

The NEWS

April, 2016

ECONOMY: [Canal Latest](#); [Tourism News](#)

AFFORDABLE AND SOCIAL HOUSING: [New Homes Programme](#)

ENVIRONMENT: [Energy Saving Prize](#); [Park Biodiversity Award](#); [Rural SUDS](#)

RESOURCES: [Museum News](#); [Neighbourhood Warden News](#); [Procurement Update](#);
[Public Space News](#)

HEALTH AND WELL BEING: [Bowls Taster](#); [Dursley Pool & Sports Centre](#); [Generation Games](#);
[Get Back in the Saddle](#); [Health Advice](#)

CORPORATE AFFAIRS: [Project Management Training](#)

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL NEWS:

WHAT'S ON: [Museum in the Park Events](#); [Grand Village Fete](#); [Sub Rooms Events](#);
[Woodchester Mansion Events](#)

WELCOME

Edward Cleverly	Accounting Technician	7 th March
Roslyn Meenagh	Trainee Solicitor	14 th March
Sara Causon	Principal Auditor (<i>corrects last month</i>)	1 st April

FAREWELL

Pete Antill	Interim Multi-Service Contracts Manager	11 th March
Ian Garrett	Principal Accountant	29 th March
Kelly Headley	Performance & Improvement Officer	3 rd April
Terry Rodway	Internal Audit Manager	29 th April

ECONOMY: *Help local people and businesses recover from the recession, grow the local economy and increase employment*

CANAL PROJECT LATEST

Wallbridge Lower Lock: Propping of the failed lock wall begins next week. The contractor, locally-based Gardiners Construction, will also be removing the collapsed building on the lock offside. This will have the effect of reducing weight on the slope and make it safer for anyone working below. Once this work is complete, we will then be in a position to closely examine the failed wall. Once we understand the cause and extent of the problem, we can begin working towards a solution.

Having obtained comparative prices for different solutions to the collapsed bank above the lock, we are now designing a solution. This will involve the use of interlocking 'porcupine' blocks, which can be laid by our increasingly skilled volunteers. In the meantime, volunteers are reducing the height of the bank to reduce the amount of material needing to be handled and as a preparation for rerouting a high voltage cable which runs within it.

Cheapside: As scheduled, Land & Water Services moved onto site on 14th March, with the aim of reopening 400m of the Thames & Severn Canal between Wallbridge Upper Lock and Dr Newton's Way Bridge. Work is expected to finish in early May.

Volunteers had removed much of the undergrowth from the channel and the bank opposite the towpath during the winter. This clearance work was carried out partly to dissuade nesting birds. Once work is complete, the combination of open water and the new offside banks will see their rapid return.

The canal has been temporarily dammed at the Dr Newton's Way Bridge whilst the paddles (sluices) on Wallbridge Upper Lock were raised to release the water to the canal below. As levels dropped, members of the Stroud & District Angling Club ensured that fish were moved safely to deep water. Some water continues to enter the channel from natural seepage and land drainage. The contractor has therefore deployed one of only two amphibious excavators in the UK.



Land & Water Services have been commissioned to carry out the work which covers dredging and also includes piling the foot of the high slope opposite the towpath. Dredging can have the effect of reducing the weight on the foot of the slope, destabilising the land above. Small landslips have occurred on that slope in the past. The slipped sections are being stabilised using over 300 eucalyptus piles along a length of 100 metres. Each pile is the thickness of a telegraph pole and will have a life of over 80 years. Dredged material will be placed behind the piling to maintain the weight at the foot of the slope. A 200 metre section not previously affected by land slip will be lined using Nicospan - a heavy duty textile membrane supported

by wooden piles. Dredged material will be placed behind the membrane, to stabilise the slope above it. At the points of the landslips the new channel width will be approximately 5m. The channel width will increase to between 7m and 8.7m on the other sections.

Around 1,300 cubic metres of dredged material will be drained and dried on the Cheapside site. It will then be removed and used locally to raise the level of a development site. This reuse minimises lorry journeys and means that the material will not be consigned to landfill. Thanks are due to Newland Homes for allowing the use of their redevelopment site for the dredging operations base.

