

**Gardening (cont)** Gladioli - if deeply planted in well-drained soil they should be alright in situ, but if you don't want to risk losing them, lift the corms carefully with a fork sometime around the middle of the month, cut the stems down to 2cm, dry in a cool airy place and store somewhere frost-proof. Tender container plants - oleanders and the like should be tidied up and moved inside to a greenhouse or conservatory. Keep watering to a minimum to keep them on the dry side for repotting next spring. Others... lift cannas, geraniums and fuchsias before any proper frost. Trim back the soft growth on geraniums and fuchsias, pot into multi-purpose compost and keep them barely moist over the winter in a cool frost-free spot.

**Kitchen garden**

Once your veggie patch is clear, dig it over and incorporate compost. Dig over your kitchen garden as soon as possible so the soil can be broken down by the winter elements. This is especially important on heavy clay soils. If you are short of compost, it is better to treat a small area properly than spread it too thinly over a larger area.

Leave pea and bean plant roots in the ground. Cut off the stems for the compost heap but leave the roots in the ground - they return valuable nitrogen to the soil, acting as a natural fertiliser. In your crop rotation plan, plant leafy crops such as brassicas after beans or peas, as they have a high demand for nitrogen.

**Vegetables**

Cut down Jerusalem artichokes - The stems will be dying back now so cut them back to ground level. Make sure you harvest the tubers thoroughly as any left in the ground will grow into a plant next year and before you know it you will have a Jerusalem artichoke jungle!

Harvest everything left in the kitchen garden. If your runner beans are too stringy to eat, compost them or leave on the plant until brown for next year's seeds. Dig up root crops (apart from parsnips which taste better after a frost), beetroot and potatoes. Dry thoroughly before storing in boxes or paper sacks; remember to evict any diseased or rotten tubers or they will spoil the rest of your crop.

Pumpkins and squashes should be left in the sun, garage or greenhouse for a few days to harden the skin and dry them off before storing in a cool, dark place.

Plant crops such as winter lettuces, autumn onion sets, spring cabbages and, overwintering broad beans and garlic. Remove any tatty yellow leaves from Brussels sprouts, cabbages, cauliflowers and broccoli as they perform no useful function and merely encourage disease.

Herbs - pot up mint, parsley and chives for the winter. Lift a clump, remove any yellow leaves, divide and plant into smallish pots using multi-purpose compost. Stand on a sunny windowsill, water well and wait for your winter crop to flourish.

**Plants for October**

**Colchicum autumnale 'Album'**; Gorgeous, goblet-shaped, white flowers in September and October, followed by large leaves, retained until mid-summer. These autumn-flowering bulbs are perfect for naturalising in grass under a semi-mature specimen tree. Always wear gloves when working with colchicum since all parts of the plant are poisonous and a potential skin irritant. **Garden care:** Wear gloves to plant bulbs in naturalistic drifts 10cm (4in) deep in July or autumn.

**Prunus x subhirtella 'Autumnalis'**; a stunning tree for the winter garden. Tiny white flowers open from deep pink buds on mild autumn days, continuing to bloom sporadically throughout the winter. The wand-like branches clustered with flowers are useful for cutting and taking indoors. An excellent small tree for a sunny garden. **Garden care:** When planting incorporate lots of well-rotted garden compost in the planting hole and stake firmly. Prune in summer to reduce the risk of silver leaf and bacterial canker. Cut back any dead, diseased or branches which cross to healthy wood.

**Clematis tangutica**; Cheerful, yellow, lantern-shaped flowers with fleshy lemon peel-like petals from July to October followed by highly decorative, fluffy seedheads. This vigorous, late-flowering clematis looks lovely cascading over a sunny wall, pergola or arch. Where

space is limited prune hard in February - left unpruned it can become a very large plant. **Garden care:** In early spring cut back the previous year's stems to a pair of strong buds about 15-20cm (6-8in) above ground-level and apply a slow-release balanced fertiliser and a mulch of well-rotted garden compost around the plant, avoiding the immediate crown. If you want a larger plant, then no pruning will be necessary apart from thinning over-crowded stems in spring. *Richard Hart*

**Hart of the Garden**

With over 30 years of professional horticultural experience. Offering practical horticultural advice. Planting Schemes, specialist in pruning, Garden Renovation. Landscape Construction and maintenance work undertaken.

