

We're improving Lansdown Hall

Lansdown Hall – Stroud's own community hall – is getting better and better, thanks to £105,000 worth of recent grants awarded by three separate donors.

The town council bought Lansdown Hall in 2010 to save it from closure. It is run by a charitable trust and provides a community space for the town. Last year major improvements were completed and now more are on the cards.

A £45,000 grant from Biffa Award has paid for air-to-water heating pumps which will transform the efficiency of the central heating system, new radiators, extra insulation and other energy-conserving measures. It also paid for a new draught-proof glass entrance lobby in the popular ground floor gallery, in response to public feedback, saving even more energy.

Gloucestershire Environmental Trust (GET) has awarded £30,000 towards extensive repairs to the roof, the gutter and downpipe system, windows and badly-damaged stonework.

This is in addition to £30,000 awarded

from GET for the works to the gallery in 2011-12. The grants by Gloucestershire Environmental Trust (GET) are paid out of Landfill Tax contributions donated by Cory Environmental.

Garfield Weston Foundation awarded £30,000. Along with some funds from Biffa Award and the town council, this will pay for a new equipment store/ green room and some back stage improvements.

The pedestrian entrance to Bank Gardens from the High Street has undergone a major refit. The badly eroded old stone piers have been renovated using a lot of newly carved limestone, the entrance has been widened and the pathway into the gardens leading up to Lansdown Hall's entrance has been levelled so it is now accessible for all.

Town councillor Steve Hurrell, chair of the Lansdown Hall Working Group, said: *"These recent grants have already begun to make a huge difference to the condition of the hall, which will really benefit its users and help us make the Hall and Gallery a community venue worthy of Stroud."*



Members of Flies on the Wall youth theatre group at Lansdown Hall

www.lansdownhall.org

Save our bus

Town councillors are calling on the county council to step in to protect a vital bus service in the town.

Cotswold Green Ltd is considering cutting its route 8 and route 8A services due to low passenger numbers and changes in legislation.

The route covers Grove Park Road and Grange View in Uplands where there is

sheltered accommodation for elderly and disabled people.

"It is a vital service and a solution needs to be found to ensure these people are not left with no means of transport," said mayor Amanda Moriarty.

Fringe success

Stroud's Fringe Festival had another successful year with thousands attending the weekend event.

The festival, which has run since 1996, is supported with a £5,000 annual grant from the town council.

A new team have taken over the running of the popular event. They are: Clare Honeyfield, Lotte Lyster, Jo Fry and Julie Howe.

Organisers are appealing for sponsors and volunteers. Email: newideas@stroudfringe.co.uk



Stroud Town Council offices are at Thanet House in London Road

Opening hours: Mon-Thurs 10am-1.30pm, Fri 9.30am-12.30pm

Phone: 01453 762817 Fax: 01453 753390

email: council@stroudtown.gov.uk web: www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Park plans

Residents are being asked for their ideas for Trinity Pocket Park in Field Road, near Stroud Hospital.

The town council has carried out two informal consultations in the Park as part of a plan to revitalise the community area.

The open space is enjoyed by a neighbouring toddlers' group as well as residents.

Further consultations will be carried out before designs are drawn up.

"Our green spaces are an important part of the town and we want to make sure that whatever we do with the Pocket Park has the backing of the community," said Councillor Eva Ward.

Symbol of hope

The town council was delighted to receive an original painting of Hill Paul donated by the artist, Laurence Roche

"It's a fitting reminder of the successful campaign to save Hill Paul as part of Stroud's industrial heritage," said Councillor John Marjoram.

"It represents the ability of the community to make things happen. It will be displayed proudly in reception where every visitor to the council can see it – 'a symbol of hope'."

Lights, action

It will be all change this Christmas with the festive lights in Stroud.

The lights, which are provided by the town council, are outdated and not suitable for further use.

The council is working in collaboration with traders to create a more attractive and energy-efficient display.

"We appreciate that the lights add to the atmosphere of the town and we are committed to supporting our local shops," said Mayor Amanda Moriarty.

