

# The Letcombe Register



Issue 176

April 2020

IF YOU ARE NOT ALREADY ON THE VILLAGE EMAIL LIST AND WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE NOT JUST THE REGISTER, BUT ALSO UPDATES ON LOCAL ISSUES, DELIVERED DIRECT TO YOUR INBOX, PLEASE CONTACT THE PARISH CLERK [letregispc@gmail.com](mailto:letregispc@gmail.com)

TELL YOUR FRIENDS!

## Welcome to the New Look Letcombe Register



View from Segsbury Camp

Today we start a new chapter in the Letcombe Register. A chance to explore a different way to keep us all in touch.

Here we are free from the constraints of print media.

This is very much a work in progress so I would welcome constructive comments and more importantly articles to keep everyone entertained during the current situation and hopefully beyond.

The clubs have been contacted to produce content regarding their interests and some have been reproduced here.

Currently delivery of the hard copy version of the Letcombe Register has been suspended.

Now, as the village list expands, it will be used to distribute the Register as a PDF and the aim would be to continue even when things return to normal.

Whilst adhering to the Government safe distancing guidelines, Please share access with neighbours who you know do not have an online capability, and if you can, make a note of their addresses so in time, we know exactly who still requires the hard copy when it returns.

To offer content for future issues please contact:

[Register@oldstableyard.co.uk](mailto:Register@oldstableyard.co.uk)

## Message from the Parish Council

LETCOMBE REGIS  
**PARISH  
COUNCIL**



The Parish Council is focussing its efforts on supporting the community through this extraordinary crisis and those signed up to the Village Email will have received regular updates. Please encourage all those who have not signed up to send their email details to the Parish Clerk – [letregispc@gmail.com](mailto:letregispc@gmail.com). We can currently reach around 80 percent of our community but want to reach everyone.

A small group of us Loretta Light, Michelle Benton and myself are coordinating our efforts and we are also supported by Paul Batchelor who is working with Pete Bellis to update national advice on the new CORONAVIRUS section of our Parish Website, and we are linked into the Village Facebook.

We are extremely grateful to the 44 volunteers who have stepped forward to help, and through the dedicated

email: [Letcomberegis.virussupport@btinternet.com](mailto:Letcomberegis.virussupport@btinternet.com)

and

telephone contact: 772900

which are monitored daily, we are offering help and guidance. We are already receiving a trickle of requests for help but we anticipate more as the weeks of isolation increase.

This edition of the Register marks the move to an electronic version, a decision taken to remove risk to our army of deliverers and it will continue in this form for the foreseeable future.

Picking up on the useful Gardening Tips which is already a regular feature we are hoping that others will also contribute to provide quizzes, photographic submissions, recipes, good book recommendations etc and the like to help keep morale strong. Please feed in your ideas to the Parish Clerk [letregispc@gmail.com](mailto:letregispc@gmail.com) or direct to The Register [Register@oldstableyard.co.uk](mailto:Register@oldstableyard.co.uk), where Francesca will be waiting to weave her magic in pulling everything together.

Our group of Volunteers are well spread throughout the village and we will be advising you through the Weekly Bulletin who they are in your area. They will hopefully be known to you already, which is important as there are some unscrupulous individuals already trying to Scam people.

The Parish Council usual business will continue, but on a reduced basis, as we focus on keeping as many of you safe and supported as possible. The government advice not to meet in groups means we have cancelled our Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for May and will be communicating our annual financial statement and report through the Register. As ever your first line of contact for village matters is the Parish Clerk.

**PLEASE STAY SAFE, ADHERE TO THE GOVERNMENT RULES AND CONTINUE TO LOOK OUT FOR ONE ANOTHER.**

Jeanne Lapsley  
Chairman  
Letcombe Regis Parish Council

## Inside this issue:

THE LIONS OF LETCOMBE	2
BRAINTEASERS	
GARDENS OPEN	3
LITTERPICK	
NATURE RESERVE	
ST ANDREWS NEWS	
SAINT OF THE MONTH	4
WARBOROUGH FARM	
LADDERADS ETC	5
TOPICAL TIPS	
200 CLUB ACCOUNTS	
RECYCLING CENTRES	6
FILM CLUB	7
VILLAGE HALL REPORT	
BOOK BUFFS & QUIZ	8
CONSERVATION GROUP	
SIGNPOST	9
TENNIS CLUB	
WISE WORDS	10
WASTE CALENDAR	
POO PLEA	
A TIMELY POEM	
CURIOUS MINDS	11
FOOTBALL CLUB	
CONTACTS	12



Photo of Mrs Silver with one of the lions supplied by Mrs and Mrs Les Cross

A HISTORY TAKEN FROM THE SUMMER 1988 ISSUE OF THE LETCOMBE REGISTER

(SUBSEQUENT ISSUES MENTION ERRORS IN THE STORY AND SADLY THE AUTHOR IS UNATTRIBUTED, BUT I THINK YOU WILL AGREE IT A DELIGHTFUL TALE.)



Photo of Brook Alder with a 'Lion in Winter' also supplied by Mr & Mrs Les Cross

## The Letcombe Lions

No. Not a new name for the first eleven. We refer to two genuine lions who sojourned at Warborough Farm in the late twenties (or was it the early thirties?). Though long dead, they live on in local memory.

Mr. Bill Alder, for example, of Letcombe Bassett, recalls tales told by his grandfather, Brook Alder, Brook - a 'character' deserving of an article himself - was (how shall we say?) farm bailiff at Warborough during the interwar years.

