



The Letcombe Register



Issue 220

December 2023

VILLAGE DIARY

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun							
				1	Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	2	Tennis Cardio 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11-2 Football 2pm	3	Tennis Mixer 10am				
4	Evensong 3pm Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Village Hall	5	Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)	6	Tennis Mix in Session 10am - 1pm <u>Holy Communion</u> 11am St Andrew's	7	Ladies Pilates 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	8	Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	9	Tennis Cardio 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11-2	10	Tennis Mixer 10am <u>Holy Communion</u> 10.15am St Andrew's Greyhound Inn 'Festive Jumper' Quiz Night Big Dave 8 pm
11	Evensong 3pm Voices of the Vale Christmas Concert 6 pm Richmond WI Social (Invitation only) 7.30 pm Village Hall	12	Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)	13	Tennis Mix in Session 10am - 1pm <u>Holy Communion</u> 11am St Andrew's Film Club 'Champions' 8.00pm Village Hall	14	Morning Prayer 9.15am Ladies Pilates 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	15	Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	16	Tennis Cardio 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11-2 Nature Reserve Work Party 1.30 - 4.30pm	17	Tennis Mixer 10am Carol Service 6 pm St Andrew's
18	Evensong 3pm Parish Council Meeting 7.00pm Village Hall (WR) Voices of the Vale 7.30-9 pm Village Hall	19	Yoga w Beth 0945-1045 Village Hall (please book)	20	Tennis Mix in Session 10am - 1pm <u>Holy Communion</u> 11am St Andrew's	21	Ladies Pilates 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	22	Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	23	Tennis Cardio 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11-2	24	Tennis Mixer 10am
25	Collection change <u>Holy Communion</u> 10.15am St Andrew's Merry Christmas!	26		27	Tennis mixer 10am - 1pm <u>Holy Communion</u> 11am St Andrew's	28	Morning Prayer 9.15am Ladies Pilates 9.30am Village Hall Yoga w Diana 11.15-12.30 Village Hall	29	Men's Pilates 9.30am Village Hall	30	Tennis Cardio 10am Junior Tennis Coaching 11-2	31	Tennis Mixer 10am Benefice Holy Communion 10.15am St Andrew's

Register Deadline

*Events in the Diary rely on information received. They are underlined if a link is available for an e-mail or website. Elsewhere links are provided but not necessarily underlined.

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Issue 220

Message from the Parish Council

**The Parish Council wish everyone a Happy Festive Season,
and a Healthy Peaceful New Year.**

The next Parish Council meeting is on Monday 18th December at 7pm in the Warborough Room of the Village Hall, all are welcome to attend.



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



[Click HERE to sign up for Matthew Barber](#)
[TVP Police & Crime Commissioner info.](#)



Don't fall prey to loan sharks this Christmas

Read on our website: news.oxfordshire.gov.uk/dont-fall-prey-to-loan-sharksthis-christmas

Residents are being warned by Oxfordshire County Council not to turn to loan sharks, who will be seeking to prey on people who are struggling financially in the lead up to, during and after the Christmas period.

Illegal lenders or loan sharks, as they are more commonly known, are people who lend money without authorisation from the Financial Conduct Authority.

Borrowers generally won't receive any paperwork and the lender will add high interest on top of the amount borrowed. If payments are not made, coercive controlling methods may be used and in some cases violence, keeping people in an endless spiral of debt that is very hard to get out of.

Councillor **Dr Nathan Ley**, **Oxfordshire County Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health, Inequalities and Community Safety**, said: "During the Christmas period, many families facing extra financial pressure may feel tempted to borrow money to make ends meet or to cover the costs of Christmas.

"No matter how tempting it may seem, a loan shark is never the answer. They target vulnerable or desperate people who may feel they have nowhere else to go. People get trapped in a cycle of debt with exorbitant interest rates and can face intimidation and threats of violence.

"There are plenty of well established, safe and legal organisations such as credit unions that can help people access affordable loans. There is also plenty of information about support available to help with living costs on our website." Jody Kerman, Head of Trading Standards at Oxfordshire County Council, said: "Unfortunately, many illegal lenders seek to exploit and cash in on those struggling over the festival period. They do untold damage to families and communities. We must do all we can to prevent loan sharks from ruining lives."

Find out more about loan sharks, and support available to those who need it by visiting the [Illegal Money Lending Team \(IMLT\)'s website](#).

Residents can report loan sharks by calling 0300 555 2222.

Dog Owners



Please everyone just a friendly reminder to clear up after your dog, especially in areas where children may be playing. Bags can be disposed of in the red dog bin by the recreation ground and the green waste bins situated round the village as well as your grey non recycling bin at home.

By taking these simple steps the village can continue to be enjoyed by all.



