

A decorative border of autumn leaves in shades of orange, yellow, and brown is arranged along the top edge of the page. In the background, there are soft, white, fluffy clouds against a light blue sky.

THE POST

LMEHA NEWSLETTER

—

LIFESTYLE - NEWS - FUN



SEPTEMBER 2022

Welcome to the Autumn edition of THE POST.
This is the LMEHA newsletter that celebrates all that's good about LME and also gives news, tips and recommendations about local services and places to go etc.

We hope you enjoy reading it!

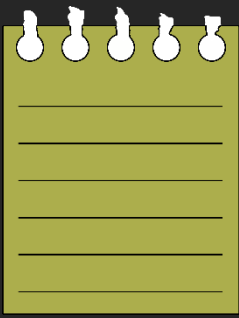


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LMEHA Website news

We will be launching a new version of the www.lmeha.com website soon, look out for an update.



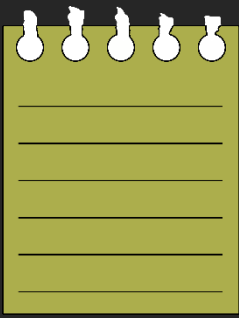
Message from our LMEHA Chair

Welcome to our September 2022 Newsletter.

It has certainly been a hot and dry summer. The Thames is dry (good job we had the Duck race in May!) and the water levels in the lakes are as low as most of us can remember. It has been a nervous time for the estate team because of the fire risks. However, the British weather will probably soon change with a vengeance and we will be worried about flooding.

From an LMEHA point of view the highlight of the summer was the Summer Festival. Again, we were fortunate to have sponsorship from HFG and we very much appreciate their generous support. The festival started on Friday with a film evening and continued with a full program of activities and competitions through to the prizegiving evening on Sunday. Everyone seemed to be having a great time and there was a real sense of community spirit which is good to see on the estate. The even number houses somehow managed to lift the trophy again despite losing the men's tug of war. Special thanks to Stuart Lammin who organized the Summer Festival and for all those who gave their time to make the event a great success. Again, we were able to raise money for charity.

Autumn is now upon us, a time of changing colours and special light; a great time to be on the estate. It will not be long before some of our lakes are closed and soon after the clocks change, with dark evenings and then winter.



Message from our LMEHA Chair – cont'd

The Rural Group will I am sure be very active taking every opportunity to explore and discover our nature as the seasons change. The sustainability /NetZero group certainly is in a very topical area and hopefully real progress will be made.

At the end of August, we welcomed Robert Squizzoni the new Estate Manager. Robert's predecessor Oberon Rogers left in June to fulfil his ambition to join the RAF. Robert is an experienced Estate Manager and we look forward to having him bring his insights and experience to Lower Mill.

Lastly a slightly sad note. This is probably the last newsletter to be edited and produced by Catherine and Tony Graham. We have been very fortunate to have Catherine and Tony edit "The Post" and we continue to receive many compliments on the newsletter. They are soon to be leaving us at Lower Mill and we wish them "Bon Voyage" and a big thank you for all their hard work in producing this important part of our LMEHA Community. Consequently, we are now looking for a new newsletter editor(s). If someone is interested and willing to do this, please contact me.

Best Regards
Graham



LMEHA - Summer Festival Review

Thank you to everyone who turned out and helped us make this year's Summer Festival such a success. We had a record 233 participants sign up and, after a thrilling Head and Tails finale, Evens retained the trophy (albeit they still didn't manage to prize the Bake Off award away from Odds).

As well as being the highlight of our social calendar and seeing so many people meet new and existing friends, it is also one of our main charity raising events and we are delighted to have raised over £1000 for our two charities – SSAFA* and SARSAS*. Thank you to everyone again.

Roll on 2023 and C'mon Evens!

PS - one of the highlights was a slide show showing previous years - it was quite nostalgic to see some of our grown up kids when they were cute! If you missed the slides, you can view them here:

<http://adobe.ly/24hKA8L>

If any of you took photos at the event and are willing to share them for future slide shows could you send to

mikesmckeown@gmail.com who will upload them..

Stuart Lammin

**SSAFA - the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Families Association*

**SARSAS - Somerset and Avon Rape and Sexual Abuse Support*



LMEHA – Clubs & info

Photography Club

The club is meeting monthly for a combination of going out and taking photographs and learning new skills around taking and editing photos. It is suitable for all skill levels.

If you'd like to join, please join our WhatsApp group by scanning this QR code with your mobile phone camera, or email

mikesmckeown@gmail.com

The photography club also showed some great photos from a number of members photos at the summer festival.

