## The Letcombe Register

	Issue 22	4				April 2024	
	VILLAGE DIARY						
Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	
1 Mixed Pilates 11.45-12.45 Village Hall Collection chanage Evensong 3pm	2 <u>Voqa w Bi</u> 0945-10 Village F (please bo	145 3 <u>Communica</u> lall 11an <u>ok</u> St Andrew 18BC Cameraman 7.30pm	n Ladies s Villa Yoga w Dian 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	9.15am Pilates 9.30am ge Hall a	Men'sPilates 6 <u>Tennis</u> 9.30am 6 Junior Ter Village Hall Junior Ter Coaching 5	10am 7 Mixer 10.am nnis 11 -2	
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*Events in the Diary rely on information received. They are underlined if a link is available for an e-mail or website. Elsewhere links are provided but not necessarily underlined.							
PARISH COUNCIL /	LINK FOR MP	<sup>(</sup> <u>Crime Commissioner</u>	<u>r Link</u> 2	200 Club / Fil/	M CLUB	8	
	PRACTOR/SKIPS/C	<u>Cleaner/Garden Desigi</u>	N/TREES 3	Safari Supper I	NFORMATION AND APPLICA	TION FORM 9	
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FRIENDS OF LETCO	MBE VALLEY CO	MMUNITY NATURE RESER	<u>RVE</u> 6	Sports & Soci	AL CLUB / VH&RG / BC	DOK BUFFS 12	
WI / FOOTBALL	CLUB / ST AND	REW'S	7	WASTE CALEND	<u>ar</u> / Village Contacts	13	



## Message from the Parish Council

The Parish Council remains very grateful to Francesca for her continuing work in editing the Register. We hope that her recent health improvements will continue and result in a full recovery.

At our recent meeting, following a full discussion regarding the state of our roads, it was agreed we will continue to follow up formally with County Councillor Gant who visited the village earlier in the year. The particularly bad areas are the bottom of South Street, and the deep pothole opposite Manor fields, currently marked out with a traffic cone. It will add further pressure if you also report the issues on <u>Fix my street</u> Please be careful when driving in these areas.

We are still seeking a replacement for our Parish Clerk, who has decided to retire later in the year. If you are interested, or know of someone who may, be please contact either Liz or myself. In addition we still have two vacancies on the Parish Council. The role is interesting and varied, we meet in person for around two hours every second month, with email communication between times. Please do consider this opportunity to put something back into you community. Either Liz or I will be happy to provide more details.

The PC website is about to be refreshed and any ideas you may have for improvements will be welcomed . Again please contact Liz our Parish Clerk with any suggestions.

We are fortunate to have significant environmental expertise in the village and in the future hope to work to support the Conservation Group in a wildlife audit. More details will be communicated as they emerge.

Some of you will have noticed that as a result of the recent bad weather damage has occurred to the Parish Council Burial Ground Noticeboard. A temporary repair has been done thanks to Councillor Barber and we are seeking quotes for either a refurbishment or replacement. The remaining hedging plants around the perimeter have now be planted and the lavender and roses will be planted by the new entrance once the weather conditions allow.

A date for your diary, the Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the village hall on Monday 20 May, 7pm. All are welcome to attend.

Some sad news, Doug Frewer a Letcombe Regis Parish Councillor for many years, and a true supporter of the village has passed away aged 93. His contribution to the Parish was considerable and he will be sorely missed by many.

Finally we wish you all a very Happy Easter.

Cllr Jeanne Lapsley Chairman Letcombe Regis Parish Council













#### trotter eeworks Ian Trotter – arborist NC Arb, ISA Cert Arb tree crown reducing/ thinning/lifting/reshaping pollarding tree felling/dismantling fruit tree pruning hedge trimming/removals t: 01235 258575

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For writers of all levels.

