





The Letcombe Register



Issue 193

September 2021

VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9 - 10 Coaching 10 -11	2 Pilates with Rachel 9.30 am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	3	4 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2 <u>Cricket</u> 1pm	5 <u>Cricket</u> 11am
6  Ridgeway & PCC 7.30 pm Village Hall	7 Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (booking essential)	8 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9 - 10 Coaching 10 -11	9 Pilates with Rachel 9.30 am Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	10	11 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2 Football 3pm	12 Holy Communion 10am St Andrew's <u>Cricket</u> 1pm <u>Tennis</u> Junior Doubles Tournament 2-4pm
13  Voices of the Vale 7-9 pm Sports Pavilion WI 7.30 pm Village Hall	14 Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (booking essential)	15 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9 - 10 Coaching 10 -11	16 Pilates with Rachel 9.30 am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	17	18 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2 Nature Reserve Work Party 1.30-4.30pm	19 <u>Tennis</u> Family Tournament 2pm
20  Voices of the Vale 7-9 pm Village Hall Parish Council meeting 8pm on Zoom	21 Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (booking essential)	22 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9 - 10 Coaching 10 -11	23 Pilates with Rachel 9.30 am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	24 Pizza at the Pavilion 4-9 pm TBC	25 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2 Millennium Green Work Party 10am - Noon Football 3pm	26 Harvest and Thanksgiving 3pm St Andrew's
27  Voices of the Vale 7-9 pm Village Hall Book Buffs 7.30pm Sports Pavilion	28 Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (booking essential)	29 <u>Tennis</u> Cardio 9 - 10 Coaching 10 -11	30 Pilates with Rachel 9.30 am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall			

* Most Events shown in the Calendar should still be booked in advance, and could also be changed at short notice. Please check the details before attending.
(Some items on this page are hyperlinked - if in the Diary they will be underlined)

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Message from the Parish Council

The Parish council will be holding its next meeting on Monday 20 September 8pm. This meeting will be held virtually on the Zoom platform so if you wish to attend please contact the Parish Clerk who will provide the joining instructions. We hope to resume the face to face arrangements from November, but this will of course depend upon the latest Covid19 advice.

Unfortunately due to circumstances beyond our control the work to improve the Parish Council Burial Ground was delayed, however we now expect this to commence on 8 September for up to six weeks. We hope that there will be minimum disruption to the village. Please ensure you keep outside the site area for your own safety.

There is a further working party planned for the Millennium Green this month and details can be found below. The revised Covid19 advice will hopefully enable our many clubs and groups to restart their activities. For those of you new to the village, this is an ideal opportunity to get to know other residents. Amongst others, Septembers WI, Film Club and Book Group are all scheduled so please look at the diary page of the Register for further information. All the contacts are available on the contact page.

We look forward to welcoming you to the next Parish Council Meeting.

Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman,
Letcombe Regis Parish Council



Millennium Green

A morning in the park - Volunteers needed
Saturday 25th September 10-12
Raking, weeding, cutting etc.
Coffee and Cake!



Have your say on how to improve Oxfordshire's bus services

Read the story on the Oxfordshire County Council [website](#) or below:

People who visit, live or work in Oxfordshire are urged to have their say on the county's bus network and services.

Oxfordshire County Council has started a consultation process to find out people's views on the service that is provided now and what people would like to see in the future. People can have their say by visiting [Let's Talk Oxfordshire](#), the council's new digital consultation and engagement platform.

The results will help the council agree a Bus Service Improvement Plan with bus operator partners to send to the government this October, which will help unlock funding to improve Oxfordshire's bus services.

To meet this challenge, Oxfordshire County Council is working with local bus companies to create the Bus Service Improvement Plan. This will involve developing bold plans for improving Oxfordshire's bus services and encouraging more people to use them.

The government has pledged £3 billion nationwide to help deliver these plans, and Oxfordshire is aiming to secure as much of this funding as it can. The survey is open until Monday 13 September.

200 Club Draw — No 6		September 2021
131	Giles FITZPATRICK	£50
48	Sue HANNON	£25
120	Martyn REED	£15
147	Helen WOOD	£10
166	Thérèse CLARKE	£5
Special Draw:		
45	Veronica RACKHAM	£25
146	Tony MACDONALD	£20
190	Frances RHODES	£10
185	Jean McROBERT	£10
152	Clare McCOUBREY	£10
154	Murray CHARLTON	£10
99	Ruth MANNING	£10
New Numbers Draw		
241	Ben WALMSLEY	£5

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CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?**
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TESTING IN OXFORDSHIRE
20-24 SEPTEMBER 2021
4-8 OCTOBER 2021

BOOKING INFORMATION:

To book your collection call **01865 895999 Option 1**
Or email: communityengagement@oxfordshire.gov.uk



LETCOMBE FILM CLUB

**Letcombe Regis Village Hall,
Wednesday 8th September**

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

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

King Alfred Patchwork and Quilters Group East Challow



We are a friendly group, who meet on 1st Wednesday evening of the month in East Challow village Hall @ 7PM.

