

The Letcombe Register



Issue 214

June 2023

VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 <u>Morning Prayer</u> 9.15am Ladies Pilates 9.30am Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall Book Buffs 8.00pm Greyhound Inn	2 Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall Pizza@Pavilion 5pm - 8.30 pm Sports Pavilion	3 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2 Cricket 1pm	4 <u>Tennis Mixer</u> 10am
5 Evensong 3pm WI 'Young Carers' Village Hall 7.30pm	6 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)	7 <u>Tennis Mix in Session</u> 10am - 1pm	8 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	9 Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	10 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2	11 <u>Tennis Mixer</u> 10am Holy Communion Cricket 2pm 10am St Andrew's Greyhound Inn Quiz Night Big Dave 8 pm Charity - Helen & Douglas House
12 Evensong 3pm Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Village Hall	13 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)	14 <u>Tennis Mix in Session</u> 10am - 1pm Cricket 6pm Film Club 'Another Year' Village Hall 8pm	15 <u>Morning Prayer</u> 9.15am Ladies Pilates 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	16 Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	17 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2 Nature Reserve Work Party 1.30-4.30pm	18 <u>Tennis Mixer</u> 10am Cricket 2pm
19 Evensong 3pm Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Village Hall Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm (W.R.) Village Hall	20 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)	21 <u>Tennis Mix in Session</u> 10am - 1pm Wantage Art Group 'Alan Lancaster' 7.30pm Holy Trinity Charlton	22 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	23 Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	24 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2	25 <u>Tennis Mixer</u> 10am Lay Led Service 10am St Andrew's Gardens Open 2.00 - 5.30 pm Letcombe Regis
26 Evensong 3pm Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Village Hall	27 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)	28 <u>Tennis Mix in Session</u> 10am - 1pm Cricket 6pm	29 <u>Morning Prayer</u> 9.15am Ladies Pilates 9.30am Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	30 Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall		Register Deadline RG&VH AGM 7.00pm Village Hall

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* Events in the Diary rely on information received. They may require booking and are underlined if a link is available for an email address or website.

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Issue 214

Message from the Parish Council

The Annual Parish Meeting was preceded this year by a refresher training on the use of Defibrillators, and a number of villagers found the session very useful. The Annual Report and the Financial Report delivered at the meeting appear elsewhere in this edition of the Register (pages 7, 8 and 9), for those unable to attend.

Your new Parish Council members are Councillors Paul Batchelor (Vice Chair), David Barber, Jeanne Lapsley (Chairman), Tom Griffin and Gordon Lundie.

Our next meeting will be held on Monday 19 July at 7pm

CLLr Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman



[Click HERE for website](#)
[David Johnston MP](#)



Letcombe Regis Gardens Open

This year will see 10 gardens opening for Open Gardens. Set for Sunday, 25th June opening times will be from 2.00pm through to 5.30pm. There will be a plant stall at Gwastad and the village hall will be open for teas, coffees, refreshments and cakes. There is an 'entry' charge of £5 for adults with all proceeds going to a local charity and St Andrews church.

Anyone able to offer help with bakes, the refreshment arrangements or parking please get in touch either by email (paulb@public-health.ucl.ac.uk) or phone 763935.

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"Unmissable" "Thoroughly gripping"
News of the World Metro Empire

another year

Jim Broadbent
Lesley Manville
Ruth Sheen

A film by Mike Leigh

"Outstanding. One of the very best films in Mike Leigh's career"
The Daily Telegraph

letcombe film club

**Letcombe Regis Village Hall,
Wednesday 14th June**

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

Refreshments on sale - Wine, Beer and Tea/Coffee

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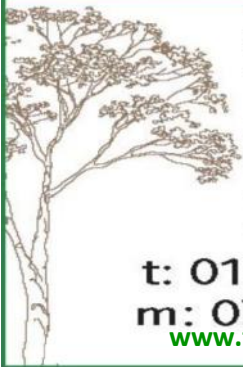


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Issue 214

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Contact Beth 07587331457 and Ian 07534451097
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COMPUTER PROBLEMS? CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?

