



e-UPDATE #115 - 14.12.22

Welcome to this update.

Like many, this week I was deeply saddened by the deaths of the boys who were pulled from a freezing lake in Solihull. Just last Saturday I noticed at Parkrun that our own Pittville lake had iced over. It's all too clear that this tragedy could have happened in Cheltenham and I know many of us will have been reminding our children of the dangers of thin ice.

On a happier note, I am delighted that the **Government has awarded nearly £6m to the University of Gloucestershire**, to expand its computing, engineering and digital facilities. It takes the total sum invested so far by Government into our town's tech future to **over £32m**. It's a massive vote of confidence in Cheltenham.

It's good news too that the **A417 Air Balloon Missing Link Project** has finally received its so called 'Development Consent Order'. What that means in practice is that construction is now scheduled to begin next year. It has been a huge slog to get to this point, but we are nearly there. When taken together the the J10 plans, it's a major boost for local infrastructure.

There is also a **positive update about bus services here in Cheltenham**. After a period of very poor service from Stagecoach, I am grateful to Marchants for stepping in to restore a reliable service that connects Leckhampton with the town centre. More widely, early signs (although I remain cautious!) are that the Stagecoach action plan many of us called for is bearing fruit.

There are updates below on my recent visits to **The Wilson, Glos Constabulary's Operations Centre** and **Cheltenham Samaritans' Beer Festival**.

There are also updates below about my recent Ministerial visits to **Chile, HMS Portland in Devonport and DSTL**. I was delighted to learn how familiar my Chilean counterparts were with the work GCHQ.

There's a '**grot spot**' update too of course!

Thank you for reading.

Best wishes,

Alex

PS If you think you might be eligible for **pension credit**, there's no time to lose! Check out the information below - you must apply by 18 December!

Alex Chalk KC MP
Member of Parliament for Cheltenham
Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence

UPDATES



MERCHANTS STEPS IN TO SUPPORT BUS SERVICES

After growing increasingly frustrated by the unreliable bus service provided by Stagecoach, **Alex robustly challenged the company's senior management.**

In response to pressure from Alex and the wider community, Stagecoach agreed to publish an action plan to drive up reliability and capacity, including measures to boost driver recruitment and improve working conditions.

Early signs are that it is bearing fruit, with reliability starting to improve.

But Alex remained concerned that the plan proposed the withdrawal of **Service F** which connects Leckhampton with the town centre.

GCC subsequently **agreed to his calls to put a bid for a replacement F service out to tender**. That has been successful, and **Marchants have stepped in**.

Alex has received **really positive feedback** from residents about Marchants' service, which is proving reliable and comfortable.

Alex's Echo column on this subject can be read [HERE](#). Alex's recent statement can be read [HERE](#).



ALEX REPRESENTS UK IN UK-CHILE DEFENCE TALKS

Alex travelled to Santiago to lead discussions with his Chilean counterpart on issues of mutual defence concern, and to deepen the close military and political relationship between the UK and Chile - particularly important given UK interests in the South Atlantic.

In the course of the talks, which were described as *"warm and productive"*, Alex was delighted to observe how familiar the Subsecretaria de Defenso and his team were with **the work of Cheltenham's GCHQ.**



The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Secretary of State for Education

Sanctuary Buildings 20 Great Smith Street Westminster London SW1P 3BT
tel: 0370 000 2288 www.education.gov.uk/contactus/dfe

13 December 2022

Dear Alex,

I am writing to inform you that the University of Gloucestershire in your constituency has been successful in their bid to the Office for Students for capital funding from the Government's Strategic Priorities Grant (SPG).

This funding will support our skills reform agenda and offer more opportunities for students up and down the country. This investment will help us build the skilled workforce businesses need, boost productivity to grow our economy. We are supporting our universities and colleges to develop state-of-the-art facilities and equipment, in areas like advanced manufacturing, healthcare, and future technologies like hydrogen fuel cell research. All of which will help create a pipeline of talent so we can make the most of technological advances and achieve our ambitions as a government - whether to ensure we can meet the health needs of our population or reach our ambitious net zero target.

One hundred providers were successful in securing funding for capital projects that will directly help us achieve our skills reform ambitions to strengthen higher and further education and better align skills training to the needs of employers to enable communities to thrive.

The University of Gloucestershire was awarded £5.8m to invest in improving the facilities in their School of Computing and Engineering. This project will strengthen the delivery of STEM education and will enhance the university's offers of Engineering and Game Technologies, Cyber and Technical Computing, and Advanced Emerging Technologies.

