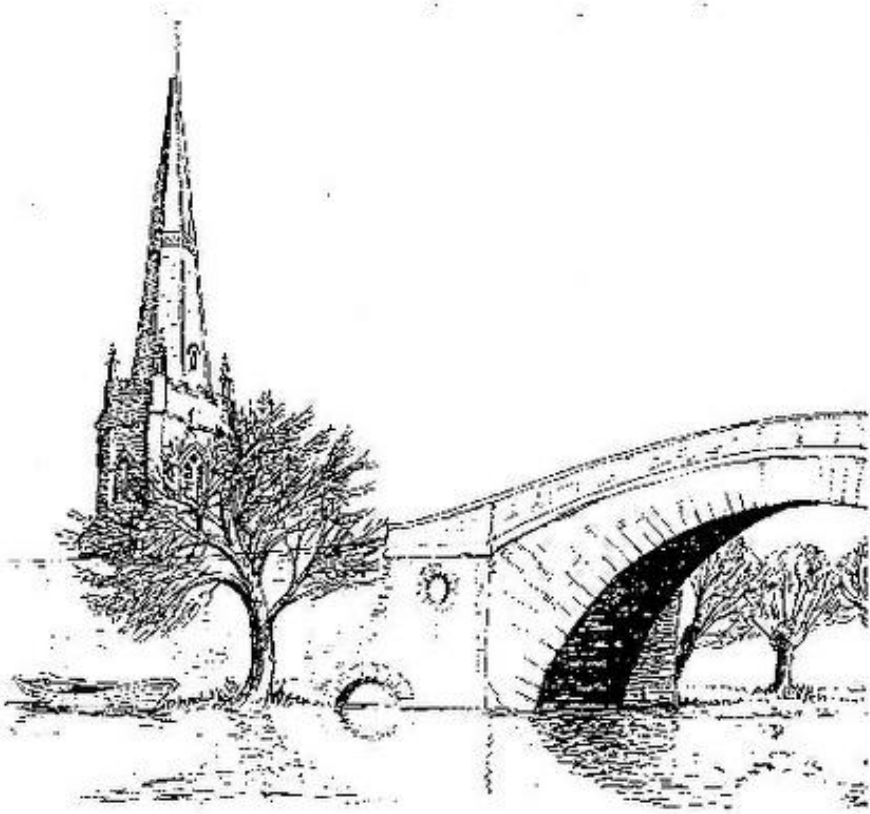


# THE BRIDGE

**Lechlade's Community Magazine**

**A Window on Lechlade**



**FEBRUARY / MARCH 2024**

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## **WELCOME**

Welcome to 2024 with some exciting news from The Bridge team. During 2024 we will be moving to professional printing for the paper magazine! Here's the full story:

As our regular readers will know, during the Covid pandemic we were forced to produce the magazine online. This was very well received so we have continued to publish free online even when we could produce a print edition again. Initially, print sales were limited to around thirty, but that number has grown steadily and we are now printing well over 100 copies per edition. Thank you to all our readers, long standing and new, for your support.

The online edition is in full colour with very clear text and images. Although we introduced a new in-house printing process for the black and white paper magazine, clarity is not as good as we would like. So, to achieve excellent clarity for text, images and advertisements and better manage the increased production run, we have taken the plunge and the April/May edition will be the first professionally printed Bridge magazine! Costs mean that it will still be black and white for the foreseeable future.

Professional printing will mean more paper copies for sale in Lechlade. As well as our usual sales outlets in the post office, Lechlade library and #NoLabels, we have recruited four more: Monique's Country Kitchen, Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities Charity shop, The Health Box and Cutler & Cashin. We would like to thank all of these for their support for the magazine and the Lechlade community.

Achieving a better-quality magazine will obviously increase production costs. The price of the magazine has not gone up since February 2004 although production costs have increased greatly. Therefore, we have had to take the decision to increase the cost of the magazine to £1. With no price increase for 20 years, the magazine has not been covering its production costs for some time. Also, people no longer carry much cash and many shops prefer electronic payment, meaning that paying, and receiving change, for items of less than £1 can be problematic.

We hope that you will support us as we strive to improve the quality of Lechlade's magazine and make it even more useful as a means of community communication by expanding readership.

The February/March edition always includes the new edition of The Lechlade Links and you will find the 2024 edition as a free insert in the paper magazine, online if you follow the links from the home of the online Bridge at [www.lechladebridge.org.uk](http://www.lechladebridge.org.uk) and as a separate free leaflet in Lechlade Library and St Lawrence church. The new year is often a time to think about trying something different by joining a new club or giving a new activity a try. The Lechlade Links includes most of the not-for-profit groups in our area. Go on! New activities with new friends – what's not to like? Good luck!

The Editor

# LECHLADE COMMUNITY LIBRARY

## Refurbishment News



Are you aware Lechlade Library has been a community run library since 2012? It is leased to the community by GCC, run by volunteers from the community and the interior of the library is the sole responsibility of the community, guided by a volunteer directorship. The result is a vibrant, successful community hub that offers not only library services, but also tourist information, council information and digital services as well as a warm space and a great social facility.

That there is a need for refurbishment has been known for some time.

### **WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ACHIEVE THIS!**

The last few months have allowed us to determine the issues to be addressed and to pursue several fundraising activities. Provided funding goals are met, the refurbishment will happen in October.

The refurbishment will address damp and cracking issues and improve our environmental footprint with new lighting, heating and secondary double glazing. There will be some structural changes, including a new reception desk (moved to the right of the entrance), a new display wall and seating area at the front. Also, new bookcases to increase book capacity, full redecoration and new flooring. The estimated cost is £78,000.

Through good financial management since 2012, we have accumulated a refurbishment fund of £20,000. We are grateful for additional donations and promises to date including Lechlade Parochial charities £1000, Lechlade on Thames Heritage and Development Fund £5000, Lord Faringdon Buscot Estates £2000 and SDM of Broughton Poggs - a 100% discount against the book removal and storage costs of £2850.

We have many grant applications pending including Lechlade Town Council, CDC SPF and CDC REPF funds and The National Lottery. We have received support and encouragement from Lakes by Yoo who are actively promoting us as their main charity in January.

We have recently set up a Just Giving page if you would like to donate: [www.justgiving.com/lechladelibrary](http://www.justgiving.com/lechladelibrary). You can also donate by writing a cheque to Lechlade Library Ltd or using bank transfer.

Lechlade WI organized a pop-up café in January 2024 in support of the library. Crafty Boaters have kindly nominated the library as their charity to support in 2024. Lechlade Lions are discussing possible ways to help.

We are organizing a raffle draw between February and April to add to these funds. Fabulous prizes will be on offer with vouchers kindly donated for a flight in a glider, spa day with meal, brewery tour, trip to the circus, meal with wine, and a golfing day. More details will be posted on social media and posters in due course, when tickets will be available. Meanwhile, if any businesses wish to add to these prizes, please let us know at [info@lechladelibrary.co.uk](mailto:info@lechladelibrary.co.uk). We will then be in touch.

We are excited about this project. We hope you are too. We are grateful for any support. We will be keeping the community informed as we progress.

You can also follow us on our website: [www.lechladelibrary.co.uk](http://www.lechladelibrary.co.uk) and Facebook page.

**Diary dates:**

**Tuesday 27 February – Dementia Awareness**, 10:30am – 12noon  
Lechlade Library

**Tuesday 26 March – Free Children’s Easter Activities**, 10:30am – 12:00noon  
Lechlade Library

**Easter closure** – the library will close at 1:00pm on Thursday 28 March & reopen on Tuesday 2 April at 10:00am

John Watkins, Chair of Directors



## ST LAWRENCE BELL RINGERS

We very much enjoyed ringing for the Christmas Lights Switch-On and on Christmas morning for the 10:00am St Lawrence service. Since then you may have noticed that the bells have been silent. We want to explain why.

As many of you will be aware, St Lawrence church is working on a reordering project, Project Inspire, that will not only address the essential maintenance issues in the church but rearrange the interior to make it more adaptable and better suited for the needs of the 21st century.

Part of this project envisages the multi-use of the Ringing Room. A majority of the St Lawrence ringing band feel that this is unsafe and unworkable as does the Gloucester and Bristol Diocesan Bells Advisor and many other experienced ringers from the Cirencester Branch.

The ringers have put their concerns to the church but this part of Project Inspire is currently still in the plan. Therefore, with deep regret, many of the current band have left St Lawrence to ring in other towers meaning that the remaining band is too small for viable ringing.

Marian Winckles, St Lawrence Tower Secretary



## LITTLE LIGHTS

Little Lights, the baby/ pre- school pram service and play group, will take place at St Lawrence Church on **Wednesday 7 & 21 February** and **6 & 20 March**. Doors open at 9:15am and we pack up at 11:00am. Warm welcome, no charge and no need to book. This is run by Mothers' Union and all refreshments are provided and served to you. Do come along when you can.