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Six sessions from 15 April to 3 June 2024 Excluding 6 and 27 May (bank holidays)

#### **Letcombe Regis Village Hall**

Bassett Rd, Letcombe Regis Wantage OX12 9LJ



e: millie@milliestone.com <sup>m:</sup> 07958 426920

## **D K Electrical Services**

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Liane Reeves, BSc (Hons) Nutrition, MSc Allergy **HCPC** registered, MBDA

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#### SALIX GARDEN SERVICES

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City & Guilds and RHS gualified

**COMPUTER PROBLEMS? CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?** A locally-based service (from Letcombe Bassett) has

been helping people here for the last 15 years Same Day Service Moderate Rates Charles Rowe Tel: (01235) 766000 anytime Email: charlesrowe22@outlook.com

## **Trotter Hedgeworks**

#### lan Trotter NC Arb. ISA Cert Arb

- hedge & shrub trimming
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## 07771 656553

Trotterhedgeworks@icloud.com



## The Letcombes Conservation Group

C ome and hear how the quality of this globally rare chalk stream habitat has been improved to support its wildlife from Mark Bradfield, Letcombe Brook Project Officer since 2018, before he leaves the area. This event in Letcombe Regis Village Hall at 7:00pm on Wednesday, 17 April is a re-run of Mark's sold-out talk '*Improving Biodiversity on the Letcombe Brook'* given at the Vale and Downland Museum in January. Book the date in your diary. All are very welcome, non-members entry by donation, £5 suggested. Further details from cbirch1997@aol.com or 763529.



Later in the month, Thursday 25 April is designated World Penguin Day chosen to correspond with the northward migration of native Adélie penguins from Antarctica for better access to the sea in the southern winter months after nesting on the coastal beaches. The day celebrates all penguins and highlights the plight of these birds adapted to spending three-quarters of their lives at sea dependent on the oceans for their food. There are around 18 species of these flightless birds, found only in the Southern Hemisphere, 10 of them considered to be endangered and three near-threatened. The smallest penguin is the Little or Blue Penguin found in Australia, Tasmania and New Zealand which reach a maximum height around 30 centimetres whilst Antarctic Emperor Penguins may grow to four times that height. Current threats to penguins include a loss of sea ice in Antarctica due to climate change, which impacts upon chick hatching and the availability of krill. Overfishing and pollution from plastic and oil spills also have contributed to decreasing populations, as has loss of habitat.

In March, The British Antarctic Survey published disturbing news from their two research bases of King Edward Point and Bird Island on the sub-Antarctic Islands of South Georgia. Several individual penguins had tested positive for High Pathogenicity Avian Influenza (HPAI), including five King Penguin and five Gentoo Penguins. This is the first time the virus has been detected in Gentoo and King Penguin populations on the islands, although HPAI was first detected in Brown Skuas at Bird Island in October 2023 followed in early 2024 by confirmed cases in populations of Antarctic terns and Wandering Albatross as well as Elephant and Fur seals, see <u>Penguins test positive for Avian Flu on South Georgia - British Antarctic Survey (bas.ac.uk)</u> for details. World Penguin Day encourages an appreciation of these amazing birds and a resolve to tackle pollution and climate change at the personal and national level.



## Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

The next work party in the Community Nature Reserve will be on the third Saturday in the month, 20 April, from 13:30 to



16:30. Please meet near the lake notice board by 13:20 for the tasks and safety briefing. The main tasks are likely to be continuing the clearance alongside the public footpath, repairing handrails, making good bridge repairs and fencing as well as creating habitat piles with the arisings from the recent ash felling work. Tools will be provided, and mid-afternoon refreshments too, but please take your own work gloves.

Ash die back signs are posted on the Community Nature Reserve gates, but be assured that the work is essential and for every tree felled, three replacements will be planted in the reserve. Around the Horse chestnut trees and stumps near the lake, the remnants of the bluebell waves are emerging. Bluebells are one of our later spring flowers, blooming towards the end of April and into May or even later further north. These plants prefer undisturbed soil and therefore are associated with ancient woodlands, but suffered here when the horse chestnut trees had to be reduced due to disease. It can take over five years for a patch of bluebells to establish and they are only just recovering in patches where the bulbs were undamaged by the heavy machinery.

