







The Letcombe Register

Issue 218

October 2023

VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
<p>Voices of the Vale Meet on Mondays 7.30 - 9 pm (term time) (VotV) in either the village HALL or the pavilion - SSC</p>						<p>1 <u>Tennis Mixer</u> 10.am</p>
<p>2  Creative Writing 10.30 - Noon Village Hall (WR) Evensong 3pm VotV - HALL</p>	<p>3 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)</p>	<p>4 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in Session 10am - 1pm <u>Shadow of Segsbury</u> excavation talk 7.00 - 9.00pm Village Hall</p>	<p>5 <u>Morning Prayer</u> 9.15am Ladies Pilates 9.30am Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Hall <u>Book Buffs</u> 8.00pm Greyhound Inn</p>	<p>6 <u>Men'sPilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall</p>	<p>7 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2 Football 2pm</p>	<p>8 <u>Tennis Mixer</u> 10.am <u>Holy Communion</u> 10.15am St Andrew's <u>Greyhound Inn</u> Quiz Night Big Dave 8 pm</p>
<p>9  Creative Writing 10.30 - Noon Village Hall (WR) WI Evensong 3pm <u>'Jamboree'</u> 7.30pm VotV-SSC Village Hall</p>	<p>10 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)</p>	<p>11 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in Session 10am - 1pm <u>Film Club</u> 'The Outfit' 8.00pm Village Hall</p>	<p>12 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Hall</p>	<p>13 <u>Men'sPilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall <u>Singing Workshop & Concert</u> 5.30pm & 7.30pm Village Hall</p>	<p>14 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2 Football 2pm</p>	<p>15 <u>Tennis Mixer</u> 10.am</p>
<p>16  Creative Writing 10.30 - Noon Village Hall (WR) Evensong 3pm VotV - HALL</p>	<p>17 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)</p>	<p>18 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in Session 10am - 1pm <u>Gardening Club</u> 'Veg & Herbs' 7.30pm Village Hall</p>	<p>19 <u>Morning Prayer</u> 9.15am Ladies Pilates 9.30am Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Hall <u>Greyhound Inn</u> Autumn Tasting Menu - <u>Bookings</u></p>	<p>20 <u>Men'sPilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall <u>Beyoga</u> Rest & Relax with <u>Sound Bath</u> 6.45 -8.15pm Village Hall (please book)</p>	<p>21 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2 <u>Nature Reserve</u> Work Party 130-4.30pm Football 3pm</p>	<p>22 <u>Tennis Mixer</u> 10.am <u>Worship & Prayer</u> 10.15am St Andrew's</p>
<p>23  Creative Writing Evensong 3pm</p>	24	<p>25 <u>Tennis</u> Mix in Session 10am - 1pm</p>	<p>26 <u>Ladies Pilates</u> 9.30am Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Hall</p>	<p>27 <u>Men'sPilates</u> 9.30am Village Hall</p>	<p>28 <u>Tennis Cardio</u> 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11 -2 Football 3pm</p>	<p>29 <u>Tennis Mixer</u> 10.am</p>
<p style="text-align: right;"><u>Register Deadline</u> </p>						
<p>30  Creative Writing Evensong 3pm VotV - HALL</p>	<p>31 <u>Yoga w Beth</u> 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"></p>				

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

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Issue 218

Message from the Parish Council

As Autumn has fully arrived please take time to ensure any hedges are not invading public footpaths and any fallen leaves are swept up.

The Parish Council is pleased again to support the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust with a grant towards the cost of fireworks. The village event will take place on 4 November and full details can be found elsewhere in the Register. This is always a very popular event, so fingers crossed for dry weather.

Mindful of the continuing poor state of our roads we are expecting the OCC Cabinet Member with responsibility to visit and see for himself the true problem during October. In the meantime please continue to report any road issues at – [Fix my Street](#)

The village email has had to be used a little more often recently, as important messages, especially when consultations on a project likely to effect the Parish have been launched – eg the Community Transport Proposals. We hope you find this useful and would ask if you know of new residents who would like to receive these important messages, please ask them to email the Parish Clerk at letregispc@gmail who will be pleased to include you on the village list.

The issue of village maintenance is currently being discussed with interested parties which will eventually lead to positive way forward. Cllr Tom Griffin is leading on this. Following the recent request in the Register a number of you have taken steps to remove weeds from the pavements and roadsides in your locality, and we are grateful that you have stepped forward.

