The Letcombe Register

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Issue 204

August 2022

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Collection Change 30		
Greyhound Inn Summer Garden Party & Music 12 - 4.30pm Mix in 6pm		

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* Events in the Diary depend on organisers keeping me up to date. They may require booking and are underlined if a link is available for an email address or website.

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Issue 204

Message from the Parish Council

t our recent Parish Council Meeting held on the 18 July we were pleased to have confirmation from County Councillor Yvonne Constance that the 20mph initiative, to be introduced throughout the village will be implemented in 2023 will be without cost to the Parish. Details have yet to be finalised but the Parish Council will have the opportunity to contribute to the approved plans.

Further work has been undertaken regarding the state of the roadside grips used to channel water from the roads, in preparation for any forthcoming storms. Some have already been recut and others are due to be reinstated. Thanks to Cllr Paul Batchelor and District Councillor Paul Barrow for their persistence in dealing with this issue.

Whilst on the subject of the roads, many of you will be aware that further Airband works have meant temporary traffic lights being used to control traffic flow in and out of the village. These failed over the weekend. On police advice the road was closed to traffic on Sunday for 6 hours necessitating myself, Cllr's Light and Batchelor to take on traffic management duties for the safety of road users, until Airband and the police finally arrived. It was revealing to face the abuse from a number of drivers and as advised by the Police these drivers have been reported. We are told that these works will be completed this week and normal traffic movement will be returned. Another skill for the CV!

Footpaths have been the topic of a recent meeting held with the authorities, and in particular the footpath from Letcombe Regis to Letcombe Bassett. Some areas were considered unsafe and immediate smaller repairs will be scheduled. Sadly whilst accepting more significant repairs are necessary, the County Council have indicated that these may take longer to complete due to budget constraints. The footpath from the nature reserve to the Bassett Road was also considered and ownership is to be clarified before a scheme for improvement can be worked up and costed. Thanks to Tom Griffin, a local resident, who raised this, and is offering to help resolve.

Further works are being undertaken to improve the Bassett Road Burial Ground, which will see the completion of the new access from the car park. However this is not yet complete so **please continue to use the original access from the Bassett Road.** Other improvements include the clearance and repositioning of the compost bins, a planting scheme for the entrance and the installation of benches. The planting scheme has had to be delayed due to the dry hot weather, but should be completed once the ground becomes less hard.

Finally please be aware that Covid rates remain high throughout the country so do continue to take steps to stay safe. If you do succumb and need any assistance please contact the Parish Clerk and the PC will look to providing or arranging help.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday 19 September, 8pm, and all are welcome to attend.

Enjoy the remainder of the Summer.

Jeanne Lapsley Chairman Letcombe Regis Parish Council.







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[Mention The Letcombe Register when you call]





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COMPUTER PROBLEMS? CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?

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200 Club Draw — No 5 August 2022							
200	200 Club Draw — No 5 August						
242	Stephanie WALMSLEY	£50					
162	Thérèse CLARKE	£25					
192	2 Guy & Jane ELLIS						
232	Ken TROTTER						
138	David & Judi WILDE						
Spec	Special Draw:						
202	Sheila REITER	£25					
22	Margaret STOCK	£20					
188	Tony PRIOR	£10					
176	Araminta LAPSLEY-MIKA	£10					
173	Stephen MIKA	£10					
216	Denley & Gill GWALCHMA	J £10					
84	Mike LIGHT	£10					
New	New Numbers Draw						
134	134 Jan OESCHGER						

Farewell

Jan Allsop wishes to take this opportunity to say goodbye, to all villagers who know me. friends and neighbours, those whom I did not manage to see, on my last visit to the village, on Tuesday 5th July.

Please give a warm welcome to the new owners of Littlecourt, Mr and Mrs. Fenner I am sure they will enjoy the village and all that it offers.

I leave you with very fond happy memories of life in Letcombe.

Thank you all , for your friendship.

Regards Jan Allsop.

Long Term Roadworks Mably Way-Denchworth Road Junction

Between the 4th July and 3rd September there will be multi-way traffic signals operating at peak periods at the Mably Way-Denchworth Road junction in order to bring the carriageway and footways up to a better standard following the new housing estates currently under construction.