The farm itself was then in the hands of the Silvers - Squire Silver - no less, and his redoubtable wife. If Mrs. Silver lacked a local title to match her husband's, she more than compensated for the deficiency by her remarkable not to say bizarre lifestyle. A devotee of the safari, she made several journeys to Africa and it was after one such journey that she returned with two lion cubs. Photographs suggest that they were still at Letcombe when fully grown.

Mrs. Edna Tubb, of Letcombe Regis remembers how, as a child, she peeped through the hedge at Warborough Farm, wondering and no doubt a little fearfully, yet determined to take in the sight of an African lion lazing on an English lawn.

Brook Alder was largely responsible for ensuring that an inquisitive child didn't become the meal of the day!

Whether as cubs they ever roamed the house, whether, like two oversized tabbies, they snored by the fire or snuggled with the Silvers in their bed of a night, stays unrecorded. But once they became fully grown a cage was constructed.

Bill Alder remembers it, still standing in the yard at Warborough, years after his grandfather had left the farm. Some twelve to fifteen feet long by six feet wide, the dimensions of its bars were worthy of its occupants. At one end a covered area comprised the lions' den. What became of it? Were those bars, Bill wonders, seized like so many others for the war effort. Was the lions cage at last uncaged. Not that the lions were always imprisoned. Apparently Brook Alder had the job of walking them out. (What would Barbara Woodhouse have made of that?). It's hard to imagine - but apparently the collars and chains that Brook once held are still around, Mr. Ernie Mason of Childey, kindly provided us with one of the collars: a burnished metal ring some three inches wide and seven inches across, toothed and studded, adjustable, and inscribed "W.Silver. Letcombe Regis,

Wantage" its ancient internal leather band still intact.

Then there were the outings to Wantage Road Station. It comes as no surprise to learn that Mrs. Silver was fond of entertaining. She would meet her guests at the station, her two lions straining at their chains. Usually they were held back by Brook, but on one occasion, when he wasn't there a terrified porter was drafted into service with a casual "just hang on to these will you on to these, will you?" How did they travel to and from the station? There is a photograph of Mrs. Silver in an open coupe with a lion(s) on the back seat. But Mr. Alder's mother, Brook's daughter-in-law, insists that Mr. Chambers, who used to live in one of the row of cottages facing the Church in Letcombe Regis, frequently conveyed his incongruous party by pony and trap!

No-one seems certain of the lions' fate. We know that the Silvers separated and the farm was sold. Perhaps the lions went to a zoo or circus.

Or should our parting shot be of Mrs. Silver once again on the high seas, a solitary figure on the upper deck - by her side her two companions, returning at last to their native land?

## Brainteasers

(answers to the Film Titles next month)

Six stations on the London Tube map have been (sort of!) translated into French. Can you work out which they are?

1. Chalet
2. Eau de Toilette
3. Jalousie
4. Kilometre
5. Poulet
6. Fou



Answers from

[iaincoubrey@gmail.com](mailto:iaincoubrey@gmail.com)

## Guess the Film Title

1. Went away because of flatulence
2. My girlfriend works in an amusement park
3. There is a twist to this tale
4. An Australian 'magician'
5. Take a vacation but not out
6. They call it 'white house' in Spanish
7. Challenge for these birds of prey
8. Keep going, but use the tent
9. Not white or ugly
10. Dense Forest in this novel

(with thanks to Val Clure)

## Litter Pick

Alison Phillips would like to say a HUGE thank you to all those who offered to help with the village litter pick this year. It was so encouraging to have the many willing pairs of hands which have combined to clear our village hedgerows of the winter rubbish, which is not only unsightly but also threatens wildlife who may eat it or use unsuitable materials for their homes. Between 15 – 20 bags were collected, and we were blessed with fine if windy weather which made the task more enjoyable, especially as we are all enjoying any opportunity for a little social contact these days!

Many thanks also to those who continue to pick up litter during the year. I think this year we may well be out walking even more than usual as we are blessed to be living in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, so a useful tip is to keep a plastic bag in your pocket just in case.

## Letcombe Regis Open Gardens



Despite the current situation we are hoping to hold Open Gardens this year. Should the event go ahead the date has been set for 5<sup>th</sup> July with gardens open between 2.00pm and 6.00pm. Several gardens have confirmed that they will be opening but we would love to have some new additions to the portfolio. Besides the gardens themselves, there will be a plant stall and refreshments in the Village Hall. If you would like either your

garden to be included, assist with organising the event on the day or could provide a cake please get in touch. ([paulb@public-health.ucl.ac.uk](mailto:paulb@public-health.ucl.ac.uk)).

## FRIENDS OF LETCOMBE VALLEY COMMUNITY NATURE RESERVE

Volunteers will be aware that work parties are suspended currently. Nevertheless, the Reserve is the nearest and most convenient local place for many people in the area to take daily exercise. There has been a noticeable increase in visitors on weekdays and, if the Reserve seems busy, it might be prudent to postpone your visit until a quieter time. The general advice for keeping at least 2 metres distance from other visitors naturally applies in the Reserve. Keeping to the defined paths and with all dogs on a short lead is as important for the protection of the Reserve's wildlife and for visitors. A number of visitors have been clambering along the brook edge which has the potential to lead to an accident and to undo the valuable management work on the brook margins. The Reserve has no BBOWT staff on site and requires the community to treat this space with respect and responsibility for safe access.

