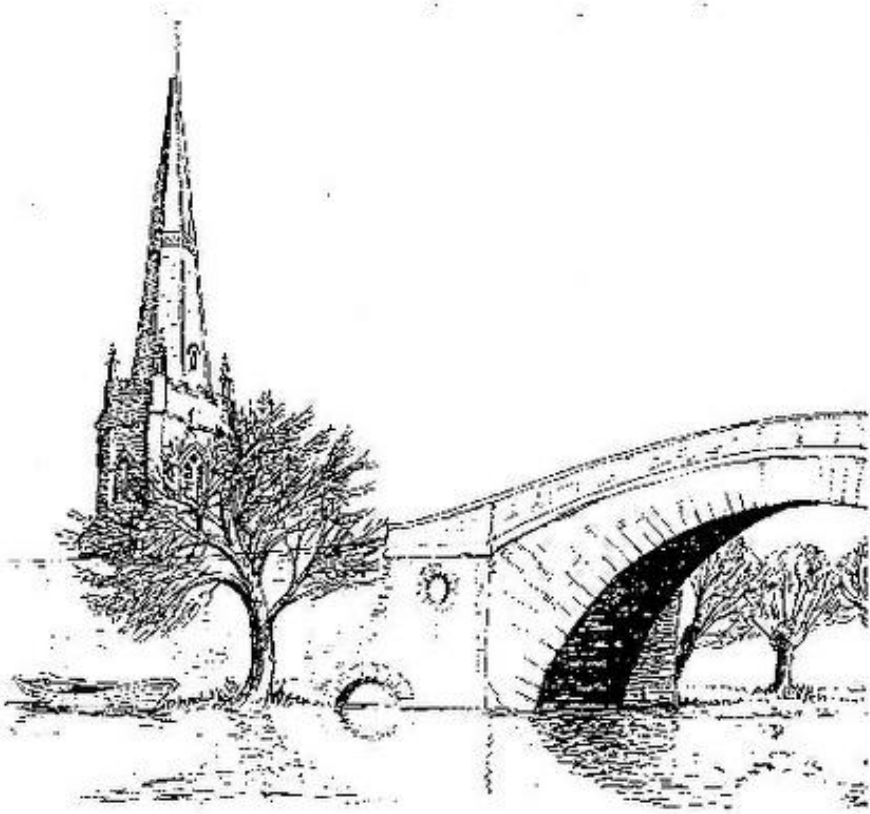


THE BRIDGE

Lechlade's Community Magazine

A Window on Lechlade



APRIL / MAY 2024

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WELCOME

The Bridge committee are thrilled to be able to bring you our first professionally printed paper magazine. Easter is a time for new beginnings, and this is a significant new beginning for us. I hope that you, our readers, appreciate the much clearer text and the fact that you can clearly see what's in the photographs.

As Rev. Andrew Cinnamond celebrates in his 'News from St Lawrence' article, Lechlade is a vibrant community full of caring people contributing and supporting each other. The Bridge is delighted to be part of that by showcasing what individuals and groups are doing and planning.

I am indebted to the Bridge committee members, listed at the back of the magazine, for their work and support. Without them there would not be a magazine. We already have some younger committee members, but we need more to secure the magazine's future. Do contact me if you think you may be able to help.

In addition, thanks are due to our Advertisers. They have just renewed their adverts for 2024, meaning that we have the financial means to thrive and innovate. If you are in need of some repairs, building work etc, etc. do check out our advertisers and please mention The Bridge when making contact.

And finally, we are aiming to increase sales of the print magazine and are very grateful to our local sales outlets:

- Lechlade Post Office & Gift Shop
- Lechlade Community Library
- #NoLabels
- The Health Box
- Cutler & Cashin
- Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities Charity Shop
- Monique's Country Kitchen

When you pop in to buy your magazine, do shop local at the same time.

The Editor, marian@winckles.co.uk or 01367 252851



LECHLADE HISTORY SOCIETY

In February, LHS member Bill King spoke to us in his usual informative and entertaining style about 'The Fascinating Story of the Bicycle' from the earliest models to modern racing and mountain bikes, and the sociological impact of this means of transport. Although there is possibly a representation of a bicycle in 15th century drawings from Leonardo Da Vinci's workshop, the first two-wheeled 'running machine' or velocipede was developed in Germany in the early 19th century. This was a wooden construction propelled by the rider's feet as it had no pedals.

Throughout the 19th century the machines were improved, some having more than two wheels and able to accommodate three or four people. At first there were no brakes and cyclists were advised to steer into a hedge if they wished to stop! There were many innovations in the 1880s and 1890s when pedals and rubber tyres were introduced, steering and braking mechanisms improved and lighter construction materials were developed. The 'safety' bicycle featured equal-sized wheels – a great improvement from the contrasting wheel sizes of the unstable penny farthing!

Once designs had been modified so that long skirts did not get entangled in the wheels, the bicycle gave women more independence. People could travel further for employment, grocers and butchers offered home delivery services, the army replaced horses with cycle battalions for reconnaissance operations, and the postal service used bicycles for deliveries. Many elements of car construction were first used for bicycles and car manufacturers such as Hillman and Morris started their businesses by making bicycles.

Our March meeting was a talk about 'The Oxford of Inspector Morse' by Alastair Lack. He explored the characters of Morse, Lewis and Endeavour and highlighted some of the locations in and around Oxford which appeared in the series. Some scenes were shot at locations near the production studios in west London so that the crew had no need to stay overnight in Oxford. Many of the main actors and production team did however sometimes stay at The Randolph, now home to the famous Morse Bar.

Oxford pubs did of course play an important part. Morse and Lewis would discuss their murder enquiries over a pint or two and this was a clever device to help the audience consider what were usually quite complex plots and clues devised by Colin Dexter, the author of the Inspector Morse books. The many references to literature and classical music in the series reflected Colin Dexter's and John Thaw's own interests. The two main characters in each series – Morse and Lewis, Lewis and Hathaway, Endeavour and Thursday – were 'chalk and cheese' in their characters, backgrounds and approaches to crime-solving.

The 'Twilight of the Gods' episode in 1993 attracted an audience of 19 million, about a third of the British population at the time.

Diary dates:

Monday 15 April – ‘Lost Railway Journeys in Gloucestershire’. A virtual round trip from Cheltenham to Lechlade and back along Cotswold railways in the early 1960s. With David Aldred

Monday 13 May – ‘The Friends’ Ambulance Unit in the World Wars’. Founded by Quakers, this was a volunteer ambulance service set up to provide an alternative to fighting. With Sue Smith

June & July – outside visits. Watch Lechlade History Society website for details coming soon.

The Memorial Hall doors open at 7:00pm for a 7:30 start. All welcome: Members at £8 p.a. plus £2 per meeting; Visitors at £4 per meeting. Refreshments available.

Linda Kent

THE TUESDAY CLUB

The term started back on 9 January, and everyone was glad to return. Coming to a warm hall, meeting with friends, eating, chatting and sharing memories and news lifts the spirits on these wet and grey days.

It has been a quiet term with the members choosing their activities, cards, dominoes, jigsaw puzzles or simply talking and listening to each other.

On the 5 March the tables were decorated with daffodils for Mothering Sunday on the 10 March and members took the flowers home with them.

On the 19 March the members all received an Easter egg and had traditional roast lamb for lunch which was much appreciated. The term finished on 19 March and the summer term starts on Tuesday 9 April. The **AGM is on Tuesday 7 May** at 2:00pm in the Memorial Hall.

If anyone has some free time on a Tuesday and would like to volunteer, there is always an opening. Please phone Jane on 07850 002521 for more information about the different roles.

The Club is held every Tuesday in school term time at the Memorial Hall from 10:30am until 3:00pm. Its aim is to provide a happy and relaxing day for anyone in the community who is feeling in need of some company. Transport is available within Lechlade. The day starts with a cup of tea/coffee, chat, card games, jigsaw puzzles, dominoes and sometimes a craft activity or entertainment.

A 2-course meal is served at 12:30pm followed by coffee/tea and a piece of cake to take home at the end of the afternoon. The cost of the day is £8.

If you or someone you know might be interested in coming to the Tuesday Club or you would like more information about the Club, please contact Hazel on 01367 252265.

Gay Oliver



NEWS FROM ST. LAWRENCE

The season of Lent comes before the great celebration of Easter in the Christian Church. It is a time of reflection, repentance and renewing our focus on Christ. Traditionally, it is a time of abstinence, of giving something up, whether it be alcohol, chocolate, or something else we rather enjoy. More and more, however, Christians are seeing it as a time of taking something up, of doing something different to help us in our following of the Christian way. Some decide on some good spiritual reading; others join a discussion group. It is about growing in our understanding and seeing how that makes a positive impact in our daily lives.

Every year St. Lawrence puts on a Lent Course which gathers together local people into groups to go through a shared course looking at a particular topic or theme. This year the course was called 'Whole Life Worship', seeing how we can worship God in every aspect of our lives, not just when we meet together on a Sunday for a service in a church. One of the criticisms often levelled at the Church is hypocrisy – we say one thing but do another. In some cases, it is a fair observation, but in many cases it is unwarranted. The Lent Course this year was very helpful in helping us make connections between what we do on Sundays (pray, sing, hear God's Word etc.) and what we do Monday-Saturday. Does our faith make a difference in how we treat people, how we use our time? Does it change our motives, our priorities? Being part of a church focussed on spiritual growth and living an authentic life before others is hugely important and Lent becomes an important time to re centre ourselves.

