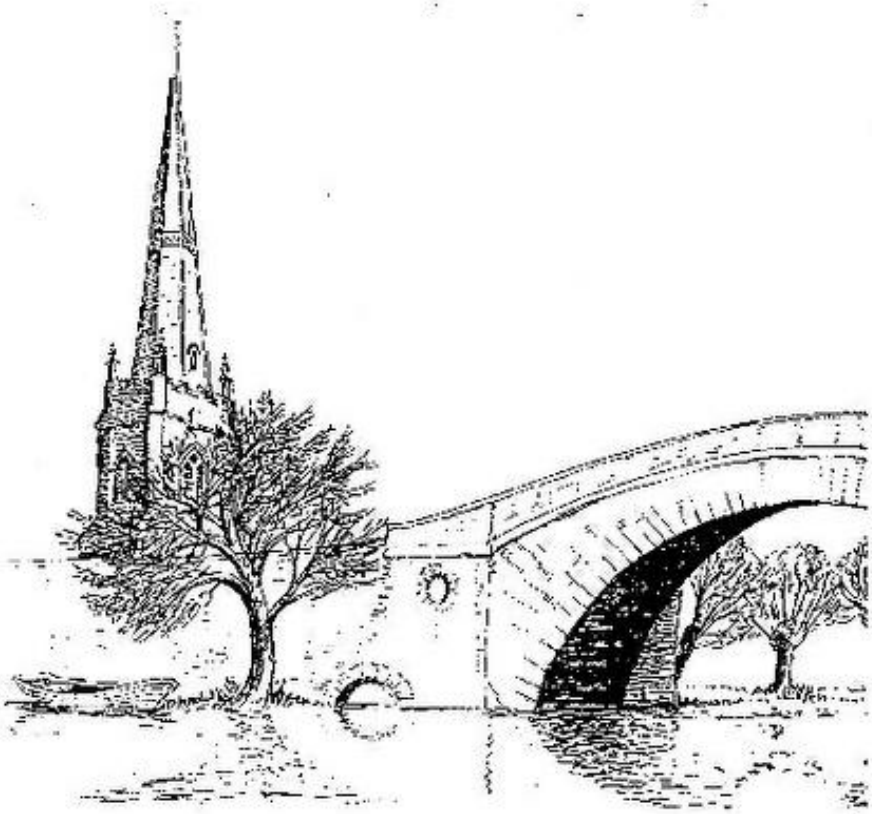


THE BRIDGE

Lechlade's Community Magazine

A Window on Lechlade



APRIL / MAY 2025

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WELCOME

We do not know in what season of the year Jesus was born. Nothing in the gospel accounts of his birth gives us any clue about when the event took place. The reason why the Church took the decision to celebrate Christmas at midwinter was to counter the existing pagan celebrations of that time. We do, however, know when Jesus rose from the dead. All the accounts of his arrest and crucifixion place those events at Passover — a festival which always takes place in the spring. The risen Christ first appeared to Mary Magdalen and the disciples on the Sunday following Passover — a day when the trees and shrubs of the Jerusalem countryside would have been fresh and green with their new spring foliage.

That Christ's resurrection should have taken place in spring, when new life is all around us, is of the utmost significance, for the resurrection is all about newness. The event itself was absolutely new. In the history of creation there had never been a resurrection. When, on that Friday afternoon following Passover, Jesus had yielded up his spirit on the cross, as far as his family and friends were concerned that was the end. They had no expectation of ever seeing Jesus again. When, three days later, they encountered the risen Christ, their initial reaction was terror. It was the radical newness of the experience which frightened them so. Their entire world-view, all their expectations, were shattered when Jesus, whose cold lifeless body they had placed in a tomb, walked, talked and ate with them.

This quality of newness does not only apply to the event of Jesus' resurrection. Those who met the risen Christ on that Easter day and during the forty days which followed became new men and women. Peter who, up until the resurrection, had been a pretty unreliable follower of Jesus, with his sporadic professions of faith which he never seemed able to follow through, and then with his cowardly denial of Jesus after his arrest — that same Peter is transformed after his encounter with the risen Jesus into a fearless and unflinching preacher of the gospel. It is the same for the other disciples. They too became confident missionaries, founding Christian communities throughout the region. We read in the Acts of the Apostles and in the letters of St Paul of many others who, having heard the Easter message and put their faith in the resurrection, began new lives.

During these weeks of spring moving into summer we are surrounded by change and new life. That should prompt us to look hard at the direction of our own lives. Do we need to make changes, get rid of old prejudices, embrace new priorities? How can we move from just existing to living the new life of Easter, a life shaped by self-giving love? Christ is risen and calls us to journey with him into the fullness of life.

Fr Michael Robertson



LECHLADE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

What's on in the library:

New Clubs-

Book Club – The first Saturday of each month from 11:00am-1:00pm. Next meeting Saturday 5 April when the featured book will be 'What you are looking for is in the library' by Michiko Aoyama. Contact Clare Cordingley via the library.

Mah Jong Club – The first and third Wednesday of each month from 4:00-6:00pm. Potential new players should contact Clare Cordingley via the library.

Craft Club – The second Tuesday of each month from 10:30am-12:30pm. Contact Jennie Turner-Maskell or pop into the library while the club is on.

Extra opening hours-

For a three month trial, the library is open on a **Wednesday from 4:00-7:00pm**. This is to give local people the opportunity to visit the library outside working hours. If this proves popular, the additional opening hours will be made permanent.

Basic computer skills-

The library is exploring the possibility of offering sessions where local people can develop their basic computer skills. Are there any local people who would be interested in helping provide this training? Please contact John Watkins via the library.

Author Events-

Children's author B. Ware will be in the library to showcase her new book '**WARNING: May Contain Dragons**' on **Wednesday 28 May** (during summer half-term holiday) from 10:00am-4:00pm. B. Ware will be offering activities, story time, free stickers & bookmarks, competitions and more, ongoing on throughout the day. So, just drop in when it suits you. B. Ware ran a very successful workshop last year to launch her previous book.

Local adult author Emma Bloor will be visiting the library soon to launch her new book '**Turned**'. It's a thriller set in our local area – '*Reality is an illusion! Something isn't right in Addison Rae's head. Things have changed and reality doesn't seem real. The dead mayor is alive and her brother was never born. Unable to believe her memories, she struggles with who she can trust. Laszlo Sándor could hold the answers, but is her life and sanity safe in his hands?*

Assassin Laszlo has a contract to kill Addison Rae. When an armed team raid her house, he must choose. Let her die and cover up the politician's mess or masquerade as a support worker, change her mind and hide the truth.

Can she conquer him or will she lose more than her brother?

Look out for more details.

Children's Activity-

A free fun children's activity session to celebrate St George's Day on **Wednesday 23 April** from 10:00am-12:00noon. Drop in when it suits you.

Marian Winckles



FIX MY STREET

Spotted a pothole, fly-tipping, broken paving slab, or another issue in our community?

Fix My Street can help get it sorted! These issues not only create safety hazards but can make our lovely town feel neglected. The good news? Reporting them has never been easier, thanks to Fix My Street!

How It Works

It's really easy! When you notice a problem in the local area:

1. **Visit** fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk
2. **Pinpoint** to the exact spot on the interactive map
3. **Describe** the issue (including photos, where appropriate)

You can do this on your mobile or computer - whichever is more convenient for you! The process only takes a few minutes.

Once submitted, your report is automatically sent to the relevant team - so you don't have to worry about finding the right contact or form to fill out. You'll even receive updates allowing you to track progress.

By using Fix My Street, you're helping to keep our town safe and well-maintained. Your reports also contribute to better planning and allocation of repair funding, ensuring resources go where they're needed most.

Visit fixmystreet.gloucestershire.gov.uk today to report an issue or learn more!

For Urgent Issues

If you come across an emergency, such as a fallen tree blocking a road or a gas leak, please call the emergency number **08000 514514** straight away.

The Editor



LECHLADE MEMORIAL HALL AND PAVILION

We are fast approaching seven years since the Memorial Hall was officially opened by Rory Bremner in May 2018. The project to rebuild the hall was completed on time and within budget thanks to the close working of Lechlade Town Council and Trustees of the Charity which is responsible for the hall. For a community of our size, we must have some of the best community facilities anywhere in the country. Keeping true to the design brief, the building is excellent in meeting the needs of our community. We are also very fortunate that so many organisations and individuals make regular use of these facilities.

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Trustees of Lechlade Village Hall and Recreation CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation); Brian Britton, Susan Brooks, Rosamund Godden, Alwyn Davies, Christine Eatwell, Grenville King, Mike Keegan, Simon Winckles, Tommy McLardie, Gay Oliver, Gill Saunders, Hazel Watkins, Marian Winckles and Ashley Wood. They all volunteer their time and talents for the good of the community.

Ashley Wood has been a Trustee since April 2018. As a qualified electrician and with strong health and safety knowledge and experience, Ash has taken the lead on improving the CIO H&S policy and procedures. Ash has decided that he wants to stand down as a Trustee within the next few months. Ash's contribution has made it very clear that having a Trustee with H&S expertise is very important. **Can I make a direct appeal that if you, or someone you know, has H&S expertise and would be willing to volunteer as a Trustee to serve our community, please get in touch.**

More generally, we would love to have a wider age range of people who serve as Trustees. At our **AGM on 28 April at 7:30pm** in the Memorial Hall, members of the community are invited to attend and, up to six people are elected at that meeting to serve as Trustees. We are also able to co-opt up to three Trustees at any time of year. I would say that the main criterion for becoming a Trustee of the CIO is that you love being part of the community in Lechlade.

NHS Blood donor sessions are taking place in the Memorial Hall on the following Fridays in 2025; **11 April, 23 May, 8 August, 26 September and 28 November**. Appointments are available between 12:50 – 7:00pm. To book an appointment, visit blood.co.uk, download the app **NHSGIVE BLOOD** app or phone 0300 123 23 23.

