

The Letcombe Register



Issue 196

December 2021

VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2	3	4	5
			<i>Pilates with Rachel</i> 9.30 am Village Hall		<i>Tennis Cardio</i> 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10-2	<i>Tennis Mix in</i> 10.00am
		Book Buffs 8 pm Greyhound Inn	<i>Yoga w Diana</i> 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	Tennis <i>Call my Bluff</i> Wine evening 7.30 pm Village Hall		Football 2pm
6		7	8	9	10	11
		<i>Yoga w Beth</i> 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)	<i>Tennis Mix in Session</i> 10am - 1pm	<i>Pilates with Rachel</i> 9.30 am Village Hall		<i>Tennis Cardio</i> 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10-2 Football 1.30pm
<i>Voices of the Vale</i> 7-9 pm Village Hall			Film Club 8pm Village Hall 'Dreamhorse'			<i>Tennis Mix in</i> 10.00 Holy Communion 10am St Andrew's
					Sports Club <i>Open mic night</i> Pavilion 5.30pm	Greyhound Inn <i>Quiz Night</i> Big Dave 8 pm
13		14	15	16	17	18
WI Christmas Social 7.30 pm Village Hall		<i>Yoga w Beth</i> 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)	<i>Tennis Mix in Session</i> 10am - 1pm	<i>Pilates with Rachel</i> 9.30 am Village Hall		<i>Tennis</i> 9 - 2pm
<i>Voices of the Vale</i> 7-9 pm Sports Pavilion						Nature Reserve <i>Work Party</i> 1.30-4.30pm Football 2pm
						St Andrew's <i>Carol Service</i> 6pm
20		21	22	23	24	25
			<i>Tennis Mix in Session</i> 10am - 1pm	<i>Pilates with Rachel</i> 9.30 am Village Hall		 Holy Communion 10am St Andrew's
			Advent Film Night 'Miracle on 34th Street' 7pm Kingston Lisle			
27	28	29	30	31		
Revised Holiday Waste collection		 <i>Tennis Mix in Session</i> 10am - 1pm				

* 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. (Items underlined are hyperlinked to take you to the organiser's address)

In this issue:

PARISH COUNCIL	2	GARDENING CLUB / VH&RG TRUST	9
CLEANER/WINDOWS/ELECTRICS/BEAUTY/ARBORIST/ESTATE PLANNING	3	SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB / DARTS / MACMILLAN UPDATE	10
LADDERADS / 200 CLUB CHRISTMAS DRAW / SKIP HIRE	4	FILM CLUB / BOOK BUFFS / GREYHOUND INN	11
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS	5	RICHMOND PERMISSIVE PATH	12
WHAT'S ON!	6	LETCOMBES CONSERVATION GROUP	13
ST ANDREW'S / WOMEN'S INSTITUTE	7	NATURE RESERVE	14
LETCOMBE BROOK PROJECT / FOOTBALL CLUB	8	WASTE CALENDAR / VILLAGE CONTACTS	15



Issue 196



**Everyone at the Parish Council wishes you all a
VERY HAPPY FESTIVE SEASON
and a
PEACEFUL AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.**

Winter is upon us, finally, and with it a few reminders. Please be mindful of removing any overhanging hedging or tree branches or piles of leaves that may impede our pathways; please continue to report any road issues, especially pot holes to fix my street <https://www.fixmystreet.com>; and lastly please continue to keep an eye out for your neighbours. We have a tremendous community and your contribution, no matter how small, keeps it that way. So thank you.

At its recent meeting the Parish Council considered its draft budget for the coming year (to be finalised at the January Meeting) and we are anticipating a further year with no uplift to the precept. This of course is subject to outside factors, which should be known in January.

The 20mph proposals for Oxfordshire are currently very newsworthy, and could provide many benefits, however until true costs are provided the PC is reserving its decision. The advantages are very clear, but the financial impact is not so. We will continue to consider this at our next meeting.

Those of you who walk around the Recreation Ground will have seen the works being done to improve the Parish Council Burial Ground. The Lychgate entrance has now been completed, and verges have been graded and seeded ready for landscaping in the New Year. The PC would like to sincerely thank Phil Hodgson for his expert assistance with the project. The new entrance will mean that in future no burials will need to be conducted via the layby on the Bassett Road.

A number of you have raised concerns re access to the permissive pathway from the Millennium Green to the nature reserve. Two meetings have taken place with Richmond representatives and you will have seen an article in last months' Register explaining the intention to replace the wooden boardwalk. This has been delayed but is still a priority for Richmond once the planning permission has been granted. The access from the Millennium Green will also remain and there is a further article elsewhere in the Register giving the latest update.

