

The Letcombe Register

The Letcombe Regis Parish Newsletter

March 2020

Diary

March

Bins	Mondays	2,16,30	Green Recycling and Food Waste (& Garden Waste if subscribed)
	Mondays	9,23	Grey Landfill and Food Waste

Mon	2/9/16/23	7.30 - 9.00 pm	Voices in the Vale with Lisa Doscher	Village Hall / CCC//VH/VH
Tue	3/10/17/24/31	9.30 - 10.45 am	Hatha Yoga with Beth	Village Hall
Fri	6/13/20/27	2.30 pm	Ecumenical Lenten House Group	53, Pavilion Walk
Fri / Sat	10.00 & 11.00 / 9.00 & 11.00		Coaching, Cardio & Stroke / Cardio & Coaching	Tennis Courts

Sun	1	10.00 am	Matins - Revd. Andrea Colbrook	St. Andrew's
Wed	4	8.00 pm	Book Buffs	Greyhound Inn
Thu	5	2.30 pm	Knitwits	Mill Bank
Sun	8	10.00 am	Holy Communion	St. Andrew's
Sun	8	8.00 pm	Greyhound - Pub Quiz - charity this month - Flexicare	Greyhound Inn
Mon	9	7.30 pm	WI - AGM	Village Hall
Wed	11	8.00 pm	Film Club - 'Yesterday'	Village Hall
Sun	15	10.00 am	Matins - David Allchin	St. Andrew's
Mon	16	8.00 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Village Hall
Wed	18	7.30 pm	Gardening Club - 'Scent in the Garden' - Anthony Powell	Village Hall
Thu	19	2.30 pm	Knitwits	Antwicks Manor
Fri	20	10.00 am	Village Litter Pick	Bottom of Court Hill
Fri	20	7.30 pm	Bingo! - jackpot £100 - all welcome	Sports Pavilion
Sat	21	1.30 - 4.30 pm	Nature Reserve Work Party	Nature Reserve
Sun	22	10.00 am	Family Service for Mothering Sunday	St. Andrew's
Thu	26	7.30 pm	Letcombes Conservation Group - in Bassett Village Hall	Letcombe Bassett
Sat	28	11.30 - 2.00 pm	Lent Soup Lunch - donations to MAF	Village Hall
Sun	29	10.00 am	Matins - Revd. Mary Harwood	St. Andrew's

April

Sun	5	10.00 am	Matins	St. Andrew's
Sun	5	1.00 pm	Tennis Club Annual Open Day	Tennis Courts
Mon	6	7.30 pm	WI - 'Thames Barges' - Jim Birch	Village Hall

Letcombe Regis Parish Council

Water water everywhere and usually in the wrong place!

Following the significant recent rainfall the village has again seen a large flood outside Bablakes. Despite the best efforts of the Parish Council at the time, there was little response from the authorities and a number of vehicles were damaged. Please be very cautious when approaching water as there is no telling what lays beneath. I am pleased to confirm that there has now been a meeting on site between the Parish Councillors and the Authority and there are plans in place to install a further culvert to help move the surface water off of the road into the Letcombe Brook. This work is likely to commence in April/May so please take care when driving in the area. As ever if you spot a road problem please report it on Fixmystreet (<https://fixmystreet.oxfordshire.gov.uk>) and let the Parish Clerk know. One advantage of the recent rains is the full flowing Letcombe Brook and its tributaries.

Now a regular reminder, having recently approved its Budget for 2020/2021, the PC has once again set aside a fund for Community Projects. If you have any ideas and need support please contact the Parish Clerk who will be happy to provide more details.

Developments with the review of the Local and Regional Health provision, including the potential future of Wantage Hospital can be found alongside. Work to refresh the village website is continuing and we hope will be completed over the next two months. If you have any suggestions please contact the Parish Clerk.

Thank you to all those organisers and brave villagers, and others, who battled through Storm Dennis to support the Snowdrop Event held by the Church and the WI recently. Funds raised were split equally between the two organising groups.

