

The Letcombe Register



Issue 180

August 2020

Calendar

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10 	11	12 Tennis Coaching	13	14	15 Tennis Coaching	16
17 	18	19 Tennis Coaching	20 Photo Club Deadline	21	22 Tennis Coaching	23
24 	25	26 Tennis Coaching	27 Register Deadline	28	29 Tennis Coaching	30
31 Late Summer Bank Holiday						

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The Register is also available to view, along with much more information, on the village Website: www.letcomberegisp.org

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY ON THE VILLAGE EMAIL LIST AND WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE, NOT JUST THE REGISTER, BUT ALSO UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES, DELIVERED DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK: LETREGISPC@GMAIL.COM

To submit items contact: Register@Oldstableyard.co.uk



Message from the Parish Council

Thank you all for continuing to keep our Parish Covid-19 free. There has been no need to continue to issue the weekly Bulletin over the past few weeks as the information flow has lessened, but the links to all Government, and other advice remain on the Parish Council web site. Should the need arise we will start to re-issue the Bulletin again.

The inappropriate discarding of PPE, gloves masks and the like, is beginning to hit the national headlines. If you see any items around the village, DO NOT PICK THEM UP, inform the Parish Clerk who will advise the waste collection team. Double bag PPE waste if you have signs of Covid-19, wait for 72 hours and then place it inside the bin liner in your grey bin. Provided you do not show any signs of Covid-19 you can place inside the bin liner in the grey bin. The District Council ask that you either keep PPE on until you get home and can dispose of it safely or if removed ensure that you do not drop it but please take it home and dispose of as above.

The Parish Council held its latest meeting on 20 July via Zoom, and apart from the variable internet connection, the platform worked well. You are all welcome to join the PC meetings, simply advise the Parish Clerk who will send you the joining instructions. Returning to the subject of internet speed the PC heard a presentation from Airband, a fibre optic provider, who have confirmed that Letcombe Regis, along with Letcombe Bassett, is able to be offered to potential for 5g at infinitely better speeds than we currently experience. Direct information from them will soon be with every household. The decision to connect remains with you, but it may be well worth considering.

As we return to a less locked down world we are getting the work to the Parish Council Burial Ground extension and improvements back on track. We will shortly be awarding the contract, having received four quotes from interested parties. The costs will be met in part by Section 106 funding and from reserves built up by the Parish Council.

As I write this there are many signs advising of road closures around the village. This will enable necessary repairs and improvements. The details have previously been included in two editions of the Register and we would ask that you follow the diversions. We apologise for any temporary inconvenience. Hopefully the benefits will outweigh the temporary issues caused, and will leave our roads in a better state to face the winter months.

In the light of the past 5 months the Parish Council Cobra Team will be reviewing the existing Village Emergency Plan to be sure it remains fit for purpose. Please be reassured that, should we face another critical period in the future, we will have all the measures in place to support you.

Even in these quieter times the
letcomberegis.virussupport@btinternet.com and the

emergency phone number, 772900 remain live if you need help.

Importantly the Vale of the White Horse has launched, on the 16 July, an online consultation to inform its future Council Priorities. Details of the consultation can be found at (<https://survey.southandvale.gov.uk/s/Valecorporateplanfeedback/?m=12345abcde>) and you can see a video of councillors talking about the main themes in the Corporate Plan here (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iI0j1IFmYHQ&feature=youtu.be>).

The closing date is Thursday 13 August. Be sure to make your views known.

The temporary closure of Wantage Hospital remains a concern for the Parish Council and, following an update from Julie Maberley at our recent meeting, it was agreed that a letter should be sent to the Secretary of State, from potentially all the PC's and other effected bodies in our area, expressing the view that due process has not been followed.

There has been a recent approach by the Letcombe Regis Football Club seeking support for the installation of floodlights. It was agreed that a whole village consultation would be the best way forward and Cllr Batchelor is leading on this. To protect our residents a non paper based process is being explored.

Elsewhere in the Register you will find details of the extended support that the Vale is now offering for the vulnerable and disabled to enable them to continue to live independently. Grants have increased from £30k to £50K and have been made available for people living with dementia.

Finally we hope that you will all be able to take some time over the summer to enjoy the weather and reconnect with friends and family.

Please continue to stay safe.

Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Parish Council.

Book Swap

The books for swapping had to be removed from the church porch due the church reopening with deep cleaning undertaken. Currently they are stored in my garage and are available to be taken on appointment arranged by emailing:

letcomberegis.virussupport@btinternet.com

This will only be available until the end of August after which the books will be donated to local charity shops.

Many thanks to all who contributed and enjoyed a change from their usual fare.