We are always delighted to host family events/parties. With the Pavilion, Memorial Hall main room and Memorial Hall social room there are 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

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.

Changes to the 'normal pattern' for April:

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------|---|
| 6 April | 10:00am | Together @ 10 All Age service |
| 6 April | 5:00pm | Choral Communion |
| 13 April Palm Sunday | 10:00am | Procession from the school and Holy Communion service |
| 13 April | 5:00pm | Choral Evensong |
| 17 April Maundy Thursday | 7:30pm | Agape Fellowship Meal and Holy Communion |
| 18 April Good Friday | 10:00am | Reflections at the Cross |
| 20 April Easter Day | 10:00am | Holy Communion service |
| 20 April Easter Day | 5:00pm | The Easter Story in words and music |

All residents of Lechlade should have received a card from St Lawrence listing all the Easter services.

There will also be an Easter Afternoon Tea at the Memorial Hall on Saturday 19 April 2:00pm-5:00pm, in aid of Project Inspire.

Parish Office: 01367 358653 – info@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk
Visit our website stlawrencelechlade.org.uk for more information

FROM OUR MP

Finding Solutions to Flooding in the South Cotswolds

Flooding poses one of the most pressing challenges for communities across the South Cotswolds. As climate change drives more intense and unpredictable rainfall, with once-in-a-century downpours now happening every few years, many residents now face repeated flooding incidents. This issue is no longer just an occasional inconvenience; for some, it has become a persistent reality that is causing untold stress and suffering – mental, emotional, and financial.

As the MP for South Cotswolds, I have spoken with many residents about the real and lasting impact of flooding on their lives. I have met people forced out of their homes for months, those who have lost income due to road closures, and others whose local services have suffered. At the same time, I have seen the remarkable resilience of our communities - the determination to find solutions, the willingness to take action, and the wealth of local knowledge that too often goes unheard by the public bodies who are supposed to maintain our infrastructure and water services.

That is why I recently hosted two Flooding Summits - one in Wiltshire and one in Gloucestershire - to bring together residents, local councillors, and flood groups. These meetings went beyond discussing the problem. They ensured that the voices of those affected shaped the conversation, that expertise within our communities informed the discussions, and that we focused on practical solutions with real, tangible outcomes.

A key theme from these discussions is the need for greater clarity on responsibility. Many residents feel frustrated as they navigate a maze of different agencies, unsure who to turn to when flooding strikes. They also worry about the decline in routine maintenance of ditches, drains, and waterways. Some have even faced bureaucratic obstacles that prevent them from carrying out basic upkeep themselves. If we want to tackle flooding effectively, national bodies, local authorities, and communities must work together with clear accountability.

Like many residents, I am losing faith that public bodies have the resources to do what needs to be done. Increasingly I believe that communities will need to step up and work together to take the necessary action. My team and I will be looking at how we can empower local communities to help themselves by setting up networks of communication and working parties to clear obstructions in waterways, while not overstepping legal lines.

But we also need to look at the bigger picture. Short-term fixes, such as emergency response measures and drainage improvements, are essential - but we must also develop long-term strategies that address the root causes of flooding. Nature-based solutions, such as wetland restoration, tree planting, better land management, and ensuring that new developments do not worsen the situation, all play a role. By bringing policymakers, experts,

and local people together, we can create an approach that does more than react to flooding - it actively reduces risk for future generations.

These summits mark the beginning of a longer journey. The ideas and priorities raised will shape the action I take forward - securing investment, demanding greater accountability, and making sure that we turn discussions into real solutions.

I am also committed to keeping flooding high on Parliament's agenda, and you can help by signing my petition at www.rozsavage.uk/campaigns/improve-flood-resilience-in-the-south-cotswolds.

If flooding has affected you and you want to share your experiences or ideas, please get in touch (roz.savage.mp@parliament.uk). Your voices will help shape the next steps, and together, we can build a more resilient future for our communities.

Roz Savage MP



CELEBRATING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF VE DAY

There will be food, drinks and entertainment for anyone wanting to be part of the Royal British Legion (Fairford branch) celebrations over the weekend of **10 and 11 May** to mark 80 years since VE Day in 1945.

Come along to Fairford Cricket Club GL7 4JJ on Saturday night **10 May** for **an outside cinema; a host of classic vehicles; fancy dress and a pay bar.**

On Sunday **11 May**, Fairford Cricket Club grounds will be open for a free picnic in the park. Bring your own picnic and chairs, but not your own alcohol, as there is a pay bar available.

There'll be free hot dogs for kids; a tea party for seniors (over 70); Chedworth Silver Band playing wartime classics like White Cliffs of Dover, We'll Meet Again, Dam Busters March and more.

There is no charge to come along and enjoy the celebrations.

Chris Robert MBE

LECHLADE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Sherborne Street, Lechlade, GL7 3AH)



Services and other events:

Friday 18 April at 10:30am: Good Friday service of reflection

Sunday 20 April at 10:30am: Easter Day service of celebration

Sundays at 10:30am: Worship service

Wednesdays at 10:00am: Bible study meetings, and a monthly prayer meeting

Saturdays from 10:00 until 12:00noon: Beans drop-in café – with tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cake

For further details, or to doublecheck weekday arrangements during the 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. For further information, please contact the organiser, Mary Ann Dibbs, on 07555 738138.

News and views

When I was in Costa Rica last year one of our ex-boys, Jean Carlos, 24, showed up at our youth group in La Verbena. He had a reputation of being involved with the local narcos (drug traffickers). We managed a conversation although he was quite aggressive (recorded in my book 'Go and Do Likewise'). But I was delighted to hear during the following months that he'd resumed attending our youth group and Bible studies.

A few days after arriving this year I met Jean Carlos again in the street and he was quite different: Bright, smiling, polite and not at all 'shifty' or aggressive. He told me he had left the narcos and didn't want anything more to do with them. Was that possible?

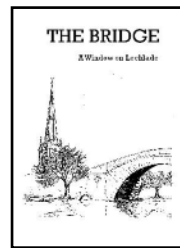
The week following January's camps Dylan (who visited England with us five years ago) planned to do some visits with me in La Verbena, but he phoned early that day with some shocking news. Around midnight there had been three murders near his house. Two young men were shot in the trees behind, the sound of which had woken his family. The other victim was Jean Carlos, shot in the street just thirty yards away. Dylan said the place was crawling with heavily armed police and it might be dangerous to visit that day. But we decided to continue anyway. While we were there two more deadly shootings took place: five dead in less than twenty-four hours in an area smaller than Lechlade. There was, understandably, a palpable tension in the air. Who might be next?

This was gang warfare that had been brewing for some time. A local leader of a notorious nationwide gang had been displaced and was getting his revenge while proving how ruthless he is (a trait which qualified him to continue as the leader). Nobody is allowed to leave the gang like Jean Carlos had tried to do.

On Wednesday 22 January, I joined the cortege carrying Jean Carlos' body to the local cemetery. The sixty or so mourners, many of whom I knew, were a mixed bunch. I tried to console and comfort people as we walked along behind the coffin. My presence was noted by his family and friends: they recognised it as standing in solidarity with them in their tragedy and loss. Educación Plus has a reputation for being compassionately involved in the communities, even the darker side, while always trying to shine the light of God's gospel of love into them.

This is difficult pastoral work with people we love. Pray that we might be of some use to them, while appropriately and honestly sharing the Gospel – the Good News of the God who loves them and offers hope, even in such dark times.

(Rev Keith Holder MBE is the founder of Educación Plus, a Christian charity that has worked for 30 years with children and young people in the shanty towns around San José, Costa Rica. He is a member of Lechlade Baptist Church.)



THE BRIDGE MAGAZINE

The way forward

Here's an opportunity to make a real difference in your Lechlade community. The Bridge magazine is looking for new voluntary committee members to take this invaluable local publication forward.

All the current committee members will stay in post until after the December 25/January 26 edition but then the magazine will need to fill these roles:

- Editor – responsible for content with an overarching management role.
- Design & layout – responsible for laying out the articles and advertisements and delivering the print edition to the printers.
- Online edition management
- Distribution management – responsible for delivering and topping up the print edition for the local outlets.

It is very rewarding to feel that you are making a vital contribution to your community by sharing local information and supporting all the many activities and events that make Lechlade such a vibrant place to live. Could you support your community by taking on one of these roles? Without new committee members, the magazine will close in January 2026.

If you would like to know more, please contact the Editor, Marian Winckles, by email at editor@lechladebridge.org.uk or by phone 01367 252851.

The Editor

EASTER: BERMUDA-STYLE

Easter has always been one of my favourite times of the year.

Growing up in Bermuda, it was particularly special. The entire island comes together, gearing up for a weekend steeped in tradition.

Recreating these customs each year helps me feel a little closer to home.

And what better way to keep them alive than by sharing them? So, here's a little Bermudian Easter just for you.

1. Make a Traditional Bermuda Kite

Bermuda kites are truly something special. They take time, patience, and a bit of stealthy planning to ensure you get the best colour combinations before your siblings do! But once complete, they're a sight to behold.

The kites are meant to symbolise Christ's ascension into heaven. On Good Friday, they soar high in the sky, with a distinct 'hum' that gets louder throughout the day. If you'd like to try making one, this video from kite-making legend Eugene O'Connor will tell you everything you need to know: <https://bit.ly/bermuda-kite>.

2. Make Hot Cross Buns

Hot cross buns are another big part of our Easter celebrations in Bermuda, with the cross symbolising the crucifixion of Jesus.

Growing up, I don't remember ever being able to buy them in the shops - and to be honest, shop-bought ones (apart from those from Sourdough Revolution - I type this with hope that Crampi will continue to sell them!) can't compare to freshly baked. If you love hot cross buns, I'd encourage you to try making them yourself. They're surprisingly easy and well worth the effort. My favourite recipe comes from John Kirkwood:

<https://profoodhomemade.com/hot-cross-buns/>.

