



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
December 2007 - January 2008



Happy New Year to all our Residents!

Christmas 'Light Up Lechlade' Event

We hope you all enjoyed the switch-on of the Christmas Lights. The nightly illumination of the Town Centre over the festive period made the Town sparkle! The events take much effort and resources to organise. So, thank you to the Christmas Market and Lights Committee for staging another successful event this year, despite the weather! The Committee would like to thank everyone involved in making the event happen, especially the Lechlade and District Lions who not only worked tirelessly on the actual day - setting up the market and clearing away at the end - but who were also involved in erecting and taking down the Christmas trees. Thank you! If you have any comments on the town lights and/or ceremony, then please let the Committee know, via the Town Clerk. Note that the new lights on the Northern lamp posts will be fixed at 90 degrees next year, rather than parallel!

Faringdon Road Lighting

As we dismantle the Christmas Lights, The Town Council continues to press Gloucestershire County Council to look at the possibility of installing lighting along Faringdon Road from St John's Street to St John's Priory Park. As usual, funding is a challenge but we will continue to highlight our case.

And another lighting issue

We are being pressed by Gloucestershire County Council to switch off some of our highway lighting in the early hours to reduce electricity use and hence carbon emissions. We believe that there are security and safety concerns that need to be considered. If you have any comments on the GCC, please contact the Town Clerk please.

The Cemetery

We plan to extend the Cemetery to meet the long-term needs of the Town and to enhance the existing area as an appropriate and peaceful place of rest. We have agreed to progress with the purchase of an additional acre of land, immediately west of the existing Cemetery. New fencing, improved access and landscaping are part of the proposal that we are currently developing.

Footpaths

We are fortunate to have a complex network of footpaths which, as Spring approaches, will get greater use by residents, human and canine, and visitors alike. We continue to monitor the accessibility and condition of these footpaths and continue to maintain these access rights where new developments are planned. Our Lechlade 2000+ meeting in January will focus on footpaths and cycle ways, where we hope to have inputs from Gloucestershire County Council and other stakeholders. Unfortunately, we cannot maintain these footpaths ourselves and rely on all who use them to collect litter and dog owners to clean up. Thank you.

The Market Place

For those who attended the Christmas Lights event will realise what a splendid asset we have and the opportunities that could be available for further community use and to enhance the area. The Council is working on plans for the development of the Market Place and hope to launch our plans in the first half of 2008. This development will form part of other improvements south of the river and the footbridge to enhance the Town.

New Footbridge over the River Thames

The Halcrow feasibility study for the proposed footbridge has been completed and the Town Council has accepted its proposals. We thank the Environment Agency, the Aggregates Levy and Markets Town Forum for funding of this important stage. The project is also to deliver biodiversity improvements and we are currently planning environmental and archaeological studies. A series of consultations with local community groups is underway.

Cotswold Joint Character Area - Joint European Funding

It recently came to the Town Council's notice that Lechlade had been excluded from a joint West Oxfordshire and Cotswold District Council bid for European. This was followed up and a meeting was held with CDC, where their representative was very sympathetic to our complaint and agreed that it did appear strange that Lechlade was the only Cotswold town to be excluded. This meeting was attended by Cllrs Topple, Carter, Gillard and the Town Clerk. At the time of writing this newsletter, a meeting was planned for 14 December when this matter would be discussed and a strong case put forward for Lechlade's inclusion. The outcome of this meeting will be reported in the next newsletter. However, even if there is a change of heart, there is no guarantee of any money from the EU and there will inevitably be restrictions on the projects that can be considered if any money is forthcoming.

Alcohol Free Zone

During the summer, the possibility of imposing an alcohol free zone at the Roundhouse was considered. Unfortunately this is unlikely to happen as the area is private land and the police cannot issue such notices for private land. However, this is an ongoing issue, which will continue to be monitored at regular police meetings.

Playgrounds

As you will be aware from the last newsletter, the Council are aware of the damage that the Town's children's playgrounds have suffered in recent months. Work has started to replace broken equipment and new metal fencing will be installed around the playground in the Memorial Field. Again, as mentioned in the last newsletter, in the long-term, we would like to form a group of local residents to assist in looking at the "play" strategy for the town as a whole, including the current playgrounds - the location, equipment, needs of the children and available funding. Residents' input is highly important to move this forward, and therefore if you would like to express your views and suggestions, please contact Cllr Richard Lambert on 250301 or Cllr Sharon Wilson on 253346.

The Waterways Trust

A step forward has been reached in the restoration of the historic link between the Severn and the Thames. The Waterways Trust has won £80,000 from the People's Millions recently for the Cotswold Canals Brimscombe Port Walls Restoration. When the link is restored it will provide a boating route, linear path and creation of jobs, as well as increasing river trade. More information is available at www.cotswoldcanals.com.

Library Service

The Town Council, with many others, responded to GCC on the library consultation. We have been assured that this consultation is about making the best use of the library building and not about the continuing library provision.

Lechlade Memorial Hall

Please note the Memorial Hall will be closed for the week commencing 4 February for the Main Hall Floor to be sanded and polished, and then relined for games and sports activities.

Lechlade & District Lions – Minibus

Did you know that the Lions Minibus is available for hire to groups within the community? The availability of the minibus is essential to some members of our community. If you would like more information on hiring the minibus, please contact Steve Jones on 01367 253025. Separately, the Lions are always looking for more volunteer drivers for regular commitments. If you think you could help, again please contact Steve Jones.

Calling all Societies, Clubs and Associations!

As reported in previous newsletters, we are trying to keep our town website: www.lechladeonthames.co.uk as up to date as possible for residents, as well as visitors. The website has now been updated to include a section showing forthcoming events with the additional, new feature, allowing you to submit your event direct to the website!! Very easy to use, you can ensure that your event is displayed and publicised through the website. To access this facility, go to the website, click on forthcoming events on the menu on the left. At the bottom of the page, click "submit an event" and complete the simple form and then press "submit". It's as easy as that! For more information or assistance in using this facility, please contact Sharon Wilson on 01367 253346.

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