

The NEWS

November, 2016

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

AFFORDABLE AND SOCIAL HOUSING: [Health and Energy Efficiency](#); [Move It or Lose It](#);
[Proframe Praise](#); [Sheltered Housing Features at Conference](#); [Systems Improvements](#);
[Willow Road Fire](#)

ENVIRONMENT: [Bee Poop Bewilders Residents](#); [Food Waste Collection](#); [Littering Fine for Motorist](#);
[New Tree Contract](#); [Rural SuDS Project Wins Award](#)

RESOURCES: [Christmas Rail Services](#); [Crimestoppers](#); [Museum News](#); [QE2 Field](#)

HEALTH AND WELL BEING: [Fitness Update](#); [Foster with GCC](#);
[Mental Health Advice for Young People](#); [The Pulse](#)

CORPORATE AFFAIRS: [Procurement Update](#); [SDC Charity Team](#)

TOWN & PARISH COUNCIL NEWS:

WHAT'S ON: [Museum in the Park Events](#)

WELCOME

Jane Russell	PA to the Chief Executive	
Mark Brazendale	Principal Environmental Health Officer (Commercial)	31 st October
Talitha Burton	Scheduler (Tenant Services)	31 st October
Elizabeth Davie	Principal Environmental Health Officer (Housing Renewal)	31 st October
Alastair Melville	Principal Estates Surveyor	31 st October
Pete Watkins	Duty Officer	31 st October

FAREWELL

Oliver Thomson	Customer Service Apprentice (Recruitment)	31 st October
Stuart Beard	Neighbourhood Warden	4 th November
Ricardo Rios	Neighbourhood Planning Officer	14 th November
Leigh Takel	Heating Engineer	17 th November
Keith Tett	Principal Environmental Health Officer	20 th November

Deadline for the December E News –
Thursday, 1st December. Please email [Dave Marshall](#)

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

CANAL PROJECT LATEST



Wallbridge Lower Lock: The new retaining wall here was completed on time, thanks to a sterling effort by our own volunteers and Gardiners Construction, with huge assistance from Waterway Recovery Group and Cotswold Canals Trust volunteers. The water level above the lock has now been raised to its normal depth. We are waiting for the earth backfill to settle before reinstating the towpath. Thanks to the new bank, the path will be the ideal 2m width, even though this is a particularly narrow spot. The canal is also 1m wider than it would have been.

As a result of finishing this huge task, our volunteers will now be completing other tasks, such as laying new towpath at Ryeford, where a Cotswold Canals Trust team has been rebuilding the canal and river banks, which run very close to each other. We will also soon be installing bridge nameplates and signing the cycle route from Eastington to Saul Junction.



Bowbridge: Land & Water Services (LAWS) have now finished dredging a 400m section of canal between Arundel Aqueduct (Capel's Mill) and Bowbridge Lock. Most of the work was commissioned by Newland Homes as part of its s.106 planning obligations, but we commissioned additional work to connect through to Arundel Aqueduct.

We are still waiting for Britannia Construction to return to site and complete work on Bowbridge Bridge. Due to the amount of work still needed, it now looks very unlikely that it can be completed before Christmas. As this is a Gloucestershire CC project, it is unfortunately beyond our control.

With work virtually complete at Wallbridge, our own volunteers will be turning their attention to finishing the retaining wall between Bowbridge Bridge and Lock. This should be completed by the end of the year.

We now have 2233 users following the latest canal news on  @cotswoldcanals

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

TOURISM NEWS

Stroud District Tourism Logo



We have finalised our new tourism logo.

We will display this on our new tourism website (launched later this year); new Stroud & Five Valleys map; the promotional film and for various other projects. The concept behind the design of the logo was to include our industrial heritage, landscapes and artistic style.

Stroud District Promotional Film

Work is coming towards the end of producing our new film with some autumnal pub and canal boat shots being the last on the list. Thank you to those colleagues who kindly volunteered to appear in the film and help behind the scenes.