We welcome members of any level and have a programme of talks, events and workshops which varies throughout the year.

1st September 7PM – Tentmakers of Cairo. Talk by John Fisher

6th October 7PM – Mark Pickles from the Sewing Studio in Bath.

Visitors and New members always welcome. You can to see the lovely handmade items our members have produced and pick up tips and new techniques from some of our experienced members.

We have all the procedures and protocols in line with the latest government guidelines.

For more information, please contact Janice Miller 01235 771552 or Mary Wearn on 07789 888569



Letcombe Football Club

The football season has finally arrived. After a number of friendly matches, we beat East Hendred 3-1 in the Faringdon Memorial cup and then played Wantage Town development in the second round. A serious clash of heads caused the game to be abandoned with the score 1-1, and although both players were taken to hospital, they are back home and on the way to a full recovery.

League fixtures in the next few weeks are :

Saturday 28th August	Letcombe	V Wantage Town development	3.00
Saturday 4th September	Faringdon Town	V Letcombe	3.00
Saturday 11th September	Letcombe	V Swindon Supermarine development	3.00
Saturday 18th September	Kintbury Rangers	V Letcombe	3.00
Saturday 25th September	Letcombe	V Cricklade Town	3.00
Saturday 2nd October	Letcombe	V Fairford Town reserves	3.00
Saturday 9th October	Shrivenham development	V Letcombe	3.00
Saturday 16th October	Letcombe	V Newbury	3.00



Family Tournament

This month we are running another fun family tournament, 1 adult and 1 child 16 years old or under (friends or family). The Tournament is on **Sunday 19th of September** commencing @ 2 pm.

The more the merrier. Refreshments and chit chat provided. Email letcombetennisclub@gmail.com or phone Alison on **07702272119** to take part.

Junior Doubles Tournament.

For Boys and Girls, 16 & under. Sunday the 12th of September 2021

Drinks and snacks provided 2:00 > 5:00 pm

All players will play a short set against each other and the 2 players who have won the most games will play a final.

£2 entrance fee for prizes etc.

Email letcombetennisclub@gmail.com or phone Geoff on **762680** to take part.

Autumn Adult Tournament.

Adult American Doubles Tournament (Alias "Fun Social get together"). OPEN to all Abilities, on ***Sunday the 10th of October*** Drinks and snacks provided from 10:00 am. To just come for a drink or take part, please either: ring **Anne Jones on 763969**, or email Letcombe tennis. This is the perfect opportunity for new and rusty members to join in and have fun.

Coaching Classes

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

Club Sessions

Every Sunday morning one of our committee will be at the courts from 10am to 1 pm to meet and knock up with you, so please come along while the weather is good, to play a friendly game, find out more or just knock a ball about!



Issue 193

Letcombes Gardening Club

Topical Tips

I hope you have all been enjoying the summer despite the rather dull, indifferent weather we've been having, and that you have maybe managed to get away for a bit. It looks like the weather is brightening up so we can look forward to some lovely golden early autumn days in the garden.

Lets start with the ornamental garden, where you'll be relieved to hear that there isn't quite so much to do at the moment.

You can lift and divide perennials now so if you have a clump that has been taking over and has been annoying you then feel free to start attacking it! Crocosmia is a good candidate for this because as the clump gets larger and more congested it tends to stop flowering.

You can also think ahead to next season and collect seed and plant spring bulbs.

Keep up with the deadheading. For plants such as dahlias this will mean you will continue to get more flowers to brighten up the autumn border.

You can give evergreen hedges a last trim now. The shape to aim for is slightly narrower at the top than the bottom as this helps to prevent snow from damaging the hedge and also stops the top from shading out the bottom, which can lead to dead patches.

Just a word of warning. Honey fungus fruiting bodies appear in late September. Don't be overly alarmed though as lots of other, harmless, fungi appear at time of year. Any that appear in open lawn or on mulch are not likely to be honey fungus.

If you have a pond then you can cut back marginal plants now. No more than 50% of the surface area should be covered. Netting can help to stop leaves falling into the water if you have trees around.

