

## 1. Get on your bike with Gloucestershire's summer of cycling

Gloucestershire residents can get involved with the county's summer of cycling by getting on their bikes in the lead up to Love to Ride's national cycling challenge 'Cycle September'.

The county council is sponsoring stage six of the 2022 Tour of Britain on Friday, 9 September, having already hosted stage three of the Women's Tour earlier in the year.

Residents are already inspired to get on their bikes this summer by seeing world-class cyclists racing through their communities and are also encouraged to take part in Love to Ride's Cycle September challenge.

'Love to Ride' encourages people to get on their bikes, with Cycle September challenging individuals and businesses to earn points and win prizes by pedalling and encouraging others.

Cyclists can compete on the individual leaderboards and are also encouraged to join their Workplace Profile to compete against other workplaces with their colleagues.

There are more than 500 prizes up for grabs this September, including a £4,000 holiday and a £1,000 bike, and all can be won by getting on a bike – even if for just 10 minutes.

The county council is aiming to increase cycle use in the county by 50% by 2031, and is supporting cycling already in the following ways:

- Securing 258 miles of existing cycle infrastructure
- Over £40million of funding for a planned 26-mile cycle spine between Bishops Cleeve to Stroud
- Training 5,000 kids in Bikeability every year
- Conducting a feasibility study into a Mini Holland scheme in Cheltenham.
- Delivering a six-mile cycle route between Gloucester and Cheltenham

Supporting cycling is part of the county council's commitment to reduce the carbon emissions across the county to net-zero by 2045, and to reduce emissions by 80% by 2030 – in order to combat the climate emergency.

For more information and to get involved with Love to Ride's Cycle September, visit their website <https://www.lovetoride.net/gloucestershire>.

For more information on the cycling in Gloucestershire, including training, tips and routes, visit the Think Travel website at <https://www.thinktravel.info/bike/>.

## 2. Gloucestershire Libraries to officially launch three new Innovation Labs

Members of the public are being invited to join in the launch at Tewkesbury, Chipping Campden and Cheltenham libraries in September and October.

Open afternoons will be running from 2pm to 5pm to explore the space, meet the team and get hands on with technology.

The facilities and equipment available to try include a design studio for digital design, 3D modelling and animation, virtual reality, podcast recording equipment, laser cutting and micro-computers.

The events are taking place on the following dates:

- Tewkesbury Library – Monday 12 September
- Chipping Campden Library – Tuesday 20 September
- Cheltenham Library – Tuesday 4 October

Throughout the afternoon, the team of friendly Lab Techs will be on hand to showcase the technology, talk through case studies on how the labs are being used and will be running special activities for children aged 8+ between 4pm and 5pm.

They are among a network of six Innovation Labs around the county, with one in each district, which offer accessible, creative community spaces for people of all ages and abilities to get hands-on with digital technology.

If you would like to work with the Lab team, arrange a visit or find out more about your local Lab, please email [info@innovationlabnetwork.com](mailto:info@innovationlabnetwork.com)

### **3. Road closures as Tour of Britain races through Gloucestershire**

On Friday, 9 September, the 170.9km race will begin in front of St Mary's Abbey Church on Church Street, in Tewkesbury, and head east into the Cotswolds before heading south. The riders will then race north through the Stroud valleys before finishing on Southgate Street in Gloucester.

In addition to Tewkesbury and Gloucester, the riders will race through Winchcombe, Cirencester, Tetbury, Wotton-under-Edge, Dursley and Stroud, showcasing some of the best scenery the county has to offer in front of a global television audience.

Residents are encouraged to cheer the riders on at the roadside as it passes by their doorstep. Residents and visitors travelling to the race are advised to allow plenty of time for their journey, and to use active travel and public transport where possible. Those driving to the race should ensure they are parked legally. In addition, all spectators should watch from a safe position and not on the road itself.

The race will start in Tewkesbury at 11am with events in the town before the start, and is estimated to finish in Gloucester at around 3pm.

To minimise disruption to communities, most of the race will operate a rolling road closure. This means roads will only be closed for around 30 minutes while the race passes through.

Full road closures will be in operation at the start in Tewkesbury and the finish in Gloucester, the full list is below. The below details are for the official road closure timings, but road will be reopened as soon as possible once the race has left.

More information on the Tour of Britain in Gloucestershire, including stage timetables for when the race will be in your area, [can be found out the council's website](#).

### **4. Improvement works to take place at library during five-week closure**

Work on an internal refurbishment at the library will be taking place from Monday 12 September until Saturday 15 October, with the library reopening on Monday 17 October.

A new Innovation Lab is being launched at the library on 12 September and this will remain open while the library is closed.

The improvements will include:

- A new community area that can be used for talks, performances, events and hire, to include a projector and speakers
- Redecoration of the library space
- New furniture for adults' and children's areas, including a range of seating and additional shelving
- New signage throughout to help with accessibility
- A Tewkesbury town feel to the decoration used in the library
- The library team has engaged closely with the local community and school pupils to deliver these improvements.

To ensure the public can still access books during the closure, there will be three collection times a week for reservations at Tewkesbury Library in the Foyer:

- Wednesdays 14, 21 and 28 September and Wednesdays 5 and 12 October from 10am to 12pm
- Fridays 16, 23 and 30 September and Fridays 7 and 14 October from 1pm to 3pm
- Saturdays 17 and 24 September and Saturdays 1 and 8 October from 10am to 12pm

Pop-up libraries will also be held at various locations in the Tewkesbury area during the closure, where members of the public can choose books, join the library and request specific titles or genres for the next pop-up.

Information will also be available about online services and the changes under way at the library. You can [find details of the times and locations of the pop-ups here](#) or call Tewkesbury Library on 01684 293086.

Thanks  
Vernon

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