



# Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with  
La Chapelle des Fougeretz  
Town Council Newsletter  
February - March 2007



## Water Quality Incident

Most of you will be aware of the water quality incident on 10 January when Thames Water advised that drinking water should be boiled because of the cloudiness of the water, caused by floodwater. One area of confusion was that the notice referred to "parts of Lechlade". After a discussion with Thames Water, it was agreed that future notices needed to be more precise. If you know of any people who had real problems over this period, particularly the elderly and infirm, (some of whom we now understand were unsure if the notices were just a "flyer" and therefore ignored them), we would like to feed this back to Thames Water. This will help the company register those people who may need help in any future occasion. Please contact Nigel Jones on 01367 252402 or the Clerk via the Town Council office on 01367 252338.

## Thames Water Customer Service Line

For any water related queries concerning leaks, manholes, fences etc, please call the Customer Centre on 0845 9200 800.

## Butlers Court Roundabout

In previous newsletters, it has been reported that Lechlade Garden Centre has offered to plant out and maintain the roundabout at the entrance to the new Butlers Court (The Wern) development. The Garden Centre has informed us that they hope to do this by the middle of March (weather conditions permitting).

## River Park Group

In December a small group was formed between representatives from Lechlade and Swindon to improve car access and litter problems, south of the River (the area maintained by Swindon). Work has already started to improve the area and many of you will have seen that the public car park has been resurfaced. We are hoping to see some improvement to the steps down to the river by Halfpenny Bridge.

## The League of Friends of Fairford Hospital - Can you spare a couple of hours in March?

Lechlade is very much regarded as an important part of the hospital project going forward. Having been offered 2 acres of land in Fairford, the building of a new hospital can now realistically be explored and the Fairford and Lechlade Hospital Project has been launched. In addition, the recent opening of the out-patients clinics appears to be going well - the hospital is certainly not closed! The League of Friends is a voluntary run registered charity and as usual the annual fundraising will take part from 19 March to 1 April through house-to-house collections in Lechlade and Fairford and in the past two years has raised some £18,000 each year. This money is vital to the League's work in providing vital services including home nursing, free physiotherapy for the over 60s, counselling service and a lunch club, in addition to the volunteer drivers, who transport over 600 patients a year to surgeries and hospitals. Lechlade has always been supportive of the League's work through drivers and house-to-house collectors but they **urgently** need more help. Can you spare some time during the two weeks of fundraising? Any help, however limited, would be greatly appreciated. The more volunteers there are, the less there is for each to do!

If you can help in any way, please contact David Phillips on 01285 850322 (email: Madmeysay@aol.com) or Gail Bloxham on 01285 850261 (email: gail.bloxham@lineone.net). They are looking forward to your call.

## Flag Festival 2007

Following the previous years success, it has been agreed that this festival should be continued this year. The centre of Lechlade appears vibrant by the brightly coloured flags throughout the summer months. However it has been noted that some of the flags may be in need of some repair. If you would like further information on the event and how to maximise the flag opportunity, please contact Cllr Mike Cawsey on 01367 252401. Flags will be up for June, July and August.

## First Responders – Lechlade, Fairford & District

In the last newsletter we reported on the funding of a First Response (FR) for the area and training sessions in the Lechlade Pavilion. If you missed the training and are interested in finding out more please contact Mike or Ruth Read on 252023.

## Upper Thames Heritage Trust

The Trust is putting together a bid for money to prepare a major lottery application to carry out various work along the stretch from Radcot to Lechlade. They are very much in favour of our bridge project and if the bid is successful, it may well provide some money towards a footbridge.

## Lechlade & District Lions

Remember the Lions Minibus is available for hire to groups within the community. For more information, contact Steve Jones on 01367 253025.

## Tennis Court Hire

Please remember that a Tennis Court 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.

## Tree Warden

Would you be interested in becoming a Tree Warden? A voluntary position, the wardens provide the Town Council with information on existing trees, shrubs etc and make suggestions as to what can be done to improve the environment. An important, but not arduous, job. For more information, please contact the Clerk on 01367 252338. We would like to express our thanks to Len Jones who has done the job for many years.

## Mobile Police Station

The mobile police station is available in the Market Place, Lechlade on 11 and 21 March.

## Council Tax

When you receive your notice of your Council Tax for 2007-2008, you will see a small increase in the Town precept. The Town Council decided that money should be put aside each year as seed money for projects to improve facilities and the appearance of the Town. Although the greater part of such expense would be provided by various grant bodies, match funding is invariably required.

## Fly Tipping

It has been noticed that rubbish is being dumped under trees, shrubs and in fields. This is considered as fly tipping and anyone caught undertaking this offence will be liable to a fine. Please let us keep Lechlade tidy. As part of the Cotswold District Council's "Keep the Cotswolds Clean" campaign, tossing rubbish out of cars, dropping cigarette butts, discarding gum and dumping waste will not be tolerated. CDC now actually employs two litter wardens!

## Town Website - Forthcoming Events

Remember to let contact Cllr Sharon Wilson on 01367 253346 to advertise your community events through the Lechlade website.

## Christmas Lights

Thank you to everyone who supported the Christmas Lights event in December. Make a note for your diary - this year's event is planned for Saturday 1 December and will include an afternoon market with a late afternoon/early evening switch-on. WATCH THIS SPACE!

## USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

CDC Community Safety Team	01285 623000	Neighbour 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