

# The NEWS

April, 2013

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## WELCOME

Julian Kent	Development Officer, Tenant Services	4 <sup>th</sup> February
Mark Russell	Planning Strategy Manager	4 <sup>th</sup> March
Richard Coole	Public Space Officer	11 <sup>th</sup> March
Vincent Warwick	Senior ICT Officer (GIS)	25 <sup>th</sup> March

## FAREWELL

Peter Gilbert	Planning Strategy Manager	31 <sup>st</sup> March
Catherine Cook	Sheltered Housing Officer	31 <sup>st</sup> March
Peter Hanks	Civil Enforcement Officer	31 <sup>st</sup> March
Sue Leighton-Boyce	Housing Advice Manager	31 <sup>st</sup> March

## CONGRATULATIONS

- Matt Smith on successfully obtaining his Offensive Security Certified Professional certification
- Jan Dyer on passing the Introduction to Counselling Course with Glos Counselling Service
- Ricardo Rios, who is on a 3 month secondment to Planning Enforcement
- Michelle Allen, Advanced Apprentice; appointed HR Assistant
- Katherine Allen, secondment as Benefit Officer from 8<sup>th</sup> April
- Sarah Mace, appointed Housing Advice Manager
- Shobhan Sen and Fiona Hammond, who have recently successfully achieved the ILM Level 5 Certificate in Coaching and Mentoring in Management. This is a graduate level nationally recognised professional qualification with a strong emphasis on practical skills and assessment. Both are now qualified members of the South West Coaching Pool which focuses on developing and providing coaching and mentoring opportunities for staff within SDC and external organisations

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

## **CANAL PROJECT LATEST**

**Ebley:** Volunteers from the Tuesday group have created a landing stage adjacent to Ebley Cloth Mills Bridge. This will permit the Cotswold Canals Trust to begin trip boat operations with *Endeavour*, which should be craned into this stretch of water later this month.

**Dudbridge:** Contractors have now begun construction of a flood wall at Avocet Park. This will ensure that any high water levels in the canal do not affect the business park. Because of this, access to the towpath from Dudbridge Bridge (and vice versa) will not be possible for about 4 weeks.

**Dudbridge Locks:** The contract for the lock refurbishment is out to tender, with returns due this month. Work can be expected to begin in June. This will include restoring the canal between the locks to its original depth and width, which will allow an adequate water supply for operating the lower lock.

**Capels Mill:** The concrete canal channel East of the railway viaduct is being cast in 10 sections, of which two thirds are so far complete. All excavation work is finished, though earthworks to reprofile the old rubbish tip are due to start shortly. Public Open Days are scheduled here for the afternoon of Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May and the morning of Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Weather permitting, these will give a unique opportunity for people to walk in the new length of canal channel before water is allowed in.

**Cheapside:** A contract to clear the canal channel between Wallbridge and Capels Mill should be put out to tender in June, for a start in August/September. It will not be possible to dredge to full depth and width, as there have been landslips here in the past. Great care has to be taken not to destabilize the slopes. Works to hold back the slopes – eg piles – would be prohibitively expensive.

**Bowbridge:** The contract for constructing a new road bridge over the canal is out to tender, again with returns due this month. The new bridge will sit directly alongside the old bridge and permit two-way traffic. At present, the old bridge sits alongside a short area of infill. The contract also includes construction of a retaining wall immediately below the vets' car park. This will permit the lock edges to be cut back, thereby accommodating the balance beams for lock gates. Restoration of the lock will be carried out by volunteers once the retaining wall is completed. Volunteers from the Tuesday and Thursday groups have virtually completed upgrading of the towpath East of Bowbridge Lock up to Stanton's Bridge. The top surfacing will be applied by REACH in due course. Work is now continuing to the east, while a sub group has started work at Ham Mill and is heading westwards. This section is extremely narrow and in most cases it will not be possible to achieve the 2m standard width.

**Griffins Mill Lock:** Restoration work by Cotswold Canals Trust volunteers is progressing well, ably assisted by Waterway Recovery Group (WRG) work camps. The project has benefited recently due to WRG camps elsewhere being cancelled due to the weather – and our ability to accommodate displaced camps at short notice.

**Ham Mill Lock:** WRG volunteers held their first weekend work camp here on 16<sup>th</sup>/17<sup>th</sup> March and another over the Easter weekend. They will continue working here at least one weekend per month until November, together with two week-long work camps in August.

**Waterway Renaissance Awards:** Judging of four award applications took place last week; we should know the results next month. The projects were last year's Stroud on Water Festival, the flood defence work between Dudbridge and Ebley, the podcast heritage trail ('Along the Cotswold Canals') and the Thursday Volunteer Group.

We now have over 1000 users following the latest canal news on  [www.twitter.com/cotswoldcanals](http://www.twitter.com/cotswoldcanals). For the latest photos of work in progress, visit [www.cotswoldcanalsproject.org](http://www.cotswoldcanalsproject.org)

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

## **LOVE YOUR LOCAL MARKET**

We are looking to support the Love Your Local Market Campaign again this year. Details have yet to be finalised but we hope to run special Shambles Market events on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> and/or Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May. We are hoping to expand the market, introduce entertainment and importantly, offer new traders the opportunity to 'have a go'.