How else do church members serve God and serve others? Many contribute regularly towards the Food Bank, helping those who use the services of the Swindon Food Collective. Others play leading roles in the Gardening Club, the Art Society, local choirs, music groups and sports teams. Others volunteer as a school governor or help in Lechlade Community Library. Church members also offer their time to the Chaplaincy team at the Great Western Hospital, the Patient Transport Service of the Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities, the Tuesday Club, Working for Wellbeing and numerous other charities and worthy causes in the local community. It is all testament to the fact that Jesus urges us to be 'salt and light' in the places where we find ourselves. It is about making a difference, not being a holy huddle, insulated and isolated from the world outside.

As we move from Lent through Easter, we journey from the darkness of the Cross to the light of the Empty Tomb. From the horror of Good Friday to the joy of Easter day. We worship a God who came to us in human form, choosing to dwell with his Creation. We also worship Jesus Christ the Son of God who showed us the way of self-sacrifice and serving others. I am so grateful that in St. Lawrence Church we can see many people following in the way of Christ and giving of their time, money, and talents. They are truly Easter People. May I wish that all the readers of The Bridge had a very peaceful and joyful Easter!

Andrew Cinnamond, Vicar



ST LAWRENCE C. E. PRIMARY SCHOOL

It has been another short but busy term here at St Lawrence School. The children continue to take part in many sporting events including a gymnastics competition, a multisport festival, pentathlon, Bee netball, a dance competition and cross country. The children ran a fantastic race at the Cirencester and District cross country event with eight children qualifying for the county event and, in turn, three qualifying for nationals.

The Year 6 class took part in a K'Nex challenge afternoon which was thoroughly enjoyed by the whole class. The winning team is heading to the county final later in the year.

Our World Book Day celebration took place with two events. The wonderful Friends of St Lawrence School (FOSLS) team arranged a visit from illustrator Chanté Timothy. During her day with the school, she held several sessions teaching the children about illustrating and how to create a character. The second event took place on World Book Day, with the theme bedtime stories. The children came to school in lounge wear and had stories read to them by staff and our voluntary community reader team. To finish the event the children enjoyed hot chocolates and marshmallows!

The Year 5 class performed their amazing take of Robin and The Sherwood Hoodies. The children did a phenomenal job with their costumes, prop design and learning their lines. The performance was fantastic and enjoyed by both the rest of the school and Year 5 parents.

This term has also seen us enjoy Red Nose Day, the children attended school in something red and took part in a joke competition.

We end the term with our Easter Service at St Lawrence Church remembering the Easter story with each of the classes taking a part of the service.

From all at St Lawrence School we wish you a very Happy Easter.
Gordon Soutar, Headteacher

ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

Church Watch



We are looking for more volunteers to go on the Church Watch rota. We aim to have someone in church to welcome visitors from Easter to September. Full details from Paul Cobb (Church Warden).



LECHLADE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

Two months ago we shared with you our plans to refurbish the library. In the last Bridge we asked for your help. In this article we give you our heartfelt thanks for your response and encouragement.

The team have been very busy developing plans and exploring funding sources. In addition to the grants we announced last time, we are pleased and grateful to announce a National Lottery grant of £20,000. Lechlade Town Council have been particularly supportive with advice and a grant of £10,000. Thank you also to the Clementson Trust for their £1,000 donation. We are also hopeful of shortly being able to announce a grant from Cotswold District Council.

Even more inspiring has been the tremendous response from the community. A big thank you to the many local businesses who have contributed some amazing prizes to our raffle. You can see a full list of prizes and donors on our website www.lechladelibrary.co.uk. Tickets can be bought up to the draw on Saturday 13 April, 2024. Hopefully you will win the chance to be pampered, thrilled or entertained. The draw will be made by Ella Bacon and Christine Eatwell, Lechlade Deputy Mayor.

We all know that Lechlade is a special place. We have received help and support from many organisations and individuals. Thank you so much for the help, information, encouragement and donations.

Many of you will have heard of the efforts made by 10 year old Ella Bacon, a pupil at St. Lawrence Primary School. A regular library user, on seeing our call for help, she set up, with her mother's help, her own Just Giving fundraising campaign with a readathon. She succeeded in raising £1060 for the library. Chris Roberts, MBE, who has been helping us with media coverage, publicised this with the local media. This led to Ella being recognized for community service on the "Ant and Dec Saturday Night Takeaway". Thank you and congratulations Ella.



We are getting close to our target now and are starting to make decisions on subcontractors. We are currently on target for the refurbishment to happen in October after the busy summer months. We will keep you informed on our progress.

We also received some good news on the operational side. You may be aware that we also have some challenges with increasing costs, mainly due to increased energy and utility costs. Lechlade Town Council agreed to support us with a £1,000 grant to help mitigate potential losses. Last week, with the assistance of County Councillor Dom Morris, Gloucestershire County Council announced a discretionary grant of £2,000 for this year to Lechlade Library and each of the other Gloucestershire community libraries.

These initiatives are highly appreciated by Lechlade Library. Together with other cost cutting measures taken this enables us to cover this year's anticipated losses.

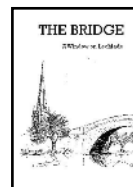
John Watkins, Chair of Library Directors



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LECHLADE MEMORIAL HALL AND PAVILION

Watch out. The Pirates are coming to Lechlade. The swashbuckling ones from Penzance! The Trustees of Lechlade Memorial Hall are delighted to announce that Opera Anywhere will be performing Gilbert and Sullivan's **The Pirates of Penzance in the Memorial Hall at 7:30 pm on Friday 17 May**. This is a lively, entertaining show suitable for the whole family. Tickets are available online from www.operaanywhere.com/tour-dates or can be reserved locally by contacting Christine Eatwell on 01367 252055 or christineeatwell@hotmail.com. We have wonderful facilities for putting on live performances and we are very keen to make full use of these facilities for the benefit of the local community.

Thanks to a very generous donation from Lechlade and District Lions, we will shortly be able to replace the bench on the playing field which is adjacent to the All Weather Pitch. The new bench will be the same design as the ones recently purchased by the WI and installed at the entrance to Lodersfield. We are very grateful to the Lechlade and District Lions for this donation.

We have two new activities which are designed to get local people to become more active. "Take a Seat" has already started in the pavilion on Wednesday mornings. On Friday 5 April "You can Move" are starting weekly sessions on the All Weather Pitch. This is a free, all inclusive outdoor movement class funded by Cotswold District Council. We also have a new activity "Baby and Me" which starts on 30 April. This provides postnatal support for new parents. Further information about these activities is available online or you can contact our bookings clerk (details below) for more details. If you know anyone who may benefit from any of these classes, please let them know that they are available.

On **Thursday 4 April**, World Jungle have organised a "**Go Wild**" event on the Playing Field. This is a free event for children/young people. Activities include; Circus Skills, Graffiti Art, Giant Bubbles, African Drumming and Crafts. For further information and to book a place, please see posters on noticeboards or online.

We have started work on making more efficient use of our storage facilities in the Pavilion with the aim of restoring the committee room (currently used as an extra store room) to a usable space.

When the pavilion was the only community building during the Memorial Hall rebuild period, we purchased 100 foldable chairs. We have now transferred 40 chairs to a separate store room leaving 60 for use in the pavilion. More chairs can be provided on request. Our next steps are to replace the very heavy 3 row storage trolley with a lighter, more manoeuvrable 2 row trolley which can more easily be moved into the main room. We have also purchased 3 of the smaller sized tables to go into the pavilion so that the three larger tables (which match those in the Memorial Hall) can be moved across to the hall. Having consistent sized tables will help with minimising storage area for these tables.

We are always delighted to host family events/parties. With the Pavilion, Memorial Hall main room and Memorial Hall social room there is a range of options available. To arrange a viewing or for more information about any of the activities which take place in the Memorial Hall and Pavilion, please go to our website which is at www.lechladememorialhall.co.uk or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/lechladememorialhall. Claire, our bookings clerk can be contacted on 07788 809784 or via email at bookonlinelechlade@gmail.com

Simon Paul BEM

Chairman of Trustees, Lechlade Village Hall and Recreation CIO



GLOUCESTERSHIRE MENTORING PROGRAMME

This time, we're giving you an exclusive sneak peek at some key findings from our external evaluation. We had an impact on 269 girls and young women considered at risk of criminal involvement, helping 235 through mentoring relationships and 47 through pre-engagement support, including telephone mentoring. They mostly fell into the 12 to 16 age range. - 47% of these young people have experienced social services involvement, either before or during their journey with the Programme. - 94% of mentees found mentoring useful.

GMP mentoring is making a positive impact on how mentees feel about themselves, with outcomes in three domains: embracing healthier coping mechanisms; making more positive decisions; and forming positive relationships. The role modelling and opportunities provided by our mentors helped make these achievements possible.