BBOWT's other nature reserves, apart from College Lake in Bucks, currently remain open. The website at <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/covid-19-update> will be updated with information about specific nature reserve closures and guidance on how to protect everyone's safety when you visit.

To end with some really positive news - an otter was recorded on a trail camera at the source of the Letcombe brook in early March in the same location as the otter recorded in December 2018. Thanks to all the volunteers whose work along the Letcombe Brook and in the Nature Reserve continues to maintain a suitable habitat to attract this rarely seen, protected and 'near threatened' mammal species.



## Garden & Plant Design

RHS Qualified  
Plantswoman and Horticulturalist

Does your garden need re-designing?  
Do you have a border that needs rejuvenating;  
a shady, dry, or damp area that needs attention?  
Or would you like one-on-one practical  
gardening advice?

Whatever your gardening needs, please email:

[helenajwhall@hotmail.com](mailto:helenajwhall@hotmail.com)



## Walk on Warborough Farm

Now that we are all advised to stay at home and not congregate, what could be better on a fine sunny day than walking on the Downs and around Segsbury Camp. The owners of Warborough farm have designated permissive footpaths and installed stiles and wicket gates for the enjoyment of walkers.

However the farm is home to 2000 breeding ewes which are housed during the winter but are now starting to appear in the fields. For this reason we expect walkers with dogs to have their dogs on leads and keep to the footpaths and close gates. We know that most dogs are controlled and we have had very few instances of sheep worrying but we are unable to differentiate between good and bad so must insist that all dogs are on leads. The only exceptions are those dogs belonging to the farm.

**The Register is also available to view, along with Covid 19 updates and other information on the village Website:**  
[www.letcomberegisp.org](http://www.letcomberegisp.org)

## Saint of the Month - April 23<sup>rd</sup> St George



If you Google "St George" you get page after page of information, almost all of it fanciful legend and precious few facts. It's easier to say what is not true about him:

- ◆ Not a knight in shining armour
- ◆ Didn't have a white horse
- ◆ Certainly didn't kill a dragon
- ◆ Never set foot in England.

The most reliable sources suggest that he was born in what is now Turkey, of Christian parents, sometime around 280 AD. He became a Roman soldier but resigned his military appointment when the emperor Diocletian began persecuting Christians, refused to renounce his faith and was martyred in 303 AD.

The legend of St George and the dragon is just one version of the universal myth of good versus evil, of light against darkness, the lone ranger who rides into town on a white horse, kills the baddie and saves the girl. In one version of the myth, he doesn't kill the dragon but tames it. This legend states that there was a "stagne", a foul, stagnant pond where a dragon lived, and that the people of the nearby town fed it sheep to keep it away until they ran out of sheep and the king's

## St Andrew's

The intention had been to report on the charity soup lunch in aid of MAF and to give details of all the much-loved Easter services. How quickly everything has changed. The very nature of the Letcombe Register has changed: it has seamlessly morphed into an online monthly magazine with gardening tips, articles, poems and silly quizzes to keep us entertained, while the need for up-to-the-minute information means that we now rely on our most helpful COBRA team and the Parish Clerk to keep us informed via the village website and emails. Please make sure that older neighbours, especially those who don't have access to the internet, are kept in the picture.



*Signpost* is now included in the Register (page 9) and in it you can find details of what St Andrew's and the other churches are doing to help, even though the churches themselves remain closed.

Everything has changed but the Christian message has not. So this is a good time to visit the CofE website: [www.churchofengland.org](http://www.churchofengland.org) for prayers, for details of services being live-streamed, devotional readings and advice on how to approach Easter in the current crisis. It's sad to think of St Andrew's locked up; no Easter flowers; all dark like a tomb. But just think how the stone was rolled away from the tomb and there was a cry of He is Risen! Despite everything, have a happy Easter.

daughter offered to go into the lake and sacrifice herself to save the town. George just happened to be passing and told her (in what must be the best chat-up line ever) to take off her girdle. He threw this over the dragon's neck and led him "like a meek beast." And they all lived happily ever after.

Why did he become the patron saint of England? He was venerated as a military hero by the crusaders and Richard the Lionheart placed the army under his protection during the third crusade. Later Edward III chose George as the patron saint of the Order of the Garter, founded in 1348, and also chose the crusaders' red cross on a white background as part of his royal standard.

St George's popularity as England's patron saint was reinforced by the fact that Shakespeare was said to have been born on April 23<sup>rd</sup> in 1564 and died on that day in 1616. In *Henry V* Shakespeare gives the young king the rousing war cry of "God for Harry, England and St George".

Winston Churchill invoked the military ideals of courage, honour and sacrifice in his wartime speeches. His personal aircraft was named *Ascalon* after St George's lance. King George VI instituted the George Cross in 1940 for "acts of the greatest heroism or for most conspicuous courage in circumstances of extreme danger."

St George is a particularly useful saint to have at present as he is also the patron saint of sufferers of the plague.

