



# GRAPEVINE MAGAZINE

No. 344 - Spring 2025

LEWKNOR  
SOUTH WESTON  
POSTCOMBE

# Parish Diary Spring 2025

## March

Sunday 9th, 9am Adwell Holy Communion

Monday 10th, 7:30pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, Jubilee Hall, Lewknor

Sunday 16th, 9am Lewknor Holy Communion

10.30 Morning Worship South Weston

Sunday 23rd, 9am Wheatfield Morning Service

6.30pm Evensong Stoke Talmage

Sunday 30th, 9am Morning Service Adwell - **Mothering Sunday**

## April

Sunday 6th, 9am South Weston Holy Communion

Monday 7th, 7:30pm PARISH COUNCIL MEETING, Jubilee Hall, Lewknor

Sunday 13th, 9am Wheatfield Holy Communion

6.30pm Evensong Stoke Talmage

## May

Monday 12th, ANNUAL PARISH MEETING 7pm (the public meeting)

Followed by Statutory Annual Parish Council meeting (starting no earlier than 7.30pm)

### Lewknor Parish Council

## NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY

Public notice is hereby given that due to the resignation of Councillor:  
Les Gordon

A vacancy exists in the office of Parish Councillor for:  
Lewknor Parish Council

The vacancy will be filled by election if, within fourteen working days of the date of this notice, any ten local government electors for the said parish submit a written request to the Returning Officer, South Oxfordshire/Vale of White Horse District Council\*, Abbey House, Abbey Close, Abingdon, OX14 3JE.

In computing these fourteen days mentioned above you disregard a Saturday or Sunday, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, Good Friday or a bank holiday or a day appointed for Public Thanksgiving or Mourning.

If no such request is made the vacancy will be filled by co-option by the Parish/Town\* Council.

Dated: 24/02/2025

Signed: Donna Evans (Parish/Clerk)

LEWKNOR PARISH COUNCIL  
[www.lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk)

# PARISH SPRING CLEAN

We are planning a litter pick around the parish on Saturday 22nd March 2025 and we would be very grateful if you could come along and help.

## FOR POSTCOMBE:

Please meet by the parish noticeboard at 10am at the top of Box Tree Lane, on the London Road

## FOR LEWKNOR:

Please meet in the car park of the Leathern Bottel pub at 10am

We are planning on no more than two hours. Litter pickers, bags and yellow vests will be provided (these are required to be worn). Please bring your own sturdy gloves.

## THANK YOU!





LEWKNOR PARISH COUNCIL  
[www.lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://www.lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk)

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## WOULD YOU LIKE TO BECOME A PARISH COUNCILLOR?

Lewknor Parish Council, which oversees the villages of Postcombe, Lewknor and South Weston, is looking for someone to fill the vacancy on the council.

Below is a job description. For more details and to apply please email the council chair Caroline Hjorth:  
[carolinehjorth@lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:carolinehjorth@lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk)  
or the Clerk:  
[clerk@lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk)

**Title:** Councillor

**Responsible to:** the Council and its electors

**Responsible for:** effective leadership to foster the interests of the electors in your community/parish

**Role to:** bring local issues to the attention of the council, help it make effective and legal decisions on behalf of the local community and represent the views of parishioners within and outside the parish.

**Salary:** this is a voluntary position with no salary

**Criteria:** you must be 18 or over, on the electoral register and able to regularly attend evening meetings

Training and support are available

### Main duties and responsibilities

1. To represent effectively the interests of the whole parish by listening to views from the community
2. To improve the quality of life for those that live, work or visit the area
3. To participate in the formation and scrutiny of the Council's policies, plans, budgets and service delivery
4. To ensure that the Council is properly managed
5. To prepare for, attend and participate in Council meetings, decision making and abide by corporate decisions
6. To undertake appropriate training and development to help fulfil the requirements of the councillor role
7. To keep up to date with significant developments affecting the Council at local, regional and national levels
8. To represent the Council on outside bodies to which the Councillor is appointed and report back activities
9. To maintain proper standards of behaviour and comply with the Council's Code of Conduct
10. To deal with resident's enquiries and representations fairly and without prejudice