A locally-based service (from Letcombe Bassett) has
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HCPC registered, MBDA

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Summer Gardening help needed

Grass cutting, watering, weeding, pruning, sweeping
2-4 hours per week (mornings)
at **The Greyhound Inn, Main Street**
Letcombe Regis
Text 07900 688114

200 Club Draw — No 3		June 2023
105	John CLURE	£50
250	Debbie BARTLETT	£25
208	Jane CABLE-ALEXANDER	£15
1	John PESKETT	£10
94	Jan HACKWORTH	£5
Special Draw:		
38	Joyce WARD	£25
145	Jerry & Paula BROAD	£20
103	Guy ELLIS	£15
139	Andy YATES	£10
154	Murray CHARLTON	£10
179	Robin GLYN	£10
New Numbers Draw		
4	Patrick CABLE-ALEXANDER	£5

The 200 Club would like to acknowledge an extremely generous donation of £100. The donor wishes to remain anonymous, but we are very grateful.

We are still looking for an address for E. TAYLOR. You paid online but didn't submit a completed form so we have no address at which to hand over your winnings! Please contact IanTaylor on 764677 and he can give you the £10 you won in the April and May draws.

Letcombe Football Club

Letcombe ended the season by beating Shrivenham Development 4-1 in the final of the Faringdon Memorial Cup. This competition is over 70 years old, and Letcombe have now won the cup eight times, beating the previous record of seven held by Highworth Town. We finished runners up to Swindon Supermarine Development in the league, were beaten on penalties by Woodcote in the semi final of the Hellenic Chairman's Cup, and reached the quarter final of the Berks & Bucks Cup. On reflection, a very successful season.

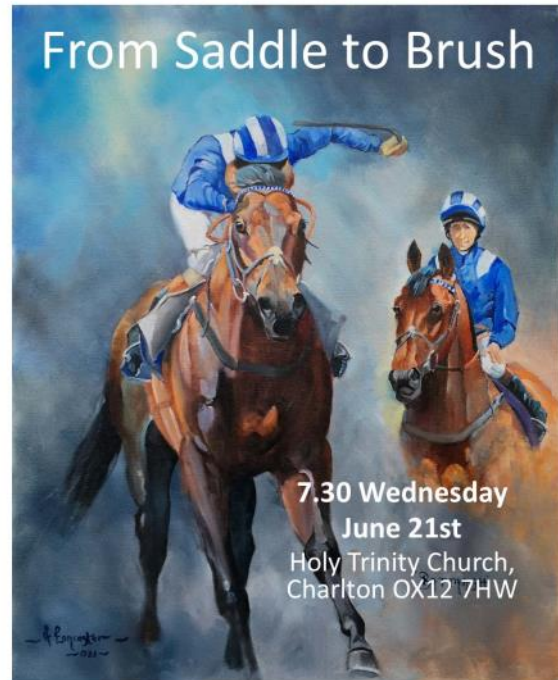
The club held it's presentation dinner at the Masonic Hall on 20th May. Trophy winners were :

- First team players player - Jordan Davies
- First team managers player - Calum Pryce
- First team supporters player - James Webster
- First team young player - Aaran Mudie
- First team top goalscorer - Jordan Davies
- Reserve team players player - Billy Tulloch
- Reserve team managers player - Greg Nutley
- Reserve team young player - Joe Clarke
- Reserve team top goalscorer - Jamie Saulter

A plea to everybody not to kick footballs on the pitch. The penalty areas have been re-seeded and are being watered regularly in dry weather.

Wantage Art Group

Allan Lancaster developed a passion for horses after meeting pit ponies as a child and went on to become a jockey. He will be giving a demonstration and talking about how he became an equine artist.



New members and visitors (£5) always welcome!

For more info see www.wantageartgroup.co.uk or tel. 01235767829





Issue 214

Letcombes Gardening Club

Topical Tips

Finally some lovely sunny weather! The plants are now starting to grow. June is the time for the traditional English garden to really 'strutt it's stuff'. Hopefully any hard work you did in the previous months will be paying dividends now and you will be able to stand back and admire your garden.

The weeds will also be enjoying this lovely weather so you will need to continue hoeing if you have any bare soil in your beds.

Remember to stake any floppy plants in good time to avoid them developing 'comical shapes' (the voice of experience speaking here).

You should be able to plant out your cannas and dahlias now. Any gaps you have in the borders can always be filled with annual summer bedding.

Don't be afraid to trim back any trailing plants that are looking tatty. They will readily produce new growth. The same goes for oriental poppies and euphorbia flowers. They can look pretty awful when they have finished so give them the chop!