We will continue to ensure that our world-leading education system meets the needs of employers and society, and that we have the skills we need to drive growth and improve opportunities for everyone.

Yours sincerely,

The Rt Hon Gillian Keegan MP
Secretary of State for Education



[The planned location of the new state-of-the-art facility is highlighted in red]

MASSIVE £5.8m BOOST TO SUPPORT CHELTENHAM CYBER VISION!

Alex is delighted that **the Government has awarded nearly £6m to the University of Gloucestershire**, to expand its **successful computing, engineering and digital facilities**.

It takes the total sum invested so far by **Government into our town's tech future to over £32m**.

This latest cash will be used to build a **specialist three-storey facility at the Cheltenham Park Campus**. It will extend the existing accommodation for the School of Computing and Engineering, and provide a space for students in Cyber and Technical Computing. Facilities for Advanced Emerging Technologies, Game Technologies, and Engineering Technologies will be enhanced too.

Alex said: *"It's so encouraging to see the Government getting behind the Cheltenham cyber and digital vision which I first set out in 2014. I believe passionately that growing this sector is one of the best ways to address the deprivation which exists in our town. It's how we create opportunities for youngsters who may not have had the easiest start in life.*

"With £3m already invested by the Government in GlosCol's Advanced Digital Academy, and £24m to open up the future Cyber Park, this cash sends a powerful signal to young people that Cheltenham is the best place to study and develop cyber skills. Well paid jobs are also just around the corner, literally and metaphorically."



ALEX PLANTS TREE IN HONOUR OF HM QUEEN ELIZABETH II

Alex planted a small **Scots Pine tree** in **Pittville Park** as a **tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's service.**

Chris and Lucy from CBC kindly allowed Alex to dig the hole with the **spade used twice by QEII** to plant trees in Cheltenham – first as Princess and later as Queen.

The planting was part of The Queen's Green Canopy which has inspired over **a million trees** to be planted in the Queen's honour.

The Government has committed to trebling tree-planting rates across the UK by **30,000 hectares per year** as part of the landmark England Trees Action Plan, backed up by **£675 million** of Government funding.



ALEX LEADS CENOTAPH TRIBUTE TO JEWISH SERVICEMEN AND WOMEN

Alex paid his respects to **Jewish Servicemen and women** as he laid a wreath at the annual **Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women** parade at the **Cenotaph**.

Alex joined **1,500 soldiers, veterans and their families** to commemorate Jewish men and women who gave their lives for our country.

Writing on Facebook, Alex said: *"It was an honour to lay a wreath at the Cenotaph alongside Mervyn Kersh - who landed on Gold Beach in 1944, and later tended to the survivors of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp.*

"When I laid my wreath I thought, as ever, of the many hundreds of Cheltenham residents who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of our country. We will never forget."



[In the Education Centre in Parliament, with its replica chamber of the House of Commons]

ST MARK'S JUNIOR SCHOOL IN THE HOUSE!

Alex was delighted to meet with **St Mark's CofE Junior School** as part of their trip to Parliament.

As well as a Q&A with Alex, pupils enjoyed a tour of Parliament and workshops with the Education Team.

There were lots of **great questions from pupils**, including Alex's **favourite thing about Cheltenham**, his views on **climate change** and plans to get **more people cycling** in Cheltenham.

Could you be entitled to **PENSION CREDIT?**

APPLY BY 18 DECEMBER

Visit [gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim](https://www.gov.uk/pension-credit/how-to-claim)
or call 0800 991234

Successful applicants
receive a backdated
£324 cost of living
payment and free
dental treatment

Alex Chalk MP
Member of Parliament for
Cheltenham



ALEX SAYS: "DON'T MISS OUT ON PENSION CREDIT"

Alex is calling on eligible Cheltenham pensioners to come forward for pension credit as part of wider support with the cost of living.

Pension Credit is a top up for our most vulnerable pensioners that is worth an average of **£3,300**. As well as a cash top-up to the State Pension, it is a passport to a suite of other benefits such as help with **housing costs, council tax reduction schemes, heating bills and a free over-75s TV licence**

There are already 1766 claimants of Pension Credit in Cheltenham but it is estimated that **25%** of eligible people do not currently claim the extra help.

For more information on the eligibility criteria, please click [HERE](#).



ALEX VISITS HMS PORTLAND

Alex joined the Defence Secretary on a visit to **His Majesty's Naval Base Devonport** to meet **Royal Navy personnel** and inspect the base's infrastructure.

