



## Let's work together to make Cirencester great for business

Photo courtesy of Kay Ransom



*Anthony Flynn, the new President of the Cirencester Chamber of Commerce, shares his vision for the future.*

Having recently been elected as President, I wanted to share with you some of my hopes and ambitions for the Chamber over the next 2 years.

My drive will be for increased and greater diversity of membership; for relevant, exciting and informative meetings; for an open forum where members want to get involved and share ideas; all with a non-political agenda. The focus needs to be on Cirencester and needs to represent the business community across all disciplines and business areas.

That said, we still need to embrace the outside world - there are more opportunities than threats, and in order to take full advantage we must engage. I think this also covers our relationship with other business groups, working more collaboratively where both groups can benefit.

As a Chamber I want us to use technology and social media in a way and with a language and passion that keeps us fresh and forward thinking.

I would like to hear from all new businesses starting in the area, or who are already established but new to the Chamber. I would love the Chamber to be a forum where successes are collectively celebrated and where challenges are shared. A forum where time, the benefit of experience and a friendly ear is given - safe in the knowledge that the more we all give the more there is for us all to get back.

This is a fantastic opportunity for us to work together to build on the foundations laid by the previous President and long-standing members. The time you have all given and have pledged to continue is invaluable - thank you.

I truly believe there is a wealth of business people in and around Cirencester who have been waiting for the right opportunities to stand up and be counted, waiting for some new ideas and a fresh perspective from the Chamber to be their catalyst for action.

Now is the time.

Let's talk about what we can do together.

Our challenge to you, in summary:

- Engage with us
- Work with us
- Inspire us

And we can build Cirencester's business community together.

Anthony Flynn

## Local businesses in Tetbury help to fight Motor Neurone's disease

Tetbury Chamber of Commerce is supporting an auction of promises to help combat Motor Neurone's Disease, which begins at 7.30 pm on Friday, 25th October 2013 at the Dolphins Hall.

Tickets for the event are only £5 and include a FREE entry for a raffle (prizes include an evening spa at Whatley Manor for 2 people) and entertainment from local musicians. There are some fabulous auction items, which can be found on the Tetbury Lions website - [www.tetburylions.co.uk](http://www.tetburylions.co.uk). Tickets are available now from Tetbury Hardware, London Road, Tetbury.

## Forthcoming Public meetings at Cotswold District Council

**10 December 2013**

Full Council, Council Chamber, Cirencester

**7 November, 5 December 2013, 6 February 2014**

Cabinet, Council Chamber, Cirencester

**5 November, 3 December 2013, 7 January 2014**

Licensing Committee, Council Chamber, Cirencester

**13 November, 11 December 2013, 15 January 2014**

Planning (Regulatory) Committee, Council Chamber,  
Cirencester

**22 October, 10 December 2013, 28 January 2014**

Audit and Scrutiny Committee, Council Chamber, Cirencester

**Please check [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk) for start times  
and agendas details/minutes**

# Everyone Active launches in the Cotswolds!



L-R Amanda Hart (curator Corinium Museum), Cllr Barry Gibbs, Jon Senior, regional director for SLM and Jamie Nesbit, contract manager for SLM

Sports and Leisure Management (SLM) Ltd, operating under its brand name, Everyone Active, has taken over the operation of leisure facilities in partnership with Cotswold District Council.

The facilities that are now managed under the Everyone Active name are Cirencester Leisure Centre, Bourton on the Water Leisure Centre, Chipping Campden Leisure Centre and the Corinium Museum in Cirencester.

Since taking over, Everyone Active have been introducing a range of new and exciting changes to the services that will be available to all visitors to the centres. Changes include new group exercise timetables and the introduction of the award winning Everyone Active swimming lesson programme.

The main aim is to work with local communities to help people achieve 30 minutes of activity five times a week. To help them do this there are a number of tools available including results cards in both the gym and at poolside, structured one-to-one sessions and a fantastic range of group exercise classes to offer variety to any workout.

Everyone Active also offers a very comprehensive website ([www.everyoneactive.com](http://www.everyoneactive.com)) to enable people to book and pay online for sessions, see up to date timetables and also to view forthcoming events at the centre.

Cotswold District Council Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Cllr Barry Gibbs, said: "We are confident that SLM will do an excellent job running the leisure facilities at Bourton, Cirencester and Chipping Campden. Their track record across the country is very impressive and we believe that they will continue to provide quality, affordable leisure services. The public can also rest assured that the Council will retain ownership of the buildings we own and will manage the contract with SLM closely."