We have also had a number of requests to return the Register to a paper version, rather than electronic. This has implications for the quality of the publication, as it is very easy to include full colour in the electronic version and the number of pages is not restricted, and more importantly there is no health risk to those who would deliver it. However to ensure we are reaching as many of you as possible we are about to undertake a survey, via our team of volunteers, to see what the demand may be for a paper version. If you haven't already let the Parish Clerk have your email, please do consider this – it will not be used for any other purpose than the delivery of the Register, or for urgent public information messages e.g. road closures etc.

On the subject of Communication, we are about to review the Parish Council Website to ensure it is up to date and offering the information you will find useful. If you have any comments or suggestions please let the Parish Clerk know so that these can be fed into the process.

The issue of internet speed and reliability continues to challenge and next month in the Register you will find an update article from Cllr Paul Batchelor which sets out the current position. Paul has been working behind the scene for months with our district councillor and other Parishes who are affected in a similar way. The story continues

In addition there is an update report from the Letcombe Brook team and the PC would urge you to click onto the link to their website as there are some very interesting articles and superb photographs giving details and the impact of their work.

Finally our next meeting is scheduled for Monday 17 January, 8pm, via Zoom. All are welcome to attend.

Merry Christmas Everyone

Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Parish Council.



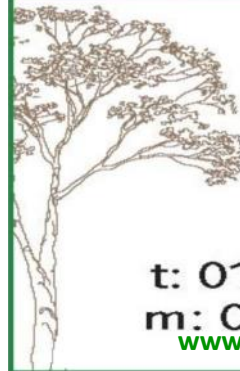
Gabi's Cleaning Service

*Cleaning at its finest
High quality, friendly and flexible
cleaning service.
Ironing~Carpet cleaning*

07771391209 ~ gabipapp@icloud.com



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

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

D K Electrical Services

Daniel
Electrician

07817 457832

Daniel-Electrician@outlook.com

City & Guilds

Domestic clients only



Hazel Lee Jones
Holistic Beauty Therapist

19 Westbrook Grove OX12 0AP

Mrsjbeautyhealing@gmail.com

Mrs Jones Beauty Grove

07375 362522



Oxford Wills & Probate

Part of Bicester Wills Ltd

- Standard Single Will - £199
- Standard Mirror Wills - £299
- Lasting Power of Attorney
Property & Financial Affairs - £325
- Lasting Power of Attorney
Health & Welfare - £325
- Both Lasting Powers of Attorney - £500
- Probate Assistance from - £1,200
- Pre-paid Funerals Plans - from £1,700

Gail and the Team offer a friendly
estate planning service



gail@oxfordwillsandprobate.co.uk

01865 688309

www.oxfordwillsandprobate.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

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

Mel Taylor Photography
 Providing Dog, Equine, Newborn & Child
 Portrait Photography
 Studio or Location shoots,
NEW GREETING CARDS & POSTCARDS for sale
 Local Wildlife and Scenes. See website for full details
www.meltaylorphotography.co.uk

Registered Dietitian
Liane Reeves, BSc (Hons) Nutrition, MSc Allergy
HCPC registered, MBDA
 Expert personalised dietary advice for teens and adults.
 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 www.reevesdiets.co.uk

Springboard Coaching,
Mentoring & Leadership Development
 It's your turn..
 Maximise your potential and enhance your wellbeing.
 Find new ways to meet challenge and flourish in change.
 Contact Suzy Alder for a free chemistry session.
 International Coach and mentor. Applied positive Psychology Practitioner.
aldersuzy@outlook.com / 07774686877

Mel Taylor Dog Training
 Fun and Engaging Dog Training for you and your
 Puppy/Dog
 Positive reward based training to get real life results.
 Agility Training for Fun or Competition
 See website for full details.
www.meltaylordogtraining.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

200 Club Draw — No 9		December 2021
Christmas Prize Draw		
145	Jerry & Paula BROAD	£100
90	Alison McCLINTOCK	£50
106	Val CLURE	£25
204	Jacque BERRYMAN	£15
154	Murray CHARLTON	£10
98	Anne JONES	£5
Special Draw:		
191	Georgia DUNMORE	£50
207	Jane CABLE-ALEXANDER	£25
223	John ROBINSON	£20
43	Diane SMITH	£10
138	David & Judi WILDE	£10
122	Paulien HENSHALL	£10
186	Val YATES	£10
183	Jon GIBBARD	£10
New Numbers Draw		
238	Scott WATTIE	£25
242	Stephanie WALMSLEY	£5



**Skip Hire
Caged Tipper
Waste Management**

☎ 01235 760555

✉ info@aasvogel.co.uk 🌐 www.aasvogel.co.uk

[Mention The Letcombe Register when you call]