Keep a lookout for other signs of spring amongst the wooded area, like the arrival of Pied Flycatchers in the next few weeks, The first sighting of a Swallow skimming over the water for insects is a sure sign that warmer weather is on its way as the

swallows make their long migratory return flying up to 6000 miles from over -wintering in South Africa, photo credit: Mark Bradfield. In the coming weeks, they will begin gathering mud and straw to construct their cup-shaped nests. Other birds that have been heard in the Community Reserve in March, but are rarely glimpsed, are the Water rail and Woodcock. Another elusive bird, the Cetti's warbler, first recorded in the UK in the early 1960s, is now both breeding and over-wintering in England and Wales with the warming climate. It is chestnut brown on top with a grey-brown underside but has a distinct, explosive song that sets it apart from other warblers. Two closely related warbler species arrive in the UK during April. Sedge warblers have a dark eye stripe, while Reed Warblers are a classic 'little brown bird', warm brown on top with a buff brown underside. Their songs can be hard to separate but the behaviour of these two warblers is distinctive. Sedge Warblers are often perched in scrubby vegetation singing at the top of their voices to attract a mate. They perform a display while they sing, rocketing up from their perch and warbling with gusto. In contrast, Reed warblers usually loiter in the dense reeds, their loud song erupting from the vegetation. Both may be heard early in the dawn chorus.



More butterflies will start appearing this month too. Brimstones and Commas appeared throughout March on sunny days, both likely to have overwintered as adults. Watch out now for the Orange-tip butterfly, named for the distinctive feature of the males of this species, although the females are not as easily identifiable with their black wing tips. The Orange-tip butterfly is one of the first species to emerge which has spent winter in its chrysalis. Due to changing land use and a consequent decline in hay meadows and Cuckoo Flowers, the caterpillars of this butterfly are now heavily dependent on the eggs laid on Garlic mustard as their food source. Garlic mustard is plentiful in the Community Nature Reserve and around the village lanes. Spring and wildlife is blooming in this special place.



# the Willinspiring women

The Letcombes WI

The Letcombes W.I. will be celebrating their 65th birthday this year, and after all these years of meeting in the village hall on the second Monday evening of the month, they are making way for the village choir, so the W.I. will now meet on the first Wednesday evening of the month at 7.30 p.m. We try hard to put a good programme of speakers and activities together and always welcome anyone who would like to attend as a visitor. We very much hope that this change of day might mean that some people are now able to come and join us from time to time at the cost of  $\pm 5.00$ , which includes refreshments and a raffle ticket.

Our speaker for our meeting on April 3 will be Peter Cook from Childrey who used to be a cameraman for the BBC. Peter has some good tales to tell of places where he has filmed and what happened. All are welcome.

## Football Club

arch was another successful month for the football club, with a 100% record from three matches. We beat North Leigh development 2-1 in a very close game, and then won 2-0 at Thame United `A` on a dreadful pitch. Both of these were league games, and we now need 3 wins and a draw from our remaining 6 games to be certain of winning the league, although 3 of these games are against our championship rivals. We also won 3-1 at Didcot Town development in the semi final of the Hellenic Division 2 cup, and now play Prestwood or the University of Bristol in the final on 4th May in Gloucestershire.

Home fixtures in April are :

Tuesday	2 <sup>nd</sup>	Letcombe	v	Headington Amateurs	Hellenic League	6.00
Saturday	6 <sup>th</sup>	Letcombe Reserves	v	Kingston Colts	North Berks League	2.00
Saturday	$13^{th}$	Letcombe	v	Worcester City	Hellenic Cup semi final	3.00
Saturday	$16^{th}$	Letcombe Reserves	v	Frilsham & Yattendon	North Berks League	6.35

#### LETCOMBE v WORCESTER CITY

On Saturday 13th April, Letcombe entertain Worcester City in the semi final of the Hellenic Challenge Cup. They play at step 5 with Letcombe at step 8, and they are probably the best step 5 team in the country. They are easily top of the Hellenic League Premier division with only one defeat all season, and are in the semi final of the F A Vase which is open to all step 5 and 6 teams in the country. The final is at Wembley, so they are that good!. This is the biggest game in our history, and although they are likely to be far too good for us, we are expecting a big crowd. I hope that villagers will bear with us for one day, and I apologise for the extra traffic.

#### A Thank You

Once again I am stealing a small space to repeat my thanks to everyone in Letcombe for their kindness during my issues. Things are still far from perfect but without the help of the contributors' early submissions, the patience of the PC. your understanding and most of all the legion of dear friends who have offered, and delivered, invaluable help I would have struggled. I am both grateful and humbled to live amongst you. Wishing you all a happy Easter tide. Francesca.