Jacqueline and Neil McLaurin wish all their friends and neighbours in the village a very joyful Christmas and a happy, healthy New Year



Wishing all my friends in the village a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year
Doug Frewer



Greetings for Christmas and the New year to all my village friends from Ruth Manning

Iain and Vivi McCoubrey wish all their friends Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year



Jean English wishes her friends and neighbours in Letcombe a very Happy Christmas.

Judy Vaughan-Williams wishes Letcombe friends a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



Ann Seth remembers her old Letcombe friends and sends them Christmas greetings



Patrick and Jane Cable-Alexander wish all their friends in the village and in Richmond, a very happy Christmas and New Year.



JOHN and SUE PESKETT Wish all their friends in the village a very HAPPYCHRISTMAS and NEW YEAR

Mike and Loretta Light wish their village friends and neighbours a very Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.



John and Alison Robinson wish their village friends Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



Clive and Alison Phillips
Wish Everyone a Joyful Christmas
And a Happy New Year



KEN AND FREDDIE TROTTER SEND CHRISTMAS GREETINGS TO ALL OUR FRIENDS IN LETCOMBE

Jeanne and Stephen and Family wish all of our friends in Letcombe Regis a Very Happy Christmas and Peaceful and Healthy New Year



Ceci and David Allchin wish all their village friends, and neighbours a very Happy. Christmas and New Year



Merry Christmas to all our readers, advertisers and contributors. With very best wishes for a successful New Year



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[Mention The Letcombe Register when you call]

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CONVERSION TO WINDOWS 10?**
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Vale of White Horse Free car parking on the following Saturdays

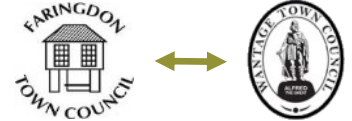
Abingdon: 2, 9 and 16 December

Faringdon: 2, 9 and 16 December

Wantage: 9, 16 and 23 December

On the selected days there's no need to display a ticket, however maximum stay times still apply in specific car parks.

The car park machines will also indicate free parking.



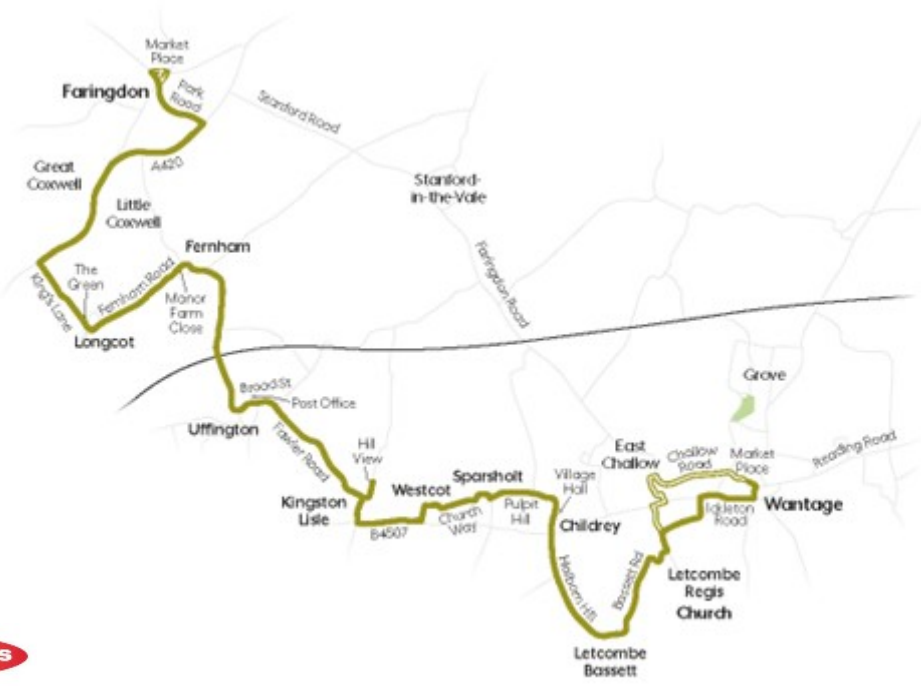
Vale of White Horse **New Bus Service 68** commencing 27th November (not on Sundays)

between **Faringdon** and **Wantage**
via **Longcot, Uffington, Childrey & The Letcombes**

68

Mondays to Saturdays <small>except Public Holidays</small>				Mondays to Saturdays <small>except Public Holidays</small>	
Faringdon Market Place	0740	0930	1130	1430	
Longcot Green	0750	0940	1140	1440	
Fernham Manor Farm Close	0754	0944	1144	1444	
Uffington Post Office	0801	0951	1151	1451	
Kingston Lisle Hill View	0806	0956	1156	1456	
Kingston Lisle Telephone Box	0807	0957	1157	1457	
Westcot Letter Box	0811	1001	1201	1501	
Sparsholt Bus Shelter	0813	1003	1203	1503	
Childrey Village Hall	0817	1007	1207	1507	
Letcombe Bassett Gramps Hill	0823	1013	1213	1513	
Letcombe Regis Church	0825	1015	1215	1515	
East Challow Sarjac Avenue	▼	1019	1219	▼	
Wantage Market Place	0833	1024	1224	1523	
No service on Sundays & Public Holidays					