Richard Hart  
Mobile 07900 355387  
Email richard.hart69@btinternet.com

Sponsored by

Hemmings Coaches

Coach Holidays  
Day Excursions  
Private Hire

Tel. 01237 451282

*Putford  
Post*

www.putford.co.uk  
October-November 2016



Manufacturers of quality cattle, sheep, horse and game feeds  
Tel: 01409 254300

**Putford Parish Council**

Mrs L. Drake (Chair) , Mrs M. Lewis, Mr A. Bewes (Vice), Mr M. Cornish, Mr P. Bond, Mr D. Pomeroy, Mr N. Moulder, Mr J. Wooldridge, Mr M. Thomas, Mrs P. Green, Mr J. Jessell.  
Parish Clerk Sue Squire 01598 710526 or sue@suesquire.com

**Three Villages Festival 2017**

This year's festival week was very well supported and raised over £900 which was divided equally between the 3 churches. As it was such a success the committee plans a series of similar events for May 2017, with profits to go to local charities such as the Air Ambulance.

We want to recruit a few more parishioners to help with the planning and running of events so if you would like to be involved please contact Malcolm Woodcock (malcolm.woodcock@me.com) or Lesley Taylor (lesleytaylor@waitrose.com).

**St Stephens Church Services**

October

Sunday 2nd 11.30am Harvest Festival  
Sunday 16th 11.30am Sung Eucharist  
Sunday 23rd 6.30pm Evensong

November

Sunday 6th 11.30am Sung Eucharist  
Sunday 13th 2.30pm Remembrance Service  
Sunday 20th 11.30am Sung Eucharist  
Sunday 27th 6.30pm Evensong

Morning services are also held at Abbots Bickington on the 2nd Sunday of each month, and Bulkworthy on the 4th Sunday (all at 11.30am).

**Repair it!**

Communities across Devon can have their broken electrical items and gadgets fixed free of charge this autumn. *Recycle Devon* is holding a series of community repair events at which the public can bring along broken household electrical items, including computers, to be fixed by a team of volunteer menders on the day—at no cost. (They will not however be able to fix CRT TVs or monitors, electric blankets or microwaves for safety reasons).

Research shows that more than 75% of the small electrical items that come in to recycling centres are repairable.

Local dates and venues:

Barnstaple Pannier Market 6th November  
Bideford, the Old School rooms (EX39 2BU) 19th November  
Both 10am-12.30

Please contact emma.croft@devon.gov.uk, tel 07966 566435 to find out more or to volunteer your skills.

**Putford website (www.putford.co.uk)** is undergoing a bit of a shake-up and a new site will be launched in a few months. The aim is that it becomes an important source of information for East and West Putford and that everyone who has access to the Internet finds it of use. If you have any thoughts on what you would like to see included on the website contact Myles Thomas 01409 241251 or mylesthomas15@gmail.com.

**Bideford Arts Centre** autumn courses including arts and crafts, cookery and languages will begin soon. Details are available at www.learndevon.co.uk

**Our warmest thanks as always to all contributors, sponsors and advertisers.**  
**Last copy date for the next issue of the Putford Post is November 23rd. Contacts Advertising:-**  
**Lorraine:- 01409 241005 Treasurer:- Rosemary 241409 Distribution:- Jackie 240321**  
**or email Chris at putfordpost@btinternet.com**  
*Printed by North Devon Print, Bideford.*