Loretta Light

Greater support to help people live independently

Extract from South and Vale Communications District council update – Wednesday 22 July

We have made it easier for people with disabilities, or who are vulnerable, to receive housing assistance grants and loans. This support is to help make their homes safer and more comfortable, to support them to live independently and to reduce hospital admissions.

While we've always provided a grants and loans service for vulnerable people to help their homes better suit their needs, our new Housing Assistance Grants and Loans policy has extended what's on offer.

The maximum grant available has increased from £30,000 to £50,000 and a grant is also now available for people living with dementia. In addition, we are working to improve the service in order to reduce the waiting times for work to be carried out.

The first step for anybody who wants to apply for a Disabled Facilities Grant is to contact an Occupational Therapist to see if they're eligible. For more information on applying for grants and loans please see our South and Vale dedicated website page.

Airband Fibre Optic Cabling



In response to a Government project to initially support rural businesses, Airband won a contract to provide fibre optic cabling in a number of rural areas. The cabling allows far faster internet speeds and potentially the next generation of mobile networking known as 5G. Currently the cabling will be installed along Warborough Road only and the Parish Council have been in discussion with Airband about extending it to all residential properties in the village.

The company needs to make its business case to the Government for each area and will require a minimum number of households to sign up to the scheme. The installation process is for the infrastructure alone and uses fibre optic cabling throughout the system to the router in any house which subscribes. Airband will be writing to each household in July giving details of the process and service costings. All installation charges will be met by Airband. Their web site is <https://www.airband.co.uk/> where further details can be found.



Message from David Johnston, MP

The most exciting news since my last update is Grove station being put on a list of rail projects to be assessed for Government funding, part of the Beeching Reversal Fund commitment made in the Conservative manifesto. It does not mean that we will be successful this time round as there are 50 other projects on the list, but I have been plugging away with ministers since I was elected and will keep doing so until we are successful!

I have enjoyed being able to visit local shops, pubs and other businesses in Faringdon, Wallingford, Didcot, Wantage and elsewhere across the constituency as they reopen. Of course, some businesses didn't close and were grateful to the local community for the support they showed during lockdown – some have told me that products they never sold in normal times suddenly flew off the shelves! I have also

In preparing to speak in the Business and Planning Bill – which lets pubs, bars and restaurants seat and serve us outside more easily – I discovered we have 85 pubs across the constituency, making Wantage and Didcot joint 7th out of 650 constituencies for the highest number of pubs. We have a huge range and they are at the heart of our towns and villages – do please support them and our shops and other businesses whenever you can.

In parliament it has been a busy time as we head towards recess. I was put on my first bill committee, in which you scrutinise legislation line by line, for the Trade Bill. The Trade Bill is designed to create continuity agreements for us with the countries we have been trading with through the EU, from South Africa to South Korea and it will also create a new Trade Remedies Authority to recommend action if UK producers are subjected to unfair practices. I was pleased to be a co-sponsor of the Local Electricity Bill, a 10-minute rule bill that would allow local communities to sell the electricity they generate themselves, as at the moment the costs are prohibitive.

After the recent unauthorised traveller encampments we had at Great Western Park and in the Ladygrove area, I raised the issues of anti-social behaviour that constituents experienced in both the House of Commons and with the Home Secretary, Priti Patel. I'm assured that measures that will enable these to be dealt with more quickly will be coming forward soon.

During recess, I will be trying to visit as many businesses, charities, individuals and other places of interest as I can, beginning with those that I was not able to visit due to lockdown. If you have a suggestion of somewhere you'd like to see me visit, do let me know via

david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

200 Club results

200 Club Draw — No 4		July 2020
80	John CASTLE	£50
34	Doreen LEVY	£25
36	Bridget BENN	£15
82	Christine BIRCH	£10
153	Pamela CHARLTON	£5

Special Draw:

115	Sophie HORRIDGE	£25
132	Giles FITZPATRICK	£20
209	Louise HENRY	£10
142	Yvette & Alistair STANDRING	£10
213	David GOODCHILD	£10
108	Shirley TAYLOR	£10
75	Dorothy & Brian HARRAWAY	£10

New Numbers draw:

226	Peter COLLINS	£5
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200 Club Draw — No 5		August 2020
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228	Dorothy MAUNDRELL	£50
117	Michael GILLIBRAND	£25
212	Noel TAYLOR	£15
49	Anne WILLIAMS	£10
92	Alan & Beryl DOMAN	£5

Special Draw:

106	Val CLURE	£25
193	Dominic LAMB	£20
127	Angela BAILEY-MYERS	£10
201	Jayne MATTHEWS	£10
172	Theo RABIN	£10
210	Rory HENRY	£10
208	Jane CABLE-ALEXANDER	£10

New Numbers draw:

9	Shirley SMITH	£5
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Wanted - a good home

This three piece suite covered in Sanderson fabric is available free to anyone who would like to pick it up.

