the schedule in place.

If anyone has any questions about the running of the Village Hall, or the Recreation Ground then please contact me - details in The Register.

Richard Taylor
Chairman, Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust

DELICIOUS WOOD FIRED
PIZZA
AT THE PAVILION

ALL
WELCOME
BAR OPEN FROM 4PM

LOCAL ALES
LOVELY PATIO
AREA

IN FINE SPIRITS
pizza menu
and order details will
be available on:
[Facebook.com/infinespirit](https://www.facebook.com/infinespirit)
or call 07789 722138

PLEASE **PRE-ORDER**
YOUR PIZZA ON
THURSDAY

DATE: **FRIDAY 1st APRIL**
TIME: 4.00pm - 8.30pm
AT: Letcombe Regis Sports and Social Club

IN FINE SPIRITS
Retro VW Mobile Bar
& Street Food

We will be taking orders from Thursday between 10am to 3pm. If we are unable to answer (or outside of these hours) please text and we will get back to you. We will be offering slots for collection every 15 minutes to ensure social distancing can happen safely - please let us know your preferred time when calling. Please also advise us of any allergies. Payment will be taken securely over the phone at the time of order to allow for a contactless collection. Telephone 07789722138 or visit www.facebook.com/infinespirit

Letcombe
TENNIS CLUB

Village Family Treasure Hunt

Sunday 24th of April

**Starts @ 12:30pm from Pavilion
followed by a BBQ & Buffet.**

Collect treasure map from the Sports Pavilion between 12:30 & 1:30, for a one hour walking hunt around Letcombe Regis.

To take part, please either:- **ring Geoff on 762680 or text T H to 07772518938 or reply to this [email](#)** Letcombe tennis.

Entry £2 per team



Letcombe Cricket Club

Cricket returns in April for the 2022 season, with matches on Sundays, Saturdays and Wednesdays throughout the summer until September. We hope the season will be successful and enjoyable both on and off the pitch. The first match is on Sunday 24th April, at home to Horton and Wheatley. A full fixture list is published in The Register (page 14), and can also be found on the Sports & Social Club Website here - <http://letcombesportsclub.org.uk/>, together with other events and opening times.

Sunday matches are friendly matches, with the emphasis on trying to make sure everyone gets involved in the game. Saturday matches are in the Cherwell Cricket League, where Letcombe play in Division 7C. Wednesday evening matches, which start at 6pm are in the "Serious Cricket Downs League", Division 2 North. This year the Division includes other local teams, Wantage, West Ilsley, Hendred, Steventon and Sutton Courtenay, who we will play home and away.

Letcombe are always on the lookout for new members - both playing and non-playing. If you are interested in knowing more, then please contact the Secretary - letcombecricketclub@gmail.com.

Richard
Secretary, Letcombe Cricket Club

*Pavilion sporting Blue & yellow LED
lights for Ukraine*



Letcombe Sports and Social Club

The nicer weather has encouraged a few more of our members and their guests to visit the Sports & Social Club. We are very much looking forward to warmer days and summer evenings when the Clubhouse, patio and other facilities can be fully enjoyed.

As some of you would have seen via the Village Facebook pages, we have "Pizza at the Pavilion" returning on **Friday 1st April** - and that's no joke! We have a regular schedule booked in, subsequent dates are Friday 6th May, Saturday 11th June, Friday 1st July, Friday 5th August and Friday 2nd September.

The S&SC Darts "A" Team had a league deciding match against Challow Royal British Legion last week, which they narrowly lost. They will still get promoted, but as runners-up rather than champions. I know they will be trying even harder to go one better next time. The "B" Team had a really enjoyable Winter Season as well, and are looking forward to the Summer Season starting in a couple of weeks. If anyone is interested in "throwing a few arrows", then please contact the Secretary on letcombesportsclub@gmail.com.

An early reminder that Social Club memberships will be due on the 1st June. The annual fee will be decided at the AGM, but I expect it is highly likely it will stay at the current rate of just £12 for 12 months membership. Note that anyone who is a paid up member of the Cricket, Football, Darts or Tennis Clubs has membership of the Sports & Social Club included. If you want details on Membership, then please contact the Secretary.

We are hoping to hold another "Open Mic Night" again. The one last December was very popular, and thoroughly enjoyed by all who attended. When a date is organised, then details will be published on the Village Facebook page, as well as emailed out to Members.

Richard
Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club

THE GREYHOUND INN

LETCOMBE REGIS · OXFORDSHIRE

Book early for Easter weekend!
Extended opening hours: April 15th-18th



Lunch for Less

2 courses £20 3 courses £24

Available every weekday lunchtime

Every Wednesday evening

The Midweek Fix

2 delicious courses for only £20

www.thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk

email: info@thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk

Tel:01235 771969

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

Deadline for inclusion is the 27th of each month.

Items will generally appear in the order they were received

TO RECEIVE YOUR EMAIL PDF COPY OF THE LETCOMBE REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT LIZ JENKINS, THE PARISH CLERK:

LETREGISPC@GMAIL.COM

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

Past Registers are available to view, along with much more information, on the Village Website: www.letcomberegispc.org

April Waste Calendar Click [Here](#) for new 2022/23 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 Change	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	
Grey Landfill Food waste			Green recycling Food waste Brown Garden Waste			