



The Letcombe Register



Issue 184

December 2020

VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2 <i>Tennis Cardio 9am Coaching 10am</i> <i>Book Buffs 8pm Zoom - for code click here</i>	3	4	5 <i>Tennis Cardio & Coaching 9am</i>	6 <i>Tennis roll up 10am</i>
7  <i>Evening Prayer St Andrews BCP 3 pm</i> <i>Personal prayer 9.30am - 4pm</i>	8	9 <i>Tennis Cardio 9am Coaching 10am</i>	10	11	12 <i>Tennis Cardio & Coaching 9am</i>	13 <i>Zoom Christingle 4.pm to get code click here</i>
14  <i>Evening Prayer St Andrews BCP 3 pm.</i> <i>Personal prayer 9.30am - 4pm</i>	15	16 <i>Tennis Cardio 9am Coaching 10am</i>	17	18	19 <i>Tennis Cardio & Coaching 9am</i>	20 <i>Tennis roll up 10am</i>
21  <i>Pre-booked Carol Services at St Andrews 3.00 & 7.30 pm book here.</i>	22	23	24 <i>Zoom Nativity 4.pm to get code click here</i>	25 <i>Holy Communion 10.00 am St Andrew's Zoom service at 10am for code click here</i>	26	27 <i>Tennis roll up 10am</i>
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* Most Events shown in the Calendar must be booked in advance, and could, currently, be changed at short notice. Please check the details before attending.

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

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



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



Message from the Parish Council

At the end of a particularly challenging year the Parish Council extends its Best Wishes to you all for a Happy Christmas and a Healthy, Safe 2021.

We would also like to say a HUGE THANK YOU to everyone – your continuing efforts have kept our community safe throughout the pandemic, and with a potential vaccine appearing to soon be available, we can all start to look forward to a bright 2021.

The impact of Covid-19 has meant our regular PC Meetings are now held in the ‘virtual world’ of Zoom which has enabled business as usual with the PC maintaining its commitment to you all. You are all welcome to attend, just contact the Parish Clerk. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday 18 January, 8pm. We hope you can join us.

Some good news - our current draft budget plans for 2021- 2022 will see no uplift in the precept for the fifth year running.

The speed of traffic through the village has remained a constant concern, but we are pleased to confirm that the agreed project for traffic calming – new signage and white lining – will be implemented by Oxfordshire County Council during the first two weeks of December. Please be aware this may cause temporary traffic works. Full details of this work can be obtained by contacting the Parish Clerk. The new measures which have been arrived at in consultation with the council's Highways Team include ‘Village Only’ signs placed at the top of Court Hill and Windmill Hill as well as clearer signage throughout the village. Playground signs have already been installed on the Bassett Road. We hope that this will go some way to achieving safer roads for us all.

The mystery of the stolen concrete barriers remains, but a local temporary answer to the problem has been implemented. Those accessing the wonderful ‘highways and byways’ around the village will have noticed large tree trunks have appeared to block vehicle access. Our thanks to our District Councillor Paul Barrow for his help with this matter.

Finally the Parish Council wishes to express its sincere thanks to Francesca Engelmann who works tirelessly every month to produce the Register, and of course all of you who contribute on a regular basis, keeping us all informed of the wide spread of village matters.

Please continue to keep safe, enjoy your Christmas and New Year, and we all look forward to a less restricted 2021.

Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Parish Council

Christmas Greetings (or lack thereof)



No invitation was issued in time for the November issue, so it has been agreed that there will be no personal Christmas greetings this year.

Individual messages to friends, in cards or emails, will probably be all the more appreciated this year and saving the planet can, perhaps, wait until 2021.

200 Club results

200 Club Draw — No 9 December 2020		
Christmas Prize Draw		
73	Phil HODGSON	£100
71	Katie MACKILLIGIN	£50
159	Thérèse CLARKE	£25
81	Neil McLAURIN	£15
166	Thérèse CLARKE	£10
101	Magaret STOCK	£5
Special Draw:		
200	Charles MATTHEWS	£50
199	Matthew TAYLOR	£25
102	Gillian HERD	£20
55	Liz & Eddie JENKINS	£10
5	David CARTER	£10
157	Thérèse CLARKE	£10
22	Margaret STOCK	£10
70	Ian MEADE	£10
New Numbers draw:		
234	Rachel HOPPER	£25
148	Tony MACDONALD	£5

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COMPUTER PROBLEMS? CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?