**D K Electrical Services**  
Domestic, Commercial Clients

Previously **Daniel Kerr**  
Electrician

**1<sup>st</sup> Call**  
**Electrical**  
**Services**

01235 769481 / 07817 457832

Enquiries 1stcall@hotmail.co.uk  
Free Consultations

87, Hamfield  
Wantage, Oxon  
OX12 9EG

Part P  
**DOMESTIC**  
INSTALLER

**MILLBROOK SERVICES**

EST. SINCE 1994  
**PROFESSIONAL CARPET CLEANING  
& WINDOW CLEANING**  
FULLY INSURED

*millbrookservices1@gmail.com*  
**TEL: 01235 511541 MOB: 078144 28395**  
**DIDCOT, OXFORDSHIRE**  
Visit our webpage to view all our services  
[www.millbrookcleaning.co.uk](http://www.millbrookcleaning.co.uk)

**Gabi's Cleaning Service**

If you need help to keep your house tidy please don't hesitate to ring Gabi  
References are available



**Cleaning  
Ironing  
Carpet Cleaning**

**07771391209/ 07917192554** Whatsapp/  
**Gabipapp@icloud.com** Viber/  
Messenger

**trotter  
treeworks**

**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**  
**m: 07771 538575**  
[www.trottertreeworks.co.uk](http://www.trottertreeworks.co.uk)

**The Barn Tea Rooms, Court Hill Centre**  
Homemade cakes, light lunches.  
Just off A338 on the Ridgeway - and it's all downhill on the way back!  
**Open 7 days a week 10.30 to 4.00**  
Tel: 01235 760253

**Registered Dietitian**  
**Liane Reeves, BSc (Hons) Nutrition, MSc Allergy**  
**HCPC registered, MBDA**  
Expert personalised dietary advice for adults and children. Consultations held at Wantage Osteopathic Practice, 1 Church St. Wantage. To discuss how dietary advice can help you and to arrange an appointment: Tel: 07947 053396  
Email: [info@reevesdiets.co.uk](mailto:info@reevesdiets.co.uk) [www.reevesdiets.co.uk](http://www.reevesdiets.co.uk)

**COMPUTER PROBLEMS?  
CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?**  
A locally-based service (from Letcombe Bassett) has been helping people here for the last 15 years  
**Moderate Rates Same Day Service**  
**Charles Rowe** Tel: (01235) 766000 anytime  
Email: [ccrowe@waitrose.com](mailto:ccrowe@waitrose.com)

**Clare Mowforth**  
Personal Trainer - Pre & Postnatal Exercise Classes  
Group Exercise - Circuits - HIIT - Running Programs  
**Engage, Restore, Transform**  
[clare@coreprogress.co.uk](mailto:clare@coreprogress.co.uk) 07732 036 072  
[www.coreprogress.co.uk](http://www.coreprogress.co.uk) /facebook.com/coreprogressPT

**Hazel Lee Painter & Decorator**  
Interior & Exterior. Fully Insured  
Local & Reliable Female Decorator  
No job too small Mob: 07866 509683  
[hazel.lee78@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:hazel.lee78@hotmail.co.uk)

**Personal Assistant/Carer**  
DBS checked/insured  
Teaching/Management background.  
Five years as an Activity Organiser  
in residential homes  
For help or support please call 07968983673

**Sophie Sayer, Specialist Teacher, Dip SpLD**  
I live locally and offer 1:1 specialist lessons using a multi sensory approach, supporting learners, aged 6 – 10 years, who have specific learning differences. Areas taught include reading accuracy and comprehension, spelling, writing and numeracy.  
I have a full DBS certificate and up-to-date training in Safeguarding and Child Protection.  
Telephone: 07866 565881

**Mel Taylor Photography**  
Specialising in Providing Fine Art Dog, Equine,  
Newborn and Child Portrait Photography  
Portraits Studio or Location, See website for full details  
[www.meltaylorphotography.co.uk](http://www.meltaylorphotography.co.uk)

## 200 Club Accounts Year 21

1 April 2019 - 31 March 2020

### INCOME

Numbers sold - 233 @ £24 2@£4	5,600.00
Donations	47.00
Building Society interest	3.81
Brought forward from March 2019	<u>254.36</u>
	<b>£5,905.17</b>

### EXPENDITURE

Prize money - April 2019 - March 2020	2,635.00
Letter in Letcombe Register	15.00
Transfer to Village Hall funds	3000.00
Balance on 31 <sup>st</sup> March 2020	<u>255.17</u>
	<b>£5,905.17</b>

Ian Taylor  
Treasurer 200 Club  
March 2020

At the time of going to press, there are still some 50 numbers to be paid for. Each number costs £24. Cheques or cash can be put through my letter box:  
Ian Taylor,  
Tara, Warborough Road, Letcombe Regis,  
OX12 9LD

The letter about the 200 club is on the back of the March Letcombe Register.  
My phone number is 764677

## Recycling Centres closure dates for Deep Cleaning & Maintenance

Stanford (Faringdon) - 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> April  
Drayton (Abingdon) - 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> April

Other sites in Oxfordshire are also closing on other days for cleaning and maintenance, these are just the most local..

The full list can be found @  
<https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure>

## Gardening Club Topical Tips



I hope you are all well. Your garden can provide real joy and solace in difficult times like these, and with the beautiful weather we're having as I write this, I hope to tempt you to get your daily exercise by having a good blitz outside but behind closed gates!

April is a really busy month in the garden. There are spring flowers in abundance and plants are starting to grow. Unfortunately this includes weeds and tackling these now may save time later. As you have probably got more time on your hands than usual, this year may be the time to have a go at removing perennial weeds, like couch grass and ground elder, from clumps of herbaceous perennials. This is a difficult job but just think of the level of satisfaction!

You can also still divide perennials if they're getting too large for the space or their 'flower power' has reduced. You can often find that they die off in the middle. This is a good time to rejuvenate them. When you've finished give your borders a feed with general-purpose fertilizer and they will look wonderful in the summer.

