



**No 122W: Liberal Democrats - keeping in touch with you *all year round***

## Call for a Weight Limit

For residents of Bradley Street heavy lorry damage to a corner property was the final straw. A petition signed by almost every resident was presented to the County Council by John Cordwell. This was followed up with a well-attended meeting where the problem was discussed with Gloucestershire Highways. The result was unanimous support for a 7.5 tonne weight limit. A Traffic Order will now be prepared and advertised by the County Council. This is unfortunately a lengthy process.



The weight limit will also include Westfields, Dryleaze, Ellencroft Road, Lisle Place and Merlin Haven. The limit will not apply to vehicles requiring access to properties in this area.

## Tory Council Stops Checks on Overloaded Lorries

Despite protests from local County Councillor John Cordwell the County's Tory administration as part of its budget cuts pushed through a proposal to stop checks on overloaded lorries.

"This is madness" said John, "the amount saved will not make up for the damage to roads and property and danger it will cause to other road users. Overloading impairs braking and steering" The decision was made against the advice of the council's officers.

*This is an update on the information in the printed version of Focus.*

## 50 mph Speed Limit

Following local requests, a traffic order to introduce a 50 mph limit on the B4060 between Wotton and North Nibley was formally advertised last autumn. With no objections received, the order has been confirmed and the signs should be in place very soon.

*Would you like to receive Focus earlier and in colour? Just let us know your e-mail address. It will save postage and fuel costs, helping to protect the environment particularly if you live in the more rural parts of our area.*

## Working for You

**June Cordwell is standing for re-election to Stroud District Council on May 1st.**

In 2006 the seat was lost to a Tory by just 30 votes, thanks to the intervention of a Green candidate. The Tory is now living outside the county.



June is a former chair of the District Council's Regeneration and Resources Committee. She is a long-serving member of Wotton Town Council, a former Mayor, and currently chairs the council's Regeneration Partnership, undertaking schemes to promote the town, such as the "shop local" campaign and brown historic market town signs which will soon appear.

## Postal Votes

● Anyone can have a postal vote. If you may not be able to get to the polling station — a last-minute holiday, illness, disability or bad weather on the day perhaps - apply now. It really could make a difference.

*Forms for postal and proxy votes are available from Stroud District Council, including via their website, and from us: either ring 01453 842439 or go to: [www.cordwell.clara.net](http://www.cordwell.clara.net)*

● There are no parish council elections in Wotton and North Nibley this year.

## Bus Shelters

The scheme for additional bus shelters in Wotton (Focus 121), paid for by a developer, is going ahead. Sites have been identified in Mount Pleasant, opposite the Full Moon, in Wortley Road, near the junction with Bearlands, and at the New Road frontage to Westfields.

## Plastic Bags

At its January meeting the County Council unanimously agreed to support a motion encouraging a ban on plastic bags in the county.

June Cordwell and the Chamber of Trade are looking at what can be done in Wotton.



**No 122K: Liberal Democrats - keeping in touch with you *all year round***

## Tory Council Stops Checks on Overloaded Lorries

Despite protests from local County Councillor John Cordwell the County's Tory administration as part of its budget cuts pushed through a proposal to stop checks on overloaded lorries.

"This is madness" said John, "the amount saved will not make up for the damage to roads and property and danger it will cause to other road users. Overloading impairs braking and steering" The decision was made against the advice of the council's officers.

*This is an update on the information in the printed version of Focus.*



## Flooding

A number of places locally suffered from flooding in January. The picture shows the scene outside North Nibley school. Among other places affected were Charfield Road, Kingswood, New Road between Wotton and

Charfield, and other places in Kingswood. Gloucestershire Highways are carrying out work to try to improve the situation at the various sites.

