



Lechlade-on-Thames

Twinned with
La Chapelle des Fougeretz
Town Council Newsletter
August / September 2008



Printed 19 August 2008

Welcome.....

The Town Council is pleased to announce that Mrs Ginette James has been appointed as the new Clerk. Ginette will join us on 1 September, with Peter Godfrey retiring later that month. Our thanks go to Peter for his years of service. Ginette comes to us from Gloucestershire Rural Community Council and has previously held senior positions in the Cotswold District Council, and lives with her family in Lechlade. We all welcome Ginette to her new role.

and thank you....

Following his resignation, the Town Council would like to thank Mike Cawsey, a former mayor and long-standing councillor, for all his commitment, hard work and service over many years, including the organisation of the town's successful annual flag festival. The process for appointing a successor is underway.

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	10am to 12noon
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

Committees....

have been set up within the Town Council to focus attention on specific issues. Councillors have been requested to meet regularly and report in writing to TC meetings. By identifying areas of responsibility, councillors can concentrate on their areas of expertise and skills to ensure that effort is properly focused on each issue. The areas covered include: Finance; Planning; Cemetery; Cycleways and Footpaths; Website/ Newsletter; Emergency Planning; Traffic, Roads and Lighting; Town Centre; Footbridge and Riverside; Playgrounds; and supporting the Christmas Lights Group. Some committees can co-opt residents with specific interests in its work. More information on the committees and their members can be found on the town website www.lechladeonthames.co.uk under the Town Council section. The site has been developed to allow residents to access approved minutes of individual committee meetings where available. A list of committees is also available from the Council offices.

Lechlade Emergency Plan

As reported in a previous newsletter, the Town Council's Emergency Planning group has been preparing a draft Emergency Plan to provide first response to flooding and other possible incidents. The plan will be tabled at the September Town Council Meeting. A public meeting will be held in the Memorial Hall on 14 October to review the plan with the community and in particular those individuals and groups who have offered help in some way. (Look out for details of timing on the Town Council noticeboard.) This project is supported by Gloucestershire County Council and Cotswold District Council. Please consider how you may be able to be part of this Plan, perhaps providing specialist input, manpower or welfare support. If you can offer support, please contact the Council office on 252338. In addition, please remember that GCC has produced a Flood Guide, with advice on how residents can plan for emergencies. The guide is available from the CDC website: www.cotswold.gov.uk or hard copies are available for the TC office.

Flood Report

The Town Council has met with Cotswold District Council and Gloucestershire Highways to discuss the Hyder flood report and its proposals. The next stage is for CDC to prepare an Action Plan to identify improvement works, responsibilities and sources of funding. This is expected in September. The Lechlade Flood Action Group is being formed, made up of concerned residents who want to ensure practical preventative flood measure are taken across the town. Anyone interested in joining the group should email Briony Roberts on briony@blue-bear.co.uk with their contact details.

Update on Children's Playground

At the July council meeting, The Play and Recreation Committee presented minutes and initial recommendations of its first meeting.

A full copy of this document is available at: http://www.lechladeonthames.co.uk/minutes_playground.shtml. It was agreed that the Committee now approach suppliers for proposals and quotes. Once ideas have been submitted, these will be made available for comment to all residents, at a public meeting, before final agreement is arrived at. In addition, the Committee are looking at funding opportunities available and have submitted an application to CDC as part of the District's youth funding offer. A decision on our application will not be available until end August/September.

Planning Committee update

The Planning Committee, comprising Cllrs Tony Roberts, Sue Coakley, Napper Gould, Jim Sullivan and Jaime Maskell, now meet fortnightly to ensure a prompt response to new applications. The minutes of these meetings will be available in the Council offices and on the website, once approved at a subsequent TC meeting. Full details of all responses to planning applications are available from CDC.

Safer Cotswolds South Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership

Opportunistic theft from cars is a current problem - please make sure that you do not leave any valuables on display in your car even when paying for petrol, popping into a shop etc. There is a new problem in that some of the new wheelie bins have been stolen - please mark your wheelie bin with your house name / number in paint. Any thefts of bins should be reported to CDC not to the police. CDC will report those thefts that can be investigated (witness to theft, known location of bin) to the police. Please note, the partnership are pleased to report that the overall level of crime in the County is falling. But please do report any criminal activity to the police as they are keen to intervene early.

Neighbourhood Planning Meeting

A meeting of the above took place in the Memorial Hall in July, with our three Police Community Support Officers and representatives Lechlade, Fairford and surrounding villages. As part of Gloucestershire Police SARA plan (Scan, Analyse, React, Access), our PCSOs agreed to look at particular issues that are currently affecting our area including pavement parking, anti-social behaviour at the recreation ground Lechlade (by Lodersfield entrance) and in Walnut Tree Field in Fairford. Other issues included speeding controls. The next meeting will take place in Kempsford in October, and a notice will be made available on the TC notice board of the date when confirmed. You can contact our PCSOs, Angela Ruskin, Lesley Pooley and Daniel Sinclair via Fairford Police Station on 0845 090 1234. You can also contact them via email on angela.ruskin@gloucestershire.police.uk or lesley.pooley@gloucestershire.police.uk

The local community and Yoo...

Many of you are aware of the development taking place at The Lakes, between Lechlade and Fairford. One of the development's aims is to continue forging ties with many local people and services within the community. Examples include Butts Farm, The Bloom Room and Bibury Trout Farm. They are continually looking for additional services, for instance childcare, chauffeuring, general maintenance, cleaning, gardening or if you are a local producer with an outstanding product. If you would like to find out more, please contact them on 250066 or email: infor@thelakesbyyoo.com.

Footpath at Bowmoor Lake

At the time of printing this newsletter, there has been an unconfirmed rumour that the footpath at Bowmoor has been closed for a **further 12 months**. If anyone has any additional information on this extended closure please contact the TC office.

Youth Presentation....Lechlade 2000+

At the July meeting of Lechlade 2000+, Debbie Jones (Head Youth Worker, Lechlade) and Dionne Dobson gave an excellent presentation on the Youth Club (with some 60 members) that regularly meets on Thursday evenings in the Pavilion. As well as display materials, Debbie and Dionne explained the diverse range of work they cover with the young people through "A to Z" examples. Both Debbie and Dionne are thoroughly trained in a variety of skills and are aware of the dangers and problems that surround young people. They identified the three main challenges to young people in Lechlade: "drugs, under-age drinking and risky sexual behaviour". The real challenge however is to reach all the young people who are at risk and give them the knowledge that can protect them. If you are interested in finding out more about the Youth Club, please contact Debbie on 253335.

Clubs and Societies

The former Community Information section of the website has been revamped to Clubs and Societies. The new area now allows for groups to include additional documents about their activities via a link from the summary 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!

And a reminder for Memorial Hall and Pavilion Bookings

The booking of the Memorial Hall has been taken over by the Town Council. If you would like to book the Hall, please either visit the Town Council offices during opening hours (see panel at top) or telephone 252338. 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.