You should mulch your roses with compost this month and if you have any climbing roses, try to tie in their branches as near to horizontal as possible. This will encourage more side shoots and thus more flowers!

On the fruit and veg front April is a big seed-sowing time. Cauliflower, sprouts, kale, chard, leeks, lettuce, radish, beetroot, the list just goes on and on so check your seed packets to make sure you don't 'miss the boat' on this one. You also need to get your onion and shallot sets in now and don't forget that potato planting time is usually in April too.

You can plant out strawberry plants this month. Remember that the plants tire in three to five years so you need to replace them. This needs to be done by creating a new bed elsewhere.

If you have peaches or nectarines (and you're lucky enough to not have them decimated by peach leaf curl) you may need to hand-pollinate them with a small paintbrush and protect them from late frosts.

Well I think I may finish now and go out into the garden myself. I hope you all stay safe and healthy and remember that gardening leads to a healthy mind as well as a healthy body. Enjoy!

## Letcombe Film Club - DIY



As you can imagine we are very disappointed not to be seeing our regular "film clubbers" this month, and probably not for a few months. So to keep you in touch with the wonderful world of film we will be using the

Register to suggest some of our favourites for you to watch at home. Many of these can be accessed via various online streaming services such as BBC iplayer, Film 4, Netflix, Amazon Prime, Sky, Apple TV, etc. We are very happy to lend Film Club DVD's but obviously we will need to follow current health advice on delivery and collection.

### Film Clubs Most Popular

Over the last 3 years we have shown 33 films with an average of 42 folk coming along every month. Here are some of the most popular films, and our favourites too. Even if you've seen them at Film Club, they are definitely worth another look.

- **Hidden Figures (PG)**: Probably one the best films of the last few years, and one that went under the radar for many people. Based on the true story of three female mathematician's working at NASA in the 1950's/60's amid significant racial prejudice. This a must see film, at least once and don't worry, it has a happy ending!

- **Fisherman's Friends (12a)**: This feel good musical based on the story of the Cornish shanty singers was a popular start to this years Film Club season. One to lift the spirits and see the beautiful Cornish coast (at least on screen).

- **A United Kingdom(12a)**: Another true story (we do like these at Film Club!) based on the life of an African Prince and the prejudice he and his English wife suffered from both of their communities. Powerful story and great images from Africa.

The full list of all the DVD's we have shown is below. We will feature more of our favourites next month. If you would like to borrow any of these please email: [letcombefilms@outlook.com](mailto:letcombefilms@outlook.com)

### Other Recommended Films

We thought we also would share some of our own personal favourites that we think you would enjoy:

- **The Help(12a)** definitely a must see. We haven't shown it at Film Club because its is over 2hrs long but a great one to watch at home. A powerful, funny and poignant film about life as a home help in the southern states of America in the 50's/60's.

- **The Blind Side(12)**: Sandra Bullocks best performance as a middle class mother who brings a poor boy into her family to improve his life chances. Uplifting story.

- **Last Chance Harvey(12)**: With Dustin Hoffman and Emma Thompson, this is bound to be good! And it is. Unlikely love story set in London.

Other British films we have enjoyed and always worth a second view are **Brassed Off (15)**, **The Full Monty (15)**, and although you may have seen it many times before, **Four Weddings and a Funeral (15)**, which always brings a laugh, which we need right now.

If you have any recommendations for great films you have seen, please email the Film Club - [letcombefilms@outlook.com](mailto:letcombefilms@outlook.com)

Please email the Film Club if you would like us to drop a Film Club DVD through your door. *We will take all precautions in terms of hygiene.*

- |                            |                                |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| * A Private War (15)       | * The Green Book (12)          |
| * Argo (15)                | * Viceroy's House (12)         |
| * The Post (12)            | * Their Finest (12)            |
| * Sully (12)               | * Yesterday (12)               |
| * Bridge of Spies (12)     | * Hidden Figures (PG)          |
| * Fisherman's Friends (12) | * Wonder (PG)                  |
| * A United Kingdom (12)    | * The Lion King (PG)           |
| * Journey's End (12)       | * Florence Foster Jenkins (PG) |
| * On the Basis of Sex (12) | * Ladybird (15)                |
| * La La Land (12)          | * Denial (12a)                 |
| * The Children Act (12)    | * Stan and Ollie (PG)          |
| * Woman in Gold (12)       | * The Death of Stalin (15)     |

## Village Hall Report



As many villagers will be aware, the Village Hall is closed until further notice, as are the Sports Pavilion and Tennis Courts. Whilst we are in this situation, we should spare a thought for those whose situation is much tougher than ours, and particularly those front-line staff in the NHS who are literally putting their lives on the line for the rest of us.

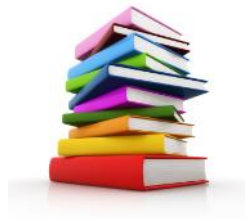
On the advice of the Charities Commission, we will postpone the AGM which normally happens in May until such time as we can safely hold it, but the usual annual report and accounts will be produced, and will come out in either the May or June Register.

We had planned to redecorate the interior of the Hall this week, but now hope to reschedule this in before we reopen. Also, the Cricket, Riding and Football Clubs will continue to mow the various parts of the Recreation Ground that they are responsible for, so that they can still be used safely for our once-a-day exercise if we so wish.

