



# CotswoldNews

Spring 2010

Produced by Cotswold District Council [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)

## Lowest rise for Council tax in 15 years

Residents welcome Cotswold District Council's decision to restrict this year's increase to 2.3%, the lowest since 1994-95

CAREFUL MANAGEMENT OF finances and various cost-cutting initiatives have made it possible to introduce a lower increase than anticipated, matching the small rise recommended at County Council level. Leader of the Council, Councillor Lynden Stowe, has paid tribute to the Council staff who have worked extremely hard to deliver a range of 'back office' savings while maintaining their high standard of customer-facing services. He anticipates more savings in the future thanks to energy saving projects and efficiency programmes which will continue to trim running costs.

**Efficiency savings will continue to trim running costs**

Councillor Stowe commented: "This is great news for everyone in the district. We were determined to keep the Council Tax rise to a minimum and this is proof that it is do-able, even against a backdrop of a severe economic downturn".

The council has also been buoyed by a prestigious nationwide assessment

that has commented on residents' satisfaction with the Cotswolds as a place to live, and the Council's success in maintaining a low Council Tax rate. There has also been praise for the Council's delivery of services to the local community, especially in regard to waste reduction, youth issues and financial management.

The assessment – produced by the Audit Commission – confirmed that the Council is achieving the priorities which are important to the communities it serves, highlighting the large reductions in waste going to landfill in the district, and the continuing good work with young people and children. Overall the Council has been given a rating of 3 out of 4 – 'performs well' – a score which has not been bettered in Gloucestershire.

According to Councillor Stowe: "The comments in the Audit report are very positive. The Councillors and staff do a great job for the community and I am pleased that our efforts have been recognised." **More on Page 2.**

**The big freeze** – Ellie Beere, aged 9, enjoys the thrill of going downhill in the snow near Stow-on-the-Wold in January. For more photos of the Cotswolds in winter **see Pages 8 and 9**



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# Leading the way

Council leader Lynden Stowe reviews progress. "I am constantly asked to comment on how we are performing as a Council, and I was pleased when the Audit Commission gave us a considerable vote of confidence in their December 2009 assessment."

THEY PRAISED THE way we had limited Council Tax, and we are doing even better in 2010-11 with a rise of only 2.3%, or about 6p per week for the average Band D payer, matching the low increase imposed by the County Council. We are keeping down our costs through a range of cost-cutting measures, including work-sharing with West Oxford District Council, energy savings and streamlined office procedures.

**"We are still on course to save a total of £2.3 million over the next five years"**

We are still on course to save a total of £2.3 million over the next five years and, at the same time, achieve a 25% reduction in our carbon dioxide emissions. The Audit Commission also commended our very high recycling rates (62% at the time of the report and still rising.) Thanks to your fantastic cooperation, we are pushing ahead with further improvements, including plans to

trial plastic bottle recycling, which – if successful – should push us to the top of the recycling league in the UK.

The effects of the economic downturn continue to make life very difficult for us all, and future plans for Council spending recognise that there will probably be further cuts in central government funding for some years to come. This comes at a time when our revenues are lower and, reluctantly, we've had to make small increases in parking and leisure charges. Meanwhile, we are continuing to provide considerable help to families and businesses who are trying to make ends meet, advising them of the benefits available to them, providing extra funds to bodies like the Citizens' Advice Bureau, and alerting residents to other sources of support.

On a brighter note, despite the recession we are investing for the future. We have set aside over £600,000 to fund grants to part-finance flood resilience projects and to improve community and village halls, and play facilities. Additionally, in partnership with local people, we have secured funding in excess of £160,000 to create four new play areas for 8-13 year olds over a two-year period. The first opened

at Andoversford last November, and the second was recently unveiled at Lechlade.

We're also continuing to spend an annual £500,000 to help disabled people remain in their own homes, preserving community life and keeping down the costs at County Council and Primary Care Trust level. I must also tell you that we have spent over £350,000 upgrading facilities in gyms at our dual-user sports centres in Bourton, Chipping Campden, Fairford and Tetbury, creating user-friendly venues that are encouraging more people to pursue a healthy lifestyle.

Just like many local traders and residents in the Cotswolds, we are putting up a fight in the face of very harsh economic conditions. Although



Efficiency savings: Councillor Lynden Stowe

we only actually get 10% of the money from your Council Tax bill, we are continuing to provide excellent frontline services while making real savings on our running costs.

## Sign up now to vote

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL is urging residents not to wait until the date of the next election has been announced before they secure their right to vote.

Nigel Adams, Returning Officer, warns: "The time between the election date being made public and the last chance to register to vote can

be a matter of a few days. If you are not on the electoral register, you won't be able to vote."

To register, contact Cotswold District Council on 01285 623002, elections@cotswold.gov.uk or at Trinity Road, Cirencester, Glos, GL7 1PX. Don't delay – do it today.

## Thank-you for your feedback

IN OUR LAST edition, we asked you for your feedback on Cotswold News in exchange for the chance to win one of twenty energy-saving plugs. A huge thank you to those who responded and congratulations to the lucky winners who have now been notified.

We received lots of requests for more local parish news, plus features on sport and health, and more information about Council Tax, finance, and who does what across the County.

All comments have been taken on board and, while we cannot say that everything has been included in this latest edition, we have made many of the changes you asked for. And we want you to keep in touch with us so that we can continue to meet your requirements - if you would like to give us any feedback in response to this latest edition or, indeed, to any communication you receive from the Council, please email press@cotswold.gov.uk. We would love to hear from you.

## What has the council done for us?

Despite the recession, we are still being very proactive and we're proud of our achievements:

- ✓ We've set aside over £500,000 as part funding for flood resilience projects
- ✓ We've maintained an annual £500,000 capital expenditure to help disabled people remain in their own homes.
- ✓ We're investing £100,000 to provide grants for building and capital works at community and village halls, and to enhance play facilities at recreation parks.
- ✓ We're allocating a further £54,000 a year towards developing a 'watertight' policy in our Local development Framework which will ensure our Cotswold heritage is protected while allowing sensible development of homes and business to stimulate the economy.
- ✓ Over two years we've secured over £160,000 funding to develop four new play areas for 8-13 year olds, in partnership with Parish Councils.
- ✓ We're working our way towards No 1 in the green chart with a recycling rate of 62% which is continuing to rise
- ✓ We've spent almost £350,000 upgrading facilities in gyms at our sports centres

# It's the reel deal



WANT TO SEE the latest Hollywood blockbuster and can't face the long journey to a cinema many miles from home? Cotswold District Council is celebrating the seventh anniversary of its Rural Cinema, a scheme which is bringing some of the biggest films to some of the remotest village halls and schools in the district.

According to organisers Alan Powderhill and Robin West, it's a very democratic set-up. They canvass villagers to nominate the films they would like to view, and then schedule showings of the top choices across the Cotswolds. Films change every fortnight.

Councillor David Fowles, Cabinet Member for Customer Services, said: "We have had some great feedback since this scheme started. The films are normally shown within three months of their initial screening date and before rental release. Staging these film shows has helped raise money for commu-

nities and has also drawn them together. There's always a terrific atmosphere and nobody has far to go home. It's probably one of the most popular services we provide."

Mollie and Derek Wise and other volunteers in Bourton have used the film shows to raise hundreds of pounds for local charities. Local Councillor Sheila Jeffery is a big fan and commented: "It's not just the film that makes it such a great occasion - it's the whole experience, including a chance to enjoy a cup of tea and catch up on the village news."

Also, as part of the Rural Cinema scheme, the Corinium Museum in Cirencester shows films on the last Saturday and Sunday of each month in its 72-seater lecture theatre. Isobel Milne at the museum commented: "This was a logical step when the main cinema in the town folded. This venue provides a great base for local people to socialise and meet others with similar interests."