A locally-based service (from Letcombe Bassett) has been helping people here for the last 15 years
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Email: ccrowe@waitrose.com

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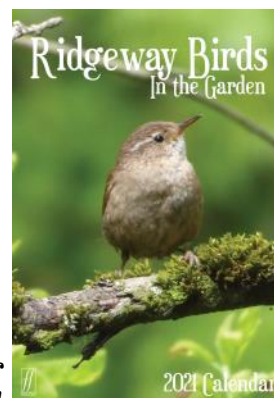
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Fired Spirit creates greetings cards
and calendars featuring our
beautiful local wildlife.

Every one of our pictures are taken
on and around The Ridgeway and
The Letcombes, showcasing the
richness and variety of the nature
on our doorsteps.

Perfect to share with friends and
family all year round. 2021 calendar
available soon, cards available now!



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Saint of the Month - St Stephen

“Good King Wenceslas looked out, on the Feast of Stephen.”

Poor St Stephen, he doesn't even get a name check on his own feast day- as it's December 26th, it's Boxing Day and few people call it St Stephen's Day.

But he deserves to be honoured. He was one of the first deacons of the early Christian church, chosen for his fairness and his brilliant oratory, and he was the first person to be martyred for his Christian faith.

His name is of Greek origin – *Stephanos* – meaning “crown” or “honour” and it seems likely that he was a Hellenistic Jew, born around AD5. From the accounts of the early church, there appears to have been a disagreement about how best to distribute welfare to the poorest members of the community. The Acts of the Apostles tells of Stephen being chosen to mediate between the arguing factions and establish a fair system for charitable giving.

As well as his fairness, he was notable for his persuasive preaching– and it was this that got him into trouble with the Jewish authorities. His preaching was drawing crowds and attracting converts to Christianity. He was summoned to appear before the Sanhedrin, the supreme legal court of Jewish elders. Calmly, Stephen addressed them in a long and brilliantly argued speech in which he gave an account of Jewish history and cited the prophets, leading to the conclusion that everything that had gone before had been preparing the way for the coming of Jesus Christ. Stephen's speech is contained in Chapter Seven of The Acts of the Apostles and in it he refers to those who will not listen as “stiff necked” people.

This so angered the crowd that they turned on him and began to stone him. Contemporary accounts speak of him stoically accepting his fate and, following the example of Jesus, praying for his persecutors. Acts, Ch 8: verse 2 says "Godly men buried Stephen and mourned deeply for him," but the location where he was buried is not specified. (Somewhat bizarrely, having been stoned to death, Stephen is the patron saint of stonemasons.)

When did St Stephen's Day become Boxing Day? As early as 1663, there is an entry in Pepys' diary referring to a “Christmas box” given for good service throughout the year. In Victorian times, that was the day when servants, having slaved over their masters' Christmas festivities, were given the day off to return home, bearing a box of gifts, and possibly some leftovers, for their own families. This year, perhaps more than ever, we're grateful to refuse collectors, delivery drivers, the Postie (Thank you, Paul) and those who deliver the morning papers and we'll want to make sure they get their Christmas Box.

Another suggested derivation is that the day after Christmas was the day when the Alms Box in church was opened and distributed to the poor in honour of St Stephen.

Have a very happy Christmas and remember how the carol ends:

*Therefore, Christian men, be sure/ wealth or rank possessing
Ye who now will bless the poor/ shall yourselves find blessing.*

Photographic Club

The Letcombe Photographic Club January subject will be: **‘2021 - anew beginning’**.
The deadline for submission is the 20th of December.



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 December photos be found on page 15.



Does your garden border the Letcombe Brook?

IF SO, WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU! The Letcombe Brook Project (LBP) is a registered charity set up to look after our precious brook and make it a better place for wildlife and people.

The brook is one of only 225 chalk streams in the world and supports a range of protected species such as brown trout, bullhead, otter and water voles. The brook faces a number of serious threats, including from pollution, non-native species, physical modification, over-abstraction of water, climate change and population growth in our local area.

LBP has set up a **Riparian Owners' Group** for local residents who are lucky enough to live next to the brook. Benefits of membership, which is free of charge, include:

- Keeping you informed and updated about issues affecting the brook, any changes in legislation, pollution issues, flood issues, LBP activities in and around the river etc.
- Advice on issues of relevance to you, including flood risk, wildlife-friendly gardening, sedimentation, your legal obligations as a riparian owner, etc
- Newsletters – 2 each year updating you on LBP activities and future plans
- Invitations to all our community events

Please contact Mark Bradfield, LBP Project Officer, on info@letcombebrook.org.uk for more information.

