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Dates for Your Diary

Wed 14 June Learning & Skills for Business	2 - 4 pm
Tues 20 June Vale Vision Town Centre Group	7.30 pm
Wed 21 June , Dursley Library Business Breakfast, Skills & Training	8-10 am
Thurs 22 June Vale Vision Board meeting	7 pm
Mon 10 July Town Centre Masterplan Steering Group	10 am
Mon 17 July, Kingshill House Town Centre Masterplan consultation	6-8 pm
Fri 21 July Vale Vision Tourism Steering Group	2 pm
Focus Group meetings – see page 3	

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

VISITORS FROM SWEDEN



This month visitors from Upsala in Sweden came on a 3 day exchange visit to investigate regeneration initiatives in Gloucestershire and compare work here with regeneration in their own Country. Although staying in Cheltenham, they spent a full day in Dursley, arriving at the Vale Vision premises at 9.30 am and starting the day with a visit to the Littlecombe site in Dursley. The route to the site took them through Water Street and the Broadwell where they were surprised to find an area with so much untapped potential which has so much of the history of Dursley, an area which many people living locally are often unaware of and which is even less known by visitors.

They compared the demise of our local industry to what is happening in their own area and discussed the survival of the smaller companies or the re-emergence of small companies which often result from the demise of larger companies.

After a visit to the Heritage Centre providing the opportunity to learn more of local culture and former days when industry supported the development of our town, their visit took them through Parsonage Street where they were interested in the range of shops in local ownership, selling items that cannot be found so easily in the larger stores.

Lunch at The Old Spot could not be excelled, with a table outside in the sunshine being arranged by Steve at the last minute. After a pleasant lunch, washed down with local ale from Uley and Cam, a visit to the library and a presentation by The Learning Community followed. The final visit of the day was to GL11 which completed their experience of local community initiatives in Cam and Dursley. Late afternoon the minibus collected the group for a visit to Ebley Mill and a presentation of the Cotswold Canal Project. It was interesting for Vale Vision to share views of regeneration projects and learn how similar issues are managed in Sweden.

GMTF VISIT DURSLEY

Members of the Gloucestershire Market towns Forum, which represents the interests of the small towns in the county, recently held their quarterly networking meeting at the new Library in Dursley.

The theme of the evening was how to revitalise your town, and besides the usual learning from each others experience, Gareth Whitaker, the Forest of Dean District Council's Market Towns Regeneration Officer, explained the First Stop – Local Shop campaign in the Forest towns, and Colin Calver, W S Atkins, talked about town centre re-design – both topical subjects for Dursley and Cam. It was interesting to hear about shop local campaigns in other areas and compare notes, whilst Atkins provided food for thought on what is possible in areas that may seem impossible to improve.

Over thirty members and non-members enjoyed the evening, visiting Jacob's House, the Heritage Centre and the Vale Vision shop. They were able to take away with them new inspiration and contacts to make things happen in their own towns' regeneration programmes.

From the feedback received it is clear that the meeting was a great success, and all enjoyed the excellent buffet of home made fare provided by members of the Town Council and the Dursley Town Trust. Our thanks to Jane Ball, Dursley Mayor, for her welcome to our guests and to all who contributed to make the evening a success.

DURSLEY TOWN CENTRE DESIGN FRAMEWORK

In our last newsletter, we stated that a tender procedure was being progressed to appoint Consultants to design a masterplan for Dursley – this has now been completed in as far as the consultants have been appointed.

Vale Vision, funded by MCTi, together with Dursley Town and Stroud District Councils, have awarded a contract to Roger Evans Associates, to prepare a design framework for the town centre in Dursley that will provide proposals for improvement of areas in public ownership and a planning advice document for private developers.

Roger Evans Associates have considerable experience in urban design. Key features in the project will be communication with the public and engaging all the residents and key players who must take ownership of the final design. The project will start in June with a finishing date in November. Public Consultation meeting – Monday 17 July, 6-8 pm, Kingshill House. All welcome.

WHAT'S ON LEAFLET SUCCESS

The first edition of the What's On leaflet was published in April, with 8 sides in A5 booklet form. It was distributed through local inns, tourist accommodation, community venues, on our website and through our e-mail list. We knew that this edition had not reached its potential, due to the short time scale in its preparation and launch. It has been very well received and the summer edition of this quarterly booklet, which is just being distributed, has grown to 12 sides.

The growth of this is supported by advertising – thank you to those businesses that showed faith in supporting this new initiative. Equipment funded by Gloucestershire Rural Renaissance.