## LETCOMBE REGIS 200 CLUB

#### Accounts – Year 25

1<sup>st</sup> April 2023 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024

#### Income

Numbers sold	230 @ £24 1 @ £6	5520.70 6.00
Donations		164.00 <u>5690.00</u>
Expenditure		
Monthly prizes		2400.00

Additonal Christmas prizes	175.00
Additional special prizes	100.00
Printing 200 Club letter	15.00
Transfer to Village Hall Account	<u>3000.00</u>

lan Taylor Treasurer 200 Club March 2024

I have reviewed these account prepared by the Treasurer and confirm they are in agreement with the underlying accounting records.

John Peskett Lime Tree House, Letcombe Regis, March 2024

## Letcombe Film Club

#### April 10 - One Life

We have a very special film for you this month - **One Life** which tells the true story of the humanitarian Sir Nicholas (Nicky) Winton who as a 29 yr old London stockbroker rescued 669 children from Czechoslovakia between 1938-39.

5690.00

The film is based on the book "*If it's not impossible…..'* by Barbara Winton, Nicky Wintons daughter. The story begins when as a 79yr old Nicky is clearing old files and finds documents that bring back painful and poignant memories of an amazing period in his life. On a visit to Prague in 1938 he saw refugee camps full of families who had fled the rise of the Nazis in Germany and Austria, and now feared they would invade Czechoslovakia. He worked tirelessly to convince the British Committee for Refugees to help him rescue hundreds of mostly Jewish children before the Nazis closed the borders.

A cast of the highest calibre is led by Sir Anthony Hopkins who plays Nicky Winton in a role that is perfect for him. Johnny Flynn plays the young Winton seen in flashbacks, with Helen Bonham-Carter playing his mother Babette who herself had been a Jewish German immigrant. The all star cast also includes Jonathan Price, Lena Olin and Romola Gari.

One critic said of One Life - "one of the best films of 2024 .....Sir Anthony Hopkins gives a performance that can break your heart". So bring your tissues!

We hope to see you at the Village Hall for this extraordinary film. Come early for a drink and chat. Doors open at 7.30pm, film starts at 8pm. Entrance price £6, cash only please.

## LETCOMBE FILM CLUB



Letcombe Regis Village Hall, Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April Tickets £6. Doors open 7.30pm. Film starts 8.00 pm Refreshments on sale - Wine, Beer and Tea/Coffee

#### Letcombe Regis Safari Supper Saturday 1st June 2024

We are delighted to announce the return of the very popular Letcombe Regis Safari Supper which will take place on **Saturday** 1<sup>st</sup> **June**. It has always been a fun evening and a great opportunity to meet people in the village, make new friends and raise money for local charities. You don't need to provide a Michelin star meal, just something that you feel comfortable cooking.

For those who have not taken part before, the idea is that each household (x2 people) will provide one course for 6 people i.e. starter, main course or pudding. If you are providing the starter, 4 other people will join you at your house; you will then go on to another house for the main course and somewhere else for pudding. If you are providing a main course, you will go out somewhere first for starter, then home for the main course and out again for pudding, and so on.

The Greyhound has kindly agreed to host coffee after pudding, so we will all be able to meet together in the pub at the end of the evening.

Lots more detail will be provided to those taking part and you be able to share information on any special dietary requirements.

The cost will be £30 per household (i.e. £15 per person) and all money raised will be in aid of **The October Club** and **Oxfordshire Mind**.

*The October Club* provides care for local people living with Alzheimer's and Dementia. It is a unique facility managed by amazing people, which really helps both those who attend the centre in Wantage, and their families and carers

**Oxfordshire Mind** is a mental health charity which provides vital support and resources for those navigating mental health challenges. For those in need it provides a place to turn to and makes a meaningful difference in someone's journey towards healing and resilience.