For more information visit [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk) or call Isobel on 01285 623474 or the Museum on 01285 655611.



## It's never too late - learn to swim!

OUR LEISURE CENTRES around the district have recorded an increase in the number of older swimmers who are taking advantage of the government's free swimming offer for the over 60s.

The scheme kicked off in April 2009 to encourage more older citizens to take up physical activity and, according to CDC's Head of Leisure Jamie Nesbit, it has been successful in the Cotswolds: "We've seen a good take up of this offer by older residents at our pools in Cirencester, Bourton and Chipping Campden. Some of them are learning to swim for the first time and this is great to see." Jamie is hoping to encourage younger customers to bring more

non-swimming parents and grandparents to the pools so that they can see what they are missing and, hopefully, sign up for lessons.

He continues: "Once they get through the door, and realise that learning to swim is a fun thing to do, I am sure their initial anxieties will melt away. Those who have already taken the plunge tell me that being able to swim has increased their overall confidence, and some have even formed a whole new group of friends through swimming."

For details of the campaign to attract more older people into the swimming pool, visit [www.culture.gov.uk](http://www.culture.gov.uk)



**Boost for gym:** Tim Small, Chairman of Fairford and Lechlade Business Club, Councillor David Fowles, and Ward Councillor for Fairford, Chris Roberts

## Delight for Fairford fitness fanatics

EXERCISE ENTHUSIASTS IN the Fairford area are flocking to the refurbished gym which opened for business just before Christmas. The refurbishment work, which cost over £200,000, trebled the size of the gym which can now accommodate up to thirty users at any one time. It boasts an impressive array of new equipment including, treadmills, steppers and exercise bikes, as well as built-in audio-visual entertainment.

Councillor David Fowles, the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, commented "We have seen a healthy demand for the new gym and there's still plenty of room for more budding fitness enthusiasts. We also recently upgraded the gyms in the sports centres in Bourton on the Water, Chipping Campden and Tetbury and this has prompted a rise in membership."

For further information on Cotswold District Council's leisure-related activities, please contact the team on 01285 623000.

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# Spyker purchase secures future of Skurrays Saab



The stunning new Saab 9-3 Linear convertible

Local dealership, Skurrays Saab is pleased to confirm that General Motors has announced the sale of Saab to luxury Dutch car maker, Spyker Cars.

Colin Pulman, Saab brand manager of the Skurrays Saab dealership, comments: "This announcement is great news for the Saab brand and for us as a dealership, marking an exciting new era for the company. With a number of new exciting product launches around the corner we are confident 2010 is going to be a great year for Saab. "Here at Skurrays Saab it has been business as usual with the team providing the same high standards as always, and I would like to say a big thank you to both them and our loyal customers for continuing to show their

passion and confidence in the brand. "We are committed to working with our customers to find them the very best vehicle from our great stock of both new and used Saabs and in the current climate, the outstanding savings and offers across the Saab range

**"Now really is the perfect time to buy"**

has made it even more achievable to find customers their ideal car." One model proving particularly popular in Swindon is the iconic, four season, four seater Saab 9-3 1.8t Linear SE Convertible, available from

just £19,995. Built for year-round open top enjoyment, this convertible has been perfectly designed to offer an exhilarating experience on the open road, whatever the weather. Colin continues: "Now really is the perfect time to buy. There are amazing deals to be had across the range so I would like to invite anyone considering changing their car to come down and join us as we embark on a new era for this great brand."

**For more information or to book a test drive go to [www.skurrayssaab.co.uk](http://www.skurrayssaab.co.uk). Skurrays Saab, Langley Road, Hillmead, Swindon, Wiltshire, SN5 5QJ**

Official Government Environmental Test Data. Saab 9-3 Convertible Linear SE 1.8t Man. Fuel consumption mpg (litres/100km): Urban 25.7 (11), Extra-urban 47.9 (5.9) Combined 36.2 (7.8) CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 186g/km.

Model shown and offer price applies to a Saab 9-3 Linear SE Convertible. Manual, normal Man. Rec. OTR price £26,590.00. Price shown is available on selected dealer stocks only, whilst stocks last and cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer except Scrappage Allowance. Scrappage Allowance dependent on meeting full Government Scrappage incentive criteria whilst Government funding applies. Participating dealers only. Offer is available for registrations and orders placed until 31.03.2010, is subject to availability and is available to private individuals and small businesses 1-24 (purchase only). All other sales categories are excluded. UK supplied vehicles only. Prices correct at time of going to print.

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# AROUND THE DISTRICT



Find out what's been going on around the district with a round up of regional highlights.

## BEACON - STOW

THANKS TO A £9,000 grant from the Council's Community Projects Fund, villagers in Oddington have replaced and upgraded the kitchen and toilets at the village hall and have also created a new meeting room and storage facilities. Councillor David Penman said "This grant was money well spent, and the hall and new kitchens now look great.

## BOURTON-ON THE WATER

MAJOR COTSWOLD-BASED companies Matcon and Pulhams Coaches are relocating to the Bourton Business Park after being given the go-ahead to expand by Cotswold District Council in February. The two firms – which offer pharmaceutical and transport services respectively – join current companies John Hackling and Parlane International, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year, on the site.

Councillor Sheila Jeffery said: "I was delighted to support these two expansions, which will enable these companies to continue operating locally and retaining employment within the Cotswolds."

(See also page 11 for news about Bourton Flood Heroes)

## CHURN VALLEY

THE COMMUNITY SHOULD have a new, safe cycle route between Cirencester and Rendcomb by 2012, thanks to the hard work of a dedicated group of residents drawn from Cirencester, Baunton, Bagendon, North Cerney and Rendcomb, working with Councillor Paul Hodgkinson and the County Council. The cycle route will be completed in stages along the River Churn, using existing bridlepaths and footpaths, and will finish at Rendcomb College.



"People have been discussing a safer cycle route for a while and, once I formed the group in 2008, it gave the project some impetus," commented Councillor Paul Hodgkinson.

## CHIPPING CAMPDEN

A £15,000 GRANT from Cotswold District Council's Community Projects Fund, together with National Lottery money, has allowed Chipping Campden Town Council and the town's recreation committee to create a playground for children up to the age of eight. This is part of a larger scheme, which will eventually see play facilities in the town for 8-13 year olds and local teenagers too.

Councillor Sue Jepson said: "I'm very pleased with this new facility, made possible thanks to the Council's grant. I'm sure it will be well used."

## ELKSTONE

THE VILLAGE WILL be hosting the 19th annual 'Cotswold Gardens at Elkstone' Open Day on Sunday June 27th, from 2pm – 6pm. Proceeds will go to charity, and visitors will once again be able to sample the villagers' hospitality as they view local gardens. Highlights will include an informal string quartet recital, bell tower tours at the Norman church, tractor hay rides and cream teas.

Councillor Nick Parsons, Ward Member for Ermin, said: "This event has always been popular and I'm sure many people will come and admire the gardens."

See [www.elkstonevillage.com](http://www.elkstonevillage.com) for more details.

## FAIRFORD

FAIRFORD AND LECHLADE are combining to present a joint Food & Drink Festival. This feast of culinary delights will take place on Sunday 2 May in Lechlade and on Sunday 6 June in Fairford.

After many years of dedicated communitywork, FairfordCouncillor Chris Roberts visited Windsor Castle in November to receive an MBE from the Queen. Councillor Chris Roberts, Ward Member for the town, said: "Receiving the award was an experience I will never forget."

(See also – Flood Heroes on page 11 for details of an award for the Fairford Emergency Action Group)



ANDOVERSFORD

**Above: On top of the world - villagers of all ages enjoy the new play facilities at Andoversford – See Playbuilder feature on Page 6.**  
**Right: A snowy Northleach during the wintry weather. Below: Councillor Paul Hodgkinson meets some of the Churn Valley volunteers.**



TETBURY

THE TETBURY PARTNERSHIP recently held a successful public consultation meeting to determine current local issues. Following this, an update of the town's Action Plan will be prepared.

