

The Letcombe Register



Issue 179

July 2020

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

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Message from the Parish Council

The Parish Council will be holding its next meeting, via Zoom, on Monday 20 July, 8pm. All are welcome to join the meeting but you will need to let the Parish Clerk have your details a week in advance so that the invitation can be sent through to you.

There is some excellent news for the village from Oxfordshire County Council, who have confirmed that they are able to grant fund the planned road improvements within the village. These include better signage at the top of Court Hill and Windmill Hill, repainted white lines etc. etc. Details of the work schedule will be shared via the Village Email as soon as it is known, but please be mindful that the work may mean some road closures while it is undertaken.

With the relaxation in Covid-19 distancing measures it is easy to think that all is over, it is not, so please continue to keep your distance. We have had no cases of Covid-19 within our community so far, and we hope by remaining cautious and vigilant, we can keep it that way. The Parish Council wishes to sincerely thank all of you who are supporting and continue to support our community through these difficult times.

The work to the Thames Water Pipeline project has been completed and elsewhere in the Register you will find an update outlining the possible implications for the Brook and its subsidiaries as they settle into a naturally regulated flow. There have

been a number of exciting sightings in and around the Brook, including otters, brown trout and water voles and again the Parish Council thanks all of you who give of your time to maintain and improve these natural assets within the village.

The future of Wantage Hospital seems all the more important now given the pressure on the NHS, and the OX12 Group are continuing to lobby for its reopening. We will keep you up to date with developments via the Register.

We are now able to progress the work approved for the Burial Ground and further quotes from contractors are being sought ready for a final decision. If you wish to see the plans they are available via the Parish Clerk, or indeed on line via the [Vale of the White Horse Planning Portal](#).

The waste recycling site at Stamford is now open and operating within the new Covid-19 Guidelines and you are encouraged to take your waste here rather than light bonfires within the village. Recently lit bonfires have caused considerable nuisance to neighbours, so please be mindful of this impact.

With the weather set to continue fair for the foreseeable future, we hope you can continue to enjoy the beauty and tranquillity of the Parish and remain well.

Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Parish Council

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

Not King George Hipango

With Thanks to Vivi McCoubrey for this update.

One of the most enjoyable features of the new look Register is the reproduction of articles from the past which shed a fascinating light on Letcombe's history. Last month's reprint of an article by Ivor Marsh was about the memorial obelisk in St Andrew's churchyard. I'm glad that the Editor included it on the 149th anniversary of Hipango's death but I couldn't help but notice that the article contains several inaccuracies and, although it was written only 31 years ago, it's terribly dated in terms of the attitudes it conveys and the patronising language it uses. With all due respect, I'd like to offer a revised version.

Let's start by getting his name right: he certainly wasn't King George Hipango, he wasn't even George King Hipango, he was Hori Kingi Hipango, and he came from Whanganui on the west coast of the North Island. His father was Hoani Wiremu Hipango. The mid nineteenth century was a time of great missionary zeal and it was the custom to give Christian converts an English name when they were baptised. So Hoani Wiremu became "John William".

He seems to have been a man of exceptional wisdom and great *mana* (prestige, status) and he was recruited by the Revd Richard Taylor as his assistant and even accompanied Taylor to England in 1855 where he was received by Queen Victoria. (He is reported to have been shocked by the lewd and *uncivilised* behaviour he observed in London.)

The 1860s saw the rise of

the Pai Marire movement. The name means "Good and Peaceful", a rather ironic name for an extremist and very militant Maori cult. It is simplistic to see the wars that followed as a struggle between the Maori and the *pakeha* (white Europeans.) There was great division between the various Maori *iwi* (tribes) and Hoani Wiremu's people, Ngati Tumango, were pro-government. In February 1865, he was killed in a battle against warriors of the Pai Marire. Buried with full military honours, the Governor General, Governor Grey, even attended his funeral.

Richard Taylor was one of the most influential missionaries of the time. A good man with strongly held beliefs, although some of his words make for uncomfortable reading today: 'colonization, properly conducted, is the natural adjunct to Christianity, in civilizing aboriginal races'. He decided to give Hoani Wiremu's son, Hori Kingi, an English education. He probably thought he was doing the right thing by the son of his assistant but one has to question the wisdom of taking a lad of 17, whose father has just been killed, and sending him to the other side of the world to an English boarding school. Homesick and surrounded by a foreign culture, Hori Kingi ran away or, in the cringe-making words of Ivor Marsh, "our little Maori chief fled."

Hori was persuaded to return to school, settled down and excelled academically, as well as being an outstanding athlete and kind to the younger boys. To quote Marsh again, "everyone was amazed at

his aptitude to learn." It must indeed have seemed amazing to 19th century minds that a Maori was capable of academic study. (One wonders how amazed they would have been had they known that another Maori from Whanganui, Sir Jerry Mateparae, was to become New Zealand's twentieth Governor General in 2011.) Today Maori heritage is a major part of New Zealand's culture – and not just the All Blacks performing the haka. *Te Reo* (the language) and *kapa haka* (performing arts) feature strongly in the national school curriculum.

As well as being a gifted sportsman, Hori was a talented artist and one of his drawings, of two dogs called Dash and Fan (probably Richard Taylor's dogs) is held in the National Library of New Zealand in Wellington.

Revd Taylor's plan for Hori was that he should become ordained but it became obvious that he had no desire to become a missionary. To Taylor's credit, he made plans for the lad to return home. Sadly, before this could happen, he became ill while staying with the Rev Lanfear and his family at the vicarage in Letcombe Regis. He died a few days later and is buried in St Andrew's churchyard. Ivor Marsh says, "he will always be a saint in Letcombe Regis." He wasn't a saint. He was a young lad, only 19 when he died, and he was far from home. Next time you pass his memorial obelisk, spare him a thought.

Moe mai ra
Sleep on, sleep in peace

Hoani Wiremu Hipango (right), with Richard Taylor (centre) and his son Basil (left),

England, 1855



Photo from Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of NZ.

