



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
October-November 2007



Christmas Lights on 1 December

Start the Christmas festivities this year at the **Christmas 'Light-up Lechlade' Event**, which will take place on Saturday 1 December in the Market Place. There will be a Christmas Market during the afternoon and the switch-on event starts at 4.30pm. With the additional lights this year, the event will provide a great start to the festive season for all ages! Please remember, as usual, the Market Place will be closed from 6am and we would very much appreciate your co-operation in minimising car movements in the area. In addition, although we have some gazebos to cover the market stalls, we would appreciate borrowing a few more for the day! If you can help, please contact Freda Shrouder on 01367 252420. Lastly, if anyone can offer help during the day – or more importantly at the end of the festivities, with some light clearing up duties, please contact Sharon Wilson on 01367 253346. Again this would be very much appreciated.

The July Flood

For some, the flooding event in July is now a memory; but for those residents who were flooded and are still working hard to restore their homes, please be assured that the Town Council has been pressing Gloucestershire County Council and Cotswold District Council to respond to local needs. Gloucestershire County Council is arranging a 'walk in' flood forum at the Palmer's Hall, Fairford on 2 November for anyone to attend. In addition, we are meeting GCC and CDC to discuss technical issues around the flooding in Downington. We have also met the Environment Agency to explain the extent of and reasons for the flooding. GCC Highways tell us that an additional £25m is needed to repair roads damaged during the storm; it has received an interim £10m government grant but this still leaves a major gap in funding; not great news for other highway improvements in the short term.

Emergency Plan

An Emergency Response team is being set up to put together an Emergency Recovery Plan to deal with emergency situations. Cotswold District Council have asked Fairford to drive this project forward. Once information has been obtained, a "template" will be circulated to other CDC parishes. We will then have a meeting of all interested including partner groups and a Critical Event Action Plan will be formulated. Once Lechlade's plan has been finalised, this will be made available to the public.

Bledisloe Cup

This year Lechlade was awarded 'runner up' in the Large Towns category of the Bledisloe Cup, pipped by Chipping Campden in the final judging. The cup is awarded for the best 'village' in terms of maintaining the fabric of the town, as well as the social wellbeing and development of each town. This is now being extended to include such areas as the quality of the website and local efforts in recycling and sustainability. The benefits of this competition to the Town are not just prestige but increasing the awareness of us all to maintain an attractive environment and improve the facilities and structure of the Town. We are very grateful to those who took part in the 'litter pick' earlier in the year and remind us all to maintain the high standards we have achieved.

Council Office - Opening hours!

In the last newsletter, we were pleased to announce the appointment of Linda Kent as Assistant Clerk. The impact of having Linda onboard has meant that the Council Offices at the Memorial Hall are now open every weekday as follows: Monday 10am to 12 noon; Tuesday 1.30pm to 3.30pm; Wednesday 2pm to 4pm; Thursday 10am to 12noon; and Friday 1.30pm to 3.30pm.

Beware of traffic enforcement officers marching towards Lechlade!

From 5 November a team of eight fully trained wardens/parking attendants will be "launched" to patrol CDC Pay and Display car parks as well as looking after parking enforcement in all towns and villages in the CDC area. They will be despatched randomly on a seven day basis and will not be working just 9am to 5pm! The process is a result of the Road Traffic Act 1991, which allows the transfer of non endorsable offences to the Local Authority. CDC will be responsible for Enforcement and Fines, Pay and Display Parks, Residents Parking permits/charges, Waiting Restrictions, Parking Places, Payments and Appeals. The police will still be responsible for processing moving traffic offences, speeding, obstruction, and out of hours parking problems. Once a ticket is issued the fine is £60.00; if paid within 15 days this drops to £30.00. The registered owner not the driver will be finally held responsible for the fine if the driver defaults. An appeal can stop the 15 day clock but only if the letter is positively delivered to the department. Please ensure that you do not park in restricted areas!

Walks Book

Remember: the Lechlade and Fairford Walks book can be purchased from the Post Office, Lechlade Newsagent and The Gallery Tea Shop.

Playgrounds

The Council are aware of the damage that the town's children's playgrounds have suffered in recent months. To meet with health and safety standards, it is planned, in the short-term, to replace broken equipment and continue with the general upkeep of these areas. The maintenance costs are significant and we would urge everyone to respect the equipment provided. In the long-term, however, a group will be formed to look at a "play" strategy for the town as a whole. It is very important that local people's views are represented, so if you would like to be involved in any way with this, please let Sharon Wilson know on 01367 253346.

The Western Roundabout

You will have noticed that the roundabout leaving Lechlade on the road to Fairford has now been planted up by the Lechlade Garden Centre. Our thanks go to them for improving the appearance of the roundabout.

Green Bins

The green bins provide a great way of disposing of our garden waste but the process does not work if plastic bags are also put in the bins. Please place any plastic bags in your normal rubbish so that the green waste can be processed; this reduces the risk of green rubbish being rejected and sent to landfill.

Flag Festival

Once again the Flag Festival went very well and Cllr Mike Cawsey would like to thank everyone who took part with special thanks to Lechlade & District Lions for their help in putting the flags up and taking them down. Some of the flags have seen better days now and will need some attention before being used again. Please look at your flag carefully to see it deserves retirement! Advice would be not to leave it until next Easter before making plans or efforts to replace it. www.mrflag.com is a good site for professional digitally printed or sewn flags of any shape or size. Any comments on ways to improve the impact of the Festival are always welcome. Please contact Cllr Mike Cawsey on 252401.

Library Service - Do you use it? If not, why?

A reminder that the Library is a facility for use by all ages and provides a wide range of services. Questionnaires will be available in the Library at the end of August, to collect views and ideas, both from current customers and others who do not use the Library. We would encourage everyone to complete a questionnaire, as Gloucestershire County Council look towards ensuring that libraries continue to play a vibrant role in communities. Remember the Library is also open on a Saturday morning.

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.

Community Support Officer

We are pleased to announce that Gemma Finch is our dedicated Police Community Support Officer and can be contacted at Fairford Police Station (0845 090 1234). Recently there has been considerable contact between Wiltshire, Thames Valley and Gloucestershire constabularies and they have been patrolling the South bank of the river. A number of youths have been dealt with for causing a nuisance.

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 both you, the 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.

Children Be Careful

A reminder to all parents to warn their children not to play on the local farms. One Farmer in particular has reported a number of children playing in the haylofts of the farm and apart from the potential dangers that exist, they were generally making a mess. All farm buildings are working environments and should not be used as play areas.