Kathy Newton 07508 563905

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## **ST LAWRENCE C. E. PRIMARY SCHOOL**

This term is a short one but at St Lawrence we have lots to look forward to!

Our Year 1 pupils currently have a tutor from Gloucestershire music coming in every Tuesday to teach them to play the ukulele as a whole class. The children have done a fantastic job of learning the instruments and can already play a few tunes.

There are many opportunities for pupils to represent the school at sporting fixtures. We are taking part in lots of sporting events such as a dodgeball festival, Chance to Shine Cricket workshops, Quicksticks, Inclusive football festival and cross country.

At the start of the new term, we welcomed Miss Warner as our Deputy Head teacher, she will also be teaching the Years 3 and 6 part time along with their existing teachers.

The Year 3 pupils visited Gloucester Cathedral on Monday 15 January to participate in a special Christingle celebration hosted by the Bishop of Gloucester, The Right Reverend Rachel Treweek. Christingle is a special, celebratory event that takes place in thousands of churches and schools across the country, raising vital funds for The Children's Society. The celebration is named after the Christingles that are lit during the service. The Year 3 pupils made Christingles (from oranges decorated with red tape, sweets, and a candle) in class to take with them. They had the opportunity to look around the cathedral whilst they were there.

Gordon Soutar, Headteacher

## **ST THOMAS, FAIRFORD**

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

### **Easter Services:**

**Maundy Thursday 28 March**, 7:30pm - Mass of the Lord's Supper at St Thomas', Fairford

**Good Friday 29 March**, 3:00pm - Liturgy of the Passion at St Mary's, Cricklade

**Holy Saturday 30 March**, 8:30pm - Easter Vigil and First Mass of Easter at St Thomas', Fairford

**Easter Sunday 31 March**, 11:00am - Mass at St Thomas', Fairford

# SERVICES AT ST LAWRENCE CHURCH

## Regular services

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

### On the first Sunday of the month

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

### On the second Sunday of the month:

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

### On the third and fourth Sundays of the month:

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

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

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

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

The weekly service information is emailed out weekly. If you would like to receive these emails and other appropriate information, please send a request to [info@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk](mailto:info@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk)

## Changes and additions to the 'normal' services for February and March (Lent and Easter):

- **Wednesday 14 February is Ash Wednesday**, the beginning of Lent, when there will be a service of Holy Communion with optional administering of ashes at 7:30pm.
- The 10:00am service on **Sunday 10 March** will be a Together@10 All Age Service, for Mothering Sunday, when small flower posies will be distributed.
- On **Sunday 24 March** at 10:00am we have a service of Holy Communion instead of an informal service for Palm Sunday, which will begin with a procession from the school to the church, hopefully with a donkey to lead us.
- **Thursday 28 March is Maundy Thursday** when, at 7:30pm, we will share an agape fellowship meal and Holy Communion in church (*please sign up to attend on the sheet in church for catering*)





- **Friday 29 March is Good Friday**, when there will be a service of reflection at 10:00am in church. In the afternoon a family trail is planned for around the church and churchyard – look for posters with more information nearer the time.
- On **Easter Day, Sunday 31 March**, the 10:00am service will be a family Communion service.

Parish Office: 01367 358653 – [info@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk](mailto:info@stlawrencelechlade.org.uk)  
 Visit our website [stlawrencelechlade.org.uk](http://stlawrencelechlade.org.uk) for more information



## LECHLADE MEMORIAL HALL AND PAVILION

As this is the first edition of the Bridge Magazine in 2024, here is a reminder of the range of regular activities which take place in the Memorial Hall and Pavilion.

- Monday:** Yoga, Pilates, Fitsteps, Occasional Choir, Badminton, History Society
- Tuesday:** Jolly Tots, Tuesday Club, WI, Pilates
- Wednesday:** Adult Ballet, Yoga, Scottish Country Dancing, Mother's Union, Circuit Training, Ballroom Dancing, Gardening Club
- Thursday:** Tai Chi, Lechlade Art Society, The Upper Thames Arts Society, Pilates, Beavers/Cubs, Spiritualists, CFR Training, P3 Benefits Advice Charity
- Friday:** Probus, Hartbeeps babies/toddlers, Memory Lane Singers
- Saturday:** Martial Arts, Repair Café
- Sunday:** Antiques and Vintage Market, Community Cinema

We also host regular events organised by the Craft Barn and other craft organisations. If you are interested in any of these activities but do not know who to contact, please phone our bookings clerk on 07788 809784.

Our next **Blood donor** session in the Memorial Hall is on **Friday 9 February**. Appointments are available between 12:50 – 7:00pm. To book an appointment, visit [blood.co.uk](http://blood.co.uk), download the **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](http://www.lechladememorialhall.co.uk) or on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/lechladememorialhall](https://www.facebook.com/lechladememorialhall). Claire, our bookings clerk can be contacted on 07788 809784 or via email at [bookonlinelechlade@gmail.com](mailto:bookonlinelechlade@gmail.com)

Simon Paul BEM, Chairman of Trustees, Lechlade Village Hall and Recreation CIO



## NEWS FROM ST. LAWRENCE

After the busyness of Advent and Christmas in the church, there is always a break- when most clergy have a holiday; when most people indulge in the biscuits and chocolate they have been given as gifts. But as January comes round we celebrate Epiphany, when we remember the magi coming from the east to worship the infant Jesus. There is much we do not know about the origins of the magi, but we do know that they represent the nations coming to worship Christ. This is not just a localised Middle Eastern religion, this is Good News for everyone. The compilers of the Book of Common Prayer therefore subtitled Epiphany as the 'Manifestation of Christ to the Gentiles.' It brings to fulfilment all those Old Testament prophecies of the Jerusalem temple becoming 'a house of prayer for all nations' (Isa 56:7). Christianity is now very much a global faith. Indeed, the real centre of the global Church is now in Africa, Asia and South America

In Lechlade we play our part in being part of the Global Church. Each year we commit ourselves to giving 10% of our income to world mission. Our World Church Group makes suggestions of how our giving is allocated and this year we are becoming an official partner church of SAT-7, a Christian organisation that uses the latest technology to broadcast into North Africa and the Middle East, places where it is often very difficult to openly be a Christian. These sorts of partnership are immensely important. They are signs that we take seriously the words of Jesus in the so-called Great Commission at the end of Matthew's Gospels. The magi were the start of that great spiritual movement. Do have a look at our Mission Partners bookmark at the back of church, or on the church website.

We are already thinking ahead to Lent and Easter. We will again hope to run the ever-popular Lent Course to deepen our faith and to share in fellowship and teaching with other local Christians. In an increasingly fractured and fragmented world, these opportunities for meeting and sharing together are so important. We will deliver a card with all our Easter services to every household in the parish.

We also encourage people to consider financial giving as part of their discipleship. It is always surprising and instructive to see just how many times Jesus talks about how we use our money in the Gospels and how the taking up and distribution of financial gifts is such a prominent feature of the letters in the New Testament. The start of the new year is always a good time to assess our giving and you may like to look at our Parish Giving Scheme, which is a really excellent way to give in an organised and tax-efficient way. All the details are in white folders at the back of the church. We are grateful to all those who manage our finances and we thank God for David Williams, who has recently stepped down from being our PCC Treasurer; we are in the process of prayerfully recruiting a new treasurer.

Andrew Cinnamond, Vicar

## LECHLADE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Sherborne Street, Lechlade, GL7 3AH)



### Services and other events

**Sundays at 10:30am:** Worship service

**Wednesdays at 10:30am:** Bible study meetings

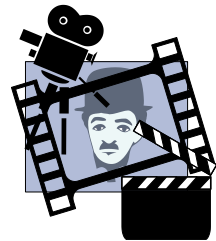
**Saturdays from 10:00am until noon:** Beans drop-in café – with tea, coffee, hot chocolate and cakes

**Friday 29 March at 10:30** (Good Friday): Service of reflection

**Sunday 31 March at 10:30** (Easter Sunday): Service of celebration

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

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



## LECHLADE COMMUNITY CINEMA

We show recently released films normally on the third Sunday of the month, except August and December. Our most recent film in January, which was based on the best selling novel by Rachel Joyce, was “The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry”. A really good film with great performances by Jim Broadbent and Penelope Wilton. In February we are looking forward to screening “The Great Escaper” starring Michael Caine and Glenda Jackson. This will be on Sunday 18 February. This promises to be another excellent film. Tickets cost £4.00, which includes a 50p voluntary donation to Lechlade Village Hall and Recreation CIO (the registered charity which is responsible for the Memorial Hall). Doors open at 7:00pm for refreshments (including wine) and the film starts at 7:30pm. Being part of an audience is a different experience from watching a film at home. So, see films as they were intended to be seen, on a big screen and support your local community.

