

# The NEWS

November, 2013

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## WELCOME

Karen Trickey	Legal Services Manager & Monitoring Officer	21 <sup>st</sup> October
Rebecca Short	Business Support Assistant, Housing Advice	28 <sup>th</sup> October
Elinor Croxall	Business Support Assistant, Housing Advice	20 <sup>th</sup> November
Mark Graham	Public Space Officer	25 <sup>th</sup> November

## FAREWELL

Monica Ali	Business Support Assistant, Revenue & Benefits	11 <sup>th</sup> October
David Jenkins	Civil Enforcement Officer	25 <sup>th</sup> October
Lynne Barkley	Democratic Services & Elections Officer	1 <sup>st</sup> November
Ray Figg	Head of Cultural Services	10 <sup>th</sup> November
Ryan Wood	Recovery Officer	14 <sup>th</sup> November
Louise Dangerfield	Business Support Officer, Elections	15 <sup>th</sup> November

## TRANSFERS/PROMOTIONS

Sam Bedwell has gained promotion to Systems Project Officer in Tenant Services

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

## **CANAL PROJECT LATEST**

**Ebley:** Unfortunately, the Wharf Buttery is now closed indefinitely, Wendy Townsend having decided not to continue with her lease. Browns Boutique opened last week and the unit next to it is likely to become a convenience store. Volunteers have finished restoring the circular spill weir at Bridge House.

**Dudbridge:** Despite poor weather, the public open days here were a fantastic success, with around 1300 people taking the opportunity to walk inside a lock. A new – and popular - feature was a 'finds table' featuring items found in the canal, ranging from a bicycle to a WWII steel helmet.

Work on the upper lock is pretty much complete, with the focus now shifting to the lower lock. The brickwork here has been found to be in a worse condition than expected. This is mainly due to the lock originally having been constructed in stone, with the upper parts later refaced with brick. Unfortunately, the brickwork was not adequately tied back to the stone behind. Work is expected to be completed in early December, to include hanging the gates. The contractor expects to be off site by Christmas.

Volunteers are now installing the gate and ground paddle gear on the upper lock. The gear was designed by Cotswold Canals Trust engineers, and closely follows the appearance of the originals, but incorporating modern safety features. The gear is manufactured by local companies, while the timber jackposts are made at the Trust's Eastern Depot workshop near Cricklade.

The hydro electric turbine has been working well, especially with the recent heavy rain. Unfortunately, this has also caused a couple of problems. Debris being washed down by river flow in the canal blocked both grilles covering the culverts carrying water around the locks. As a result, the bypass channel overtopped into the canal, flooding out the site, depositing tonnes of material in the channel, and causing damage by scouring. Moreover, the automated debris clearance system protecting the turbine has been damaged by material becoming wedged.

**Wallbridge Lower Lock:** After helpful discussions with the Environment Agency, we plan to invite tenders for refurbishment of the lock, to include a fish pass. Doing so will pin down the cost of the fish pass, which may prove to be affordable. If tenders are over budget, we can take a view on whether to continue with the fish pass, or just include some form of provision for eels – which is a statutory requirement. Refurbishment work would take place between May and October next year, once McCarthy & Stone have constructed their retaining wall.

**Cheapside:** As mentioned previously, the silt in the canal was found to be contaminated with hydrocarbons, possibly due to the land above – which slipped into the canal – being previously used as a coal yard. Stringent retesting of the samples, requested by ourselves, has revealed that most of the hydrocarbons are organic, being the result of plant decomposition. Only 1 relatively small location is now showing the more hazardous type. This is extremely optimistic; we are still evaluating the options for clearing a through channel here.

**Bowbridge:** With tenders for a new bridge and the retaining wall above the lock have come in above the available budget, we are looking at ways of reducing the cost. One possible way forward is to install lock gates without balance beams, as this would require much smaller retaining walls. We are currently examining the feasibility of this and beginning design work.

**Volunteers:** The Tuesday group has been erecting Dog Control Zone notices along the towpath, whilst the Thursday group has been laying towpath topping at Capels Mill, Ham Mill and Bagpath Bridge. On 9<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> November, around 100 Waterway Recovery Group volunteers will hold their annual reunion 'Bonfire Bash' at Brimscombe Port. Tasks will include tree clearance at Upper Mills, tidying up at Wallbridge and landscaping at Griffins Mill.

We now have 1487 users following the latest canal news on  @cotswoldcanals

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

## **TOURISM NEWS**

### **More free exposure in the Daily Mail travel supplement**

As a result of the work we have done with the Daily Mail, they gave us another free advert to promote [www.visitthecotswolds.org.uk](http://www.visitthecotswolds.org.uk). This resulted in increased hits to the website. One of the hotels that signed up to the promotion received 16 new bookings from it.

### **Cotswolds Visitor Guide 2014**

Next year's guide is now signed off and at the printers. It will be ready in December to start sending out to visitors planning their holidays for next year. In partnership with the other local authorities in Gloucestershire, we are finalising plans on distribution, marketing and fulfilment.

