

# Tewkesbury Borough **NEWS**

Your free community magazine

**Summer 2025**

**New skateparks for  
Bishop's Cleeve and  
Northway**

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**Tramper trail  
improves accessibility  
at Cleeve Common**

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**New community  
orchards and  
microwoods**

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**Live chat, chatbots  
and live-streaming**

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What's on  
**THIS  
SUMMER**

**The latest on devolution and  
local government reorganisation**

Photo by Jack Bosket: Summer sunset over Cleeve Common

# Welcome

Summer is here, and I'm happy to share the latest plans and updates for our vibrant borough in this issue of our borough magazine.

Hear inspiring stories from our partners and businesses who are making a difference, showcasing the incredible spirit that defines our communities.

Stay informed with the latest news on our community projects, including community orchards, skateparks for Bishop's Cleeve and Northway, and an accessible tramper trail for Cleeve Common.

Find your next adventure for your family and friends in our 'what's on' page; there's plenty of inspiration to make the very best of summer.

Dive in, enjoy the read, and share your thoughts – we'd love to hear from you.

I hope you enjoy the issue.



*Laura Carter*

Editor

[communications@tewkesbury.gov.uk](mailto:communications@tewkesbury.gov.uk)

## Contact:

### Tewkesbury Borough Council

[tewkesbury.gov.uk](http://tewkesbury.gov.uk)

Phone: **01684 295010**

Out of hours emergencies: **01684 293445**

### Gloucestershire County Council

[gloucestershire.gov.uk](http://gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Phone: **01452 425000**

Out of hours emergencies: **01452 614194**

### Parish councils

To find out the contact details of your local parish council, please visit:

[tewkesbury.gov.uk](http://tewkesbury.gov.uk) and search for parish councils.

## Leader's update

**This season is a time to make the most of the longer days and take part in community events. Our communities continue to thrive, and I am confident that our initiatives will continue to improve the quality of life for all.**



One of our areas of focus is Local Government Reorganisation (LGR) and devolution. These key changes from government are designed to bring decision-making closer to you, ensuring that residents' voices are heard, and your needs are met more effectively. We're committed to working with our neighbouring councils to make this transition as smooth as possible.

Our Council Plan remains at the heart of everything we do. The plan outlines our vision and priorities for the future, focusing on sustainable development, economic growth, and community wellbeing. We're dedicated to creating an inclusive and environmentally-aware borough.


Our online services have been enhanced to make it easier for you to contact us. Some exciting new features, such as chatbots and live chat, offer instant support and information, and our council meetings are now live streamed.

This is part of our ongoing work to improve access to our services and ensure our borough remains sustainable and forward-thinking.

We're excited about our Garden Communities programme, which will provide sustainable living spaces and further enhance our local environment. Supporting local businesses is another of our priorities, and we'd encourage everyone to 'shop local' and enjoy the many unique offerings across the borough.

I hope you can spare some time to take advantage of the fun activities taking place around the borough this summer. Enjoy visiting the vibrant markets, our beautiful parks and gardens, Tewkesbury's historic abbey, or one of the many free events – there's something for everyone to enjoy.

As we move forward, I encourage you to keep sharing your thoughts with us. Your feedback is invaluable in shaping our future. Together, we can continue to build a community that we are all proud to call home.



**Richard Stanley**, Leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council



# Summertime in our borough, come sunshine or showers!

Summer usually promises a delightful mix of sunshine and, let's be honest, the occasional British shower. As luck would have it, Tewkesbury Borough has a wealth of activities to keep families and visitors entertained, whether the skies are blue or grey.

## Rainy day retreats

Council Leader, Councillor Richard Stanley, made a visit to the **Jet Age Museum** to discover aviation history and see the fantastic vintage aircraft and interactive exhibits first-hand.

The museum, which offers free admission, is home to several aircraft that were designed and manufactured by the Gloster Aircraft Company from 1920 to 1960.

*"We're lucky to have so many fantastic destinations on our doorstep! Dive into to the amazing Jet Age Museum with interactive displays; visit Winchcombe Museum for out-of-this-world meteorite fragments, and explore fun family trails at Cleeve Hill Common. There's something for everyone to enjoy!"*

Councillor Richard Stanley, Leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council

**Winchcombe Museum** is another fabulous rainy-day destination, showcasing local history including fragments of the UK's most important meteorite and an ever-changing display of fascinating items.



## Sunshine adventures

For fine-weather days, embrace the outdoors at **Cleeve Common Nature Reserve**, with stunning views, hiking, and wildlife. Check the website for family foraging walks, seasonal trails and nature journalling.

Explore **Sudeley Castle and Gardens**, featuring vibrant roses and the 'Ruins to Revival' exhibition.