A number of you have raised concerns at the recent scarification of the Bridleway leading from the allotments to the Nature Reserve. This work was carried out without warning. The dissatisfaction expressed has been brought to the attention of Berkshire Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire Wildlife Trust (BBOWT), whose contractors were responsible.

A number of events are taking place this month with a very interesting event scheduled to take place on Wednesday 4 October, 7-9.00 pm at the Village Hall. Cotswold Archaeology and Thames Water will be presenting a talk on the archaeological discoveries made along the route of the Childrey Warren Pipeline. This is expected to a very popular event – so please be sure to get your tickets by following the link <https://tinyurl.com/ChildreyWarrenexcavations>. Wantage Literary Festival will also be taking place during October, and details can be found elsewhere in the Register.

The PC are keen to get plans for a village fete, scheduled to be held in 2024, underway. We are grateful to those who have already expressed an interest. Cllr Paul Batchelor is leading on this, so please let him, or the Parish Clerk know if you would like to become involved.

The PC is pleased to be able to support the Village Hall and Recreation Ground Trust in their Playground improvement works. This is due to commence in approximately 6 weeks time. Again more details appear elsewhere in the Register.

Finally our next PC meeting will take place on Monday 20 November, 7pm in the Warborough Room of the Village Hall. All are welcome.

Cllr Jeanne Lapsley
Chairman
Letcombe Regis Parish Council



[Click HERE for website](#)

[David Johnston MP](#)



[Click HERE to sign up for Matthew Barber](#)

[TVP Police & Crime Commissioner info.](#)



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& REDUCING PAIN

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CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?**

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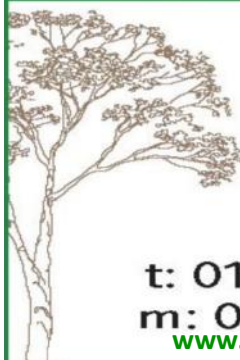
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200 Club Draw — No 5		August 2023
72	Emma MACKILLIGIN	£50
90	Alison McCLINTOCK	£25
146	Tony MACDONALD	£15
138	David & Judi WILDE	£10
84	Rita HANRAHAN	£5
Special Draw:		
151	Poppy HONE	£25
175	Alexander LAPSLEY-MIKA	£20
92	Alan & Beryl DOMAN	£15
158	Thérèse CLARKE	£10
83	Valerie BROADBENT	£10
221	Trevellyan NEWALL	£10
New Numbers Draw		
243	Rachael RUANE	£5



Beth Trotter is hosting a Rest & Relax Yoga class with Sound Bath on Friday 20th October from 6.45 - 8.15pm.

Please book at www.beyoga.co.uk. All welcome



Challows and Childrey Hedgerow Group

The Challows and Childrey Hedgerow Group will be planting 300-500m of new hedge along the eastern edge of Silver Lane (Whitelands Rd), West Challow this coming winter.

We have the approval of the adjacent landowner and the blessing of Oxfordshire County Council and are looking for volunteers to help with planting on November 26th and January 13th. We will start with coffee at West Challow Village Hall and end with cake and tea.

We do hope that you will be able to join us. Please contact us if you are interested.

Paul Barrow Paul.Barrow@whitehorsedc.gov.uk 07557 953862

Alastair Barclay ABarclay589@gmail.com 07762 925990

Kathy Warden kwarden.east717@gmail.com 07379 342608

When we have a full list of volunteers we will set up a Whatsapp group to stay in contact closer to the planting dates.

This will be the first of several hedges which we hope to plant in our three parishes over the next few years to try and restore the local landscape to how it used to be 50 years ago and to encourage birds and other wildlife.

Hedgerows are tremendously valuable as links in the landscape connecting areas of wildlife habitat. As well as providing refuges for a great range of species they have an important role in counteracting the effects of the climate emergency by locking up carbon dioxide in their leaves and roots. With your help we can begin to enhance the natural environment of our three parishes and we hope you will join us.

