

keynshamvoice

December 2025

Issue 163

www.keynshamvoice.co.uk



How we gathered to remember:
Pages 6 & 7

FREE EVERY MONTH IN KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD

Police patrols cutting anti-social behaviour

POLICE say reports of anti-social behaviour in Keynsham have halved since last year after they stepped up patrols in the town.

Residents have become concerned in recent years about harassment and shoplifting by young people, especially in the High Street.

A spokesperson for Avon and Somerset Police said: "Officers from our Neighbourhood Policing Team have been working in partnership with the local authority, shops, businesses and schools to identify and deter local offenders.

"Daily patrols have also been taking place within the community and we have set up a scheme with the local town council to identify adult shoplifters and issue anti-social behaviour orders.

"Through this work, we have seen a 50 per cent reduction in anti-social behaviour in Keynsham over the past 18 months and officers continue to work to further reduce this."

Tackling anti-social behaviour remained a priority for the neighbourhood police team as of last month, after officers noted a

■ Turn to Page 2



Winners of Keynsham Winter Festival colouring competition had a festive treat in store when they visited Santa's Grotto at the popular annual event. Story and more photos on Page 3

INSIDE

Homes warning

Keynsham's creaking infrastructure must be improved to meet the demands of potential new homes over the next two decades, the town council has warned.

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Save our festival

A £10,000 appeal has been launched to save next year's Keynsham Music Festival.

PAGE 14

Firm wins appeal

Keynsham company 4Concrete has won its planning appeal to keep its extended weekday working hours.

PAGE 15

Special school bid

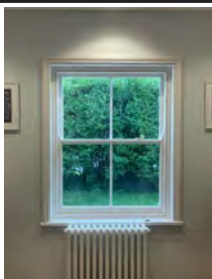
Plans to open a special school in Keynsham for children are out for consultation.

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Estate revamp

Major work is due to start soon on redeveloping a Keynsham housing estate.

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January deadline

Our January edition will go to print on Sunday December 21. To ensure your news or letter is included, please contact us by Wednesday December 17. Advertisers are asked to contact us by the same date.



Your views

Letters for publication can be sent to the above email addresses or by post to Letters, Keynsham Voice, 16 Ashmead Business Centre, Ashmead Road, Keynsham, BS31 1SX. The editor reserves the right to edit your letter.

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www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk

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0844 848 7919

West of England Mayor

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Despite our best efforts, we sometimes get things wrong. We always try to resolve issues informally at first but we also have a formal complaints procedure. If you have a complaint about anything in Keynshamvoice, contact the publisher using the details below. We aspire to follow the Code of Conduct of the NUJ (National Union of Journalists), which holds journalists to a high standard of behaviour.

Further details of the complaints process can be found on the Voice website, or can be obtained by contacting the Publisher.

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NEWS



Bonfire Night revives memories

BONFIRE Night celebrations at Kingfisher Lodge care home in Saltford left residents, families and members of the community with a warm glow.

With blankets for warmth, they gathered in the home's garden with a sparkler in one hand and a glass of prosecco in the other.

A country music theme was voted for by the residents, and the hospitality team served hot dogs with all the extras.

One resident said: "It was magical to be out in the dark having a party. We used to do this with our children when they were young. It brings back such wonderful memories."

Anti-social behaviour cut

■ From Page 1

"moderate increase" in youths displaying anti-social behaviour and causing damage.

A police statement updated on November 11 said: "The NPT Team are aware and resources and tactics are in use to combat the rise and identify offenders. The team would encourage the community to call 101 and contact the team when ASB is being actively committed."

"We are as a community stronger if we work together and encourage anyone with any footage, screen shots from social media that may assist in identifying individuals to contact the team through the website or 101."

At a public meeting in early 2024, residents aired their fears

about crime and anti-social behaviour, with shoplifting being considered a fact of life by some town centre traders.

Residents continued to report concerns, including one who told the Voice he had seen a group of children aged about 12 riding around the busy Poundland store and pushing past elderly customers.

Earlier this year, Keynsham councillor Alan Hale, a former policeman, caused controversy when he told a meeting of Bath and North East Somerset Council that people were being harassed by "feral" youths. Although some councillors objected to the label "feral", Cllr Hale was supported in his comments by readers' letters to the Voice.

● On the Beat: Page 13

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NEWS

Winter wonderland as festival sparkles



THOUSANDS of people flocked to Keynsham Winter Festival as celebrations of the festive season got under way.

Families, friends, and neighbours came together across all areas of the town centre - including the High Street, Temple Street, Market Walk, Riverside Square, the Library, the Space, the leisure centre, Methodist church and Baptist church - to enjoy a variety of entertainment, activities, and community events.

They enjoyed live performances on the main stage and Choir Corner in Temple Court, a fun fair, stalls, a tinsel trail, Christmas story time, face painting, Punch & Judy shows, craft sessions, and Santa's Grotto.

A tree of remembrance in the library displayed baubles decorated in tribute to loved ones. Window displays throughout the town centre reflected the theme of Sparkly Lights, Starry Nights.

New attractions at the festival on November 29 included Merlin the Magician, the princesses from Frozen, Super Pirates, and a Christmas singalong.

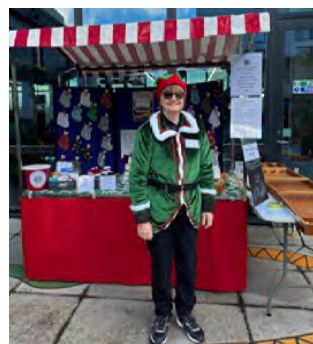
Dial-a-Ride ran a shuttle service throughout the day to the festival, which was organised by Keynsham Town Council.

Events at the festival were sponsored by Smart Computers, IJ McGill, Bargain Booze, Simply Carpets, Muse Dental, W&W Memorials, FDC Law Solicitors, Dyenamix Hair & Beauty, Wards Solicitors, Meryton Place, Pie & Lattes Pilates Studio, Olivias Boutique, Rose Holistic Therapies, and White Space decluttering services.

Katherine Sears, deputy town clerk, said: "The Winter Festival continues to be a cornerstone event for Keynsham, drawing crowds from across the region and giving local businesses a festive boost at the start of the holiday season, and bringing our community together. We cannot wait to welcome everyone back next year."



The princesses from Frozen were among the attractions as crowds thronged the High Street





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LOCAL PLAN

Our town needs better infrastructure

KEYNSHAM'S creaking infrastructure must be improved to meet the demands of potential new homes over the next two decades, the town council has warned.

It says residents have already been plagued by burst water mains, regular power cuts, and sewage leaks as systems struggle to cope with current capacity.

The government has told Bath & North East Somerset Council to find space for more than 27,000 new homes in the area by 2043, suggesting that 14,000 be built in the city of Bath and 13,000 elsewhere in the district. But in its Local Plan options, B&NES Council has assigned just 7,000 new homes to the city, leaving North East Somerset to absorb the rest.

Keynsham Town Council, in its response to the proposals, says this allocation is neither fair nor proportionate.

More than 4,000 homes are proposed for Keynsham, not including Hicks Gate. This would give the town a projected



Fields to the west of Charlton Road are earmarked for potential new housing in the proposed Local Plan

population of between 33,689 and 37,564, an increase of 117% to 142% on the 2011 census.

"Keynsham Town Council therefore calls for a fairer, evidence-based redistribution of housing numbers, stronger local involvement in planning decisions, and a genuine commitment to sustainable infrastructure investment that benefits all communities within the authority area - not just the city of Bath."

Agreements struck

with developers as part of planning permission are a vital tool for securing funding for infrastructure, schools, transport, and community facilities, the town council says. As it is best placed to understand the needs of its community, it must be involved in negotiating such improvements.

Many proposed sites, including South East Keynsham, North Keynsham, and West Keynsham, are currently designated green belt.

The council says development on such land should only proceed where no viable alternatives exist, there is clear evidence of exceptional circumstances, and remaining green-belt land is enhanced in compensation.

"The green belt is vital for biodiversity, recreation, and the character of our town. Its loss must not be taken lightly."

The council calls for any new housing developments to prioritise family homes that are "genuinely affordable", including rent and shared ownership schemes that reflect local incomes. Social housing must be built to a high standard.

The most significant development proposed in the Local Plan – for North Keynsham – is supported by the town council.

But it says that 2,000 high-density homes with good infrastructure should be built there, or none at all.

Concerns about road access and flood risk would need to be mitigated, and wildlife along

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LOCAL PLAN

before taking on more new housing

the River Avon protected. A significant green gap between this and any development in Saltford would also need to be maintained.

Such a development would also need a primary school, shops, doctors and dentists, and a cultural facility such as a large theatre or conference centre for use by local communities.

The town council also supports proposals for 80 to 100 homes east of Avon Mill Lane.

Within easy reach of the town centre, this would be a good location for bungalows for the town's ageing population, it says.

It would also enable the relocation of industries that have disturbed nearby residents. But alternative employment sites would need to be found to ensure no jobs were lost.

At Hicks Gate, the town council supports proposals for up to 1,550 homes, citing good access onto the A4 and the creation of a transport hub. But it has concerns that access onto the A4175 from Durley Hill via



Plans to reduce parking spaces by putting new homes on half of Ashton Way car park have come under fire

any proposed new junction could create an accident hotspot without proper safeguards.

Proposed developments in other area of Keynsham are opposed by the town council.

At South East Keynsham, it says the B3116 Wellsway is too narrow to cope with traffic from 350-500 new homes. It is also too far to walk to the town centre, Chandag Road convenience store, and local schools. Development would also

result in the loss of land used to grow food and for grazing.

Two sites in West Keynsham (400-550 homes) are considered unsuitable because they would increase traffic on the already congested Charlton Road, threatens jobs at Lay Farm Trading Estate, adversely affect wildlife, and narrow the green gap between the town and Stockwood and Queen Charlton.

In East Keynsham, the town council says access along a

single-track road is inadequate the 130-170 homes proposed, while widening it to a two-way road would risk creating a rat run. The site, which adjoins Manor Road Community Woodland, is also rich in wildlife such as badgers, deer, foxes, rabbits and bats.

In Central Keynsham, proposals to build up to 100 new homes by putting flats on both Labutt car parks and half of Ashton Way car park are opposed. The town council says B&NES Council's plan to cut the number of parking spaces in the town over the next two decade is not feasible, as parking is needed for shoppers and employees.

"You cannot transport the weekly shop for a family on your bike or on a bus," it says.

The South Keynsham site (400-500 homes) would involve "unfair encroachment" on the green belt between Keynsham and Compton Dando parish and would put too much pressure on routes such as Charlton Road.

● **More reaction: Pages 10 & 11**

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REMEMBRANCE



Wreaths in memory

ABOUT 45 villagers gathered at Compton Dando's war memorial to pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday.

Wreaths were laid on behalf of the village hall committee, Compton Dando Community Association (CDCA), the parish council, and St Mary's Church.

The war memorial ceremony was led by church warden Clive Howarth, in the absence of a rector. It followed the usual café church, led by consultant paediatric surgeon Jim Turner, at which retired Air Commodore Martin Palmer was the speaker.

Parishioners had decorated the church with poppies and placed transparent images of soldiers in the pews. There was also a photo of books that tell the stories of the men from Compton who gave their lives.



Four generations

FOUR generations of the same family represented different organisations at the Keynsham Remembrance parade.

Grandfather Peter Buck (pictured right), president of the Royal British Legion in Keynsham, was born in the town and helped to raise all four generations in Keynsham.

Daughter-in-law Mary Hazell (second from right) carries the standard for the Royal British Legion Women's Section with grandmother Mary Buck (second from left), chair of the legion's women's section.

Also pictured are daughter Kerry Illsley (left), granddaughter Kay Buck (middle), Keynsham Scout leader, and great-grandson Xander, aged four and half, a Squirrel in the Scouts.



Villagers pay tribute

RESIDENTS gathered in Saltford for Remembrance Sunday commemorations organised by Saltford Scouts. A wreath was laid on behalf of the village by Jon Godfrey, chair of Saltford Parish Council.

Among those attending the event were (pictured left, from left to right) Bob Cummings, secretary of Keynsham and Saltford Probus Club, Councillor Jon Godfrey and Revd Nigel Williams. Bob laid a wreath on the club's behalf.



A cascade of poppies at St John's Church in Keynsham



Residents at Kingfisher Lodge care home in Saltford made waterproof poppies for a memorial in their garden for Remembrance Day. Resident Diane is pictured with general manager Claudia.

REMEMBRANCE



Lest we forget



DARK clouds gathered as people lined the streets of Keynsham town centre to pay their respects on Remembrance Sunday.

But the rain forecast for November 9 largely held off as crowds honoured the sacrifices of those who fought for this country in military conflicts.

Following a service at St John's, members of the armed forces, youth organisations and the Royal British Legion were among those who assembled behind the band outside the church.

The parade marched along the High Street and

down Bath Hill to the Memorial Gates for a service led by Revd Aidan Watkins, the new team rector of Keynsham parish.

After a prayer, hymn and playing of *Last Post*, a silence was observed. This was followed by the Kohima Epitaph, which contains the words "for your tomorrow, we gave our today."

Wreaths were laid at the foot of the plaques that list the names of those who died in the two world wars. Finally, the parade went back up Bath Hill and along the High Street before it dispersed.



Mike Rayner, of Keynsham and Saltford Probus Club, taking part in the parade in Keynsham High Street. He laid a wreath on the club's behalf at the Memorial Gates

LAST month was the time to remember – particularly those brave individuals who have given their lives in wars so that we might live, at least in this country, in relative peace today.

Whilst many of us come from families who lost relatives, we should never forget those from other nations of varying cultures, religions and creeds, who joined us to fight the tyranny of Nazism which threatened our world.

