

## Welcome to our November newsletter

### 'Tis the season for Inclusion...

As we head into the festive season, there is a County full of activities and events to get you feeling merry and bright. In this months newsletter, we shine a spotlight on just a few of the inclusive seasonal events in Gloucestershire. If you want to tell us about your inclusive event this December, check out the [You're Welcome Facebook page](#) where you can share and find inclusive events, activities and venues.

#### Featuring

Inclusive events around the County

Aiming High Inclusion Network

Christmas Holiday activities and food programme

'Spreading the Winter Warmth' with Write up your Street

Upcoming *Of Course We Can* events

International Day of People with Disabilities

News from our projects

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### Inclusive events from around the County

There are a wide range of festive activities and events taking place across Gloucestershire this year, many of which are inclusive or clearly state their accessibility features. We are delighted to highlight a small number of upcoming

events in this months newsletter. To find out about further inclusive activities in the County over the festive period, visit You're Welcome Gloucestershire.

[Visit You're Welcome Gloucestershire](#)

## Seasonal events with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust



**I'm dreaming of Wild Christmas**  
**Wednesday 8 December**  
**4pm - 7pm**

Visit Santa's Grotto at Robinswood Hill. Enjoy some festive treats in the café and reindeer trail through the woodland at twilight.

[Find out more](#)



**Christmas at Crickley Hill**  
**Saturday 18 December**  
**11am - 4pm**

Explore the Advent market, Santas grotto, woodland 'reindeer' trail, festive activities, BBQ and carol singing.

[Find out more](#)

**Inclusive performances at The Everyman, Cheltenham**



### A Christmas Carol

Thursday 16 December

2:30pm

A Christmas Carol is coming to The Everyman in Cheltenham this December; their relaxed performance is on 16 December!

[Find out more and book](#)



### Jack and the Beanstalk -

January 2022

There will be a BSL performance of Jack and the Beanstalk on Sunday 2 January at 2pm and a relaxed performance on Wednesday 5 January at 10:30am and 4:30pm.

[Find out more and book](#)

## Festive Fun on the Ice



### Gloucester Quays Open Air Ice Rink

The ice rink at Gloucester Quays is back for everyone to enjoy this December. Those using a manual wheelchair can access the ice and studded overshoes

are provided for a companion. A carer or companion can join you on the ice free of charge. There are accessible toilets on the ground floor of Gloucester Quays and blue badge parking opposite the National Waterways Museum, in the Southgate Moorings car park or in the multi storey car park at Gloucester Quays. To discuss your accessibility requirements, you are invited to contact the ice rink organisers or Gloucester Quays customer service.

[Book your tickets](#)

[Read the FAQs for accessibility information](#)



### **Cheltenham Covered Ice Rink**

The County's only fully covered ice rink, suitable for all weather, has landed in Imperial Gardens, Cheltenham this year. Individuals are welcome to join the fun on the ice using their own manual or motorized wheelchair. A carer or companion of wheelchair users will receive a free ticket to access the ice rink and complimentary ice skates or ice grip shoes are provided. There are three remaining sensory sessions taking place at 11am on December 1, 8 and 15. These sessions have a reduced skating capacity, the music within the ice rink

is reduced and any flashing lights are switched off. Organisers advise those who would like a quieter sessions at the weekend that mornings are typically much less busy than late afternoon / evening sessions. There are various on street blue badge holder parking spaces. [Click here to see a map of the available spaces.](#)

[Book your tickets](#)

[Read the FAQs for accessibility information](#)

In previous years we have promoted the Christmas activities taking place at Clearwell Caves and Westonbirt Arboretum along with their accessibility information. They have asked us to share that Christmas at Clearwell Caves in 2021 has now completely sold out.

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## Aiming High Inclusion Network

Our recent meeting of the Aiming High Inclusion Network was very well attended and it was great to hear from so many Gloucestershire organisations about the work they are doing and their plans for 2022. We also enjoyed a comprehensive introduction to the You're Welcome Gloucestershire website and newly launched Facebook group. The event closed with an extended session with an update on the new tenders from GCC for those working on, or considering offering, short breaks for disabled children.

**The next Aiming High Inclusion Network meeting will take place on Tuesday 1 March 2022 at The Chamwell Centre, Gloucester.** If you would like to present, share or contribute to the meeting, please get in touch.

[Notes from the recent Aiming High Inclusion Network Meeting](#)

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## **Christmas holiday activities and food programme**

Following a successful partnership with GCC this summer, Active Impact is once again delivering Inclusion Training for the organisations involved in the Holiday Activities with Food (and the wider offer) over Christmas. We are pleased to provide further information about the programmes available in Gloucestershire for you, your organisation or families you work with.

## Holiday Activity And Food Programme

#HAF2021

### What?

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF), funded by DfE, is returning this December for children aged 5-16 years eligible for free school meals.

### When?

The programme will be running for 4 days from: 20th - 23rd December.

### How?

You will be able to sign up to our Children Activities Booking Site (CABS) from November.

Activities will be available to book from 1 December.

### What is available?

We will be offering a variety of face-to-face activities with your local providers:

- ✓ exciting activity packs for all ages
- ✓ an opportunity to claim your own winter food hamper to enjoy over the holidays
- ✓ tickets to local events and more!

To find out more and stay up to date, you can follow us on social media @GlosCC or visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf)



To stay up to date on all things HAF, email us at:

[HAFParentEnquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk](mailto:HAFParentEnquiries@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

to join our newsletter where we will have updates, insights, recipes and crafts from November.