Working parties are currently engaged on the provision of allotments for the town, modernising and improving the play facilities in the Recreation Ground and the creation of additional parking places. New areas for speed restrictions are also being discussed with County Highways.

Cotswold Councillor and Tetbury Mayor Stephen Hirst said: "The public meeting proved vital to finding out what was needed for Tetbury – this is a very positive step forward for the town."

Finally, the Dolphins Hall is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, and improvements are underway

## LONGBOROUGH

VILLAGERS HAVE RAISED £55,000 through donations, grants and loans to open a not-for-profit community-owned shop specialising in the sale of local produce. About 35 local people work there as volunteers with a paid manager.

## LECHLADE

THE NEW PLAY area at Lechlade was opened in mid-February at an official ceremony. Councillors Sandra Carter and Alex Palmer supported the original planning application and thanked everyone

involved in making it a reality. (see Playbuilder article on Page 6 for more details.)

## SOUTH CERNEY

THE UPPER UP playfield has recently been awarded runner-up status in the 'Playing Field of the Year' competition organised by the Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association. The parish council have received a cheque for £75 and a commemorative plaque for their efforts.

Councillor Clive Bennett, who lives in South Cerney, said: "The parish council should be rightly proud of the Upper Up field – let's hope it can go one better and win the title next year!"

## Housing needs - a quick overview

Last year we sent out 8,000 questionnaires to random homes across the district to assess housing requirements for all types of households and help us develop our housing and development policy. Approximately 2,000 questionnaires were returned.

### Some of the results are listed below:

- The estimated annual need for additional affordable housing units in the Cotswold District is 535. (Affordable housing means properties owned by Housing Associations for rent as well as low-cost home ownership, where you can buy a share of a property, e.g. 50%, while paying rent on the remaining share.)

- 44% of the estimated requirement for new affordable accommodation is for 2 bedroom properties, 25% is for 1 bedroom properties and the remainder is for 3 or 4 bedroom properties.

- About 50% of new housing should be available on the open market and 50% should be affordable housing. By providing a good proportion of new homes for affordable rent or low-cost home ownership, we will meet the high level of need for such housing for local families. For many families, low-cost home ownership will enable them to get a foot on the housing ladder which they could otherwise not afford.

- Levels of housing need are very unevenly distributed across the District with by far the highest levels of need being found in Cirencester.

### What exactly is low-cost home ownership?

Low-cost sale of property is done via a Government-funded scheme, run in this region by South West Homes. It means that any household with an income of £60,000 or less can buy a share of a property (between 25% and 75%) and pay rent on the balance.

## Playbuilder scheme is a definite plus

FAMILIES IN THE Cotswolds are beginning to see the benefits of the national Playbuilder scheme which aims to develop play facilities for young people.

The Council secured £150,000 worth of funding to develop four play areas, and the first one was opened at Andoversford last November. Rebecca Scutt, one of the Andoversford mothers who have been heavily involved in the play project, said: "The project has already seen the village and wider community come together with a single aim, and as a result, the new play area now looks fantastic!"

Another play area at Lechlade was opened in mid-February and two more are scheduled for completion before March 2011 at Bledington and Chipping Campden (see photo of Andoversford opening on page 5)

# Lifeline for vulnerable

Two Cotswold District Council-funded projects are helping to reduce the feeling of isolation experienced by some of the oldest and most vulnerable residents in the south Cotswolds area.

THE CIRENCESTER 'GOOD Neighbours' scheme was established two years ago and has gradually built up a pool of over 50 volunteers who make weekly visits to older residents.

## "These schemes have really made a difference"

Coordinator Ro Lyon arranges induction training for volunteers and matches them with clients. She has also commissioned specialised training sessions to enable visitors to communicate better with the hard of hearing and those with memory problems. 'People For You' is a similar scheme coordinated by Sue Black in Lechlade, Faiford, and Tetbury.

According to Ro: "These schemes have really made a difference to our clients - a visit from a cheery volunteer is often the highlight of the week. In the past we have tended to rely on volunteers who are near or over retirement age, but I am delighted to say that we now have a group of younger helpers too - but we need more men!"

Sue Black says that her goal this year is to offer a Home from Hospital visit as well as working closely with Careshare (Cirencester) in support of carers.

Anyone wishing to help in the Cirencester area should contact Ro on 01285 642566 or email [goodneighbours@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:goodneighbours@tiscali.co.uk) For the area covering Lechlade Fairford and Tetbury please call Sue on 07507 641815.



## Stronger communities

GLOUCESTERSHIRE HOMESSEEKER, a new user-friendly Choice-Based Lettings System which simplifies finding a place to rent, has been going well since its introduction in October 2009. The system, which replaced the housing register "Home View", helps to create and maintain strong communities by giving people greater choice in where they want to live.

Once registered on Gloucestershire Homeseecker, applicants can bid for any advertised property in the district provided they are eligible.

In some cases, preference will be given to applicants with a strong connection to a specific parish (for example because they live or work there, or have close family living there).

The easiest way to use Homeseecker is to go online to [www.gloshomeseecker.co.uk](http://www.gloshomeseecker.co.uk) Additionally, the Housing Advice team at the Council is able to provide support and information, and will make sure that everybody is able to participate in the scheme. The Housing Advice phone number is 01285 623300.

## And the award for excellence goes to....

Builders in the Cotswolds are being urged to submit nominations for this year's Regional Building Excellence Awards. New projects in the Herefordshire, Worcestershire, Wiltshire and Gloucestershire region are all eligible for this year's awards provided they have been inspected by the Local Authority Building Control (LABC).

Last time around one of Cotswold District Council's nominations - Coln Park near Lechlade - won the award

in the Small Housing Development category. Andy Jones, the Council's Principal Building Control Surveyor is hoping for more success this year: "This is a very prestigious event well worth applying for. Last year the LABC received over 33,000 applications for Building Regs across the four counties, so it would be a real feather in anyone's cap to win an excellence award."

Nominations need to be received by 14 April. For further information please contact Andy on 01285 623000.

# Dealing with dementia



The Memory Café: A group in action

THE ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH Trust announced recently that there are over 820,000 people in the UK suffering from dementia, and this figure is estimated to rise to one million by 2025

Cotswold District Council has reacted to these statistics by increasing support to carers looking after those afflicted by dementia. The rural nature of the district means that many sufferers are isolated and are in need of social support, alongside professional input. We shall be jointly funding with NHS Gloucestershire a number of support groups in the district

who can offer advice and arrange focused activities to stimulate mental processes. Bill Wragge,

## Cotswold District Council has reacted to these statistics by increasing the number of carers

Health Policy officer at CDC commented: "We are starting to bring dementia sufferers together to strengthen their

collective powers of recall while boosting confidence. 'Singing for the brain' is one particular activity which will be planned for these new groups. Just being able to get together with other carers and sufferers has increased their feelings of inclusion and being valued."

Last Autumn, Cirencester saw the opening of the Memory Café, a new group at Watermoor Church Hall which is bringing together dementia sufferers on a monthly basis. For dates and details, contact Fran Embleton-Smith at the Churn Project on 01285 644779.

# Better deal for the countryside

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL has given its full support to the Rural Services Network Manifesto, a new campaign that demands a higher share of the public services budget for rural communities.

Commenting on the campaign, Deputy Leader of the Council Carole Topple said: "This Manifesto highlights the stark contrasts that can typify life in many rural communities. On the whole, the Cotswolds is a very prosperous area, but we are not immune to the woes of rural deprivation, both for our young residents and our ever increasing percentage of older people.