We regularly receive concerns relating to speeding vehicles in and around the village and we are planning to improve both roadside signage and road markings. The final proposals will be discussed at our next meeting on 16th March, 8pm in the Warborough Room. We anticipate the work should take place over the next few months, so advance apologies for any inconvenience caused. If you are concerned by particular bad driving or speeding please note the vehicle number, date and time and report to the Police on 101. Please also inform the Parish Clerk so the PC can keep a log.

The proposals for the improvements to the Burial Ground have received approval from the Planning Authority, and the PC is now seeking quotes for the work. If you are interested or know of any reliable contractors please let the Parish Clerk know. We anticipate work will commence towards the start of Summer.

Please note that the Village Litter Pick will take place 20th March, kindly coordinated by Alison Phillips. Please let her know if you can help. Details on page 3.

Finally it was pleasing to welcome so many of you to our recent meeting. If there are any issues you would like to raise, or anything you feel should be discussed we are always happy to receive them. Please contact any Councillor or the Parish Clerk.

We look forward to seeing you on the 16th March, 8pm.

Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Parish Council

Health provision review for OX12 and Wantage Hospital

I thought it might be helpful to summarise where we are with the review of health provision in OX12 and Wantage Hospital.

This is a highly complex issue and difficult to summarise in a few short paragraphs. This is the compact version and if anyone wants a more detailed review please mail me at paul.barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk.

- The Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group (OCCG) has been carrying out a review of health service provision for the OX12 post-code.
- As a VWHDC councillor, I am a member of a scrutiny sub-committee overseeing this.
- OCCG has been very opaque in all their activities and are not used to democratic scrutiny.
- OCCG has carried out surveys and a public consultation.
- One of the main issues for the OX12 public has been the closure of Wantage Hospital and in-patient beds.
- The review carried out by OCCG has not been at all transparent and has not, for example:
 - (i) Used the most up-to-date analytical methods.
 - (ii) Reviewed Wantage Hospital in association with the other local community hospitals (Abingdon, Didcot, Wallingford).
 - (iii) Taken into account changes taking place nationally in the NHS.
 - (iv) Has not been open in their review of the GP practices (shortage of GPs, additional medical staff, how they will carry out home care etc.).
 - (v) Reviewed the effect of a 35% increase in population in OX12.
 - (vi) Reviewed dove-tailing health and social care as suggested.
 - (vii) Been open about funding limitations.
- A report of their review (which is far from complete) has initiated a consultation on the future of Wantage Hospital to be completed by this coming September. The chairman of the Health Overview Scrutiny Committee (HOSC) expects that if this consultation is not complete by September then the Wantage beds will be re-opened.
- Wantage Town and Grove Parish Councils and pressure groups wanted the OCCG report to be rejected. HOSC did not do this because (i) the review covers the whole of OX12 health services and not just Wantage Hospital and (ii) complete rejection would result in further delays.
- Instead, HOSC has asked our OX12 scrutiny sub-committee to continue and “keep OCCG’s feet to the fire” to ensure that bullet points (i) to (vii) are done properly! We intend to do this.

Paul Barrow
District Councillor for Ridgeway Ward

St Andrew's Church

February has been pretty damp and dismal but despite the weather giving some of its worst on the Snowdrops day on 15th February it was very good to see so many making the effort to come to the tea in St Andrew's despite the rain. Probably most did not spend much time looking at the very fine snowdrops around the village and in the churchyard as they hurried from home to the church and back. The real attraction of that soggy afternoon was the excellent tea and cakes provided by members of the village WI, for which we were all truly grateful

By the time this Register reaches you Lent, that long period of Christian preparation leading up to Easter, will have started with the services on Ash Wednesday, 26th February. We often talk about 'giving something up for Lent' - some pleasure or treat, like chocolate or beer - that is our rather pale imitation of fasting through Lent practised by Christians over many centuries. Perhaps when stored food from the previous year's harvest was getting low towards the end of winter, as was often the case till relatively recent times, fasting and conserving food till Spring would not have seemed so odd as it does to us now.