### **Press coverage**

We had two press trips visit the Stroud District in October; one journalist from Country Homes & Interiors magazine and one from the Irish Senior Times. We have provided a selection of images and hope for some good coverage as a result in the spring.

### **Come and find out what's special about your town in November**

The IN OUR TOWNS campaign, which has been running since the early summer, aims to encourage more people to visit their local towns and enjoy the independent shops, festivals and events.

During November and December, IN OUR TOWNS are inviting local people to see the towns of Dursley, Painswick, Stroud and Wotton under Edge through fresh eyes at a town centre location. This will be your chance to find out about special offers from local businesses and exciting things to see and do.

Please pop along from 10.30 to 11.30am:

Dursley 9<sup>th</sup> November – Market Hall, Long Street Junction

Stroud 16<sup>th</sup> November – Stroud Valleys Project, Threadneedle Street

Painswick 30<sup>th</sup> November – Town Hall, Victoria Street

Wotton 7<sup>th</sup> December – Town Hall, Market Street

### **Twitter and What's On?**

[@DiscoverStroud](https://twitter.com/DiscoverStroud) has 1500 followers. Follow us to keep up to date with what's going on in the district. Keep an eye on [visitthecotswolds.org.uk/whatson](http://visitthecotswolds.org.uk/whatson) for events, exhibitions and music this autumn.

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

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

### **RESIDENTS TRY TEN PIN**

Sheltered Housing tenants recently enjoyed an afternoon of ten pin bowling followed by afternoon tea at Stroud Superbowl to celebrate older people's day. Older people's day is a national initiative that acknowledges the contribution of older people to society, challenges negative attitudes and outdated stereotypes and across the country tenants have been involved in various activities. Our sheltered tenants enjoyed the afternoon and some of the comments we received included 'best afternoon I have had for a long time' and 'thank you, what a great afternoon. We are now going to go as a small group from our scheme on a regular basis'.

Contact: [Michelle Elliott](#), Senior Sheltered Housing Officer (754113) ([back to index](#))

## **HOUSING QUALITY NETWORK ACCREDITATION**

We are pleased to share that we have retained the HQN Co-regulation Accreditation following the annual review (this is a 3 year award gained in 2012). Some of the key highlights of the work done in the last year to achieve this are:

- New involvement structure implemented (Stroud Council Housing Forum and 4 service development groups enabling more tenants to feed into the decision making process and into shaping services)
- Innovative methods being used to engage and consult with tenants: Eco Home, roadshows, new build public consultations, CIH procured to consult on sheltered housing review, pet policy
- Tenant Grant established (see below)
- Tenant Complaints Panel formed
- Almost 2500 tenants and residents engaged with through community development activities in Q1&2
- New Repairs and Void Inspector roles promoted and taster day planned
- Community Bus out and about in the Stroud District
- Tenant Resource Room
- 10x more sheltered tenants involved than this time last year
- Independent elections held to elect sheltered Area Representatives with a 49.2% response
- Regular sheltered scheme meetings implemented
- Regular sheltered newsletter
- Quarterly Sheltered Area Forums implemented
- Scrutiny reports on Responsive Repairs and Energy completed

We are proud of the work that has taken place to ensure that tenants have varied and meaningful opportunities to work with us to shape and improve services and we are looking forward to getting stuck into delivering plans for an even brighter and more empowered future for tenant involvement over the coming year. Corporate Development Plan (CDP) links:

- Widen tenant involvement with a focus on co-regulation arrangements and under-represented groups
- Deliver the Health and Well-Being agenda

Contact: [Kelly Headley](#), Performance and Tenant Involvement Manager (754087) ([back to index](#))

## **TENANT GRANT SCHEME**

A tenant grant of £11,000 has been established, made possible by charitable donations from our contractors. The grant is available to people living in Stroud District Council homes and aims to reduce small financial barriers to getting into, or back into, work. For example, helping with public transport costs to undertake a course; putting on training to build skills to improve employability; providing equipment or clothing to aid the start of expansion of a small business. We have already started to receive applications which a panel of tenants, councillors and staff will review. A leaflet has been sent to every Stroud District Council home; these are also available from the Tenant Involvement and Community Development team as well as from various community offices around the district. We are delighted that we will be able to use this grant to help open doors to work for our tenants. CDP link:

- Deliver the Jobs and Growth agenda

Contact: [Kelly Headley](#), Performance and Tenant Involvement Manager (754087) ([back to index](#))

## **WORLD'S BIGGEST COFFEE MORNING**

The World's Biggest Coffee Morning is Macmillan Cancer Support's biggest fundraising event. People across the UK - and sometimes further afield – are asked to hold a coffee morning, where donations on the day are made to Macmillan. In 2012 115,000 people signed up to coffee mornings, raising a record £15 million.