Wantage Market Place	1230	1530	1730
East Challow Sarjac Avenue	1235	1535	▼
Letcombe Regis Church	1239	1539	1735
Letcombe Bassett Gramps Hill	1242	1542	1738
Childrey Village Hall	1248	1548	1744
Sparsholt Bus Shelter	1252	1552	1748
Westcot Letter Box	1254	1554	1750
Kingston Lisle Telephone Box	1258	1558	1754
Kingston Lisle Hill View	1259	1559	1755
Uffington Post Office	0900	1304	1604
Fernham Manor Farm Close	0907	1311	1611
Longcot Green	0911	1315	1615
Faringdon Market Place	0921	1325	1625
No service on Sundays & Public Holidays			



200 Club Draw — No 9		December 2023
Christmas Prize Draw		
84	Rita HANRAHAN	£100
169	Nigel BEDFORD	£50
138	David & Judi WILDE	£25
49	Anne WILLIAMS	£15
188	Tony PRIOR	£10
193	Dominic LAMB	£5
Special Draw:		
7	Mike ROWE	£50
186	Val YATES	£25
184	Eileen McKEEVER	£20
218	Mike WHEELHOUSE	£15
91	Steve & Anne WILSON	£10
52	Ian JOHNSON	£10
98	Anne JONES	£10
New Numbers Draw		
84	Rita HANRAHAN	£25
244	Rachael RUANE	£5

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5th Feb and 19th Feb 2024

Letcombe Regis Village Hall
Bassett Rd, Letcombe Regis
Wantage OX12 9LJ

For more information please contact Millie:
e: millie@milliestone.com



LETCOMBE FILM CLUB
Letcombe Regis Village Hall,
Wednesday 13th December
Tickets £6 Doors open 7.30pm
Film starts at 8.00 pm
Refreshments on sale - Wine, Beer and Tea/Coffee

Christmas RAFFLE
BUY YOUR TICKETS HERE

Draw to take place
22nd December at Bingo Evening
To be eligible for Bingo -
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Contact the Secretary:
letcombesportsclub@gmail.com

ORIGINAL LETCOMBE CLUB - KING OF BARS - ORIGINAL
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Football Club

November was a very successful month for the football club with a 100% record from three games. The Letcombe pitch has proper drainage installed almost 20 years ago with the help of a grant from the Football Foundation. This has meant that the pitch was playable despite the wet weather, and is probably why the league gave us four consecutive home fixtures. Our thanks also to groundsman Dennis Stock for the many hours he has spent on the pitch.

We started the month with a 5-0 victory against Bourton Rovers in the Division Two Challenge cup, and then beat Swindon Supermarine development 3-0 in the league. This was an excellent result as they beat us to the title last season. We beat North Leigh development 4-2 in the Hellenic challenge cup, coming back from a two goal deficit. This was pleasing as our only defeat this season was to the same opponents a month ago. This cup is open to all the Premier and Division One sides, so we are likely to face a difficult match in the next round with the possibility of a long journey. We are now second in the league, and face the leaders Thame 'A' in our next match.

Home fixtures in December are :

Saturday	2 nd	Letcombe	v	Easington Sports development	League	2.00
Saturday	9 th	Letcombe	v	Wantage Town development	League	2.00

Book Buffs



The next meeting will be held in the Greyhound on Thursday 7th December at 8pm.

We shall be reviewing *'Past Imperfect'* by Julian Fellowes. The new library book is *'Walking Home'* by Simon Armitage, the alternative being *'Dear Life'* by Rachel Clarke.

We wish everyone a happy and peaceful Christmas with plenty of time to enjoy your Christmas reading.

Riding Club News



Our unique community riding facility needs you!

Have you got great organisation, communication and IT skills and a proactive and 'can do' attitude? If so, we would love your help in keeping our lovely riding facility ticking over.

We are so fortunate to have this wonderful asset in the village which was first established in 1977. It provides a safe place for riders of all ages and abilities to come and exercise and school their horses and have some fun in a quiet and safe environment.

Great progress has been made in the past few years enhancing the facility with an all weather arena, cross country schooling jumps as well as a grass dressage area (planned for the Spring). Due to retirement we need a couple of people to join the small, friendly, dedicated team of volunteers who oversee the facility and be part of the next generation taking it forward. Knowing the front end of a horse from the back is useful, but not essential!

Please contact Lindsey if you can help. letcomberegisridingclub@gmail.com or 07957 598706



Letcombes Gardening Club

Topical Tips

Well I can't believe it's December already! As usual it's gone so fast. It has definitely been a good growing year, largely due to the volume of rain we've had! The plants have been so grateful and so have us gardeners as we haven't had to be watering all the time.

