

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

CANAL PROJECT LATEST

Lodgemore Bridge: Work on installing a new bridge is now due to begin here on 26th October. Pedestrians coming from Bath Road will take a short detour through C&G Services back onto the towpath. Vehicles will take a detour across Chestnut Lane Bridge and then use a temporary track laid across C&G's field. Work is expected to take until Christmas.

Wallbridge Lower Lock: Repairs to the failed canal bed have been completed, using a combination of sheet piles and concrete. Temporary repairs are being undertaken on the failed sections of bank, which will allow the water level to be reinstated. In turn, this will allow the fish pass to operate – just in time for the fish spawning season. This gives us the winter period to work up a solution to the slippage problem. First thoughts are to reroute the buried electricity cables away from the canal and then to batter the canal bank at a natural angle. This would result in a narrower towpath for a short distance, but as the public right of way does not follow the towpath at this point, this should not be too much of a problem.

Meanwhile, coping stones have been put back in place, though not fixed, along the towpath side of the chamber. Brickwork repairs are complete on both sides of the chamber. Work on creating the ladder recesses is well underway, though they cannot be completed until the lock chamber can once again be pumped out.

The main problem remains the failed offside wall from the gate recess downstream. Though we have a scheme for shoring this up, we are struggling to find a contractor able and willing to undertake the work.

Bowbridge Bridge: There is still no certainty regarding the replacement bridge or timescale. Gloucestershire County Council is working with its contractor, Amey, on producing a design which will come within budget. As a result, there is also no certainty regarding timescale, although GCC is committed to delivering the new bridge as quickly as possible. This could also mean that the road will be fully or partly closed for the duration of the works, allowing them to proceed more quickly.

Bowbridge Lock: A visiting Newbury Working Party will this weekend be carrying out brickwork repairs on the towpath side wall between the lock and the bridge. The team will also be removing part of the bank above the failed wall on the vets' side. This will permit gradual rebuilding work to begin once scaffolding can be installed. The on site containers will be removed in the near future, which will allow upgrading of the towpath alongside the lock.

Ham Mill Lock: Cotswold Canals Trust volunteers continue to make excellent progress with this lock. The chamber is complete and gated; remaining work is taking place above and below the lock. Above the lock, the old concrete dam is being removed, enabling stone/brickwork to be repaired. The spill weir, which controls the canal's level, has been repaired, thanks to the adjacent landowner allowing access. Below the lock, stop plank grooves are being installed. CCT volunteers are wrestling with the problem of the bridge offside wing wall having failed, with a high bank above it.

Living Waterway Awards: It's fingers crossed! This week, members of the team will be travelling to Westminster for the national Living Waterway Awards. These are the premier awards in the UK for canal restoration. We are shortlisted for an award in the Restoration and Historic Environment category. Winning would stand the Cotswold Canals in good stead for submission of the next funding bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund, which will be submitted by the Cotswold Canals Trust in late November.

We now have 1937 users following the latest canal news on  @cotswoldcanals

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

LITTLECOMBE

At their meeting on 8th September, Planning Committee Members decided to grant permission for the next main phase of SDC's landmark regeneration housing project at Littlecombe, Dursley. This gives the green light for 280 more new homes and the rest of the clear up of this derelict site. This is great news and the final part of the Littlecombe jigsaw. This will continue the business changes and new growth that we have seen in Dursley and Cam.

Contact: [Jill Fallows](#), Property Manager (754433) ([back to index](#))

TOURISM NEWS

Press Coverage

We have received some good coverage recently including an article on Stroud as '[Covent Garden of the Cotswolds](#)' in the North American magazine *British Heritage*, and a forthcoming article about Stroud in October's *Craft Seller* magazine. It was also exciting to see the new BBC Adaptation of *Cider with Rosie* on 27th September (available on iPlayer), which was filmed in and around Miserden and will help capitalise on the growth of TV and film tourism in the district.

