



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
June-July 2007



Proud to live in Lechlade?

Once again, it has been decided to enter the **Bledisloe Cup**. The first round of judging for this competition, for the best-kept town, took place in June with a further round at the beginning of July. We are awaiting the result. To help with keeping Lechlade tidy, a group of volunteers have agreed to spend a few days helping to pick up litter. Black bin bags and bright yellow tunics have been provided by CDC to help with this exercise. Dates will be displayed on the Town Council noticeboard at Londis. The subject of the untidiness of the two roundabouts at either end of the town has also been raised on many occasions and the Council are looking at ways to address this.

This is probably an opportune moment to remind everyone that where you have **hedges** surrounding all or part of your property, it is a legal requirement for you, the property owner, to cut back your hedges/shrubs to your boundaries to avoid them overgrowing onto public areas, paths, etc. If we all make the effort to do this at our own properties, it will make a huge improvement to the town overall. In addition, a reminder that fly-tipping is an offence and that this is still occurring throughout the town.

Unfortunately, the sad thing is that keeping Lechlade tidy appears to be a never-ending task and not helped by certain incidents that have recently taken place. The beautifully planted tubs (by volunteers) in the Market Place, were recently upturned and emptied over the pavements late one Saturday evening. A kind local resident woke up to the mess early the following morning but cleared everything up before the majority of residents had seen it! This also coincided with all the notices being ripped off the Londis board and left on the path! We all live in such a beautiful market town, it is a shame that some people do not appreciate it.

Flag Festival

When you come to read this newsletter, the Lechlade Flag Festival will be in its second month and we are sure you will all agree the town looks fantastic. In its third year, running from 1 June to 6 September, the festival has received its best support ever, with some 70 flags being displayed. Thanks go to individuals, businesses, clubs and organisations, who have made their holder available or have contributed a flag. Special thanks are due to Cllr Mike Cawsey for his tireless efforts in organising and co-ordinating the whole event and also to his wife, Joan, for her help with flag making and refurbishment. A list of flag credits is available by email from flagpole@lechlade.com.

No Smoking!

Remember! From 1 July, it is no longer possible to smoke in any enclosed public space. This includes the Memorial Hall, offices, public houses and restaurants, which will be required to display prominent "no smoking signs". If found smoking, not only will the individual face a fine but the premises on which the offence took place will also be responsible and liable to prosecution. Cotswold District Council will be enforcing this legislation.

Police Matters

The mobile police station is available in the Market Place, Lechlade on 11 and 30 July, as well as 8 and 26 August. In addition, the police are asking residents to complete a short questionnaire regarding policing in the area. The questionnaires are available from the mobile unit.

It has also been highlighted that there is a current problem with bogus callers across Gloucestershire, especially to the elderly. There has also been a spate of burglaries by men with ladders. The police have impressed that the public should "act the good neighbour" and call 999 if they have any suspicions. **Remember:** for all non emergency incidents, please call our local response unit on **0845 090 1234**, no matter how trivial you think the matter may be. If they are not aware of it; nothing can be done!

Would you like to become a **Special Constable**? The requirements include: a minimum of 4 hours service a week; must be over 18, reasonably fit and healthy, no height restrictions, must be a British, Irish or Commonwealth citizen and your right to live in this country should be free of restrictions. Interested? Please call the Special Constable Co-ordinator, Caroline Warburton on 01452 752166 for more details.

Public Inquiry

Gloucestershire County Council will be holding a public inquiry regarding the footpath at Bowmoor relating to Right of Way issues. This is now set for 10/11 July in the Memorial Hall. Members of the Public are encouraged to attend. The Town Council will be making a submission so any comments to the Clerk would be helpful.

First Responders - Lechlade, Fairford and District

This is a joint project between Great Western Ambulance Service, NHS Trust Gloucestershire and St John Ambulance Gloucestershire, working together to provide an additional service for the local community to enhance patient care. The aim of the project is "to recruit, train and equip community based volunteers to respond to any life threatening medical emergency and deliver the appropriate care until the ambulance arrives". Training takes three days. We currently have six First Responders in Lechlade. Three sets of kits have now been issued to Lechlade facilitated by Edna Dawes through the League of Friends of Fairford Hospital. If you are interested in finding out more, please contact Larry Smith on 01285 713575 or Mike Cawsey on 252401.

New Footbridge over the River Thames

For the last two years, much work has been done investigating the installation of a new footbridge over the Thames, just west of the existing road bridge, allowing safer crossing for pedestrians. The Town Council has agreed to commission a feasibility study with planning consultancy firm, Halcrow, who were one of three firms who bid for the work. The study will cost approximately £10,000 and, so far, has been jointly funded with £2,500 grant from the Town Council, £2,500 from the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum; £3,000 from the Environment Agency and £2,000 from the Heritage Trust. Once the feasibility study has been completed, the Council would look to work with the Upper River Thames Heritage Group to seek additional funding for the bridge itself.

Royal International Air Tattoo (RIAT) - Fairford

You will probably all be aware that the RIAT will take place from Friday 13th to Sunday 15th July this year. As per last year, traffic may be diverted via Hambidge Lane to avoid the severe gridlock through Lechlade High Street, which has happened previously. This has appeared to work in the last couple of years. We have asked the police to enforce speed limits.

Pedestrians and car drivers, take care!

Please take care when crossing at the Market Place and car drivers, please be careful approaching the Market Place from Burford Street. Many drivers indicate left to go into the Market Place, before reaching the road to Faringdon. This can be confusing to pedestrians trying to cross the road. Also please approach the entrance to the Market Place slowly!

Last chance for tickets!

As reported in the April-May newsletter, following on from last year's success, the first fundraising in aid of Lechlade Christmas Lights will be a Pimms 'n' Jazz event on Friday 13 July in the gardens of Sherborne House. For tickets, please contact (01367) 253346. The fundraising last year achieved some £2,250 which enabled the Committee, all of whom are volunteers, to purchase additional lighting for the main Christmas Tree and new lighting for the town this year.

Events, events, events!

We are trying to keep our **town website** www.lechladeonthames.co.uk as up to date as possible for both residents and visitors. We know there is always lots going on in the town, so please, please, please let Cllr Sharon Wilson (253346) know of your forthcoming event so that it can be included on the site. Thank you.

ICE (In Case of Emergency)

A simple but effective idea! Most people now carry a mobile phone everywhere but if you were in an accident, who should the emergency people call? They won't know who the people are stored in your 'phone's memory. Suggestion: store the number of a person (perhaps next of kin) who should be contacted during emergency as ICE (meaning In Case of Emergency). The idea was initiated by a paramedic, who thought there was a need to use a recognised name for this purpose, hence ICE! Ambulance Services nationally are starting to roll out this campaign. You can even have more than one: ICE, ICE1, ICE2 etc. Store an ICE number on your 'phone today!

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