<http://letcombebrook.org.uk>



David Johnston, MP

I was pleased to hold my first adjournment debate, where a backbench MP can raise any issue and require a minister to respond, in the House of Commons recently. My subject was safety and littering on the A420 and the A34 and I laid out in detail the safety problems we know exist on both roads. In the last 6 years there have been 1057 accidents on the total stretch of the A420 and 2593 on the A34; these are just the ones that involved injury to people – it doesn't include the accidents involving vehicle damage alone. I also wanted to raise litter issues as I regularly receive complaints about that, too. I will now sit down with the relevant minister to discuss how to improve both matters on both roads.



I took the opportunity to get in yet another plug for my bid for Grove Station, which the ministers at the Department are very used to be raising! I was pleased to hear there should be a decision soon about whether we will get money to explore how it could reopen. You can watch the debate on my Facebook page. In other transport news, the Government has just given the County another £3 million for cycle paths and footpaths.

Like I'm sure most of you, I did not want to be in another lockdown now. As some of you will know, the Oxfordshire Conservative MPs had not supported the request of Council Leaders for us to go into Tier 2 in October as we felt it was premature and would have a detrimental effect on mental health, other health conditions and on our local businesses. The cases in Oxfordshire remain much lower than in other parts of the country and I hoping this will be the final lockdown and we can re-emerge into Tier 1, rather than Tier 2, but as always it will be the analysis of the Chief Medical Officer and Joint Biosecurity Centre that is crucial here.

The thoughts of all of us are of course on whether we will get to see our families in the way we like to at Christmas. I know the Prime Minister and the rest of the Government are keen that we will get to and I am hopeful this will be the case. The Government has set a window for university students to return home in time and is currently exploring what can safely be allowed. I think this may be my last message before it, so Merry Christmas when it arrives.



The Letcombes Conservation Group

Mysteriously escaping the circumpolar distribution of reindeer, 'Now, *Dasher!* now, *Dancer!* now *Prancer* and *Vixen!* \ On, *Comet!* on, *Cupid!* on, *Donner* and *Blitzen!*' pull Saint Nicholas's sleigh through our skies at Christmas in Clement Clarke Moore's 1823 poem. Rudolf wasn't created until a century later in a 1939 story by the American author Robert L. May and immortalised when his brother-in-law composed the US 1949 hit song. Interestingly, in other deer species only males grow antlers but pictures of St. Nick's reindeer must show female reindeer since males lose their antlers over winter. Of rather greater antiquity, Roe deer were familiar to our ancestors roaming this countryside even before the Mesolithic period (6,000 to 10,000 years BC) as dated by archaeological finds. They are one of only two truly native deer species in Britain. The other, Red deer, migrated to Britain from Europe and were used extensively by Mesolithic man as a source of food, skins, and tools (bones and antlers) – remember the antlers found in a pit by the Cotswold Archaeology 2018\19 Manor Road excavations. The development of agriculture by succeeding Neolithic man and the loss of forest encouraged the decline of Red deer populations, which became confined to the Scottish Highlands, south-west England and a few other small, scattered populations. Fallow deer (including the spotted Bambi variety) were probably introduced by the Normans, whilst muntjac, Chinese water deer and sika deer are Asiatic species introduced from the late-19th and early-20th centuries.



Roe deer are delicate creatures standing about 0.75m tall at the shoulder with attractive large black eyes, noses and mouths surrounded by paler areas and large ears. Both sexes have a prominent white rump and no tail though the does (females) have a small tuft of hair similar to a tail at the base of the rump patch during winter. The bucks (males) have small antlers, which develop three points growing from January to March and are cast annually between November and December. At this time of year, the normally solitary Roe deer can be seen in small groups in fields bordering beech woodlands, copses, scrub and hedgerows as they search for food in less inhabited localities of the area. Peak times of activity are at dawn and dusk; long periods are spent 'lying up' when the deer lie down to ruminate between feeding.

Other characteristic signs of Roe deer are small hoof prints about 4cm long on well-worn paths in soft chalky soil, frayed areas of small trees from rubbing over-hanging branches or disturbed areas of soft ground and vegetation where deer have scraped and dug with their hooves. The doe will give birth to kids next May-June. The British Deer Society have a series of identification leaflets including one on Roe deer at [Roe_Deer_Leaflet.pdf \(bds.org.uk\)](https://www.bds.org.uk/leaflets/Roe_Deer_Leaflet.pdf).