New Facebook Page

We are keen to increase our number of Facebook followers. Please like and share our page www.facebook.com/discoverstroud

November Events

There are lots of fun events this month, including the inaugural Stroud Book Festival from 11th to 20th November. Visit www.visitthecotswolds.org.uk/events to find out what's on. Or follow us at www.twitter.com/DiscoverStroud - over 3400 followers.

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

RURAL SUDS PROJECT WINS CPRE AWARD



The SDC Rural Sustainable Drainage project has won an award from the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England for “Innovative Use of Natural Resources”. Maria Hickman, (Project Manager) and Chris Uttley, the project officer attended an award ceremony at Highnam Village Hall along with our partners, (National Trust, Gloucestershire Wildlife trust, the Stroud Valleys Flood Action Groups, Gloucestershire County Council, University of Gloucestershire) to receive the award, along with the other award winners, including our colleagues from the Museum in the Park.

The project works with local community flood groups, landowners, farmers and partner organisations to reduce the risk of flooding, improve water quality, and enhance the biodiversity of streams, brooks and the River Frome.

The six year project has worked with 16 landowners in various parts of the Stroud Valleys, and built over 250 different structures to slow the flow and reduce flood risk. Works have taken place on private farmland and woodland, but also on land owned by the National Trust, Gloucestershire Wildlife trust, Butterfly Conservation and the Woodland Trust.

This award is tangible recognition of the partnership work in this project, particularly the determination and support of the local community, the generosity of local landowners and farm tenants, and the work of Stroud District Council and partners.

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

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

HEALTH AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY

Stroud District Council has been successful in obtaining funding from the Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) on behalf of the other Gloucestershire district councils.

The funding, totalling £200,000, came from the CCG to try and target individuals with health conditions who live in cold and damp homes. The funding is to run alongside and add value to the long standing Warm and Well scheme. Partial grants are available for internal wall insulation, room in the roof insulation, money towards a new boiler and other scenarios on a case by case basis.

Contact: [Danny Lenain](#), Energy Officer – Policy and Implementation (754445) ([back to index](#))

SHELTERED HOUSING FEATURES AT CONFERENCE

Following the Council's intention to commit to long term investment in its Sheltered Housing stock and in working through our 10 year modernisation programme, we are really proud to see that the Chartered Institute for Housing (CIH) has used the Stroud District Council Sheltered Housing Service as one of their case studies for the CIH Homes Fit for Ageing Conference.

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

WILLOW ROAD FIRE

A fire broke out in the Willow Road sheltered unit in Stonehouse. It resulted in damage to three properties, but fortunately no residents were injured. Three people were temporarily re-housed to allow for cleaning (two of which have decided to stay in their new homes). Emergency services and staff were swiftly on the scene following the alarm being raised, including two who lived nearby and turned up on the night to lend a hand. Incident procedures were praised by the fire crew.

Contact: [Hannah Mawson](#), Responsive Maintenance & Voids Manager (754079) ([back to index](#))

PROFRAME PRAISE

Tenant Dave Dale was so impressed by our window & door contractor Proframe that he wrote a letter praising their "expertise and professional workmanship". As a voluntary tenant repairs inspector who regularly inspects the quality of contractors, Dave has a particularly critical eye, yet reports "I could not fault anything about their workmanship....keep up the good work, Stroud District Council!"

Contact: [Elaine Booth](#), Contracts Officer (754541) ([back to index](#))

MOVE IT OR LOSE IT ON RADIO GLOS



The 'move it or lose it' exercise classes that we provide in our sheltered units have been getting lots of media attention. Shortly after being filmed shaking their stuff for BBC's Housing Enforcers programme, sheltered housing support coordinator Theresa Meyer and George Pearce House resident Mo Upchurch were interviewed on Radio Gloucestershire to discuss benefits of the classes.

Pom poms are being shaken at George Pearce House, Minchinhampton; Grange View, Stroud; and St Nicholas Court, Hardwicke. Participants

from the local community are welcome. Pictured (above left) are George Pearce House residents, Theresa Meyer and 'move it or lose it' instructor Becky with Matt Alwright.

