



# Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with  
La Chapelle des Fougeretz  
Town Council Newsletter  
November 2009



Printed 20 October 2009

## Welcome to the November issue of your newsletter.....

The Town Council meets on every second Monday of the month at 7.30pm. The meeting dates for the rest of 2009 are 9 November and 14 December. All residents are welcome to come along to these meetings. Contact details for the town councillors are available on the website: [www.lechladeonthames.co.uk](http://www.lechladeonthames.co.uk).

## New dedicated Public opening hours

To improve the service offered to residents, from 1 November 2009, there will be new dedicated opening hours for the public to visit which will allow for a prompter response to quick queries and more detailed consideration of more complex matters. It is hoped that this will be of significant benefit to the community as well as enabling even more efficient operation of the office. As this is a new approach we have agreed to an initial trial period of six months after which the hours will be reviewed. Between 9.30 and 10.30am anyone will be welcome to drop in to the office without prior notice to raise brief enquiries or to make hall bookings. It is expected that these queries will take between 5 and 10 minutes to resolve. The short nature of these queries should mean that even on a busy day anyone calling in should only have to wait a few minutes before being seen.

For more complex enquiries appointments will be available between 10.45 and 11.45am. This will allow the Clerk to prepare for the meeting and, if required, to have taken advice or researched the specific topic. It is therefore hoped that more of these enquiries will be resolved within the initial visit, which will be beneficial to residents. Outside of these times the office will be closed to the public to allow the staff time to complete their day-to-day work without interruption.

## Emergency Response and Flood Action

The Town Council has requested a meeting with the CDC technical team, the Environment Agency and Gloucestershire Highways with our Emergency Response and Flood Action Committee. **Reminder** to all **Flood Wardens** to report any issues with ditches now that the rain season is due! Finally, First Aid Training will be provided for 30 Emergency Response volunteers. Invitations will be issued shortly.

## Play Space Project

Good news – initial work has started on the Play Space. A topographical and utilities survey has taken place. This is required before any work can start on the area. The next steps will be to start work on filling in the hedge and fence along the side of the field and then moving onto infrastructure work for the site. Additional funding has been applied for to a number of sources and we are awaiting decisions on this. However, there are sponsorship opportunities available for all – residents, businesses and local organisations alike, for trees, benches and equipment. Sponsorship forms are now available from the Town Council office.

## Christmas Lights – Saturday 5 December 4pm – the annual event switching on the Lights!

Thank you to everyone who supported the Pinos evening in early October – a great night was had by all. The next fundraising event will take place on **Saturday 14 November** in the Memorial Hall - the popular Jive Evening returns! Learn how to jive! Be taught by professionals. Tickets cost £10 each. Look out for posters with ticket information. **Could you help** the small Lights Group? You don't have to be a fully-fledged member, especially if you don't like meetings. But could you help at events? If you think you can, please contact Christine Eatwell on **01367 252055**. **Residents/Businesses** – you will be receiving our usual request to have a Christmas Tree for your holder. We would encourage you to be part of this annual event – and ensure it is not a black-out!

## Cycleways and Footpaths

GCC Highways are being asked to reinstate the public footpath along the north verge of the A417 from the Wern roundabout to the Garden Centre. Highways (PROW) are also being asked to resurface the Monks Walk footpath across the field beyond Shelley's Walk. Cllr Tony Roberts has taken over the Chairmanship of the Cycleways and Footpaths working group.

## TOWN COUNCIL OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS:

**Telephone:** 01367 252338 (with answer phone)

**Email:** [clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk](mailto:clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk)  
Ginette James (Clerk)  
Linda Kent (Assistant to the Clerk)  
Clare Leake (Administrative Assistant)

**Address:** The Memorial Hall,  
Oak Street, Lechlade-On-Thames,  
Glos.GL7 3AY.

## DEDICATED PUBLIC OPENING HOURS

### Monday to Friday

**9.30-10.30am:** brief enquiries and facility bookings.

**10.45-11.45am:** appointments only

## HALL BOOKINGS

Telephone 01367 253325

**[bookings@lechladeonthames.co.uk](mailto:bookings@lechladeonthames.co.uk)**

Visit the town website for more local information: [www.lechladeonthames.co.uk](http://www.lechladeonthames.co.uk)

### **Lechlade's 800<sup>th</sup> Charter Market Anniversary**

Volunteers and organisations are needed to come forward and co-ordinate the above event. Initially this will involve identifying what events are planned for 2010 and bringing together those organisations and individuals that would like to get involved. The Town Council will support the 800th Charter Market anniversary but, on this occasion, is unable to take the lead.