**'In the Shadow of Segsbury:
Excavations along the Childrey Warren
Pipeline'**

**Wednesday 4th October, from 7 – 9.00pm: Letcombe
Regis Village Hall**

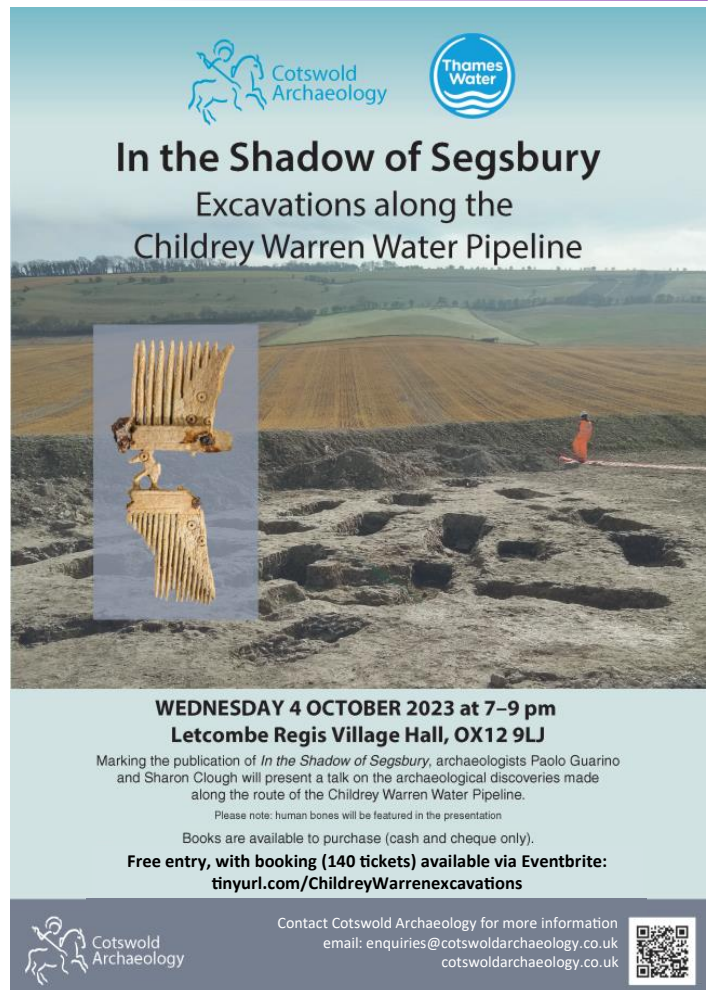
Marking the publication of *In The Shadow of Segsbury*, archaeologists Paolo Guarino and Sharon Clough will present a talk on the archaeological discoveries made along the route of the Childrey Warren Water Pipeline.

Please note: human bones will be featured in the presentation.

The publication will be available to purchase on the night (only cash and cheques accepted).

To join us for this event, please see the adjacent poster (with QR code), or follow this link:

<https://tinyurl.com/ChildreyWarrenexcavations>



Cotswold Archaeology Thames Water

In the Shadow of Segsbury
Excavations along the
Childrey Warren Water Pipeline

WEDNESDAY 4 OCTOBER 2023 at 7–9 pm
Letcombe Regis Village Hall, OX12 9LJ


Marking the publication of *In the Shadow of Segsbury*, archaeologists Paolo Guarino and Sharon Clough will present a talk on the archaeological discoveries made along the route of the Childrey Warren Water Pipeline.

Please note: human bones will be featured in the presentation

Books are available to purchase (cash and cheque only).

Free entry, with booking (140 tickets) available via Eventbrite:
tinyurl.com/ChildreyWarrenexcavations

Contact Cotswold Archaeology for more information
email: enquiries@cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk
cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk




Wantage
LITERARY FESTIVAL

Registered Charity No: 1185315

Wantage Literary Festival opens this month on **Saturday October 21st** with a full day of fascinating talks, beginning with **Will Gompertz** at 10am, followed by best-selling author **Beth O'Leary** talking to **Ally Sinclair** about her new novel *The Wake-Up Call*. Grab a bite to eat and be back for 2pm when **Iain Dale** and guests join him in discussing his new book *Kings and Queens* with a chapter on every British monarch from Alfred the Great to Queen Elizabeth II. The afternoon sessions put the NHS under the microscope with **Andrew Seaton's** engaging history followed by **Dr Marieke Bigg** exploring with **Jane Hanna OBE** her thesis that medicine fails women in her book *This Won't Hurt*. Phew! – and that's just day one!

Fans of Bernie Marsden will have been devastated to learn of his death on August 24th and the Literary Festival is deeply saddened not to be able to hear him chatting with Bob Harris.

Also starting on **Saturday 21st** (perfectly timed for Half Term) is the free **Harry Potter Trail** for children. Pick up a free map from the library and start hunting. Among other free events for children, **Funnybones** promises some spooky fun at the Vale and Dowland Museum on **Wednesday 25th**. (Free but you need to book in advance). Tom Fletcher's interactive musical **There's a Monster in your Show** isn't free but would be a fabulous treat for your own little monsters.