The British Deer Society have expressed concern that quieter evening roads during the November lockdown have lulled animals into a false sense of security as was observed during the first national lockdown. The BDS points to government statistics for mid-September showing traffic levels at an 85% reduction on pre-lockdown levels and an AA survey of members during the same period. AA members and patrols reported a greater incidence of deer, alive and dead, and other wildlife on roads during the lockdown and for a while after. Road traffic accidents involving deer are sadly an all too frequent occurrence, especially in autumn and early winter during the breeding season. BDS recommend 'deer awareness' on rural roads by reducing speed and watching for deer on the edge of the road, especially at dawn and dusk. If a deer crosses in front of a car, expect more to follow and dim the headlights until they have passed.

Please ensure the local deer all fly away safely at night, and in the words of Clement Clarke Moore,

*'And away they all flew like the down of a thistle.
But I heard him exclaim, ere he drove out of sight -
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good night!"'*



AGZM

Annual General Zoom Meetings may be here for good!

We had a record 100% villagers attendance for our 10th AGM last week thanks to:- Polly Johnson, Jane Ellis, Andy Yates, Jinks, Ema Shaw, Lindsey Henry, Paulien Henshall, Ro Jelinska, Catriona Galbraith, Chris Kay, Alison McClintock, Alison Robinson, Geoff Owen, Neil McLaurin, Riana Oeschger, Judi Wilde, Paul Henry and Eileen McKeever for attending.

Annual joining fees for the 10th year running were agreed to be held at just £45 per Adult, £90 Family and £20 for Juniors, with an additional discount to be applied to next year's fees to compensate for the 3 months forced closure of the courts this year.

Consequently finances are holding up well, standing at 18% above our maintenance budget.

It was reported that this year has seen a 15% increase in members to 148 and a 45% increase in juniors being coached on Saturdays.

Also huge thanks to Ro Jelinska our Welfare officer for passing our recent LTA Safeguarding Audit.

The challenge for us now is implementing a strategy to retain high numbers of membership especially the new members. Please email suggestions to the club on letcombetenisclub@gmail.com.

Adult Keep fit Classes & Coaching

Join any of our coaching session from the 2nd December and pay nothing until January! Plus, you'll get 25% off for your first two months of coaching in Jan/Feb too! Find a session today and book online.

We just need 2 more Adults on each of the Wednesday morning keep fit or basic stroke coaching sessions for it to be viable. Please ring NTA our resident coaching team on **0800 888 6030** to join any session or book on line via our web site www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/letcombetenisclub (>coaching > Letcombe Tennis school>Cardio or Adult Coaching), using code 2FOR25 at checkout.

Sunday morning Roll-up to recommence

From the 6th of December the Sunday social mix in sessions should recommence and with luck will carry on continuously, starting at 10 am and running to lunch time.

Everyone is welcome to pop along for a gentle knock up or a random game.

Please join us even if you are not a member, we are all local and not very good, but love the exercise and FUN.

Wishing all a Safe, Healthy and Merry Christmas with loads of NEW YEAR TENNIS.



Letcombe Football Club



With the November lockdown, there has been no football played in the last month. The leagues are planning for a resumption on 5th or 12th December, but if there is another lockdown in the future, there must be a serious doubt about whether there would be sufficient time to complete the season. We can only wait and see.



St Andrew's at Christmas

You may already have seen Signpost for December, the monthly summary of what's happening in the various churches of the Ridgeway. As there is suddenly a lot happening in December – tiers permitting – this is a summary of what is happening at St Andrew's during December and over Christmas.

St Andrew's will once again be open for private prayer on Mondays in December. On Mondays 7th and 14th December at 3.00 pm we will also once again have a service of Evening Prayer, which has proved very popular during this year of restrictions.

The Carol Service will be on Monday 21st December, or rather there will be two Carol Services – one at 3.00 pm and one at 7.30 pm – but you will need to book, see below. There are two reasons for having two Carol services: firstly this is always a very popular service and St Andrew's is usually full; however, in order to create enough social distancing inside the church, alternate rows have been roped off so the church has only half its usual capacity – hence two Carol Services. The service will follow its usual form with readings and carols sung by a smaller choir than usual, diminished in size but not in quality!

To book places at either Carol Service please email reservemyseatridgeway@gmail.com with number of seats required and at which Carol Service. Alternately you can ring the booking organiser, Mary Harwood, on 01235 769257 with your request.

