








# The Letcombe Register



Issue 199

March 2022

## VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall	2 <u>Ash Wednesday</u> 10.30am St Andrew's	3 <u>Pilates w Rachel</u> 9.30 am Village Hall <u>Yoga w Diana</u> 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	4	5 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2	6
		<b>Book Buffs</b> 8 pm Greyhound Inn			Football 3.pm	
7 	8 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall	9	10 <u>Pilates w Rachel</u> 9.30 am Village Hall <u>Yoga w Diana</u> 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	11	12 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2	13 <b>Holy Communion</b> 10am St Andrew's
<b>Evensong 3 pm</b> <u>Voices of the Vale</u> 7-9 pm Village Hall		<b>Film Club</b> 8pm Village Hall <b>'Hundred-Foot Journey'</b>				
14 	15 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall	16	17 <u>Pilates w Rachel</u> 9.30 am Village Hall <u>Yoga w Diana</u> 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	18	19 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2	20 <b>Baptism Service</b> 11.30am St Andrew's
<b>Evensong 3 pm</b> <b>WI - AGM</b> 7.30pm Village Hall <u>Voices of the Vale</u> 7-9 pm Sports Pavilion		<b>Gardening Club</b> 7.30 pm Village Hall <b>'Cotswold Gadens'</b>			Football 3 pm	
21 	22 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall	23	24 <u>Pilates w Rachel</u> 9.30 am Village Hall <u>Yoga w Diana</u> 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	25	26 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2	27
<b>Evensong 3 pm</b> <b>Parish Council Meeting</b> 8pm on Zoom <u>Voices of the Vale</u> 7-9 pm Village Hall					Football 3 pm	 1 am clocks forward
28 	29 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall	30	31 <u>Pilates w Rachel</u> 9.30 am Village Hall <u>Yoga w Diana</u> 11.15-12.30 Village Hall			
<b>Evensong 3 pm</b> <u>Voices of the Vale</u> 7-9 pm Village Hall						

★ Events shown are dependent on organisers keeping me up to date. They may also require booking in advance and be subject to last minute alteration. (Items underlined are hyperlinked)

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## Message from the Parish Council

This past month has provided a significant challenge for the Parish Council as the broadband cabling work proposed by Airband, meant telegraph poles stretching all the way up Court Hill. The PC took the position of rejecting this and finally after much negotiation this cable is now being laid underground, preventing what would have been an eyesore in the AONB. We would like to express our grateful thanks to the land owners, who, at the very last minute when asked by the PC, agreed to this alternative proposal, thus protecting our special environment.

The installation of broadband cabling along Warborough Road will complete the initial project for the village, and an earlier email set out the proposal as negotiated by the Parish Council. We are informed that the works will commence in early March and may include temporary road closures. All those likely to be affected will be receiving a letter of clarification from Airband shortly, and we will ensure a further update email will be sent once details have been finalised. The next stage to enable all villages to have the opportunity to benefit from ultrafast broadband is ongoing and we will keep you informed. The installation of these cables will mean that in future we should all be able to select a provider of our choice to provide a better broadband service.

Plans for the landscaping of the Burial Ground have been agreed and work will commence very soon to plant hedging, tidy up borders and generally improve the setting. We have received a kind donation from a member of the parish which will enable the planting of roses and honeysuckle to grow up the Lych Gate. Whilst it still looks a little bare we anticipate that in a couple of years everything will have softened and blended into the surroundings. We are just glad that the storm has blown through in advance of the work.

Sadly the damage caused by the storm has brought forward potential scams. The County Council have advised that if you are considering repairs e.g. to roofs or fencing, for example, please check the Trading Standards Teams 'Buy with Confidence website' at <https://www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk/> where you will find local traders who have been vetted and approved by trading standards to ensure they operate in a legal, honest and fair way. If you have any concerns about cold calling or potential scams please contact the Citizens Advice National Consumer Service on 0800 144 8848 or visit <https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>.

Elsewhere in the Register (page 13) you will see details on two Webinars being held in March to explain the new Highway Code Rules. If you don't already know them this is the ideal opportunity to bring your knowledge up to date.

