

Keeping warm in the months ahead

Buriton's environmental group has recently been providing more advice about saving energy and keeping warm through the winter.

Copies of a special booklet have been obtained and added onto the Community Website (<https://www.buriton.info/sites/default/files/2023-10/Home%20Energy%20Booklet.pdf>). It includes a range of ideas for: keeping warm; improving the fabric of our homes to stop heat escaping; generating our own heat and power; and sources of grants and funding etc. There are also ten simple but useful appendices.

And the group has also arranged an interesting and informative event for anyone in the parish on Thursday, 30th November (7.30 in the Five Bells): 'Powering Up, Powering Down: Home Energy Ideas'.

This will be an informal evening of conversation about insulation, cutting energy costs, solar panels, air source heat pumps and much more.

Three homeowners who have already taken some steps will speak briefly about what they have done and will be happy to answer questions about what went well, what didn't, and how we might learn from their experiences. And there'll be an expert or two in the room who will try to help with more searching, technical questions.

This informal event is free, there's no need to book a place and it should

give everyone a chance to chat with like-minded families who want to cut their energy bills and their carbon footprint.

The winter months also provide the conditions when thermal imaging surveys can be done - to find out where heat (and money!) might be leaking out of homes.

The parish council's handy camera is available for use throughout the parish. Buriton's BEA group use the device to help households cut spiralling energy bills and combat climate change.

Simple photographs from outside homes can help identify where heat is leaking out – adding to fuel bills unnecessarily.

The special camera has already been used in most parts of the village including homes in the High Street, Glebe Road, Sumner Road, Petersfield Road, North Lane, South Lane, Bones Lane, Heatherfield, Greenway Lane and New Barn Lane.

The surveys can only be done when it's cold outside and there's a small charge of £15 to create a fund for replacement batteries etc. If you would like your house to be surveyed, please contact parish clerk Petra Norris on 0794 353605 or email buritonparishcouncil@hotmail.co.uk

More volunteers are also being sought: to be trained in the use of the simple camera so that more surveys can be done in the future. Please contact Petra as above.

Some tips for keeping warm include:

- If it's very cold, set your heating to come on for longer but keep the same temperature rather than just turning up the dial.
- Close the curtains when it gets dark.
- Stay warm with a hot water bottle or an electric blanket.
- Have regular hot drinks and eat regularly (including a hot meal every day) to keep up your energy levels.
- Try to do some exercise if you can – this will warm your body.
- If there are draughts under doors, try to block them. A rolled-up towel is the simplest way.

Some ways to save energy and reduce your household bills include:

- Turn your heating thermostat down by 1 degree.
- Wear a thick jumper at home in the heating season.
- Turn off lights when not in use.
- Turn appliances off rather than leaving them on standby
- Don't overfill the kettle when boiling water.
- Only run your dishwasher when it's full.
- Close curtains at the end of the day to stop heat escaping through windows.
- Use radiator valves to turn off heating in unused rooms.

- Service your boiler and heating system regularly.
- Ask your plumber to insulate your hot water pipes.

There is also a free energy and money saving service (LEAP) which can help people keep warm and reduce their energy bills without costing them any money. The Local Energy Advice Partnership aims to help as many people as it can by offering its services to anyone that either is already in, or is at risk of falling into fuel poverty. It is open to all types of householders – homeowners, private renters and social housing tenants – and can be contacted via Freephone 0800 060 7567 or by emailing support@applyforleap.org.uk