The Letcombe Register

	Iss	ue 197				Janu	Jary 2022
2 A. A.			Vii	lage Dia	RY		
Mon	Tue		Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						1 <u>Tennis</u> New Year 'Blow the Hangover away' games 11 am	Children's New Year Party 2-4pm Pavilion
3	7	oga w Beth 0945-1045 /illage Hall ease book)	5 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in Session 10am - 1pm Book Buffs 8pm The Greyhound	6 No Brown Bin Pilates Rachel 9.30 am Village Hall	7	8 Tennis Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2 Football 2.pm	9 Holy Communion 10am St Andrew's
10	11	oga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall lease book)	12 Tennis Mix 10am - 1pm Film Club 8pm Village Hall 'The Last Bus'	13 Pilates Rachel 9.30 am Village Hall	14	15 Tennis Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2 Football 2.15.pm	16
17 Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Location TBC Parish Council Meeting - 8pm Zoom	V	gga w Beth 0945-1045 (illage Hall ease book)	19 Tennis Mix Session 10am - 1pm	20 ^{Pilates} Rachel 9.30 am Village Hall	21	22 Tennis Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2 Football 2.15pm Nature Reserve Work Party 1.30-4.30pm	23
Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Location TBC	V	ga w Beth 1945-1045 illage Hall ase book)	26 Mix Session 10am - 1pm	27 Pilates Rachel 9.30 am Village Hall	28	29 Tennis Cardio 9 - 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 10 -2 Football 2.15.pm	30
Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Location TBC							

* Most Events shown in the Calendar should be <u>booked in advance</u>, and could also still be subject to change under revised government guidelines. Please check the details before attending. (Items underlined are hyperlinked)

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Message from the Parish Council

The Letcombe Regis Parish Council wishes you all A VERY HAPPY, PEACEFUL AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

For those wishing to virtually attend our next meeting on Monday 17 January, 8pm, please contact the Parish Clerk for joining instructions

Please continue to keep yourselves safe in 2022.

Jeanne Lapsley Chairman.



Children's New Year Party

Sunday 2nd of January 2022 2pm to 4 pm

Letcombe Regis Sports Pavilion

<u>Free</u> 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



LETCOMBE FILM CLUB

Letcombe Regis Village Hall, Wednesday 12th January

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

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

200 (ry 2022						
48	Sue HANNON	£50					
51	Karen JOHNSON	£25					
61	Jim BIRCH	£15					
8	Richard TAYLOR	£10					
172	Theo RABIN	£5					
Speci	Special Draw:						
184	Eileen McKEEVER	£25					
2	Peter & Leonora HILL	£20					
165	Thérèse CLARKE	£15					
160	Thérèse CLARKE	£10					
10	Mike HADDRELL & Steve SMITH	£10					
New Numbers Draw							
111	StJohn & Charlotte DICKSON	£5					
129	Helmut GROSS	£5					
240	Gill LAY	£5					
237	Helen WATTIE	£5					



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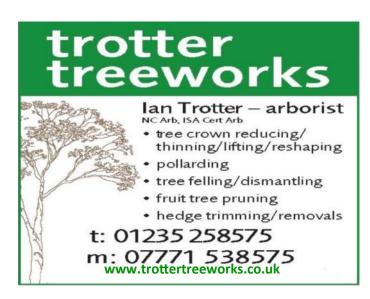
COMPUTER PROBLEMS? CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?

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

Personal Assistant/Carer

DBS checked/insured
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Five years as an Activity Organiser
in residential homes
For help or support please call 07968983673







gail@oxfordwillsandprobate.co.uk

www.oxfordwillsandprobate.co.uk



Mrsjbeautyhealing@gmail.com Mrs Jones Beauty Grove

07375 362522

D K Electrical Services

Daniel Electrician

01865 688309

07817 457832 Daniel-Electrician@outlook.com

City & Guilds Domestic clients only





Photo - Mike Price

St Andrew's

an you cast your mind back to November? There was a brief period when things were looking up, before anyone had heard of Omicron. We were fortunate to have been able to celebrate St Andrew's Day then. The weather wasn't kind but a resolute band of gardeners, led by Anne Williams and Christine Birch, worked on the churchyard clear-up. Meanwhile, many villagers popped into church for coffee and a chat, to offer a Gift Day donation and to thank Revd Leonora for all she has done for St Andrew's and the Ridgeway Benefice. Our treasurer, David Allchin, thanks everyone who contributed to Gift Day and will be writing to everyone who filled in a Gift Day envelope with an update on St Andrew's finances early in January. Envelopes are still coming in, so no idea yet what the final total will be.