Now for fruit and veg. September is a busy harvesting month. Potatoes and onions should be dug up now and certainly before any cold weather arrives.

Apples and pears should also become ready to pick and there will still be autumn fruiting raspberries to gather.

You can still sow oriental vegetables as they will be hardy enough to withstand the cold so have a go at some pak choi; lovely with your oriental stir-fry!

September is a good time to reflect on which crops have done well and which have struggled. Make a note of this before you forget so you can plan ahead for a successful season next year!

All that remains is for me to encourage you to get out into the garden and enjoy the last of the warm weather!

Letcombes Gardening Club

I hope you have all had a good summer and enjoyed your garden. With the arrival of September the new season for the Gardening Club is beginning and I'm pleased to announce that we are going 'Face to Face'!

The first meeting will be on Wednesday 15 September when Gary Strickland will be talking to us on '*Setting up the Parkinson's Community Garden*'. The garden is located in West Lockinge and was developed over a period of 2 years by volunteers. Some of you may already have heard about it as it was featured on an episode of *Gardeners World* in September 2019. The intention is that if the weather is good we will meet at the garden at the earlier time of 4pm. However, if it is raining we will meet at the usual time of 7.30pm in Letcombe Regis village hall. For those of you who are already members and are on the email list, an email will be sent out a few days beforehand to let you know at which of the two venues we are meeting. For any prospective new members or anyone who is not on the email list, then just send an email enquiry to meryl@dunstanlodge.co.uk a day or so before the meeting. Hope to see you there!



Women's Institute

We hope very much that this will be the beginning of a “normal” term, and we have some interesting speakers for you. Firstly, on Monday 13th, Jim Birch is coming to talk about the History of the Thames Barges and their trade, up to 1970 when the last working barge was laid up. Jim will also tell us about his work with a charity which offers disadvantaged youngsters the opportunity to experience life on the restored barges. This should be a really stimulating talk, and visitors will be very welcome.

Book Buffs



The next meeting will be held on Monday 27th September at 7.30pm in the pavilion on the recreation ground. We shall be reviewing '**Stay with Me**' by Ayobami Adebayo and '**The Little Coffee Shop of Kabul**' by Deborah Rodriguez.

Please return '*Stay with Me*' to the blue box outside Blandy's Barn as soon as you have finished reading it.

Thank you.



Fibre to the Premises (FTTP) Network

Many of you will have received correspondence from Airband explaining about their work concerning the installation of fibre optic cabling to enable higher internet speeds. The current work in Letcombe Regis was in part funded through a Government grant designed to aid the development of rural businesses and not for residential properties. Indeed, the present cabling installation by Airband is only covering selected properties on Warborough Road.

The Parish Council had engaged with Airband to explore the possibility of adding a residential network but progress has been hampered not least by the pandemic. The cost of the installation was heavily dependent on the number of subscribers; the more households that signed up, the lower the installation costs. Signing up to Airband however only provides you with the infrastructure and any services you wish to subscribe to, for example Sky, would incur additional charges. Furthermore, Airband does not have agreements in place with all service supply companies, included among these is British Telecom.

The Government has since announced a new scheme to help defray the costs of installation in rural areas but this time covers residential properties. However, the sums are not only relatively small but the regulations on which areas would qualify complex. Letcombe Regis had been designated an area which would not qualify for any subsidies but the Parish Council along with other Parish Councils in the Ridgeway and our District Councillor, Paul Barrow are working with the County Council to challenge this. We are hopeful that we will be able to access funds to defray some of the installation costs.

In addition, the regulations of the new scheme have allowed alternative infrastructure companies to bid to undertake the work. This includes OpenReach who have fewer limits on which supply companies they will grant access to their network. We will keep parishioners updated on this important matter but for now would not recommend signing up to a FTTP contract. Any queries please get in touch by email (paulb@public-health.ucl.ac.uk) or telephone 763935.



Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust

The Hall has been busy with bookings after restrictions were relaxed further in July.

If you are planning any event later this year or in 2022, then please check the Hall online calendar, and email Claire, as I am sure dates will get booked up.

We have had increasing problems with rabbits on the recreation ground. Apart from them digging up various parts of the football and cricket pitches, they are classed as a pest, and we have a duty to control them. We have enlisted the help of someone who uses a mixture of ferrets, nets and an air gun to reduce the number of rabbits, and this is likely to be an ongoing activity until numbers are reduced.

As ever, if you have any comments or questions about the Recreation Ground or Village Hall, then please contact myself or one of the other Trustees.

Richard Taylor

Chairman, Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust

Film Club

Film Club Returns!

