



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
April / May 2008



Flood Emergency Planning

The Town Council has been successful in its £8,400 application to Cotswold District Council to fund equipment and material. This will enable us to provide a first response in the event of flooding or other emergency. In consultation with CDC, we are preparing emergency plans to increase our preparedness. The level of response we can provide will be dependent on the number of able-bodied volunteers and availability of transport. Would any volunteers please contact the Clerk on 252338. If you have not collected your personal Flood Guide please visit the Library or the Town Council office.

Tourist Information in the Library

Many of you would have completed a Library questionnaire last year about making more use of the building. With the GCC Libraries team, we are to test the feasibility of operating a tourist information 'desk' in the Library. This will be tested with a trial in the early summer during current opening hours. Volunteers are required to help "man" the desk in the Library for, say, an hour at a time. If you are interested or would like to find out more, please contact the Clerk on 252338.

Lechlade Memorial Hall - new booking system

As from 1st April, the booking of the Memorial Hall has been taken over by the Town Council Office. Please call 252338 to book your event. The Hall Trustees would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mrs New for administrating the booking system of the Hall for many years.

St John's Bridge

Many residents have complained about the traffic hazards of crossing St John's Bridge. We have raised these issues with Gloucestershire Highways. A site meeting was held in late April with Highways and our Member of Parliament to discuss these problems and press for an effective solution for a safe crossing for pedestrians, pushchairs and pets. In these days of limited funding, we need to make a strong case. If you are aware of any accidents or 'near misses' on the bridge, please let the Clerk know.

Happenings on the Riverside

Two major changes have recently taken place. The Riverside Public House and other buildings in the Courtyard have been purchased by Arkell's Brewery. This announcement of the purchase on the Arkell's website is positive and includes the following quote from James Arkell: "*Our immediate plans are to ensure a smooth takeover of the pub and give it a good spruce up. After last year's summer wash-out, we are anticipating a long, hot summer, so we'll concentrate on redecorating the pub and making it ready for the holiday season.*" The Cotswold Water Park has taken over the lease of the south bank of the river and brings major plans to improve the area.

Play Facilities

The all-weather surface has been well used over the years and it is time for major replacement work. The Town Council and Trustees are looking to restore the surface to meet popular demand for a high quality facility. It was with great regret that the Town Council had to close and remove the playground in the playing fields because of continuing vandalism and risks to young children. We are actively pursuing alternative sites and funding but this might take some time to implement.

Prospect Hospice

The League of Friends of Fairford Hospital has negotiated with the Prospect Hospice in Wroughton to provide terminal care and respite care, supported by qualified practitioners for patients referred by Fairford and Lechlade doctors. This service should come into effect from April and is an important step in trying to restore the beds that were closed at the community hospital two years ago.

Town Council contact details:

Telephone: 01367 252338 (with answerphone)
Email: clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk
Peter Godfrey (Clerk)
Linda Kent (Assistant Clerk)

The TC Office is open to the public on
Monday 10 am to 12 noon
Tuesday 1.30pm to 3.30pm
Wednesday 2pm to 4pm
Thursday 10am to 12noon
Friday 1.30pm to 3.30pm

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

Community Notice Boards – Factor Four!

It is wonderful to see so much is going on in our town, covering all types of activities. A small reminder that should you wish to publicise your event/activity that the rule of Factor Four should apply! Notices should be limited to a maximum size of A4 (size of this newsletter); they should only be displayed up to 4 weeks before the event; should be taken down 4 days after the event; and lastly, should be within 4 miles of the town. There should not of course be anything commercial advertised. If we all stick to these simple rules, it may provide more room for others to advertise their events! Thank you.

Lechlade Website: www.lechladeonthames.co.uk

Do you know how many people look at the Lechlade website? Well, in March, over 5,300 visits were recorded and the site averages some 6,000 visits per month with over 8,000 visits in the summer months! The Town Council has now agreed to develop the Clubs and Societies section of the website (currently known as Community Information). If you are a Club or Society not currently on the website, or if you would like to amend your details, please contact Sharon Wilson on 253346. In addition, if you are a business, shop or service, please take time to check your details on the website and let Sharon know of any amendments or if you would like to be included. Lastly, don't forget, you can advertise your forthcoming events very simply by accessing the site. Click on forthcoming events on the menu of the left 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!

British Heart Foundation Cotswold Sponsored Bike Ride - 18 May

A family fun day! If you are interested in this, visit www.bhf.org.uk for more details. Apart from raising money for the foundation, it is hoped to raise interest and awareness of cycling for Lechlade. It appears there may be a number of people taking part from Lechlade and if you would like to meet up at a central point before starting the ride, please contact Cllr Richard Lambert on 250301.

Flag Festival Update – 29 May to 4 September 2008

Last year, the Flag Festival was a huge success with over 70 flags flying. This year, we want it to be better! We need to boost interest this year so please return your entry form as soon as possible. Flag holders are available at a cost of £25 and the Lechlade & District Lions are ready to put up the flags. We need more responses to allocate flags to holders. All flags (with or without poles) need to be with Mike Cawsey by 24 May. For information or would like to be involved please call Mike on 252401. Let's make this year's event even more successful.

Community Beat Officer

PC Richard Holland is our new Community Beat Officer, based at Fairford. Telephone number is 0845 090 1234 or 01285 712609 or contact via email: richard.holland@gloucestershire.police.uk

New Councillor

We welcome Sue Coakley as our new Councillor replacing Don Gillard who resigned earlier this year. We are very grateful for Don's service to the Town as a former mayor and long-standing Councillor.

The Cotswold Canals Trust

The 'Inglesham' is now running weekends and school holidays, subject to crews and weather. For information, please contact Wendy on wildcat@rya-online.net or telephone 01235 764172. Cruises for parties up to 12 can be arranged by calling 01446 760314.

Flag for Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire has been celebrating 1,000 years as a county and one event to acknowledge this was a competition to design a flag for Gloucestershire. This was open to all residents of the country and it is understood that over 1,000 entries were submitted. For more information visit: www.glos.ac.uk/microsites/gloucestershire1000/index.cfm

DATE FOR THE DIARY: The Christmas Lights Committee will be holding their annual 'Pimms 'n' Jazz' event on Friday 11 July at Sherborne House. Watch out for more details.

EDITORS NOTE: In the last newsletter, there was an article regarding activities for the younger children - 'Beavers' for boys aged 6-8 years and 'Rainbows' for girls aged 5-7 years old. The Editor would like to apologise for printing an incorrect telephone number. For more information on these activities, please call Shirley Steele on 01367 253598.