

The Letcombe Register



Issue 178

June 2020

We are getting used to the current situation and you have been most kind about the new and more colourful PDF version of the Register (though it is growing like Topsy!)

If you have contributions you think might entertain us please send them to me :

Register@oldstableyard.co.uk



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 Register is also available to view, along with much more information on the village Website: www.letcomberegispc.org

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Message from the Parish Council

The PC held its Annual PC Meeting on Monday 18 May using the new electronic platform Zoom. This will continue until the restrictions on meetings are lifted. You are all welcome to join the meeting electronically, just contact the Parish Clerk and arrangements can then be made to invite you. At the meeting I was elected to continue in the role of Chairman with Cllr Loretta Light continuing as Vice Chairman for a further year.

In this edition of The Register you will find a copy of the PC's Annual Report and also the draft Financial Statement for your information. With the absence of an Annual Parish Meeting, until it can be scheduled hopefully later this year, we are happy to receive any comments, clarification or questions you may have via the Parish Clerk.

Now that things are running and in place, and the initial impact of Covid-19 has lessened, we are continuing with the usual PC business. A grant request from Be Free Young Carers for £150 was approved and a donation of £60 made to the Oxford Artisan Distillery for providing us with Hand Sanitiser for our volunteers.

As ever the internet reliability in the village is leaving a lot to be desired and we heard of a potential scheme from Air Band who are indicating an opportunity for improvements via cable in parts of the

village. Further details are being sought and we hope to be able to set up a village Zoom Presentation Meeting in the future. For those who may be interested further details will appear in the July Register and via the village email.

You will have seen in last month's Register the plans for the road improvement works over the coming months, so please note them in your diaries as some road closures, for short periods, will be necessary. We are also aware of the convoys of large lorries travelling through the village. These are working to complete the Thames Water project and we are in contact with Thames Water to establish when this work will be completed. Again we will use the village email to communicate any updates.

With the slight lifting of government requirements on exercise we are seeing a larger number of people enjoying our village and environment so please remain cautious and keep two metres apart to help keep our community Covid-19 free.

Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday 20 July, 7.45pm, via Zoom All are welcome to join the meeting, but please advise the Parish Clerk at least 7 days before so that the necessary links can be put in place.

Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Parish Council

King George Hipango



The Memorial Obelisk to George Hipango to the right of the entrance to St. Andrew's Church

With thanks to Ivor Marsh, from the Summer '89 issue of the Letcombe Register

(Apologies if this is deemed 'too soon', but it is the 149th Anniversary of Chief Hipango's death this month.)

On the 20th June 1871 a young Maori chief was interred in the Churchyard at Letcombe Regis. He had died just a few days before in the Vicarage, surrounded by the Lanfear family and their sister-in-law, Mrs. Vollmer - the widow of the Reverend Carl Volkner, who had been murdered by the Pai Marire Maoris most cruelly, in 1865. Parson Lanfear had been a missionary in New Zealand and all his family had lived in that country. Young George died among friends. But what brought George King Hipango to Letcombe Regis? This young man's father was John William Hipango, a well known Christian chief. When the Rev'd Richard Taylor visited New Zealand, it was the wish of John William Hipango that Mr. Taylor should take his eldest son, George, back to England and then bring him back to New Zealand as a Christian minister. To finance the trip and the education of his son, John William Hipango rented out a property he owned. During the long voyage to England the seventeen year old George influenced by the sailors and

the steerage passengers. Not only did they take his money, but they filled his mind with doubts about the object of his voyage to England. They even told him that he would be locked up and flogged. Consequently, when Mr. Taylor, on their arrival in London, took young George to the Missionary Society Institution, the principal took them through to his private garden and the gates were locked behind them. At the first opportunity, even while Mr. Taylor was paying the cab driver, our little Maori Chief fled. The arthritic Mr. Taylor was no match for the athletic young George and a police officer went in pursuit to the docks. Where our terrified young Maori was discovered and re-united with the well-meaning Mr. Taylor.

After a great deal of resistance George was placed into a school to learn the 'three Rs'. At the end of his first year everyone was amazed at his aptitude to learn not only the 'three 'three Rs' but also history and geography. He was also a great athlete and, above all, tremendously kind to the younger boys in the school. He would admonish any boy who attempted to bully the younger pupils. Alas, a problem arose. The tenant who was living in his father's house suddenly left and no other could be found. The Revd W. Childe, Rector of Holbrook, who had met George's father when he had been in England, received George into his school free of charge.

The hope was that George would excel at school and then go to a University and thence return to New Zealand, a minister of the Church. For the first few years, George spent his school holiday with the Revd. Richard Taylor and his family, wherever they might be.

Two years George no longer had the same zeal for the ministry. At the Easter of 1871, the Lanfears, at the Vicarage at Letcombe Regis, invited the young man stay with them during the Easter break. They were well acquainted with his father, having been missionaries in New Zealand.

Mrs. Volkner, Mr. Lanfear's sister-in-law, was also living at the Vicarage at that time.

By this time it had been decided that George should return home to New Zealand without his training for the Church's Ministry completed, as he had lost his vocation.

As smallpox was then very prevalent, it was thought desirable that George should be vaccinated. Both he and Mr. Lanfear were vaccinated at the same time.

However, from that time George's bodily health seemed to decline, 'although' state the Taylor diaries. 'his soul did increase'. It is recorded that it seemed evidently to be the Lord's directing hand that brought him to Letcombe Regis, for that he had not only kind Christian friends whose desires and efforts were to lead him to Christ, but perhaps there was not another home in all England where every member had been in his own native land.'

Letters were sent to the Rev'd Richard Taylor, who was staying in Guernsey. He and his wife left the island immediately to come to Letcombe Regis to visit the ailing Chief. However, when they reached London they were to find a telegram stating that the dear lad had died at 4am

- that morning. The Taylor diary records: 'I found on my arrival at Letcombe this same afternoon that the silence of death weighed on the Parsonage. All that could be done had been done to save his life but in vain. His disease was not to be cured. He had only taken to his bed three days before his death'. He was laid to rest under the yew trees in the Churchyard, and today his simple obelisk still stands as a reminder of the link between Letcombe Regis and New Zealand: Carl Volkner and the dreadful murderers who made him a martyr, however George King Hipango will always be a saint in Letcombe Regis

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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

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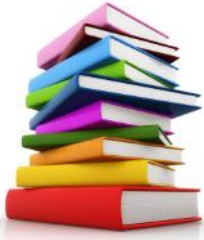
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Book Buffs Literature Quizzes

(with thanks to Sue Hannon)

1. How many ghosts visit Scrooge in A Christmas Carol?
2. Which novel begins with the line *"It was the best of times...."*?
3. Holden Caulfield is the main character in which book?
4. In which book is there an inn called Admiral Benbow?
5. Who wrote 'The Lord of the Flies'?
6. Who is the best-selling fiction author of all time?
7. Who wrote 'Mrs Dalloway'?
8. Who does Mr Brownlow rescue?
9. Which book begins with the line *"For many days we had been tempest tossed...."*?
10. Carlo Collodi created which famous children's character?
11. What is the nationality of the author Paulo Coelho?
12. Mr Darcy is an arrogant gentleman in which novel?
1. Four - Ghost of Jacob Marley, spirit of Christmas past, present and yet to come
2. Tale of Two Cities
3. The Catcher In The Rye
4. Treasure Island
5. William Golding
6. William Shakespeare
7. Virginia Woolf
8. Oliver Twist
9. The Swiss Family Robinson
10. Pinocchio
11. Brazilian
12. Pride and Prejudice

July's offering

1. Winston Smith is the central character in which book?
2. How old was Adrian Mole in the first Sue Townsend book?
3. Who wrote 'The Count of Monte Christo'?
4. Which female novelist wrote the book 'Black Beauty'?
5. In which book would one find the character named 'Pip'?
6. How long did Robinson Crusoe spend on the island?
7. Who wrote 'A Clockwork Orange'?
8. What is the name of the cat in Shakespeare's Macbeth?
9. Which book begins with the line "These two very old people are the father and mother of Mr Bucket...?"
10. Who wrote the book 'The Moons A Balloon'?
11. What was Eric Blair's pen name?
12. Who wrote 'Moll Flanders'?