If you are interested contact

azurite@tiscali.co.uk



August Waste Calendar

August 2020

Mon	Tue	We	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*	Recycling moved to Tuesday 2 Sep					

Green Recycling
Brown Garden

Grey Landfill

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

Gabi's Cleaning Service



If you need help to keep Your house tidy please don't hesitate to ring Gabi

References are available

Cleaning
Ironing
Carpet Cleaning

07771391209/ 07917192554

Gabipapp@icloud.com

Whatsapp/
Viber/
Messenger

Registered Dietitian
Liane Reeves, BSc (Hons) Nutrition, MSc Allergy
HPCP registered, MBDA

Expert personalised dietary advice for adults and children.
Consultations held at Wantage Osteopathic Practice, 1
Church St. Wantage. To discuss how dietary advice can help
you and to arrange an appointment: Tel: 07947 053396
Email: info@reevesdiets.co.uk www.reevesdiets.co.uk

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
Charles Rowe Tel: (01235) 766000 anytime
Email: ccrowe@waitrose.com

Clare Mowforth

Personal Trainer - Pre & Postnatal Exercise Classes
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Engage, Restore, Transform
clare@coreprogress.co.uk 07732 036 072
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Hazel Lee Painter & Decorator

Interior & Exterior. Fully Insured
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No job too small Mob: 07866 509683
hazel.lee78@hotmail.co.uk

Personal Assistant/Carer

DBS checked/insured
Teaching/Management background.
Five years as an Activity Organiser
in residential homes
For help or support please call 07968983673

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
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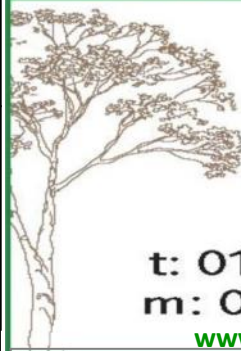
Toms Topaz Den

An independent consultant for The Body Shop At Home
offering the full Body Shop Range at a unique price.
Based in Letcombe Regis offering free delivery on all orders
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TopazDen>
tomsutherland92@gmail.com 07747535917

The Barn Tea Rooms, Court Hill Centre

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Part P



Nature's Colours - a selection of villager's images



Blue Lupins, busy bees - Karen Angela Ash



Garden chafer - Jane Watters



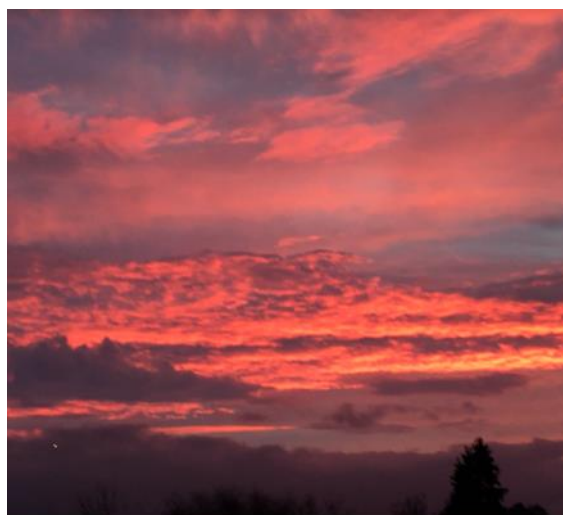
The Bee - Tracy Ingham



Look Back in Pleasure - Di Smith



Pollinators' Paradise - Kristine Hitchcock



Warborough Sunset - Mike Light



Peacock Butterfly - Ann Batchelor



Letcombe Football Club

The football club have been training throughout July whilst adhering to Government guidelines on social distancing. Clubs have now been given permission to arrange friendly fixtures from 1st August, and the indication from the Football Association is that league football will start in September. The first team will again play in Division Two West of the Hellenic League, whilst the reserves have been promoted to Division Two of the North Berks League.



One-month free coaching pass.

Tennis remains one of the few sports available to all and NOW, ***Coaching Has Returned***, with a fantastic offer to provide villagers with essential fun exercise.

The free pass gives you a full month to try tennis or exercise classes at no cost. If you decide it isn't for you – no problem. No commitment. Cancel at any time during your free month.

We'll also auto upgrade your Coaching Plan to a Coaching Plan+, giving your free access to holiday camps and competitions.

Visit our Junior and Adult pages to register today click [Adult & Junior coaching](#) or ring **0800 888 6030**. Run by LTA level 3 accredited coaches, provide by the National Tennis Association.