We now have 2069 users following the latest canal news on **twitter**  @cotswoldcanals

Contact: [Dave Marshall](#), Canal Project Manager (754646) ([back to index](#))

TOURISM NEWS

The NEW Cotswolds Garden Route



We have worked with Cotswold, Tewkesbury and West Oxfordshire District Councils to produce a new piece of promotional print to promote all the gardens across the Cotswolds area. The leaflet, designed as a foldout map, has been produced ready to distribute at the new Highgrove Garden Festival, which takes place 11th to 16th April, and will then be distributed at attractions and retail outlets in the Cotswolds and surrounding areas. This new leaflet will feature the new logo of Cotswolds Tourism, which has been

designed in consultation with the local tourism industry.

Promoting the Stroud District

We have an advert encouraging people to explore Dursley, Painswick and Stroud for a walking break, in the long distance walks section of the current issue of Country Walking magazine. We also have an advert promoting the Cotswolds & Severn Vale 7-Day Circular Cycling map in the April Cycling Plus.

April Events

There are lots of interesting events and things to do in the district in April. This month sees the return of the SITE arts festival. Don't miss their open studio events on 14th & 15th and 21st & 22nd. Visit

<http://www.visitthecotswolds.org.uk/events> to find out what's on. Or follow us at

<http://www.twitter.com/DiscoverStroud> - over 3000 followers.

Contacts: [Sara Chardin](#) and [Shirley Wood](#), Regeneration Officers (Tourism) (754307) ([back to index](#))

AFFORDABLE HOUSING: *Provide affordable, decent and social housing*

NEW HOMES PROGRAMME



From the Council's five-year new homes programme, to date 83 new homes have been completed. These comprise three schemes where all of the homes have been completed, i.e. 35 new homes at Minchinhampton, 22 at Littlecombe, Dursley and 4 at Fishers Road, Berkeley (*left*), and the first phase of our regeneration scheme at the Top of Town in Stroud where 22 new homes have been completed. These 83 new homes are a mix of tenures with 63 for rent and 20 for shared ownership.

In addition the programme includes the properties purchased from Hanover in 2013/14 and the conversion of 9 ex warden's properties to give a total number of 110 completed homes. Our large development site at Mankley Road has progressed very well with people already bidding for the first new properties that are due to be ready in a couple of weeks' time. In addition the first phase of shared ownership properties has now been advertised and reservations have already been taken on 3.

The second phase at Top of Town is on site across two areas, one at the top of Target Close and the other on Bisley Old Road to deliver 14 new homes. The contractor has now also been awarded a contract to build a further 12 properties on Mason Road, starting in June. The additional 6 flats at The Corriett, Cam are due for completion in June followed by 4 houses at Far Green, Coaley in September.

Tenders were returned on 24 February for the scheme at Chapel Street, Cam to provide a mixed tenure development of 14 new homes. We aim to have appointed the contractor within the next couple of weeks with a view to making a physical start on site in May. We will have spent approximately £9 million this year on the programme.

Contact: [Leonie Lockwood](#), Business Development Manager (754153) ([back to index](#))

ENVIRONMENT: *Help the community minimise its carbon footprint, adapt to climate change, recycle more and send as little waste to landfill as possible*

RURAL SUDS



Two stories about the Stroud RSuDS project this month. Firstly, the Rural SuDs project's 20min film was voted "Best Green film of 2015" in the recent Stroud Community TV awards. The awards are given to films nominated by members of the public which are then judged by an expert panel from Stroud Community TV. Chris Uttley from Environment Health and several members of the Stroud Flood Action Groups went along to the awards ceremony at the Crown and Sceptre pub in Stroud. They received an "Oscat", Stroud's version of an award

presented to amateur film makers in America. You can read about and watch the films in all the award categories at : <http://stroudcommunity.tv/awards-2015/>



Secondly, the project's work received a good test on 9th March, when over 40mm of rain fell in parts of the Stroud valleys between midnight and 9am. The average rainfall for the whole of March is between 40 - 60mm. Streams in the upper parts of the catchment were peaking at about 9:30am, and the woody structures built as part of the project were attenuating a great deal of the flow. Whilst we cannot say for certain if the structures stopped anyone from being flooded, the Environment Agency confirmed that with that

intensity of rain, they expected some properties lower down the catchment to have flooded.

As a result of our successful implementation of natural flood Management in Stroud, the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for the Severn have provided funding for three other projects of a similar type in Shropshire, Warwickshire and Telford.

