

# The Letcombe Register



Issue 215

July 2023

## VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2  Cricket 1pm	2 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in 10am <u>Butterfly walk</u> 11.00 am <u>Sparsholt Firs</u> Cricket 1.30pm  <u>Junior Tennis Tournament</u> 2.30 pm
3  Evensong 3pm <u>Voices of the Vale</u> 7.30-9 pm Village Hall	4 Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall ( <u>please book</u> )	5	6 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall <u>Walking Tennis</u> 10- 11am <u>Book Buffs</u> 8.00pm <u>Greyhound Inn</u>	7 <u>Mens's Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall  <u>SSC BBQ</u> 5.30 pm Sports Pavilion	8 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2	9 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in 10am <u>Holy Communion</u> 10am St Andrew's Cricket 2pm
10  Evensong 3pm <u>WI</u> <u>Sharing Supper</u> 7.00pm Gwastad	11 Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall ( <u>please book</u> )	12	13 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall <u>Walking Tennis</u> 10- 11am	14 <u>Mens's Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall	15 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2  Cricket 1pm	16 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in 11am  Cricket 2pm
17  Evensong 3pm <u>PCC Meeting</u> 6 pm - Church  <u>Parish Council Meeting</u> -7 pm Village Hall (WR)	18 Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall ( <u>please book</u> )	19 <u>SSC AGM</u> 7.30 pm Sports Pavilion	20 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall <u>Walking Tennis</u> 10- 11am	21 <u>Mens's Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall  <u>Rosemary Hine Funeral</u> 11am St Andrew's	22 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2  <u>Nature Reserve</u> work party 1.30-4.30pm	23 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in 10am  <u>Lay Led Service</u> 10am St Andrew's Cricket 2pm
24  Evensong 3pm	25 Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall ( <u>please book</u> )	26	27 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall <u>Walking Tennis</u> 10- 11am  <u>Register Deadline</u>	28 <u>Mens's Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall	29 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2  Cricket 1pm	30 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in 10am
31  Evensong 3pm  <u>PCM Meeting</u> 6 pm - Church						

\* Events in the Diary rely on information received. They may require booking are underlined if a link is available for email addresses or websites

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### Message from the Parish Council

The Village is looking its best following the Open Gardens, and I have heard from several visitors to the village complimenting the tranquillity they find when staying here either at the Greyhound or with friends. The newly let contract for managing the village maintenance has just commenced and we are expecting that it will prove to be a cost effective move. Final planting for the Burial Ground entrance will also take place once the weather has cooled and we have seen some rainfall.

Several of the worst potholes have been repaired and there are still more to be completed. As ever if you spot an offending pothole please register this on [Fix my street](#).

It is vital that we all take responsibility for reporting to ensure the authority have maximum warning of issues.

We recently had an enquiry regarding garden lighting and it seems appropriate to remind everyone that we are a Dark Skies Parish and place great value on the ability to minimise light pollution. Our night skies are a wonderful natural resource often clearly displaying a plethora of stars and galaxies. Please be mindful of this if you are thinking of installing any outside lighting.

Given the soaring temperatures experienced over the past week or so it is timely to remind everyone how to seek advice on keeping cool and safe during these circumstances. The Vale of the White Horse offer good guidance and the Parish Council would urge you to keep an eye on any elderly or vulnerable neighbours. If you are concerned please do not hesitate to contact the Parish Clerk either by email - [letregispc@gmail.com](mailto:letregispc@gmail.com) or phone - 07491000305, who will ensure any concerns are followed up.

Sadly a long standing and well known resident of the village 'Jinks' was laid to rest recently and the PC would like to express its deepest sympathy to Ro and family. The village has lost one of its true characters and his contribution to the community will be sorely missed.