Help us make a positive impact! We're on a mission to expand our amazing team of volunteer mentors, and we'd love you to help us spread the word. You can do this by sharing our Facebook and Instagram posts, and having a friendly chat with anyone who you think might be a great match. We're looking for folks with a heart for understanding and supporting young people and an hour or so a week to spare. We'll get them covered on the training front. If you know someone who might be interested, please point them in the direction of our website. @Glosmentoring gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk

Teresa Harding



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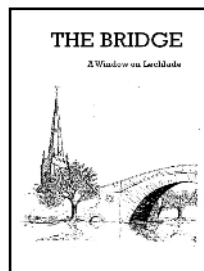
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SERVICES AT ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

Regular services



The pattern of worship in St Lawrence Church is as below.

On the first Sunday of the month

- 8:00am Spoken Holy Communion BCP
- 10:00am* Holy Communion (*with children's groups in term time*)
- 5:00pm Choral Evensong

On the second Sunday of the month:

- 8:00am Spoken Holy Communion BCP
- 10:00am* Together@10 All Age Service
- 5:00pm Sung Holy Communion

On the third and fourth Sundays of the month:

- 8:00am Spoken Holy Communion BCP
- 10:00am* Informal service (*with children's groups in term time*)
- 5:00pm Choral Evensong

On the fifth Sunday of the month (when there is one):

- 8:00am Spoken Holy Communion BCP
- 10:00am* Traditional Holy Communion (*with children's groups in term time*)
- 5:00pm Healing service (no choir)

*these services will be live-streamed via Facebook for joining in together and are also available there to watch later. The order of service to use if joining online is loaded onto our website each week.

The weekly service information is emailed out weekly. If you would like to receive these emails and other appropriate information, please send a request to info@stlawrencechlade.org.uk

Team Vicar: Rev Andrew Cinnamond 01367 253651

Churchwardens: Susan Holmes – 01367 253268, Paul Cobb 01367 253100

Assistant Churchwarden: Brian Rudge – 01367 253433

Parish Office: 01367 358653 – info@stlawrencechlade.org.uk

Visit our website stlawrencechlade.org.uk for more information

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

Chudleigh's Drapery



This photograph, featuring two likely looking Lechlade chaps, was taken in the early part of the 20th century from the top of St Lawrence church tower. But it's the shop behind them that we are focusing on for this edition's helping of local history.

This was 'Chudleigh's' drapery and there's quite a saga to tell of the Chudleigh family. A Clement Chudleigh arrived in Penzance from the Scilly Isles, with his eight children, and opened a drapery shop. In 1906 they sold up and moved to Swindon, opening a similar shop in Faringdon Road. An early advertisement showcases the 'Latest Novelties in Millinery' and the 'Newest styles in Mantles & Jackets – they obviously wanted to be seen as trend setters! In about 1910, one son, George, having completed an apprenticeship at 'Spooners' of Plymouth, came to Lechlade and set up the drapery in the photograph. He was 21 years of age so clearly an enterprising and ambitious young man.

In The Parish Magazine of June 1913, George is recorded as playing cricket for Lechlade, scoring 25 runs. A later reference shows him continuing with his batting prowess, scoring another 25 runs in a match against Williamstrip in June 1914. The last reference to George in the magazine is the announcement of his marriage to Marion Spearman Lee, sister of Jack Lee and daughter of the landlord of The Crown pub, on 24 November 1915.

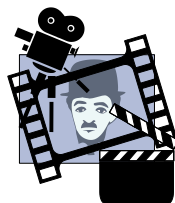
He seems to have given up the shop, quite possibly due to war service, and moved to Swindon. But in 1921/22 he returned and opened a new drapery on the corner of High Street and Thames Street (the current premises of The Care Net). The business may not have prospered because he sold it to his wife's brother, Jack. You can see from the photograph below that Jack clearly made a go of it and, in addition to drapery, branched out into camping equipment. This may have been prompted by the fact that what is now 'Bridge House' camp site was already in existence in the inter war years. My father used to come down from Highworth for weekends with his mates away from their mothers' possibly disapproving gaze!



George went to live in Sherborne Street at 'The Laurels', where his daughter opened a hairdressers. During WWII, George was a corporal in The Upper Thames Patrol (UTP) section of the Home Guard. They guarded the river around Lechlade, often patrolling between the Red Lion (now Monique's Country Kitchen) in Lechlade and The Trout. UTP was sometimes aptly mis-interpreted as 'Up The Pub'!

(With thanks to Lechlade History Society for use of its archives)

Marian Winckles, Lechlade History Society



LECHLADE COMMUNITY CINEMA

We show recently released films normally on the third Sunday of the month, except August and December. Our most recent films in February and March were *The Great Escaper* and *A Haunting in Venice*. We were delighted to see so many people come to see these films. Attendance for *The Great Escaper* was 85 which was our best for well over a decade. In April, we are looking forward to screening “**One Life**” starring Anthony Hopkins. This will be on **Sunday 21 April**. This promises to be another excellent film. Tickets cost £4.00, which includes a 50p voluntary donation to Lechlade Village Hall and Recreation CIO (the registered charity which is responsible for the Memorial Hall). Doors open at 7.00pm for refreshments (including wine) and the film starts at 7:30pm. Being part of an audience is a different experience from watching a film at home. So see films as they were intended to be seen, on a big screen and support your local community.

Simon Paul



A GOOD READ

Moving by *Jenny Éclair*

Edwina Spinner, now well in her 70s, used to live a busy life with her first husband, who sadly died young, then her second, who had a somewhat problematical son. She had her own complicated children, twins, a boy and girl, both very different with different hangups. But above all she was an artist and illustrator and ended up doing the artwork for a series of children's books. She lives alone in a large family house in London and decides it's high time she moved - but oh, the clutter!

So far so good. It then became a series of chapters of reminiscences by people from her past. Some were rather unpleasant and seemed to degenerate into using a lot of swear words.

If I am honest, I did not enjoy this book. I picked it up from a charity shop, mainly for the author. I wondered what her writing was like. I won't bother again.

Morville Hours by *Katherine Swift*

A beautifully written book - part gardening, part history, part geography and wholly philosophical. She has a beautiful way with words.

In 1988 Katherine, who had been an antiquarian librarian in Oxford and Dublin, and her husband took on the tenancy of the Dower House, attached to Morville Hall, a National Trust property on the road between Bridgnorth and Much Wenlock in eastern Shropshire. When they took on the house there was not much garden but Katherine has made it her project to develop one. She managed to take on an adjacent field which she proceeded to divide into 'rooms' and set it out, with the appropriate planting, on medieval lines. She talks of her inspiration for planting and goes into the geography and history of the area around Morville.

As a child Katherine had some contact with the Roman Catholic Church when her mother briefly became a member. The book is set out as per the Hours of Devine Office - Vigils, Lauds etc. Each one corresponding to a month of the year.

I picked up this book from a charity shop, mainly because I know the area it is set in. I haven't finished it yet – there is a lot to absorb. But I will. It's a fascinating read and a real must for gardeners.

Shan Garnell

Unruly by *David Mitchell*

A funny and irreverent romp through the history of England's monarchs from King Arthur (David does point out that he didn't exist) to Queen Elizabeth I. As it says in the blurb "A funny book about a serious subject. 'Unruly' is for anyone who has ever wondered how we got here – and who is to blame."

My knowledge of England's varied collection of Kings and Queens, from the excellent Henry V to the effective but vicious King Cnut (watch the spelling) to the bad and hapless King John and the rest of the motley crew,

has improved tremendously. We are treated to family feuds, succession skulduggery and the supporting social history of the times we pass through. Factual but tongue in cheek and always funny!

If you're a fan of David Mitchell the quiz show panellist, you'll hear his familiar voice through every page. One slight warning – there are more swear words in this than your usual history text! Available from Lechlade Community Library.

Marian Winckles



PROBUS CLUB OF LECHLADE & DISTRICT

The Probus Club of Lechlade & District continues to flourish and I can only put this success down to being allowed to publish our reports in the Bridge magazine. On behalf of our Probus Club, I would like to thank the editorial board of the Bridge for allowing us to publicize our activities in this way.

Our Club is open to all males (sorry about that, Ladies) up to any age and we would welcome anyone who might wish to come and “have a look” in order to see if it might suit them. We meet in the Lechlade Memorial Hall on the first and third Fridays of every month (except for public holidays) at 10:00 for 10:30am. Talks last up to an hour and the meeting is followed by a few drinks together at the bar run by our members.

Our Programme for the next two months is as follows:

- 5 April** Life as a Battlefield Helicopter Pilot Wayne Gregory
- 19 April** AGM followed by You Want to be a Conductor...Get on a Bus
Colin Dowdeswell
- 3 May** The siege of Faringdon in the Civil War Bjorn Watson
- 17 May** Lechlade Town Council... A View from the Inside Steve
Trotter

At the AGM, I shall be standing down from the Probus Presidency and I welcome Dr Michael Colley into the role for the coming year. I can only say what a pleasure it has been to be involved for such a long time and I thank our Committee and membership for their support over both good and difficult times.

Dacre Watson, President

MATT FIDDES MARTIAL ARTS

Matt Fides Martial Arts holds very successful classes in Lechlade Memorial Hall. From February they have a new teaching team led by Tracy Court.

Tracy started her martial arts journey as a parent on the sidelines watching first her daughter and then her son. She started classes for herself to build confidence and self defence skills. Now in her eleventh year of teaching others, Tracy loves watching individual students grow in skills and confidence.