The Sapphires, Weds 8 September



For those readers who missed last month's entry, we are really delighted to be returning in September - our first screening in 18 months! Let's hope this proves to be the first in an uninterrupted 2021/22 season.

The film we've chosen for our return is a critically acclaimed feel-good Australian musical drama with a serious message about life for indigenous Australians. Set in 1968 and loosely based on the true story of four Aboriginal women from the same family in New South Wales who, following a talent contest, are discovered and go on to become the successful band 'The Sapphires'.

Chris O'Dowd plays the band's manager and Australian stars Deborah Mailman and Jessica Mauboy lead the top notch singing with their fantastic renditions of American Soul favourites. Released in 2012 at the Cannes Film Festival, 'The Sapphires' became one of Australia's biggest box office hits. Let's hope it's a hit in Letcombe!

COVID Safety

And once again, just to reiterate, we want to make sure everyone feels safe and comfortable so will have some precautions in place. We are currently planning to :

- 👉 ask that you wear masks while moving around the hall. (You can remove masks while seated).
- 👉 ensure adequate space between tables and use more smaller tables so that you can sit in family/friends groups
- 👉 ask that you bring exact money for entrance if possible (£5 per person)
- 👉 no longer provide free popcorn on tables (sorry!), but small bags will be available to buy
- 👉 continue to serve refreshments from the kitchen, but recommend just one person per table/group comes up to the hatch and that you maintain appropriate social distance whilst waiting to be served

Doors open 7.30pm, film starts at 8pm. Come early to get refreshments and settle in!
We are really looking forward to welcoming both familiar faces and new film lovers.

If you have any questions or concerns please email us - letcombefilms@outlook.com

Future Film Club dates for your diary:

13 Oct: Official Secrets

10 Nov: The Keeper

8 Dec: Dreamhorse



Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Monthly work parties will continue on the third Saturday of each month, the next one is on 18 September between 13:30 and 16:30. Please meet near the pond notice board on the Community Reserve by 13:20 for the tasks and safety briefing. As you are aware, extra caution is still advisable, so please bring your own work gloves, mask, drink, and snack if you plan to join the work party. Email letcombevalley@gmail.com to join the volunteers' circulation list

Dragonflies may be seen darting around the pond this month. The aquatic larval stage lasted up to two years in the pond and brook eating tadpoles, mosquitoes, other insect larvae and even fish. After crawling out of the water, the exoskeleton cracks open to release the adult abdomen and four wings which dry and harden over several hours to days. The small, reddish brown dragonflies are appropriately called Common Darters (right) whilst



the larger dragonflies are probably specimens of the Southern Hawker (left, photo credits: Gillian Taylor).



Dragonflies were some of the first winged insects to evolve around 300 million years ago. Fossils record that early species had large wingspans, as wide as two feet, but on modern species they only reach two to five inches. Nevertheless, dragonflies are some of the fastest flying insects in the world, up to 30mph, including straight up and down or hovering like a helicopter which has been an inspiration for engineers of robotic flight. Dragonflies catch their prey with their feet whilst flying, aided by their incredible vision that encompasses almost every angle except directly behind. These insects belong to the order Odonata, Greek for 'toothed one', and have serrated teeth used to consume insects. A single dragonfly can eat thirty to hundreds of mosquitoes per day, an example of control in one food chain of the ecosystem. Some adult dragonflies live for only a few weeks but other species survive for up to a year.

Currently the pond has a fine display, that will persist into autumn, of brown flowerheads capped by spires of smaller, male flowers surrounded with long wide, grey-green leaves of 'bulrushes' or the native Greater reedmace, *Typha latifolia*, (left).



(right), but confusion has crept into the use of the common name. Possibly this originated from Western Christian depictions of the biblical story of the discovery of Moses in the rushes in Exodus 2. A tradition, still continued in modern storybooks, of Moses' basket shown amongst bulrushes seems to have started in Victorian Sunday school illustrations. However, if Moses was indeed in a basket and not a wooden ark, it was most likely to have been made from the papyrus, *Cyperus papyrus*, a



native African reed that grows along the Nile in which a basket would be well camouflaged. Variations of the text of Exodus 2:1-10 arise from the Hebrew word, *tebah*, for Moses' 'basket' in being the same word used for 'ark', as in Noah's ark – something for academics to muse upon.



