



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
March 2009



Printed 18 February 2009

Welcome.....

Firstly, following the inconvenience caused during the heavy snow in February which included the disruption of the waste collection service, the Town Council would like to thank all residents for their patience, support and, mainly, good spirits during this period (see item below). When you receive this newsletter, the waste collection should be back to normal. As you will be aware, like many county councils across the UK, Gloucestershire's grit supplies ran out due to their huge endeavours to keep the county's major roads clear. Additional supplies of grit have now been deposited at the following places in Lechlade: Downington lay-by, Lime Trees (Burford Street), Hambidge Lane/Gassons Road, Perrinsfield (entrance) and the lay-by adjacent to Wharf Lane.

Secondly, we would like to pass on our thanks to Richard Lambert, who has unfortunately decided to leave the Council, for his contribution over the past two years. We wish him well in the future. The process for appointing a successor is underway.

Finally, the dates of forthcoming Town Council meetings (all at 7.30pm) are: 2 March, 6 April and 11 May 2009. The public are welcome to come along to these meetings. The Annual Parish meeting will be held on Wednesday 22 April 2009 at 7.30pm.

...and many thanks to..

all the residents who cleared paths during the recent bad weather. We have been asked by a resident to pass thanks onto Sam Bennett, who was on leave from the army for the weekend, and Daniel Woodward who cleared all of the paths and drives around the bungalows in Gassons Way on Saturday 7 February.

.....and congratulations and thanks to....

Rita Howell, who many of you will know has recently retired from The Royal Mail. The Town Council would like to thank Rita for all her efforts over the years in getting post to the people of Lechlade. Rita's area included The Shrubbery, Hambidge Lane, Roman Way, Kingsmead, West Way, Briary Road, Perrinsfield, Swansfield, Railway Terrace and Burford Road. Wishing you a well earned rest and a happy retirement, Rita.

Hall Bookings - new contact details

To provide you with a more efficient service, from **Monday 9 March**, there will be a dedicated **bookings** telephone line and email address if you wish to make or amend a hall booking (Main Hall, Clarke Pierce, Pavilion or All Weather pitch). Emails should be sent to **bookings@lechladeonthames.co.uk** or call **01367 253325** and leave a message on the answer machine. These messages will be checked at least twice a week. **Please note:** bookings will no longer be taken via the Town Council email address or telephone number.

Town Council Administrative Assistant

The Town Council is looking to appoint a part-time assistant to co-ordinate the hall bookings and carry out other administrative tasks. If this is of interest to you, please contact the Town Clerk, Ginette James, on 01367 252338 for an informal discussion.

Flood prevention actions delivered

Following discussions with Gloucestershire Highways, we are pleased to report that they have implemented an overflow from the attenuation pond by the roundabout to the west of the town. In addition, they have cleared gullies along the A417 (including Downington) and in the High Street and Oak Street, as well as starting work on the culverts at Claydon Pike (although this was interrupted by the snow). Cotswold District Council (CDC) has issued letters and leaflets to residents along Whelford Lane. Riparian (river bank) owners have been identified and constructive discussions with these owners are ongoing. Positive action has already been agreed with some riparian owners. Britannia Parks (the owners of St John's Priory Park) have reinstated a ditch that had been filled in. CDC will be reporting in the near future on a recent inspection of the flood relief ditch and the drainage at The Wern to ensure this is working as designed. We have reported previously on a detailed flood report, The Hyder Report. This has been updated and is available on the CDC website www.cotswold.gov.uk. (cont'd over...)

TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE CONTACT

DETAILS:

Telephone: 01367 252338 (with answer phone)
Email: clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk
Ginette James (Clerk)
Linda Kent (Assistant to the Clerk)

OFFICE HOURS

The TC Office is (usually) open to the public every weekday, Monday to Friday from 9.15am to 12.15pm.

HALL BOOKINGS (from 9 March)

Telephone 01367 253325

bookings@lechladeonthames.co.uk

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

(...cont'd) At the time of writing this newsletter, there had been further flooding in Downington (towards the roundabout), the cause of which is being investigated.