For more information and ideas for days out, visit Tewkesbury Information Centre or explore [visitteewkesbury.info](http://www.visitteewkesbury.info)

Supporting the local economy is an area of focus in the Council Plan. [Learn more: teewkesbury.gov.uk/council-plan](http://www.teewkesbury.gov.uk/council-plan)

## Learn more about

The council is working to share its refreshed Council Plan, which sets out the priorities and ambitions over the next three years. The plan reflects a comprehensive review of the actions that sit beneath the council's priorities and areas of focus.

The council's vision remains the same: 'supporting people, strengthening communities.'

Find out more on the council's web pages:  
Council Plan: [teewkesbury.gov.uk/council-plan](http://www.teewkesbury.gov.uk/council-plan)  
LGR: [teewkesbury.gov.uk/lgr](http://www.teewkesbury.gov.uk/lgr)

*"We are revisiting what was originally designed as a six-year plan, to consider the introduction of Local Government Reorganisation (LGR). The refreshed plan will work hard to ensure that we continue to meet the needs of our residents, businesses and communities as we move towards a unitary structure."*

Councillor Richard Stanley,  
Leader of Tewkesbury Borough  
Council





# Parish life in... Boddington

Councillor David Lang from Boddington Parish Council tells us about parish life

## Tell us a little about your parish

Boddington is a sleepy, rural parish, which lies four miles northwest of Cheltenham, with the hamlets of Barrow to the west, Hayden to the east and Boddington sitting centrally. Covering an area of five square miles with around 700 parishioners, it's likely home to more cows and sheep than people!

Quintessentially rural England in many ways, it is a much-treasured place to live if you don't mind being away from it all. Whilst we have one fantastic pub, we don't have any shops, schools, village halls or community centres; we don't even have any pavements.

## Places of pride

Registered as a parish in 1682, records of Boddington Manor date back to the turn of the millennium, when it was part of the Great Manor of Tewksbury. There are tales of it withstanding a short siege during the English civil war, when the manor was defended by a moat. The Church of St Mary Magdelene is our only formal public building and dates to the 12th century. With regular services, the church also opens its doors to locals every Christmas for carols, mince pies and mulled wine. Boddington is also home to ISS Boddington - formerly RAF Boddington - which sits on the edge of Barrow hamlet.

## Nature and wildlife

Our 1,271 hectares is mainly farmland with arable and cattle farming. This attracts wonderful wildlife with a range of birds such as buzzards, woodpeckers, and owls. We are also fortunate to see deer, foxes, and occasionally hares, badgers, and otters.

## What part does the parish council play in local life?

We are a close community, and organise celebrations to mark national events such as the late Queen's jubilee, the coronation, and last year we marked the 80th anniversary of D-Day with the lighting of a beacon of peace.

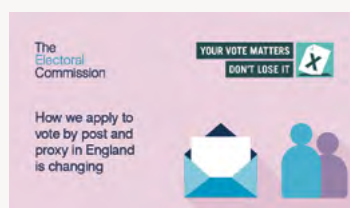
Volunteer litter picks are arranged from time to time, to keep our verges clean and tidy. During the last litter pick, 27 black bin bags were collected, along with a large gas cannister, a 25 litre drum of used oil, and an old toilet!

If you like the quiet life, Boddington is a wonderful place to live.

## Do you vote by post?

Changes to the law mean that a postal vote arrangement can only remain in place for a maximum of three years. Existing postal voters who applied before 31 October 2023 will soon need to re-apply.

Please look out for an email or letter from the council's Elections team in the next few weeks explaining what you need to do, and when. If you do not re-apply, your existing postal vote arrangement will be cancelled.



Visit: [tewkesbury.gov.uk/voting-and-elections](https://tewkesbury.gov.uk/voting-and-elections)

# An update on local government reorganisation and devolution

The Government is planning two changes for local areas: **devolution**, which will see the passing of more powers and funding from central government to local authorities, and **Local Government Reorganisation** (LGR) that will see local councils streamlined into a simpler structure.

Devolution will incorporate the creation of a new strategic authority led by a directly elected mayor.

LGR will affect all councils in the county, including Gloucestershire County Council and the six districts – Tewkesbury Borough Council, Cheltenham Borough Council, Cotswold District Council, Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucester City Council, and Stroud District Council.

When Gloucestershire moves to a unitary model, the county and district/borough/city councils will be replaced, and a new unitary council or councils will deliver all the services.

Government has identified two phases to the changes. Gloucestershire is not one of the areas that will be prioritised in the first phase, however proposals are required to be submitted to the Government by November 2025.

Gloucestershire councils submitted an interim proposal in March for Government to consider. Currently, there are three proposals in development, supported by different councils.

## The options are:

- One unitary for the whole county
- Two unitaries, with an east (Cheltenham, Tewkesbury and Cotswold) and west (Gloucester, Forest of Dean and Stroud) split
- Two unitaries, one being the greater Gloucester city area, and the other being the remainder of the county.