Contact: [Michael Towson](#), Facilities Management Officer (754336) ([back to index](#))

## **ECO FRIENDLY CAR VALETING**

Future Clean, an award-winning social enterprise that supplies environmentally friendly car valeting, while offering work and training to disadvantaged people will launch its first project in Gloucestershire at the Brunel Mall Car Park, Stroud opening this Thursday (11<sup>th</sup> April).

Future Clean uses an eco-friendly and portable, commercial car valeting system which is industry accredited. The simplicity and portability of the equipment means that it is easy to offer practical training, paid work opportunities and work experience. The social enterprise is being managed by The Home Farm Trust (HFT) – a national charity, which supports people with learning disabilities and autism and they will initially employ 3 local people, giving them the opportunity to gain valuable skills and experience, enabling them to move on into a variety of jobs.

The Future Clean franchise was launched by Pluss in 2010 in Plymouth – a social enterprise that supports more than 5,000 people with disabilities and other disadvantages into employment every year – it has since expanded across the South West and it is hoped that HFT will be able to expand its franchise into other parts of the county in the coming year.

Stroud District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, Pluss, and HFT have all worked together to form a strong partnership to support the launch of this enterprise and enable it to grow.

We would encourage everyone to try this new, high quality service and support this exciting project, whilst shopping and visiting Stroud.

Contacts: [Alice Brenchley](#), Graduate Surveyor (754431)  
[Ashley Nicholson](#), Senior Community Safety Officer (754522) ([back to index](#))

## **LOCAL PLAN POLICIES CONSULTATION**

The Council is producing a new Local Plan which will help shape future development within Stroud District until 2031. Consultation on a preferred strategy and sites for development took place last year.

The Council is now consulting on other planning policies which will be included in the Local Plan. These policies will manage and direct development and ensure that future development is high quality and protects, conserves or enhances the environment. The Council is also consulting on some minor changes to settlement boundaries or development limits, which are used to protect the open countryside from inappropriate or unsustainable development.

Consultation is running until Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> May. Whilst the consultation is generally targeted at Town and Parish Councils, statutory consultees and other organisations, views from members of the public are welcome. The policies consultation document can be viewed and comments submitted via: [www.stroud.gov.uk/consult](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/consult)

After May, the Council will consider the comments received and will prepare a full Pre-Submission Draft Local Plan for formal public consultation during the summer and autumn 2013.

Contact: [Mark Russell](#), Planning Strategy Manager (754305) ([back to index](#))

## **TOURISM NEWS**

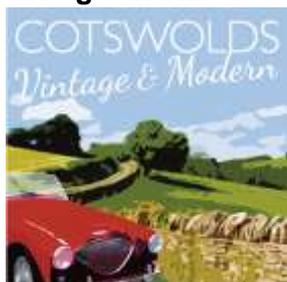
### **Tourism Day in Stroud**

As part of English Tourism Week, Stroud Tourist Information Centre (TIC) organised an event to showcase our local attractions on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March. Stands at The Sub Rooms included Berkeley Castle, Museum in the Park, St Augustines Farm, Rococo Gardens, Cattle Country, Woodchester Mansion, Cotswold Canals, Stroud TIC and The Festival of Nature. There was some fun street theatre, face-painting and the Watson Brothers Guitar Duo performing in the Cafe Bar. Neil Carmichael MP enjoyed, once again, working behind the counter and meeting visitors in the TIC.

### **Did you know Stroud is one of the coolest places in Britain?**

According to The Times, Stroud is one of the top 30 coolest places in Britain with, 'the most obvious signs of cool being culture, coffee bars, gastropubs and independent shops, either on the doorstep or not far away'. Why is Stroud so great? 'Designer Jasper Conran said Stroud is the "Covent Garden of the Cotswolds" thanks to its cute boutiques, art galleries and bookshops. Handy for beautiful countryside — and its farmers' market wins awards. Damien Hirst works here'. Read all about it [here](#).

### **Vintage and Modern Campaign launched** – The new Vintage and Modern campaign was launched at



Ellenborough Park last Thursday afternoon. The press together with vintage cars and ladies in 50's attire made the launch a successful event. A big thank you to all businesses who have taken a Rolls Royce, MG and or mini level in the campaign.

The print and website were launched at the event – copies of the print will be available from Tourist Information Centres in the next couple of weeks. Check out the new website [www.cotswoldsvintagetours.com](http://www.cotswoldsvintagetours.com)

Click on the following link which will enable you to download the printed leaflet and the routes that make up this new campaign - <http://www.cotswoldsvintagetours.com/download-maps.aspx>

There is still time to get involved on the new Vintage & Modern website – Mini Level Entry £30 + VAT, £50 + VAT Non Members.

For more details take a look at the 'mini' level on the following link:

<http://www.cotswolds.com/membership/member-news/articletype/articleview/articleid/1387/vintage-and-modern-cotswolds-campaign>.

