



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
February - March 2008



Lechlade sweeps awards!

The Fairford and Lechlade Business Club (formerly the Chamber of Commerce) is coming up to its first birthday. On 1 February, the club held an awards ceremony. The Business of the Year was won by The Christmas Shop, with the runner up being The Trout Fishery. The Business Person of the Year award was won by Mr Ali (Jaflong restaurant) with Anne Wilden (Lechlade Post Office) as runner up. Congratulations to all our Lechlade winners!

Bowmoor Lake – update

The footpath we all worked to preserve at a Public Inquiry last year has now been closed for six months from 24 January at the request of the Developer. We have been advised by the County Council that there is no legal route to object. The closure may be renewed after six months when we plan to raise our objections again.

St John's Bridge

Have you ever felt at risk whilst walking across the bridge? Local resident, Clare Cordingley has. So much so, that Clare has started a campaign, supported by the Town Council, to lobby Gloucestershire CC and Oxon CC via petitions and letters to make the road safer for pedestrians and dogs. If you would like to support this project, please email (or write) to our MP Geoffrey Clifton-Brown direct by visiting his website: www.cliftonbrown.co.uk and clicking 'Contact'. Please feel free to copy Clare with your email at clare.cordingley@onetel.com

Spring Clean

Cotswold District Council is again inviting parishes to take part in the annual Cotswold Spring Clean to target local litter spots. Following the success of the last Lechlade Spring Clean, Sue Coakley has kindly agreed again to co-ordinate a day for Lechlade, in April. CDC will supply refuse sacks, gloves, tabards and litter-picking tools! If you would like to be involved, please contact Sue on 253306 or Sharon Wilson on 253346. Watch out for posters!

Flood Guide

Gloucestershire County Council has produced a 20-page 'Your Essential Flood Guide' for all residents and businesses. Although GCC planned to deliver this to all homes in Gloucestershire, they have a shortage of copies. Further copies are being produced but in the meantime, guides can be found in the Library and at the Town Council offices.

Street Signs

It has been noted that a number of road signs in the town have been broken and these are being reported to Highways for repair. If you are aware of any signs that need replacing, please let the Town Council office know as soon as possible.

Street lighting

Thank you to residents who responded to our request re views on street lighting – your comments will be reviewed, particularly as we are being pressed by GCC to switch off some of our highway lighting in the early hours to reduce electricity use and hence carbon emissions. If anyone has any comments, please contact the Town Council office please.

The Cotswold Water Park

The Vision and Implementation Plan is now available. It can be viewed in the Library or online at the Water Park website: www.waterpark.org/society/cwp_master_plan.html. This is a set of plans for the development of the area where we live and work, covering the next 20 years, so it is very important that as many people as possible view the documents. There is a simple non-technical summary consultation draft report which contains the vision and implementation plan – and highlights questions which are in the online survey /consultation. If you have any questions, please email emma.paton@scottwilson.com or telephone 01235 468709.

Lechlade Memorial Hall

The main Hall floor has recently been resurfaced and the sports court lines reset with the curtains having been cleaned and repaired. In addition, new windows are being fitted to the Pavilion.

Contact the Town Council Office:

Telephone: 01367 252338
Email: clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk
Peter Godfrey (Clerk)
Linda Kent (Assistant Clerk)

Office opening hours:

Monday	10 am to 12 noon
Tuesday	1.30pm to 3.30pm
Wednesday	2pm to 4pm
Thursday	10am to 12noon
Friday	1.30pm to 3.30pm

Visit the town website for more local information: www.lechladeonthames.co.uk

Playgrounds

As reported in the last newsletter, the Council is aware of the damage that the town's children's playgrounds suffer. We invited people to give their views and thank you to those who responded. If we receive sufficient interest, an open meeting will be fixed in the near future so local residents can put forward their thoughts on 'play' across Lechlade. Unfortunately since Christmas, the vandalism at the playground on the Recreation Field has got worse. Despite equipment being repaired, the vandalism continues and now the picnic table (with its concrete) has been uprooted and smashed, the swings are out of reach, the fence has been broken again and the corner has become a ground for all types of litter including old bicycles. The behaviour of those ruining this area is totally unacceptable. If you have any information regarding the identity of the individuals involved, please either inform the police 0845 090 1234, or our Police Community Support Officer, Gemma Butcher on 01242 276501 or via email gemma.butcher@gloucestershire.police.uk.