The benefits of keeping our village 'dark' at night enables us to witness magnificent star filled skies on clear nights. The Council For the Protection of Rural England – CPRE – have launched their Star Count 2022 which runs from 26 February to 6 March. To find out how you can be a part of this simply go to the CPRE Website <https://www.cpre.org.uk/>. (See page 6 for more information).

Plans for the Platinum Celebrations are beginning to shape up and we are hoping you are all holding the date for Thursday 2 June. We are planning an event for all to enjoy and if you are interested in helping us to mark the occasion please contact the Parish Clerk with your offer of help. The Village Hall has been booked for a traditional tea, cake and musical afternoon and we hope that games will be available for the younger village residents to enjoy followed by a bar b que late afternoon. More details will follow in the next Register.

The Parish Council is receiving a continuing stream of information from many sources including the County Council, the Vale of the White Horse District Council and many other agencies, and rather than fill up the pages of the Register we are looking to provide a link via the PC website which is currently undergoing a review. We will then provide the links only in the Register to leave it more available for the important local Village items, such as the Daffodil Day, Platinum Jubilee, Social Club events etc,

The next Parish Council Meeting will be held on Monday 21 March 8pm on Zoom. We welcome all to our meetings so please contact the Parish Clerk if you wish to attend, and you will be provided with joining instructions.

As Covid restrictions are relaxed please continue to keep safe, and enjoy the wonderful spring flowers that are beginning to emerge.

Jeanne Lapsley  
Chairman  
Letcombe Regis Parish Council.

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## Issue 199



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**Hazel Lee Jones**

**Beauty, Healing and Hair**

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# 200 Club results

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200 Club Draw — No 12		March 2022
55	Eddie & Liz JENKINS	£50
65	Mick & Sue DARBY	£25
75	Anne HODGSON	£15
46	Martin & Jane SAMUEL	£10
199	Matthew TAYLOR	£5
Special Draw:		
127	Angela BAILEY MYERS	£25
20	Nick GARDNER	£25
157	Thérèse CLARKE	£25
7	Mick ROWE	£25
211	Helmut GROSS	£25
1	John PESKETT	£20
218	Mike WHEELHOUSE	£15
37	Helen WOOD	£10
91	Steve & Anne WILSON	£10
New Numbers Draw		
148	Peter BELLIS	£5
130	Helmut GROSS	£5
69	John & Mandy BOALER	£5
17	Annette ANDRESEN	£5

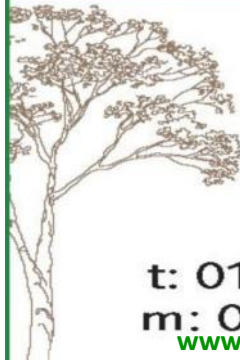


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[ Mention The Letcombe Register when you call ]



## Star Count

What is Star Count?

The best way to see how many stars we can all see in the sky is... to count them! So we're asking people from all across the country to become 'citizen scientists' and look heavenwards for one night. Join in by choosing a clear night between **26 February and 6 March 2022** and becoming a stargazer. Pop the dates in your diary now!

With brilliant support from the [British Astronomical Association](#), we're asking you to look up at the constellation Orion and let us know how many stars you can count. Don't worry: we'll give [plenty of support on how to do this](#). Once you've done your star-spotting, we'll share a form with you where you can quickly and easily send us your count – and then we get busy with our number-crunching.

Your results from Star Count will help us make a map of where star-spotters are enjoying deep, dark skies. By showing on a map where light pollution is most serious, we can work with local councils and others to decide what to do about it.

Better still, Star Count is also a great way to switch off from the distractions of daily life and reconnect with nature. Look up at the cosmos and... breathe.

How to take part in Star Count

Here are a few top tips for a brilliant Star Count evening:

1. Try to pick a clear night for your count, with no haze or clouds, then wait until after 7pm so the sky is really dark.
2. Looking south into the night sky, find the Orion constellation, with its four corners and 'three-star belt'.
3. Let your eyes adjust to the darkness for as long as possible (we recommend at least 20 minutes), then count the stars that you can see within the four corners of Orion (check out the picture below which shows you how, and [more top tips in our full article](#))
4. Make a note of the number of stars seen with the naked eye and submit your count on our website when the results page opens that week.
5. Share your experiences (and any photos) with others on social media using #StarCount
6. And don't forget to check back to see the national results and how your area compares to the rest of the country!