Press Trips

We have recently put together a press trip for a journalist and photographer from a popular magazine in Sweden. The article will be focussed on the Cotswold Way. While they explored highlights of the whole length of the trail in just 3 days, we were pleased to include a good few hours stop-off in Dursley with a walk around Stinchcombe Hill, meeting representatives of Dursley Walkers are Welcome and lunch at the Old Spot. The next press trip we are working on is for a high-profile Belgian newspaper and will include a visit to Stroud Farmers' Market on Apple Day this month.

Cotswolds Tourism

Work is underway on the design and development of the new Cotswolds.com website, due to be launched towards the end of the year. We are assisting with writing content to promote this District.

Cotswolds Visitor Guide 2016

Sales have closed to advertisers for the new Visitor Guide. We are assisting with finalising editorial and images for the new guide, which will be launched at the end of this year.

Twitter and What's On?

Don't forget to visit www.visitthecotswolds.org.uk/events to find out what's on. Or follow us at www.twitter.com/DiscoverStroud - over 2700 followers.

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

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

TARGET CLOSE LAND SWAP

More news at Top of Town in Stroud! Asset Management's Bryony Plain-Jones and Julian Kent have just completed the hand-over of keys to new house owners in Target Close. This was a really different project and not run of the mill. Basically we set up a land swap with two private house owners. They got replacement homes and in return we have a site for 6 new affordable homes. Julian and his colleagues have drawn up plans and will start work building the new affordable houses early in 2016. This is all part of the Council's £19m new homes scheme which is delivering homes and real changes to people in the District.

Contact: [Jill Fallows](#), Property Manager (754433) ([back to index](#))

TENANT SATISFACTION SURVEY

A satisfaction survey for tenants in sheltered housing and a selection of general needs tenants is taking place in October and November. This survey will assess tenants' levels of satisfaction with current service delivery. It will also be used to monitor our performance and allow comparison with other housing providers' satisfaction levels.

The postal survey, with an online option, will be carried out by ARP Research, an independent research company, on our behalf. The final report is expected to be ready at the end of December and will be formally presented to the Housing Forum and Housing Committee early next year.

Contact: [Christine Welsh](#), Resident Involvement and Community Development Co-ordinator (754164) ([back to index](#))

SHELTERED HOUSING HAS A BUSY MONTH

The month of September was extremely busy for Sheltered Housing. We have completed an antisocial behaviour roadshow at three schemes and Walkabouts at 29 schemes with tenants. We have also visited every scheme to share the good news that Councillors will be considering the recommendations of the Asset Review carried out by ARK Consultants and we will be embarking on a 10 year programme to invest in the future of Sheltered Housing.

On a lighter note, tenants from 9 of our schemes took part in the Macmillan World's Biggest Coffee Morning and between them raised £1943.89.

We celebrated Older People's Day by offering our tenants a trip to the Electric Cinema at Wotton to watch a showing of the Second best Exotic Marigold Hotel where a good time was had by all

Contact: [Michelle Elliott](#), Sheltered Housing Team Leader (754113) ([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*

EMMA WINS CARBON AWARD



Congratulations to Emma Quest who is the South West Regional winner of the Carbon Action Network Awards 2015. Emma collected her award at the Annual Carbon Action Network Conference in London at which the following was said of Emma's achievements which led to her being given the award.

Emma has achieved a great deal within her energy related roles and been an extremely active member of SW CAN for 12 years. She has successfully provided energy efficiency advice to the community, and always goes above and beyond her private sector role to help those in fuel poverty. Securing funding for gas connections to fuel poor social housing, helping initiate an energy management scheme for SME's and being re-elected as the SW CAN Vice Chair, Emma has been a key figure in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire. She has led on county-wide projects, published an Affordable Warmth strategy and written successful funding bids on behalf of other partners. This year she continues to administer the AW strategy, co-ordinate HECA reports, operate a sub-group on park homes including helping to secure a large sum of funding for a fuel poverty project.