## NOTES OF WEST & EAST PUTFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13/9/16.

- The meeting was chaired by Councillor A Bewes.
- Apologies received from Councillor Mrs L Drake.
- It was hoped that the Assistant Local Risk Manager for the area of Devon & Somerset Fire & Rescue Service. This would now take place at the meeting on 6 December.
- Representations from a member of the public was heard regarding the management of Common Moor with Councillors discussing the historical details.
- Councillors were advised that Mrs Gabby Clark had resigned as a Councillor. The relevant vacancy notice was on display in the notice boards.
- The Minutes of 17 May 2016 were approved and signed.
- County Councillor Julian spoke about the state of the roads in the Parish and was hoping that the worse of these would be done before Christmas.
- Councillor Thomas circulated notes regarding a proposed Neighbourhood Plan and his proposal that a speaker from the Devon Communities Together attend the next meeting to give further details was approved.
- County Councillor Julian had spoken to the Cabinet Member for Highways regarding the excess material put in a gateway and had been advised that the workforce did not have time to fill any more potholes so put it there instead.
- Councillor Mrs Geen confirmed she had submitted details as agreed regarding the Strategic Plan consultation on behalf of the Parish Council.
- Councillor Thomas circulated details of a proposed website and Councillors were in agreement for him to proceed.
- The West Putford notice board had not yet been moved.
- A reply had been received from the Health and Safety Executive following the Council's concerns over wind turbine safety.
- Boulders on grass verges had been removed.
- Councillors noted that responses had been sent to TDC in respect of planning applications received between meetings.
- A Decision Notice from TDC was noted approving a proposed ground floor extension and porch at Northcotts, East Putford.
- Finance. Balances were tabled and payments authorised. The Clerk gave details of the internal auditor's report where items were satisfactory with no issues.
- Revised mandate paperwork for the Lloyds Bank account was completed.
- Councillors were in agreement that all should be signatories on the National Savings and Investment Account.
- Correspondence. Road closure 19-25 from Venn Cross to Grove Cross to disconnect water service; North Devon Hospice invitation to 1<sup>st</sup> birthday service at The Long House, Holsworthy; letter sent to Highways as a result of a report from a member of the public who had noticed 2 lengthsmen working in the area with the times given of the work done on a particular day; TDC advising arrangements for Area Advisory Groups; TDC overview of TDC Committees circulated to Councillors; details of a sports development initiative; confirmation from TDC that the TAP (Town & Parish) grant scheme is running again; details of a community grants scheme; letter from Natural England regarding environmental monitoring of heathlands. This had been sent to the Chairman who had replied as an individual. The Parish Council to reply advising it does not own the land; details of DCC Flood Warden training; details of Local Government Boundary Commission proposals for TDC.
- Next meeting: Tuesday, 18 October in Bradworthy Primary Academy at 7.30pm.

### The Garden in the autumn

Autumn is one of the busiest times of year in the garden, getting everything ready for the coming winter, especially when the days are getting shorter and colder. So here are some of the jobs to get on with so the coming months can be a bit easier for you.

If you haven't already done so, start your compost going by buying a bin or building a partially enclosed area for a heap (pallets make great items to construct a compost area). It is vital to replace the goodness in soil after a hefty growing season and autumn produces masses of garden waste that will put invaluable organic richness back into the ground for next spring. Add a variety of different materials; spent vegetable and bedding plants, herbaceous leftovers, thatch, moss and cuttings from the lawn, annual weeds, the leaves of perennial weeds (but not the roots unless they have been through a shredder, or weeds that have gone to seed), hedge clippings, kitchen peelings and tea bags and egg shells are ideal. **NEVER** add diseased or pest-ridden material (such as diseased rose petals - heinous culprits) to your compost - it is a warm and welcoming nirvana for unwelcome guests who will reappear with a vengeance next year! You must not use any cooked leftovers as they just encourage rodents.

#### Tidy borders.

Keep on weeding and have a gentle tidy up in your borders but do try to resist the temptation of a thorough spring clean. Leave seedheads for the birds if you don't want to collect them and as much cover as you can bear for wildlife who will appreciate the winter shelter. Fallen leaves can be left to rot down (or collected for leaf mould), however diseased material (such as roses with black spot or rust) is another matter; make it a priority to clear and burn it to prevent pests and diseases overwintering courtesy of your kind hospitality! Put the rest of your garden rubbish (apart from woody stems unless they can be chipped or shredded) in the compost.

#### Prepare your soil for next year.

Your soil is your most precious commodity, so start digging in compost, manure and as much organic matter as you can lay your hands on to replace the goodness in it. The earlier you start the better, especially if your soil is heavy. It can be left in a pretty rough state over the winter when the elements will break the clods down, making spring planting infinitely easier!

#### Rake fallen leaves.

Don't waste fallen leaves (except those perilous rose leaves and evergreens, which take too long to rot down) - given time they decompose into fabulously rich leaf mould - aka 'nature's soil conditioner of choice!' Rake up fallen leaves and chuck them into a simple frame to make leaf mould (black bin liners spiked with air holes will also do if you can bear the visual offence - but remember to dampen the leaves first). If left to linger on the lawn for long, the grass will turn yellow. Leaf mould takes about a year to mature (2 in the case of oak leaves), makes a great top dressing for woodland plants such as rhododendrons and is an excellent and FREE home-grown substitute for peat. If you have only room for a compost bin just add the leaves to the compost bin in your garden.