If your hostas are coming into growth, now is the time to divide them and generate lots of lovely new plants.

I say this every year. Remove spent forget-me-nots so your garden doesn't become overrun with them next year!

If you have a deciduous magnolia, now is the time to tame it. If you do this in winter you'll get dieback and if you do it in late winter or spring you'll get bleeding.

Clematis montana can get very big and unruly with lots of dead stems. You can cut them out now and remember, you can be really ruthless with this clematis if it's getting very large. You won't kill it but you will be the boss!!

I'm going to venture, very briefly, onto the lawn now! Leave your grass a little longer in dry spells as it will cope better. Don't water it! It will cope. When you do cut your grass, only add the clippings to the compost heap in thin layers otherwise you'll end up with a poorly aerated, slimy heap!

Now a little section for the veg growers. You should be starting to harvest now. June is the end of the asparagus season so make the most of the last week or so and then give it some fertilizer and leave it to grow.

All those more tender veg like squash, courgettes and beans, that you have raised under glass can be planted out now.

You need to keep hoeing, as veg don't like to have to compete with weeds.

When you are sowing seeds in dry weather, water the seed drill first as this means the young plants will develop a good root system.

Well I think that will do. I suggest that you pour yourself a glass of wine, find a nice seat in your garden and enjoy!

Butterfly Walk

Butterfly Conservation invites you to a Butterfly Walk on Sunday 2nd July at 11am meeting on the Ridgeway at Sparsholt Firs. We will hope to see butterflies, moths and chalk grassland flowers. Information from Gillian Taylor mjgc.taylor@btinternet.com



Parish Council Annual Report 2022-2023

Pleasingly the recovery from Covid-19 continues and the lockdown is beginning to become a distant memory. Parish life is thriving and is a testament to everyone who contributes throughout the year, from bakers, to litter pickers, event organisers, conservation volunteers, the list goes on.

I continued as chairman for a further year and am grateful to the whole of the Parish Council, especially my Vice Chair, Loretta Light, and the Parish Clerk, Liz Jenkins, for their continuing support with all things 'Parish'.

2022-2023 has proved another busy year and you will have been able to keep up to date via the PC minutes, but here are a few highlights.

The Queens Platinum tea was a huge success enjoyed by over 170 parish residents. I must record the PC's sincere thanks to all those who contributed to a wonderful afternoon.

The Burial Ground improvements are almost complete with grass reinforcement enabling access through the new Lych Gate, where two new benches have been placed. The additional parking is also well used by those using the excellent sport and leisure facilities, which at the same time helps prevent obstructive parking on village roads.

The Register, an important means of communication to every household, continues to be compiled on a monthly basis by Francesca Engelmann and the PC thanks her sincerely for her forbearance and patience. At the last meeting the PC was asked if it were possible to return to the paper version, sadly costs of both production and distribution are prohibitive. However we can of course accommodate individual requests, so please contact the Clerk.

This year we have finalised the new arrangements for keeping the village tidy, and after significant efforts have engaged a new contractor who offers consistency, value for money and most importantly removes all debris. We are grateful to Arran Lax who until recently has worked to keep the village tidy.

Sadly another royal milestone was reached during this year with the death of Queen Elizabeth II. The PC was able to lead on implementing the official protocols, alongside the Church, and among other things a book was placed in the Church for those wishing to leave messages of condolence. My thanks go to Cllr Loretta Light for her specific role in this.

A particular concern this year has been the continuing issue of water run off and drainage. Our District Councillor Paul Barrow and Parish Councillors Paul Batchelor and David Barber have worked tirelessly to achieve some significant results especially on Warborough Road. Working with the new owner of Warborough Farm Tony Ruane, a wildlife pond has been reinstated halfway down the hill and other works completed to help prevent flooding lower down in the village. We were fortunate to apply for, and receive, a grant for this work from our County Councillor Yvonne Constance.

Regrettably with major changes to the country's political leadership, together with economic pressures, it was necessary to raise the precept for 23-24 by 6% just to maintain our current services going forward. However within the year the PC Budget planning has meant that we remain in a positive financial position. We do however continue to seek out any grant funding that may be available to us which can support the Parish.

As ever there have been many consultations, too many to list, but you can be assured that the Parish Council responds on your behalf, ensuring we maintain a voice in the wider issues that may affect us.

Cont.....