Contact: [Chris Uttley](#), Rural SuDS Project Officer (754464) ([back to index](#))

PARK RECOGNISED FOR BIODIVERSITY

Mike McCrea, of the Landscape Group, (contracted by Stroud District Council) has been instrumental in helping to create improved Biodiversity areas at Stratford Park. Each year he produces a report on butterfly activity in the Park and his work in the Park has been recognised in Butterfly Conservation's latest issue of it's publication "Antennae", extract reads " Eight years ago the Park was on the brink of losing many of its resident butterflies but now thanks to a biodiversity management plan and a more sympathetic approach the tide has turned. There are now butterfly and moth events in the Park and school children can enjoy the butterflies and moths there.

Twenty six species of butterflies have been found in the Park – 23 of these are considered resident and 3 are migrants. (You can normally expect to see about 18 species regularly in gardens.) Our thanks go to the Landscape Group, Stroud District Council and the Stroud Valleys Project who have all worked together to improve the Park for butterflies and moths. Long may it continue..." This is a very good promotion for the park and reflects well on the Council's commitment to improving Biodiversity not only in the park but in the wider context by the complimentary planting of wildflower verges throughout the District.

Stratford Park comprises 56 acres, but only around 36 acres can be considered suitable for butterflies – much of this being in the woodland, rough grass and arboretum areas of the Park. However, flower beds are also planted with nectar rich flowers. Why not go and have a look sometime?

Contact: [Rozelle Jachowicz](#), Public Space Officer (754405) ([back to index](#))

PRIZES FOR THE BEST ENERGY SAVING IDEA

We officially launched our Save@Work campaign during March and have formed an “energy saving team” but we are looking for ideas from staff at Ebley Mill.

The campaign focuses on behavioural change and simple changes that we can do within our working environment and building that will save us energy (the electricity and gas kind). It will run for a year, so keep a look out for our new campaigns across the year, and we are in competition with our Museum, the Sub Rooms and other authorities across the country.

Prizes are available for the best ideas. Please email emma.quest@stroud.gov.uk by 18th April.

Contact: [Emma Quest](#), Energy Officer - Policy & Implementation (754445) ([back to index](#))

RESOURCES: *Provide value for money to our taxpayers and high quality services to our customers*

PUBLIC SPACES NEWS

Wildflowers

Public Spaces are expanding their highly successful wildflower scheme this year to include two new road verge locations. Wildflowers will be sown along Westward Road, by the junction with Orchard Road, and by the war memorial in Cam High Street. These new initiatives have been sponsored by Cainscross Parish Council and Cam Town Council. The Parish and Town Councils have been so impressed with the wildflowers displays around the District that they have been keen to see more in their areas.

New Tree Contract

When the Council's current tree works contract comes to an end in January 2017, Town and Parish Councils within the District will have the opportunity to access SDC's new contract under an arboricultural framework agreement. The agreement will mean that Town and Parish Councils will benefit from substantial cost savings, and can be assured that the appointed contractor meets the rigorous requirements expected in terms of quality of work, health and safety and customer care. Tree surgery is such a specialised field of work that Town and Parish Council's rarely have the expertise in house necessary to properly assess potential contractors or to prescribe work. The new framework agreement has already attracted interest from over half the Town and Parish Councils within the District and looks set to benefit the area's Council Tax payers and its trees.

Leyhill

Following a number of complaints from local residents a work party from Leyhill Prison has been out clearing dog waste from Selsley Common. Leyhill Prison caters for offenders who have reached the end of their sentences and are awaiting release. The work parties regally carry out litter picking and similar work on behalf of the Council. These events offer offenders an opportunity to experience life outside of prison, and represent the first step in a programme, which includes days out on licence and home visits, leading to eventual release. The work party collected 20 large black sacks of dog waste, leaving the Common poo free. The Council's Dog Wardens regularly patrol the Stroud commons encouraging dog owners to pick up after their pets and issuing Fixed Penalty Notices to persistent offenders.

Contact: [Mark Graham](#), Public Spaces Officer (754549) ([back to index](#))

MUSEUM NEWS

New archive unveils truth behind burning pianos stunt!