Contact: [Maria Hickman](#), Housing Renewal Manager (754454) ([back to index](#))

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

GOSSINGTON DEPOT

The council has acquired the site of the disused Gossington Truck Stop for a new depot to be operated by UBICO who will be taking over as the council's contractor for waste and recycling collections. A planning application has been submitted and a budget of £2.4 million has been set aside for required works at the former truck stop. If planning permission is granted for the depot then it is expected that work will begin on site in early 2016. Asset Management was instructed by Public Spaces to trawl the market to secure a suitable alternative site in the district – 28 sites were identified but few were considered suitable. Having entered negotiations with a developer for a site in Gloucester that fell through, Asset Management re-commenced its search, identified this site and submitted a bid against other interested parties which was accepted. We then undertook further price negotiations to successfully acquire the 2.4 acre site at a reduced price of £680,000.

Contact: [Charles Hawkeswood](#), Agency Surveyor (754408) ([back to index](#))

ANIMAL TEAM SCOOPS RSPCA AWARDS

Animal Welfare Officers are celebrating after being recognised for their hard work with prestigious annual RSPCA animal welfare awards.

The team maintained its Gold award for the Council's stray dog service and also upgraded from a Bronze to Silver award in the Animal Welfare category of the RSPCA's Community Animal Welfare Footprints scheme (CAWF). These annual awards are designed to recognise good practice within organisations that deal with animal welfare issues. The Council's Community Safety and Tenant Services teams also received Bronze awards for their commitment to Animal Welfare within their own service areas.

The CAWF awards were awarded in recognition of the vital role that SDC's Animal Welfare Officers play in ensuring the health and welfare of the district's animals as well as advising and educating pet owners and the general public. The Council will receive certificates to mark these achievements and will also be able to use the RSPCA Footprints logos on Council publications, e-mails and the website for the next 12 months.

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

ANNUAL ELECTORAL CANVASS

Respond by 9th October to avoid a visit from one of our canvassers! Over 75% of households have responded to their annual canvass form to confirm the residents living at their address that are eligible to vote.

However, there are still 10,000 properties who have not responded to the form who may receive a visit from one of our canvassers delivering final reminders if they have not responded by 9th October. All you need to do is check the details contained on the form and if your details have not changed, confirm via freephone, internet or text message. If you use one of these services there will be no need to return your paper copy. You can update any incorrect information online or by posting the form back to us. You are required by law to register and failure to do so will mean you lose the right to vote in elections and it may affect your credit rating. Every household must return a completed registration form and make sure that every eligible voter at your address appears on this form.

Make sure you don't miss your right to vote at the local elections and Police and Crime Commissioner Election on 5th May, register now!

Contact: [Hannah Emery](#), Principal Elections Officer (754383) ([back to index](#))

REPLACEMENT PAY AND DISPLAY MACHINES

This month will see the installation of replacement pay and display machines in SDC Car Parks. The new machines will be accompanied by updated signage, enhancing the visitor experience.

Parkeon, suppliers of the new machines, will be bringing their demonstrator van to Ebley Mill for a short period on Wednesday 7th October. Anyone that would like to get a preview of the new machines can come and take a look; please book via Mike or Ash.

Contacts: [Michael Towson](#), Facilities Management Officer (754336)
[Ashley Nicholson](#), Senior Community Safety Officer (754522) ([back to index](#))

SDYC ATTEND BYC ANNUAL MEETING

Delegates from Stroud District Youth Council (SDYC) recently attended the British Youth Council (BYC) Annual Meeting in London. SDYC Chair, Charlotte Bignell and SDYC Principal Member for Housing, Lily Clarke have been the youth council's representatives to BYC for two years and presided over a range of policy motions determined by fellow member organisations of the BYC – among the eleven issues debated and voted upon, were: *Protecting the Rights of Girls and Young Women Internationally; Voting Rights for 16 and 17 year olds in the EU Referendum; Teaching First Aid in Schools; University Maintenance Grants; and Mental Health Awareness*. The respective motions that were passed by the delegation of over 150 delegates, will form BYC's manifesto for the year ahead and therefore be used as a basis for influencing changes for young people, both nationally and internationally. Charlotte commented; *"BYC enables local youth councils to network with other groups of young people whilst we take our district views to a national level; it gives us the opportunity to really make a difference on the issues that affect young people - attending this annual event inspires us to continue our work locally"*. Charlotte and Lily were supported by fellow SDYC members, Libby Powell and Ollie Catchpole (Leader and Vice Chair respectively) and Steve Miles (SDC Senior Youth Officer). For more information on the BYC and to check out how the SDYC delegates voted, please visit www.youth.stroud.gov.uk or there Facebook page.