The Letcombes Conservation Group

The Wildlife Trusts and the RHS set up *Wild About Gardens* to encourage the use of gardens to support nature conservation. When was the last time starlings, house sparrows or hedgehogs visited your garden? These wild animals are increasingly under threat in the open countryside so gardens can make a real difference. In this year's Big Garden Birdwatch in January, in which over a million people counted more than 17 million birds, starlings were the third most numerous bird whilst greenfinches and chaffinches featured amongst the lowest numbers recorded. Nevertheless, sadly, garden visitor numbers do not reflect the wider picture of the overall bird numbers in the UK.

The decline in starling numbers started during the 1980s; the British Trust for Ornithology has recorded a decrease of 66% since the mid-1970s. Data from the Breeding Bird Survey suggests that 33% of



juveniles survived their first year of life in the past, but this has reduced to only 15% now. Starlings are heavily dependent on soil invertebrates, like earthworms, and this food supply may have declined with land-use changes or become less available during dry summers. Starlings spend much of the year in flocks, and judging by the number over Warborough Farm fields in August, the local farming practices suit them well. Due to their overall decline in numbers, the starling is on the Red List of birds of high conservation concern. They do, however, eat a wide variety of foods and their glossy plumage with a sheen of purples and

greens can be a welcome addition to garden feeding stations.

Now birds have completed their nesting for the year, garden hedges are being cut back and general tidying is proceeding apace. Spare a thought for one of the most threatened of our indigenous mammal species. Garden pesticides, contaminated water, loss of habitat and increased traffic are thought to be contributory factors to the dramatic fall in UK hedgehog numbers; there are estimated to be now less

than one million wild hedgehogs and they are classified as 'vulnerable to extinction' on the Red List for British mammals. Hedgehogs have a key role in maintaining a healthy ecosystem, controlling insect populations as well as worms, beetles, slugs, caterpillars, earwigs and millipedes that thrive beneath hedges, bushes, and garden vegetation. Though nocturnal, they may be seen in the early evening or night. Strimming poses a particular danger to hedgehogs resting in tall grass, under vegetation, leaf foliage or hedges. Their natural response to noise or other disturbance is to curl up into a ball, protecting their vulnerable belly with their spines. So do check all areas carefully before using a strimmer. Hedgehogs



roam quite widely requiring a network of linked natural spaces including gaps in garden boundaries. Wilder sections of gardens, possibly with log piles, give hedgehogs opportunities for shelter, food and potential nesting sites. Hedgehogs are amazing swimmers, but have poor eyesight and need an easy escape route if they tumble into any pond. Visit [16597 WAG - Hedgehog 16pp Booklet AW 0.pdf \(wildaboutgardens.org.uk\)](#) for a leaflet full of other ideas on how to support the conservation of hedgehogs prior to their hibernation usually in November.



Issue 193

Voices of the Vale

Voices of the Vale Community Choir is welcoming singers of all levels from the Letcombes, Wantage and surrounding villages to join. We have a relaxed and fun atmosphere and believe that singing is a joyful way to enhance our wellbeing and sense of connection, as well as enjoy singing uplifting songs from various styles in harmony.

The Autumn term starts Monday 13th September and runs through 13th December 7:30-9 pm (except for half-term which is over 2 Mondays-25th Oct and 1st Nov.)

Please get in touch if you have any questions! Lisa@lisadoschermusic.com

THE GREYHOUND INN
 LETCOMBE REGIS · OXFORDSHIRE

NEW OPENING HOURS
 Bar open: every day for drinks
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Letcombe Sports and Social Club



We have over 60 social members now, the majority coming from Letcombe Regis, which is really lovely to see.

As we come towards the end of the summer months the committee plan to review how the club is running at their next committee meeting in September. If any members, or indeed other villagers have suggestions for improvements, then we would be happy to hear from you. We know that the outside gazebos will need replacing, but probably not with the same type.

The Fun Day on the 31st July was a great success, and tentative plans are already being discussed for a similar event next year.

Another "Pizza at the Pavilion" event is being planned for Friday 24th September (weather permitting), details will be posted on the Village Facebook page nearer the time.

Richard
 Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club

Francesca Engelmann,
2, The Old Stables,
Letcombe Regis,
OX12 9LD

Register@oldstabling.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.
Items will generally appear in the order they were received

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

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

Waste Calendar

September 2021							
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				
Green recycling Food waste				Landfill Food waste			

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

Whilst I hope I have got the collections right this month, may I suggest that you:

Download your own copy of the 21/22 **Vale of the White Horse Waste calendar** [Here](#)

Once you click on the download, it will take you to a PDF along with the holiday collection changes too.

I am waiting for VOWH to review the situation with regard to waste collections being reinstated. This is scheduled at the end of August.

As of the 27th (my deadline) they were still suspended.