



Vale Vision News

Issue: 3
April 2006

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Dates for Your Diary

Friday 7 April	11 - 4 pm
Official opening of VV Shop	
Saturday 8 April	
Shop Local Day	10 – 2 pm
VV Shop open to public	10 – 2 pm
Thursday 20 April	7 pm
VV Management meeting	
Thursday 27 April	10 am
Littlecombe Liaison meeting	
Thursday 11 May	2 pm
Tourism meeting	
Monday 12 June	7.15 pm
Sports Network meeting	

All meetings will be at the Vale Vision shop
unless notified otherwise

OPENING OF THE VALE VISION 'SHOP' – HELP US CELEBRATE

Vale Vision has premises – the 'shop' at 28 Long Street will be officially opened by Alan Titcombe from the South West Regional Development Agency. Vale Vision will be holding 'Open House' on Friday 7 April, 12 noon – 4 pm and on Saturday 8 April, 10 am – 2 pm. Do join us to help us celebrate what Vale Vision have achieved since May 2005 and learn more about what is planned for the coming year.

The shop widens the scope of Vale Vision to keep in touch with the community. The shop window provides the opportunity for window displays on current projects and events, as well as information on the Littlecombe development as it becomes available. It also provides work space for growth and development of Vale Vision, a place where volunteers can work at the same time as gaining work experience, where local people can get involved and let Vale Vision have their views on local issues, where the Newsletter and 'What's On' leaflet can be prepared. Vale Vision have come a long way since May 2005, a lot has been achieved and funding has been raised for priority projects, over £½ million with more bids currently with funders and others in the planning stage (see back page for a list of projects and funding). What more can be achieved with extra volunteers joining Vale Vision to work in the 'shop'? If you want to be part of the action, contact Vale Vision today – see back page for details.

VALE VISION LAUNCH THE WEBSITE – www.valevision.org.uk

Visit our website and e-mail us to let us know what you think.

Vale Vision need to let you know what is happening as it happens as well as providing information on projects, local news, what's on in the area and copies of Vale Vision documents. The website is more than this – it is not only information for local people but will serve to let tourists know where to go and what we have in our beautiful area. Areas of outstanding natural beauty, golf, swimming, heritage, something for bird lovers, something for walkers, something for those who like canals as well as many local tourist attractions. Entertainment in our pubs, performance by DODS and Male Voice choir, Prema and Kingshill House as well as many activities in various community venues in Cam, Dursley and District– all can be found on Vale Vision website.

SHOP LOCAL – MEET THE EASTER BUNNY

Shop local in Dursley on Saturday 8 April. You will be surprised what you can buy in Dursley! A basket of produce from the Farmers Market for the most unusual object purchased in Dursley on shop local day – prize to be presented at the next farmers market, Saturday 22 April.

Celebrate Shop local day with Vale Vision – Have your photograph taken with the Easter Bunny!

Bring the children - teacup ride, bouncy castle, fairground organ, competition to spot the shop local bunny in shop windows, have your photograph taken with the Easter Bunny, decorate an egg with The Learning Community in the Market Hall.

For adults – The Learning Community are in the Market Hall again with 'Test the Town', there is a competition for the most unusual object purchased in Dursley and don't forget it is a day for the Farmer's market.

For Shops – Best Decorated Window competition on the theme of Spring or Easter.

Opening of the Vale Vision shop - Do not forget to visit the the Vale Vision shop to collect your copy of the latest Vale Vision Newsletter and a free Vale Vision coaster. Find out what is happening now, what is planned for the future and add your views to plans for future development and funding. Competition forms can be handed in at the shop. Photographs with the Easter Bunny can be collected from the shop.

Shop local day is sponsored by Stroud District Council Creating Wealth syndicate, Stroud District Council and Vale Vision. It is being organised by Vale Vision in partnership with Dursley Chamber of Trade and The Learning Community.

**DO NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO SEE
WHAT YOU CAN PURCHASE IN DURSLEY**

TOWN CENTRE MASTERPLAN

Changes are happening in Dursley with regard to developments at the Littlecombe and Crest sites in Long Street, further changes will be announced shortly with the confirmation of the supermarket re-tender for the centre of Dursley. The new library has opened, resulting in the removal of the temporary library and Rednock School is planning for a rebuild. Planning consent has been agreed for shops and accommodation on the former Warehouse site and a Bistro for Bristol House in Silver Street. Many of these changes will help make Dursley more attractive and will provide further facilities so that people can purchase what they need locally and help to make our town more vibrant.

To ensure that Dursley can take advantage of these new developments Vale Vision have attracted funding from SWRDA Market and Coastal Towns initiative to be matched by funding from Stroud District Council and Dursley Town Council for a masterplan for Dursley with the tender contract for this work being issued this week. Further news as to the company selected will be included in future editions.