Whilst my dad was declared medically unfit to see active service in World War 2, I remember listening to the stories of that time. I recall Mum telling me how, when the siren sounded, she would sprint from her home in Knowle to the adjacent Redcatch Park to take cover in the shelters built there.

My dad would don his firefighting uniform and prepare to fight the fires caused by Hitler's bombers.

Later in life, I recall listening to my wife's family, who when the sirens went for the Good Friday raid in 1941, took shelter in the cellar

of the pub they owned in Bedminster. Some hours later, when they responded to the all-clear, there was no pub left standing and the family had to be dug out.

In Keynsham, there are still people who can recall life during the war. Just before Christmas last year at the Methodist Church, we lost a dear friend, a gentleman of deep faith, who passed away at the age of 93.

Mike Windsor (pictured) was born in 1931 and lived all of his life in Keynsham, and sitting listening to him reminiscing about the town, particularly when he was a boy, was always a joy and a privilege.



One of his stories was about the unexploded bomb found in local fields. A German bomber, having dropped its bombs on Bristol, was returning to its airfield in northern France when it discharged the last

bomb on board to lessen the plane's weight. After this was discovered the following day, the bomb squad was called in. But when they dismantled the head of the bomb, they found no explosives, just sawdust.

There was also a note from Polish prisoners of war explaining they had inserted the sawdust instead of explosives to keep their friends in England safe.

What incredible bravery that must have taken, in the knowledge that if this had been discovered, death would have been immediate.

Those Polish prisoners were in the forefront of my mind as I sat in St John's Church for the Remembrance Day service and heard the words from John's Gospel: "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends."

I guess that love is even greater when, as was the case with the Polish prisoners, you have never met your friend.

Mike Barrow



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NEWS

Bank hub opens for business



Andy Wait, right, chair of Keynsham Town Council, does the honours at the official opening of the banking hub



KEYNSHAM'S banking hub has opened in its permanent new home in the High Street.

Andy Wait, chair of Keynsham Town Council, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony.

A spokesperson for the town council - which has worked with Cash Access UK and Bath & North East Somerset Council to support the project - said: "A huge thank-you to everyone involved in bringing this valuable service to life. We're delighted to see the doors now open and ready to welcome residents."

Based in the former Halifax branch at number 53, the hub is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Customers of all major banks and building societies can access services from the counter.

They can pay in cash (notes and coins) and cheques,

withdraw cash, check their balance, pay utility bills, and top up their gas and electricity. Registered businesses can access change-giving services.

Five banks also offer a community banker service one day per week, so their customers can speak in private about more complicated enquiries, such as payments and transfers, managing their account, and how to use online banking.

These services are available from the Halifax (Monday), NatWest (Tuesday), Lloyds (Wednesday), HSBC (Thursday) and Barclays (Friday).

Customers are advised that community bankers may be unavailable during lunchtime as they take a break.

The former Halifax branch, which was the town's last remaining bank, closed in

May this year. Since then, a temporary banking hub had been operating at MakeSpace, in Riverside Square, opposite the leisure centre. The temporary hub has now closed.

Banking hubs are owned by Cash Access UK and operated by the Post Office.

They provide banking services only, so shoppers cannot buy stamps, send a parcel, or do foreign exchange. The nearest Post Office to the Keynsham hub is in the One Stop convenience store directly opposite.

Cash Access UK is a not-for-profit company owned and funded by major banks, including AIB NI, Bank of Ireland UK, Barclays, Danske Bank, HSBC UK, Lloyds Banking Group, NatWest Group, Santander, TSB and Virgin Money.

MP Norris still not charged after arrest

LOCAL MP Dan Norris remains on bail eight months on from his arrest.

Mr Norris was arrested in April on suspicion of sexual offences against a girl, rape, child abduction, and misconduct in a public office.

As the Voice went to press, the North East Somerset and Hanham MP remained on police bail and had not been charged.

A spokesperson for Avon and Somerset Police said: "Investigations into alleged sexual offences are sensitive and complex and as a result it can take a significant amount of time for enquiries to be completed.

"We have an ongoing and active investigation being led by officers with Operation Bluestone, our dedicated rape and serious sexual assault investigation team, and their enquiries are progressing.

"We're keeping the victim updated on any developments and we'll continue to give her access to any support she may need."

Mr Norris was elected Labour MP for in July 2024. Labour suspended him upon his arrest.

More than 1,000 people have signed a petition on change.org calling on Mr Norris to resign.

John Wimperis, Local Democracy Reporting Service



Tribute to poppy seller David

A VOLUNTEER who sold poppies for the Royal British Legion has been remembered as a "pillar of the community" following his death.

David Watch, 83, from Warmley, died after an accident with a van while crossing Victoria Road at about 8am on Thursday October 9.

Born in Weymouth in 1942, he moved to Warmley in 1970, where he worked for Bristol Churches Housing Association after serving in the Army.

His family said: "David was well-liked by his neighbours and friends and loved by his wife Jean, his three adult children, and seven grandchildren.



"In recent years David enjoyed music and sport, and could be found selling poppies as a volunteer for the Royal British Legion, attending his church

in Kingswood, playing badminton in Keynsham, playing snooker in Warmley or beating someone at Yahtzee.

"David was a valued member and a pillar of the community, described as a gentleman with a dry sense of humour.

"Jean would like to express a heartfelt thanks to passers-by and neighbours from the surrounding houses who acted so compassionately in the immediate moments and days since."

Fry Club Juniors U18 Girls are welcoming new players

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 Matches: Sundays in the Bristol Girls League Division A.
 Age Group: open to girls in school years 11, 12 or 13.

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LOCAL PLAN

Effect of heritage status is 'very unfair'

A KEYNSHAM councillor has said it is "very unfair" that North East Somerset is expected to take far more new housing than the city of Bath because of the city's World Heritage Site status.

Under targets set by the government, Bath & North East Somerset Council has been told to identify potential sites for 27,000 homes in the district over the next 18 years.

Just over half of these should be in Bath, the government says, but B&NES Council's Local Plan options document has earmarked a much lower proportion for the city.

The issue, the council argues, is that the city's World Heritage Site status limits how many new houses can be built in the city.

The council's decision to identify development sites mainly outside Bath has provoked an outcry in places like Keynsham and Saltford that are expected to take those homes instead.

Keynsham Liberal Democrat

councillor Andy Wait, who chaired a council scrutiny panel at which the issue was discussed, described the situation as "very unfair".

He said: "When the government increased the housing numbers, they suggested that there should be 14,000 houses in Bath and 13,000 houses in North East Somerset.

"And yet the Local Plan only has 7,000 in Bath and 21,000 in North East Somerset, which seems slightly contrary to what the government is suggesting."

The scrutiny panel was told that Bath's housing challenge mainly comes from the fact that one aspect covered by its UNESCO listing is its setting, a "hollow in the hills."

From Solsbury Hill to Bathwick Hill, the city is surrounded on almost all sides by green slopes protected from development by its World Heritage Site status.

Matt McCabe, cabinet member for built environment,

housing, and sustainable development, warned: "Bath, unique in the country, has this ring that is part of the UNESCO World Heritage listing that we simply can't build on, because if we build on it we are immediately informed we are harming the World Heritage listing."

Cllr McCabe said the council had told the government it needed to take a different approach when setting Bath's housing targets, arguing they had been based on a "clunky calculator without any sense of finesse."

But the government told the council it would need to make its case when it submitted its Local Plan - something which Cllr McCabe warned could risk the council having to start the Local Plan process all over again if its logic was rejected.

Until the council has an up-to-date Local Plan in place, the council has far less power to refuse developments in

unwanted areas. People in Whitchurch recently held a public meeting over concerns that their village on the edge of Bristol could effectively become a town if the thousands of homes proposed to be allocated around it were all built.

In July, in Saltford, which could also see new development under the plan, parish councillor Phil Harding called for Bath to give up its World Heritage Site status in order to shoulder more of the housing instead.

The council has rejected the suggestion. Mr McCabe said: "I know there have been some calls for Bath to give up its World Heritage listing from outside of Bath, but there is no appetite for that politically and within Bath, so that's a non-starter."

The need for housing was more than just a government target, said Mr McCabe, warning that 6,000 people were on the council's housing waiting list.

John Wimperis, Local Democracy Reporting Service

Saltford, Corston & Newton St Loe invite you to their Christmas Services

Sunday 7th December
9.30am Christingle (St Mary's Saltford)

Sunday 14th December
10am Nativity Service (St Mary's Saltford)
11.15am Christingle (Holy Trinity Newton St Loe)
4pm Carol Service around the Christmas Tree (All Saints Corston)

Friday 19th December
6pm Carols, Readings & Christmas Music (Holy Trinity Newton St Loe)

Sunday 21st December
11.15am Christingle (All Saints Corston)
6pm Carols at Christmas (St Mary's Saltford)

Christmas Eve
5pm Crib Service (St Mary's Saltford)
11.15pm Midnight Communion (St Mary's Saltford)

Christmas Day
9.30am Family Celebration with Communion (St Mary's Saltford)
10.30am Christmas Celebration (All Saints Corston)
11.15am Family Celebration (Holy Trinity Newton St Loe)

All Welcome

LOCAL PLAN

Parish council opposes housing sites

SALTFOORD Parish Council has formally objected to three proposed sites for housing in the Local Plan.

In west Saltford, two options are being considered: one to the south of the A4 (650 to 850 homes) and one to the north (300 to 350 homes). Additionally, 350 to 450 homes are identified for south Saltford.

The parish council says development at these sites on the green belt would lead to the overdevelopment of a rural village and result in the loss of valued green spaces and recreational areas.

Also, any future housing development in Saltford or Keynsham would be unsustainable due to existing severe congestion on the A4 Bath Road.

It was responding to Bath & North East Somerset Council's options for its new Local Plan - the document that sets out the council's planning policies and will say where new developments should go.

The Government has told B&NES Council to find space for more than 27,000 new homes in the area by 2043.

The parish council says of the two sites in west Saltford: "These areas perform important green belt functions - preventing urban sprawl, maintaining



Saltford's green belt Photo: Phil Harding

separation between Keynsham and Saltford, and safeguarding countryside from encroachment."

It also views the site north of the A4 as an unsuitable location for re-opening Saltford's railway station, as the distance from the A4 would require access via residential roads and result in the loss of green-belt land.

The parish council believes it would make a less sustainable location choice than the original station site on the east side of Saltford, which is directly accessible from the A4, as well as offering convenient access for Bath Spa University students and nearby villages.

The council deemed the south Saltford option as "entirely unsuitable due to its landscape value, recreational importance, and poor connectivity."

It stressed that the area south of Saltford provides the community's only significant open green space and contributes greatly to residents' health and wellbeing.

The parish council has urged B&NES Council to adopt a "brownfield first" approach, prioritising development near centres of employment such as Bath and Bristol, and to explore a garden town model rather than expanding rural villages.

It objects to proposals describing Saltford as a potential "employment focus," stating that this does not reflect its rural and residential character.

The public consultation on B&NES Local Plan options closed last month. B&NES council will run another consultation when it has picked the sites and written up its draft Local Plan in spring/summer 2026. The plan will then need to go to the Government for examination before it can be approved by the council, with the council expected to finally be able to approve the plan and bring it into effect in the summer of 2027.

● Letters: Pages 24 & 25



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KEYNSHAM WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Encounter with cows and giant pumpkins

AFTER an extra hour in bed due to the clocks going back, 14 walkers and their leader, Dawn Drury, set off from Keynsham and headed south along the River Chew, passing through Chewton Keynsham, to the village of Compton Dando.

The weather on Sunday October 26 was fine, and the forecast rain stayed at bay.

The outbound path led the group through Dapps Hill and the grounds of the Grade II* listed Albert Mill, which was built by the Bristol Brass Company in the 1730s. In later years, it took on various uses, as a cotton mill, grist mill and logwood mill, where it processed natural dyes for textiles. Today, the building has been redeveloped into residential dwellings.

The walk then progressed along a mixed terrain of riverbanks, fields, and woodlands. In Chewton Keynsham, the group encountered some livestock, in the form of a mixed variety of cows, but these seemed friendly, letting the walkers pass by to negotiate their way



between one field and another.

The walk, although a fair distance at 6.6 miles, was mostly easy-going along flattish, well-walked paths. Although a couple of sections were a bit slippery due to mud from recent rain, the lovely scenery and undulating hills along the route made the walk very pleasant.

The break at the Compton Inn gave the group a perfect photo opportunity, thanks to two gigantic pumpkins in the pub garden.

The homeward route took the walkers through some lovely woodland filled with a rich and vibrant palette of leaves in golds, oranges, russet reds, and yellows on this autumn day.

On reaching Chewton Keynsham, the group crossed the River Chew via the road bridge near Chewton Bridge, turning left back into the fields and along the footpath to Steel Mills, where they took in the view of Albert Mill from the other side of the river. Overall, it was a very pleasant outing enjoyed by all.

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ON THE BEAT

Don't leave a gift for opportunist thieves

SOME of you may have seen news reports about the reduction of anti-social behaviour on and around Keynsham High Street.

Whilst I am proud of this, I will always look at that as a job "half done". There is always more we can do and it is your help that is always gratefully received around what issues we should focus on to make the community safer.

So, Christmas is around the corner and with it – as I mentioned last month – comes presents. Wherever or whatever you are buying, please be mindful of storing your gifts and ensuring you lock your vehicles.

Opportunists will check for vehicles being unlocked and will take any items of value left inside. Please be careful when expecting deliveries. I mentioned precautions last month such as:

- Consider delivering to a trusted neighbour.
- Use doorbell cameras and good lighting.
- Avoid leaving parcels in plain sight.