200 Club results

200 Club Draw — No 2		May 2020
94	Jan HACKWORTH	£50
65	Mick & Sue DARBY	£25
95	Dennis STOCK	£15
220	Millicent HOLLINGWORTH	£10
20	Nick GARDNER	£5
Special Draw:		
98	Anne JONES	£25
196	Sophie BODEN	£20
118	Clare & David YOULDON	£10
134	Sophie FITZPATRICK	£10
205	Patrick & Jane CABLE-ALEXANDER	£10
163	Thérèse CLARKE	£10
82	Christine BIRCH	£10
New Numbers draw:		
203	Cliff BREAKSPEAR	£5

200 Club Draw — No 3		June 2020
26	Bridget BENN	£50
98	Anne JONES	£25
126	Kevin BAILEY	£15
82	Christine BIRCH	£10
216	Denly & Gill GWALCHMAI	£5
Special Draw:		
40	Rose & Gordon LUNDIE	£25
30	Andy MARCZAK	£20
21	Barbara GARDNER	£10
54	Mike & Lyn PRICE	£10
156	Thérèse CLARKE	£10
100	Brian MONNERY	£10
48	Sue & Alex HANNON	£10
New Numbers draw:		
25	Nicky EREAUT	£5

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July Waste Calendar

July 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		

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



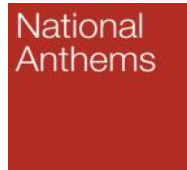
Brainteasers



Old Money - answers (with thanks to Val Clure)

The Clues are in Old Money - Convert to currency to find the cost .

	£	S	d
1. Half of a Stone	7		
2. A Bicycle			1 1/4
3. A Man's Name		1	
4. A type of Singer	10		
5. A Monkey's Knee			1/2
6. Sun, Moon and Mars			3/4
7. A Leather Worker			6
8. 50% of a Pair of Panties		10	
9. A kind of Pig	1	1	
10. Royal Headdress		5	
11. A Place for Stray Dogs	1		
12. Unwell Sea Creature	6		
Total	£25	17 S	8 1/2d



Which Countries' Anthems?

- The Great Charlemagne, my father, liberated me
- I have always honoured the King of Spain
- Land of Hammers, with a promising future
- We were for centuries downtrodden, derided
- Bonaparte has given us the example of how we should prevail
- With blood to spill for you, O Fatherland

Answers

- Andorra (El Gran Carlemany)
- The Netherlands (Het Wilhelmus)
- Austria (Land der Berge, Land am Strome)
- Italy (Inno di Mameli)
- Poland (Mazurek Dabrowskiego)
- Belgium (La Brabanconne)

(Anthems and Links courtesy of 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?

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COMPUTER PROBLEMS? CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?

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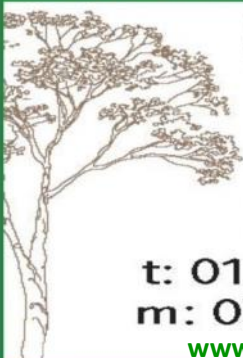
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Letcombe Nature in all its Glory

- a selection of villager's images



Looking west from Court Hill - Iain McCoubrey



Poppies - Stephen Mika



View from the bridge - Kristine Hitchcock



A jar of honey bees - Jeanne Lapsley



Passion flower - Paul Batchelor



Cowslips at Segsbury camp - Kristine Hitchcock



Cockchafer - Loretta Light

Details for August on page 7



St Swithun

Several important saints are commemorated in July, among them the apostles James and Thomas and also Mary Magdalene. But it might be rather more fun to look at a local, Saxon saint – Swithun, Patron Saint of Winchester, better known as a weather forecaster than for his saintliness. Even his official biography published by Winchester Cathedral states that there are few hard facts known about him but that he is much-loved and rich in legend.

He was born in Wessex around 800 AD and his name in Old English is “Swith-hun” which means “strong bear cub.” He quickly gained a reputation for scholarship and served as counsellor to the Saxon kings Egbert and Aethelwulf. Some accounts state that he was a tutor to Aethelwulf’s son, our own King Alfred. The dates make this rather unlikely as Alfred was born circa 849 and Swithun died in 863, by which time he was bishop of Winchester - but it’s a nice idea.

One thing that seems fairly certain is that he was a humble man who liked to travel on foot and to mingle with ordinary people. “..he would go on foot for he loved no pride, ne to ride on gay horses, ne to be praised ne flattered of the people.” Swithun appears to have been a down-to-earth, practical person and is credited with building the first stone bridge over the river Itchen. His best-known miracle took place on this bridge: a peasant woman was carrying a basket of eggs to market when she was mugged on the bridge by a gang of yobs who thought it was a good joke to make her drop the basket and break all the eggs. Swithun intervened and when the basket was returned to the woman, the eggs were found, miraculously, to be whole again.

Swithun’s combination of scholarship and practicality made him an excellent choice to be Bishop of Winchester, where he faithfully served his flock for ten years until his death in 863. He asked, humbly, not to be buried inside the cathedral but just outside the west wall where as William of Malmesbury memorably puts it:

*ubi et pedibus praetereuntium et stillicidiis ex alto
rorantibus esset obnoxius*

[where it might be subject to the feet of passers-by /
and to the raindrops pouring from on high],

Here he lay for 100 years until Aethelwold, a very dynamic bishop of Winchester, set up a new Benedictine community in 964 and decided they needed a new, ready-made patron saint.

So, on July 15th 971, after a lavishly expensive shrine had been built, the saint’s bones were dug up and re-interred. At which point a ferocious storm arose and continued for forty days and forty nights; the saint, it was reckoned, was not happy.

Thus began the St Swithun’s Day weather legend:

*St Swithun's day if thou dost rain
For forty days it will remain
St Swithun's day if thou be fair
For forty days 'twill rain nae mare*

A Buckinghamshire variation has:

*If on St Swithun's day it really pours
You're better off to stay indoors.*

Be sure to pay special attention to the weather forecast on July 1

St. Andrew, Letcombe Regis To Be Re-Opened For Private Prayer

The risk assessment is done and the cleaning will be finished by Friday 3rd July so the preparations to re-open the church 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. St. Andrew, Letcombe Regis will be open from 9:30am to 5:00pm every Monday for private prayer from Monday 6th July. For details regarding the opening days of the other churches in the benefice please see the July issue of our monthly news bulletin, *Signpost*. We hope to have news with regard to services in September. Rector Leonora revd.lahill@btinternet.com Tel: (01235) 760112

Photographic Club invitation for August issue

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



The deadline for submission is the 20th of each month and the subject for June’s edition is **‘Nature’s Colours’**.