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

MUSEUM NEWS

2015 Rugby World Cup

In the June 2013 edition of ThE-News we mentioned the Museum facilitating a successful partnership project with local University of the Third Age (U3A) members and Stroud Rugby Club. This created a digital archive of the Rugby Club's team photographs which date from 1873 to the present day. Copies of the archive were also given to the Museum. In the August 2015 edition we mentioned a recent grant award which has enabled us to purchase some digital photo frames. We've been able to combine these two activities and in celebration of the 2015 Rugby World Cup the Museum is presenting a digital display of some of the photographs from the Stroud Rugby Club archive. On until 18th October 2015.

Walled Garden Project

The wall between the Museum Reception and the Garden, which for many years, visitors had looked upon imaging what might be beyond, has now gone, giving a brief chance (until it is screened off) to look out into the Garden from the Museum. The construction of the Entranceway is progressing well with the areas nearest the Museum being completed first for practical reasons. In the meantime, schools returning for the new school year are making use of the new Learning Pavilion.

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

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

SPORT DEVELOPMENT NEWS

Kapers Summer Fun 2015

Over 550 children across the district had a fun packed summer holiday with the Stroud District Council's Kapers Summer Playscheme. During the four week scheme, participants took part in a range of creative and challenging activities including performing arts and crafts, alongside sports and games activities including handball, archery, frisbee golf & trampolining.

Feedback was very positive from parents and children alike. When asked what the least favourite part of the scheme was, the most popular answer was "nothing, we are sad that the scheme cannot be longer!" Kapers will be back across the district in summer 2016.

Your Local Healthy Lifestyles Scheme

The Sport & Health Development Team work in partnership with local Health Professionals to provide initiatives that promote and aid a Healthy Lifestyle.

One of the schemes is Exercise on Referral. This involves individuals being referred by their health professional to a highly qualified Exercise Referral Instructor, who will provide a consultation to talk through your health condition(s) and what types of activities you like to do. A suitable 12-week physical activity programme will then be created for you, which could consist of one or more of Gym, Swimming, Walking, Group Exercise classes (where applicable)

Can you be referred? Any individual over the age of 16 who has, or may have the potential to develop, a health condition is eligible for referral. Health conditions can include, but are not limited to; obesity, diabetes, asthma, high blood pressure, stress, depression, cancer, anxiety.

Who can refer you? Your GP, Nurse or Community Health Professionals are all able to refer you to the scheme. There are two methods of referral:

- Your health professional can refer you direct to your chosen centre or
- You can be provided with a completed referral form for you to contact the centre direct

What Centres can you go to? Exercise on referral is available at six centres within the Stroud District:

- Dursley Pool and Sports Centre (01453) 546441
- Fifth Dimension Health and Fitness Club (07922) 873934
- Maidenhill Sports and Dance Centre (07875) 793158 – **NEW**
- Stratford Park Leisure Centre (01453) 766771
- Thomas Keble Sports Centre (07875) 793158 - **NEW**

How much would it cost? One off consultation fee 14. Reduced pay as you go gym session £2. Swimming and Group Exercise Classes £2. For more information about the scheme, please contact Healthy Lifestyles Co-ordinator, Martha Watkins on 07875 793158 or gp.referral@stroud.gcsx.gov.uk

Active Balance Class

If you feel that your balance is not what it used to be then these classes are for you. Specifically designed exercises delivered in a safe and friendly environment focusing on improving your balance, strength and flexibility. (Suitable for adults ages 18 and over).