By December 18th Omicron was rampaging through the land and Covid restrictions meant that the Carol Service took place with strict rules about wearing masks. You might have expected this to produce a subdued atmosphere: quite the reverse. Something about singing the familiar hymns and hearing the Christmas story told during a pandemic gave the message of hope greater resonance. The music was superb; the choir, under their conductor Marilyn Mitcham, sounded wonderful and Joe Barber was back from Oxford to play the organ. (In early January, Joe is to take the rigorous Fellowship examinations, practical and theory over several days, for the Royal College of Organists. We are so fortunate to have benefited from his talents at St. Andrew's for so many years.)

More music: on Christmas Day a team of bell ringers brought some extra cheer before our Christmas Day service. St Andrew's continues to offer hope and cheer amidst the gloom. And Letcombe villagers continue to be generous, with presents round the tree and donations to the charities we support over Christmas: a cheque for just over £200 will be coming in from the cold and bedding down with Crisis, while the same amount will be skipping over to the Children's Society.

With Leonora's retirement, there will be a period of interregnum until the new rector is appointed, but a rota of services has been arranged up to and including Easter. St. Andrew's will be having Holy Communion once a month commencing Sunday 9th January. We continue to have weekly Evening Prayer on Monday afternoon at 3pm and a Prayer Group meet at 10.30 on Monday morning. If anyone would like to join the group, they should contact Tony Macdonald: (gnt.macdonald@btopenworld.com)

No apologies for ending yet again with words spoken during another time of fear and uncertainty, from the Christmas message of 1939 by King George VI:

"And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year,

"Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than a light and safer than a known way." So I went forth and, finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And he led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."

With all good wishes for a safe and peaceful New Year.

Book Buffs



The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 5th January at 8pm in the Greyhound.

We shall be reviewing 'Alys, Always' by Harriet Lane and 'The other Half of Augusta Hope' by Joanna Glen.

The new library book is 'The Garden of Evening Mists' by Tan Twan Eng. We'll also discuss books we received for Christmas.

Please return 'Alys Always' to the blue box outside Clive's at 1 Mill Paddock as soon as possible.



Letcombe Football Club

oth December games were postponed so there is no report this month.

Games in January are:

Saturday	8 th Jan	Kennington	٧	Letcombe	Berks & Bucks Cup	1.30
	8 th Jan	Letcombe res	٧	Burghclere	North Berks league	2.00
Saturday	15 th Jan	Letcombe	٧	Clanfield dev.	Hellenic league	2.15
	15 th Jan	East Hendred res	٧	Letcombe res	North Berks league	2.00
Saturday	22 nd Jan	Letcombe	٧	Carterton	Hellenic league	2.15
	22 nd Jan	Marcham	٧	Letcombe res	North Berks league	2.00
Saturday	29 th Jan	Letcombe	V	Marlborough dev.	Hellenic league	2.15

Letcombes Gardening Club

Topical Tips



hope all of you have had a good Christmas. January heralds a new gardening year and we should all be seeing the first snowdrops appearing; always a cheerful sight.

January is often cold but can also sometimes be nice and bright at times so don't write it off completely and hibernate!

If, like me, you don't blitz the garden in the autumn then there will be on-going tidying up to be done this month. Just cut things down if they start to look unsightly and also if they're smothering those cheerful first snowdrops and crocus.

You can continue to prune apple and pears trees and if you're adventurous enough to grow peaches and nectarines outside then you should cover the trees to try and prevent peach leaf curl.

You can sow sweet peas this month and any you sowed in the autumn that have germinated can be potted on now. You also need to sow pelargonium and begonia seeds now if you have them. They will need a heated greenhouse or propagator.

Many deciduous trees can be pruned this month while they are dormant but avoid tackling any *prunus* species as it can cause silver leaf disease.

You can also prune wisteria and if you happen to have a rampant Boston ivy or Virginia creeper you can cut these back as well.

Now is a good time to check trees and shrubs for fungi and canker. Remove any diseased or damaged branches to prevent further infection.

Why not go to the garden centre (if we're allowed) and look for scented shrubs? They can be a marvellous addition to the winter garden, particularly if you plant them near a door or walkway.

On the fruit and veg front patience is the word here. Don't be tempted to start too early; it's quite likely to lead to disappointment!

However you can lift and divide rhubarb crowns now. You can even start the forcing process by covering a crown with a bucket or tall container of some sort.

If you grow brassicas, root crops and leeks then you should still be harvesting. You may need to stake sprouts and purple sprouting to prevent them blowing over. Pick up or pull off any dead leaves as this will also help prevent disease.

