

Prisoners' pantomime may end up being axed

MOVES for inmates at Bullingdon Prison, near Bicester, to tread the boards in their own Christmas pantomime have hit snags.

But the plan is still being backed enthusiastically by amateur dramatic groups Thame Players and the Ubiquitous Theatre Company.

Prisoners would take the male parts, and volunteers from the theatre companies' female contingent would take the other roles.

The idea is for four performances over two days for inmates, their families and the general public.

The man behind the idea, prison staff man Tony Bott, said: "I just put it up as an idea, but there is a long way between an idea and reality."

"We are hitting a few snags and we will have to decide shortly whether the panto will go ahead or not."

Originally, the prison hoped a television company might be interested in doing a documentary about the venture.

Tony Long, from Thame Players, said: "We thought it was a smashing idea and we will back it."

"So will members of the Ubiquitous Theatre Company, which uses our theatre, in Nelson Street, Thame."

"I have had one idea for a director and I will put that to the prison service."

GOT A STORY?
CALL NEWSDESK
ON 01865 425500



Autumn Collection

Find the very latest innovative and fashionable frames that you won't find in your average opticians

LINDBERG
CHANEL
ARMANI
alain
mikli
PRADA
GUCCI
Calvin Klein

Ask about
our style
consultation

Eyesite, 35 St. Ebbs Street
Oxford
tel: (01865) 242300

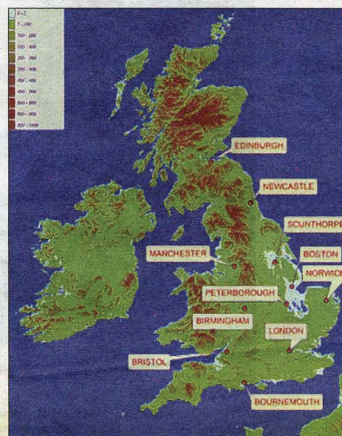
www.eyesiteonline.co.uk

The most important
thing is your



CUT OUT THE

A computer program that checks on the amount of carbon pollution generated by buildings highlights the need for a change in lifestyle, an academic warns **Rosalind Miles**



THE world's first computer mapping system which identifies the amount of carbon emitted by individual buildings could be used to show which Oxfordshire people are wasting heat.

DECoRuM, a GIS (geographical information system) programme, developed by Dr Rajat Gupta, a research fellow at Oxford Brookes University's architecture department, produces a map of the city highlighting emissions from homes and businesses.

It works by feeding information, such as how many storeys and the number of windows each house has, (which was gained by Dr Gupta by simply looking at properties

from the outside) into the system to calculate an estimate of how much electricity is used and, therefore, how much carbon is being emitted.

The technology could be used by the city council to target Oxford's most energy inefficient residents.

Dr Gupta, who has been commissioned by the council to make a climate change action plan, said: "DECoRuM extends the analysis of

'I hope it can help us avoid the worst impacts of climate change and help with the survival of mankind itself'

Dr Rajat Gupta

carbon dioxide emission to individual buildings and can work to make cities more sustainable.

"I hope it can help us avoid the worst impacts of climate change and help with the survival of mankind itself."

Susanna Pressel, a committee member, said: "Thanks to this GIS system we would be able to put

pressure on landlords and individual home owners to reduce the amount of heat which is lost from their homes.

"Global warming is going to increase the chance of flooding in Oxford and cause terrible problems around the world."

"By doing simple things like insulating hot water tanks, our lofts and our homes and turning our heating down a degree we can save money and make a difference."

The city council already uses GIS systems to monitor pollution and for planning purposes but it cannot detect the heat given off by individual buildings.

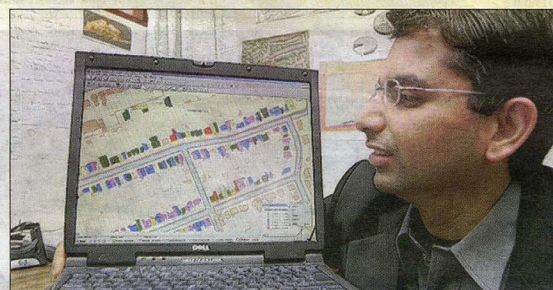
The environmental scrutiny committee has agreed to ask its executive board to get a quote for the system, which Dr Gupta estimates would cost between £30-40,000.

TALSO decided to ask the board to do an audit of its own buildings and to set aside funds to educate the public.