### Book Buffs with bonus quiz!

To comply with social distancing, the Book Club is suspended until further notice. However, we should all keep reading and compile a list of what we read for discussion at our future meetings. The library book *'Room with a View'* by E.M.Forster can be collected from me at Blandy's Barn, but this will be the last for a while as the library is suspending all services.

Now is the time to read those books on your bookshelves which you have always meant to tackle, or simply re-read old favourites. In the same vein, Sue Hannon has provided a literary quiz set out below - answers in next month's Register. You could also compile your life story, remembering to include mundane things such as what you wore, ate or played with as a child. This information could become invaluable to friends and relatives of those of us of a certain age.



#### Literature Quiz - Questions

1. Who was the youngest of the three Brontë writing sisters?
2. "In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice which I've been turning over in my mind ever since," is the start of which novel? (This book was a recent Book Buff's read)
3. What was the pen-name of Charles Lutwidge Dodgson?
4. Which statesman won the 1953 Nobel Prize for Literature?
5. By what name is the writer François-Marie Arouet (1694-1778) better known?
6. "Reader, I married him," appears in the conclusion of what novel?
7. In 1960 the UK publishing ban was lifted on what 1928 book?
8. Who wrote Brighton Rock and Our Man in Havana?
9. In what city does Leo Tolstoy's novel War and Peace begin?
10. What was Samuel Langhorne Clemens pen-name?
11. "Make them laugh; make them cry; make them wait..." was a personal maxim of which novelist?
12. What is the land of giants called in Gulliver's Travels?

#### THE LETCOMBES CONSERVATION GROUP.

Inevitably the March meeting and talk by Rebecca Davies, Principal Landscape and Planning Officer for the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, had to be postponed. However, Rebecca has kindly offered to join us at a later date, hopefully in the early autumn.

Great emphasis has been placed recently in some quarters on tree planting to absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere as a means of reducing the rate of climate warming and this has been linked to reverting our landscape to its perceived natural ecological state in areas such as the Vale of White Horse. However, according to Dr Tony Whitbread, President of the Sussex Wildlife Trust, more than half of the native tree species that re-colonised our country after the last glacial period require open habitats or forest edges; very few require continuous dense tree cover. Even species associated with dense forest often require open habitats at some stage, for example regeneration of oak and hazel. Therefore the 'natural' state of our landscape was always one of great diversity, not blanket forest, maintained now as 'semi-natural' habitats after centuries of management.

Many of these diverse habitats suffered ecological damage through the creation of non-native coniferous plantations in the mid-1900s. Think of the Flow Country of north-east Scotland where peat dried out emitting vast quantities of carbon dioxide and the loss of heathland species in southern England. On the chalk downland the

rich flora of 40 species per square metre on natural grassland was reduced to a small number of common species by areas of tree planting or scrub invasion. Fortunately conservation management projects have reversed the trend and many species have been saved in habitats that are often as good at 'locking up' carbon in trees.



Today tree planting organisations, such as the Forestry Commission and Woodland Trust, plan planting schemes to deliver benefit and avoid potential problems. Doubling the UK average tree cover of 13% would be a reasonable step towards increasing woodland acreage, but protection is required for the small areas of particularly sensitive habitat that remain. Removing the scrub from the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve is a good example where management is maintaining diversity in the absence of natural disturbances that would limit or hold back scrub encroachment and tree growth.

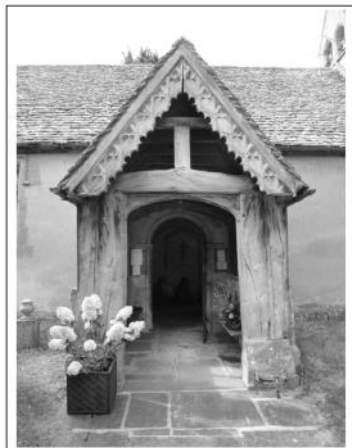
There are other alternatives to swathes of tree planting repeating the errors of the past. Dr Whitbread advises that natural regeneration and rewilding are more likely to deliver diversity, are cheaper, fit local ecology better and require less aftercare. Tree planting has a role, but only as part of a diverse nature recovery network not as an unquestioning paradigm. Simple solutions rarely resolve complex problems. Read Dr. Whitbread at <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/blog/dr-tony-whitbread/guest-blog-trouble-trees> on 'The trouble with trees'.



# S I G N P O S T

## The Ridgeway Churches

Childrey: Kingston Lisle:  
Letcombe Regis: Letcombe Bassett:  
Sparsholt: West Challow



## APRIL 2020

Rev'd Leonora Hill  
Rector of the Ridgeway Benefice  
revd.lahill@btinternet.com  
01235 760112

### LETCOMBE REGIS

A group from Letcombe Regis have kindly put together the following contact details which may help those who are self-isolating or unable to cope without support. They are happy to help with such things as picking up shopping, posting mail, collecting prescriptions and telephone contact, etc.

#### For help with shopping:

**Childrey Stores: Gill:** email: [orders@childreystores.co.uk](mailto:orders@childreystores.co.uk) 07385 793415

For information please contact the Parish Clerk: Liz Jenkins on: [letregispc@gmail.com](mailto:letregispc@gmail.com)

**Special email for support:** [letcomberegis.virusupport@btinternet.com](mailto:letcomberegis.virusupport@btinternet.com)

or please ring 01235 772900

Please also note the contact details for the Ridgeway Benefice Pastoral Team on the back page.