"Some households in the district are most definitely on the bottom rung of the ladder when it comes to issues like employment and income levels, poor condition of housing, and lack of central heating. It's also very difficult for many residents to gain easy access to a GP and this is made worse by the dreadful response times of ambulance services in this region, ranked the lowest in the whole South-West. It is high time that the funding gap between urban and rural areas was closed to address some of these concerns."

She continued: "Working alongside other agencies, Cotswold District Council has succeeded in providing rural services to those most in need, and we've done it on a shoestring budget. There is a rural 'premium' attached to nearly everything we do – costs per head are normally higher because we obviously cater



**Backing campaign: Councillor Topple**

for fewer numbers, and we have to cope with other factors like higher transport costs.

"The value which the Cotswolds and other rural communities bring to the British economy, society, and culture should not be underestimated by anyone, and I very much hope that the politicians will sit up and take notice."



**Volunteer: Sarah Harris**

## A day in the life ...

### Sarah Harris, who volunteers at the Corinium Museum on Tuesdays

"I LOOK FORWARD to Tuesday because I never know what's going to turn up. I know that Bruce will be sitting studying his coins but I don't have a specialism so anything can appear on my desk. Once it was a pile of Victorian iron gate hinges and, on another occasion, a child's shoe, probably 17th Century, that had been found behind the stone spiral staircase in a cottage being renovated, maybe put there to ward off evil spirits.

I help out by entering objects in the Museum's collection onto the data base, which then enables people to access the collection from anywhere in the world via the website. There are lots of volunteers doing different work around the museum, all of us absorbed and interested and made to feel more important than we probably are by the excellent Museum Staff. I like Tuesdays!"



# WESTONBIRT

THE NATIONAL ARBORETUM



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PLANTS PEOPLE  
POSSIBILITIES



Piceabrewerians © Richard Loader

# THE BIG FREEZE

## Wonderland or wasteland?

The heavy snow across the region this winter was a blessing and a curse depending on one's circumstances. Many people enjoyed the unexpected break from routine, making snowmen and hurtling down slides and sleigh runs at breakneck speed. Others were less enamoured, especially when roads turned to dangerous ice and slush, preventing access to their workplaces, shops and many other amenities.

Cotswold District Council remained open and managed to provide most frontline services; our Parking Enforcement Officers even found time to help deliver shopping to housebound elderly residents in Cirencester and we retrieved a dog from the snow and reunited him with his owner.

But the hazardous conditions posed considerable problems for Sita, our refuse and recycling contractor, who were unable to maintain regular collections in some parts of the district until the weather eased, and we are reviewing our arrangements to see if we can make improvements which might lessen any disruptions in future.



**Above:** Georgia Daniells, Alicia Chown, Henry Foster, Matt Daniells, Dominic Daniells and Imogen Chown having fun in the snow at Blockley

**Right:** Snow Day! Claire Fisher and Sophia Bayliss enjoy winter sports near Stow

**Left:** Harry Palmer and Anna Clegg are poised for sledging action in Moreton-in-Marsh





**Above:** Alexander Benfield finds a new use for the amphitheatre at Cirencester

**Top Right:** Fun with family and friends in Stow – a large group poses for the camera

**Right:** Stow -on-the-Slush

**Below:** David Bohem clears snow in Lower Slaughter



**Below:** Ellie Beere enjoys the snow near Stow-on-the-Wold



## Who grits the roads and clears the pathways?

There was some confusion about these issues during the big freeze so let's try and clarify it. Gloucestershire County Council and the Highways Authority are responsible for the gritting of all roads in the county. For pathways, all homeowners, businesses and authorities owe a duty of care to ensure their property is reasonably safe for visitors wishing to gain access.

The government has issued clear guidance indicating they wouldn't expect anyone clearing a path to be liable for injury claims provided their work is undertaken in a reasonable manner. In other words, if someone walks up your garden path and it is slippery, you must take reasonable steps to clear it and grit it if necessary.

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT 1992

# NOTICE OF COUNCIL TAX

## Changes to your council tax

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL collects Council Tax on behalf of Gloucestershire County Council, the Police Authority, and the Town and Parish Councils across the district. Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 38 of the above Act, that at a meeting held on 25th February 2010, the Council duly set the amounts of council tax for its district under Section 30 of the Act, for the period commencing 1st April 2010 as specified below.

**Note:** From April 2010, all council tax and non-domestic rate (business rates) payments will be due on 3rd of each month. Please also be aware

that the Council will now levy a charge of 1.3% for any payment made by credit card. However, there will be no charge for transactions using debit cards, cash or cheque.

Also, don't forget that people in work who are on a low income can claim tax credits from Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC). Contact: [www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/taxcredits), Tel: 0845 300 3900. Alternatively, log on to [www.direct.gov.uk](http://www.direct.gov.uk) and click on Money, Tax and Benefits. You can also contact the Council's Benefits Service on [benefits@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@cotswold.gov.uk) Tel: 01285 623035 or 623036, or visit [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk) and access the online Benefits calculator.

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	£ P	£ P	£ P	£ P	£ P	£ P	£ P	£ P
ADLESTROP	959.38	1119.28	1,279.17	1,439.07	1,758.86	2,078.66	2,398.45	2,878.14
ALDSWORTH	961.32	1,121.54	1,281.76	1,441.98	1,762.42	2,082.86	2,403.30	2,883.96
AMPNEY CRUCIS	970.76	1,132.56	1,294.34	1,456.14	1,779.72	2,103.32	2,426.90	2,912.28
AMPNEY ST MARY	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
AMPNEY ST PETER	974.29	1,136.68	1,299.05	1,461.44	1,786.20	2,110.97	2,435.73	2,922.88
ANDOVERSFORD	967.48	1,128.73	1,289.97	1,451.22	1,773.71	2,096.21	2,418.70	2,902.44
ASHLEY	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
ASTON SUBEDGE	961.71	1,121.99	1,282.27	1,442.56	1,763.13	2,083.70	2,404.27	2,885.12
AVENING	989.98	1,154.98	1,319.97	1,484.97	1,814.96	2,144.96	2,474.95	2,969.94
BAGENDON	960.51	1,120.60	1,280.68	1,440.77	1,760.94	2,081.12	2,401.28	2,881.54
BARNSELY	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
BARRINGTON	964.27	1,124.99	1,285.69	1,446.41	1,767.83	2,089.26	2,410.68	2,892.82
BATSFORD	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
BAUNTON	959.56	1,119.49	1,279.41	1,439.34	1,759.19	2,079.05	2,398.90	2,878.68
BEVERSTON	969.17	1,130.70	1,292.22	1,453.75	1,776.80	2,099.86	2,422.92	2,907.50
BIBURY	964.77	1,125.57	1,286.36	1,447.16	1,768.75	2,090.35	2,411.93	2,894.32
BLEDINGTON	977.77	1,140.74	1,303.69	1,466.66	1,792.58	2,118.51	2,444.43	2,933.32
BLOCKLEY	987.71	1,152.33	1,316.94	1,481.56	1,810.79	2,140.03	2,469.27	2,963.12
BOURTON ON THE HILL	971.35	1,133.24	1,295.13	1,457.02	1,780.80	2,104.59	2,428.37	2,914.04
BOURTON-ON-THE-WATER	983.37	1,147.27	1,311.16	1,475.06	1,802.85	2,130.65	2,485.43	2,950.12
BOXWELL WITH LEIGHTERTON	960.65	1,120.77	1,280.87	1,440.98	1,761.19	2,081.42	2,401.63	2,881.96
BRIMPSFIELD	969.11	1,130.64	1,292.15	1,453.67	1,776.70	2,099.75	2,422.78	2,907.34
BROADWELL	972.43	1,134.51	1,296.57	1,458.65	1,782.79	2,106.94	2,431.08	2,917.30
CHEDWORTH	963.57	1,124.16	1,284.75	1,445.35	1,766.54	2,087.73	2,408.92	2,890.70
CHERINGTON	966.15	1,127.17	1,288.19	1,449.22	1,771.27	2,093.32	2,415.37	2,898.44
CHIPPING CAMPDEN	997.81	1,164.12	1,330.41	1,496.72	1,829.32	2,161.93	2,494.53	2,993.44
CIRENCESTER	1,020.44	1,190.52	1,360.58	1,530.66	1,870.80	2,210.96	2,551.10	3,061.32
CLAPTON ON THE HILL	958.31	1,118.03	1,277.74	1,437.46	1,756.89	2,076.33	2,395.77	2,874.92
COATES	974.86	1,137.34	1,299.81	1,462.29	1,787.24	2,112.20	2,437.15	2,924.58
COBERLEY	970.31	1,132.04	1,293.75	1,455.47	1,778.90	2,102.35	2,425.78	2,910.94
COLD ASTON	980.39	1,143.80	1,307.19	1,470.59	1,797.38	2,124.19	2,450.98	2,941.18
COLESBOURNE	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
COLN ST ALDWYNS	982.15	1,145.85	1,309.53	1,473.23	1,800.61	2,128.00	2,455.38	2,946.46
COLN ST DENNIS	960.98	1,121.15	1,281.30	1,441.47	1,761.79	2,082.13	2,402.45	2,882.94
COMPTON ABDALE	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
CONDICOTE	962.95	1,123.44	1,283.93	1,444.42	1,765.40	2,086.39	2,407.37	2,888.84
COWLEY	973.88	1,136.20	1,298.50	1,460.82	1,785.44	2,110.08	2,434.70	2,921.64
CUTSDEAN	975.05	1,137.57	1,300.07	1,462.58	1,787.59	2,112.62	2,437.63	2,925.16
DAGLINGWORTH	975.95	1,138.62	1,301.27	1,463.93	1,789.24	2,114.57	2,439.88	2,927.86
DIDMARTON	974.39	1,136.79	1,299.18	1,461.58	1,786.37	2,111.17	2,435.97	2,923.16
DONNINGTON	960.51	1,120.60	1,280.68	1,440.77	1,760.94	2,081.12	2,401.28	2,881.54
DOWDESWELL	964.07	1,124.76	1,285.43	1,446.11	1,767.46	2,088.83	2,410.18	2,892.22
DOWN AMPNEY	987.75	1,152.37	1,316.99	1,481.62	1,810.87	2,140.12	2,469.37	2,963.24
DRIFFIELD	977.50	1,140.42	1,303.33	1,466.25	1,792.08	2,117.92	2,443.75	2,932.50
THE DUNTISBOURNES	960.39	1,120.46	1,280.52	1,440.59	1,760.72	2,080.86	2,400.98	2,881.18
EASTLEACH	977.71	1,140.67	1,303.61	1,466.57	1,792.47	2,118.38	2,444.28	2,933.14
EBRINGTON	964.50	1,125.25	1,286.00	1,446.75	1,768.25	2,089.75	2,411.25	2,893.50
EDGEWORTH	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14

