

## CLERK'S REPORT NOVEMBER 2024

**Local Government Pay Award** – details from the National Association of Local Government have confirmed the NJC Pay Award, to be back dated to the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2024. Details have been forwarded to the Council Members.

### **Remembrance Sunday – TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE:**

**REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE:** Please be advised that the Parish Council has received permission for a **temporary road closure** in the vicinity of the War Memorial to facilitate the peaceful observance of the Remembrance Day Service. The affected roads—**Church Road, The Street, and Gipsy Lane**—will be closed from **10:45 am to 11:20 am on Sunday, 10th November 2024**. We kindly ask for your cooperation during this time and appreciate your understanding.

**Woodlands and Dozule Close** – Gas works are being carried out by Wales & West

**Dog Waste Bin**, Gipsy Lane – has now been replaced.

### **ARE YOU CLAIMING THE STATE PENSION? YOU MAY BE ENTITLED TO PENSION CREDIT.**

The Government estimates that there are over 880,000 people entitled to Pension Credit who have not applied. If you're single with total weekly income under roughly £218 or...If you're a couple, both of pension age, with weekly income under roughly £332... Note, if your income

is slightly higher, you may still get pension credit, it depends on circumstances, so it's worth checking.

Pension Credit is worth £75/week on average.

It can mean extras such as free TV licences, council tax benefit, Housing Benefit, Warm Home Discount and the Winter Fuel Payment.

The last possible date to make a successful backdated Pension Credit claim to receive the Winter Fuel Payment is **21<sup>st</sup> December 2024**.

You can check if you are eligible by:

- going online <https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit-calculator>
- calling the Pension Service Helpline 0800 99 1234 (8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday)
- or call 0808 800 0510/0511 at Citizens Advice

If you would like assistance in completing the forms, then please Email [clerk@leonardstanley-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@leonardstanley-pc.gov.uk)

**Stay Vigilant!** As we have reached that time of year when the clocks have gone back, the Stanleys often see an increase in break-ins and burglaries. To help protect your home and property, please ensure that windows, doors, and outbuildings are securely locked. If you plan to be out after dark, consider setting a timer to switch on a light to give the appearance that someone is home.

**Warm Wednesdays** - Weekly Soup and Cake Light Lunches will be temporarily held in the Village Hall (6th, 13th and 20th November) gathering from 12.30 for a 1pm start. On 27th this will be back in the church at the normal time of 12.00 for 12.30 lunch. As before it's a 'Pay as you are able' event, everyone is welcome.

### Events for the diary at the Village Hall

16 November 7.30pm Auction: a really fun evening event jointly arranged by Social Club Committee and VH Committee.

30 November Christmas Fayre: Stalls inside and outside the front – a sparkling daytime event for you and yours!



### Our Top Three Tips for Managing your Money at Christmas

*My children love Christmas and they're already picking extra treats off the shelf when we go shopping and telling me what presents they want. I really want to make it a special time for them, but times are tough and I can't help worrying about overspending and getting into debt. What can I do to manage my finances during the holiday season, and where can I turn if I find myself struggling?*

The festive season can be a financially challenging time, and borrowing money or using a credit card to fund Christmas can often seem like your only option. But there are steps you can take to keep your spending under control and avoid falling into debt.

#### 1. Budget:

The first thing to do is make a budget and stick to it.

- Consider **who** you're buying gifts for, what **other seasonal expenses** you have, and **how much** you can realistically afford to spend.
- Always keep **receipts**, or ask for gift receipts, in case you overspend and need to return something.

- And remember that **household bills** may be higher during this period due to colder weather and spending more time indoors.

## 2. Deal with debts:

If you've built up debt, please don't ignore bills or letters. Speak to the organisation you owe money to, as they may let you pay smaller amounts.

- Pay '**priority debts**' first, like rent, mortgage arrears, council tax, and energy bills.
- For other types of debt like credit cards or loans, gather all the information on what you owe, create a budget, and **contact your creditors** to set up an affordable repayment plan. This might seem scary, but it's an important first step.