MF Martial Arts in Lechlade teaches children from three years of age and above and adults as well. It is an inclusive school which runs life skills alongside the martial arts to support the development of well rounded young people. Classes are designed to help students make the right decisions in everyday learning, which promotes their ability to achieve their goals.

Tracy's aim is to build the community in her classes in Lechlade so that children, parents and adults have a place to train where they feel welcome and part of an extended family.

Currently the Saturday classes are:

9:30am - Mighty Matts 3-6yrs

10:30am - Family 7yrs and above

If you think this might be for you or your family you can:

Book direct www.mattfiddes.com

Tracy's email mrscourt@mattfiddes.com

The Editor



BALLROOM DANCING

Thames School of Dancing has organised a **Spring Dance** in Lechlade Memorial Hall on **Saturday 27 April** 7:30 – 10:30pm. Everyone is very welcome, whether you are coming for the first time or have been before. This is a great chance to have a dance with wonderful music and a friendly atmosphere. There are regular weekly Ballroom and Latin American classes in the Memorial Hall on Wednesday evenings. Please get in touch if you are interested in coming to the dance or joining in one of our classes. Information on classes, private lessons, dances and practice sessions is also available at www.thamesschoolofdancing.co.uk and on Facebook.

Simon Paul

LITTLE LEARNERS

The truth about 'free childcare'

15 March 2023. Jeremy Hunt ends his budget with a huge childcare announcement that will affect millions of people across the country. "So today I announce that in eligible households where all adults are working at least 16 hours, we will introduce 30 hours of free childcare not just for 3 and 4 year-olds, but for every single child over the age of 9 months." For thousands of parents this was welcome news, but for providers it came with a multitude of questions and concerns.

There is no denying that the expansion of the free childcare offer will provide many more families with affordable childcare, but there continues to be an ongoing issue for childcare providers. This issue is funding, or lack of funding. Since 2018, the hourly funding rate has increased by 24%. This sounds significant, but when the National Minimum Wage in that same time has increased by 33%, then the gap begins to widen.

As well as the increasing staffing costs, running costs are also continuing to increase. The reality is that the funding we receive is not sufficient to cover our costs and therefore we are working at a loss. 'Free childcare' simply doesn't exist.

The ongoing, chronic underfunding from the government is having a detrimental effect on so many settings. Ofsted reports that registered providers have been steadily falling since 2016. Between August 2022 and August 2023, 3,320 (5%) providers closed their doors - resulting in early years places being down 17,800.* With continued low funding rates, it's clear that more providers will be closing their doors unless there is a significant change. And with every closure, fewer children are receiving early education.

With the new funding in place we will go from being 75% funded children to almost 100%. This means we will rely solely on government funding. We have to cut costs without compromising the children's early education and care - but also ensure our hardworking staff team get the appreciation and pay they so rightly deserve.

Lechlade Little Learners has been part of the local area for over 50 years. We have seen hundreds of children learn, develop and create lasting friendships. We are an integral part of Lechlade life and we will fight to remain here.

Read the full article on our blog lechladelittlelearners.co.uk

*Ofsted official statistics, published November 2023, view on www.gov.uk

Hazel Adams, Pre-School Manager, Lechlade Little Learners

IF YOU WANT TO HELP
protect affordable pre-school provision
in Lechlade for generations to come, please
donate by scanning the QR code or go to
gofundme.com/lechladelittlelearners



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www.yogasilva.co.uk

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silva.cooper@yogasilva.co.uk

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ADVENTURE PLUS!

Lots of exciting camps are coming at Adventure Plus this month! We look forward to adventuring with our 8-11-year-old campers as we climb, cycle, paddle, and explore together at Total Adventure Easter!

We start paddling soon for our Witney to Westminster Canoe Marathon! This unique event is the UK's longest Canoe marathon -127 miles! It takes place over six days, and we finish just outside the Houses of Parliament! It's a vital fundraiser for our charity work and is helping us fund our new Adventure Base (see the concept image below for our lakeside classrooms!). Please see our website if you want to sponsor our incredible paddlers on their epic journey.

May sees our next 'One 2 One' weekend where any parent, grandparent, carer or family member can bring their 8+ child to spend quality bonding time with them. We keep the groups small so that you can focus on your relationships. If Campfires, canoes, and time in the open air feel like something you would benefit from, check it out!

We are preparing for our Total Adventure Summer holidays, Beacon and Peak. We cater for children age 8+ and can accommodate SEN and additional needs. We want everyone to be able to access our fun adventures. Camp overnight in our cosy timber yurt village or visit for daytime fun!

Sara Martin



ST THOMAS, FAIRFORD

Mass times: 6:00pm on Saturday and 11:00am on Sunday

LECHLADE GARDENING CLUB

At our **April meeting, on Wednesday 10th**, Paul Green is coming to give a talk called '**Excellent Plants- new varieties and old favourites**'. Paul comes from Green Leaves Garden Nursery and visits lots of Rare Plant Fairs. He will be bringing plenty of plants with him so this is not to be missed and just in time to get new ideas for this coming year.

On **8 May** there is a talk on the **NGS Open Gardens of Oxfordshire**. Time to plan your summer visits. Please can I also draw your attention to a coach trip we are planning to Broughton Grange and Coton Manor on Tuesday 4 June. The details of this trip are below.

Our usual meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall Lechlade where there is ample parking. Membership is £5 per person per annum, after which it is £2 to attend each meeting, or £3 for Visitors, who are always most welcome.

Membership entitles you to 10% off plants at Burford if plants are not already discounted. And at Bampton Garden Centre there is a point system according to how much you spend. Current membership cards have to be shown at the checkouts.

Under 21 year olds can come to our meetings free of charge. For further information please contact 01367 253309 or 252286 or any member of the committee

Gardening Club Visit

Broughton Grange Gardens, and Coton Manor Gardens on 4 June, 2024



Broughton Grange



Coton Manor

The stunning Broughton Grange in North Oxfordshire is now recognised as one of the most significant private contemporary gardens in Britain. Tom Stuart-Smith has transformed a six acre field into three themed terraces. Other areas include wild flower meadows, parterres, long borders, stumpy and a large new arboretum. There is a small café for drinks and cakes. We have arranged for a tour of this fascinating garden for an optional extra of £10. (About 1.5 hours)

We plan to leave Broughton Grange at 1:00pm and will not arrive at Coton Manor until 2:00pm. Neither garden will allow picnics. We suggest you may wish to take a snack to eat on the coach.

Coton Manor Garden in Northamptonshire is well known for its exceptional charm and unexpected vistas at every turn. Something for

everyone with extensive borders, terraces, containers, water gardens and even a lake with pink flamingos! Said to be a truly beautiful garden for both the plant enthusiast and amateur. Stableyard café for light refreshments but it will not be able to serve a coachload upon arrival. Large plant nursery.

Price £38 includes coach, and entry to both gardens.

Optional extra £10 for garden tour of Broughton Grange by Head Gardener.

Leave Lechlade 9:00am Oak St. opposite New Jubilee Hall near Memorial Hall car park

Arrive back in Lechlade 6:30pm

Please send cash or cheque (payable to Lechlade Gardening Club) to Mrs Audrey Barnes, 1 Roman Way, Lechlade, GL7 3BS. email audreybarnes96@gmail.co.uk

Barbara McNaught

THE ARTS SOCIETY UPPER THAMES

Is pleased to invite you to one of our talks.

Thursday 11 April: The Art of Paula Rego with Helen Oakden, Head of History of Art Department, St Mary's School, Ascot

Many adore her art, few understand it. Rego's confusing and confrontational paintings mix fairy stories with the socio-political context of her family and her homeland. Helen Oakden will talk about Rego's life, the history of Salazar's rule in Portugal, and delve into detail of works from every period of Rego's life.

Thursday 9 May: Gold of the Gods: Treasures of South America and the Search for El Dorado with Chloe Sayer

Gold in South America had a spiritual importance. Its brilliance evoked the Sun — the golden disk that nourished the Earth. In Peru and Colombia, goldsmiths made some of the most spectacular treasures of the ancient world. Cast and hammered, gold was transformed into sacred offerings for tombs and temples. Europeans, by contrast, saw gold as a commodity — the ultimate symbol of wealth. For decades, Europeans searched in vain for El Dorado, the legendary Golden One. Although many golden treasures were melted down for bullion, magnificent works of art are preserved in the museums of Peru and Colombia.

2:00pm in the Lechlade Memorial Hall but please arrive by 1.50pm

Please pre-book by email at tasupperthames.org.uk and pay £7.50 on the door

Rodney Mountford



NEW TO LECHLADE

A Private Affair

'A Private Affair' is a new venture opened in the High Street. It is a pop-up shop, open for three months only and selling first class clothes and accessories, either collected or bought from customers by the owner, Sheila Pazowska.

Sheila, originally from Yorkshire, has lived in this area for many years. Before it was bought by Thyme, she and her partner, Peter Grey, owned the Swan at Southrop. More recently she ran 'Vintage to Vogue' in Burford, again selling the same sort of clothing as she does here.

While Sheila and Peter were decorating and getting the shop ready to open they asked Laura Thornton to finish off the mural on the side wall of the smaller room. It is almost impossible to tell where the original finished and Laura's began.

Not only are items for sale, they can also be hired. There is a wedding dress I would think most brides would be honoured to wear! Or is there a special event you need that super dress for? Go in to see Sheila (and the mural of course).

