



18th August 2010

News from the Corporate Management Team

Employee Satisfaction Survey

Many thanks to everyone who has filled the survey in. So far we've had over 100 respondents, which is great but we're hoping to reach more than the 53% who took part last year. So if you haven't filled it in please take a few minutes to give us your views. It can be accessed from the home page of the intranet or paper versions are also available. Just ask:

Suzanne Johnston-Hubbold/Jane Doyle - Green Street
Rachael Simpson - Civic Centre
Paul Lewis - Duke House
Kerry Brown - Coventry Street
Emma Woodcock - Worcestershire Hub
Matt Smith - Kidderminster Town Hall

Big BENEFIT going back to the floor - Ian Miller, Chief Executive

Last week, I spent an afternoon with the revenues and benefits team at Coventry Street. Most of the time I was with Joanne Cope processing a new claim for benefit (she had kindly selected an easy one for me to deal with!) and James White working on various changes and bills for council tax and business rates. They put up with the temporary trainee very well, even if I asked awkward questions and made them slower at their work than they would normally have been! I found that the afternoon gave me a valuable and interesting insight into the processes and challenges that the team faces. It was good to see electronic document management systems in operation and to hear about the successful implementation of the pilots for home working.

While I shall be returning to Coventry Street to spend time with other groups of staff at some point, if you'd like me to visit your team in the meantime, please let me know.

Hours and Leave and Sickness Absence Policy

Our [Hours & Leave](#) and [Sickness Absence](#) policy have been updated in light of recent changes in legislation. The amendments to both policies concern changes to entitlement to annual leave whilst on sick leave .

Destruction Day

It's just over 5 weeks now to our Destruction Day, so please make sure you're sorting out your files ready for the shredder!

So what can you shred? All paper documents and records which don't need to be kept can be put in the shredder - including the file they are in. Plastic

wallets are okay to go in too. Everything which goes into the shredder is recycled. CMT has agreed that old and damaged A4 Lever arch files may be shredded but good quality / nearly new files **are not to be destroyed**. In line with council policy we will recycle and reuse them. Therefore **with immediate effect there will be no further purchase of A4 Lever arch files**. After the destruction day we will determine the number of A4 files we have and identify convenient storage sites for them.

Paul Lewis is the Destruction Day co-ordinator. We've also got colleagues who are co-ordinating arrangements in the run up to Destruction Day. They're:

Community and Partnership Services

Louisa Bright - Green Street / The Hub / Bewdley Museum
Rhiannon Crisp - Civic Centre

Legal and Corporate Services

Sue Bayliss - Civic Centre and Kidderminster Town Hall

Planning and Regulatory Services

Paul Lewis - Duke House and Green Street (Streetscene and Parking)

Resources

Dave Knipe and Pauline Hill - Duke House, Coventry Street and Green Street (Waste and Depot Services)

On Destruction Day, we have site co-ordinators they're:

Duke House - Paul Lewis
Green Street - Steve Brant
Civic Centre - Sue Bayliss

When you're sorting out your files please take care - read [Safe Guidelines on Manual Handling](#). We'll give you more details on the location of the shredder closer to the day.

News from our Teams

Big Tidy Up

Members of the community including Mark Garnier MP (pictured, centre) turned out for a Big Tidy Up at Dowles Road Community Centre near Birchen



Coppice Primary School Kidderminster yesterday (Tuesday 17 August). No stone was left unturned as everyone rolled their sleeves up in a bid to get rid of the litter and tackle the weeding in the area. The Big Tidy Up which is a national scheme supports the new Love Your Place environmental campaign soon to be launched by the Council.

For Crying Out Loud!

Kidderminster Town Hall played host to the annual town crier competition last week. Ten competitors and their escorts competed for the coveted Best Town Crier trophy. The event which was part of KAF was organised by Sharon Tandy from the Charter Trustees office and judging the event were Mayor of Kidderminster Cllr Jeffery Baker, Town Centre Manager Jackie Roberts and Town Hall Deputy Manager Joanne Bowkett. The winner was Mr David Ward of Bromsgrove.



What's On

Family Fun Day at Bewdley Museum

Make it a date for a family day out on August Bank Holiday, Monday 30th August from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. It's free entry for all. Enjoy Dippy the clown, ferret racing, Punch & Judy puppets, craft activities, traditional games, face painting, music and quizzes set in the delightful Jubilee Gardens. Relax in the fantastic picnic and play area. Refreshments are also available from the Food Foundry cafe. [See the poster.](#)



Taste the World!

Kidderminster Town Centre will be bursting with tempting exhibits promoting the very finest in food from the district and the rest of the world on Monday 23rd August. It's the second Wyre Forest World Food Event when visitors are invited to enjoy



a feast of sights, sounds and smells, sampling and buying products. The event will give residents the opportunity to experience different cultures within the community, while sharing one common love – food.

The idea behind the event is to build on the sense of community in the town. It will showcase local shops and producers including representations from India, Persia, China and Italy. Stands are being provided by local food producers, such as Bewdley Brewery, Vaccaro's Fine Italian Deli, Churchfield's Ice Cream and Kinver Sausage Co, plus a host of others. [The World Food Event](#) will take place in Kidderminster Town Centre, opposite TJ Hughes and runs from 11am to 3pm on Monday 23rd August.

Kidderminster Canal Festival

Kidderminster is hosting its first ever canal festival this week!

The canalside will come to life on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, from 9am to 6pm each day in celebration of this important feature of Kidderminster and the District. There will be plenty to see and do over the three days and everyone is encouraged to go down to the canalside and celebrate the fact that Kidderminster has such a fantastic

waterway in the middle of town. Visitors will be able to take trips on a barge, go aboard a working heritage boat from the 1930's, and buy gifts from waterside trade boats. We are also expecting plenty of visiting boats so the canal should be bustling!

There will be a live entertainment stage next to Debenhams, and the festival will kick off with a performance from The Mighty Jamma, 3 time UK solo steel pan playing champion, and close on Saturday afternoon with the Kidderminster Male Voice Choir. Other acts appearing over the festival will be Kidderminster girl group Sinergie and the Severn Valley Samba Band. A European Market, canalside stalls, and the Jennings Brothers fun fair will all be there too! It is part of the town's Rewyre Regeneration Initiative and has been organised by the Council in partnership with Weavers Wharf shopping centre and British Waterways. There are lots more details on the [canal festival pages](#) of our website



Kidderminster Arts Festival (KAF)

KAF10 got off to a flying start at the launch event on the 13th of August when local VIPs attended Kidderminster Library Gallery for a glass of wine and a chance to meet some of the artists involved in this year's event.

The Carpet Traders Musical Theatre Group treated guests to a sneak preview of their forthcoming show Boogie Nights. After only a short period of rehearsal the group presented a medley of songs from the show. You can see the full performance at the Civic Centre in Stourport on Severn in October. You can find more details on [KAF on the website](#).

Pedal Power comes to Stourport Basins

Tonight you can have a rare opportunity to sample a lively and colourful open air performance at Stourport Canal Basins. The canal based travelling theatre company, Mikron, have this year added Stourport Basins to their national tour. [Read the press release in full](#).

Who's on call?

On call out of hours Emergency Response Team Leader from 16th - 22nd August is David Buckland, Director of Resources. From 23rd-29th August it's Mike Parker, Director of Planning and Regulatory Services.

The Copy deadline for Wyred Weekly (edition 25th August) is noon Monday 23rd August. Please send your stories and photographs to the [Communications Team](#).