#### Planting.

With the ideal planting conditions of autumn (warm moist soil), now is the time to plant container grown shrubs, trees, fruit bushes, perennials and bulbs. Even in damp conditions it is worth checking the root balls of shrubs and trees are adequately moist when planting - heavy rain will not necessarily penetrate a root ball that has been allowed to dry out, so if it feels light, plunge into a bucket of water before planting.

#### Lift and store tender plants.

Frost is in the offing but there is no need to panic, as the odd light frost does little harm to plants that have been out all summer, but it is a timely reminder that winter is on its way...

Begonias - they hate frosts so lift tuberous begonias (the ones with enormous flowers) sooner rather than later. Keep in trays of moist compost somewhere cool and light and keep watered until the leaves turn yellow. Dry gradually by withdrawing watering, cover with a shallow layer of peat and store somewhere frost-free. Water occasionally over the winter to prevent the tubers shrivelling.

Dahlias - wait until a couple of good frosts have blackened them, then cut stems back to approximately 10cm from the ground and label each plant as you lift it - it is amazingly easy to forget which is which! Be careful not to damage the tubers as you dig around them, remove all the soil and store for a couple of weeks in a dry, cool place upside down to allow any residual moisture in the stem to drain out. Once completely dry, bury them in peat free compost so the top of the tuber is above the compost level and keep them somewhere frost free over the winter. Meanwhile, keep deadheading and enjoy them!

**THE BIG SING Royal Albert Hall. Sunday, 11 September 2016.**

I was once again privileged to be able to take part in this event, for the fourth time and as usual, it did not disappoint. 5,000 voices singing in that wonderful building is a real treat and it is clear that every single person is enjoying themselves.

This year, I travelled to London in style, courtesy of Great Western Railway who gave me a first class return ticket, after telling them of the awful journey back last year when I had to stand all the way from Paddington to Tiverton Parkway. The seats are leather, everyone has a table, there are complimentary papers and refreshments and it is much quieter.

I stayed at the Halls of Residence at Imperial College, just minutes away from the Royal Albert Hall, really convenient and excellent accommodation. A single en suite room with breakfast is half the price of a London hotel and I slept just the same as I would have in a posh hotel, so I plan to go there again for the 2017 Big Sing.

The Christmas Big Sing was recorded first and it will go out on Christmas Day. The presenter was David Grant. The Big Sing will be shown on Sunday 9 October and the presenter was Aled Jones.

The Choirs who sang comprised: Adventist Vocal Ensemble, Guildford Choral Society; Saint Michael's Singers, St Alban's Bach Choir and Wimbledon Choral Society. The Big Sing Orchestra Leader was Rolf Wilson, Daniel Moulton the fantastic organist on the huge organ and the conductor, Paul Leddington Wright.

The auto-clue is used, so we couldn't understand why Aled was reading from a small piece of paper. He said "I want to clock someone's face when they realise we are to present them with gifts to mark all those years of service to the programme. Paul Leddington-Wright, please come up on to the stage to receive a token of thanks". You could tell he didn't have a clue, and on his way back to the conductor's podium, as the orchestra was playing 'For he's a jolly good fellow', he looked at the score and saw that it was his arrangement.

During the Christmas Big Sing, Gareth Malone and Voices sang "Walking in the Air". We all felt a bit sorry for Aled, it being the song that made him famous, but the arrangement was really lovely. After they had left the stage, Aled said "I can still sing it you know", and went over to the grand piano, knelt down to the keyboard (no piano stool was there) and played the opening bars. In a very high pitched voice he sang "I'm walking in the air" and everyone cheered like anything. At the Big Sing itself, Aled introduced two people in the audience – Pam Rhodes who had been a presenter for a great many years. Sitting beside her was Timothy Dudley-Smith, author of 'Lord for the Years' and it must have been a tremendous joy for him to be there and hear his hymn sung. He celebrates his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on Boxing Day.

For fans of the fairly new hymn "In Christ Alone", me included, the man who wrote it, Irish born Keith Getty and his wife were on stage. They also took part in the Christmas Big Sing and you want to look out for the last bit of the carol they sang for a very Irish twist. Keith played the piano, accompanied by the orchestra, for us to sing In Christ Alone and to be in the same building with two of the people who penned the hymns that we sung was a big thrill for me.

