



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
October/November 2008

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Town Council News

As reported in our last newsletter, we welcome Ginette James as our new Clerk. Please note that to enable a more efficient service to our residents, the Town Council office will normally be open every weekday from 9.15am to 12.15pm. In addition, there is an answerphone to leave enquiries out of office hours. In the last newsletter, we informed you of the committees that have been set up within the Council. Again, in order to keep you up to date, two information folders have been created (one in the Library; one in the Town Council office) which give information on the Councillors, the Committees and minutes of the main TC meetings, the committee meetings and the latest newsletter. In addition, this information can also be found at the Town's website: www.lechladeonthames.co.uk.

Dates of forthcoming meetings (all at 7.30pm) are: 3 November 2008, 1st December 2008; 5 January 2009.

TOWN COUNCIL CONTACT DETAILS:

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

NEW OFFICE HOURS

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

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

We welcome Christine Eatwell, as our new Councillor, replacing Mike Cawsey whose resignation we reported in the last newsletter. Welcome back Christine!

Thank you ...and congratulations!

Many of you will have seen Neville Ashford, the Town Council's handyman, carrying out a wide range of tasks around the Town. In October, Neville was awarded with a watch to recognise and celebrate his 25 years of service to the Town. We hope that you will join us in thanking Neville for his long service and look forward to his continuing input in keeping our Town clean and tidy.

Lechlade Emergency Response Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended the above meeting on 14 October (and thank you to Lechlade 2000+ for allowing us to use their meeting). The aim was held to bring residents up to date and invite comments on the work that the Town Council have been doing on Emergency Planning and in particular how we would respond to an emergency. Cotswold District Council also gave a presentation to show the broader context for our local actions. We are keen to involve the whole community and would be interested to hear from individuals or groups who may be able to offer help in some way. The opportunities for involvement include helping with communications during an emergency as well as offering practical support and looking after the welfare of those residents most affected by the particular emergency, for example a gas leak. If you would like more information or would like to volunteer please contact either Sue Coakley 01367 253306 or the Clerk on 01367 252338.

Safer Cotswolds South Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

At a recent meeting, it was highlighted that in certain areas of Lechlade, a tradesman had been calling door-to-door offering a gutter cleaning service for £20. Once accepted to do the work, he reports loose tiles and offers to fix these for "about £20". Unfortunately, when finished he demands £100 and refuses to accept cheques. Police Inspector Williams, who chairs this meeting, would encourage all residents to report such door-to-door callers/salesmen to the police so that they can investigate and ensure whether they have the appropriate peddler's certificate as there is evidence that there is a direct link between unregistered peddlers and burglary. The police can be contacted on 0845 090 1234.

Market Place - pedestrians and car drivers, take care!

When crossing at the Market Place please could pedestrians and car drivers in particular, be careful approaching the Market Place, especially from Burford Street. Many drivers indicate they are turning 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 and remember that this is a one way system with "no entry" signs at the New Inn end of the road. Visitors may get confused by the "disappearing" road markings and the fading road signs - so again, pedestrians beware!

At the last Town Council meeting, the Town Council agreed that the Market Place needed to be resurfaced and the signage (especially the road markings) repainted as soon as possible. Our Gloucestershire County Councillor, Ray Theodoulou, agreed to approach Highways for them to carry out this work. The proposal is to address urgent remedial works and is a totally separate issue from the discussions regarding the long-term options for the development of the Market Place.

Licensing Application

Following careful consideration of presentations by the Police, Lechlade Town Council, the Lechlade History Society, the Lechlade and District Society and representations from residents, the CDC Licensing Committee refused the application from First Estates Management Ltd to vary the current license to allow them to sell alcohol from the boat, Adventuress, when it is moored in the Marina.

'People for You'

Have you an hour to spare once a week? Then why not volunteer for 'People for You' Befriending and Support Service. This is a special support service for the older people in Lechlade and Fairford. Volunteers are urgently needed who can make short-term and/or long-term visits to people who need some support and friendship. Full training and support is available along with the opportunity to meet with fellow volunteers. If you are interested in volunteering or would like further information, please do get in touch with 'People For You' co-ordinator, Sue Black on 07507 641815. The service is funded by Cotswold District Council.

Traffic, Roads and Lighting

The TC committee for Traffic, Roads and Lighting are planning to hold a public meeting on 'Strategy for Traffic' where comments and ideas would be welcome from the local community. Look out for details on notice boards.

Playgrounds

As reported in the last newsletter, a new location has been proposed for the Recreation Field playground which had to be removed due to vandalism leading to health and safety issues. Suppliers are being contacted to come forward with initial proposals and quotes which will then be presented at a public meeting for residents to express their views. Separately, following vandalism at the Swansfield playground, a quote was obtained to repair the equipment. Unfortunately just prior to the repair work taking place, further vandalism occurred which now requires additional work. Once the repair quotes have been obtained, it is anticipated that the renovation will take place. In the meantime, if you are aware of any unsocial behaviour taking place at the playground, it is essential that you contact our local Police Community Safety Officers (PCSOs) on 0845 090 1234.

Lechlade Flood Action Group (LFAG)

As reported in the last newsletter this group was recently formed by a group of concerned homeowners who wish to ensure that the relevant authorities start to take appropriate action now, following the Hyder Report's mitigation recommendations. LFAG are trying to ascertain how many residents across the town are in need of sandbags, in order to more accurately assess the numbers required. Lechlade Town Council have already ascertained that CDC are willing to provide free sand + bags for all who need it, subject to the following three conditions:

1. That the bags are filled by those who need them (or by a team of volunteers)
2. That the operation starts and concludes over a weekend
3. That the home owner collects and then stores the filled bags, on their own premises

If you have been flooded or have come close to having your home flooded, please contact LFAG's Chairwoman Briony Roberts via: briony@blue-bear.co.uk leaving your name, address and phone number plus an estimate of how many bags you think you will need to protect your property. You are also advised to have plastic sheeting ready, as bags alone will not keep the water out but they will keep the sheet in place.

Town Benches

If you, as an individual or an organisation, would like to purchase a wooden bench for the Town, perhaps as a memorial, please contact the Clerk for more information.

Lechlade Christmas Lights Event - Saturday 29 November - CALLING ALL CHILDREN!

Kids - would you like to turn on the Christmas Lights with Father Christmas and his friends? If so, enter our competition. There are two categories. Children in Reception to Year 2 (aged 7 and under at 31 July 2008) - draw a picture of Father Christmas with his sack of presents. For the older children in Year 3 to Year 6 (11 and under at 31 July 2008) - write a winter poem (of at least 8 lines). There will be one winner and one runner-up from each category. Put your name, address and telephone number on the back of your entry and hand into Reception at St Lawrence Primary School by Wednesday 19 November. Winners will be notified by Thursday 27 November. EVERYONE ELSE - put the Lights event date in your diary!

Another date for your diary!!

Cotswold District Council along with all the other Gloucestershire local authorities is supporting a Zero Waste Challenge Week in Gloucestershire from 26 January to 1 February 2009. The event is aimed at encouraging all residents to reduce to a minimum the amount of landfill waste, which they produce and we are asking all residents to pledge their active support for the challenge week. Look out for more details.

And finally, a further reminder that Memorial Hall and Pavilion Bookings

are now being done by the Town Council. If you would like to book the facilities, please either visit the Town Council offices during opening hours, email or phone (see panel at top for contact details). If you booked the hall for a future event prior to the TC booking system, you should have been contacted to reconfirm your booking. If you have not heard from the office, please contact the Clerk, as a matter of urgency.