3. Make Fish Cakes. So You Can Stuff Them in Your Hot Cross Buns (Yes, Really!)

Yes, you read that correctly. In Bermuda, we enjoy our hot cross buns stuffed with traditional fish cakes - a combination that may sound unusual but is absolutely delicious.

Our fish cakes are packed with salted cod, potatoes, fresh herbs, and just the right amount of seasoning, then pan-fried until perfectly golden and crispy. They're not too different from the ones you'll find in the UK - just with a little Bermudian flair. And if you can't quite bring yourself to try them in a bun, they work beautifully with a salad too.

If you'd like to give them a go, here's a great recipe to follow:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S4hvrN7DACK>.

Kristen Sousa

LECHLADE HERITAGE AND DEVELOPMENT FUND COMMUNITY FUND

This fund was started to help fund local projects, sometimes helping a project to get started, sometimes funding the whole project. The trust is financed by the generous support of our members and supporters which has enabled us to provide finance for local projects over the twelve years we have been active. Over £52,000 has been granted for projects within Lechlade. We are seeking to expand our number of supporters which will enable us to increase the range of grants that can be awarded.

If you have a project that you think could benefit from some support from this fund or would like to become a supporter please contact Christineeatwell@hotmail.com or ksa1526@btinternet.com.

Christine Eatwell, Chairman Lechlade Heritage and Development Fund
and Community Fund.



ST LAWRENCE SCHOOL

It has been another busy term here at St Lawrence School. The children continue to take part in many sporting events including panathlon, ten pin bowling, mini Olympics and cross country. The children ran a fantastic race at the Cirencester and District cross country event with seven children qualifying for the county event and, in turn, three qualifying for nationals.

Our Year 4 class continues to have clarinet lessons with a Gloucestershire music tutor once a week. In mid-March the class travelled to Cheltenham to take part in an ensemble at the Town Hall. The children had a wonderful morning playing alongside other pupils in the county and then enjoyed a picnic in the park. Meanwhile, the children within the school who take music and drama lessons are practising hard for a music evening at the start of April.

This term we have had numerous events in school. In February we celebrated NSPCC Numbers Day, and more recently World Book Day and Red Nose Day. This year is the 40th anniversary of Red Nose Day. To celebrate, the children attended school in non-school uniform with crazy hair and the school council sold cakes and bracelets.

The Year 5 class performed their play, Ali Baba and the Bongo Bandits. 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.

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



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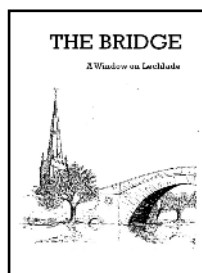
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LECHLADE COMMUNITY CINEMA

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 Critic* and *Small things like these*. Both of these films were very well attended with audience numbers over 50 people. We are not showing a film in April as it will be Easter Sunday. Our film for May is not yet confirmed but it may well be **Paddington in Peru**. 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



W4W – SUPPORTING FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES

Working 4 Wellbeing is the go-to organisation for information about support available locally to help people through difficulties and signpost them to the right service for their needs.

W4W organises a range of affordable community activities each month including shopping trips to Swindon Orbital and theatre excursions.

In addition, W4W hosts a monthly community meal at Lechlade Memorial Hall prepared by the Kitchen Club. Kids eat free!

Fairford Community Centre hosts W4W community events including Senior Yoga on Mondays; the Warm Welcome Room on Mondays and Tuesdays; Peer Movement Class and the Family Hub on Wednesdays and Digital Support on Tuesdays plus Wednesdays at the Fairford Talking Café.

There's also Digital Support at the Lechlade Talking Café on Thursdays 10:30am-12:00noon in Lechlade Baptist Church; Men's Shed on Wednesday in the Old Carpenters' Workshop; Fairford; First Steps on Fridays in Fairford United Church 9:30-11:00am (term time only).

New for W4W on the first Thursday of the month – a Craft & Chat! On Friday 4 April W4W is hosting 'NoLabels' offering a free quilting workshop. W4W also organise children's events in school holidays – please keep an eye open on Facebook for updates.

Find out more from Mary Ann: 07555 738138 or <https://working4wellbeing.org.uk>.

Chris Roberts MBE



NOT JUST TRAVEL

In a world where travel is often reduced to generic packages and one-size-fits-all experiences, I believe that your holidays should be as unique as you are. That's why I offer a highly personalised travel service, curating tailor-made holidays that suit you.

From the moment we begin planning, it's all about you. Being local has its advantages and I will often meet clients for coffee. Taking the time to understand exactly what you're looking for in your next escape. Whether it's an opulent cruise on the Mediterranean, a family villa on the Amalfi Coast, or a multi-generational safari in Africa, every detail is meticulously arranged to ensure a seamless and extraordinary holiday.

For those who crave something unique, I specialise in curating experiences that go beyond the tourist trails. Showcasing the destinations in their most authentic way - allowing you to immerse yourself fully in the holiday. Picture yourself exploring the picturesque mountains of Italy in a convertible, having tea with a Maiko in Japan, or being guided through the markets of Peru by a local chef. These are the moments that transform a trip into a lifelong memory.

At the same time, luxury and ease are at the heart of my service. I anticipate and I deliver—private transfers, VIP airport services, local guides, and hand-picked accommodations that allow for every requirement. Every trip I design is infused with the highest level of care, ensuring that from start to finish, your journey leaves you feeling renewed.

With years of experience and a deep passion for travel, I offer more than just a booking service—I offer peace of mind, ABTA and ATOL protection, unrivalled expertise, and the promise of an unforgettable adventure. A service I provide to my clients at no extra charge. My service is free.

Your time is precious, and your travels should reflect your lifestyle and desires. If you're ready to experience the world in a way that is refined, effortless, and truly personal, let's start the conversation.

Because your next journey should be nothing less than extraordinary.

See Sian's advertisement on Page 2 for contact details.

Sian Pages



THE CAT'S PYJAMAS

As you've no doubt noticed, The Cat's Pyjamas has moved from the High Street round to more central premises in Burford Street. It took them five weeks to move everything and prepare the new shop, but they finally opened on 1 March.

They started trading about 19 years ago in the Old Antiques Arcade on the corner of Thames Street, then moved to the Old Bell and then spent almost 6 years at the former Christmas Shop. More space was needed and that aim has certainly been achieved! It's an Aladdin's Cave of wonders, ranging from vintage jewellery, clothes, toys, china and tools to a small range of new DIY ironmongery. If you're looking for an unusual gift, this is your place!

On 1 March I was delighted to see children in the town carrying Cat's Pyjamas brown bags. Having visited the shop, I can see what they were buying. There's an excellent range of vintage and new toy vehicles. Some are at pocket money prices whilst others would be ideal for gifts.

Within the shop, some of the space is rented to independent traders. There's colourful Nepalese clothing and accessories, delightful painted garden furniture and vintage jewellery. You really need to go in to see for yourself!

So do pop in! You are assured of a warm welcome. But I have to warn you – set aside a good chunk of time because you'll be browsing for ages!



ALL ABOUT FLOWERS

The florist shop in Burford Street has a new owner – Tina. Originally from The Philippines, Tina lived in Lechlade briefly when she married and started a family. She loved living here (and worked at The Trout) but ultimately set up home in Highworth, where she still lives. So, when the opportunity to set up in business in Lechlade came up, she was very keen to rekindle her links with the town.

Tina started her floristry journey working part-time from home alongside

her regular job, but she is now able to focus on it full time. The service she is offering is the same as before the change of ownership: flowers for weddings and special occasions as well as pre-ordered bouquets and bunches put together for customers on the day. Tina is passionate about flowers and everything is designed and created according to each customer's requirements.

Customers can come into the shop to order or buy or they can order via the website www.swindonflorist.co.uk. So far, Tina is delighted to say that things are going well and she would like to thank local people for their friendliness and encouragement.

As Easter approaches, many of us will be wanting to buy flowers so pop in and support a local business. You will be assured of a warm welcome and a professional service. And flowers can be delivered to our local area and also the wider Cotswolds and Swindon.

The Editor



FAIRFORD STEAM, CLASSIC & RETRO SHOW

A date for your diary:

Saturday 16 and Sunday 17 August 2025. Lake Field, Fairford, GL7 4BT
Steam engines, classic & retro vehicles, miniature steam, static displays, fairground rides, static displays, traders & auto jumble, craft tent, local charity stalls, local food & drink and beer tent.

Friday 15 August (evening) – Steam in the Square

Saturday 16 August (evening) – Live music

Buy tickets online now: www.fairfordsteamshow.co.uk

Chris Roberts MBE



LECHLADE HISTORY SOCIETY

In February we enjoyed a talk from Dr Mike Wise on the history of Faringdon, featuring a virtual walk around the town centre. A selection of historic photographs demonstrated some of the changes in the buildings and their uses that have occurred in and around the marketplace. The name Faringdon derives from the Anglo-Saxon Ferendune, fern-covered hill. It was an important market town situated at a crossroads and near a river crossing point and as such has similarities with Lechlade. A market charter was granted by Henry III in 1218 and the town held two annual horse fairs as well as other markets.

Faringdon was served by stagecoaches from the latter part of the 17th century and there was a twice-daily service by 1840. The main streets are named after some of the coach destinations: Gloucester, London, Southampton and Marlborough. There are several coaching inns, including The Old Crown and The Bell, which was a Cistercian hospice in the 12th and 13th centuries.

The town was a Royalist stronghold during the Civil War, defending the Radcot bridges and the road to the king's headquarters at Oxford. Although very badly damaged, it was one of the last towns to surrender to Cromwell.

There is plenty of information on Faringdon's history at www.faringdon.org and www.fdahs.org.uk.

Dr Hugh Pihlens came in March to tell us about Littlecote Roman Villa, which is sited on the banks of the River Kennet in the grounds of Littlecote House Hotel, near Hungerford.