*"Devolution can bring positives such as more powers and funding being passed down from Government, better co-ordination of services, better support for skills development for our residents and more strategic control over planning and housing. It should also mean a stronger voice for our region with central Government."*

*"Local Government Reorganisation or LGR could mean a more coordinated approach to how council services are delivered, giving better value-for-money and providing stronger strategic and local leadership."*

Councillor Richard Stanley, leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council

While the Government will consider the proposals submitted by local authorities, the final decision will be made by Government ministers.

Keep up to date at [tewkesbury.gov.uk/devolution-and-local-government-reorganisation](https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/devolution-and-local-government-reorganisation)

## No name change for Tewkesbury Borough

Tewkesbury Borough councillors have voted not to proceed with the proposed name change to North Gloucestershire Borough.

When the name change was initially agreed, following consultation with local communities, there was no indication that the Government would introduce LGR plans. Considering this new direction, retaining the council's current name is the most sensible option.







# Using new technology to improve our response to flooding

## Living in Tewkesbury: a well-loved town with a rich history

Tewkesbury is known for its deep historical roots, including the Battle of Tewkesbury, the Abbey, and many historic buildings. It even has the oldest pub in Gloucestershire!

Situated at the confluence of the rivers Severn and Avon, the town also has a beautiful landscape – but is also very prone to flooding.

Flood resilience, response and recovery is a focus area within the council plan, and with the emergency response team being stood up four times in 2024, the council is continually looking for ways to improve its approach.

## Using technology to predict floods

In January 2024, the town experienced significant flooding. To predict how rainwater could affect specific properties during severe weather events, new geospatial tools from a technology platform called 'ArcGIS' were used.

## What is geospatial?

Geospatial refers to data associated with a specific location on the Earth's surface. This data can include maps, satellite images, and other information that helps the council to understand where things are and how they relate to each other geographically.



## Satellite imagery and different datasets

During the flood event in January 2024, the council's data team used satellite images from the Sentinel-2 satellite, which takes pictures of the earth every few days. On a clear day, the extent of the flooding could be seen. The team also used data from the Environment Agency, including data from their measuring stations along the rivers, to predict water levels based on past events. The imagery and data were then combined with elevation data (how high the land is) to create a model predicting where flooding would occur. This model was quite accurate and matched what was observed on the ground.



## Helping the community

All the information gathered helped to identify which residential properties were within the flooding boundary. By cross-referencing this with data on the borough's most vulnerable properties and residents, the council could ensure that these residents received the support that they needed, such as welfare checks, medical supplies or support with getting sandbags.

*"We're pleased to be making use of new technologies to better understand and respond to flooding emergencies. Gathering data from measuring stations and satellite images is crucial for us to build up historical references and find ways to improve conditions for our residents in flood-prone areas."*

Councillor Mike Sztymiak, Lead Member for Transformation

Read more in our blog:  
[tewkesbury.gov.uk/blog](https://tewkesbury.gov.uk/blog)

# Let's be small on waste, big on recycling

## Join our garden waste club



Signing up has never been easier! Join the club today and enjoy the benefits of easily disposing of your garden waste through kerbside collections. The fortnightly brown bin collections mean you can keep your garden tidy throughout the seasons!

It is hassle-free, meaning no more trips to the recycling centre and no need to mess up the boot of your car.



Join the club:

[tewkesbury.gov.uk/garden-waste-club](http://tewkesbury.gov.uk/garden-waste-club)

## Make the most of your food waste collection

Nearly a quarter of the average waste bin in Gloucestershire is food waste, but recycling it is simple! Use your weekly food waste collection to recycle any food - leftover bones, banana peels, raw or cooked food, even pet food.

Recycled food waste is turned into gas to heat homes and fertiliser to help grow healthier crops. So next time you put teabags or food scraps in your caddy, remember you are helping to keep homes warm and you're supporting farmers.

If you need a caddy, contact customer services on **01684 295010** or use self-service on the council's website: [tewkesbury.gov.uk/self-service](http://tewkesbury.gov.uk/self-service)

## Book your bulky waste collection

Having a clear out and struggling to find a new home for an old, large or bulky item? Why not book a collection online. It costs £26.50 for the first item, and £13.25 for each additional item.

Visit: [tewkesbury.gov.uk/self-service](http://tewkesbury.gov.uk/self-service)

If you are in receipt of housing benefit or council tax reduction, call the council's Customer Services team to make a booking.

To arrange your bulky waste collection, call our Customer Services team on **01684 295010**.



## New 'tramper trail' makes Cleeve Common more accessible



The two-mile route, called a 'tramper trail', can be used by people with off-road mobility scooters. The trail has been brought to life by Cleeve Common Trust, whose members wanted to improve access to the common for those with physical disabilities.