If you know any businesses who would like to take part that sit on the routes (particularly accommodation providers, pubs, tea rooms, antique shops and art galleries) please email [tourism@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:tourism@stroud.gov.uk)

### **Promoting Special Offers in the District**

We have launched our google ad words campaign to promote accommodation and attractions offers throughout the spring. If you have any visitors looking for accommodation, let them know about this page [www.visitthecotswolds.org.uk/specialoffers](http://www.visitthecotswolds.org.uk/specialoffers) so they can benefit from the special offers.

### **Twitter**

Follow us [@DiscoverStroud](https://twitter.com/DiscoverStroud) to keep up with the latest news.

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

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

## **IMPROVEMENTS TO THE REPAIRS HOTLINE**

To improve the service we provide our customers, we have introduced a new automated phone system for the Repairs hotline. This means when a customer calls the repairs line they will be presented with 4 options to choose from. The main aim of this new system is to increase call response times and direct customers to the right people first time by “cutting out the middle man”, as we often receive calls regarding existing repairs or contract works (planned maintenance). We have tried to keep it as simple as possible as we all know how frustrating some automated phone systems can be.

The 4 options to choose from are:

- Option 1 - A new repair or gas central heating enquires
- Option 2 - Existing Lovell repairs
- Option 3 - Contract works e.g. new kitchen, bathroom or doors
- Option 4 - Any other enquiries

When a customer presses option 1 or 4 the call will come to us. When a customer presses option 2 the call will be diverted to Lovell's office. When a customer presses option 3 the call will still come to Repairs for now. This may change after we have evaluated how many contract calls we are receiving. If we are receiving a high volume of calls for this option, it may be diverted to the Contracts Team directly in the future.

Contact: [Lucy David](#), Repairs Advisor (754165) ([back to index](#))

## **MITIGATING RISKS**

Tenant Services are taking a proactive step towards mitigating some of the risks both to Stroud District Council and our tenants as a result of forthcoming changes as part of the Welfare Reform Act:

- Mindful of the risk to our tenants in receipt of Housing Benefit we have increased our bad debt provision by 42%
- New roles to mitigate change include a Welfare and Benefits Advice Officer in Tenant Services to co-ordinate issues related to the Welfare Reform Act; two housing officer trainees to increase capacity for Housing Officers dealing with rent collection and room size moves as a result of the under occupancy rules which take effect in April; handy person to facilitate low level repairs and removals of non bulky items to assist in such moves; Tenancy Enforcement Officer who will identify and investigate Right to Buy fraud
- Joint working between Tenant Services and the Benefits Manager to identify cases where Discretionary Housing Payments are appropriate
- Drafting of a financial inclusion strategy with partner agencies including CAB, NHS, Shelter, credit unions
- Credit Unions – early stage dialogue to see if there is any possibility of combining CUs in Gloucestershire into one provider to make the process more efficient and business like
- Budget provision of £65k to assist tenants having to downsize as a result of the under occupancy rules and covering the gas and electrical checks which tenants normally have to pay when moving
- Production of a booklet, accompanying letter outlining implications and options for 897 tenants who were affected by the bedroom tax distributed, numbers of those who have not engaged have dropped to 399 from the 897 and these are to be targeted by Housing Officers included a door knocking campaign in March 2013
- Production of a bespoke DVD funded by Tenant Services and Benefits with the relevant information available from Tenant Services, Revenue and Benefits and Council tax
- Use of the Association of Retained Council Housing (ARCH) booklet, which was created by tenants, available in main reception
- Reducing the rental impact by agreeing to a rent increase of 2.83% instead of the old convergence figure of 3.8% (most landlords are increasing rents by more than Stroud)

Contact: [Kev Topping](#), Tenancy Manager (754163) ([back to index](#))

## **TENANT SERVICES GO OUT AND ABOUT**

The Performance and Resident Involvement Team are exploring options for a Community Vehicle. We want to be able to reach the more rural parts of our district and make contact with those tenants who either cannot or choose not to visit Ebley Mill. In addition we want to create a professional presence at Community Events and provide a welcoming place to consult on service improvements, changes in policy and seek tenants' views.

Tenants, staff and councillors made a joint visit to the Guide and Pals Information Bus to get a better understanding of what is currently being used by other organisations. We were given a guided tour of the bus and discussed the pros, cons and practicalities of driving, parking, storing and maintaining a vehicle of this size and function with staff who had many years experience of use.

The Guide and Pals information bus will soon be re-branded with minimal logos making it more suitable for generic use and more appealing to organisations – like us - to hire. A suggested hire package has been developed and we have committed to a trial period starting this May.

We hope to make this a joint venture and will be speaking with other services within the Council to see whether you would like to get on board – quite literally!

Lots more on this to come....

Contact: [Lucy Biddle](#), Housing Officer (Team 1) (754127) ([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*

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

## **COUNTY ELECTIONS**

Elections will take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> May for the County Council and also for the Cam East district ward by election.