I usually allow you to put your feet up a bit more this month and enjoy the festivities but a bit of fresh air will certainly clear the head so I'll try and come up with a few tasks to tempt you out.

I say this every year but if you have a grape vine then you should prune it before Christmas to prevent it bleeding. However the same applies for acers and birches so don't miss the boat there! You can also start to prune open grown apples and pears.

You can still plant and transplant trees and shrubs now (note to self as I have some that need putting in the ground).

You can gradually continue to tidy up herbaceous perennials but there's no need to rush this. Just get rid of any that no longer look 'aesthetically pleasing'!

If you leave any plants in pots outside all winter you may want to insulate the pots with bubble wrap or hessian to prevent cracking. It will save you money next year.

If you have any deciduous trees, shrubs and hedging pruning can be carried out now. It's easier with no leaves! Don't do Prunus (ornamental cherries, plums, almonds) though as you risk silver leaf disease. Take a moment to check any tree ties you may have. It's easy to forget this and the poor tree ends up being strangled.

Lets move inside for a bit now. Make sure you don't overwater your houseplants. Most should be kept only just moist and plants like cacti should be given virtually no water. Clivias likewise go dormant over winter so need virtually no water and lower light levels. I keep my clivias in a heated greenhouse under the staging.

If you are given any cyclamen as a pot plant then these prefer a cool room and good light. Be careful with the watering as watering from above can lead to fungal infection.

Just a little snippet about lawns because, as you know, I don't 'do' lawns very often! If your lawn is getting muddy due to being walked on then check where the popular 'routes' are, lay stepping stones level with the grass and 'encourage' people to use them!

I've left veg until last because, to be honest, this is where I can really tell you to take a little sabbatical. Obviously if you have winter veg then you should continue harvesting but otherwise just sit by the Christmas tree, have a little tittle and dream of the good season to come!

I think that's all for now so the topical tips lady and her husband would just like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas. Enjoy!



The Letcombes Conservation Group

On 22 November all Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in England and Wales were renamed as National Landscapes to reflect their national importance in contributing to the protection of the nation from the threats of climate change and nature depletion, whilst also creating greater understanding and awareness for the work that they do. The vision is for National Landscapes to be the leading exemplars of how thriving, diverse communities can



work with and for nature: restoring ecosystems, providing food, storing carbon to mitigate the effects of climate change, safeguarding against drought and flooding, whilst also nurturing people’s health and wellbeing. The new logo for the North Wessex Downs National Landscape depicts the best known landscape icon in the North Wessex Downs - the Uffington White Horse - and

the big skies above the chalk downs.

There are 46 National Landscapes in the UK, covering 14% of England, Wales and Northern Ireland including moorland, farmland, coast, forests, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, Biosphere Reserves, a Geopark and International Dark Sky Reserves. Their size and scope ideally position National Landscapes to address the environmental issues the UK is facing. They are the nearest countryside to most of the population with 66% of people in England (44 million) living within 30 minutes of a National Landscape and at least 170 million people visit them every year. By 2030 National Landscapes aim to have at least 200,000 hectares (about 1¼ times the size of London) of the most valuable natural areas (i.e. Sites of Special Scientific Interest or SSSIs) in a favourable condition; 100,000 hectares (about nine times the size of Manchester) of newly created or restored wildlife-rich habitat outside SSSIs; and 36,000 hectares (a little smaller than the Isle of Wight) of newly planted or regenerated woodland. These areas of habitat restoration will ensure the protection of some of our most endangered species.

The Director of North Wessex Downs National Landscape, Henry Oliver greeted the new phase for our National Landscapes: *“Third-largest of the UK’s National Landscapes, the North Wessex Downs has it all: from characterful villages and sparkling chalk streams, through farmland wildlife and ancient woodland to the high chalk downs. Perhaps most special of all is the sheer richness of ancient monuments and landscapes that still survive, thousands of years after they were shaped by our prehistoric ancestors.*

Each of our National Landscapes is unique and distinct, looked after by a locally accountable partnership. But we’re also part of a network of natural beauty that spans the whole country. Nature doesn’t take any notice of designation boundaries. By working together as a national network we can achieve much more than we ever could by working alone. National Landscapes are protected for the nation – a glorious part of our heritage but also vital to our future. Calling ourselves National Landscapes emphasises these areas’ national importance, deserving of the highest protection. Excitingly, it also represents our collective mission to collaborate as a network for natural beauty, on behalf of everyone.” Photo: Big skies over the North Wessex Downs near Lambourn.