As lockdown continues the library is still closed. But I trust you are all doing lots of reading and recording. I will contact you personally once we have received a new book from the library and we can then begin to gather again. Trust you are enjoying the literary quizzes which Sue Hannon is providing.

Hope to see all of you in the not too distant future.

Waste Collection Information from VoWH (Taken from the website as of 22nd May)

<http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk/>

Most collections are running as normal.

Good news - we have reopened our garden waste service to new customers - more info [here](#) and we have also reopened our bulky waste collection service - online orders only - more [here](#)

And we have resumed our kerbside collections for batteries, small electricals and textiles.

Warning: Recently a fire broke out on one of our bin trucks after a resident in Great Western Park put batteries in their recycling. Please do not put batteries or any electrical items in your bins for the safety of our crews and people nearby.

- We must remind people that gatherings like community litter picks should no longer be taking place until the government guidelines allow, and until our waste contractor is able to cope with the extra waste collection.

What to do with waste if you have Covid-19 or symptoms of Covid-19

Based on government guidelines, we are asking *residents with symptoms of Covid-19 to double bag any discarded tissues and other waste and leave for 72 hours before placing them in their main black rubbish bin.*

Missed bins?

Our waste contractor, Biffa, has suffered some staff shortages due to illness and self-isolation but is managing this by redeploying staff and using agency drivers.

However, with new crew members unfamiliar with the routes and in some cases fewer staff, it's likely that on occasions, crews might not be able to complete all of their daily rounds and so some bins might not be emptied on their usual collection day. We empty 200,000 bins every week and so even a moderate level of disruption to our usual staffing can cause delays.

- The advice for residents is as follows: if the bins in your street are not emptied, please leave them out for up to three days (including weekends) and we'll try to catch up. If still not emptied, bring them back in and we will empty them on the next planned collection day.
- We are working with Biffa to prioritise critical waste services. To help us with this plan we have suspended some non-essential services new garden waste subscriptions and investigating abandoned vehicles.
- We urge people to sort their waste carefully - food in food waste bins (you can put extra food waste in liners on top of your food waste bin), rubbish in black bins and clean, dry, loose recycling in their green recycling bins.
- We're also recommending residents wash their hands before and after taking the bins out to practice good hygiene for themselves and our bin crews.
- Please don't leave waste in black bin bags next to litter bins to be collected, it is illegal and this requires our teams to do extra collections and makes it harder to provide the residential and communal services the teams are continuing to do.

June 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					

Grey Landfill	Green Recycling Garden Waste
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Yoga with Beth

All of my yoga classes including Childrey Tuesday am are running through the Zoom online platform. Details at <http://www.beyoga.co.uk>.

I hope to be back at the hall as soon as I can.

The following newspaper article may be of interest to your readers in how yoga can be effective in reducing depression :

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2020/05/18/regular-yoga-can-help-reduce-depression-study-finds-experts/>

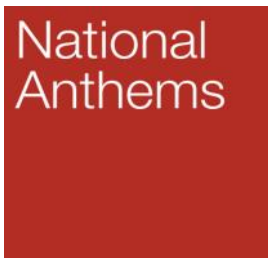


Brainteasers

Around the World in 80 songs - Answers

(with thanks to Val Clure)

- | | | | |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Do you know the way to ----- | 1. San Jose | 11. Oh I am going back to _____ | 11. Barbados |
| 2. ----- Dreaming | 2. California | 12. The _____ Waltz | 12. Tennessee |
| 3. ----- on my Mind | 3. Georgia | 13. From _____ with Love | 13. Russia |
| 4. Y Viva ----- | 4. Espana | 14. Stars Fell on _____ | 14. Alabama |
| 5. By the Beautiful Blue _____ | 5. Danube | 15. The ____ Boat Song | 15. Skye |
| 6. My Old ----- | 6. Kentucky | 16. Rule _____ | 16. Britannia |
| 7. Tulips from ----- | 7. Amsterdam | 17. _____ (That Toddling Town) | 17. Chicago |
| 8. -----Swings | 8. England | 18. In a Windmill in Old _____ | 18. Amsterdam |
| 9. Hotel ----- | 9. California | 19. The ____ Maid | 19. Swiss |
| 10. ----- (And did those feet) | 10. Jerusalem | 20. I Left My Heart In _____ | 20. San Francisco |



(Presidents and anthems quiz thanks to Iain McCoubrey)



Below are one line extracts from various countries' National Anthems, rendered into English.

Which Countries' Anthems?

- The Great Charlemagne, my father, liberated me
- I have always honoured the King of Spain
- Land of Hammers, with a promising future
- We were for centuries downtrodden, derided
- Bonaparte has given us the example of how we should prevail
- With blood to spill for you, O Fatherland

(with thanks to Iain McCoubrey)

What links these former US presidents with these locations?

- Abraham Lincoln - Albany, New York
- Rutherford Hayes - Florence, Kentucky
- Grover Cleveland - Milford, Pennsylvania
- Franklin Roosevelt - Waco, Georgia
- Lyndon Johnson - Bath, North Carolina
- Jimmy Carter - Great Neck, New York.

Answers - each President's date of birth, when written without the oblique strokes, is the Zip Code of the location. Thus:

- Abraham Lincoln DoB 12 /2/09: Zip 12209 = Albany NY
- Rutherford Hayes DoB 4/10/22: Zip 41022 = Florence KY
- Grover Cleveland DoB 18/3/37: Zip 18337 = Milford PA
- Franklin D Roosevelt DoB 30/1/82: Zip 30182 = Waco GA
- Lyndon B Johnson DoB 27/8/08: Zip 27808 = Bath NC
- Jimmy Carter DoB 1/10/24: Zip 11024 = Great Neck NY



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Quiz - Murder Most Foul - Answers

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| 1. Not so tough prince's son | 1. George Gently |
| 2. Mariner joins Rambo | 2. Columbo |
| 3. Religious Public Transport | 3. Rebus |
| 4. Its cold outside | 4. Jack Frost – A touch of frost |
| 5. Join the dots | 5. Morse |
| 6. An island escape | 6. Lewis |
| 7. Dishonourable Rasp | 7. Cadfael |
| 8. Four letters in a Landie | 8. Vera |
| 9. Short queen fall in a strop | 9. Betty Wainthrop |
| 10. Plain Poet | 10. Jane Tennyson |
| 11. Richards son medical colour | 11. Dixon of Dock Green |
| 12. Milky way and rabbit abode | 12. Starsky and Hutch |
| 13. Over the river Kwai? | 13. The Bridge |
| 14. Alphabet vehicles | 14. Z Cars |
| 15. Seen but no heard | 15. Silent witness |
| 16. Perhaps its not dark enough | 16. Maigret |
| 17. Lifeless before Christmas Day | 17. Killing Eve |
| 18. Berlin barrier and queen, initially | 18. Wallander |
| 19. Capital bookshop in conflict | 19. Foyles War |
| 20. Lolly sucker!! | 20. Kojak |
| 21. Her Security living space | 21. Sherlock Holmes |
| 22. Chef floats his boat to the new World | 22. Endeavour |
| 23. Game of design | 23. Taggart |
| 24. Give longer treasure box | 24. Grantchester |
| 25. Island number letter | 25. Hawaii 5 0 |

Popup Business School mid-June

If you are thinking seriously of starting your own business you may be interested in the Popup Business School coming to Oxfordshire in mid-June.