Anyone who is not registered to vote will need to submit an application by 5 pm on the 17<sup>th</sup> April. If you would prefer to vote by post, applications must also be received by this date.

Don't forget to vote, it's your chance to have your say on who runs the important services at the County Council for the next 4 years.

Contact: [Stuart Hook](#), Democracy Development Manager (754380) (Tue, Wed, Thur) ([back to index](#))

## **PLAUDIT FOR AUDIT**

Internal Audit in Stroud is provided as part of the partnership between Stroud District Council and Gloucester City Council, the Gloucestershire Audit and Assurance Partnership (GAAP). In March the City Council held their annual staff awards ceremony at the Cathedral. There were a number of categories, including a new one: "Working hard behind the scenes". This was intended to be an opportunity for credit to be given to those services whose work does not normally gain recognition. There were 22 nominations in this category, more than for any other. GAAP were awarded first prize, and were presented with a certificate recognising this achievement, and a cut-glass award sponsored by Civica (these can be seen in the Audit office!)

Contact: [Mike Nadin](#), Internal Auditor (754122) ([back to index](#))

## **WARDEN NEWS**

### **Rescue**

Neighbourhood Warden Phil Drew went to the aid of an elderly gentleman on Tuesday after having taken a heavy stumble onto the pavement, Gloucester Road, Stonehouse. Phil Drew was driving at the time and once seen the man stumble, managed to park the car up and attend the man. Phil made sure the man was ok and that he did not sustain any injuries. He did tear his trouser leg slightly. The man said he was ok and was a bit embarrassed to say the least. All in all, the man was fine and Phil made sure he was safe and well.

### **Making a Difference**

A young lad aged 8 has got in contact with local neighbourhood warden for Minchinhampton, because he is upset about the amount of littering that is occurring along the lane that he lives in. So he has asked permission if he can put up some strategically placed signs close to the problem areas. These signs have been put together by him without any assistance or input, he just wants to make a difference.

He hopes this will have the aim of reducing litter and protecting wildlife at the same time. The warden for the area will be helping the young lad put these signs up over the course of the next couple of weeks. Keep your eyes peeled for the art work if you are in and around the Chapel Lane area of the village over the next few weeks.

Contact: [Chris Acock](#), Senior Neighbourhood Warden (754514) ([back to index](#))

## **STREET TRADING POLICY**

The Licensing Team is currently consulting on Stroud District Council's Street Trading Policy. The revised policy gives guidance to applicants on how to apply for consents and gives a framework to Officers to ensure a consistent and transparent approach in decision making. It aims to balance the service street traders provide and their contribution to the economy against any adverse impact on the community. You can look at the draft policy on our website;

<http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/licensing/consultations.asp#s=sectioncontent1&p=consultation>

We welcome any comments. Consultation ends on 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Contact: [Rachel Andrew](#), Principal Licensing Officer (754401) ([back to index](#))

## **PARKING CHANGES**

Since 1<sup>st</sup> April, Stroud District Council is no longer responsible for the enforcement of on-street restrictions such as double yellow lines, time restricted bays & residents permit zones within the Stroud District. Since 2007 Stroud District Council has been enforcing both on & off street restrictions under contract with Gloucestershire County Council.

This contract ended on 31<sup>st</sup> March, at which point a private contractor (APCOA parking UK Ltd) is undertaking on-street enforcement in the Stroud District.

Stroud District Council remains responsible for both the enforcement and management of all Council owned car parks across the district. SDC will continue to work in partnership with Gloucestershire County Council to ensure the effective enforcement of on-street restrictions.

All queries relating to on-street restrictions should now be made to Gloucestershire County Council.

Contact: [Ashley Nicholson](#), Senior Community Safety Officer (754522) ([back to index](#))

## **JOINT ENFORCEMENT OPS WITH THE POLICE**

On 22<sup>nd</sup> March, Rob Weaver, Rachel Andrew and Carlos Novoth undertook what is hoped to be the first of many joint enforcement ops with the Police. The three staff who represent Environmental Protection, Licensing and Open Spaces joined a Police 'Street Safe' patrol, a joined up approach to dealing with antisocial behaviour, littering and the licensing of pubs and clubs in and around Stroud. Despite the atrocious weather, the patrol which lasted until the early hours of Saturday morning, was very productive, dealing with 'boy racers' at Stratford Park, littering in Stroud town centre, responding to calls to the Police of noisy neighbours and liaising with pub owners advising them of their responsibility to minimise noise breakout from their premises and provide receptacles for cigarette ends outside. Being able to undertake a joint patrol with the Police meant council staff were able to deal with a range of enforcement issues with the support and back up of having Police officers in attendance. As an aside, the team also found a homeless man sleeping rough and were able to follow this up with the relevant authorities.

The Street Safe patrols will be taking place every Friday and Saturday evening and the plan is for council staff to attend on a regular basis.

