



Picture: Thousand Word Media

Handover: the District Council handover of the Sub Rooms to the Town Council and Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust

Putting the heart back into the Subs

Community leaders have officially sealed a deal which will keep Stroud's iconic arts and entertainments venue in public ownership.

Stroud District Council handed over Stroud Subscription Rooms to new owners and operators today, marking an historic moment for the landmark building.

Stroud District Council has transferred the building to the Town Council and the business and staff to the Stroud Subscription Rooms Trust.

The Town Council and Trust have also simultaneously completed a lease agreement, to allow the Trust to start running the Sub Rooms.

In October this year the building will celebrate its 185th birthday, and SDC is investing up to £125,000 in to roof repairs plus giving a one-off grant of £230,000 to help the Trust get off to a sound start.

The Town Council has earmarked £83,000 for costs around the transfer and new equipment.

The business and staff have been transferred direct to the Trust as well as fixtures and fittings valued at around £20,000.

Applications for Listed Building and Planning consent (s.190614/LBC and S.19/0613/FUL) have been submitted. Work is due to start in August on the first phase of improvement works starting with a new bar and café on the ground floor with a new kitchen,

a more accessible bar upstairs and an improved access ramp.

Future phases will include: retractable seating in the Ballroom; a multi-use space with retractable cinema seating in the George Room; improved toilets, including a fully accessible disabled toilet with adult changing facilities; a new cellar; and improved circulation around the stairs.

Hugh Phillimore and Alex Cowan, joint chairs of the Trust, said: "We are looking forward to a new and exciting future at the Subs, with a wide programme of events.

"Our priority is to give the Subs a bit of love and put it back at the heart of Stroud but we can't do that without you. We need the community to get behind us and help us make this venue thrive once again."

www.thesubrooms.co.uk



How you can make a difference

There are lots of ways you can help:

Book a date

Have a look at what's on and come along to a show or a concert, or whatever takes your fancy.

Be a Subscriber

The community backed a pledge campaign with nearly £50,000 pledged. So far donations have exceeded £24,000.

When The Subscription Rooms was originally built in 1833, it was built through public subscription. This means that the people of Stroud donated their own money to ensure that the project had enough funds to see it through to completion. By means of recognition, those who donated were known as Subscribers.

To continue the historical legacy of The Subscribers, The Sub-Subscriber campaign was launched. Money raised will help pay for major renovations which will dramatically improve the Subs over the next few years.

Join the team

Volunteers are vital to help the Subs be the best that it can be. You don't need to have a specialist skill to become a volunteer. A friendly smile, a reliable attitude and a desire to be part of the team is really all that the Trust is looking for.

You can donate, book tickets and find out about volunteering all online at: www.thesubrooms.co.uk. Contact the Box Office on 01453 796880.

Email: hello@thesubrooms.co.uk

Follow us on

- Facebook (@subscriptionrooms),
- Instagram and Twitter
- (SubRoomsStroud)



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

Briefs

Helping communities take control

The Town Council has appointed Emily Osler in its new role as Community Worker.

Her role is to support Stroud residents to bring about positive, community-led change where they live. Rather than telling communities what they need, it's about facilitating local people to harness the skills and assets that exist within communities, working together to find solutions to common concerns and putting ideas into action.

Initially Emily is working in Top of Town and Farmhill/Paganhill areas where she will hold a series of pop-up events to start some conversations.

If people have an idea for a community project but don't know where to start, need support to turn around a difficult issue in their neighbourhood, or would simply like to connect with others in your community, please get in touch with Emily on emily.osler@strouttown.gov.uk

Take a stroll on the wild side

Join the Town Council's rangers for a range of nature of walks and learn about the our fantastic natural environment.

On May 11 and on June 9, Mat Allen will take people on a stroll around the Bisley Road Cemetery Nature Reserve and talk about the wildlife which lives there.

On June 1, join Mat for a ramble around Stroud's green spaces and learn about the natural and cultural history of the town. Pete Bradshaw will lead a Small Mammal Safari on August 17 around the Bisley Road Cemetery Nature Reserve.