A series of McMillan Coffee Mornings took place across the East Sheltered Housing schemes. They were very well attended and included lots of cakes to tempt the palette. The three schemes raised over £600 for McMillan. Thank you to the tenants who organised the event on their scheme.

Contact: [Elizabeth Thornhill](#), Senior Sheltered Housing Officer (754169) ([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*

## **EARLY HELP OFFER / FAMILY INFORMATION SERVICE**

Do you, or someone you know, have a concern about a child or young person? The Family Information Service may be able to help you find sources for information, advice or support.

There is no such thing as the perfect family. Every family is unique with its own combination of strengths and challenges. Anyone can get overwhelmed by what seems like endless challenge when it comes to juggling money, school and each other's needs. Sometimes children, young people and their parents are disrupted by an upheaval such as a mental or physical illness, a job loss, or an addiction. Even “happy” events such as a wedding or a new job can bring unexpected problems.

Everyone is different and we all need options from which to choose, that will help us find a solution to challenges as they arise and as early as possible. This solution could be as simple as talking with a worker in a children's centre or school, getting support from a volunteer, a faith worker, a GP or a health visitor or using a self-help checklist.

The Early Help Offer is an approach not a service. It respects everyone's right to access information to help manage their own lives successfully, pointing them in the direction of the right support. Help can then be agreed as soon as concerns start to emerge. The Offer is for all children as issues may arise at any point in a child or young person's life. It includes both universal and targeted /specialist services that can help to reduce or prevent concerns from growing or becoming entrenched.

Gloucestershire Family Information Service provides free, easy-to-access information, online or by phone, for young people and families and it is also used by professionals when supporting families.

- [www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk](http://www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk)
- [Information for families with babies and pre-school children](#) \*
- [Information for families with school age children](#) \*
- [Information for young people](#)Opens new window \*
- [Information for professionals](#)Opens new window\*

\*Please go to <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/early-help-for-families> for the direct links to these pages.

Contact: [Steve Miles](#), Senior Hear By Right Youth Officer (754504) ([back to index](#))

## **HORSE RESCUE**

Last week, the Council's Animal Welfare Service received a request from the local RSPCA Inspector to assist him with a complaint he had received concerning the welfare of a horse. RSPCA Inspectors are not authorised under the Animal Welfare Act 2006 and therefore do not have the power to take animals into possession. SDC's Animal Welfare Officer and Environmental Enforcement Officer are both authorised under the Act so can assist the RSPCA whenever possible. The team inspected the horse that had been abandoned by its owner at a local livery yard. Two of the horse's feet were very infected and it was quickly decided that a vet was needed on site. The vet examined the horse and deemed it to be suffering and certified that it should be taken into the possession of the Animal Welfare Service. Alex Myrie used her authorisation under the Act to remove the horse and pass it into the care of the RSPCA. The horse is now being cared for at the RSPCA's yard, but it is not yet known if she will make a full recovery. The vet, RSPCA and Animal Welfare Service are now working together to investigate whether or not offences have been committed and, if so, to bring the person responsible to justice. We will keep readers updated on the progress of the investigation through The News.

Contact: [Alex Myrie](#), Animal Welfare Officer (754492) ([back to index](#))

## **TOP COP FOLLOWER**

Following a recent Twitter communication, Neighbourhood Warden Phil Drew has secured the latest big named follower of the Neighbourhood Warden Twitter feed - Chief Constable Suzette Davenport. She mentioned on Twitter "Now following, look forward to hearing what you are doing to continue to more peace, less crime & good order". If you would like to follow the activities and good news stories of the Neighbourhood Warden service, follow us at [sdc\\_wardens](#)

Contact: [Phil Drew](#), Neighbourhood Warden (07876 405833) ([back to index](#))

## **ANNUAL YOUTH CONSULTATION EVENT**

The Council recently hosted its annual youth consultation event by welcoming over 30 youth people to Ebley Mill to look at issues around local democracy, the value of informal education, preparing for employment and the Council's budget.

Co-ordinated by the Council's Policy Team and Senior Youth Officer, this year saw members of Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC), students who have undertaken work experience at SDC and our Apprentices take part in the event. Senior and Strategic Officers as well as local Ward Councillors discussed the aforementioned issues that are important to young people, through a series of interactive workshops which were designed to enable young people and adults to talk about the matters that are important to them.

Whilst this vital approach helps us to facilitate SDC's decision-making process in the challenging times ahead, it compliments the ongoing work that Stroud District Youth Council does to ensure young peoples voice is heard all year round. Outcomes from the event will feature as a report and further compliments the Council's annual consultation with district residents and business's.