The villa was one of the finest in Britain, with a grand three-storey gatehouse. It was originally a large working farm but in the 4th century AD the villa was converted to a sacred site dedicated to the cult of Orpheus and Dionysus. The Orpheus mosaic floor is one of the finest in Britain and Dr Pihlens explained the significance of each element of the mosaic.

The site was gradually abandoned after the Romans left Britain in the 5th century and the villa was forgotten until 1727 when the mosaic floor was discovered. However, the landowner wanted to deter visitors and covered the mosaic up, claiming that it was lost. It was rediscovered by archaeologists in 1976 and Sir Seton Wills, the owner of the house, financed a project to restore the mosaic and find the rest of the villa. The next owner, Peter de Savary, continued to fund the work, which was finished in 1991.

For many years the site was neglected and its condition deteriorated. In 2019 the Hungerford Historical Association decided to clean up and restore the site using volunteers; work is still ongoing. Littlecote has the largest and best-preserved above ground Roman villa remains in Britain. Further information is available at www.hungerfordvirtualmuseum.co.uk.

Diary Dates

Monday 14 April – 'Queen Katherine Parr – Gloucestershire's Queen
by Mike Bottomley

Monday 19 May – ‘The Road to peace is Paved with Headstones – The Commonwealth War Graves Commission; Its History and Legacy’ by Dick Richards

Meetings are held in Lechlade Memorial Hall starting at 7:30pm. All welcome
– Members £8 p.a. + £2 per meeting; Visitors £4. Light refreshments available.
Linda Kent



MOORE ALLEN & INNOCENT

Valuation Day

Curious about the hidden value in your belongings?

Wondered if you have cash in the attic?

Bring your items along for a free sale valuation from our Senior Valuer & Auctioneer, Philip Allwood

Monday 14 April 10:00am-2:00pm

Moore Allen & Innocent Office, Burford Street, Lechlade, Gloucestershire.

No appointment necessary. First come first served.

Enquiries: 01285 646050 fineart@mooreallen.co.uk

Adele Ventham

ST THOMAS, FAIRFORD

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

Easter Services

Maundy Thursday 17 April: 7:30pm Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Thomas', Fairford

Good Friday 18 April: 3:00pm Liturgy of the Passion at St Mary's, Cricklade

Holy Saturday 19 April: 8:30pm Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter at St Thomas', Fairford

Easter Sunday 20 April: Mass at 11:00am at St Thomas', Fairford

SOUTHROP VILLAGE FETE & COUNTRY FAIR

Saturday 7 June 1:00-4:00pm

Adults £2, Children free

Morris Dancing, Classic Cars, Wipe-out Inflatable, Dog Show, BBQ, Pimms & Ale, Afternoon Tea, Raffle, Vintage Stalls, Strawberries & Cream, Antique Valuations, Circus Workshop, Duck Race, Prize Draw, Silent Auction

Gretchen Shoring



NEWS FROM ST. LAWRENCE CHURCH

As I write this, we are in Lent, the season of reflection leading us to the glories of Easter. As ever, at St. Lawrence we began with a stark contrast: on Shrove Tuesday, our traditional, sociable, and fun Pancake Quiz, with Pancakes kindly provided by the Lechlade Twinning Association; and then on the following evening our Ash Wednesday Communion service. For me, there is always something very moving about seeing people come forward to receive the mark of a cross on their forehead, a black smudge of ash that is given with the words 'Remember you are dust and to dust you shall return.' In a world where we focus so much on our comfort and pleasures, Lent is a time to be honest about how frail our bodies and best intentions are.

We do that looking ahead to Easter, remembering God's costly and loving response to all that is worst about humanity, his rescue plan through the death of his Son. One of the great things about Easter is that we can experience those events of two thousand years ago in 'real time', following Jesus through that world-changing week. At St. Lawrence, we will have our usual Palm Sunday services on 13 April, with our choir leading a procession at 10:00am from St. Lawrence school car park to the church. On Maundy Thursday we have our solemn agape meal, remembering Jesus' final meal with his friends, before Good Friday when we will have reflections on the cross from 10:00am.

On the afternoon of Good Friday, we will once again have an event for families, where children can explore for themselves what happened that first Easter. Come along to church at 2:00pm to take part. And then finally on Easter Sunday, the great day of the year, we will have a service of Holy Communion at 10:00am, before the choir lead us through the whole Easter story in our 5:00pm service.

Between these landmarks of the year, the life of our church goes on, whether in our Sunday services with their children's groups, or our Wednesday prayers and Thursday communion, our monthly service at St. Birinus, Little Lights (our twice-monthly toddler service), Explorers (our weekly after-school club), Thirst (our weekly youth club), other organised groups, or friends meeting to pray and support one another, in Lent Groups and Prayer Triplets. And we continue to work hard on Project Inspire, with the hope that building works will begin later this year.

As Andrew mentioned in the last edition of The Bridge, he is currently on sabbatical, a well-earned break to rest, read, pray, and refresh. He'll be back with us from the middle of May, but in the meantime do get in touch with me if you need anything from your local church or want to find out more.

Gareth Griffith, Curate



GARDENING HINTS

As I've written before, in Japan the seasons are broken down into 72 micro seasons and given little titles. I find it quite delightful and, although their seasons may not be the same as ours, I like to see what they call them. So just a few examples from these two months:-

April 5-9 Swallows return, April 15-19 First rainbows, April 25-29 Last frost, rice seedlings sprout, May 10-14 Worms surface, May 21-25 Silkworms start feasting on mulberry leaves.

I was starting to get very downhearted- the pernicious weeds in the garden are having a field day- ground elder in almost every flower bed firmly entrenched in root balls of plants, monstrous bindweed colonies (both varieties), the dreaded green alcanet whose only redeeming feature is that the bees like its early blue flowers, nettles and a creeping ground ivy of some sort. Yes, my energy level felt a bit feeble and I became despondent. But yesterday the sun was shining and I had the best gardening day with a helper. We lifted lots of clumps of perennials and pulled them apart, ditched the ground elder, in some cases we even washed the roots of what we were putting back, and now it looks much better (in that one place!). And this morning the sun is shining and there is splashing in the frog ponds. I marvelled at the beauty in the garden. In the meadow (ie the bottom lawn which now remains uncut) the primroses and scillas have spread. There are lots of cowslips showing and there is a big patch of violets which have got there all by themselves. Suddenly the weeds were of no concern at all and I was aware of just how much I love this piece of ground which is ours to look after. Surely these two months of April and May must be some of the loveliest in our English calendar. Enjoy.

And I've discovered a new plant- new to me I mean. *Speirantha convallaroides* - a relative of the lily of the valley, from SE China. Described as having scented white starry flowers, spreading gently to form a patch in shade/semi shade. I bought it at Pan Global Plants which is a paradise of unusual plants. The owner goes on plant expeditions to far flung corners of the globe and in many cases brings back seed which he raises at the nursery. I can't wait to see if it likes it here.

And I'm waiting for May 10-14 when 'Worms surface' in Japan. I could do with seeing more worms in my flower beds, so I'm hoping that they are deep down where the soil is warmer. I'll let you know....

Barbara McNaught

MOTHERS' UNION

We are delighted to know that her Royal Highness the Duchess of Edinburgh is our new Royal Patron. We look forward to meeting her at an MU event one day!

At our February meeting, we met the Revd. Maria Jukes, our speaker. Maria was born in Sweden, and faith was a long way off her formative years. At 14, she went with a friend to the Pentecostal Church and gradually realised there was a different way of living with faith. She came to England at 19 and attended a Free Church near Derby and later an Anglican Church. Eventually, a Vicar suggested she should train for the ministry! Maria has been the Vicar of All Saints Faringdon for two years and loves her work. Sheila Hughes read the Bible lesson from John 4 about the Samaritan Woman when she encountered Jesus at the well. Jesus chose her to be his witness. Maria feels this was the first 'calling' of a woman. Woman can be 'called' just like she was called by God. When we are invited to "Come and See" we should go as we all need encouragement in our faith.

Our evening meeting was a visual presentation by the Revd. Jean Brown- the Oberammergau Passion Play. The dramatic play performed every 10 years since the 17th century is in the German village on open-air stages. It is a staging of part of the final period of the life of Jesus up to the Resurrection. Jean had been to the 2022 production and shared her photographs and knowledge with us.

In March, Peter Foot returned to be our speaker on 'Jacob's Ladder and the Repair Shop'. We saw slides of Jacob's Ladder- in nature (a plant), landmarks in the UK, a children's toy and even a recipe! Sheila Hughes read from Genesis 28- Jacob dreamed of a ladder set up from Earth to Heaven and the angels of God ascending and descending on it. We saw an illustrated Luther's Bible from the 1500s, 16th Century Italian paintings and William Blake's from the British Museum. Peter quoted from Rabbi Jonathan Sacks- prayer is a ladder of words, thoughts and emotions where we gradually leave earth's gravitational field, moving from the world around perceived by the senses, to an awareness of what lies beyond. Peter linked the TV programme, the Repair Shop, with Jacob's ladder. He spoke of the emotions of people whose family and friends have passed away. By repairing their old items, they are re-connecting to their loved ones looking down on them from above.... from Heaven to Earth.

We have taken knitting and pre-loved children's clothes to The Family Haven in Gloucester to support families. Members have knitted for the premature babies in Gloucester Hospital and donated items for Dr Veronica in Sierra Leone.

We lost Joy Evans and Mary Cotton recently. They were dedicated to our cause and were prayerful, hardworking members who are sadly missed. May they rest in God's hand.

Diary dates

Wednesday 9 April 2:00pm Speaker Becky Phillips- '**Domestic Abuse/ Modern Day Slavery**'. Memorial Hall

Wednesday 14 May 2:00pm Speaker Clare Brignall- '**Textiles and the effect on the environment**' Memorial Hall

Monday 19 May 7:00 for 7:30pm Denver Keegan '**My Long Walk!**' 8 Katherine's Walk

Margaret Mattingley and Kathy Newton

LECHLADE TENNIS CLUB

New Season – New Coaching!