Work for the trail was carried out thanks to a grant from Cotswold National Landscape's 'Access for All' fund.

*"We all know being outdoors and connecting with nature is good for our health and wellbeing, and that shouldn't be restricted to those who can go off on a hike."*

Nicole Daw, Community Engagement Officer for Cleeve Common Trust

A new tramper loan scheme has been launched. To pre-book a tramper free of charge, visit the trust's website: [cleevecommon.org.uk/tramper-hire](http://cleevecommon.org.uk/tramper-hire)



# THE GROWTH HUB TEWKESBURY

Get in touch: 01684 272073 [tewkesbury@thegrowthhub.biz](mailto:tewkesbury@thegrowthhub.biz)  
Tewkesbury Borough Council Offices, Gloucester Road,  
Tewkesbury GL20 5TT

**FREE BUSINESS SUPPORT**

**OFFICE SPACE**

**FREE CO-WORKING SPACE**

**MEETING ROOMS**



Tewkesbury Growth Hub provides free business support to local businesses of all types and sizes



# The Growth Hub Tewkesbury

## your destination for business support

**The Growth Hub is Tewkesbury's flagship destination for expert business support and advice for local businesses of all types and sizes.**

Based in the council offices, it's the perfect place to gain advice on starting or growing a business.

Hear from local business owners, Nigel and Sean, as they share how it's made a difference to them:

### Chocolat of Tewkesbury

*"Running a business is a lonely place to be - having a network of support around you really helps."*

Nigel Dawson, co-owner of Cafe au Chocolat

Nigel Dawson, co-owner of Cafe au Chocolat and Chocolat of Tewkesbury, opened the coffee shop with his wife, Liz, ten years ago and the chocolate shop two years later. Already familiar with the Growth Hub through their café, the couple explored support for their expanding retail business. In just one session with the Growth Hub, they uncovered Chocolat of Tewkesbury's growth potential — along with the capacity challenges holding it back.

"We already had links with local retailers and supermarkets but one of our issues was meeting capacity," explained Nigel. Further discussion revealed that the machines being used were the reason the company was struggling to meet demand for its products.



Growth Hub advisors, identified available funding via the Rural England Prosperity Fund, meaning Nigel could source and finance a more productive machine.

"The machine has more than doubled capacity, it's not just doubled the amount we can make but the amount we can make in the same time has also doubled - it's a much faster process."

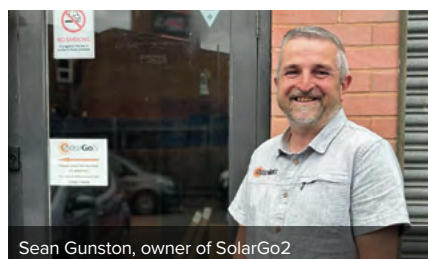
"The Growth Hub has been fantastic, for any business looking to develop and improve what they are currently doing, accessing the Growth Hub is a no brainer."

Visit: [cafe-au-chocolat.co.uk](http://cafe-au-chocolat.co.uk)

### SolarGo2

"What started off in a horsebox on my drive following redundancy, has turned into a successful business, thanks to support from the Growth Hub."

Sean Gunston set up SolarGo2, selling solar security lights and then high efficiency solar panels for caravans and motorhomes, after losing his job during the pandemic.



Sean Gunston, owner of SolarGo2

He attended workshops and received mentoring through the Growth Hub in the early days to help grow his business.

"Any gaps that existed or information that was missing after training sessions and workshops were filled in by having a mentor," he explained.

"It meant that I had 1:1 support. There was always someone I could contact for answers or ideas for problems I might be having.

"I had two mentors. One to help me set up the business and structure a way forward and another to help with digital marketing and online sales.

"I would recommend the Growth Hub to other businesses. Whether you're starting up or looking to grow, they will help find ways to make it work."

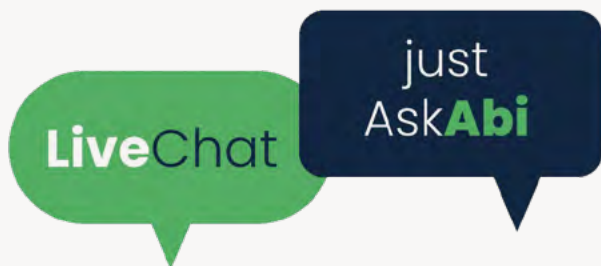
A grant from the Rural England Prosperity Fund further boosted his business.

Visit: [solargo2.com](http://solargo2.com)

*"These success stories show how vital the Growth Hub is in helping our local businesses grow. We're committed to developing a thriving business community by offering specialist services, events, 1-2-1 advice, and free co-working space."*


Councillor Richard Stanley, Council Leader and Lead Member for Economic Development


Visit: [thegrowthhub.biz/tewkesbury](http://thegrowthhub.biz/tewkesbury)




## Chat with us online – anytime!

Need help fast? 'AskAbi,' the council's new live chat and chatbot feature, is being developed this summer, to make it easier than ever to get answers on the council's website.