Comments from young participants at the event, included: *'I enjoyed being able to feel that we can (young people) have a say in what happens in the District'; 'It was good that we were able to discuss a variety of issues with a range of people'; 'The activities were varied and easily delivered their message'; 'I enjoyed the opportunity to hear the opinions of others my age and the members of the Council'.*

Contacts: [Steve Miles](#), Senior Youth Officer (Hear by Right) (754504)  
[Jackie Godwin](#), Policy Officer (754296)  
[Petula Davis](#), Policy Officer (754289) ([back to index](#))

## **DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS WEEK**

Domestic Violence Week Awareness Week is from 25<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> November, with awareness raising events as follows:

- 25<sup>th</sup> stall in the reception area of Ebley Mill from 9am to 12pm with Neighbourhood Warden Carol Novoth and PC Kay Tyler
- 26<sup>th</sup> the same team will be at a local supermarket
- 27<sup>th</sup> stall outside the Subscription Rooms under the portico
- 28<sup>th</sup> stall outside Ebley Mill with information about domestic violence. Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Service (GDAS) will have a stall in Merrywalks Shopping Centre
- 29<sup>th</sup> stall in the Brunel Mall from 9am – 2pm

During the course of the week we will be supplying stickers around the district in private areas such as toilet cubicles so that people who are affected by this domestic violence can in private make a note of the number and seek help. In addition we will be sending out various Twitter messages again raising awareness about domestic violence. This is a serious matter with a high level of violence usually against women occurring throughout the country with a high level of serious consequences, with murder being the ultimate offence. During the course of that week we are hoping there will be a radio interview with the GDAS manager for the Cotswold and Stroud area.

Contact: [Carol Novoth](#), Neighbourhood Warden (754512) ([back to index](#))

## **MUSEUM NEWS**

### **Walled Garden Project - Secret Artist 2013**

As work continues on opening up the Walled Garden hidden behind the Museum, so does fundraising for this exciting project. 'Secret Artist' offers you a chance to acquire an affordable work of art on a postcard, as well as supporting a good cause. Talented local artists and art students from Stroud School of Art are busy creating beautiful works of art for this special weekend exhibition. Rumour has it that there will once again be an eclectic and fascinating display of postcards adorning the walls of Gallery 2, textiles and photography as well as drawings and paintings, perhaps even mosaics and jewellery too.

So how does 'Secret Artist' work exactly? As the name suggests, it's something of a mystery. Art lovers and Museum visitors are invited to help raise much-needed funds for the Garden by coming along on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> November and buying a 'Secret Artist ticket' for £15 before they run out. Each ticket entitles you to one postcard but you won't know which one until you receive it!

### **Meet the Curator – Halloween Special**

As part of our half-term activities, Alexia Clark (Documentation & Collections Officer) has been discovering the more horrible side of the Museum's collections, hunting out the macabre, the grizzly and the just plain strange. Visitors to the session were able to come face to face with a mummified cat – discovered in the walls of Wallbridge Mill and probably placed there to ward off witchcraft in more superstitious times. Also on show were objects used as medical cures in days gone by – an electric shock machine and a lancet for blood letting. The curator also explored the story behind the Mourning Doll on display in the Museum and the Victorian fascination with furs and taxidermy.

### **Stroud in Bloom thanks Museum**

The Museum in the Park has been awarded a certificate from the Stroud in Bloom Committee for their role in the annual competition. Ann Taylor (Learning Programmes Officer) was also awarded the prize of a cut glass rose bowl from the Committee for her work involving children in activities in the park.

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

## **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT NEWS**

### **Craft and Chat Minchinhampton**

Craft and chat, a project which offers the Over 50's a chance to try something new and meet other residents living in their area will be taking place in Minchinhampton during November. The project welcomes all mature residents living in and around the area to come and try something new. The project is flexible and no experience in crafts is required.

When: 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>, 28<sup>th</sup> November

Time: 2-3:30pm

Where: Cecily Court, Minchinhampton, GL6 9DN

Cost: Free!

No need to pre book just turn up at any time during the course of the project. Look out for further details of the Cam Craft and Chat project taking place in early 2014.

### **Park Estate Flats – Community Clear Up**

Last week, the residents of Stonehouse came together to freshen up the communal area of Park Road Flats, Stonehouse. Local residents came together to design memorials to put on to the walls of the communal areas to make the flats more appealing to residents and visitors. Many younger and older residents came to take part in painting and tidying up this well used area. Trees, small animals, leaves and flowers were all designs chosen by and painted on by residents. This project highlighted the great partnership work of Stroud District Council, APT Stonehouse, local residents and Stroud College.

For photos of this project please visit our Facebook Page: search - Stroud District Council Tenants.

### **Junior Wardens Nailsworth**

The Nailsworth Junior Warden project works in partnership with Community Development Nailsworth Youth Club and Stroud District Council's Neighbourhood Warden Service and will be taking place until the end of November 2013, so far local young people have been learning about: first aid, team building, healthy eating, physical activity and a trip to the skill zone where they were educated in road, internet, home and park safety. Over the next couple of weeks the junior wardens will also be learning about cooking on a budget and the role of the police service. For photos of this project please visit our Facebook Page: search - Stroud District Council Tenants.