Other guests included Michael Ball and Alfie Boe who sang a duet from 'West Side Story', Laura Umvula sang 'Have Yourself a Blessed Little Christmas' and The Priests (3 Priests from Ireland) sang 'Lord of the Dance'. Pudsey came on stage as well to promote this year's BBC Children in Need.

One final thing, listen out for the Stage Choir who will sing a traditional Christmas piece from Handel's 'Messiah'. Absolutely fantastic. They also sang the theme tune from a well known TV programme. You'll know it immediately they start singing.

It was a marvellous evening and I was very sorry when it was over. We had been there for 4 hours but it seemed like 4 minutes. Time certainly does fly when you're having fun.

*Sue Squire, Parish Clerk*

Thank you everyone who attended our Open Morning on Saturday, September 17th. The poster display unit, purchased thanks to a grant from the East Youlstone Community Fund (via GrantScape) arrived in time to display posters that were otherwise too fragile to handle.

Also on display was a detailed family history book sent to us by Jack and Elaine Walter who live in Queensland, Australia.

As a child in the 1930s Jack asked his mother why his grandparents proudly called their home "Bradworthy". From being told this was the home of his ancestors in Devon, Jack went on to spend many a year happily researching his family history.

Jack found out about the History Society in July when his grandson, who lives in London, called in to Bradworthy on his way to Cornwall. He saw our poster on the parish noticeboard and emailed a photograph to his grandfather. Jack made contact the same day. In an email received on September 17th he wrote:

"...how amazed my grandparents would have been to know that we are now able to immediately communicate in this way, with people in the place, on the other side of the world, that they called "home..."

*Daphne, Margaret, Sarah, Jackie and Lin.*

Following on from the Three Villages Heritage Festival in May, please find below another extract from "A Short Account of some of the changes which have taken place in the Parishes of East & West Putford over the last 60 years" – as written by W.G. Walter in 1985.

'As in other Parishes many new dwellings, mainly bungalows have been built in East & West Putford in the last 40 years & families from far afield now live here some of whom I hardly know in contrast to 25-30 years ago when I think I knew almost everybody in the two Parishes.

There are now no Public Houses in either of the two Parishes but there used to be one in West Putford the ancient hostelry known as the "Hare and Hounds" situated about a quarter of a mile west of Powler's Piece on the Bradworthy Road.

At the time of the 1851 census the house was still a Pub and the Landlord was a Mr Arnold, almost certainly I think a member of the Arnold family who later for many years were landlords of the Bell Inn Parkham.

A famous race of which I have heard my father talk between a man riding an hunting horse and a noted foot runner from the Bell Inn Parkham to the "Hare & Hounds", West Putford for a substantial wager, was said to have resulted in a clear win for the foot runner who got to the "Hare and Hounds" and had drunk a pint of beer before the horseman arrived.

The "Hare and Hounds" later became a farm cottage, little trace now remains of the building and the site is part of Lane End Farm.

**Recent Planning Applications and Determinations  
During July 2016 to September 2016**

**Ref. No: 1/0582/2016 FUL** Proposed ground floor extension and porch. Northcotts, East Putford, Holsworthy Devon EX22 7UG. Received 14 June 2016 and Validated 15 June 2016. Status: Application Permitted.

**Ref. No: 1/0765/2016/FUL** Extension to agricultural building to provide additional space for farm machinery. Fair View, West Putford, Holsworthy, Devon EX22 7XF. Received 29 July 2016 and Validated 5 August 2016. Status: Application Permitted.

**Ref. No: 1/0796/2016/AGR** Extension to existing cattle building. Mambury Farm, East Putford, Devon. Received 9 August 2016 and Validated 19 August 2016. Status: Application Permitted.

## What's on

### Chilsworthy Hall

Saturday 8th October. 7.30pm. Skittles evening.

### Woolsery

Saturday 5th November Church bazaar

### Woolsery Community hall

Thursday 6th October. 7.30pm. Open meeting organised by WI with speaker Brian Butler (NFU) 'The future of farming in North Devon'. £3 to include a farmhouse supper.

Saturday 29th October. 7.30pm. Sequence dancing with live music.

Plus regular activities: belly dancing, exercise for the over 50s, art, table tennis, (kids) street dance, youth club, Torridge male voice choir, short mat bowls, netball, darts, football (junior and veterans), computer club, Woolsery Society talks, skittles, pool, snooker and NEW gym equipment.