**LEWKNOR PARISH COUNCIL  
PLANNING APPLICATIONS  
AS OF 25TH FEB 2025**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1) P24/S2648/HH Sheep Brook Cottage, Nethercote Lane, Lewknor<br>Two storey side extension, the addition of dormer windows in the loft and internal alterations   | Approved   |
| 2) P24/S3826/AG Knapp Wood Farm, Hill Road, Lewknor<br>Erection of an agricultural straw barn   | Decision: a formal application for planning permission is not required |
| 3) P24/S1542/FUL Lancing, 11A Weston Road, Lewknor<br>Division of site, construction of a new house and retention of existing bungalow<br>Appeal lodged: APP/Q3115/W/24/3352135   | Decision awaited   |
| 4) P24/S3760/LB The Hall Barn, Church Lane, Lewknor<br>Part retrospective Listed Building Consent application for maintenanceworks to reconstruct a section of the boundary wall between St Margaret's Church and The Hall Barn   | Approved   |
| 5) P24/S3485/FUL Land on the north west side of Icknield Way Lewknor<br>The application is for: A wooden shed 20 x 16 ft (retrospective).   | Refused  |
| 6) P25/S0116/N4B, for development work at the following location:<br>Upper Copcourt Farm, Thame Road, Postcombe.<br>Change of Use of agricultural barn to 3 bedroom dwellinghouse   | Decision awaited   |
| 7) P24/S2648/HH Sheep Brook Cottage, Nethercote Lane, Lewknor<br>The application for discharge of conditions 3 (slab levels & materials), 4 (tree protection), 5 (CEMP), 6 (biodiversity enhancements), 7 (external lighting) & 8 (GCN licence) on application P24/S2648/HH (Two storey side extension, the addition of dormer windows in the loft and internal alterations). | Decision awaited   |

To view the full planning register, go to: [www.southoxon.gov.uk/planning](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk/planning)

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*Food & bar*

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**SATURDAY**

**DOORS OPEN AT 5PM  
FOR A 6PM START  
LEWKNOR JUBILEE  
VILLAGE HALL**

**15th  
MARCH**

**Registered charity no: 1045910**

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## ADWELL DAFFODIL DAY 2025

The Adwell Estate will be holding its annual Daffodil Day on Sunday 23rd March, in aid of Sobell House.

Adwell Estate has held a Daffodil Day for over 15 years to showcase the remarkable collection of daffodils grown there. Over the years they have planted over 35,000 daffodils and over 400 varieties, and the display in the month of March is truly amazing. The gardens are open from 2pm to 5pm and a delicious cream tea will be available.

Tickets can be purchased on the gate at £7 each, with 12 and unders free of charge.

Sobell House [www.sobellhouse.org](http://www.sobellhouse.org) offers specialist palliative care to those facing life threatening illnesses, death and bereavement in Oxfordshire. This encompasses physical, psychological, social and spiritual care, and includes supporting their families and those close to them. Sobell House cares for around 3,000 patients and their families every year.

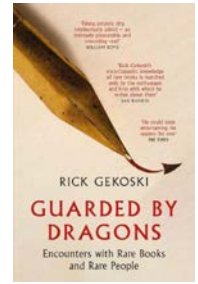
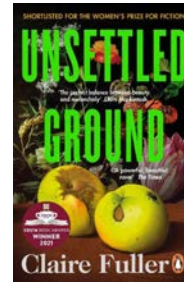
Other events at Adwell Estate in 2025:

The Adwell Vintage Vehicle Show on Sunday 13th July. For more information please visit [www.adwellvintagevehicleshow.co.uk](http://www.adwellvintagevehicleshow.co.uk)

The Adwell Rare Plant Fair on Sunday 7th September. For more information please visit: [www.rareplantfair.co.uk/our-fairs-and-gardens/2025-adwell-house-thame/](http://www.rareplantfair.co.uk/our-fairs-and-gardens/2025-adwell-house-thame/)



# BOOK CLUB



What an eclectic choice of books this time. Victoria Mackenzie *For Thy Great Pain have Mercy on my Little Pain* (161 pages, 2023), *Unsettled Ground* by Claire Fuller (287 pages, 2021), Rick Gekoski *Guarded by Dragons* (240 pages, 2021).

Victoria MacKenzie is a fiction writer, poet and essayist living in Scotland. Her debut novel, *For Thy Great Pain Have Mercy On My Little Pain*, won the Saltire First Book Award and was long listed for the Walter Scott prize for Historical Fiction. She has won other awards for her short fiction and essays. She works as a freelance Creative Writing tutor and offers one-to-one mentoring.