LME Photography Club
WhatsApp group

Scan or upload this QR code using the WhatsApp camera to join this group



LMEHA – Rural Sub-Committee

Rural subcommittee news

Thanks to much work accomplished by the grounds maintenance team over the summer, the rural estate has been looking especially lovely.

Things to report include:

- Picnic tables and seats have been replaced and repaired
- A herd of young male goats has been has begun grass maintenance duties at Pike Corner
- Wildflower seed collection, grass cutting and removal, successfully accomplished on Swillbrook Meadow
- Weir replacement at Mill Village is well underway

LMEHA – Rural Sub-Committee



LMEHA Homeowner interest sought on two potential Spring 2023 projects.

House martin nest boxes

Having declined in the UK by 57% between 1969 and 2018, the once thriving house martin colonies have dwindled, and are completely lost in many locations. The bulk of declines have been found in England over the last 10-15 years; populations in Scotland and Northern Ireland appear to be faring better over the same period. It is due to this decline that in 2021 the house martin was reclassified as Red listed in the Birds of Conservation Concern report, putting it in the top division of birds we should be concerned about - RSPB.

Some areas of the estate have very few properties with house martin nests. Section 106 funding may be available to help fund the purchase and installation of additional house martin nest cups/nest boxes.

Purchasing LME approved plants

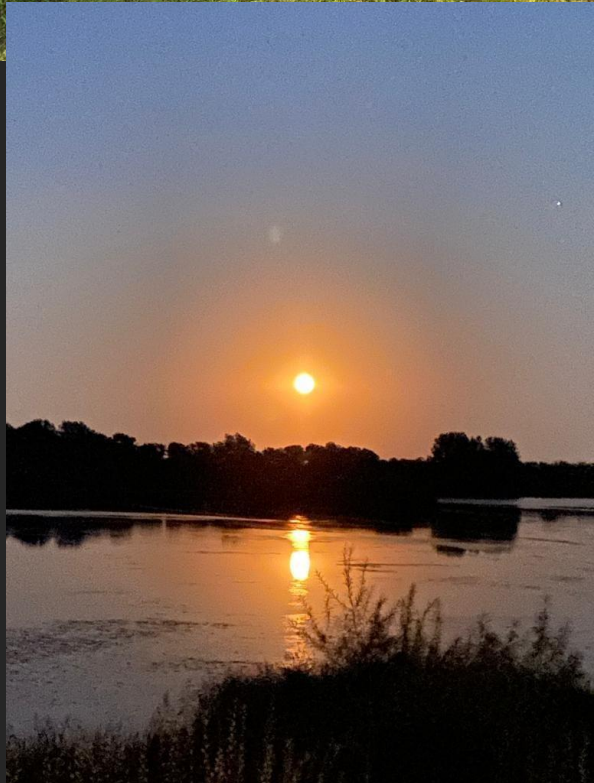
Many homeowners like to improve the planting around their properties but buying plants on the approved LME wildlife-friendly planting list (either locally or on-line) can be time-consuming and costly. LMEHA is researching a bulk wholesale purchase for homeowners, and/or other ways that approved plants can be sourced at lower cost.

LMEHA - Nature Club

The nature club's informal walks have continued to be popular. 19 participants enjoyed a warm, balmy evening walk on August 19, featuring the rise of the Sturgeon Super Moon and the Pleiades meteor shower.

In conjunction with the LMEHA summer festival, we had two walks followed by social events. The first of these walks focused on hidden gems of the built estate and featured private gardens and unique lake views. This was followed by a wonderful chilli dinner hosted by Kerry and Ben Curtis at 1 LSR. A rural estate walk on Monday morning was followed by coffee and cakes at 54 HM. For more information on house martin nest boxes, plant purchase, or to be added to the nature club WhatsApp group, please -

WhatsApp Hilary Collins at 07592 914075





LMEHA – energy initiatives update

Battery/Solar/EV Charger - Bulk Buy

We now have over 80 homes registered for the scheme and are starting to research suppliers. If you would like to know more and potentially join in to cut your energy costs and CO2 footprint visit:

<https://thamesheadenergy.org/the-plan/electricity-generation-and-storage/solar/thames-head-energy-community-solar-and-battery-buying-scheme/>

If you have any questions or want to be kept up to date, join the WhatsApp group (link is on the web page).



LMEHA – energy initiatives update cont'd

Community Energy

Our community energy initiative is going well, its objectives are to help us reduce our energy costs and CO2 footprint.