CALL my BLUFF



wine tasting

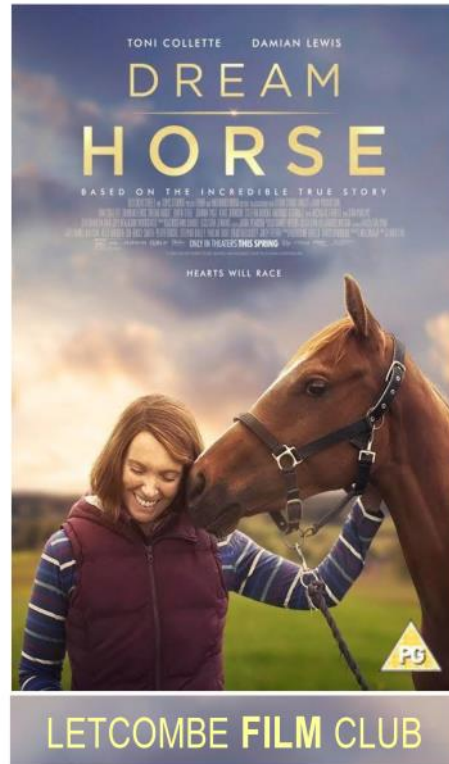
Friday
December 3rd,
7:30pm

Letcombe Regis
Village Hall,

Taste 4 whites & 4 reds
+ Cheese & accompaniments
Always a great fun evening

Tickets £15 per person

Tickets from: the Greyhound, or text CMB to
07772518938 with your name and how many tickets,
alternatively email the Tennis club on
letcombetennisclub@gmail.com



Letcombe Regis Village Hall,
Wednesday 8th December

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

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

Letcombe Sports and Social Club

Hot Dogs
Mulled Wine
Mince Pies



Saturday 11th December

Live music from 5:30pm

All Welcome



OPEN
MIC
NIGHT



Children's New Year Party

Sunday 2nd of January 2022
2pm to 4 pm

Letcombe Regis Sports Pavilion




Free to all Sports & Social Club
member's children and grand
children, 5 to 12 year olds.

Fun filled afternoon with
Magician, games and
snacks!!!

Numbers limited, so please
book to secure your places

Register your children at
the Pavilion or with Geoff on 762680 or email

letcombesportsclub@gmail.com

 <p>Jan Allsop wishes all her old Letcombe friends a Merry Christmas and happy new year</p>	<p>Wishing all my friends and neighbours best wishes for Christmas and the New Year with my Love, Ruth Manning</p>  
<p>Iain and Vivi McCoubrey wish all their friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year</p> 	<p>Jean English wishes her Letcombe friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year</p> 
 <p>Jaqueline and Neil McClaurin send to all their friends in Letcombe their best wishes for a Merry Christmas and A Happy New Year</p>	<p>Judy Vaughan-Williams wishes Letcombe friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.</p> 
 <p>Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all her Letcombe friends from Ann Seth</p>	 <p>Joyce and Clive Coombs wish all Letcombes friends a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year</p>
 <p>David and Ceci Allehin wish their friends and neighbours a happy and healthy Christmas and New Year</p>	 <p>Happy Xmas + a Healthy Fit 2022 to all from the Tennis Club</p>
 <p>Best wishes to all our friends and neighbours for a Happy Christmas and peaceful and healthy New Year Mike and Loretta Light</p>	 <p>Wishing all my friends in the village a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year Doug Frewer</p>
<p>Jeanné and Stephen and Family wish all of our friends in Letcombe Regis a Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful and Healthy New Year</p> 	 <p>KEN AND FREDDIE TROTTER SEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS IN LETCOMBE</p>
 <p>Richard and Jane Hornsby send Christmas greetings to all their new friends in Letcombe and thanks for making them feel so welcome</p>	<p>Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Readers, Contributors and Advertisers.</p> 



St Andrew's

The supermarkets have been selling Christmas puddings since Hallowe'en, retailers tell us that everything will be in short supply, so buy stuff early and so the frenzy begins. May St Andrew's offer some oases of calm in the run-up to Christmas:

On **December 8th**, an Advent quiet day will be held at St Mary's Convent, Wantage, between 9:45 and 2pm, to include a sandwich lunch. For further details and to book please contact Debbie on debbieleek21@gmail.com

St Andrew's Carol Service takes place on **Saturday 18th December at 6pm**. This is always a very special evening as the Christmas story is told again through words and music. Of necessity, the service had to be a shortened one last year but this year we return to the Traditional Nine Lessons and Carols; (well, seven lessons actually, as we're not King's College, Cambridge.) A much-augmented choir have been busy practising and Joe Barber will be back from Oxford to play the organ for us.