The Festival runs until November 4th (although **John Wright** will be encouraging you to walk) and local authors always feature in the programme. Don't miss the Festival's own **Mike White**, "the Wantage ghost walk guy", who takes us on a tour of the weird and wonderful in Oxfordshire.

If all this is making you thirsty, fortunately there's a **Rum Tasting** and a **Sherry Tasting** as well.

Such a wide variety of fascinating events to enjoy – far too many to list here so please visit www.wantageliteraryfestival.co.uk to see the whole programme and book your tickets without delay. If you'd like a printed brochure, phone Vivien McCoubrey on 01235 762253.



Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

Work parties continue in the Community Nature Reserve on the third Saturday in the month, 21 October, from 13:30 to 16:30. Please meet near the lake notice board by 13:20 for the tasks and safety briefing. Tools will be provided, and refreshments too mid-afternoon, but please take your own work gloves. At the Wildlife Discovery event on the Community Reserve in August getting close up to bats proved to be popular when they emerged in the late afternoon. One visiting family whose grandparents are retired clergy commented that bats had been a huge concern during their working lives.

Bats have used churches for their temporary maternity colonies in the summer months for centuries. About 6,000 of Britain's old churches have been estimated to contain bat roosts; 'bats in the belfry' was once a well-known phrase but in reality the belfry is a noisy and draughty place. Maternity colonies are more often found in the warm, southerly parts of a church roof. The roof spaces might almost have been designed with bats in mind, thanks to their many exits and dark corners, perfect for nursing mothers and their babies to hide in. Common and soprano pipistrelles are the most frequent lodgers in churches, including St. Andrew's though the bats here usually only use the roof space for roosting and winter hibernation as well as the churchyard for roosting in the trees and insect hunting. A single pipistrelle can eat 3,000 tiny insects in one night. Pipistrelles are the UK's smallest bat and almost always roost in eaves or under hanging tiles or wooden cladding on the outside of buildings. Between 2019 and 2022, Bats in Churches ran an ambitious citizen science project to gain a better understanding of how bats were using churches across England. Of 753 churches surveyed, more than 55% had evidence of bat activity either as droppings or as acoustic data recorded over two nights.

Bats are the only flying mammal and suckle their young, one per female, for several weeks. The bone structure in their arms is similar to humans though the hand bones are longer. A soft, elastic membrane of skin stretched over the arm and leg bones forms the wing. Skimming over the water in the Community Nature



Reserve in the summer evenings, Daubenton Bats (left), sometimes referred to as the 'water bat', use their feet and tail to scoop midges, caddisflies and mayflies from the water's surface. Daubenton bats rarely roost in houses but stay near water under bridges or in tunnels and in tree holes. Males or non-breeding females sometimes aggregate during the summer to form their own communal roosts, but also may join maternity colonies from late spring to October. The average colony size is between 20 to 50 bats. Mating takes place in the autumn and active males will continue to seek out and mate with females throughout the winter. Their winter hibernation will be underground in hollows, caves, tunnels and

mines when their body temperature drops and their heart beat slows to a few beats per minute. Daubenton bats can live up to 22 years but the average lifespan is four to five years.

All British bats need a continuous supply of insects for food throughout the year. Having a diverse range of trees, shrubs, grasses and flowers to provide food plants for caterpillars and other insects benefits bats and keeping hard garden landscaping, such as decking and gravel, to a minimum increases the habitat available. Don't clear away all the dead plant material as summer comes to an end – caterpillars and pupae may overwinter in them. Why not plan ahead for next year's garden plants? Food plants for moth caterpillars include currants, hawthorn, hazel, holly, and ivy while scented herbs like chives, borage, lemon balm, marjoram and mints attract insects. Night-scented flowers to attract moths and other night-flying insects include Sweet rocket, Night-scented stock, Evening primrose, Soapwort, Hebe, Honeysuckles, White Jasmine, Sweetbriar, Dog and Field rose, Nicotiana and Miss Willmott's Ghost (*Eryngium giganteum*). Miss Willmott was a friend and contemporary of Gertrude Jekyll and one of the first women to be awarded the RHS's Victoria Medal of Honour in 1897. She was known as a hybridizer of various plant species, most notably narcissus, and was famous for her book on roses, *The Genus Rosa*. The name Miss Willmott's Ghost refers to her alleged habit of scattering seed around her friends' gardens to pop up later as an uninvited, ghostly reminder of her visit. Enjoy Halloween!