Thursdays 2pm - 3pm St James Parish Centre, Dursley. £4 per session

Cancer Rehabilitation Class

If you have been diagnosed, are receiving treatment or are in remission from Cancer, then these classes are for you. Low impact exercises in a safe environment, including time for a cuppa and a chat. Wednesdays 11.30am - 12.30pm Dursley Town Hall. £3 per session

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

LOOK OUT FOR YOUR NEIGHBOUR

Keep an eye on your vulnerable neighbours this coming winter. A complaint regarding a blocked drain at the rear of a terraced property in Chalford led to an Environmental Health Officer visiting to find a large number of blue bottle flies in the bathroom window. This was also true in the front windows. The Police were contacted and there was enough evidence to cause concern and the back door was forced open to reveal the body of the elderly female owner that had been in situ for at least 3 – 4 months. This was a very sad case and highlights the increased isolation that the elderly in particular are finding themselves. Keep an eye on your vulnerable neighbours especially now that we are approaching the cold winter months.

Contact: [David Griffith](#), Principal Environmental Health Officer (754483) ([back to index](#))

CORPORATE AFFAIRS

SDC NEWS – THANK YOU

Just a quick note to say thanks to everyone who responded to my email asking if they'd received their [SDC News](#). In case you're interested, 273 of you responded with a 'yes', 'no' or 'not applicable'.

Ninety-three per cent of you, who live in the district, recalled having received the newsletter. With over 50,000 copies of the newsletter sent out your responses provided a valuable sampling check on how well the delivery went – so thanks for your help!

Contact: [Kam Mistry](#), Principal Marketing Officer (754385) ([back to index](#))

Deadline for the November edition – Thursday, 29th October. Please email [Dave Marshall](#)

WHAT'S ON



Museum in the Park
Stroud District (Cowie) Museum Service

MUSEUM EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Museum Artist in Residence: Mariette Voke

Mariette will be our Artist in Residence this Autumn, working on new paintings inspired by The Museum in the Park's collections. Drop in and meet her on Fridays 23 October, 30 October and 6 November.

until Sunday 8 November **DAIL BEHENNAH: Fieldwork - New work in willow and other materials**
FIELDWORK *n. Practical work conducted by a researcher in the natural environment, rather than in a laboratory or office. Oxford Dictionary.*

This exhibition is about journeys: firstly the process of leaving a special place; secondly documenting walks there; and thirdly a creative journey to find new materials and processes. *Touring from Ruthin Craft Centre, Wales* ruthincraftcentre.org.uk. Accompanied by workshops for all ages and learning resources for primary schools. Please contact our Learning Officer for details museum@stroud.gov.uk

10 & 11 October, 10.30am – 4pm **Weekend Masterclass: RESPONSES TO THE NATURE TABLE**
Join artist Dail Behennah for a weekend of creative exploration, using her exhibition and the beautiful Autumn grounds of Stratford Park as starting points of inspiration. Working with wire and foil, participants will be encouraged to work in an intuitive way to make their personal responses to natural objects. Basic metal-working and textile techniques will be employed, without the use of specialised tools or equipment. No prior metal working experience is required. Suitable for adults and for students aged 16+. *To book, and for further details, please contact the Museum.* £120 (£100 MIP Friends / teachers / full-time students)

Saturday 10 October, 3pm **STRATFORD PARK TREE WALK with Paul Rutter from Plantlife**
This fascinating walk will last around two hours and we shall be looking at the wide range of different tree species that grow Stratford Park. This will include how to identify the trees, and how the trees grow and develop during their life. We shall also be looking at the biodiversity role that trees play a key part in, even after they have died. *Price includes a cup of tea or coffee after the walk. Booking necessary.* £3.50 www.plantlife.org.uk