All the events are free, but booking is requested. For further details or to book your place please contact the Town Council on 01453 762817 or email council@strouttown.gov.uk.

Precept set

The Town Council is using its reserves and alternative forms of revenue to protect the services it provides to the community.

The average Band D payer will pay an extra 24p per week as the Town Council's share of the council tax. That means, an average Band D council tax payer will pay £156.85 a year, an increase of £12.28 per year.

Councillors decided to use £260,075 from reserves in order to protect services and to ensure the Town Council can continue with its projects.

Slow down and make our streets safer

Data from Stroud's Vehicle Activated Signs reveals that up to 80% of drivers are ignoring the 20mph speed limit on the London Road.

Up to 77% of drivers are exceeding the limit on the Bisley Old Road and on Parliament Street. Speeds of up to 68mph have been recorded by the signs.

It is five months since Stroud Town Council installed the signs in the town.

Town Councillor Sarah Lunnon chairs the Town Council's Road Safety Group. The Group has received countless reports of damage to cars from broken wing mirror to complete write-offs, costing residents hundreds of pounds.

The data reveals there have been many incidences of speeds as high as double the speed limit at times when children are walking to school in residential areas.

The signs have had a positive impact with drivers



County Councillor Eva Ward and Deputy PCC Chris Brierley launch Stroud's Vehicle Activated Signs

slowing down around the signs and driving at lower speeds.

The Town Council has been granted funding from Gloucestershire County Council for automatic number plate recognition signs which will be used to capture the number plates of repeat offenders.

Do your part to be carbon neutral

Stroud Town Council has become one of the first in the country to make reducing carbon emissions a priority.

As part of its commitment the Town Council has set up a new Carbon Reduction Fund. It will provide funding towards community projects where a primary aim is to reduce CO² emissions from households and organisations in Stroud.

Applications for the £5,000 fund will be judged on the level of CO² savings per pound spent. It can be used to fund practical work, feasibility studies/research

projects, awareness raising or training.

The deadline for the first grant applications is noon on May 27. Find out more on: www.strouttown.gov.uk/what-we-do/grants

The Town Council has pledged to become completely carbon neutral by 2030 and to where possible encourage more sustainable transport, reduction in energy, production and consumption of locally-sourced food, the reduction in consumption of animal products and reductions in energy use

in homes, businesses and elsewhere.

The proposal was put forward by Councillor Alan Sage. "Climate change is the defining issue of our time. The report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is terrifying," he said.

"The Town Council must put carbon emissions at the heart of all its activities and do more to encourage this at grassroots level. If we wait for national and international governments it will be too late to save our planet."

Signs pointing in the right direction

The Town Council has launched an initiative to improve signage in and around the town.

Working with Footprint Designs, it launched a consultation in March where people could comment on proposed designs, discuss the thought process behind the designs and contribute their opinions about the type of materials they would like to see used.

A small working group will review the feedback and develop options for a signage scheme. The public will be consulted on the final designs later in the year.

Signage has often been identified as an issue in projects such as the Cultural Strategy and the Public Realm Strategy. Problems have included poor conditions and upkeep of signs, absence of signs at key points in the town and lack of a cohesive design scheme creating a cluttered feel.

It can play an important role in town, welcoming, guiding and engaging with all who visit, work in or use the town's amenities.



Town proves it's all heart

Stroud has proven it is a community with a big heart as a campaign to install five defibrillators throughout the town has hit its targets.

The life-saving devices, which can shock a person's heart back

into a normal rhythm if they go into cardiac arrest, have been fitted at the HSBC UK in King Street, Midcounties Co-operative Food in Slad Road, The Door Youth Project in the High Street, the Cotswold Playhouse in Parliament Street and the Cotswold Canal Trust visitors' centre in Wallbridge.

A sixth machine has been

donated to the Street Pastors by the Community Heartbeat Trust which worked with the Town Council on the project.

There is no training to use a defibrillator. When someone phones 999, they will give the caller a location and code. The machine then gives the user clear instructions.

Our aim is to make access for all

A new initiative has been launched by the Town Council to make Stroud accessible for all.