DURSLEY SELECTED AS PILOT TOWN FOR RURAL RENAISSANCE FUNDING

Gloucestershire Chamber of Commerce has been successful in a funding a bid to work with Chambers of Trade in 5 market towns to consider the way forward with regard to economic regeneration of rural towns through the strengthening of the local Chambers of Trade. Dursley has been fortunate to be selected as part of this pilot.

At a meeting at the end of March, traders discussed barriers to trade and initiatives which could help boost trade. Dursley Chamber of Trade will be funded to set up business website linked to the South West Chambers of Trade initiative. Other funding will be available for training, for further development of a shop local scheme and for production of promotional material to raise awareness of what is available locally in Dursley.

WHAT'S ON LEAFLET

April will see the development of a What's on Leaflet for Dursley, Cam & District. This will be a quarterly publication with local events together with places of interest to visit. It is being developed locally due to a successful bid for Rural Renaissance funding for this year's publication. Subsequently it will be funded by advertisers. The leaflet will be developed by volunteers in the Vale Vision shop and printed on a colour laser printer purchased as a result of the funding.

The bid was advised by the Vale Vision Business and Tourism groups with endorsement from the Town Centre group who felt it would be useful for local people as well as those who visit the area. It will be distributed through local venues, tourist accommodation and the Vale Vision shop as well as being available on the Vale Vision website.

The equipment purchased will also be used to print this newsletter. If you are a local group who would like to have promotional literature printed on the colour laser printer, please contact Vale Vision who will be able to advise you on the cost of using the equipment.

Our thanks to Gloucestershire Rural Renaissance for making this possible.

LATEST NEWS FROM ST MODWEN & SWRDA

The earthworks and remediation at Littlecombe have now commenced, with St. Modwen employing Hawk to undertake the screening, stabilisation and laying down of the foundry sand on the valley floor to form the Business Park development plateau. Hawk will also be constructing the new channel for the opening up of River Cam, along with a necessary sewer diversion. A separate contract has been let to Celtic Technologies to remediate the former gasworks at gas pitch off Kingshill Lane.

At the same time, the structural landscaping works have been commenced on the boundary with Kingshill Lane. Following consultation with the local residents a scheme and programme has been finalised and works are due to commence shortly. St. Modwen will be undertaking a similar consultation exercise with the residents of Church Road to agree a landscaping scheme.

Rupert Joseland of St. Modwen said "I am delighted that these works have now commenced and it is especially pleasing that specific landscaping schemes are being agreed with local residents who will be living beside the final landscaping features."

MULTI PURPOSE COMMUNITY FACILITY NEEDS DEMAND SURVEY

Some community groups will be approached over the next two months to give their views on any shortage of facilities locally in Dursley, Cam and district. Tender interviews have been held and a company will be appointed shortly to work in the area over the next few months. This will be funded as a result of a successful bid to MCTi funding and the process is to establish what facilities will be required for sporting, leisure and business use both now and in the future for those who will move into local developments as well as for those already living in the area. If there is proved to be a shortage of facilities, the consultants will research what type of building will be required to accommodate the facilities and where it could be located.

If you would like to add your views on what is needed locally with regard to community facilities, then please contact Vale Vision to arrange this. If you are approached by the company to give your views, please give them as much help as possible so that we can ensure that all views are given consideration.

MEMORIES OF SCHOOL DAYS

Most of you will know of the Dursley Heritage Centre and some of you will have visited it but now is your chance to get involved in local history. The Heritage Centre volunteers are planning a display of pictures relating to Dursley schools prior to 1980. If you would like a picture included in the display, please bring photographs along to the Town Hall on Saturday 22 April. The pictures will be scanned while you wait and returned to you straight away.

The exhibition of these photographs will be from Saturday 27 May to Saturday 10 June. Do take the opportunity to visit the Heritage Centre and reminisce of school days and those you have lost touch with.

150th ANNIVERSARY OF THE OPENING OF THE DURSLEY RAILWAY

This year is the 150th anniversary of the opening of a railway in Dursley. To celebrate this there will be a display of memorabilia and a talk organised on Wednesday 12 July. Memorabilia will then be transferred to the Dursley Heritage and displayed for two weeks.

If you have any items of interest with regards to the Railway, please contact the Dursley Heritage Centre – opening hours, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, 10.30 – 12.30.

A LOCAL SPORTS NETWORK

Representatives of local sports clubs, schools and councils have agreed to form a Sports Network which will promote the collaboration, development and use of sports and active recreation facilities and resources in the Vale Vision area. The Network will foster the participation of young people and the wider community in sport and active leisure. Membership of the Network will be open to all bodies with a direct interest in sports and active recreation in Cam, Dursley and district.

One major development will be the installation of an all-weather pitch that will enable games and training to take place throughout the year. A public meeting to discuss the pitch will be held in late May/early June.