Nature recovery was the theme at the annual forum on 31 October focussed on the newly published ‘Nature Recovery Plan’ for the North Wessex Downs. This document sets out the status of key habitats, including hedgerows and ponds, and identifies species of particular significance that occur within this National Landscape. It identifies actions, targets and practical opportunities to reverse the declines and losses experienced over recent decades by recognising habitat vulnerability to climate change and suggesting measures that will help our key habitats to be more resilient to increasing global temperatures and changing weather patterns. Download the Nature Recovery Plan from: [NWD-AONB-Nature-Recovery-Plan-Version-1-Sept23.pdf \(northwessexdowns.org.uk\)](https://www.northwessexdowns.org.uk/NWD-AONB-Nature-Recovery-Plan-Version-1-Sept23.pdf) for further information. How marvellous to end this year on a note of optimism for the conservation of wildlife and the marvellous countryside in which we are fortunate to live.

[Have a very merry, wildlife-friendly Christmas and an environmentally-focussed 2024.](#)

Temporary Road Closure - Jan 15 Issue 220



TRAFFIC REGULATION NOTICE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT, 1984

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Section 14(2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act, 1984, that the Oxfordshire County Council

TEMPORARILY PROHIBITS THE USE OF THE HIGHWAY BY ALL MOTOR VEHICLES

LOCATION: Letcombe Bassett, Holborn Hill

REASON: To facilitate Openreach engineer access to overhead and underground structures for a new customer connection

DURATION: 15 January 2024, 09:30 to 15:30 hours
(Traffic Regulation Notices cover a maximum of 5 consecutive days.)

ACCESS: Limited access will be maintained for emergency service vehicles and for frontages within the closed section of road, subject to the progress of the works

SUGGESTED ALTERNATIVE ROUTE: via Holborn Hill – B4507 – Unnamed road – Main Street – Bassett Road and vice versa.

Bill Cotton

Bill Cotton,
Corporate Director : Environment and Place

Date: 26 October 2023

Is your child 3 or 4 years old?

Primary school place - you must apply now

If your child was born on or between **1 September 2019** and **31 August 2020**, you need to apply for a primary school place now.

You must still apply even if your child already attends a nursery attached to the school.

Deadline for applications is **15 January 2024**.

Apply online at

www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/primaryadmissions

– it's quick, easy and secure.

You can get free access to the internet at many of our libraries and children's centres – ask for details at your local facility.