#### A Message from our Rector Leonora

We are in unprecedented times and the Archbishops and Bishop Steven (Bishop of Oxford) have written to us to offer advice and encouragement during this difficult period. They recognise what an unusual and painful time this is for everyone and they want to stress that they are praying for us all. We have all been asked to heed advice from the government and therefore our usual pattern of public worship and church events will stop until the middle of June. If there is any change to this we will let you know.

Our churches are symbols of the living, loving presence of God. Through the centuries they have absorbed the prayers of the people in times of celebration and joy as well as toil and tribulation. The clergy will be saying Morning and Evening Prayer daily so if you have any particular prayer requests please let us know. We will also be celebrating Holy Communion every week.

Our ministry will continue and following our 'Pastoral Pilgrimages' last summer we hope to be walking around the benefice over the coming months, but don't worry, we will keep our distance!

Love and prayers

Leonora

Dear Friends,

As we move into the season of spring we look for brighter days ahead. It can often be difficult to keep a balanced perspective when we are faced with difficulties and challenges such as Coronavirus.

It is at times such as these when we need a plumb line in our lives, a measuring stick, that helps us to weigh up all the things we see going on around us. The Old Testament book of Amos perhaps seems an unlikely place at first to seek advice, but it gives us hope as we look to the future of Easter. Amos lived 750 years before the birth of Jesus yet heard God foretell the coming of the Messiah: "See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people" (Amos 7:8).

Let us not lose hope as we journey through the darkness of Good Friday and sadness of Easter Eve, that Easter Sunday is coming, Jesus has risen, He is our plumb line and He will be our strength, guide and companion in whatever might come.

I wish you all a blessed and peace filled Easter.

Andrea



#### FROM THE PARISH REGISTERS

MEMORIAL SERVICE	Date	Location
Pauline Irwin	20 <sup>th</sup> February 2020	Letcombe Regis

Loving God,  
We pray for all those who are suffering because of the coronavirus, may they know your healing power.  
When we are afraid for ourselves and our loved ones, give us your strength and courage.  
When we feel alone and isolated, reassure us with a sense of your presence.  
Give wisdom to those in authority and may our community work together for the good of all.  
We give thanks for those who care for others and ask you to bless them in all they do.  
We ask this in the name of Jesus, healer and physician.

Amen  
With thanks to the Diocese of Bath and Wells for this prayer



### RIDGEWAY BENEFICE

Sadly our churches are now closed for the foreseeable future, however Rector Leonora and Andrea will say daily Morning and Evening Prayers from their homes.

**Morning Prayer: 9:30am/Evening Prayer: 4:30pm**

We thought you might like to know this so that should you wish to, you can join us in prayer at home at the same time.

As it is not possible for us to worship together, the various Church of England apps for Daily Prayer and Reflections are a wonderful resource and unite us in prayer. On the Church of England website there are two simple acts of worship which have been particularly geared to those who are self-isolating. If you would like to find out more information go to <https://www.churchofengland.org> and follow the links for daily prayer.

**Pastoral Contacts – If you feel you would like to talk to a member of the Ridgeway Benefice Pastoral Team**

Rev'd Leonora Hill - Rector	01235 760112 or 07867 420234	<a href="mailto:revd.lahill@btinternet.com">revd.lahill@btinternet.com</a>
Rev'd Andrea Colbrook - Curate	01367 820553 or 07749 865052	<a href="mailto:revd.acolbrook@gmail.com">revd.acolbrook@gmail.com</a>
Miranda Marsh (Childrey)	01235 751377	<a href="mailto:mirandajmarsh@btinternet.com">mirandajmarsh@btinternet.com</a>
Ann Brown (West Challow)	01235 762358	<a href="mailto:ann.r.brown@hotmail.co.uk">ann.r.brown@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Debbie Webb (Letcombe Regis)	01235 760973	<a href="mailto:debbieleek21@gmail.com">debbieleek21@gmail.com</a>
Gill Thompson (Letcombe Regis & Letcombe Bassett)	01235 760782	<a href="mailto:gill.mabbett@hotmail.co.uk">gill.mabbett@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Rev'd Mary Harwood (Letcombe Regis)	01235 769257	<a href="mailto:maryharwood695@btinternet.com">maryharwood695@btinternet.com</a>
Janey Nelson (Kingston Lisle & Sparsholt)	01367 820392	<a href="mailto:janeynelson@hotmail.co.uk">janeynelson@hotmail.co.uk</a>



### Court Closure

As you are all aware the courts are CLOSED until further notice and all activities have been cancelled or postponed, coaching and keep fit sessions but will recommence ASAP.

All attendees of the coaching are receiving at home drills and fitness videos, however if you want to suspend payments please contact the National Tennis Association on 0800 888 6030 or online via our web site

[www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/letcombetennisclub](http://www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/letcombetennisclub).

### Membership Fees

As we near the beginning of April members may be confused over renewing membership with no provision of facilities to play due to the Covid 19 crisis.

We have followed guidance on the correct procedure and as you will have heard in a previous email the courts are now padlocked.

Club Spark is working on features to pause membership subscriptions and auto-renewal

processes. So please do not pay your membership fees at present until we are clear on restarting, those who opted for Auto Payments the system will hold all transactions and contact you prior to the revised start date. Once we have a date when we can resume we will calculate the reduced fees prorated to the months lost and contact you all. We will be in touch again when we have more information.