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

SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENTS

The systems team tested new software to send mass text messages and emails to promote tenant involvement opportunities. Over 3,000 text messages and 1,200 emails were sent with a link to our website. The team will be expanding the service to enable us to contact tenants quickly and easily for a variety of reasons, such as rent reminders and gas servicing.

We are now able to set up direct debits for former tenants who left us with rent arrears. These debts have previously been hard to collect, however three have now been set up with more to follow.

Contact: [Jenny Kelly](#), Systems Manager (754152) ([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*

LITTERING FINE FOR MOTORIST

In May 2016, two members of the Environmental Protection team witnessed a gentleman throwing a cigarette butt from the window of his vehicle onto Cainscross Road in Stroud. It so happened that they recognised the gentleman as one who had committed the very same offence some 4 months earlier and had discharged his liability on that occasion by paying a Fixed Penalty Notice.

As the previous lighter touch enforcement approach had clearly not changed his behaviour, this gentleman was prosecuted in Cheltenham Magistrates' Court on 3rd October. He failed to attend court and was convicted in his absence, magistrates imposing a total penalty of approximately £537 comprising a fine, Council costs and a victim surcharge.

Contact: [Dave Jackson](#), Environmental Protection Manager (754487) ([back to index](#))

FOOD WASTE COLLECTION

Many residents will have received their first food waste collection. Early indications are that residents are enthused about this new recycling service and are eager to take part; the first day's collection of food waste totalled approximately 15 tonnes!

Residents are being encouraged to recycle as much of their waste as possible and as a result, we have been inundated with requests for more green recycling containers from existing recyclers and new recyclers. Despite having delivered several hundred additional containers during the past few weeks, the renewed interest has caused a slight backlog. This is a very positive indication that residents are on-board and will hopefully result in a significant reduction in waste being sent for landfill.

Contact: [Carlos Novoth](#), Public Space Manager (754406) ([back to index](#))

NEW TREE CONTRACT

It has been estimated that there are 3.04 trillion trees on planet Earth, and Stroud District Council is responsible for the management of around 40,000 of them (3,000 individual trees, 7,700 trees in tree blocks/belts, 30,500 in woodlands). The District's Town and Parish Councils are probably responsible for the management of a further 10,000 trees.

Because trees are big and heavy and sway about in the wind, and they often grow close to houses, roads, schools, play areas etc. we need to be sure that they are safe. Trees are dynamic, living beings, they get diseases, sustain physical injury and change with age so need regular health checks and, occasionally, treatment to keep them safe.

In order to ensure that SDC's trees remain an asset to residents, and to our resident wildlife, two local contractors, Midland Forestry and Tree Maintenance, have been appointed to carry out safety inspections and remedial tree works on behalf of the Council. These tree contracts have also been made available to all Parish and Town Councils within the District. Because of the specialist nature of arboricultural works, Town and Parish Councils often lack the technical expertise to identify appropriately qualified and experienced tree works contractors.

Jointly procuring arboricultural services with the District's Town and Parish Councils will result in lower prices for tree works and a more professional service, which will improve the health and amenity value of trees throughout the District, and ensure greater safety for residents.

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

BEE POOP “BEE”WILDERS RESIDENTS

Environmental Health Officers recently investigated complaints of yellow spots appearing on cars, windows and washing hanging out to dry. Local residents were convinced that the yellow deposits were from the extract ventilation systems of nearby caterers or manufacturers, but they were most likely the excrement of honey bees. The insects often take a bee-line between their hive and popular feeding sites and leave their yellow, pollen-laden droppings as they go. Anything under their flight path is likely to get a liberal scattering of bee poop and its sticky stuff. Fortunately it isn't harmful to health. Unfortunately, nothing can be done to prevent it. If you think this is a late, late April fool, just Google “bee poop and cars”)

Contact: [Phil Park](#), Commercial Services Manager (754471) ([back to index](#))

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

CHRISTMAS RAIL SERVICES

Improvement works near London Paddington mean that the station will be closed to all rail services from Saturday 24 December to Thursday 29 December. This will mean GWR rail services starting and finishing at Ealing Broadway, where customers can make a connection to the underground, or scheduled bus services for travel into London. Ealing Broadway does not have step-free access. It is therefore recommended that customers on Bristol and South Wales services travelling with heavy luggage, children, or who find steps difficult, should change at Reading and use services from there to London Waterloo. This will mean a longer journey and customers are advised to plan ahead. Full details can be found at gwr.com/travel-updates/christmas-2016.