 Gloucestershire  
COUNTY COUNCIL

 Department  
for Education

The Holiday Activity and Food Programme (HAF), funded by the DfE, is returning this December for children aged 5 - 16 years eligible for free school meals. **The programme will be running for 4 days from 20 - 23 December 2021.** Local providers will be offering a variety of face-to-face activities including activity packs, opportunity to claim your own winter food hamper, tickets to local events and more. You can sign up on the Children Activities Booking Site and activities will be available to book from **1 December 2021**.

[Find out more and sign up here](#)



## Holiday Activity Programme

### What?

Using grant funding, this year we are extending our holiday activity programme for December to all children in Gloucestershire.

Open to children of any age, this makes sure all children can access holiday activities locally.

### When?

The HAP programme will be running for 4 days from 20th -23rd December.

### How?

You will be able to sign up to our Children Activities Booking Site (CABS) from November.

Activities will be available to book from 1 December. You will be able to book any activities marked HAP in the title.

### What will be available?

- ✓ Face to face activities for children to socialise and play
- ✓ Ticketed activity schemes to your favourite venues
- ✓ A large online video activity library and more!
- ✓ A potential free meal at your local activities (Please contact providers directly for more details on this).

To find out more and stay up to date, you can follow us on social media @GlosCC

or visit [www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf](http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/haf)



 Gloucestershire  
COUNTY COUNCIL

The Holiday Activity Programme (HAP) is grant funded, extending it for December to all children in Gloucestershire. **Open to children of any age, the HAP programme will be running for 4 days from 20 - 23 December 2021.** The HAP offers face-to-face activities for children to socialise and play, ticketed activity schemes to your favourite venues, a large online video activity library and more. You can sign up on the Children Activities Booking Site and activities will be available to book from **1 December 2021**. You will be able to book into any of the activities marked HAP in the title.

[Find out more and sign up here](#)

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**Write up your street  
'Spreading the Winter Warmth'**





Write up your Street are inviting you to spread some winter warmth across Gloucestershire.

**What brings you comfort during the shorter colder days?**

**What keeps you connected?**

Share your thoughts in a poem, a photograph, a piece of writing, a signed video piece or audio clip about something. Your imagination is the limit!

All submission will feature on the Write up the Street website and social media (including [You're Welcome Gloucestershire's Facebook group](#)).

A selection of entries will feature in print, audio and online editions of The Buzz to be gifted to local residential and care homes, hospitals and families of people in Gloucestershire who would enjoy a cheery read this Christmas. Entries for the print and audio editions will be selected from material submitted **by 5pm on Wednesday 8th December**. To feature in print your piece needs to be a maximum of 200 words. Pieces of work can still be submitted after this date to feature online and across social media.

[Submit your piece of winter warmth](#)

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## Upcoming Of Course We Can events

[Explore the full Autumn/Winter Of Course We Can brochure](#)



### **Step into Winter**

Saturday 8 & 22 January, Saturday 5  
February, Wednesday 23 February,  
Saturday 5 & 19 March  
Forthampton, Tewkesbury  
Ages 8 - 11

[Find out more and book your place](#)



### **Circus for Everyone**

Monday 21 - Thursday 24 February  
Forest of Dean (TBC)  
Ages 12 - 25

[Find out more and book your place](#)



### **Inner Voices**

Monday 21 - Friday 25 February  
The Hug, Kings Square, Gloucester  
Ages 10 - 25

[Find out more and book your place](#)



### **Get Cooking**

Monday 21, Tuesday 22, Thursday  
24 and Friday 25 February  
ONLINE EVENT  
Ages 16 - 25

[Find out more and book your place](#)

Don't forget you can request your free paper copy of the brochure to share with young people, families and organisations in Gloucestershire

[Request your free paper copy of the brochure](#)

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**International Day of People with Disabilities**



On December 3 this year, International Day of People with Disabilities take place, this year recognising that people who live with disabilities are among the most affected populations amid the COVID pandemic. One focus that is particularly close to Active Impact's heart is supporting people to access mainstream opportunities that meet their goals and aspirations; supporting people to build on their skill set set while undertaking activities which align with their passions and interests.

So, this International Day of People with Disabilities, check out how Active Impact are making inclusion happen in Gloucestershire and get involved!



[Of Course We Can events](#)



[You're Welcome Gloucestershire](#)

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**News from our projects**



## Upcoming event from Gloucestershire Parent Carer Forum

**Join the Forum for a Listen To Me event at the Chamwell Centre  
Friday 3rd December**

The forum are running a Parent Carer coffee morning at the Chamwell Centre for Gloucestershire parents and/or carers of disabled children or young people (ages 0-25yrs). The **Listen to Me** events for Parent Carers will be running on the **first Friday of each month** and the Forum will be joined by **Gloucestershire Carers Hub**. Put the dates in your diary now!

If you're a forum member we'll buy your first drink. Why not encourage a friend to join and bring them along? It's really easy to join and it's free.

**What:** Parent Carer Forum Coffee Morning

**Where:** The Chamwell Centre, The Milestone School,  
Longford Lane, Gloucester GL2 9EU

**Date:** 3rd December 2021

**Time: 9 - 11am**

Getting together is a great way of meeting with other parents and hearing about what's happening in Gloucestershire. There's no need to book and you can drop in at any time during the session.

[Visit and join the Parent Carer Forum](#)

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