Calling all dog-walkers and regular ramblers: *Your town needs you!*

The Town Council are requesting that people who regularly walk by the river, ditches and drainage areas report artificially high or low water levels, and any blockages they spot along the way. The idea is to give an early-warning of potential problems such as blockages and this, in conjunction with other mitigation measures that are currently being implemented, should help avoid a repeat of the flooding we experienced in July 2007. If you would like to offer your help and support, please contact either Sue Coakley on 01367 253306 or the Town Clerk on 01367 252338.

Waterside Living in Gloucestershire – Riparian Ownership

Do you have a river, stream, ditch or culvert running through, or alongside, your property? If so, you are probably responsible for its maintenance. Lechlade Town Council has a small supply of leaflets for riparian (river bank) owners. These are available from the TC Office.

St Birinus Court - No Cold Calling Area!!

PCSO (Police Support Community Officer), Lesley Pooley and Andy Fogden, North Cotswold Neighbourhood Watch Co-ordinator, are launching Lechlade's first "no cold calling area" on 11 March at St Birinus Court. This aims to reduce unwanted door-to-door sales people and rogue traders. If any residents feel that this should be extended into their area please contact Lesley on **0845 090 1234**. Also if you do have any door-to-door sellers in the Lechlade area, please report this on the same number. **Remember:** the PCSOs would also encourage residents to inform them of any non-emergency incident or unsocial behaviour seen in the Town, on **0845 090 1234**.

Garden Waste Collection Service – Renewal

If you currently have a garden waste licence, then this is due for renewal. You should have received a renewal notice direct from CDC for the period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010, with details of how to pay. If you would like to take out a new licence, please sign up to the service by calling 01285 623123. If you do not wish to renew your licence, please ignore your renewal notice. Please contact CDC if you have an unwanted green garden waste wheeled bin.

How many visits?

You may be surprised to learn that the Lechlade website: www.lechladeonthames.co.uk has been attracting some 5,000 to 9,500 visits to the site each month throughout 2008! In January 2009, total individual visits to the site were 5,804! One of the main pages accessed is the "Forthcoming Events" section. Remember you can advertise your event by accessing the 'Forthcoming Events' section, and 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! If you are a business, shop, service, club or society not currently on the website or if you would like to amend your current details, please contact Sharon Wilson on 01367 253346 or email: sharone.wilson@yahoo.co.uk. As a resident, you can also access the latest TC minutes, Committee minutes and this newsletter on the website!

Finally, would you like your **Lechlade photograph** to be shown on the website? We are looking for inspirational photographs of our town – all photographs submitted will have a chance of appearing in our 'Gallery of Photos' on the Lechlade website. You could help attract more visitors! If you have a photo you would like to be considered, please email sharone.wilson@yahoo.co.uk. Thank you.

ALERT! Dog warden on patrol!

CDC has resumed responsibility for local dog warden and litter enforcement patrols. Rule breakers within these two areas will be subjected to a £75 spot fine if caught. Watch out!

Do you know about the Faringdon Community Bus linking Lechlade to Faringdon?

There is no commercial bus service between Lechlade and Faringdon but every **Tuesday** (Market Day in Faringdon), the Community Bus does two circular trips calling at Coleshill and Lechlade Market Place. The bus leaves the Market place at 9.32am and 12.11pm. Organised and driven by volunteers, the Community Bus is supported by Oxfordshire County Council and Faringdon Town Council. By agreement with the District Council, bus passes are accepted after 9.30am.

Cotswold Water Park Estates and Ranger Team

Volunteering can be so rewarding...Do you like the outdoors? Do you enjoy meeting people and making new friends? Do you enjoy practical tasks and learning new skills? Do you care about the local environment? Then join the team as a volunteer ranger and help make a difference near home. They meet every third Sunday of the month between September and June from 10.00am to 3.30pm. No previous experience required - just plenty of enthusiasm. All training will be given and all tools and equipment provided. For more information call Phillipa Sheldrake on 07789 511566 or email phillipa.sheldrake@waterpark.org.