QE2 – DEFINITELY NOT SUNK YET!

The QE2 Park, Dudbridge, has been going through choppy waters recently, suffering from a range of different anti social behaviour problems during recent months, which have proved challenging for partners to resolve. The Police and SDC have been working particularly hard in partnership with local residents to improve the situation. One such initiative was the organising of a community safety consultation event at The QE2 Park by the Police.

Neighbourhood Wardens (NHW's) hosted an SDC stand and were able to speak to over 100 residents to obtain further information on the method of operating for offenders and potential solutions. A lot of valuable intelligence was obtained which has helped partners to change tack and deal with the issues in a more robust way. NHW's have progressed over 40 actions from this event, including concerns over rough sleepers; dangerous dogs; alcohol related issues; tenancy issues and complaints of insufficient parking. Alongside Police Cadets, The Door and Cainscross Parish Council the event helped to provide a 'one stop shop' for residents to receive advice. The fear of crime has been reduced and it looks like there will be calmer waters ahead for the QE2.

Contact: [Lisa Ellis](#), Neighbourhood Warden (07779 347113) ([back to index](#))

CRIMESTOPPERS



Crimestoppers is an independent crime fighting charity that you can contact anonymously with information 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year. They don't ask for names or address, calls and forms are not traced or recorded and those who give information will not be asked for a statement or to give evidence in court. Information can be found here:-

[Suffering in silence](#) @CrimestoppersUK #SufferingInSilence #ReadTheSigns @antislaveryday

Contact: [Mike Hammond](#), Community & Facilities Manager (754447) ([back to index](#))

MUSEUM NEWS

Museum borrows a Post Office

The Museum has taken loan of a model of the Painswick Post Office as it appeared in about 1990. The building is called Westhaven House and is thought to have been built in the early 1400s and is a box-frame design. The Post Office moved to Westhaven House in 1932 during renovations which converted the building from three dwellings into one unit and revealed the timbers on the front elevation. The model is made at a scale of 1/12th of the original building and took over 1600 hours to construct, and many more hours went into the research, measuring and photography of the original building. The model has featured on television programs and in newspapers, regionally, nationally internationally. The Post Office at Westhaven House closed on 23rd March 2013.

<http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk/news-article/98/>

Museum tells the story of two First World War Victoria Cross Recipients

The latest display in the Museum's WWI Commemoration Programme sees us present objects that represent the First World War stories of two men who were awarded the Victoria Cross and came from the Stroud district.

- Lieutenant (later Captain) Butler was born at Berkeley in 1888, and won his Victoria Cross for action in East Africa in November 1914
- Lieutenant (later Captain) Bennett was born at Cainscross in 1892, and won his Victoria Cross for action at the Somme in November 1916

The two stories are very contrasting, and took place on different fronts of the First World War but both exemplify the bravery that was exhibited by many thousands of individuals involved in the First World War. Both are commemorated here thanks to loans from their respective regimental museums, Lieutenant Butler from the Royal Green Jackets Museum, Winchester and Lieutenant Bennett from the Mercian Regiment Museum, Worcester. The 'Stroud District VCs' display is on until 4th December 2016. <http://www.museuminthepark.org.uk/news-article/106>

Friday 11 – Sunday 20 November **STROUD BOOK FESTIVAL**

The dark days of November will be brightened up by Stroud's first ever Book Festival! Organised by Stroud Festival, one of the UK's oldest arts festivals, this fabulous programme for all ages celebrates the many talented authors and illustrators who live locally, right on our doorstep. Events will take place mainly at Stroud Subscription Rooms and the Museum in the Park and the literary line up is fantastic! View an electronic programme here

http://www.stroudfestival.org/StroudBookFestival_electronic_v4.pdf

Tickets for the festival can be booked through the Subscription Rooms website <http://www.subscriptionrooms.org.uk/whats-on/> or call 01453 760900

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

CORPORATE AFFAIRS



MacMillan Coffee Morning - Thank you!