VISIT FROM OTHER MARKET TOWNS

Members of the Gloucestershire Market Towns Forum will be holding their next meeting in Dursley on Thursday 18 May. The Forum, formed some 10 years ago, promotes the regeneration of the small towns in Gloucestershire, particularly when they can be led in innovative projects by townspeople themselves. The Forum with some 20 towns as members is recognised as a valuable body to represent the market towns in the county by regional and national bodies. While they are in the town, the representatives will be shown some of the redevelopment work that is underway or completed in Dursley.

SMALL BUSINESS RATES RELIEF

Small business rates relief is available to businesses whose rateable value is less than £15,000. This is as outlined below. If you have not received notification of this or applied for it, contact Stroud District Council business rates section on 01453 754865.

- < £5000 rateable value - 50% reduction
- £5000 to £9999 - sliding scale reduction
- £10000 to £14999 - small business rate relief multiplier
- £15000 - standard rates

LIST OF PROJECTS AND FUNDERS

Vale Vision Premises and Administration

Gloucestershire Community Trust	£4000	Premises lease, rates, insurance
Oldbury Power Station	£500	Computer Equipment
Stroud District Council	£5000	Service Agreement, contribution to Projects and administration
Gloucestershire County Council Community fund	£2000	Contribution to staffing and costs

Construction Skills Centre

Regional European Social Funding	£164,000	Construction Training over 25's Contribution to staffing
SWRDA MCTi/ St Modwen St Modwen	£300,000	Equipping centre, staffing, Lease agreement for premises Training for under 25's

Community Needs Demand Survey

SWRDA MCTi	£25,000	Consultant and administration
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Town Centre Masterplan

SWRDA MCTi	£30,000	Consultant and administration
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What's On Leaflet

Gloucestershire First Rural Renaissance Funding	£7,600	Computer equipment, marketing design, production/distribution
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DIRECTORS OF VALE VISION DEVELOPMENT TRUST LTD

Jane Manning	Director from The Learning Partnership
Ben Ward	Director from GL11 and an interest in the environment
Bob Littleford	Director with an interest in entertainment and leisure activities
Mike Doughty	Director of Finance and Councillor for Dursley
John Hudson	Director and Councillor for Cam
Geoff Wheeler	Chair and Company Secretary, Vale Vision

LIST OF NEW PEOPLE WHO HAVE JOINED VALE VISION

Robin Malley	Town Centre working group)	both new to the area
Rhiannon Malley	Town Centre working group)	and working in Bristol
Cecilia Boyle	Tourism Group	provider of B & B accommodation in Dursley
Geoff Bevan	Tourism Group	provider of B & B accommodation in Uley

Stop Press

Sainsbury's has been chosen as the preferred developer for Dursley supermarket. Funds from the development will go towards building a new fire station, a youth centre and sports facilities at Rednock School.

Would you like to join the Vale Vision volunteers!

Two more volunteers have joined Vale Vision this week. The first after being made redundant gained computer qualifications with a change of direction in mind but has found that he needs relevant experience to get a job. The second is a young man currently studying on a computer course in Gloucester, is new to the area and realises that even with a computer qualification work experience would be useful when looking for work.

There is a great deal to do at Vale Vision and a variety of skills can be developed. There is always a new project to work on, posters for the window display to prepare and the opportunity to meet others interested in what is happening locally.

If you need work experience – get involved in community projects!

If you need to get out of the house and do something worthwhile, visit the 'shop' to see for yourself what our volunteers are doing and join us!

We need you but we can offer development of skills - use a Digital camera and DTP to update the window display, use the internet and e-mail to develop communication skills, work on this newsletter or a 'What's On' booklet, update a database or use a spreadsheet to costs projects.

If you are not interested in working on a computer or developing skills, there are many other things you can do.

Help research projects or write funding bids – we can provide a range of skills and the opportunity to be part of community projects.

Vale Vision Sponsorship

Sponsor a Vale Vision project or the newsletter and promote your company in the Vale Vision shop, in our publications and in media releases with regard to the work of Vale Vision.

Promotion in this newsletter

Promote your event in this newsletter with circulation not only of local people but also local authorities, businesses, etc. Contact Vale Vision now to book your space in the next newsletter, scheduled for May.

Details

All advertising must be in this newsletter format and two colour only (black and one other colour). Entries will be restricted to a maximum of two advertisements per edition and will only be for local business or local events.

Full Page - £20 per entry

Half Page - £10 per entry

Circulation:

E-circulation to all those involved with Vale Vision, Parish, Town, District and County councils
Copies in our shop, in participating newsagents, in town and parish council offices

Current Newsletter and back copies will be posted on our website www.valevision.org.uk

Contact Details

Vale Vision can be contacted: By Post: Please use the address below

Telephone: Shirley Hill Tel: 01453 549208, e-mail: shirley @act2.demon.co.uk
 Geoff Wheeler Tel: 01453 545583, e-mail: geof.wheeler@btinternet.com

Note: Details with regard to shop telephone, e-mail etc will be notified as soon as these are operational