To take part [click here](#) OR find out more on the CPRE facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/CPREcountrysidecharity>

## Letcombe Football Club



February was a successful month for the football club, although all three games were against sides in the lower half of the league table. We beat Marlborough Town development 6-2 at home and then beat Clanfield development 3-1 in another home fixture. We travelled to Marlborough to play their development team again and lead 3-0 at half time, but the home team came back to draw 3-3, with the equaliser coming in the last few minutes.

Fixtures in March are :

Satur-	5 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Letcombe	v	Kintbury Rangers	league	3.00
Tuesday	8 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Clanfield Development	v	Letcombe	league	7.30
Satur-	12 <sup>th</sup> Mar	Swindon Supermarine Development	v	Letcombe	league	3.00
Satur-	19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Letcombe	v	Hungerford Swifts	league	3.00
Satur-	29 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Letcombe	v	Cricklade	league	3.00



**WORLD  
WILDLIFE DAY**  
3 MARCH

Issue 199

## The Letcombes Conservation Group

Since March 3, 2014 the date has been observed as the UN's **World Wildlife Day** to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild animals and plants. The date is the anniversary of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora in 1973. This year's theme is "**Recovering key species for ecosystem restoration**" in recognition of the challenge to some of the most critically endangered species of wild fauna and flora. Over a million species are now threatened with extinction according to data from the International Union for Conservation of Nature's Red List of critically endangered, endangered or vulnerable species. Hence the need for support to global habitat and ecosystem restoration, and to promote only sustainable use of wildlife and biodiversity-based resources by people for food, fuel, medicines, housing and clothing. Several short videos about endangered species and the role of World Wildlife Day are available on YouTube via the official website: [Official website of UN World Wildlife Day](https://www.worldwildlife.org/official-website-of-un-world-wildlife-day).



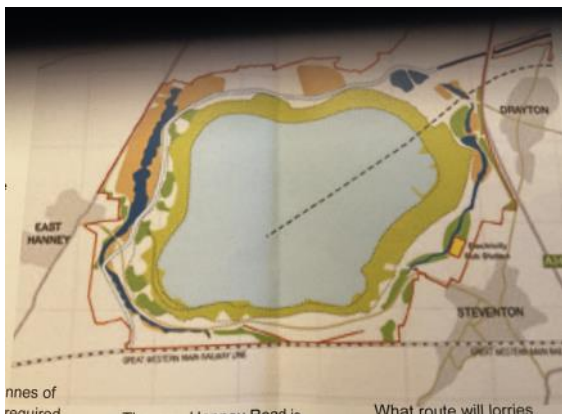
The UK's most endangered animal species include the hedgehog; the Red Squirrel; the Natterjack toad, one of only two species of toad in the UK, found solely in small areas of Lincolnshire and Norfolk, and along the west coast from Lancashire to Dumfries; the Turtle Dove only found in scattered locations in south and east of England; once-common species, such as the V moth (left) and the Small Tortoiseshell butterfly, plus various insects such as Cosnard's net-winged beetle (top right) found only in beech trees of the Forest of Dean, the Wye Gorge and the South Downs, the Bearded false darkling beetle (left) confined to the New Forest, and the Wart-biter cricket (right) only found in four locations across East Sussex, Dorset and Wiltshire.