Over the winter the Club has been exploring options for continuing our coaching at the club and are very pleased to announce that we will be engaging the services of a specialist Tennis Coaching Academy to offer Junior, Teen and Adult coaching sessions for members and non-members. We expect to finalize arrangements in the very near future and will then be able to share further details, including plans for the new coaching programmes starting after the Easter break. Please look out for further details or contact the club now with your contact details and we will make sure you are kept up to date.

The Swindon and District Winter League, which started in October last year, has been concluded with the Club finishing 3rd in Division 3, a great result after being promoted last season. James Gale was 6th in the league of players so congratulations and thanks to him and all the other players for playing so well.

The Quiz night was held on Saturday 8 March and was enjoyed by all. Our thanks go to Martin Elsender for setting the questions and delivering such an interesting quiz. The scores were very close between all the tables. Thank you to all those who bought tickets to come, all those who helped setting up and clearing away, made delicious puddings and donated raffle prizes. Without everyone working together this event would not have happened so thank you again.

The Club is now looking forward to the start of the summer season on the 1 April and competitively we have entered two Men's teams and one Ladies team into the Swindon and District league, which starts after Easter.

The Club is always looking for new members both for social and league tennis. Social sessions are every Tuesday and Friday mornings 9:30-11:00am and Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:30pm. These continue throughout the year. Details about the Club are on the website www.lechladetenniscub.co.uk along with contact details for any enquiries

Gay Oliver



**April 2025**

- Tuesday 1** **WI 'St Denys' Handbell Ringers'** Memorial Hall 7:00pm
- Wednesday 2** **LITTLE LIGHTS** St Lawrence church 9:30-11:00am
LECHLADE LIBRARY Mah Jong Club 4:00-6:00pm
MEN ALOUD OUT 'Assisted Dying' The Trout 7:30pm
CRAFT CLUB The Swan 7:00-9:00pm
- Friday 4** **PROBUS AGM** +'Unfinished Business' Memorial Hall 10:30
- Saturday 5** **LECHLADE LIBRARY** Book Club 11:00am-1:00pm
FAIRFORD CHORAL SOCIETY Concert St Mary's Church Fairford 7:30pm
FFLC Wine Tasting Fairford Community Centre 7:30pm
- Sunday 6** **ANTIQUES & VINTAGE MARKET** Memorial Hall
- Tuesday 8** **LECHLADE LIBRARY** Craft Club 10:30am-12:30pm
- Wednesday 9** **MU** 'Domestic Abuse/Modern Day Slaves' Memorial Hall 2:00pm
GARDENING CLUB 'Grow your 5 a Day' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
- Thursday 10** **ART SOCIETY UPPER THAMES** 'Wilde about Oscar' Memorial Hall 2:00pm
- Friday 11** **BLOOD DONATION** Memorial Hall
- Saturday 12** **REPAIR CAFÉ** Pavilion 9:30-12:30pm
- Sunday 13** **PALM SUNDAY**
EASTER WEEK BEGINS
 See articles from local churches for details of Easter services & events
NT Coleshill Village Open Day
- Monday 14** **HISTORY SOCIETY** 'Queen Katherine Parr' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
- Wednesday 16** **LECHLADE LIBRARY** Mah Jong Club 4:00-6:00pm
- Thursday 17** **MAUNDY THURSDAY**
UPPER THAMES & RIDGEWAY NT ASSOCIATION 'Life as a Military Spy' Memorial Hall 2:30pm
NT Coleshill Tours start
- Friday 18** **GOOD FRIDAY**
- Saturday 19** **EASTER SATURDAY**
ST LAWRENCE CHURCH Easter Afternoon Tea Memorial Hall 2:00-5:00pm
- Sunday 20** **EASTER SUNDAY**
- Monday 21** **EASTER BANK HOLIDAY MONDAY**
- Wednesday 23** **ST GEORGE'S DAY**
LECHLADE LIBRARY Children's Activities 10:00am-12:00noon
- Thursday 24** **WI** Coffee Morning Riverside 10:30am
- Monday 28** **MEMORIAL HALL AGM** 7:30pm

**REGULAR M**

Please check with organisers

- 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

ts are proceeding as advertised.

May 2025

Thursday	1	MEN ALOUD OUT 'International Arms Trade' The Trout 7:30pm
Friday	2	PROBUS 'Citroen' Memorial Hall 10:30am
Saturday	3	LECHLADE LIBRARY Book Club 11:00am – 1:00pm RNLI May Day Appeal Collection Hilliers Garden Centre
Sunday	4	ANTIQUES & VINTAGE MARKET Memorial Hall
Monday	5	EARLY MAY BANK HOLIDAY LITTLE LEARNERS Jumble Trail 1:00-4:00pm
Tuesday	6	WI 'Tales of a Midwife' Memorial Hall 7:00pm
Wednesday	7	LITTLE LIGHTS St Lawrence Church 9:30-11:00am LECHLADE LIBRARY Mah Jong Club 4:00-6:00pm CRAFT CLUB The Swan 7:00-9:00pm
Thursday	8	VE DAY 80TH ANNIVERSARY ART SOCIETY UPPER THAMES 'Inspired by Stonehenge' Memorial Hall 2:00p
Saturday	10	REPAIR CAFÉ Pavilion 9:30am-12:30pm VE DAY ANNIVERSARY Celebrations Fairford (& 11th) GLOUCESTER CHORAL SOCIETY Concert Gloucester Cathedral 7:00pm
Sunday	11	FFLC Craft Fair Fairford Community Centre 10:00am-2:00pm NT Coleshill Village Open Day
Tuesday	13	LECHLADE LIBRARY Craft Club 10:30am-12:30pm NT Inspired by Chastleton Sessions (see article)
Wednesday	14	FFLC Pop-Up Charity Shop Fairford Community Centre MU 'Textiles & the Environment' Memorial Hall 2:00pm GARDENING CLUB 'Plant Stall' Memorial Hall 7:30pm NT Coleshill Oxfordshire Art Weeks (until 18th)
Friday	16	PROBUS 'Life in a Tin Can' Memorial Hall 10:30am
Saturday	17	WI Pop-up Café Memorial Hall
Sunday	18	COMMUNITY CINEMA 'Paddington in Peru' (TBC) Memorial Hall 7:30pm
Monday	19	HISTORY SOCIETY 'Commonwealth War Graves Commission' Memorial Hall 7:30pm MU 'My Long Walk' 8 Katherine's Walk 7:30pm
Wednesday	21	LITTLE LIGHTS St Lawrence Church 9:15am LECHLADE LIBRARY Mah Jong Club 4:00-6:00pm
Friday	23	BLOOD DONATION Memorial Hall
Friday	30	GARDENING CLUB Visit to David Austin Rose Garden WI Coffee Morning Riverside 10:30am
Saturday	31	REPAIR CAFÉ Special Event Kelmscott Manor (see article) HIGHWORTH JAZZ FESTIVAL (see article for details)



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 2:30pm Memorial Hall (Term time only) Adult Ballet Weekly 9:30am & 10:45am Memorial Hall
Thursday	Spiritualist Church Weekly 7:30pm Pavilion Men Aloud Out First 7:30pm The Trout Thursday Art Group Weekly 9:15am - 12:15pm Pavilion 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
Saturday	Repair Cafe Second 09:30am - 12:30pm Pavilion

FROM THE REGISTERS

At St Lawrence Church:

We welcome in Holy Baptism:

Lowen Milsom-Masih
Beatrix Jones
Rupert Jones

We congratulate:

Helena Vagnolini and Gregory Jackson

We remember:

Joy Evans
Mary Cotton
Kevin Morley



PROBUS

The Probuss Club of Lechlade and District continues to flourish with members' lunches in the New Inn now being well attended; our thanks to Alwyn Davies for the organizing.

President's Day will take place on 20 June and will be a guided visit to the Mediaeval Windows of St Mary's Church in Fairford, followed by lunch at the Colosseo Italian restaurant. After lunch, those who wish to may also visit the church at Down Ampney, where there is a Memorial Window to Ralph Vaughan Williams and another window commemorating the Battle of Arnhem in 1944.

The Programme for April and May is as follows:

Friday 4 April AGM followed by a talk '**Unfinished Business – RAYO**' by Colin Hearn

Friday 18 April NO MEETING - Good Friday

Friday 2 May Citroen by Archie Gordon-Graham

Friday 16 May '**Life in a Tin Can**' by Mike Grigg

Our Probuss Club is open to all males up to any age and we will always welcome anyone who might wish to come and "have a look" in order to see if it might suit him. 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 at the bar run by our own members.

Dacre Watson



MACARONI WOODS

If you drive along the old Salt Way in the direction of Quenington, you will come to a crossroads with the intriguing sign to Macaroni Woods. During the last war, a small satellite airfield, known as Southrop airfield and one of many to be constructed across the Cotswolds, was built there. To help with the construction and to provide ongoing maintenance, a small contingent of Italian PoWs was drafted in and housed in wooden huts on the edge of the woods adjacent to the site. During their spare time the prisoners hit upon the idea of growing macaroni on the land around their huts. Macaroni was a commodity not then generally available in war-torn Britain. When the macaroni was ripe, they would hang the macaroni pods, rather like long runner beans, from the rafters of their huts to dry, or occasionally, if the weather was dry, from lines strung between the trees.

At the beginning of 1945 and with the end of the war in Europe now in sight, the decision was taken to move the PoWs to a central location pending early repatriation, the prisoners finally departing on the 1st April. Today, eighty years on, only some concrete standings in the neighbouring fields indicate the site of Southrop airfield, but the name of Macaroni Woods lives on.