Jon Senior, regional director for SLM commented, "We are delighted to have formed our Everyone Active partnership with Cotswold District Council. We are listening to the local community and developing activities that we know they want to be involved with. This is an exciting time for us all!"

## Mickleton hotel achieves highest accolade

A COTSWOLD hotel is celebrating after winning the highest accolade in the Green Tourism Business Scheme.

Three Ways House Hotel in Mickleton, famous as the home of The Pudding Club, has recently won the gold award after holding the silver since it joined the scheme in 2007.

The hotel gained the Green Business UK gold award partly because of the significant investments they have made in the last 12 months, including replacing oil-fired boilers for highly efficient hot water and heating boilers.

The hotel was also praised for minimising its waste, boosting its recycling practices, and pursuing an impressive local sourcing policy.

Three Ways House has run its own Cotswold Walking Weekends since 1996 to encourage visitors to explore the countryside and to walk independently and cycle.

Jill Coombe, who owns the hotel with her husband Simon, said they were delighted to win:

"It's quite a step up to get the gold," she said. "We were absolutely thrilled to get it. Assistant manager Bart Luckowiak has worked very hard towards achieving this award."



Assistant manager of Three Ways House Hotel Bart Luckowiak with owner Jill Coombe

## Saving paper – and the environment

As part of CDC's drive to save on unnecessary paper, Business Matters is published on-line only and no hard copy versions are available from the Council. You may, of course, print off your own copy for your personal use.



# Building on Success!



*Andy Jones, Joint Building Control Manager at Cotswold and West Oxfordshire Councils, reflects on his first six months in charge.*

Things have been hectic since I took over as the Building Control Manager for both Cotswold and West

Oxfordshire District Councils in April this year. Supervising teams across two councils has been a new and exciting challenge for me, and I have enjoyed developing an effective working relationship with surveyors and support staff at both sites. Working together, we have already made some telling changes - in particular, we have successfully aligned our processes and are moving towards aligning our services to become much more integrated and better able to pool our knowledge and experience.

Building control is a professional customer-focused not for profit service, enabling developers to comply with the requirements of the ever changing Building Regulations. Our aim is to help people construct safe, healthy, accessible and sustainable buildings and we are always looking for ways to improve what we do. We provide expert advice on the design of

buildings to comply with regulations covering issues such as fire safety, disability and access, security, and energy performance. In many instances, we have saved money for customers by preventing abortive design work being carried out, and we have also been praised by agents, developers and others for our role as a reliable 'sounding board' on a wide range of issues.

We rely heavily on customer feedback and have made many changes to our service in response to their demands. As a result, it is gratifying to see that the many developers, architects and agents that we deal are regular repeat customers. Innovations include: regular seminars which we conduct for the building industry to encourage best practice and communicate changes in the relevant regulations; closer links to the fire service on safety matters; newsletters to the profession; and our partnership with Energist to provide comprehensive advice about energy efficiency in construction.

We also work with Local Authority Building Control (LABC), the national representative body, which means that our clients can easily obtain LABC warranties for conversion, new build and mixed use developments. We are always on the look out for developments which merit inclusion in the LABC annual excellence awards and our nominations have been successful at regional level for five years in a row.

Looking to the future, we are developing more online application processes for clients and we will also be introducing online payment facilities for our services. Our overall aim is to take the pain out of complying with the Building Regulations and I am confident that all the surveyors and support staff at both councils will continue to deliver a first class service.

To contact us email [buildingcontrol@cotswold.gov.uk](mailto:buildingcontrol@cotswold.gov.uk) or [buildingcontrol@westoxon.gov.uk](mailto:buildingcontrol@westoxon.gov.uk) You can also call 01285 62300 (CDC) or 01993 861000 (West Oxfordshire.)

## 'A Taste of the Cotswolds' comes to Lechlade

A monthly Friday Food Fayre started up at the end of July at Lechlade Garden Centre (GL7 3DP) and is now set to become a regular event on the last Friday of every month. Selling good quality food and drink - which is predominantly local, home-grown, home-made, organically and/or ethically produced - the Friday Food Fayre is the place to buy your provisions for the family or for weekend visitors.

