

# Update from Gloucestershire County Council

## Concessionary Bus Pass Renewals

Last year the county council took over responsibility for the management and issuing of concessionary bus passes. This is a statutory service under the English National Concessionary Travel Scheme. Residents are entitled to these passes on the grounds of age or disability.

We know that more than 90,000 passes will expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 and will need renewing. As a result the council is making changes to streamline the application process and to further improve the customer experience.

The public will be able to renew their pass online, or by using a new automated telephone system or postal option. Libraries will continue to play a role in the renewals as well, particularly for disabled bus passes.

The council will be writing to all pass holders whose pass expires on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013. To help manage the large volumes of renewals, letters will be sent out in batches over a three month period starting in mid September. Pass holders do not need to contact the council about their renewal. They should instead wait until their letter arrives and follow the renewal instructions.

## Gloucester South Community Fire Station Open Day

Members of the community are invited to a fun-packed open day at Gloucestershire's newest and largest fire station. Gloucester South will hold the event at its new base in the city's Tuffley Lane on Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September from 10am - 4pm.

**The day will be filled with visual displays of daring rescues and a vintage fire engine pumping demonstration. There will be opportunities to explore fire engines and other emergency service vehicles, as well as a chance to race around the go-kart track, play on bouncy castles, show off bike skills (remember to bring your bike) or tackle the climbing wall.**

**For the less adventurous there will be face painting, the city farm pets corner, cooking demonstrations, refreshments and more.**

Meanwhile, residents can have a first look at the county's new SkillZONE centre – an interactive learning environment for people of all ages, designed to teach them how to recognise dangerous situations and stay safe. Admission is £1, with under-five's getting free entry.

Parking is available opposite Tuffley Library, off Windsor Drive, which is just over five minutes' walk from the station.

## Census 2011 – First release published

The first release of information coming out of the 2011 census has now been published. It

provides headline population numbers by age and sex and household numbers for all local authorities, including Gloucestershire and its six districts.

The population of Gloucestershire was 597,000 on the 2011 Census day, rising by 32,300 people since 2001. This is equivalent to a growth of 5.7% in the 10 years to 2011, below the England and Wales average of 7.8%. Gloucester is the fastest growing district in the County, accounting for more than a third of the total growth in the County between 2001 and 2011.

The headline population figures for Gloucestershire and districts from Census 2011 and changes since 2001 are summarised in the following table. Detailed results on a wide range of demographic and socio-economic characteristics of local population and households at ward and neighbourhood level will be released in stages from November 2012.

	Census 2001	<b>Census 2011</b>	Change 2001-2011	% Change 2001-2011
Cheltenham	110,008	<b>115,700</b>	5,692	5.2%
Cotswold	80,381	<b>82,900</b>	2,419	3.0%
Forest	79,970	<b>82,000</b>	2,030	2.5%
Gloucester	109,887	<b>121,700</b>	11,813	10.8%
Stroud	107,903	<b>112,800</b>	4,797	4.4%
Tewkesbury	76,409	<b>81,900</b>	5,591	7.3%
Gloucestershire	564,558	596,900	32,342	5.7%
England and Wales	52,041,916	56,076,000	4,034,084	7.8%

For more details from the Census First Release for Gloucestershire and districts, please go to: <http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/inform/2011census>

*3<sup>rd</sup> September 2012*  
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