

How much?

PRICES shown are unleaded, followed by diesel, per litre. 'Was' prices indicate prices as of June 2005.

- Westways Garage, Marksbury: was 83.9p and 86.5p, now 86.9p and 90.9p;
- Churchill Bridge Service Station, Lower Bristol Road: was 84.9p and 87.9p, now 87.9p and 90.9p;
- Walcot Service Station, Dover Terrace, Bath: was 84.9p and 87.9p, now 87.9p and 90.9p;
- Star Service Station, Bath Road, Keynsham: was 84.9p and 89.9p, now 87.9p and 92.9p;
- Chandag Service Station, Bath Road, Keynsham: was 84.9p and 87.9p, now 86.9p and 91.9p;
- Sainsbury's, Green Park, Bath: was 84.9p and 87.9p, now 87.9p and 90.9p;
- Englishcombe Lane Service Station, Englishcombe Lane, Bath: was 85.8p and 88.9p, now 89.9p and 93.9p;
- Ashley Garage, Bath Road, Box: was 85.9p and 88.9p, now 88.9p and 91.9p;
- Courthouse Filling Station, Upper Bristol Road, Bath: was 86.9p and 89.9p, now 88.9p and 92.9p;
- Farleigh Service Station, Hinton Charterhouse: was 86.9p and 90.9p, now 89.9p and 92.9p;
- Radway Service Station, Wellsway, Bath: was 86.9p and 89.9p, now 90.9p and 92.9p;
- Corsham Tyre Service, Newlands Road, Corsham: was 86.9p and 91.9p, now 91.8p and 93.9p;
- Texaco (Star) Pickwick Filling Station, Pickwick Road, Corsham: was 87.9p and 91.9p, now 90.9p and 93.9p;
- Pennsylvania Filling Station, Pennsylvania: was 88.9p and 90.9p, now 89.9p and 93.9p;
- Riverside Service Station, Lower Bristol Road: was 91.9p and 92.9p, now 94.9p and 95.9p.

Environmentalists hope price of petrol will lead to alternatives being found

Fuel costs keep rising

By Emma Cooney

PETROL prices in Bath have rocketed in the past month, spelling gloom for motorists.

In June, the Chronicle reported how they broke through the £4-a-gallon barrier at two petrol stations in the city.

Now, as the national average for unleaded nudges past £4 for the first time, six more filling stations in the area have passed the £4 mark.

The highest prices found in a Chronicle survey of garages yesterday were at the Riverside Service Station in Lower Bristol Road - where unleaded cost a massive 94.9p and diesel 95.9p a litre.

The highest rise was at Corsham Tyre Service, in Newlands Road, where the price of unleaded jumped from 86.9p to 91.8p a litre - a rise of nearly six per cent.

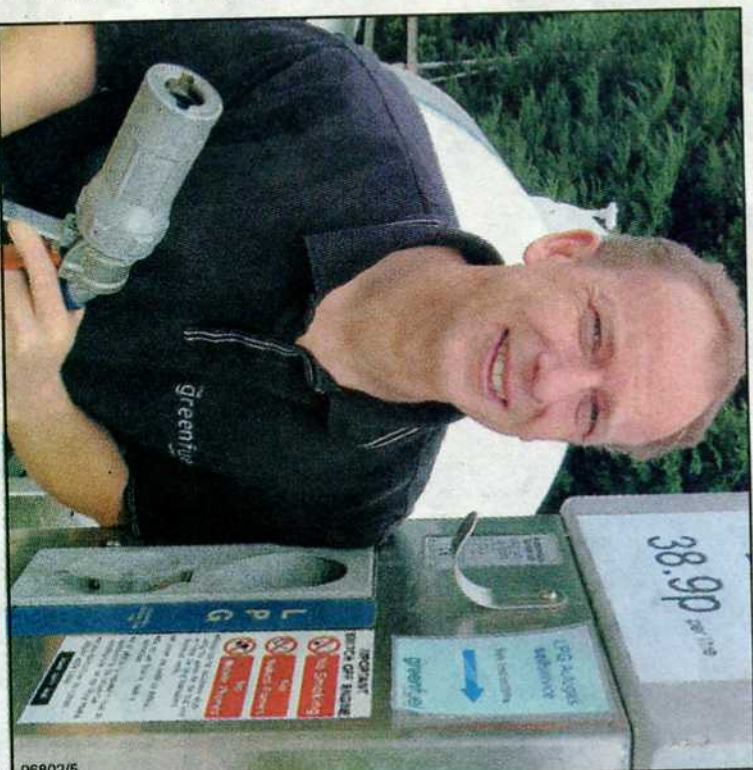
Charges have spiralled because the cost of crude oil has almost doubled, with barrels selling for \$60 compared to \$35 this time last year. But environmentalists hope the high prices will push companies to find greener alternatives more quickly.

The co-ordinator of Bath Friends of the Earth group, Chris Benson, said: "Obviously people will be affected, but it is inevitable if our fuel reserves are running low."

"The Government should be acting on it to find alternatives."

"There are a few green cars around but not many, and this is a spur for the Government to do something about it."

"If the high prices make people



BIG DEMAND: Ingram Legge, director of The Green Fuel Company in Monkton Combe, with the LPG pump

PICTURE: Kirstie Trueman

think twice about driving it is a good thing. People still leave their car engines running while they are stuck in traffic jams.

"If they switch their engines off they will save money and there will be less exhaust emissions contributing to global warming."

The price of environmental friendly liquid petroleum gas (LPG) has also risen, but it is less than half the price of unleaded.

Director of The Green Fuel Company in Monkton Combe, Ingram Legge, said: "The prices are having a significant impact on the number

of people converting to LPG dual fuel. In the last month we have been flooded with requests."

The garage now sells LPG at 38.9p a litre.

The Roberts Group, which runs Westways Garage at Marksbury, is still selling the cheapest unleaded fuel in the Bath area.

Last month the filling station was selling unleaded for 83.9p - the equivalent of £3.81 a gallon. Now it is 86.9p per litre or £3.95.

The rises have worried taxi drivers and haulage companies. Last month the Chronicle told how one Bath businessman was travelling to France to fill up on diesel.

Owner of Derrick International, Richard Derrick, said he had to fill his lorries up across the Channel just to stay in business.

UK diesel prices continue to be the highest in Europe. The UK's unleaded prices are the fifth most expensive in Europe, with The Netherlands topping the chart.

Clr Andy Furse (Lib Dem, King's mead) said people on low incomes would be most affected by the rises.

"The people it will hit the hardest are those who can least afford it."

"Those who work hard but whose salaries are barely above the minimum wage."

"They cannot necessarily afford bus fares, which are not cheap."

The Treasury announced earlier this month that a proposed fuel duty increase in September would be postponed. The Chancellor, Gordon Brown, will review whether to raise the tax in his pre-Budget report in the autumn.

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