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.

July photos be found on page 6



Message from David Johnston, MP

I spent lockdown in the constituency, in the home we got in the Didcot area in February. Whilst none of us have enjoyed lockdown, it was nice to spend an extended time in our new home. Having lived in Oxford for 6 years I was already somewhat familiar with Didcot, but spending an extended period here – rather than just the Friday-Sunday as is usually the case when parliament is sitting normally – helped us to get to know it better still.

Virtual parliament was smoother than I had expected – despite me thinking it would feel strange speaking into a webcam and having it beamed into the House of Commons. You get used to asking questions and even giving speeches from your desk, as I did on legislation such as the Domestic Abuse Bill and the Agriculture Bill.

But parliament has now returned. We still can't have more than 50 people in the House of Commons at any one time and our staff are not allowed to return yet. Some of you will have seen the very long queues when we first had to vote, but they have now come up with a much better system. Our staff can't return yet and like a lot of people they miss being in a different environment to home and seeing their colleagues, but for MPs it has been nice to be back for the same reasons.

There is plenty on our plates. We have been debating a number of pieces of legislation, including the Counter-terrorism and Sentencing Bill, designed to prevent the sort of attacks we saw at the end of last year and beginning of this year. There are ongoing debates both in the House of Commons and in the Education Committee (I am a member) about the reopening of schools. I am firmly on the side of seeing all schools open for all children as soon as possible: the Children's Commissioner told our Committee that we are on course for 8 million children to be out of school for 6 months which will be damaging to all children and the most disadvantaged will suffer most.

As shops start to reopen, I'll be returning to spending at least every Friday visiting local businesses, charities and, if we can make it work, schools – keeping my distance, of course. I'd encourage everyone to try and support our local shops if they can, so they can hopefully survive what has been a very tough time. I recently invited people to nominate their volunteer hero – the individual or organisation they feel has really made a difference lately. I was pleased to see such a huge range of people and organisations nominated. The top 3 were the Ray Collins Charitable Trust, Helping Hands and Maymessy – congratulations to them all.

As ever, do get in touch if I can help via david.johnston.mp@parliament.uk

Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust



With Summer having arrived, it is great to see so many people enjoying the open spaces of the Recreation Ground. The Village Hall plans to reopen for certain restricted activities from Monday 6th July, with special Covid-19 guidelines for Hall users in place. The Hall is looking very smart, after having had its redecoration, and we will be installing hand sanitisers inside to help ensure Hall users safety. For those of you thinking of having a BBQ on the Recreation Ground, please ensure you do so in a safe and responsible way, and please take all your rubbish home.

Following Government relaxation of the Covid-19 restrictions, the Children's Play Area can be used again from Saturday 4th July. Please ensure you do follow the Government Social Distancing guidelines.

The Pavilion bar area has had a makeover as well, and we do hope that some of you will take the opportunity to have a look when it reopens on the 4th July, and if you so wish, can become members of "Letcombe Sports and Social Club". As with the Village Hall, there will be safeguards in place to minimise risk, such as hand sanitisers, and restrictions on being inside.

The cricket season should be in full swing by now, but sadly it looks increasingly likely that there will not be any Saturday League cricket at all this season, although there is hope that there might be some friendly matches later in the summer. The football season was abandoned, but plans to restart normally

for the 2020-21 season. Tennis has been lucky enough to have restarted, and has put in place procedures to ensure the safety and well-being of those playing. The Saturday morning coaching will be restarting on the 4th of July, which will be excellent for those youngsters who have been missing their weekly "fix" from Nick.

There is also planned some Kids Football Coaching (with the emphasis on "Fun"), which will probably start from Friday 10th July, 6-7pm. See advert elsewhere in The Register, and on the Letcombe Facebook page. This will be free and open to all boys and girls in the Village, and following FA guidelines on Covid-19 precautions, and safeguarding.

There was a slight mistake in the Village Hall Accounts published last month. The Parish Contribution to the Village Hall and Recreation Ground was £1805, and not, as incorrectly reported, £903.

Just a reminder that we are still looking for another Trustee to join us, there should be 9, and we only have 8 at the moment. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be interested, then please contact me.

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



Issue 179

Gardening Club - Topical Tips

We're properly into summer now and our garden is looking absolutely wonderful. I hope yours is too.

If the weather is very hot then I suggest a bit of gentle dead heading in the cool of the evening but watering is also going to be a must.

If you have bearded iris then July is the month to divide these and maybe give some to friends that have coveted them from afar!

If you have any tall perennials then you may need to prop these up if, like me, you didn't do any proper staking earlier in the season.

You can start collecting seed of plants you'd like to grow again next year. Annuals like calendula, poppies and love in the mist are good candidates for this.

I'm sure all of you have some of those annoying perennial weeds about. Summer is the best time to tackle these.

Here's a useful tip for anyone who grows bamboos. Look out for tall, flowering stalks and remove them promptly. They can be unsightly and will weaken the plant.

If you have neat circular areas cut out on the edge of the leaves on your roses and other shrubs don't worry. It is the work of the leaf cutter bee and it will not harm the plant.

If you have a conservatory full of plants then many of them will really benefit from being placed outside for the summer. As an added bonus this will reduce the risk of them getting red spider mite!

It's a good idea to damp down the floor of the greenhouse on hot days to increase the humidity and don't forget to take advantage of the increased space you may have in there to have a go at some cuttings.

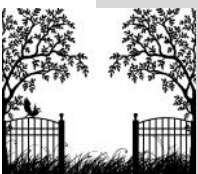
On the fruit and veg. front I don't need to remind everyone about watering as I know all the allotment holders have been carting water around.