This is sponsored by Oxfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership and is very highly regarded. See <https://events.popupbusinessschool.co.uk/OxfordJune2020#/?lang=en> for further details.

Be bold, be positive and book a place now!



Collective Nouns - Answers

- | | | | |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------------|
| 1. Crash | 1. Rhino | 11. Bloat | 11. Gorillas |
| 2. Shrewdness | 2. Apes | 12. Shadow | 12. Jaguars |
| 3. Gang/Obstinacy | 3. Buffalo | 13. Conspiracy | 13. Lemurs |
| 4. Clowder/Glaring | 4. Cats | 14. Family | 14. Otters |
| 5. Bask | 5. Crocodiles | 15. Team/Yoke | 15. Oxen |
| 6. Murder | 6. Crows | 16. Pandemonium | 16. Parrots |
| 7. Drove | 7. Hares | 17. Shiver | 17. Sharks |
| 8. Convocation | 8. Eagles | 18. Stench | 18. Skunks |
| 9. Stand | 9. Flamingos | 19. Zeal | 19. Zebras |
| 10. Tower | 10. Giraffes | 20. Knot | 20. Toads |

(With thanks to Jeanne Lapsley)



Gardening Club - Topical Tips

Summer is here and in these very strange times I hope your garden is looking wonderful and keeping you busy!

June is the month when the traditional English garden really comes into its own with roses everywhere and beautiful perennial borders in full bloom. Hopefully, with all the hard work you have done in the last couple of months, you're being able to relax a bit and enjoy it but there are still plenty of jobs to get on with.

The obvious task is to carry on weeding. Here's a little tip. Dense planting helps to smother weeds so you can feed your plantaholic tendencies!

If you have any gaps in the beds (vain hope) then you can still sow fast growing annuals like calendula and clarkia to fill them up.

If you have any euphorbias, and I have an absolute trifid, then they will look much better if you trim the spent flowers back to ground level. In fact if you have euphorbia amygdaloides var. robbiae the spent flower shoots tend to get horrendous mildew so trimming is a must. If you don't know if you have this one then just look for the mildew!

And... pull up your spent forget-me-nots! They look pretty awful when they have gone over and, much as I love their pretty blue flowers in late spring, they can completely take over if you're not careful!

You can prune evergreen hedges this month. It is also a good time to prune deciduous magnolia if you need to. If you do this in winter you are likely to get die back.

Don't forget to prune out flowering shoots of early flowering shrubs when they have finished flowering. If you don't do this soon enough they will not have enough time to ripen growth for next year's flowering.

You can still plant containerised trees and shrubs now but be aware that the weather may work against you here and unless you are prepared to water frequently through the summer you may be better to wait until autumn. Having said that, if you do have any newly planted trees and shrubs, keep up that watering! After all, we still have extra time to do this!!

I know I've rambled on rather but I can't end without giving some fruit and veg advice as I know more people are having a go at this now so bear with me a little longer!

June is the last month for sowing many crops. You can still successionaly sow, for example, beetroot, French beans, lettuce, rocket and radish at fortnightly intervals.

If you have raised brassicas like purple sprouting broccoli in modules then get them out now but remember that the butterflies will be on the rampage so the key word is protect!

On the subject of fruit, be aware that fruit bushes and trees need water for the fruit to swell so you know what to do in a prolonged dry spell!

There is more to be said but I think that gives you plenty to be getting on with so get out into the garden and enjoy!

Gardening Club Notice

The gardening club is holding their annual Plant Market this month. However, as we are well aware that we have to follow government guidelines on social distancing then we will be holding it online. We promise you that there will be minimal to no social contact with anyone else! The market will commence on Saturday 6 June at 10am and finish on Tuesday 9 June at 5pm. All those who are members of the Gardening Club and on the email list will automatically receive a plant list and instructions. If you are not on this list and would like to take part and purchase plants then please send an email request for a plant list and instructions to:

meryl@dunstanlodge.co.uk before the start date of the market.

Letcombe Regis Open Gardens 2020

It is with considerable regret that the decision has been taken by the Organising Committee to postpone this year's event that had been scheduled for 7th July. With the uncertainty concerning the possible guidance that would exist on the date over gatherings, the Committee did not feel confident to proceed. Possible alternative arrangements are being explored which include discussions with Letcombe Bassett as they are due to hold the event in 2021. More details will follow in next month's Register.



200 Club results

200 Club Draw — No 1		April 2020
189	Frances RHODES	£50
180	Robin GLYN	£25
148	Tony MACDONALD	£15
52	Ian JOHNSON	£10
67	Emma & Michael MATTHEWS	£5
Non-Winners draw:		
202	Harry REITER	£25
194	Ben BODEN	£20
7	Michael ROWE	£10
19	Thelma MOULD	£10
121	Diana WADDINGTON	£10
174	Jeanne LAPSLEY	£10
53	Millicent HOLLINGWORTH	£10
New Numbers draw:		
57	Elsbeth HORRIDGE	£5

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DINGBATS

1.	2.	3.	4.
			

1. Split Pea Soup 2. Bits and Bobs 3. Split Second Timing 4. Growing Old



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The Letcombes Conservation Group

Five fluffy, yellow goslings have delighted walkers after the Canada goose nesting on the deer field island finally ended her month-long incubation of eggs in mid-May. Goslings communicate with the adults whilst still in the eggs and walk, eat and swim within a few hours of hatching, but are flightless for up to 10 weeks. They survive their early weeks closely protected by the adult birds, though at least eight other Canada geese also returned later to the same area and have been tolerated at a distance. Goslings and adults share the same diet mostly grazing on land for seeds, for grass roots, shoots and leaves, and occasionally aquatic vegetation, insects, snails and tadpoles. The adult birds moult during the mating season and regain their flight feathers at the same time that their darker, olive brown goslings begin to fly. Juveniles remain with their parents for a full year, and then associate in large flocks making stable pair bonds for life in their second or third year, though most do not breed until their fourth year returning to their original nest area.

Canada geese are not native; they were introduced as a breeding pair presented to Charles II in 1665 for his wildfowl collection in St. James's Park, adjacent to the Royal Aviaries and Birdcage Walk. An escaped Canada goose was shot on the Thames in 1731 and by 1785 domesticated flocks were described as being very familiar and breeding freely on 'gentlemen's seats'. Free-flying flocks were noted in seven

counties in 1845. Astute readers might wonder how the name *Branta Canadensis* arose before Quebec was divided into Upper and Lower Canada provinces in 1791 and two hundred years prior to final 1867 union of provinces into 'One Dominion under the name of Canada'. Canada's name was an official recognition of that used locally since 1553 for an ever-widening area from Quebec City to Hudson Bay. Early naturalists referred to wildlife from the Hudson Bay area by this name as recorded in one of the first scientific bird texts, *Ornithologiæ* by Francis Willughby published posthumously in 1676 by his friend and collaborator John Ray. The two naturalists had met at Trinity College, Cambridge, in the 1650s and travelled around Britain and Europe together. The bird's name inferred 'from Canada' whereas the geese actually migrated to Canada from the USA in the summer.