As we expect this to be a popular event, we are limiting the numbers to 60 people on a first come first served basis. Please complete the tear-off slip below and return it with  $\pounds 30$  in cash as soon as you can and not later than Monday  $6^{th}$  May to either:

- Alison McClintock at The Greyhound (07702 272119)
- Eileen McKeever at 6 Mill Paddock (07775 702386)
- Hazel Dunmore at Brook Barn (07950 680952)

If you have trouble printing the forms, copies will be available at The Greyhound or email Hazel at <u>hazelcd@gmail.com</u> or Eileen at <u>emcmckeever@gmail.com</u>

If you have any questions, please feel free to get in contact with any of us.

Best wishes, Hazel, Alison and Eileen

Cut here

#### Letcombe Regis Safari Supper 2024

We would like to join the Safari Supper on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2024 and enclose £30 in cash.

Name of participants (block caps):

1	2	
Address:		

Mobile:

Email: (please provide this so we can let you know arrangements for the evening):

We would prefer to provide:

don't mind

the main course

□ the starter

the pudding



## Letcombes Gardening Club

## **Topical Tips**

pril is a really busy month in the garden, so get your tools to the ready for all the jobs!

Two words; seed sowing! I'll get to the veg later but you can sow hardy annuals in modules now for planting out later. It may be best to leave sowing direct until late this month or into next month when you can fill in gaps with beautiful drifts. This is when hardy annuals really come into their own as long as you don't hoe them up as seedlings when they germinate!

As far as bulbs are concerned you can plant out summer bulbs now. Yes, bulbs aren't just for spring! Take a look at the catalogues or in the garden centres.

As far as pruning goes, if you didn't prune your lavender after flowering last year then you can prune it now. Make sure you cut above a new shoot or it won't re-grow.

You can still lift and divide perennials, something for gardening club members to take note of as it will provide more plants for the Plant Market. You can also divide clumps of bulbs and bamboo in the same way. Just make sure each clump has shoots and roots and keep the new plants watered.

It's a good idea to dead-head daffodils and tulips if you can as this means the plant puts all it's energy into bulb regeneration rather than seed production.

What about a new project? You could plant up an alpine trough as many alpines look really good at this time of year and if the trough is raised up it will be easier to admire them. Make sure you use a well draining planting medium though otherwise they may rot off.

Lets turn our attention briefly to trees and shrubs. You can cut out any frost damaged shoots from evergreens this month and while you're about it, if you have any variegated evergreens that have reverted then cut these shoots out too as they will be stronger growing and eventually take over.

I'm going a little more specialized now and I'm going to talk about ponds. Your aquatic plants like feeding too! If you have any large water lilies then they are big feeders so press a slow release tablet well below soil level at the base of the plant. Probably a job for a warm day!

If you have any vigorous pond plants then you can contain them by planting them in baskets, or so the advice goes. I'm sceptical as I have a couple of real thugs in our pond, which easily "leap out of" baskets and we're going to have to be brutal again this year!

I've left veg until last as usual but to be honest this is where a lot of the work exists this month. Here's a word gleaned from the wise. Warm days do tend to cause a rush of enthusiasm but we can still get frosty nights, which may cause you to lose your seedlings. These can always be regrown but you won't get your wasted time back so don't be too hasty, the allotment/veg patch will always catch up!

You can continue to plant out seed potatoes, a job that should be finished by the end of the month. You should also finish planting your onion sets.

I'm not going to list out all the seeds you should be sowing now as I may overrun my allotted space and make life difficult for the editor and I'm sure you can read the instructions on the packets. Do make sure you check the sowing times though and don't miss the boat.

Why not plant up an asparagus bed if you have space? You will need to be patient though as you will have to give time for the plants to establish.

One more quick sentence before signing off, check your soft fruit bushes for aphids and put up the netting on your strawberries because the birds will already be eyeing them up!

Time to go now so get out there and enjoy!



### The Letcombes Gardening Club

We had a really good talk last month when we had our last evening meeting of the current season. However we have a big event for everyone this month – the annual **Plant Market**. It will be held from **2** – **4.30pm on Saturday 27 April** in Letcombe Regis **village hall**. This is a chance for you to buy enough plants to fill all the gaps in your garden, meet friends, sit and have a coffee/tea and a delicious piece of cake and a good chat. The Market is open to all and there is no entrance fee, so do come along. Cash only please.