Providing customers with 'a taste of the Cotswolds', you can look forward to purchasing: Bow-in-the-Cloud English wines; Chedworth Farm Shop products, including locally produced meat and sausages; Pot-of-What preserves; Corinium Ales made in Cirencester; Dolcetti Icecream Company products; La Parisienne patisseries and artisan bread; 7a chocolate brownies; home-made jams and scones from Maryanne's Bakes; ready-cooked Indian meals from Obilash; hand-made preserves from Paddock House; delicious goats' cheese from the Neustift Herd; Westmill Organic vegetables and fruit; Eat Wild venison and game; extra virgin olive oil from Veanda; and Padstow fish.

These are the remaining 2013 dates for the Friday Food Fayre. Please put them in your diary and try to come along. Don't worry if you work - take a long lunch break and pop along to see what delicious gastronomic delights are on offer and then call into the Garden Centre for lunch or a coffee.

**Friday 25th October**

**Friday 29th November**

To find out more, phone 0744 350 0744 and also check the website [www.fridayfoodfayre.co.uk](http://www.fridayfoodfayre.co.uk) to find out about further promotions for Christmas.



## More publications you may be interested in

Don't forget that you can now subscribe to our food safety and licensing matters newsletters. For the latest editions, see

[http://www.admin.cotswold.gov.uk/media/documents/Licensing/Licensing%20Matters/Licensing\\_Matters\\_September\\_2011.pdf](http://www.admin.cotswold.gov.uk/media/documents/Licensing/Licensing%20Matters/Licensing_Matters_September_2011.pdf) and [http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a\\_id=2074](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk/nqcontent.cfm?a_id=2074)

Additionally, you may wish to view the Tourism Matters newsletter which provides information about events and training courses for all accommodation and attraction providers across the Cotswolds. See <http://cotswolds.com/Portals/4/pdfs/TourismMattersOctober2011.pdf> for the latest edition.



# Cirencester leads the way on use of Retail Planning Tool Kit

Cirencester recently became the first town in Gloucestershire - and one of the first in the country - to pilot the use of a retail planning toolkit developed by GFirst Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) to identify how best it can ensure that its high street is more attractive and vibrant than ever.

Following last year's Mary Portas review of the health of Britain's high streets, GFirst LEP was appointed by the Government as the national retail pathfinder to work proactively with the government on a national basis and with its retail sector group to identify how towns can breathe life back into their high streets.

By working closely with the Association of Town & City Management (ATCM) and the retail sector group, GFirst LEP developed a diagnostic tool that identifies a town's 'personality' according to four different types. By understanding the distinct attributes and characteristics of the town, it can help a town team make plans and take positive action to capitalise on this type of identity to attract shoppers and retailers.

David Owen, Chief Executive, GFirst LEP said: "We are thrilled to see Cirencester being one of the first towns to pilot the toolkit to make positive plans and showcase to the rest of the county and other towns in the UK what can be done to preserve our high streets. It's our aim to ensure that high streets across the county remain buoyant and sustainable as part of our strategic growth plan and campaign for "Growing Gloucestershire".

For more information visit [www.gfirst.co.uk](http://www.gfirst.co.uk) or [www.gloslep.co.uk](http://www.gloslep.co.uk)

# What's in a name?

Despite its name, the Fairford & Lechlade Business Club is not restricted to one small geographic area. Fairford and Lechlade are situated on the cusp of three counties – Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire and Wiltshire and the club welcomes members from any of these counties and beyond.



If you would like to become a member of this forward-thinking, proactive business club, please have a look at their website, where you can also download a membership form to become a member.

The club is looking forward once more to hosting a local Business Awards Ceremony and Dinner on Friday 7th February 2014 where high-achieving businesses are recognised by the business community. Last year, the event was opened up to businesses that are not members of the club, provided they are located in the post code areas GL7, GL54, SN6, SN7 or OX18. If you would be interested in entering for a prestigious Award, then please contact the club.

The increasingly popular Food & Drink Festivals are also returning to Fairford/Lechlade in 2014 and the dates for your diaries are:

**Sunday 11th May in Fairford Market Place**

**Sunday 8th June in Lechlade Market Place**

These events are open from 10am till 4pm and are a great place for the family to come for breakfast, stay for lunch and take something home for supper!

To find out more, phone 0744 350 0744, email [admin@flbc.org.uk](mailto:admin@flbc.org.uk) or visit [www.flbc.org.uk](http://www.flbc.org.uk)

## More communities to benefit from 'Fastershire' broadband project

Lechlade, Fairford, and South Cerney are set to join Gloucestershire's better and faster broadband network as the rollout of fibre broadband across the county continues apace.