### **Community Bus**

Stroud District Council's Community Bus is finishing off its tour around the District. Over the course of the last 6 months the community bus has been to various locations across the District including Stroud Town Centre, Cam, Dursley, Nailsworth, Bussage, Wotton Under Edge, Stonehouse and many more! Please see below for the final dates of the community bus and please come and visit us. Community Bus Timetable – November:

Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> 12 - 4pm – Stonehouse Park Estate (Severn Road)

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> 12 - 4pm – Tesco Cam

Contact: [Charlotte Galling](#), Community Development Officer (754304) ([back to index](#))

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

### **ALCOHOL AWARENESS WEEK**

Know The Code - a series of awareness posters have been produced to be launched during Alcohol Awareness Week 18<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> November. Neighbourhood wardens working with the Health & Well-being Co-ordinator and the council's licensing team will visit licensed premises and arrange for these posters to be displayed. There will also be information about alcohol awareness displayed in reception at Ebley Mill for the week.

Contacts: [Hannah Gorf](#), Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator (754177)  
[Dominic Everiss](#), Neighbourhood Warden (754514) ([back to index](#))



## **HEALTH & WELLBEING CO-ORDINATOR**

As the new Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator, I have had the opportunity to go out with two of the Neighbourhood Wardens on their shifts. With little knowledge of what they do prior to taking up my position, it was a real eye-opener into what a great asset we have here at the District Council. I attended a coffee morning in Chalford, where we discussed local issues with older residents and gave them some practical information about community safety. I also went out around Minchinhampton, speaking to local residents and making connections with the Parish Council.

The Neighbourhood Wardens have a level of local knowledge that is helping me in my role and are so embedded in the local communities in which they work, that we can have frank and fruitful conversations with local residents about how we can work with our local communities to make real, positive change. I would like to thank them for letting me 'tag along' and for supporting me in my work.

Contact: [Hannah Gorf](#), Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator (754177) ([back to index](#))

# CORPORATE AFFAIRS

## **PENSION AUTO-ENROLMENT**

Pension auto-enrolment is upon us, effective from 1<sup>st</sup> November. Although this has been a lot of work for the HR team, the impact upon most of our employees should be minimal. Everyone, however, will fall into one of four categories and it is important to understand which one is yours:

- If you are under 22 **or** earn less than £9,440 per annum **or** are over the State Pension Age (currently 67), then **you won't be automatically enrolled** in the Council's pension scheme, but you can still join if you want.
- If you are between 22 and 67 and earn over £9,440 per annum and have **already opted-out** of the Council's pension scheme, then we have delayed your automatic enrolment until March 2018. You can still opt in at any point before then, and will still be able to opt-out at that time if you wish. If you do nothing, **you'll be automatically enrolled in March 2018**.
- If you are already enrolled in the Council's pension scheme, **nothing will change and you don't need to do anything**.
- If you have just joined the Council, you are between 22 and 67 and you earn more than £9,440 per annum, then you have been flagged for automatic enrolment with effect from **1 November 2013**. If you want to stay in the scheme, **you don't need to do anything**. If you want to opt out and do so before **1 February 2013** then any payments you've made up to that time will be refunded to you in full.

If you are unsure what your situation is or want any more information on Pension Auto-enrolment, you should have already received a letter from us with details of where you can get help. If the letter has not answered your questions or you have not received your letter, please call the HR Business Partner responsible for pensions, Robey Jenkins, on Ext 4391.

Please note that the cut-off point of £9,440 is **per post**, so if you hold more than one post and your total salary is more than £9,440, but no single post earns more than this amount, you will not be automatically enrolled.

Contact: [Robey Jenkins](#), HR Business Partner (754391) ([back to index](#))

## **INVESTOR IN PEOPLE IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

The Investor in People Improvement (IIP) Improvement plan can be found here:

(<http://intranet.stroud.gov.uk/keydocuments/index.asp?folder=../Documentation/Corporate%20Info/>).

This is a working document which shows how we will address the areas of development highlighted by the IIP Assessor earlier this year. Corporate Team will drive and support the work in this area.

Contact: [Allison Sharpe](#), Head of Corporate Resources (754272) ([back to index](#))

## **SAFEGUARDING**

A new Safeguarding leaflet has been produced by the SDC Safeguarding Team. All staff should familiarise themselves with the leaflet

([http://intranet.stroud.gov.uk/keydocuments/Documentation/Safeguarding%20people/Safeguarding\\_Leaflet.pdf](http://intranet.stroud.gov.uk/keydocuments/Documentation/Safeguarding%20people/Safeguarding_Leaflet.pdf)) and complete the mandatory Safeguarding DLE (Dynamic Learning Environment) Course on the Hub (<http://stroud.learningpool.com/>).

Contact: [Phil Sullivan](#), Head of Community Safety (754280) ([back to index](#))

# TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

## **GPFA WINNERS**

At the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association (GPFA) Annual General Meeting held last month in Cheltenham, 3 winners emerged from the SDC area.

