



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
August - September 2007



The Great Flood

Many of you will have your own experiences of driving home on Friday 20 July, following the exceptional rainfall during the day. Several properties were flooded in Downington, along the A417 towards Fairford and in other areas. We commiserate with those who have suffered from the flooding. We also extend our thanks to all residents who helped those who had been flooded or offered assistance to several motorists who found themselves stranded for the night. Lechlade was isolated on the Friday night, when four of our access roads were impassable due to flood water. The rainfall was exceptional and some flooding would be expected. The EA recently reported to us on the January 2007 flooding of the A417 and identified several areas of concern. We have raised these issues with Gloucestershire County Council and Cotswold District Council before this recent flooding. We shall continue to press with vigour for a response from both Councils and for associated improvement works. We maintain a close relationship with the EA and plan to arrange a meeting soon – details to follow. We shall be reviewing with CDC how we can improve our combined emergency response to residents.

At St John's Lock, the rainfall was measured as 119mm (4.7 in) over 24 hrs to 5pm on Friday 20 July. The sluice gates were fully open from Friday to lower the river level and provide capacity for expected floodwater. In fact the Thames reached the 1947 flood level on the following Sunday, but amazingly stayed below the 1894 level!

A Big Thank You

Some things just happen in the town, and they may not, if it wasn't for the kind support and help of the Lechlade and District Lions. They get involved with many projects in the town. For instance, they are the team that put up the flags in May and take them down again in September. In past years, they have also helped Peter Whistler and the Christmas Lights Committee by assisting with the putting up and taking down of Christmas Trees and most recently obtained materials, renovated fittings and repainted the Youth Shelter - for which we should all be grateful. We are one of just four of the 114 parishes in Cotswold District Council that is lucky to have a Youth Shelter and it is great that the Lions are prepared to help keep the facility maintained. So from everyone in Lechlade - THANK YOU. For more information on the Lions and their work, please contact Steve Jones on 01367 253025.

Council Office - new opening hours!

We are delighted to announce that Linda Kent has been appointed as Assistant Clerk to the Town Council. We welcome Linda on board. Linda will be working part-time for the Council and we are now happy to inform you 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.

Bowmoor Lake Footpath

The footpath around Bowmoor Lake has been given a reprieve following the Public Inquiry on 10/11 July in the Memorial Hall. The government inspector decided that there is an established right of way around the lake and walkers will continue to enjoy the area. We encourage all walkers, with or without their dogs, to enjoy the scenery. Thank you to everyone who gave their support, either in writing or attending the public meeting.

Coln Park

The developer of Coln Park has appealed against the Cotswold District Council's decision to reject a planning application. The reason for the rejection: a flood risk assessment was not adequateand this decision was made before the recent floods! We await a date for a Public Inquiry. There was also discussion at a recent meeting of the East Cotswold Strategic Partnership (of which Lechlade is a member) regarding the creation of a public country park, which has been deemed the responsibility of the developer, at one of the lakes in the Thornhill Project. We will keep residents updated with progress.

Litter Pick

Thank you to everyone who helped Litter Pick on Saturday 7 July - and special thanks to Sue Coakley for co-ordinating the exercise. More than 30 people from age 7 to 70 turned up to help tidy up the town. Thanks also go to Mike Cawsey; the Environment Agency and Grundon who organised the disposal of the many black sacks via a barge from St John's Lock and the Christmas Shop, who helped pay for advertising and sweets to thank everyone who took part. Let's hope that even more volunteers will come forward for the next litter pick. Watch this space!

Walks Book

A reminder that the Lechlade and Fairford Walks book is available for purchase from the Post Office, Lechlade Newsagent and The Gallery Tea Shop.

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.

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.

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.

Mount Pleasant Bench

An opportunity has arisen for a bench to be purchased and sited at the start of Mount Pleasant (by Allcourt Meadow). If you would like to explore this further - perhaps as a memorial for a loved one - please contact the Clerk on 01367 252338 or via email: clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk.

Thank You

Thanks to everyone who supported the recent Pimms 'n' Jazz event at Sherborne House in aid of Lechlade Christmas Lights. Your support is hugely appreciated by the small committee, all of whom are volunteers. Special thanks to Moore Allen & Innocent who sponsored the Jazz band. The next fundraising event is on Saturday 29 September - A Big Band Night. Watch out for posters and ticket details. A reminder the Christmas Event takes place on Saturday 1 December in the Market Place, with a Christmas Market during the afternoon and the switch on event starting at 4.30pm.

Community Support Officer

From October, the town should have a dedicated Community Support Officer. More details will be in the next newsletter.

Recycle for Gloucestershire - get a compost bin!

Transform your garden with a compost bin for only £8 - an inexpensive, natural process that transforms your kitchen and garden waste into valuable food for your garden. Order your bin online at www.recylenow.com/compost or call 0845 077 0757 (quoting reference GCC04).

New Secretary for Lechlade 2000+

A (non-paying) vacancy has arisen for a person to join the Lechlade 2000+ group to take minutes, issue agendas etc. The group meets 5-6 times a year. If you are interested in the town and would like to see if you could help, please contact Mike Cawsey on 01367 252401. Lechlade 2000+ would like to thank Peter Stevens for all his work in the past and wish him and Erica well in their future in Australia.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

CDC Community Safety Team	01285 623000	Neighbourhood Watch Association	01242 276543
Non Emergency Police Calls	0845 090 1234	Bogus Callers Helpline	0808 1000 777
Gloucestershire Crime Stoppers	0800 555 111	Victim Support	01285 658350
Street Lighting	0800 542 1890 lightout@gloucestershire.gov.uk	Domestic Violence Support and Advocacy Project	01452 500115