Courses are:-

Saturdays

9am to 10 am Adult Cardio Fitness and Coaching class
10am Red Ball 5 to 7 year olds
11am Orange / Green Ball 8 to 11 years old
12pm Yellow Ball Juniors 11 +
1pm Yellow Ball plus Juniors 14 - 18
2:45 pm Red Ball 5 to 7 year olds
3:45 pm Adult all ability Fitness & Coaching

Wednesdays

10am to 11 am Adult Cardio and Stroke clinic class
11 am Red Ball 5 to 7 year olds
12 am Orange / Green Ball 8 to 11 years old

Membership Fees

Join now at these reduced fees for unlimited access to the courts any time any day up to next **April 2021** -

Family £90 Now just £75

Adult £45 Now just £38

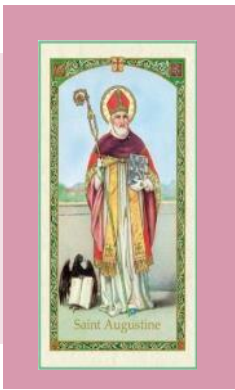
Junior £20 Now just £17

Child £10 Now just £8.50

Once joined you will receive a gate code, then click [LetcombeTennisClub](#)

Register with your email etc and start getting on court just for a family FUN knock up or to beat the neighbours. We are the most popular local club so join up and meet sporty friendly local villagers.

Every Sunday morning one of our committee will be at the courts from 10am to 1 pm to meet and knock up with you, so please come along while the weather is so fantastic, to play a friendly game, find out more or just knock a ball about (please bring your own racket and balls).



St Augustine

What saint could be more appropriate for August than St Augustine? And for this month, two saints called Augustine.

St Augustine of Hippo is one of Christianity's greatest philosophers and theologians but also a man who knew strong temptation and succumbed to it, and an aspect of his life that makes this great intellect

and saint real to many. He was born in the year 354 in what is now Algeria, of the Berber tribe by descent, but a citizen of the Roman Empire when it extended all around the Mediterranean. Brought up as a Christian his intelligence and studies in Carthage (Tunisia) and in Italy led him into various different beliefs in his early life.

As a student at Carthage he led a riotous life, starting a relationship with a woman that lasted for over 15 years and producing a son, Adeodatus – Gift from God. Despite his extra-curricular activities he was a brilliant and deeply enquiring student, pondering, amongst many other topics, on the evil in humans. Perhaps it is from this time comes one of his most famous quotations: 'Lord make me pure, but not yet!' Several years after the relationship ended he was convinced he had been called to the priesthood, eventually becoming Bishop of Hippo, the town now known as Annaba in Algeria.

His books, particularly 'Confessions' and 'City of God' are in print, widely read and studied today. His influence on Christianity and philosophy are profound and still with us, not bad for influence stretching over 1600 years since his death in 430, on 28th August – his feast day in the Christian calendar.

St Augustine of Canterbury:

Over recent issues of the Register the saints mentioned have usually had a direct connection with this country, which would



be converted to Christianity?

be a stretch too far for Augustine of Hippo. The Augustine we now know as Augustine of Canterbury was born around 100 years after the death of his namesake. During that time the western Roman empire had collapsed, the legions had left Britain, Angles and Saxons had invaded and settled, but Christianity had been wiped out by the invaders except for parts of Scotland and Ireland – the Celtic church. How could the new inhabitants

It is said that Pope Gregory saw some fair-haired boy slaves for sale in Rome, asked from what people they came, and was told they were Angles. He replied 'Non Angli sed Angeli' – not Angles but Angels – going on to say that like angels they should sing praise to God. To make that happen he sent Augustine, at the time leading a quiet life as head of a Benedictine monastery in Rome, to take a group of his monks, go to England and start converting the pagan Anglo-Saxons. It's a long and dangerous journey on foot from Rome but Augustine and Gregory knew that the king of Kent, Ethelbert, had recently married Bertha, daughter of the king of Paris, a Christian who could probably exert some influence on her husband. And Ethelbert was the dominant king in England.

Augustine and his party landed in Kent in 597 and went straight to Ethelbert's main town of Canterbury. They were allowed to preach freely and at Christmas 597 huge number were baptised. Augustine was given land just outside the Canterbury city walls to build a monastery and was consecrated as the first Bishop of Canterbury. The rest, as they say, is history - and a long line stretching from then to the current Archbishop Welby.

Two august Augustines for August!

St Andrew's Notes

"O sing unto the LORD a new song: sing unto the LORD, all the earth. Sing unto the LORD, bless his name; shew forth his salvation from day to day." Psalm 96.



Although churches are beginning to open up for worship, there is unlikely to be any singing in them for some time. Present government guidance recommends that singing be avoided for fear of spreading microdroplets. Interestingly, experiments are currently taking place involving the choir of Salisbury Cathedral to establish how far singers are "transmission vectors" for viruses such as Covid-19.

In the absence of normal services at St Andrew's, many people across the Benefice are finding that the weekly Zoom service provides a sense of worshipping together. If you would like further details, do contact either

- Rector Revd Leonora: revd.lahill@btinternet.com (01235 760112),
- or Curate Revd Andrea revd.acolbrook@gmail.com (01367 820553).