## 3. Check your eligibility for cost-of-living support:

If your budget just doesn't add up and you need help to afford essentials like bills and food, see what cost of living support is available on the Citizens Advice website.

It is especially important to check if you're eligible for the **Winter Fuel Payment**, which will now only be paid to those who receive **Pension Credit** or other **means-tested benefits**. If you make a claim for Pension Credit by 21 December, you might still receive the Winter Fuel Payment.

If you do find yourself struggling financially during or after the holidays, don't panic. Support is out there, and Citizens Advice can help you understand what's available. We're here to help you find a way forward.

Please look at the public website first if possible ([www.citizensadvice.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice.org.uk)). If that isn't possible or you need further help please call us on 0808 800 0510 or 0808 800 0511 (Monday and Tuesday 10am to 4pm; Wednesday and Thursday 10am to 12.30pm). You can also access our local website ([www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk](http://www.citizensadvice-stroudandcotswold.org.uk)) to complete our email form.

We will be closed from 1pm on 24th December until 10am on Thursday 2nd January but we will have information about how to get urgent help on our local website.

# THE LONG TABLE



## [Midnight Pizzas @ The Long Table](#)

- Thursday, 7 November 2024
- 17:00 19:00

Family night with a twist! Midnight Pizza will be serving up delicious pay-as-you-can Neapolitan inspired sourdough pizzas.

There will also be a children's movie, craft tables and lego!

## [Earl Temple Foundation](#)

- Saturday, 9 November 2024

- 18:00 22:30

A chance to see the district's greatest ever neo-post-punk-jazz quintet in their Golden Valley heartlands.

## [Acapellies In/consolable](#)

- Thursday, 14 November 2024
- 18:00 21:00

*In consolable* is the new song-cycle from Acapellies Community Choir, a 40-strong non-auditioned Natural Voice choir from Stroud, Led by Eleanor Holliday. Immerse yourself in British, Georgian, Bulgarian, Corsican, American, Sardinian and Belarussian traditional songs, as well as contemporary polyphonic folk arrangements.

This is an intimate gig in the Sanctuary space, so places are limited and booking is essential.

## [Wine quiz](#)

- Saturday, 16 November 2024
- 18:00 21:30

You're invited to join Nailsworth Twinning Association, for a fun evening of wine tasting and wine quizzing!

The evening will involve a generous tasting of 6 wines, where you will be invited to guess the grape variety and country of origin (multiple choice), alongside a French themed table quiz and a general wine related quiz.

Teams of up to 6 people can come together or be made up on the night. Prize to the best team.

Don't worry about needing too much knowledge as most questions will be multiple choice.



## Have your say on risks faced by communities in Gloucestershire

Gloucestershire Fire and Rescue Service (GFRS) is asking for your views on the risks it faces in the county.

GFRS regularly assesses its own data and risks to the community and wants to hear the views of residents too.

Feedback from the public will be combined with the service's own data and the team's knowledge and experience, to build a balanced picture of the risks they face as a Fire and Rescue Service.

The engagement was launched on Monday 21 October and lasts for six weeks, ending on **Sunday 1 December 2024**. To take part, please go to: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/glosfire-crp](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/glosfire-crp)

The information will help to assess the potential impact and likelihood of the risks, and where they are most likely to occur.

The feedback will help form the Community Risk Profile (CRP) for Gloucestershire. This vital document informs the strategic Community Risk Management Plan (CRMP), the publication of which is a regulatory requirement. The CRMP is an assessment of risks and how we effectively use resources to address those risks.

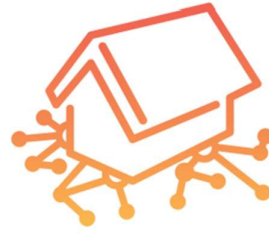
Residents and businesses are being asked to share their views about the risks faced within our county, both now and in the future, to make sure the new CRMP from 2026 onwards reflects your views.