As the fascinating David Attenborough *Green Planet* series demonstrated, animal and plant life interact in complex ways and are inter-dependent within all ecosystems. Unfortunately the February storms have added to the catastrophic devastation of woodlands caused by Storm Arwen in November 2021 storm after which an estimated eight million UK trees in 4,000 hectares of woodland were blown down. Sadly it is mature trees which are most prone to high winds; the National Trust alone has lost almost a quarter of the standing trees on its properties including many ancient oaks and yews across the country and the iconic beech tree at Wray Castle, Ambleside which had the biggest girth in Britain and Ireland. Each fallen tree excavates a huge root plate of soil and embedded rock which, in addition to the wet, dark blanket of trunk and branches, covers the shooting spring plants growing in the former dappled light and shade. Other trees have been left unbalanced and precarious, especially with the threat of further storms that may be more severe and unpredictable due to climate change affecting global weather systems. Many existing species are anchored by roots grown in woodlands that have been shaped in response to the prevailing south-westerly winds in the UK. Storm Arwen tore in from the north whilst Storm Eunice from the south-west was exceptionally severe under the influence of a powerful 200+ mph jet stream. These changes explain the damage to trees in woods that have stood firm for generations. Over time rotting wood can create new habitats and some spaces will be filled by natural regeneration possibly leading to greater diversity of species. However, the scale of the destruction is such that it is critical to plant in the right place to shape future forests' resilience to climate change. Crucially trees provide a carbon sink to offset climate warming and replacing the lost trees to provide wildlife habitats and places for people to experience nature, as well as for timber, is a 40 to 50 year project. It has become all the more important for individuals to plant trees in their own locality now. Simply stated, by Paul Donnelly, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA), *'Healthy nature sustains us. However, our biodiversity is under severe pressure, at a time when we have never been more in need of it to counter the impacts of climate change'*.

## The Abingdon Reservoir

I attended a public meeting on February 22<sup>nd</sup> to hear from the Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD) why the local population should oppose building this reservoir.



Thames Water, a privately owned company, in a grouping of 7 water companies called the Water Resources South East (WRSE) are planning to build a gigantic reservoir extending between the railway line just north of Grove, Marcham to the north, Steventon and Drayton to the west and East Hanney to the east. This is planned to start in 2025 and be ready for use by 2040. This will be surrounded by concrete walls eventually grassed over which will be 80 feet high, the height of 5 double decker buses and occupy an area the size of Heathrow Airport losing 5000 acres of farmland. According to the Group Against Reservoir Development (GARD) who are holding a series of public meetings in the villages affected, Thames Water are peddling a series of myths to make this plan more palatable. This is the third time, Thames Water have attempted to build this reservoir which has previously been thrown out by a Public Enquiry. However this time it has official Government support which means like HS2, it may not be able to be stopped despite opposition by Oxfordshire County Council, The Vale of White Horse District Council and our two local MPs, David Johnston and Leyla Moran.

So what are the disputed statements?

Thames Water say it is the only way to deal with the water shortage in the southeast by pumping water from the Thames into the reservoir but currently Thames Water are wasting the equivalent of two reservoirs a day, 300 million cubic metres in leaks which they are not repairing. There are also much better solutions which are being delayed until after the reservoir. These are transferring water from the Severn, a river which has much higher rainfall catchment than the Thames Valley and is currently subject to recurrent flooding to the Thames by a pipeline or existing canal system. Building a recycling plant in London is also part of the delayed solution.

1. WRSE claim that the need is based on a population expansion in the South East by 4 million by 2060 but the Office for National Statistics only predict an increase of 1.13 million.
2. WRSE claim that the reservoir is an ecological and healthy idea but there will be 10 years of noise, vibration and dust as well as a massive carbon cost of digging, moving, concreting which means that Oxfordshire's net zero carbon plans are wrecked along with the area's biodiversity.
3. WRSE have claimed that there will be great leisure facilities, walking, boating, horse riding but it would appear that the water surface will be 80 feet up in the air with floating solar panels with the security risk meaning high fences and no public access. There is also no room around the site for leisure space.
4. As opposed to WRSE's claim that there is no increased flood risk, GARD has found that the essential flood plain will be removed and damage to the reservoir through accident or terrorism would cause catastrophic flooding of the whole area.

These are only a few of the disputed claims and there is a public consultation ending on March 14<sup>th</sup>. If you wish to respond please register at [wrse.uk/engagementhq.com](http://wrse.uk/engagementhq.com) and complete the consultation or email direct to [contact@wrse.org.uk](mailto:contact@wrse.org.uk). GARD ask that you send copies to them, your MP and Councillors. More information is available at [www.gard-oxon.org.uk](http://www.gard-oxon.org.uk) as well as a leaflet suggesting answers to the consultation if you oppose the reservoir.