For more information visit:

<https://thamesheadenergy.org/>

Latest updates -

- We've engaged with LME/HFG to synchronise with their own NetZero plans
- We have secured a free feasibility study for a heat network option from Kensa, that could replace the Calor gas heating. We will share the results of the study. Obviously, no decision will be made without full consultation.
- We have met with Scottish and Southern Electric, who provide the electricity network in our area to start planning for a community solar farm.
- We have quotes for a feasibility study for a solar farm(s) and are working with LMEHA, the parish council and Cotswold District Council to fund and progress this.
- The village of Somerford Keynes have joined the initiative with support of the Parish Council and several village homeowners joining the community energy champions group, who are progressing the planning.



WILDLIFE NEWS

Autumn update from the HFG ecologist -

As we head into autumn and winter our visiting wintering waterbirds will start to arrive from colder climates. Last year saw an increase on the number of wintering waterbirds from the 2020 surveys, particularly Coot, Gadwall, Wigeon, and Goosander. Last year also saw the number of winter visiting Pochard at Lower Mill double. While this only took our Pochard total to four individuals, this was a positive finding for such a threatened bird. These lovely red-listed birds of conservation concern are now classified by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) as threatened with extinction globally so the small increase at the Estate is really good news.

Our Estate is also home to a range of gull species over winter. These can be seen in great numbers at any one time with over 3700 Herring gull, over 1900 Black-headed gull, and over 1400 Lesser black-backed gull recorded over the previous winter on gull counts. Other interesting birds to look for over the autumn/winter period include Great white egret, Little egret, Smew, Pintail, Marsh harrier, Mediterranean gull, Yellow-legged gull, and Water rail. This time of year is always really exciting.

Avian flu is still a big problem across the country and many colonies of seabirds have succumbed to it this year. If you happen upon a dead bird while on the Estate then please leave it where it is and report it straight away to the Estate office who will contact Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra).

WILDLIFE NEWS

- cont'd



As always, from 1st October until the end of March, the footpath between Somerford Lagoon and Freeth Mere will be locked to help us minimise disturbance to wintering waterbirds. Not only is this a condition of the planning permission which allows Lower Mill to function, it is really important as wintering waterbirds are facing many threats from climate change to habitat loss. Please help us by not using this area for these few short months.

Question Corner - In each newsletter, this space will be used to answer a couple of your wildlife questions.

Question

“James Ponting, LME's new Assistant Ecologist has begun offering guided nature walks for children, and adults/families on a weekly basis. Will these walks continue to be offered in the autumn and winter. Are there any plans to offer separate walks for the LMEHA Nature Club, or owners in general?”

Answer

James's children's nature events and his wildlife walks have proved really popular with guests. James has been working on a series of events for LMEHA which will be shared shortly. Unfortunately no one was able to attend the 'Big Summer Bioblitz' he organised for LMEHA on August 20th. We will advertise his next events shortly so make sure to book early so you don't miss out.

WILDLIFE NEWS

- cont'd



Question

“Climate change is bringing us drier, hotter, sunnier summers. LME seems wonderful in the sunshine, but dry river beds, heating lakes, and rock hard soil must make life hard for wildlife. How is the wildlife at LME faring?”

Answer

The summer was a scorcher which led to incredibly low water levels in lakes and our rivers. Our summer bird surveys will show us how our birds did this year but it will be years of data required to show the impact of climate change on population trends on the Estate. It is thought that climate change is impacting the UK’s migratory birds. Spring visitors arrived up to a month later than normal this year due to adverse weather conditions on migration. The storms they face are increasing in number and severity and many of the birds are not making it as far as the UK now. Wintering migrants come to the UK over winter as conditions are milder making food easier to find. However, these birds are also arriving in lower numbers in the UK as the winter weather conditions in their summer breeding grounds remain warmer than normal, with less need for them to fly to the UK. We will continue to keep an eye on our wildlife and adapt our conservation efforts as required.

Dr Phoebe Carter

Chief Ecologist

pcarter@habitatfirstgroup.com

W: www.habitatfirstgroup.com

LMEHA - Member reviews



What a lovely walk along the banks of the River Thames in Castle Eaton with some good friends. We walked for about an hour, then turned back and finished off with a good lunch at the Red Lion. Parking at the pub, we followed the river through fields and some nice scenery. We stopped at the bridge – but there is a longer circular walk if you have the time and energy!

The Castle Eaton Scarecrow Trail takes place every year from late August to early September with all money raised going to Prospect Hospice. It's a fun trail for all, with some whacky displays. Look out for it next year – well worth a visit!