The new Parish Council will be meeting on Monday 17 July, at 7pm in the Warborough Room and all are welcome to attend. We still have two vacancies on the PC and anyone interested in contributing to the work of the council should contact the Parish Clerk in the first instance, or can contact me on 772900 for an informal chat to find out more. As you know we meet every second month, and between times according to any projects or issues that we are dealing with. Please do consider this rewarding role.

Finally, if you have any unwanted bicycles in your garage or sheds please think of donating these to the Vale of the White Horse 'Ride Revolution Scheme'. Donated bikes will be serviced and then made available to those in need in the Abingdon area. More details can be found on the Councils website, search for 'Ride Revolution'.

Cllr Jeanne Lapsley  
Chairman  
Letcombe Regis Parish Council



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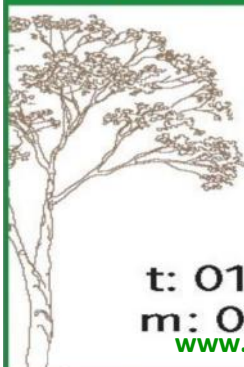
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City & Guilds and RHS qualified

[Yoga With Beth](#) classes are running as usual  
throughout July.

They are slow and gentle, a perfect way to stay cool,  
calm and collected during the heat of summer.

Newcomers are very welcome.

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200 Club Draw — No 4		July 2023
123	Sharon BEDFORD	£50
4	Patrick CABLE-ALEXANDER	£25
10	Mike HADDRELL	£15
102	Richard & Jane HORNSBY	£10
208	Jane CABLE-ALEXANDER	£5
Special Draw:		
88	Sue PESKETT	£25
61	Jim BIRCH	£20
29	David & Ceci ALLCHIN	£15
148	Peter BELLIS	£10
157	Thérèse CLARKE	£10
59	Vivien McCOUBREY	£10
New Numbers Draw		
5	Patrick CABLE-ALEXANDER	£5

DIOCESE OF OXFORD  
RIDGEWAY BENEFICE – ADMINISTRATOR



We are looking to recruit an Administrator to provide office support to the Rector for six hours per week over 3 days (not Fridays), working from home with occasional meetings at the Rectory in Letcombe Regis with a salary of £5000 per annum.

This is a good opportunity for someone who possesses administrative skills together with the ability to communicate well with people in a variety of situations. We are looking for someone who can work to deadlines, handle confidential and sensitive information, has literacy and numeracy skills and excellent attention to detail.

It would be desirable if candidates have knowledge of the administrative workings of the Church of England (or are willing to learn) and need to be educated to at least GCSE level or equivalent in English and Maths. Computer and social media literacy are essential. Whilst it is not necessary to be Christian for this post, the Administrator will need to be in sympathy with the ethos of the Ridgeway Benefice.

The person appointed would be subject to an Enhanced DBS check and undertake the appropriate Diocesan Safeguarding Training.

Closing date: Friday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Interviews: Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August 2023

Please email Rev Ness Brunner-Ellis [rector.ridgeway@outlook.com](mailto:rector.ridgeway@outlook.com) for details of how to apply.



**Wantage Literary Festival**  
**21 October - 4 November 2023**

Acts just announced include Will Gompertz, Richard Digance, 'Whispering' Bob Harris and our very own local 'ghost hunter' Mike White. Please support this local charity, which (alongside putting on a yearly Festival), stages free school talks and community outreach events:

[www.WantageLiteraryFestival.co.uk](http://www.WantageLiteraryFestival.co.uk)  
(Registered charity 1165315)

*Ninebarrow*

We are delighted to announce that, as early Autumn approaches, BBC 2 Folk award nominees Ninebarrow will be performing at St.Mary's Church, Childrey on Sunday, 10th September, 6.30pm for 7pm start.

Tickets in advance £16.50 via [www.ninebarrow.co.uk](http://www.ninebarrow.co.uk) or £18 on the door, if available. Licensed bar.



## Letcombes Gardening Club

### *Topical Tips*

**W**e've been having some lovely weather recently, with a bit of rain in the mix to help the plants grow. The roses have really gone mad this year. I hope all your gardens are looking beautiful.