Rise in the value of Domestic Heating Oil

Police have reported a rise in attempts to steal domestic heating oil from tanks and are offering the following advice.

- Install an alarm on your heating tank to alert you of a dip in your oil levels this can alert you from indoors or when you are out through your mobile. Make sure you display a sign above the tank to warn thieves that your tank is alarmed.
- Put gravel around your tank to make the area noisy so that it deters thieves & draws attention when any attempts are made.
- Try to hide the location of your tank through adding walls or putting plants around all concealments must comply with OFTEC fire safety recommendations please see here: <u>Oil Tank Installation - OFTEC</u> <u>Requirements - Direct Water Tanks</u>
- Lock up your tank with a good quality all-weather padlock & give the code to your fuel supplier for delivery access
- Install CCTV to monitor your tank & show a visible deterrent for thieves
- Install security lighting to brighten the area as many thieves strike in the darkness of night.



Letcombes Gardening Club

Topical Tips

ell, what can I say apart from "poor plants"! The excessive heat and drought we've been having has really taken its toll on the garden and the allotment and it's been a difficult job to keep everything watered and happy. August is usually reputed to be the hottest month so the advice is to try and use grey water if possible, especially if, like us, your water butts are almost running on empty.

You should be going around deadheading, as this will prolong flowering. If any perennials have gone way past their best and are looking really tatty then you can start cutting back the foliage.

You can still lift and divide iris if you didn't do this last month.

If you wish to increase your stock of tender perennials or create spares in case of winter 'deaths' then you need to get on with it this month. Pelargoniums are a prime example of this. You can also start collecting seed now for sowing later in the autumn.

If you get powdery mildew on some perennials, which is quite likely with these very dry conditions, then don't stress about it. It looks pretty ugly but it doesn't do any long-term harm to the plants and there's always next year!

Now lets move on to shrubs etc. August is the pruning month for wisteria I'm afraid! This can be a long job if you have a big healthy vigorous one, but it is a necessity if you want a good show of flowers next year.

You can also prune climbing and rambling roses now if they aren't repeat flowering and don't produce attractive hips.

You can give hedges a final trim over now, as they won't grow much more before cold weather sets in.

You may find your roses are looking a bit ropey due to black spot at this time of year. However there is no point in spraying now, just pick up and dispose of the fallen leaves to try and reduce the problem next year.

As far as fruit and veg are concerned then I suppose the big word is watering!

Hopefully you are harvesting lots of produce now. You can still sow lettuce and radish, as they should produce a crop before the colder weather sets in.

If you have any trained apples and pears (cordons, espaliers etc.) then you should be summer pruning this month to keep them in shape.

If you need to prune any stone fruit like plums and cherries then this month is definitely the last chance you have to do this.

Finally here's a little hint about tomatoes. If you are getting blossom end rot (black sunken patches) this is due to lack of calcium. Make sure you water regularly and don't allow them to completely dry out and this should help the calcium get to the plant.

Well that's all for now. I hope you enjoy your garden and remember to keep yourself hydrated while working outside as well as your plants!



The Letcombes Conservation Group

Perhaps you saw the media reports of animals at the Cotswold Wildlife Park, including lemurs, Humboldt penguins and giant tortoises, being treated to frozen smoothies made from their normal diet ingredients to help keep them cool in the July heatwave. As temperatures rise each year, the pressure on wildlife increases too, particularly with regard to access to water. Individuals can have an important impact on the health of the local wildlife at this time of year with some simple steps in gardens and outdoor spaces.

A bird bath, topped up daily with fresh water and kept clean, is a protection against dehydration, not just for birds but also for many insects. As natural sources are diminished, bird baths offer a vital resource for water and for birds to wash their feathers. A shallow tray or saucer of water on the ground performs a similar function for many different species of wildlife including hedgehogs. However, the idea that milk is good for hedgehogs is false and should not be followed. A pond, or even a small bowl of water, can provide a cooling off place for animals and the addition of

some stones to provide height within the water make water accessible even to pollinators such as insects and bees, (photo credit: Evelyn Simak CC BY-SA2.0). Even in warm weather, bees often become exhausted and may lie on the ground to recover. A shallow bowl of water and sugar solution will give them a boost of energy to aid their recovery for flight back to their hive. Do make sure there is a visible ramp in and out of any pond or bowl to ensure no animals get stuck. Unlike other insects, butterflies will normally survive the summer heat with sufficient sources of nectar. Flowers that produce high quantities of nectar, such as Buddleia,



Verbena and a host of wild flowers like Common knapweed, will help butterflies to thrive.