Contact: [Robert Weaver](#), Environmental Protection Manager (754489) ([back to index](#))

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

### **DURSLEY POOL NEWS**

#### **Spin Classes**

Spin Classes will be starting at Dursley Sports Centre from 13<sup>th</sup> May. Bookings will be taken from 1<sup>st</sup> May

#### **Class times will be as follows:**

Monday: 8.15pm - 8.45pm (non members)

Tuesday: 5.45pm - 6.30pm (members only)

Wednesday: 7.30pm - 8.15pm (members only)

Thursday: 5.45pm - 6.30pm (non members)

Thursday: 8.15pm - 8.45pm (members only)

Saturday: 9.30am -10.15am (non members)

Sunday: 6pm – 7pm (members)

#### **Inflatable Fun**

Inflatable fun runs each Saturday at Dursley Pool, sessions start at 1.45pm and 2.30pm. Booking is available so that you can guarantee your space.

#### **Summer Intensive NPLQ**

We are now taking bookings for our Summer Intensive NPLQ course. The course starts on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> July and will run until Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July. The exam will take place on Saturday Evening.

The cost of the course is £250.00 and will allow you to work as a lifeguard in any pool.

To request the course information please call 546441 or email [kelly.mackenzie@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:kelly.mackenzie@stroud.gov.uk)

#### **Swimming Lessons**

We currently have some spaces available on our Junior Learn to Swim Programme. For more information please call 546441.

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

## **KAPERS 2013**

The popular scheme for 5 to 12 year olds will be running for five weeks of the summer holidays. The Kapers team aim to provide a safe and inspiring place for children to play and learn. Kapers is packed with fun and exciting activities including:

- Arts and Crafts
- Games and Competitions
- Drama and Music
- Sports and Activities
- Special Workshops
- Themed weeks and much more!

Where We Are:

- 5<sup>th</sup> August – 9<sup>th</sup> August – Maidenhill Sport & Dance Centre, Maidenhill School
- 12<sup>th</sup> August - 16<sup>th</sup> August - Thomas Keble Sports Centre, Thomas Keble School
- 19<sup>th</sup> August – 23<sup>rd</sup> August - Thomas Keble Sports Centre, Thomas Keble School

### **Prices**

• **Main Day** - 10am to 3pm

£11 per day

£50 if you book for the whole week!

• **Extended Day** - 8.30am to 5pm

£16 per day

£72 if you book for the whole week!

Bookings are now being taken: [http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/leisure/kapers\\_home.asp](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/leisure/kapers_home.asp)

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

## WHAT'S ON



### **APRIL EVENTS AT THE SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS**

#### **Talks on Natural Health Treatments 7.30pm to 9.00pm**

Practitioners from Stroud Natural Health Clinic are giving a series of health talks in April, May and June, with more to follow in September.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April *Introduction To The Series Of Talks and Stories of Healing Of Animals And Humans: How Homeopathy Can Help Your Health Problems.* With Peter Adams MA Oxon LCH RSHom, Registered Homeopath and Owner of Stroud Natural Health Clinic. Free tickets from Stroud Tourist Information on 760900

#### Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm **THEATRE – BEST IN THE WORLD**

There is a world that can transport us from the ordinary to the extraordinary, where we are one perfect throw away from greatness, a place where we can all be champions. That world is darts.

Through this noble sport, Alex Elliott asks the unfathomable question: "What does it mean to be best in the world?" Join him on a hilarious, occasionally heroic and heart-warming journey, featuring true stories of success, live darts and celebrations of our own personal triumphs. Motivational bananas included. This uplifting show will renew your faith in life and darts. Who knows? You might be the best audience in the world. "*There can only be one word for it: magic theatre*" Guardian. Finalists for TOTAL THEATRE AWARDS 2012. [www.unfoldingtheatre.co.uk](http://www.unfoldingtheatre.co.uk) £12 (£10 concs)

#### Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm **PEATBOG FAERIES**

Based on the Isle of Skye, the Peatbog Faeries have become one of Scotland's best known names in contemporary folk music. They are one of the few Scottish folk acts to have played the Glastonbury Festival, having appeared three times. The Peatbogs have recorded six studio albums, they made their first live release in April 2009 and their latest CD, "Dust" was released in 2011.

They were nominated for "Best Live Act" at the BBC Radio 2 Folk Awards 2012, having already twice won "Live Act of the Year" at the Scottish Traditional Music Awards. They've taken their own individual brand of Scottish tunes to audiences around the world, from European Festivals, to Asia, Africa, America, Canada and Australia. [www.peatbogfaeries.com](http://www.peatbogfaeries.com) £12 adv £15 door

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April 8pm STROUD SPRING BALL**

Dust off those DJs and ball gowns and dance the night away to enchanting and vibrant music with popular local ballroom dance host Mr Pinstripe. Playing a selection of ballroom, Latin and popular sequence dance tracks. Dress code: Black Tie & Evening Dress £8

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2.30pm YOUR MUSICAL MEMORIES**

Hosted by Trevor T Smith. Relive your musical memories at these monthly afternoon concerts; enjoy those classical pieces that have always lived in your heart, hear songs from musicals and arias from operas that have always been yours to cherish. Trevor presides over a feast of talent from local performers and gifted young artists. The themed community singing which always concludes each concert will lift your spirits and you can chat with friends over a cup of tea and a snack in Mr Twitchett's Coffee House and Bar before the concert. £5