PARISH	BAND A	BAND B	BAND C	BAND D	BAND E	BAND F	BAND G	BAND H
	£ P	£ P	£ P	£ P	£ P	£ P	£ P	£ P
ELKSTONE	969.43	1,131.01	1,292.57	1,454.15	1,777.29	2,100.44	2,423.58	2,908.30
EVENLODE	967.19	1,128.39	1,289.58	1,450.78	1,773.17	2,095.57	2,417.97	2,901.56
FAIRFORD	1,006.95	1,174.78	1,342.60	1,510.43	1,846.08	2,181.74	2,517.38	3,020.86
FARMINGTON	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
GREAT RISSINGTON	966.71	1,127.83	1,288.94	1,450.06	1,772.29	2,094.53	2,416.77	2,900.12
GUITING POWER	968.89	1,130.38	1,291.85	1,453.34	1,776.30	2,099.27	2,422.23	2,906.68
HAMPNETT	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
HATHEROP	967.29	1,128.51	1,289.72	1,450.94	1,773.37	2,095.81	2,418.23	2,901.88
HAZLETON	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
ICOMB	971.04	1,132.88	1,294.72	1,456.56	1,780.24	2,103.92	2,427.60	2,913.12
KEMBLE	982.43	1,146.17	1,309.90	1,473.64	1,801.11	2,128.59	2,456.07	2,947.28
KEMPSFORD	980.87	1,144.36	1,307.83	1,471.31	1,798.26	2,125.23	2,452.18	2,942.62
KINGSCOTE	969.14	1,130.67	1,292.18	1,453.71	1,776.75	2,099.81	2,422.85	2,907.42
LECHLADE	999.59	1,166.20	1,332.79	1,499.39	1,832.58	2,165.79	2,498.98	2,998.78
LITTLE RISSINGTON	965.49	1,126.40	1,287.31	1,448.23	1,770.06	2,091.89	2,413.72	2,896.46
LONGBOROUGH	978.17	1,141.21	1,304.23	1,467.26	1,793.31	2,119.38	2,445.43	2,934.52
LONG NEWNTON	965.53	1,126.45	1,287.37	1,448.29	1,770.13	2,091.98	2,413.82	2,896.58
LOWER SLAUGHTER	986.02	1,150.36	1,314.69	1,479.03	1,807.70	2,136.38	2,465.05	2,958.06
MAUGERSBURY	976.51	1,139.27	1,302.01	1,464.77	1,790.27	2,115.78	2,441.28	2,929.54
MEYSEY HAMPTON	979.16	1,142.36	1,305.54	1,468.74	1,795.12	2,121.52	2,447.90	2,937.48
MICKLETON	970.74	1,132.53	1,294.32	1,456.11	1,779.69	2,103.27	2,426.85	2,912.22
MORETON-IN-MARSH	980.10	1,143.45	1,306.80	1,470.15	1,796.85	2,123.55	2,450.25	2,940.30
NAUNTON	969.27	1,130.81	1,292.35	1,453.90	1,776.99	2,100.08	2,423.17	2,907.80
NORTH CERNEY	963.13	1,123.65	1,284.17	1,444.69	1,765.73	2,086.78	2,407.82	2,889.38
NORTHLEACH WITH EASTINGTON	1,000.91	1,167.74	1,334.55	1,501.37	1,835.00	2,168.65	2,502.28	3,002.74
NOTGROVE	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
ODDINGTON	974.21	1,136.59	1,298.95	1,461.32	1,786.05	2,110.80	2,435.53	2,922.64
OZLEWORTH	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
POOLE KEYNES	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
POULTON	976.45	1,139.19	1,301.93	1,464.67	1,790.15	2,115.64	2,441.12	2,929.34
PRESTON	1,010.96	1,179.46	1,347.94	1,516.44	1,853.42	2,190.42	2,527.40	3,032.88
QUENINGTON	982.38	1,146.11	1,309.84	1,473.57	1,801.03	2,128.49	2,455.95	2,947.14
RENDCOMB	981.63	1,145.24	1,308.84	1,472.45	1,799.66	2,126.88	2,454.08	2,944.90
RODMARTON	971.75	1,133.72	1,295.67	1,457.63	1,781.54	2,105.47	2,429.38	2,915.26
SAINTBURY	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
SAPPERTON	988.39	1,153.13	1,317.85	1,482.59	1,812.05	2,141.52	2,470.98	2,965.18
SEVENHAMPTON	972.45	1,134.53	1,296.60	1,458.68	1,782.83	2,106.99	2,431.13	2,917.36
SEZINCOTE	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
SHERBORNE	964.16	1,124.86	1,285.54	1,446.24	1,767.62	2,089.02	2,410.40	2,892.48
SHIPTON	973.08	1,135.26	1,297.44	1,459.62	1,783.98	2,108.34	2,432.70	2,919.24
SHIPTON MOYNE	970.79	1,132.59	1,294.38	1,456.18	1,779.77	2,103.37	2,426.97	2,912.36
SIDDINGTON	974.98	1,137.48	1,299.97	1,462.47	1,787.46	2,112.46	2,437.45	2,924.94
SOMERFORD KEYNES	959.73	1,119.68	1,279.63	1,439.59	1,759.50	2,079.41	2,399.32	2,879.18
SOUTH CERNEY	987.51	1,152.10	1,316.68	1,481.27	1,810.44	2,139.62	2,468.78	2,962.54
SOUTHROP	976.53	1,139.28	1,302.03	1,464.79	1,790.30	2,115.81	2,441.32	2,929.58
STOW-ON-THE-WOLD	1,025.71	1,196.66	1,367.61	1,538.56	1,880.46	2,222.37	2,564.27	3,077.12
SWELL	969.21	1,130.75	1,292.28	1,453.82	1,776.89	2,099.97	2,423.03	2,907.64
SYDE	956.38	1,115.78	1,275.17	1,434.57	1,753.36	2,072.16	2,390.95	2,869.14
TEMPLE GUITING	967.91	1,129.24	1,290.55	1,451.87	1,774.50			