If you would prefer to sit quietly in church for private prayer, a reminder that St Andrew's is open every Monday from 9:30 to 5pm. The church has been carefully prepared to make it safe, with some pews roped off and hand sanitiser provided. Inside, by the pulpit, there is currently a display on the theme of Jesus Calming the Storm: something to reflect on in this time of global crisis when a tsunami of fear threatens to overwhelm us. Details of when the other churches in the benefice are open can be found on a notice on the church door and also in *Signpost*, the benefice newsletter which is displayed in the church porch and on the village notice board.

Outside, in the churchyard, there is a prayer trail which may encourage you to pause and take time to reflect. Professor Ian Bradley, professor of cultural and spiritual history at the university of St Andrew's, has been writing about the importance of hymns, and has said that, as one of the most popular hymns *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind* reminds us, it is in the still small voice of calm that God speaks to us.



Issue 180

Gardening Club - Topical Tips

August heralds the end of summer and what a strange summer it has been! With all of us much more restricted than normal we've been able to spend more time in our gardens but with it has come the frustration of not being able to visit other gardens for respite and ideas.

If you're still not getting out and about much then there are plenty of jobs you can be getting on with in your own garden.

This month you need to start cutting back the foliage of any herbaceous perennials that have died back. Not only will this help to tidy the borders, but it will make way for those glorious autumn flowering perennials that will shortly be coming into their own.

Keep deadheading dahlias and roses to prolong the flowering season.

If you like propagation then have a go at some of the tender perennials such as pelargoniums and salvias. This will give the small plants ample time to develop a root system before the colder weather comes. You can also still lift and divide bearded irises. This not only increases your stock but also rejuvenates the plants.

Moving to shrubs and trees, August is the time to summer-prune your wisteria. You can also have a go at rambling roses when they have finished flowering.

If it continues to remain fairly dry, then keep checking for any drought stressed shrubs, particularly newly planted ones, and give them some water.

If your roses are developing blackspot then remember that spraying will no longer be effective so your best bet is to remove all the suspect leaves and burn them to try and prevent it from spreading. Mildew can also be a problem and the most effective preventative treatment for this is to keep the plant well watered.

Now I'm not much of a 'lawn person' but I'll just throw in a couple of things for free! If your soil is quite thin then give your lawn a feed with a high phosphate feed. This will strengthen the roots for winter rather than encouraging lush top growth that will suffer in the cold. Don't water your lawn unless absolutely necessary. Have faith. It will green up when the autumn rains arrive!

On the fruit and veg front there are still a few crops you could sow now such as Chinese cabbage, savoy cabbage and, unbelievably, lettuce. Lettuce can be surprisingly hardy if you protect it with a cloche or in the greenhouse. You can also sow late spinach.

August is a time for "pinching out". If you pinch out your runner bean plants when they reach the top of the canes this will encourage bushy growth lower down. You should also pinch out the tops of your tomato plants to cause the plant's energy to be diverted from foliage to fruit.

It is now the last chance for summer pruning of fruit trees so make sure you don't miss this. Also make sure the bases of your fruit trees are kept weed free to reduce competition.

Well that's all for now so get out into your garden and enjoy the last of the summer!

Photographic Club invitation for August



The Letcombe Photographic Club would like to invite Letcombe photographers to submit images for display in the Register. Of those submitted, the club will select a small number to be published each month.

The deadline for submission is the 20th of August and the subject for September is:

'The Architecture of Letcombe'

Please send your images (max 2 per resident) as an attachment to 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 August photos be found on page 6



The Letcombes Conservation Group

Yew trees are distinctive features of churchyards, often planted near the church door and at the lynch-gate funeral entrance to a churchyard, and St. Andrew's is no exception having two fine specimens. The yews might be very old judging by their girths, though not as ancient as those confirmed to be some of the oldest trees in England, possibly planted as symbolic elements at Druid sacred sites by as long ago as 1,000 BC. The link between Druid sites and some early Christian churches is thought to have perpetuated the holy association, some yews dating from the time of the original Christian consecrations of the Saxon and Norman churchyards in which they stand. Yew wood, especially when the trunk is freshly cut, symbolised the blood and body of Christ with red heartwood and white sapwood whilst regeneration of an old tree, by sending down shoots to take root in a crevice near the base creating multiple trunks and new life, was symbolic of Christian Resurrection. Yews planted near hermitage cells of early saints were thought to ward off evil spirits. More pragmatic suggestions propose that yews in churchyards ensured only the King's men procured the best wood for longbows and prevented commoners from grazing their domestic livestock in churchyards since the needles, bark and seeds are deadly. King Edward I (reign 1272-1307) is credited with ordering yews to be planted in churchyards to protect churches from gale damage.