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm FLOSSIE MALAVIALLE**

Flossie Malavialle is a French singer who started getting involved on the folk scene in 2001 while she was on a teachers' exchange in the North East of England. In the last 9 years, her profile has gone from strength to strength, playing at folk clubs and festivals all over the UK and beyond. Her collection of 9 albums is a reminder of how much work and dedication she has put into her music career: From well established folk songs to jazz standards, blues numbers to Edith Piaf and Jacques Brel classics, her wide repertoire always seems to suit every taste. She was chosen by successful folk duo Show of Hands to support their 2009 County Town Autumn Tour and has been acknowledged as an upcoming talent on BBC Radio 2 by Mike Harding, who described her live rendition of Jacques Brel's "Amsterdam" as one of the best versions he had ever heard.

In October 2012, Flossie recorded her 10<sup>th</sup> album, X, with Paul Donnelly to celebrate her 10 years living in the UK. [www.flossie-malavialle.co.uk](http://www.flossie-malavialle.co.uk) Tickets £12 (£10 concs) £14 door (£12 concs)

**Friday 19<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm TAKE FAT**

Mark Growin, Gary Lardo, Howard McDonalds, Jason Chocolate Orange, Blobbie Williams. TAKE FAT is definitely NOT a tribute band. TAKE FAT is an XXL larger-than life musical parody act who perform the "greatest hits" of one of the biggest bands in the World "Take That" combined, with hilarious sketches and character cast comedy. A must see show which is fast, energetic and at times outrageous! [www.takefat.com](http://www.takefat.com) £15 (£12.50 concs)

**Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm JETHRO 2013**

Laughter not only provides a full-scale workout for your muscles, it unleashes a rush of stress-busting endorphins which strengthen your immune system, boost your energy, diminish pain, and protect you from the damaging effects of stress.

Always slightly on the edge, Jethro's fruity Cornish humor is the perfect remedy to cheer everyone into cachinnation. Turning everyday events into farcical stories, embellished into hilarity with his trademark west country dialect. Tales told with such effortless rhythm, timing and charm that it just melts all seriousness into pure laughter. Contains adult humor. Ages 15+. £20 adv £22 door

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 8pm FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE**

In Mr Twitchett's Coffee House and Bar Price: **Free** – donations welcome.

**Friday 26<sup>th</sup> April 8.30pm JIVE DANCE**

A great atmosphere and great dance floor. Dance the night away to top swing and jive music. [www.justjive.com](http://www.justjive.com) £7 (£6 members)

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 8pm HÉLÉLÉ

Hélélé is alive, elevating the crowd through infectious grooves of Afro-beat, funk and Jazz. Band leader Alphonse Daudet Touna developed his skills from a young age and inherited his musicianship from his father and grandfather.

After an inspirational journey from Cameroon, via Italy to the UK, he joined forces with other great musicians and released two albums "Sanglana" and "Mawanda". The music has rhythms from the Bantu Forest of Africa at its roots; Le Balafon (African Xylophone) and the voice create exotic and authentic sounds, which send messages of peace and raise awareness of oppression and inequality in our modern society. [www.myspace.com/helele](http://www.myspace.com/helele) £12 (concs £10) adv £14 (£12 concs) door



### Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April 7.30pm FAKE THACKRAY - the songs of Jake Thackray by John Watterson

During the late 1960s and early 1970s Jake Thackray's satirical, witty, sentimental, hilarious songs brought him fame and extensive television exposure as well as a string of top selling albums. He was a uniquely gifted songwriter that brought comparisons with Flanders and Swann and even the billing of the 'North Country Noel Coward'. Songs such as 'Bantam Cock', 'Sister Josephine' and 'The Blacksmith and the Toffee Maker' illustrated what a true craftsman of the English language he was. Dying tragically in 2002, his legacy of songs continues to delight audiences of all ages today. John Watterson's tribute to Jake is full of the warmth, humour and sincerity that you would expect from a lifelong fan. He is a talented guitarist and vocalist and has that engaging quality that makes you want to listen to his performance. When you wrap these ingredients up in the songs of Jake Thackray the result is a highly entertaining, heartfelt tribute to one of the finest songwriters of the 20th century. £10 (£8 concs)

## **Workshops & Classes**

### Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> April 10am – 4pm WEAVE A WILLOW PIGLET WORKSHOP

"Spend the day weaving your own little willow piglet. Using some simple willow weaving techniques and different coloured willow you will create a delightful creature to take home"

Cost of material payable to tutor on the day £10. £35 (booking essential, call 760900)

### Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April and Friday 17<sup>th</sup> May 10am - 4.30pm

#### **ONE DAY BEGINNERS' PHOTOGRAPHY WORKSHOP With A-Team Photographic**

Have a digital camera? Bemused by all the dials, buttons and menus? Would you like to be able to use your camera with greater confidence and more creativity?

