

Families Matter

Issue 36 May - June 2016

Hello... Welcome to our latest newsletter. Half term will be here again before you know it, so check out the What's On section and see our website for loads of festivals, camps and other fun things going on. Meanwhile, if you are out and about, there is an offer below to make feeding the ducks a little bit more fun! If you have any news or feedback you would like to share, please do let us know in the usual ways. Our Facebook page is also a great way of finding and sharing information, come and give us a like at Family Information Service—Gloucestershire.



New service for people experiencing domestic abuse

Gloucestershire Domestic Abuse Support Service (GDASS) and Green Square Housing are working together to provide Places of Safety - a service providing temporary short term accommodation for men or women and their families who are living in an abusive household where it would be unsafe for them to stay any longer. In order to access this service, applicants must engage with a GDASS Support Worker who will be able to help

with maximising income through the relevant benefit claims, support with a homelessness application and signpost to any other support services that may be useful. Places of Safety means that the applicant will have somewhere safe and secure of their own to stay while their homelessness application is being decided and will have the support to make plans for their next steps, whether that is resettling somewhere new or returning home. Working with GDASS also gives applicants access to their specialist legal advice, group support and an opportunity to be listened to. For more information, contact GDASS on **01452 726583** or email gdass.pos@gsg.cjsm.net.

Get Your FREE Quack Snack Pack!

We are lucky in Gloucestershire to have so many canals, rivers and ponds nearby to go for a stroll and feed the ducks, but did you know that giving bread to ducks actually does them harm? The equivalent of 3.5 million loaves of bread are thrown in to our canals every year, but it bloats ducks without providing them with nutrition, coats the bottom of the pond or canal which causes too much algae to grow and the leftovers on towpaths attract rats which carry nasty diseases. The Canal and River Trust are campaigning for people to 'ditch the dough' and take alternative snacks with them to feed to the ducks. Peas, sweetcorn, oats, leftover rice, seeds and lettuce leaves are all delicious treats for ducks and much better for their environment. They are giving away **FREE** Quack Snack Packs with a pouch for your duck food and a Waterside Quest booklet. All you need to do is enter your details at <http://bit.ly/1SMM20Z>. (We've tried this in the office - demand is high so it may take a few weeks!)



Safety Advice - Blinds

Babies and toddlers are at particular risk of accidents involving blind cords because they are naturally inquisitive and can often climb before they can walk. They have not yet developed full muscle control and their heads are heavier than their bodies so if they do get trapped, they are less likely to be able to free themselves. Advice from the Child Accident Prevention Trust is to tie up blind cords as high as possible; move beds, cots, bookcases and other furniture away from windows where they can't be climbed on and if you can, replace old blinds with new ones complying with 2014 safety guidelines.



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...

Free expert answers to all your money matters!

Have you ever wondered...

- £ What's the best way to save for your child?
- £ How to make sure they get the best from their inheritance?
- £ How to manage your money as part of a new couple?
- £ What to do to protect your money in case of a breakup or divorce?

MoneyFlex is a new service which has been launched online offering expert advice on any aspect of your finances, and it's absolutely **FREE**. MoneyFlex has a panel of 60 qualified and



experienced Independent Financial Advisers (IFAs) to answer any questions you have about your money. All you need to do is visit www.unbiased.co.uk/moneyflex and type in your question on the home screen. Your question will usually be answered within 24 hours. So long as you don't use personal or specific information (as it is a public forum), the Advisers can offer you a greater understanding of your situation, highlight any risks to consider, or offer you guidance to make the best informed decision for your family.

The Ultimate Father's Day Gift - A Back Rub Shirt!

This year Father's Day falls on Sunday 19th June. Why not give your Dad a lovely treat and play at the same time? This winning combo is a great idea for Father's Day which won't cost very much, you might even have everything at home already. You will need:

- ☞ A light coloured shirt or t-shirt (not Dad's favourite!)
- ☞ A big piece of cardboard
- ☞ Marker pens or felt tips
- ☞ Cars, tractors, any small toys with wheels!

Put your piece of cardboard up inside the shirt so that when you mark out your track it doesn't go through to the front. Draw your roads, making sure you have plenty of different ways for your vehicle to go. Be as creative as you like, the more driving around you can do, the better Dad's back rub will be.

Offer to give Dad a back rub, then get him to put the shirt on and lie face down. Spend as long as you like driving around your new map while getting the knots out of Dad's back. If you have used felt tips, remember that they will probably come out in the wash! **From thebluebasket.blogspot.com**



What's On?

All these events and activities, plus many more things going on for half term can be found on our website www.glosfamiliesdirectory.org.uk/whatson

Tuesday 17th May & Thursday 9th June, 11am-3pm - **Inclusive Cycling Taster Day** - Pedalabikeaway, Coleford. **FREE** adapted bikes available to try, including platform bikes for those who need to stay in a wheelchair. Call 01242 512569 for more information.



Saturday 21st May, 11am-4pm - **Family Science Day** - Gretton Village Hall, Cheltenham. Fun experiments for the whole family, plus chill out room and food available. Adults £3, children £1. Call 07989459538 for more details.

Tuesday 31st May & Wednesday 1st June, 6.15pm, 7pm & 7.45pm - **Pottering Around The Cathedral** - Gloucester. A behind the scenes tour of Harry Potter film locations. Enchanting crafts, the sorting hat and potions to try. Come dressed as your favourite character! Adults £7, children £5, under 3s free. Call 0845 652 1823 to book tickets.

Tuesday 7th June, 9.30-11.30am - **Education, Health and Care Plan Parents Information Event** - Battledown Centre for Children and Families, Cheltenham. If your child has special educational needs and you would like to know more about Gloucestershire's SEND Early Help Pathway, book a place on Eventbrite website. Call SENDIASS on 0800 158 3603 for more information.

Sunday 26th June, 11am-2pm - **Go Wild** - Robinswood Hill, Gloucester. **FREE** entry to this big family event with archery, climbing walls and much more. Suitable for all ages, no booking necessary. Some activities may charge.