Forget the Great British Bake Off! Friday 30th September saw a 'baker's dozen' or so of Ebley Mill's finest cooks provide a wonderful spread of cakes, pastries and savouries to sell for this brilliant charity. 'Best Baker' prize was awarded to Lucy David for her amazing chocolate cake. Many thanks to all the staff and friends who took the time to come along, help us clear the plates and donate an incredible **£398.98**.

So many of us have been or will be affected by this terrible disease and it was touching to hear so many stories of the support provided by MacMillan staff.

Up and coming Events

Friday 18th November **DRESS DOWN DAY Children in Need**

from early December **GIVING CHRISTMAS TREE for Kids Stuff**

1. Choose a label from the Christmas Tree
2. Buy your gift on the label
3. Return your wrapped gift with label by Tuesday 20th December to Reception

Gifts range in price, why not club together as a team? We had a wonderful response last year from everyone with gifts purchased ranging from babygrows, bed linen to babies car seats!

Monday 12th December, 12pm - 2.30pm **CHARITY CLOTHES SWAP Council Chamber**

How it works.....

- Bring along up to 5 items of clothing at 10.30am to the council chamber (clean, high street or designer please)
- Pay £2 entry
- Come back at 12 pm to swap till you drop
- You can also pay £3 at 12 pm and not bring clothes.

Any items left at 2pm will be auctioned off to the highest bidder. Money raised from the clothes swap will go towards purchasing a defibrillator for Action for Children who have a supported housing project for 18 - 25 year olds with learning disabilities, based in Ebley, Stroud.

Friday 16th December **CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY for Save the Children**

Wear a Woolly & raise money

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

PROCUREMENT UPDATE

The Crown Commercial Service has recently published a Procurement Policy Note that directs us with immediate effect, to:

- Stop using the standard Pre-Qualification Questionnaire for the supplier selection stage
- Start using the new Selection Questionnaire and comply with the new statutory guidance, process and standard form.

The Crown Commercial Service (CCS) stated that the new Selection Questionnaire (also referred to as the SQ) is intended to simplify the supplier selection process for businesses. The CCS also confirms that the SQ is compliant with the European Single Procurement Document and the amended rules on selection of suppliers.

The new Selection Questionnaire is available on the Hub, under Procurement. If you have any queries about any of these documents please contact us

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

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



Pulse Memberships

Join our rolling DD scheme in November or December and pay only £1 joining fee. (Normally £28) With our rolling DD you only have to provide us with 30 days notice for cancellation, making this the perfect time to try a membership if you are not ready to commit

to the full year. For more information regarding memberships or to arrange a tour of the new centre please contact karen.keniry@stroud.gov.uk or faye.frost@stroud.gov.uk

Swim Development

Are you a nervous swimmer? Want to improve your technique? Want to feel more confident? These sessions will be perfect for you. Our coaches will be on hand to help you to try to achieve your swimming goals. It's never too late to learn.

Pool Parties

Pool parties are filling up quickly this year, book your party now for only £99. Call 01453 546441 to check availability and to book.

Swimming Lessons

We have spaces available from birth to school ages children to learn how to swim..... for more information call 01453 546441 or email: <mailto:tara.watkins@stroud.gov.uk>

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

FITNESS UPDATE

NEW Better Balance Classes

Better Balance Classes is a mixture of chair based and standing exercises aimed to improve participants' strength, balance and increase their confidence. The classes are taking place on the following days:-

Monday		
Stonehouse - Willow Road	4.00pm-5.00pm	£3.00 per class
Tuesday		
Nailsworth - Concord	11.15am-12.15pm	£3.00 per class
Cam - Glebelands	1.00pm-2.00pm	£3.00 per class
Wednesday		
(Please note this class is not running from the 4th November 2016 until 4th January 2017)		
Maypole Village Hall	11.30am-12.30pm	£3.00 per class

If you know of someone who may benefit from the class, please contact Sport & Health Development on 01453 754508 or hannah.drew@stroud.gov.uk