Sometime before the Carol Service the crib and the Christmas tree will be set up. As in previous years the tree inside the church will be the focus for leaving gifts of either tinned or packeted food that will go to the food bank, or gifts of clothing or toiletries that will go to the Porch, the homeless shelter in Oxford that St Andrew's has supported for many years. If giving clothing or toiletries please put some details of what is inside the gift, such as size etc., so that they are distributed appropriately.

Eventually we get to Christmas Day itself. There will be a service of Holy Communion in St Andrew's at 10.00 am and also, for those unable to make it, a Zoom service at 10.00 am. If you need details for logging into the Zoom service please contact our curate Andrea on revd.acolbrook@gmail.com or call her on 01367 820553.


Let's all hope and pray for a happy Christmas, seeing family and friends as best we can and remembering those in worse situations than ourselves.



[Click here](#)

If you are new to the PDF of the Register - I just wanted you to be aware that all email addresses and websites have been hyperlinked. This means that where ever you see one just click on it to go straight to that address in either your email or browser.

Currently in contrasting cobalt blue cobalt blue to make them easier to see, in 2021 they colours that complement the Register colour scheme for that month, see below.

Where space is tight, such as the Calendar there will be an underlined [click here](#) or a  symbol which will do the same thing.

Addresses are also hyperlinked in adverts, but here they are often in colours that match the advertisers own colour scheme.

I may have missed some so please let me know if any do not work.



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Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

'Of all the trees that are in the wood, \The holly bears the crown' so tells a well-known Christmas carol. The holly berries in the Community Nature Reserve and around the village lanes are striking in their profusion just now and soon Christmas cards will appear with festive wildlife and sprigs of bright holly reminding us how closely nature is linked to so many aspects of our lives.

Prior to Victorian times the term 'a Christmas tree' referred to holly so how did this naïve tree become so associated with Christmas since the red berries represent the blood of Jesus crucified and its prickly leaves symbolize the crown of thorns? Holly was another of those plants considered sacred by Druids; being strong through even the harshest winter it represented eternal life and fertility. For Druids a sprig hung at home would bring protection and good luck, whilst felling a holly tree spelt doom. The Romans associated holly with Saturn, the god of agriculture and harvest, and decked 'the halls with boughs of holly' during Saturnalia, a winter festival celebrated in mid- to late-December. As so often has been the case, previous traditions were adopted and adapted. Early Christian calendars marked Christmas Eve as '*templā exornatur*', meaning 'churches are decked'. Holly continued to be regarded as a protection against harm (supernatural or other), often planted near homes, outbuildings and even valuable trees like oak. Holly wood, the whitest of all woods, hard and fine-grained, was prized for furniture and engraving work. In folklore white holly blossom represents purity whilst prickly holly leaves used for Christmas decoration signify a man will rule the house in the coming year whereas smooth holly leaves portend a woman's rule.

Hollies are dioecious with separate male and female trees; the leaves of female trees tend to be smoother, as are leaves on mature trees and on higher branches. Holly may grow up to 15m and live for 300 years. Most of the hundreds of species of holly are evergreen with both male and female trees blooming in May or June, though only cross-pollination by bees and other insects of female flowers from a nearby male tree produce berries. Birds, especially mistle thrushes, gather in flocks for this key winter food source and, as the berries ripen, individuals or pairs will set up guard on particular trees to ensure their own abundant supply into late winter. Unfortunate consequences may result; analysis of the crops of redwings reported falling out of a holly tree onto the concrete below in 1999 showed them to be stuffed with fermenting berries. Over-indulgence and intoxication apparently are not unique to the human species!



The place names 'hollins' and 'holms' derive from protected holly enclosures or holly groves of which around ten survive in the UK. The most extensive are in the New Forest where holly was pollarded above browsing height to provide a plentiful crop of branches as deer fodder during the winter months. Holly is a wintergreen, relatively nutrient-rich with the highest calorific value of any of the plants foraged by herbivores. In the 1990s, New Forest commoners fed their ponies on a winter diet of holly bark and wilted leaves that become softer a few days after cutting. Holly's ecological value extends further to small mammals like wood mice and dormice, the leaves are eaten by the caterpillars of the Holly Blue butterfly and various moths, whilst hedgehogs nestle in the deep, dry leaf litter to hibernate.

For the traditional Boxing Day walk, why not head out and ponder over some hollies and their venerable history in the British countryside; thousands of years in the making, ever fascinating and a source of inspiration bringing joy to the festive season and hope for the New Year. *Season's Greetings to all!*





Issue 184

Letcombes Gardening Club

Topical Tips

We are reaching the end of probably the strangest year that any of us have ever experienced and while we prepare for what will inevitably be a slightly different Christmas the garden carries on as usual. It's time to think of better things to come and that can apply to your garden as well. If you have any small area that you have not been happy with, maybe now is the time to plan a change.