Cllr. Loretta Light



Issue 199

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## Letcombes Gardening Club

### *Topical Tips*

**S**pring is here! I hope your gardens didn't suffer too much in the strong winds we had a week or so ago. March is a busy gardening month.

Lets talk about increasing your plant numbers. Any of you in the gardening club will then be able to provide lots of plants for next month's Plant Market! First of all, you can lift and divide clumps of perennials this month. This is particularly beneficial if you have infestations of weeds such as couch grass as it gives you the opportunity to tease out all the weed roots.

If you pot up your dahlia tubers you will soon get new shoots that you can use for cuttings. Also, check for new shoots appearing above ground in the perennials in your flower borders. These can also be used for cuttings. Any cuttings you took last autumn can be potted on now.

Then of course there is seed. Get sowing and you will soon have plenty of new plants.

Give your beds a good mulch with organic matter. This not only improves the soil but suppresses weeds and insulates plants should the temperatures plummet.

On the tree and shrub front, if you have any unruly honeysuckle or ivy then now is the time to give it a good trim. You can also tackle summer flowering jasmine if they are reasonably hardy. A tip with these is not to hack away at the laterals but to take a few stems back to ground level otherwise you will damage their flowering potential. If you have a winter flowering jasmine though you can cut away the laterals to your heart's content!

Make sure that you don't get too keen with your secateurs however. Slightly more tender evergreens should be left for the moment as we may still get a cold snap and this will burn the ends of the shoots and make the plant look ugly for the rest of the season.

Now for fruit and veg. March is the time when seed sowing starts earnest. Brassicas like sprouts and cabbage can be sown in pots or nursery beds to be transplanted later. Carrots and parsnips can be sown in situ. Tender crops like tomatoes, chillies and aubergines can be sown in the greenhouse.

First and second early potatoes should be planted during this month and the first maincrop at the end of the month. Make sure you don't plant out more than you can protect from late frosts though.

Shallot and onion sets should also be planted. Here's a little tip. Be aware then you plant out any that have a large shoot as these may bolt later in the season.

Well I think that's enough for you to think about at the moment so I'll leave you to get outside into the garden and enjoy!

### *The Letcombes Gardening Club*

**W**e have our final face-to-face meeting this month. Mandy Bradshaw will be speaking to us on 'My Guide to Cotswold Gardens' on Wednesday 16 March at 7.30pm in the village hall. Mandy is an award winning garden journalist living in the Cotswolds so this promises to be a really good talk giving us lots of ideas for garden visits later in the season. In addition we will be having tea/coffee afterwards so there will be more chance for a little chat. Do come along.

I would also like to put in an early reminder that next month, on April 23<sup>rd</sup>, the club has their annual Plant Market. There will be lots of plants and teas too so do keep the date free **and pop along**.





## Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Amphibians breed in the spring depositing their eggs in freshwater, usually ponds rather than streams or lakes, but toads do gather in the Letcombe Brook and the deeper lakes in the Nature Reserve, Richmond Village and beside Warborough Road. Common Toads are very particular about where they breed and often migrate back to their ancestral breeding ponds each year following the same route, regardless of what gets in their way. This means they may be crossing roads in the village on mild, wet evenings through March until late April. In a toad versus traffic clash, toads are the losers so do watch out for them rather than add to the national decline in their numbers.

Ponds are crucial to the survival of an extraordinary variety of freshwater species including frogs, toads, newts, many aquatic invertebrates and plants. Also they provide mammals and birds with water and are important foraging areas for reptiles such as grass snakes. Frogs are the earliest amphibian to breed so look for their clusters of jelly-like eggs floating on the surface of the Reserve pond, whilst the Common Toad's double strings of eggs are laid wrapped around plants on and below the water usually from March. Adult amphibians spend no time with their eggs after depositing them. The eggs develop into larvae (tadpoles) with tails, before growing four legs that enable the juveniles to leave the water. During metamorphosis into juvenile versions of the adult form, frogs and toads lose their tails, while newts keep them. The adults then live mainly on land, generally in damp and secluded places, and return to water to breed and hunt.