Keep an eye on any veg you have in storage and remove mouldy ones so you don't lose the whole lot!

Well I think I've run out of tips now so I would just like to wish all of you a Happy, and hopefully, more carefree New Year!



The Letcombes Conservation Group

This month the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch takes place. With over a million participants in 2021, this now forms the world's largest wildlife survey and provides data on the well-being of our garden birds over the past four

decades. Two species to benefit from garden feeding stations, and from the pattern of milder winters over the past decade, are Goldfinches (*Carduelis carduelis*) (photo credit: Wild Lens CC BY-NC 2.0) and Great tits (*Parus major*). These birds are particularly attracted by sunflower hearts



and nyger seeds, the latter fine black seeds, sourced from the African yellow daisy, are a good energy supply for wild birds during the cold winter



months. Sadly, other species such as Song thrushes (*Turdus philomelos*) have been recorded in declining numbers since 1979 (photo credit: Christine Matthews CC BY-SA 2.0). Song thrushes are birds that have individual song phrases often heard in January and February, though they are principally known for the habit of using an anvil to crack open snail shells when the ground is too hard to extract earthworms. Smaller than the rarer Mistle thrush (*Turdus*)

viscivorus) on the Red list of birds of Conservation concern, Song thrushes are identified by their warmer brown colouration (see <u>Identifying Song Thrush and Mistle Thrush | BTO - British Trust for Ornithology</u>).

Two other species in decline and on the Conservation Red list are Greenfinches (*Chloris chloris*) and House sparrows (*Passer domesticus*). Greenfinches increased in the 1990s only to decline again due to trichomonosis, a parasite-induced disease that prevents birds from feeding properly (photo credit: Tony Morris CC BY-NC 2.0). To reduce disease transmission through garden feeders and bird baths, rotate use of several feeding stations and place



in locations to avoid contamination from droppings of roosting birds. A weak (5%) solution of domestic bleach is a suitable disinfectant if surfaces are rinsed with clean water and dried before use. Avoid any build-up of old food in feeders or the surrounding area and provide clean water daily in baths. House sparrows have a stronghold in village locations but their overall numbers in the UK have halved since 1979, so look after these gregarious birds in your garden to keep a robust population (photo credit: Ian Kirk CC

cities suffer from a lack of invertebrates to eat whilst the RSPB researchers also found that 74% of London's House sparrows carry avian malaria possibly linked to the warming climate. The *Plasmodium* species in birds will not cause infection in people, though other bird diseases can affect humans and pets so do not bring cleaning equipment for feeding stations indoors, or use it for other purposes, and always wear rubber gloves, washing afterwards with soap and water.



The reasons for declining garden bird populations are complex and include a combination of the challenges of fewer green spaces, pollution and the changing climate. However, the RSPB's Big Garden Birdwatch has confirmed that gardens over the past 40 years have become increasingly important for birds during winter to find food, water and shelter. Whether you are a complete beginner or an expert, be part of this year's survey. Simply count the birds you observe in your garden, from you balcony or in a green space within the village for one hour between 28 and 30 January 2022. Sign up at: Big Garden Birdwatch | The RSPB to record your observations.



Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Work parties continue in the Community Nature Reserve on Saturday, 15th January 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 water level in the Letcombe Brook is currently very low after the upper springs stopped running at the beginning of December following the driest November since 1946. This may impact on the water vole population

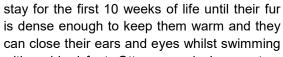
which is thriving downstream in the brook (left in Grove section), but seem to be struggling to recolonise the upstream sections. Mark Bradfield, Letcombe Brook

Project Officer, has suggested that a combination of man-made obstructions and mink are contributory factors to the difficulties water voles face in the Letcombe sections. Mark has put out mammal rafts (right)) that use a mixture of clay and sand to record any mammal tracks to check for the presence of mink. Rather marvellously the rafts have unequivocally confirmed the presence of



otters all the way along the Letcombe Brook.

The European otter (*Lutra lutra*) is protected as a Priority Species that is 'Near threatened' on the international Red List. It is a top predator needing a varied diet of fish, water birds, eggs, amphibians and crustaceans. The fact that otters have recolonised and bred along the Letcombe Brook is indicative of the clean state of the water in the brook supporting abundant wildlife and vegetation. Vegetation is important to hide the underground burrows, called holts, in which otters have their cubs and where the cubs

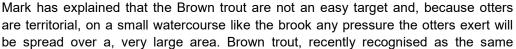






about 6-7 cm long (left) or spraints (right) are easier to spot. Spraints are scent messages left in prominent places such as fallen trees, weirs or bridges to attract mates and to defend territories. The spraints contain fish bones and apparently have a distinctive, not unpleasant smell like jasmine tea!