Alex also received a tour of **HMS Portland** - a Royal Navy ship - where he held talks with Commander Tim Leeder and members of the crew to better understand their roles and duties onboard.

Alex also went on board the nuclear submarine **HMS Vanguard**.



ALEX AT THE DESPATCH BOX FOR DEFENCE QUESTIONS

Alex was at the despatch box for Defence Questions.

Alex answered questions on the Government's support for British defence jobs, the implementations of Defence and Security Strategy and the Government's support for UK companies in the defence sector.

To watch the session, please click [HERE](#).



ALEX SUPPORTS CHELTENHAM SAMARITANS' BEER FESTIVAL

Alex was pleased to support the **International Craft Beer Festival at Pip and Jims** which was held to raise funds for the **Cheltenham & District branch of the Samaritans**.

The event, which was attended by hundreds of local residents, had over 40 different craft beers and 20 ciders on offer.

£4,000 was raised for Cheltenham and District Samaritans.

More information about the Cheltenham and District Samaritans is available [HERE](#)



AIR BALLOON INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS TO BEGIN IN 2023!

The decade-long campaign to end the A417 Air Balloon traffic misery has reached the most important milestone yet: the grant of the **Development Consent Order**, which will allow work to begin next year.

Commenting, Alex described the last seven years as "a slog" involving bringing ministers to Cheltenham, public consultation events, over 20 meetings with Highways England - and even raising the issue with **the Prime Minister in the House of Commons**.

National Highways have confirmed that **construction of the A417 Missing Link will begin in 2023**.

Alex said: *"This announcement represents a major milestone in resolving the A417 bottleneck which has contributed to so many fatal accidents over the years. This project will save lives, cut pollution and boost Cheltenham's economy .*



MOD ORDERS THOUSANDS MORE ANTI-TANK WEAPONS TO BOLSTER STOCKPILES

Alex has announced that **thousands of new anti-tank weapons** will be assembled in Northern Ireland and delivered to the British Army.

A **£229 million deal** has been agreed with Swedish manufacturer Saab for Next Generation Light Anti-Tank Weapon (NLAW) systems, which are assembled at Thales' facility in Belfast.

The UK has **provided thousands of NLAWs to Ukraine** to support the defence of their nation following Russia's unprovoked and illegal invasion. With NLAW, a single soldier can take out a **heavily protected modern main battle tank from 20 to 800 metres away**.

Alex said: *"These next generation light anti-tank weapons have played a decisive role in supporting Ukraine's army to drive back Russia's illegal invading forces.*

"Working with our first-class industry partners, we are continuing to fulfil our commitment to NATO by ensuring our Armed Forces will receive a steady supply of these weapons over the coming years, whilst supporting UK jobs across the length and breadth of the country."



£12.8 MILLION REDEVELOPMENT FOR GLOS CONSTABULARY OPERATIONS CENTRE

Alex joined other Gloucestershire MPs on visit to the recently redeveloped **Gloucestershire Constabulary Operations Centre** in Bamfurlong.

The Operations Centre - which is home to **police dogs, firearms teams, collision investigators and response units** - has been **completely transformed** thanks to a **£12.8 million redevelopment**.

The redevelopment includes **state-of-the-art facilities**, a brand new **two-storey building** and separate buildings for **specialist operations**.



[Alex met with Lisa Edgar, Head of Culture at The Cheltenham Trust to discuss the funding bids]

ALEX BACKS THE WILSON'S BIDS FOR GOVERNMENT CASH

Alex has been working with the Wilson Art Gallery and Museum to support bids for funding from DCMS' ***Museum Development Fund*** and the Arts Council's ***NPO Investment Programme***.

The funding will enable The Wilson to launch an **'incubator' scheme for early career artists and designers** including fellowships for twenty young artists to **develop their careers**.

The funding can also be used to develop **Objects of Comfort** - a new project with **Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust** - to create a **handling collection for people with dementia**.



[Alex with CityFibre's installation team - picture taken

in 2020]

NEW STUDY CONFIRMS ECONOMIC BOOST FOR CHELTENHAM THANKS TO ULTRA-FAST BROADBAND ROLLOUT

Securing **ultrafast broadband for Cheltenham** is a key personal priority for Alex, and he has spoken up repeatedly in Parliament about this issue.