 'AskAbi' is available 24/7 – to help you get instant answers to common questions

 Live chat during office hours – speak to a real person if you need more help

 It's quick, easy, and convenient

*"We want to make it as easy as possible for you to get in touch with us. AskAbi offers quick answers at any time of the day or night – and if you need more help, you'll be connected to a real person during office hours."*

Councillor Mike Sztymiak, Lead Member for Transformation

Visit [tewkesbury.gov.uk](https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk)

## Go digital: get things done faster with the council's online services

Skip the queues and save time – many of the council's services are now available online. Whether you're reporting a missed bin collection or checking if you need planning permission, you can do it all on the council's website.



### Why use online services?

- ✓ **No waiting** – access services anytime and find answers fast using chatbots and FAQs
- ✓ **Quick updates** – easily change your details or check your account
- ✓ **Eco-friendly** – less paperwork and a smaller carbon footprint
- ✓ **Secure and simple** – your data stays safe, and you can track everything.

### What you can do online:

- ✓ Book bulky waste collections and manage garden waste subscriptions
- ✓ View council tax details
- ✓ Report local issues, and much more.

Visit: [tewkesbury.gov.uk/self-service](https://www.tewkesbury.gov.uk/self-service)

## Watch council meetings from home

All council and committee meetings can be watched from the comfort of home, thanks to the council's new live-streaming service.

The webcast meetings include access to a live agenda and on-screen speaker identification. Recorded meetings are also available for future viewing, ensuring that you can conveniently be kept informed.

Tune in at: [tewkesbury.public-i.tv](https://www.tewkesbury.public-i.tv)





## New skateparks for Northway and Bishop's Cleeve



Images at Northway and Bishop's Cleeve by Maverick

The buzz around the borough's new concrete skateparks continues this summer. The parish councils have seen successful launch events, and have also held holiday workshops funded through the borough council's Health and Wellbeing grant. The skateparks have been designed to inspire skaters, riders, and the wider community for years to come.

Both parks offer many dynamic elements like quarterpipes and flatbanks - with the Bishop's Cleeve facility also offering a pump track - following consultation with local skaters and BMXers.

***"The new skatepark is a fantastic asset for our community, and has given our young people a safe and inspiring place to stay active and enjoy themselves."***

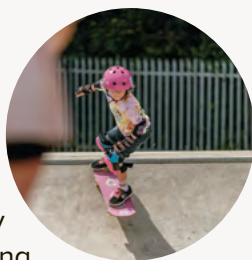
Christine Woodward, Clerk to Northway Parish Council

Northway's skatepark can be found at Northway Playing Field, GL20 8GL and Bishop Cleeve's skatepark is in the Parish Sports Field, GL52 8LZ.

***"We're delighted to be able to provide these terrific new facilities for the parish. This project has been a passion project from start to finish!"***

Amanda Winstone, Clerk to Bishop's Cleeve Parish

Both facilities received funding from the Enovert Community Trust. Bishop's Cleeve also received CIL funding, and Northway gained funds from the National Lottery Community Fund and Gloucestershire Playing Fields Association.



Visit: [bishopsclleeparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://bishopsclleeparishcouncil.gov.uk) and [northwayparishcouncil.gov.uk](http://northwayparishcouncil.gov.uk)

## New community orchards and microwoods



**Funded by  
UK Government**

New community orchards and microwoods have sprung into life around the borough, thanks to the Coronation Community Orchard Scheme funded by the UK Government.

Volunteers, including children and young people, community organisations and parish councils, teamed up to transform their local parks and green spaces.



Left photo: Councillor Cate Cody, Lead Member for Climate and Ecology with Hannah Thomas from Tewkesbury Nature Reserve.



Right photo: Young people from Highnam help with tree planting.

The new orchards celebrate the coronation of King Charles III, and support local tree planting projects across the borough.

Highnam, Longford, Northway, Transition Cleeve, Tewkesbury Nature Reserve, Winchcombe School, Stoke Orchard, Gretton and Alderton have all planted between five and 42 trees, including many different varieties of fruit trees including apple, pear, greengage and cherry.

***"I'm delighted to see these new community orchards come to life all around our beautiful borough. Orchards are a wonderful way to bring communities together, support biodiversity, and improve the natural environment."***

***"We're committed to caring for our green spaces and creating opportunities to support health and wellbeing for our residents."***

Councillor Cate Cody, Lead Member for Climate and Ecology



**Engall Castle Ltd, established in 2009, remains a proud family business known for its customer-focused, professional, and friendly service, backed by local expertise.**

Our goal was to redefine the estate agency experience by prioritising transparency, honesty, discretion, and helpfulness, rather than targets or commissions. This approach ensures top-notch service for every seller and buyer, regardless of their budget. We work on behalf of sellers to ensure a smooth sales transaction whilst achieving the very best selling price that we can.