It started six months ago when the Town Council started a campaign to improve access at Stroud Railway Station.

Disability Auditor Christian Drewitt carried out a review of the station looking at the access issues and how to make the area more suitable for people with disabilities.

Local political parties and councillors got behind the Town Council's application for the Access for All grant from the Department for Transport. It was shortlisted and results are expected some time in April.

Christian has also reviewed the Subscription Rooms and Lansdown Hall and his reports are being used by the Town Council to design improvements to the buildings.

Now Christian has been asked to review the access on 20 further public buildings in Stroud. The audit will focus on visual impairment and physical disabilities.

The information will be shared to enable people with disabilities to better navigate around the town and enjoy their visit.

The Town Council has also pledged funding to Stroud Rotary Club which is leading an audit of facilities for people who are hearing impaired with a view of improving the quality of infrastructure.

The Town Council hopes that businesses will join the access project and carry out audits to raise the profile of the town and make it more welcoming for all visitors.

Stroud Town Council is bidding for a share of £300 million from the Department for Transport (DfT) to improve access at the town's railway station.

It needs people to back its campaign in order to secure a nomination for the money.

During the consultation for the town's Neighbourhood Development Plan, over 2,500 people prioritised a step-free crossing at the station.

The Town Council asked Disability Auditor Christian Drewitt to review Stroud station.

"My experience from start to finish was very poor," said Christian in his report.

The only way wheelchair users can get to one platform is via Rowcroft - a 10-15 minute



detour. Christian recommends that lifts be installed to enable disabled passengers to use the footbridge.

Stroud Town Mayor Kevin Cranston said Christian's experience shows that Stroud needs a slice of the funding to make the station more accessible for all.

In order to ensure Stroud is nominated for funding, please sign a petition on <https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/let-s-have-lifts-at-stroud-station-1> It can be signed by individuals, groups and businesses or letters of support can be sent to the Town Council.

For more information please email kim.cowan@stroudtown.gov.uk.

Briefs

Creating a haven for students

Stroud's Green Spaces Rangers helped created a nature-friendly garden at Archway School.

They were asked to create a relaxing area where students can enjoy nature and grow some vegetables.

The team transformed the piece of land with native wildflower meadow turf, planted new broadleaf and native hedges and built raised beds.

They also planted more than 800 hedge plants and creating over 150m of new hedges at various sites around the town including Daisy Bank.

The Town Council is also carrying out vital repairs to stone walls at Bank Gardens, Sims Clock, Spider Lane and Daisybank.

Town clerk earns top marks

Stroud's Town Clerk Helen Bojaniwska achieved a First Class Degree in Community Governance and received the prize for top student during the SLCC Practitioners Conference in Kenilworth.

This was the culmination of six years' hard work in her own time. Helen started the course while she was Clerk to Dursley Town Council and finished it while at Stroud Town Council. Both Councils recognise the value of professional qualifications and helped to fund Helen's studies.

Helen is a pivotal member of the team who have been working for the past two years to negotiate the transfer of the Subscription Rooms to the Town Council. She has also helped to guide the Subscription Rooms Trust through its formation.

Grants awarded to organisations

The Town Council has awarded over £25,000 to community groups and organisations from its Arts and Culture fund, Community fund and Small Grants fund.

These included Periscope (£675); Stroud Folk Weekend (£300), Archway Anarchist (£500), Stroud Valleys Project (£450), Stroud Valleys Credit Union (£600), Stroud Country Show (£1,500) and Stroud Nature Festival (£1,518).

The deadline for the next grant applications is noon on May 27. Find out more on: www.stroudtown.gov.uk/what-we-do/grants



Keep in touch!

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On Twitter: @TownStroud
www.stroudtown.gov.uk



GWR nameplate returns to town

A Great Western Railway nameplate which has been carried on one of its High Speed Train locomotives has been presented to Stroud.

The locomotive, number 43 143 was named Stroud 700 in 2004 marking 700 years since Stroud was incorporated in 1304.

As GWR carry out the biggest fleet upgrade in a generation, new Intercity Express Trains are now

replacing the 40-year-old high speed trains and this locomotive was being taken out of service.