*For Thy Great Pain Have Mercy On My Little Pain* was an interesting book to read straight after *Matrix* because they both deal with the lives of educated women in the Middle Ages, women whose lives were bound up with the spiritual. *Matrix* was an entirely fictional tale because the actual identity of Marie of France is unknown. Julian of Norwich and Margery Kempe are both known from the writings they left behind.

Mackenzie interleaves the thoughts and lives of Julian and Margery Kempe and shows their differences. Julian recovered from an almost fatal illness and decided to dedicate her life to prayer and contemplation. She became an anchoress, the female version of a hermit, but rather than living in a cave in the wilderness, she lived walled up in a small chamber attached to St Julian's Church, Norwich. So little is known of Julian's early life that she may derive her name from that church. Margery Kempe lived very much in the world. Her father was mayor of Bishop's (now King's) Lynn. She married and had fourteen children. From her own family or via her husband's trade she was wealthy enough to travel extensively to visit sites of pilgrimage. She went to the Holy land, Santiago de Compostela and Prussia. Both these women experienced visions that they believed were divine in origin. Julian, walled up in her cell, kept such things to her self and wrote a secret account. Margery made her visions public and was several times arraigned for heresy. Since Norwich is only sixty miles from Kings Lynn the journey would have been nothing to Margery, who had seen the Holy Land, so she visited Julian.

This was a very successful telling of the two women. Mackenzie chose language that was suitable for the thirteen hundreds but avoided the artificially archaic. The two characters were well drawn, Julian sequestered and secretive, Margery flamboyant and outspoken.

Claire Fuller was born in Oxfordshire in 1967. She studied sculpture at Winchester School of Art in the 1980s. She then went on to work in marketing.

She started to write fiction at the age of forty and holds a master's degree in creative and critical writing from the University of Winchester.

for her short stories and *Unsettled Ground*, her fourth novel, won the Costa Book Awards Novel Award 2021 and was shortlisted for the 2021 Women's Prize for Fiction.

The blurb on the cover of this novel was rather off putting, suggesting that we were in for a harrowing tale of agricultural misery. We were but the book was more interesting then we expected.

The main characters are the twins Jeanie and Julius. Though they are 51 they live in a dilapidated farm cottage with their mother, Dot. The family live on what they can grow or snare. Dot controls the money, all cash, that they get from selling produce or the odd jobs that Julius picks up. Their father is long gone. There is no television but the three of them are accomplished musicians in the folk tradition.

The twins' lives are turned upside down when Dot dies of a stroke. They start to realise how their way of life was held together by their mother's strength and conniving. Jeanie, believing herself to be very frail, has got used to being cosseted by her mother and protected by her brother. The book tells what becomes of them on their own.

This was, at times, a bleak picture of how easily those living on the edge of destitution can fall beyond help. By the end of the book there is, perhaps, not a happy ending but a tolerable one. We all enjoyed this book mainly because it generated a longer and more interesting discussion than many of the books we have read recently.

Richard Abraham Gekoski Is an American born British writer, broadcaster, book dealer and lecturer. He was born in 1944. He graduated summa cum laude (which means in the top group) from Pennsylvania University in 1966. He was awarded various awards and fellowships. He moved to Merton College, Oxford and gained a B Phil and a D Phil in English and also a tennis blue. In 1971 he became a lecturer at Warwick University and was promoted to senior lecturer in 1980. He resigned in 1984 to turn his part time interest into a profession and became a dealer in rare books.

*Guarded by Dragons* is by way of being a memoir in thirteen chapters, each telling the story of an acquisition or sale in Gekoski's book dealing life. His interests change from hunting for first and rare editions to arranging the sorting and selling of manuscripts and archives. These are the most interesting chapters because they describe discussions with writers and their agents and also the time consuming and painstaking work behind sorting archives that might fill an aircraft hangar. Gekoski comes over as a pleasant man with a chatty style of writing. Some of the people he deals with come over as selfish, self centred, grasping, arrogant individuals. This book split the group. Some disliked the author, his style and the narrative and some found him an attractive personality with a conversational style and a fascinating life.



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# Lewknor Summer Fete & Show

We would love to bring a Summer Fete to Lewknor, and also ensure that traditions such as the Horticultural Show are not lost.

These are great community events that can help to raise funds for our village hall and school community.

But these events don't just happen - they need a team!

Could you help us to bring the Horticultural Show and Summer Fete back to Lewknor?

Do you have great ideas for a community event?