Working with CityFibre, Alex helped to **secure a multi-million Cheltenham-wide rollout of ultrafast broadband.**

A new study has estimated that over a fifteen-year period, the positive impacts of CityFibre's £30m investment in Cheltenham will include **£145m in productivity and innovation gains.**

CityFibre's network in Cheltenham will also help unlock **£344m in gross added value (GVA) from 5G services.**

Alex said: *"I welcome CityFibre's network rollout, which will **help Cheltenham become one of the best-connected communities in the world.** We are in a global competition for jobs and investment, and this vital infrastructure helps make Cheltenham an even better place to live, work and visit."*



MAJOR TRANSFORMATION OF PITTVILLE PARK SCOUT HUT

Alex was pleased to attend the reopening of the **10th Cheltenham Scout Group's** recently **refurbished scout hut in Pittville Park.**

Writing on Facebook, Alex said:

"Congratulations - and sincere thanks - to all those who supported the major refurbishment of the scout hut in Pittville Park. An amazing community effort, with volunteers and local businesses joining forces to transform a facility that had seen better days."

From today, over
11.6 million pensioners
will start to receive up to
£600
to help with their
energy bills this winter.

COST OF LIVING SUPPORT FOR PENSIONERS

Alex has been **lobbying ministers for Government support** to help the people of Cheltenham with the rising cost of living.

He has welcomed news that **18,586 pensioners in Cheltenham** have started to receive **an additional £300** from the Government's **Pensioner Cost of Living Payments**.

The Energy Price Guarantee will help to keep household **energy bills as low as possible**, saving the typical household **£900** this winter. Every household is also benefitting from a £400 grant, automatically deducted from their energy bills

If you have not received your Winter Fuel Payment by **13 January 2023**, please contact the Winter Fuel Payment Centre on 0800 731 0160.



[Volunteer wayfinders receiving a briefing from the police]

TACKLING ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR DURING RACEWEEK

Alex has been working with partners to tackle anti-social behaviour during raceweek.

Alex's team attended a meeting at Cheltenham Racecourse to help develop **an action plan to tackle ASB** including the introduction of **temporary toilets, more stewards and enhanced road cleaning** during race meets.

The **Love our Turf** action plan was introduced at the November meeting and has received positive feedback from residents, racegoers and the police who have confirmed that there were **no incidents of ASB across the three-day November meeting**.

Alex said: *“The festival is such an important part of the Cheltenham calendar and I’m hugely encouraged by the launch of the Love Our Turf initiative.*

“The initial feedback from local residents has been positive and this has been really useful learning on how we might address the legitimate concerns about the anti-social behaviour of a small minority.”



[Image: Rob Jenkins]

HISTORIC RAILINGS REINSTATED IN IMPERIAL GARDENS

Alex was delighted to attend a ceremony to celebrate the **reinstatement of the ornamental iron railings** around **Imperial Gardens**.

The original railings were removed in 1940 and recycled for armaments as part of the war

effort.

The reinstatement of the original railings was funded by **the Friends of Imperial Square Heritage and Conservation** who work to preserve the long heritage of the gardens and to enhance Cheltenham's Regency heritage.



SAFETY IMPROVEMENTS ON A435 CHARLTON HILL FOLLOWING LOBBYING FROM ALEX

Alex has raised his constituents' concerns about the condition of the **A435 Charlton Hill** with the Highways Department on a number of occasions.

He has therefore welcomed the news that **essential safety improvements** will be carried out to **repair cracks** and to **stabilise a section of landslip**.

The project will involve **installing sheet piles to stabilise the embankment and carriageway**. The road will be **fully resurfaced** and the **drainage system will be improved**.

Construction will begin in **March 2023**.

A public drop-in event will be held before work begins. Please click [HERE](#) for more information.



ALEX AT THE DESPATCH BOX FOR URGENT QUESTION

Alex was at the despatch box to **answer an 'Urgent Question'** from the Shadow Minister on the building of **Fleet Solid Support ships**.

These are ships which **provide munitions, stores and provisions to aircraft carriers**.

A UQ requires a Minister come to the House to make a statement and answer questions **at short notice**.

Alex answered:

"Those crucial vessels will provide munitions, stores and provisions to the Royal Navy's aircraft carriers, destroyers and frigates deployed at sea. Ammunition and essential stores will ensure that the mission can be sustained anywhere around the world. The contract will deliver more than 1,000 additional UK shipyard jobs, generate hundreds of graduate and apprentice opportunities across the UK, and a significant number of further jobs throughout the supply-chain.

