



## No 121: Liberal Democrats - keeping in touch with you *all year round*

### Lights Out

The County Council is asking local councils to agree to some street lights being turned off at midnight to reduce carbon dioxide, CO<sub>2</sub>, emissions and to cut spending.



North Nibley has agreed to take part in the scheme and Kingswood is looking in to it. Wotton Town Council is considering which lights could safely be switched off and will be consulting with residents. Alderley and Hillesley & Tresham have concluded that none of their lights can safely be turned off.

Gloucestershire's street lighting is responsible for the production of 8800 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year and the power bill is currently £1.8M. Conversion of each light only takes a few minutes; it costs £14 but saves £10 per year. Switching off about a third of Wotton's 477 lights would save 7.41 tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> each year and over £1400. Lights would not be turned off in sheltered housing areas, or other places where they are needed for public safety. They can quickly be put back to all-night working if required.

● **The Town Council** is having a survey of its property carried out to see if it can reduce its energy consumption. The Council is also hoping to take part in an Energy Neighbourhood Project, already being run in many other places, to encourage communities to save energy through taking specific action to reduce consumption in their homes. Half the cost of the project would be met by a European grant.



### Coffee Morning

Wotton's Christmas Coffee Morning for senior citizens will take place in the Civic Centre on Saturday 15th December from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

There will be free coffee, mince pies and entertainment.

If you will have any difficulty getting there, please ring Janet Walshe on 843060 for transport.

*Janet would also like to hear from anyone prepared to provide some mince pies or to help on the day.*

### Footpath on the map

Work over several years and local support has put the path between Oatground and Knapp Road in Wotton on the official public footpath map. Cuts in county council staff have not helped and at one time it looked as though the final small step would be years away. Insistence by John Cordwell meant that it went ahead without further delay.



### Flooding: Road Repairs

Serious flooding in the county in July, and in particular large amounts of water running off hillsides, has left the county with a repair bill of £25M. The Government has so far given £10M towards this, still meaning a delay in planned schemes not related to the floods. Work which is to go ahead this year includes Blackquarries Hill and Old London Road and Adeys Lane in Wotton and Chase Lane in Kingswood. Carriageway works in Swinhay Lane, North Nibley have currently been delayed.

### Fire & Rescue Control

The Government and many local Labour councillors want to move the county's Fire and Rescue control centre from Gloucester to a regional centre at Taunton. The flooding over the summer has underlined the value of keeping the control local and the County Council's Liberal Democrat leader launched a petition on the Prime Minister's website calling for a rethink: <http://petitions.pm.gov.uk/TriService>



### Christmas-under-the-Edge

Wotton Chamber of Trade is holding its Christmas Event on Saturday 1st December from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. with the **shopping streets closed to traffic from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.** There will be stalls and many other attractions. Watch out for further details.

## Local Jobs or Retirement Homes?

Ideas are being discussed to use the closed CPC packaging factory site (formerly Berkshire Gravure) in Potters Pond, Wotton, as a complex for older people.

The site is protected as key employment land under Stroud District Council's Local Plan "**where redevelopment for alternative uses or changes of use from employment use will not be permitted**". (Policy EM3, site EK29)

● Should the SDC overrule their own plan losing yet another employment site in the Town, or do we need to keep work in the town for the people who live here, particularly those without their own transport? **Let us know what you think.**



### Personal Debts

With growing numbers of people in debt, Liberal Democrat councillors have persuaded the County Council to devise a strategy to improve financial literacy among young people in Gloucestershire, through training in schools, for example.

### Post Office Closures

Nationally 2500 post offices are to be closed. Proposals for Gloucestershire are due to be announced in February and will be followed by about 6 weeks consultation. No date has been given when the final decision will be made. Liberal Democrats will be strongly resisting any proposal to close our local ones.

### Bus Shelters

In November last year John Cordwell presented a petition to the County Council from local residents fed up with getting wet in Mount Pleasant whilst waiting for a bus. Now money supplied by a developer will allow two or three extra shelters to be built in the town, with Mount Pleasant as the top priority. The exact positions are currently being worked out.

● **No bus? Share a journey, save money and help the environment:**

[www.carsharegloucestershire.com](http://www.carsharegloucestershire.com) ...is a free service linking drivers and passengers to share regular or occasional car journeys. Or ring 08700 11 11 99, the national liftshare call centre.

## Liberal Democrats care most about climate change

### ACTION SHEET - Tell us what needs doing!

If you know of a local problem which needs attention, if you have a good idea for our area, or want to comment on something you have read here, please get in touch with your local Liberal Democrat action team, using this space to have your say.

Name.....

Address.....

Phone..... e-mail.....

Your opinion:

#### CAN YOU HELP US?

- helping deliver Focus (just a few helps!)
- displaying a poster at elections
- making a donation
- join the growing number of local members (minimum £6)

#### TO HELP YOU

Please return to John Cordwell,  
13 Haw Street, Wotton-under-Edge  
or to Cotswold Liberal Democrats  
Freepost SWC 5108, Cirencester GL7 2ZZ



A Widescreen Digital  
Cinema in  
Wotton-under-Edge  
[www.wottoneph.co.uk](http://www.wottoneph.co.uk)  
e-mail:  
[info@wottoneph.co.uk](mailto:info@wottoneph.co.uk)  
Tel: 01453 844401

A great choice of Films every week  
23,000 visitors since reopening in 2005

## Liberal Democrats

County Councillor

**John Cordwell Tel 842439**  
[john.cordwell@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:john.cordwell@gloucestershire.gov.uk)  
[www.cordwell.clara.net](http://www.cordwell.clara.net)

District Councillors

**Paul Hemming Tel 842734**  
[cllr.paul.hemming@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.hemming@stroud.gov.uk)

**Paul Smith Tel 842898**  
[cllr.paul.smith@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:cllr.paul.smith@stroud.gov.uk)

Wotton & District Liberal Democrats

**June Cordwell Tel 842439**  
[june.cordwell@googlemail.com](mailto:june.cordwell@googlemail.com)

**Chris Galbraith Tel 843339**  
**Margaret Plummer Tel 842580**  
**Elizabeth Warren Tel 842290**