Shan Garnell



Trishy B's Cat Care

Looking for someone to care for your beloved cats in their own surroundings while you are away? I'm Trish and I'm a lifelong cat lover with ten years hands on experience working within a well known animal welfare charity.

I'm trained in giving medication, such as insulin, and have experience with many breeds and cats with behavioural issues. I can provide: twice daily visits, litter tray cleaning, TLC and play with your cat, feeding & fresh water and administration of medication if required.

Please contact me via tiggerjb59@gmail.com or 07939-536624.

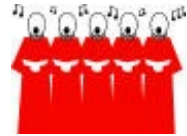
Trish Bailey



BECOME A VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER

Community First Responders are volunteers with the Ambulance Service who are trained and equipped to provide immediate support to patients in their local communities who have called 999 before the arrival of an Emergency Ambulance. There is an active Responder Group in the Fairford and Lechlade area. We are now looking for recruits in order to maintain and improve our service to our communities. Apply now at <https://www.jobs.nhs.uk/candidate/jobadvert/C9202-24-0100?keyword=community%20first%20responder&language=en> or call me (07795 915902) or email me (andrews@btinternet.com) for more information. Closing date for applications is the 6 April 2024.

Stephen Andrews, Community First Responder, Fairford and Lechlade
First Responder Group



ST LAWRENCE CHURCH CHOIR

From Christmas to Easter

Following a short break after all the wonderful singing over Christmas, the choir was soon busy preparing for the regular Sunday services - four Evensongs and one Holy Communion service are our monthly services. All these are important, but there are some which are especially looked forward to. The first of these was the evening service for Candlemas. This is a service which is held in yearly rotation in St Lawrence, Lechlade, St Peter, Southrop and St Andrew, Eastleach. This year it was the turn of St Lawrence. This special service starts in darkness with the choir singing with the help of candles, starting at the west end of the church and processing slowly up the church to their pews. It was a wonderful experience for our young singers, who were carrying modern battery powered 'candles'.

Unlike Cathedrals, where the service of Evensong is sung daily, St Lawrence rarely has a weekday sung service. Ash Wednesday is the exception. The beginning of Lent has a service which includes the imposition of ashes. The choir members receive theirs first and then intone the words 'Remember, you are but dust and to dust you shall return' as the congregation also receive the ashes.

The choir is now preparing for the important days of Palm Sunday - hopefully with a donkey - and Good Friday, which lead to Easter Day. The evening service on this day will be the telling of the Easter story in words and music. We hope that many who perhaps do not normally attend Evensong will help to fill St Lawrence on this day. There will be five hymns for you to sing, as well as readings and anthems from the choir. We wish you all a joyful Easter.

Mike Ward from the choir pews



LECHLA

Please check with organisers that even

April 2024

- Monday** 1 **EASTER MONDAY**
- Tuesday** 2 **TENNIS CLUB** start of Easter Training Camp (until Saturday 6th)
WI 'Yellow Hat Tribe Gallery' Memorial Hall 7:00pm
- Thursday** 4 **'GO WILD'** Children's Activities Playing Field
MEN ALOUD OUT 'Let's Talk about Death' Trout Inn 7:45pm
- Friday** 5 **PROBUS** 'Life as a Battlefield Helicopter Pilot' Memorial Hall 10:30am
- Saturday** 6 **ST LAWRENCE CHURCH** Churchyard Working Party From 9:30pm
NT Faringdon Walking Tour 10:30am
- Sunday** 7 **ANTIQUES & VINTAGE MARKET** Memorial Hall
- Wednesday** 10 **MU** 'We're Off!' Memorial Hall 2:00pm
GARDENING CLUB 'Excellent plants – new varieties & old favourites' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
- Thursday** 11 **ART SOCIETY UPPER THAMES** 'The Art of Paula Rego' Memorial Hall 2:00pm
- Friday** 12 **BURFORD JAZZ**
- Saturday** 13 **REPAIR CAFÉ** Pavilion 9:30-12:30pm
LECHLADE LIBRARY Raffle Draw
LITTLE LEARNERS Nearly New Sale Pavilion 1:30-4:00pm
FAIRFORD CHORAL SOCIETY St Mary's, Fairford, 7:30pm
- Sunday** 14 **NT** Coleshill Village Open Day
- Monday** 15 **HISTORY SOCIETY** 'Lost Railway Journeys of Gloucestershire' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
- Wednesday** 17 **LITTLE LIGHTS** St Lawrence Church 9:15am
- Thursday** 18 **UPPER THAMES & RIDGEWAY NT ASSOCIATION** 'Bat Conservation' Memorial Hall 2:30pm
WI Coffee Morning Riverside Inn 10:30am
- Friday** 19 **PROBUS** AGM & 'You want to be a conductor?' Hall 10:30am
SERENADE & SANDWICHES St Lawrence church 12:00noon
- Sunday** 21 **COMMUNITY CINEMA** 'One Life' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
- Tuesday** 23 **ST GEORGE'S DAY**
WI Evening Get Together New Inn 7:00pm
- Saturday** 27 **FRIENDS** Wine Tasting Fairford Community Centre 7:00pm
SPRING DANCE Memorial Hall 7:30pm



REGULAR M

Please check with organise

- Sunday** **Community Cinema** Third 7:30pm Memorial Hall
- Monday** **Fitsteps** 3pm - 4pm Memorial Hall
Lechlade Photographers Second 7:30pm Riverside pub
History Society Third 7:30pm Memorial Hall
Badminton weekly 8:00pm Memorial Hall
- Tuesday** **Tuesday Club** Weekly 10:30am–3:00pm Memorial Hall
Tuesday Lunch Club Weekly 12:30–2:00pm Memorial Hall
TATT Second 8:00pm The Trout
U3A First 2:30pm Palmer Hall, Fairford
WI First 7:30pm Memorial Hall
Art Society variable 2:00pm Pavilion
- Wednesday** **Little Lights** First & Third 9:00am, St Lawrence Church
Lechlade Voices Second & Fourth 7:00pm Baptist Church
Mens Shed 9:30am - 12:30am Fairford

DE DIARY

ents are proceeding as advertised.



May 2024

Thursday	2	PROJECT INSPIRE Summer Ceilidh Memorial Hall 8:00pm MEN ALOUD OUT 'What does "Keeping People Safe" mean?' The Trout 7:45pm
Friday	3	PROBUS 'The Siege of Faringdon in the Civil War' Memorial Hall 10:30am
Saturday	4	NT Faringdon Walking Tour 10:30am
Sunday	5	ANTIQUES & VINTAGE MARKET Memorial Hall
Monday	6	EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY
Tuesday	7	TUESDAY CLUB AGM Memorial Hall 2:00pm WI 'Hilarious Hats' Memorial Hall 7:00pm
Wednesday	8	GARDENING CLUB 'NGS Open Gardens Oxfordshire' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
Thursday	9	ART SOCIETY UPPER THAMES 'Gold of the Gods' Memorial Hall 2:00pm
Friday	10	BURFORD JAZZ
Saturday	11	REPAIR CAFÉ Pavilion 9:30am-12:30pm
Sunday	12	NT Coleshill Village Open Day
Monday	13	HISTORY SOCIETY 'The Friends' Ambulance Service Unit' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
Friday	17	PROBUS 'Lechlade Town Council' Memorial Hall 10:30am OPERA ANYWHERE 'Pirates of Penzance' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
Sunday	19	COMMUNITY CINEMA Memorial Hall 7:30pm
Tuesday	21	TOWN MEETING Memorial Hall 6:00pm
Friday	24	WI Coffee Morning Riverside Inn 10:30am
Monday	27	BANK HOLIDAY PROJECT INSPIRE Open Gardens in Lechlade 2:00-5:00pm



MEETINGS

rs before first attendance

Wednesday (cont'd)	Thames School of Dancing Weekly 7:00pm & 8:00pm Memorial Hall MU Second 2:00pm Memorial Hall Gardening Club Second 7:30pm Memorial Hall Scottish Dancing Weekly 2:00pm Memorial Hall (excluding first of month) Adult Ballet Weekly 9:30am & 10:45am Memorial Hall
Thursday	Spiritualist Church Weekly 7:30pm Pavilion Men Aloud Out First 7:30pm The Trout Working4wellbeing Digital Drop In Weekly 10:00am Baptist Church Working4wellbeing Talking Cafe Weekly 10:30am Baptist Church
Friday	Probus Alternate weeks 10:30am Memorial Hall Memory Lane Singers First & Third, 11:00am Pavilion Riverfolk Second & Last 8:00pm The Trout St Lawrence Bell Ringers Weekly 7:45pm St Lawrence church
Saturday	Repair Cafe Second 09:30am - 12:30pm Pavilion

FROM THE REGISTERS

At St Lawrence Church:

We remember:

David Benjamin
Valerie Harrison
Ann Hirons
John Minns
Brian Rushby



Friends of Fairford and Lechlade
Communities

Formerly The League of Friends of Fairford Hospital

FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD AND LECHLADE COMMUNITIES

Wine Tasting Evening – Saturday 27 April at Fairford Community Centre – 7:00pm Indulge in a range of fine wines and expand your palate. Join us for an evening of educational wine tasting - £25 per person. To book a place please **email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk or phone 01285 707300**

Pop Up Charity Shop – Wednesday 15 May 10:00am – 1:00pm at Fairford Community Centre

Edna Dawes Lunch Club - The Edna Dawes Lunch Club is ideal for the isolated and lonely. We provide a sociable day out every week with a hot meal and transport for just £10. Monday Lunch Club is starting soon! Please contact Katie Bull, 07713607106 or email edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk. Provided by the Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities www.friendsoffairford.org.uk/lunch/clubs

Lechlade Charity Shop - Your local Charity shop, based in the heart of Lechlade, sells a wide range of quality goods including ladies, gents & children's clothing, books, craft supplies, toys, vinyl and various household items. We also have a feature rail for seasonal items and frequent sales. Pop by to pick up a bargain! Open Tuesday – Saturday, 10:00am – 4:00pm. Lechlade Charity Shop: [Linda shop@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:linda.shop@friendsoffairford.org.uk) 01367 252189.