"We are working together with the Chamber to come up with an alternative that will benefit Stroud."

Grants support our community

The Door Project has received a £3,000 town council grant for a creative gardens project.

Other community activities to receive recent grants include: Top of Town Community Association (£400), U3A (£500), Clocking off Campaign (£500) and Spaniel in the Works (£500).

The council awards small grants of between £50 and £500 and community support grants of between £500 and £3,000.

The next deadline for grant applications is January 5, 2015. Application forms and further information are available from the town council offices or from www.stroudtown.gov.uk

Store wars - we will protect centre

Town councillors believe any new supermarket for Stroud should be located in the town centre.

They have expressed their concerns about three planning applications for out of town supermarkets on the fringes/outskirts of Stroud – Asda at Daniels Industrial Estate in Lightpill, a new supermarket on the site of Stroud Metal in Dudbridge and one on the former Brunsdon site in Ryford.

The district council's planning committee has delayed a decision on the three applications following news that an application is expected for a fourth store on the Market Tavern site.

The town council is concerned that the proposed stores outside the centre will seriously affect town centre businesses and has expressed a preference for a

store at the Market Tavern site.

"We are aware of the imminent application for a supermarket at the Market Tavern site within the town centre and we view this as an important development which should be taken into account before a decision is made on the other three applications," said town councillor Simon Arundel.

"If Stroud is to have an additional supermarket then it is our view that the pending fourth supermarket application at this location may provide an opportunity to reinvigorate trade in Stroud town centre (which already has 24 empty shops) and be a far preferable alternative to the other applications."

They are our champions

Community champions received star treatment at the Stroud Town Council Annual Awards.

Teenager Josh Norman, aged 15, was named Young Person of the Year. He worked with his parents to launch Rush Skatepark, a safe place where young people can meet and enjoy themselves.

Former Citizen reporter Jo Barber was judged Community Star, while Vanessa Price, of Assured Mobility, also won a Community award.

Pete Blythe of Cornflower & Calico and Simon Powell of Brilliant Disguise

were both named Trader of the Year.

Helen Royall won the Environment award. She has been a driving force in Transition Stroud, Eco Open Homes and Open Edible Stroud.

The Mayor made two Special Awards, to Gerb Gerbrands for making such a success of the Farmers' Market and to Jamie Neal and Nick Friday who installed the new paving in the High Street.

Stroud Civic Society chose Bankfield House's new extension, designed by Clive Petch and Keith Angus for the Design Award.



Winner: Gerb Gerbrands

Stroud scores golden hat trick



Blooming trade: some of the businesspeople who put out flowers as part of Stroud in Bloom

Stroud has scored a golden hat trick in the Britain in Bloom competition.

The town, headed by volunteers of Stroud in Bloom, and supported by the town council's Green Spaces team, received the top honour in the Heart of England regional awards for the third year running.

This is a clear run of Golds for Jim Mathison, the town council's Green

Spaces manager, and his team since Jim was appointed in 2011.

The judges praised the welcome they received from members of Stroud in Bloom.

Judges highlighted: *"the volume of teams, businesses, public and private sector teams, and the positive way that they embrace the "In Bloom" way of partnership working"*.

Help shape our town's future

People are being encouraged to help shape Stroud's future by getting involved with the town centre's Neighbourhood Plan.

The town council has agreed to work with local residents to create a Neighbourhood Development Plan for the town centre and Cheapside area.

Once completed and approved by the community, the Plan would become a statutory planning document that can be used to support or challenge planning applications. It will cover the town centre including Merrywalks, the Cheapside area and the main gateways into the town.

It is vital that it reflects the full range of local people's views – both those that live in or near the town and those that work or do business here.

The process is being led by the Steering Group, made up of people from the community, and involves a wide range of community consultations and public meetings. The group is will be responsible for managing the preparation of the plan.

It is hoped the plan will be completed by May next year. Then it will be submitted to an independent inspector appointed by the district council for a formal examination.

If approved it will then be subject to a referendum where Stroud people will be able to vote for or against its adoption.

