

## Gruffalo comes to Lansdown Hall



Picture: Courtesy of Gloucestershire Media

**Well-loved book character  
The Gruffalo delighted scores of  
children in Stroud.**

He appeared along with his creator Julia Donaldson and other friends in two sell-out shows at Lansdown Hall. The event raised more than £1,800 to support further development of Lansdown Hall which Stroud Town Council saved from closure five years ago. Since then the hall has undergone major repairs and refurbishments, with more underway.

*"I know Stroud well and when my sister Mary suggested we do a show to raise money for Lansdown Hall I was delighted to help" said Julia.*

## £255,000 That's how much we've invested in the community

**Stroud Town Council has awarded £255,000 to community groups and organisations in the past four years.**

Since the town council was elected in 2011, it has helped more than 68 community groups, providing everything from a small one-off grant to annual support.

The small grants programme provides support from £50 to £500. Since 2011 it has awarded £19,600.

Those helped include: Allotment Associations (Spider Lane, Uplands and Summer Street), Stroud Embroiders' Guild, Flies on the Wall Theatre Company, Friends of Daisy Bank, Slad Valley Action Group, Stroud Beekeepers, Stroud Sea Cadets, Stroud Valleys Project, Stroud Valleys

Scout Group and the Top of Town Community Association.

The Community Support Fund makes awards of between £500 and £3000. Launched in 2012 it has provided £56,000 in grants.

Some of the groups to have benefited from the scheme include Allsorts, Age Concern, Homestart and Shire Training. The fund has also provided an annual grant to the Gardening Assistance Scheme for vouchers for Stroud residents to get help with keeping gardens tidy when they can't do it for themselves.

The town council, since 2011, has awarded £180,000 in other grants. These have included annual grants to the Citizens' Advice Bureau, Stroud

Fringe Festival, the town's Goodwill Evening, Lansdown Hall, Marah Trust, Homestart, Uplands Care Services, Stroud Show and The Door.

The Bee Town project, Cotswold Canals Trust visitor centre, Stroud's food and walking festivals, GlosVAIN, Stroud FM, The Weave, Uplands Post Office, Stroud Preservation Trust and the Stroud International Textile Festival have also received support.

*"The town council believes it has an obligation to support projects which enhance and enrich the life of the community," said town mayor Amanda Moriarty. "At a time when so much funding has been cut, these grants have been a lifeline for many groups."*



**Stroud Town Council offices are at Thanet House in London Road**

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# It's been a busy four years

Here are the highlights of what Stroud Town Council has achieved for its residents since it was elected in 2011.



## Town awards

Scores of people, from teenagers to traders, have been honoured for their efforts to make Stroud a better place to live.



## Hands off our hospital

The town council successfully campaigned to prevent Stroud Hospital being taken over by a social enterprise company. It organised a public meeting which more than 350 people attended and lobbied key NHS and government officials to ensure the hospital stayed in NHS control.



## Uplands Post Office

A threatened community post office saved by Stroud Town Council has won its final reprieve. For five years the town council provided financial support to Uplands Post Office by paying for its technical services from Post Office Counters Ltd. Now, following discussions with the town council, Post Office Counters has waived the annual charges.



## Play Rangers

Children have enjoyed free play thanks to the support of the town council. For the past four years the council has funded Play Gloucestershire to run outdoor play sessions during school holidays at Archway Gardens and Mason Road. Children have enjoyed hundreds of hours of free play. Play Gloucestershire offers a wide range of activities for young people aged 8 to 14.



## Stroud in Bloom

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



## Nature reserve

Rare plants and wildlife have been spotted in the old Stroud Cemetery which is an officially designated local nature reserve. It is looked after by the town council's Green Spaces team. It is home to glow worms, rare lichens and a wildflower meadow.

## And another thing

More things your town council has done for you:

Pictorial flower meadows at Wallbridge, Park Gardens and around the town.

Boundary walls at Uplands and Summer Street allotments extended to protect gardeners' plots.

Dog bins added to the canal path.

Improvements to bus shelters at Merrywalks – now they have sides to keep out the weather.

Grit bins provided through the town centre.

Fruit trees planted in Uplands Field, the Long Ground and Swifts Hill.