Bentley Piano Company was one of the biggest employers in the Stroud District during the mid-20th century, but up until recently the only trace of the company within the Museum collections was a 1950s aerial photograph of their works at Woodchester. However, recent contact with the family who owned the company has allowed us to greatly increase our understanding of the company, as well as to collect some new artefacts to help us to tell that story. We now have promotional literature and a company history taking us from its inception in 1906 as Stroud Pianos, to the eventual demise of the company in the 1990s. We have also acquired portraits of the founder and his successor by the acclaimed local artist John Teesdale, as well as information pertaining to the fact that Douglas and Richard Grover – the founder and his son, were actually from a much longer line of piano manufacturers, but moved their business to Stroud from London in the early 20th century. We also discovered tales of astonishing publicity stunts, which was conceived to let people know that pianos don't last forever, but need replacing occasionally! A short British Pathe film of the stunt can be seen here:

<http://www.britishpathe.com/video/a-pyre-of-pianos/query/fire>

Walled Garden film wins TV Award!

As part of the Stroud Film Festival, Stroud Community TV once again celebrated the best of Stroud films. The film nominations are made by members of the public. The 'Walled Garden at the Museum in the Park' by Nikki Simpson with Stroud Valleys Project and The Museum in the Park won the Best Community Project Award. An 'Oscat' is awarded to each of the winners! A full list of all the videos that won an award can be seen here: <http://stroudcommunity.tv/awards-2015/>

Contact: [Kevin Ward](#), Museum Development Manager (763394) ([back to index](#))

NEIGHBOURHOOD WARDEN NEWS

A not so Secret Service

Neighbourhood Wardens (NHW) were at the Service of her Majesty the Queen, helping to celebrate her 90th birthday, by hosting 'Clean for the Queen' clear up days last month, across the District. Residents' groups; voluntary organisations; different services at SDC; Parish, Town and District councillors all chipped in targeting grot spots at: Cashes Green; Kingshill, Dursley; Lawnside Estate, Forest Green and the village pond at Hardwicke. 100 bags of litter and weeds were collected; shrubs cut back; signs cleaned; bulky items collected; faults to street lights, kerbs and play areas all reported for repair.

A big thank you goes to Public Spaces, who arranged litter picks, black bags, reflective vests and the removal of items collected. The events have helped to empower residents, while providing an informal surgery, for them to discuss and bring local issues to the attention of council staff. We were able to help improve the quality of life for residents by helping to reduce the fear of crime, ASB and environmental crime. So, we have left several communities spic and span Ma'am.

The next clear up day arranged by NHWs takes place at Miles Marling Playing Field, Nortonwood, Forest Green on Saturday, 9th April between 09.30 and 14.30. We will be clearing scrub with local residents to regain natural surveillance into the field and to provide areas for bulb planting, while removing any detritus. You would be very welcome to come and assist.

Contact: [Dominic Everiss](#), Senior Neighbourhood Warden (754512) ([back to index](#))

HEALTH & WELLBEING: *Promote the health and well being of our communities and work with others to deliver the public health agenda*

GET BACK IN THE SADDLE

Calling all bicycles that have been abandoned in the garden, shed, garage or left out in all elements. There is now hope for you all! We are holding a mini re-launch of our Cycling4health scheme on Monday 11th April from 12noon to 2pm outside Ebley Mill (the area in-front of Reception) and would like any owners of these poor bicycles to take a moment to pop down and even bring your bike along. You do not need to be Olympic standard to come along, as we will be offering the chance to get back in the saddle and enjoy a gentle taster cycle4health ride (max 30 mins) with our new Cycle Leader Ian. There will also be the chance for a free voucher to get your bike serviced, an update on the SDC staff Cycle to Work Scheme and information on cycling in the district.

Contact: [Jane Bullows](#), Sport & Health Development Manager (754322) ([back to index](#))

GET HEALTH ADVICE ASAP

NHS Gloucestershire has launched its ASAP (Choose Well) public information campaign. This targets adults and parents of young children with advice on what to do if they are ill or injured and are unsure where to turn. The ASAP website and App allows users to 'Search by Service' or 'Search by Condition' – providing a step by step guide through symptoms, self care and signposting to the appropriate NHS service. You can find opening hours and service location information as well. Access the website by visiting www.asapglos.nhs.uk or download the App free from the App store (ASAP Glos NHS).