Dr Gupta added: "It's very common for people to leave their TV on standby and their phone charger plugged in when they are not charging their phone."

"We have to make the community aware it does need a lifestyle change."

"All the research shows there is no technological solution — it's us who have to change."



FEELING THE HEAT: Dr Gupta demonstrates his computer system, above. A map produced by University College London shows how parts of Britain could disappear in 200 years if sea levels rise due to climate change, top

Main picture: Barry Johnson Order No. 401713

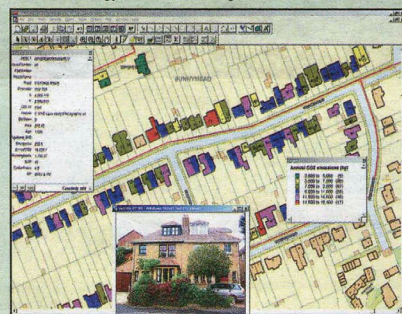
DECoRuM

DECoRuM is a next generation geographical information system-based domestic energy, carbon-counting and carbon-reduction model with the capabilities to evaluate energy consumption in, and carbon dioxide emission reductions from, existing UK dwellings on an urban scale, and the cost of a range of measures to reduce both.

Application of DECoRuM in a case study in Oxford shows how effective it is for carbon emission reduction planning by helping planners in UK local authorities to report, monitor and improve the energy efficiency of both public and private housing, as required by the Home Energy Conservation Act 1995

DECoRuM model of Oxford housing

Domestic energy, carbon-counting, carbon-reduction model



DECoRuM extends the analysis for carbon dioxide emission reduction from buildings, to make cities more sustainable, to help avoid the worst impacts on climate.

FACTFILE

Driving 1.6 miles in a car emits the same carbon emission as heating a room for one hour

A mobile phone charger left on when not charging emits 20kg of carbon per year

A television left on standby gives out 60kg of carbon per year

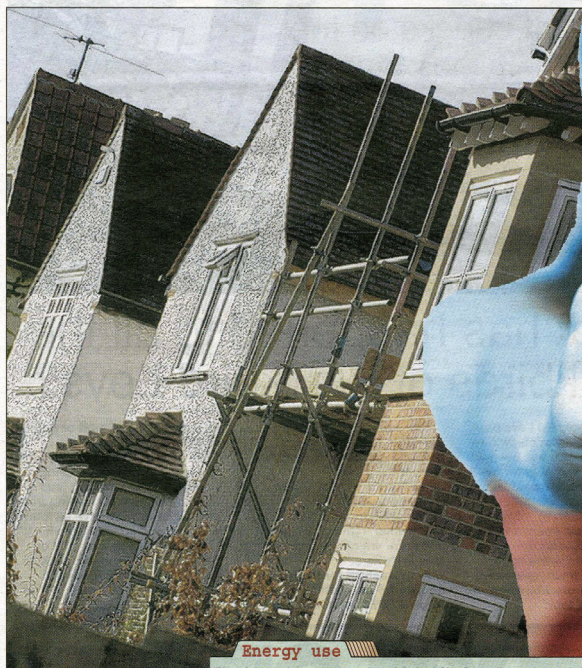
The carbon emissions of the average Oxford person is 5.8 tonnes per year, more than double the sustainable level

Climate change action plan

Dr Gupta's climate change action plan recommends that household efficiency should be 15 per cent by 2010 and 30 per cent by 2020.

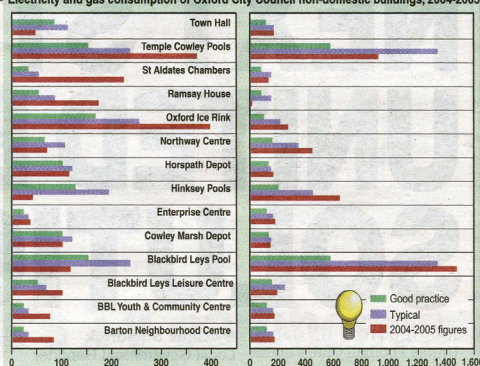
It also recommends 10 per cent of houses in Oxford have solar heating systems by 2010 and all new developments supply 10 per cent of electricity by on-site renewables.

CARBON



Energy use

Electricity and gas consumption of Oxford City Council non-domestic buildings, 2004-2005



Andrew Woods, of Friends of the Earth, said: "People often aren't aware of their energy usage, it might be useful to find out where improvements can be made and distribute grants to people who can't afford to spend the money on insulation."