Numbers remained low in the UK until the 1950s when suitable habitat was created by flooded gravel pits, park lakes and reservoirs. Canada geese are the largest goose in the UK, now numbering around 62,000 breeding pairs. Some ringed Canada geese have migrated here from Scandinavia and one from Siberia but most are resident flying to fresh feeding grounds in typical V-formation. When natural vegetation is sparse in winter, large flocks may damage crops or become aggressive if they associate food with human habitation. The Wildlife Trusts work with pest controllers to find the most wildlife-friendly solutions to these problems, and request that residents simply admire these birds and avoid feeding them.

Friends of Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Some wonderful recent news from Mark Bradfield (Letcombe Brook Project Officer) of a mother otter and two cubs using the Letcombe Brook near Wantage. Mark suggests that the cubs might be the young of the mature dog otter that was killed in October 2019 on the road in Grove. This is the first time that otter cubs have been recorded in recent years on the Letcombe Brook – all a testament to the improved habitat. Further evidence of the importance of the Brook for wildlife is the current water vole activity and their numbers should increase through the breeding season. If you see any wildlife activity in the Community Nature Reserve or along the Brook elsewhere, do email the location and information to Mark on Letcombebrook@hotmail.com so that he can maintain the records.

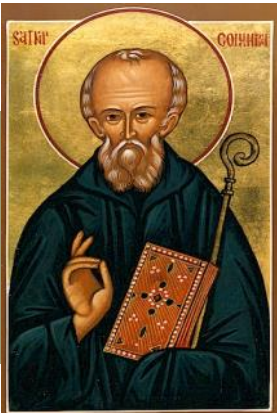
Go Wild in June is the sixth annual nature challenge of the Wildlife Trusts. The challenge is to complete one wild thing a day throughout the month of June, for your health, wellbeing

and for the planet. What better way to occupy yourself, family and friends on activities



related to wildlife this month. Sign up at <https://action.wildlifetrusts.org/page/57739/petition/1> for free, downloadable resources with ideas and inspiration to help you plan, plus email suggestions of activities from baking hedgehog cupcakes to a beginner's guide to wildlife photography. The schools' pack is recommended for anyone seeking children's activities. The local BBOWT has its own 'Wild about nature creative challenge' for all children in three age categories. Submissions can be in the form of stories, poems, photographs, posters, models, or artwork but you will need to be quick as the deadline date is Sunday 7 June. See <https://www.bbowl.org.uk/competition> for all details and submission.

Saint of the Month - St Columba



The focus this month is on Saint Columba, a much-loved and, seemingly, well-known saint. A bit of research, however, reveals some surprising, and slightly odd, facts about him which makes him an interesting subject.

But first, a quick reference to last month. You remember those frosty nights we had during the second week of May when over-eager gardeners lost tender plants they'd put out too early and English vineyards suffered a terrible blow to their vines? A reader (yes, someone actually reads this!) wrote to say that apparently in central Europe this happens quite regularly over 11th, 12th & 13th May and the saints of those days - St. Mamertus, (or, in some countries, St. Boniface of Tarsus), St. Pancras and St. Servatius, are known as the ice saints. That's rather pleasing.

Columba's name in Gaelic is Colm Cille which means "church dove" and he is always thought of as a man of peace. But early on in his life, about 560 AD, when he was studying in a monastery in Ireland, he was involved in a dispute over a copy of the psalter which he refused to hand over. He sailed to Scotland not, as tradition would have you believe, as a missionary but as a fugitive from a rather bloody battle.

Be that as it may, he arrived on the island of Iona and set about establishing a place of worship and learning. Iona is a tiny island off the southwest coast of Mull in the Inner Hebrides. Despite being only 1.5 miles wide by 3 miles long, the island has had great significance in history both as the

cradle of Christianity in Scotland and as a centre of academic study.

Columba brought twelve monks with him and, together with some local builders, began to build an abbey. Here Columba displayed some rather unsaintly prejudices, including banishing women and cows from the island, claiming that "where there is a cow there is a woman, and where there is a woman there is mischief". The abbey builders had to leave their wives and daughters on the nearby Eilean nam Ban (Women's Island). Hardly anything remains of the original abbey but what does remain is the monks' legacy of craftsmanship in carving ornate Celtic crosses and producing beautifully illuminated manuscripts. The best known of these is the *Book of Kells*, currently on display in Trinity College, Dublin.

Near the site of Columba's abbey is the *Reilig Odhrain* the sacred burial ground of forty-eight kings of Scotland, said to include Macbeth's victim, King Duncan. The most recent grave is that of John Smith, leader of the British Labour Party from 1992 until his untimely death in 1994.

Columba died in 597, the same year in which the Pope sent Augustine to convert the pagan Angles to the Roman style of Christianity. From then on, the Celtic Church diminished in size and influence, to be replaced by the much larger and stronger Roman Church. Columba's legacy, however, lives on. The Iona Community, founded in 1938, seeks to follow his example of healing and hospitality; visitors are welcome to join them in work and worship. In recent years there has been a revival of interest in Celtic spirituality with the prayers and rule of St Columba very much at its heart.

St Andrew's Notes

(Picture thanks to Mike Price)



As we edge slowly towards easing lockdown rules, there is hope that soon our churches may be open again. In the meantime, many people across the Benefice are finding that the weekly Zoom service provides a sense of worshipping together. If you would like further details, do contact either

Rector Revd Leonora: revd.lahill@btinternet.com (01235 760112), or

Curate Revd Andrea revd.acolbrook@gmail.com (01367 820553).

If Zoom isn't for you, you may be interested in a free national phone line launched by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby. *Daily Hope* offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the C of E, available 24/7 at the end of a phone: **0800 804 8044** (It's actually quite good, once you get over "Press 1 for talks; press 2 for hymns.")

The Ridgeway churches have joined together to offer various initiatives, from a Book Club to a stone painting challenge – for details of all that's available have a look at the June edition of *Signpost* which can be found reproduced on one page in this edition of the *Register* (page 22).



Issue 178

WI

It Seems a long time since we last met, and no hope in sight of meeting again till September – if we are lucky. At least with such a splendid big Hall, we may by then be allowed to gather, even if we have to arrange the chairs two metres apart! We shall have missed some interesting talks this summer, but we hope to be able to rebook them for next year. Here, to whet your appetites, is the programme we hope to offer in the autumn:

- **14 September, 2020.**
Special Cello Evening. Talk, with live performance and a specially composed Letcombe Regis piece.
Milena Kavakova.
- **12 October, 2020.**
Land's End to John O'Groats – the story of a local girl's solitary walk and the adventures had along the way. **Luccia Rennie**

- **28 October, 2020.**
Group Meeting at Letcombe Regis Village Hall – members only.
- **9 November, 2020.**
Gemstones and Sparkle. A hands on talk to inspire you.
Helen Plumb
- **14 December, 2020**
Grand Christmas Social with Festive Food and Games. – members only.

Until we meet again, stay safe! Stay busy! and enjoy your gardens!

Old Money



The Clues are in Old Money - Convert to currency to find the cost . (with thanks to Val Clure)

1. Half of a Stone
2. A Bicycle
3. A Man's Name
4. A type of Singer
5. A Monkey's Knee
6. Sun, Moon and Mars
7. A Leather Worker
8. 50% of a Pair of Panties
9. A kind of Pig
10. Royal Headdress
11. A Place for Stray Dogs
12. Unwell Sea Creature

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Photographic Club invitation for July issue

The Letcombe Photographic Club would like to invite Letcombe photographers to submit images for display in Register. Of those submitted, the club will select a small number to be published each month.