Maybe 'taking up something for Lent' is more suited to our times and lives. It has been the custom amongst the Ridgeway parishes to hold weekly sessions to reflect on a book provoking thoughts on the Christian life during the reflective time of Lent. This year the book is **The Art of Lent - A painting a day from Ash Wednesday to Easter** by **Sister Wendy Beckett**. Those of us who can remember back to television in the 1990s may remember Sister Wendy's art programmes, delivered with great enthusiasm and erudition on many paintings. And part of the fascination was to see this nun, from a fairly austere order of nuns, in complete nun's attire - wimple and all - holding forth in front of a renaissance painting full of largely unclothed bodies. But as she said herself: "God did not make a mistake when He created the human body, so I am not making a mistake by describing it."

Join Sister Wendy on a journey through Lent, and discover the timeless wisdom to be found in some of the world's greatest paintings. Her book and reflections on it will certainly be thought-provoking. The weekly sessions have just started, with the next on Friday 6th March at 2.30 pm, hosted by John and Valerie Broadbent at 53, Pavilion Walk, if you would like to know more before coming along, or get a copy of the book, then do contact Leonora, our Rector, (760112). Otherwise, just turn up and you will be very welcome.

Letcombe Regis Church of England School Charity needs a new secretary/ treasurer.

This trust supports the educational, professional and personal development of young people in the Parish of Letcombe Regis. The trust is in need of a secretary/ treasurer. If you are willing to volunteer for this worthy cause then please get in touch with the Rector: revd.lahill@btinternet.com or Tel: 01235 760112

Village Litter Pick

Spring is on its way and before the hedgerows get overgrown we would like to clear them of the winter rubbish.

There will be an organised village litter pick on Friday March 20th (weather permitting) for anyone who can spare a couple of hours that morning. We meet at the **post box at the bottom of Court Hill at 10.00a.m.**, bags and litter picks are provided, but I strongly recommend you to bring a pair of gardening gloves for protection!

If you are unable to come that day but are available at the weekend, please let Alison Phillips know (01235 760335) which street you want to cover, and she will give you the necessary kit. The bags of rubbish will be left on the Millennium Green and will be collected by the council on Monday 24th March.

Thank you to everyone willing to help keep our village clean and tidy on this day, and also throughout the year especially on the windy days.

Launch of the Ridgeway Benefice Pilgrim Path - Saturday 2nd May

Everyone is invited to join in the inaugural walk of the Ridgeway Benefice Pilgrim Path. The circular walk, mainly on footpaths and, including part of the Ridgeway National Trail, visits all six historic churches in the Ridgeway Benefice. All are welcome to join in the whole walk (approx 12.9 miles/20/9k) or for sections, ending with a celebration BBQ at the Greyhound in Letcombe Regis. Further details or to register interest, please contact Miranda Marsh : mirandajmarsh@btinternet.com

Letcombes WI

In February we enjoyed a very informative and amusing talk about the History of the Windsor Chair, from Stewart Linford, who brought several beautiful examples of his own work. Our next meeting, on March 9th, will be the AGM, when we shall welcome Jean Geary, our local advisor.

Advance warning! The April meeting will be on **April 6th**, as our usual second Monday is a bank holiday. Put this in your diary now, as it would be a pity to miss Jim Birch talking about Thames Barges.

Book Buffs

The next meeting will be held in the Greyhound on Wednesday 4th March at 8pm when we shall be discussing *'The Diary of a Bookseller'* by Shaun Bythell and *'The Tiger's Wife'* by Téa Obreht.

The book for this month (available at the meeting) is: *'Reservoir 13'* by Jon McGregor, the alternative being *'The Cactus'* by Sarah Heyward.

Our favourite book from 2019 was *'A Man Called Ove'* by Fredrik Blackman which narrowly beat *'Becoming'* by Michelle Obama. The least favourite was *'The Go-Between'* by L.P.Hartley which has not stood the test of time!