Simon Paul



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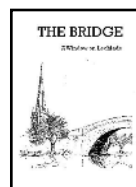


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## THE ARTS SOCIETY UPPER THAMES

**Thursday 8 February: Imperial Purple to Denim Blue- the Colourful History of Colour in Textiles** with Susan Kay-Williams Chief Executive of Royal College of Needlework.

“This lecture explores the fascinating story of how dyes were discovered, made and used from the earliest time to the end of the 18th century. It shows the social importance of certain colours including red, blue and purple. It is a story that travels from Europe to India and the Americas, a story of exploration, invention, war, the church, money, power and sex.”

**Thursday 14 March: The British in Rome** with Stuart Harvey who is long qualified as a Guida Turistica Abilitata della Provincia di Roma

“In this lecture Rome tourist guide Stuart Harvey will look at some of the famous British visitors to Rome between the 1500s and 1800s, and how these Grand Tourists changed the art world. These wealthy travellers not only visited the great works of art and architecture, but also wanted portraits, miniatures, mosaics and ancient sculptures to purchase for their family collections. We will meet renegade cardinals, exiled royals, wealthy aristocrats and of course the artists who came to study. I will also introduce some of the fascinating characters that catered to them in Rome, as we look at how the art world in Rome adapted to this lucrative new market.”

Meetings: 2:00pm in the Lechlade Memorial Hall but please arrive by 1:50pm. Please pre-book by email at [tasupperthames.org.uk](mailto:tasupperthames.org.uk) and pay £7.50 on the door.

Rodney Mountford



## BALLROOM DANCING

If you have wondered what it is like to dance a stylish waltz or the lively rhythm of the cha cha cha, now is your chance. We have just started a new beginner class in Lechlade Memorial Hall on Wednesday evenings at 8:00pm. It is not too late to join this class. Ballroom and Latin American dancing is a really good activity which stimulates both physical and mental wellbeing. Classes are very relaxed and friendly. Please contact Simon Paul, of Thames School of Dancing on 01367 253633 for more details. If you can already dance, we also have classes in Burford and Lechlade on Tuesday and Wednesday evenings respectively, starting at 7:00pm. Information on classes, private lessons, dances and practice sessions is also available at [www.thamesschoolofdancing.co.uk](http://www.thamesschoolofdancing.co.uk) and on Facebook.

Simon Paul

# LECHLADE HISTORY SOCIETY

## History of Film



After our AGM in November, Patrick Furley gave us a very entertaining talk on the History of Film. He explained the evolution from static to moving images, the development of film projection and the motion-picture film industry, and the involvement of entrepreneurs such as Charles Pathé. He then used an early twentieth-century projector to show some hilarious old films featuring Mickey and Minnie Mouse and Popeye and Olive Oyl, which brought us great joy and much laughter.

## Why Stonehenge had a Roof

English Heritage considers Stonehenge to be ‘the most architecturally sophisticated surviving stone circle in the world’, ‘an engineering masterpiece’ and most probably ‘a prehistoric temple aligned with the sun’s movements’. Intriguingly, Sarah Ewbank believes that Stonehenge was a temple, but was actually a two-storey building with a thatched roof, walls and doors, a gallery, a balcony, and a stone-tiled ground floor. She came to our meeting in January to offer her evidence for this fascinating idea and brought along a scale model that she had made of her proposed building to illustrate her theories.

She began her research in 2015 and, after studying various man-made features in the stones, concluded that the British in the Neolithic period had the engineering, woodworking and design skills to build a structure with a roof. She described the techniques that would have enabled wooden trusses to be hoisted into place to support the roof, opening and closing doors to be inserted in the walls, and other features to be constructed.

Why did the building need a roof? Sarah concluded that the structure they envisaged was to be so prestigious and significant that its creators wanted to be able to use it all year round, in all weathers and particularly at the winter solstice, so that several hundred people could gather indoors – therefore it would need a roof. She also wondered why the builders transported bluestones 150 miles from the Preseli hills in south-west Wales and sarsen stones from west Wiltshire. She believes that they would not have gone to all this effort unless the structure was to be covered with a roof.

Why has no evidence of a roof been found? Sarah thinks that the wooden and thatched parts of the building were destroyed by fire. There are no surviving layers of ash as evidence for this but Sarah suggested that this is because the floor was made of stone so any ash would have been washed away. Neither is there any evidence of a stone floor, but Sarah’s view is that the stone would have been removed for use elsewhere.

Sarah, as a non-academic researcher, has encountered difficulties in persuading archaeologists and historians to study her theory about the design and construction of Stonehenge. She certainly made some plausible, perhaps even compelling, arguments but we were left wondering whether or not her ideas were credible. If she is right, then some of the accepted

views on Stonehenge as an open-air site will need revisiting.

Linda Kent

### **Dates for your Diary:**

**Monday 19 February** 'On Two Wheels – the fascinating story of the bicycle' with Bill King

**Monday 18 March** 'The Oxford of Inspector Morse' with Alastair Lack

Meetings are held in Lechlade Memorial Hall, GL7 3AY. Doors open at 7:00pm for a 7:30 start. All welcome – members £8 plus £2 per meeting, visitors £4 per meeting. Refreshments available.



## **CITIZENS ADVICE STROUD & COTSWOLD DISTRICT**

**I've built up a bit of debt and I am panicking. Even though I cut back, my spending has gone up and what I have coming in just doesn't stretch as far as it used to. What can I do?**

The first step is to collect all the information you have about your debts, this might include contracts, bills and statements.

Next, make a list of your debts and write down the details of each. This could include who you owe money to, when you first missed a payment, and how much you now owe. You'll also need to make a note of your account or reference number and what steps the person or company has taken to get the money back, eg. sending you letters.

If you are behind on household bills, prioritise paying your rent or mortgage, plus energy bills and Council Tax first. Not paying these bills has the most serious consequences. You should speak to the person or company you owe money to, to see if there are any manageable steps you can take to start reducing your debt.

Once you've got these debts under control, you should look at any other debts like credit card or store card debts, payday loans or missed Buy Now Pay Later payments.

You can find further advice on dealing with debts, as well as support for energy and living costs, and possible benefit entitlement, on the Citizens Advice website – [www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk) There is also emergency support that you may be able to access, such as a food bank or fuel vouchers.

If you cannot access the website or need further help you can contact Citizens Advice Stroud and Cotswold Districts on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 Monday to Thursday or Email us using the form on our website ([www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk)).

Sheila Orson



## **A GOOD READ**

### **Sleeper's Castle** by *Barbara Erskine*

Alone and grieving for her partner of 10 years, Miranda (Andy) Dysart is dismayed when his estranged psychopathic wife turns up and hounds her out of the house. Rhona, the wife, erases every bit of Andy's presence, including her artwork - she's a painter and illustrator, even the will which left everything to Andy.

Alone and homeless, Andy jumps at the offer by a friend of the use, for a year, of her house in the Welsh Marches, providing she looks after it and more importantly, Culpepper, known as Pepper, the cat.

The house, Sleeper's Castle, dating way back before the 1300s, is haunted by a father, Dafydd and his daughter, Catrin, both poets and musicians, who lived there around the early 1400s. Andy, highly susceptible to their presence, is drawn into the events surrounding the history of Owain Glyndwr as he tries to throw off the English yolk

Meanwhile the vindictive Rhona turns up at Sleeper's Castle, intent on trying to murder Andy - and anyone else who gets in her way. Between the two, Andy is pulled this way and that. She really only gets through with help from locals who know the history, in particular a psychic.

A good read which I found difficult to put down.

### **Legacy** by *Norah Roberts*

Adrian Rizzio is the illegitimate daughter of Lina (of Italian extraction), a business woman who spends very little time with her daughter, offloading her on the motherly Mimi. Adrian met her birth father only once when he tried to kill her. He fights with Lina on the staircase and ends up falling to his death.

In her teens Adrian starts getting poems which seem to contain death threats. Initially they arrived on an annual basis. Over the years and after Adrian moves to her late grandparent's house in Maryland, the poems become more frequent and menacing. Then women all over the US are killed for no apparent reason. In the end the killer comes for Adrian .....

Shan Garnell

### **The Book of English Place Names** by *Caroline Taggart*

This was a birthday present chosen because of my love of local history. A wealth of large and small place names is covered although, typically, not every one you might choose to look up!

Lechlade is included – it says that the Old English word 'gelad' survives as 'lade' in place names and is normally interpreted as a 'difficult crossing'. The book suggests that the crossing at Lechlade was difficult because it was boggy but gives no indication as to why that is the supposition! It also does not suggest why the focus seems to be on the River Leach rather than the Thames!



Cirencester and Burford are included but not Swindon! I'll leave it to you to find out what they mean.