The deadline for submission is the 20th of each month and the subject for June's edition is '**Letcombe nature in all its glory**'.

Please send your images (max 2 per resident) as an attachment to stevemikarics@gmail.com

Please use ONE of the following formats for your image - Bitmap (.bmp), JPEG (.jpg, .jpeg), PNG (.png) or your own camera's format.

Happy snapping.

(Results of 'Lockdown - a personal view' can be found on next page - 13)

Photographic Club - next month's invitation on page 4

The Lockdown - a personal view - a selection of villager's images



Social distancing - Neil McLaurin



My isolation zone - Loretta Light



A cross in the sky - Jeanne Lapsley



View from my window - Mike Light



Social queuing - Stephen Mika



Message from David Johnston, MP

I hope you are all safe and well. It has been easier than I expected to adjust to ‘virtual parliament’ in which 50 MPs can be present in the House of Commons at any one time and up to 120 of us can join by video link. Back in March, I was not sure it would happen at all given the reservations some of my colleagues had, and yet here we are in May with it working pretty smoothly.

Having been concerned that it would feel strange to give speeches from my desk, I have now done so to speak in the Domestic Abuse, Agriculture and Immigration and Social Security Co-ordination Bill debates, alongside questioning several Cabinet ministers on behalf of constituents.

Virtual parliament has certain advantages, not least the fact that the day before debates, the Speaker publishes a call list which shows exactly who will be called and in what order. This is in contrast to how things usually proceed in the House of Commons, when you can be in there for several hours bobbing up and down and not be called at all! You can also wear jeans on your bottom half as the camera can’t see below your shoulders!

That said, like everyone else currently working we’re all keen to be back around our colleagues. Whilst some people suggest that the current period will change how everyone works forever more, I’m not so sure. Having had friends move to other countries and being reasonably used to speaking to them by video, it’s not the same as being in the same room and I think most people want the interactions that come face to face.

MPs were advised to remain in their constituencies for lockdown if they could, so my partner and I have been in our home in the Didcot area, which we got in February. It has been good to spend an extended period here rather than just the Friday-Sunday period each week and she and I consider ourselves very lucky to have a garden and to be able to take walks around the beautiful environment we now live in.

Where we can, we’ve been getting out to help the organisations in our community that have played such a vital role during this crisis – from Sofea to the Ray Collins Trust – and remain full of admiration for the many ways they’ve been helping people during this period. Do visit www.oxfordshireallin.org

DIY Face Masks Quick and easy

You will need:

- a) 2 pieces of material 6 inches by 9 inches (clean cotton bedsheets or poly cotton is best)
- b) 2 pieces of elastic 7 inches long.

Instructions

- 1) Place fabric right sides together
- 2) Insert elastic between fabric, anchoring at the corner and pin and sew all around leaving an opening at the top (see Figure 1)
- 3) Turn right side out and press.
- 4) Fold two evenly spaced 1/2inch pleats. Pin in place and sew all around the mask for extra strength (see Figure 2)

Figure 1: overall layout

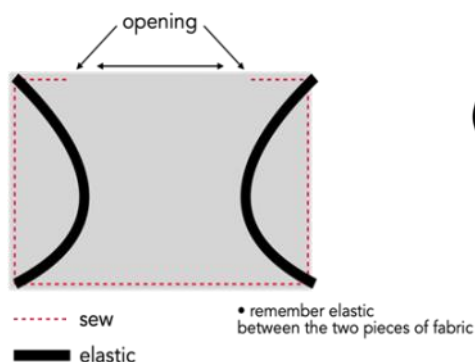
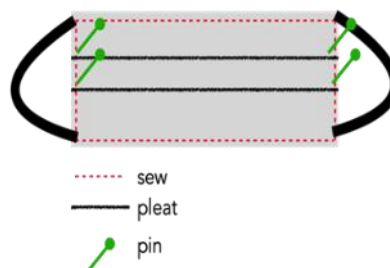


Figure 2: final sew



With thanks to Annie Batchelor

Letcombe Regis Annual Parish Council Report, 2019-2020

Who could have predicted we would be in such extraordinary times, this time last year?

At our last Annual Parish Council Meeting held in 2019, I was elected again as Chairman and Cllr Loretta Light once again took on the role of vice chair.

As ever the PC has been working hard on behalf of the parish over the past twelve months, with 6 formal meetings held and many follow up meetings also held on a variety of issues concerning planning, millennium green, roads, speeding etc, etc. In addition to our normal business there has been significant additional activity arising from the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Financially the Parish Council continues to be in strong position, and again we have not had to increase the precept. The Unaudited Annual Financial Statement will give details and appears alongside this report. We have a number of projects which are committed against our funds, but we still proactively seek grant income where we can.

The PC continues to support initiatives within the Parish, including the popular Bonfire Night Celebrations, and has set aside a small fund to help support community initiatives. We have also supported a number of local charities, who provide direct support to our residents, with a small grant. In addition the PC has recognised the contribution of three residents whose voluntary contribution to our community has been exceptional and for those under 18 raising money for community projects, their advertising in the register is now free.

There have been a great number of planning applications again this year, some of which proved controversial, and the PC has set up extra meetings, ensured neighbours are informed, and has responded fully to each in a timely manner to the Vale of The White Horse Planning department.

This year we welcomed a new District Councillor – Councillor Paul Barrow – who has been a regular attendee and contributor to our Parish Council Meetings.

So here are some facts about this year –

- Burial Ground Plans submitted and approved – next stage currently on hold due to pandemic.
- Millennium Green – plans submitted for a new interpretation board.
- Millennium Green – recommendations received on tree maintenance and management of stage 2 continues.
- Damage to Green Lane, Cornhill Lane and other bye ways – Joint meeting held with other effected Parish Councils and temporary measures in place to prevent 4x4's and trial bikes from accessing. This continues as a priority.
- Thames Water Pipeline Work – continued throughout the year and remedial measures are in place to prevent silt build up in the Letcombe Brook.
- Village Fete – the PC has started to plan for a village fete in 2021, but this is now on hold due to the pandemic
- The Village Website - has been reviewed with changes being implemented. We are grateful for the support from Peter Bellis in keeping this up to date, especially through the pandemic.
- Road improvements – these have been a constant challenge, particularly with the significant flooding earlier this year. New engineering work proposals have now been agreed and work will commence in the summer to resolve these major issues.
- Speeding restrictions – proposals worked up with the authorities – on hold due to the pandemic preventing costings from the authorities.
- Village email – we are now able to reach over 90 percent of households, and have alternative means of communication with those not on email.
- Covid-19 Pandemic Response – we have set up a coordinating group
- Covid-19 Volunteers – established and supported a parish volunteer group of 50 volunteers who have all been provided with gloves masks, hand sanitiser and volunteer lanyards.
- Covid-19 Email and helpline – set up at the start of the crisis to provide help to residents – currently around 20 requests a week following an initial surge.
- Covid-19 Information – weekly Bulletin distributed to whole parish advising on local issues and offers of support.
- Revised electronic Register introduced in the light of the pandemic.
- Plans for VE Day formed –sadly prevented because of the pandemic.

Councillors have represented the Parish on

- The Letcombe Brook Project
- Oxfordshire Association Of Local Council Executive Board
- Ambulance Trust
- Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust
- Joint PC Meetings re Green Lane, BOATS.
- Neighbourhood Action Group (NAG) – Parish Clerk attends

We have responded to consultations on

- Health
- AONB - Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty
- Vale of the White Horse Local Plan
- Future of Wantage Hospital,

and a myriad of other consultations that arise during the year.