Some wild Brown trout (Salmo trutta) will be caught by the otters but there is no danger that these fish will be depleted in a natural system like the Letcombe Brook.



species as Sea trout, are a medium-sized fish that spend their entire lives in gravelly fresh water feeding on insect larvae, small fish and flying insects, such as mayflies and damselflies. Spawning occurs January to March when the externally fertilised eggs are buried in the gravel bed.

Otters will also eat invasive Signal crayfish, first introduced from the US in the 1970s on farms to supply restaurants. Unfortunately releases quickly invaded through British freshwater streams. Signal crayfish are a threat to many of the native invertebrates and fish and, as well as outcompeting the only native White-clawed crayfish, they carry a disease which kills the native species. The otters, therefore, will assist the protection of our native crayfish which are endangered and close to extinction in some English counties. Consequently the otters return is to be celebrated on several levels! Thanks to Mark Bradfield for photographs taken along the Letcombe Brook.



Film Club

Happy Christmas!

The Last Bus (12A)

Weds 12 January

A nother 'full house' for our December film, "Dream Horse", which gave us that Christmas feel good feeling! Thanks to all who came out to join us on a damp, dark evening.

We start the new year with another recent British film (released in August 2021) starring the great English actor, Timothy Spall. Best known as Barry in Auf Weidersehen, Pet (a blast from the past...), in the Last Bus he plays Tom, a widow who decides to travel back to Cornwall where he and his wife grew up, to scatter her ashes. But this is no ordinary journey, Tom uses his free bus pass to travel on local buses from John O'Groats to Lands End. The film tells the story of his adventures and the people he met along the way.

As you would expect from Timothy Spall, he gives a brilliant performance as Tom. He is matched by another great character actor Phyllis Logan, who plays his wife Mary in the flashback scenes. You will know Phyllis Logan as Mrs Hughes in Downtown Abbey.

As you can imagine the landscapes along the journey also play a starring role, something to remind us of our travels in the UK.

We look forward to seeing you in January for The Last Bus. It might be an idea to bring tissues for parts of this one, but hopefully you will enjoy another evening out at Film Club.

Refreshments available <u>from 7.30pm</u>, film <u>starts at 8pm</u>. 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.

Future Film Club dates:

February 9: The Courier

March 9: tbc April 13: tbc



Blow the Hangover away

We have had several requests to run a fun tennis based games, short session at 11:00 am on Saturday the 1st of January2022.

So we WILL.

It will be a repeat of the 2019 successful, get together, not too energetic, or competitive, team games with a racquet and ball involved. More luck will be involved than skill, but a great refreshing healthy way to start the New Year.

Out in the open fresh air, well away for each other, clearing the head!

Coffee biscuits & tea on tap.

Please pop along if you can, and start the New Year with gentle exercise + great company, as part of a NEW YEARS Resolution "get more exercise".

If we miss you, wishing you, anyway, an Enjoyable, Healthy, More on Court 2022.

New Year Coaching Deals

Our Coaching partner NTA have a coaching promotion for the new year, commencing Sat, 8 January 2022 offering a 2 week free pass and 50% off for 2 months of group coaching (i.e. equivalent to only £3 per 1 hour session, for the first 11 weeks!!!). There are Saturday groups for Juniors:-

5 7 year olds	10 to 11am,
8 10	11 to 12pm
11 14	12 to 1 pm
14 18	1 to 2 pm
Plus Adult Get Fit	9 to 10 am

Telephone "Freephone" on 0800 888 6030 or online at www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/LetcombeTennisClub.

WhatsApp group

There is a WhatsApp group covering all club sessions which enables you to know prior who and how many will be going, if you would like to, including the all year round Sunday morning Roll-up.

Join this WhatsApp group by texting WRUP4IT to 07222518938.

Greyhound Inn



Please note: The Greyhound Inn will be closing for its annual Paint and Mend break at 6pm on Sunday 9th January and reopening at 4pm on Monday 17th January.

LETCOMBE REGISTER

Francesca Engelmann,
2, The Old Stables,
Letcombe Regis,
OX12 9LD
Register@oldstableyard.co.uk
01235 769310

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

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

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

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

Please note that the New Year holiday will affect collection dates for the first 3 weeks and there will be NO garden waste collection on 6th January

You can access the 21/22

Vale of the White Horse

Waste calendar Here

January 2022 Waste Calendar Click Here for more information

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6 X	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 (× not 6th)

Grey Landfill Food waste