Patient Transport Drivers - Our team of volunteer drivers take people to and from their medical appointments. In 2023 we completed just over 1000 drives! Please get in touch with our Transport Coordinator, Val, to arrange a drive. There is a fixed rate fare for each journey to cover fuel costs – you will be informed of the rate on booking. If you are able to volunteer and join our team of drivers, please contact our Transport Coordinator, Val Harvey. Telephone: 07540 798226 Email: transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk

Free Prescription Delivery Service - If you have trouble collecting your monthly prescriptions, our Patient Transport Team may be able to assist. Please note this service can only be provided for people receiving free prescriptions. Please book via our Transport Coordinator, Val Harvey giving as much notice as possible. Telephone: 07540 798226 Email: transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk

Bereavement Café - Our Bereavement Café runs on the first Friday of every month, for people who have suffered a loss and would like to talk. Our nursing team are there to welcome you with a hot drink and always plenty of cakes.

Drop in between 10:00am and 12:00noon, Fairford Community Centre, Barker Room. If you have any questions, please call 07938 244335 or email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

Make a Difference Today - With your help we provide much needed services in our local community. If you are able to volunteer in our charity shop, at the Lunch Club, as a driver, or at any event, please get in touch and let us know. Call 07938244335 or email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

Join our mailing list - Stay in touch with our news and events by emailing admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk

Contact Administrator: Agneta admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk 01285 70730.

Website: www.friendsoffairford.org.uk

Agneta Lindgren



LECHLADE TENNIS CLUB

The Swindon and District Mixed Winter League has been completed and the team finished 2nd in Division 4 and will therefore be promoted for the second season in a row. Congratulations to all the players, the team won 8, drew 1 and lost 3. The Club has entered three Men's teams and one Ladies' team in the Swindon and District Summer League starting at the end of April.

In April, there will be Easter camps for children led by Luke Thomas on Tuesday 2nd, 11:00am until 12:30pm; Wednesday 3rd and Thursday 4th 9:00am until 12noon; Friday 5th 11:00am until 12:30pm and Saturday 6th 9:00am -12 noon. To sign up for any of these camps, please go to the link below:

<https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/lukethomastennis/Coaching/Camps>

Social tennis continues throughout the year on Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:30am and on Thursday evenings from 6:30pm.

The Club is always looking for new members, both for social and league tennis. Social sessions are every Tuesday and Friday mornings from 9:30am until 11:00am and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm.

Details about the Club and coaching sessions are on the website www.lechladetennisclub.co.uk along with contact details for any enquiries.

Gay Oliver

NATIONAL TRUST WEST OXFORDSHIRE

Spring is officially the start of the visitor season for National Trust West Oxfordshire. It's so nice to see the sun and have longer days. The wildlife across the Buscot & Coleshill Estate is also benefitting from some warmth. The blossom is bursting into life and the birds are in full song.

We recently welcomed a group of students from Crowdy's Hill School, Swindon, volunteering as part of their Duke of Edinburgh Award. A group of the students cleared the village community orchard, giving it a good tidy and making it a welcome place to enjoy. One student developed a talent for book related crafts to create beautiful displays in the bookshop. Those who have visited the bookshop will know our volunteers do a fantastic job. They have all worked hard and it has been a pleasure to help them achieve their awards.

Everyone is looking forward to the first **Coleshill Village Open Day** of the year on **Sunday 14 April**. Open days will then continue through the summer on the second Sunday of the month. The farm tour guides have been researching the history of Home Farm at Coleshill to add even more interesting facts into the story. The bunker has been spruced up and the project to get the mill running is under way – come and see the progress. An addition for this year's Open Days is group walks through the parkland. Led by volunteer walk leaders, these gentle, relaxed walks will give you a chance to experience the nature around Coleshill. After the success of farm tours at last year's Open Days, there are now **bookable farm tours on Thursdays and Saturdays from 18 April** in addition the Open Day tours.

If you like local history, why not sign up for a **guided tour of Faringdon town**. A group of National Trust volunteers have been working with Faringdon expert, Mike Wise, to lead tours sharing the town's fascinating history that includes a unique geology, Civil War and tales of the eccentric Lord Berners, with funds going back into Faringdon community projects. The tours will be on the **first Saturday of the month from 6 April at 10:30am** and bookable on the Buscot & Coleshill Estate webpage.

At the Heritage & Rural Skills Centre, courses remain popular with more being added as others fill up. There are spaces on a 2-day woodcarving course with Heritage Crafts Woodworker of the year (and Coleshill resident), Tom Ball. Tom is also running letter cutting courses in wood and stone during the year. These are popular courses with discounts for under 25s.

Further afield at Chastleton, there are Behind the Scenes tours and, starting in May, "Inspired by Chastleton". This is a chance to take your art materials or cameras to enjoy the stunning gardens to create and inspire your own art practice. Happening monthly over the summer, so book a space now.

All events are bookable on the Buscot and Coleshill Estate webpage with courses bookable on the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre webpage.

Sarah Hannis, Senior Volunteering & Community Officer



LECHLADE REPAIR CAFÉ

On the 10 February 2024, the Lechlade Repair Café completed its second successful year of serving our community.

Over the past year we have accepted 130 household items and appliances for repair. Over 80 differing types, shapes and sizes of everything imaginable that we use in our daily lives.

Most interesting are the appliances that have a long history attached to them, personal meaning, family memorabilia of significant age. These have included: A 55 year old Roberts transistor radio, which was a 16th birthday present from the lady's parents. An 80 year old 2 foot long, all metal, GEC electric fire lighter belonging to a lady, 93 years young, with its original motor, heart element and wiring; bringing it back into a working condition was very rewarding and a recognition of a bygone era when 'things' were made to last, reliable and serviceable. A 65 year old 'hot' bulb, all metal, slide projector. And in December we saw a 60 year old food 'hot-tray'. It is now back in service with a lovely lady as it had a very personal meaning having belonged to her parents.

We also saw some more unusual items: A bouncy castle air blower. A dog trainer which literally fired 30 tennis balls automatically; unfortunately it didn't train the dog to bring the tennis balls back - that's down to the owner! A device for converting 'cassette tapes' into a digital format for storage. A European dancing Christmas decoration. Darts electronic score board. And a 'Monkey' lamp to name just a few.

For those who like statistics, here is a summary of the accepted repairs for the past year:

130 items accepted for repair

102 successful repairs

78% - our average repair success rate (UK average is 68%)

400.2kg total weight of items saved from going to landfill

Using a proven equivalence calculator, we made a total 'Carbon Dioxide Emissions' savings of 3,762.82 kg CO₂. (3.76 metric tonnes)

Or saving the equivalent carbon emissions of ONE of the following:

Driving 15,556 miles. Showering 2,341 times or Flying 22,841 air miles.

A big thank you to all of the customers that used the Lechlade Repair Café throughout the last year. And a very special "thank you" to our small group of dedicated volunteer repairers, who, without their commitment and support, I would not be able to run the Repair Café each month for the past two years.

Please keep your items for repair coming in. Without your support and generous donations we can't keep the Repair Café running. We look forward to seeing you at the next Lechlade Repair Café, 13 April 2024

Colin Thompson, Founder, Lechlade Repair Café.

LECHLADE TOWN COUNCIL

It's been a busy start to the year for Lechlade Town Council (LTC) as we progress our many projects and set out our plans budgeted for, for the next financial year.

Town Councillor Vacancies

Lechlade Town Council is formed of 13 members. Unfortunately, there are currently 5 vacancies in the role of Town Councillor to be filled through the co-option process. The vacancies lead to an increased workload on the Clerks and remaining Councillors to deliver our ambitious projects for improving Lechlade.

We really need to fill these vacancies as it is putting these fully funded project deliveries at risk. If you are interested in becoming a Town Councillor, please contact the Town Clerks by calling 01367 252338 or emailing clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk.

Annual Town Meeting

The Annual Town Meeting will take place in the Memorial Hall **at 6:30pm on Tuesday 21 May**. This is an opportunity for the Council to present an overview of its work and achievements since the previous meeting and for community organisations to report on their activities over the year. All residents are welcome.

Traffic Calming

A community (Speedwatch) camera funded by the GCC Community Speed Watch Initiative has recently been installed on Burford Road. Data is collected on vehicles exceeding the 30mph speed limit and the ten highest recorded speeding vehicles are reported weekly to the Police, which leads to the Gloucestershire Police Road Safety team sending letters to the drivers. Furthermore, persistent offenders will be followed up by the Police.

