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Council's 42 iPads to cut use of paper

IT'S this year's must-have gadget. But some lucky councillors won't have to fork out for an Apple iPad from their own pockets - their authority is buying the devices for them. And it's all in the name of saving paper.

Bosses at Cambridge City Council believe the gadgets will help get rid of some of the thousands of pages of printed documents used in meetings each year.

To that end, it has earmarked up to £29,400 of its £250,000 'climate change' budget on 42 iPads.

'Some of the council agendas can be 1,300 pages long - that is a

By Miles Erwin

waste of trees, cost and carbon,' said the council's David Roberts. 'What is being looked at is the financial and carbon benefits in using electronic gadgets.'



Demand: The iPad

The tablets, which are designed for using the internet, reading books and watching films, cost between £500 and £700.

Matthew Sinclair, of the TaxPayers' Alliance, said: 'A small, affordable laptop would do the same job, though it certainly wouldn't be as efficient as a perky for the councillors.'

After 107 years, up for sale...

PENSIONER Catherine Sinclair is reluctantly selling the house that has been in her family for 107 years. Five generations have lived in the four-bed home in Newhaven, East Sussex, but that run is ending because Mrs Sinclair, 74, is moving to be nearer her daughter. Sadly, her son, Andrew, cannot afford the price. 'My grandfather built it himself in 1903 and I love this house,' she said. 'It is a great wrench to leave it. It took me two years to make the decision to sell.'

The daily grind gets cheaper

YOUR daily caffeine hit may soon cost less because wholesale coffee prices have fallen by 40 per cent from their 2008 peak. But droughts in India have forced the cost of tea up by as much as 28 per cent in just one year, said The Grocer magazine. Aid agencies want a global minimum price for traded commodities such as tea and coffee, as the volatile market often leads to abject poverty in some of the world's poorest farming communities.

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Big air: Extreme sports fan Tyler Harding Picture: Ross Parry

I'm Disney's 'flying king'

TYLER HARDING may live nowhere near a mountain but that is not going to stop his dream of extreme skiing glory. And now the 13-year-old's bid to appear at next month's prestigious Winter X Games is being followed by Disney. The top young British free skier, who has 11 gold medals, will appear in the Next X show on Disney XD,

which follows six talented youngsters who want to compete at the games in France. The skiing prodigy, from Sowerby Bridge in West Yorkshire, practises at a dry slope in Halifax and an indoor complex in Castleford. He said: 'This is a huge break for me. It's amazing that I'm going to be skiing on a show for Disney.'

Phew Peter rows a new world record

BLUE PETER once set a world record for mattress dominoes but one presenter has been a little more daring this year – kayaking 1,600km (1,000 miles) along the Amazon.

Helen Skelton has already tripled the Guinness World Record for longest solo journey by kayak – but is still only half-way through her planned paddle.

'One thousand miles down, one thousand miles to go. I know I've got a lot of hard work still to do but at least I am closer to the end than the beginning now,' said the 26-year-old.

'Every single day here is tough so all I can do is take each one at a time and get through it,' she added.

'I have been suffering with the heat, my shoulders are sore and my legs are covered in mosquito bites but I'm battling on.'

Skelton took on the epic journey to raise money for Sport Relief and has

By **Ross McGuinness**

been going for three weeks, paddling about 80km (50 miles) a day and resting one day a week.

She set off from near Nauta in Peru and aims to finish 3,200km (2,010 miles) downstream at Almerim, Brazil.

The existing Guinness World Record was set in 2006 and stands at 526km (327 miles).

Organisers reckon Skelton has also set a record for the longest distance in a kayak in 24 hours by a woman – once clicking off 121km (75 miles) of Amazonian water in one day.

'We hope to ratify both these records as quickly as possible to recognise this fantastic achievement,' said a spokesman for Guinness World Records.

Sport Relief takes place from March 19 to 21. For information on getting involved, go to www.sportrelief.com



Paddles up: A stoic Helen Skelton shakes a taped-up fist during a break from her daily grind Picture: PA

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