In the entries for the Small Playground of the Year Competition, Upton St Leonards was announced as the winner, with the Play Park at Kingshill, Dursley runner up. These were from a total entry of seven small playgrounds. The Volunteer of the Year was won by Roger Bassett of Kings Stanley. There were 8 volunteers put forward in this category, and all of those nominated deserved to win it.

There can be only one winner, but the other 7 all received a memento to mark their dedication.

In the GPFA awards, sponsored by The Honourable Company of Gloucestershire, James Hayes from Cam was given financial help for training purposes in his specialist sport of Judo. James, who is 16, has won medals in regional, British and European Championships in recent years, and will be going to Japan next year for elite training. He has the potential to make the British Olympic team.

Contact: [Cllr. John Jones](#), SDC GPFA Representative (01452 740839) ([back to index](#))

# WHAT'S ON



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

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November | 2pm **Talk with Paul Barnett: LYDNEY'S LOST FLEET**  
*Booking necessary – call 01453 763394*

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December **Foyer Exhibition: 'ART IN BOXES'**

Discover new creations by students from Stroud School of Art, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. A miniature exhibition of unusual, innovative and beautiful boxes.

Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November | 2pm – 5pm **'RIVER MAP' Exhibition Viewing & Discussion Event**

'River Map' is an exhibition which results from a collaboration between Artist Collective 'Walking the Land' and associated artists with Stroud Nature, Stroud Community Land Trust, and the Cotswold Conservation Board. The work is in response to over a year walking, drawing, writing and photographing along the River Frome and its tributaries, including the Nailsworth Stream, as well as discussions with local people about the landscape. You are invited to add your ideas of what you value in the local landscape and suggestions for how you might be able to help achieve the kind of change you would like to see. *Booking necessary – call 01453 756064*

***The 'RIVER MAP' exhibition shows in Gallery 1 from 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November***

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> November – Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December **STROUD SCHOOL OF ART TUTOR'S EXHIBITION**

A rare chance to view selected work by professional artists who are also tutors at Stroud School of Art, South Gloucestershire and Stroud College. The work covers a wide variety of approaches, responses and disciplines. Free entry

Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November | 11am – 4pm **SECRET ARTIST 2013**

A fundraiser for the Museum in the Park's Walled Garden Project. As work continues on opening up the Walled Garden hidden behind the Museum, so does fundraising for this exciting project. Do come along and support Secret Artist 2013 and help us raise much-needed funds in a fun way!

Back again this year by popular demand, 'Secret Artist 2013' promises to be another eclectic and beautiful exhibition of postcard art by professional artists and up and coming art students. It offers an unusual opportunity to acquire an affordable work of art and support a good cause at the same time.

The Secret Artist postcards are exhibited anonymously (they are signed 'in secret' by their artists on the reverse of the cards). During the exhibition members of the public can buy Secret Artist tickets (£15 each). Each ticket equals one postcard, but no one will know which until after the exhibition ends and ticket numbers are matched with the corresponding numbers hidden on the back of the postcards. A week after the exhibition, on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> November, buyers are invited to collect their Secret Art and join Museum Friends for tea and cake, or they can have their cards sent to them by post.

Do come along and enjoy the exhibition and take a chance .... we look forward to seeing you! 'Secret Artist' is organised by Museum Friends in collaboration with Stroud School of Art (South Gloucestershire & Stroud College). Supported by Creative Picture Framing, Cirencester. Proceeds go to the Museum Friends' Walled Garden appeal. A small share of proceeds also go towards a new Museum Friends' bursary fund set up to support future Artist Residencies and art student projects at the Museum and Walled Garden.

<http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk/general.asp?pid=24&pgid=3202>

#### Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> November | 10am **WINTER BIRDS WALK IN STRATFORD PARK**

Join Park Supervisor, Mike McCrea, for a walk in search of Winter visitors to the Park. All ages welcome, wrap up warm, wear sturdy footwear and meet outside the Museum. Free

#### Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> November | 2pm – 4pm **THE HISTORY OF THE CHRISTMAS CARD**

Art History Lecture with Dr Frances Wilson-Copp. Delve into the delightful history of the Christmas card! Festive mulled wine and mince pies will be served after the talk, and ticket proceeds will support the Museum and Walled Garden Project. *Booking essential – call 01453 763394. £8 (£6 Museum Friends)*

#### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November & Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December **VINTAGE CHRISTMAS WEEKEND**

Step back in time and discover toys, sweets and memorabilia from the 1930s, make stylish decorations or simply enjoy exploring the Mansion House at your leisure. Prizes for the most glamorous, best dressed 1930s Ladies, Gents and Boys and Girls so come in costume if you can. 11am – 4pm

#### Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November | 11am – 3.30pm **Special Drop in Workshop: WINTER WREATH MAKING**