Marian Winckles

The Bridge would be delighted to receive book reviews from our readers. Please send them to [editor@lechladebridge.org.uk](mailto:editor@lechladebridge.org.uk)

## **VOLUNTEER MENTORS NEEDED FOR LOCAL YOUNG PEOPLE**

Gloucestershire Mentoring Programme (GMP), a service that trains and supports volunteer mentors to work with young people, is looking to expand its pool of volunteers. If you'd like to find out more, you can visit their website at [www.gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk](http://www.gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk) or contact them by phone (see below).

GMP is run by a collaboration of youth organisations and operates across Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. It offers free support to 10–25 year olds whose life circumstances suggest they're at risk of becoming involved in crime. These 'at risk' young people are given the chance to form a long-lasting relationship with a trusted adult (trained volunteer mentor). This is something that's often been missing in their lives and can be transformational.

What young people say: "We're very different. She's outgoing and that helps me with social anxiety", "It's great to have someone to talk to", "My mentor helps me get out of the house"

What volunteers say: "It is very satisfying supporting a young person, I learn from her and she learns from me.", "Volunteering gives me a purpose and a sense of achievement."

Anyone can become a mentor. You just need a heart for understanding and supporting young people and about an hour or so a week to spare.

Follow the Programme on Social Media @Glosmentoring

Contact General Enquiries [info@gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk](mailto:info@gloucestershirementoringprogramme.co.uk)

Tel 01453 756745

Anne Townsend, Operations Manager [www.thedoor.org.uk](http://www.thedoor.org.uk),  
[anne@thedoor.org.uk](mailto:anne@thedoor.org.uk) Tel: 01453 756745

Anne Townsend

# ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

## Young's garage, Lechlade

For this edition, I've chosen this business card, dating from the first part of the 20th century, from Lechlade History Society's archives.



The Lechlade Motor Works and Garage was established across two sites in the town. As you can see from the left hand image below, Frank Young's showroom and petrol pumps were on the High Street in the premises now occupied by The Cat's Pyjamas.

The photo on the business card was taken in his workshop, which was in a converted Malthouse at the bottom of Bell Lane. The Malthouse building is still there but it's been converted into homes as part of Tidford cottages. You can see the name on the roof in the right hand photograph below. The History Society have a record of the sale of this building at auction in the New Inn in August 1906. The auctioneers were Innocent & Son (yes that name lives on in Lechlade to this day). The sale notice mentions a long frontage to the Fee Wharf and the River Thames. Frank obviously thought he had bought the land between the malthouse and the river because, in 1930, there was a dispute between Frank and the Parish Council as to who actually owned the wharf area.



Mr Young was an enterprising businessman. As you can see from the business card, he not only provided the usual garage services but also

offered very fancy looking motors for hire so that you could explore the far flung charms of Fairford and Cirencester. A window into a bygone age!

But that wasn't all - in 1907 The Great Western Railway company recorded the sale of their last Clarkson steam bus to Frank Young for £350. He operated DA81 between Cirencester and Lechlade until at least 1911 when it was described as an 'ancient bus' and Frank stated that he hoped to put on a larger one in the near future. By 1914, there is evidence that he had replaced steam with petrol engines. An early timetable suggests that there were six buses there and back on weekdays with more services on a Thursday. There's no mention of weekends! Through the 1920s other bus companies got into the act running services not only to Cirencester but Faringdon as well.



Marian Winckles, Lechlade History Society

## **LECHLADE CHRISTMAS LIGHTS**

I'm sure that you will join me in thanking all those who worked to produce our wonderful Christmas lights display, larger Christmas tree and Lights Switch-On event.

Lots of people have commented on how much difference a larger tree made and how attractive it looked. And I for one think we had the best lit streets of all the local towns.

The Switch-On event went with a swing and included the lantern parade, a ride for children, stalls, food and drink, and entertainment inside and outside the church. Santa duly arrived and did the actual switching on, accompanied by St Lawrence bells. When I saw him, he was busy giving out sweets.

Most of the people who made this event happen, including the local Lions, did it voluntarily. In Lechlade we are so lucky to have so many brilliant people willing to give their time and skills to our community.

The Editor



## GARDEN HINTS

During the recent heavy rain part of our garden wall fell down. This happens from time to time and we are philosophical about it- we have a lot of old walls and they do occasionally fall down. Luckily it is not in a place that is very visible, and we share the boundary wall with our neighbour. On his side the wall is stone and on our side it is brick. We don't know why. Anyway, the point of mentioning it here is because there is an itea shrub growing against the said wall on our side and to gain access to the wall for rebuilding it this shrub had to be drastically pruned. This is the kind of thing that you can't plan for in gardening. It is entirely the wrong time to prune an itea, but pruned it was, by about 95%, leaving six inches of one very low mature trunk with a couple of shoots on it. It may or may not recover, we shall see.

Pruning that can be done now is, of course, roses. We've just started and I'm erring on the hard pruning side rather than just deadheading them. I have to admit that when I am in certain friends' gardens, I am just itching to get my secateurs and loppers out when I look at their roses. Rose bushes full of very old stems, dead bits and lots of crossing branches. Cut those dead bits out, take one or two old branches right down to the ground, get rid of crossing branches and aim for a nice open bush, then give a nice feed. Even if the rose doesn't feel better then you will! Roses like a feed in Spring anyway and I have had Uncle Tom's Rose Tonic highly recommended to me, so I am giving it a try.

Great Dixter in Sussex is a wonderful garden and one that I admire greatly, not only because of the character and plantmanship of the late Christopher Lloyd, but also because all its aims and ethos chime with what I believe in and hold dear too. It is run entirely on organic principles and various scientific research projects have shown that this has resulted in a huge biodiversity of birds, animals and insects. They experiment and are not frightened of trying out new things. They like self seeders. They share their considerable knowledge.

It is a teaching garden- so every year they will take on a number of students who will live and work at Great Dixter learning as much as they can from Fergus Garrett, who now runs it, and his team. I have signed up for an online five part symposium and I shall be lapping up all that information and experience and trying to put it into practice here. You can also access video lectures that Fergus has given over the years from Vimeo. They cost £15 to rent, last about two hours and you have a month to watch them. If this appeals to you, Google Vimeo On Demand, in the menu choose Search and put in Great Dixter- all the titles should appear.

Barbara McNaught

## LECHLADE WI

Looking back to the end of last year, we really enjoyed our Christmas outing to see the illuminations at Windsor Great Park and the annual Christmas Carol Concert, which was held in Fairford church this year. We sold lots of mulled wine on a cold evening when the town gathered to turn on the Christmas lights and our December meeting continued the seasonal theme, with over 50 ladies making Christmas decorations, followed by a raffle to win one of the many amazing Christmas hampers.

We always meet for our post-Christmas lunch in January and once again we filled the dining room of The New Inn, enjoying good food and great company.

Now we're looking forward to the year ahead as three ladies have joined our committee, bringing new skills and ideas to our meetings and helping us to offer an ever-increasing range of activities for our members. We have an exciting new programme for our evening meetings in 2024 and our day-time groups are always popular with those who enjoy walking, cooking, reading or just a hot cup of coffee and a good natter!

For those who still work, we also have regular evening gatherings in local pubs. We have entered a strong team into the Gloucestershire WI County Quiz and we are beginning to plan more outings, different craft and art sessions and some fund-raising events.

New members find that they make lots of friends and that there is something on offer most weeks. We meet in the Memorial Hall on the first Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm and you are welcome to come and join us.

### Dates for diary

**Tuesday 6 February Beetle Drive** 7:00pm, Memorial Hall

**Thursday 15 February Evening drinks** 7:00pm, The New Inn

**Thursday 22 February Coffee morning** 10:30am, The Riverside

**Tuesday 5 March Guest speaker Caroline Peyton - 'Good food, good health'**, 7:00pm, Memorial Hall

**Wednesday 20 March Coffee morning** 10:30am, The Riverside  
Catherine Pritchard





## HEDGEHOGS

For many decades, I have been helping with the preservation of these fascinating animals and consequently met other helpers and organisations who have been only too willing to impart their experience and knowledge. Here are some of the very basic 'First Aid' guidelines that I have gathered which may be useful to you, giving you the confidence to care for a hedgehog (hog) for a day or two until you can either return it to the wild or transfer it to an animal rescue organisation:

- Hogs are night-time creatures. If you see one out and about during daylight hours, there is probably something wrong.
- What you are able to do will depend on the size of the hog and the nature of any injury or disease it may have. When you first come across a hog, try to take a few minutes to observe its behaviour.
- For protection, a large box with a suitable lid and ventilation will suffice. Comfort and warmth can be provided by several old towels, or similar, and you'll find that a hog will create its own nest. Maintenance of cleanliness is of paramount importance but hogs are not very adept at such matters so you'll need to "muck out" when required.
- Hogs need to drink a surprisingly large volume of water. Offer some water from a shallow dish but PLEASE don't offer milk as this is likely to cause stomach problems. Very young and small hogs will probably not be able to drink from a dish so it's useful to have a small pipette. If you don't have one, they can be found at vets, chemists and often in the pets' section at supermarkets. Wrap the hog in a suitable cloth and gently squeeze a drop or two of water into the corner of its mouth. With practice, for you and the hog, it will soon learn and you'll be surprised just how much they will drink! For food, I have found cat or dog food very acceptable and the sort that looks like pate can be used for very small hogs. I have also found that all adult hogs will always eat dried mealworms. PLEASE don't use bread as this, as with milk, can lead to stomach problems.
- Don't be surprised if you see a few ticks. They are small (1-3mm-ish), globular, grey parasitic creatures that feed on the blood of the hedgehog. In small numbers, ticks don't seem to cause hogs distress and inexperienced attempts to remove them using tweezers or other devices can lead to more serious problems such as infections.