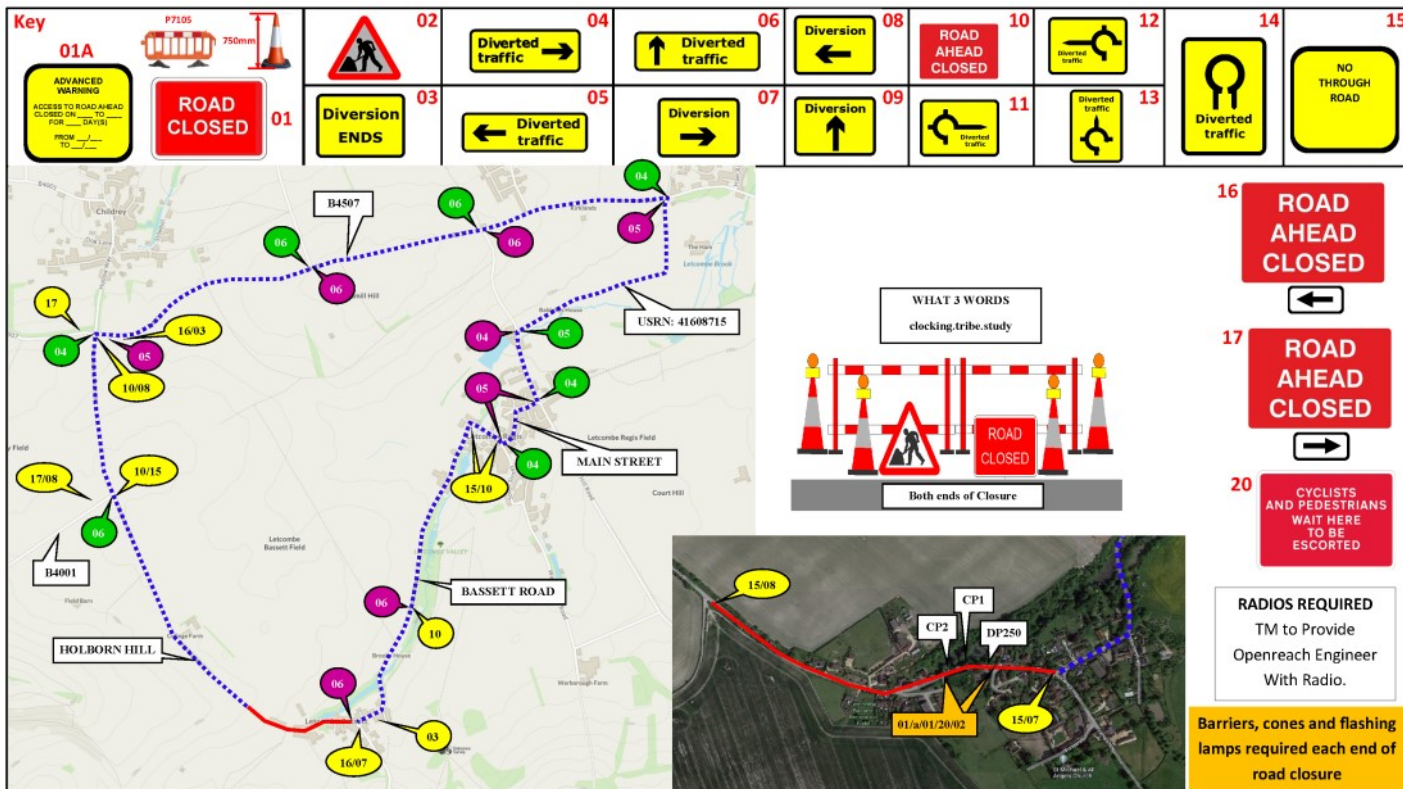


For help and information:

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<p>SUNBELT RENTALS Sunbelt Rentals UK (Traffic Management) Kemble Airfield Enterprise Park Clarendon Road Kemble GL7 6BQ 03700 500 792 0845 004 7105</p>	<p>Note: 1. All equipment shall be approved and shall comply with the Department of Transport specification MCE111. This drawing does not show the normal road works signage that will be required as per Chapter 8. 2. All signs to be in accordance with TSRGD 2016 and to minimum class retroreflective. 3. Minimum height of lettering to be 60mm and sign boards to be 1000mm (750mm where appropriate). This drawing is protected by copyright and the information contained therein is confidential. This drawing may not be copied and the information therein may not be used, or disclosed to a third party, wholly or in part without the written permission of Sunbelt Rentals UK (Traffic Management).</p>		<p>CROWN COPYRIGHT DATA REPRODUCED BY PERMISSION OF THE CONTROLLER OF HMSO</p>		<p>ADDRESS Holborn Hill, Letcombe Bassett, Wantage OX12 9LR</p>	
	<p>CLIENT DETAILS Openreach</p>		<p>REP/DEPOT DA/213</p>	<p>DRAWN BY DA/213</p>	<p>ROAD CLOSURE CLOCKWISE DIVERSION ANTI-CLOCKWISE DIVERSION ROAD CLOSURE SIGN</p>	
	<p>DATE 14/08/2023</p>	<p>SHEET No 1 OF 1</p>	<p>VERSION NUMBER .001</p>		<p>ROAD CLOSURE LENGTH (APPROX) 660 m ROAD CLOSURE WIDTH (APPROX) 4.2 m</p>	
	<p>AMENDED DATE</p>	<p>AMENDED BY</p>	<p>SCALE NOT TO SCALE</p>		<p>Contract Number 213-S013794</p>	
<p>This layout is for installation by NRSWA, Lantra 12A,12B,12D qualified persons.</p>				<p>BUS ROUTE AFFECTED</p>		



Friends of the Letcombe Valley Community Nature Reserve

The final work party of this year in the Community Nature Reserve will be on the third Saturday in the month, 16 December, 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 seasonal refreshments too mid-afternoon, but please take your own work gloves.

The trees and hedges in the Community Nature Reserve have lost most of their leaves in the recent winds and cold snap but a few nuts and berries remain for the wildlife to forage as winter closes in. Mistletoe is probably the most



familiar plant associated with Christmas that could grow in the Reserve. A parasitic plant on branches of trees such as hawthorn, holly, poplar, conifers, and apple, mistletoe (*Viscum album*) has beautiful evergreen foliage with tiny white flowers as well as the white berries associated with Christmas celebrations in many countries, photo credit: Evelyn Simak (CC BY SA 2.0 DEED). It is thought that the romantic tradition of kissing under the mistletoe began in 18th-century England though the plant is native to much of Europe, and western and southern Asia. Historically, mistletoe was an important medicinal herb in the Greco-Roman world and was seen as a sign of peace in Norse mythology. Associated with the bright star that led the three wise men to the birthplace of Jesus, The Star of Bethlehem (*Ornithogalum umbellatum*) is a spring

flowering bulb that will grow in partial shade under trees on chalky soil. It forms carpets of low-growing foliage, topped with numerous white, starry flowers. Each Star of Bethlehem flower, photo credit: Janet Graham (CC BY 2.0 DEED), has six bright white tepals (three petals and three sepals that are very much alike). They are nectar/pollen rich flowers attracting bees and other pollinators. However, every part of the plant is toxic to humans and animals if eaten. The plant is native throughout Europe as well as north-west Africa and south-west Asia.