Move it or Lose It Classes

These classes have been running on the sheltered scheme's since June and have proved to be a huge success with residents and the community alike. Where you can find the classes:-

Monday		
Grange View, Uplands	2.30pm-3.30pm	£2.00 per class
Friday		
George Pearce House Minchinhampton	12.00pm-1.00pm	£2.00 per class
St Nicholas Court, Hardwicke	2.00pm-3.00pm	£2.00 per class

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

MENTAL HEALTH ADVICE WEBSITE FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

The Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group's children and young people's website has now gone live at onyourmindglos.nhs.uk. The website provides information and signposting across a range of topics to help young people who might be struggling with their emotions and difficult situations in their life. The site covers a wide range of topics including self harm, anxiety, depression, abuse and family fall outs. You do not have to be a school pupil to make use of this site and if you are a parent you may also find it a helpful resource.

If you are struggling to remain mentally well in work, there is a range of support and information available to you. Please contact a member of the HR Team for further details.

Contact: [Fiona Hammond](#), Learning and Development Officer (754320) ([back to index](#))

FOSTER WITH GLOUCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Now, more than ever, Gloucestershire County Council needs foster carers. There are unprecedented numbers of children of all ages coming into care and we're looking for people who can make a real difference to these young lives. We are particularly looking for foster carers for older children, teenagers, sibling groups and young unaccompanied asylum seekers.

We are also recruiting foster carers for a new intensive support scheme. If you have extensive experience of working with young people, we will train you to provide short-term, crisis support in your home and in a residential setting, and offer you a weekly retainer of £650 a week.

As a foster carer, you'll be working as part of a professional team to support the child and will also have access to local support groups made up of other foster carers. Gloucestershire County Council accepts applications to foster from all sectors of the community. You will need to be over 21 and have a spare room (or spare rooms for siblings).

There is no upper age limit to foster and people can be married, single, co-habiting, in a heterosexual or same sex relationship, a homeowner or renting. Get in touch now to see if fostering is for you. Call 01242 532654, email fostering@gloucestershire.gov.uk or visit gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering.

WHAT'S ON



Museum in the Park
Stroud District (Cowle) Museum Service

MUSEUM EVENTS & EXHIBITIONS

Thursday 10 November, 2pm: 'THE WOODEN CROSS AT WOODCHESTER'

Jane Bethell will reveal the moving story of the wooden cross, erected in 1917, which is believed to be the oldest WW1 memorial in the country. *Booking advised. £5 (£3.50 MIP Friends)*

Saturday 12 November, 11am – 1pm (drop in) MAKE YOUR OWN STAND UP CREATURES!

Stroud Children's Book Festival: A simple, snappy drop-in session with Martha Lightfoot. She will show you how to create some wonderful cut out characters so you can do your very own story telling. For ages 5+ and parents/carers. £2 per child

Saturday 12 November, 2pm Stroud Children's Book Festival: THE GLUMP AND THE PEEBLE

Children aged 5 to 9 are invited to come and be inspired by the story of the Glump and the Peeble read by author Wendy Meddour. Afterwards get crafting with Rebecca Ashdown on your own creations. If you made a creature in the morning workshop you might want to bring it along to this one! £2 per child *Come along at 2pm and pay on the door, or if you prefer, book in advance on 01453 760900.*

Sunday 13 November, 2pm **OBJECTS OF INSPIRATION ...TALES FROM THE HOME FRONT**

Stroud Children's Book Festival. Sandra Ashenford's workshop for children of all ages will inspire you to unlock stories about the 1940s with her collection of fascinating objects. By the end of the session you should have a short story or poem to take home with you. And if that's not enough you have the whole Museum collection just waiting to inspire you too! £2 per chil.d *Advance booking advised on 760900.*

Thursday 17 November, 4pm – 6pm: **'INTRODUCTION TO STORYTELLING SCHOOLS'**

Stroud Book Festival. Twilight Training Session with Chris Smith, introduced by Jamila Gavin. In a Storytelling School all children become storytellers. Learning to tell stories from memory is an inspiring, engaging and inclusive way to acquire language and discover topic content. The Storytelling Schools approach integrates the tried and tested principles of Pie Corbett's 'Talk for Writing' into a whole school approach to learning. £20.

