

See Your Home in a New Light

It may seem strange thinking about winter with a baking summer of record-breaking temperatures still fresh in our minds. But autumnal evenings are getting chilly, and soon the heating will be on again, if it isn't already. Energy bills aren't getting any cheaper, and thoughts turn to keeping them as low as possible.

Once again this coming winter, low-cost local help is at hand. Parish volunteers armed with a Thermal Image Camera can help you track down where your home may be losing heat and cut the cost of heating it. Dozens of householders have already taken advantage of our surveys.

The surveys can show where homes are losing heat through gaps around doors and windows, or through walls with poor or no insulation. They are carried out by volunteers from Buriton Environmental Association (BEA) using a camera purchased by Buriton Parish Council with grant support from Hampshire County Council.

Although conditions aren't right for surveys at the moment – temperatures need to be freezing or below – householders can sign up now for a survey this coming winter. Best results come with at least 10 degrees difference between outside and inside temperatures. Surveys cost just £15, take about 45 minutes, and are usually conducted on the coldest, driest nights with the heating on.

Simple steps others have taken:

Fitting draught-proofing strips around doors, windows and loft hatches; heavier or thermal curtains; reflectors behind radiators; thermostatic radiator valves; improving wall and loft insulation – and, for some, replacing doors or 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.

Buriton Environmental Association