Contact: [Hannah Drew](#), Sports Development Officer (754508) ([back to index](#))

KAPERS 2016

Kapers offers fun and structured activities, with plenty of time available for free play or to just relax and chill. The scheme is run by an experienced, enthusiastic and energetic team. Kapers Playscheme provides an extended day opportunity ideal for the busy family throughout the summer where children and young people can be entertained from 8.30am till 5pm with four different types of days available. At a snip of childcare costs, this is a fantastic opportunity to get the children out of the house, active and learning in a sociable and friendly environment. Kapers is packed with fun and exciting activities:-

- arts and crafts
- drama and music
- special workshops
- games and competitions
- sports and activities
- themed weeks and more

Where can you find us?

1st August – 5th August - Maidenhill Sport & Dance Centre, Maidenhill School

8th August – 12th August - Maidenhill Sport & Dance Centre, Maidenhill School

15th August – 19th August - Thomas Keble Sports Centre, Thomas Keble School

22nd August – 26th August - Thomas Keble Sports Centre, Thomas Keble School

Prices

Early Day – 8.30am to 5pm

£16.80 per day

£78 if you book for the whole week!

Late Day – 10am to 5pm

£14.30 per day

£65 if you book for the whole week!

School Day – 8.30am to 3pm

£14.30 per day

£65 if you book for the whole week!

Main Day - 10am to 3pm

£11.70 per day

£53 if you book for the whole week!

Booking can be made online by visiting www.kapers.org.uk from Monday 11th April or by completing the following booking form <http://www.stroud.gov.uk/sport-leisure/sports-development/kapers>. For more information, email kapers.playscheme@stroud.gov.uk.

Contact: [Hannah Drew](#), Sports Development Officer (754508) ([back to index](#))

VICTORY PARK BOWLS CLUB

CAINSCROSS, STROUD

**OPEN DAY WEEKEND FOR YOU TO TRY,
ENJOY AND MAYBE JOIN THE CLUB**

WHEN: SATURDAY 7th & SUNDAY 8th MAY
**WHERE: VICTORY PARK BOWLS CLUB,
CHURCH ROAD, CAINSCROSS
STROUD. GL5 4JE**
TIME: 11.00 – 15.00



**JUST TURN UP AND PLAY – bowls provided
OPEN TO ALL – minimum age 8
BAR & refreshments AVAILABLE**

**IF YOU'RE OLD ENOUGH TO WALK
YOU'RE YOUNG ENOUGH TO BOWL**

we only ask you wear SOFT flat sole sports shoes

GENERATION GAMES

In June Stroud District Council will be playing host to its sixth Generation Games, a celebration of sport & physical Activity for the whole family. The games have attracted over 700 participants over the past five years and have provided children, parents and grandparents alike with the opportunity to participate in sport and physical activity together.

Local sports clubs based within the district deliver the activities on the day and should anyone discover that they want to take up a new sport or activity, they are able to help them do so. The activities on offer are suitable for everyone aged five and upwards. There's a chance for everyone to take part in all the activities during the day. These include:

- *Futsal*
- *Piloxing*
- *Ultimate Frisbee*
- *Tennis*
- *Archery*
- *Assault Course*

The Generation Games take place on Sunday 26th June at Stratford Park Leisure Centre, between 9.30am and 3.30pm. The cost is £5.20 per child and £6.75 for adults. Application forms are available at <http://www.stroud.gov.uk/sport-leisure/sports-development/generation-games>.

Contact: [Hannah Drew](#), Sports Development Officer (754508) ([back to index](#))

DURSLEY POOL NEWS

Extension news

We are nearing the final stages of the extension. As part of the last phase of the work, the Pool will be closed from 30th May – 3rd July. Dursley Sports Centre will remain open as normal during the final stages of the construction.

On the week commencing Monday 4th July we will be offering all existing annual members exclusive first chance access to use the gym and sample the new class programme. In order to qualify for this you must purchase an annual leisure pass before Thursday 30th June.

In addition to this, if you take your membership up between Friday 1st April and Wednesday 1st June you will get discounted membership until we officially open on 4th July.

Membership offer.....

12 MONTH MEMBERSHIP

Pay just £15 a month (*April, May and June*) until the Pulse opens on Monday 4th July and then just £30.85 a month for the remainder of your 12 months.

6 weeks for £30.

All inclusive membership is available throughout April for only £30. This pass includes all classes, use of the pool, gym and racket sports. (Only 1 pass is available per person).