Evidence from the 50 other community speed-watch cameras installed in Gloucestershire have shown that they are effective in reducing average traffic speeds by up to 25%.

Projects

LTC are pleased to be informed that they have been successful in their grant applications from the Rural England Prosperity Fund (REPF) administered by CDC toward upgrading the path from Wharf Lane to St John's Priory Park and the detailed design of proposed Multi-Use Path (MUP) from Downington to Fairford.

Resurfacing work by GCC Highways is due to start this month on the MUP section of the Thames and Severn Way from K9 dog kennels to Dudgrove Lane.

Work by GCC Highways is due to start in April on resurfacing the north side pavement in St John's Street. Residents in St John's Street will be contacted

by GCC Highways with details of the works programme and temporary restrictions they will cause.

Community Event

Save the date! A community event sponsored by LTC and the Memorial Hall Trustees, and led by Cllr Christine Eatwell, is planned for **Sunday 9 June** in the Memorial Hall. Representatives from the many local organisations and societies are being invited to inform residents of their activities and encourage active local participation.

LTC Newsletter

Further information on all LTC activities will be in the summer newsletter planned for delivery to all residents w/c 20 May.

Mrs Alison Webber, Deputy Town Clerk



LECHLADE HERITAGE AND DEVELOPMENT TRUST AND COMMUNITY FUND

The Trustees continue to deliver support and help to local organisations that need funding to progress projects for their particular group, club or society. We have recently given £5,000 to the Lechlade Library refurbishment project, £2,000 to Little Learners and £2,000 towards the outside classroom at St Lawrence School. All very worthwhile schemes.

The LHDT has been established over 10 years, in which over £60,000 has been raised for local initiatives. This has only been possible with the support of our generous local donors.

If you would like to become a donor or apply for a grant please contact Christine Eatwell on 01367 252055, email christineeatwell@hotmail.com or Alan Hoaksey on 01722 349523, email ahoaksey@aol.com or Keith Salway on 01367 253297, email ksa1526@btinternet.com.

Christine Eatwell , Chairman



FLOODLIGHTING

Many people comment on the fact that it is a joy to see St Lawrence Church floodlit, especially in the dark winter months. For many years the people of Lechlade, and others, have generously helped to fund the expense by giving donations to commemorate a special event – a birthday perhaps, an anniversary, a thanksgiving; we can dedicate a date to anything really!

If you would like to contribute towards the running costs of the floodlighting and would like to commemorate a special person or event, please use the form on the church website (<https://bit.ly/LechladeLights>) or scan the QR code.

If you don't have internet access please contact the Parish Office. The names and events are published in The Bridge and the church website on a regular basis.

The PCC has suggested that a minimum donation of £10.00 would be appropriate and if you are a taxpayer, please do consider gift-aiding your contribution. At present the web form doesn't incorporate a facility to make the payment so this is still 'manual', but there are instructions on the form. Do contact the Parish Office with any queries.

With thanks to those who have donated to St Lawrence to help with the ongoing cost of floodlighting the spire, which we are pleased to recognise by these dedications:

- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 11 February | In loving memory of Brenda Miller. |
| 20 March | Remembering with love Rosentere on their birthdays. |
| 29 March | In memory of Molly Kent |
| 2 April | For Jane on her birthday |
| 21 April | Remembering with love Rosentere on their birthdays. |
| 27 May | Remembering our dear friend John Greenway on his anniversary. He loved Lechlade and the River Thames. God bless you. Brenda & Tim. |





GARDENING HINTS

Let's talk about the problems with box....

It is now extremely likely that you have seen box that's looking far from well, either because of box blight, now widespread, or because of the box caterpillar (*Cydalima perspectalis*). I was feeling very pleased because we seemed to have escaped both, but sadly not. Last summer was the first time that I could see signs of the caterpillar on our hedge, and two variegated box balls. Time to take action.

I've looked up the life cycle of the moth and during the winter the caterpillars hibernate deep within the recesses of the bushes (they are very difficult to spot at the best of times). Depending on the temperature they will start to pupate in March/April and hatch out into moths, which are nocturnal. The moths mate and lay eggs which hatch out into voraciously hungry caterpillars, and so the cycle starts again for at least two, maybe three generations in a year.

I'm loth to use a chemical spray so I'm trying the pheromone route which is a three pronged attack. Pheromones in the spring to attract the male moths so that they don't mate. Stage 2 is to get a parasitic wasp which will find any eggs that are laid. Once located, the Box Tree Moth eggs are parasitised and killed. The eggs then, instead of producing Box Tree Caterpillars, release new *Trichogramma* wasps to locate and kill more Box Tree Moth eggs! It is possible to move to Stage 3 if actual caterpillars are seen- there is a nematode for them too. Anyway that's the plan.

Because of this problem with box all the advice is NOT to plant in the first place, and Garden Centres are usually very helpful about suitable substitutes. The criteria to think about are that a substitute has to be green, evergreen and suitable for clipping.

Here are some suggestions from a good article in a March FT by Jane Owen called 'Think Outside Box', rather witty:

Number one:- Japanese Holly (*ilex crenata*). It looks very like box from a distance, but can get another disease called black root rot. A better one may be *ilex Maximowicziana* Kanehirae! *Ilex Max* for short (Phew)

Numbers two etc:- *euonymus microphyllus*, some *pittosporum*, *lonicera nitida* (a shrubby honeysuckle), *osmanthus burkwoodii* (good for topiary), *phillyrea latifolia* (green olive, 'tough as old boots').... To name but a few. And, of course, my favourite, yew. Why not forget all these troubles and visit other gardens such as Rodmarton Manor, or Hidcote to see specimens of topiary and see how they are coping with the problem. Good luck.

Barbara McNaught

PROJECT INSPIRE

Upcoming Events

Serenade & Sandwiches

Friday 19 April in St Lawrence Church

12:00 noon

Organist Charles Edmundson & Duet Clemency Rubinstein & Rachel Emmerson

Light Lunch provided by Lechlade Mothers' Union

A Summer Ceilidh

Thursday 2 May in The Memorial Hall

7:45 for an 8:00pm start

With dancing until at least 9:30pm to a band of local musicians led by Jay Matthews

Bring your own food and drink

Tickets £10, children free, available from The Health Box and online at <https://bit.ly/StLCeilidh>

Lechlade Open Gardens

Bank Holiday Monday 27 May

from 2:00 to 5:00pm

A variety of interesting gardens in 3 clusters around the town

Tickets are £10 including tea and cakes in the church

Available from The Health Box from the end of April, on the day in the Market Place, or online at stlawrencelechlade.org.uk

Summer Sale

Saturday 15 June

at St Lawrence Church from 2:00 to 5:00pm

Plants, cakes and books for sale (all donations gratefully received).
Tea/coffee and a bottle stall

All proceeds from these events will go towards Project Inspire which is restoring and re-ordering the church for future generations. The St Lawrence community is very grateful for your support.

David Turtle



THE LECHLADE AND DISTRICT LIONS

The Lions volunteers give their time to help out people in need in our community and to raise money for good causes (last year, we raised over £27,000!).

This spring and summer, the Lions and Friends of the Lions are once again putting their bodies on the line to raise money for local good causes.

A Sponsored Bike ride on 15 June of over 100 miles in a day – from Lechlade to the Malvern Hills and back.



A Sponsored Charity swim of 1k to 3k at Bowmoor Lake on 3 August.



All proceeds from both events will go to where it's needed most in our community. So please, please do sponsor these events so we can continue to do our work.

It's easy to do. You simply

- go to <https://www.lechladelions.org.uk/events1>
- click on a Donate button
- enter your account details and an amount.

Thank you, Bridge readers.

Alick Kitchin

MAX WINS GOLD IN THE COLD ICE SWIM

At the Winter Swimming World Cup held in Tallinn, Estonia, at the beginning of March, Max Rose from Lechlade not only won a gold medal, but also helped to set a new world record.

Max, who was helping to raise money for Cruse Bereavement Support, finished first in the Adduco Head Up 25m Breaststroke event. She said: "I'm still in shock! I actually won a gold medal today and became an international ICE swimming gold medallist – on International Women's Day of all days!"

Max took part in the world record attempt later that same day and was one of 807 people from different parts of the world plunging into icy water one after another and then swam 25 metres each. The previous world record was set in 2020 when 505 swimmers took part also in Tallinn.

The record attempt started on the evening of Friday 8 March at 6:00pm and the last swimmer finished early on the Saturday morning of 9 March at 1.14am! A goal of 1,000 winter swimmers had been set. However, this number was not reached, but 807 is still an impressive number and a new world record!

To take part in this challenge required a huge amount of training and money to cover travel costs, accommodation, kit and insurance, so Max has been trying to raise at least £3,500. The money is to be divided 50/50 between sponsoring Max's costs and donating to Cruse Bereavement. To date, she has raised £1,716. To donate: <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/iceicebabywinterchampionships2024>.



Gold medalist, Max, wrapped up warm after her ice swim
Chris Roberts MBE

LECHLADE WI

In February we resumed our monthly evening meetings with a frantic game of Beetle and in March we welcomed nutritionist Caroline Peyton, who helped us all consider our diet, especially in terms of high sugar foods. We have also been reading and discussing, walking while talking, cooking and sharing and knitting for good causes. We are organising a summer visit to Highgrove and starting to plan our July social event.