This twilight training for teachers and teaching assistants is designed as an introduction to the Storytelling Schools approach. We will introduce you to the overall elements of the system: teaching storytelling, deepening, shared writing, innovation and invention, and how it all fits together. *Booking necessary – call 763394 or email museum@stroud.gov.uk*

Thursday 17 November, 2pm **Talk with Barry Harrison: 'JOHN CANTON 1718 -1772'**

Discover the story of a local boy, the son of a weaver, who was born and educated in Stroud and went on to become a Fellow of the Royal Society. He was important for his early investigation of electricity and its effects. £5 (£3.50 MIP Friends) *Booking advised – call the Museum on 01453 763394*

Saturday 19 November, 11am **Stroud Children's Book Festival: STAN STINKY**

Have a go at inventing your own sewer hero or silly pet shop character at Hannah Shaw's fun workshop. For ages 5 to 9. £2 per child

Sunday 20 November, 11am **Stroud Children's Book Festival: BEAR ON A BIKE**

Enjoy Hannah Shaw's wonderful stories and have a go at drawing. All ages welcome! £2 per child.

Sunday 20 November, 2pm **COME AND TELL A TEEN SPY STORY ...**

Stroud Children's Book Festival: Join Jane Ryan in her workshop as she discusses all the ingredients needed for a stunning spy story. Delve into plots and plans and discover how the most ordinary objects can be important. For ages 11 – 16. £3.50 per student. *Booking necessary – call 763394.*

Thursday 24 November, 2pm **From Time to Time presents: 'VICTORIAN ENTERTAINMENT'**

You are invited to join Lady Maud Grey and Eliza Kneebone for a light-hearted and entertaining look into how leisure time was passed in Victorian middle class homes. Book early to secure a seat! Booking necessary – call 763394. £5 (£3.50 MIP Friends)

Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 December 11am – 5pm **MUSEUM IN THE PARK CHRISTMAS WEEKEND**

A medley of traditional Winter delights will be on offer before the Museum closes for its December Deep Clean. Take a look around the Museum displays and make a final visit to Andy Lovell's exhibition of prints in the Art Gallery. Create Christmas cards and decorations, or hunt for unusual presents in the Gift Shop. The Walled Garden will also be open, offering you a last chance to view Gallery Pangolin's outdoor exhibition of sculptures by West Country artists Anthony Abrahams, Ralph Brown, Jon Buck, Terence Coventry and Michael Cooper. Come and enjoy!

Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 December, 11am – 4pm (drop in) **CHRISTMAS ROBIN TRAIL**

A fun, festive 'I Spy' trail for children of all ages! Where is that Robin hiding now? Free

Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 December, 11am – 4pm (drop in) **CARD & TREE DECORATION MAKING**

Get creative and make your own mini Christmas cards and decorations! £1.

Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 December, 11am – 4pm (drop in) **LANTERN MAKING WORKSHOP**

Come and make a lovely lantern to light up the darkest time of year. Bring along a clean jam jar or water glass, we'll be embellishing these with paper cut-outs. Recommended for ages 5+. £1

Saturday 3 & Sunday 4 December, 11.30am or 2pm **FESTIVE WREATH MAKING WORKSHOPS**

Create a beautiful, traditional Winter wreath to adorn your door or table. Seasonal greenery and wreath base provided, but bring along your own special ribbons or extra decorations if you wish. Suitable for adults and students aged 15+. Tea and coffee included, allow around one hour to finish your wreath. *Booking necessary – call 763394. £8 (£6 MIP Friends)*

Sunday 4 December, 4.30pm **CAROL SINGING with Eleanor Holliday & Friends**

Come along for a good old-fashioned sing song! Led by the talented Eleanor Holliday, who's back by popular demand, we'll be singing some well-loved, familiar favourites. Come and join in, or come and listen ...everyone welcome! Free.

The Museum closes from 5th December and re-opens on 1st January. museuminthepark.org.uk

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