July can be one of the hottest months in the year so it's a good time to take advantage of the weather and sit outside in the shade and admire your garden. Deadheading is a nice gentle task so keep on top of this so the plants remain looking at their best.

Cut back delphiniums and geraniums after they have flowered as they may then reward you with a second flush.

If you grow bearded iris and they have become congested, then now is the time to lift and replant them. Remove any old rhizome and plant the newer sections so that the top of the rhizome is above soil level.

Keep an eye on your borders and if you have any tall perennials that are starting to flop then stake them quickly before they lose their shape.

You can prune June flowering shrubs like philadelphus and weigela this month.

You may find that your pond, if you have one, gets rather low at this time of year. When you refill it use a spray attachment, as this will aerate it. The pond life will thank you for this!

Talking of pond life, why not put a few upright marginals, like iris, in your pond? Fully developed damselflies and dragonflies emerge from the water by climbing up tall stems.

Lets talk briefly about houseplants. Many of these can benefit from being moved outside in the summer. This also lessens the risk of pests such as red spider mite.

It's a good idea to damp down the floor of your greenhouse on hot days. Make sure you keep plant debris to a minimum, as this will reduce the risk of greenhouse pests.

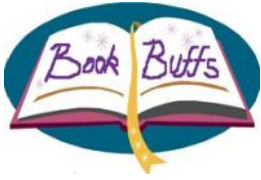
Now on to fruit and veg. I know people on the allotments are going to groan at this, but I'm afraid watering is an essential task at this time of year. All those of us at the allotments found out just how true this is last year when we all ran out of collected water and many of our crops failed because of the extremely dry weather. Lets hope we get a little more rain this year!

You can still pick rhubarb up until the end of this month but then give it a chance to revive by leaving it be.

You should be able to harvest your early potatoes now and also your onions and shallots if the foliage has dried up.

You can still sow seeds this month. We're talking more about over-wintering veg though like radicchio, chicory and spring cabbage. You can also sow pak choi.

Well I think that's enough for now so make the most of any good weather, get out there and enjoy!



The next meeting will be held in the Greyhound on Thursday 6th July at 8pm.

As the library books were delayed we will discuss the books we have personally read this last month.

The new library book is '*On Chesil Beach*' by Ian McEwan, available at the meeting.

## St Andrew's

On Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June the bells pealed out across the sunny and warm village to celebrate the marriage of Oliver and Madeline O'Hanlon. The Revd Mary Harwood officiated at the service and it is nice to record that Maddy's parents were also married in St Andrew's.



The following day was our monthly Holy Communion service. The Revd Ness Brunner-Ellis presided and her theme of the day was The Great Big Green Week which this year was 10<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> June. This is the UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change and protect nature. Ness encouraged us all to think of what we could do to be more eco-friendly in our lives. In order to encourage us she distributed strips of paper with ideas. These ranged from keeping chickens -not too easy for most of us! - to using eco washing powder and washing up liquids for example. At the end of the service Debbie, our church warden, read out a letter from The Revd Mary Harwood thanking the church for the gifts she was given as a thank you for all her sterling work during the interregnum.

The church was full to overflowing on 22<sup>nd</sup> June when The Revd Ness Brunner-Ellis presided over a service of thanksgiving celebrating the life of Marian (Jinks) Jelinski. Jinks was a much loved member of the community here for many years. There were moving tributes from family and friends with appropriate readings, and as well as a hymn there was music from Sting and The Eagles. His love of Ipswich Town and beer were also not forgotten.

Gill Thompson - Anna Chaplain to the benefice - led the service on 25<sup>th</sup> July. It was a particularly hot morning but the small congregation was able to enjoy familiar hymns and readings and also there were special prayers for Ukraine and Russia in the current very fraught circumstances.