Hard copies can be collected at the Vale Vision 'shop' or local community venues. Contact Vale Vision if you wish to be added to the e-mail list or visit the Vale Vision website for your pdf copy – www.valevision.org.uk

PROGRESS REPORT FROM WM CONSULTANTS

W M Enterprise consultants have been working in the area over the last month to ensure that local people are involved in the needs and demand survey for a community facility, to fulfil areas of need both now and in the future, whilst ensuring that existing resources are not duplicated. As some of you may know, they have completed the house to house survey and are in the final stages with the business survey. Dates have been arranged for focus groups, as outlined below, to ensure that there is involvement from all who may wish to add their ideas on what such a centre would need.

Sports Groups	12 th June 7.15 pm, Rednock School
Education Groups	14 th June, 2 pm, Dursley Education Centre
Business Groups	21 st June, 8 am, Dursley Library
Councillors and Officers	28 th June, 6.00 pm, Kingshill House
Social Groups (DODS, Male Voice choir, etc)	28 th June, 7.30 pm, Kingshill House
Youth Groups	to be confirmed
Church Groups	28 th June, to be confirmed

If you are interested in attending one of these focus group meetings or know of others who may not have been invited, please e-mail Vale Vision – valevision@btconnect.com

LATEST NEWS FROM ST MODWEN & SWRDA

The ground remediation and earthworks are continuing apace and the base for the business park has been laid. Currently the new main sewer is being laid and at the beginning of June works will commence on the construction of the new river channel.

In terms of the outline planning application for the principal use of the main site, this will be heard at the Stroud District Council Planning Committee on 13th June 2006, at which the full details will be heard and the planning obligations required of the development outlined.

Further sub division works of Drake House are planned for the summer, following the success of the lettings within Suite 4. The intention is to create similar sized units starting from 500 sq ft. Several parties have already expressed interest and these additional small suites should be well received.

Rupert Joseland of St. Modwen said, "we are hopeful that the Planning Committee will support our proposals in June, so that we can continue with the works undertaken to date. We shall be marketing the first tranche of residential land this summer, with the first houses being built next year at the northern end of the site adjacent to Church Road".

CONSTRUCTION SKILLS

Some of the plans for this project have been held up due to issues with regard to premises and fire safety. The good news is that they are only held up and have not been abandoned. For those who have skills but do not have accreditation, the on-site assessment process has commenced and a meeting will be held in the not to distant future to notify Construction companies of this opportunity. Further training is also available to train assessors, either from those who are no longer fit enough to work in the building trade or for those companies who would like to train one of their own staff as an assessor.

Other courses that will be available shortly are for those in supervisory capacity who would like to update their skills in Financial Management, Project Management or Personnel Management.

Contact Vale Vision for information with regard to meetings with companies or training opportunities.

SPORTS NETWORK PROGRESS

Users and providers of sports and active leisure facilities in the Vale Vision area have come together to form a Sports Network that will enable the whole community to have access to and enjoy the benefits of sports and recreational activities in the area. Membership will be open to all bodies interested in and committed to promoting local sport and active recreation.

The Network will help all individuals, through the efforts of its members, to have open access to an expanding range of suitably equipped facilities across the whole range of sport and active recreation.

One particular project is the proposal for an all weather pitch for joint use by community sports groups, primary schools and Rednock School. A presentation on this proposal with an opportunity to discuss the location and use of the pitch will be given at the Community Centre, Rednock Drive, Dursley, on Saturday 10th June at 9.30 am – 11.30 am. If you would like your views to be heard contact Vale Vision, address details at the end of this letter.

CAM PARISH COUNCIL NEWS

Cam Parish Council has moved to a new address on the High Street, in order to become more accessible to residents and to provide better working conditions for its staff. The new Council Shop is light, airy, and very welcoming for any residents with queries on Parish, District or County Council issues.

Many visitors have commented on the positive change from the cold, damp, cramped surroundings in the previous building. The new premises include a meeting room large enough for all normal meetings of the Council.

The new Council Shop, at 22 High Street (between the fish and chip shop and Clutterbucks) will be open from 10 am - 12.30 pm and from 2 pm - 3.30 pm from Monday - Thursday each week (closed Fridays). If these times are not convenient, an alternative can usually be arranged by telephoning the Clerk on 01453 548884.

VALE VISION VOLUNTEERS ENROL FOR NVQ!

Volunteers who joined Vale Vision in the shop during April are now working towards NVQ units. Four of the volunteers appreciate the benefits that an NVQ qualification could bring in their search 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 the 'What's On' booklet, update a database or use a spreadsheet to cost projects.