# Flood heroes honoured

A TEAM FROM Bourton Parish Council has received a top award from the Environment Agency recognising their heroic efforts to reduce flood risk.

They were praised for their proactive and enthusiastic approach, bringing together the Agency, Cotswold District Council, and the County Council to carry out a flood alleviation scheme and playing a big part in securing over £250,000 worth of funding. They

**We were delighted to hear of the success of these two communities who both fully deserve this recognition**

also encouraged local residents to form a volunteer working party to help with ditch clearance and other flood-related tasks.

There was also a runners-up prize for the Fairford Emergency Action Group in the Best Community Resilience category. The group was formed in the wake of the 2007 floods and now boasts over thirty

volunteers who have prepared and implemented an emergency action plan under the guidance of Cotswold District Council. The group has cleared drainage ditches, established a 'command unit' to direct work, and has set up four critical action teams to provide a range of support including communications and welfare services. They also attracted £10,000 worth of funding from Cotswold District Council for essential items such as sandbags, bedding, a dinghy and communications equipment.

Commenting on the awards, Councillor Barry Gibbs, the Cotswold District Council Cabinet Member with responsibility for flooding said: "We were delighted to hear of the success of these two communities who both fully deserve this recognition. As with many communities in the District, so much work has been put in by these resilience groups in clearing ditches, drains and culverts. It was noticeable during the heavy rains in November that many water courses were flowing significantly more freely than for many years in the past and this is due to the dedicated effort achieved by the partnership working between communities and authorities."



**Heroes line up by the river:** Back row: Mark Heelis, Councillor Barry Gibbs, Howard Crook, Brian Harden, Bryan Sumner. Front row: Bernie Roberts, David Prout, Tim Faulkner, Sue Cretney

## Keeping the Marsh out of Moreton

STAFF AT COTSWOLD District Council's Moreton Area Centre swung into action in January to help contain a severe flash flood in the town. Alarm bells started ringing when water levels rose rapidly in the High Street, endangering homes and businesses.

As local residents and Town Council officials were battling valiantly to deal with the overflow, staff at the centre quickly alerted Police, the Highways Agency and Thames Water and then escalated the problem when workers from the water company could not stem the flow. The upshot was that Police closed the road to motorists for a few hours and Thames Water were persuaded to open drains to alleviate the flooding.

A few days later, the Council engaged specialist contractors to examine a blocked drainage ditch which was identified as the major contributor to the flooding. The experts quickly detected that the lid on a culvert had broken, causing concrete to fall into the ditch which also contained a considerable quantity of debris. Once they had removed these obstacles, the ditch was flowing freely again.

The Council's Head of Environmental Services, Claire Locke, praised the efforts of the Moreton staff and locals and added: "I am grateful to everyone for pulling together and ensuring the town

didn't suffer a real disaster. It is unfortunate that the lid broke on the culvert, but fly tipping also contributed to this problem. We are working with Moreton Town Council to erect new signs making it clear that fly tipping is illegal and anyone caught doing this will be hit with a hefty fine."



**Drainage issue:** Contractors unblock culvert

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# HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT

## 10:10

## Let's go green together!

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL has signed up to 10:10, a national drive to reduce the country's carbon footprint and make some big savings on running costs. The nationwide campaign is a project that urges every section of society to make a 10% cut in their carbon emissions during 2010.

### 10% cut in their carbon emissions during 2010

We are one of only two local authorities in the county who have made this pledge; we are confident we will achieve our target through a range of energy saving projects such as improving building emissions and modifying our transport fleet, plus a few common sense improvements to office practices such as printing on both sides of A4 paper. We're getting to like this greener way of working, and our Carbon Management and Climate Change officer Kirsty Merritt is keen to share our experiences with residents and local businesses so that they can reap the benefits too.

You can call Kirsty on 01285 623434, or you may wish to view details of the campaign on [www.1010uk.org](http://www.1010uk.org).



## Sustainable sarnies

Jane Lloyd of South Cerney extols the green virtues of sandwich wraps

"I TAKE A packed lunch to work every day and was conscious of the waste I was generating. I saw a reusable sandwich wrap promotion in a magazine and ordered one for myself and my partner via one of the Internet sites that markets them. The wrap consists of a square of cotton fabric which

is backed with a layer of clear plastic. You simply place the sandwich in the centre and close it with an attached Velcro fastening.

The sandwich is kept securely together and fresh and when you open the wrap it acts as a napkin or place mat. Wraps can be easily cleaned with a wipe from a damp

cloth and they are machine washable too. I paid about £4 for each sandwich wrap two years ago.

We have used them constantly and they still look as good as new. I estimate we have saved approximately 500 plastic sandwich bags from landfill."

## COMPETITION

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Email your entries to [press@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:press@cotswold.gov.uk) or post your response to Communications Team, Cotswold District Council, Trinity Road, Cirencester, GL71PX. For more details about 'The Wrapper' see [www.re-wrap-it.co.uk](http://www.re-wrap-it.co.uk)

## Did you know?

FROM 28 MARCH all County Council household recycling centres will open every day at 9am and close at 6.15pm at all times of the year. This includes the site at Fosse Cross, Calmsden near Cirencester. According to Gloucestershire County Council, the new hours will improve customer service by ensuring better availability of staff on site, and will provide consistent opening times throughout the year.

If it is necessary for you to bring a van, large trailer with load space over 1.8 x 1.2 metres (6ft x 4ft), and pick-ups, book 24 hours ahead so that the site can accommodate your needs – phone 0845 602 9344 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday.



## HELP US TO HELP YOU!



WHEN YOU'RE RECYCLING your waste, here are a few reminders to ensure we can collect the maximum amounts of material inside our vehicles. This will enable us to cut down on the number of returns to the recycling transfer station, saving time, fuel and the impact on the environment.

Crush all cans and tins

Cut discarded cardboard into pieces no larger than 1 square metre (3ft x 3ft) and make sure it is flattened.

Segregate paper, glass, cans and cardboard wherever possible (don't forget that additional recycling containers can be collected from the Council offices)

# Cotswolds prepares for break bonanza

The tourist industry in the Cotswolds is gearing up for a rise in overseas visitors and Britons taking short breaks, with the launch of a new eye-catching 72-page Visitor Guide which focuses on the requirements of these growing markets

THE COLOURFUL GUIDE features a wide variety of fun things to do and see throughout 2010, including seasonal 'foodie' events and family activities, featuring 39 hotels, over 150 B&B/ self-

catering establishments and 19 businesses. Cotswold District Council, which produced the guide with their counterparts in Stroud and Tewkesbury, has already reported excellent feedback from users. Sally Graff, the Moreton Area Centre and Tourism Manager said: "Everyone has told us that this guide is excellent - they think it's a good read, really comprehensive, and very well presented. One couple from Kent who came up here on the spur of the moment loved the way we had clearly set out the accommodation on offer; they also thought the maps were informative and liked the specialist articles. We're hoping that the cheap pound will continue to attract visitors from abroad and we're also aiming to attract a good share of the estimated 12 million British visitors taking mini breaks this year. I am sure this guide will tempt them to come to the Cotswolds."