There's plenty more that can be done to assist an ailing hedgehog. But that will require expert help from the likes of Animal Rescue Centres, Hedgehog Wardens, vets and the like. Don't wait too long to ask for help and advice ..... and please remember that they are usually volunteers, so a donation will always be very welcome.

Bob Lewis

## HEDGEHOG HIGHWAY SURROUND

Hedgehogs have been spotted in Lechlade and the fact that they can travel up to 2 miles a night means that YOU have Hedgehogs near you!

The current Hedgehog population in England, Wales and Scotland is less than one million, compared with a staggering 30 million in the 1950's.

We have 50 Hedgehog surrounds available so you can frame your Hedgehog gap in the fence and walls which will help them to forage for food and meet mates.

Why not raise awareness and frame your gap with a Hedgehogs R Us Highway Surround.

These are available, 1 per family, from the Town Council Office in the Memorial Hall (upstairs) for collection between 9:30 and 11:30am

If this doesn't work for you, we may be able to pop it through your door. Please send an email to: [clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk](mailto:clerk@lechladeonthames.co.uk) or phone 01367 252338



## LECHLADE REPAIR CAFÉ

**Throw it away? No way!**

We meet on the 2nd Saturday of each month 9:30am-12:30pm in Lechlade Pavilion, Oak St., Lechlade GL7 3AY.

Our volunteers will try to repair your portable household appliances. Volunteer helpers always welcome.

For further information email [lechlade.repaircafe@gmail.com](mailto:lechlade.repaircafe@gmail.com), on Facebook find us at LechladeRepairCafe or call on 07554 230323

**2024 Dates:** 10 February, 9 March, 13 April, 11 May & 8 June.

Colin Thompson

# FRIENDS OF FAIRFORD & LECHLADE COMMUNITIES

Serving Fairford, Lechlade and the surrounding villages

## News and Information from your Community Friends

**Happy New Year to all our Friends and Supporters** The Charity hopes that 2024 will be a happy and rewarding year for everyone. Thank you to everyone that has supported us last year. Whether you attended an event, made a donation, volunteered or helped to raise awareness of what we do, we are very grateful.

**Check out our new website** – [www.friendsoffairford.org.uk](http://www.friendsoffairford.org.uk). If you want to stay in touch with our news and events, please join our mailing list by emailing [admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk)

**Lunch Club launching on Mondays as well as Wednesday** - Our much-loved Edna Dawes Lunch Club will be launching on Mondays as well as Wednesdays. We provide a warm meal, activities, socialising, refreshments and transportation if needed, all for a low cost of £10. Please get in touch with Katie, EDLC Team Leader, for more information on attending Monday or Wednesday Sessions or to volunteer with us: [edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk) or call 07713 607106.

**Check out our Charity Shop** – Raising funds for the charity from our shop on Lechlade High Street. Open Tuesday – Saturday 10:00am – 4:00pm



Spend a few hours and make a difference. With your help we raise funds for our Nursing Team including our Bereavement Café which provides support for relatives and friends. Can you spare a few hours please?

**Bereavement Café** - We continue to run our Bereavement Café on the first Friday of every month, for people who have suffered a loss and would like to talk. Our nursing team will be present to welcome you with a hot drink and some refreshments. Please do drop in, between 10:00am and 12:00noon at The Barker Room, Fairford Community Centre. If you have any questions, please call 07938244335 [or email admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk)

### How to contact us:

**Administrator:** Agneta [admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk) 01285 707300

**Patient Transport:** Val [transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:transport@friendsoffairford.org.uk) 07540 798226

### Nursing Team:

Emma and Tina [nursing@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:nursing@friendsoffairford.org.uk) 07938 244335

**Charity Shop:** Linda [shop@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:shop@friendsoffairford.org.uk) 01367 252189

### Edna Dawes Lunch Club:

Katie [edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:edlc@friendsoffairford.org.uk) 07713 607106

**Website** [www.friendsoffairford.org.uk](http://www.friendsoffairford.org.uk)



**How to donate** - If you would like to make a donation you can do so online through our website [www.friendsoffairford.org.uk](http://www.friendsoffairford.org.uk) or by sending cheques made out to 'Friends of Fairford' and posting to Friends of Fairford & Lechlade Communities Charity Shop, Lloyds Chambers, High Street, Lechlade, Glos GL7 3AE. If you are able, we'd really appreciate it if you could complete a Gift Aid Declaration so we can claim an additional 25% of your donation from HMRC. Forms can be found on our website.

Alternatively, you can transfer donations via your bank using Friends of Fairford and Lechlade Communities Treasurers Account, Sort Code 30-90-89 Account No 40621760 Please use the reference 'DONATE' followed by your surname. If you are a tax payer and able to Gift Aid, please email [admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk](mailto:admin@friendsoffairford.org.uk) giving details of your transfer including your full name, so we can claim an extra 25% which will cost you nothing.

Agneta Lindgren



## LECHLADE GARDENING CLUB

On **Wednesday 14 February** we are extremely pleased to welcome Timothy Walker to the club to talk about **Designing and making a smaller garden**. Timothy is a very popular speaker and he has been to us before. He is a British botanist and he was the Horti Praefectus (Director) of the University of Oxford Botanic Garden and Harcourt Arboretum. He still lectures on Plant Sciences at the University. It promises to be a very stimulating meeting on a subject which is pertinent to many of us.

On **13 March** we have Nick Gilbert talking about **'The Dahlia Year-growing, storing, propagating and showing dahlias'**. Dahlias have increased hugely in popularity recently and Nick is certainly the man to tell us all about them. He has been growing them for many years and has a nursery and a dahlia field in Hampshire with over 400 varieties. Come and be inspired.

Our usual meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30pm in the Memorial Hall, Lechlade where there is ample parking. Membership is £5 per person per annum, after which it is £2 to attend each meeting, or £3 for Visitors, who are always most welcome. Membership entitles you to 10% off plants at Burford 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 252495 or 01367 252286 or any member of the committee.

Barbara McNaught

Please check with organisers that even

**February 2024**

- Friday 2** **PROBUS** 'A Foreign Correspondent in Medicine' Memorial Hall 10:30am
- Sunday 4** **ANTIQUES & VINTAGE MARKET** Memorial Hall
- Tuesday 6** **WI** 'Beetle Drive' Memorial Hall 7:00pm
- Wednesday 7** **LITTLE LIGHTS** St Lawrence church 9:15am
- Thursday 8** **ART SOCIETY UPPER THAMES** 'History of Colour in Textiles' Memorial Hall 2:00pm
- Friday 9** **BLOOD DONATION** Memorial Hall
- Saturday 10** **REPAIR CAFÉ** Pavilion 9:30-12:30pm
- Tuesday 13** **SHROVE TUESDAY**  
**PANCAKE QUIZ** St Lawrence Church 7:30pm  
**UPPER THAMES & RIDGEWAY NT ASSOCIATION** 'Tolkien & Folly Tower'  
 Highworth 2:30pm
- Wednesday 14** **VALENTINE'S DAY**  
**ASH WEDNESDAY** St Lawrence Holy Communion 7:30pm  
**MU** 'Time to prepare' Memorial Hall 2:00pm  
**GARDENING CLUB** 'Designing & Making a Smaller Garden' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
- Thursday 15** **WI** Evening Drinks New Inn 7:00pm
- Friday 16** **PROBUS** 'To Sleep, Perchance to Dream' Memorial Hall 10:30am  
**BURFORD JAZZ**
- Sunday 18** **COMMUNITY CINEMA** 'The Great Escaper' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
- Monday 19** **HISTORY SOCIETY** 'The Story of the Bicycle' Memorial Hall 7:30pm
- Wednesday 21** **LITTLE LIGHTS** St Lawrence Church 9:15am
- Thursday 22** **WI** Coffee Morning Riverside Inn 10:30am
- Friday 23** **MU** Lent Lunch Memorial Hall 12:30pm
- Tuesday 27** **LECHLADE LIBRARY** 'Dementia Awareness' 10:30am



**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

ents are proceeding as advertised.