Sgt Rob Turner
Keynsham Police

Some gifts I must warn about: e-scooters. It appears some people are unaware of the illegality of these in public places. The legislation is clear – private e-scooters are illegal on public roads, pavements, and cycle lanes. They are only allowed on private land with landowner permission.

I know I sound like a Scrooge but spending a large amount of money on something that, if used inappropriately, could be seized is something I advise against.

No, we don't just take them BUT, if we get reports that they are being used in an anti-social manner, we have that option. Riding on a road requires insurance and a driving licence for the person using it.

This brings me onto another driving matter.

Every year someone will ask me, "How much alcohol can I drink and still drive my car?"

My answer is always the same, "None."

I don't know your tolerance for alcohol (I am a lightweight), I don't know how often you drink, and I don't know the science around how the size of a person affects what they can and cannot consume. So, none is the amount.

Many of you will be attending Christmas parties in locations where it might be too expensive to get a taxi, or no one is prepared to be your "lift". As a result, you might think, "I'll risk it". Please don't.

Families are destroyed by people who take that risk and it's just not worth it. Be mindful also of the 'next day'. If you drink into the early hours and are driving to work the following day, you could still be over the limit.

Whilst Operation Tonic, a national operation to target drink-driving, runs throughout the year,

there will be a greater emphasis during the month of December. Please don't put yourself in a position to wake up in the morning in our cells.

If you have concerns around someone driving under the influence, please call either 999 (happening there and then) or 101 (likely to happen). You can also report via the Avon and Somerset Police website.

With the colder weather, please ensure we are all looking after each other. Check on your neighbours and see if they need anything. If you hear something that might make people feel safer, share it. As I said before, making residents in our area feel safe is key to both the constabulary's and my own policing goals.

During December, Saltford Santa Dash and many other events take place. Please search online and support our local community. If you see me or any of my colleagues, please don't hesitate to come and say hello.

See you in 2026.

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NEWS

£10k campaign to save music festival

AN APPEAL has been launched to save next year's Keynsham Music Festival.

The campaign aims to raise £10,000 so the popular community event can go ahead in the summer.

Announcing the appeal on the Crowdfunder platform, festival chair Mike May said: "For more than two decades, the Keynsham Music Festival has been at the heart of our town – run by volunteers, it's a celebration of music, art, creativity, and community that brings thousands together every summer. From family picnics in the park to headline performances, it's an event that belongs to all of us.

"But right now, our festival is at risk. Rising costs and reduced funding mean we urgently need your help to make sure it survives. Without the support of our community, the festival will not take place next year."

The week-long festival is a blend of music, comedy and other cultural events, its highlight being a big family weekend in Keynsham Memorial Park.

Organisers aim to cater for all musical tastes, ranging from rock, rap, folk, country and dance to classical, opera and choral.

The festival also gives local schools



Keynsham Music Festival's big family weekend in the Memorial Park Photo: Colin Rayner

and colleges, youth groups, and emerging musicians the opportunity to perform on professional stages and experience working behind the scenes.

But the appeal adds: "Putting on a safe, professional festival costs money – from staging and sound to security, medical and insurance. We rely on grants and sponsorship, but these alone no longer cover the rising costs. To keep the festival alive, we now need to raise £10,000."

It says every contribution to the appeal

will help keep festival entry as donation only, as well as funding youth workshops and performances, and special projects for disadvantaged young people.

"Together, we can make sure the festival continues to provide such important opportunities for the community of Keynsham - and to keep making those special memories."

To donate, search the internet for "crowdfunder keynsham music festival". Almost £3,000 has already been pledged.

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ADVERTISING FEATURE



Take a pew to see our trees

The 2025 Keynsham Christmas Tree Festival is taking place at St John's Church, High Street, Keynsham, on Friday 5th, Saturday 6th and Sunday December 7th.

A total of 45 Christmas trees will be beautifully decorated by local community groups and it is certainly a great way to prepare for Christmas.

In addition to all the trees there will be refreshments, a children's trail and craft stalls along with lovely music. Local musicians taking part are:

Choir Jam, Bath Society of Recorders, West Bristol Concert Band, St John's Choir, Page Park Ukulele Band, Key Voices Community Choir, Called to be Saints - Gallery Choir, Alison Howell on the organ, and several local musicians playing various instruments.

Please put the dates in your Christmas diaries and come along to support this lovely local event. Admission is free!

NEWS

Concrete firm wins appeal over hours

KEYNSHAM firm 4Concrete has won an appeal to keep its extended weekday working hours.

A planning inspector ruled this would not have an “unacceptable” impact on people living nearby.

Bath & North East Somerset Council had allowed the company to start weekday operations at 6.30am instead of 7.30am and finish at 6.30pm instead of 5.30pm for 12 months, to see if acoustic barriers were effective in reducing the noise.

The trial at the site at Old Station Yard, Avon Mill Lane, ended in August 2024, after which the firm asked the council for permission to keep the longer hours in place. But the council refused after complaints from nearby residents, who said noise limits were breached frequently and consistently throughout the year-long trial.

The firm appealed to the Secretary of State to try to get the council's refusal overturned, and a planning inspector has decided



4Concrete in Avon Mill Lane was allowed to operate during longer weekday working hours for a year-long trial period

in its favour. The inspector said an amended site management plan has reduced the number of concrete mixing vehicles that can be filled and leave the site between 6.30am and 7.30am, as well as the maximum number of vehicles operating at any one time.

Only wet concrete mix can be prepared during the extended hours, which the inspector said is “demonstrably quieter than dry mixes.”

Jackhammering to remove hardened concrete is now carried out behind the main building, which further reduces the noise.

The inspector said that interested parties have raised concerns about highway safety, including congestion, vehicles parked outside obstructing pedestrians and restricting visibility, and aggregate and cement being spilled on the road.

But the inspector added: “These matters are not raised by

the council, and I have seen little substantive evidence to show that there would be unacceptable harm in these respects arising directly from the proposed extended hours.”

During a site visit, the inspector did not observe any significant dust issues and saw no evidence that the extended working hours would be detrimental in this respect.

Regarding the history of complaints from nearby residents, the inspector said there is nothing to stop the council from enforcing any breaches of planning control or from pursuing action under legislation such as the Environmental Protection Act.

Although it was recognised that neighbours could be affected by the outcome of the appeal, the decision to allow it was proportionate.

The inspector said: “The proposal would not result in an unacceptable impact on the living conditions of local residents.”

ADVERTISING FEATURE

ReMind UK is an independent charity based in Bath, home to an internationally recognised research centre and memory clinic.

Alongside clinical expertise, we provide treatment and support for people living with dementia and other memory conditions, their families and carers.

Over the past year, our small but dedicated team has supported 40% more people face to face through a growing programme of events. These sessions help boost wellbeing, encourage connection and create space to share experiences with others in similar situations. Our digital resources also reach thousands more affected by dementia.

Guided by continuous feedback, we're launching our 2026 programme which includes wellbeing courses, carers' information days, coffee morning socials, craft and nature-based activities. Every element has been shaped by the people we support, reflecting what they need to live well with dementia.

Events take place in community venues across north-east Somerset.

Getting ahead of dementia, together



We fundraise year-round to ensure no one faces memory problems alone, helping people find confidence, connection and hope after diagnosis. Together, we're helping our community get ahead of dementia.

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NEWS

Consultation on special school plans

PLANS to open a special school and provide residential accommodation in Keynsham for children with complex needs are out for consultation.

Bath & North East Somerset Council is proposing to transform the currently vacant Charlton House into a new 30-place special school and two children's homes for young people special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Growing demand for specialist education and residential provision means many children and young people with an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) are placed outside the district, which is costly and often means they cannot be supported close to home. There is also no local residential provision for the most vulnerable children with special educational needs and/or disabilities.

The council is asking for people's views on proposals which would see the former



Charlton House, a former care home, is currently vacant

residential care home in Hawthorns Lane turned into two children's homes, each accommodating four children, with living spaces, staff provision, and gardens.

Modern teaching and social spaces, sensory areas, and landscaped outdoor environments are also proposed.

Councillor Paul May, cabinet member for children's services, said: "The number of children and young people needing support with SEND has been

steadily rising and supporting these children, young people and families is at the heart of everything we do.

"Providing our own specialist provision, as part of wider work to transform SEND provision in Bath & North East Somerset, not only avoids long distances for children and their families to have to travel but also in the longer term reduces costs to the authority.

"Children attending the school will receive close care,

and as part of the consultation we are talking with residents in Hawthorn Court about these details. I hope people living nearby will come along to look at the plans to understand what we are proposing for the vacant Charlton House and have their say."

The pre-planning consultation will run until Friday December 19. People can take part online on the council website or go along to view the plans and speak to officers at Charlton House Community Room on Friday December 12, from 12pm-7pm.

Feedback gathered during the consultation will help shape the final proposals before submission for planning approval.

The council took over the former Charlton House care home in 2020, but in 2022 a damning Care Quality Commission report rated it as "inadequate". Despite improvements, the care home was subsequently closed.

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NEWS

It's party time for singers

PEOPLE who attend Goldies Sing&Smile sessions throughout Bath and North East Somerset will come together for a festive celebration on December 9.

The Christmas party will be held at the Conygre Hall, North Road, Timsbury, 11am to 2pm. The free event will include a lunch of sandwiches, cake, tea and coffee, a raffle, crackers, a singalong to Christmas hits.

Entertainment will be provided by the Tabor Handbells Ringers, Radstock Folk Dancing, and children from St Mary's Primary School.

The party is being supported by the Julia Rausing Trust, as well as the Masonic Charitable Trust, BANES Community Contribution Fund, Keynsham Town Council, and the Anchor Society.

For more information about Goldies Sing&Smile sessions, visit www.golden-oldies.org.uk, call 01761 470006 or email events@golden-oldies.org.uk

KEYNSHAM MEMORIES

with Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society



This photograph was taken in the period 1900 to 1910 and shows the personnel employed at the logwood mill, generally known as Albert Mill.

The mill had a long and varied history, but from about 1858 to 1964 it was owned by the Thomas family and used for crushing imported logs of various types to produce dyes.

Most important of the woods used was logwood, a tree from the West Indies and Central America.

Used on its own, it gave a black dye, but in conjunction with various chemicals the colour could be varied from red through violet to navy-blue. When it closed, Albert Mill was the last such mill in Britain.

"Such lovely people and such a fantastic place. Highly recommend made me so relaxed. Just great people".

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KEYNSHAM AND SALTFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



The Mission Church at Chewton Keynsham

IT is little more than a mile from Keynsham to the hamlet of Chewton Keynsham, but it feels a world away.

In 1815 the manor of Chewton Keynsham was sold to Thomas Warner for £31,900. It included five farms and, at first, it was a good investment, with the coal mine on the road to the south doing well and the estate taking a cut of its income.

Mr Warner was a good landlord; various properties were improved, some new cottages were built and about 1840 he paid for a school for 50 children.

Times changed, and by the 1850s the estate struggled to make a profit and had to be mortgaged. By the end of the century, the estate had passed to Thomas's nephew, Courtenay Warner (whose name is remembered in Courtenay Road), who became the local Member of Parliament in 1892.

Courtenay continued to provide a free school for the children of his estate workers, but publicly funded elementary education was now widespread, with a National School having been built in Compton Dando in 1857.

It appears that the Chewton school was rebuilt or enlarged about 1893, to the form the building has today, although the porch is a later addition.

In 1898 the 28 children then at Chewton moved to Compton Dando, and teaching in the old building ceased. This followed the departure of Courtenay Warner, who lost his parliamentary seat in 1895 and put the estate up for auction in 1897. It was bought by Mr HG Bush, a solicitor in Keynsham, who leased it to the vicar of Keynsham for use as a Mission Church.

Five years later it was licensed by the bishop for divine service and administering the sacraments. It was a struggle to maintain services there, but it survived. In 1936 Mr Bush gave the church to the incumbent of St John's.

After the war, many newcomers moved to Chewton, which was still quite isolated. The church was the only "communal" building in the hamlet and in 1950 it was proposed that it be used as a community centre, whilst continuing its religious use on Sundays.

Approval was given by the vicar, and funds were raised to adapt the building. This involved placing a removeable screen in front of the altar



Pupils at Chewton School in 1896

Below, a view in 2016 showing the one-time store or stable at the south end

Copyright Neil Owen, Geograph, Creative Commons Licence

and the installation of a water supply, toilet and electricity. These improvements were supported by the Women's Fellowship, which was founded in the same year. Regular monthly meetings were held, with speakers, whist drives and sewing classes in the winter.

By 1954 the fellowship was flourishing, with theatre trips, coach trips and an autumn Harvest Home attended by over 80 people.

A few years later the fellowship appear to have morphed into a branch of the Women's Institute, which operated for the next few years.

Through the 1950s the church provided a home for the youth club, a drama group and some parties: it was clearly the centre of life in the hamlet. Perhaps because of increasing car use, or possibly concerns over aspects of the dual use, these activities seem to have declined over the next decade.

Use of the Mission Church for worship continued into the 21st century but the congregation steadily dwindled, and the frequency of services reduced.

The church finally closed a couple of years ago and the building will be disposed of, no doubt leading to another chapter in its varied history.

Richard Dyson



The Mission Church as it is today

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NEWS

Demolition work to start at Tintagel Close



New homes are planned at Tintagel Close housing estate

MAJOR work is due to start soon on redeveloping a Keynsham housing estate.

Demolition of properties in Tintagel Close is scheduled to begin in January or February.

Construction of the replacement homes will start in March and the whole project is due to be completed by January 2028.

Lorries that will remove demolition rubble (which will be crushed on site) and deliver building materials will go either Queens Road / Charlton Park or Queens Road / Caernarvon Road. They will avoid times when children are arriving at or/leaving school.