The Parish Council subscribes to

- CPRE- Campaign for the Protection of Rural England
- BBOWT- Berkshire, Buckinghamshire & Oxon Wildlife Trust.
- Community First Oxford.
- OALC

What of the next 12 Months?

We will aim to keep our Parish safe during the pandemic.

We will continue to fulfil our duties and for the time being all Parish Council Meetings will be held virtually on Zoom. These meeting remain open to the public.

Projects such as the Burial Ground Improvements will be brought back on track once government restrictions are lifted.

We will continue to comment on planning, and undertake all our statutory functions to provide the support to our community.

Finally I want to thank all my fellow Councillors who have taken responsibility for

Cllr Batchelor – Website, and Social Isolation
Cllr Frewer – Burial Ground Project
Cllr Benton – Roads and Drainage
Cllr Hitchcock – Fete Planning
Cllr Light – Health Issues and Letcombe Brook Project
Cllr Barber – Village Bonfire Night, Millennium Benches
and our Parish Clerk, Mrs Elizabeth Jenkins for her support.

Specific thanks also to Francesca Engelmann who publishes the monthly Register; Mike Light Custodian Trustee of the Letcombe Regis RG&VH Trust; Anne Williams who maintains our wonderful wild flower verges, and also all of you in our community who have joined together to support each other in such difficult circumstances. Your contributions on a daily basis, your continuing acts of kindness, your respect for others, have meant our community has remained safe and strong through the current crisis.

We all look forward to brighter days and freedom to share again with our family and friends.

Cllr Jeanne Lapsley

Chairman

Letcombe Regis Parish Council

11.5.2020

Letcombe Regis Parish Council Unaudited Accounts 1st April 2019 to 31st March 2020

	RECEIPTS	PAYMENTS	SUB-TOTAL	TOTAL
Balance at 1st April 2019				£96,237.35
Current account			£11,735.20	
Deposit account			£68,149.12	
VH Project account			£1,357.37	
BIG Lottery account			£14,995.66	
Receipts				
Precept	£21,178.00		£21,178.00	
Burial ground fees	£583.00			
Bank Interest	£143.33			
Letcombe Register	£902.00			
VAT repayments	<u>£896.01</u>		£2,524.34	<u>£23,702.34</u>
				£119,939.69
Payments				
Clerks salary		£6,491.89		
Parish Council NIC		£208.59		
Tax		£909.75		
Clerks expenses		<u>£31.50</u>	£7,641.73	
Administration				
Mobile phone (direct debit)		£308.98		
Rent-room hire		£185.50		
Office expenses		£432.53		
Insurance		£294.17		
Audit fees		£490.00		
Training courses		£950.00		
Subscriptions		£284.64		
Election expenses		£100.00		
Miscellaneous expenses		<u>£260.00</u>	£3,305.82	
Grants				
RG&VHMC		£2,105.00		
Letcombe Brook Project		£700.00		
Community Activities		£250.00		
Donation		£100.00		
Playground Refurbishment ring-fenced		<u>£960.00</u>	£4,115.00	
Running Costs				
Letcombe Register		£1,223.83		
Website		£182.38		
Village Warden		£1,619.73		
DO\$H, Microsoft, McAfee		£94.99		
Burial Ground maintenance		£495.00		
Burial Ground car park		£348.00		
Burial Ground refund of fee		£125.00		
Millennium Green maintenance		£1,175.81		
Defibrillator costs		£150.96		
Christmas tree		£60.00		
Village Hall Project		<u>£54.21</u>	£5,529.91	
Assets purchased		<u>£2,786.05</u>	£2,786.05	
Appeal funds expenditure				
Village Hall zero/exempt VAT		£11.95		
Village Hall VATable		<u>£126.40</u>	£138.35	
BIG Lottery payments		<u>£676.77</u>	<u>£676.77</u>	<u>£24,193.63</u>
Balance at 31st March 2020				£95,746.06
Current account			£3,622.84	
Deposit account			£78,292.45	
VH Project account			£1,357.93	
BIG Lottery account			£12,472.84	

Issue 178



Film Club

Another month without our fix of Film Club, but lets hope we will be up and running again with “social distancing” in place soon. Watch this space.

For June we had planned to show ‘Judy’, the highly rated retelling of the later years of Judy Garlands life, with Renee Zellweger giving an Oscar winning performance. But don’t worry if you haven’t seen it (or want to see it again), we plan to show it next season, when we are able to get Film Club going again.

Looking back its hard to believe that Film Club started 3 years ago in September 2017. Since then we have shown over 30 films, including 2 free screenings for children. The average attendance has been about 40, with our very first film, ‘Bridge of Spies’, being the most popular with over 50 coming to watch the excellent duo Mark Rylance and Tom Hanks in this true story from the Cold War era.

Mr Hanks proved popular again in ‘Sully’, which we also showed in 2017. Again based on a true story, this time about the pilot Chelsea Sullenberger who safely landed a passenger plane on the Hudson River in 2009. Another one to watch again if you get the chance.

We saw Tom Hanks again in “The Post” which we showed in 2018. About the Washington Post during the Nixon era, this also starred the great Meryl Streep, so it was bound to be a winner and it was. Hopefully we will be able to show one of Tom Hanks latest films next season, “Another day in the neighbourhood”.

We hope to see all our loyal Film Club Fans again soon. We are thinking about the films we’d like to show next season so if you have any recommendations or films you would like to see, please email: letcombefilms@outlook.com



We have re-opened

We are so please that Tennis has been cleared to restart, providing an opportunity for all to get exercise that is so important at this time to our health & well being.

To ensure adherence to the Government’s guidelines the following rules MUST apply until further notice to the use of the courts at Letcombe Regis Recreation Grounds.

- 🕒 The courts are now OPEN to members but, restricted to 2 hours / day singles play only, other than where players are all from the same household in which case they can also play doubles.
- 🕒 You will need the current 6 digit gate code.
- 🕒 All courts to be pre-booked online.
- 🕒 Use your own rackets and balls, leave the nets up.
- 🕒 Use the provided Hand Sanitizer before and after.
- 🕒 Clean the key pad and handles with the provided wipes
- 🕒 If there is someone on the courts shout to find when their session is ending, and stand well away from them (> 2 meters), while they exit.
- 🕒 Do not play if you feel unwell / have a temperature.
- 🕒 At all times STAY ALERT & follow all the Rules.

Membership Fees

Join now at these reduced fees.

As instructed our courts were unavailable for nearly 8 weeks. In recognition of this we have reduced the Fees prorate for the rest of the season (up to 31st of March 2012) by 15% as follows:-

Family £90 to £75

Adult £45 to £38

Junior £20 to £17

Child £10 to £8.50

NB: Members who had paid the full fees prior to the closure will have the reduction taken off next year’s fees. In support of this lost revenue the LTA are waiving our affiliation fees for this year (every bit, helps)!

New Digital Gate lock

Entry to the courts is now via a Digital Gate lock. The code for which is emailed along with the receipt of your membership renewal.

RG&VH Annual Report

For the Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust, the 2019-2020 year has ended in a way that no one could have predicted. The impact of Coronavirus has affected every single one of us, but I will try to highlight the many positives from the past year.

At the start of the year, Sue Hannon, Murray Charlton, Jonny Jenkin and Eileen McKeever stood down from the Trust, leaving quite a hole to fill. I am grateful to the continuity provided by Mike Light, Eddie Jenkins, Elspeth Horridge and Jeanne Lapsley, who have been both dedicated and measured in their input to the Trusts workings. We have three new Trustees, Karen Johnson, Mary Harwood and James Stewart, but we are still one short of the full complement of nine.