Joe Graham, Business Assurance Director for GWR said "We are thrilled to be able to present to Stroud this nameplate as a reminder of the importance of Stroud and railway."

GWR also presented a cheque for £1,700 which was raised from the sale of the second nameplate. This will be donated to Creative Sustainability CIC.

Stroud's community heroes

Stroud's community heroes will have a chance to shine in the town council's annual awards.

The awards, organised by Stroud Town Council, recognise those people – young and old – who go the extra mile.

There are five categories: community, environment, trader, inclusivity and diversity and young person of the year. Groups or individuals can be nominated.

Last year's competition saw a record number of entries and the Town Council is hoping to build on the success.

Anyone can nominate someone and it just takes a few minutes.

The winners will be announced at a special town meeting on May 22 at 7.30pm at Lansdown Hall.

The Annual Town Meeting is open to Stroud residents and is a chance for people to find what has been happening in the town and to discuss town matters. There will also be displays and films about climate change at the event, from 6.30pm.

How to nominate

Nominations can be submitted online at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/StroudTownAwards2019 or you can pick up a nomination form from the Town Council office in London Road, which is open Mon-Thurs 10am-1.30pm and Friday from 9.30am-12.30pm or request one by phoning 01453 762817.

The deadline for nominations is noon on April 29.

Useful numbers

Stroud District Council www.stroud.gov.uk T: 01453 766321

Bins, rubbish and recycling • Bulky waste collection • Fly tipping • Street cleaning
Abandoned vehicle • Council tax • Housing • Benefits • Dog warden • Pest control
Planning and building control • Car parks • Licensing

Gloucestershire County Council www.gloucestershire.gov.uk
T: 01452 425000:

Libraries and archives • Schools • Births, marriages and deaths • Health and social care

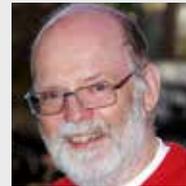
Gloucestershire County Council Highways
www.gloucestershire.gov.uk T: 08000 514514

Public rights of way (PROW) • Roads and pavements • Overgrown vegetation • Street lighting • Flooding

Central Ward



Kevin Cranston (Mayor)
T: 01453 755483
M: 07525 065286
E: kevin.cranston@strouttown.gov.uk



John Bloxson
T: 01453 766529
M: 07900 185275
E: john.bloxson@strouttown.gov.uk



Alice Campbell
T: 01453 840245
E: alice.campbell@strouttown.gov.uk

Farmhill & Paganhill Ward



Haydn Sutton
T: 01453 763255
E: haydn.sutton@strouttown.gov.uk



Vanessa Price
M: 07739 718913
E: vanessa.price@strouttown.gov.uk



Alan Sage
M: 07825 508547
E: alan.sage@strouttown.gov.uk

Slade Ward



Geoffrey Andrews
M: 07899 632307
E: geoffrey.andrews@strouttown.gov.uk



Laurie Davies
M: 07846 203154
E: laurie.davies@strouttown.gov.uk



Rob Green
T: 01453 764438
E: rob.green@strouttown.gov.uk

Trinity Ward



John Marjoram
T: 01453 750962
E: john.marjoram@strouttown.gov.uk



Steve Dechan
T: 07564 023343
E: steve.dechan@strouttown.gov.uk



Lucas Schoemaker
T: 01453 840039
E: lucas.schoemaker@strouttown.gov.uk

Uplands Ward



Chas Townley
T: 01453 298396
M: 07969 275231
E: chas.townley@strouttown.gov.uk



Simon Arundel
T: 01453 766825
M: 07909 657197
E: simon.arundel@strouttown.gov.uk



Steven Naumann
T: 07810 860672
E: steven.naumann@strouttown.gov.uk

Valley Ward



Margaret Poulton
(Deputy Mayor)
M: 07989 361457
E: margaret.poulton@strouttown.gov.uk



Camilla Hale
M: 07936 505251
E: camilla.hale@strouttown.gov.uk



Sarah Lunnon
T: 01453 767724
M: 07702 153584
E: sarah.lunnon@strouttown.gov.uk