The Common frog (*Rana Temporaria*) has smooth skin with dark patches on the usually olive-green or brown back, stripes on the long legs used for hopping and a dark mask behind the eye, photo credit: Pam Fray (CC BY-SA 2.0). The tadpoles are faintly speckled gold/brown on black whilst adults are able to lighten or darken their skin to match their surroundings. Common frogs shelter in winter under rocks or in compost heaps, or underwater buried in mud and vegetation, rather than hibernate and will forage in milder temperatures. They emerge in spring, the males using a single vocal sac under the chin to attract females with a soft repetitive croak. Each 'raft' of spawn contains up to 2,000 eggs.



The Common toad (*Bufo Bufo*) tolerates drier habitats and spends less time in water than frogs, often living in woodlands, gardens, hedgerows and tussocky grassland. They excavate a shallow burrow where they return after foraging for slugs, spiders and insects at night. To deter predators, toads secrete a toxin from their dark brown, grey or olive green, warty skin and puff up their broad, squat bodies. Toads walk or crawl, rather than hop, and the males have a high pitched 'qwark-qwark-qwark' croak during breeding. The Common toad hibernates over winter, often under log piles, stones or even in old flower pots.



The Smooth or Common newt (*Lissotriton vulgaris*), sometimes mistaken for a lizard on land, has skin of a velvety appearance in shades of grey or brown, with a yellow or orange belly, usually with black spots or blotches, photo credit: Gail Hampshire (CC BY 2.0).. Smooth newts spend the winter sheltering in similar places to frogs and occasionally overwinter in ponds. Males sport a wavy crest along their back during the breeding season and perform elaborate courtship dances to entice females with a glandular secretion. The greyish brown eggs are deposited individually on the leaves of pond plants.



The larvae have feathery gills that distinguish them from frog and toad tadpoles.

Creating a clean, new pond is one of the simplest and most effective ways to help protect freshwater wildlife. A leaflet, *Just Add Water*, on creating a wildlife pond is available to download from [JAW-2014-compressed.pdf](http://JAW-2014-compressed.pdf) ([froglife.org](http://froglife.org)), on the *Froglife* website. If your pond attracts Common toads, they can live for up to 12 years helping to keep slugs and snails under control in your garden.



Work parties continue in the Community Nature Reserve on Saturday, 19 March from 13:30 to 16:30. Please meet near the lake notice board by 13:20 for the tasks and safety briefing. Tools will be provided, and refreshments mid-afternoon, but please take your own work gloves.



*Photo by Mike Price*

## St Andrew's

On 6<sup>th</sup> February the bells were rung and the church was floodlit to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, a special event for a special year. The following Sunday we had our monthly communion service. Unfortunately as we came out of church it started to rain quite heavily so no-one felt like stopping to admire the wonderful display of snowdrops and other bulbs in the churchyard. Of course they will continue to give pleasure throughout the village for some weeks to come. On a damp, windy and slightly gloomy morning, 22<sup>nd</sup> February, it was cheering to hear the bells ringing out to mark a wedding ceremony in the church.

Ash Wednesday falls on 2<sup>nd</sup> March this year and there will be a service in St Andrew's at 10.30 am. Also Peter and Chic Cook (751078) are again hosting a Lent Group in Childrey. Please get in touch with them if you would like to attend. Lent is the most solemn time of observance and preparation for the the death and the resurrection of Christ. Over hundreds of years there was a tradition of fasting and more recently people have given up something for Lent. It is noticeable that rather than giving up, there might be a movement towards giving instead. At the present time when many are finding it difficult to manage financially, it might be preferable to give to a food bank or some other charitable organisation rather than giving up chocolate.

There are two well-known Saints' Days in March. On 1<sup>st</sup> the festival of St David, the patron saint of Wales is commemorated. Nowadays we tend to think of this as a day when the Welsh wear daffodils or leeks. More importantly David was the only native born patron saint of Britain and Ireland. He was a renowned preacher and founded monastic settlements in Wales, Brittany and England. On 17<sup>th</sup> March the birth of Saint Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, is observed both in Ireland and in other parts of the world, particularly the USA, with a religious and cultural holiday. Saint Patrick used the three leaves of the shamrock as a metaphor for the Holy Trinity which explains the wearing of shamrock on 17<sup>th</sup> March.