My fellow councillors and myself continue to represent the Parish on a number of important local and national bodies, as reported in last years' Annual Report. These range from The Letcombe Brook Project to the Oxfordshire Association of Local Council Executive. We continue to maintain links with BBOWT and CPRE amongst others.

Cllr Batchelor has continued to address the communications infrastructure within the village including trying to ensure that Airband meet their contractual requirements and understanding what their future proposals are and addressing the issues of poor mobile signals in many parts of the village. Regrettably this is still ongoing.

A review of the PC website was undertaken earlier this year, and the responses indicated there were no major changes needed, but to continue to ensure that everything is up to date and current.

This snapshot again indicates a very busy year for the PC, and it is also a year of change. At this point I would like to thank Cllr Kristine Hitchcock, Cllr Doug Frewer and my Vice Chair Loretta Light for their unfailing support as they stand down from the Parish Council. Their efforts have helped ensure we continue to live and enjoy our wonderful environment and community. We must also extend our thanks to our District Councillor Paul Barrow and also our County Councillor Yvonne Constance for their continuing support throughout the year.

What will we be doing next year?

Well those standing down will be enjoying a well-earned break, whilst the new councillors Tom Griffin and Gordon Lundie will be joining us to continue the work of the council.

We will be seeking to get the state of our roads improved.

We will be responding to proposals that effect our community

We will continue to seek out grant funding wherever possible

We will respond to individual issues as they arise.

Cllr Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Parish Council

The Annual Report and monthly reports from our District Councillor Paul Barrow can be found on the Parish Council website please go to www.letcomberegispc.org

Letcombe Regis Parish Council

	Receipts		Payments	
Opening balance		53,606.19		
Precept	21,178.00			
Burial Ground Fees	830.00			
Bank Interest	231.64			
Letcombe Register	618.00			
Refund (Magician)	50.00			
Wayleave payment	41.77			
VAT refund from HMRC	32,057.34			

Cont.....

	Receipts		Payments	
Staff salary			5,367.14	
PAYE			1,012.00	
Miscellaneous			297.92	
VAT Repayment			19,488.00	
Mobile phone			120.08	
Room Hire			31.50	
Office expenses			580.51	
Bank charges			123.00	
Insurance			375.06	
Audit Fees			399.06	
Training Courses			110.00	
Subscriptions			267.00	
Queen's Platinum Celebrations			211.81	
Coronation Celebrations			50.00	
VH&RGC Maintenance grant			1807.50	
Letcombe Brook Project			700.00	
External grant			150.00	
Fireworks grant			300.00	
Scribe, Microsoft, McAfee etc			485.00	
Register costs			283.97	
IT costs			252.00	
Village Warden			1,845.00	
Burial Ground mowing			210.00	
Millennium Green Wildflower Area			796.00	
Millennium Green mowing			700.00	
Defibrillator replacement parts			393.90	
Christmas Tree			65.00	
Burial Ground Improvements			2,933.93	
Miscellaneous			1,172.50	
Bank charges			59.00	
Zoom Licence			103.66	
Millennium Green tree pruning			230.00	
Burial Green Maintenance			140.00	
Assets			29.14	
Cinema club for Childrens Playground (RING-FENCED)			500.00	
Councillor Priority Fund for Environmental pond			975.00	
VAT			780.82	
Closing balances:				
Balances in bank account				68,215.44
Total		110,087.94		110,087.94



Issue 214

Film Club

Another Year (12)
Wednesday 14 June
Letcombe Regis Village Hall

Knowing that our audience loves a good old British comedy-drama, for our last screening of this season we have decided to show one from the long list of great films by Mike Leigh, arguably the UK's best film maker. If you've not seen any of his films about ordinary lives in 'kitchen sink' style comedy-drama's, now is your chance. Even if you have, they are always worth another view!

Set in North East London, **Another Year** tells the story of happily married couple, Tom and Gerri Hepple (no cats or mice in sight!) and their life and times over the course of the four seasons. Their happy home is a magnet for friends who for various reasons are troubled lost souls. An allotment is involved so lots of seasonal fruit and vegetables too!

With a cast of some of the best British actors, it's no surprise that this is a great film. Jim Broadbent plays Tom, with Ruth Sheen as his wife Gerri. But the star of the film is definitely Lesley Manville who plays Gerri's divorced friend Mary, who is looking for love.

