



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
April - May 2007



Your New Council

Your new Town Council meets on 14 May. We were pleased to receive 13 nominations for the 13 seats on the Council. We welcome three new councillors: Richard Lambert, David Mannall and Jaime Maskell and say thank you to Pat Mabon and Martyn Bennett who are standing down. In addition, we say a very special thank you to Arthur Chase, who has also decided to stand down, having sat on the Town Council for over 40 years. He has made a very significant contribution to the Town and its development over this period and his wise counsel will be missed. A full list of councillors is available on the Town website. The Cotswold District Council elections take place on 3 May.

Coln Park Development

On 4 April, the Cotswold District Council turned down the Phase 2 planning application at Coln Park. This was because the Environment Agency stated that the flood risk study was not conclusive, particularly in relation to the severe flooding last January which blocked the A417 at several locations and one house was flooded. While this rejection is not likely to stop the Phase 2 development, the Developers have yet to come up with an effective technical solution which would not increase the risk of flooding within and outside the site.

Flooding at Downington

The Council has asked the Environment Agency to investigate the cause of flooding at Downington in January 2007 where several gardens were affected and the A417 flooded outside the Garden Centre and Bryworth Lane. We have kept in contact with the Environment Agency and expect their report in the next few weeks.

It's Easy to Recycle!

Residents in the Cotswold District are some of the best recyclers in Gloucestershire, but we can all still do more! Green wheeled bins (for garden waste) and black kerbside recycling boxes are free to residents by contacting the recycling team on 01285 623000. For more information on what can be recycled and local recycling banks, please contact the team or visit: www.recycleforgloucestershire.com

Our Heritage

The History Society has focussed its attention on Lechlade when it was an important inland port. A new notice board at the Riverside details the heritage around the river and the many listed buildings in the Town. An historic trail is provided for residents and visitors to follow the history of the Town. We hope this is the first information board of several which will record our heritage as part of the Upper River Thames Heritage Project.

Cotswold Canals Trust

The M.V. Inglesham has recommenced cruising on the River Thames from Friday 6 April. The starting/boarding point is on the South side of the river, near the Western corner of the Riverside Park. The green and white ticket and sales gazebo marks the location. Trips last about 30 minutes and include a commentary on the Thames and Severn Canal and local river history. Cruises are scheduled to take place at weekends and Bank Holidays and will also operate during school holidays when possible. All trips are subject to river and weather conditions and volunteer crew available. Longer daytime and evening private party trips (maximum 12 passengers) can be arranged through the Cruise Coordinator, John Wallace, on 01446 760314.

Public Enquiry

Gloucestershire County Council will be holding a public enquiry in Lechlade regarding the footpath at Bowmore relating to Right of Way issues. The meeting will take place in the Memorial Hall, date yet to be confirmed, and we would encourage members of the public who would like to walk this footpath to attend. Please look at the Town Council noticeboard (Londis) for more information.

First Responders – Lechlade, Fairford & District

We currently have six First Responders in Lechlade: Ruth and Mike Read, Hazel and John Watkins, Martyn Bennett and Mike Cawsey. If a 999 call is made, please ensure lights are on (or someone is outside property) to assist first responders and the ambulance service.

Skateboard Park

The skateboard park has recently been resurfaced in time for the good weather!

Flag Festival 2007

A reminder that the Flag Festival will be continued this year, during the months of June, July and August. Forms have been circulated to previous flag flyers, please complete and return to Cllr Mike Cawsey. If you are new to the event and would like to fly a flag or for further information on the event and how to make the most of the flag display opportunity, please contact Mike on 01367 252401.

Dogs

Please remember that dogs on the recreation ground should be on leads. In addition, can dog-owners ensure that dog excrement is disposed of in the appropriate bins located around the town.

Public Noticeboards

The noticeboard at Perrinsfield has now been replaced and repositioned. In addition, it has been suggested that a noticeboard be placed at the west end of the Town (Downington). If you have a suggestion of a possible location for this board, please contact the Clerk on 01367 252338.

Stop the closure of local hospitals

An e-petition is available to "sign" to stop the closure and running down of local hospitals and their services. If you would like to take part, please visit: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/SAVE-HOSPITALS/>

Tree Warden

Would you be interested in becoming a Tree Warden? We currently have one tree warden in Lechlade, but an additional voluntary position exists. The wardens provide the Town Council with information on existing trees/shrubs and make suggestions as to what can be done to improve the environment. For more information, please contact the Clerk on 01367 252338.

Tennis Court Hire

Please remember that one of the Tennis Courts in the playing fields is available for hire to the public all year round. For more information, or to hire, please see the notice outside the Memorial Hall regarding charges.

Mobile Police Station

The mobile police station is available in the Market Place, Lechlade on 2 and 14 May.

Town Website - Forthcoming Events

A list of forthcoming events is available on the town website: www.lechladeonthames.co.uk. If you would like your event included, please contact Cllr Sharon Wilson on 01367 253346.

Christmas Lights Fundraising Event

Following on from last year's success, the first fundraising in aid of Lechlade's Christmas Lights this year, will be a Pimms 'n' Jazz event on Friday 13 July in the garden of Sherborne House. Make a note for your diary. Look out for further details and information on tickets.

Job Vacancy

Are you competent using a computer, familiar with MSWord and Excel? Do you have eight hours (flexible) to spare per week? The Town Council requires an Assistant Clerk; responsibilities include correspondence, minute taking, filing, telephone work and liaison with the public. If you are interested please e-mail clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk, subject "assistant clerk". Training will be given if necessary.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

CDC Community Safety Team	01285 623000	Neighbourhood Watch Association	01242 276543
Non Emergency Police Calls	0845 090 1234	Bogus Callers Helpline	0808 1000 777
Gloucestershire Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111	Victim Support	01285 658350
Street Lighting	0800 542 1890 lightout@gloucestershire.gov.uk	Domestic Violence Support and Advocacy Project	01452 500115