



www.leamingtonsociety.org.uk

The Leamington Society Newsletter

August 2005

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

Friends of Leamington Station. The wonderful news for the Friends is that Pete Waterman has agreed to be our President. Mr Waterman, born and brought up in Coventry, is not only very well known for his enormous achievements in the world of pop music, but is also an ardent railway enthusiast. He is currently building a scale model of Leamington Station. We are delighted he will be our president.

Our activities are continuing well, and volunteers (both members of the society and others) are now beginning to work on the terraced garden facing the forecourt car park. This is a truly daunting task due to the level of brambles, ivy We are seeking donations towards the replanting – see the enclosed flyer.

Gilding of Jephson Gardens gates. This has now been completed thanks to the very generous donation by David Palmer. The gilding really enlivens the gates, and makes a splendid start to our jubilee year activities. Thank you again David.

LUMP. This is the acronym for the scheme that is intended to make the Parade safer, but is causing chaos in our town and having disastrous effects on the shops' business, and not just in the Parade – visitors to the town are being driven away, so all the shops are suffering.

After a one-year postponement, the work began in April, and was supposed to take six months. The work is already two months behind schedule. This means that just two months (of the six months) work has been finished in a four months period; there is now no chance it will finish this year. After a break for the winter, the work will restart next May; but when will it finish? Central government offered £1m towards the Parade scheme; WCC proposed a scheme estimated to cost £1½m, or £2.2m including the cost of preliminary consultations and associated works. There must surely be significant further costs arising from the overrun. Who is paying?

This Newsletter has three items on the scheme.

Decriminalisation. This is another traffic issue. We all know that parking rules are completely ignored by a significant number of drivers in Leamington, and that there is a shortage of places to park. How will this change when parking becomes a responsibility of the local authority (WCC and WDC combined)? We know that a similar scheme in Stratford had a rough introduction there last year. Will we be able to avoid similar problems, how will it work in our town and what effect will it have on both residents and visitors? We are holding a meeting on October 13th when you will be able to hear from some of those who will be devising the scheme, and to question them.

SPARK. Yet another traffic issue. WCC is considering a Park & Ride scheme to serve Leamington and Warwick, with a 800 place car park at Greys Mallory to serve traffic coming into the two towns principally from Junctions 13 and 14 of the M40. A preliminary estimate of the cost of the scheme is £13.5 million.

Dates for your Diary

Programme for the year is included with this Newsletter

Pre-Christmas Meetings:

Leamington Ironwork Paul Edwards

Thurs 8th Sept, 7.45pm
Clarence Suite, Oddfellows Hall

Decriminalisation: hunting for a car-parking place

Panel Discussion
Thurs 13th Oct, 7.45pm
Pump Room Annexe

Trouble at the Tate: the fate of Victorian painting, 1900-1950.

Gordon Fyfe
Thurs 10th Nov, 7.45pm
Pump Room Annexe

Inn Signs and Drinking Customs

Graham Sutherland
Thurs 8th Dec, 7.45pm
Clarence Suite, Oddfellows Hall

**See back page for more
information on these events**