### St Andrew's

The first Sunday service of Holy Communion in St Andrew's in March was on 10<sup>th</sup>, Mothering Sunday. The Revd Ness Brunner-Ellis presided at the service and her theme of the day was, of course, mothering. Ness suggested we should ask our neighbours in the pews what we felt were the most important words to describe mothering. The general consensus seemed to be "loving and caring". At the end of the service posies – beautifully made by members of the congregation - were given to all the ladies present. The surplus posies were distributed to those known to be unwell.

Our Palm Sunday Worship and Prayer service on 24<sup>th</sup> March was led by Debbie Webb. Although we did not process into the church with our palm crosses we held them up for the first prayers to represent a procession. Debbie's Reflection was taken from *Women of Holy Week*, *An Easter Journey in Nine Stories* by Paula Gooder. The story for Palm Sunday was about Miriam from Galilee. She goes to Jerusalem for Passover and sees Jesus on the donkey. At first she was a little doubtful about Him but she ends up being completely overawed.

All the April services can be seen in Signpost. Although Easter Day is on 31<sup>st</sup> March, a reminder that the Holy Communion service is at 10.30 am that morning and there is no Evensong on Monday 1<sup>st</sup> April.

A Happy Easter to you all.



We are seeking a new Treasurer for St Andrew's Church; if you'd like to know more about this please contact the Rector 07774 524756 rector.ridgeway@outlook.com

**Annual Church Meetings** Everyone is warmly invited to your Annual Meeting where you can vote for your Churchwardens and hear about the life of the Benefice.

Annual Reports will be on the noticeboard in the church 7 days before the meeting. To receive an electronic copy of an Annual Report email <u>benefice.ridgeway@outlook.com</u> stating the church required.

St Andrew's APCM is on Sunday 21st April at 4.00pm in the Church.







## Letcombe Sports and Social Club

The S&SC have had a fairly quiet Winter, but we have enjoyed the Six Nations, as well as the Bingos - Irish Eyes were Smiling for the Rugby, and on some of us for the Bingo... The Bingo continues to be enjoyed by those who participate. The next one will be on Friday 12th April - make a note in your diary - 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start.

Pizza At The Pavilion will return - probably sometime in May, we just need to sort out the scheduling. Watch this space...

The Darts Winter League is coming to its finale, the "A" Team are almost guaranteed to win the Division 2 title, so will be in Division 1 for next Winter. The "B" and "C" Teams will be expecting to do better than they did in the Winter, I am sure.

Cricket fixtures will be published in next months Register, but for those of you who can't wait, Fixture Cards will be available in the Sports Pavilion from the middle of April.

Richard Letcombe Sports & Social Club Secretary.

## Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Recreation Ground Management Committee



n important date for all local football fans.....  $\mathfrak{B}$   $\mathfrak{B}$  The very talented Letcombe FC have reached the semi final of the Hellenic League Cup and have been drawn to play at home to none less than WORCESTER CITY !! Worcester City currently have a gate of around 1,000 fans for their home games and will be bringing with them a large following for this match.

This clearly is going to be a tough challenge for our boys at Letcombe FC but we have faith and know they will give it a good go The game is on SATURDAY 13th April - 3pm Kick Off. Good luck to the team - this important day for the club will be a very busy day for the village!

In other news, we have a Trustee vacancy, with Mary Harwood stepping down soon. Thanks to Mary for her efforts as a Trustee. Please contact any existing Trustee, or Mary, to talk further about this.

The Trust AGM will be held on the 28th of May. We shall present the annual accounts to the village, discuss our business plan and hear from the local groups who partner with us in the use and upkeep of the facilities. The meeting shall start at 7pm and all villagers are welcome.

Gordon Chair of The Trustees



## **Book Buffs**

The next meeting will be held at 8pm on Thursday 4th April in the Greyhound.

We shall be reviewing 'The Leviathan' by Rosie Andrews.

The new library book is 'A Street Cat Named Bob' by James Bowen.

An alternative is 'Small Things like These' by Claire Keegan.

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

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To submit an article please contact: Francesca Engelmann, 2, The Old Stables, Letcombe Regis, OX12 9LD

Register@oldstableyard.co.uk

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

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