The collection at the Carol Service, like all our collections over Christmas, will go to the charities we support at this time of year: CRISIS and The Children's Society.

Our support for local charities is not just financial. As in previous years, we will be collecting:

- ✦ gifts of good quality children's clothes and toys for needy local families. If you gift-wrap your present, please indicate who it would be most suitable for eg "Child 3-5", "Boy 5-8", etc. And before we're accused of gender stereotyping, let common sense prevail.
- ✦ gifts for The Porch in Oxford. They are always grateful for warm clothes, and small presents such as toiletries, suitable for homeless people who might otherwise have nothing. Again, if you gift-wrap your present, please indicate who it suits best, and for clothing, an approximate size would be useful.
- ✦ gifts of food for Wantage Food Bank. Non-perishable items only, please.

All these can be placed under the Christmas tree in church in the week before Christmas.

There will also be **Holy Communion** services on **December 12th** and on **Christmas Day** – both of these at **10am**.

Something new this year: Revd Andrea Colbrook has organised an **Advent film night** on **December 22nd at 7pm** – a chance to pause, draw breath and enjoy a good film. For further details, see *Signpost* or email: revd.acolbrook@gmail.com or phone 01367 820553

Revd Mary Harwood will be continuing to hold a service of **Evening Prayer at 3pm on Mondays throughout December – apart from Monday 27th**. These short services afford an opportunity for traditional, said worship. And remember that St Andrew's is open throughout the day and you are welcome to enter, pray or just sit quietly.

We hope that all this will help to offset the commercial frenzy and allow you to have a blessed and peaceful Christmas.



Women's Institute

Ajolly time was had at our November meeting, when Ann Batchelor showed us how to make inexpensive but pretty Christmas decorations from recycled materials. After the demonstration, everyone had a go themselves, in an atmosphere redolent of happy times in the Infants School!

Our next meeting will be our Christmas Social on December 13, when members are reminded to bring a plate of finger food to share.



Letcombe Brook Project

There has been a lot of publicity recently about the dumping of sewage in our rivers and streams by Water Companies so an update of issues about the Letcombe Brook seemed timely.

There has been correspondence between the Letcombe Brook Project Charity and our local MP to stress the importance of preserving rare chalk streams and the role of the Project. As regards untreated sewage discharge in the Brook there have been 37 discharges for a total of 387 hours in 2020 which is an increase for 2019 of 194 hours and lack of investment in Thames Water infrastructure remains a major concern. There have also been a number of episodes of unidentified pollution recently particularly near Sainsbury's culvert which had been traced back as far as the Waitrose car park. Although the Letcombe Brook Project Officer, Mark Bradfield, is taking samples, only samples taken by the Environment Agency can be used to initiate enforcement action. Water companies often take too long to respond and take samples by which time the pollution may have dispersed. However, villagers and visitors are asked to notify any pollution they notice in the Brook to Mark Bradfield on 1235 771447 or by email to info@letcombebrook.org.uk.

On a happier note, many villagers have been enjoying the wonderful pictures and information posted by local observers and the Project Officer on the Letcombe Brook Project Facebook and website which I would encourage even those who are not into Social media to visit.

We now have populations of otters and water voles established on many areas of the Brook with no signs of mink in the last period of monitoring. Brown trout of breeding size are being seen but to encourage this wild population which is not restocked, it was proposed by the Project that a no fishing policy should be introduced along the Brook. In terms of the Brook in our nature reserve, a fish bypass would be needed if the small dam remains in place.

All villagers with the Brook within their curtilage are urged to join the Letcombe Brook Riparian Owners Group for information and advice about management of their banks and section of the Brook. Contact Mark Bradfield for further details.

Loretta Light
Parish Council Representative on the Letcombe Brook
Project Charity for Letcombe Regis



Letcombe Football Club

November was a disappointing month for the football club. We narrowly lost 2-1 at home to league leaders Highworth Town reserves and we were then drawn away to Hazlemere Sports in the Berks & Bucks cup. Thankfully they were unable to raise a team and conceded the match, which saved us a round trip of over 100 miles. We then lost 2-1 away to local rivals Newbury to give them their first league win of the season. We had beaten them at home a few weeks ago and were hopeful of completing the double over them.