### Keeping your Childs Hand In

Play may be suspended, but we've got you covered with a series of fun [#TennisAtHome](#) exercises, plus the LTA are giving away some top tennis equipment to help you play at home during this unexpected break.

Looking for fun activities to do with the whole family? Here are some quick exercises that you can do in the comfort of your own homes, helping you stay active together whilst developing fundamental skills for tennis.

Check out these easy to follow videos, [Tennis at Home for 4-7 & 8-11 years old](#)

### Wise Words - Ruth Manning writes

'We must look after our inner selves as well as our physical well being. One way to do this is to finish things we have started - so maybe finish that half bottle of whisky or the remains of the bottle of gin.....'



#### Please please please

Don't leave dog poo bags, tied to fences, trees or put in the salt bins. It is not nice and it is anti social.

Either put them either in a dog bin or one of the green waste bins which are dotted around the village, they can also go in your grey bin for collection by the Waste Team.

There are fines for those who do not comply with the regulations and vary from £100 to £1,000.

### Waste Collection Calendar

#### APRIL 2020

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

Easter Holiday Dates

Grey Landfill

Green Recycling

## An Imagined Letter from Covid-19 to Humans



Stop. Just stop.  
It is no longer a request. It is a mandate.  
We will help you.  
We will bring the supersonic, high speed merry-go-round to a halt  
We will stop  
the planes  
the trains  
the schools  
the malls  
the meetings  
the frenetic, furied rush of illusions and “obligations” that keep you  
from hearing our  
single and shared beating heart,  
the way we breathe together, in unison.  
Our obligation is to each other,  
As it has always been, even if, even though, you have forgotten.  
We will interrupt this broadcast, the endless cacophonous  
broadcast of divisions and distractions,  
to bring you this long-breaking news:  
We are not well.  
None of us; all of us are suffering.  
Last year, the firestorms that scorched the lungs of the earth  
did not give you pause.  
Nor the typhoons in Africa, China, Japan.  
Nor the fevered climates in Japan and India.  
You have not been listening.  
It is hard to listen when you are so busy all the time, hustling to  
uphold the comforts and conveniences that scaffold your lives.  
But the foundation is giving way,  
buckling under the weight of your needs and desires.  
We will help you.  
We will bring the firestorms to your body  
We will bring the fever to your body  
We will bring the burning, searing, and flooding to your lungs  
that you might hear:  
We are not well.  
Despite what you might think or feel, we are not the enemy.  
We are Messenger. We are Ally. We are a balancing force.  
We are asking you:  
To stop, to be still, to listen;  
To move beyond your individual concerns and consider the  
concerns of all;  
To be with your ignorance, to find your humility, to relinquish your  
thinking minds and travel deep into the mind of the heart;  
To look up into the sky, streaked with fewer planes, and see it, to  
notice its condition: clear, smoky, smoggy, rainy? How much do  
you need it to be healthy so that you may also be healthy?  
To look at a tree, and see it, to notice its condition: how does its  
health contribute to the health of the sky, to the air you need to be  
healthy?

To visit a river, and see it, to notice its condition: clear, clean,  
murky, polluted? How much do you need it to be healthy so that  
you may also be healthy? How does its health contribute to the  
health of the tree, who contributes to the health of the sky, so that  
you may also be healthy?

Many are afraid now.

Do not demonize your fear, and also, do not let it rule you. Instead,  
let it speak to you—in your stillness,

Listen for its wisdom.

What might it be telling you about what is at work, at issue, at  
risk, beyond the threats of personal inconvenience and illness?

As the health of a tree, a river, the sky tells you about quality of  
your own health, what might the quality of your health tell you  
about the health of the rivers, the trees, the sky, and all of us who  
share this planet with you?

Stop.

Notice if you are resisting.

Notice what you are resisting.

Ask why.

Stop. Just stop.

Be still.

Listen.

Ask us what we might teach you about illness and healing, about  
what might be required so that all may be well.

We will help you, if you listen.

- Kristin Flyntz



## Introducing ‘Curious Minds’

We know that you love learning - and we’re here to help, by finding free educational resources for you to enjoy during these challenging times.

‘Curious Minds’ brings the world to you: museum collections, recorded lectures, language learning, music and more - chosen by our tutors, and collected on our website

Our ‘Tutor Takeover’ section offers you something new every other day.

Explore ‘Curious Minds’ @

<https://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/about/curious-minds>

Francesca Engelmann,  
2, The Old Stables,  
Letcombe Regis,

[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*

*Deadline for inclusion is the 27th of each month.*

## Football Club

**The football club have cancelled their monthly bingo until further notice because of the coronavirus epidemic.**



The football club have played no games in the last month, and it seems unlikely that we will play again this season. Matches against Wantage Town Development and Faringdon Town were both postponed because of the weather, and we then had two weeks with no fixture. Our remaining seven league matches had

all been scheduled in the Three, but we could next five weeks, but the Football Association have now suspended all football until April at the earliest because of the coronavirus epidemic. It seems unlikely that the situation will have improved to restart fixtures in April, so it looks as though the season will end prematurely. We were in the semi final of the Faringdon Memorial cup, and we were top of Hellenic League Division Two West. Our reserves were second in North Berks League Division

Three, but we could overtake leaders Watlington reserves if we won our games in hand. Whether the leagues will be abandoned or whether winners will be declared is uncertain, and how to decide winners when some clubs have played more games than others is an obvious problem. If they decided to base it on points per game played, both our first team and reserves would win their league!