Looking ahead to April. Daffodil Day is on 2<sup>nd</sup> April when the Letcombe Regis WI and St Andrew's will be providing tea and cakes in the church between 2 and 5 pm.

Regular events in St Andrew's Church – Every Monday at 10.30 am there is a Prayer Group and also on Mondays there is a service of Evensong at 3 pm. Everyone is welcome.

## Women's Institute



At our last meeting Jennifer Cowling came to inspire us to improve our fitness and balance. This was done by exercise, but seated exercise done to music, and everyone found it more fun than they had expected. It carried some of us back to the days of Music and Movement!

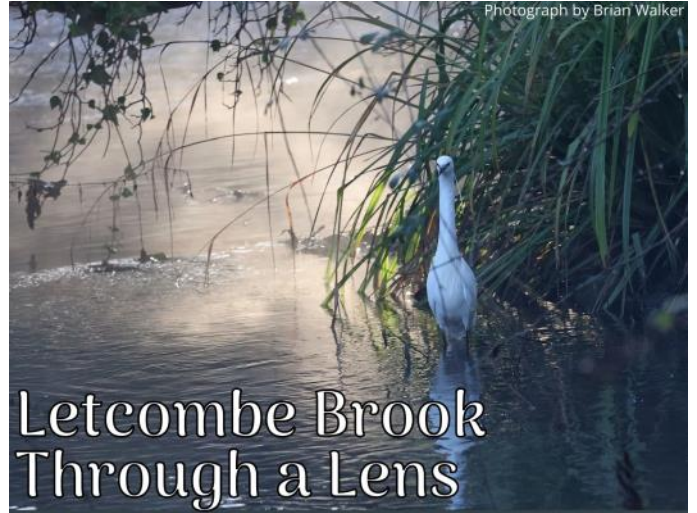
This month will be our Annual General Meeting, when we look back on a somewhat disrupted year, and forward to better times ahead. We hope to get the business over fairly quickly, and then have a jolly social time. No visitors this month.

We hope to see you at the Letcombe Regis Village Hall on Monday March 14th at 7.30p.m.



For those of you who may still wonder how it is we have such beautiful displays of flowers around the village. Here is a photo of our resident galanthophile - Anne Williams, in her natural habitat.

Taken, with her permission, by John Peskett, it shows her opening up the undergrowth along Cox's Hedge to allow the aconites and snowdrops to flourish as such glorious harbingers of spring.



## Letcombe Brook Through a Lens

Discovering the secret life of a chalk stream

An exhibition of photographs of the Letcombe Brook and its wildlife taken by supporters of the Letcombe Brook Project

### 1st March - 1st April

Free admission, donations welcome  
Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times



Vale & Downland Museum  
Church Street, Wantage OX12 8BL  
Monday - Saturday 9.30am - 3.45pm  
www.valeanddownlandmuseum.org.uk  
info@valeanddownlandmuseum.org.uk



## THE HUNDRED-FOOT JOURNEY



### LETCOMBE FILM CLUB

Letcombe Regis Village Hall,  
Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March

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

Refreshments - Soft Drinks, Wine, Beer and Tea/Coffee

## THE GREYHOUND INN

LETCOMBE REGIS · OXFORDSHIRE



New menu starting in February  
from our Head Chef, Martin Sherriff

Every weekday

### Lunch for Less

2 courses £20 3 courses £24

Available 12-2:30 pm Monday to Friday

It's back! Every Wednesday evening

### The Midweek Fix

2 delicious courses for only £20

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



Issue 199

## New Highway Code Rules

The Older Drivers Forum are holding two Webinars in March (10th & 14th) to explain the New Highway Code Rules.