A bog garden might be preferable to a pond to avoid any risk to young children or pets. A number of lovely wild flowers may be planted around a bog garden, such as Common valerian, Purple loosestrife, Water avens and Water forget-me-nots. In Spring the mud is a source for swallow and house martin nests, as well as providing a habitat for frogs, toads and dragonflies if located somewhere at least partially shaded. The website for the organisation *Wild about gardens* gives a downloadable sheet of instructions on how to create a bog garden from a cheap plastic garden trug at WT-ACTIVITY-SHEET-BOG-GARDEN-RGB.jpg (3508×2480) (wildaboutgardens.org.uk).

Like humans, many animals will seek out shade during hot summer days to ensure they do not overheat. A pile of old tree branches, or some discarded clippings from shrubs will offer shelter from the sun to small animals. Dry ground becomes very hard and earthworms move deeper into the soil which reduces the number of worm tunnels



acting as a source of invertebrates for birds and other animals such as moles. In summer moles will eat a range of insects; those above ground during the day will usually be dispersing juveniles (photo credit: Mike E. Talbot CC BY-SA 3.0). High energy food such as nuts, fruit and seeds can be put out in containers during the day for a range of animals to supplement the limited natural food supply, or in bird feeders, but be careful not to attract the population of less welcome visitors, such as rats, by having food cast around on the ground.

During prolonged dry weather residents on the edge of the village may see badgers out during the day looking for food. Summer nights are short and hard-pressed badgers often emerge from their setts earlier to find enough food. Badger cubs are particularly affected by dry summers and many die of starvation. Unlike badgers, adult foxes will find plentiful rabbits and small rodents even in dry summers. Fox cubs, however, rely initially on easy-to-catch earthworms and invertebrates so their growth is greatly reduced in hot weather and they develop into smaller adults.

No garden will provide for all wildlife so think of yours as part of a network of natural spaces across which frogs and hedgehogs will move around. If there are some places under fences or through hedges which provide 'nature passages', animals will come and go to gain water, food and shelter.

Issue 204



St Andrew's

n Monday 4th July some of our congregation attended the Rev Andrea Colbrook's induction as Rector of Ducklington. It was a wonderful service and a great welcome to Andrea's new parish. Sadly her husband, Adrian, had covid and could not be at the service. But due to the wonders of modern technology those of us who were unable to go to Ducklington were able to watch on Zoom.

On 16th July, a hot and sunny day, Emma Snell and Nathan Payne were married at St Andrew's. As the congregation left the church the bells pealed out and, charmingly, the guests lined up on the pavement outside to throw rose petals over the bride and groom. On the previous Sunday at the Holy Communion service the banns were read for Georgia Dunmore and Caspar Lumley, who are to be married at St Andrew's on August 27th, when the bells will ring again. Incidentally the bells have recently had their annual inspection by Whites of Appleton. Whites is the oldest bell-hanging company in the country having been founded in 1824. One of the current partners, Brian White, is a descendant of the founder.

Continuing with our bell theme, they were rung on Sunday 24th July before Morning Prayer, led by Debbie Webb, to mark a very special occasion. This was the Platinum Wedding Anniversary of Gill and Tony Macdonald who were married on 26th July 1952. Tony and Gill are stalwarts of our congregation, Tony has served as Church Warden and they run the Prayer Group on Monday mornings. They were congratulated, given a bouquet of flowers, and the Richmond café was open after the service for us to have coffee with them both.

Looking well ahead. Saturday 10th September is Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust Ride and Stride day. This is an excellent way of raising funds for Oxfordshire churches and perhaps giving participants some exercise! You can walk, bicycle or use any form of transport that you prefer to visit churches – as many as you can manage. The trust makes grants to churches for everything from essential repairs, to projects to make the local church a building of use to the whole community, by installing up to date facilities. St Andrew's will be open all day and refreshments will be provided for the Riders and Striders. There is information about how to take part on the OHCT website – www.ohct.org.uk. More details will be available in the September Register.

