

Families Matter

Issue 42 July - August 2017

Hello... The Summer Holidays will soon be here, so if you are wondering what to do with the kids, check the What's On section overleaf for some inspiration. We are always adding events and holiday activities for all ages, many of them free, to the Events section of our website, so remember to check there too. An important reminder for parents with toddlers: **if your child turns 3 before 31st August**, you must apply for the '30 hours' additional early education funding **BEFORE** 1st September in order to receive any funding for the autumn term. If you apply after 1st September, you will have to wait until the beginning of term in January. Check our Facebook page '**Family Information Service - Gloucestershire**' for news and updates about the funding. Have a great Summer!



Active
Connections

Active Connections had lots of feedback from Dads that most of the groups available for them to attend with their children are inclusive of male carers, but are mainly attended by Mums and other female carers. As a

result, they are running **ActiveDads** groups in Cheltenham and Gloucester. There is a weekly Wednesday morning drop in play session for Dads, Uncles, Granddads, Big Brothers, or any male caring for 0-4s during term time and 0-7 year olds in the holidays. The safe, informal group meets between 9.30-11am at GL1 Leisure Centre, for free play activities and a tea or coffee. Dads can drop in at any time to meet and talk to other Dads in the same situation as them while having fun! There are also two **ActiveDads** groups on Saturdays where Dads can play active games, do junk modelling or have free play with their 3-11 year olds. The Gloucester Saturday group meets on the last Saturday of every month, 1.30-2.30pm at GL1 Leisure Centre. The Cheltenham Saturday group meets on the 2nd Saturday of every month, 10am-12pm at The Family Space, Hester's Way, GL51 7SY. For more information and news, search **ActiveDads Gloucestershire** on Facebook.

Safety First...

Five top tips to escape a fire safely.

1. **Make an escape plan** and practise it.
2. **Fit at least one smoke alarm** on every level of your home. Smoke will reach the alarms quicker, which will give you more warning.
3. **Test smoke alarms monthly.**
4. **Clear escape routes.** Make sure you won't trip over on your way out. Once you're out, stay out and call 999.
5. **Make sure everyone knows where the door and window keys are kept** and that they can reach them easily.



Safe and Well visits are an easy, **FREE** way to get tips and equipment to make your home safe. Fire crews can give helpful tips, discuss the best escape routes for your home and fit smoke alarms for **FREE**. To arrange a free safe and well visit, please visit www.glosfire.gov.uk/your_safety or phone **0800 180 41 40**.



Want to help your children with their homework? Looking for a job? FREE Maths and English classes are available for anyone

over the age of 19 who has been living in the U.K. for more than 3 years. Assessment days are 5th, 11th and 31st July, 9.30am-3.30pm at 4-6 Commercial Road, Gloucester. Call **0800 542 1655** for further details and to book your place.



Family Information Service



If you would like to receive your copy of this newsletter automatically or have any suggestions, email us at familyinfo@gloucestershire.gov.uk.

0800 542 02 02 or 01452 427362

www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk



Gloucestershire
COUNTY COUNCIL

Wallet Watch...

Grandparent Childcare Credits

Grandparents below State Pension age who have retired early to help with the childcare of a family member aged 12 or under, could be entitled to receive National Insurance credits to top up their State Pension fund. For every year spent out of the workplace, up to £231 can be lost from a pension fund. The “**Specified Adult**



Childcare Credits” are for grandparents (or other family members) who provide childcare so that parents can return to work. When a parent receives Child Benefit for a child under 12 years old, they automatically get National Insurance credits towards their State Pension. This scheme allows the parent to transfer these credits to the child’s carer for the previous tax year (where the childcare took place), so they will both need to sign the application to authorise this. To find out more details about this scheme or to apply for it, call the National Insurance Helpline on **0845 302 1479** or visit www.gov.uk/national-insurance-credits/eligibility

How to make... Fluffy paint ice creams!

You will need:

- * Thick card
- * 1 tbsp self-raising flour
- * Food colouring
- * 1 tbsp salt
- * Scissors
- * Microwave



Draw a template of an ice cream cone on your piece of card and cut it out. Next, mix the flour and salt in a bowl and add a small amount of water to make a thin paste, a bit like the consistency of yoghurt. Add a few drops of your chosen food colouring and stir it in. Repeat for as many different colours as you’d like. Take a paintbrush, cotton bud, or even your fingers and brush on the coloured paint to make the ice cream on top of the cone in whatever ‘flavour’ you like! When you’ve finished, put



it in the microwave for 30 seconds. Be careful when you take it out as it will be quite warm. Your paint will have puffed up and be set. You could decorate your ice cream afterwards with glitter or beads as sprinkles, chocolate chips or a cherry on the top!

From www.homegrownfriends.com and www.happyhooligans.ca

What’s On?

All these events and activities, plus Holiday Camps, Playschemes and free fun days can be found on our website www.glofamiliedirectory.org.uk/whatson

Saturday 8th July, 12-4pm - **Gloucester South Community Fire Station and SkillZONE Open Day** - Shepherd Road, Gloucester. Come along for food, fire safety demonstrations, tours of the SkillZONE, stands from local organisations and lots more for the entire family!

Sunday 16th July, 11am-3pm - **Go Wild** - Crickley Hill. A **FREE** family fun day in partnership with National Trust. Activities such as green wood working, story telling, craft activities and wildlife trails suitable for all the family, wheelchair users, those with limited mobility. Dogs on a lead welcome.

Saturday 22nd July, 2.00-10pm - **Gloucester Carnival** - Gloucester. There will be a live stage at Gloucester Park from 2.00pm with theatre, local bands and DJs. The carnival procession will start in Westgate Street at 3.30pm and make its way through town to join the fun in the Park.

Monday 31st July, 10am-12pm - **Circus Skills** - Fairford Community Centre. **FREE** session for age 8+. Learn new tricks and skills including how to juggle, use diabolo, unicycles, hula hoops and more! To book a place, visit www.worldjungle.org.uk.

Wednesday 16th August, 10.30am-12.30pm - **Fun In The Secret Garden** - John Moore Museum, Tewkesbury. Take part in a nature trail, den building and pond dipping. Please wear appropriate clothing! No admission fee but donations taken.

Wednesday 30th August - **Get Creative** - 10.30am-12.30pm at The Youth Centre, Stow on the Wold and 2.00-4.00pm at The Westwoods Centre, Northleach. **FREE**, just drop in to have fun with arts and crafts!

