

# Picture the Scene

It's winter and chilly outside. It's raining, the wind is howling but the heating is on and it's cosy and warm on the sofa.

And then you feel it...that annoying draught that was there last winter.

It was difficult to track down exactly where it was coming from, and eventually the job went to the end of the To Do list as the weather improved and things got warmer over the Spring and Summer.

But it's back, it's costing you money every day and your energy bills aren't getting any cheaper.

Don't worry...low cost, local help is at hand.

Village volunteers armed with a Thermal Image Camera can help you track down those draughts where your home may be losing heat and help you cut your energy bills.

Nearly 40 householders have already taken advantage of our Thermal Image Camera surveys.

The surveys can show where homes are losing heat through gaps in and around doors and windows, or through walls with poor, or no insulation.

They are carried out by volunteers from Buriton Environmental Group (BEA) using a special camera purchased by Buriton Parish Council with grant support from Hampshire County Council.

**Although weather conditions are not right for surveys now - temperatures have to be freezing or below - householders can sign up now for a survey this coming winter.**

The best results are obtained when there is at least 10 degrees difference between the temperatures outside and inside the house.

Surveys, which cost just £15, are usually conducted on the coldest nights when the weather is dry and the heating is on.

They take about 45 minutes and are a good first step on the road to making your house warmer and cheaper to run.

Simple steps taken by those who have already had a survey include:

- Fitting draught proofing strips around draughty doors and windows - and especially loft hatches.
- Fitting close fitting, heavier or thermal curtains at windows to keep the cold out and warmth in.
- Fitting reflectors behind radiators to reflect heat back into the room and prevent it escaping through the wall.
- Fitting thermostatic valves to radiators to control the heating in each room.
- Installing or improving wall and loft insulation.

And some have taken more expensive steps like replacing doors and improving double glazing.

Any Buriton parishioner interested in a survey this winter should contact parish clerk Petra Norris on 07943 536065 or [clerk@buriton.info](mailto:clerk@buriton.info)

*Buriton Environmental Association*