The 44 three-bed maisonettes in Tintagel Close were built in the 1960s. Everyone who lived there was rehoused due to the degrading

conditions of the properties, and the area become a magnet for anti-social behaviour.

Bath & North East Somerset Council granted planning permission earlier this year for the properties to be knocked down and replaced with 45 energy-efficient homes.

Most of the new properties will be houses. The homes will range from one to four bedrooms, with several adapted for wheelchair use. Each home will have its own private entrance, designated parking and electric vehicle charging point.

Most of the homes will be "affordable" and available for subsidised social rent, typically 40% below the market rate. These will be offered through Bath & North East Somerset

Council's lettings system HomeChoice. The rest will be available for shared ownership purchase.

Residents found out more about Curo's plans to regenerate the estate at a public meeting last month. They learned about progress at the site, which was recently fenced off for removal of fixtures, fittings and utilities. They were also updated on plans for the controlled removal of asbestos from across the development in the coming weeks.

Sarah Maylor, Curo's director of development, said, "I'd like to thank local residents for their involvement in the design of this exciting new scheme - their input has been crucial."

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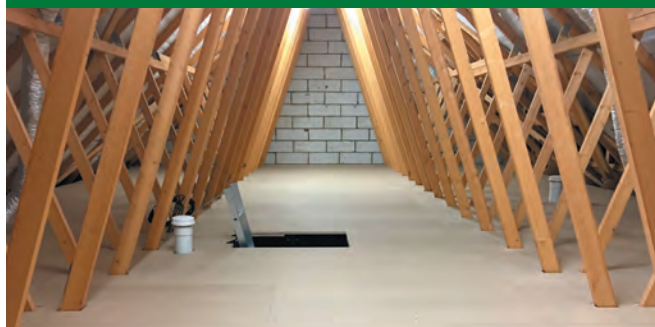
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KEYNSHAM IN BLOOM

Green fingers make our town look great



Julia, Steve, Debbie, Alan, Dawn, Sarah, Anne and Mary spreading compost at the Triangle in the High Street

WHERE has this year gone? One moment we are desperately watering our plants to keep them alive, the next it's raining stair rods.

Luckily for me, I am writing to you in my little snug, warm and dry, after a visit to Clack Mill Riding Stables, who donate horse manure to Keynsham in Bloom for use on our projects.

This year it will be spread on the crown in the Memorial Park and on the Pocket Park roses. They looked lovely this year, and I am sure the extra fertiliser helped.

In last month's article, I said we would be spreading compost on our Triangle flowerbed. This was achieved with the help of Phil the donator, Estelle, Kelvin who loaded up and, in the photo, Julia, Steve, Debbie, Alan, Dawn, Sarah and Anne, who joined me with unloading, spreading, raking and brushing up. What a team effort!

In the South West in Bloom working with people in horticulture awards, the Chocolate Quarter retirement complex won many certificates plus the silver cup, which was awarded to the gardening team on site. Alex,



Alex with the silver cup awarded to the Chocolate Quarter gardening team

pictured in green holding the cup, has taken over from Jo and we welcome her into our gardening community.

Our Keynsham in Bloom Awards ceremony took place in The Space on October 30. It was lovely to see so many excellent gardeners there.

Councillor Dave Biddleston was master of ceremonies, Dave's son was photographer, Councillor Caitlin Brennan helped with prize giving and setting up, and Keynsham Town Council chairman Andy Wait was a welcome guest.

To our town clerk Dawn Drury and all the volunteers who keep me on the straight and narrow and work so hard, a big thank-you for giving your time to KIB.

The Pocket Park grass has been cut, but because the weather has been warm and wet, it is still growing, so another haircut is needed before Christmas. Spring bulbs have been planted, and we have collected and started composting them to make leaf mould as an organic mulch on our pots.

Our station containers have been planted

with violas, primula and bulbs. The Dee James Memorial Train has had topsoil added and existing plants, plus new ones, have been installed, but there's still more to come. The gardens are abundant with lush plants and a joy to behold.

Keynsham in Bloom will be working now in the High Street on our containers and the flowerbed, so do come over and have a chat with us. Who knows - you might want to become part of our little group. If so, email me at catherinemarywoodman@gmail.com or drop into Keynsham Town Council in Temple Street and leave your details.

We only usually work for about an hour because of our age, but a group of willing hands can achieve such a lot.

Pots at Queens Road and Chandag Road shops are thriving, while work on the Holmoak Road containers will be starting soon with a clearance and starting again.

Well, it's time for a cup of tea and a bickie. Stay safe, well and keep gardening.

Mary Woodman

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■ BACK TO NATURE

Fallen trees are helping new life to thrive

I'VE been appreciating all the trees in Keynsham Memorial Park for 13 years now and have noticed how they usually age gracefully but at other times collapse catastrophically.

The latest tree to go was a victim of Storm Amy in October. It was a White Willow (*Salix alba*) that looked quite sturdy.

Like most willows it loved being near the river. Unfortunately the upper branches could not withstand the stormy winds so broke off dangerously close to the path near Echo Bridge.

Tree surgeons were called out, removed the overhanging broken branches and most of the remaining trunk. We look forward to the return of its chippings in the early spring, when they will be spread along the path of the wild garlic wood.

Other fallen trees are left in situ (if in a safe place) for mosses, lichens, fungi, insects, birds and small mammals to colonise, which they do with gusto.

An unfortunate tree on the slope above the duck pond had been infected with Honey Fungus for a few years, and was considered too dangerous to leave upright any more. It was therefore felled a few months ago, with the lower trunk left in situ.

The fruiting bodies (toadstools) have reappeared at its base, and the upper trunk (now horizontal) is covered in mosses and lichens. I'm sure that grubs and other invertebrates are enjoying the inner wood.

Another tree trunk has been colonised by Southern Bracket Fungus and stinging nettles, which seems an odd combination but they seem to tolerate each other.



The strange-sounding Turkey Tail Bracket fungus

This month Avon Wildlife Group Keynsham Group hold their "Fur, Feathers & Festivities" evening - with short talks from members and festive refreshments.

All are welcome to join us on Friday December 12 as we will hear about birds of southern Spain, wildlife on Alderney, in the Channel Islands and "the Elusive Black Shadow"!

Venue: Keynsham Baptist Church Hall BS31 1DS at 7.30pm.
 Entrance £3.50 for Avon Wildlife Trust members, £5 for non-members, to include refreshments served from 7.15pm. Sales of gifts, cards and books plus a raffle. All welcome, no booking required.

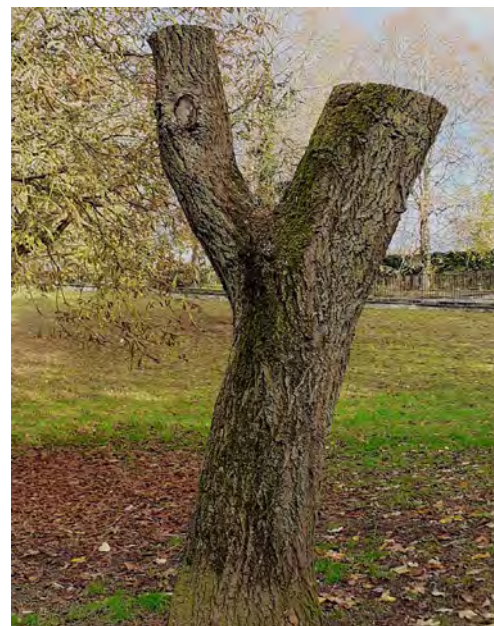
For more details on Keynsham group, please visit our website www.keynshamawt.org.uk

Also, the Turkey Tail Bracket Fungus enjoys the cut end of a felled trunk, where creeping ivy and fallen leaves allow it some space.

Of course, not all the fallen trunks have been so blessed with

fungi, but to make up for this they have fascinating shapes, like the two-trunked hippopotamus at the lower end of the abbey flower meadow.

On the grass next to the



What remains of the White Willow by Echo Bridge after Storm Amy Photos: Liz Wintle

duckpond, a couple of trees had to be felled so the remaining lower trunks were left for birds to perch to get a better view across the pond. I saw some crows there a while ago who were vigorously defending their patch from a visiting jay. Isn't it wonderful how nature not only comprises healthy living plants, but also damaged and dead ones which all benefit other wildlife?

Lastly, keep your eyes open next spring for the annual trimming of the crocodile in the duck pond. This was carved from a fallen tree trunk a few years ago, and I always enjoy seeing it reappear.

Liz Wintle

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KEYNSHAM SCOUTS

We're aiming high!



Chew troop members placing bat boxes in the trees and trying out new arrows

WHAT a fantastic day it was at this year's annual Keynsham Scouts auction, book sale, and toy sale!

The event raised a remarkable £5,934 to support our local scouting activities. We'd like to thank everyone who donated items, placed bids, browsed through our book and toy rooms, and volunteered their time. Each contribution, big or small, made a real difference.

From the moment the doors opened, the hall was buzzing with excitement. The book sale room was a hive of activity, with readers of all ages discovering hidden gems and old favourites.

Over in the toy sale area, children's laughter and delighted chatter filled the air as families picked out treasures for playtime.

The auction itself was a highlight, with enthusiastic bidding and plenty of friendly competition. And our refreshments tent was a popular stop - freshly baked cakes, hot drinks, and homemade treats kept everyone fuelled throughout the day.

We're already looking forward to next year,

so mark your calendars for Saturday September 26. More details will be revealed as the date approaches.

Whether you joined us at the auction or plan to take part in our upcoming events, your involvement helps make scouting possible. We continue to seek adult volunteers, so if you have a skill to share, please contact us at scouts@1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk

Our Chew troop recently embarked on an exciting and purposeful camping trip, blending fun with environmental stewardship and personal development. The focus was to create welcoming spaces for bats and to encourage everyone to aim higher, literally and figuratively.

Before heading out, the troop channelled their creativity and teamwork into crafting bat boxes. Each member took pride in their handiwork, paying close attention to the details that would make the boxes suitable for their nocturnal guests.

Once on site, the challenge was to determine the best locations for these new bat homes. There was much discussion and excitement as

the scouts weighed up the merits of different trees and heights. "Higher, no higher!" became the catchphrase, as everyone realised that bats prefer their homes to be well above the ground, safe from predators and disturbances. With teamwork and a bit of adventurous spirit, the boxes were secured high up in the trees.

We are delighted to report that our efforts have paid off. While not every box has seen immediate occupancy, some have already been visited by bats - a positive sign that our work is making a difference.

After the satisfaction of setting up the bat boxes, it was time for the scouts themselves to aim high. With the arrival of new arrows, our archery equipment was complete, and everyone was eager to put their skills to the test.

The troop enjoyed a spirited archery session, focusing on technique, precision, and having fun. The experience was a perfect metaphor for the day: always aiming higher, whether for bats or for personal achievement.

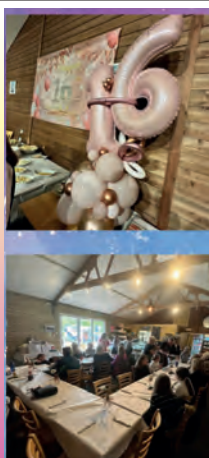
We finished the activities by creating dinner and sitting around that wood fire - true scouting.

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Betrayal of Saltford and Keynsham

We have now had time to come to terms with the implications of the updated B&NES Local Plan.

I am assuming that many of you have seen the jolly little piece of propaganda put out by B&NES proclaiming 'Hi! Welcome to the Local Plan', as if it's someone greeting you at a social function or a posh hotel.

On digesting the contents of said leaflet and being privy to the extent of what is being proposed, I struggle to see how any of this is 'Improving My Life'.

People who choose to live in Saltford do so because of what it is, a village surrounded by glorious countryside; countryside which happens to be designated green belt; made so for a very specific reason - to prevent urban sprawl.

We now see our local authority intent on removing tracts of land between Keynsham and Saltford from the green belt willy nilly in order to comply with 'Government housing quotas'. In other words - "nothing to do with us, Guv..."

Saltford could be looking at 1,650 houses - all built on our precious green belt!

I'm sure the majority of you are as horrified as I am by this prospect. Saltford is not a centre of employment, so the presumption is that each property will have at least one car, if not two, travelling to and from work - potentially an extra 3,000 cars using the already at-capacity A4.

Over the years Saltford has seen several developments that are clearly bad for us. Hygge Park, the current Curo development, the regional tip at Pixash Lane that now condemns us to having the whole of B&NES rubbish pass through our village, plus a potential additional supermarket - all dumping thousands of extra vehicles onto the A4.

There is a very real risk of us being stuck in Saltford, gridlocked - unable to get in or out. Yet the spin put on all this, including the latest Local Plan consultation, is all positive! This leaflet we are encouraged to read is blatant propaganda - where is the 'No to all of it' option?

People like using their cars. They are convenient, weatherproof and safe. Not everyone can or wants to use public transport, as it can be unreliable and expensive.

Attempting to force people onto public transport is pointless,

an infringement of people's liberties and undemocratic.

Like many of you, I am absolutely sick of seeing our area being utterly ruined by insane 'planning' decisions.

It seems clear to me that development is completely random, and all the hot air and spin put out about 'sustainable' travel - buses, walking, cycling and 'wheeling' - is not a transport policy at all, as 90% of us use our cars.

We are being taken for fools and it has to stop.

Chris Warren,
Independent councillor, Saltford,
B&NES Council

New homes will add to traffic nightmare

I could not believe my eyes when I reviewed BANES Council's latest proposals for additional housing in the Keynsham and Saltford areas.

Given that the A4 is already struggling to cope with the thousands of additional houses that the council have already been approved, they now want to add another 7,700 dwellings that will generate 10,000-plus cars that will need to get to Bristol or Bath. How can this be allowed?