Fixtures in December are :

Saturday	4 th	Clanfield developments	v	Letcombe	3.00	Hellenic League
Saturday	4 th	Letcombe Reserves	v	Frilshom & Yattendon	2.00	North Berks League
Saturday	11 th	Letcombe	v	Twyford & Ruscombe	1.30	Berks & Bucks cup
Saturday	18 th	Letcombe	v	Cricklade	2.00	Hellenic League



Letcombes Gardening Club

Topical Tips

I can't believe that it's December already! I suppose it's because we've been having such unseasonably warm weather. It now seems to have turned a little wintrier though so do make sure you have dragged in all your tender plants or protected them well and make sure your greenhouse heater is in working order if your precious plants like to feel a little cosier.

If you have any acers or vines then you should prune them before Christmas as this avoids bleeding. You can also start to prune apples and pears as long as they're not wall-trained.

Deciduous hedges or trees can be pruned now while they are dormant. Check for coral spot. This is often connected to poor ventilation and congested growth so tackle this problem while you are pruning.

If you have newly planted trees or shrubs you may want to protect them from the coldest weather until they get more established.

You can still lift and divide perennials if the weather is not too cold and wet.

Continue to cut down top growth from perennials but don't feel you have to do it all now as it is a good winter home for insects and some of the seed heads will look good as part of the winter garden. Do cut off any spent growth if it is showing signs of grey mould though, as this could spread to healthy plants.

If you're not tempted outside at all then relax with the seed catalogues and plan for next season; always a 'fun' activity.

On the veg front there isn't really anything to do apart from harvesting. I have found a wonderful little quote on the web (I take no credit for this) and I thought I'd share it with you hardy allotmenters.

Always remember, that there are no failures in gardening it is always down to the weather, furry things or if all else fails Acts of God.

With that as my parting shot the topical tips lady and her husband would like to wish you all a Very Merry Christmas!

VH&RG Trust



The Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trustees would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Please continue to stay safe.

The Bonfire and Fireworks evening on Saturday 6th November was enjoyed by many villagers and their friends. We were fortunate that the weather stayed dry. Thanks go to those who put in time to make the evening a success:

David and Andrew for expertly building, lighting and managing the bonfire.

Ken, Dom and assistants for lighting the fireworks.

Paula and Jerry for an extremely popular and successful BBQ

James plus helpers for running the bar so well.

Various Trustees for the bucket collections and sparkler selling

Max for selling the glow sticks

And last but by no means least, thanks to all the villagers who turned up to support this traditional event.

In terms of money raised, there were £90 of donations from 6 different villagers before the night, and then the bucket collections raised £465.15. Together with the BBQ sales and a share of the bar takings the combined total raised was a little over £730. This is really good compared to previous years, particularly as the fireworks this year were more expensive.

There have been some draft sketches drawn up for the Old Riding Field, which include some trees, paths and quiet areas. More details will be in a future Register article, but if you have any questions, please let me know.

Those of you who use the Recreation Ground will see that the Burial Ground improvements are nearing completion. The Sports Pavilion car park has also been tidied up, although there is still more which could be done to improve the facilities. If you have any thoughts or suggestions, then please let me know.

Finally, one of our Trustees has resigned, so we are looking for another one to fill this position. Please contact me if you are interested, or have any questions at all about the role.

Richard Taylor

Chairman, Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust.



Letcombe Sports and Social Club

Letcombe Sports & Social Club would like to wish all its Members, Guests and Friends a Merry Christmas and a Very Happy New Year.

In addition to the usual opening times, we have a couple of events planned over the festive and holiday season.

On **Saturday 11th December**, from 5pm onwards we have an "Open Mic" evening, with live music. Anyone who wants to come along and play or sing is welcome to do so. For more details please contact the Secretary on letcombesportsclub@gmail.com. Father Christmas is planning to pay us a visit at about 5pm, before he gets busy nearer to Christmas.

On **Sunday 2nd January 2022**, "**Magic Peter**" will be at the Club to provide some entertainment for our Members' children and grandchildren between 2 - 4pm. If you are interested in coming along to this, then please see the poster elsewhere in The Register.

If you want to find out more about the **Sports & Social Club**, or find out how to become a Member, then please contact the Secretary at letcombesportsclub@gmail.com, or leave a message on the Sports Club telephone - **01235 767785**.

Richard
Secretary, Letcombe Sports & Social Club

The Darts Winter League is well under way, with the "A" Team doing extremely well in Division 2 of the Wantage & District Darts League. The "B" Team, whilst perhaps not getting success in the matches, are having a very enjoyable time on a Thursday evening!

Attached are the League Tables up until last week. Please contact the Secretary if you are interested in playing, or want to find out more about the Darts Teams.