"The entire final assembly will be completed at Harland & Wolff's shipyard in Belfast to Bath-based BMT's British design. The awarding of the contract will see jobs created and work delivered in Appledore, Devon, Harland & Wolff Belfast, and within the supply chain up and down the country. This announcement is good news for the UK shipbuilding industry. It will strengthen and secure the UK shipbuilding enterprise as set out in the national shipbuilding strategy, and I commend this decision to the House."

You can watch the urgent question in full by clicking [HERE](#).



[Alex pictured previously in a military aircraft]

ALEX CELEBRATES WORLD FIRST 100% SUSTAINABLE FUEL MILITARY FLIGHT

As the MP who introduced the Net Zero Bill in Parliament, Alex celebrated the RAF's world first **100% sustainable fuel military flight**.

An RAF Voyager took to the skies powered entirely by **100% sustainable aviation fuel** which is made from **waste-based sustainable feedstocks** such as used cooking oil.

This paves the way for a range of possibilities as it **reduces lifecycle carbon emissions on average by up to 80%**, lessens the RAF's reliance on global supply chains and improves operational resilience.

Alex said: *"Through the RAF's pioneering spirit, expertise and partnership with UK industry, British science and engineering is leading the way in improving operational resilience and developing future operating capability in a climate-changed world."*



PARLIAMENT WEEK AT CHELTENHAM BALAGOKULAM

Alex attended **Cheltenham Balagokulam** (a branch of Hindu Swayamsevak Sangh) as part of **UK Parliament Week**.

During the session, Alex answered questions on his work as the Member of Parliament for Cheltenham, his previous career as a barrister and his role as Minister of State in the Ministry of Defence.



ALEX TAKES PART IN UK-NORDIC DEFENCE PROCUREMENT PANEL DISCUSSION

Alex held a panel discussion on defence procurement at the Aurora Forum which brought together leading political and academic figures from the UK, Nordic and Baltic countries.

The focus of the discussion was how Russia's illegal invasion of Ukraine has impacted the defence procurement picture at home and overseas.



"WE MUST MAKE OURSELVES AGILE AND RESILIENT BY DESIGN"

Alex addressed the **defence supply chain industry** at the Make UK Defence Summit in

Birmingham.

Alex emphasised that in this new era of global competition, that the defence industry must make itself **agile and resilient by design**.

Please click [HERE](#) to read Alex's speech.



GROT SPOT UPDATE

Since the last update, Alex has **reported a number of grot spots to CBC and GCC** including potholes, blocked drains and graffiti.

Following Alex's reports since the last update, CBC and GCC have:

- Resolved **drainage issues** on **Hatherley Road**
- Repaired the **footway** by the car park near the **Magistrates' Court on St George's Road**
- Repaired **potholes** on the **London Road** and **Hales Road**

If you see any problem areas in the town, please send details to Alex (alex.chalk.mp@parliament.uk) and he will raise them with CBC and GCC.



PITTVILLE PARK RUN

Alex regularly joins joggers, runners and walkers at **Pittville park run**. Alex has taken part in eight park runs and has got his time down from 29 minutes to 23.30!

The run takes place every **Saturday at 9am** and is free to attend.



CHELTENHAM IN THE SNOW!

Alex and his children enjoyed playing in the snow last weekend!

ADDITIONAL UPDATES

ALSO SINCE THE LAST UPDATE, ALEX HAS:

- Invited constituents to Parliament for a **tour and Q&A**
- Held **constituency surgeries** to help constituents with casework, ranging from anti-social behaviour to visa problems
- Attended the **Glos Constabulary Impact Awards**
- Knocked on doors to **meet residents from Up Hatherley and Benhall**
- Attended the **Gloucestershire Concert for Ukraine and made a speech**
- Met with the **Gloucestershire ME/CFS friendship group** as part of an ongoing series of meetings
- Met with **Cheltenham Aden Veterans from Cheltenham** to discuss medallic recognition
- Met with the Chief Executive of the **Howard League for Penal Reform**
- Met with the **Chair of Cheltenham & County Harriers** to learn more about the group
- Attended the **Community Choir Christmas** Gas Green Baptist Church
- Attended the **opening of Foodloose** - a new sustainable food shop on Grosvenor Terrace
- Received a tour of **Hub8 which is home to** start-ups, SMEs and cyber tech companies
- Awarded medals at the **Cheltenham Synchronised Swimming Medal Ceremony**
- Attended the **Town Carol Service at St Mathew's and the Minster**
- Attended a **Christmas exhibition at Lansdown Art Studios**
- Attended Cheltenham Silver Band's Christmas concert at St Mark's Church
- Attended the **Gloucestershire Guild Christmas Late Night event**

Received briefings from:

- **NHS Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group**

WRITTEN PARLIAMENTARY QUESTIONS

Since the last update, Alex has answered **162 Written Parliamentary Questions** from MPs. Topics raised include housing for Service families, the cost of military aircrafts and defence innovation.