The limited numbers on each course enable a more personalised mix of instruction, discussion and time for questions. We combine this with hands-on picture taking sessions in Stroud town (bring your camera!) followed by reviews of your photographs over a hot coffee! A course booklet accompanies the day and ensures you continue to use your new skills! We look forward to seeing you for a fun and stimulating day of photography! £75 (booking essential) Call Andrew 07946 305 063 or 01452 501043

### Monday 8<sup>th</sup> April 7pm - 9pm 10 weeks CREATIVE WRITING (Improvers) Kevan Manwaring

(no class 6<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> May) How do you turn the raw material of everyday life into writing that leaps from the page? And how do you sustain yourself as a writer? During this informative, supportive and motivational course we'll explore these questions as we examine autobiographical material, and our reasons for writing. Every week there will be a chance to workshop your writing (prose fiction, life-writing, poetry) and receive constructive feedback. By the end of the 10 weeks you'll have a tool-kit of techniques, further resources, and all you need to cultivate the 'write habit' – a writing practice and a professional methodology that will blitz that writer's block for good; plus practical steps to help you get published. Led by writer, storyteller and Open University tutor Kevan Manwaring, author of several books including *Oxfordshire Folk Tales*, *Lost Islands*, & *Turning the Wheel*.

You would have ideally completed the Autumn or Spring term, or have had some previous experience. Bring pen, paper (or laptop). Booking essential. Bring your receipt to the first session.

[www.kevanmanwaring.co.uk](http://www.kevanmanwaring.co.uk) £70 (booking essential)

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10 weeks 1.30 – 3.30pm and 7pm – 9pm **STAINED GLASS CLASS**

(no class 6 & 27 May) This popular class will quickly have you designing, cutting and assembling your own stained glass creation in a friendly and supportive environment. Based on individual needs, designed for both beginners and those with some experience, the course provides an opportunity to work on personal projects and covers a range of traditional and more contemporary methods. You will learn all the basic techniques of pattern preparation, glass cutting, leading, foiling, soldering and finishing and basic decorative processes such as painting and fusing. All tools and equipment are provided and a range of glass and other materials can be bought from Caroline. £75 (booking essential) Call 760900

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> April 10 weeks 10.30am – 12.30pm **FOCUS ON FUSED GLASS**

(no class 6 & 27 May). This 10 week course will focus on the remarkable process of kiln-firing and mould work. We will cover all the basics of fusing, learn how glass behaves when heated and cooled, why some glasses are not compatible with others, kiln preparation and firing schedules, working with accessories such as frits and stringers, the use of enamels and metal inclusions, and slumping into moulds. We will also look at things to avoid and trouble shooting.

This is a practical course that will build your knowledge and skill throughout the term. Each week, after a short over view of some of the key specifics of the subject, you will be able to work on your own projects which will be fired and returned to you by Caroline. All tools and equipment are provided and a range of glass (COE 96) and other compatible materials can be bought from Caroline. No previous experience is necessary but if you have done it before you will be more than welcome. £75 (booking essential). Call 760900

Thursdays 18<sup>th</sup> April 10am - 12 noon **WATERCOLOUR FOR BEGINNERS**

With Rita Dee. 10 weeks (no class 16<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> May) This course is suitable for students who are new to watercolour painting or those who wish to expand their knowledge of basic techniques as a refresher course. Instruction will deal with information on suitable watercolour materials, colour mixing and exercises using different techniques of applying paint. Subjects will include landscape, plants, buildings, natural forms and still-life. £70 (booking essential) Call 760900

***Mondays at The Subscription Rooms***

Yoga for Young Children - 4.15pm– 4.45pm  
Yoga and Relaxation – 5.45pm – 7.15pm  
Womb Yoga – 7.30pm - 9pm

***Tuesdays at The Old Town Hall***

Yoga in Pregnancy – 10.15am – 11.45am

***Wednesdays at The Subscription Rooms***

Learn To Jive with Just Jive – 7.15pm – 10.30pm  
Taiji-Wuxigong – 7.30pm – 9pm

**Café Bar**



“Mr Twitchett’s” Coffee House & Bar is now open from 10am until 5pm Wednesday to Saturday and late when there is an event on. Relax and enjoy a drink before a performance. Come and see us for a coffee, a snack, maybe even a beer, or a glass of wine.