Football Club

A pleasing start to the season. We opened our league programme with a narrow 1-0 win at home to Ardley development. We then traveled to play Highworth reserves and won 7-1, and followed this with a convincing 11-1 win at home to Kidlington development. We were away to Kintbury, top of the Wiltshire Senior league, in the Berks & Bucks cup, and conceded a stoppage time goal to lose 2-1. We drew 1-1 at home to Oxford City development in the Hellenic cup but won the match on penalties, and then drew 3-3 in the league away to Didcot Town development. The league will be very competitive this season with six good teams, but we are one of those.

Home fixtures in October are :

Saturday	7th	Letcombe Reserves	v to be arranged	2.00
Saturday	14th	Letcombe Reserves	v to be arranged	2.00
Saturday	21st	Letcombe	v Kidlington	3.00
Saturday	28th	Letcombe	v North Leigh development	3.00



LETCOMBE FILM CLUB

Letcombe Regis Village Hall,
Wednesday 11th October 15
 Tickets £6 Doors open 7.30pm
 Film starts at 8.00 pm

Refreshments on sale - Wine, Beer and Tea/Coffee

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Letcombes WI

We have a change of plan this month. Our original speaker is unfortunately unable to make it, so we very luckily have got Emily Kent to come and tell us all about her experiences at the South Korean Jamboree. This should be quite exciting – things didn't go quite as planned! - so we hope to see you all in the Village Hall on October 9th



Issue 218

Letcombes Gardening Club

Topical Tips

We are now in mid autumn. Days are much shorter and the weather not quite so kind. However, with the colder weather comes the amazing autumn colour. With this in mind it may be a good idea to assess whether your garden could do with brightening up and could accommodate a new tree. There are plenty of options for the smaller garden.

You should definitely be on the watch for cold nights this month and make sure your tender plants are moved inside.

Every year I tell you not to not wear yourself out by completely scalping your garden. Tidying up can be a gradual process as some seed heads look wonderful in the winter and can provide food for birds. You only need to remove anything that's gone horrible and mushy!

If you're into spring bedding then you can get planting now. You can also continue to plant spring bulbs.

If you're enjoying all the planting then it's also a good time to plant new herbaceous perennials as the soil is still warm.

If you usually lift your dahlias then wait until the first frosts turn them black. You can try leaving them in the ground if you wish as long as you planted them deep in the first place and you mulch them.

This is the last chance to cut deciduous hedges so make sure you get the job done. You can also cut back by half any shrubs that you normally hard prune in the spring, to prevent wind rock. Examples of this are buddleja, cornus and lavatera, although go gently with cornus as they provide amazing winter stem colour.

Now everyone knows that I'm not a great 'lawn person' but I realise I need to give lawns a bit of 'air time'. The message is leaf raking! Not a fun job I know but a necessary one. You can also treat your lawns to an autumn feed. Don't use any left over summer feed you have!! This contains too much nitrogen and will give you lush but vulnerable growth.

On the subject of fruit and veg, make sure you harvest your squash before they get caught by the frost. The same goes for any outdoor tomatoes. They won't ripen outside now anyway.

If you are into digging then don't try and sieve it as if you're trying to make a Victoria sponge, leave it in lumps and the frost will do the job for you!

Last winter we had a really prolonged cold spell. Be prepared to protect your crops, like perpetual spinach and chard, with fleece this year so that you don't lose them.

I don't have much to say about fruit but you can plant new rhubarb crowns and divide old ones now. I know, I can hear you shout "rhubarb is not a fruit" but we still tend to use it mostly for pies and crumbles!!

On that note I'll sign off and wish you a happy gardening October!

Letcombes Gardening Club

After a great talk last month I'd like to invite everyone to come along to our meeting this month when we will be listening to Ray Broughton talking on the subject of "Vegetable/Herb Gardens". Maybe it will encourage more of you to try your hand at growing your own! The meeting will take place on Wednesday 18 October at 7.30pm in Letcombe Regis Village Hall. I hope to see you there. Non-members welcome.