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO**

**A COFFEE MORNING**

**AT ST STEPHEN'S CHURCH**

**SATURDAY 29 OCTOBER**

**10AM TO 1PM**

**WE ARE LAUNCHING AN APPEAL TO RAISE FUNDS TO CONSERVE THE  
HISTORIC WALL PAINTING IN THE CHURCH AND TO RE-DECORATE THE  
CHURCH INTERIOR**

**PLEASE COME AND JOIN US FOR**

**TEA      COFFEE      CAKES**

**AND FIND OUT WHAT IS PLANNED**

## Self Build

Torridge District Council is exploring the idea of providing housing through self-build. This initiative is aimed mainly at establishing the number of local people who are interested in self-build and identifying any suitable sites for self-building in the Torridge area.

Devon Communities Together is working on behalf of the District Council to collect details of: people who would like to build their own home (or have it built for them); owners of land or redundant buildings which might be suitable, in or adjoining a town or village. To register your interest in building your own home and/or registering a plot of land that you think would be suitable for a self-build project or for more information please go to

**[www.torridge.gov.uk/selfbuild](http://www.torridge.gov.uk/selfbuild)**

Please contact Janice Alexander, Rural Housing Enabler at Devon Communities Together, if you want to know more.

Email [janice@devoncommunities.org.uk](mailto:janice@devoncommunities.org.uk)  
or call 01392 248919 extn 122

## Superfast Broadband Project

In July Connecting Devon and Somerset partnership (CDS) issued its open tender to extend the superfast broadband scheme in phase two. £39.5m of public sector investment will deliver Next Generation Access broadband services (a minimum of 30 Mbps) and ultrafast broadband (of speeds greater than 100 Mbps) to tens of thousands of homes and businesses across Devon and Somerset in predominantly rural areas.

The overall investment figure is anticipated to rise as successful tenderers will be expected to provide further capital investment in the programme. Potential suppliers will set out their plan to connect as many people as possible for the available budget by the end of 2017, and CDS will have confirmed a contract and plan by the end of this year.

Divided into six bidding lots to encourage greater competition from a broader range of providers and technologies, the phase two intervention area is comprised of premises that have received no superfast Next Generation Access under phase one, are outside of central urban areas that CDS are encouraging to be served by the market, and have not been identified in the OMR as part of a private commercial roll-out.

The tax-payer subsidised CDS programme has focused phase two on rural areas and as such provided contractual incentive to suppliers to deliver step changes in speeds; benefitting those who need it most.

This second phase builds on the success of phase one of the publically-funded CDS programme and comes after our milestone announcement connecting a quarter of a million premises to superfast broadband. This means CDS remains well on track to meet its target of connecting around 275,000 premises to superfast broadband by the end of 2016, as agreed with the Government.

### Voucher Scheme

The CDS Broadband Voucher Scheme, which provides anyone with a broadband speed of less than 2 Mbps with a voucher for £500 towards the cost of a new broadband connection, has received in excess of 2,000 applications. Of these over 1,500 have been approved and the first installations have already been completed. 13 suppliers have joined the scheme with more in the pipeline.

Further details can be found on the CDS website at: <http://www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/cds-broadband-voucher-scheme/>

### Crime

Sometime between 1445hrs and 1520hrs on Tuesday 20th September 2016 whilst parked securely in a rural car park in Powlers Piece Putford, Holsworthy someone broke into a black Volkswagen Passat. Someone smashed the front passenger window and stole the following. A white and black model aeroplane/drone in a large hard black case with batteries; a Cannon digital still camera in a black camera case with a selection of lenses. If you have any information contact the Police either via email [101@dc.police.uk](mailto:101@dc.police.uk) or phone 101 quoting Crime no. 66705/16.

### Fire Safety

Devon and Somerset Fire Service have issued a reminder about the importance of sweeping chimneys at this time of year. They deal with about 5000 chimney incidents each year, and recommend sweeping at least once a year for smokeless fuels; twice a year for bituminous coal and up to 4 times annually if burning wood. This is to avoid both chimney fires and carbon monoxide poisoning.  
[www.chimneyfiresafetyweek.co.uk](http://www.chimneyfiresafetyweek.co.uk)

### An introduction to "105" information on power cuts

You can now report power cuts or electricity safety issues (relating to cables and substations) just by dialling "105". 105 is free of charge and will connect you to your local network operator.

Western Power Distribution can still be reached through their website or existing emergency number.