Alan Garnell

GLOUCESTER CHORAL SOCIETY

Saturday 10 May 2025 – 7:00pm

**Parry – ‘Songs of Farewell’, plus Bach, Rheinberger and Hepplewhite
Gloucester Cathedral**

£25, £18, £10 | Students & U25s £5



Gloucester Choral Society present an unforgettable musical experience that will transport you to a world of exquisite harmony and profound emotion. Join us for an enchanting evening of classical masterpieces featuring Hubert Parry's 'Songs of Farewell', Bach motets, and Rheinberger mass, led by acclaimed choral and orchestral director, Adrian Partington.

Norma Ireland



LECHLADE REPAIR CAFÉ

Update - March 2025

At the end of February we completed our third successful year of the Lechlade Repair Café. Overall, it's been a successful year. Household items received for repair increased by 10% for the year. We have been lucky enough to have 3 new volunteers join us, especially Hazel who is brilliant at textile repairs.

To give some idea of how successful our volunteer repairers have been, here are some numbers:

We accepted 141 items for repair, achieving a repair success rate of 78% In actual item/appliance weight, we saved 587.8kg from going to landfill, our highest annual savings to date.

Carbon dioxide emissions saved from being released into the atmosphere equal to 5,460kg.

In more practical terms you could compare these savings too:

Not driving 14,507 miles. Not flying 21,301 air miles, or Not showering 2,183 times.

When I add up all numbers for the past three years, it gives some amazing figures.

We repaired a total of 368 items. Saving 1,262kg in weight from going to landfill.

Average repair success rate of 80% and finally the amount of CO2 emissions saved from being released into the atmosphere is a huge 11,590kg.

A Special Repair Café Day. Kelmscott Manor, 31 May 2025.

The Lechlade Repair Café has been invited to take part in Kelmscott Manor's 'Make and Mend May' – a month of activities exploring themes of creativity, sustainability, and repairability as part of a new project to conserve the Manor's historic tapestries. Throughout May, there will be workshops on weaving, natural dyeing, and more to celebrate the tapestries and connect with William Morris's ethos of making things that last.

The Repair Café will be holding a 'one off' all day session at Kelmscott Manor on Saturday 31 May, from 11:00am to 4:00pm in the Learning Barn. If you live within a 5 mile radius of Kelmscott Manor and have a small household item or appliance that needs repairing, such as a radio, kettle, hairdryer, table lamp etc. please send an email to lechlade.repaircafe@gmail.com to pre book your place. You will be able to observe and chat to our volunteer repairer while they work to repair your appliance. Entrance to Kelmscott Manor grounds is free – you do not need to book a ticket to the Manor to visit the Repair Café.

I would like to thank all of our dedicated volunteers who give up their free time and use their skills and expertise in supporting our community through the Lechlade Repair Café. Without them I could not run the repair café or make it a success that it is today.

If you have a portable household appliance or item that needs repairing, we would love to see you. We run the Repair Café the 2nd Saturday of the month in the Pavilion. Doors open at 9:30 and close at 12:30pm. Full details are available on our Facebook page - LechladeRepairCafe.

Colin Thompson, Founder. Lechlade Repair Cafe



LECHLADE ART SOCIETY

Saturday 15 March: Kandinsky, Constable and Coffee Cake: An Introduction to Acrylic Painting

Ten very enthusiastic participants came along to try painting with acrylics. The LAS thoughts behind offering the opportunity were that visitors come to our exhibitions and sales and express an interest in learning more about painting and often new members come to our painting group and say they want to use watercolour. They do find this difficult and are unhappy with their work. Most painters will agree that watercolour is the most challenging of all media. On the other hand, in my opinion, acrylic paint is far more forgiving and exciting therefore a logical starting point!

Using just the three primary colours, the morning began by looking at Kandinsky's colour mixing exercise and had then painted our own. These were straight away worthy of popping into a frame to display. Using a Winsor and Newton painting guide featuring Wilhemina Barns-Graham's abstract work, the group worked on a free loose painting along these lines.

Finally, the members were given a canvas board and shown Rainstorm over the Sea by John Constable, illustrating strong brush strokes. Using this and other photographs they produced their own seascapes. Hopefully some will have gone home and are contemplating a new hobby?

Zoe Hing



STROUD AND COTSWOLD DISTRICTS CITIZENS ADVICE

I've recently found myself living alone after the breakdown of my relationship. My council tax bill is due soon, and I'm worried I won't be able to afford to pay it on my own. I'm already struggling to cover the cost of my other bills. What can I do?

You're not alone in worrying about paying your bills - fortunately, there are options available to people struggling to pay their council tax. If eligible, you might be entitled to pay less, or not at all.

If you're the only adult living in your home, your council tax bill can be reduced by a quarter. You'll need to tell your council someone has moved out of your home and the date that they left - you're entitled to the discount from this point.

When the council works out how many people live in a property, there are certain people that don't count - called 'disregarded people'. This includes under-18s, full-time students, long-term hospital patients, people with severe mental impairments, and many more. See our website (www.citizensadvice.org.uk) for more information. In some situations, everyone living in a home is disregarded, and the council tax bill will be reduced by half. If everyone in a home is a student or severely mentally impaired, there'll be no council tax to pay.

If you live with an adult who isn't disregarded, but is on a low income or receives certain benefits, you might be able to get a discount called a 'second adult rebate'. You can find out more on our website. If you or someone you live with is disabled, this can also affect your council tax banding. If your home has been adapted, you can ask to be placed down one band to reduce your bill.

There's also Council Tax Reduction, which is designed for people on low incomes. Your council will ask for details about your income and circumstances. If you're eligible they'll reduce the amount of council tax you have to pay. Different rules apply depending on whether you've reached State Pension age.

Finally, if you're struggling to pay for essentials, your council can reduce or cancel your bill under what's known as a 'discretionary reduction'. This usually only happens if you can provide evidence that you're suffering severe hardship and can't afford to pay council tax. If you're not given a discretionary reduction, you might be able to appeal to a valuation tribunal. If successful, they can order your council to reduce or cancel your council tax bill.

Whatever the circumstances, if you're struggling with your council tax payments, it's important to let your council know.

Citizens Advice is here to help you find a way forward. Please check our public website first (www.citizensadvice.org.uk). If that isn't possible or you need further help please call us on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 (Monday and Tuesday 10:00am to 4:00pm; Wednesday and Thursday 10:00am to 12:30pm). See our local website to complete our email form (www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk).

Elizabeth Hall



HIGHWORTH JAZZ FESTIVAL

Saturday 31st May

Be there or be square!

It's back in our lovely town. Nine hours of blazing jazz across five charming venues, for jazz aficionados and novices.

Never really tried jazz? I'm reminded of my late dad, bless him. Although he quite loved his old 78 and LP records, I'm not sure he ever quite 'got it' about jazz. "They keep going off on tangents", he'd complain. But he was a big fan of the Ed Sullivan Show that, in 1965, featured the stunning Ella Fitzgerald with Duke Ellington and his band. She belted out one of the best-known jazz anthems ... maybe he got it then?

*It don't mean a thing, if it ain't got that swing
It don't mean a thing, all you got to do is sing
It makes no difference, if it's sweet or hot
Just keep that rhythm, give everything you got.*

Organisers Ray Stephens and Martin Wellsted do it all for the love of jazz in Highworth. This not-for-profit festival ploughs proceeds back to the musicians and venues. Some 20 acts will weave their way through St Michael's Church, the Wine Bar, The Highworth, the URC Chapel and the Podium in the Market Place, from 2:00pm to 11:00pm. And being jazz, there's the risk of a late-night jam session...

A key theme for the festival will be '**Celebrating Women in Jazz**', an inspired choice and important way to highlight the incredible female talent in the UK jazz scene.

Line-up and latest news on Facebook – search for 'Highworth Jazz Festival'. **Tickets** at <https://highworthjazzfestival.com> and get your souvenir wristband on the day.

Coined in 1950s America, 'square' was jazz slang for a conformist who didn't appreciate counterculture, especially jazz music. Surely not you? Come on, *give it everything you got!*

Martin & Ray





FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD AND LECHLADE COMMUNITIES

Wine Tasting Evening – Saturday 5 April 2025 – 7:30pm at Fairford Community Centre

Indulge in an evening of fine wines, delectable bites, and heartwarming cheer. £25 per person. 18+ only

Craft Fair - Stall Holders – Sunday 11 May

We are holding our Charity Craft Fair on Sunday 11 May between 10:00am and 2:00pm at Fairford Community Centre. Stalls are £20, please contact Val Harvey on 07540 798226 or email transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk

Pop Up Charity Shop – Wednesday 14 May

We are bringing our charity shop to Fairford! Come and see the quality items we have for sale! Ladies, men's and children's clothing, shoes, books, household items, as well as vinyl, jewellery and craft pieces. All of our stock is donated so by buying pre-loved, you are helping the planet, as well as your pocket! Barker Room, Fairford Community Centre. Cash and Card payments accepted. No donations please.

Drivers and Minibus Drivers Needed!

Could you help people get to their medical appointments or to our Edna Dawes Lunch Club? You could drive your own car or the minibus, any additional medicals required will be reimbursed. This could be weekly or monthly, whatever suits you. Please contact Katie Bull, 07713 607106 or edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk or Val Harvey, 07540 798226 or transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk if you can help.

Our Nursing Team

We provide end of life care to patients wishing to die at home. Our service is available to anyone who is a patient of either the Fairford or Lechlade GPs practices, and where the District Nurse feels that the patient needs our help. To access our service a referral from your District Nurse or GP is required, who will then contact our team. We are able to provide care at home for up to eight weeks.

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

Lechlade Charity Shop

Come in and enjoy some pre-loved bargains. Open 10-4 Tuesday – Saturday, High Street Lechlade.

Join our mailing list

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

Who are we?

Our Chairty offers a huge range of services within the local area. Please see our website or call to find out more www.friendsoffairford.org.uk or 01285 707300.