We help buyers to navigate the buying process to help ensure smooth and timely purchase process.

Sustainability is a core value for us. We strive to reduce our carbon footprint with policies which include using all-electric company cars, minimizing signboard usage, and printing details on demand to help reduce paper waste.

We are committed to continually improving our business in Tewkesbury and the surrounding villages, so whether you're selling, buying, or seeking advice, contact us for a friendly and confidential chat or ask for a free market valuation.

We promise not to harass you with follow-up calls and look forward to assisting you in the future.

*Tom, Wendy, Lucy  
& Steve*

**Engall  
Castle  
.com**

**[www.engallcastle.com](http://www.engallcastle.com)**

**01684 293 246**

155 High Street, Tewkesbury, GL20 5JP

 **Places  
Leisure**  
Part of Places for People

Because Community Matters

**Splash into swimming lessons**  
**at Tewkesbury Leisure Centre**

Available for children of all abilities and ages

Find out more at [tewkesbury.placesleisure.org](http://tewkesbury.placesleisure.org)

Places for People Leisure Ltd  
working in partnership with  
Tewkesbury Borough Council





## Winchcombe Day Centre

A welcoming day centre which provides care and support, while promoting independence for older members of the community.

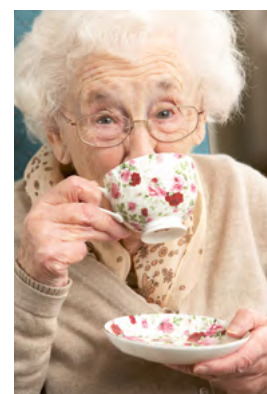
[www.winchcombedaycentre.co.uk](http://www.winchcombedaycentre.co.uk)



Based in Winchcombe, we are a unique place where members socialise in an inclusive environment.

Each Monday, Wednesday and Thursday we offer our members:

- activities ranging from health and wellbeing, art, music and imaginative topical events
- a hot, two-course lunch
- celebration of key events
- friendship and support.



To find out more or to become a member today, please call 01242 603207 or email [enquiries@winchcombedaycentre.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@winchcombedaycentre.co.uk)

[www.winchcombedaycentre.co.uk](http://www.winchcombedaycentre.co.uk)



## New affordable homes for families in Bishop's Cleeve

New affordable and sustainable homes are being enjoyed by families at Eversfield Close in Bishop's Cleeve. The project, initially named Crown Close, offers 28 properties, with a mix of one, two and three-bedroom homes for social rent and shared ownership.

The homes are all A-rated for Energy Performance Certificates (EPC), with gas condensing boilers, roof-mounted solar PV panels to reduce space and water heating costs, and electric vehicle charging points.

*"We're proud to support this new sustainable redevelopment at Crown Close. Our funding has helped improve the quality of accommodation for residents and the wide area."*

Alex Hegenbarth, Lead Member for Community and Housing

The scheme was supported with £800,000 council funding from financial contributions from developers, in lieu of on-site affordable housing contributions.

The new properties bring the total number of affordable homes built in the borough to 1,151 in the last five years. Over £2.5-million has been allocated to make homes more affordable, especially for social housing. The funding will also improve accessibility and home size, and help providers use renewable energy to reduce carbon emissions and lower customer bills for customers.

The Council Plan focuses on increasing affordable housing, especially social rented homes that meet community needs.

Photo: Councillor Sarah Hands, Deputy Leader, with Councillor Alex Hegenbarth, Lead Member for Community and Housing, visit the new scheme



Learn more: [tewkesbury.gov.uk/council-plan](https://tewkesbury.gov.uk/council-plan)

## Warmer, more sustainable homes thanks to Furbnow

50 households in Tewkesbury Borough now enjoy warmer, greener homes thanks to a partnership with Severn Wye Energy Agency, supported by £60,000 from the government's Levelling Up Fund.

The initiative offered free energy surveys, bespoke action plans, and follow-up assistance. Retrofit specialist Furbnow is also providing discounted home improvement surveys for the first 100 Gloucestershire residents. As well as reducing carbon emissions, households will benefit from energy cost savings and warmer homes.



Visit: [furbnow.com/gloucestershire](https://furbnow.com/gloucestershire)

Ongoing support includes grants and advice via Severn Wye's Warm and Well advice line **0800 500 3076** or [warmandwell.co.uk](https://warmandwell.co.uk)

## Visitor information point

The council has announced an exciting new Visitor Information Point (VIP) within the Cotswold Designer Outlet, opening this summer.