Catherine & Tony Graham, with Judith & Mark Rolfe



LMEHA - Member reviews



Chedworth Roman Villa

Dating from the 4th century, this is one of the grandest Roman villas in Britain. Now managed by the National Trust – it's a small site, but well worth a visit for those interested in history and/or a nice coffee and cake.



And some reminders of the origins of our language!

Warm room *tepidarium*

A space for rubbing down with oil and plucking body hair

XI

Cold room *frigidarium*

A space to cool off

XIV



LOCAL INFO & EVENTS



Singing Weekend

Cirencester 4-6th Nov 2022
Bingham Hall, Cirencester.
£40.00 - £95.00

“An inclusive and fun-filled weekend bursting with harmony, and a true celebration of community singing”.

Friday 4th November (evening) - Sunday 6th November (lunchtime)

Ticket price includes access to all the singing. Food and accommodation is not included. More information from:

<https://www.benanddom.com/store/products/singing-weekend-cirencester-4-6th-nov-2022>

Oktoberfest at Burleigh Court

Burleigh Court Restaurant, GL5 2PF
Thu 29 Sep 2022 6:30 - 9:30pm
Tickets £45 pp



“Enjoy a selection of local beers paired with a variety of scrumptious dishes from their award-winning kitchen.

Seating will be Oktoberfest style on long tables on the sheltered back terrace with fireplaces.”

Bring loved ones, mates and furry friends. Groups welcome.

More information from:

https://www.tickettailor.com/events/burleighcourthotel/751682?_ga=2.31074679.910043086.1662976480-1980082434.1662976480

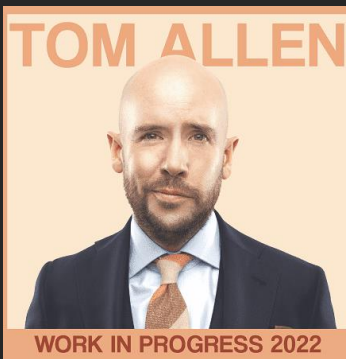


LOCAL INFO & EVENTS

Advent Market

Saturday, 26 November 2022 from 10:00 to 18:00hrs
Cirencester Market Place

This year's Advent Market takes place in and around the Market Place and brings Christmas celebration to the town including live entertainment and music for all the family. This is a fantastic Christmas Market set to the festive back drop of the Christmas lights, Christmas tree and live music and carols from local community performers. The extended market stretches the whole length of the Market Place and also spreads into Cricklade Street and Castle Street. With over 100 stalls on site there is sure to be something for everyone.



Tom Allen: Work in Progress 2022

at Sundial Theatre, Cirencester
Wednesday 2 Nov 2022 at 8:00pm

Tom Allen is heading back on the road, warming up new material ahead of his brand new tour.

Further information and tickets from:

www.ticketsource.co.uk



LOCAL INFO & EVENTS

B

26 SEPTEMBER 2022 - 29 OCTOBER 2022

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN

Based on Paula Hawkins' international bestseller and the blockbuster DreamWorks film, this is a gripping mystery/suspense thriller.

AGE GUIDANCE - 15+ (This production includes violence and bad language)

A

21 NOVEMBER 2022 - 31 DECEMBER 2022

THE TRUE ADVENTURES OF MARIAN AND ROBIN HOOD!

A feast of myth, music and medieval slapstick, MARIAN AND ROBIN! has it all – magic, acrobatics, Normans with dodgy haircuts – as the eponymous duo bury the hatchet and join forces to thwart the hapless Sherriff and overthrow his evil protector.

R

info@barntheatre.org.uk

Box office: [01285 648255](tel:01285648255)

N

Or: boxoffice@barntheatre.org.uk

Barn Theatre, 5 Beeches Road, Cirencester,
GL7 1BN

theatre



LOCAL EVENT - GALA BALL

This is a really fun event that raises a good amount for charities.

We have one LMEHA table of 6 people booked – contact Cotswold Lakes Trust direct to buy tickets (details below).

News Flash – Rory Bremner is hosting!



Cotswold Water Park | 2022
BALL

Sparkling Wine
Reception

3 Course Dinner
with Wines

After Dinner
Entertainment

Charity Auction
and Raffle

Dancing to the
Curious Little
Big Band

Black Tie

Saturday 15th October 2022

De Vere Cotswold Water Park Hotel

Ticket Price: £70
Table of 10 £650

Tickets can be bought online at www.cotswoldlakestrust.org or www.waterpark.org or contact CWPBall@cotswoldlakestrust.org
DISCOUNTED OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATION AT THE DE VERE HOTEL, SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY

Cotswold Lakes Trust is a registered charity 1120518