Work was set to begin in these areas in late summer as part of the 'Fastershire' project, with the first customers being able to connect to the new network before Christmas.

Residents and businesses in the area will be kept informed of progress through the local media and targeted advertising.

- The 'Fastershire' project will involve hundreds of engineers laying around 2,500 kilometres of optical fibre cable and installing around 800 new fibre broadband cabinets throughout the Gloucestershire and Herefordshire project area.
- The deal between the councils in both counties and BT should enable 90 per cent of homes and businesses to have access to fibre broadband by the end of 2016. The councils' ultimate target is to provide access to broadband speeds of 24 megabits per second (Mbps) or above for all who want it by 2018 with speeds of up to 80Mbps being typical.
- The £56.6 million project intends to address premises across both counties receiving a connection of less than 2Mbps by aiming to ensure that all areas receive that speed as a minimum by the end of 2016.

More detailed information on the roll-out is available at [www.fastershire.com](http://www.fastershire.com)

## SIGN UP NOW FOR BUSINESS MATTERS UPDATE

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# Calendar

## CIRENCESTER CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### Wednesday 9th October

Details will be confirmed shortly.

### Thursday 14th November

We are planning a 'Big Event' (hence the change of date from our normal Wednesday slot in order to secure an interesting group of speakers and a suitable venue.)

Look out for more details shortly.

### Wednesday 11th December

Our Winter Social. We haven't decided on a venue yet, so if you have any suggestions or would like to host the event, please let us know. In touch. For further details consult <http://www.ccoc.org.uk>

## FAIRFORD AND LECHLADE BUSINESS CLUB

### Thursday 24 October

Meeting starts at 7.30pm. This is being hosted by Lakes by Yoo, and will be held in their beautiful Orchard Spa. Members will receive an update on the proposals for the Country Park at Thornhill between Fairford and Lechlade.

### Thursday 28 November

Meeting starts at 7.30pm in the Bull Hotel, Fairford. Members of Fairford Town Council have been invited to discuss possible joint working with their Lechlade counterparts.

### Thursday 19 December

Beginning at 8 am, we invite you to enjoy a breakfast meeting at The Swan, Lechlade. Meeting is free. Full English is £7. Booking essential.

## TETBURY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY

The next two committee meetings will take place on Thurs 7 November and Thurs 4 December at the Priory Inn, Tetbury. They will begin informally from 6pm with a start time of 6.30pm. Contact 01666 502436 for details or go to <http://www.tetburychamber.org.uk>

# Changes to waste collections in Cotswold district – Christmas/New Year 2013



Please note the following changes to collection dates

Usual date	Revised date
Mon 23 Dec	No change
Tues 24 Dec	No change
Weds 25 Dec	Public Holiday. Will move to Friday 27 Dec
Thurs 26 Dec	Public Holiday. Will move to Sat 28 Dec
Friday 27 Dec	Will move to Mon 30 Dec
Mon 30 Dec	Will move to Tues 31 Dec
Tues 31 Dec	Will move to Thurs 2 Jan 2014
Weds 1 Jan 2014	Public Holiday. Will move to Friday 3 Jan
Thurs 2 Jan	Will move to Sat 4 Jan
Friday 3 Jan	Will move to Mon 6 Jan
Mon 6 Jan	Will move to Tues 7 Jan
Tues 7 Jan	Will move to Weds 8 Jan
Weds 8 Jan	Will move to Thurs 9 Jan
Thurs 9 Jan	Will move to Friday 10 Jan
Friday 10 Jan	Will move to Sat 11 Jan

Collection schedule will return to normal on the week beginning Monday 13 Jan 2014

## Help Wanted!

The Gfirst Local Enterprise Partnership is inviting local businesses across the county to discuss the likely impact of several significant potential projects which have been identified to support business growth. These projects are likely to form the overall Strategic Economic Plan that will be presented to government in February 2014 to secure major funding.

Gfirst are convening a meeting at the Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester on 14 October to discuss business support initiatives to help start-ups and the expansion of existing firms. Company representatives are invited to come and share their views on this issue.

Contact [info@gfirst.co.uk](mailto:info@gfirst.co.uk) or telephone 01452 563300 for more details.