For many years the yew tree near St Andrew's south porch has supported the growth of a cluster of beautiful mushrooms, so small most people will not have seen them. *Geastrum*, commonly called 'earthstars', are each formed of a round cone sitting above a 5-6 pointed star. Earthstars spend most of the year as a network of mycelia that penetrate the soil, digesting decaying organic material. When ready to reproduce, the mycelium develops a fruiting body or 'earthstar' above ground between July and September. The cone is the spore sac which, as it matures, changes inside into a mass of powdery spores and the outer layer splits into outward-turned segments creating the star shape. When rain hits the cone, the spores puff out from a pore at the top of the sac. This summer the yew also has



grown another more obvious associate, a bracket fungus called *Laetiporus sulphureus*, referred to as 'Sulphur surprise' or 'Chicken of the Woods' - guess why! This is the commoner of only two brackets that grow on yew. The layers of fanned brackets have very small pores on the striking lemon-yellow underside of each bracket; the upper side is often ridged and wrinkled and more orange-yellow in colour. With age, the fungus fades to a paler colour. A note of caution, yew is toxic to humans; associated fungi are not edible and should not be touched.



One Church of England clergyman wrote in 1656: 'Our forefathers were particularly careful in preserving churchyard yews which, by reason of their perpetual verdure, were emblematical...of the immortality of the soul'. As survivors from historical times, yews can be regarded as artefacts of conservation significance equal to that of other original parts of the church building and its setting. Do enjoy the rich biodiversity in the heart of the village.

Friends of Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

The Reserve is ablaze with the colours of high summer, in particular shades of mauve and purple attracting many longer tongued insects to thistles, knapweeds and scabious for nectar and pollen like this handsome Comma taken by Gillian Taylor.



The Big Butterfly Count continues until Sunday, 9 August this year; each count only takes 15 minutes and is a great wildlife activity for anyone including children. For details of how to get involved see the Butterfly Conservation website at <https://www.bigbutterflycount.org/> which also provides a free butterfly identification chart to download and record your observations of nineteen species or a free app for iOS and Android mobiles. Prime sites for observing butterflies are on the wildflowers in the Community Reserve and also around Segsbury Castle. Both localities offer wonderful walks in this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in the North Wessex Downs. Continued public access to part of Warborough Farm with the wildflower habitat maintained by Tony Good is much appreciated by many residents.

The popular annual Wildlife Discovery Event was cancelled this summer due to restrictions on numbers of people at gatherings, but hopefully some event may be possible in the Reserve this autumn to celebrate 10 years of management on this Community Reserve for wildlife and local residents and BBOWT's 60 years work in restoring habitats across the three counties. Special events rely on the willing volunteers who put in put in a tremendous amount of work prior to the event, as well as throughout the year. Michael Bailey's video at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ebcfo5mFEd8> compiled after the 2018 Wildlife Discovery Event gives a short glimpse of the work done by volunteers at the Community Reserve. Please email letcombevalley@gmail.com if you are interested in helping at a future event.



Cricket Club

With Covid-19 restrictions now eased, Cricket has been able to resume. The first Sunday match resulted in a defeat away at local rivals Challow & Childrey on Sunday 19th July. The first Saturday match was "washed out" on the 25th July.

The remaining planned fixtures are available on the Sports & Social Club Website Calendar - <http://letcombesports.ddns.net>, although these are obviously subject to the weather, and potential last minute changes.

Also on the Website are the planned opening hours of the Sports & Social Club Bar. This is open to members and their guests, but just be aware that as it is run entirely by volunteers, the hours of opening cannot be guaranteed. If you are interested in becoming a member, then please drop an email to letcombesportsclub@gmail.com, or pop in when it is open to ask.

Richard Taylor
Secretary, Letcombe Cricket Club

Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Recreation



The Hall reopened on the 6th July for users, although because of restrictions, we have not yet had any users back. We have done a Covid-19 risk assessment, and installed hand sanitising units and signs reminding users of their responsibilities whilst using the Hall. Many of the regular classes and users are now planning to start back in September, which although frustrating for us, does seem sensible while we watch what is happening in different parts of the Country, and indeed, the World.

Another item that has been brought to our attention is the Bonfire site, which resembles more of a rubbish tip than anything else. This is going to be levelled in the near future, and also the old area of nettles and thistles is going to be levelled as well, to make it a more usable and useful space.

I have another, sadly all-to-frequent, appeal to all the dog owners who use the Recreation ground. Please could you ensure that you do keep any eye on your dog(s), and do pick up. The issue has been raised to me again, and if it continues to be a problem, then we will have to explore what other options there are to keep the Recreation Ground "poo-free".