Within the proposals there are two options that are particularly unsuitable. The first, 130-170 dwellings titled "East Keynsham". This is on greenfield land, adjacent to the community woodland. Traffic will primarily exit out into "the lanes", a single-track road that runs between Manor Road in Keynsham and Montague Road in Saltford.

This road is regularly used by cyclists, pedestrians and horses providing access to the community woodlands. When the traffic actually exits from there, it then has to go through the residential developments to Keynsham town centre, already a congestion nightmare created by BANES, or into Grange Road and onto the A4 (see previous paragraph). What are they thinking?

The second "gem" is titled West Keynsham North and South, up to 800 houses whose cars will exit onto Charlton Road, again creating 1,200-1,500 additional cars that will need access to Bristol and Bath.

Have they actually driven down Charlton Road? It is very narrow, there is a crisis every time a bus or lorry drives down it, and where does it terminate? Keynsham town centre. They are killing the town!

One general point about these developments is that a significant number are on green-belt land, reducing the green spaces around Keynsham and Saltford and degrading the quality of life for many residents.

Are there not government-led initiatives to focus on urban and brownfield sites, or are BATH & North East Somerset Council more focused on the value of their property portfolios in Bath?

Dave Mosson

BANES is lowering our quality of life

The housing plans for the A4 area - starting at Newton St Loe, to Saltford and Keynsham to Bristol - show that for all the millions of pounds spent, the single-car carriageways for each way will be the same as now.

In fact, it will be worse because of removing bus laybys. No improvement because the A4 corridor is as wide as it can be. The A4 will be gridlocked. Fire engines, police and ambulances will not be able to do their work.

The argument that buses and bicycles will solve the problem is utter rubbish. Note the sunny summer days shown in WECA posters, not the cold dark winter days with leaves on the ground.

A very high percentage of cars, vans, lorries, taxis and coaches are heading for the ring road, M4, M5, M32. Many people commute to Filton, UWE, airport, Airbus and Avonmouth, not to Brislington or Bristol bus station. Others must carry shopping, passengers, school children, luggage, tools, which only a car can manage.

The elephant in the room is that Newton St Loe, Saltford and Keynsham is totally the wrong place to build 3-7,000 new houses with 5-9,000 more cars travelling twice per day on the A4.

Not only would that gridlock the roads, but the existing areas will also be ruined by overcrowding of too many people, and not enough facilities, schools, shops, doctors, open spaces and parking spaces.

BANES will be responsible for lowering the quality of life for all existing inhabitants, and vital farmland for growing food will have gone so increasing imports.

A new garden town approach is required on brownfield sites with its own new roads.

If BANES cannot find such a site, the Government should be made aware and houses built at a more

suitable site elsewhere, such as Swindon, Melksham, Yate etc.

Elephant 2. What Government department sets these impossible house targets for the councils, where do they obtain their data and what qualifications have they? That is the question.

Rick Crowley, Saltford

Has bus lane plan really been ditched?

When my post arrived mid-morning on Friday 24th October, there was a flyer from the office of the Mayor for the West of England giving details of consultations on proposed changes to the A4 between Bath and Bristol.

The date given for the display in Keynsham Library was that same day, hardly giving the residents of Keynsham much warning. I subsequently drove to Brislington on Thursday 13th November to view the display at St Christopher's Church.

My prime reason for attending was to look at what was proposed for the Keynsham bypass, where the previous mayor, Dan Norris, had proposed closing one lane to traffic in each direction in favour of creating a bus lane for buses running every 10 minutes.

When his successor, Helen Godwin, took office, one of her first decisions was to cancel Mr Norris's plan.

When I looked at the plans on show, I discovered there were no new plans for the Keynsham bypass, although the leaflet inferred that the consultation was for the length of the A4 between the two cities.

My journey to Brislington had been a waste of my time and petrol. Discussing this with a member of the mayoral staff on duty, I was told the plan for the bypass should be ready to go out to consultation sometime next year, and that all options were up for consideration.

I guess that many of the staff who now work under Helen Godwin worked under Dan Norris and were therefore a party to his plan to close a lane on the bypass.

I would therefore suggest that this option will still be very much on the cards, being favoured by the staff.

We the residents of Keynsham need to keep a watchful eye on developments if we want to ensure that this ridiculous scheme does not come to fruition.

Mike Barrow, Keynsham

LETTERS

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Temple St project is deeply unpopular

I do not want the Temple Street improvement project and I didn't want it in the first place. It is deeply unpopular amongst much of the local community. I am in a position to ask many residents their opinion, so I am not just saying this.

Painting buildings and pillars pink, lilac and teal etc. in the name of heritage is not an effective use of funds. Neither are 'parklets'. A 'parklet', by the way, is actually a seating area with a few plants around it.

The idea of making the temporary parklets into permanent planters that take away parking is totally ridiculous.

The current parklets, no matter what the intention, have caused congestion, fumes, speeding, arguments, damage to vehicles (including a bus) and, of course, a reduction in parking. So, it is actually detrimental to the environment it claims to improve.

Does anyone realise that the permanent version will reduce



A parklet in Temple Street

available parking to just two spaces on the east side between the former fire station and Carpenters Lane and extend the pavement out to the edge of these planters?

Yes, they actually want to extend the pavement out around them, and all in the name of greening. Who on earth wants to sit in a greened area next to a bus belching out fumes or frustrated drivers speeding at twice the limit to get through what will be an even longer run?

I haven't even got started about the High Street, with its crazy left-only lane that should be signposted 'Welcome to Keynsham. Now get out!'

I have tried to be positive,

suggesting to the authorities that to encourage small business into Keynsham they create a permanent market hall/community hub.

Instead, they have decided to fill the empty space on Temple Street with services we already have. That just about sums it up.

They don't listen and frankly they don't care. Consultations are arranged at inconvenient times with little or no notice, especially for businesses.

Here's an example. Guess what time the recent community drop-in event about the A4 Bath to Bristol leaflet informing me of the Friday 24th October event between 2pm and 8pm was dropped through my letter box? Answers on a postcard please!

Chris (Keynsham Hardware)

Editor's note: As reported in last month's Voice, proposals for Temple Street have been included in a regeneration action plan for the town centre. B&NES Council says it wants to spruce up the east side of the street, improve Riverside Square, resurface the road, add an extra pedestrian crossing, and replace the parklets with permanent planters.

Thank you for helping my wife

On November 22 I dropped my wife off in front of the bus shelter outside St John's Church so she could walk to her dental appointment.

As I was about to drive off, I heard a crash and bang and saw about four people running towards the bus shelter.

I believe my wife must have tripped over the kerb getting on to the pavement and fell headlong into the bus shelter.

I got out immediately and probably came across with a cavalier attitude wanting to get my wife into the car.

I just would like to thank these people for their help and concern, and I apologise for my insensitivity, and also thanks for informing the dentist on our behalf.

My wife is making a recovery after massive black bruising all down one side, a large bump on the side of her head resulting in concussion, a fractured collar bone and a broken hip.

David Roberts

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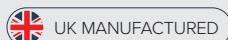
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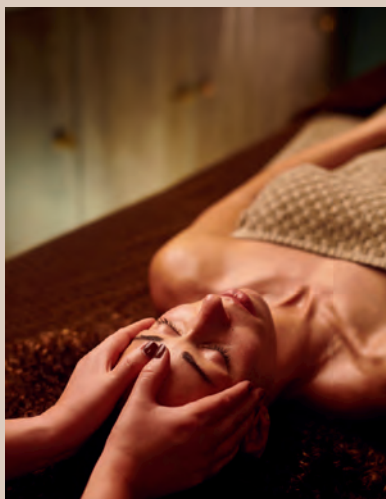
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NEWS

Nursery rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted

A KEYNSHAM nursery for children with special needs and disabilities has been rated as outstanding by Ofsted.

Inspectors gave the high rating to First Steps Opportunity Pre School for the quality of its education, behaviours and attitude, personal development, and leadership and management.

They said of the pre-school, based at Broadlands Academy in St Francis Road, that staff provide an inclusive and supportive service. They get to know each child's complex needs in detail, building confidence sensitively and skilfully.

"Staff have very high aspirations for children and inspire this in all those that work with them. Parents feel very grateful and relieved to have found a place that supports them and their children so amazingly."

They were praised for the way they encourage the children to seek ways to meet their sensory needs and regulate their emotions. For example, children switch from showing frustration to calm as staff push them in the spinning chair, surrounded by their favourite toy dinosaurs.

"Children explore other movements in focused sensory sessions and start to seek suitable experiences themselves, developing their independence and the ability to regulate their own needs," the Ofsted report said.



The team at First Steps Opportunity Pre School celebrate the Ofsted rating. Right, the sensory room for children

Staff adapt activities to ensure all children can be included and are careful not to overwhelm them. For example, they pull up a small table and chairs for children who are unsure about joining the group for snack.

They move instruments outside the summer house if children are unsure about entering.

"This is highly effective in providing children with small steps towards bigger skills, building their confidence and

engagement very sensitively and beneficially."

Staff work closely with professionals to ensure children's welfare. They form a 'provision map' for each child with complex physical and medical needs, liaising closely with sight-loss professionals, physiotherapists, nurses and feeding specialists to meet those needs.

The Ofsted report added that there is an open and positive culture around safeguarding that puts children's interests first.



The nursery, also known as Bath Opportunity Pre School (BOP), said it was "thrilled" by the Ofsted rating.

"This recognition celebrates the incredible work of our dedicated team and the positive impact BOP continues to have on children and families across Bath and North East Somerset."

At the time of the inspection, the children attending were aged between two and four. There were 14 places, and 33 children on the roll.

Village pub quiz nights raise £30,000 for good causes

A REGULAR monthly charity quiz at the Compton Inn in Compton Dando has now raised more than £30,000.

Each month the entrance fees and raffle proceeds are added to the pub's charity fund. There are no prizes for the winning teams, but they do receive a free supper.

The fund is allocated annually according to criteria agreed by the regular quiz teams. The charities chosen are independent, local and provide support for a range of children, adults, and elderly people.

The £5,200 in the 2025 fund brings the total raised in the past 13 years to £32,500.

Fourteen nominated good causes will share this year's proceeds, with 12 receiving £400 and two (who were also recipients in recent distributions) receiving £200.

The ones awarded £400 are: 256 Christchurch and Hengrove Scout Group; Corston Community Orchard; Dorothy House Hospice Care; Friends of Marksbury School PTA; Great Western Air Ambulance



The Compton Inn at Compton Dando

Charity; Group 5; Keynsham Seals Disabled Swimming Club; Longwell Green Sports Junior Football; Paulton Memorial Hospital League of Friends; Southside; We Get It; and Whitchurch Cricket Club.

The two receiving £200 each are High Littleton Scout Group and Lush Greens.

Commenting on this year's donations, Paul Thomas, landlord of The Compton Inn,

said: "This is the highest number of good causes ever supported and the greatest total amount our quiz teams have donated in a single year."

"A huge thanks goes to everyone who comes to the quiz, many of whom have been regulars since we started, for making this great result possible."

"We look forward to continuing to help similar local good causes in 2026."

The charity fund helps local charities in many ways, for example: helping with the upkeep of a scout group's minibus; supporting a project for a Duke of Edinburgh Award group; responding to life-threatening emergencies; providing equipment and furnishings for patients in a local hospital; and providing kit for a junior football team.

The quiz is held on the first Monday of the month (unless that falls on a public holiday, when it moves to the second Monday) and all are welcome, although it's advisable to book a table as it's usually a full house.

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Adult Fiction

Persuasion

Jane Austen

BATH & North East Somerset libraries are celebrating Jane Austen's 250th birthday - look out for some special events and activities throughout December.



Persuasion is my favourite Jane Austen book. It follows Anne Elliott, who in her youth was persuaded to break off her engagement to Frederick Wentworth, mainly due to his lack of fortune and status. Eight years later her family are facing financial ruin and have to decamp to Bath in reduced circumstances. Anne and Frederick's paths cross again. Has their love endured?

This is a beautiful story. Anne is an "older" heroine, and the story is full of Austen's witty examination of social expectations, with great descriptions of Bath in the late 18th century.

The Winter Guest

WC Ryan

This atmospheric crime novel is set in the 1920s during the Irish War of Independence.

Captain Tom Harkin, a shell-shocked veteran of the First World War, is asked to investigate the death of his former fiancée, Maud Prendiville, who appears to have been murdered by the IRA as part of an ambush on a police inspector. The twist is that Tom is an IRA intelligence officer who has been asked by Dublin HQ to find out the truth about Maud's murder.

The setting is Kilcolgan House, a crumbling gothic estate, which appears to be haunted. This adds an eerie element to the tale.

The story successfully evokes the tension of post-war Ireland with its civil unrest and divided loyalties. Tom is a real complex character - damaged and determined. I particularly liked the setting and, with the added bonus of a ghost story, this is the perfect read for curling up on the sofa during the cold winter months.

The Dark Wives

Ann Cleeves

from the B&NES virtual library

This is the 11th book in Ann Cleeves' Vera Stanhope series. A body is found on the common outside Rosebank, an isolated care home for troubled teens.

Our favourite DI, Vera Stanhope, is called out to investigate. The victim is Josh, a staff member, who never showed up to work, and the only clue is the disappearance of 14-year-old resident Chloe.

Then, in the isolated wilds of the Northumbrian countryside, near the Three Dark Wives standing stones, a second body is found. As folklore and fact begin to collide, Vera knows she must find Chloe to get to the truth.

Ann Cleeves is a brilliant crime author. Of course, the actor Brenda Blethyn is Vera, and we always have her in our minds when reading these ace books.