Contact: [Kelly Mackenzie](#), Duty Manager, Sales and Marketing (546441) ([back to index](#))

Deadline for the May E News – Thursday, 28th April.
Please email [Dave Marshall](#)

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

PROCUREMENT UPDATE

Portal

The procurement portal has had a number of updates since the migration from version 2 to 3. If you have any specific feedback or changes that you would like to see please do let us know. We will be attending user groups where we can feedback your views.

Access to the portal test site is now available (<https://ufe.due-north.com>). If you would like to use the site for any practice runs and require access please let us know.

The Procurement page on the hub has lots of guidance around the portal including user guides for Quick Quotes, Request for Quotations and Invitation to Tenders. If you have any thoughts on what you would find a useful resource for your procurement please let us know.

We are always happy to help when you are putting projects on the Portal, please do not hesitate to ask.

Contracts Finder

As you know we now have to advertise all procurement over £25,000 on the governments [Contracts Finder Website](#). This is done through the 'Contract Finder Advertise' Event on the portal. Please note we also have to notify them when the contract has been awarded. This is done by publishing a notice through the 'Contract Finder Award Notice' Event which comes after your decision notifications. This should be done within 90 calendar days of the contract award date. Any queries please ask.

Contracts

Can you please ensure the Contracts Register is kept up to date with details of all contracts valued at £50,000 and over. Please also send signed copies of all £50k + contracts (scanned or paper) to us in Procurement, so we can keep a central file as outlined in our procedure rules.

Please use the link to our contracts register: [Contracts Register](#)

Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules

A reminder for all projects valued at over £250,000, please see point 6 of our CPPR's shown below:

6. For all planned procurement where the total estimated value of the contract exceeds £250,000, the Strategic Head of Service or Head of Service who signs the Procurement Plan Form described in CPPR 9 below shall, in consultation with the relevant Committee Chair and the Strategic Head (Finance and Business Services), agree whether a formal decision of the relevant Committee is required prior to the commencement of a particular procurement.

[Contract and Procurement Procedure Rules](#)

Contact: [Jo Spain](#), Business Support Assistant (754589) ([back to index](#))

PROJECT MANAGEMENT TRAINING

Last 3 spaces for Project Management training (*until September*):

[Full Day course](#) - Tuesday 12th April (9.30am – (4.30pm)

The course covers SDC project process, governance and reporting, plus skills and tools for successful outcomes. Further details or to view Hub guidance, project register etc:

<http://intranet.stroud.gov.uk/UMBS61/service-units/finance/project-management.aspx>

Contact: [Darren Skinner](#), Business Projects Manager (754399) ([back to index](#))

WHAT'S ON



Museum in the Park
Stroud District (Cowle) Museum Service

MUSEUM EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Annie Hutchinson: Artist in Residence at The Museum in the Park

Annie Hutchinson, also known as 'The Little Wren House Factory', is a textile Artist based in Stroud and has been making textile figures using vintage materials and trinkets for a number of years. During 2016, Annie has been invited to spend time at the museum as Artist in Residence. The aim is to study and make a body of work inspired by the Museum Collections, demonstrating that a conversation between artefact and art offers something interesting, exciting and magical to the visiting public.

Annie can be found in the Museum's Collectors' Room on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 10am and 2pm. Additionally, during the Select Trail on the weekends of 7th and 8th, 14th and 15th May, Annie can be found exhibiting her work at the Museum. She will also be in residence on the evening of Friday 13th May from 8pm to 10pm, as part of a special 'Museums at Night' out-of-hours opening. Come and meet Annie and see the Museum in a different light. For further information please contact Annie at andynette@tiscali.co.uk www.thelittlewrenhousefactory.co.uk

until Saturday 23 April **Mark Stopforth: LANDSCAPES**

Mark Stopforth's work over the past twenty years has been devoted to those landscapes associated with the untamed and wild spaces that can be found in the Moors, Fens, Fells and Estuaries of Britain. More recently he has been drawn to the vast, immersive spaces of moorland and river estuary, evoking these enchanting landscapes through charcoal, pencil and oil. www.markstopforth.co.uk

Wednesday 6 – Friday 8 April 11am – 4pm **Family Drop in Workshop: 'MINI MUSEUMS'**