Early potatoes should be ready to harvest now. If the tubers are small then learn from it and feed the plants next year. A food suitable for tomatoes works well. There's still some seed sowing you can do. Oriental veg like pak choi and chinese cabbage can be sown now and if you sow Florence fennel this month it's much less likely to bolt so give it a go!

As far as fruit is concerned, the word once again is water. This will help the fruit to swell. You'll be harvesting soft fruit now as long as the birds haven't beaten you to it.

Your strawberry plants should be producing runners at the moment so pot them up ready to replace your strawberry patch. This should be done in another location every 3 to 4 years when the plants get tired.

Well I think it's time for me to let you get outside and enjoy the garden now, whether by working in it or sitting in it sipping a glass of wine. Have fun!



Letcombe Regis Open Gardens 2020

It is with considerable regret that the decision has been taken by the Organising Committee to postpone this year's event that had been scheduled for 7th July. With the uncertainty concerning the possible guidance that would exist on the date over gatherings, the Committee did not feel confident to proceed. Possible alternative arrangements are being explored which include discussions with Letcombe Bassett as they are due to hold the event in 2021. More details will follow in next month's Register.



Letcombe Brook Project

News from the Letcombe Brook Project

Despite the lack of meetings of the stakeholders during Covid 19, work has continued on monitoring and improving the environment in and around the Brook by the superb Project Officer, Mark Bradfield. The following notes are a summary of some of the current issues.

Thames Water abstraction from the Letcombe Brook stopped on March 31st and augmentation ceased in Nov 2019. It is unclear how much this process affected the natural cycle, theoretically there should be no change but as abstraction occurred all year, augmentation was based on trigger levels and abstraction was from the aquifer but augmentation was into the river. It is hoped that without abstraction the aquifer will fill up enough for some flow all year round except in drought years. With climate change causing wetter milder winters and periods of drought in summers, it remains to be seen how this works. Any impact in the upper reaches would be exacerbated by the fact that the top of the catchment has been highly modified, lakes and ponds not being the natural state of affairs and owners will certainly not be pleased if these turn into dried up bowls of sediment. The only solution would be to change the lakes into 2 channels, one a recreated narrow bed channel which keeps running nearly all the time and conveys the silt better and a wider section just holding water at high flow periods but this would require the removal of sluices and owners naturally would not want to lose their permanent lakes. Clearly a tricky situation to mull over.

Over the last 2 years, Mark and his willing band of volunteers have greatly improved the habitat along the Brook. The overshadowing of large sections by crack willow and bramble scrub prevented aquatic vegetation growing to provide food and cover for water wildlife. However clearance and pollarding of the larger willows and removal of the brambles have allowed light to penetrate and efforts have been rewarded by the appearance of water starwort, water mint, brooklime and watercress. Gypsywort, meadowsweet and cuckoo-flowers have also appeared. As the vegetation has recovered, silt deposits have stabilised. Water voles which consume 80% of their body weight in bankside vegetation daily have increased and a new male otter has been seen taking over the territory of the other male who was tragically killed on the road last year. Hand pulling Himalayan balsam continues and American mink trapping is also undertaken by the Project Officer.

Monthly monitoring of rainfall in the Thames area showed much greater than average amounts in September, October, November and December last year, January was average but February received two and a half times the average rainfall. Since then we have had a noticeable lack of rain.

In the village, new information boards will soon be appearing in Richmond by the lake and on the Millennium Green. Silt continues to be a problem with lots of run off from roads entering the Brook and grips need to be installed and perhaps some ditch work along Warborough Road to prevent a lot of the silt going into the lesser branch of the Brook.

Please have a look at the Project website, letcombebrook.org.uk for more information.

Loretta Light
Parish Council Representative
Letcombe Brook Project.

PRE-SCHOOL SPACES AVAILABLE FOR 2, 3 & 4 YEAR OLDS

Pre-School care in a rural village setting

Contact us on 07825 241395
Or visit www.childreylittleducks.org

Garden & Plant Design
RHS Qualified
Plantswoman and Horticulturalist

Does your garden need re-designing?
Do you have a border that needs rejuvenating;
a shady, dry, or damp area that needs attention?

Or would you like one-on-one practical gardening advice?

Whatever your gardening needs, please email:
helenajwhall@hotmail.com



Book Buffs Literature Quiz - June answers

(with thanks to Sue Hannon)

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| 1. Winston Smith is the central character in which book? | 1. 1984 |
| 2. How old was Adrian Mole in the first Sue Townsend book? | 2. 13 ¾ |
| 3. Who wrote 'The Count of Monte Christo'? | 3. Alexandre Dumas |
| 4. Which female novelist wrote the book 'Black Beauty'? | 4. Anna Sewell |
| 5. In which book would one find the character named 'Pip'? | 5. Great Expectations |
| 6. How long did Robinson Crusoe spend on the island? | 6. 28yrs, 2 mths, 19 days |
| 7. Who wrote 'A Clockwork Orange'? | 7. Anthony Burgess |
| 8. What is the name of the cat in Shakespeare's Macbeth? | 8. Greymalkin |
| 9. Which book begins with the line "These two very old people are the father and mother of Mr Bucket...?" | 9. Charlie and the Chocolate Factory |
| 10. Who wrote the book 'The Moons A Balloon'? | 10. David Niven |
| 11. What was Eric Blair's pen name? | 11. George Orwell |
| 12. Who wrote 'Moll Flanders'? | 12. Daniel Defoe |

July Quiz *(again with thanks to Sue Hannon)*

1. Who does Mr Brownlow rescue?
2. Who wrote the book 'The Last of the Mohicans'?
3. What is the name of the man servant in 'Around the World in 80 Days'?
4. Who was Rowena's husband?
5. Which book begins with the line "I will begin the story of my adventures...." ?
7. Uther Pendragon was which man's father?
8. At which railway station does one board the Hogwarts Express?
9. Totally Frank is which Frank's autobiography?
10. What were the cities in Dickens's 'A Tale of Two Cities'?
11. What was Samuel Langhorne Clemens pen name?
12. The Count of Monte Christo was in love with which woman?
13. Who wrote 'Finnegan's Wake'?