Located in the guest services area, the VIP aims to inspire visitors to explore the nearby town of Tewkesbury with its rich history, medieval architecture including the Norman Abbey, and vibrant independent shops and eateries. The town boasts landmarks like the magnificent Norman Tewkesbury Abbey and independent shops and eateries.

*"I'm delighted that Tewkesbury's attractions are being showcased to visitors at the outlet."*

CLLr Richard Stanley, Leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council

Visitors can still rely on Tewkesbury's Church Street tourist information centre for expert advice to make the most of their trip to Tewkesbury and beyond.

Visit [visittewkesbury.info](https://visittewkesbury.info) or call **01684 855040**.



## Go wild this summer!

Tewkesbury Goes Wild is back celebrating its third year this July. Residents and visitors are invited to enjoy free, nature-based activities in Tewkesbury parish over the month.

The programme is supported by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, building on its national 30 Days Wild campaign.

*"We're delighted to be running this fabulous free event once again. There are so many fun and interesting activities to join in with and learn more about nature."*

Councillor Cate Cody, Lead Member for Climate and Ecology



Photo: Mike Smart from Gloucestershire Naturalist Society, with Councillor Cate Cody, Lead Member for Climate and Ecology, at Tewkesbury Severn Ham

See the packed calendar with daily events, advertised by the town council, or sign up to Team Wilder.

Visit: [tewkesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/tewkesbury-goes-wild-2025-book-here](http://tewkesburytowncouncil.gov.uk/tewkesbury-goes-wild-2025-book-here)



## Volunteering opportunities at your fingertips

Have you ever thought about volunteering in your spare time or through your work? It's a fantastic way to help the people, communities and causes you care about. It's good for you, it's fun, and you can add it to your CV.

**Go Volunteering Glos** links volunteers aged 16 and over to a huge choice of opportunities - including charities and community groups - helping to make opportunities simple to find.

### Employer Supported Volunteering (ESV)

lets employees take paid time off to volunteer during work hours. It's a great way to build relationships and learn new skills.



Visit: [govolunteerglos.org](http://govolunteerglos.org)

### Gloucestershire Citizens Advice Bureau

is recruiting volunteers to help and support its clients.

The charity helps millions of people across the UK each year and has a range of roles available. These include fundraising, IT, publicity, campaigning, and trusteeship.

Full training is given, along with a warm welcome to all.



Visit [gloscab.org.uk/volunteering](http://gloscab.org.uk/volunteering)

Photo: Volunteer litter pickers with councillors from Tewkesbury Borough Council

# Shaping Garden Communities

## Community stewardship and placemaking workshops

The Garden Communities team has recently brought together local stakeholders to discuss stewardship and placemaking as part of its programme.

Information gathered from the workshops will help the team take a more coordinated approach and establish a locally owned, community-run, stewardship body. The role of the stewardship body would be to manage and take care of the Garden Community project in the future once it has been set up.

## What will the stewardship body look like?

This needs to be carefully thought through and established, so we brought in expert help.

At workshops in the spring, attendees (including parish councils, developers, community leaders, and landowners) worked with architects JTP and Community Stewardship Solutions (CSS) who were commissioned by Tewkesbury Borough Council. Attendees shared their views on the challenges, aspirations and ideas from local stakeholders.



Residents and interested parties saw examples of case studies from other UK garden towns. Some of the examples shown were with limited companies, some were with not-for-profit, and some were with charities.

Attendees also considered the community assets that will be provided, and how these assets would be managed in the long term and who might own them.

***“A comment that came from the workshop was ‘nowhere is the same as Tewkesbury – we need a bespoke solution.’ This is why stewardship is a key principle of our Tewkesbury Garden Communities Charter and why collaborating with our local stakeholders is vital.”***

Councillor Richard Stanley, leader of Tewkesbury Borough Council

These findings are being reviewed, and recommendations will be shared with stakeholders soon. Further consultation and engagement events are being planned to ensure that the very best stewardship proposals are developed.

Visit: [tewkesbury.gov.uk/garden-communities](https://tewkesbury.gov.uk/garden-communities)

## Spring Gardens car park’s electric upgrade

Eight new Electric Vehicle (EV) charge points are now live and ready to use in Tewkesbury’s Spring Gardens car park. The points provide a full charge in around four hours, perfect for visitors to spend time at the market, abbey, and town centre.

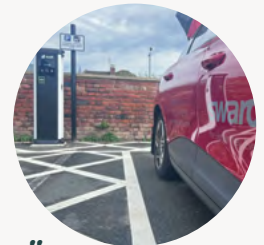
***“In line with our commitments made in our Council Plan, we’re pleased to offer EV drivers the convenience of recharging their vehicles in a central location, and further EV charging points will be coming soon to more of our car parks.”***

***“This is a complex project, and it’s excellent to see progress being made in support of our climate emergency efforts.”***

Councillor Stewart Dove, Lead Member for Finance and Asset Management

This work part of an ongoing programme which is part-funded by the UK Government’s Shared Prosperity Fund.