Copies of the guide are available at Visitor Information Centres throughout the district or online at [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk)



## Hot news

Before the next winter sets in, it's a good time to increase the energy efficiency in your home. The Gloucestershire Warm and Well scheme may be able to help.

In 2008-09 the scheme improved over 5,800 homes in Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire by installing insulation and energy efficient boilers. Everyone is entitled to free advice and a grant for insulation, and for householders who are claiming some benefit, are on low incomes or are over 65, it may be FREE.

According to Matt Matheou, the scheme manager: "Grants are available for cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, draught proofing and other energy saving heating measures. It's worth doing - a well insulated home can save up to £300 per year on fuel bills." So don't delay, call the Energy Saving Trust advice line on 0800 512 012 and ask about Gloucestershire Warm and Well.

On the same theme, Cotswold District Council is urging eligible residents to take advantage of the national Boiler Scrappage scheme which offers £400 towards the cost of upgrading boilers to high efficiency models.

This is a very effective way of reducing energy bills and the Government estimates that the offer will save 14,000 tonnes in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions every year, the equivalent of taking 45,000 cars off the road. Experts believe that the average heating bill should drop by about a quarter - a saving, on average, of around £235 a year. The scheme is open to householders and landlords who privately own and rent dwellings - details are available at [www.energysavingtrust.org.uk](http://www.energysavingtrust.org.uk) or telephone 0800 512012.

It is also important to consider the effects that this year's hard winter has had on your property. So remember to get your heating boiler regularly serviced and we would recommend that you buy a carbon monoxide alarm.

It would also be advisable to check on the condition of your masonry walls to ensure that the hard frosts have not affected their condition.

If you have any queries regarding the above please do not hesitate to contact Building Control on 01285 623000.



CDC Building Control manager John Hill(L) pictured with local builder Will Mustoe(R) from Bourton at a recent seminar to inform local craftsmen about changes in regulations

## Business matters at CDC

THE COUNCIL RECENTLY launched 'Business Matters', a new quarterly newsletter to inform local traders about the support we can provide across a broad spectrum of issues to help counter the current harsh economic climate. The first edition highlighted the possibility of obtaining more benefit payments for workers on reduced salaries, an offer to help firms save on running costs by reducing their carbon footprint, details of a new business start-up, and important information about the latest safety regulations, including a recent building regulations seminar at our Cirencester offices.

So far the feedback has been very positive and the next edition, due out in early May, is keenly awaited. We would be pleased to receive more comments and ideas for future features.

The newsletter is available at the Council website at [www.cotswold.gov.uk/go/BusinessMatters](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/go/BusinessMatters), and feedback or candidate items can be sent to [businessmatters@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:businessmatters@cotswold.gov.uk). Alternatively, call us on 01285 623120 to air your views or request a hard copy of the newsletter.

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# WHAT'S ON

## April

5TH - 9TH APRIL

### Easter Challenge

Can you find all the creatures that lay eggs at Westonbirt and solve our Easter riddle for a sweet reward? Then create your own Easter crafts. All participants enter our Easter prize draw. 10.30am to 4.00pm. Free after admissions.

Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury



6TH - 16TH APRIL

### Welcoming Kids in Museums! Easter Activities at the Corinium Museum

A fun-packed fortnight of children's activities; from green men to Tudor hats and headdresses, Roman costume and jewellery and medieval castles. Enjoy exploring the past whilst creating a piece of art or craft to take home with you! Throughout the Easter holidays, children and families are invited to follow our annual Easter Trail, with a special prize at the end. In local libraries the museum team will be dropping by to share stories about the Vikings in Britain with a Viking ship-making activity in tow. For more details, dates and times please visit www.cotswold.gov.uk

Corinium Museum

8TH, 15TH & 16TH APRIL

### Adult Day School and

## Workshop Series

A vibrant day school and lecture programme continues on Thursday 8th April with Avis Lloyd exploring Medieval Art in this fascinating day school, illustrated with beautiful slides depicting examples from the period. On Thursday 15th April Tim Porter appeals to those with an interest in classical music in this day school focusing on Great Local Composers. To round up the week, Mary Greensted returns to the museum on 16th April to profile William Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement. All sessions run from 2 - 4pm. For more information please visit www.cotswold.gov.uk

Corinium Museum

12TH - 16TH APRIL

### Awakening Woods

With spring in full swing, why not venture out with us as we spring forth to discover the awakening woodland - from buds bursting and rising sap, to colourful blooms and wildflower carpets - we'll be exploring the changes that occur amongst the trees at this time. Then create your own spring crafts. 10.30am to 4.00pm. Free after admissions.

Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury

29TH APRIL

### Museum Evening Lecture Programme

Malcolm Watkins discusses the Birdlip Grave Group. 7 - 8.30pm. For more information please visit www.cotswold.gov.uk

Corinium Museum

6TH - 17TH APRIL

### Let's all get active!

Various Sports Club events across the district (see feature on page 16) Cirencester, Bourton, Fairford, Tetbury and Chipping Campden Leisure Centres

16TH - 18TH APRIL

### Swimathon 2010

Join in the world's biggest fund-raising swim to raise money for the Marie Curie Cancer appeal. Visit www.swimathon.org for more details.

Bourton, Cirencester and Chipping Campden Leisure Centres

## May

10TH & 22ND MAY

### Chipping Campden 8th Annual Music Festival

St. James' Church is staging its seventh annual Music Festival from 10th to 22nd May, to include lunchtime and evening concerts. Contact: (01386) 849018 or www.campdenmusicfestival.co.uk

St. James' Church, Chipping Campden

17TH & 21ST MAY

### Creative Writing Workshop

For Adult Learner's Week in May, the Museum welcomes Anna Saunders for two creative writing workshop taster sessions; Monday 17th May from 2pm to 5pm - writing prose; Friday 21st May from 2pm to 5pm - writing poetry. Workshop attendees will explore the Museum's Roman collections for inspiration.

Corinium Museum

19TH MAY & 2ND JUNE

### Creative Workshop

On Wednesday 19th May and Wednesday 2nd June, Mike Boyes will deliver two special afternoon talks about the le Marchant family which includes an opportunity for people to view some of the original material from the Corinium Museum archives.

Corinium Museum



15TH - 29TH MAY

### Let's all get active!

Various Sports Club events across the district (see feature on page 16) Cirencester, Bourton, Fairford, Tetbury and Chipping Campden Leisure Centres

27TH MAY

### Museum Evening Lecture Programme

Dr Nick Herbert investigates Medieval towns in Gloucestershire. 7pm - 8.30pm.

Corinium Museum

31ST MAY

### Tetbury Woolsack Races

The races probably originated in the 17th Century by young drovers showing off to local women by running up the hill carrying a woolsack. An official race day has been going for over 30 years now. This fund-raising day also includes an all-day street market, a charity auction, a village fete and marching bands.

Tetbury

## June

1ST - 3RD JUNE

### Around the World

Follow our global tour and explore a world of trees without stepping a foot outside the arboretum! There will be a different art activity from different parts of the world each day. 10.30am to 4pm. Free after admissions

Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury

19TH JUNE

### Simply Red - Concert

Tickets £38 (subject to booking fee) on sale from ticket hotline Tel 01842 814612 or buy online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music.

Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury

19TH - 20TH JUNE

### Cotswold Air Show 2010

The popular Kemble Air Show (now called Cotswold Air Show) returns with more spectacular flying displays. Visit www.cotswoldairshow.co.uk

The Cotswold Airport, Kemble

24TH JUNE

### Museum Evening Lecture Programme

Professor Ken Worpole discusses 'Lost Landscapes: the architecture of the cemetery in the west'. 7 - 8.30pm.

Corinium Museum

27TH JUNE

### Elkstone Gardens Open Day

Visit local gardens in the village, specially opened for charity, see the bell tower at the Norman church and go for a hay ride before eating a delicious cream tea. Open from 2pm - 6pm.

Elkstone Gardens

## July

17TH JULY - 18TH AUGUST

### Royal International Air Tattoo

The world's largest military airshow, featuring hundreds of modern military aircraft in the static line-up and air displays from many different countries around the world. A great day out for all the family! For more information visit www.airtattoo.com

Fairford

17TH JULY

### Status Quo - Concert

Tickets £33 (subject to booking fee) on sale from ticket hotline Tel 01842 814612 or buy online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music.

Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury

18TH JULY

### James Morrison - Concert

Tickets £31 (subject to booking fee) on sale from ticket hotline Tel 01842 814612 or buy online at www.forestry.gov.uk/music.

Westonbirt Arboretum, Tetbury

20TH JULY - 28TH AUGUST

### Let's all get active!

Various Sports Club events across the district (see feature on page 16) Cirencester, Bourton, Fairford, Tetbury and Chipping Campden Leisure Centres

## Need to know

WOULD YOU LIKE to be in the know about all the latest planning applications which may affect your locality and have your say on the matter quickly and conveniently? Better still, imagine receiving a live feed to your email account every time a new planning application is submitted which has a bearing on your neighbourhood. These are some of the major benefits which planning staff at Cotswold District Council have delivered since switching entirely to an electronic planning register.

An online planning tool was introduced in January 2008 and it has now evolved into a sophisticated multi-query web-based service which has saved tens of thousands of pounds by eliminating the need for expensive paper-based tasks and many public queries.

Councillor John Birch, Cabinet Member for Planning, commented:

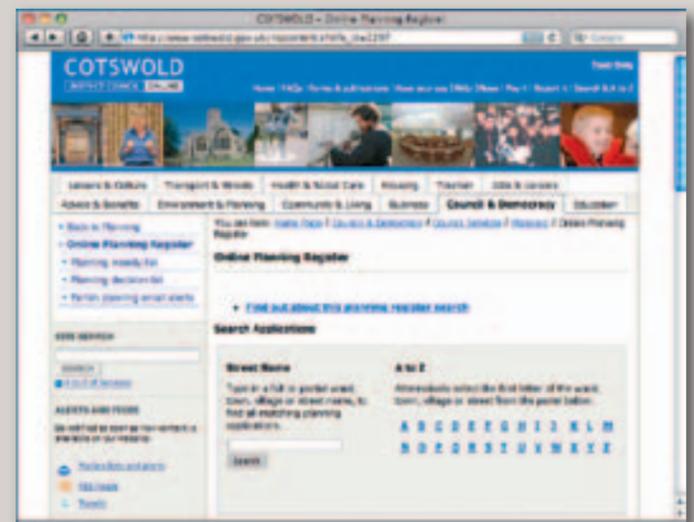
"It's exactly two years since we launched our new service and I am delighted that we have made such great progress on this national

**Imagine receiving a live feed to your email account every time a new planning application is submitted**

e-government initiative. Typically, when residents used to apply for planning permissions, it could take up to 5 weeks to get the paperwork in the right format to allow the determination process to start - now

the officers can normally get them onto the system in the space of a few days at the most. We have also seen a big reduction in members of the public visiting the council offices to view plans because they can now access all the details directly via our website and also submit their comments online.

"Perhaps the most impressive innovation is the automatic Internet feed which alerts interested users to the latest planning applications and decisions in their area of interest. It's very easy to subscribe to this free service and tailor it to individual requirements. Nearly all the parish and town councils within the Cotswolds have signed up and we have also seen a good take-up by members of the public."



Sign up now for RSS feeds straight to your email on the online planning register at www.cotswold.gov.uk

# The antidote to boredom

**YOUNGSTERS LOOK FORWARD** to the school holidays for so long and then often find themselves at a loose end when the great day dawns.

Cotswold District Council's Sports Club has the answer to this problem – daily doses of sport sessions at venues across the area, featuring football,

gymnastics, cricket, golf, rugby, boxing and tennis.

The scheme was started by the Council in 2005 and offers a fun, friendly and safe environment for 5-16 year olds at a very reasonable cost. Sport Development Officer, Scott Burry, has assembled a team of experienced qualified coaches who will offer holiday sport

and play at a range of venues throughout the district.

The programme for 2010-11 covers all school holidays and is now available at [www.cotswold.gov.uk/thesportsclub](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/thesportsclub) or you can contact Scott directly on 01285 623447 or email: [scott.burry@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:scott.burry@cotswold.gov.uk) if you have any queries.



Howzat! Beating the summer blues



## Let's all get active!

Sports activities are organised by CDC at the five leisure facilities at Bourton-on-the-Water, Cirencester, Chipping Campden, Fairford and Tetbury but there is also a successful outreach sports coaching scheme that utilises local venues

RESEARCHERS HAVE PROVEN that people of all ages need to incorporate more movement into their daily lives. Adults need at least 30 minutes of activity 5 days each week and children are recommended to participate in at

least 60 minutes of daily active play. Alan Reid, the Group Manager for Leisure Services at Cotswold District Council, believes the fitness and coaching schemes throughout the district will contribute towards these goals. He has devised a varied

programme which suits all needs and abilities including: badminton, basketball, cheer leading, football, gymnastics, netball, swimming and squash. All instructors have recognised coaching qualifications and other clearances linked to first aid and child protection. Here are just a few samples of what is on offer at local Leisure Centres:



Talking tactics: Fun football for kids

### Bourton-on-the-Water

Adult 'improvers' swimming lessons on Monday nights from 8pm to 9pm. There are also group swimming classes for children. We are also hoping to add multi-sport sessions for children from 4pm-6pm weekdays. For further information contact 01451 824 024.

### Chipping Campden

Group swimming lessons for children five years and over Monday to Thursday from 4pm to 5.30pm. For more details of the programme for both adults and children phone 01386 841595.

### Cirencester

A wide and varied programme for adults and children which will soon be enhanced by squash coaching, kickboxing, and football and boxing training. Group swimming lessons are also available for children of all ages and abilities. More details available on 01285 654057.

### Fairford

Football and gymnastics coaching courses for children of all abilities at primary school age. Also sessions for both juniors and adults for basketball, badminton, netball and cheer leading. Call 01285 713786 for further details.

### Tetbury

As well as operating its long-running coaching programme for soccer skills, junior gym sessions and badminton there are new additions such as weekend multi-sport coaching sessions on Saturdays from 10.30-12 noon. Phone 01666 505805 for further details.

## Quit while you are ahead, kids

COTSWOLD DISTRICT COUNCIL is supporting the NHS-commissioned theatre production "Fags & Me" in secondary schools across the district, as part of a joint drive to warn teenagers about the dangers of nicotine addiction.

The play, which depicts a woman's decline after she gets hooked on cigarettes in her teens, forms part of a workshop encouraging young people to discuss the wider issues surrounding tobacco use.

The emphasis is on making young smokers quit the habit, helped by an age-related computer graphic which shows how smoking will take its toll on their facial features. Experts have noted that the earlier youngsters start to smoke, the more difficult it is to give up, and the Council is launching a 'Don't Buy 4 Under 18' campaign to remind adults not to give them cigarettes.

Young smokers are able to get support to quit from their school nurse, practice nurse at their GP surgery, the Cotswold Youth Service, or through the Gloucestershire NHS Stop Smoking Service on 08454 220040.

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