Make a beautiful wreath for your door or table using seasonal greenery from the Mansion House grounds. £6 per wreath (£5 Museum Friends)

#### Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> December | 3pm **MAK THE SHEEPSTEALER**

'More Fool Me' bring you an early festive feast with this delightful Nativity. Expect medieval mischief and miracles when a rustic rogue and his scheming wife lock horns with three shepherds over a missing lamb and a new born babe. A heart-warming, one hour show for all the family. *Booking essential – call 01453 763394. £6 adults, £4 children*

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



### **NOVEMBER EVENTS AT THE SUBSCRIPTION ROOMS**

#### Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November 8pm **LAUGHING BOY COMEDY CLUB**

Brace yourselves as Laughing Boy Comedy Club returns to The Subs on 7 November! Get ready to eat, drink, watch and laugh in an unforgettable show of giggles and guffaws with the top comics in the business. On the bill for this side splitting show, George Egg a professional stand-up for the last two decades. George has been busy touring his solo show in Germany, Switzerland, Holland, Spain,

Austria, France, Hong Kong and the UK. Recently he's been support for Lee Mack, Mickey Flannagan and Jack Dee. All the way from Canada, Mike Wilmot has built up a reputation as one of the unsung heroes of the UK comedy scene achieving rave reviews throughout the country for his unique stand-up. His TV work includes Rich Hall's Fishing Show/Cattle Drive and Never Mind the Buzzcocks. A veteran of over 2,000 gigs Andrew Robinson has been support act for Sean Lock, Rich Hall and Paddy McGuinness. He is also Comedy legend Jo Brand's regular support act, and has worked with her for the past ten years. Get together with friends, book 10 tickets in advance and get a free drink and reserved table for your party! Make a night of it with a pre-show meal in the Café Bar before the show. £10.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm THEATRE IN MR TWITCHETT'S**

Monthly events in Mr Twitchett's Coffee House and Bar. See short plays, excerpts from new writing and discover what theatre companies in Gloucestershire are in the process of creating! This is an opportunity for theatre companies, writers and actors to put new work and work in progress in front of a live audience! Audiences are invited to pay what they think the show is worth, discuss the work with the performers and other audience members and offer constructive criticism. Fuller details of performances will be advertised online and in the Sub Rooms nearer the time. If you have a play or performance which you would like included in this exciting new series, please email John Bassett at [info@spanielworks.co.uk](mailto:info@spanielworks.co.uk) for further details.

**Friday 8<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm A PORTRAIT OF MATT MONRO**

'A PORTRAIT OF MATT MONRO' is a show that celebrates the music of probably the greatest singer to emerge from the UK. This is a show for anyone who appreciates the music of Matt Monro, who was also known as the 'singer's singer'. All the hits are there. *Born Free, From Russia with Love, Portrait of my Love, Softly, My Kind of Girl* and many more. Backed by superb musicians and fronted by Mike Lee, the show is complemented by rare footage of Matt Monro. £17.50/£15 concs

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 8pm HELLS BELLS**

Hells Bells are one of Europe's leading AC/DC tribute bands, playing sell-out shows all over the UK and Europe. Known for their high-energy performances and relentless touring, Hells Bells are an act not to be missed by fans of the original Australian rockers! £12 adv £14 door

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November 8pm HOWARD MARKS – SCHOLAR, SMUGGLER, PRISONER, SCRIBE**

In 2013 intrepid bon viveur Howard Marks will debut his brand new spoken word show Scholar, Smuggler, Prisoner, Scribe. With trademark honesty and penetrating humour, Howard will look back at four extraordinary and action packed phases of his life. Covering his time as an academic and his nascent interest in marijuana, through his infamous years as the world's most notorious drugs trafficker and his incarceration in Terre Haute, one of the United States' toughest penitentiaries, Howard brings the story up to date with his current career as a bestselling author and national treasure. Enthralling and hilarious in equal measure, you may think you know the Howard Marks story but there are many tales still left to tell. Advance £15 Door £18.

**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> November 7.30pm THE ORCHESTRA OF ST JOHN'S YOUNG PERFORMERS SCHEME**

Programme to include *The Shepherd on the Rock*, Schubert. Piano - Jonathan French. Soprano - Hannah Davey. Clarinet - Anna Hashimoto. £12 (£10 concs)

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 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, 21<sup>st</sup> November 8pm Peter Gill - THE WIT AND MUSIC OF NOEL COWARD**

Pianist and entertainer, Peter Gill presents a tribute to the wit and song-writing skill of that most English of Englishmen, Noel Coward, who said of himself "I am an enormously talented man and there is no point in denying it." Born in 1899, Coward was an actor, writer, composer, director, producer and, in later life, a painter— and he excelled at them all! Peter will remind us of Coward's dazzling wit, performing such gems as *A Bar on The Piccola Marina, Don't Let's Be Beastly To The Germans, Mrs*