Visit: [tewkesbury.gov.uk/parking](https://tewkesbury.gov.uk/parking)





# What's on

SUMMER  
2025



## Play Gloucestershire

Free active outdoor play sessions for children over the holidays. Activities are aimed at school children, are open access and all-weather.

[playgloucestershire.org.uk](http://playgloucestershire.org.uk)



## Tewkesbury Abbey

Open 9am to 4.30pm daily. Guided tours Saturdays 12noon; Sundays 1.30pm.

£7 for adults, under 16s free.

[tewkesburyabbey.org.uk](http://tewkesburyabbey.org.uk)

## The Roses Theatre

The theatre hosts a wide programme of live events, music, comedy, cinema and workshops.

[rosetheatre.org](http://rosetheatre.org)



## July

### Cotswold Lavender, Broadway

Visit until 6 August.

[cotswoldlavender.co.uk](http://cotswoldlavender.co.uk)

### Tewkesbury Goes Wild

1-31 July

Free nature-based activities.

[gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/teamwilder](http://gloucestershirowildlifetrust.co.uk/teamwilder)

### Tewkesbury Medieval Festival

12 and 13 July

[tewkesburymedievalfestival.co.uk](http://tewkesburymedievalfestival.co.uk)

## Cotswold Beer Festival

Postlip, near Winchcombe

18-20 July

[postlip.camra.org.uk](http://postlip.camra.org.uk)

### Living History Tudor Tours

19 July

The Merchant's House, Church Street, Tewkesbury.

[johnmooremuseum.org](http://johnmooremuseum.org)

### Prescott International

19 July

A new four car team event, featuring England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales

[prescothillclimb.co.uk](http://prescothillclimb.co.uk)



## Tewkesbury Live

25-27 July

Free music festival in pubs and venues across Tewkesbury town.

[tewkesburylive.co.uk](http://tewkesburylive.co.uk)

### Musica Deo Sacra

28 July to 3 August

Tewkesbury Abbey

[tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/musica-deo-sacra](http://tewkesburyabbey.org.uk/musica-deo-sacra)

### App-Fest

31 July to 3 August

A family-friendly festival, Longdon.

[app-fest.co.uk](http://app-fest.co.uk)

## August

### Guided walk of Tewkesbury Battlefield

7 August

7pm, meet at Abbey Lawns Car Park, Gander Lane, Tewkesbury. Free.

[tewkesbury.org.uk](http://tewkesbury.org.uk)

## Go Wild at Winchcombe

9-21 August

Free children's craft activities. Visit GWSR and have a valid ticket to take part.

[gwsr.com](http://gwsr.com)

[winchcombe.co.uk/go-wild-at-winchcombe](http://winchcombe.co.uk/go-wild-at-winchcombe)

### Strolls around Tewkesbury

13 August

7pm, meet at Warder's Alley, High Street, £2.

[visittewkesbury.info](http://visittewkesbury.info)

### High Street Fine Food and Craft Market

17 August

10am to 4pm, Tewkesbury.

### The Winchcombe Show

25 August

An annual celebration of local talent, charities and businesses.

[winchcombeshow.org.uk](http://winchcombeshow.org.uk)

## September

### Bredon Cider Festival

5-6 September

Croft Farm Water Park.

[bredonciderfestival.com](http://bredonciderfestival.com)

### Alderton 5K run

6 September, 11am

[aldertonvillage.co.uk/alderton-5k-run](http://aldertonvillage.co.uk/alderton-5k-run)

### Classic Car Show

20 September

2pm to 5pm, Stanway House, £5 per adult.

[stanwayfountain.co.uk](http://stanwayfountain.co.uk)

### Mini Craft Market

20-21 September

[natureinart.org.uk](http://natureinart.org.uk)

# What's On Jul-Sep 2025

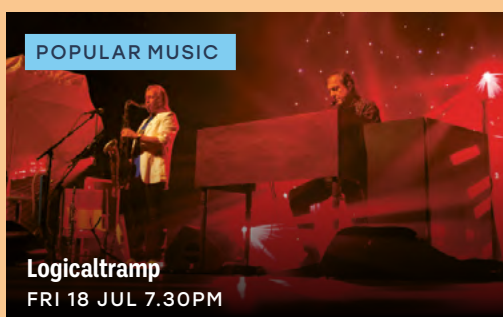
THE ROSES  
**50**  
YEARS

The Roses first  
bloomed in  
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MORE**

Turn overleaf for our packed Jul-Sep line up and go  
online to explore further ahead [rosestheatre.org](https://www.rosestheatre.org).

**01684 295074**  
[rosestheatre.org](https://www.rosestheatre.org)





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