Friends Of Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Volunteers were treated to a 'Thank you event' hosted by the Letcombe Brook Project in late February with sessions on Water Vole Conservation and Natural Flood Management, of current relevance, as well as updates on projects undertaken by the various volunteer groups and their future plans.

You would be very welcome to join the local volunteer group in your community reserve at the next work party which will take place on Saturday, **21st March from 1:30 to 4:30pm**. Please arrive in time for the initial safety introduction and meet by the lake on the reserve in Letcombe Regis. The main tasks might include in-stream work, scrub clearance, scything, raking and general maintenance. Please bring waders if you have them and want the chance to use them in the brook! Tasks are carried out at your own pace under expert guidance. Suitable clothing for the weather and working gloves are recommended. Refreshments are provided mid-afternoon. Opportunities for new volunteers on Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteering\ skills sections; under 18s accompanied by an adult please. For further details, or in case of uncertain weather conditions, contact 769194 or 763827.

Letcombes Conservation Group

The **next meeting** will be held at **7:30pm on Thursday, 26th March in Letcombe Bassett Village Hall**. Rebecca Davies, Principal Landscape and Planning Officer for the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, will give a talk on *'The aims of the North Wessex Downs AONB, how these might be strengthened or changed in the light of the Glover Report and the role of a landscape and planning officer'*. Rebecca joined the North Wessex Downs AONB team in November 2015 from South Derbyshire District Council where she was Area Planning Officer. She has great expertise in planning issues in AONBs and her presentation is sure to be both informative and interesting with an opportunity for questions. There is no admission fee for this talk and all are very welcome.

The talk will be followed by the short business section of the AGM and a discussion of the Group's 2019 Bird and Butterfly Reports. Please do keep the evening of 26th March free and come along to the talk. It would be lovely to have a good-sized audience. The Letcombes Conservation Group has aims which encompass the conservation of the natural and built environment in the two Letcombe parishes. Do you share these interests and have ideas to offer? Membership forms will be available at the meeting. For further details, please contact Christine Birch on 763529.

It was good to hear our Oxfordshire County councillor and Vale of the White Horse District councillor, Yvonne Constance, speak so positively about the protection afforded to AONBs at the January Parish Council Meeting in Letcombe Regis. The government has yet to respond to the 27 recommendations of the Glover Landscapes Review Report which included connecting future generations to nature in childhood and

throughout their lives, as well as expanding the open access rights in 'national landscapes' i.e. national parks and AONBs. Funding will continue to be an issue and, whilst the promised re-surfacing of some Green lanes in Regis Parish is much welcomed, County Councils have no ring-fenced funding for rights of way. The Glover Report concludes that alongside our network of paths, sustainable public transport is critical if 'national landscapes' are going to be truly accessible to all; people should be able to walk from their doorstep or, at the very least, from a train station or well-served bus stop to explore them. As of 13th February 2020 a new Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, George Eustice, was appointed to take over from Theresa Villiers who had been in post only since 24 July 2019 replacing Michael Gove. These are unusual political times so to make sure that the important Glover Report does not sit on the shelf, pressure may need to be put on our government for a timely response.

Letcombe Tennis Club

Adult Keep fit Classes & Coaching

Hurray, 5 resilient village members have managed to keep the Adult Friday morning Keep Fit and Coaching lessons going throughout this winter, now the weather is due to drastically improve, we have promised that we will get numbers up above their breakeven of 5 per session, by the end of March. Note all Saturday sessions are just OK..

NTA offer a **15 day FREE Trial** period, so if you decide tennis isn't for you – no problem. No commitment. Cancel at any time during your FREE Trial.

There is a Friday morning Cardio class from 10 am, plus a Stroke clinic session from 11 am.

Please ring NTA our resident coaching team on 0800 888 6030 to join or go on line via our web site www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/letcombetennisclub (>coaching > Letcombe Tennis school>Cardio or Adult Coaching).