There will be Holy Communion on Sunday 14th August and Morning Prayer on Sunday 28th August at St Andrew's. There will be <u>NO</u> Prayer Group or Evensong services during August. Prayer Group and Evensong will start again on Monday 5th September. All the Benefice service times can be found in The Signpost.

Film Club - Autumn Season dates for your diary.

We have chosen some the most enjoyable films released in the last 12 months for the Autumn season of Film Club. Put the dates in the diary and watch out for more details on each film in future issues of the Register.

Weds 14 September: The Duke (comedy drama)
Weds 12 October: Phantom of the Open (comedy)
Weds 9 November: Operation Mincemeat (drama)

Wed 14 December: Elvis (musical drama)

If you haven't joined our mailing list and would like to, just email us at <u>letcombefilms@outlook.com</u>. You can always give us ideas for films you think would be popular with ur audience.

Enjoy the holidays and see you In September. Anne, Barb and Eileen

Butterfly Conservation's COUNT Friends of the Letcombe Valley Conservation's COUNT Community Nature Reserve

Work parties continue in the Community Nature Reserve on Saturday, 20th August 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 too mid-afternoon, but please take your own work gloves.

The Chalkhill Blue butterfly is restricted to chalk grassland in southern England and in August large numbers of males may be seen, flying just above the vegetation, searching for females. They also congregate on animal dung and other sources of moisture and minerals. Females are much less obvious, being duller in colour and spending less time than the males in flight. The only food plant for the caterpillars is Horseshoe Vetch, *Hippocrepis comosa*, which is found on Hackpen Hill where these butterflies have been seen already. An attempt at introducing Horseshoe Vetch into the Community Reserve when work parties started did not succeed due to sheep grazing and overcrowding by grasses, but look out for plants that have established

naturally in more recent years. The emergence date of this butterfly and others has been shown to be strongly dependent on climate by researchers who compared the Natural History Museum butterfly collection records on date and location between 1880 and 1970 to the Central England Temperature historical record of daily readings which date back to 1772. Most studies cover just the last few decades, which coincides with a period of rapid climate warming when long-term effects of climate change could be obscured by short-term variability. However, the research using the Museum's collection spanning more than a century was able to take a





long-term perspective. Some of the spring

emerging butterflies appear to be most affected by temperature increases, such as the Orange-tip, (above photo credit: Quartl CC BY-SA 3.0), and the Green Hairstreak, (left photo credit: Charles J. Sharp CC BY-SA 4.0), which emerged as much as nine days earlier for every 1°C increase in temperatures between March and May. The Green Hairstreak caterpillars eat a wider variety of plants and have a stronger survival chance, whilst the Chalkhill Blue does not have this advantage and has declined in recent decades.

Adult butterflies generally do not have a problem in hot weather finding sufficient nectar and mates, dispersing to new areas and, most importantly, laying eggs. However, if plants wither due to drought, the lack the fresh green food plants means the caterpillars will starve and the next generation of butterflies, later this year or in 2023, will be much reduced. This effect was recorded after the long drought of 1976. Butterfly numbers were high in 1976 but numbers dived the following year. Wider countryside species encountered in gardens, parks and the farmed countryside, did not fully recover until 1984, while specialist butterflies that require particular habitats, such as chalk grassland, never recovered from the effect of the drought and the concurrent large-scale destruction of their habitat. Read more on this topic at Butterflies, heatwaves, and drought | Butterfly Conservation (butterfly-conservation.org) in an article by Dr Richard Fox, Head of Science at Butterfly Conservation.

So some rain would be very welcome to avoid drought conditions and consequently ensure the survival of the next generation of butterflies. The data recorded by participating in the Big Butterfly Count, ending on Sunday 7 August, will be used to assess the influence of this year's weather on butterfly populations. Take part at www.bigbutterflycount.org.