Please click on the following link to see the information and how to join a Webinar <https://olderdriversforum.com/webinars/>

## Film Club

### *The Hundred Foot Journey* (PG)

Wednesday 9 March



A bumper turnout for our very popular February film, *The Courier*. Thanks to everyone who came out to join us. Spy films are always popular so we will look for more of these for the future programme.

For March we have chosen a feel good comedy-drama from 2014, *The Hundred-Foot Journey*. Based on a book of the same name, it tells the story of an Indian family who set up a restaurant in a French village. It just happens to be located 100ft away from a renowned Michelin starred restaurant owned by the matriarchal Madame Mallory, who is not happy with the competition. Fun and games ensue between the two popular businesses.

Helen Mirren is excellent as Madame Mallory, with Om Puri playing Papa, the patriarch of the Kadam family, and both are supported by a strong cast. Steven Spielberg and Oprah Winfrey produced the film, so it has great credentials.

Come along and join us for a popular feel good film which will cheer up what has been a wet and windy few months.

Doors open 7.30 pm, film starts at 8pm. Come early and enjoy a pre film drink.

## Book Buffs



The next meeting will be held in the Greyhound at 8pm on Wednesday 2nd March. We shall be reviewing *'1984'* by George Orwell.

The new library book is *'A Street Cat named Bob'* by James Bowe ( a complete change of tone!). An alternative is *'Landmark in Time'* by Peter Adamson.

Please return '1984' to the blue box at Blandy's Barn.



## Letcombe Sports and Social Club

We are all looking forward to the weather warming up and being able to use our outside space in the sunshine.

Pizza at the Pavilion will return again this year. Details of the dates will be posted on the Regis and Bassett Community Facebook Page, as well as in the Register from next month.

If anyone wants to know more about the Sports and Social Club and how to become a member, then please contact the Secretary by emailing [letcombesportsclub@gmail.com](mailto:letcombesportsclub@gmail.com).

Bar opening times and events are on the calendar here - <http://www.letcombesportsclub.org.uk>

Richard  
Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club.



## Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust

With the evenings starting to get a little lighter, it is good to see the Recreation Ground well used by many villagers and visitors to our Village. Fortunately the high winds of recent weeks have not caused us any specific damage, apart from some smaller branches off trees, and the cricket net relocating itself into the trees by the Village Hall. This will have to be better secured to ensure it doesn't happen again.

The Old Riding Club field to the West of the Recreation Ground has had some rough plans drawn up for some paths, tree planting and barbecue / fire pit area. A sketch plan is shown here. If any villagers have any comments, then please let me know.

If you are thinking of hiring the Village Hall, then please do plan in advance, as now Covid restrictions have been completely lifted, the Hall is likely to get booked up for events in the coming months.

There will be a refresh of the dog fouling signs going up in the near future to remind all those Villagers and Visitors of their responsibilities.

Grass cutting of the Recreation Ground will start when the ground is dry enough, and preparations for the coming Cricket season will also start in March. It does seem strange mentioning Cricket when there have been frosts, but it won't be long before the warmer weather is with us.

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

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



To submit an article please contact:  
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 Letcombe Regis,  
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[Register@oldstableyard.co.uk](mailto:Register@oldstableyard.co.uk)  
 01235 769310

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

Past Registers are available to view, along with much more information, on the Village Website:  
[www.letcomberegispc.org](http://www.letcomberegispc.org)

To receive your pdf copy of the Letcombe Register, please CONTACT Liz Jenkins, **THE PARISH CLERK:**  
[letregispc@gmail.com](mailto:letregispc@gmail.com)

( FOR GDPR REASONS - The Letcombe Register has no access to the village email list )

Deadline for inclusion is 27th of each month.  
 Items will generally appear in the order they were received

My apologies for getting the collection details the wrong way round last month.

The VOWH & Biffa will probably shortly deliver the new calendar for the 22/23 Collections, for you to keep and refer to - far more reliable!  
 Or you can download one from the VOWH site [here](#)

In the meantime there remains the



app:

For iPhone click [here](#)  
 For android click [here](#)  
 For PC click [here](#)

**March 2022**      **Click Here for new 2022/23 waste calendar**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			
Grey Landfill Food waste			Green recycling Food waste Brown Garden Waste			