Book Buffs so far....

As yet we have no information about the library re-opening, so I'm afraid I don't have a new book for you. So it's back to your own bookshelves. Maybe try re-reading a title you didn't enjoy and if it still doesn't stir you, it can be jettisoned, thus making room for new additions.

Keep safe and keep reading.

Freddie

Trip to Eswatini, July 2020

Due to the covid-19 outbreak my trip to Eswatini that was due to take place this July has sadly been cancelled. I would like to thank everyone who supported me and have donated part of the funds raised to Oxfam.

Sophie Hannon



Bee Orchid

The Letcombes Conservation Group

Elegant and exotic-looking wild orchids put on a good display around the parish this year, a small selection of fifty-six native species found in the UK. Early on the lovely White Helleborine appeared in small numbers, the ivory coloured, oval flowers not opening very far and often self-pollinated. These orchids are associated with the leafy woodland floor of beech trees on Chalk rock here and in the Chilterns and Cotswolds. The flowers gain nutrients from the trees via a mycorrhizal fungus which enables them to live in the shade where few other plants can survive the low light conditions. More abundant Pyramidal orchids bloom through June and July on grassland areas around the village, also associated with the Chalk bedrock. The purply-pink flower spikes, conical when young, can grow up to 55 centimetres, but on average have been much smaller this year, and hold 50 to 100 three-lobed flowers producing a potential 35,000 seeds from one spike. The flowers attract a range of butterflies and moths but the seeds do not store enough nutrient to grow on their own, instead relying on a mat-forming fungus present in the soil. A small cluster in St. Andrew's churchyard were disguising themselves amongst red clover flowers in June. Pyramidal orchid leaves are narrow and usually unspotted distinguishing them from the Common spotted-orchid. Despite its name, this orchid is more elusive in Letcombe, only one has been observed in St Andrew's churchyard and one in the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve so far this summer. The slightly scented flowers are smaller and a paler pink than those of the Pyramidal orchid and tolerate a wider range of habitats from woodland and grassland to wetter meadows and even marshland. They have been known to flower into August so keep a look-out.

In 2015 a citizen science project entitled 'Is climate change affecting the UK's orchids?' compared orchid flowering time and distribution that year to records of 10,000 museum specimens and demonstrated an earlier flowering time and northward trend. One of the products from the project was an identification guide to some orchids still available to download free from the Natural History Museum:

<https://www.nhm.ac.uk/content/dam/nhmwww/take-part/Citizenscience/orchid-observers/orchid-observers-id-guide.pdf>

The National Plant Monitoring Scheme took over this important work to assess habitats through changes in plant abundance and diversity. Data is collected nationwide by volunteer citizen scientists co-ordinated by the charity Plantlife and then analysed by botanists in the project partners led by the UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology in Wallingford. In the first five years 15,000 surveys of kilometre squares has already confirmed the impact of a warmer climate on plants. For example, Bee orchids, which occasionally put in an appearance in this area but never previously in Scotland, have been recorded at several sites around Edinburgh and Glasgow. The National Plant Monitoring Scheme is ongoing, further information is available at <https://www.npms.org.uk/>.

Botanists fear that some plants face extinction being unable to migrate north through our fragmented landscape. Re-wilding can play a small part though schemes involving farm habitat management to provide corridors for plant migration on a larger scale are a better solution. Transport accounts for around a third of carbon dioxide emissions in the UK – as vehicle use increases again spare a thought for the impact on wild flowers and especially alpine species, such as the Highland saxifrage, that have nowhere to go either further northwards or up mountains.

Friends of Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Planned events to celebrate 60 years since BBOWT was founded have had to be cancelled but the local reserve, alongside more than 80 other reserves in the three counties, is a reason to rejoice. These are localities where wildlife can thrive, precious habitats such as Chalk grassland, spring-fed streams, floodplains, meadows and ancient woodland are preserved and carbon is stored.

However, such reserves form a small percentage of the UK. On 24 June the Wildlife Trusts published a new report, 'Let nature help – how nature's recovery is essential for tackling the climate crisis', *making the case* for the potential of our natural landscapes to absorb a third of UK carbon emissions if degraded habitats outside reserves were expertly restored. The report suggests a National Nature Recovery Network is required to mitigate climate change and resultant nature emergencies. Identification and mapping of a wide array of ecosystems on a national scale would precede protection and restoration at the local level. In addition, effective management of a network of highly protected marine areas around our coasts would assist the ocean's ability to absorb more carbon emissions. The March 2020 budget announced a £640m Nature for Climate fund to restore 35,000 hectares of peatland by 2025 and plant trees. This equates to only around 1% of

UK peatlands whilst the Climate Change Committee suggests at least 50% of upland and 25% of lowland peatlands need restoration to get on track to net zero carbon emissions. The urgency of the climate challenge may go unheeded this year whilst £27 billion has been allocated to road building and £100 billion for HS2.



As Craig Bennett, CEO of the Wildlife Trusts, says: "We cannot tackle the climate crisis without similar ambition to meet the nature crisis head on – the two are inseparable. The climate crisis is driving nature's decline while the loss of wildlife and habitats leaves us ill-equipped to reduce our emissions and adapt to change. It makes no sense to continue destroying natural habitats when they could help us – nature's fantastic ability to trap carbon safely and provide other important benefits is proven. ... Restoring nature in the UK needs to be given top priority – we're calling on the Government, industry and local authorities to step-up investment urgently." For a colourful leaflet on 'Let nature help – how nature's recovery is essential for tackling the climate crisis' see:

<https://www.wildlifetrusts.org/sites/default/files/2020-06/Let%20Nature%20Help.pdf>



Issue 179

Film Club

In 'normal' times we would now just be starting the summer break from Film Club, but as these aren't 'normal' times, we are now entering the 4th month of our break from watching films in the village hall. We would love to be doing what some venues are and having a 'drive-in' but unfortunately our resources don't stretch to that (yet!). If you are interested in the drive through experience Luna Cinema is showing 3 films at Blenheim Place this summer: *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Rocky Horror Picture Show* and *Rocketman*. If you're an Elton John fan, *Rocketman* is a must see, if only for the fantastic performance by Taron Egerton who gives a brilliant portrayal of Elton (it's available on DVD).