You can find the current CRMP

here: [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/ixrglevp/gcc\\_3312-gfrs-community-risk-management-plan\\_dev10.pdf](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/media/ixrglevp/gcc_3312-gfrs-community-risk-management-plan_dev10.pdf)

# Better Housing Better Health

The Warmth & Wellbeing Service



## HOME ENERGY ADVICE

If you're worried about paying your energy bills, want to know how to make your home warmer or need advice on accessing financial support, Better Housing Better Health are here to help. We're a charity working locally to improve residents' domestic warmth and wellbeing and improve the energy efficiency of your property.

### BETTER HOUSING BETTER HEALTH CAN HELP WITH:

ENERGY BILL  
SUPPORT



HOME  
ENERGY  
VISITS



FINANCIAL  
ASSISTANCE

PRIORITY  
SERVICES  
REGISTER



GET IN TOUCH  
0800 107 0044

[www.bhbh.org.uk](http://www.bhbh.org.uk)

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## Guided walks with Cotswold Wardens near Stroud, Tetbury, & Malmesbury for November 2024

There are a number of warden-led walks coming up within easy reach of these towns. There is no need to book and there is no charge for joining the walks, though there is a box for a voluntary contribution towards materials for our work on footpath maintenance. Walks start usually at 10.00 am. & will return to the starting point. A packed lunch is advisable. Additional details are on the Cotswold National Landscape (formerly AONB) website.

### Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> Nov.. Start at 10am.

Lords And Ladies Of Sherston Difficulty: **MODERATE** Duration: **3.0 HOURS** Distance: **6.0 MILES**

Start point: **OUTSIDE HOLY CROSS CHURCH SHERSTON.** From Sherston we head across beautiful farmland taking in Lords and Ladyswood Farms, before heading to the edge of Luckington to enjoy streams and well-tended woodlands.

Please park considerately on the road near the church. Bring a drink and a snack.

### Friday, 8<sup>th</sup> Nov. start at 10am.

Hills and Mills

Difficulty: **STRENUOUS** Duration: **4.5 HOURS** Distance: **8.5 MILES**

Start point: **PORT MILL CAR PARK IN BRIMSCOMBE, A LITTLE TO THE EAST OF 'THE SHIP' PUBLIC HOUSE**

The walk will take us along the Golden Valley to Chalford, climb up to France Lynch and onward to Eastcombe, before descending the Toadsmoor Valley and returning to Brimscombe.

### Tuesday, 19th November, 2024 - Start: 10:00 am

Birdlip to Great Witcombe in Roman footsteps.

Difficulty: **MODERATE** Duration: **3 HOURS** Distance: **6 MILES**

Start point: **MEET ALONG THE ROAD EAST OF BIRDLIP SCHOOL. GL48JH**

From Birdlip village, downhill to Great Witcombe, following a part of Roman Ermin Street to the church, reservoir, and the site of a Roman Villa. We use 2 sections of the Cotswold Way.

Pubs available nearby for refreshments.

Thursday, 21st November, -..... Cromwell's Bath

**Start: 10:00 am, Difficulty: MODERATE Duration: 4.0 HOURS Distance: 9.0 MILES**

**Start point:** AVENING PRIMARY SCHOOL. PLEASE PARK CONSIDERATELY IN AVENING VILLAGE.

Starting along the MacMillan Way we head towards Chavenage House before descending along Chavenage Lane to head in to Tetbury. From there we return to the start along Blind Lane and Ridge's Lane.

Thursday, 28th November, -..... A Coffee Morning Walk With A Rambling Nonagenarian

**Start: 10:00 am, Difficulty: MODERATE Duration: 3.0 HOURS Distance: 4.5 MILES**

**Start point:** "HUNTERS' HALL" INN, KINGSCOTE, TETBURY. GL8 8XZ.

Kingscote lies on the A4153 Dursley to Tetbury road. This crosses the A46 approx. 1 mile east of Kingscote.

Join us to celebrate the 90th birthday of our venerable guided walk leader Eric Brown. Meet for coffee at 10:00. The walk starts at 10:30 and includes one of Eric's favourite local walking routes in the Lasborough Valley.