See an example below:

Q. *To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department has made a recent assessment of the standard of accommodation available to RAF Odiham personnel; and whether his Department has taken recent steps to improve the quality of that accommodation.*

Alex responded:

"The condition of Service Family Accommodation (SFA) properties is formally assessed against the Decent Homes (DH) Standard. The DH standard is a technical standard for public housing, defined by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. More than 98% of SFA meet this standard; properties below it are not allocated to Service personnel.

In financial year 2021-22, investment to improve SFA at RAF Odiham included the installation of new windows and doors for 106 homes and an additional 20 homes were refurbished. Over the course of this financial year, a further 34 homes will benefit from new roofs.

The launch of the Defence Accommodation Strategy in October 2022 introduced a Defence Minimum Standard for Single Living Accommodation (SLA) and informs the future investment of SLA.

In financial year 2021-22, kitchen and utility rooms in four SLA blocks at RAF Odiham were upgraded and ablutions were refurbished in one SLA block. Further improvement work to SLA is also taking place, which includes painting and decorating, improving the shared ablutions areas and cooking facilities."

IN THE MEDIA

SINCE THE LAST UPDATE:

Alex has written four articles for the **Cheltenham Post and the Gloucestershire Echo**, in which he:

1. Called the Boundary Commission's decision to transfer Springbank to the Tewksbury

Parliamentary constituency 'baffling' Read [HERE](#).

2. Welcomed GCC's Levelling Up Together fund Read [HERE](#)

3. Pledged to continue lobbying for funding to develop CGH further as a centre of excellence for cancer treatment. Read [HERE](#).

4. Reported back following recent Ministerial visit to Chile. Read [HERE](#).

COMMUNITY NOTICEBOARD



FOMBAG

Friends of Montpellier Bandstand & Gardens

At The Bandstand in Montpellier Gardens

Carols



in the Gardens

FRIDAY, 16th December

 **5pm - 6:30pm** 

Music and singing led by **The Ukeholics**
Guest appearance of **D'Artgnan.**
and Santa has promised to turn up!



'CAROLS IN THE GARDENS' AT MONTPELLIER BANDSTAND GARDENS

Friends of Montpellier Bandstand & Gardens will again be hosting '**Carols in the Gardens**' on Friday **16 December at 5pm.**

Music and singing will be led by local ukulele group The Ukeholics.

Admission is free and a bucket collection will be held for the Springbank Community Foodbank.



IT SCHOOLS AFRICA CHRISTMAS CHALLENGE

Cheltenham charity [IT SCHOOLS AFRICA](#) are taking part in the Big Give Christmas Challenge 2022.

Their goal this year is to help 200 young Malawian students to gain digital and entrepreneurial skills.

To learn more about the Christmas Challenge, please click [HERE](#).

CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

Music
Drama
Dance



CHELTENHAM FESTIVAL OF PERFORMING ARTS

The Cheltenham Festival of Performing Arts will take place at Cheltenham Town Hall from 3-13 May 2023.

The Festival is an opportunity for performers to try out their skills in the wonderful setting of Cheltenham Town Hall. There are classes for all ages and abilities. Please browse through the syllabus and enter [online](#).

The online entry system is now open until 1 February 2023.

For more information please click [HERE](#).

USEFUL LOCAL CONTACTS

Gloucestershire County Council

www.gloucestershire.gov.uk

01452 425000

Cheltenham Borough Council

www.cheltenham.gov.uk

01242 262626

Age UK Gloucestershire

www.ageuk.org.uk/gloucestershire

01452 422660

Gloucestershire Abuse Support

01452 726570

Citizens Advice Gloucestershire

01452 527202

GRASAC (Gloucestershire Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre)

www.glosrasac.org

01452 305421

Gloucestershire Road Safety Partnership

<https://www.roadsafetyknowledgecentre.org.uk/organisation/organisations-f-h/rskc-organisation-158/>

Gloucestershire Older Drivers Forum

<https://olderdriversforum.com/Gloucestershire/>



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