Annual Open Day Sunday 5th of April


A date for your diary: Fun family games, BBQ, Bar & free master coaching classes, from 1 pm. Please book all events on line at www.clubspark.lta.org.uk/LetcombeTennisClub. This is the day to renew and or join for the 2020 -2021 season. We have again managed to keep the membership fees fixed (for the 7th year) with adults @ £45, under ten's £10 and juniors (under18) @ £20, with a whole family membership at just £90, for 12 months.

This year we are changing the padlock to a code lock, commencing from the 11th of April, so you need to have joined by then to get the new code!!

Renew online NOW.

Wednesday Evening Roll-Up sessions Starting

Please come along, any standard to meet us at our Open Roll Up weekly sessions from 6:00 pm on Wednesdays starting from the 1st of April. Do what you feel like, just knock the ball around or get the heart beating a little with a game. Non members welcome to come along and try us out. Please text Geoff on 07772518938 to join the WhatsApp group and find out who is coming along.



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200 Club

Beth Snelling is raising money for **MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT** by running the **Oxford half marathon**. She would be very grateful for any support And to sponsor her please visit her just giving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bethsnelling26

200 Club Draw — No 12		March 2020
164	Thérèse CLARKE	50
92	Alan & Beryl DOMAN	25
78	Andy CROSBY	15
225	Max EDWARDS	10
228	Dorothy MAUNDRELL	5
198	Anne SETH	25
56	Jean ENGLISH	20
173	Stephen MIKA	10
105	John CLURE	10
117	Michael GILLIBRAND	10
125	Paul CAMPION	10
228	Dorothy MAUNDRELL	5
231	Andy & Camilla BBRAITHWAITE	5
151	Poppy HONE	5

Deliverer Wanted

I am looking for a kind soul to deliver just 28 copies of the Letcombe Register around the Manor Fields/Kings Close area.

I try to get the copies to the deliverers around the 29th of each month and we aim to get them on the mats by the first of each month.

If you are willing to join our merry band of volunteers then please contact me, Francesca, telephone 769310 or e-mail Register@oldstableyard.co.uk



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Part P


Letcombes Gardening Club

Wednesday 18th March.

'Scent in the Garden' is the title of the talk for our next meeting. The speaker, Anthony Powell, who is a horticultural consultant, will explain the scent of flowers and the use of fragrant flowering plants to enhance our gardens.

7.30 Letcombe Regis Village Hall. All welcome

Topical Tips

Spring is here! Let's hope that it brings fewer torrential downpours so we can all get outside more and enjoy it. Work in the garden really ramps up this month so let me see if I can suggest a few things to get you back into the swing of things.

Let's start with a bit of chopping. If you have any cornus or salix that have been providing wonderful stem colour through the winter then now is the time to cut them back. You can also prune bush and climbing roses now and tidy up your honeysuckle.

Why not be adventurous and try a bit of layering? This will work well with climbers like honeysuckle and lax stemmed shrubs like philadelphus. Just lay some stems on the ground and bury and they should root by next spring.

Moving swiftly on to perennials, you can lift and divide them in March. This will enable you to produce lots of new plants as well. Now is also a good time to plant new perennials. I don't want to cast gloom here but the slugs will really appreciate the new shoots of your perennials so you'll need to keep a watch out for them!

If you have space in the greenhouse (vain hope) then pot on cuttings of tender perennials that you took last season. You can propagate new dahlias by planting the tubers in compost then taking cuttings using the new shoots.

You do need to keep an eye open for pests in the greenhouse from now. Vine weevil larvae, the bane of potted plants, become active this month. You can control them biologically or chemically or just check the root ball, remove any larvae and re-pot.

March is a very busy month for fruit and veg growers as you need to start sowing your seed. You can also plant onion and shallot sets and early potatoes.

If you haven't started a strawberry bed yet then you can do so this month.

Well I think that is probably enough to be going on with. I'll leave you to potter around and 'discover' anything else that needs doing. Enjoy!

