



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
January 2009

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HAPPY NEW YEAR

The Town Council (TC) would like to wish all our residents "a Happy and prosperous New Year for 2009". We would also like to take this opportunity to thank all those who, over the last year, have given their time and effort to support the wide range of activities we carry out to support the Town. We appreciate your inputs in keeping Lechlade as a vibrant community. Dates of forthcoming TC meetings (all at 7.30pm) are: 12 January; 2 February; 2 March 2009.

THANK YOU ... CHRISTMAS LIGHTS EVENT

Thank you to everyone who attended the event on 29 November and special thanks to all who worked so hard to make the event a great success. Congratulations to Matilda Hart and Liberty Slowly (our winners of the Children's competitions to help turn the lights on) and also to Max Cole and Peter Jones, our runners-up. The Christmas Lights Committee would also like to thank the Town Council Clerk's office, in particular, Neville (our handyman), Lechlade & District Lions, Arkells Ales, Whistlers Gallery, Nick Sandhu, Londis, Lechlade Players, the St Lawrence Bellringers, Andy Fidler, Luke Skywalker and, of course, the children and staff of St Lawrence School.

MARKET PLACE

As mentioned in the last newsletter, everyone will have noticed that the remedial works to the Market Place have been carried out with some of the signage issues having been resolved. We are continuing to work with Highways to address repainting of the road markings which depends on more clement weather and other immediate issues.

EMERGENCY PLANNING....FLOOD PREVENTION

Flood Prevention is now included in the remit of the Emergency Planning Committee. Positive action is already being taken at St John's Priory Park, Claydon Pike and Downington. This work included Cotswold District Council (CDC) formally requiring the river bank property owners to repair/reinstate ditches; co-operation between CDC and Highways to repair/improve culverts; and agreement with the Environment Agency regarding clearing of ditches following their guidelines. Our thanks go to Briony Roberts for her work in getting the Lechlade Flood Action Group (LFAG) started and this work will be taken forward pro-actively. Thanks also to everyone who has volunteered to help following the Emergency Response meeting in October. In particular, thanks to the Lechlade & District Lions and the WI, not only for their community service throughout the year, but especially for their commitment to Emergency Response, where they will provide practical support and open the Memorial Hall as a 'place of safety', respectively. If you would like to offer your help and support to the Emergency Response team, please contact either Sue Coakley on 01367 253306 or the Clerk on 01367 252338.

FLOOD GUIDE

Please remember that Gloucestershire County Council produced a Flood Guide with advice on how residents can plan for emergencies. Copies were delivered to every home and additional copies are available from the Town Clerk or from the CDC website: www.cotswold.gov.uk. Why not read the centre pages of the guide and put together an Emergency Kit (as suggested) as one of your New Year's Resolutions!

POLICE COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSOs) UPDATE

The latest Neighbourhood Management Meeting took place in October to discuss the SARA plans (Scan, Analyse, React, Assess) that were reported in the August/September issue of this TC newsletter. These meetings are an opportunity for local residents throughout the Cotswold area covered by our PCSOs, to express concerns/issues which they feel can benefit from a multi-agency approach ie police and partner agencies, such as Fosseyway Living. The SARA plans agreed at this meeting included tackling the recent spate of anti-social behaviour and vandalism occurring inside and around St Lawrence Church. The PCSOs are treating this problem as very serious and would encourage residents to inform them of if any unsocial behaviour is seen at St Lawrence or anywhere else in the Town on 0845 090 1234.

At the time of writing this newsletter, we have been informed that a car accident occurred on Monday 15 December (lunchtime) which resulted in the virtual destruction of one of the benches outside Barclays Bank.

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

CONGRATULATIONS ...

to our Lechlade Youth Club's six-a-side football team who recently won a Gloucestershire-wide tournament held as part of the FA's "Kick It Out" campaign. The tournament took place at Cirencester Arena and included teams from Cirencester, Fairford, Tetbury, South Cerney - to name but a few. Under the captaincy of Kyhas Stone (15 years old), the team came top of their group and went through the knock-out part of the competition to reach the final against Chalford. Having won all the games they played, the team finished the day with a resounding 7-1 scoreline in the final! The competition culminated with the team being presented with the tournament cup during half-time in the Gloucester City versus Halesowen game (played at Cirencester because Gloucester's pitch was flooded). WELL DONE Lechlade Youth!!

DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE FARINGDON COMMUNITY BUS?

There is no commercial bus service between Lechlade and Faringdon but every **Tuesday** (Market Day in Faringdon), the Community Bus does two circular trips calling at Coleshill and Lechlade Market Place. The bus leaves the Market place at 9.32am and 12.11pm. Organised and driven by volunteers, the Community Bus is supported by Oxfordshire County Council and Faringdon Town Council. By agreement with the District Council, bus passes are accepted after 9.30am.

ZERO WASTE CHALLENGE WEEK - 26 JANUARY TO 1 FEBRUARY 2009

Could you go the whole week without producing any waste destined for landfill? 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. Visit www.recycleforgloucestershire.com for more details about how you can get involved. Alternatively call our CDC Waste Hotline on 01285 623123.

COTSWOLD WATER PARK ESTATES AND RANGER TEAM

Volunteering can be so rewarding...Do you like the outdoors? Do you enjoy meeting people and making new friends? Do you enjoy practical tasks and learning new skills? Do you care about the local environment? Then join the team as a volunteer ranger and help make a difference near home. Meeting every third Sunday of the month between September and June from 10.00am to 3.30pm. No previous experience required - just plenty of enthusiasm. All training will be given and all tools and equipment provided. For more information call Phillipa Sheldrake on 07789 511566 or email phillipa.sheldrake@waterpark.org.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NIGHTSTOP

Do you have a spare room? Could you give the gift of a home for a night?

Gloucestershire Nightstop is the safest emergency accommodation in the County for 16 to 25 year old young people. They are looking for more host families to offer a bed for a night at a time. Free training is given and expenses are paid, so if you are interested and want to find out more, 'phone us on 01452 331330 or email to development@gloucestershirenightstop.org.uk or visit www.gloucestershirenightstop.org.uk

ALERT! DOG WARDEN ON PATROL!

CDC has resumed responsibility for local dog warden and litter enforcement patrols. Rule breakers within these two areas will be subjected to a £75 spot fine if caught. Watch out!

LECHLADE WEBSITE - www.lechladeonthames.co.uk

The home page of Lechlade's website has been slightly redesigned (at no cost) to incorporate easy buttons direct from the home page to access useful information for residents including latest TC minutes, latest TC newsletters and forthcoming events. Remember you can advertise your event by accessing the 'forthcoming events' section, and 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! If you are a business, shop, service, club or society not currently on the website or if you would like to amend your current details, please contact Sharon Wilson on 01367 253346.

FAIRFORD AND LECHLADE BUSINESS CLUB

All residents should have received Issue 2 of the Fairford & Lechlade News magazine. Don't forget to look at the offers available from local businesses and shops inside the front cover!

AND FINALLY, a further reminder that Memorial Hall and Pavilion Bookings

are now being handled by the Town Council office. 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.