Another Year was released in 2010 and debuted at the Cannes Film Festival to 5 star reviews. Mike Leigh received an Oscar nomination for best original screenplay and Lesley Manville was nominated for many awards including a BAFTA. One critic described the film as a "rare treat", we hope you think so too.

Come along and enjoy our last film night until September. Doors open at 7.30, film starts at 8pm. Refreshments available so come early for a drink and catch up with friends.

See you there!



St Andrew's

Our new rector, Ness, The Revd Ness Brunner-Ellis, plans to hold a service of Morning Prayer fortnightly throughout the benefice. The first service at St Andrew's was on 4th May at 9.15 am, it is good to have this new initiative taking place here regularly.

Two days later on May 6th the church bells rang out to mark the Coronation of King Charles III and Queen Camilla. Although the weather was rather dismal, as it was for the two previous Coronations, it was special to hear the joyful sound of our bells joining in the general celebration.

On 14th May we had Ness's first service of Holy Communion at St Andrew's. There was a large congregation to greet her and coffee was served after the service by Mary Harrison, which provided an opportunity for more of us to get to know our new Rector. As well as welcoming Ness the congregation wanted to thank The Revd Mary Harwood for all she has done for us throughout the interregnum and she was presented with flowers and other gifts to show our appreciation.

The APCM was held in the church on Tuesday 23rd May. Debbie Webb told us that she would like to stand down as church warden, but she is willing to continue until a new warden can be found. Debbie has done so much for St Andrew's as church warden for over two years and in supporting the previous wardens and we are very grateful. David Allchin reported that the church finances are in a sound condition, particularly for a small parish like St Andrew's. Debbie gave the fabric report and again everything seems to be going well. Thanks to a local benefactor, who is prepared to cover the costs, it is hoped that the pews may be polished and the Victorian tiles restored. In the Rector's report Ness said how grateful she is for the welcome she has had in the benefice, and thanked all those who have kept everything running smoothly through the vacancy period. She also specially mentioned her interest in children and families and how important they are to the future of the church.

The services in June will be as usual. On Mondays Prayer Group at 10.30 am and Evensong at 3 pm and Holy Communion on the second Sunday at 10 am and a Lay-led service on the fourth Sunday also at 10 am. Morning Prayer will be at 9.15 am on Thursdays 1st, 15th and 29th June. (If you would like help in downloading the Morning Prayer app Ness will be happy to help!)



Village Hall and Recreation Ground

Dear Residents of Letcombe Regis and the surrounding area, I recently took over the role of Chairing the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee. I'd like to thank Mike Light for covering this responsibility for most of the last 12 months, as an interim support, and our prior Chair, Richard Taylor for many years of service.

Our village hall and recreation ground continue to be well used and enjoyed by both villagers and the wider community. It's great to have the Hall and the recreation ground available for the community and we are all committed to supporting and developing them. This mainly involves making sure the Hall is well used, accessible and maintained. In order to do this, we balance local use – often free, as we saw with the superb recent Coronation Celebration event - and hired events as with the occasional wedding and engagement celebration, and the many children's parties that we host. Without this necessary balance, it would be challenging to maintain all the ground and the main hall in a way we are all proud about.

Of course, it is not just the Hall – we are also responsible for the Cricket, Football, Tennis and Riding areas, and want to ensure that all continue to be well used and maintained to a high standard. It is amazing to have so much activity diversity in a community of our size.

The sub-committee working on the Children's Playground refurbishment continue progressing with plans, and we are looking to finalise these in the next few weeks and will expect to start seeing the fruits of their labour when work starts, which is expected to be later this year.

Our AGM will be held at the Hall on the 29th of June at 7pm. Please come along if you want to ask question, or here more about the work of the committee in 2022 and 23.

Gordon Lundie,
Chair,
Village Hall and Recreation Ground Committee

Residents of Letcombe Regis are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Letcombe Regis Recreation and Village Hall Management Committee to be held on Thursday 29th of June 2023 starting at 7.00pm.

Letcombe Regis Recreation & Village Hall Management Committee

Annual General Meeting 2023

29th of June 2023 in Letcombe Regis Village Hall at 7pm

Agenda

1. Welcome and apologies
2. Minutes of previous meeting 30th May 2022
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's report
5. Treasurer's report
6. Club reports
7. Election of villagers to Management Committee
8. Any other business

Letcombes WI

Unfortunately our speaker for June - Jackie Loring has had to cancel, which is a great pity. We were all looking forward to hearing about Kimonos.