Cricket and Football are starting back gradually, which is good to see, and the Recreation Ground continues to be well used. I am delighted to say that the children's football coaching which started on the 10th July has grown in popularity, with ages ranging from 6 to 13 taking part and thoroughly enjoying it. Well done to the Football Club for doing this, and if you want to know more about it, then please contact me.

Alongside this you will see an advert for "Pizza at the Pavilion" on Friday 7th August. We hope the weather is kind, and urge you to have a look at the excellent Pizzas available and get your order in on Thursday 6th August.

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

THE GREYHOUND INN

LETCOMBE REGIS · OXFORDSHIRE



We will be open **every day** from August for breakfast, morning coffees, lunch, afternoon teas and dinner!
Please support us and call, email or book on-line to reserve your table

You can get a 50% discount*
on any food and
non-alcoholic drinks any time
Monday-Wednesday in August
* Max £10 per person per visit

www.thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk
email: info@thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk
Tel: 01235 771969

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PIZZA

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IN FINE SPIRITS
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PLEASE **PRE-ORDER**
YOUR PIZZA ON
THURSDAY

ALL
WELCOME

BAR OPEN
FROM 4PM



DATE: **FRIDAY 7 AUGUST**

TIME: 4.00pm - 8.30pm

AT: Letcombe Regis Sports and Social Club



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

Brainteasers

(with thanks to Iain McCoubrey)

What links:

A warning to detainees in the US

A memorable Hostelry

A brave new world

A large lady who had Clare Balding as her head girl?

Answer: Miranda

The "Miranda" warning - ordered by the US Supreme Court in *Miranda vs Arizona*

"Do you remember an inn, Miranda?" from *Tarantella* by Hillaire Belloc.

"Oh Brave New World that has such people in it" *The Tempest*, Act V, Scene 1 - *Miranda*.

Miranda Hart was at Downe House school with Clare Balding, who was at one point Head Girl.



Book Buffs Literature Quiz - July answers

(with thanks to Sue Hannon)

- | | |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Who does Mr Brownlow rescue? | 1. Oliver Twist |
| 2. Who wrote the book 'The Last of the Mohicans'? | 2. James Fenimore Cooper |
| 3. What is the name of the man servant in 'Around the World in 80 Days'? | 3. Jean Passepartout |
| 4. Who was Rowena's husband? | 4. Ivanhoe |
| 5. Which book begins with the line "I will begin the story of my adventures...." ? | 5. Kidnapped |
| 6. Uther Pendragon was which man's father? | 6. King Arthur |
| 7. At which railway station does one board the Hogwarts Express? | 7. King's Cross Station |
| 8. Totally Frank is which Frank's autobiography? | 8. Frank Lampard |
| 9. What were the cities in Dickens's 'A Tale of Two Cities'? | 9. London and Paris |
| 10. What was Samuel Langhorne Clemens pen name | 10. Mark Twain |
| 11. The Count of Monte Christo was in love with which woman? | 11. Mercedes |
| 12. Who wrote 'Finnegan's Wake'? | 12. James Joyce |

Wantage public Library was due to open on Monday 27 July with the usual social distancing and facemask wearing procedures in place - check opening times before making a special trip. You can access the site by clicking here - [Wantage Library](#)

Film Club

We are looking forward to bringing the 'big screen' back to Letcombe Regis in the Autumn. Given the ongoing Covid pandemic we are working with the Village Hall Trustees to make sure that when we do start again we have all the control measures in place to make it as safe as possible. More information in the September Register.

If you haven't already signed up to our mailing list just email:

letcombefilms@outlook.com.

Dingbats



1. Good for Nothing
 2. Cut above the rest
 3. Time on your hands

The Ridgeway Churches

Childrey: Kingston Lisle:
Letcombe Regis: Letcombe Bassett:
Sparsholt: West Challow



JULY &
AUGUST 2020



Revd Leonora Hill
Rector of the Ridgeway Benefice
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01235 760112