The Clubs who use the Recreation Ground continue to work hard to keep the Recreation Ground in excellent condition for the benefit of all the villagers. Particular mention must go to Dennis Stock, Jake Wagg, Des Williams and Geoff Owen for their continued efforts, as well as the volunteers from the Riding Club. There are long-standing plans to improve the Children's play area, and also add a "trim trail", although this is dependent on fund raising and getting the right contractors in to do the work. I would also like to thank the many responsible dog owners who make sure they tidy up after their dogs, it really is appreciated, and helps ensure the Recreation ground is a clean and safe place for all users.

Many of you continue to support the 200 Club, which has been running for over 20 years, efficiently administered by Ian Taylor. Our thanks go to him for this valuable source of fundraising, and for many, there is a welcome prize each year.

Village Hall bookings continue to thrive, with there being approximately 14 regular hirers, 7 of whom are weekly, and the others being either fortnightly or monthly. These provide vital regular income and with parties, family events, wedding receptions, and some business bookings, the Hall continues to be very well utilised.

My thanks go to Claire Youldon and Mel Taylor, who between them have been very efficient, and ensured that the day-to-day running of the Hall goes smoothly.

The Web Site has been updated, and the Bookings Calendar is now available online, allowing potential hirers to check availability before requesting a booking. This has the benefit of fewer disappointed hirers, as well as making the job easier for the Hall Coordinator.

We continue to limit the number of weekend "events" such as weddings to 8 per year. The reason for this is two-fold. Firstly, it is to ensure that the Hall is not monopolised by hirers from outside the village, and secondly, to keep any village disruption due to events down to reasonable levels.

We have recently undertaken redecoration of the Hall, and the heating and air conditioning has had a major service, which was overdue. Unfortunately, we have had an ongoing issue with rainwater being blown in through the side of the Hall facing the Recreation Ground. The original builders have been back twice to deal with this issue, but it has not yet been resolved.

The Sports Pavilion has had some internal improvements made, as well as improvements to the external flood lighting overlooking the entrance and car park. Whilst it has been encouraging to see Tennis restart in a controlled way, football and cricket are still waiting for guidance from their governing bodies. It had also been planned to open up the Sports and Social Club to "non-sporting" members, but these plans have had to be put on hold temporarily because of the Coronavirus situation.

The annual bonfire and fireworks were a success again, and I would like to thank all those volunteers who worked to make it such an excellent event again. As well as providing traditional entertainment, it is a useful fundraising event.

The Trusts AGM would normally have taken place by now, but it was decided, based on advice from the Charities Commission to defer this. I hope that we will be able to hold the AGM in September, but this is dependent on the advice and guidance we receive.

*Richard Taylor
Letcombe Regis Village Hall Chairman*

Club Reports

Riding Club

After a flourish of activity last spring, summer and autumn, with our popular annual tack sale, jumping clinics, dressage clinics, group rides, and fancy dress Christmas hack, the weather turned, and sadly, due to the excessive amount of rain, the arena became saturated in parts resulting in it having to be closed for a period. The strong winds brought down sections of the post and rail fencing around the perimeter, then, just as the arena had dried out and was ready for action, along came Covid 19!

In the latter part of 2019, we were kindly donated a commemorative spectator bench in memory of a local, passionate horse lover and rider who sadly passed away from breast cancer aged only 48. The bench is hugely appreciated and is a very fitting memorial where people can sit and watch activity in the riding club field and enjoy the beautiful views.

We will be welcoming our members back to a series of clinics and groups rides around our beautiful countryside and our unique, communal facility will, once again, be enjoyed by our equine friends of all ages and abilities, once we have come out of lockdown (whenever that might be)!

Club Reports cont.

Football Club

We have never experienced a season like it! At the end of 2019, both the first and reserve teams were in a good position to win their respective leagues, and then the rain came! We played few matches throughout the winter months because many pitches were waterlogged, and just when the better weather arrived, the virus came as well. All football was suspended by the Football Association, and it looks likely that the season will be abandoned.

The first team were top of the Hellenic League Division Two West with seven games remaining, and the only other team in contention for the title was Highworth reserves. Our away match against them in April would probably have decided the title. We were also in the semi final of the Faringdon Memorial Cup.

Our young reserve team were second in North Berks League Division Three with eight games still to play, but we would have overtaken the team above us, Watlington reserves, if we had won our two games in hand. We were also in the semi final of the North Berks League Cup where we were scheduled to meet Drayton reserves.

We will never know what `might have been`, but we can look back on a successful season even though there are no trophies to show for it. We have already arranged to start training for next season in late June in the hope that we will be allowed to do so, and we are also arranging friendly matches in July and August. We hope that most players from last season will remain loyal, and look forward to happier times to come.

Cricket Club

The Saturday League Team had another successful season in 2019, getting through to the Steve Dixon Memorial Cup Final before losing to Freeland.

The Sunday and Wednesday Evening teams also had a full fixture list in 2019, but sadly, along with all other Sports, the start of the 2020 Summer season has been delayed by the Coronavirus Pandemic.

When Cricket does eventually resume, then the fixtures will be published on the Letcombe Sports Club website, together with results, and other information which may be of interest.

Tennis Club

After an initial huge (170 members) support from village followed by a gradual decline to 120 there was a pick up last year to 143, mainly family villagers.

The coaching partnership with the National Tennis Association works well, with over 20, 5 to 18 year olds being coached on a Saturdays from 10 am. Additionally they run an adult cardio (fitness) session on Friday mornings 10 am and Saturdays at 9am plus an adult Stroke & Drills coaching session on Friday mornings at 11 am. The junior coaching attendee numbers have declined by 12 but still viable however the Adult sessions are down to 3 or 4 a session and will be withdrawn unless we can get 1 or 2 more per sessions.

The current closure of the courts could not have come at a worse time, with membership renewal due 1st of April, so far 40 have cancelled their membership and only 4 rejoined. We had organised "Untouched Tennis" for 1 household only at a time to play which was proving very popular, until the courts were closed.

The club will continue to organise regular club tournament, ladders and friendlies with open club sessions on Wednesday evenings from 6:30 and Sunday mornings from 10 am which are poorly attended. However due to lack of volunteers, no social events are planned for 2020.

The increasing trend is for members not to join in on mixed sessions but use the courts with family or friends.

The finances are in a strong position with £18,000 balance, being approx £2,500 above predicted refurbishment requirements.