Continuing the Christmas theme, the gifts of the three wise men associated with Jesus' birth are not derived from our natural habitats but include two tree products, frankincense and myrrh, that were both revered in ancient Greece and Egypt, used in



the Jewish, Christian and Muslim faiths and traded with India and China for incense and medicinal purposes. Frankincense is the white resin extracted from *Boswellia* trees which grow in arid, cool areas of the Arabian Peninsula, East Africa and India. The resin from *Boswellia sacra* from Somalia, Oman (photo in Oman) and Yemen, is considered to be the finest and most aromatic. Myrrh is a reddish resin that is harvested from species of the genus *Commiphora*, native to northeast Africa and the adjacent areas of the Arabian Peninsula. *Commiphora myrrha*, a tree commonly used in the production of myrrh, is found in the shallow, rocky soils of Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia in Africa and in Oman and Saudi Arabia on the Peninsula. However the myrrh of the Bible is believed to be from a related species, *Commiphora guidottii*.

Palestine has a Mediterranean climate but numerous large trees with which Jesus, as a carpenter's son, would have been familiar do grow in the UK including juniper, plane, sycamore, oak, various pines, mulberry and the famous cedars of Lebanon. Alongside wheat as a staple of the diet, familiar vegetables, fruits and nuts, such as brambles, figs, almonds, apples and walnuts, grow in the region - perhaps more in common with UK plants after centuries of introductions than we might imagine.

Wishing everyone joy through the Christmas Season and in the New Year.

Letcombes WI

The WI enjoyed another visit from Local Author Nicola Cornick, who spoke about how local history and local landscapes have inspired her books. Our next meeting will be a light hearted Christmas Social, with entertainment and games, and a Bring and Share Supper.



Merry Christmas to all our customers!



Our [Festive Menu](#) is available 1st-24th December

For a bit of Festive fun, you can create your own stunning wreath and then enjoy a 2-course Festive Lunch in our cosy Barn.

[Details on our website](#)

Join us for drinks on **Christmas Day**
We are open 12-2pm

[New Year's Eve Celebration Dinner](#)

Call or email to book
Bar open to all until 1:30am

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

Village Hall & Recreation Ground Trust



Thanks to everyone who came along on a cold and wet November night to enjoy the village bonfire and fireworks celebration, particularly when so many other events were cancelled or delayed, due to the very challenging weather in the week leading up to the event. On the evening we had nearly 250 people at the event, enjoying a fantastic bonfire, superbly arranged and sequenced fireworks, hot dogs and drinks with friends. These events – often run by a combination of the Trust, Parish Council and the Social Club, require a huge amount of work from your volunteers, so I would like to thank them for their hard work. Firstly, David Barber, along with Andrew Stratton (also holding the keys to the fire engine) for sourcing, building, inflaming, and safely managing a great bonfire on a miserable evening. Thanks to Dominic Lamb, John Bowler, Trev Newell, and Jonathan Betts, with remote assistance from Ken Trotter, who were our pyrotechnics team on the night. Thanks to the social club team of James Stewart, Richard Taylor, Paul Champion, Des Williams and Lisa Reed, with great assistance on the hot dog stand

from Jane and Richard Hornsby. And thanks to the riding club for the use of the field for the bonfire – something I know is contentious, but currently the best and safest site we have for the event. We shall have further discussion ahead of Bonfire Night next year to look at the location.

On further news, the upgrade to the playground has been slightly delayed, now occurring in early December and should be completed in only a couple of weeks. Thanks in advance to John Castle for project managing this on behalf of the Trust.

Lastly, I'll give a fuller account of how the Hall and the Trust are faring in the January edition of the Register, when we are able to look back on our first "proper" year out of lockdown. We have a great village hall, enjoyed by many – local villagers and further afield – for some amazing events and experiences in a beautiful setting. Most of this use is birthday parties and wedding celebrations, but also things as diverse as the Film Club, the Voice of the Vale choir, and our own local events like the great Coronation event in May. Our hall needs to be used fully, in order to make sure we have the funding to maintain its condition, but also invest into the development of the wider recreation area.

Thank you to the team of voluntary Trustees that make this happen – Jeanne, Mary, Elspeth, James, John, Paula, Jane and Rose – and also Claire, our Hall Co-ordinator, for making this all possible.

Merry Xmas everyone!
Gordon.



Issue 220

Film Club

Champions (12) - Weds 13 December

We have a heartwarming comedy for you this month to brighten up those dark December evenings. Released earlier this year, *'Champions'* is an English language adaptation of a popular Spanish film of the same name released in 2018. It was inspired by the true events surrounding a basketball team based in Valencia.

Set in Iowa, USA *'Champions'* stars the great Woody Harrelson as a hot tempered minor league basketball coach who ends up in court after several mishaps. He is offered the choice of an 18 month prison sentence or community service coaching a basketball team of young adults with learning disabilities called 'The Friends'. He chooses the community service and what follows challenges him both professionally and personally, but with lots of fun, learning and laughs along the way.