Revd Andrea Colbrook
Curate
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Beautiful painted stones from each of the Ridgeway Churches

~~~~~

God moves in mysterious ways....?

Would the conditions which have led to the current efforts to address racism and exclusion have come about if Covid-19 hadn't meant many have had time to observe, think, and perhaps to step outside our personal comfort zones and do something? Can lasting good come from what at first seems like continuing discord and suffering? So often the seeds of good outcomes are only germinated by the tears of troubles. These seedlings need continual nurturing.

We would all prefer not to have to struggle with the bad before we can reach better days, but our world isn't set up like that. Everywhere humans have differing ways to try and explain suffering. The Christian tradition of a God who showed his love for his creation through suffering Himself in the person of Jesus Christ on the cross is distinctive and for some, too counter-intuitive. But so too is the idea that true freedom and happiness can only really be established if we all try to put others first- and this may mean changing our personal life goals.

It is all so difficult; yet all around us in their own ways and carrying their own particular cultural baggage, relatives, friends and colleagues also strive with the same difficult choices. As the current crises will show, only by working together and aiming high will we improve matters.

Just a thought - what might have happened if Marie Antoinette's famous reply had been: 'Let's go and make the poor some soup'?

Rob Soames  
St Mary's Churchwarden

Dear Friends,

We have been discovering a lot during lockdown! Our 10:00am Holy Communion service via Zoom has been attracting on average thirty-six people a week. This is more than any of our usual Sunday services and a fact that has been repeated up and down the country; when we do return to some kind of normality we cannot assume that it is going to be "business as usual". So, for now, the risk assessments are done and our preparations to re-open the churches for private prayer are almost complete. The plan is to open each of the six churches within the Ridgeway Benefice on a set day of the week.

Prior to announcing the resumption of services, we need time to reflect on what we have learnt over the last few months and what better time to do that than the traditional holiday months of July and August. For the time being we will continue to gather via Zoom on a Sunday morning for Holy Communion with Morning/Evening Prayer continuing on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Whilst there are no plans to introduce outside services this summer, we are delighted that initial plans are going ahead to celebrate Education Sunday (13th September) at St Mary's Childrey.

We look forward to sharing further news with you in September.  
Blessings,  
Rector Leonora

Ridgeway Churches Open for Private Prayer

| Beginning                         |                                           |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 4 <sup>th</sup> July (Saturdays)  | St Mary's Childrey                        |
| 6 <sup>th</sup> July (Mondays)    | St Andrews, Letcombe Regis                |
| 7 <sup>th</sup> July (Tuesdays)   | St John the Baptist, Kingston Lisle       |
| 8 <sup>th</sup> July (Wednesdays) | St Laurence, West Challow                 |
| 9 <sup>th</sup> July (Thursdays)  | The Church of the Holy Rood, Sparsholt    |
| 10 <sup>th</sup> July (Fridays)   | St Michael & All Angels, Letcombe Bassett |

RESULTS OF THE JUNE CHALLENGE!!

The painted stones help us to celebrate God's wonderful world and thank Him that we are blessed to live in this beautiful area. For now, they will stay outside the church doors, so if you would like to add a stone, please do! Once our church services resume, we will take them inside the church and display them for everyone to see.

Thank you to everyone who participated in this month's challenge – there is a new one for July and August!

Larry the  
Lockdown  
Snake!



AN ENGLISH SUMMER'S DAY

What makes an English summer's day?  
A heart-shaped fruit so fresh and sweet,  
A clear blue sky and flowers gay.

The fragrant scent of new-mown hay  
The gentle breeze that waves the wheat.  
What makes an English summer's day?

Such glorious things, more could I say:  
A rippling stream to bathe tired feet,  
A clear blue sky and flowers gay.

Along the track I make my way  
Through woodland glade towards a seat.  
What makes an English summer's day?

The whispering leaves, the sun's last ray,  
The robin singing – what a treat!  
A clear blue sky and flowers gay.

Upon this springy moss I'll lay  
And listen to the young lambs' bleat.  
What makes an English summer's day?  
A clear blue sky and flowers gay.

Vilanelle by  
Mike Jones

JULY AND AUGUST  
SUMMER CHALLENGE



Lots of us have found that a few words of encouragement have helped us stay positive during recent months. We invite everyone, young and old and in-between, to share a poem, a quotation, a bible verse, an image, a photo or a painting – just something that gives you a boost when you need it. Feel free to write your own words, make your own painting or contribute something written or created by someone else. Just pop your contribution on a postcard or postcard-sized piece of card and pop it in the special 'post box' in your church where we shall quarantine it before putting it on display.

We loved looking at the amazing painted stones around our villages and look forward to seeing what comes out of our 'Summer Challenge'!



PS Have you ever wondered why Noah didn't swat those two mosquitoes?!!

Francesca Engelmann,  
2, The Old Stables,  
Letcombe Regis,  
[Register@Oldstableyard.co.uk](mailto:Register@Oldstableyard.co.uk)  
01235 769310

*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.*

## Village Hall

**Please note that we are taking bookings  
from the 6th July.**



Registered charity no: 1082500



We are guided by Government Guidelines and there are restrictions on what gatherings indoors are allowed. If you need any additional information please contact me.

We have kept all bookings in place for the time being, but feel free to email me with any queries. The office is being manned, as usual on a part-time basis only, and we will respond at the earliest opportunity, but this may take a day or two.

If you are emailing about Hall Availability, then please check the Hall Calendar here - <https://www.letcomberegishall.org/availability>, which should allow you to see when the Hall is busy/free.

Alternatively, you can call the Hall mobile phone on 07434 405074, but mobile phone signal in Letcombe isn't always reliable.