As regards work outside, then you can continue to tidy. Remember that this doesn't all have to be done in a rush. You can take your time. Any perennials that really don't look good anymore can be cut back, but those with seed heads can look really attractive and also provide shelter for insects and food for birds if they still contain seeds.

If you have any pots that you leave outside all winter you may want to protect them with bubble wrap to prevent them from cracking.

Now a job to warm you up on a cold day! Why not dig some organic matter into your flowerbeds? It will improve drainage and allow you to work up an appetite for your Christmas dinner. A double plus!

Now is a good time to prune and renovate many deciduous trees, shrubs and hedges. Hazel, beech and roses can all be tackled now but if you wish to trim acers and birch, make sure you finish by the end of the month in order to minimize bleeding of sap from cuts. Don't have a go at any Prunus though as it leaves them vulnerable to silver leaf disease.

Here's a little seasonal tip for you. If you are getting a real tree then choose a pine or a fir and not a Norway spruce as they will hold on to their needles better.

Colour in the winter garden is really important so if you do manage to visit any gardens, make a note of any colourful shrubs, for example cultivars of cornus, so you can search them out for your own garden.

Those of you who just grow vegetables have an easy time of it this month. You will obviously still be harvesting brassicas but other than that you can just sit in front of the fire with the seed catalogues and plan the year ahead! If however, you also grow fruit then you can continue to prune your apple trees. You can also lift and divide your rhubarb now (I know. Not a fruit but a veg really but we tend to have it stewed with sugar as a pud!!). You can leave the crowns on the surface to get frosted before planting out next spring.

Well I think that's it for now so it just remains for the topical tips lady and her husband to wish you all a happy and peaceful Christmas. We all deserve it!

Book Buffs



The next meeting will be on Wednesday 2nd December at 8pm via Zoom. Please contact Sue Hannon (766043) for details or queries.

We shall be reviewing '*A Trick I Learned from Dead Men*' by Kitty Aldridge.

The new library book, which will be delivered to members personally is '*The Salt Path*' by Raynor Winn.

Please return '*A Trick I Learned from Dead Men*' to the blue box outside Blandy's Barn, ticking off your name on the list.

Best wishes to all for this curtailed festive season.



Christmas Quiz Sheet

Compiled by the Parish Council

Answers in the January issue



Festive Challenge

1. In which modern country was St Nicolas born?
2. In 1965 which Christmas Carol became the first song broadcast from Space?
3. Which Figure from English folklore has come to represent Santa Claus?
4. How many reindeer are mentioned in the poem 'T'was the night before Christmas'?
5. Who invented the Christmas Cracker?
6. Which Ruler made Turkey the principle meat on Christmas Day?
7. What is the last day of Christmas called?
8. What is a female turkey called?
9. How many gifts were given in total in the song The Twelve Days of Christmas?
10. What was the highest grossing Christmas movie of all time?

Apple, Pear or Dickens Character??



- | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| 1. Margill | 10. Betty Prosser |
| 2. Old Bill Barley | 11. Darell Wick |
| 3. Brogson | 12. Edmund Sparkler |
| 4. Brown Bess | 13. Poll Sweedlepipe |
| 5. Lord Lambourne | 14. Rev W Wilkes |
| 6. Jack Adams | 15. Bawkins |
| 7. Tom Putt | 16. Bazzard |
| 8. James Grieve | 17. Blitzer |
| 9. Lady Sudeley | 18. Henre Huffcap |

UK Towns and Cities Fun Quiz Continued on page 13

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Part of Ship | 10. Find a bargain here. |
| 2. Dog Noise | 11. Place for a tea party |
| 3. Keep on Jeering. | 12. Local Match. |
| 4. Place for sheep to enter. | 13. Cover. |
| 5. Earl invented this snack | 14. A Leaver. |
| 6. You might want to Moo-ve here. | 15. Bee Gee found in Wales |
| 7. Cemetery Conclusion | 16. Battled with Bill |
| 8. ??N?HE?T?? | 17. H-> |
| 9. Might burn finger doing this | 18. Discolours |