Val Harvey, Chair

NATURE

Spring has well and truly arrived on the Nature Reserve at the northern tip of Lechlade, with wild flowers appearing and birds singing. It is also drying out nicely after our recent run of good weather. The only trouble is that the east side of the South Lake Path (by the Perrinsfield-Swansfield play park) is still flooded and is likely to remain so until well into May. So, it is not possible to walk all the way round unless you have pretty high wellies

For those of you who do venture out here are 4 plants to spot. 3 flowers and one eye-catching member of the Funghi family:

- The Common Primrose, *Primula Vulgaris*, with its pale pastel yellow petals.
- Red Campion, which grows in grassland like that around the edges of the Reserve.
- Lesser Celandine with its bright glossy yellow flowers.
- And finally, Scarlet Elf Cup which looks as though it does 'exactly what it says on the tin'. These are typically about an inch across* and can be found in damp, shady areas below trees, lying among fallen leaves and twigs. About the right size for a large elf to drink from.

See if you can find them all.

Alan McSherry





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:

- | | |
|----------|--|
| 9 March | In memory of Papa Law who welcomed us to his Hong Kong family and we welcomed them in to ours. He was a true gentleman, kind, caring, funny and despite the language barrier we all celebrated and laughed together at my brother and sister in laws wedding. He will be missed by his UK family. Ginette, Neil, Isis and Jago |
| 20 March | Remembering with love Rosentere on their birthdays. |
| 21 March | In loving memory of John Checkley |
| 29 March | In memory of Molly Kent |
| 21 April | Remembering with love Rosentere on their birthdays. |





LECHLADE GARDENING CLUB

On **Wednesday 9 April** our speaker will be Chris Day with a talk called '**Grow your 5 a Day**'. Chris comes from Buckingham Nurseries and describes himself as 'Husband, gardener, writer, broadcaster and lover of life.' If you are interested in growing your own veg do come along.

On **Wednesday 14 May** we are having a **Plant Stall**. Further details of this will be sent out to club members nearer the time.

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 also entitles you to 10% off plants at Burford and Bampton Garden Centres if plants are not already discounted. Current membership cards have to be shown at the checkouts.

For further information please contact 01367 252286 or any member of the committee

David Austin Rose Garden

Friday 30 May 2025

We are heading to Shropshire to visit the David Austin Rose Centre to see over 4000 roses planted in six themed rose gardens. Reputed to be one of the finest rose gardens in the world – we can spend the afternoon wandering through the fragrant pathways appreciating all the wonderful colours of the spectacular roses.

There is an extensive plant nursery selling over 400 different potted roses as well as companion shrubs, trees and herbaceous plants. Rose experts are on hand to help! We have been offered a 10% discount on all purchases from the plant nursery and gift shop by using a sticker given to us all on arrival. Any plant purchases will be stored under purchaser's name and taken directly to the coach before departure. There is a licenced restaurant selling a selection of main meals, cakes and drinks etc. and garden café for light bites

For an extra £10.00 per person - you can book a guided tour of the gardens and a behind the scene look at cultivation and propagating.

We will be calling at Webbs of Wychbold Large Garden Centre to break for about an hour for look round and coffee on the way.

Price - £18 to cover cost of coach, drivers tip, and entry to David Austin. Optional £10 extra for guided tour.

Depart – 9:30am opposite Jubilee Antiques Hall, Oak St. Lechlade near Memorial Hall car park

We should arrive back in Lechlade about 6:50pm

Please make cheques payable to Lechlade Gardening Club and send to Audrey Barnes, 1 Roman Way, Lechlade, GL7 3BS

Barbara McNaught

LITTLE LEARNERS

The importance of outdoor play

For some people outdoor play can look messy, chaotic and unstructured. Children are often seen running around, shouting and getting dirty. For those of us looking on at the play we can sometimes miss the benefits and the learning opportunities that are being had but within outdoor play there are numerous benefits. Outdoor play allows children to express themselves without the constraints of four walls. When outdoors children can run, jump, shout, climb and do many things that cannot be done indoors. The NHS states that toddlers and preschool children should have a minimum of 180 minutes (3 hours) a day of physical exercise. This can be in a variety of ways including; going to the park, riding a bike, going for a walk or playing football. Physical exercise and being outdoors stimulates the brain improving both physical and mental health.

There are so many benefits to outdoor play including:

Health and wellbeing - Children are able to achieve their daily recommended activity.

Social skills - Helps with the development of friendships.

Learning - Children explore the world they live in.

Exploration - Children are more curious and will explore the outdoors.

Creativity - Creativity takes on a whole new level outdoors.

Care and concern for the environment - Children are much more aware of the world around them.

With so many benefits, why would we want to stay indoors?

So, let's get outside no matter the weather and fill our hearts with happiness and joy, you never know... you might feel like a child again.

Diary Date:

5 May Jumble Trail 1:00-4:00pm in Lechlade

Little Learners Committee



FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY



Concert – **Saturday 5 April 7:30pm**

'The Armed Man' (Karl Jenkins), 'Misa Criolla' (Ariel Ramirez) & 'Five Mystical Songs' (Ralph Vaughan Williams)

Tickets: £15 (under 18s £5) available from Fairford Opticians or on the door.

Judith Walpole

THE TUESDAY CLUB

The Members have been enjoying their Tuesday meetings with puzzles, card games and chatter. The meetings finish on 8 April and resume after Easter on 29 April.

The volunteers came together on the 5 of February, and it was very good to be able to say a huge thank you to all those who make it possible to have the Tuesday Club in our community.

Marjorie and June celebrated their 90th birthdays in March and Joan celebrates her 95th birthday in April. Congratulations to all three ladies.

On Tuesday the 11 March, the Food Health and Safety Officer from the Cotswold District Council arrived unannounced to do a spot check on the Club's kitchen hygiene and procedures. After observing the volunteers in the kitchen and going through the paperwork we were awarded 5 stars again which is a great achievement so well done to all those working in the kitchen.

We are always looking for volunteers particularly in the social room chatting and interacting with the members but there are also other opportunities to help in the kitchen with food preparation, making puddings, baking cakes or as a main cook if that's what you prefer doing. If you have any time on a Tuesday to help, please phone or message Jane on 07850 002521 for more information.

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

COLESHILL & BUSCOT NATIONAL TRUST

Spring into Nature!

(Note from NT's Sarah Hannis: I'd like to introduce a new writer. AS is a volunteer developing skills in marketing and is proving invaluable.)

In keeping with the joy and opportunity Spring brings, there is plenty to explore and take part in at the National Trust in the coming months.

Ashdown House is now open and there is an added extra. An explorer pack with a tape measure, binoculars, a magnifying glass, a compass and an activity booklet is available for younger visitors to investigate the house. The guided stairs and roof tour takes place on Wednesday and Saturday afternoons. Please book through our website.

Take a tour of Coleshill and see it in a new light. There is a new guided tour this year: **Secrets of Coleshill**. Bookings are open for tours on Thursdays and Saturdays at 1:00pm and 2:30pm, starting on **17 April**. Please be aware the walk includes a long incline.

Or come along to the first **Village Open Day** of the year on **Sunday 13 April**. Learn about what Coleshill has to offer. Take in the hidden British wartime history with the replica WW2 operational base. Take a tour of the Victorian farm history. See the exhibition about craftspeople inspired by and from Coleshill. **The May Open Day is on Sunday 11th**. No need to pre-book.

For £3 families can entertain young ones with our **tracker packs**, complete with binoculars, bug pot and nature identification cards! Available from the Welcome van at **Badbury and at Coleshill on Thursday and Saturday afternoons**.

We are currently **recruiting volunteers** at Coleshill, particularly for the WW2 underground bunker and for 'weekend welcome' volunteers. If you are interested, please drop us an email at buscotandcoleshill@nationaltrust.org.uk

See a wide range of skills on display during **Oxfordshire Artweeks**. Running from **14 to 18 May**, the Heritage and Rural Skills Centre at Coleshill will be showcasing a group of crafters: Chloe Romanos, Helen Pakeman, Anne Mills and Sally Barnes. Come along between 11:00am to 5:00pm each day and be inspired.

Calling all artists: Chastleton House, near Stow begins its **'Inspired by Chastleton'** sessions on **13 May**. A unique opportunity to create, with the backdrop of a Jacobean country house. Enjoy an art focussed, out-of-hours garden opening for £7 entry for all participants (including National Trust members). Please pre-book on the Chastleton House website. For a further day out, families can enjoy the **Easter Trail** at Chastleton from **Friday 18 to Sunday 20 April**.

Volunteers' week is the first week of June here at the National Trust. Our incredible volunteers give a combined 4.8 million hours of their time a year in 500 different roles.

My own experience volunteering with the National Trust has given me a new perspective on where I live – the expansive history, art and nature in

my surroundings have been a great source of inspiration.

For your calendar: **1940s Day** at Coleshill is Saturday 6 September. We look forward to seeing you!

AS, marketing volunteer



Leverets - Martin Trehwella

MEN ALOUD OUT

The purpose of Men Aloud Out is simple in that the group was set up as a relaxed talking-place for men. We usually meet on the first Thursday of the month at the Trout Inn for a beer and discussion. Our topics are wide ranging, but all are considered from a Christian point of view, and, lest anyone should be put off by this, you would not have to be a practicing attendee of church services and, certainly, you do not have to be knowledgeable on church matters. You would find us to be simply a bunch of ordinary guys meeting over a pint and putting the World to rights. All views are welcome, and tolerance is the watchword.

Normally, we start a meeting at 7:30pm except for our February and August meetings. In February we meet at 6:30pm either for board games or simply to chat and have a light meal. In August we again meet at 6:30pm for an Aunt Sally and a meal. On a couple of occasions, we will have a meal together and have an invited speaker. On other occasions, we meet for a chat on a topical subject and one of us will suggest that subject to be chatted through to give us structure; such discussions often become very wide-ranging indeed. Why not come and give us a try; you would be very welcome?