Sid Phelps, of the Green party, said: "The mapping system is very good as it can show where the hot spots and problem areas are and where to focus resources, I'm all for it."

"Oxford city could make a good first step in combating climate change with the mapping system, but it will depend on whether the council has the resources to be able to use it and what action is taken. A pretty map is not enough."

"We will need help from central Government."

The executive board will discuss the Dr Gupta's GIS system in

November. Dr Gupta surveyed 318 houses in north Oxford using the DECoRuM mapping system. He chose the area because a survey found that residents there were most receptive to using green

energy. Daniel Dubin, 66, a mathematician, who lives in Victoria Road, said: "This house was built without insulation before the First World War and what with the movement of the

ground in this road there's subsidence."

"If you were building a new house you could incorporate all the insulation systems straight away at relatively minimal cost."

"But if you have a house like this it's impossible to deal with it — you would have to remove all the floor boards, take every wall down, put a new roof on."

"If the research shows my house is leaking a huge amount of heat, I'd say tell me something I don't know! I can't insulate this house properly."

Derek Wareham, who is retired and also lives in Victoria Road, said: "I have roof insulation and a couple of insulating jackets around our hot water tank, but this is an Edwardian house with nine-inch brickwork, so full insulation is not practical and would be too expensive."

"Our answer is don't use too much energy. We don't have our central heating all the time, just from mid-November through to March."

rosalind.miles@ngo.com

HOMING IN: Houses in Victoria Road, below, were monitored for the research by Oxford Brookes University into how much energy is wasted by the average resident

Picture: Damian Halliwell
Order No. 401220

NEWS IN BRIEF

'Please save visitor office'

WALLINGFORD needs a tourist information office, town councillors are telling South Oxfordshire District Council members who want to get rid of it.

The district council wants to save money by scrapping all its tourist information offices next year and to replace them with an Internet service.

The town council is writing to every member of the district council cabinet asking for a re-think.

Snap 'em up

PHOTOGRAPHERS may be able to snap up a bargain if they get themselves to Oxfam's charity shop in Summertown, Oxford, next week.

The store is holding a week-long camera sale from Tuesday, November 1, including old collectables.

Band event

ABINGDON Brass Band is holding a dinner and dance on Saturday in the Guildhall as part of its 40th anniversary celebrations.

Call 01235 525876 to find out more.

COMING UP...

Match makers

Football club aims to sort out travel

See Page 16

COACH HOLIDAYS

www.tappins.co.uk

DATE	TOUR	PRO
Fri 25 Nov	Eastbourne 4 days	£175.00
Wed 30 Nov	German Xmas Markets 4d	£180.00
Fri 02 Dec	French Shopping 2 days	£200.00
Fri 09 Dec	Belgian Xmas Market 4d	£165.00

German Xmas Markets

- 4 days luxury coach travel
- 3 nights Dinner, bed & breakfast
- Cologne & Rudesheim Markets

Departs: Wed 30 Nov 2005 £180

FRENCH CHRISTMAS SHOPPING WEEKEND

Two days - one night bed & breakfast
Visits the large Cite of Europe Shopping Centre and a Auchen Hypermarket plus Boulogne
Departs Fri 02 Dec 2005 - £200.00

Isle of Wight

£190 4 DAYS - Fri 11 November

Four days to Sandown on the Isle of Wight. This is a pre Christmas Turkey & Tinsel themed holiday. Includes coach tours of the Island and three nights evening dinner

Departures from: Various points in Oxfordshire
Please rush me a copy of your brochure

Name.....
Address.....

TAPPINS COACHES
01235-819393

Mary Poppins by coach Wed 25 Jan 2006
£47.50 inc (normally £55) 01235 812127

CLIMATE CHANGE ACTION PLAN

- Driving 1.6 miles in a car emits the same carbon emission as heating a room for one hour
- A mobile phone charger left on when not charging emits 20kg of carbon per year
- A television left on standby gives out 60kg of carbon per year
- The carbon emission of the average Oxford person is 5.8 tonnes per year, more than double the sustainable level

- Dr Gupta's climate change action plan recommends that household efficiency should be 15 per cent by 2010 and 30 per cent by 2020.
- It also recommends that 10 per cent of houses in Oxford have solar heating systems by 2010
- All new developments should supply 10 per cent of electricity by on-site renewable sources.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Hot water cylinder insulation
- Cavity wall insulation
- Replacement condensing boilers
- Double glazing
- Roof insulation