Loretta Light will be stepping in to talk about her charity 'Be Free Young Carers'. This independent charity is the only organisation in Oxfordshire to supply services and support to young carers who are youngsters under 18 looking after a sick or disabled parent, relative or sibling. It supports the lives and well being of young carers in Oxfordshire, offering emotional support, activities and training.

The date of the talk remains the 5th June as stated in the programme. It was felt that changing the date back to the more usual second Monday in the month would cause too many complications.

Visitors are very welcome to what will be our last talk until September.

Book Buffs



The next meeting will be held on Thursday 1st June in the Greyhound at 8pm.

We shall be reviewing 'Suite Française' by Irène Némirovsky. The new library book is late again but hopefully will be with us for the next meeting.

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2 courses £22 3 courses £26
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All Dads dining with us get
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(of any age!)

www.thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk
email: info@thegreyhoundletcombe.co.uk
Tel: 01235 771969



The Tennis Club held two very successful adult tournaments in April and May. Well done to the winners – Jason, Tina, Lidia and Veronica - and thanks to Anne Jones for organising and those providing the shared lunch.

The next events are a **Junior tournament** on **2nd July** from 1pm and an **Adult tournament** on **16th July** from 10am which will be followed by lunch and the Wimbledon men's singles final on the big screen in the Pavilion.

A date for diaries: **24th November** for a **Quiz evening** in the Village Hall.

The tennis club is partnered with National Tennis Association who offer level 3, LTA accredited junior coaching on Saturdays from 11am for 5 to 17 year olds as well as Cardio tennis which is a fun, sociable group fitness class for people of all ages and abilities, also on Saturdays at 10 am. If you're not sure if it's right for you, NTA are currently offering a 3 session free trial.

Mix-in club sessions are very popular and take place on Sundays from 10am.

Hoping to see some of you on court - for more details of any of our sessions, see our web site: letcombetennisclub or e-mail letcombetennisclub@gmail.com

Letcombe Sports and Social Club



Thank you to all the Members and Friends who came to the Pizza Evening in May. The next one is on Friday 2nd June. Details elsewhere in The Register. Please ensure you phone/text your booking through early on Thursday 1st June to get the slot you want.

Cricket is well underway, with matches throughout June. See the attached fixture list for details.

As ever, if you are interested in finding out more about the Sports & Social Club, or any of the clubs which use the recreation ground, then please contact the secretary by email on letcombesportsclub@gmail.com.

Richard
Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club



Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Work parties continue in the Community Nature Reserve on Saturday, 17 June 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 May work party covered much activity including repairing a bridge and scything around the main paths and benches. Mark Bradfield, Letcombe Brook Project Officer, found a little toad on a path edge (photo right) and commented on the chalk bank, 'Lovely to see so much yellow rattle about to burst into colour on the chalk bank up above the pond. That bit should get better and better over the next few weeks with knapweed and scabious coming into flower in a few weeks' time. A great spot to look out for butterflies during June and July. The wildflowers are slowly increasing on the chalk bank after years and years of grazing and scything to reduce the dominant grasses and give the wildflowers a chance to spread. Look out for Clustered bellflower too, a real stunner and the pink Common restharrow later in the summer, right on the path edge'.



Yellow rattle, *Rhinanthus minor*, gives a distinctive 'rattle' sound when the flowers fade, from the tiny seeds that ripen inside the seed head. It is an annual that thrives in grasslands as a semi-parasite by feeding off the nutrients in the roots of nearby grasses, photo credit right: Mark Bradfield. For this reason, it is often used to



promote grassland into meadow by reducing the vigour of the grasses eventually allowing more delicate wildflower species to establish. Common restharrow, *Ononis repens*, is a low-growing, creeping plant with leaves that are greasy to the touch and divided into three oval leaflets. It has hairy stems and clusters of small, pink, pea-like flowers, photo credit left: Evelyn Simak (CC BY-SA 2.0). The extremely tough, thick roots spread in a dense network and its common name refers to the days of horse-drawn

cultivation when it could arrest a harrow in its tracks.