Children's Fiction

The Miracle on Ebenezer Street

Catherine Doyle

Inspired by *A Christmas Carol*, this story is about George and his crazy Nana Flo. She always takes him out on adventures, to help ease

his grief after the loss of his mum. But his dad is a real Scrooge. One evening George stumbles into Marley's Curiosity Shop, where he discovers a mysterious snow globe. This is a portal into Christmases past, present and future. The adventures begin with the help of a silly elf, a grumpy purple reindeer and, of course, Nana Flo. A heartwarming story with humour, great snowy scenes and magical worlds.



Children's Picture Books

Santa's Secret Agents

Steve Gunning & Chris Wheeler



This is a firm favourite to be read at the regular Keynsham Library storytime. Meet Leo, a lovely knight who is a bit quiet and loves to read, but whose parents have told him that knights must fight!

So on his trusty steed, Old Ned, he goes off in search of a dragon. He meets a fearsome griffin and an ugly troll, until he comes across a slightly burnt village which is filled with dragon poo! Read on to find how he defeats all those horrible creatures.

with Judith Thomas from Keynsham Library

A Cat's Christmas Carol

Sam Hay & Helen Shoesmith

I love the front cover of this picture book - it features a very grumpy cat! This is Clawdia, whose job is to keep the department store clear of those pesky mice. She has no time for Christmas fun. But as she pounces past shoes and frocks, jumps from beds and cushions, and even up the Christmas tree in her hunt for the mice, she begins to change her mind. Read on and see if those mischievous mice teach Clawdia the real meaning of Christmas.



Library news

There is so much going on in all our libraries, and it's all free. So drop in and see what's on offer. Tuesday 9.30-10am and 10.30-11.00am term time only, 0-5 years, for families with children, sing along at Baby Bounce and Rhyme, or get comfy whilst listening to our ever-popular Storytime, Thursday 10.30am at Keynsham Library, term time for 0-4 years.

For adults, we've got book clubs, writing classes, and much more throughout the year. Joining the library costs nothing, so pop in or visit www.librarieswest.org.uk to also access thousands of eBooks, eMagazines, Audiobooks, and a wealth of other resources.

Our 'Virtual Library' has loads going on, including competitions, book reviews and, all our digital offers. Search 'Bath and North East Somerset Libraries' on social media or visit <https://baneslibraries.co.uk/>



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NEWS

New orchard set for a fruitful future

LOCAL residents gathered to celebrate the official opening of Broadlands Community Orchard.

The event marked a significant milestone for the volunteer-run project and included the planting of more than 600 spring bulbs.

Formerly known as the Keynsham Community Orchard, the site - off Winscombe Close and St Anne's Avenue - was renamed after resident Sue Joy proposed the new title as better rooted in the area's history.

Research by residents Sarah Medley and Alex Rowson uncovered the past of a nearby orchard at Broadlands Farm - now Broadlands House - making the name particularly fitting.

The opening was performed by the chair of Bath & North East Somerset Council, Councillor Liz Hardman, who praised the commitment of the volunteers and Broadlands Academy.

Academy staff and students have played an active role in maintaining the orchard and took part in the day's planting activities on November 7.

Cllr Hardman said: "A wide variety of trees have been planted - apples, pears, damsons and apricots - along with a mulberry tree which will be the jewel of the orchard. It was a very memorable experience showing what can be achieved when a community comes together."

Following the official opening, local residents Heather and Jim Ramsay raised a Druidic blessing of the eight fruit trees. The volunteers then toasted the trees with apple juice donated by The Community Farm.

The orchard was planted in March this year and the trees were provided by the Forest of Avon Trust.



The official opening of the orchard included a Druidic blessing

Left, volunteers raise a toast to the trees with apple juice

The event was also supported by Keynsham councillors Alex Beaumont and Andy Wait, who joined residents in planting hundreds of bulbs donated by Keynsham Town Council and B&NES Council. Additional bulbs were planted the following morning by volunteers.

The celebration also allowed the community to share ideas for the orchard's future. Suggestions included installing benches, creating a wildlife pond, planting more fruit trees, and introducing native perennials.

Further planting, including snowdrops and native bluebells,

is planned for next spring.

Resident volunteer Sarah Medley said of the bulb-planting: "It is going to be so lovely in the spring and will be a real motivator to think what else we could do to make this area a lovely place to be for everyone."

Heather and Jim Ramsay said their Druidic ceremony allowed them to call upon the elements to "bring strength to the newly planted trees that they may grow and prosper."

Laura Stone, headteacher of Broadlands Academy, said: "Our children being part of the project is enabling them to connect with

nature and be part of something bigger than themselves, to be custodians for nature. We look forward to using the space for a range of purposes in the coming years."

David Self, who came up with the idea of using the empty piece of land to plant an orchard, said: "Much was discussed, with some great ideas raised for the future."

The orchard project organisers welcome new members. Anyone interested in helping with future planting days or maintenance activities is invited to email keynshamorchar@gmail.com

Award for helping children to thrive

CASTLE Primary School in Keynsham has been awarded Thrive Ambassador School with Excellence in Environment status for the first time.

The award celebrates a school's ability to create a stimulating yet calming physical environment that positively influences children's wellbeing.

Castle primary was particularly praised for the calming areas in classrooms where pupils can spend time if needed, and the school dogs Bobbi and Benjo, who help children regulate and build self-esteem and confidence.

Kelly Sessions, co-headteacher at Castle, said: "This achievement reflects the hard work, care and commitment of our staff and the positive relationships we build with our children every day. At Castle School, we believe that emotional wellbeing is vital for successful learning, and this award is a wonderful validation of that ethos."

Castle Primary School is one of 17 schools supported by the Partnership Trust, a multi-academy trust of primary, first and special schools across Bath & North East Somerset, and Somerset.



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CHANGING FOR THE BETTER

Let's not waste our only chance

COP30, held in the Amazonian city of Belém in Brazil, has just finished. Judging by the lack of coverage in the news, you might think nothing much was achieved. And indeed, hopes weren't high. Multilateralism – the collective fire that drives global action – was under extreme pressure from the withdrawal of the US and pressure from the oil states.

These oil states were determined to reverse the decision from COP28 to explicitly transition away from fossil fuels. Thanks to extremely effective negotiations (including from Ed Milliband), a compromise was agreed that represents a small but significant step towards global fossil-fuel phaseout, and a voluntary roadmap to achieve it.

Other wins include agreement to triple climate adaptation finance for developing countries, and a commitment to a 'just transition' for workers in high-carbon industries.

But there were disappointments too: previous commitments to a roadmap for deforestation was dropped and so were plans to regulate minerals critical for clean energy infrastructure.

So, a mixed bag, but reports of

multilateralism's demise were, I think, premature. COP 30 didn't deliver a bold, binding phaseout of fossil fuels, but it edged the global consensus a millimetre further in that direction.

Swift progress now relies on the energy policies of nation states. Renewables and nuclear already supply around 40% of global electricity generation, and 2024 was record-breaking for renewable capacity.

Solar led that growth, and the technology is becoming ever cheaper. In a landmark shift, in mid-2025, global electricity generation from wind and solar overtook coal for the first time. If momentum continues, the political space for fossil-fuel companies may gradually shrink.

And why does this all matter? Because it's our only chance to stabilise the Earth's climate, protect the ecosystems on which we all rely, and reduce the escalating economic and human costs of extreme weather.

Shifting to clean energy means cheaper power, better health, job opportunities and - crucially – a liveable planet for future generations. Let's not squander our one chance.

Elizabeth Willits

NEWS



Golfers support hospice

MEMBERS of Saltford Golf Club's seniors section have visited Dorothy House Hospice to present a cheque for £4,360.

The money, which was raised during Steve Tynan's captaincy year, will be used to fund 20 sessions of the hospice's night carer service for patients receiving their palliative care at home.

Pictured (left to right) are Dan Varley from the hospice fundraising team, golf club seniors captain Steve Tynan, and seniors members Karl Davies and Ian Richardson.



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NEWS

Bid to recycle more aerosols

DEODORANT, shaving foam and hair spray aerosol cans are some of the items that residents across Bath & North East Somerset are being encouraged to recycle as part of a new campaign.

The district council's trial is designed to understand how aerosols are being disposed of at homes across B&NES and whether clear guidance can improve recycling habits.

As part of the trial, waste and recycling collected from B&NES households is being analysed at the Keynsham Recycling Hub materials recycling facility (MRF) to understand how many aerosols are currently collected through kerbside services.

A month-long campaign will give residents clear, practical advice on how to recycle aerosols and dispose of partly used containers, and data will be collected again after the trial has finished to see whether improved guidance has improved collections.

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



Kevin Durrant

Keynsham
Baptist
Church

‘I’m sure I am not alone in finding Christmas a rather stressful time of year. We want it all to be perfect for our families and congregations.’

In the spirit of the late Ernie Wise, here is a poem what I wrote:

*If we'd hid in the hay on that marvellous day,
would it have looked like a scene from our infant school play?
The smile from the manger melting away danger,
the straw laid as if by a flower arranger?
And sitting beside with motherly pride
is Mary (whose beauty cannot be denied).
Her face is serene, her clothing is clean,
with a halo above like the crown of a queen.
And Joseph is there with his statesman-like air.
(He's standing behind, as there isn't a chair).
It's a beautiful night; the star gives them light,
and there isn't a moth or mosquito in sight.
The ox munching straw stands near to the door.
(It's been specially trained not to poo on the floor.)
And there they all are, in the glow of the star,
with the cows going "moo" and the sheep going "baa",
and the baby so sweet, and the parents so neat;
each of them smart in their tea towel and sheet.
But can this be right? Did they all look so bright?
After travelling all day and contractions all night?*

I'm sure I am not alone in finding Christmas a rather stressful time of year. We want it all to be perfect for our families and congregations, but things often get messy, what with winter illnesses, last-minute shopping, train cancellations, burnt dinners etc.

Our rose-tinted memories of Christmases past can also add pressure to make this season come out right.

However, the original events we celebrate were far from ideal: a forced journey while heavily pregnant, an overcrowded hotel, a filthy maternity room, unexpected guests of questionable reputation...

And yet, the child whom many of us believe to be God in human form was still willing to be born into such messy circumstances.

This encourages us to look for Christ's presence even within the chaos of our lives. So, this Christmas, let's cut ourselves some slack; things don't have to be perfect. We just have to make room for love.

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NEWS

Water recycling centre fit for the future

A £17 MILLION water treatment upgrade that aims to meet the demands of Keynsham's growing population and protect the environment is up and running after the completion of a two-year project.

The enhancement of Wessex Water's water recycling centre site at the northern edge of the town is fully in service after sister company YTL Construction UK concluded the scheme.

Work ended this summer, followed by a period of commissioning and testing at the Broadmead Lane site.

Wessex Water says the project will significantly improve the ability to treat sewage from an expanding population and safeguard nearby watercourses such as the River Avon.

The investment has increased the site's treatment capacity by more than 40 per cent – enabling up to 208 litres of sewage per second to be processed before being returned to the environment. Additional



equipment, such as new flow measurement processes for removing phosphorous from water, a 17-metre diameter primary settlement tank and upgraded power and a supply generator have also been introduced at the centre.

Meanwhile, a 15-metre diameter storm tank, capable of holding more than 300,000 litres of excess water, will reduce discharges of diluted untreated wastewater, the company says.

Where the network is overwhelmed by rainfall during

heavy storms, the water will be held in the tank before being treated for return to the environment.

Wessex Water's director of water recycling, Ashlea Lane, said: "The completion of this project reflects our commitment towards protecting the environment while supporting the growth of communities like Keynsham.

"By increasing treatment capacity and introducing new technologies to reduce pollution, we're ensuring that this infrastructure is fit for the future, continues to meet the highest standards and is part of our wider ambition to improve water quality across the region."

Wessex Water has also been working on a two-year £35 million expansion of the water recycling centre at Saltford, which will boost the capacity of the Mead Lane site to treat sewage from the city of Bath and the surrounding area. It is due to finish early next year.



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Friday	9.00am - 6.00pm	
Saturday	9.00am - 3.00pm	



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WHAT'S ON

Friday December 5

■ Keynsham RUHX Fundraising Group meets at Keynsham Library (ground floor by Pam's Pantry) on the first Friday of the month, 10am-2pm. Free refreshments, chat and a chance to discuss future events and plans. Please drop in, everyone is welcome. All help gratefully received. No financial or time obligations/commitments necessary.



Tuesday December 9

■ Craft group, Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham, 2pm-4pm.

Tuesday December 9

■ Advent reflections, Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, for coffee and play, 11am-12pm.

Wednesday December 10

■ Buggy walk, meet outside Keynsham Library 9.30am, then to Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, for coffee and play, 11am-12pm.

Wednesday December 12

■ Fur, Feathers & Festivities - short wildlife talks and festive refreshments in Keynsham Baptist Church Hall BS31 1DS at 7.30pm. Entrance £3.50 for Wildlife Trust members, £5 for non-members, to include refreshments served at 7.15pm. All welcome, no booking required.

Monday December 15

■ Messy Church at Keynsham Methodist Church, Queens Road, BS31 2NN, 3.15pm-5.30pm, with our usual mix of craft activities, Bible story, songs, food and fun. All are welcome, book your place with the church office on 0117 9149408 or email bookings@keynshammethodistchurch.co.uk. Looking forward to seeing you.

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We would love to publicise your event

Send details of your events and activities in the following format:

WHAT IT IS WHERE IT IS WHEN IT IS

Email us at:
news@keynshamvoice.co.uk
or call us on 0117 908 2121/
07715 770448

Tuesday December 16

■ Advent reflections, Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, for coffee and play, 11am-12pm.

Sunday December 21

■ Carol service, Keynsham Methodist Church, Queens Road, 10am-12pm.

Sunday December 21

■ Carol service, Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, 6.30pm-7.30pm.