Many cinemas are planning to reopen in July, with social distancing measures in place. Cineworld in Didcot reopens on July 10th. We hope that our little Film Club can also restart in September, but that will depend on being able to meet all the health and safety requirements, which we will discuss with the Village Hall Trust. We will keep you posted over the summer, as we know a lot can change in a 2 months!

In the meantime, enjoy watching films at home, and maybe even do what some folk are doing on these lovely summer evenings and set up your own "drive-in" in the garden with a sheet, your laptop and home projector! To give you some ideas we've included films we have loved over the years and are always worth another view.

Looking forward to seeing you all back at Film Club.
Anne, Barb, Nick and Eileen.

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Some of our favourites: | - A Passage to India |
| - Dead Poets Society | - Sense and Sensibility |
| - Dances with Wolves | - The Graduate |
| - Driving Miss Daisy | - To Kill a Mockingbird |
| - Terms of Endearment | - Remains of the Day |
| - Steel Magnolias | - Mud |
| - Witness | - Hacksaw Ridge |



THE GREYHOUND INN
LETCOMBE REGIS · OXFORDSHIRE

BREAKING NEWS!

We are excited to announce that the Greyhound will be open again, from **12pm on Saturday 4th July**.

Of course the 'new normal' will mean lots of changes, to help keep you and our staff safe and comfortable.

- Open Wednesday pm to Sunday to begin with
- Dining reservations will be essential, as we have fewer tables and need to control numbers
- All guests will need to enter by the back door via the garden
- Wait to be seated by one of the team
We will collect your contact details to assist Track and Trace
- No drinking or ordering at the bar, everyone must be seated and served at a table
- All payments will be cashless
- Takeaways will continue for those unable or reluctant to visit

We'll be updating our website soon with new menus, and details on safety really soon.

We look forward to welcoming you back soon!

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

Letcombe Sports and Social Club

Starting Friday 10th July
6-7.30pm at Letcombe
Sports Club, on the
Recreation Ground

Boys and Girls welcome,
ages 6-15

Restrictions will be in
place to ensure social
distancing, and safety.



For more details, please
contact Richard Taylor on
763359, or email
letcombesportsclub@gmail.com

There will not be any
charge, but please contact
Richard beforehand, so we
know how many children are
expected.

Fun Sports Coaching

Coaches provided by Letcombe Football Club (FA-DBS checked)

Upcoming Road Closures - 27/7



TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

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

TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS WAITING ON THE HIGHWAY
BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES

LOCATION: Letcombe Regis, Unnamed Road (between Bassett Road and Main Street)

REASON: To facilitate carriageway patching works

DURATION: On 27 July 2020
This is a 24 hour road closure.
(Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days.)

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages subject to the progress of the works

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

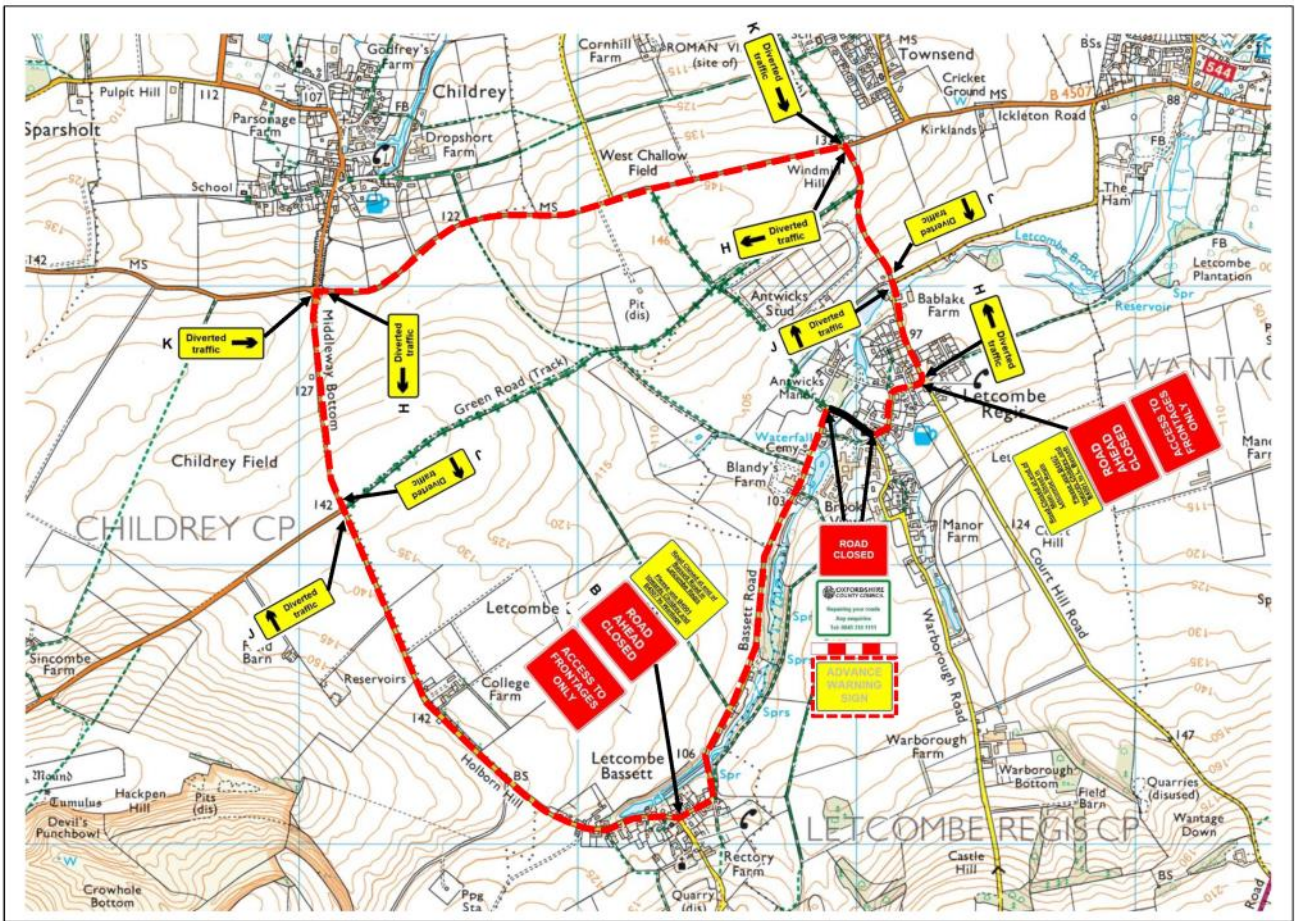
SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: via Main Street, Ct Hill Road, B4507, B4001, Holborn Hill, Bassett Road and vice versa