The July services will be as usual and all can be seen in The Signpost. But, on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> July at 6 pm there will be an extra PCC meeting and on Monday 31<sup>st</sup> July also at 6 pm there will be an extra PCM meeting.

Our last meeting this summer will be a bring and share supper in Judy's lovely garden.

Let's hope this warm weather continues! Don't forget that the meeting starts at an earlier time, 7.00.



The Tennis Club is holding a **Junior** (Boys and Girls 11 to 18) **tournament** on **2<sup>nd</sup> July** from **2.30pm**. Open to all abilities but with handicap allowances so all will have a fair chance!!

If your child would like to take part, please register by e-mailing [letcombtennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:letcombtennisclub@gmail.com) or phone Geoff on 01235 762680.

On Wimbledon men's singles final day, **Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> July**, the mix-in session will start a little later, at 11am. This will be followed by a shared lunch and then the final on the big screen in the Pavilion.

Walking Tennis will be restarting from **29th of June on Thursdays from 10-11am**, playing a slower game with orange balls. Please phone or text Geoff on 07772 518938 to find out more.

All are welcome, members or non-members so please come along to try us out. For more details of any of our sessions or to join the club, see our web site: [Letcombtennisclub](http://Letcombtennisclub) or [letcombtennisclub@gmail.com](mailto:letcombtennisclub@gmail.com)



## Film Club

### Summer break for Film Club

After a very busy 'season' for Film club we are taking a break for the summer, but to quote a well known film character, "we'll be back" in September!

Thanks to all our film fans who have supported the monthly screenings in the village hall. We have had record numbers with the biggest turn out in January (over 70) for 'Mrs Harris goes to Paris' starring the great Lesley Manville. We know British films always go down well so 7 of the 10 we showed this year were home grown. As well 'Mrs Harris...' these included 'The Duke', 'Operation Mincemeat' and 'Living'. For our Christmas freebie we showed the classic American film 'To Kill a Mockingbird', still as brilliant and relevant as it was in 1962 when it was made.

We are now thinking about next season. Many of the new films are on streaming services such as Netflix and Amazon which we can't show, but we will definitely find a good range of films to show you. Any requests, ideas please let us know. The film club email address is [letcombefilms@outlook.com](mailto:letcombefilms@outlook.com). If you'd like to join our mailing list just email a request.

Finally, we are delighted to say that we have been able to donate £1000 this year to the village playground appeal.

Have a great summer and see you on September 13! We'll let you know what the film will be in August.

Best wishes from Barb, Anne and Eileen







## Friends of the Letcombe Valley Nature Reserve

Work parties continue in the Community Nature Reserve on Saturday, 15 July from 13:30 to 16:30. Please meet near the lake notice board by 13:20 for the tasks and safety briefing. The main tasks are likely to be scrub clearance, fence repairs, minor tree pruning over paths and general maintenance. Wellingtons will be required to work on the new pond. Tools will be provided, and refreshments mid-afternoon, but please take your own work gloves.

The Community Nature Reserve is a wonderful location to spot butterflies. Why not record your observations for The Big Butterfly Count which this year begins on Friday, 14 July 2023 and runs until Sunday, 6 August. This UK-wide survey is the world's largest butterfly survey. The data collected over 15 minute intervals in the two week period helps to assess the health of ecosystems with information on the population and habits of various butterflies and some day-flying moths. All the information to prepare for a count, including an identification chart, and how to submit observations is available at [Big Butterfly Count \(butterfly-conservation.org\)](https://www.butterfly-conservation.org).