Monday December 22

■ Christmas brass band concert, Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, 7.30pm-10pm.

Tuesday December 23

■ Advent reflections, Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, for coffee and play, 11am-12pm.

REGULAR EVENTS

Mondays

■ Keynsham Brass Band, Broadlands School, St Francis Road, Keynsham, 7.30pm to 9.30pm term time. Trombonists particularly needed for traditional brass band. Friendly, relaxed group who play at summer fetes in Keynsham Memorial Park and a few concerts. Call Sarah Medley on 0117 4625626 or email sarah.medley1@btinternet.com, or see the Facebook page or webpage (Keynsham Brass Band).

■ Key Ring, second Monday of the month, Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham, 2.30pm to 4pm.

■ The Royal British Legion Women's Section Keynsham Branch meets on the first Monday of each month upstairs at the RBL Club, Charlton Road, Keynsham, BS31 2JA, 7.30pm. Occasional speakers, social events and outings.

■ Key Voices Community Choir meets Mondays at 7.30pm at St. Dunstan's Church Hall, BS31 2BQ (or third Monday of month at Royal British Legion). We sing a wide range of music, with occasional performances and social events. Friendly non-auditioned choir, all are welcome. First session free.

■ Keynsham Bridge Club can now welcome new experienced players to our Monday evening sessions. Contact Pat 07442 160553 or Diane 0117 9861267.

■ Saltford Whist Club, Saltford Hall. Monday afternoons 1.30pm-4pm. Contact Malcolm 01225 872555.

■ Children's Code Club (Years 4-6), Keynsham Community Hub, 67 Queens Road. Create games and animations, 4.30pm-5.30pm.

■ Foodbank, Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham, 10am-12pm (not bank holidays).

Mondays/Tuesdays

■ **Seated Pilates Class**
Mondays and Tuesdays
11-11.30 am, Saltford Hall (Avon Room), Wedmore Road, Saltford.
Seated Pilates includes all the benefits of a general class but the exercises are adapted for a seated or standing position. Ideal for those with a long-term health condition (e.g. arthritis or Parkinson's), loss of confidence, or those wanting to get fitter but have difficulty attending a floor-based session. 6-week block of classes £54. You are welcome to do a trial class first, £10. Please book your place by contacting Kate 07454 047536 www.corerehab-physio.co.uk

Mondays/Weds/Thursdays

■ The Victoria Centre of the Methodist Church in Keynsham High Street is open from 10am to 12 noon for coffee, biscuits and a chat. A great place to meet people. We have a children's area for play, and a book and card sale table. Come and join us, all are welcome.

Mondays/Thursdays

■ Yoga For Men

Monday 7-8pm, mixed ability, St John's Church of England School, BS31 2NB
Thursday 7.30-8.30pm, mixed ability, Two Rivers School, Hygge Park, BS31 1GE
Free 1st class, £9 thereafter.
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Mondays/Fridays

■ Butterflies Haven, charity for families of children with autism, sessions Monday 6.30pm-8.30pm for our older 11-18 year olds and Friday 5.30pm-7.30pm for our 4-11 year olds. Sessions are held at St Francis Church, Keynsham. A safe space for children to be themselves supported by volunteers. To join Butterflies Haven and get two taster sessions, complete the child application form on our website www.butterflies-haven.com

Tuesdays

■ Saltford village choir will have its final meeting of the year on Tuesday December 16 following its concert on December 13. The first meeting of the new year will be on January 13, when preparations for the next concert begin.

■ Badminton - friendly, beginners and improvers, mixed, adult (18 - 80) group play every Tuesday 10am-12 noon at Keynsham Leisure Centre. Ring Clive 0117 9866793 or just turn up.

■ Keynsham Orchestra rehearsals, Queen's Road Methodist Church Hall, 7.30pm-9.30pm. For more information, visit www.keynshamorchestra.org.uk/

■ Keynsham Girls' Brigade for girls aged 4 to 15 meet during term time from 6pm to 7.30 pm at the Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham. For more information, contact Linda on lindachrisp@hotmail.com.

■ Scrabble Club, Keynsham Community Hub, 67 Queens Road, 2pm-4pm.

■ Keynsham Sequence Dance Club, 7.30pm-10pm, Fear Hall, Keynsham, every Tuesday. Contact Brian and Jo, Keynsham Sequence Dance Club, on 0117 9868540, or just turn up. Everyone welcome.

WHAT'S ON

■ St Keyna Townswomen's Guild meets at the Fear Hall, Keynsham, from 10am to 12pm on the second Tuesday of each month. Contact Jill on 07446915414.

■ Public Living Room, Keynsham Community Hub, 67 Queens Road. An open space to relax, keep warm, have a lunch, and meet other people. 12.30pm-4pm.

Tuesdays/Weds/Saturdays

■ The Somerdale Shed and Community Garden is open Tuesday 6.30pm-9pm, Wednesday 9.30am to midday, and Saturday 9.30am to midday.

Tuesdays/Sundays

■ Indoor rowing classes Tues 7pm & Sun 10.15am, Saltford Rowing Centre, Bath Road, Saltford, BS31 3JS. Go Row Indoor exercise class caters for people of all ages and levels of fitness. Classes last 45-60 minutes using rowing machines. First class free, then £5 (or £18 pm). Email gorowindoor@avoncountyrowingclub.org. uk to book. More details <http://avoncountyrowingclub.org.uk/>

Wednesdays

■ Coffee and Craft, Keynsham Community Hub, 67 Queens Road, 10am-12 noon. For anyone who enjoys crafting with like-minded people.

■ Keynsham's popular Good Afternoon Community Choir from 2pm-4pm at Keynsham Methodist Church / Victoria Centre. NO auditions and NO charge to attend your first 'meet us' rehearsal. Everyone welcome www.goodafternoonchoir.org

■ Oldland Ukulele Club is a mixed-ability group who meet every Wednesday at 1.30pm at Oldland Common United Reformed Church (the blue church), High Street, Oldland Common, BS30 9QN. Call/text 'Ukulele' Ben on 07910 668258.

■ Discipleship group meets on the first and third Wednesday of the month at Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, 10.30am-11.30am.

■ Hanham Bridge Club meets each Wednesday 7-10pm at Hanham Community Centre, new members welcome. See www.hanhambridgeclub.co.uk or call Graham 07790 491564.

Wednesdays/Thurs/Friday

■ TimeOut Youth Centre, 16 Bath Hill, Keynsham, holds open drop-in sessions on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The free sessions include cooking, baking, music studio recording, pool, table tennis, computers for internet use, gaming, arts & crafts, and other activities during half term and summer holidays. Wednesdays 6-8pm 14-19 years Thursdays 6-8pm 14-19 years Fridays 4-6pm 11-14 years For more information or queries, phone 0117 9868683 or email youthleader@keynsham-tc.gov.uk. Spaces available.

Thursdays

■ Pilates Classes

Taught by Chartered Physiotherapist Kate
Thurs 7-7.55pm (Intermediate)
Thurs 8-8.55pm (Beginners)
St Francis Church, Warwick Rd, Keynsham.
6-week block of classes £60.
You are welcome to do a trial class first, £10
1:1 sessions also available at my studio in Saltford
Book online or by contacting Kate 07454 047536
www.corerehab-physio.co.uk

■ Social badminton - for fitness and fun, beginners and improver's standard, friendly, mixed adult group (18 to 80-plus) playing in Keynsham every Thursday 10am-12 noon. For details, ring Clive 01179866793.

■ Keynsham & Saltford Dementia Action Alliance runs Music for the Mind sessions for people living with dementia and their carers. St Dunstan's Church Hall, Keynsham, 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month, 10.30am-12.15pm. Singing and gentle exercises from 11am. No charge. www.keynshamdaa.co.uk, ksdaa22@gmail.com or 07392442966.

■ ASP Poetry Circle, free entry, every third Thursday of each month, 11am-12pm, Keynsham Library, upstairs balcony, diagonally across from table in corner, by the window. Bring two or three poems, own or another poet's, to share. <https://asppoetrycircle.wordpress.com/>

■ Spanish class, Keynsham Community Hub, 67 Queens Road, 7pm-8.30pm. A chance to improve your Spanish.

■ Longwell Green Orchestra meet each Thursday at Longwell Green Community Centre, 7.30pm to 9.40pm. We have players of all abilities. Email Contact@longwellgreenorchestra.org. uk beforehand to tell us what instrument and what level.

■ Midweek worship at the Keynsham Methodist Church coffee morning (Victoria Centre, BS31 2JA). Join us for a relaxed short service at 11am. All welcome.

■ Art class, Keynsham Community Hub, 67 Queens Road, 10am-12 noon (term time only). Run by Bath City College. Learn and develop your artistic skills.

■ Dorothy House Coffee Connection, Keynsham Community Hub, 67 Queens Road, 10am-12 noon. A social group for anyone affected by cancer or life-limiting illness.

Fridays

■ CAMEO coffee, for people living alone, last Friday of the month, Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham, 2pm-3pm.

■ Baby Comes Too toddler group meets on the first Friday of the month at Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, 10am-12pm.

■ Babies and Breakfast, Keynsham Community Hub, 67 Queens Road, 10am-12 noon. For all mums with babies (up to 6 months). Meet other mums and share experiences.

■ Pilates Classes

Taught by Chartered Physiotherapist Kate
Fri 10.30 - 11.25 am (mixed ability level), St Francis Church, Warwick Rd, Keynsham.
6-week block of classes £60.
You are welcome to do a trial class first, £10.
1:1 sessions also available at my studio in Saltford
Book online or by contacting Kate 07454 047536
www.corerehab-physio.co.uk

Saturday

■ Keynsham Sequence Dance Club Monthly Dance, 7.30pm to 10.30pm, Fear Hall, Keynsham, third Saturday of the month. Contact Brian and Jo, Keynsham Sequence Dance Club, on 01179868540 or just turn up. Refreshments (coffee/tea and biscuits), £5 each.

■ Volunteers at Keynsham Repair Cafe – a free monthly event, with a café, at Keynsham Baptist Church, High Street – fix everyday household items like toasters and lamps, sew a button onto a jacket, glue a handle back onto a mug, as well as more unusual items. Every second Saturday (same as Keynsham Farmers Market), 10am-12pm. keynshamrepaircafe.wixsite.com/home.

■ Kick Academy, football session for children aged 7-14, Keynsham Methodist Church, Queens Road, 2.30pm, BS31 2NN, on the first Saturday of each month <https://www.keynshamparish.org.uk/kick-academy>.

■ Bible group, Keynsham Community Hub, 67 Queens Road, 12.30am-4pm, alternate Saturdays.

■ Cllr George Leach and Cllr Alex Beaumont surgery at Keynsham Library, 10.30am-11.30am, on Market Saturday (second Saturday of the month) to help residents with issues or advice, No appointment necessary.

Sundays

■ Keynsham Kings Flag American Football. Do you fancy trying out a new sport? Do you love the NFL? Flag American football is taking the UK by storm as a fast-paced, non-contact version of American football. Training: Sundays 10.30am-1pm, Manor Road Playing Fields. Mixed sport - anyone 16 years-plus welcome. No previous experience needed. Contact us for more info on the Keynsham Kings Facebook or Instagram pages.

Coffee club

Saltford Community Coffee Club will welcome retired residents to Saltford Hall on Tuesday December 9 at 1pm for their Christmas lunch. The event is free but donations welcomed. To reserve your place, call 01225 632216 and leave a message for Coffee Club or email Fiona.bell@saltfordcommunity.org

Festive market

SALT FORD Christmas Market returns this year on Saturday December 6. 10am-2pm. The event at Saltford Hall will feature almost 50 stalls.

■ SALTORD SCOUTS



We can't wait for more adventures in 2026!

1st Saltford Scout Group has unveiled an exciting and ambitious line-up of activities for 2026, offering adventure, personal growth and community spirit for young people across Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and Explorers.

A highlight of the year will be the group family weekend camp in June and a family campfire in September, where parents and carers will be invited to join in selected activities alongside their children.

This could be an annual event that continues to grow in popularity, giving families a chance to experience the fun and challenge of Scouting first-hand.

Cubs and Beavers can also look forward to a district weekend camp, bringing together young people from across the area for a packed programme of outdoor experiences, teamwork and new friendships.

For the older sections, the adventures become even bigger. Scouts will be heading off for a full week-long camp, building



independence and outdoor skills in a supportive environment.

Meanwhile, the Explorers are preparing for a major milestone: a camping trip to the



Netherlands, marking the group's first overseas expedition since the Covid pandemic. This international experience promises to be a memorable opportunity for cultural exchange and adventure.

In addition to these exciting plans, 1st Saltford Scout Group is proud to announce that two of our young people have been selected to represent the UK at the 26th World Scout Jamboree in Poland in 2027 - a remarkable achievement and a testament to their dedication and enthusiasm for Scouting.

With so much on the horizon, the group continues to welcome new young people and adult volunteers. Whether you're looking for fun, friendship or a chance to make a difference in your community, we would love to hear from you.

If these plans inspire you, why not get involved? Please email tina.Curtis@wansdykescouts.org.uk

■ POETRY CORNER

Christmas Celebrations

Bells ring out on Christmas day,
Choirs sing out in a joyful way.
Churches welcome one and all, to praise the Lord above,
Friends and families join together, expressing all their love.

Christmas trees in windows, lighting up each street,
Giving gifts to charities, so all enjoy a treat.
Houses full of brightness, presents round the trees,
Children waiting all night long - but Santa no one sees!
Traditional cakes and puddings fill the special day,
Happiness and laughter, walks and games to play.

Yes, Christmas is a special time and always means a lot,
It comes each year to celebrate, and will not be forgot.
It's important we remember, when above the angels soared,
A child was born in Bethlehem, our Saviour and our Lord.