Jason Russell

Jason Russell, Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities

Date: 20 April 2020

A		2	T		2
B		2			
C			U		1
D					
E			V		1
H		2			
J		4			
K		2	W		
R		2			
S		2			
W					
X					
Y		2			



Upcoming Road Closures - 28/7



**OXFORDSHIRE
COUNTY COUNCIL**

TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE
ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

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

**TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS WAITING ON THE HIGHWAY
BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES**

LOCATION: Letcombe Regis, Main Street
REASON: To facilitate carriageway patching works
DURATION: Starting on 28 July 2020
The anticipated completion date is 30 July 2020 (date included). This is a 24 hour road closure.
(Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days.)
ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages subject to the progress of the works

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

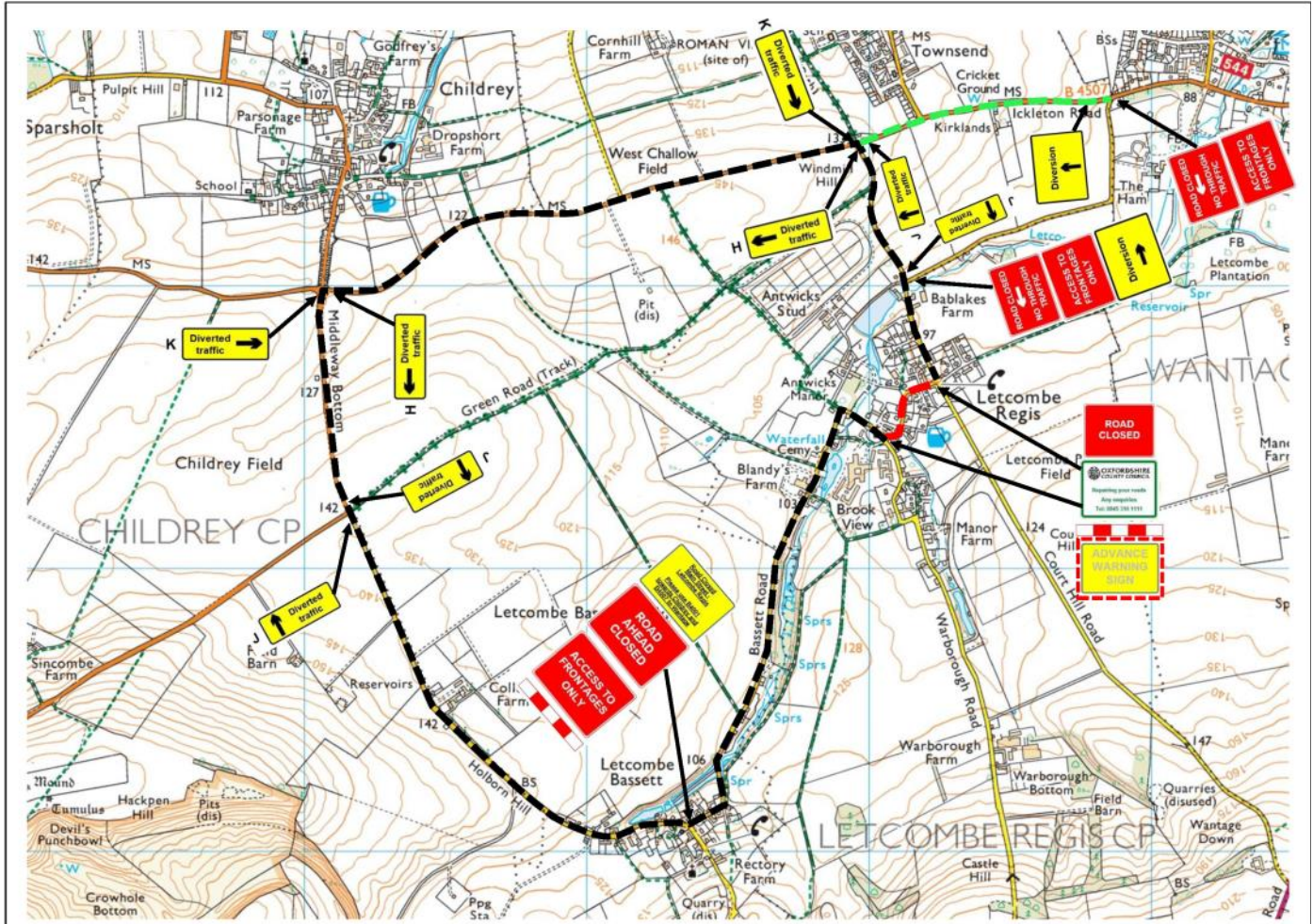
SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: via Ct Hill Road, B4507, B4001, Holborn Hill, Bassett Road, South Street and vice versa

Jason Russell

Jason Russell, Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities

Date: 20 April 2020

A	ROAD CLOSED	2	T	ADVANCE WARNING SIGN	2
B	ROAD AHEAD CLOSED	1			
C	Diversion		U	Road Closed Main Street - Letcombe Regis Please use B4001 towards Childrey and B4507 to Wantage	1
D	Diversion	1			
E	Diversion	1	V		
H	Diverted traffic	2			
J	Diverted traffic	4	W		
K	Diverted traffic	2			
R		3		Letcombe Regis Main Street Carriageway Repairs	
S	OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Regulating your roads Any enquiries Tel: 0445 210 1111	2			
W	ROAD CLOSED NO THROUGH TRAFFIC				
X	ROAD CLOSED NO THROUGH TRAFFIC	2			
Y	ACCESS TO FRONTAGES ONLY	3			



Upcoming Road Closures - 31/7



TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

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

TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS WAITING ON THE HIGHWAY BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES

LOCATION: Letcombe Regis, Court Hill Road

REASON: To facilitate carriageway patching works

DURATION: Starting on 31 July 2020
The anticipated completion date is 04 August 2020 (date included). This is a 24 hour road closure (Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days.)