'Champions' has been a big hit with audiences, who have left the cinema feeling uplifted - we hope you enjoy it too!

Doors open at 7.30pm, the film starts at 8pm. Come along early for a drink and chat - we will serving mulled wine to get us into the Christmas spirit! Entry £6.

St Andrew's

Before December starts another sad day in the life of the village should be mentioned. Allan Lancaster, known to so many of us, died suddenly on 21st September and on 25th October Revd Ness Brunner-Ellis presided over his memorial service assisted by Gill Thompson, who gave the address. For the second time in a few months St Andrew's was full to overflowing to remember a much-loved member of the village community. There were traditional hymns, pop music and poetry but most importantly, moving and also amusing eulogies from Allan's son, Ben, and his partner Celia Radband.



The St Andrew's annual Gift Day was on Saturday 25th November and on a beautiful sunny but frosty morning a steady stream of visitors came not only to give, but to enjoy coffee and biscuits among friends. David Allchin, our treasurer, and Debbie Webb were there to greet us. Meanwhile a cheerful group was doing a great job clearing up the churchyard. Ness would like to thank all those who donated to the church's ministry work.

On Sunday 26th November the bells rang out to herald our lay-led service presided over by Debbie Webb. There were familiar hymns and a psalm read by David Suchet and part of The Messiah beautifully performed by the Cambridge Singers which Debbie cleverly incorporated into her Reflection.

Our services in December will be much as usual with one or two changes as can be seen below. There will be Holy Communion on Sunday 10th December, and our Carol Service will be on Sunday 17th December at 6 pm. On Christmas Day there will Holy Communion at 10.15 am. Morning Prayer will be on Thursdays 14th and 28th December at 9.15 am and Wednesday Holy Communion will continue as usual at 11 am. Monday Prayer Group and Evensong will be every week except for Christmas Day and New Year's Day. As usual all details can be found in The Signpost. The collections over the Christmas period will be for Crisis and The Children's Society.

As in the past we will be collecting children's clothes and toys for cash-strapped local families, as well as warm clothes and items of toiletry and other small gifts for the Porch in Oxford, and non-perishable foods for Wantage Food Bank. Indications - if wrapped - for whom the parcels are suitable would be helpful. Any gifts can be left under the Christmas tree in the week before Christmas Day.

A very Happy Christmas and New Year to everyone.



Issue 220

Letcombe Sports and Social Club

The Sports & Social Club have now had 2 very successful Bingo evenings. We have another one planned in December, on Friday 22nd, please be there at 7 for a 7.30 start. Just a reminder that this is open to Members and their Guests.

The Christmas Raffle will also be drawn on that evening as well. Raffle tickets are selling well, but there is more time if you haven't got any yet. All the sales will go towards the prizes.

The Darts "A" team are currently top of their division in the Winter League, and despite having some really close matches, the "B" and "C" teams are yet to win. It is still early season though, with only 4 games having been played.

If anyone is interested in joining the Sports & Social Club, or finding more out about it, then please contact the Secretary - letcombesportsclub@gmail.com

Richard
Secretary, Letcombe Sports and Social Club



Current initiatives and campaigns

Oxfordshire Conversations

Oxfordshire Conversations are online public events, bringing together residents and the councillors who lead our county council. This is your chance to share your priorities for local services with decision-makers and explore ideas for how we can make savings to balance our budget in these tough times. To join the conversation click [HERE](#)

Book your place:

The events are open to all, but you need to [book](#) so we can send you the joining instructions.

- Monday 4 December: 1pm to 2.30pm
- Wednesday 6 December: 7pm to 8:30pm
- Monday 11 December: 4.30pm to 6pm

Vape recycling

In Oxfordshire, 80,000 single use vapes are disposed of per week by adults aged 18+. This means thousands of vapes are tossed away and often disposed of incorrectly. We're running a campaign to try and change behaviours. To recycle vapes, residents can now use one of the new public recycling bins at each of the seven household waste recycling centres (HWRCs) in Oxfordshire

Shop local

Why not spread your Christmas cheer this year and think local. Whether it's a quick drink out or some extra tinsel for the tree, our local shops and business have their doors open ready to help. #MerryOxmas

Targeted youth support service

The Targeted Youth Support Service (TYSS) works with young people (11-18) preventatively to reduce the escalation of statutory involvement and negative impact on their lives. For more information visit <https://oxme.info/tyss>

Home upgrade grant

Reduce your energy bills with the Home Upgrade Grant from Oxfordshire County Council. Targeting off-gas-grid, energy-inefficient homes, this initiative offers free home energy improvements from insulation to solar panels. Funding is limited so early application is advised. Check your eligibility and apply at welcomethewarmth.org.uk. Get your home winter-ready today.

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,
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 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

December 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	31
Green recycling Food waste Brown Garden Waste				Grey Landfill Food waste		