## New Light for Lane

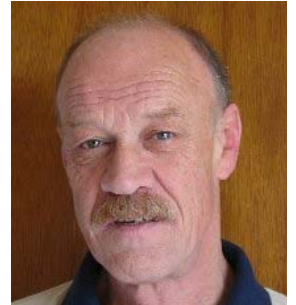
Moving a street light at School Close, Hillesley, some years ago left New Mills Lane in darkness.

John Cordwell pressed the County Council to provide an extra light near the Lane and thanks to a 50% contribution from the parish council it will go ahead. The exact location is still being discussed.



## Working for You

Paul Hemming is defending his place on Stroud District Council on May 1st. Paul has been a district councillor for over 12 years. He is involved in many village organisations and is a long-serving member and a former chairman of Kingswood parish council.



## Parish Elections

All 7 places on both Kingswood Parish Council and Hillesley & Tresham Parish Council will also be up for election on May 1st.

## Postal Votes

● Anyone can have a postal vote. If you may not be able to get to the polling station — a last-minute holiday, illness, disability, bad weather or a heatwave on the day perhaps - apply now.

*Forms for postal and proxy votes are available from Stroud District Council, including via their website, and from us: either ring 01453 842439 or go to [www.cordwell.clara.net](http://www.cordwell.clara.net)*

## Annual Parish Meetings

These are excellent opportunities for you to hear what your councillors have been doing for you and to ask them questions. Current arrangements for local ones are as follows, but look out for notices just in case there are any changes:

Hillesley & Tresham: 2nd April; Hopkins Hall.  
Kingswood: 22nd April; Kingswood Primary School.

## Plastic Bags

At its January meeting the County Council unanimously agreed to support a motion encouraging a ban on plastic bags in the county.

June Cordwell and Wotton Chamber of Trade are looking at what can be done in the Wotton.

*Would you like to receive Focus earlier and in colour? Just let us know your e-mail address. It will save postage and fuel costs, helping to protect the environment particularly if you live in the more rural parts of our area.*

## Potters Pond Development

A planning application has now been submitted for this older persons' complex (see Focus 121). It may be decided at the 8th April Planning Meeting of Stroud District Council.

●The plans are available at Wotton Town Council Office and also on line at:

[www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/planning/planning\\_application\\_search.asp](http://www.stroud.gov.uk/docs/planning/planning_application_search.asp)

The application number you need is 07/2768. You can comment/object/support the plans on the website or by writing to the SDC planning department at Ebley Mill, Stroud, GL5 4UB.

June says: "We would also like to know your views, so we can take them into account, but this is not an alternative to submitting them to Stroud."

## Post Office Closures—none here

The Post Office has now revealed the proposed closures in the county. There are 26 of these plus 13 that it is intended to replace with "outreach services", such as a mobile office. None are in our area. However there is a longer-term concern that the sorting office in Wotton may be closed which could mean future deliveries being handled from Cam.

## ROGER BROWN

Roger has been elected by local Liberal Democrats as Parliamentary Candidate for the Cotswolds Constituency, which at the next General Election will cover all of our area including North Nibley for the first time.



He is also a county councillor, specialising in green issues. He is pressing the county and districts to act in a joined up way over waste. With John Cordwell he was a member of both the County's inquiry into the summer flooding and its Climate Change Task Group. Currently Roger is leading the Gloucestershire Lib Dem fight against post office closures.

## BOOK FAIR

On Saturday March 15th we are holding our 12th book fair at the Chipping Clubroom, Wotton, between 9:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. If you have any books, CDs, or DVDs you wish to dispose of, please get in touch; we will collect them. Please ring June on 842439.

*Thank you to everyone who has given us books previously or supported our sales.*

## 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

### Wotton Electric Picture House Widescreen Cinema



[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

On-line booking available  
Wotton Cinema—working for Wotton

## Liberal Democrats

Parliamentary Candidate  
**Roger Brown** Tel 01285 650107  
[roger.brown@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:roger.brown@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

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  
[cldr.paul.hemming@stroud.gov.uk](mailto:cldr.paul.hemming@stroud.gov.uk)

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