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages subject to the progress of the works

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

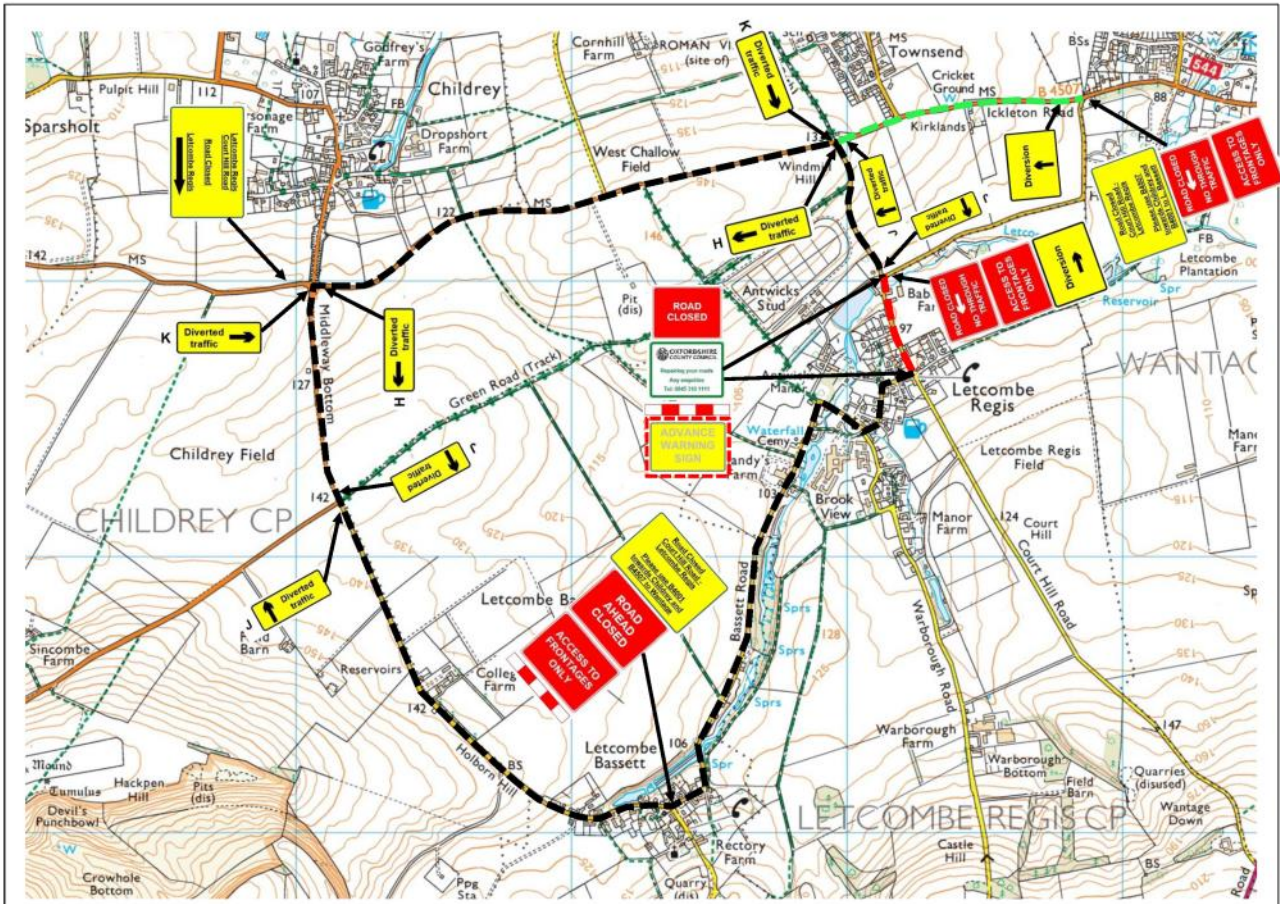
SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: via Court Hill Road, B4507, B4001, Holborn Hill, Bassett Road, Main Street and vice versa.

Jason Russell

Jason Russell, Director for Infrastructure Delivery Communities

Date: 21 April 2020

A	ROAD CLOSED	2	T	ADVANCE WARNING SIGN	2
B	ROAD AHEAD CLOSED	1			
C	Diversion		U	Road Closed Court Hill Road - Letcombe Regis Please use B4001 towards Childrey and B4507 to Wantage	1
D	Diversion	1			
E	Diversion	1	V	Road Closed Court Hill Road - Letcombe Regis Please use B4507 towards Childrey and B4001 to L. Bassett	1
H	Diverted traffic	2			
J	Diverted traffic	4			
K	Diverted traffic	2	W	Letcombe Regis Court Hill Road Road Closed Letcombe Regis	1
R		3			
S	OXFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Repairing your roads Any enquiries Tel: 0845 310 3111	2			
W	ROAD CLOSED NO THROUGH TRAFFIC			Letcombe Regis Court Hill Road Carriageway Repairs	
X	ROAD CLOSED NO THROUGH TRAFFIC	2			
Y	ACCESS TO FRONTAGES ONLY	3			



Francesca Engelmann,
2, The Old Stables,
Letcombe Regis,
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 closure (taken from the Village Hall email)

Due to the current situation with the Coronavirus we are currently closed for at least 3 months - April, May & June.



Registered charity no: 1082500

We will be guided by Government Guidelines as to when we can re-open but we are unable to give a date at this present time.

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.