## Training events

For details of training and business support services provided by Gloucestershire Enterprise Ltd, see <http://www.glosenterprise.co.uk/>



# One-Day Workshop for Women Considering Self-Employment

**Time:** 9.30am to 2.30pm  
**Date:** Wednesday 4 Dec 2013  
**Venue:** Farmor's School, The Park, Fairford, GL7 4JQ  
**Cost:** £12.50\* or £20.00 for two if you come with a friend

This one day workshop for women will provide invaluable advice on how to take a business idea to the next level. It's a great opportunity for women entrepreneurs to put their toe in the water, explore what's involved and see just how easy it can be to set up and run your own business. The following topics will be on the agenda:

- What is an Entrepreneur?
- Why choose self-employment?
- The skills and qualities of an entrepreneur, and have you got what it takes?
- Work-Life-Balance and your vision of your future.
- Business Plans. What are they and who are they for?
- You as your best marketing resource.

This flexible workshop will help answer questions and support participants in exploring how self-employment might work for them.

\*A new partnership with Adult Education in Gloucestershire allows Cotswold Women in Business to offer free places to qualifying participants. These include Gloucestershire residents aged 19 years and above in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance, Employment Support Allowance, another state benefit or who are unemployed.



## Improvements to CDC's adverse weather waste collection policy



Cotswold District Council has adopted several new measures to improve the collection of

refuse when adverse weather conditions prevent the operation of the normal service.

In particular, when bad weather disrupts fortnightly refuse collections across the district for a number of days, the Council's waste provider (Ubico Ltd) will now be permitted to operate kerbside catch-ups the following week (where weather conditions allow) rather than residents having to wait for a further 14 days until their next scheduled kerbside collection. When this catch-up option is activated, weekly food and garden waste collections will be suspended temporarily and the vehicles used to pick up general refuse and food waste only. (In the case of one missed day only, Ubico will continue to lay on a Saturday collection where possible so they can get things back on track.)

Additionally, when a daily round is being hampered by ice and snow, the aim will be to provide partial collections, when it is safe to do so, rather than declaring a blanket cancellation for the day in that zone. Obviously, this arrangement will depend on accessibility and safety issues but it should help ensure that fewer households are left without collections.

The Council will continue to set up emergency waste collection points at strategic locations across the district when necessary so that residents can bring refuse for disposal in the event of collections being cancelled. Subject to safety and access considerations, locations in Bourton, Cirencester, Fairford, Lechlade, Moreton, Northleach, Stow and Tetbury have all been earmarked for this purpose. Residents will also continue to have the option of taking all their waste to Household Recycling Centres across the county, including the facility at Fosse Cross which is just off the A429 near Calmsden.

Ubico crews will also carry out ad hoc catch up collections in locations served by communal bins, and will, on request, pick up waste from those who normally receive an assisted collection and do not have sufficient space to store excess waste, provided the crews can access the property safely. This will benefit those on an assisted collection who due to their age or disability would find it difficult to access emergency collection points.

For more details on all waste issues contact the Waste Hotline on [01285 623123](tel:01285623123) or see [www.cotswold.gov.uk](http://www.cotswold.gov.uk).

# Andoversford building project progresses to national finals of prestigious awards



The Andoversford development.



L to R: CDC Senior Planner Deborah Smith, Newland Homes Technical Manager Rob East, Cllr Sue Jepson, Newland Homes Design Director Jeremy Drew, CDC Senior Building Control Surveyor Abigail Brown, CDC Building Control Manager Andy Jones

A building project nominated by Cotswold District Council for the national Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Excellence Awards has passed the first hurdle when it was successful at a recent regional final in Bristol.

A Newland Homes development comprising 39 new houses on the Former T H White site at Station Road, Andoversford won the Best Large Housing Development category, drawing considerable praise from the judges.

Commenting on this success, CDC's Principal Building Control Surveyor, Andy Jones, said:

"The judges were impressed by the project's attention to detail and the positive working relationship between our Building Control department and the developers to achieve high quality and sustainable dwellings fit for the future demands."

LABC Chief Executive Paul Overall was very impressed by the high quality of all the regional finalists:

"Once again it was a tough assignment for the judges to pick winners from a very high standard field. All the finalists deserve recognition for their great work in helping to improve building standards, boost sustainability and efficiency and show that despite a difficult economic backdrop, standards do not have to slip. These awards show good building control can save both time and money. Our congratulations go to the finalists – and especially the winners. All these winning projects will now be entered into the National Built in Quality Awards, which take place in London in November."