### **Trees in Sherbourne Park**

The Town Council will take responsibility of the two small trees that have appeared, but in future, trees cannot be planted on Town Council-owned land without written permission of the Council.

### **Riverside Park**

For your information, this area of the Town has now been handed over from Swindon Borough Council to Cotswold Water Park.

### **Beware! Bogus Electricity Caller**

Two elderly residents from the Fairford and Lechlade area were nearly conned out of money following a bogus electricity caller to their home. Police in the South Cotswolds are now reminding residents to check and double check the identification of business callers to their homes. The man is described as white, aged around 50 years old and approximately 5 feet tall and was wearing a tweed jacket. If you are concerned, please call Gloucestershire Constabulary on **0845 090 1234**.

### **Lechlade Heritage and Development Trust**

Do you know who they are? The Trust's objective is to promote and where possible raise funds for community projects which will be for the benefit of Lechlade. The Trust itself does not manage the projects but encourages local residents/organisations to put forward their own suggestions, small or large. Guidance notes have been produced to help the application process. You can also become a Member of the Trust for £5.00 per person per year. For more information contact Christine Eatwell on **01367 252055**.

### **Walks around Lechlade**

A Lechlade and Fairford Walks Book is available to buy from the Post Office or the newsagents at a cost of £4.95.

### **Lechlade & District Lions....**

will be carrying out their Christmas street collection, along with Father Christmas, week commencing 7 December.

### **People For You**

Provides a volunteer visiting and support service for the older people of Lechlade and Fairford. There are presently 30+ volunteers doing an exemplary job in the community but more are needed. If you have an hour to spare a week, then please get in touch with Sue Black on **07507 641815**. Full training and support is provided. Sue would also like to hear from anyone who thinks this service might be helpful to them or if you know of somebody who you think might be interested.

### **Flower Tubs**

In the last couple of newsletters, we asked for volunteers to be part of a team looking after and planting up the Town Centre flower tubs following Barbara McNaught's 'retirement'. Unfortunately we've only had one volunteer so far. If we, as a community, wish the tubs to continue then more volunteers are needed. The more people helping, the less there is for each to do! Please contact the Clerk if you would like to help in any, even small, way. Unfortunately, if no one comes forward our only other option is to employ someone and to add these costs into the 2010/2011 precept for the town. PS: Barbara has produced fantastic notes on how to keep the tubs in bloom all year!

### **Gloucestershire Nightstop – do you have a spare bedroom?**

Do you have a spare room so you could make this sort of difference for a homeless young person? Nightstop are looking for people that have an empathy with young people and are able to offer a room and support for up to six weeks at a time. In return you will receive training, support and payment of up to £160.00 a week. If you are interested please call for more details on **01452 331330**.

### **Updates to the Lechlade website: [www.lechladeonthames.co.uk](http://www.lechladeonthames.co.uk)**

In an effort to keep the website as up-to-date as possible, we would ask that all Clubs, Societies, Shops and Businesses check their entry and let us know if it needs amending. If you are not currently on the website, then please contact us. To update or add your entry please email **markmidwood@hotmail.com**. Don't forget, you can advertise your local event or activity in the **forthcoming events** section of the Lechlade website by simply accessing this area. Click 'submit an event', fill in your details and press 'submit'. It's that easy! Evidence shows that residents and visitors alike look to see what is going on. Don't miss out!

**Remember:** if you have any photos of Lechlade you would like to see on our website, contact Sharon Wilson on **01367 253346** or email: **swilson@lechladeonthames.co.uk**