Other flowers to look out for by the pond are the tall reed stems of Yellow flag iris, *Iris pseudacorus* (photo right), with large, yellow petals that fold



back on themselves and hang down around the outer edges of the flower. It has long, narrow grey-green leaves and grows on the margin of water. Another flower that has established on the margin of the pond is Ragged-robin, *Lychnis flos-cuculi* (photo left) a declining plant as wild wetland areas disappear from the landscape. It is a moisture-loving perennial plant bearing divided (hence the name) pink, star-shaped flowers with nectar that attracts bees and butterflies as well as dragonflies which, in turn, bring frogs, toads and other animals. The leaves are narrow and grass-like. It is thanks to the dedicated work of volunteers each month that the biodiversity of the

Community Nature Reserve is being restored and increasing.

The Letcombes Conservation Group

Summer really has arrived and the newly opened leaves on all the shrubs and trees bring a freshness with their bright green colouration and shade as temperatures rise. The value of trees to wildlife depends partly on whether they are standing as an individual or are part of a group. An individual, or open-grown tree, usually in the shape of a hemisphere or cone, is able to realise its full potential for leaf area and flowering thus maximising pollen and fruit production. This was understood by swine herders; the name for the place where pigs went out to fatten on the acorn mast, *aecer/ akker/ acker* in Old English, came to mean a unit of mast for one pig and the area of an acre. The larger lower branches of open-grown trees increase in girth with the increase in trunk circumference and, being horizontal, catch the light differently to vertical branches and hold water for longer so they provide niches for wildlife not found on plantation trees. Research demonstrates that scattered trees also are key for biodiversity, whilst dense stands of trees provide conditions of shade and humidity required by many wildlife species. A native hornbeam already 2.5 m tall was planted by the Letcombes Conservation Group in the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve in warm sunshine on March 2nd (photo right) for the late Queen Elizabeth's Platinum Jubilee extended Queen's Green Canopy initiative. The leaves are now fully open and are the food plant for caterpillars of a number of moth species. The tree will keep some of its leaves all year round, turning golden-yellow to orange in autumn when the winged fruits develop to be eaten by finches, tits and small mammals and next spring it will bear catkins. In a few years the tree should be a reasonable size and provide shelter, roosting, nesting and foraging opportunities for mammals and birds through winter.



Helping nature is one of the five themes of this year's *30 Days Wild*, the nature challenge run by The Wildlife Trusts during the month of June that invites people of all ages to connect with nature every single day. There's no set structure, so you can take part in a way that suits you, possibly based on some of the other themes of tune into the senses; movement and play; learning and discovery and emotional connection to nature. Visit [30 Days Wild | The Wildlife Trusts](#) for ideas on connecting with nature whether it is a walk or observing wildlife from your home like one of the last summer visitors to arrive - the Spotted Flycatcher, a Red Listed bird in serious decline, photo credit: Mike Pennington (CC BY-SA 2.0). They have greyish brown feathers and a pale belly, and an excellent hunting technique perching to wait for an unsuspecting moth, butterfly or another winged insect to fly by, dashing out to grab its prey on the wing when it is within striking distance before returning to their perch. The best places to see this bird are in parks, mature gardens, woodland with open glades and churchyards.



Another opportunity is to contribute to this year's Churches Count on Nature during which the data for St. Andrew's churchyard will be updated from **June 3rd to 11th, 2023**. **The charity *Caring for God's Acre*** has been encouraging all who help to look after churchyards and burial grounds to celebrate the wildlife found in these places in the month of June for many years. The survey is a joint initiative with the Church of England, the Church in Wales and A Rocha UK. St. Andrew's features on [Caring For God's Acre – the conservation for burial grounds across the UK – Protecting Wildlife, Preserving Heritage, Involving People \(caringforgodsacre.org.uk\)](#) in the section *Find a Flowery Burial Ground* after the first survey event held here in 2021. If you are interesting in helping to survey the churchyard wildlife this June, please contact Christine on cbirch1997@aol.com or 763529. It is thanks to the committed work of Anne Williams that the wildflower area of the churchyard supports such a wide range of wildlife.