TTRO - 10/8/22 - 19/1/23



OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 - Section 14(1)

Notice of Temporary BOAT Closures West Challow / Letcombe Regis and Letcombe Bassett Date of Order: 1 August 2022 Coming into force: 10 August 2022

This Order continues in force a rights of way closure introduced because of remedial work to the surface of the 'byways open to all traffic' which are unsafe for continued public use; works will initially continue until 19 January 2023 and may be extended.

The effect of the Order is to close temporarily West Challow BOAT 10 (399/10), West Challow BOAT 13 (399/13), Letcombe Regis BOAT 3 (275/3) and Letcombe Bassett BOAT 6 (274/6). The right of way is locally known as Green Road and Shelley's Lane and runs east to west between Windmill Hill and Holborn Hill. Also BOAT running north to south between B4507 and Letcombe Regis village hell. Letcombe Regis village hall.

Exemptions are included for emergency services and for the works and for pedestrian access to premises which are only accessible from the closed section of bridleway

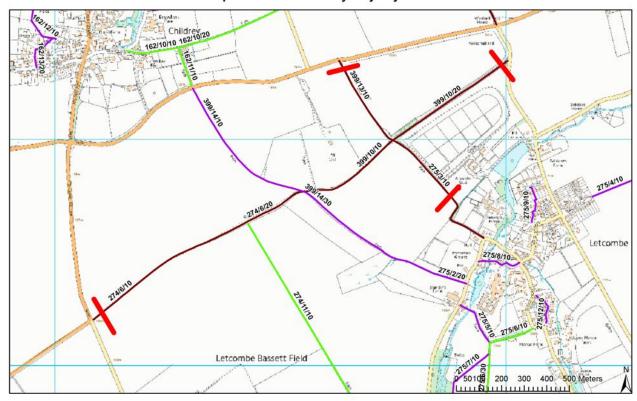
Appropriate traffic signs will be displayed to indicate when the measures are

There is no alternative public off road routes for those affected by the closure.

This Order will remain in force for a maximum period of 6 months or until the works have been completed whichever is the sooner

Traffic Regulations Team (Ref.T10663/AC) for the Director for Infrastructure Delivery, County Hall, Oxford OX1 1ND. 0345 310 1111.

This is not the Definitive Map. For reference only - Byways closed at locations marked in red.





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Date: 14/01/2020

Scale: 1:10,000



Book Buffs

The next meeting will be in the Greyhound at 8pm on Wednesday 3rd August. We shall be reviewing: 'Outline' by Rachel Cusk and 'The Man who Died Twice' by Richard Osman.

The new library book is: 'Americanah' by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, the alternative being: 'The Offing' by Benjamin Myers.

THE GREYHOUND INN

LETCOMBE REGIS · OXFORDSHIRE

SUMMER GARDEN PARTY BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY

29TH AUGUST

We are delighted to welcome the talented
Josh Mundell from Seattle, USA
via ChildreyFest '22 with his relaxing
style of vocals and acoustic guitar for
our afternoon live music session

EXTENDED OUTDOOR DINING 12-4:30pm LIVE MUSIC IN THE GARDEN 3-5:30pm GIN MENU and REAL ALES

www.thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk email: info@thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk

Tel:01235 771969



Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust

BBQ-INSPIRED MENU

The Trust is looking forward to a busy summer period as the popularity of the Village Hall and the Pavilion continues to rise.

A programme of maintenance and is underway to repair the underfloor heating before the colder weather stars, and steps are being taken to prevent water ingress on the large south facing window and doors. The Alarm will be serviced this month which we hope will stop the early morning alarms that have gone off recently. We are sorry for any inconvenience to neighbours who have may have been effected.

We are coming closer to being able to share with you the proposals for the Children's Playground refresh, and expect works to commence during the Autumn.

Finally if you are a user of the facilities, please can we gently remind you to ensure all waste is sorted to the correct bin as mistakes cost money, and these will have to be passed back to the user.

Our next meeting will be held on 6 September, 7.30pm and all are welcome to attend.

Mike Light and Jeanne Lapsley Joint Interim Chairmen.



Letcombe Sports and Social Club

The Sports & Social Club had a busy month in July with Cricket, Darts and Football all taking place.