Division 2	PL	W	L	F	A	PTS
BELL (Wantage) D	6	6	0	43	11	43
LETCOMBE S&SC A	6	5	1	39	15	39
CHALLOWS RBL	6	5	1	38	16	38
ABINGDON ARMS	6	4	2	33	21	33
ROYAL OAK	6	3	3	26	28	26
FAWLEY SC	6	3	3	25	29	25
BELL (Wantage) C	6	1	5	22	32	22
BAYTREE A	6	2	4	18	36	18
STEVENTON S&SC B	6	0	6	14	40	14
HANNEY RBL A	6	5	1	12	42	12

Division 3	PL	W	L	F	A	PTS
VOLUNTEER	6	6	0	41	13	41
FOX A	5	5	0	38	7	38
BOUNDARY PARK	6	6	0	36	18	36
HANNEY RBL B	6	3	3	28	26	28
BELL (Grove) B	6	3	3	24	30	24
BELL (Wantage) B	5	2	3	24	21	24
GROVE RFC B	6	2	4	23	31	23
NELSON A	6	2	4	18	36	18
STEVENTON S&SC C	6	0	6	18	36	18
LETCOMBE S&SC B	6	0	6	11	43	11

Macmillan Coffee Morning



A huge thank you to everyone who supported our fundraising effort in any way. Due to your generosity we raised £187 which was amazing considering the modest turnout.

Thank you again on behalf of the Macmillan organisation and Happy Christmas to everyone.



Film Club - 8 December Dream Horse (PG)

Another great turnout for our October film 'The Keeper', an excellent film that generated lots of positive feedback for our film fans, thank-you. Its always great to hear that our film choices are hitting the mark with our film fans!

We have another treat for you in December, when we will be showing 'Dream Horse' a popular feel good film released in June this year. Set in the Welsh mining village of Cefn Forest, this film is based on the true story of 'Dream Alliance', an unlikely race horse bred by a housewife and bartender, Jan Vokes.

Disenchanted with her life, Jan convinces her neighbours to pay £10 per week to form a syndicate to train the horse. You'll have to come to the film to find out what happens....!

The excellent Australian actress, Toni Colette steals the show playing the lead character, Jan. Owen Teale plays her husband, with other roles played a range of great British actors, including Damien Lewis and Joanna Paige. Look out for Katherine Jenkins and Clare Balding who make guest appearances.

We look forward to seeing you at what is a perfect feel good film, picked especially for the festive season.

Refreshments available from 7.30pm, film starts at 8pm. We are keeping the same COVID safety measures as last month.

1. We ask that masks be worn while moving around the hall
2. If you can, please bring exact money for entry and ideally change for refreshments
3. No free pop corn but small packets available to buy
4. Please try to maintain social distancing when queuing.

Dates for the new year are:

January 12 : The Last Bus

February 9 : film tbc

March 9 : tbc

April 13: tbc

Book Buffs



The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 1st December at 8pm at the Greyhound.

We shall be reviewing 'Bookworm' by Lucy Mangan and 'The Midnight Library' by Matt Haig.

The new library book is 'Alys, Always' by Harriet Lane and the alternative is 'The Other Half of Augusta Hope' by Joanna Glen.



THE GREYHOUND INN

LETCOMBE REGIS · OXFORDSHIRE

Merry Christmas to all our customers!

Our Festive Menu is available
1st-24th December

Christmas Quiz Night
Sunday 12th December 8pm

Join us for drinks on Christmas Day
We are open 12-2pm

New Year's Eve Celebration Dinner

£70 per person

Call or email to book

Bar open to all until 1:30am

www.thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk

email: info@thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk

Tel:01235 771969



Richmond Permissive Path note

The original planning consent was granted on condition that the Nature Reserve (owned by Richmond Villages) be open to the public and that access to the Reserve be granted to the public via a footpath running through Richmond property.

The Nature Reserve was subsequently leased to BBOWT and a footpath created running parallel to Letcombe Brook. The path was never defined and was not required to be defined as a Public Right of Way. It is therefore permissive.

To protect the landowners interests and prevent a Public Right of Way or Village Green being created through or on their land, landowners need to periodically deposit a Statement and Declaration with their County Council. During investigation works to repair the wooden walkway, Richmond Villages were advised to submit statements and declarations. The timing, at the same time as having to close the broken walkway, was perhaps unfortunate, but necessary.

What are Statements and Declarations?

Landowner Declarations - Section 31 Deposits

Section 31(6) of the Highways Act 1980 is a provision through which landowners can help protect themselves against public rights of way coming into existence, based solely on a period of use by the public.

The statement is a declaration of ownership with the land shown outlined on an accompanying plan, with any acknowledged Public Rights of Way across that land annotated.

The declaration is a demonstration of a landowner's lack of intention to dedicate any further Public Rights of Way from that day hence.