Worthington, *There Are Bad Times Just Around The Corner* and *Mad Dogs & Englishmen*. £12 (£10concs) [George Room](#)

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> November **COTSWOLD CANALS TRUST: PROF MARK HORTON – COASTING ALONG**  
Professor Mark Horton of TV's Coast and Time Team Fame is a world leading archaeologist who is involved on major digs throughout the world. He is a Vice President of the Cotswold Canals Trust and will be talking on his experiences throughout his life. All profits will go to the Trust. £8 adv (£7 concs) £10 door (£8 concs)

Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 7pm **World Premiere presented by Vienna Festival Ballet: SNOW WHITE**  
Join Vienna Festival Ballet on a magical journey with their brand new production of Snow White. World premiere choreography propels this timeless fairytale and answers the question, who is the fairest one of all? Based on the traditional Brothers Grimm story, this ballet incorporates all the important elements; an enchanted mirror, a beautiful girl, a shiny red apple and Prince Charming. This spellbinding ballet promises to entertain and dazzle the whole family. An excellent company of talented young dancers. Their energy and enthusiasm is breathtaking." *Ents 24.com* £18 (£14 concs) 12 years and under £12.

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> November 8pm **JAZZ MORLEY**

Dorset girl Jazz Morley possesses a rich, warm, emotive voice capable of the tiniest whisper of love to the full vent of a woman scorned. Jazz participated in the BBC Introducing Musicians' Masterclass at Abbey Road Studios in 2011 and performed at both the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games. She has played at the Isle of Wight, Greenbelt, Wychwood and The Great Escape festivals as well as performing at Breakout, Music Week's monthly showcase for best new label signings and emerging talent. "A storming live presence leaves no excuse to miss the experience of seeing her live." - *Music Week* adv £8 (£7 concs) door £10 (£8 concs) [George Room](#)

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 8.30pm **JIVE DANCE**

With Just Jive. 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)

Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 8.30pm **FRIDAY NIGHT LIVE in Mr Twitchett's Coffee House and Bar**

Monthly live music events in Mr Twitchett's Coffee House and Bar. Keep an eye on the Subscription Rooms website and Facebook pages nearer the dates for more information about the performers. Price: Free – donations welcome

## Workshop

Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 10am - 4pm **FUSED GLASS WORKSHOP with Caroline Lambert**

Layering coloured glass and using a selection of inclusions such as metals, powders, frits and stingers to create stunning and unique results, you will have a chance to make a sun-catcher, coasters, jewellery and Christmas decorations. At the end of the day your creations will be taken away to be fired and returned to the Subscription Rooms for collection. No previous experience is necessary but if you have done it before you are more than welcome. Tools and equipment will be provided. Dependent on the size and number of projects made the cost of materials and firing will be about £20 payable on the day. £35 booking essential

## Exhibitions

until Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10am – 5pm **CRAFT AT THE SUBS**

The second exhibition in the series 'Craft at the Subs', curated and presented by Stroud International Textiles. Two local craft makers, Helen Taylor and Laura Mirjami will display their work in the Tourist Information Centre based in the Subscription Rooms, Stroud. "This is a very exciting collaboration between SIT and the Subscription Rooms. We aim to profile craft and craft makers who live and work in the region in monthly changing exhibitions. And show what an extraordinary range of work there is to enjoy and buy" - Lizzi Walton. Laura Mirjami designs and makes animal paperweights and bears, are commissioned by major stores such as Liberty of London. Laura's ideas develop with the changing seasons and her inspiration comes from the beautiful nature around her and from her homeland

Finland, Exhibiting with Laura is Helen Taylor. Helen sculpts birds and animals out of wool using needle felting. They are exquisite and capture the fine detail of the creatures that inspire her. Pop in to the Tourist Information Centre's new exhibition space and enjoy their work. All work for sale. Presented by Stroud International Textiles (SIT) supporting local creative talent in collaboration with Tourist Info Centre. Closed Sundays.

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 10am – 5pm **LOCAL ARTISTS, AFFORDABLE ART**

A gem of a selling exhibition featuring some of our nationally renowned local artists showing a diverse range of work which should have something to interest all tastes and pockets. Artists: Alison Vickery, Noela Bewry, Christina Bingle, Galina Gardiner and Maggie Shaw.

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November 10am – 5pm **LIGHT REFLECTIONS – Frances Marsh**

'Light Reflections' is a recent collection of vibrant watercolour paintings by Frances Marsh. Having left form behind, this body of work expresses brilliantly her life-long fascination with colour, space and light. Each painting seems to carry a frequency and life-force of its own. ..." *watercolours as never seen before.*" – as defined by *Katherine Bryan-Merrett- founder of ArtsAid.*

## Regular classes and workshops

### *Mondays*

Yoga and Relaxation: 5.45pm – 7.15pm

Womb Yoga: 7.30pm - 9pm

### *Wednesdays*

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 Monday 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 December edition – Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> November. Please email [Dave Marshall](#)