## March 2024

- Friday 1** **PROBUS** 'Life in the Wine Trade' Memorial Hall 10:30am  
**Saturday 2** **SOUTHROP JUMBLE SALE** Village Hall 1:00-2:30pm  
**Sunday 3** **ANTIQUES & VINTAGE MARKET** Memorial Hall  
**Tuesday 5** **WI** 'Good Food, Good Health' Memorial Hall 7:00pm  
**Wednesday 6** **LITTLE LIGHTS** St Lawrence Church 9:15am  
**Friday 8** **BURFORD JAZZ**  
**Saturday 9** **REPAIR CAFÉ** Pavilion 9:30am-12:30pm  
**Sunday 10** **MOTHERING SUNDAY** St Lawrence All Age Service 10:00am  
**Monday 11** **UPPER THAMES & RIDGEWAY NT ASSOCIATION** 'Wilton Windmill' Cirencester 2:30pm  
**Wednesday 13** **THEATREGOERS** 'Jesus Christ Superstar' Bristol  
**MU** 'Great Aunt Maud' Memorial Hall 2:00pm  
**GARDENING CLUB** 'The Dahlia Year' Memorial Hall 7:30pm  
**Thursday 14** **ART SOCIETY UPPER THAMES** 'The British in Rome' Memorial Hall 2:00pm  
**Friday 15** **PROBUS** '1066 and all that' Memorial Hall 10:30am  
**Sunday 17** **CRAFT BOATERS** Spring Market Memorial Hall 10:00am - 4:00pm  
**COMMUNITY CINEMA** Memorial Hall 7:30pm  
**Monday 18** **MU** Evening Meeting At Kathy's **7:30pm**  
**HISTORY SOCIETY** 'The Oxford of Inspector Morse' Memorial Hall 7:30pm  
**Wednesday 20** **LITTLE LIGHTS** St Lawrence Church 9:15am  
**WI** Coffee Morning Riverside Inn 10:30am  
**Sunday 24** **PALM SUNDAY**  
**Tuesday 26** **LECHLADE LIBRARY** 'Children's Easter Activities' 10:30am-12:00noon  
**Thursday 28** **MAUNDY THURSDAY** St Lawrence Church Fellowship Meal 7:30pm  
**Roman Catholic church** St Thomas Fairford Mass 7:30pm  
**Friday 29** **GOOD FRIDAY**  
**St Lawrence church** Service of Reflection 10:00am & Family Trail pm  
**Baptist church** Service of Reflection 10:30am  
**Roman Catholic church** Cricklade Liturgy of the Passion 3:00pm  
**NT** Easter Weekend Activity Trail White Horse Hill  
**Saturday 30** **ART SOCIETY** Pop-Up Art Sale Pavilion 10:00am-2:00pm  
**ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH** St Thomas Fairford Easter Vigil & First Mass 8:30pm  
**Sunday 31** **EASTER SUNDAY**  
**St Lawrence church** Family Communion 10:00am  
**Baptist church** Easter Celebration 10:30am  
**Roman Catholic church** St Thomas Fairford Mass 11:00am



## MEETINGS

rs before first attendance

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

## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

**St Lawrence Church:**

### **We remember:**

Geoffrey (Bryan) Higgins  
Peter Berridge

## **LIVES REMEMBERED**

### **Mrs Andree Boddington**

Andree Boddington died peacefully on Monday morning, 23rd October. She would have been 93 on 30th October and would be the first to say that she had a long, enjoyable and fulfilling life.

She was born in Essex where she grew up. She always wanted to be an architect but trained to be an occupational therapist - a role she enjoyed for many years.

In 1967 she married Alex Boddington, a wonderful man, blind from birth, who was an exceptionally well-regarded physiotherapist. They had one son, Rupert, and a grand-daughter Talla. For several years they owned and ran a nursing home.

On retirement, they moved to Lechlade where they threw themselves into the community from the word go. They became members of St Lawrence Church and Andree joined the MU and WI. Andree was a great WI supporter. She was on the committee for several years and was President from 2005 -2008. As an avid reader she was a stalwart of the WI Book Club. She also took it upon herself to compile a History of Lechlade WI Officers from 1947. She enjoyed writing and had her autobiography published and also wrote a novel.

Andree was very talented. She could play the piano and sing. She was a fine seamstress and designed and made the Probus Flag. She enjoyed knitting and was in fact knitting for refugees until a few weeks before her passing. She was a keen and knowledgeable gardener and could both draw and paint. She had a most positive attitude to life in spite of enduring several life threatening illnesses.

She will be greatly missed by her many friends, all of whom would agree that she was a one off - a larger than life character! God Bless you Andree.

Jan Taylor



## LECHLADE AND DISTRICT LIONS

**'We serve, we help out, we raise funds, we have fun'.**

Lechlade and District Lions enjoyed a very busy and successful 2023.

We raised more funds in 2023 than in any previous year (over £27,000) and were also able to channel this generous support, received from residents and businesses in the area, to help those in need across our towns and villages.

The most successful events organised by the Lions were:

- The annual charity swim at Bowmoor Lake (thanks once again to the Bowmoor Sailing club, for the use of the lake, and to LakesbyYoo who sponsored equipment). The 2024 event is already in preparation for August so please support it again!
- The sponsored 100-mile bike ride.

The money went to local foodbanks, schools, health care, and simply people in need – as well as some specific international disaster recovery operations.

The volunteers at the club also kept the community minibus on the road, running local people about five days a week, made sure Santa visited the neighbourhood on his sleigh at Christmas, organised raffles, supported local community events with manpower (serving drinks, manning car parks, selling programmes) and also turned out to clear trees and paths and help move furniture about for the elderly and infirm.

The club attracted more new members than in any previous year, both men and women, but would love more joiners in 2024 because 2024 will be another busy year with monthly organised events across the district.

If you are interested in becoming a Lion, or supporting us occasionally by being a 'Friend of the Lions', or by driving the minibus from time to time (we really do need more volunteer drivers – all training is given, you would be fully insured and there are no costs involved), please go onto our website at [www.lechladelions.org.uk](http://www.lechladelions.org.uk) and contact the relevant person by email or phone.

Alick Kitchin



## LECHLADE TWINNING ASSOCIATION

Thank you to everyone that supported the Lechlade Twinning Association quiz on Saturday 13 January – 67 people attended and we raised over £700. The questions set by one or two quiz masters were varied and we also learnt a lot about the pubs of Lechlade and surrounding areas. Everyone seemed to enjoy it and it was a fun evening, with another similar event planned for January 2024.

We are starting to plan for the Chapellois coming over – the current plan is for them to arrive Wednesday 1 May in the evening and leave on the following Saturday – a short visit but one which bridges some of their bank holidays and coincides with school holiday. We are currently putting together a plan for their stay to make sure that they see and enjoy the best of our country.

Thank you to all the marmalade makers who have received their packs and are currently busily making their jars of marmalade. These will then go back on the French coach in May to be ready for selling at the Jam Festival, which is held yearly in La Chapelle des Fougeretz.

If anyone is interested in hosting or would like more details, either about the Twinning or any of the events please get in touch – we would love to hear from you.

Jane Sullivan Brown



## LECHLADE TENNIS CLUB

The Swindon and District Mixed Winter League continues despite the cold and, at times, wet weather. The Club has played seven matches, winning four of them.

The Christmas Dinner, which was held at the Trout on Friday 15 December, was enjoyed by all. Many thanks to Penny and her amazing team.

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

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

Details about the Club and coaching sessions are on the website [www.lechladetennisclub.co.uk](http://www.lechladetennisclub.co.uk) along with contact details for any enquiries.

Gay Oliver

## **THE TUESDAY CLUB**

The term started back on the 9th January, and everyone was glad to return to see their friends and catch up on what had been happening over the holiday.

On the 19 December, the members had their Christmas lunch with traditional roast turkey and all the trimmings followed by Christmas pudding or trifle. It was a lovely day full of laughter. Thanks to the cooks and all the helpers for all their hard work and thanks also to Gareth and Kate for providing the music and entertainment and to Kathy and Little Lights for the loan of their musical instruments, which meant everyone could join in. All members received a Christmas hamper to take home.

On Wednesday 17 January there was a get together for volunteers to say thank you to a great band of helpers. It was a chance to catch up with friends but also to meet new ones. If anyone has some free time on a Tuesday and would like more information about the different roles involved, please contact Jane on 07850 002521.

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



## NATIONAL TRUST

### February at your local National Trust

It's all go for the West Oxfordshire team. We've been planning the programme for the year and are really looking forward to welcoming you.