Jeremy Drew, Design Director at Cheltenham-based Newland Homes, and the firm's Technical Manager Rob East were congratulated on their regional success by Cllr Sue Jepson, CDC Cabinet Member for Planning. She looked forward to the London final and told them that CDC was optimistic about a winning outcome:

"For the last five years, CDC-backed contenders have made it through to the national LABC awards and we've come close a few times. We very much hope that this superb housing development at Andoversford will tilt the balance this time around."

## Tetbury Jobs Fair goes from strength to strength

The Tetbury Chamber of Commerce is helping to organise a jobs fair Sir William Romney's School on Tuesday 15 October. This is now in its second year and has been welcomed as an invaluable event for the local school and local community. An added extra this year is that extra timings have been added so that parents can participate in the early evening and view what businesses have to offer in the Tetbury area.

**Full details are as follows:**

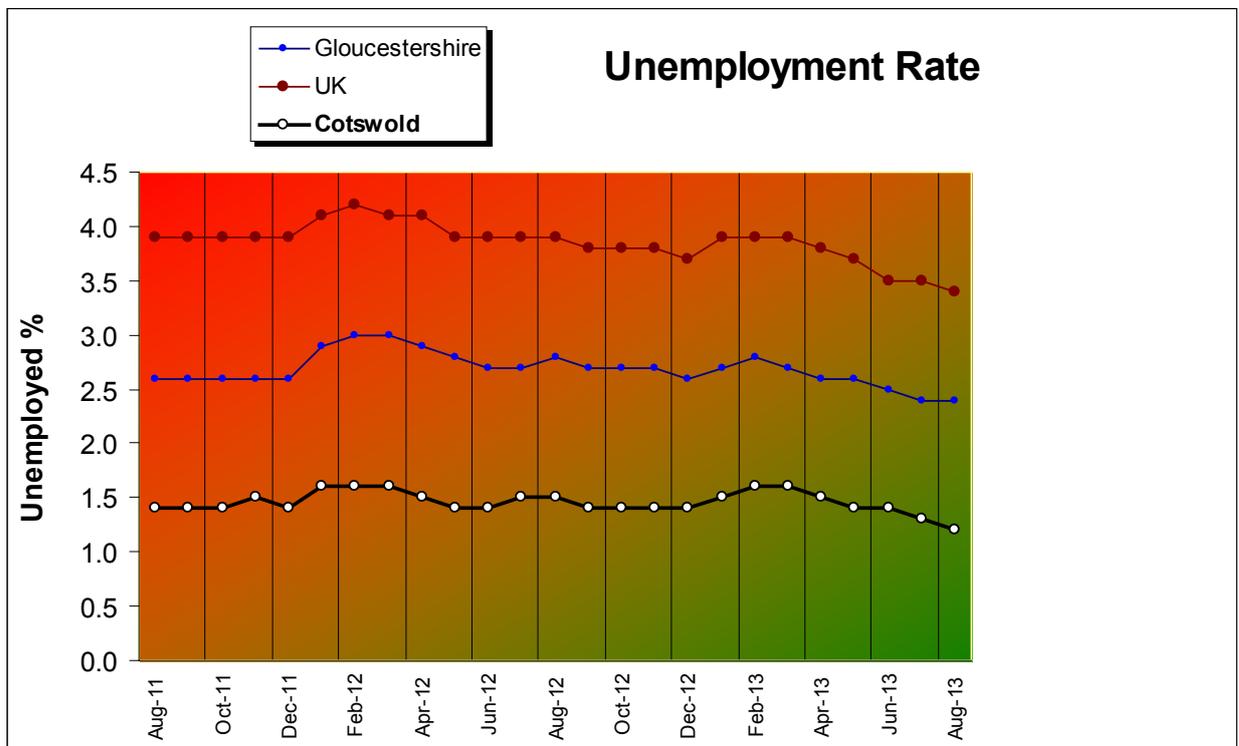
**Tuesday 15th October 2013**

**2.20pm to 3.20pm (Years 9,10 and 11)**

**4.00pm to 6.00pm (Parents and members of the local community)**



# Around the Region



Unemployment is down nationally and locally. Some of the decrease over recent months is due to seasonal employment patterns, but the figures also suggest there is a reduction in the underlying rate.