UK Towns and Cities Fun Quiz Continued

19. Discolours Witches attempt
20. Novel Drink
21. Roof material found in morning.
22. T o
23. Ringer is quick
24. Slow gag retold.
25. Commence a card game.
26. Value of your Cat or Dog .
27. Which English City is largest by area.
28. Secret lie upended .
29. Car for Mr Pitt
30. Wet vegetable
31. Two Breakfast items.
32. Nun Larders rebuilt.
33. Ma is fit.
34. YZTS
35. Cooks Meadow.
36. Mutant Hoops in turnaround.
37. Fast Forrest.
38. Walk like a soldier.
39. Both light and heavy.
40. Seems like an old Car
41. Elyewl00.
42. A Northener
43. Bings town.
44. Saucy City.
45. Which Car.
46. XXXX (village)
47. Needed by detectives
48. Spielberg declaring his years.
49. Had a letter to spare.
50. Archers after 100 years
51. Found in Hand over task.
52. Argument in pub.
53. Sharp Stone.
54. UK Money
55. Trump on roller.
56. Peoples Rock
57. Danger sign before forced landing
58. All food left on table.
59. Join to.
60. Strange Retaught Mayor
61. Maybe behind rug.
62. Cook excellently
63. Hair cut
64. Sounds like a Country.
65. YELIF
66. Starving by water
67. Prepared horse's home
68. Singing Sisters
69. Best torn inside
70. Reasonable meat
71. Put together Plant Hover and Mow
72. Colours . ?
73. Thumbing a lift
74. Giant Month unravelled.
75. Flout Ham about.
76. Harbour behind hill
77. Building Society with an X
78. value of Dogs home
79. Eric at seaside resort.
80. Aged Radio enthusiastic.
81. Sounds like game of puddles.
82. Ruby nectar it seems.
83. Try this sport.
84. Religious Body part.
85. Mark past it for Snooker
86. English City with largest area.
87. Need to know how old you are.
88. Speechless Chips.
89. Where is this town !!!
90. Keep your eye on it.
91. Turns wans and add a C.
92. Get your lorry weighed here.
93. Compass point before C.
94. The Winds or Gales included.
95. \$
96. Expensive value
97. Drink in a hurry
98. Ah Garrote turned round
99. Dark Singe.
100. Table game.



Issue 184

Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust

After having been open and in use for 2 months, the Village Hall had to close again along with the Sports & Social Club and the Tennis Courts. At the time of writing, we await to see what tier we will be allocated, and how many of our regular users will be allowed back, and also what restrictions there will be on gatherings.

Having been down the recreation ground on a few occasions over the past month, I see that it is being well used by those exercising themselves and their dogs. With the leaves now almost all off the trees, the Trustees have organised for them to be cleared away from areas such as around the Hall and Children's playground, and also around the Sports Pavilion car park.

If you plan to book for 2021, then please have a look at the [online calendar](#) before contacting Claire, as we do have a number of regular bookings.

It was decided at last month's meeting to change Trust meetings to be every other month. They will take place on the 3rd Tuesday of January, March, May (+ AGM), July, September and November from now on.

From all the Trustees, may I wish you all as Merry a Christmas as you are allowed, and we all look forward to 2021 with some optimism.

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

Letcombe Sports & Social Club

The Sports & Social Club will remain closed as long as we are in Tier 2, unless the rules are relaxed, or our Tier is changed. It might even be the case that we will not be able to open until the new year.

This does not mean we are sitting idle though. There is some redecoration being done, and also we have plans to extend the patio and install some patio doors. This will allow us to make better use of our space, particularly when the weather is nice, which I know seems far away at the moment.

Football, as an "outside" sport will be allowed to restart after the National Lockdown, and hopefully Tennis will be able to as well.

As soon as we can reopen, the members will be contacted via email. If anyone is interested in finding out more about membership, which only costs £12 per year to join as a social member, then please email letcombesportsclub@gmail.com