The new season of courses have been published on the Heritage & Rural Skills Centre webpages and many have already sold out! More courses will be added throughout the year so please keep an eye on the website, particularly if there's something you are keen on. From blacksmithing and basketry to glass painting and weaving, there are courses for beginners and for those looking to develop existing skills. Courses in the pipeline include traditional brickwork repairs and lime pointing. You'll also be helping to safeguard the future of traditional crafts while investing in yourself. This year several courses have a special discounted price for young people. For all course details and costs, go to [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/skills-centre](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/skills-centre)

We need volunteers! We are looking for more tour guide volunteers to give history tours of the model farm and how the Heritage & Rural Skills Centre fits into the story. We will be opening more often this year to give guided walks during the week to make good use of what we have developed. The tours will run from April to October on two afternoons per week and on the second Sunday of each month for the Village Open Days. We are also looking for volunteers for the new Riverlands Project at Coleshill. It's a new role carrying out water quality testing, monitoring and being the eyes and ears for the river Cole. All training is provided. Sign up for volunteer roles at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/volunteer)

As part of open days and farm history guided walks, the exhibition space will be open. If you would like a more sedentary volunteer role, exhibition steward could be just the thing. You will tell the story of Coleshill House and the creative estate. A story which links the innovation of the model farm and the need to preserve heritage and rural skills.

Families can look forward to the half term nature trail. This year there's a tracker pack to borrow to inspire your young explorers. Fun stuff like bug pots and binoculars will accompany the trail sheet. No need to book, just turn up at the Visitor Reception or the Welcome Van and collect your pack.

February is the season for **snowdrops**. **Chastleton House**, near Stow-on-the-Wold, is opening for four afternoons this month to show off the display. For any snowdrop enthusiasts (or galanthophiles) Chastleton has many different varieties including new cultivars that have hybridised from the originals. There's a snowdrop identification guide available too.

Looking ahead to **Easter**, there will be a **fun activity trail at White Horse Hill** over the Bank Holiday weekend with a chocolatey treat at the end for young ones. And Chastleton House will have a nature trail around the gardens.

The spring will soon be here and with it more news from your local National Trust properties. In the meantime, enjoy the photo from volunteer



photographer, Martin Trehwella.

Sarah Hannis, Senior Volunteering & Community Officer



## **LECHLADE 2023 POPPY APPEAL REPORT**

Thank you Lechladians, you have all been amazing...

There has been an absolutely superb response to 2023 Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal in Lechlade this year.

To date, and yet to be verified, the unbelievable and stunning amount of £10,212.20 has been donated. I believe this is the highest amount ever collected.

The donations have come through:

- House to House Collections.
- Street Collection (outside Budgens, Garden Centre and Co-op).
- Contactless Machines.
- St Lawrence School.
- Retail Outlets within Lechlade.
- Pub's & Cafe's within Lechlade.
- Donations for Wreaths.
- St Lawrence Church Remembrance Service donations, Gift Aid and Church Donations.

Your donations will enable the Royal British Legion to continue its welfare and benevolent work for military personnel, both serving and retired, and their families.

Thank you to one and all for your continued generosity and support.

Paul Adey, Poppy Appeal Organiser Lechlade,  
RBLPAOLEchlade@gmail.com

## MOTHERS' UNION

Lechlade and Fairford MU wish everyone a belated healthy, peaceful and contented 2024.

The Christmas Parties in December, held at Kathy's house and in the Memorial Hall, were both happy occasions. Mary had compiled a 'Christmas Traditions Quiz' for the evening meeting and after a shared supper, members talked about their own family traditions. Revd. Gareth Griffith joined us for the meeting in the hall and accompanied us on the piano while we sang carols interspersed with readings and poems. These included - the story of the first Christmas; a very poignant poem entitled 'Christmas in Bethlehem' and the poem 'Talking Turkeys' in memory of Benjamin Zephaniah. This was followed by tea, food and chat!

Our January AGM was preceded by a home-made soup and puddings lunch. Kathy told us that we have 50 paid up members (we also have supporters who attend our evening meetings but are not members). In her report from 2023 she reminded us of Sandra's wedding, the 90th birthday celebrations of Eunice and Elspeth, the sad death of our dear Andree and of Elizabeth, Mary and Gretchen who have moved to live in Care Homes.

She did a resume of our branch year, including many inspirational speakers and the Churches and places we had visited. She thanked our wonderful committee for all their hard work and all those members who support MU with other roles. Little Lights helpers were thanked including Revd. Gareth Griffith who plays the piano and interacts with the parents and children at Little Lights when he can. She ended by saying, 'We have run the branch with a committee, followed our objects and kept up to date with the work of the Mothers' Union Worldwide. As MU members, we are driven by our faith, we try to be loving and compassionate and non-judgemental as we offer Christian care for families of all faiths and none. In our Branch this year, we have helped needy families by knitting, sewing and collecting items. We have linked with Home Start and the Lions to do this. We look out for those in need. We are running Little Lights, helping at Sunday School/ Holiday Bible Club, encouraging parents to bring up their children in faith. We are part of 200,000 members in 6 continents!'

Sue read the Treasurer's Report. Two members joined the committee and Mary Bainbridge stepped down and was thanked for her hard work.

### **Diary dates:**

**Wednesday 14 February – Ash Wednesday.** 2:00pm Members' Meeting in the Hall. Gordon Dey will give a talk entitled 'Time to Prepare'.

**Friday 23 February – 12:30pm Lent Lunch in the Memorial Hall.** Price £7.50. Bread, cheese, pate, salad and fruit/ tea/coffee. Raffle and Bring and Buy stall.

**Wednesday 13 March – 2:30pm Members' Meeting** in the Hall. Annie Ellis will give a talk entitled 'Great Aunt Maud'.

**Monday 18 March – 7:30 Evening meeting at Kathy's.** TBA.

For further information contact Kathy on 01367 252543 or 07508 563905 or [kathryn8newton@gmail.com](mailto:kathryn8newton@gmail.com)

## **SOURDOUGH REVOLUTION**

Do you fancy learning how to make delicious sourdough bread? Well, this is your chance! Sourdough Revolution is now offering one day introductory courses!

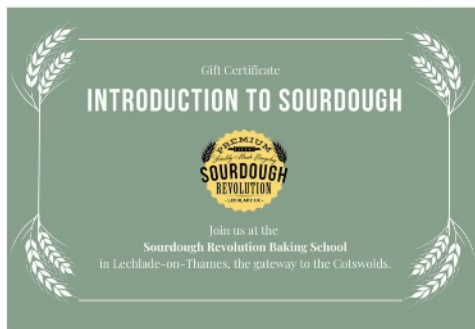
The course includes:

- Mixing your dough
- Mixing a starter
- Assessing your dough
- Folding and shaping
- Baking

Everyone on the course gets lunch, with tea and coffee throughout the day, and leaves with bread that we bake on the day. The full day costs £190 per person. All information available at [sourdoughrevolution.co.uk](http://sourdoughrevolution.co.uk) We will be offering a pizza course at a later date.

Sounds like a fabulous present to me!

The Editor





## LECHLADE AND DISTRICT PROBUS CLUB

We ended the year on a high with the satisfaction that we have attracted a good number of new members over the year and our twice monthly meetings are now regularly attended by 25 or more members. We have also been able to bring in very good speakers thanks to the sterling work by our Speaker Secretary, Michael Colley.

We will always welcome new members for our meetings on the first and third Friday of each month in Lechlade Memorial Hall, meeting at 10:00 for 10:30am. Talks last up to an hour and this is followed by refreshments from the bar. If you are interested, please just contact our Secretary, Brian Rudge, on 01367 615044.

### Programme for February and March:

**2 February** Rob Stepney - 'A Foreign Correspondent in Medicine Part 2'

**16 February** Dr Kate Bellamy - 'To Sleep, Perchance to dream' (the neuroscience of sleep)

**1 March** John Hussey - 'Life in the Wine Trade'

**15 March** Dr Tim Brain - '1066 and All That'

**5 April** Wayne Gregory - 'Life as a Battlefield Helicopter Pilot Part 1'

Dacre Watson, President

## FAIRFORD STEAM, CLASSIC & RETRO SHOW

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

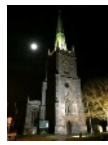
Feast your eyes on: steam engines, miniature steam, fairground rides, classic & retro vehicles, traders & auto jumble, static displays, craft tent, local food & drink, local charity stalls & beer tent.

Friday night – Steam in The Square & Saturday night – DJ & Live Entertainment.

Early bird ticket sales & exhibitor Application OPEN NOW!  
[www.fairfordsteamshow.co.uk](http://www.fairfordsteamshow.co.uk)

Chris Roberts MBE





## 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:

- 5 December Letter & Ken, Kathy & Keith. Forever remembered
- 14 January For John, a Gentle Giant
- 12 March For Jane – forever in our thoughts
- 13 March For John on his birthday



## FAIRFORD & DISTRICT CHORAL SOCIETY

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

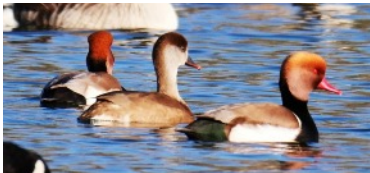
Judith Walpole

## LOCAL WILDLIFE AND NATURE

Christmas is now a warm but distant memory as we wrestle with a January full of weather extremes. Widespread flooding preceded brilliant sunshine and freezing temperatures, and now we seem to be facing winds of up to 60 mph on 20th and 21st Jan. Hold onto your hats!