In **April**, we are all looking forward to hearing from **Irene Tyack, the artist who owns The Yellow Hat Tribe Art Gallery**, and seeing a lot of her art work which will be available for purchase. In **May** our speaker, called Alex Stanbrook, describes herself as “milliner, two-time cancer survivor and hat-lover” and will deliver a talk called **‘Hilarious Hats!’**

We have visitors at every monthly meeting – ladies who are very welcome to come along to see if the WI suits them. They are usually surprised to find that they already know some of our members and, if not, soon find out how easy it is to make new friends. We meet in the Memorial Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm and you are welcome to come and join us.

Diary Dates:

Tuesday 2 April	The Yellow Hat Tribe Art Gallery	7:00pm, Memorial Hall
Thursday 18 April	Coffee morning	10:30am, The Riverside
Tuesday 23 April	Evening get-together	7:00pm, The New Inn
Tuesday 7 May	‘Hilarious Hats’	7:00pm, Memorial Hall
Friday 24 May	Coffee morning	10:30am, The Riverside



Catherine Pritchard

MOTHERS' UNION

Many thanks to all the people who supported our February Lent Lunch. We raised £550 and have sent £500 to the MU Worldwide Fund. Simon Paul kindly organised the big screen for us to watch the latest MU video and many local businesses made very generous donations towards the raffle.

'Time to Prepare' was the title of the talk by The Revd. Cannon Gordon Dey at our Members' Meeting in February. He reminded us that Ash Wednesday this year, unusually, coincided with Valentine's Day. He said Jesus' 40 days in the Wilderness to prepare himself for his three-year ministry was motivated by love for God and for us. Gordon reminded us about the importance of John the Baptist in preparing the way for Jesus. Our own 40 days of Lent prepares us for Holy Week and Easter. He showed us some beautiful slides of the Sinai desert and the Holy Land. We ended in prayerful singing with the hymn by Bernadette Farrell, 'O God You Search Me and You Know Me' – a version of psalm 130.

Annie Ellis, an Oral Historian, was the speaker at our March Members meeting in the Hall. 'Great Aunt Maud' was the title of her talk and she was dressed in an Edwardian costume. Maud was related to Annie's husband. She was born in Birmingham in 1894 - an ordinary lady who lived in extraordinary times. She had a very unhappy childhood because she was born out of wedlock and her mother rejected her. She lived with her grandmother who did not want her and at 13 went out to work. She met George who became her sweetheart. During the First World, he was a soldier in France and was there for five years. He sent Maud many postcards which were displayed, along with other interesting artefacts of the time. Maud and George were married in 1920 and one of the favourite items on show was the beautiful silk blouse that Maud had made, completely by hand, for her wedding day. Maud died in 1985 aged 91. She was a remarkable character, much loved by her whole family. A fascinating, moving and memorable talk.

Diary Dates:

Wednesday 10 April 2:00pm – Branch Meeting in the Hall. Speaker Elizabeth Reay remembering MU holidays 'We're Off!'

Friday 19 April 12:00 noon – Serenade and Sandwiches in St Lawrence Church. Kathy's cousin Charles will give an organ recital especially for MU. We will provide lunch. Donations will go to the Church Restoration Appeal

Saturday 22 June – a special date for the diary. A gathering in Oxford for all members in the Canterbury Province (South of England). More details to follow.

For further information contact Kathy, Branch Leader, on 01367 252543, mobile 07708 563905 or kathryn8newton@gmail.com

Urszula Fitzgerald

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Your support will directly help the restoration of the Thames and Severn Canal and Stroudwater Navigation



UPPER THAMES AND RIDGEWAY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION

Andrew Beer, a former pupil of Warneford School and now the Director of Operations and Consultancy for the National Trust, started off the 2024 talks of the Upper Thames and Ridgeway National Trust Association (UTRNTA) in great style at Lechlade Memorial Hall on the 18 January. The hall was full of members and friends who learned a great deal about just how the National Trust works.

No funding is available from the government; membership fees and donations are the main source of income followed by entrance fees and income from cafes, NT shops and website sales. The 35,000 properties were gifted to the National Trust and, therefore, are unable to be sold, but at the same time incur considerable costs to maintain and conserve.

Andrew spoke about the need to look back, as well as forward when planning repairs, maintenance and conservation of properties, whilst also making them available for the public to continue to visit. There are changes being made to advance the use of websites and electronic information, thus saving costs on printed matter, such as the hand books and magazines.

The Trust values greatly its staff, which have a high percentage of younger people, and the many thousands of volunteers of all ages. Included in that number are some of our own members. There are now large numbers of families who are members of the National Trust in response to changes in attitudes and the provision of greater facilities.

Three projects were used to illustrate the challenges facing the Trust:

- The first concerned, land management and the conflict of interest in the Lake District: that is flood prevention, tourism, land management and its position in the National Park and as a UNESCO site. After much debate, a solution was reached to enable the tenant farmer to graze his cows on part of the site, and the river to be diverted to prevent flooding in its lower courses. An extra bonus is that otters moved in and wildlife flourished.
- The second was the decision to be made about Clandon Park, decimated by fire. Should it be restored, rebuilt or demolished? After wide consultation the decision has been made to partially restore it and to develop the remainder as a multipurpose site.
- Thirdly, he dealt with the subject of tree replacement and land management at the Sherborne estate. The types of trees to be planted must be suitable for the present environment and also for the future which we face with climate change.

Diary dates:

On **Thursday 18 April** at 2:30pm in Lechlade Memorial Hall we will be pleased to welcome Paul Colley, a wild life photographer. **Bat Conservation** is the title of this talk.

The coach holiday Saturday 15 June – Wednesday 19 June is to Haverfordwest in Wales.

Further details, both on the above events and on joining the group, from the secretary UTRNTA@gmail.com

Website utrnta.co.uk

Gillian Miller



LECHLADE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Sherborne Street, Lechlade, GL7 3AH)

Services and other events

Sundays at 10:30am: Worship service

Wednesdays at 10:30am: Bible study meetings

Saturdays from 10:00 until noon: Beans drop-in café – with tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cakes

To doublecheck the Wednesday arrangements during the Easter holiday period, please don't hesitate to drop in at Beans on a Saturday – or contact the Church Secretary, Mr David Hopkins, on 01285 712586.

On Thursdays you'll also find a Talking Café at the church premises from 10:30am. This is hosted by the Working 4 Wellbeing charity. To check the session dates, please contact the organiser, Mary Ann Dibbs, on 07555 738138.



FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

Fairford & District Choral Society will perform their next concert on **Saturday 13 April** at 7:30pm at St Mary's Church, Fairford. The concert programme is **Dvorak Mass in D major and Faure Requiem**. Our new conductor is Nia Llewelyn Jones and our accompanist will be Ian Crabbe. Soloists will be Charlotte Newstead (soprano), Nicole Boardman (Mezzo), Nicholas Drew (Tenor) and Nicholas Perfect (Bass). Tickets (£15 or £5 for under 18s) will be on sale in March from members of the choir and Fairford Opticians.

Judith Walpole

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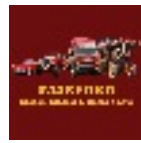
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FAIRFORD STEAM SHOW HAS LEGO AND MAGIC

As well as the Ken Fox Wall of Death, that is new for 2024, there will also be two more exciting new events at the Fairford Steam Show this year:

- A new Lego area run by Fairford Primary and Pre School. Called 'The Brick', there will be lots of Lego for children in these age groups to play with and there'll also be changing and feeding areas to make life easier for parents.

If you have any Lego that you or your child no longer wants, would you please consider donating the bricks to Fairford Steam Show? Please contact Brian Wells: 01295 710076 or Chris on: 01285 712150.

- Jacko and Nunkie the monkey appearing on both Saturday and Sunday with comedy, balloon twisting, balloon giveaways and a Magic Show.

The Fairford Steam Show's popularity has sky-rocketed since returning to Fairford last year after nearly ten years away. The numbers of exhibits and traders wishing to be part of the show are already way above last year's numbers.

The organisers are working with the landowner to improve access points, widen gateways, laying hardcore and creating bigger car parks, more water points and 50% more toilets.

People coming to the show can expect to see full-size engines, classic organs, miniature engines, a huge selection of tractors, motor bikes, classic and modern commercial vehicles of all shapes and sizes, over 100 classic cars and a selection of motor sport vehicles. There will also be static displays, a fantastic selection of stationary engines, trade pitches, some fantastic food vendors and the beer tent provided by Fairford Cricket Club.

The 2024 show will be on 17 & 18 August at Lady Lane Farm, Waiten Hill, Fairford, GL7 4BT.

Go online for your Early Bird tickets at: www.fairfordsteamshow.co.uk.

Chris Roberts MBE



Jacko and Nunkie

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Lechlade Memorial Hall



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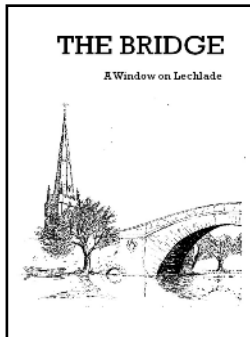


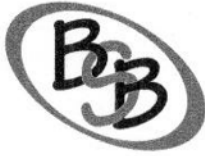

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To contact the editor, email:

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To contact the treasurer, email

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All information in The Bridge is published in good faith and is based on that supplied to us.

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