Challenges:

- Encourage more villagers to come along to club sessions and join the keep fit classes
- Get members to join the committee and help run events (consequently. we are not running any more social events this year and have reduced the register articles etc)
- To get numbers above breakeven for the coaching sessions

Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Trust

Charity Number 1082500

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31 March 2020

	2019/20	2018/19
	£	£
Operating Income:		
Hire of Hall & Equipment	19,221	20,807
Hire of Pavilion	1,000	1,741
Letting of sporting areas	480	480
Car parking	4,700	4,740
Total Operating Income	<u>25,400</u>	<u>27,768</u>
 Operating Expenditure:		
Hall Co-ordinator	6,470	4,564
Cleaning & materials	2,838	2,907
Rubbish collection	795	1,003
Insurance	2,211	2,104
Fire Security	198	565
Water	647	454
Electricity, net of solar & renewable heat incentive income	743	844
Accountancy fees; Xero & paid support	857	854
Office telephone/Supplies	512	780
Repairs, maintenance etc	2,519	3,827
Playground maintenance, insurance & inspection	336	329
Sundry Expenses	610	70
Land Maintenance	0	8,181
Advertising & Marketing	193	0
Total Operating Expenditure	<u>18,930</u>	<u>26,482</u>
 Operating Surplus (Deficit)	 6,470	 1,286
 Other Income / expenditure		
Parish Contribution	903	1,829
Hog Roast	0	799
Bonfire night & fireworks	356	392
Interest Income	122	95
Donations	157	58
Total Other Income	<u>1,537</u>	<u>3,173</u>
 SURPLUS FOR THE YEAR	 8,007	 4,459
 In addition, the funds raised by the 200 Club amounted to £3,000, which were credited to the Playground Renovation Fund		
 Bank Balances		
Current Account at Barclays Bank	7,303	6,774
COIF Deposit Account	20,500	17,000
Hall Rebuild Account	13,473	13,895
Playground Renovation Account	9,851	6,838
Sports Pavilion Renovation Account	4,465	3,915
	<u>55,592</u>	<u>48,422</u>

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The Ridgeway Churches

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



JUNE 2020



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

Rev'd Andrea Colbrook
Curate
revd.acolbrook@gmail.com
Tel: 01367 820553

The Reade Family! As a family we regularly make the time to tell Bible stories and to discuss their meaning and their relevance in the modern world – I am often blown away by just how wise 5 year olds can be in such discussions, revealing a perspective or philosophical concept that would simply never occur to an adult. But, as wonderful as these conversations are, they can never replace the fellowship and friendship that is experienced when attending church services on a regular basis. With that in mind, we have been so grateful to be able to retain this regular contact via Zoom services each week, where our children have loved having the opportunity to share what they have been learning at home-school and to show the Bible activity sheets they have completed during the week.



The concept of on-line video-conferences in place of face-to-face church services may sound slightly dry at first, especially as many of us fill our weeks with video conferencing whilst working from home, but it works amazingly well, is beautifully intimate, and provides the perfect forum to learn from each other and to share encouragement. Maintaining contact with friends, as we all know, can be tricky at the moment due to the physical constraints that are still in place, and also because of the severe lack of time that we all, rather optimistically, assumed lock-down would provide us with. Making the time to attend the Zoom services each week has been a great way for our family to ensure there is at least a sense of normality to our weeks, even when everything else has been turned on its head, and I know the children have found this particularly helpful. The Zoom services have become a firm fixture in our 'new-normal' weekly routine and one that we all enjoy. They really are the perfect substitute for the 'real thing' that we all took completely for granted until just a few weeks ago.

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A Thank you to Ridgeway School

We applaud our Headteacher, staff, pupils and parents as teaching has continued throughout the pandemic on site (critical workers and vulnerable children) and via the virtual classroom with home schooling.

A huge amount of work has now been done behind the scenes to ensure that everything is ready for Ridgeway School to gradually reopen its doors to designated pupils. Compassionate leadership, an ability to listen and a recognition of the sense of loss that we have all experienced during this time of social isolation will help to ensure our children continue 'Building for Life' which is the vision of the school. It is based on the bible story of the wise man who built his house on rock. (Matthew 7, 24 – 27). Built on this foundation are core values: caring, perseverance and respect, together with an appreciation of the importance of relationship and community. We hope that as this time of transition begins these values will continue to inspire us all.

Ridgeway School we applaud you and continue to hold you in our prayers...

Rector Leonora

Dear Friends,

June is traditionally the month when the communities of the Ridgeway Benefice come together to enjoy gardens, flower festivals, cream teas and concerts. These events are not only joyful occasions but also ones that raise valuable funds for the fabric and mission of the six churches in the Benefice. Sadly this year, all these events have had to be cancelled while we wait for the current restrictions to be lifted. However although our communities are not able to come together in our usual ways, this has certainly been a time when the community spirit of our Ridgeway villages has flourished.

Hebrews 13:2 tells us: 'Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.' During these unusual times, we have certainly seen many instances of friendship and caring, often by and to those who may not have been known to each other previously. These new relationships in our community are to be celebrated, even if we are unable to gather together for our usual Church services or fundraising events.

Miranda Marsh
Pastoral Team Member

Just to say....

A Book Club via Zoom will have the next two sessions on Wednesday 27th May & Wednesday 10th June at 8pm. The book can be ordered from various outlets including the Madhatter Bookshop in Wantage. If you would like to join in with this group, please contact Andrea for Zoom info! Don't worry if you do not have the book, join us anyway!

Daily Hope – The Archbishop of Canterbury Justin Welby has launched a free national phone line as a simple new way to bring worship and prayer into people's homes while church buildings are closed due to coronavirus. *Daily Hope* offers music, prayers and reflections as well as full worship services from the Church of England at the end of a phone line. This is available 24/7 on **0800 804 8044** and has been set up to help those who are unable to join in online church services during this time.

CAN CHILDREY WELFARE TRUST HELP YOU?

The Welfare Trust is a small village charity that is able to give some financial support to those in need.

For more information and to apply please contact:

Sarah Noviss (Secretary) – 751435
or email:
sarahnoviss@hotmail.co.uk
Applications are strictly confidential.

*God of love and hope,
you made the world and care for all creation,
but the world feels strange right now.
The news is full of stories about Coronavirus.
Some people are worried that
they might get ill.
Others are anxious for their family and friends.
Be with them and help them to find peace.*

A Challenge for the Ridgeway Benefice this June!

This spring has certainly been different for most of us! **The churches in the Ridgeway Benefice would like to celebrate the beautiful world that we live in and have decided to set a challenge for everyone, young and old! We would like people to paint a picture onto a stone - something you have noticed whilst out on your walks perhaps.** Once you have created your stone, you can seal the paint/pen by coating it in PVA glue, which will help it to last. Also, please put your name on the back of the stone.

The stones can then be placed outside the main door of the church in your village. We hope to create a display at each church showing some of the wonderful parts of God's creation that we have in our area.



SOME IDEAS!

Towards the end of June, we plan to take a photograph of each display and feature them in next month's Signposts.

Let us celebrate God's wonderful world and thank Him that we are blessed to live in this beautiful area.

We are excited to see your creations!

A Cherry Tree Litany

I feel the warmth of early morning sun.
The blackbird, singing in the cherry tree
Entrances all with matins just begun –
Ethereal plainchant, plangent melody.

The snow-white blossom hides a darkling bird
From eyes that would discern this source of joy.
Though nothing's seen, his heartfelt song is heard,
His mate to charm; his rivals to annoy.

Charmer of worms, I see your yellow beak
Now opening to disgorge divine enchantment
To humans, who the charms of Nature seek,
In troubled times, for solace and contentment.

Your pastoral serenade surrounds me all day long;
The sun is sinking fast, and so, to evensong.

Mike Jones



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*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.

Village Hall closure (taken from the Village Hall email)

**Due to the current situation with the
Coronavirus we are currently closed
for at least 2 months - April & May.**



We will be guided by Government Guidelines as to when we can re-open but we are unable to give a date at this present time.

We have kept all bookings in place for the time being, but feel free to email me with any queries. The office is being manned, as usual on a part-time basis only, and we will respond at the earliest opportunity, but this may take a day or two.

If you are emailing about Hall Availability, then please check the Hall Calendar here - <https://www.letcomberegishall.org/availability>, which should allow you to see when the Hall is busy/free.

Alternatively, you can call the Hall mobile phone on 07434 405074, but mobile phone signal in Letcombe isn't always reliable.