St Andrew's



The Harvest Festival service of Holy Communion took place on Sunday 10th September – in the middle of the hottest few days of the year! – and was very well attended. The church was beautifully decorated with flowers and vegetables and fruit which made for a festive atmosphere. We are grateful to all those who created the arrangements

which gave pleasure to everyone else. The Revd Ness Brunner-Ellis presided and in place of a sermon Melanie Griffith told us about the work of Harvest for the Hungry which is part of the Transform Europe Network. This charity, which has been supported by St Andrew's for many years, provides food parcels, mostly in Eastern Europe, to those who have very little. The money from our collection went to this charity and they have received £351.00. Susan Eden told us that the non-perishable food that had been given by the congregation would go to the Wantage food bank. Susan has heard since how grateful they are for our groceries. The perishable food went to Stirling's Care Home. After the service we were able to enjoy a glass of Prosecco thanks to Jonathan and Mary Harrison.

On 24th September the bells rang out to call us to church for the lay-led service. As it happened it wasn't lay-led as the Revd Mary Harwood presided, reminding us of how lucky we are to have her here. Mary mentioned that we are looking for church members to join the rota to help with the preparation of the church for services, especially Communion. This involves making sure that the wine and wafers are ready, and that the chalice, patten and linen are out. Training is given and it is quite a simple task. Please contact Mary Harwood or Debbie Webb if you would like to know more.

The services in St Andrew's will be continuing as before, shown as usual in The Signpost. A reminder that the services on Sundays begin now at 10.15 am. Looking ahead, starting on Wednesday 1st November there will be a short service of Holy Communion at 11 am in St Andrew's and this will be every week.

Letcombe Sports and Social Club



Photo Credit - Mike Price

The nights are drawing in, but you will find welcoming lights on at the Sports & Social Club on Thursdays and Fridays. With the Football season now well under way, the Club will generally be open on Saturdays as well. Those used to walking around the Recreation Ground will also know that the Club is often open on Sunday afternoons as well.

We have been showing some of the Rugby World Cup matches - those on the membership email list get regular updates. As the tournament progresses, we all hope that the Home Nations will continue to be successful, although Scotland have their work cut out being in the "Group of Death" with Ireland and South Africa.

Bonfire Night is only around the corner. The Clubhouse will be open for that and all will be welcome.

As ever, if anyone has any questions about the Sports and Social Club, or would like to join, then please contact the secretary on letcombesportsclub@gmail.com.

Richard
Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club



The Letcombes Conservation Group

Autumn has arrived and most people are looking forward to a rest from mowing the lawn. Now is a good time to consider how your garden lawn could benefit wildlife by preparing for some pollinator-friendly flowers next spring, even if it is in just a patch of the grass. The UK has lost over 97% of its wildflower meadows in the past century, so every extra wildflower or spring bulb will provide a boost to our pollinating insects! A useful booklet which covers the many benefits of areas of wildflower grass and sowing wildflowers now is available at: [230306 RSWT Wild about Lawns Booklet 2023 web no logo.pdf \(wildaboutgardens.org.uk\)](https://www.wildaboutgardens.org.uk/230306-RSWT-Wild%20about%20Lawns-Booklet%202023-web-no-logo.pdf). Some will not need sowing; one point made in the booklet is *'The difference between weeds and wildflowers is just a matter of perspective – embrace the daisies, dandelions, clovers and other naturally flowering plants and you won't see a weed in sight'*. Those dandelions are a vital early source of nectar for bees coming out of hibernation so leave them to flower in early spring. A wildflower patch benefits bees, butterflies and other insects which in turn attract birds that will also hunt for earthworms. Even Tawny owls may visit your lawn to catch earthworms.

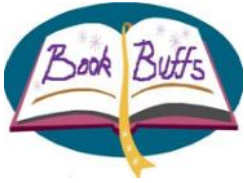
The evening call of owls is an autumnal feature of the village, perhaps one of the most evocative is that of *Strix aluco*, the Tawny or Brown owl, right photo credit: Barry Forbes (CC BY-SA 2.0), linked to winter by Shakespeare in *Love's Labour's Lost*, *'Then nightly sings the staring owl, Tu-whit; Tu-who, a merry note'*. Tawny owls nest in tree hollows and are highly territorial ranging between 30 and 50 acres. Their diet is very varied, which makes them adaptable to hunting rodents, stoat, rabbit, bats, birds up to the size of pigeon and even smaller owls. Barn owls (left), named due to roosting in barns, also frequent the village surroundings hunting for mice, voles and shrews, but also larger mammals and small birds. Commonly called the screech owl due to their call, they also hiss and produce other strange sounds. This white, soft-feathered owl, hence named *Tyto alba*, has almost silent flight aided by a relatively light body and large wings. Males and females are very hard to distinguish,



