



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
October/November 2006



Memorial Hall

The kitchen is now reopened for full use. The new facilities include a large dishwasher, which we hope will provide additional support to the many volunteers who cater for community events.

Fairford Hospital

The hospital site reopened in September as an out-patients facility. Swindon and Marlborough Primary Care Trust are planning to introduce approximately 20 general and specialist clinics over the next six months. The success of this arrangement is dependent on the level of demand for these clinics, so please remember that using these local services obviates a visit to Cirencester or Swindon. Separately after months of long discussions between the League of Friends, Cotswold and Vale Primary Care Trust (PCT) and the local GPs, the go-ahead has been given for negotiations to begin towards the development of a new medical facility in Fairford. The plan is to provide ten intermediate care beds in addition to a nursing home, outpatients and other services for the community. It is still early days and there is much to be done, but these initial actions provide a good basis for the project.

Library – Do you use it?

A reminder that the Library is a facility for use by all ages and provides a wide range of services. As these essential services are always subject to scrutiny by County planners, we need to show that the community values the services and makes best use of the opening hours. Please remember the Library is also open on a Saturday morning.

Town Wharf

Work on protecting the bank has been completed to ensure no river erosion in the winter. We plan to tidy up the area and ideally would like to place some seats on the grass, for people to enjoy the delightful views of the river. However, seats placed there earlier in the year suffered from vandalism and, therefore, we are reviewing long term positioning of memorial seats.

Future of the Market Place

The Town Council is developing a plan to improve the layout of the Market Place and provide greater separation between pedestrian, bus and car movements. The aim is to reduce the risk of accidents and provide an enhanced amenity for the Town including an area we can use for events. Initial discussions with the County Highways team were positive and we are developing proposals for consultation.

Update on Railway Bridge

Meetings with Gloucestershire Highways and correspondence with the owners of the old railway bridge, BRB Residual, to look at securing the removal of the bridge as part of the development of this area, has received positive responses. However, the owner of this site has recently submitted a planning application, which includes proposals for a traffic light junction without the removal of the bridge. The Town Council is vigorously objecting to this, as we believe it is not in the public interest. We will keep you informed of developments.

Barclays ATM

Good news regarding the proposed ATM. It appears that the last hurdle may have been cleared. It has been a long planning and installation process between CDC and Barclays, with each stage taking time to be agreed or rectified. A date for installation is expected shortly from Barclays.

Bledisloe Cup

Although Lechlade made it through to the second round of the Bledisloe Cup, we did not win the top prize. The judges were significantly impressed to place Lechlade as Highly Commended. Thank you to everyone who did their bit to make our town look nice. Let's keep up the good work. We hope to get feedback so we can improve on those areas where we were marked down, ready for next year.

Cemetery

The Local Plan includes the provision of additional land to the west of the existing cemetery. The Town Council is developing plans to extend the cemetery and carry out improvements to the existing site. These plans are still at an early stage and we will keep you informed of progress.

Christmas Lights Fundraising

Following the success of the Pimms 'n' Jazz event in the summer, another fundraising event for Christmas Lights has been organised – a Jive Evening on Saturday 11 November in the Memorial Hall from 7.30pm. The evening, hosted by Jive+, a local, professional, dance school, will cost £10.00, which includes a Fish and Chip Supper. Tickets are available from Whistler's Gallery in the High Street.

Lechlade Gardening Club Flower and Produce Show

Thank you to everyone who supported the first show of its kind in Lechlade. Organised by the Lechlade Gardening Club, the show was a huge success with some 346 exhibits across 8 sections and 69 classes with approximately 275 visitors. It is hoped to make this an annual event on the first Saturday in September. Watch out for more details.

Flag Festival

The second year of the Flag Festival was again a huge success with 67 flags being flown, 51 properties involved, 25 individuals or clubs involved displaying flags in other people's holders and only 3 unused holders. One holder even contained 6 flags! To help future events, Cllr Mike Cawsey sent out a brief questionnaire to the 76 flag owners – unfortunately he has only received 9 responses! Let's keep this superb festival going, please let Mike have your responses as soon as possible. If you require a new questionnaire, please contact Mike on 252401.

Butlers Court Roundabout

Lechlade Garden Centre has offered to plant out and maintain the roundabout at the entrance to the new Butlers Court development. The Garden Centre has said that they are waiting for suitable weather conditions before they start the work.

Riverside Disturbance

Over the summer months, there have been many occasions of hooliganism and litter problems along the stretch of water west of Ha'penny Bridge up to the Round House. The police authorities on both sides of the river can do little to stop these problems unless they are informed. Please contact our rural beat officer if you experience any disturbances along the river, on 0845 090 1234.

RAF Fairford Deployment

An RAF exercise has been taking place at Fairford, which has involved approximately 2000 servicemen and women, from 23 September to 30 October. Although the majority of flying activity has taken place over Scotland and Wales, there has been a noticeable increase in take-offs and landings. The most intense period was from 16 to 18 October, with 24 hour activity, including night time flying and controlled explosions. This exercise is part of the RAF's training for deployment and is crucial in providing personnel with experience of demanding and hostile situations.

Footbridge over the Thames

The Town Council has approved in principle the proposal for a footbridge over the river Thames upstream of Ha'penny Bridge. This follows a detailed investigation at the request of Lechlade 2000+. The project is consistent with the Local Plan and Health Check. The next stage will be to undertake a detailed feasibility study. The results of this study will then form the basis of consultations with residents and relevant organisations.

Thames Path National Trail Free Pack of 12 Easy Walks

Call 01865 810224 or download from 'Planning a trip' page of www.nationaltrail.co.uk/thamespath.

DATES FOR THE DIARY!

11 Nov – Jive Evening, 7.30pm Memorial Hall 9 Dec – Christmas Concert, 7.30pm St Lawrence Church
8 Dec – Christmas Lights, 5.30pm Market Place 17 Dec – Town Carol Service, 4.30pm St Lawrence Church