If you are retired and have an interest in working for the benefit of your community, as part of a team to realise some of the projects in the Vale Vision plan, you can help to ensure that Dursley can benefit from the many funding grants that are available for local projects.

THE LEARNING COMMUNITY - TLC

English and Maths Brush Up Courses

TLC is currently promoting English and Maths brush up courses in the area - these are for people who have a good level of Maths or English but who may need to brush up their skills to help their children with homework, write better reports at work, spell better etc.

How able are you with adding or taking away fractions, working out percentages, using grammar or spelling difficult words? The things you forget after a while and may need refreshing. Courses are short and are focused around using practice tests on a computer. All courses are FREE

Monday evenings - Rednock School 7 pm - 8.30 pm in room IT1 - just drop in
Wednesdays starting 24th May at GL11 Community Project 10 am-12 pm with FREE childcare
Saturday mornings at Dursley Education Centre. Some Courses on St Georges Road, Kingshill

Please contact Viv Jones on 01453 547329 Viv@thelearningcommunity.org.uk or Emma Clark on 01453 542060 to book a space or get more information

NVQS

NVQs in Customer Service, Administration, IT and Management are available for local people who are working or volunteering in Cam and Dursley. You can do the full NVQ or units towards it, depending on your need.

Ring Jane Manning on 01453 547329 (Wed/Thu) or 01453 548189 (all other times) or email jane@thelearningcommunity.org.uk for more information

Celebrating Cam And Dursley

TLC have been successful in a bid for £30,000 to record local memories, produce community art work to be permanently displayed in the town, develop a heritage trail along the old Lister's/Bymacks sites and produce a Book of local Walks. This is an exciting new project for Cam and Dursley. If you would like to see your favourite walk in print or record your memories, contact Shirley Hill, telephone: 01453 549208, e-mail: shirley@act2.demon.co.uk. Visit the website www.camanddursley.com

Community Art Projects

We have a number of Community Art projects currently underway with a mural at Kingshill made by local residents and children, as well as clay hands for Uley Village Hall. Two new projects are due to start on 7th June:

Free Courses – Join anytime throughout the 6 weeks

Digital Photography for over 50s - working with Artist Ulf Pederson to create images of Cam and Dursley to be used in permanent display sites (using old and new photos). This display will be used at the Dursley Town Festival on 15th July to launch the project.

Starts Wed 7th June, 2 pm-4 pm for 6 weeks at Dursley Education Centre

Felt Banners for the Festival - with locally based Artist Amanda Griffiths - Making a felt banner to be displayed in the town at either the library, Vale Vision shop, college or heritage centre, after being used in the Dursley Town Festival procession and CCAD launch.

Starts Wed 7th June 10 am-12 pm for 6 weeks at Dursley Education Centre

The TLC will be doing a range of Art workshops during Dursley Festival Week at the Dursley Pool and Sports Centre - Big Ten Little Ten competition, 10th June 9 am-1 pm and at the Dursley Town Festival event 15th July 2pm onwards on the Recreation ground and at the Dursley Sports Centre.

To book on these courses please contact Viv Jones or Jane Manning, TLC, 01453 547329 or 548189 or email Viv@thelearningcommunity.org.uk

CELEBRATING CAM AND DURSLEY

Memories and Ideas

Celebrating Cam and Dursley are looking for people who have memories to share - people who came in the 50s or before to work at Listers or elsewhere in the area from Italy, Poland and the North of England, as well as those who have been here all their lives. We want younger people and children to tell us what they like about the area, what they would like changed, how they feel about living in Cam and Dursley. All this information will be displayed in booklet form on our website www.camanddursley.com.

Book Of Walks

Do you have a favourite walk? Celebrating Cam and Dursley are designing a book of walks to be published in the Autumn. Tell us about your favourite walk – walks should be no more than 5 miles, circular (starting and ending in the same place - preferably near a pub or car park) and relatively easy - particularly walks where people can take buggies or wheelchairs. If you would like your favourite walk included – contact Shirley Hill, 01453 549208, e-mail: shirley@act2.demon.co.uk

SPONSOR OF THE MONTH

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Vale Vision Sponsorship

Sponsor this newsletter: £25 ½ page, £15 ¼ page
(charities and community groups – please ask for reduced rates)

Advertisements must be two colour only, except for a logo
Only two advertisements per copy.

Circulation: Parish, Town, District and County Council,
community venues, Vale Vision shop
Current and back copies will be posted on our website.

Sponsor a local project Promote your company in the
Vale Vision shop, in our publications and media releases.

Contact Details

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