Trees planted at Uplands and The Leazes

Playing Fields.

Campaign to protect town centre businesses from excessive supermarket development.

Campaign against the incinerator at Javelin Park.

Supporting residents and businesses to create the Neighbourhood Development plan.



### Baxter's Field

The town council campaigned to protect Baxter's Field from development. It objected to an application for 140 homes on 15.5 acres of land off Summer Street. The town council held a public meeting and provided support for a community campaign. The plans were turned down and Goldman Developments has withdrawn its high court appeal.



### Public rights of way

The town council commissioned Stroud Community Land Trust to inspect each of Stroud's 63 Public Rights of Way and many more 'Lost Ways'. The report – the third commissioned by the town council – found most footpaths were in a reasonable condition but where there were missing waymark signs, dangerous stiles or poor or missing signposting, these were put right as a result of the survey.



### Lansdown Hall

The town council stepped in to save the hall from closure in 2010. Major refurbishments have been carried out and now more are under way including improved access in Bank Gardens, a refurbished gallery and a new equipment store/green room. The council has successfully obtained £135,000 of grants towards the cost of the work. Used by scores of groups Lansdown Hall is truly Stroud's own community hall.



### Daisy Bank play area

Children are enjoying new play equipment at Daisy Bank, thanks to the town council and a grant of section 106 funds from the District Council. The children and parents were consulted on what equipment they wanted in the Horns Road play area thanks to the thriving Friends of Daisy Bank community group.

### Farmers' Market

The town council's support helped secure the future of Stroud Farmers' Market for the next two years. The council backed a community campaign after it was revealed that the contract could go out to tender.

# How the town council operates

A town council is the first or most local tier of government. We also have the national government, the County Council and the District Council. The responsibilities of each level of government are broadly as follows:

**National:** defence, taxation, health, law and order.

**Gloucestershire County:** education, social services and highways.

**Stroud District:** planning, environmental health (street cleaning, rubbish collection, etc), housing and regeneration.

**Stroud Town:** recreation areas, allotments, Stroud Cemetery and arts and entertainment.

Towns have limited direct powers but are able in partnership to influence other authorities and contribute to achieve better standards for their parishes.

To find out more about what we do please go to [www.strouttown.gov.uk](http://www.strouttown.gov.uk)

# Helen is new town clerk

Helen Bojaniwska is Stroud's new town clerk.

She replaces clerk Sue Capener who has stepped down to become a part-time project officer for the town council.

Helen has been working in local councils for more than a decade. She worked with councils across Gloucestershire helping them create parish plans.

For the past three years Helen has worked as a clerk for Dursley Town Council and has been involved in such projects as the town councils new youth centre.

*"I live in the Stroud area so know the town well. With Lansdown Hall, the Neighbourhood Development Plan and other projects it's an exciting time to join Stroud,"* said Helen.

# Shaping the heart of Stroud – *The Next Steps*

Hundreds of people have recently commented on the options for planning Stroud town centre over the next 20 years at a series of events organised in March by 'Shaping the heart of Stroud', as part of the inclusive process for preparing the Stroud Town Centre Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The options reflect a vision for a town centre that is attractive, sustainable and vibrant.

In March people were invited to comment on the options through events at the Subscription Rooms and Lansdown Hall, and a week long 'pop up' shop in King Street.

These events shared information, provided opportunities to talk to



volunteers and generated lots of feedback. Thank you to all those who participated. Information on the draft plan and feedback can be found on [www.shapingtheheartstroud.org](http://www.shapingtheheartstroud.org).

The aim is to present the preferred options to the Town Council on 27 April and to seek Town Council

approval to the draft plan in the summer. Formal consultation will then take place on a final plan during the early Autumn period.

The Town Council is responsible for submitting the plan to the District Council, which will organise an independent examination of the plan to check that it has been prepared properly.

Yes, it is complicated! It is, however, worth the effort to create a plan made by people in the town and which we hope will be approved by a majority of residents in a referendum. If agreed it will have to be taken into account when planning decisions are made and it will help to shape the town over the next twenty years.

## 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  
07810 860672



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  
01453 753639



Malene Mose  
07887 703309



Rob Green  
01453 764438