In the middle of January, on a sunny walk around the some of the lakes north of Lechlade, I saw 3 **Red Crested Pochards** among a flock of black and white Canada Geese - 2 brightly coloured males and a more subtly shaded female (better suited to hiding on their waterside nests). For those reading this online, no description is necessary - just look at the photo below. For those of you reading the black and white paper copy, the male has a rounded golden orange head, red bill and black breast and tail; the flanks are white and the back brown, making it one of the most noticeable and unmistakable of our local ducks. The female is mainly light brown with a darker head and back; the face is white.

Thinking they are far too colourful to be native ducks, I looked them up online (Wikipedia) and found that their main habitat spreads from Southern Europe, through the Black Sea area to central Asia and Mongolia. Our ones are mostly escapees from captive collections now breeding successfully in the wild but some may be visitors from the continent as the climate warms. In the UK they are most common in Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire.



It's interesting to note that you can just see the right eye of the male on the left. The position of their eyes means they can pretty much see behind them without turning their heads - a useful superpower for birds likely to be preyed upon. Other preyed-on birds, like pigeons, share this feature. This is a totally different eye position to birds of prey, with their forward facing eyes to give good binocular vision to focus on their prey; if they need to see behind them they have to turn their heads. You can see this clearly in the **Barn Owl** below.



You could see both of these birds if you keep an eye out on your walks

around Lechlade. The Red Crested Pochards can be seen on the local lakes and, although Barn Owls are mainly nocturnal, they do hunt in daylight when feeding their young, or after nights when it's been too wet to fly - you can see them pretty much anywhere in the countryside around local area.

Finally, for those reading this article early enough, don't forget the RRSPB Big Garden Birdwatch - 26-28 January. Google it for details.

Alan McSherry

## **THEATRE AT THE TROUT**

### **Panto in the pub**



We went to the Trout on Friday evening to see 'Robin Hood' – Oh yes we did! Good fun in a pub bar – what more could you want?

The script, written by Lisa Stone, aided and abetted by Andy Pritchard (who also produced and directed), was full of the usual pantomime routines including lots of audience participation (Behind you!) and custard pies! Lots of local references were thrown in to amuse us 'tight fisted Lechlade peasants'; as you might guess Halfpenny Bridge and its troubles was the butt of many a joke.

The excellent cast maintained a fast pace and made good use of the intimate setting to establish a brilliant rapport with their audience. I, for one, really enjoyed my evening. Earlier in the month I went to a professional pantomime staged locally – I must admit I enjoyed 'Robin Hood' more!

Admission was free, hence the 'tight fisted' accusations, but donations were sought for 'Working 4 Wellbeing', a very worthwhile local charity.

So, I'll be keeping my eye open for the next performance from the Theatre At The Trout and I'll definitely be at the next pantomime! I suggest you do the same! Oh yes, I do!

Marian Winckles





## LECHLADE THEATREGOERS

“The Box of Delights” at Stratford in December was a fun affair with excellent staging, bangs, smoke and disappearing magicians. The character stealing the show was a life size puppet dog, expertly handled by a member of the cast. The school parties present were mesmerised by the play.

Our next play is booked for Wednesday 13 March at 2:30pm. It is for “Jesus Christ Superstar” at Bristol Hippodrome. Our coach will be leaving from outside Jubilee Hall Antiques at 10:45am. Seen through the eyes of Judas Iscariot, the opera is set against the backdrop of an extraordinary and universal series of events. The main characters are familiar to most people and the opera follows the last week of Christ’s life. It contains hardly any dialogue and is quite gritty.

This is to be followed by “Come from Away” at the New Theatre, Oxford on Wednesday 24 April. Coach leaves Jubilee Hall Antiques at 11:00am. A musical based on events in the Newfoundland town of Gander following the September 11 attacks. 7,000 air passengers are grounded in Canada and the Gander community invited these “come from aways” into their lives with open hearts. The show has received 4 Olivier awards.

We are looking at Stratford for the mid-summer and hope to be able to secure tickets for a performance.

Rachel Range 01367 252056

Ellie Maughan 01367 253551

[candemaughan45@gmail.com](mailto:candemaughan45@gmail.com)

Brian Rudge 01367 615044

[brudge@sky.com](mailto:brudge@sky.com)

Rachel Range

## SERENADE & SANDWICHES St Lawrence Church

PROJECT INSPIRE

The popular Serenade & Sandwiches returns to St Lawrence on **Friday 19 April** at 12:00noon.

The programme features the renowned organist Charles Edmondson plus the duet Clemency Rubenstein, flute, and Rachel Emmerson, piano.

A delicious light lunch will be provided by Lechlade Mothers’ Union. Donations gratefully received on the day towards Project Inspire.

David Turtle





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



## LECHLADE ART SOCIETY

### A First Ever Pop Up Art Sale from The Lechlade Art Society

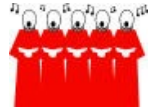
Saturday 23 December was always going to be an odd day to try a new venture but at the time of planning it was the only available Saturday left in 2023 and Lechlade Art Society was keen to try something new.

Ten members of the Society held the first ever impromptu sale of some of their art work and it proved to be a success. Each member set up a table with stands and easels to display some of their work: paintings, prints and cards.

Opinion was that the display looked professional and very attractive. There was a steady trickle of visitors and several sales. We opened the doors at 10:00am and closed at 2:00pm. The day was great fun and all were keen to try another such sale with a confirmed date of **Saturday 30 March** 10:00am – 2:00pm. Keep a watch for further details. Posters will be displayed in the town and beyond!

Margaret Hing





## **ST LAWRENCE CHURCH CHOIR**

### **Christmas Preparation and Celebrations**

This preparation has led me to think of Christmas services I have, in earlier years, attended and how they compare to 2023. The greatest change is that when I was a young chorister the service of Nine Lessons and Carols was a correct celebration of Christmas, because it was sung at 3:00pm on Boxing Day and the Cathedral was full. Now the advertisements for Christmas in papers and online come out in October!

It is only proper that the preparation in St Lawrence Church begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, which is the candlelit Advent Carol service. This service starts in darkness with the choir holding candles at the west end of the church. As the service progresses more candles are lit. This symbolises the slow but sure triumph of the light, as the darkness of Advent gives way to the light of the coming Christ at Christmas.

The choir's next important singing was for the service of Nine Lessons and Carols the week before Christmas. This was another very well attended service at which it was pleasing to welcome many in the congregation who do not usually attend services in St Lawrence Church. One of the highlights of this service was undoubtedly the singing of the first verse of *Away in a Manger* by our four youngest singers - two girls who have recently received their surplices, which means they have attended regularly and have passed tests to show their understanding of the music and the services at which they sing, and two boys, who have only been members of the choir for a few months and so are probationers. Our Head Choristers also rose to the challenge of singing solos superbly and it was great to have five generations of Head Choristers singing with us as we welcomed back past choristers during the festive season. It is always such a pleasure to sing with them and catch up on all their news.

The choir's next singing was round the piano before the Midnight Mass service and then, with rather smaller numbers, at the Family Communion Service on Christmas Day.

After a Sunday off we met again at a practice on 5 January. Twenty-three singers attended - admittedly enhanced by some who were soon to return to universities, but there were others not with us because of family holidays. We are now preparing for the usual Sunday services. Have you ever attended Evensong? Or if you like holding candles, there is the Candlemas service at 5:00pm on 28 January. We hope you will join us.

Michael Ward - News from the Choir Pews

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## Crafty Boaters Spring Market 2024

Lechlade Memorial Hall, Oak St, Lechlade GL7 3AY

Sunday 17th March 10.00-16.00

Free entry & free parking on site

Refreshments available with  
Proceeds going to Lechlade Community Library

follow us: @craftyboatersmarkets #cbspringmarket2024



**CHRISTMAS EVE 2023 CRIB SERVICE AT ST LAWRENCE CHURCH**



**Photos by Kathy Newton**



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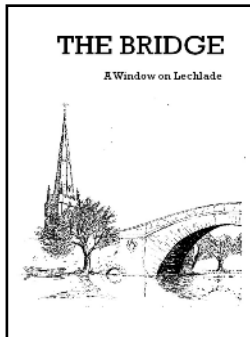
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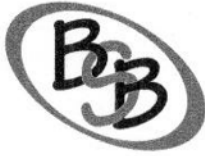
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Please contact me to discuss your requirements, other tasks not listed above can be considered.

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