The landowner submits a statutory declaration confirming the position set out in the statement.

The effect of a section 31 deposit is to help to protect the land referred to from any claims arising from user evidence during the period of time for which the deposit is valid.

Deposits under the Commons Act 2006

Section 15A of the Commons Act 2006 enables landowners to protect themselves against a parcel of land being registered as a village green or common based solely on a period of use by the public.

The process is to deposit a map, statement and statutory declaration with the highway authority (county council) showing which public rights of way are acknowledged over the land and declaring that there is no intention to dedicate any additional ways.

In summary, Richmond Villages are merely protecting their interests as land owners and have no intention of ever closing the permissive path, other than temporarily for good reason such as danger from falling trees or times such as now where the walkway is broken and hazardous.

Their intention is that the Nature reserve will always remain just that, managed by BBOWT for the enjoyment of local residents, the wider public and the wildlife it protects.

Permissive Path signs have been erected at either end of the footpath, allowing access to all by foot, other than when temporarily closed for good reason.

Walkway replacement

Planning permission has been sought to replace the wooden walkway with a gravel path. Obtaining permission is taking the Local Authority much longer than anticipated to approve and grant. Work will commence as soon as practicable, once Planning Permission is granted.

If you have any question relating to this please feedback to the Parish Clerk, who will liaise with James Gillies, Richmond.

Missing Signage

Concern has been raised by Richmond at the illegal removal of signage relating to the permissive pathway. If you have any information please contact Richmond.



The Letcombes Conservation Group

Christmas cards highlight the associations between wildlife and the festive season that have been passed between generations. Evergreen indoor decorations have their origins in Celtic and Norse pagan beliefs as a means of warding off evil spirits and witches. In mythology the Holly King gained supremacy at the Summer solstice and ruled over the shortening days until the Winter solstice in mid-winter when the Oak King regained power heralding the re-emergence of Spring and Summer. The 'kissing bough', a round ball of twigs and foliage decorated with seasonal fruit such as apples, was a popular Christmas decoration in Tudor homes hung on walls or over doorways as a gesture of goodwill, and to welcome guests, and a precursor to kissing under the mistletoe, first documented in the 16th century.

At a time when it was traditional to read ghost stories at Christmas, the cheerful ghost of Christmas Present, dressed in a green robe and a holly wreath crown set with shining icicles, appeared in Scrooge's room with a great feast and decorations of holly, mistletoe and ivy in a 'grove; from every part of which, bright gleaming berries glistened'. *A Christmas Carol*, conceived and written in haste by Dickens in late 1843, set its own tradition amongst Christmas literature epitomising a spirit of generosity, empathy and celebration with loved ones whilst highlighting the inequalities of education and wealth distribution in Victorian England. Though trees brought indoors and decorated for Christmas already existed, Prince Albert brought the popular custom of decorating a fir tree indoors as illustrated in a sketch of 'The Queen's Christmas tree at Windsor Castle' by J.L. Williams in the *Illustrated London News* in 1848. The Germanic tradition has links to Saint Boniface, born Winfrid in Devon circa 675, who sent by Pope Gregory II as a missionary priest to the region around Hesse in modern Germany. In a small village there, Boniface had felled a sacred oak tree that had become the focus for a winter pagan festival involving human sacrifice. When a small fir tree was found next to the fallen oak, Boniface used its evergreen leaves as a symbol of Christian everlasting life to rekindle the Christian faith locally.



The past two years have fostered an awareness of the positive benefits of interaction with wildlife and nature, though a connection to nature in daily life is minimal for most of the population. Revisions in the Oxford Junior Dictionary replaced 'nature' words with those seen of relevance to a technologically-minded generation. This exacerbated the problem caused by restricted access; if you don't know something exists or lack the vocabulary to describe it, it is difficult to want to protect it. Thankfully wildlife organisations abound, alongside international groups such as *Friends of the Earth* and *Greenpeace*, all championing concern for the planet, and the focus on the specific impacts of climate change has been well supported by young people. In addition, the skill of wildlife photographers and of naturalists featured in wild landscapes abound on television, and re-wilding of gardens, even partial, is encouraged.