Diary dates:

Wednesday 2 April at 7:30pm. We have invited a speaker, **Dr Sam Ming**, to give a talk on **“Assisted Dying”** and he will lead any subsequent discussion.

Thursday 1 May at 7:30pm. One of our members, Colin Hearn, will invite discussion on **“The International Arms Trade”**.

5 June at 7:30.

Dacre Watson

LECHLADE WI

The Women's Institute (WI) was founded in 1915, it is a unique organisation shaped by its members. It set out to give women a voice and be a force for good in the community. Lechlade WI (founded 1947) meet on the first Tuesday of each month, at 7:00 for 7.30pm, for our main meeting in the Lechlade Memorial Hall. We always start with tea/coffee (no charge) and a chance to socialise before getting down to business (WI business!) and introducing our speaker or the activity for the evening. We try to book a varied programme of speakers and activities for these meetings. Visitors are always very welcome.

Our programme isn't limited to our Tuesday meetings. We also have several subgroups and activities (coffee mornings, walking, crafting, foodie group and book group) usually taking place during the day. More details about the groups are given at our monthly meetings. In April, the foodie group will be looking at Easter food and the book group are diving into "Politics on the Edge" by Rory Stewart, followed in May, by Pat Barker's "The Silence of the Girls". The first of a trilogy bringing the Trojan Wars to life and especially their effect on women. The crafting group are busy as ever including a fully booked ceramics course. We are also planning a VE day celebration, as well as a **pop-up café** on **Saturday 17 May** at Lechlade Memorial Hall as a fund raiser for our local hospice Prospect. Keep an eye out for further details on Town notice boards and social media.

We always have a summer outing and this year we are going to Iford Manor Gardens near Bradford on Avon. Some of us are also going, along with other members of the WI in Gloucestershire, to look at the Air Ballon, A417 missing link, road construction site for a tour and talk about the environmental impact, neolithic finds and reinstatement of the landscape.

Upcoming programme:

Tuesday Meetings – 7:00 for 7:30pm in Lechlade Memorial Hall

1 April – St Denys' Handbell Ringers (from Stanford in the Vale)

6 May – 'Tales of a Midwife'

Coffee Mornings – 10:30am Riverside Pub

Thursday 24 April, Friday 23 May

Reading Group – 10:30 Lechlade Baptist Church

Monday 7 April, Monday 12 May Looking forward to seeing all our members, friends and visitors in 2025.

Hilary Knight, Lechlade WI Secretary 07979645033

THE DOOR – LECHLADE YOUTH CLUB

Hey! I'm Maddie, and I am the Community Youth Worker for Lechlade, Fairford and Cirencester. The Door is a local charity that has been open in Gloucestershire since 1991, working closely with young people to run youth club sessions and other events. At The Door we offer various aspects of support for vulnerable young people and their families, including mentoring, support groups and youth clubs. Youth clubs are FREE safe spaces for 11–17-year-olds to socialize, learn new skills and receive support. Youth clubs are open access meaning young people simply turn up, no need to book.

CIRENCESTER – Tuesdays 3:30 – 5:30pm St. Lawrence Church Hall (Countess Lillias Road)

FAIRFORD – Mondays, 6:30 - 8:00pm Fairford Community Centre (next to the Church)

LECHLADE – Fridays 6:30 – 8:30pm The Pavilion

A recent project we have been working on is called THRIVE. This project is all about quitting negative coping strategies and adopting new, more positive ones. Each week there is a new theme to explore, inside and outside of sessions. These include: movement, talking, humour, journalling and mindfulness. Young people engaging with THRIVE means they learn new skills and work together to win big prizes!

Not only does The Door offer welcoming safe spaces through youth clubs, but there are also plenty of opportunities to connect with us outside of sessions. Youth workers are in local secondary schools weekly, including Farmors (Fridays), Kingshill (Mondays) and Deer Park (Wednesdays). Here, youth workers enjoy meeting young people, having a chat and offering support during lunchtimes.

At youth club we do plenty of cooking, board games and sports. Pancake day was a real success with pancakes at every youth centre! Activities and trips are always inspired by young people so please let me know what you like to do! Get in touch @cotswolddoor (Instagram) Madison Door (Facebook). Keep an eye on social medias for updates and find out more about The Door at thedoor.org.uk.

Maddie



THE ARTS SOCIETY UPPER THAMES

(formerly known as NADFAS)



Is pleased to invite you to one of our talks in the **Lechlade Memorial Hall**
Thursday 10 April at 2:00pm (but please arrive a few minutes earlier)

Wilde about Oscar- Famous for being Famous (and Infamous)

With Simon Whitehouse

This lecture examines the extraordinary life and dramatic times of Oscar Wilde from his Irish roots to his days as a student at Oxford and his meteoric rise to the heights of celebrity. We travel with him to the United States and examine his starring role within the artistic & theatrical worlds of late 19th century London. We visit his home in bohemian Chelsea and some of his favourite West End haunts. Finally, we learn how 'tired of being in the heights, he plunged into the depths' and became famous for being INfamous...

Thursday 8 May at 2:00pm (but please arrive a few minutes earlier)

Inspired by Stonehenge

with Julian Richards

Stonehenge is the most celebrated and sophisticated prehistoric stone circle in the British Isles. This lecture explains why Stonehenge must be regarded as architectural in its layout and construction, embodying techniques that for centuries convinced antiquarians that it could not have been built by 'primitive' ancient Britons but must be a product of 'sophisticated' Romans. We then explore how, over the last two centuries, this iconic structure has inspired painters, potters and poets. Blake, Turner, Constable and Moore are amongst those who have all been drawn to this magnificent ruin, resulting in a diverse catalogue of images and impressions.

Please pre-book either lecture by email at info@tasupperthames.org.uk and pay the exact amount of £7.50 cash on the door.

Rodney Mountford

LITTLE LIGHTS



Little Lights pre-school children and babies' group run by The Mothers' Union. Come when you can and leave when you must. No charge.

Wednesdays: 2 April, 7 May and 21 May 9:30 – 11:00am at St Lawrence Church

Kathy Newton

KELMSCOTT MANOR



Make and Mend May

Join us at Kelmscott Manor for 'Make and Mend May' – a month of activities exploring themes of creativity, sustainability, and repairability as part of a new project to conserve the Manor's historic tapestries. Throughout May there will be workshops on weaving, natural dyeing, and more to celebrate the tapestries and connect with William Morris's ethos of making things that last.

Saturday 3 May - Rag Rugging. Drop in between 12:00noon and 4:00pm
Learn the traditional skill of rag rugging with our team of volunteers

Saturday 10 May - Natural Dyeing with Kate Turnbull. Drop in between 12:00 and 4:00pm. Join natural dyer Kate Turnbull as she recreates colours from our tapestry's using natural dyes

Thursday 29 May - Weaving. Drop in between 12:00noon and 4:00pm
Try your hand at Weaving with our team of volunteers

Saturday 31 May - Repair Café with The Lechlade Repair Café. Drop in between 11:00am and 4:00pm Chat to volunteers from the Repair Café as they repair appliances in need of some care and attention.

All activities are free to take part in and take place in our Learning Barn. Entrance to Kelmscott Manor grounds and the Learning Barn is free but you will need to purchase a ticket if you wish to go in the house.

**Visit our website and follow us on social media for more details and updates on activities taking place throughout the month.*

Make and Mend May is taking place as part of THREADS OF THE PAST: Restoring William Morris's Tapestry Room at Kelmscott Manor. Kelmscott Manor was the iconic country home of William Morris; father of the Arts and Crafts movement. Today, visitors will find an outstanding collection which spans over 300 years and reflects the lives, ideas, and creative legacy of those who lived and stayed there.

These internationally important works of art, design and personal possessions are on permanent display at the Manor from April to October; public open days are Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10:30am-5:00pm with pre-booked group visits on a Wednesday. Our purpose built Learning Barn has a variety of activities for all ages to enjoy including trails, jigsaws, craft making and drop in family workshops throughout the season.

Instagram : @kelmscottmanor, Facebook: Kelmscottmanor,
Kelmscottmanor.org.uk

Amanda Stinton



VOLUNTEER AT KELMSCOTT MANOR

THE SUMMER HOME OF WILLIAM MORRIS

With a range of roles available, from room stewarding to supporting our activity team to environmental work, there is something for everyone!

Why should you volunteer at Kelmscott Manor?

Join a growing community passionate about Kelmscott.

Experience the joy of interacting with our visitors.

Learn about the past and develop new skills.

For more information, visit
kelmscottmanor.org.uk/support-us/volunteering



UPPER THAMES & RIDGEWAY NATIONAL TRUST ASSOCIATION (UTRNTA)

Upper Thames & Ridgeway National Trust Association (UTRNTA) invites you to a talk on **'Life as a Military Spy'** on **Thursday 17 April** at 2:30pm at Lechlade Memorial Hall presented by Peter Williams.

Peter Williams spent four years in Berlin in the 1980s as an officer in BRIXMIS, the British military liaison mission to the Soviet army in East Germany. At that time, and throughout the Cold War, British, American and French liaison teams took part in unarmed 3-man patrols which took great risks to check on the readiness for war of the Soviet and East German armed forces beyond the Iron Curtain. He will describe extraordinary activities that were shrouded in secrecy at the time, but which have been declassified and revealed to the public in recent years.

UTRNTA members £5; visitors £6 For more details, check our website: www.utrnta.co.uk UTRNTA - your local Supporter Group for the National Trust

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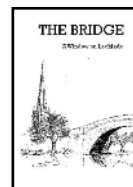
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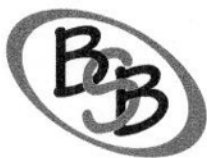
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THE BRIDGE

A Window on Lechlade



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