In 2022 the Gatekeeper was the most recorded species during the Big Count. This species is seen along the hedgerows and woodland edges in the Community Reserve quite regularly but 2021 saw a national decline so it is good news that the species made a recovery, photo right credit: Sannse (CC BY-SA 3.0). Both the Common Blue and Holly Blue species also recovered from their worst results in 2021 and the Comma continued a slow recovery from its low point in the early 20th century. Some species increased their range northwards; the Holly Blue butterfly, for example, was rare in Scotland prior to 2000 but, with climate change, in the first decade since became established in Edinburgh and in Ayr and now has spread across Scotland. The sad news is that overall numbers of many common species, such as Red Admiral, Small White and Meadow Brown, remain in decline and the average seen per count in 2022 (just under 9 butterflies) was an all-time low since the citizen science project began in 2010 despite the good weather in many parts of the UK. Head of Science for Butterfly Conservation, Dr Richard Fox, commented: *"The fact that more butterflies weren't seen is concerning and it's clear that much more needs to be done to protect and restore habitats to aid nature recovery. The sun could shine for days on end, but we still won't see more butterflies unless there is habitat for them to thrive in."* A list of butterfly winners and losers in 2022 is available at [Results of this year's Big Butterfly Count revealed | Butterfly Conservation \(butterfly-conservation.org\)](https://www.butterfly-conservation.org).



Gardens that are wildlife friendly provide vital habitat for these insects, allowing them space to feed, breed and shelter. Gatekeepers and the similar- looking Meadow Browns may be seen in gardens as well as around open fields and meadows. Gatekeepers are mainly orange, with brown fringes around their wings. Their forewings have a black 'eye' with two small white dots in each. They are slightly smaller than Meadow Browns, with



a wingspan of around 40-47mm. They feed on wild marjoram, common fleabane, ragworts and bramble. Meadow Browns also have a black 'eye' on their forewings, but with just one white dot in each and are mostly brown, with dappled orange on their wings. They are slightly larger than Gatekeepers with a wingspan of 50-55mm, photo credit: Charles J. Sharp (CC BY-SA 4.0). They feed on wild marjoram, lavender, rudbeckia, buddleia and thistles.

To join the Butterfly Conservation walk on Sunday, 2 July, meet at 11am on the Ridgeway at Sparsholt Firs, contact the leader, Gillian Taylor ([mjgc.taylor@btinternet.com](mailto:mjgc.taylor@btinternet.com)) for information. Gillian will lead the Letcombes Conservation Group Big Butterfly count on Tuesday, 18 July, at Segsbury Castle and in the Community Nature Reserve - meet at 11am at the southern end of Segsbury Camp, contact Christine Birch ([cbirch1997@aol.com](mailto:cbirch1997@aol.com)) for information.



## The Letcombes Conservation Group

There is something particularly thrilling about seeing orchids growing in the wild. Perhaps it is because they are a rare sight today with over 97% of the UK's orchid meadows disappearing since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century and also bring back childhood memories of walks through meadows or grassland humming with grasshoppers, bumblebees and butterflies. How tragic that the experience is now limited to a few areas. However, due to the chalk geology and low-intensity grazing management in late spring and early summer, around the Letcombes there remain patches where orchid spikes may still be seen. Crucially orchids need to flower and set countless dust-like seeds rather than being eaten or trampled by grazing animals or cut down too early with the grasses for hay. Another key feature shared by the best meadows is the avoidance of fertilizers since nutrient enrichment favours high-yielding species, such as perennial rye grass and white clover, so once wildflower-rich fields become irrevocably changed into bland and species-poor monocultures. Orchids form mycorrhizal associations with specific fungi to successfully germinate and survive their early below-ground stage. Once the developing orchid begins photosynthesising, it may become less dependent on its fungal life-support system, although many do maintain this relationship throughout their life cycle. It is the chance association between wind-blown seeds and fungi that explains why so many seeds must be produced and also why the orchids at certain sites appear so prolifically.