Connection to nature is so important in underlining everything that needs to be done to restore the balance of planet Earth. Christmas shines a light on the unchanging influence of wildlife and nature in our culture that can bring inspiration to reflections on how that connection can be maintained and extended to the rest of the year. From the Middle Ages, almost every town and city in England had a band of musicians and singers called waits. Their duties included waking the townspeople on dark winter days by playing in the streets, and welcoming Royal visitors by performing at the town gates. Waits were abolished in 1835, but the term became associated with any group of singers or musicians who sang and played

carols around their town or village at night over the Christmas period, whilst collecting money, in other words, carol singers. Wishing you joy this Christmas in the words of the carol,

*'Let men their songs employ, while fields and floods, rocks, hills and plain, repeat the sounding joy'
'and heaven and nature sing'.*



Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Work parties continue in the Community Nature Reserve on Saturday, 18th December from 13:30 to 16:30. Please meet near the lake notice board by 13:20 for the tasks and safety briefing. Tools will be provided, and refreshments too mid-afternoon, but please take your own work gloves. The Reserve still has plenty of bird life to observe and this might include Fieldfares and Little Egrets as well as the familiar waterfowl and small birds like goldfinches and robins. Robins appeared on Christmas cards in the mid-1800s after red pillar-boxes were introduced by the Royal Mail and, from 1793, the postmen's uniform of a scarlet tailcoat, with contrasting blue cuffs and lapels. The red colour reflected royal endorsement, but led to the nickname of 'robins' for postmen. Robins on early Christmas cards often carried envelopes in their beaks, or wore small satchels, as if out on a delivery round. In folklore, robins acquired their colouring when one punctured its breast trying to pluck thorns from Christ's head at the crucifixion. In early Christian mythology, a robin rescued St. Leonorius, a 6th century Welsh missionary to Brittany, from starvation and a dead robin gave St. Kentigern (St. Mungo), patron of Glasgow and founder of the church over which the Cathedral was built, the opportunity to demonstrate his saintliness by bringing it back to life.

Birds also feature in the carol 'The Twelve Days of Christmas', apparently 184 in a full rendition. Seven swans-a-swimming and six geese-a-laying will be familiar, but what are the four 'calling' birds? The first published version of the carol, probably after years of oral circulation, in a 1780 book called *Mirth without Mischief* refers to 'four colly birds'. According to the OED, the etymology may be traced back to Arthur Golding's 1565 translation of Ovid's *Metamorphosis* as an adjective meaning 'coal-black' but as a noun recorded in 1798, 'In the Somersetshire lingo, they call ... a blackbird, a *colley*'. It was in Frederic Austin's 1909 arrangement, which also added the melody now commonly used for the traditional carol, that the blackbirds were replaced with 'calling' birds. The new version had rival variants including four 'canary', 'coloured' or 'curley' birds, but by the 1950s 'calling' birds predominated as the word 'colly' had become obsolete, even though few people then knew to what bird the word 'calling' refers!



Nor perhaps why the three hens should be French, though the two Turtle doves are understood as a biblical reference to doves as the manifestation of the Holy Spirit at Christ's baptism and as an emblem of peace, love and loyalty. The two Turtle doves also represent the Old and New Testament. Turtle doves are summer visitors to southern England, arriving in late April/May and leaving again between July and September (photo credit: Snowmanradio, Wikimedia Commons).

It is likely that the first gift in the carol refers to the native Grey partridge found in most parts of the UK in lowland arable areas from East Anglia to Aberdeenshire having arrived naturally from Europe after the Ice Age. This bird is distinguished by an orange face, grey legs and black horseshoe-shaped patch on its belly. Also known as the 'English Partridge', they lay the largest number of eggs of any native bird, up to 19 eggs in a clutch. The handsome 'French partridge', the red-legged partridge, was introduced to the UK from France during the 1700s as a new gamebird.

Larger than the English partridge, it has a white chin and throat patch bordered by black plus bold, black flank stripes on the greyish body with chestnut side tail feathers (photo credit: Karunakar Rayker, Wikimedia Commons). However, the significance of the first gift of the partridge in a pear tree is that it represents Jesus Christ since 'my true love' means the God of Hope.



Christmas Greetings for peace and joy to all.

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

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

Register@oldstableyard.co.uk
01235 769310

TO RECEIVE YOUR OWN COPY OF THE LETCOMBE REGISTER, AND OTHER VILLAGE ALERTS, ADD YOUR NAME TO THE VILLAGE LIST BY CONTACTING THE PARISH CLERK: LETREGISPC@GMAIL.COM

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

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



Waste Calendar

Brown Bin
Garden waste collection has resumed normal operation - **6th and 20th** this month. Please do not exceed bin capacity.

You can access the 21/22 [Vale of the White Horse Waste calendar Here](#)

Note that the **Christmas Holiday Collection** - Grey Landfill and Food Waste (normally on a Monday) Will be revised to **Wednesday 29th December**

If **Bad weather** should affect collection leave the bins out for 2 days and check the [Binzone](#) Page or download a Binzone App

December 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	31		
Green recycling Food waste Brown Garden waste			Grey Landfill Food waste ☆ Christmas revised date			

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