Cricket Fixtures Issue 214

Saturday XI Cherwell League Division 8D

May			
Sat 6th	1.00pm	Faringdon II	Home
Sat 13th	1.00pm	Steventon II	Away
Sat 20th	1.00pm	Abingdon Vale IV	Home
Sat 27th	1.00pm	Didcot IV	Away
June			
Sat 3rd	1.00pm	E & W Hendred III	Home
Sat 10th	1.00pm	Marcham II	Away
Sun 11th	1.00pm	TBC (Cup)	
Sat 17th		Free Week	
Sat 24th	1.00pm	Wantage & Grove II	Away
July			
Sat 1st	1.00pm	Golden Sparrows II	Home
Sat 8th	1.00pm	Faringdon II	Away
Sat 15th	1.00pm	Steventon II	Home
Sat 22nd	1.00pm	Abingdon Vale IV	Away
Sat 29th	1.00pm	Didcot IV	Home
August			
Sat 5th	1.00pm	E & W Hendred III	Away
Sat 12th	1.00pm	Marcham II	Home
Sat 19th		Free Week	
Sat 26th	12.30pm	Wantage & Grove II	Home
September			
Sat 2nd	12.30pm	Golden Sparrows II	Away

Sunday XI Friendlies

April			
Sun 30th	1.30pm	Challow & Childrey	Away
May			
Sun 7th		Free Week	
Sun 14th	1.00pm	Welford Park	Home
Sun 21st	2.00pm	Gully Cricketers	Home
Sun 28th	2.00pm	Hanney	Home
June			
Sun 4th	2.00pm	Cumnor	Away
Sun 11th	2.00pm	Wantage	Home
Sun 18th	2.00pm	Bladon	Home
Sun 25th	2.00pm	Nomads	Home
July			
Sun 2nd	1.30pm	Strokemakers	Home
Sun 9th	2.00pm	East & West Hendred	Home
Sun 16th	2.00pm	The Bell Inn, Aldworth	Home
Sun 23rd	2.00pm	Holton	Home
Sun 30th		Free Week	
August			
Sun 6th	2.00pm	Gully Cricketers	Home
Sun 13th	2.00pm	Peasemore	Away
Sun 20th	2.00pm	Kingston Bagpuize	Away
Sun 27th		Free Week	
September			
Sun 3rd	11.00am	Bladon	Away
Sun 10th	1.00pm	Oxon CC SS	Home
Sun 17th	1.00pm	TBC	

Wednesday XI Serious Cricket Downs League Div 2 North

May			
Wed 3rd	6.00pm	East & West Hendred	Home
Wed 10th	6.00pm	Garsington	Away
Wed 17th	6.00pm	Wantage & Grove	Home
Wed 24th	6.00pm	Sutton Courtenay	Away
Wed 31st	6.00pm	Challow & Childrey	Home
June			
Wed 7th	6.00pm	East & West Hendred	Away
Wed 14th	6.00pm	Garsington	Home
Wed 21st	6.00pm	Wantage & Grove	Away
Wed 28th	6.00pm	Sutton Courtenay	Home
July			
Wed 5th	6.00pm	Challow & Childrey	Away



Letcombe Cricket Club

2023 Season

Officers

President	Paul Bryan
Chairman	Jake Wagg
Secretary	Richard Taylor: 07901 711117 letcombecricketclub@gmail.com
Treasurer	Jake Wagg
Captains	
Saturday XI	Jerry May: 07714 033651 (Vice)
Sunday XI	Neil Hall: 07807 991332 or 01367 242933
Wednesday XI	Bobby Jones: 01235 768182

Committee: Officers and Captains plus Tony Stock, Danny Taylor, Richard Green

Fixture Secretary: Neil Hall

In the event of doubt over matches, please contact the relevant Captain, or the Club on 01235 767785



2023 Fixtures



We are looking for teams to play Sunday friendlies, so please get in contact if you are interested. We would also be delighted if you wanted to come along and play, or just join as a Social Member.

Sports Pavilion
Bassett Road, Letcombe Regis
Wantage. OX12 9LJ
☎ 01235 767785 <http://letcombecc.co.uk>

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

To submit an article please contact:

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

Register@oldstableyard.co.uk

01235 769310

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

TO RECEIVE YOUR EMAIL PDF COPY OF THE LETCOMBE REGISTER, PLEASE CONTACT LIZ JENKINS, THE PARISH CLERK:
LETREGISPC@GMAIL.COM

(FOR GDPR REASONS - THE LETCOMBE REGISTER HAS NO ACCESS TO THE VILLAGE EMAIL LIST)

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

June Waste Calendar

[Click Here for 23/24 Waste 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		
Green recycling Food waste Brown Garden Waste			Grey Landfill Food waste			