A range of orchids flower from early spring through to summer. Early orchids include the Early purple orchid, *Orchis mascula*, with magenta spikes appearing above a rosette of heavily spotted leaves in April. The colour of this orchid attracts bees but by the time they discover the cluster of flowers (called inflorescences) have no nectar, the bees have already pollinated the flowers. Common spotted orchids, *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*, also have dark spotted leaves but the tapering inflorescences are in shades of pink, marked with purple lines. This orchid is found in grassland and open woodlands and may often be seen growing in disturbed habitats like road verges, sometimes in large numbers.

Those orchids that are still flowering this month include the Bee orchid named because within the large pink sepals is a structure that resembles the body of a bumblebee and emits a scent that mimics the female sex pheromones enticing male bees to try to mate with them, picking up and transferring the sticky male pollinia in the process. Apparently the strategy is rarely effective in the native Bee orchid, *Ophrys apifera* (photo right in local paddock), which instead self-pollinates efficiently when its pollinia dangle down and touch the stigma below. However, such inbreeding can sometimes produce malformed blooms. Fragrant orchids, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, release a sweet, orangey smell that is strongest in the evenings attracting butterflies and moths that feed from a long nectar spur behind each flower. Once considered a single species, they have now been split into three distinct types – chalk, heath and marsh – with the geology and habitat dictating precisely which species is found where. Pyramidal orchids, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, are the ones seen in the highest numbers around the Letcombes. These orchids have a dense cone of flowers, the purple colour darkening towards the apex of the pyramid shape; the cone lengthens to become more cylindrical with age. They are pollinated by moths, including day-flying Burnet moths. Keep your eyes open for these three orchids



which all may be seen locally. The Letcombes Conservation Group record, which goes back over 20 years, has recorded over one thousand pyramidal orchids flowering in the past on one old gallop on private land and again this year (photo left). The weather in 2022/3 appears to have suited their life cycle.



Photo credit Mike Price

## Issue 215

# Letcombe Sports & Social Club

June was a busy month with a very successful "Pizza at the Pavilion" event on Friday 2nd June. There were also 12 cricket matches, 7 of which were at home. On Saturday 17th June we hosted a touring cricket team called Ferring Cricket Club, who are from Goring-by-Sea. We were blessed with good weather, and an extremely enjoyable match took place.

The Darts Summer Season is getting towards the halfway stage. Although none of the 3 teams are challenging for top honours at the moment, I know there have been many enjoyable Thursday evenings "chucking arrows".

We have a change to our monthly "Pizza" event in July. See the details elsewhere in The Register (page 8). There will be a BBQ on Friday 7th July, from 5.30pm onwards. There is no need to book, but getting to the Club early might be a good idea. I know that the hotdogs and burgers provided by Jerry and Paula will be very much in demand!

The S&SC AGM will be held on Wednesday July 19th in the Club at 7.30pm. All Members will be invited to attend, and will receive an email separately with the details.

As always, if you would like to know more about the Sports and Social Club, then please contact The Secretary on "[letcombesportsclub@gmail.com](mailto:letcombesportsclub@gmail.com)".

Richard Taylor  
Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club

## Local Hero gets nominated for an award



Dennis Stock, who has been deeply involved in Letcombe Football, Cricket and Sports Club for well over 50 years, if not 60, has recently been nominated for the BBC Radio Oxford "**Make a Difference Award**". He has made it through to the final 4 for his services to sport in the community.

His love and passion for the Club he built at Letcombe and the many teams he nurtured has never faltered, and at 86 years of age, he still goes out there to cut the Football Pitch and mark out the lines. He will often be seen with Margaret watching Cricket of an afternoon, and expressing his opinion on how well ( or not! ) the team is doing.

### Rosemary Hine

It's with great sadness that we share with you the passing of our dear Mum Rosemary Hine, who passed away peacefully on Sunday 25th June at home.

Funeral will be At Letcombe church at 11am on Friday 21st July.

**LETCOMBE REGISTER**

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

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

**July 2023** **Click [Here](#) for full 23/24 Calendar**

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						
Green recycling Food waste Brown Garden Waste				Grey Landfill Food waste		