Sunday 18 October, 11am – 4pm (drop in) **BIG DRAW DAY at The Museum in the Park**
Join artists, art students and Museum staff for a day of creative fun and games! This year our theme is 'The Nature Table' and we'll be hunting for Autumn finds in the Park outside, as well as identifying and drawing plants, leaves and seedpods inside. All ages welcome, no artistic talent needed, just come along and join us. Drop in for ten minutes, or bring a packed lunch if you'd like to stay all day. Free. *Presented in collaboration with Stroud School of Art, SGS College*

Saturday 24 October – Sunday 15 November **ANIMAL I-SPY HUNT**
Some mischievous animals have escaped from the woodland outside and are hiding inside the Museum. They are felted and furry and, we think, very small ...can you help us find them all? Fun for all ages, but especially for younger children. *With thanks to 'The Makers' Steffi Stern and Sophie Buckley* www.themakers.co.uk. Free

Sunday 25 October **'APPLES & PUMPKINS' Harvest Celebration Day in Stratford Park**
This is a day of harvest celebrations for all the family, organised in collaboration with Stroud Valleys Project. Come and enjoy apple pressing activities during the day and then a Pumpkin Lantern Trail in the early evening. Bring along a bag of your own apples to press, and your own bottles. For full details see www.stroudvalleysproject.org

Sunday 25 October, 3pm MAGICAL TALES WITH JAMILA GAVIN

Join award-winning author, Jamila Gavin, on a spellbinding journey to faraway lands. Be prepared to encounter the magical and mysterious! A special Stroud Festival storytelling event, for adults as well as for children aged 7+. www.stroudartsfestival.org.uk. £5 adults, £3 children. *Booking necessary.*

Did you know that one of Jamila Gavin's novels was inspired by the 'mourning doll' on display upstairs in the Museum? Why not look out for this haunting object and discover its story next time you visit.

Tuesday 27 – Saturday 31 October, 11am – 3.30pm (drop in) AUTUMN NATURE ART ACTIVITIES

This half term holiday we'll be taking inspiration from Dail Behennah's exquisite artwork on display in the Art Gallery, and the old-fashioned idea of the 'nature table'. Come and join us as we discover the park's Autumn secrets. These special drop in art activities are for everyone – adults and teenagers welcome as well as families with children of all ages. Free, donations welcome

Wednesday 28 October, 2pm – 4pm Meet the Curator: TREASURES FROM THE STORES

Call in this afternoon and take a closer look at our beautiful but deadly mineral collection. All ages welcome, a chance to get really close to previously unseen Museum objects.

Sunday 1 November, 3pm Daylight Theatre presents: 'THE PHARAOH'S SON'

Prince Tutankhamun has vanished. His pet monkey scampers into the mighty Temple of Karnak. But while the priests practice their daily rituals, the echoing halls hide a secret which could rock the entire Kingdom of Egypt. Highly acclaimed Daylight Theatre return with another historical adventure incorporating actors, puppets and audience participation. Show lasts one hour. For children aged 7+, grown-ups welcome too. £6 adults, £4 children. *Booking necessary.*

Admission free, donations welcome. Sign up for 'What's On at The Museum in the Park' email alerts: www.stroud.gov.uk/PLO/alerts_consultation.aspx

Winter opening hours:

Tuesday to Friday 10am – 4pm (closed Mondays). Weekends & Bank Holidays 11am – 4pm
Closed December (open 5 & 6 December only).

www.museuminthepark.org.uk

www.facebook.com/TheMuseumInThePark

www.twitter.com/museuminthepark

Museum admission free, donations appreciated

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

WOODCHESTER MANSION EVENTS

Friday 23rd October Horror Night with film

(to be announced – check our website), hot food, overnight ghost hunt. 8pm to 4am. £65 pp

Saturday 24th October Halloween Party 7.30pm to midnight. Over 18s and Fancy Dress only. £25 pp

Saturday 24th and Sunday 25th October Halloween Open Days for families – Halloween fun in the Mansion's spooky cellars.

Contact: [Sue Brown](#), Events Manager (861541) ([back to index](#))