although females sometimes have darker feathers on the edge of the facial disc, and darker bars on the tail and are also slightly heavier than males. Owls' eyesight is very good and allows them to see in extremely low-light conditions relying on starlight alone which makes them efficient hunters, especially combined with the remarkable hearing of Barn owls. Owl eyes are large and forward-facing; the eye sockets make up about 70% of the skull. To look around, owls have a flexible neck which can rotate through around 270 degrees because the eyes are held in an almost fixed position within a rigid tube to maximise the size and brightness of the image falling on the retina. The ears of owls are positioned asymmetrically in most species, with the left lower than the right

and not in the same vertical plane, creating a small separation between the sound receptions which allows accurate location of the source. The feathers of an owl's facial disc are also specially adapted around the ear opening to channel sound. Any Long-eared owls, named from long feathers since the ears are internal structures, and Short-eared owls in our area will usually be spotted away from the village. Further details on owls and recordings of their different calls are available at [Owl identification - what owl was that? - The Barn Owl Trust](https://www.barnowltrust.org.uk/owls-identification-what-owl-was-that/) .

Halloween images often feature a large owl perched high in a tree illuminated by a full moon. In Roman mythology the owl was a bird of ill omen, the Latin 'strix' meaning owl and also 'witch in the form of an owl'. The Roman concept of witches transforming into owls may have come from the myth of the harpy, a creature with the torso of a woman and legs and wings of a predatory bird. In contrast, Greek culture revered owls as symbolic of knowledge and insight, the Greek goddess of wisdom, Athena, was often depicted with an owl companion. Certainly an owl still represents a 'Queen of the Night' as in antiquity (see tablet of 1800BCE [plaque | British Museum](https://www.britishmuseum.org/learn/our-collections/objects/1800bce-plaque)).



Book Buffs

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

We shall be reviewing 'Apple Tree Yard' by Louise Doughty.

The new library book is 'The Mermaid of Black Conch' by Monique Roffey, the alternative being 'A Terrible Kindness' by Jo Browning Wroe.



British Summer Time ends on 29th October at 2 am.

You will need to put your clocks back by one hour

Letcombe Regis Village Hall and Recreation ground committee



The annual bonfire and fireworks will be on Saturday November 4th at the Recreation Ground and we hope you will come and join us. There will be a barbecue from 5pm and the Pavilion bar will be open during the evening. Barbecue sales will be a token system and tokens can be purchased on the night by card at the Pavilion bar. Sparklers will be available on the terrace outside the Pavilion for cash purchase.

There will be the usual bucket collection on the night towards Recreation Ground funds and we thank those villagers who have already made donations in advance of the event. Anyone wishing to make a donation can do so by cash or cheque payable to Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall sent to The Hollies, South Street or by Bank Transfer to the account number 73705390, Sort Code 20-84-58 reference Fireworks.

Please take any wood for the bonfire to the riding arena a week or so before the event - only things that can easily be burnt! A roped off area will be arranged.

Please join us for a great family evening and enjoy yourself and support the village.

Gordon Lundie
Chair of the committee

LETCOMBE REGIS RECREATION GROUND

BONFIRE & FIREWORKS

Saturday 4th November
Bonfire 6.30 pm
Fireworks 7.00pm

- Entrance FREE
(there will be a bucket collection in aid of Recreation Ground funds)
- BBQ from 5 pm
- Sports Pavilion open for drinks
- Sparklers on sale

Financially supported by the Parish Council.
Organised by the Letcombe Regis Recreation Ground and Village Hall Management Committee

COME AND ENJOY YOURSELVES!



Singing Workshop & Concert - 13th October

Join soulful folk singer-songwriters Lisa Doscher and Lea Morris for an evening of so ng! Come at 5:30 for a singing workshop with Lea and have a chance to learn her original harmony songs, drawing on her Baptist Gospel tradition; all levels welcome.

After a short break join Lea and Lisa for a concert from 7:30.

Come to both or just the concert, details and tickets at <https://snappytickets.co.uk/events/an-evening-with-lea-morris-and-lisa-doscher/> or scan the QR code on the adjacent poster.

The poster is split into two horizontal sections. The top section features Lea Morris, a woman with glasses and a pink shirt, holding a harmonica. Text on the left reads 'LEA MORRIS' vertically. Text on the right says 'AN EVENING WITH' at the top, followed by 'Singing workshop with Lea Morris From 5:30-7 pm Concert at 7:30 pm' and 'Letcombe Regis Village Hall Wantage, OX12 9LJ'. The bottom section features Lisa Doscher, a woman with short brown hair, sitting on the grass with an acoustic guitar. Text on the left reads '13TH OCTOBER' and '5:30-9:00 PM' vertically. Text on the right says 'AND LISA DOSCHER' at the top, followed by a QR code.