For further details about the process and how people can get involved please see the additional leaflet with this newsletter.

In brief

Children love free play

Youngsters enjoyed 68 hours of free play sessions over the summer.

The town council helps fund weekly play sessions at Archway Gardens play area and Mason Road.

The sessions are run by Play Gloucestershire, a children's charity that specialises in outdoor play.

Described as an outdoor youth club, Play Gloucestershire, which runs the Rangers scheme, offers a wide range of activities for young people aged 7 to 14.

For more information, please visit www.playgloucestershire.org.uk

Living wage

The town council is now providing a living wage for all its employees.

The town council, which employs 11 people in full time and part-time positions, is committed to paying the living wage which is £7.65. Currently the minimum wage is £6.31.

The living wage is calculated by experts who have assessed what is needed to cover the basic cost of living, and is updated annually.

Tea-riffic

A coffee morning at the town council offices in London Road raised £335 for MacMillan.

Re-elected

Councillor Amanda Moriarty was re-elected mayor of the town council and John Marjoram returned as deputy mayor.

Protect our field

Summer Street residents are campaigning to secure Village Green status for a piece of Slad Valley.

McNally's Field is directly next to Baxter's Field where developers Gladman want

to build 112 houses, a proposal that has been passionately opposed by the town council.

In order to obtain Town or Village Green status an applicant is required to show that the inhabitants of an area have used the land for lawful and legal leisure

activities for 20 years. A public hearing has been held into the application and a decision is yet to be made.

Stroud District Council rejected the planning application by Gladmans. The developer has now appealed to the High Court.

Helping families grow

Home-Start is one of the charities that benefits from regular grant support from Stroud Town Council.

Bringing up a young family can be tough, especially when you are going through difficult times.

For the past 15 years Home-Start Stroud District has been providing support and friendship to parents.

The charity supports and trains volunteers who befriend families with young children. All the volunteers are parents or have parenting experience.

"We understand how difficult it is to bring up a family. We provide non-judgemental practical and emotional support. Families choose whether they want our service or not which allows us to work alongside the families," explains Alex Corgier, senior co-ordinator.

It costs an average £1,400 to support a family for a year. The charity receives an annual £3,000 grant from the

town council.

"The town council support is very important as it is becoming more and more difficult to secure funding," said Alex.

Last year Home-Start supported 87 families in the Stroud district which included 206 children. Its team of 66 volunteers provided 3,610 hours of direct contact.

The charity helps with a range of difficulties including post-natal depression, death of a loved one, mental illness or struggling with a disability or relationship problems. All of its services and support are confidential.

To find out more about Home-Start's support or how to volunteer phone **01453 297470**, or go to www.home-start.org.uk.

Find a treasure at arts market

Find the perfect Christmas gift at the Lansdown Hall Arts Market from November 25-29.

Open daily from 10.30am-4pm in the gallery the market will feature the work of local artists. The market is organised by town mayor Amanda Moriarty.

"It's an opportunity for people to see firsthand some of the wonderful work being produced by our local artists," said Amanda.

Decision delay

A decision on the controversial Javelin Park incinerator proposal has been delayed until November 30.

Stroud Town Council raised concern about the proposal's viability at a recent planning inquiry.

A decision was due to be announced in September.

Urbaser Balfour Beatty appealed after Gloucestershire County Council rejected the planning application.

Meet your town councillors

Central Ward



Kevin Cranston
01453 755483



Rachel Lyons
01453 750268



Ben Spencer
01453 753355

Trinity Ward



Steve Hurrell
01453 767127



John Marjoram
01453 750962



Amanda Moriarty
01453 759102

Uplands Ward



Julian Carlyon
01453 767120



Simon Arundel
01453 766825



Lucas Schoemaker
01453 840039

Valley Ward



Steve Naumann
01453 767977



Paul Shevlin
01453 299248



Margaret Poulton
07989 361457

Farmhill & Paganhill Ward



Haydn Sutton
01453 763255



Paul Mapplebeck
01453 757747



Eva Ward
01453 756900

Slade Ward



Gillian Winstone
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Rob Green
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