Then we would love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Donna Evans, Parish Clerk, at [clerk@lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@lewknorparishcouncil.gov.uk) if you are able to offer any help in organising such an event.

vecteezy.com

## The Leathern Bottle

### TAKEAWAY MENU

Fish & Chips  
Scampi & Chips

Both served with mushy peas or garden peas  
£15

Steak & Ale Pie  
Served with chips and garden peas  
£15

Children's Menu

Fish Fingers  
Chicken Goujons

Both served with chips and beans or garden peas  
£6

Takeaways available from Tues - Sat  
6pm - 8:30pm  
Card or cash on collection  
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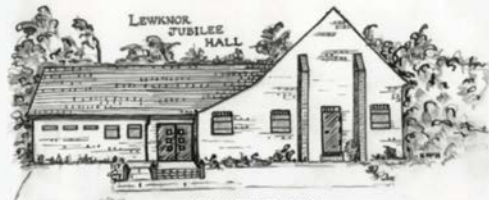
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## WHAT'S ON AT JUBILEE HALL, LEWKNOR



### TUESDAY

YOGA AT 7.00PM

CONTACT VICKI ON

[yogaaylesbury@gmail.com](mailto:yogaaylesbury@gmail.com)

### THURSDAY

PURESTRETCH AT 6.00PM

CONTACT LEELA ON

[leelagoddard@hotmail.com](mailto:leelagoddard@hotmail.com)

For details of rates, or to book the hall for your event or party, please contact Jean on [jean.senior3@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.senior3@btinternet.com)

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# LEWKNOR SCHOOL VISITS THE SHELDONIAN THEATRE



On the 24th January, Lewknor Primary School students had the exciting opportunity to visit the historic Sheldonian Theatre in Oxford for a whole school trip!

The visit, which was part of the school's curriculum to enrich pupils' understanding of music and architecture, provided a unique and memorable learning experience.

The Sheldonian Theatre, built in the 17th century by renowned architect Sir Christopher Wren, is one of Oxford's most iconic buildings. The pupils were treated to an orchestral music show by Oxfordshire Music Trust's youth band. The children were amazed by the music they listened to, and there was even a beatboxer!

In other school news, pupils are excited to celebrate a themed World Book Day on Thursday 6th March. We'll share how they got on in a future issue!





## WE'VE LAUNCHED A LOTTERY

**Buy Your Tickets Today To Help Our School**

- Lewknor C of E Primary School has launched a lottery!
- Tickets cost just £1 per ticket, per week and 40% of all ticket sales are donated to our school.
- A **GUARANTEED** cash prize to someone on our supporter list every week.
- A further chance of winning £25,000 in a separate draw **EVERY WEEK!**
- Draws are every Saturday at 8pm and results are posted online.

To start supporting, Visit:  
[www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play](http://www.yourschoollottery.co.uk/play)

And Search For:  
**Lewknor C of E Primary School**

Supporters must be 16 years of age or older.



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**POSTCOMBE POSTINGS  
BRINGING THE POSTCOMBE  
COMMUNITY TOGETHER**

**DATES FOR THE DIARY**

**Coffee Morning**

Friday 7th March  
At Jon & Alison's, from 10:30am  
Everyone is welcome, including children

**Parish Spring Clean**

Saturday 22nd March  
Please meet by the parish noticeboard at 10am at  
the top of Box Tree Lane, on the London Road.

None of us like to see the large amount of litter in  
our hedgerows and verges. Not only an eyesore, it's  
detrimental to the biodiversity. If you have an hour  
or so to spare and wish to make a positive difference  
please come along. Please see main advert on Page  
3 for more details.

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**Time: 6.00pm – 7.00pm**

**Cost per class £8.00**

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## Easter Holiday 2025 bin collection changes

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If your normal collection day is:	Then your revised collection day is:
Friday 18th April	Saturday 19th April
Monday 21st April	Tuesday 22nd April
Tuesday 22nd April	Wednesday 23rd April
Wednesday 23rd April	Thursday 24th April
Thursday 24th April	Friday 25th April
Friday 25th April	Saturday 26th April

If you are subscribed to the brown bin service you can have extra garden waste collected for free, on your normal collection day only, during the following periods in 2025:

31st March to 11th April  
27th October to 7th November

**\*\*All dates correct at time of printing\*\***



**LEWKNOR PRESCHOOL**

**Jubilee Hall  
Lewknor  
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8.30am - 3.30pm  
Mon - Fri**

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