What's in your Museum? Create your own mini museum of imaginary mystery objects or treasures lost and found. A family drop in activity recommended for ages 5+. £1 per child, accompanying adults free

Saturday 9 April 2pm: **'NATURE, GARDENS AND THE ARTS AND CRAFTS MOVEMENT'**

Lecture with Mary Greensted. Although it began as an urban movement, at the heart of the Arts and Crafts was a belief in the close relationship between mankind and nature and a vision of country life as central to British society. This illustrated talk will look at why live so many creative people chose to live in the country, the inspiration of country crafts, nature as a source of pattern, and the pleasures of country life in the Cotswolds. *Booking necessary.* £7 (£5 MIP Friends)

Sunday 17 April 10am **SPRING BIRD WALK**

Join Mike McCrea for a walk around Stratford Park in search of signs of Spring. All welcome, wear your wellies or walking boots and meet outside the Museum. Free

Sunday 17 April 2pm – 4pm **MEET THE ARTIST - MARK STOPFORTH**

A chance to meet artist Mark Stopforth and learn more about his work and inspiration. Free

Thursday 28 April 2pm **The Museum Friends present: 'AN AUCTIONEER'S DAY'**

Philip Taubenheim of Wotton Auction Rooms describes what can happen, and often does, during his working day. Following this, the Auction Room's jewellery specialist Lauren Schwartz will give informal valuations of any small piece you might like to bring from your jewel box, whilst we provide refreshments. We are hoping for a sparkling afternoon! *Organised by The Museum in the Park Friends in aid of the Walled Garden project. Booking necessary or call Stroud Tourist Information Centre on 01453 760900.* £7.50 (£6 MIP Friends)

Saturday 30 April – Sunday 22 May **'SOFT ENGINEERING' Textiles Taking Shape**

Alison Ellen: Knitting | Ann Richards: Woven Textiles | Deirdre Wood: Weaving. *Soft Engineering* brings together, for the first time, the work of these three talented makers. Having pursued separate careers in

knitting and weaving, they find many common threads that have now inspired them to work together on this joint exhibition. Throughout the exhibition there is a central theme of textiles taking shape through the interplay of raw material and structure with pleating, folding, twisting, double-sided fabrics. Finished pieces of work will be complemented by explanatory materials including loomstate pieces, photographs and paper models, showing the processes of making and finishing.

The exhibition is accompanied by an afternoon of talks on 14 May and artist-led workshops on 15 May. Select Festival 2016 www.sitselect.org

Summer opening hours (April to September):

Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holiday Mondays 11am – 5pm
Admission free, donations welcome. www.museuminthepark.org.uk

Contact: [Abigail Large](#), Museum Administrator (763394) ([back to index](#))



SUB ROOMS EVENTS

Link To Sub Rooms Website

www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk/general.asp?pid=12&pgid=972

Link To Sub Rooms Jan – March Brochure

www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk/general.asp?pid=12&pgid=1528

Tickets from Stroud Tourist Information Centre on 01453 760900 or online from

www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk

WOODCHESTER MANSION EVENTS

until 30th October Landscapes and Gardens: AN EXHIBITION OF EMBROIDERY

2016 marks the 300th anniversary of the birth of Lancelot "Capability" Brown, a designer who changed the national landscape and created a style which has shaped people's picture of the quintessential English countryside. Brown visited Woodchester Park in 1782 and his foreman, John Spyers, produced a survey of the property.

Woodchester Mansion is hosting an exhibition by the Embroiderers' Guild as part of the Capability Brown tercentenary celebrations. Members of the Stroud branch have produced beautiful pieces, inspired by the landscape of Woodchester Park, which will be on display throughout the open season.

Normal admission charges apply. Tuesday to Sunday and Bank Holiday Mondays to 30th October 11am to 5pm (last entry 4pm). Adults £7.50, concessions £6.50, accompanied children under 14 free.

Contact: [Sue Brown](#), Visitor Services Manager, Woodchester Mansion Trust (861541) ([back to index](#))

GRAND VILLAGE FETE

Saturday 21 May will see the 27th Grand Village Fete, held on the Brimscombe & Thrupp Playing Fields, A419) Thrupp. Over the years over £100,000 has been raised for the local community, but the main attraction is that it is a community event! Visitors come from as far as Bristol, Worcester and Oxford! Stalls and pitches are still available - see website for details www.grandvillagefete.co.uk