Film Club

The Outfit (15) Wednesday 11 October

This month's film is an old school thriller to keep you on the edge of your seats. Set in Chicago in 1956 '*The Outfit*' tells the story of an English tailor, Leonard Burling, who learned his trade in Saville Row before leaving England after the war and ended up in Chicago. He opened a tailors shop and developed his business supplying smart suits to mobsters, and providing a post box for their illegal earnings.

Although not based entirely on a true story, real events have helped to inspire the plot. The cast has several great British actors including the brilliant Mark Rylance who gives a faultless performance as Leonard, Simon Russell Beale plays Roy Boyle the mobster boss, with Johnny Flynn and Nikki Amuka Bird in the supporting cast. The film is directed by Graham Moore, his first in the directors chair. He is best known for writing the '*The Imitation Game*', the excellent film about Alan Turing.

The Outfit has had great reviews from both audiences and critics, with one critic calling it, "a smart drama with mystery, finesse and a shocking amount of heart". Hope you can come along to enjoy it.

Just to note, *The Outfit* is rated 15 as it contains violence and bad language.

Doors open at 7.30pm, the film starts at 8pm. Entrance £6 (cash only). Come along early and enjoy refreshments and a chat.



The Tennis Club has been busy over the summer both playing tennis but also socially.

On Wimbledon men's singles final day, the mix-in session was followed by a shared lunch with strawberries and Pimms then the final on the big screen in the Pavilion.

We had a wonderful send off for one of our much loved and keen members, Lidia Dhone who has left for New Zealand. A large number of members and villagers enjoyed lunch and a drink with her at the pavilion preceded by about 20 members playing with her in a mini tournament. It ended with Lidia taking us all on in a game of champions – needless to say, she won, and we wish her luck in her next adventure.

Our next event is the **Autumn Tournament on 15th October at 10.00am**. This will be followed by a buffet lunch. Please phone Anne (763969) if you would like to take part.

Coaching, run by our LTA accredited level 4 coach, takes place every Saturday. **NTA have a special offer of 6 weeks for £10** so well worth giving it a go. Details are here: https://nationaltennis.org.uk/locations/southoxon/#home_8857 Adult cardio is at 10am followed by junior coaching with 5-7s at 11am, 8-10s at 12am and 14-17s at 1pm.

Walking Tennis takes place on **Thursday mornings from 11am**, playing a slower game with orange balls. Please phone or text Geoff on 07772 518938 to join the WhatsApp group and find out more. Our mix-in sessions on **Sunday mornings at 10am** are still very popular.

Indoor Tennis at the courts in Abingdon will start again over the winter and will be monthly on a Tuesday evening from November to February. More details next month.

The courts will be open on **Thursday and Friday 26th and 27th October** as part of the LRRG&VH Trust agreement to allow all villagers free access to the courts. There are a few racquets and balls available but contact Sue (07771 800534) for further details.

Membership package fees will be halved from 1st of October. To join, please see our web site <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/letcombetennisclub>

Thanks to Geoff and helpers, the courts have been cleaned and the white lines on one court repainted with court two to be done shortly.

Finally, two dates for your diaries. Our **AGM will be on 14th November at 8pm** in the **Greyhound** and we are running a **Quiz night with Big Dave on Friday 24th November, 7.30 for 8pm in Letcombe Village Hall**. More details next month.

A note from Catriona and Martyn:



THE GREYHOUND INN

We are proud to announce that The Greyhound Inn has this week been awarded 2 Rosettes for our restaurant by the AA as well as a Special Breakfast Award and a 4 Star Gold rating for our accommodation. After nearly 8 years of running the pub we are so delighted to be able to provide this high quality service for the village and beyond. Our staff are our greatest asset and we are very proud of our team and what they have achieved together.

Do drop in to sample our menu, have a drink or invite visiting friends to stay over knowing that they will be well looked after. And if you fancy breakfast out, you can book with us any day of the week from 8-9:30am. There are some places still available for our Autumn Tasting Menu on October 19th.

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

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)

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

To submit an article please contact:
 Francesca Engelmann,
 2, The Old Stables,
 Letcombe Regis,
 OX12 9LD
Register@oldstableyard.co.uk
 01235 769310

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

October 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		12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					
Grey Landfill Food waste				Green recycling Food waste Brown Garden Waste		