Sylvia Kirby

■ NEWS

New 20mph limits approved

THE speed limit on two stretches of road between Saltford and Keynsham known locally as 'the lanes' is to be reduced, it has been confirmed.

The new 20mph limit will come into force on sections of Manor Road and Courtenay Road on December 29.

On Manor Road, the new limit will start about 700 metres east of its junction with the B3116 Wells way road and extend east for about 680 metres.

On Courtenay Road, it will start about 450 metres east of its junction with the Wells way and extend east for about 680 metres.

Bath & North East Somerset Council has agreed to introduce the new speed limits following a request from Saltford



The new 20mph speed limit will start here in Courtenay Road

parish councillors and Keynsham town councillors.

Saltford Parish Council said: "This change will make these lanes safer for walkers, cyclists, horse riders, and all road users while preserving the rural character of the area."

NEWS



Timber! Storm shock for charity walkers

Jonathan and Katrina Southgate stepped out with border terrier Rubble

A KEYNSHAM couple have gone the extra mile to raise money to help those affected by motor neurone disease.

Jonathan and Katrina Southgate stepped out with their border terrier Rubble to take part in a nationwide fundraising walk. In response to the '75 miles in October' challenge issued by the MND Association charity, they clocked up 101 miles between them.

The couple work for financial adviser Southgate Wealth Management – Jonathan as director and Katrina as marketing manager. Their efforts raised £163 from supporters, which Southgate Wealth Management topped up with a £150 donation, bringing the total to £313.

On one of their walks, when Storm Amy hit in early October, Jonathan, Katrina and Rubble narrowly missed an oak being uprooted by Parkhouse Lane.

Jonathan said: "Taking part in this challenge was a great way to stay active, get out with Rubble, and support such an important cause. The MND Association does incredible work for people living with motor neurone disease, and we're proud to help raise both funds and awareness for their efforts."



The charity is dedicated to improving care, funding research, and campaigning for people affected by motor neurone disease - a life-shortening neurological condition that attacks the nerves controlling movement.

Southgate Wealth Management began supporting the MND Association this spring, initially through sponsoring a charity cricket match for former England international and Gloucestershire player David "Syd" Lawrence, who died from the disease shortly afterwards. Since then, the firm has continued its partnership, helping raise awareness and funds for the charity's life-changing work.

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NEW

Double celebration for life-saving club

KEYNSHAM Life Saving Club is celebrating double recognition from the Royal Life Saving Society UK (RLSS UK).

As well as eight volunteers receiving individual honours, the club has been given a national award for open-water training.

Andrew, Annabel, Blondie, Laurie, Louise, Sarah, Sarah and Trevor each received a certificate of merit in recognition of their outstanding commitment and contribution to the club.

Between them, they have supported every aspect of club life, from instructing at weekly training sessions and providing safety cover for open-water activities, to volunteering behind the scenes as secretary and treasurer.

In addition, the club has been awarded the RLSS Stuart Bailey Trophy for "outstanding work in an open water environment."

This national award recognises the club's long-standing commitment to developing safe, high-quality open-water training opportunities for its members.



Annabel, Laurie, Blondie and Trevor, of Keynsham Life Saving Club, receive the club's award from Jill Bailey, the widow of the late Stuart Bailey, who the award memorialises

Over the past seven years, the club has enabled young people to apply their pool-based lifesaving skills in real-world environments including rivers, lakes and the sea. In 2024, five volunteers completed the National Water Safety Management Programme

2.0 qualification. This enabled the club to run six popular and successful sessions on the River Avon in Saltford in June and July, with 50 bookings in total.

The club's instructors delivered a training programme suitable for both experienced lifesavers

and those new to open-water environments.

Building on the skills developed during regular pool sessions at Keynsham Leisure Centre, participants began by identifying key hazards and open-water features at the site, including a visit to a lock and a weir.

Training then progressed to basic land-based rescues using buoyant aids, ropes and throw-bags, before members acclimatised to the water and practised more advanced techniques such as wading rescues, the HELP position and towing with torpedo buoys.

Later sessions included practising different water entries, with an elevated platform constructed to allow safe entry from height, and the opportunity to use Malibu rescue boards and surf skis.

Keynsham Life Saving Club trains at Keynsham Leisure Centre from 2pm to 4pm on Sundays during term time. For more information about the club, visit www.klsc.co.uk

Peak viewing at film festival

KEYNSHAM Life Saving Club will bring the London Mountain Film Festival to the town for the fourth year running.

The event will take place in March next year, offering a packed programme of inspirational outdoor and adventure sports films, hand-picked from the official LMF Festival selection.

The final line-up of films will be announced nearer the time, but audiences can expect an evening celebrating the spirit of adventure, human endurance and the beauty of the natural world.

Money raised from ticket sales

will go directly to Keynsham Life Saving Club.

David Fielding, club chair, said: "We're delighted to be bringing the London Mountain Film Festival back to Keynsham. It's always an inspiring evening, and every ticket sold helps us to continue our vital work."

The screening will take place at The Space, above the library, on Friday March 20. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

Tickets can be obtained from www.tickettailor.com/events/klsc, with early-bird discounts available.



Merry Christmas
to everybody reading this message.

It is an honour to represent so many wonderful people who live here in Keynsham. Thank you for all your gifts of kindness at this special time.

I look forward to learning more about your many activities in 2026.

Andy Wait

Chair of Keynsham Town Council.



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Contact Andy

■ ADVERTISING FEATURE

Just the ticket for Christmas

STAFF and representatives from The WESTlocal K1 Bus Service would like to wish passengers and customers from Keynsham a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year and extend their heartfelt thanks for the incredible support shown throughout its first full year of operation.

Since launching in September 2024, the K1 Bus Service has gone from strength to strength, helping connect neighbourhoods across Keynsham in a reliable, friendly and accessible way.

Operated by The Big Lemon, a sustainable transport social enterprise, the K1 Bus Service has received consistently positive feedback, with passengers praising its dependable timetable and the kindness of its drivers. From helping parents with buggies, to accompanying passengers to appointments at the Chocolate Quarter, the K1 Team has worked hard to support the community and is proud to operate for local residents every day.

The service will remain operational throughout the festive period (closing only on standard non-operational Sundays and Bank Holidays). This ensures Keynsham remains connected during the holidays.

It provides an hourly route linking Linnet Way, Queens Road, Keynsham Town Centre, Keynsham Train Station and The Chocolate Quarter; it operates 7am–7pm Monday to Friday and 9am–7pm on Saturdays.

With affordable fares (£1 short hop, £2 single, £3 return, and half-price tickets for children and students), the service continues to offer a convenient



and accessible option for travel, shopping, work and visiting family.

WESTlocal services are funded by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's Bus Grant from the UK Government until March 2026.

For timetables and more details, visit: www.travelwest.info/westlocal/k1-keynsham. Or scan the QR code printed here.



Photo: Keynsham Town Council Staff

■ PEN TO PAPER

Christmas Comes Just Once a Year

*Christmas comes just once a year
Now isn't that a shame
It's such a lovely season
We need more of the same.*

*The children's faces are aglow
They're happy little girls and boys,
They'll wake up early Christmas morn
To find that Santa's left them toys.*

*The family sit beside the fire
Young ones on the old folk's knee
And share their tales of bygone times
And make their plans of what's to be.*

*We think of love and joy and peace
And put aside our thoughts of war
Fighting, missiles, guns and bombs
Let's kick that package out the door.*

*Why is it only once a year?
That really is a shame
Can't we do it much more often?
We need more of the same.*

George Liddell

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Spanning three floors, this residence features three spacious reception rooms, five well-appointed bedrooms, and three modern bathrooms. The heart of the home is undoubtedly the expansive open-plan kitchen, dining, and family room, which showcases a bespoke William Ball kitchen complete with Silestone work surfaces and built-in Neff appliances.

The living room is enhanced by bi-folding doors that seamlessly connect the indoor space to the westerly facing enclosed rear garden, where you will find an outdoor kitchen, perfect for al fresco dining.

Additional highlights include a wood-burning stove in the living area, underfloor heating on the first and second floors, and a Juliette balcony in the master suite that

Viewings highly recommended



offers views of the garden. The property also benefits from ample off-street parking, an integral garage, and a unique wood-clad annex in the garden, currently used as a cinema room, complete with its own kitchen and wet room.

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■ FRY'S BOWLING CLUB

A successful 2025 on and off the green

2025 was an excellent year for Fry's Bowls Club, not only on the green - where we won the Bristol and District League Division 3 title and the Triples League Cup - but also by running a number of events for the community and our members.

In April we held an open day to celebrate the renovation of the outside of the club, where we entertained guests including the chief executive of St Monica Trust and his team, as well as local councillors, members of Somerset Bowls Committee and our local friends 'The Unstoppables'.

In early May we put on an event for the tenant farmers of St Monica Trust, which the farmers really enjoyed.

Throughout the year, the club has put on events for members including the annual BBQ. This featured music from the Oldland Ukulele Club band - which bowls club members Don Goud and Geoff Kershaw are a part of - and our own Stephen Day sitting in on bass guitar. The band went down very well along with the two race nights, which are always popular.

The club entertained 'The Unstoppables' in the summer, when all enjoyed themselves.

The club has also had some excellent singers in Chris and Victoria, who entertained members with some enthusiastic sing-alongs.

Thanks for all these events go to the social committee and other club members who have



Oldland Ukulele Club band performing for members of Fry's Bowling Club

worked hard to put them on.

The green team also had a good year maintaining the green, which is one of the best in the area, and for the first time since 2018 the club entered the Keynsham in Bloom competition. Congratulations to the garden team, who won a silver gilt award.

Along with the league matches on Thursdays and Fridays, the club played many mixed friendly matches on Wednesday afternoons, at weekends, and the ladies on a Tuesday and Thursday.

The weekend friendlies saw Fry's win 12 matches and draw 2, with 5 losses. The Wednesday friendlies resulted in 10 wins and 10 losses, but a shots difference of plus-70.

The ladies team continued their progression, winning over half their matches and putting out full teams each game. Thank you to those who organised the matches this year.

Plans are now under way for next year. There will be a delay in events in January and February as the club is being decorated. Our thanks to St Monica Trust.

■ FRY'S TENNIS CLUB

'Summer' finalists stage thrilling battle in the rain

AFTER several postponements, Fry's Tennis Club finally completed their 'summer' singles tournament in the pouring rain on November 1.

The final saw defending champion Mark Long take on club coach Rich Conway in a rematch of their 2022 final.

Both players made a steady start and, with their similar defensive style, many punishingly long rallies ensued.

Rich's heavy topspin gradually saw him start to take control of rallies as he edged ahead then claimed the first set 6-3.

Mark began to have fitness concerns early in the second and started to struggle with the pace of the match.

But he just about managed to cling on, making the most of his forehand slice on the soaking wet court, taking it to a tiebreak

which he managed to edge.

Mark started the third set well and finally managed to find some form at the net. He never let his lead slip, closing out the set to secure a 3-6 7-6 (7-4) 6-2 win, his fourth title in a row.

Well done to both players, who battled hard in tough conditions, although perhaps the spectators who braved the rain were even more impressive!

The tournament as whole was highly successful, with players from all ages and sections of the club well represented in the event. The summer saw many excellent matches from all entrants. At the time of writing, the doubles final has yet to be completed but we look forward to updating on the result in due course.

Attention at the club now turns to the Avon winter league season, which got off to an excellent start with an 8-2 win in our first match, away at Bristol Central. Well done to Mark Long, Julian Hellyer, Jo Taylor and Elaine Hanham, who all played very well in securing the win.

For anyone interested in joining



Fry's Tennis Club single finalists Mark Long and Rich Conway

Fry's Tennis Club, please contact Tony Dicker at ard@tonydicker.co.uk. We're always keen to hear from prospective members, whether you're interested in social play, competitive play or coaching.

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KEYNSHAM BOWLING CLUB

Awards after a busy year



NOW that the outdoor bowling season has finished, many members of Keynsham Bowling Club are playing indoors, on rinks at Bristol, Chippenham and Paulton.

On the social side, we have our regular coffee mornings in the clubhouse on the first Wednesday of the month, and our annual presentation lunch took place at Saltford Golf Club, attended by over 70 members.

The president and vice president, John Nix and Margaret Church, presented over 25 trophies to the winners of competitions that took place throughout the season.

Later in the month we held our annual meeting in the clubhouse, at which members stood in silence in memory of those who had passed away in the previous 12 months.

For the 2026 season, our president and vice president were re-elected, along with Steve Coles as chair, David Hockney as secretary and Don Weston as treasurer. Tony Hunter stood down after many years as the men's fixture secretary, to be replaced by Andy Abrahams.

Lynne Pearce was re-elected as ladies' captain, while Bob Edge became the men's captain in a non-playing capacity due to health reasons.

Geoff Yorath was re-elected captain of the men's A team, with Beresford Parker becoming the B team captain, Dave Jay the Thursday C team captain and Mike Barrow the triples captain.

Chair Steve Coles presented life membership awards to long-serving members Bob Edge



Bob Edge, left, and Ian Tweedie, right, with the life membership certificates they received from chair Steve Coles, centre

Left, club members receiving their trophies

and Ian Tweedie. Bob, a member for about 40 years, has served as club captain a number of times, as well as representing the club at county level. He is a great encourager of new bowlers, particularly by bringing them into the Somerset Mixed County League on a Friday, which he captains.

Ian's roles over the years have included men's captain, club secretary and club chairman. As a qualified coach who organises the weekly coaching sessions, Ian is also important to new members.

For a number of years, he organised the men's tour at the end of the season, plus trips to Cyprus at the start of the year. He has bought smiles to people's faces at social events with his impersonation of the Cornish comedian Jethro.

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