Richard
Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club





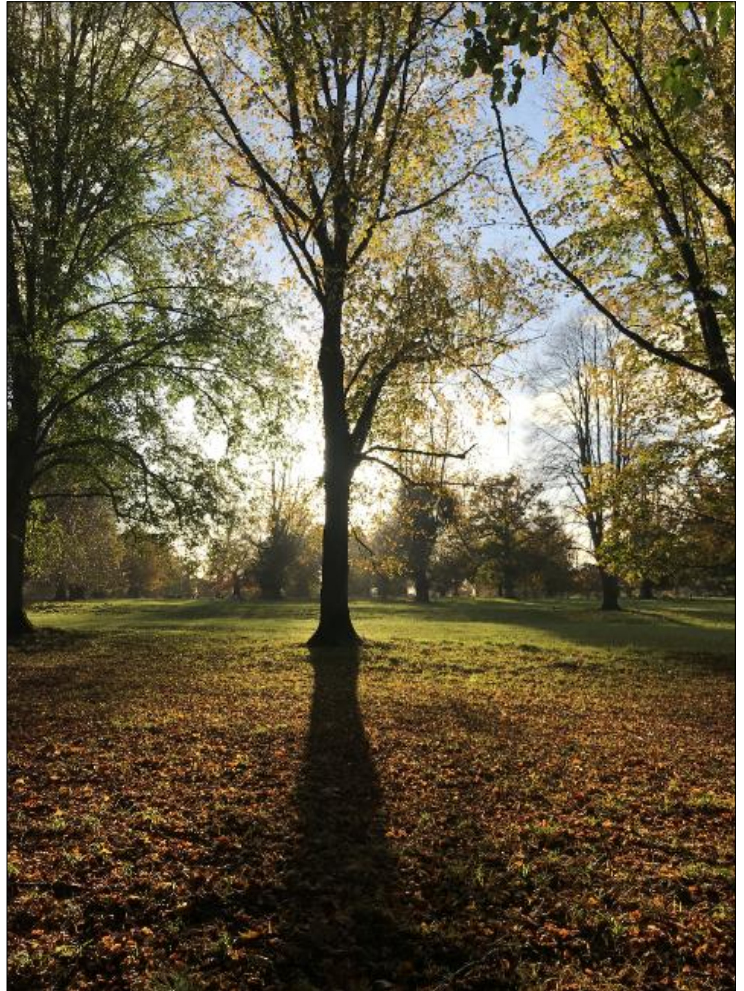
Cloudscape - Val Clure



Back to the earth - Stephen Mika



Early Sunset on Warborough Fields - Sandy Jaeger



Towards Inkpen Hill - Jane Prior



Dusk - Jane Prior



Winter just down the track - Mike Light



Bryony - Loretta Light



Winter coming - Loretta Light



We had made arrangements for small coffee mornings in December, but alas, the latest regulations from the government makes this impossible.

So we must resign ourselves to a very quiet Christmas, and hope for better things in the year to come. Keep safe, keep warm, and here's to happier times in 2021!

Film Club

Here we are at the end of the year and the last time we were able to show a film in the village hall was in early March, when film fans came to see "Yesterday", a feel good story based on the music of the Beatles. We could certainly do with a feel good film or two over the next few weeks to cheer what will be a Christmas like no other. So we have put together a few recommendations below from the many 'favourites' lists out there - hopefully you will have time to watch a film or two over the festive season.



Although it's still difficult to plan ahead we are hoping to start Film Club again in March. With a bit of luck by then we will be able to have a public gathering in the village hall - so watch this space. In the meantime, and especially to our film club friends, best wishes for Christmas and we look forward to seeing you early in the new year.

With love from Anne, Nick, Barb and Eileen

Some film recommendations for Christmas.....

- # **Little Women (1994 or 2019)**. Both excellent screen versions of this classic book.
- # **Joyeux Noel (2006)**. Story of the Christmas Eve truce in the trenches during World War 1.
- # **While you were sleeping(1995)**. Enjoyable romcom with Sandra **Bullock**.
- # **Brigid Jones Diary (2001)**. No doubt you have it but it's definitely worth another view over Christmas.
- # **Love Actually (2003)**. Great cast, great music and happy endings all round!

Family viewing:

- # **Home Alone (1990)**. Watched many times no doubt, but still very enjoyable.
- # **The Muppet Christmas Carol (1992)**
- # **Elf (2003)**. Will Farrell at his best as Santa's biggest helper.
- # **Klaus (2019)**. Animated comedy.
- # **Arthur Christmas (2011)**. Clever Aardman animation.

Classics from the past:



- # **The Shop around the Corner (1940)**. Old fashioned romcom with James Stewart and Margaret Sullivan.
- # **Holiday Inn (1942)**. With Bing Crosby and Fred Astaire and most famous for introducing the song 'White Christmas'.
- # **Meet me in St Louis (1944)**. One of Judy Garlands classic musicals.
- # **Miracle on 34th Street (1947)**. The original version, with Maureen O'Hara. The 1994 remake with Richard Attenborough is good too.
- # **It's a Wonderful Life (1946)**. This James Stewart classic often tops the Christmas favourites list, so one to watch this year, especially if you haven't seen it before.

Francesca Engelmann,
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 Letcombe Regis,
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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.

Waste Calendar

December 2020						
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			
Green Recycling Brown Garden			Grey Landfill Food Waste  Revised Christmas collection			

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