We also had the Wimbledon Finals on TV in the Club as well, which was a most enjoyable afternoon, whomever you were cheering for.

Our next "Pizza at the Pavilion" event is fast approaching, on Friday 5th August. The usual process is in place, ordering the day before. A poster with details is below.

By the time you read this, the Sports and Social Club AGM would have taken place. As always, if you are interested in joining, or finding out more about the Sports and Social Club, then please contact the Secretary at "letcombesportsclub@gmail.com".

Events and Sporting Fixtures are on the website - https://letcombesportsclub.org.uk.

More details about the "in-house" darts tournament are available at the Club, so please drop by to put your name down on the list.

We also have good news about the beer "on tap". This had been fobbing and not as cold as it should have been. The issue has now been identified and fixed. There is now "ice-cold" Budweiser, Becks and Thatchers Gold available on tap, as well as our usual selection of canned and bottled drinks. If there is demand for it, then we will look to expand our range.

Richard Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club



Singing Workshop



Summer Singing Workshop with Lisa Doscher, all levels welcome!

Have fun, and learn natural voice techniques for singing with ease.

Saturday 6th August, Snells Hall, East Hendred 10am-4pm, £35

Lunch is BYO , morning and afternoon refreshments included.

Payment: PayPal or bank transfer

https://lisadoscher.com/choirs

Finalities Olies descharage views in the second of the seco

Email lisa@lisadoschermusic with any questions, or for transfer info.



Report from Thames Valley Police

We have recently seen an increase in reports of dog attacks. We would like to remind dog owners to take reasonable steps to keep your dog under control by considering the following:

- Consider keeping your dog on a lead in public places
- Ensure your dog is comfortable off a lead and will respond to your recall
- Use a muzzle if you are concerned about your dog in public
- Keep your dog on a lead when near livestock
- See advice from the local Vet Surgery if you have any concerns

It is your responsibility to ensure that your dog is under control at all times.

Your dog must be wearing a collar with an identity tag that has the owner's name and address on it - just a telephone number is not enough.

For more information on this issue and ways to report crime, please visit the Thames Valley Police website.



NEW Junior (18 and under) player offer

Register for a Saturday coaching session and get free weekly coaching on one of our 4 ability level sessions for the whole of August, plus a free Tennis Camp!

All run by our regular LTA accredited level 4 coach, Nick Barrow.

To take up this offer, click on <u>Junior Coaching offer</u> and use code SUMMER100 at checkout. Join with nothing to pay until September.

Junior Supervised Thursday Evenings

Now that school holidays are here we have blocked the courts especially for 18 and under to play every Thursday evening from 5 to 8 pm.

It is so important for Juniors to put into practice and combine all the individual skills they are being taught during coaching.

It will be a very informal affair, with an adult from the committee always present to supervise.

To get it started any Junior member can bring along up to 3 non-member friends for the 1st 4 weeks.

Please reply to this email mailto:letcombetennisclub@gmail.com if interested so we can ensure supervision.

Adult Outdoor Fitness Classes

Still a few spaces available on our Saturday morning Cardio session, run by a level 4 LTA accredited coach, using cardio exercises and tennis drills to get your heart rate up, while improving your ball hitting skills, all tailored to your individual fitness / ability.

This is a wonderful opportunity to get great out-door exercise and coaching, suitable for rusty players returning to tennis, total beginners or adults wanting some organised exercise.

Please POP along for a taster sessions any Saturday morning 9 to 10 am and ask for Nick.

Sunday morning& Wednesday evening Mix In

We now have a regular 4 or 5 + members attending our open club sessions at 10 am on Sunday morning and 6 pm on Wednesday evenings, so you will be guaranteed someone to play with, everyone is welcome to pop along for a gentle knock up or a random game.

Non members welcome drop in any time to try us out.

To enable you to check who will be there, we have a WhatsApp group, to be included please text your name and WERUP4IT to 07772518938.

LETCOMBE REGISTER

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

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

<u>LETREGISPC@GMAIL.COM</u>

(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

To <u>submit an article</u> 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

August	Click <u>Here</u> for 2022/23 waste calendar & changes					
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				
Food waste	Green recycling Food waste Brown Garden Waste			Grey Landfill Food waste		