

Volunteers in Stroud working hard to plant 1000 trees this winter

A new woodland of 1,000 trees is set to be planted in Stroud to combat carbon emissions.

Stroud District Council is collaborating with the Stroud Valleys Project, a local environmental organisation, to plant the new woodland this winter.

This initiative is being supported by Gloucestershire County Council's tree fund, which has been granted funds for tree planting by the Forestry Commission. The new trees will be planted at Salmon Springs, on a piece of land owned by Stroud District Council.

Prior to the development of this project, the land was leased to a local farmer as grazing land before becoming available. It sits on ground considered ideal for restoration to woodland habitat.

Stroud Valleys Project volunteers planted the first tree in early November as they said they wanted to do something positive in reaction to the talks that had been happening at COP26.

Two of Stroud District Council's key priorities are the environment and climate change. The council has detailed the measures it will take to create a more climate-friendly, naturally resilient and carbon-neutral district by 2030 in the 2030 Strategy and Master Plan.

Councillor Chloe Turner, chair of Stroud District Council's Environment Committee, said: *"The council and Stroud Valleys Project is planting this area as part of its commitment to making the whole district carbon neutral by 2030."*

"The climate emergency will be addressed by positive actions, large and small, and I am pleased that this will help capture carbon."

Stroud Valleys Project is looking for new volunteers; if you would like to help with events, fundraising, outdoor conservation, or lend some time to help in the office or shop, then visit the Stroud Valleys Project website.

Nearly 200 homes to be built at Gloucester's former cattle market



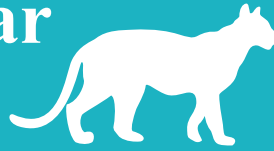
The wraps are off a transformation plan to regenerate the city. Gloucester has been awarded £2.2 million to kick start its plans to develop a new urban village at St Oswalds with 180 affordable homes.

The project will see nine acres of land next to St Oswald's Retail Park at the site of a former cattle market, redeveloped by Rooftop Housing Association working with Gloucester City Council. And it will provide up to 180 much needed affordable new homes for the city. The council says the project is in keeping with their commitment to the environment.

Both the construction methods and the buildings will use minimal energy and the development will have a sustainable urban drainage system for biodiversity, water quality and flooding.



Big Cat spotted near Forest of Dean!



A couple who claim to have seen a 'puma' near in the Forest of Dean has described it as an "amazing" experience when they came across the animal recently.

Tracey Brown, 48 from Filton has described how a big cat that jumped up into a hedge and the outline looked like the logo from the Puma sports brand.

Normally they both wonder what they may see on their journey which is normally a wild boar and maybe a deer but never before have they seen a big cat.

Mrs Brown said: **"We drive that way a lot and on our way home we travel along New Road.**

"It was in the evening around 7.15pm and a puma like cat ran across the road and jump into the hedgerow.

"I was able to look back as he was driving and I saw the body for a split second and the tail and the back of it's paw.

"It was very big like a Great Dane. Big and with muscle. I saw the curl up and the tip of it's very long tail.

"We slowed down but there was a car behind us but we wanted to stop.

"Unfortunately we could not stop along the road because there were no paths and by the time we got to a clearing there is no way we could have seen him.

"It was amazing.

"We both looked at each other and said did you see that. My husband said it was a big cat and for a moment I thought it could have been a Shetland pony but the way it jumped. It was like the Puma logo cat with how it jumped."



Christmas Nativity Performance



Coming to Sydenham House

Enjoy the local children performing a Christmas Nativity performance to include Carol singing.

The event will be held outside due to Covid - so wrap up warm and come along and enjoy!



8 Bygone Christmas Traditions

1. Santa Claus in a Green Suit

We all know the names Santa Claus, Father Christmas, St Nicholas, plus many more - but apparently he had a green suit - not a red one!

2. Meat Shows

Years ago local butchers would all come together to sell their wares on Christmas eve.

3. The Yule Log & The Ashen Faggot

You may think of chocolate cake when you hear Yule Log. But - years ago it wasn't a cake - it was a log on the fire and no work could be done until the wood had turned to ash!

4. A Princeps of the Festive Season

Back in Roman times, it was traditional to pick a child of "low status" to be their Princeps. This means their leader, a person who would see over all the festivities.

5. The Game of Shoe the Mare

After a huge Christmas dinner, Elizabethans would play Shoe the Mare. A barefooted family member would run around acting like an unruly steed, while other participants would attempt to catch them!

6. The 12 Days of Christmas

Everyone knows the song - but did you know the link to mince pies? In the middle ages across Europe everyone eat a mince pie everyday upto January 6th!

7. Wassailing

England in the 1600's would find people prepare hot cider based drink and would walk from door to door offering cupfuls to their neighbours.

8. Drink a Smoking Bishop

Smoking Bishops was a popular tippie at Christmastime in Victorian times. The drink in question consisted of a steaming mug of port, red wine, cloves and oranges.