Recycling Centres closure dates for Deep Cleaning & Maintenance

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

Other sites in Oxfordshire are also closing on different days in both March and April, these are just the most local. The full list can be found @ <https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/wasteclosure>

Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Recreation Ground

The Village Hall redecoration mentioned previously is scheduled for the end of March. We plan to minimise any disruption to users, but apologies in advance if you use the Hall over this period and can smell paint.

Although some of the water leaks have been sorted, the recent very high winds and rain have shown that we are still not completely watertight. We are liaising with the contractors to get these recent issues resolved.

After feedback from one group of users the automatic water heater has had a descale, and is now heating water to the correct temperature. The oven has also been checked after comments that it didn't appear to be working correctly. It was found to be working fine, although we do plan to have it cleaned!

New car park PIR floodlights have been installed outside the Sports Pavilion, which are set to come on for about 10 minutes when it is dark.

As mentioned in previous Register articles, we are still looking for one more Trustee from the Village, so if you are interested at all, or just want to know a little more about what it entails, then please contact me.

Richard Taylor
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Letcombe Film Club

Wednesday 11th March - "Yesterday"

Despite wet and windy weather we had a good turnout for our enjoyable February film "On the Basis of Sex". Many thanks to those who braved the storm!

A change of tone this month with a British romantic comedy from last year called "Yesterday". There is a big clue in the title as this film features many of the great songs by The Beatles.

It stars Himesh Patel (of Eastenders fame) as Jack Malik, a struggling singer songwriter who is knocked out during a global blackout. When he comes round, he is the only one who can remember 'The Beatles'. You can imagine the opportunity this gives him, and so we have a soundtrack full of all our favourite Beatles tunes.

Lily James (ex Downton Abbey among many other roles), plays Jack's friend and manager. There are several infamous cameo appearances including Ed Sheeran and James Corden.

As you would expect with a film produced by Richard Curtis, this is an uplifting, light hearted story which will have your toes tapping. We look forward to seeing you there!

Film starts at 8pm, with doors open at 7.30pm. Come along early and enjoy refreshments and a chat.

Future Films:

Weds 8th April - Official Secrets
Weds 13th May - Peanut Butter Falcon
Weds 10th June - Judy

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**COMPUTER PROBLEMS?
CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?**

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Sophie Sayer, Specialist Teacher, Dip SpLD

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**Letcombe Film Club**

Letcombe Regis Village Hall,
Wednesday 11th March

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

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

Football Club

January saw the football club experience both the highs and the lows. We began with an away fixture against Shrivenham Development who we had beaten easily earlier in the season. We missed an early penalty and were then outplayed, eventually losing 4-0. We bounced back with a 2-1 win against previously unbeaten Highworth reserves. We took a 2 goal lead but conceded in the last minute of the first half, but we defended superbly against a strong wind throughout the second half to secure a narrow victory. We then travelled to play Clanfield reserves on a very muddy pitch. They were bottom of the league without a win all season, and although we scored first, we went 2-1 behind and only equalised in the closing minutes. Our matches away to Newent reserves and Wantage development were both postponed. It now looks as though Highworth reserves are favourites to win the league, but we will keep trying to overtake them.

Our young reserve team continue to do well, and are second in the league behind Watlington reserves and are in 2 cup semi finals. Our game away to Watlington later in the season is likely to decide the league winners.

Fixtures at Letcombe in March are:

Sat 7 th	No home match		
Sat 14 th	Hosting cup semi final		
Sat 21 st	Letcombe v Kintbury Reserves	League	3.00
Sat 28 th	Letcombe v Fairford Reserves	North Berks	3.00

Tennis Club - page 4

Compiled by Francesca Engelmann, 2, The Old Stables, Warborough Road, OX12 9LD Tel: 01235 769310
Email: Register@oldstableyard.co.uk

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

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

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

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR VILLAGE HALL AND RECREATION GROUND
BY JOINING THE LETCOMBE REGIS 200 CLUB**