Contact: [Paul McLaughlin](#), General Manager (760991) ([back to index](#))

**Deadline for the May edition – Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> May.**  
Please email [Dave Marshall](#)



The  
MUSEUM  
in the  
PARK  
HOME OF THE STRAUGHAN DISTRICT

## **APRIL EVENTS AT THE MUSEUM IN THE PARK**

Until Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April | **'VINTAGE HANDKERCHIEFS'**

### ***An exhibition of handkerchiefs from the private collection of Marion Mitchell***

This delightful exhibition shows handkerchiefs spanning the decades of the 1920s to the 1960s, all from the private collection of local artist Marion Mitchell. Marion bought her first 'vintage' handkerchief in the late 1960s at Leicester Flea market. She was studying Fashion and Textiles at the local art college and was fascinated by the vibrant colours and patterns of the elegant printed fabric squares. Over the years, she built up a beautiful and eclectic collection, full of vivid and varied colours, motifs and designs which echo the changing fashions of decades past. A feast for the eyes, this exhibition will appeal to anyone interested in fashion and textiles. Admission £2\* (free for children & students)

**\*A fundraiser for the Museum's Walled Garden Project supported by the Museum Friends.**

Marion Mitchell is showing her unique collection for the first time ever in order to support the Walled Garden Project. Admission fees will all go towards enabling a spectacular array of flowers to be grown in the garden of the future. Help raise much-needed funds for this exciting project – pay a visit and invite your friends to come along too!

£2 admission also includes the chance to win a designer vintage handkerchief and other prizes.

Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> April | 10am – 4pm | **'SILK HANDKERCHIEFS'**

Silk Printing Workshop with Jenny Bicat, Studio Seven. Develop a design within a square and print it on silk to make the ultimate luxury – a silk handkerchief. Use cut paper stencils, screens and permanent steam fixed dyes. No experience necessary, this workshop is for adults and students aged 16+.

*Workshop venue: Textile Studio, Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud. Booking necessary – call 01453 763394. £45 (£35 Museum Friends)*

Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> April | 10.30am – 11.30am | **'SPRING STORIES'**

Under fives! Bring your farmyard animals along to a special SPRING storytime here at the Museum. Join storyteller Diana Humphrey from Whisper & Shout Theatre Company for lots of Springy, Springy fun. Wear something yellow if you can! Storytelling event especially for pre-school children and their parents or grandparents. *Booking necessary – call 01453 763394. £3 per child (parents free)*

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> April | 10m – 4pm | **'EMBROIDERED HANDKERCHIEFS'**

Workshop with Anne Rogers, Studio Seven. Join Anne Rogers for a fun workshop exploring creative ideas using simple embroidery stitches and traditional drawn thread techniques. Then design and create your own beautiful embroidered handkerchief for that extra special occasion. Bring your specs! No experience necessary, for adults and students aged 16+. *Booking necessary – call 763394. £40 (£30 Museum Friends)*

Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April | 2pm | **'BEAR'S EARS AND PAINTED LADIES'**

Auricula Afternoon at The Museum in the Park. Join the Museum Friends for a fascinating illustrated talk on the history and fashions of the Auricula over four hundred years in Britain. Guest speakers are Pat and Robin Fisher from the National Auricula and Primula Society, winners of the RHS Gold Medal for displays at Chelsea and Malvern Spring Show and holders of the National Collection of Border Auriculas. After the talk, enjoy tea and cake and watch demonstrations. *Organised by The Friends of Stroud District (Cowle) Museum. Booking necessary – call 763394. £6 (£4 Museum Friends)*

Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> April | 10am – 4pm | **'THE ART OF THE HANDKERCHIEF'**

Print Workshop with Liz Lippiatt, Studio Seven. Join Liz in the purpose-built Textile Studio at Stroud Valleys Artspace and enjoy a day dedicated to the lost art of handkerchief design. Print handkerchiefs inspired by the current exhibition. These could be personalised gifts, with designs ranging from simple monograms to elaborate patterns. Cut simple but stunning stencils and print with permanent dyes. No experience necessary, this workshop is for adults and students aged 16+. *Workshop venue: Textile Studio, Stroud Valleys Artspace, Stroud*

*Booking necessary – call 01453 763394. £45 (£35 Museum Friends)*

Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> April | 9.30am | **SPRING BIRD WALK IN STRATFORD PARK**

Join Museum Staff and Park Supervisor, Mike McCrea, for a walk in search of nesting sites and new arrivals. All welcome, meet outside the Museum. Wear sturdy footwear – some parts of the walk are on uneven ground. Free

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April – Sunday 26<sup>th</sup> May **Stroud International Textiles presents SPRING SELECT**

Stroud International Textiles ('SIT') is flying the flag for great British textiles and craft design. 'Spring Select' exhibitions and events showcase a flavour of the excellence and innovation of 110 UK based designer makers who are driving textiles and contemporary crafts forward nationally and internationally.

[www.stroudinternationaltextiles.org.uk](http://www.stroudinternationaltextiles.org.uk)

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> May | 2pm – 4.30pm | **'PAINTED POMP'**

Afternoon Study Session at The Holbourne Museum. One of the most important groups of Jacobean portraits forms the centrepiece of this exceptional new exhibition at the Holbourne Museum in Bath. Nine sumptuous portraits by William Larkin, together with rare survivals of Jacobean dress and live interpretation reveal the heights of art and fashion 400 years ago. *Organised by The Friends of Stroud District (Cowle) Museum For further details and bookings call Juliet Shipman on 01452 770263. £25*

### **Summer Opening Hours:**

Tuesday to Friday 10am – 5pm Saturday & Sunday & Bank Holidays 11am – 5pm

Closed Good Friday 29 March. Museum admission free - donations welcome

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