Youth Club

Did you know we have a highly active Youth Centre for young people aged 11 to 19, which meets on every Thursday evening from 7pm to 9.45pm at the Pavilion, and currently has a membership of 57 young people. They have recently been successful in applying for a Youth Opportunity bid and gaining funding. The young people have received a lot of accreditations for their hard work, which has included subjects such as homelessness and crime and its cost. If you would like to find out more, please contact Debbie Jones on 253335.

....and for the younger children!

Unfortunately within the last few months, two organised groups for the younger children in the town have been forced to close. 'Beavers' which is for boys aged 6-8 years, closed after the leader finished and 'Rainbows', a group for girls aged 5-7 years has closed as the leader is moving. In both instances a replacement leader cannot be found. These groups form part of the Scouts Association and Girl Guiding and are the first introduction for children to these organisations. In today's modern fast world both of these groups provided a moral, friendly environment, teaching values and respect at a young age. Lechlade has lost an important contribution to town life. Could you help run one of these groups? Full training is available. To find out more, please contact Shirley Steel (Beavers) 243598 or Helen Maxwell (Rainbows) on 01793 861263.

Flag Festival Update – 29 May to 4 September 2008

A notice of dates, along with a questionnaire and entry forms have recently been delivered to all properties currently sporting a holder and also distributed to clubs and societies. If you have not seen the information but would like to be involved please call Cllr Mike Cawsey on 252401. Copies are also available in the Main Hall, Pavilion and the Library. Please ensure you complete and return to Mike as soon as possible. There is now a ready supply of new holders available. They are £25 each, and can also be used for Christmas Trees as well as displaying other flags for special events. Please think about adding a holder to your property and increasing the impact of the Festival. Last year we had almost 70 flags flying. Let's make this year even more successful!

The Cotswold Canals Trust

The motor vessel 'Inglesham' is due to be put back into the river during the weekend of 15/16 March. Training is available during the week before Easter for anyone wishing to take part in the boat operation this season, Contact Wendy on wildcat@rya-online.net or telephone 01235 764172. Subject to wind, water, weather and crew availability, the boat will run passenger trips from the Riverside Park over the Easter weekend Friday and Monday included. During the season, weekend and school holidays will be the planned operational days, and cruises for parties of up to 12 can be arranged by calling 01446 760314.

Big Band Night Success

Thank you to everyone who supported the recent Big Band Night, held by Lechlade & District Lions with the Lechlade Christmas Lights Group. Thanks also to Moore Allen & Innocent who sponsored the event and to Mr Ali and Jaflong for providing the supper. The event raised a profit of over £1200, which will be divided equally between the two groups. Thank you.

A Date for your Diary

A reminder for you that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 23 April in the Memorial Hall; we plan to make this interesting. Watch out for confirmation of timing.

....and finally!

Many of you will be aware of a large street box in Sherborne Street which has, over the years, emitted noxious smells, made strange noises and oozed nasty material. Over, at least, ten years the Town Council and Cllr. Napper Gould in particular have contacted every agency that they could think of ... but to no avail. Nobody owned it or knew anything about it! Early in February, some Thames Water workers looked at it and went away. Over the following weekend, it started seeping again and it was disappearing down a storm water drain. Again it was reported to Thames Water who sent engineers (within two hours) who removed a very large cast-iron pump, replaced a new one, replaced the box and fitted a new lock. The surveyor who attended told Napper that it was now on their plans and promised it would be maintained! The moral of the ten year story: constant dripping wears away bureaucracy!