

# keynshamvoice

January 2026

Issue 164

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The vinyl  
curtain for  
record shop:  
See Page 7

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## INSIDE

### Hit-run ordeal

A man who was injured in a hit-and-run on a zebra crossing in Keynsham has thanked the people who came to his aid.

**PAGE 4**

### Weir 'can stay'

Plans to remove the weir in Keynsham Memorial Park appear to have been dropped.

**PAGE 5**

### 20mph concerns

Concerns have been raised over plans to extend the 20mph speed limit on Charlton Road.

**PAGE 6**

### Bus lane fears

The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) has moved to quell speculation that proposed bus lanes on the Keynsham bypass may still be on the cards.

**PAGE 9**

### 200 homes bid

An outline planning application is to be submitted for up to 200 new homes on green-belt land west of Charlton Road.

**PAGE 10**



**Santa  
Dash  
delight:  
Page 10**

Concern over state of empty former care home and iconic town pub

## Abandoned and left to rot

THE sorry state of two vacant buildings in Keynsham has been exposed by an urban explorer.

Footage showing conditions inside the former Treetops care home and the empty Ship Inn has been released online.

The care home in St Clements Road, which



**The former Treetops care home**

closed in 2018, is in a particular dilapidated condition. Windows have been smashed and doors damaged, and the floors are littered with broken glass and other debris. There is evidence of fires being lit. Fixtures and fittings have been torn out,

■ **Turn to Page 2**



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# keynshamvoice

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## February deadline

Our February edition will go to print on Monday January 26. To ensure your news or letter is included, please contact us by Wednesday January 21. 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.

## Local information

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

A member of the



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## NEWS

# Neglect of former



The eerily silent bar of the Ship Inn on Temple Street

### ■ From Page 1

electric sockets smashed, wiring exposed and large holes knocked through walls.

Walls are covered in mould and graffiti. Some doors and windows have been boarded up but not all.

The urban explorer, who posts footage under the name of 2K Abandoned Places, said the damage was much more severe than when he previously visited in 2023-24.

He said: "This needs a health and safety. Someone has been ripping this to shreds."

"The kids are coming here with nothing better else to do. It's ready to collapse."

He said the building needed to be fully boarded-up or demolished before someone was injured. He also said he planned never to return.

There is far less damage at The Ship Inn, Temple Street, where fixtures and furniture look intact. But the empty bar and tables make for an eerie sight in what was once a popular, award-



winning real-ale pub, which is believed to date from 1636.

2K Abandoned Places said: "Hopefully, we will see the pub open in the future."

The Ship Inn has been empty since it closed in May 2023. The owners – the Wellington Pub Company based in London – have been advertising the lease

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## NEWS

# care home and historic pub revealed



Damage and graffiti inside the former Treetops care home, as captured in these images from 2K Abandoned Places

through Bristol letting agents Fleurets.

As previously reported in the *Voice*, local residents have been dismayed to see the Ship stay shut for so long and become a target for vandals.

One said: "The Ship has so much history to it as well. It's so sad to see it in the state it's in now."

Since the Treetops care home closed in 2018, there have been repeated attempts to redevelop the site, but planning permission to build 36 flats there was finally granted to Horizon Developments early last year.

Although the development remains listed on the Horizon Homes website as 'coming soon', there appears to be little sign of work starting at the site.

The footage shows the urban explorer entering both the pub and the former care home through unsecured access.



He said: "With urban exploring, we only visit places that are clearly abandoned and already accessible. If doors or windows are open, we will enter, but we never force entry, break anything, or cause any damage.

Everything is left exactly as we find it."

Sgt Rob Turner, of Keynsham police, said: "We're aware of ongoing issues at two derelict buildings in Keynsham, and while we haven't had reports

of criminal offences being committed, we are concerned about the safety of people who are accessing the sites.

"The buildings are unsafe and there's a significant risk of harm being caused to those who go into them. We are in ongoing contact with the owners of the building to discuss improving security measures to prevent further access."

The *Voice* approached Horizon and the Ship Inn's owners, Wellington Pub Company, for comment but received no reply by the time we went to press.



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## NEWS

# Hit-run accident victim thanks helpers

A MAN who was injured in a hit-and-run on a zebra crossing in Keynsham has thanked to the people who came to his aid.

Owen Cole, who is in his 90s, was knocked down by a motorcyclist near the Ashton Way car park.

Police have appealed for witnesses to the accident, which happened between 4.30pm and 4.45pm on Monday December 1. The rider is then believed to have turned left at the Rock Road roundabout.

Mr Cole suffered what was initially considered to be a potentially life-changing ankle injury. He was later allowed to go home.

When he contacted the *Voice* on December 17, Mr Cole said he would be "hobbling" in plaster for another six weeks.

A resident of Keynsham since 1970, he said: "I wish to send my extreme thanks to Frida, the other guardian angels, van driver and ambulance crew who came to my assistance."



**More than 40 years ago, Owen Cole played a role in the creation of the crossing in Ashton Way on which he was injured last month**

He added: "There is some irony about the incident as back in 1981 my wife had difficulty walking and we were struggling to cross the road at that point.

"Somehow it got to the attention of the Bristol Evening Post, who arranged a photo of us and mentioned the problem at that position in the newspaper.

"A crossing was then added that has been used by thousands of people since that day. My grateful thanks to all who helped at that time and since."

Police have appealed for

witnesses and anybody with information about the identity of the rider and the motorcycle to come forward. They would particularly like to hear from anybody with relevant CCTV or dashcam footage from the area at the time of the collision.

The rider was wearing dark clothing while riding a red or orange motorbike.

Police have conducted house-to-house and CCTV enquiries and stayed in contact with the victim while investigations continue.

Anyone who can help the police with their investigation is asked to call 101 quoting reference number 5225337539 or complete the online appeals form on the Avon and Somerset police website.

You can contact Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via their anonymous online form. No personal details are taken, information cannot be traced or recorded, and you will not go to court or have to speak to police when contacting Crimestoppers.

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## ■ NEWS

# New twist in saga of park weir's future

PLANS to remove the weir in Keynsham Memorial Park appear to have been dropped, it has emerged.

There has been confusion about the weir's future since its removal was first mentioned in a draft of the Keynsham Town Centre Regeneration Plan, released early last year.

Bath & North East Somerset Council said removing the weir would make it easier for fish to pass along the River Chew, which runs through the park.

But in the approved version of the plan, issued by the council last autumn, there is no reference to the weir's removal in an appendix about the park improvement project.

Yet a shorter document described as a council executive covering report still mentions the proposal to remove the weir.

When the *Voice* asked B&NES Council whether this reference to removing the weir was still correct, it did not directly answer our question, instead supplying a statement similar to the appendix.

But a council manager whose portfolio now includes the park and weir project has told a *Voice* reader concerned about the weir's future that the report's reference to its removal is inaccurate.

They told Paul Benn in an email: "The project you refer to is in the early feasibility stage to explore opportunities to improve the river and weir for fish passage through Keynsham Memorial Park.

"We are currently gathering



data and evidence to understand the risks, costs and benefits of any interventions to the weir and river, and at this stage no decisions have been made.

"Incorrectly, the report that accompanied the Keynsham Action Plan (3.7) did reference removal of the weir, which is not the case as we are only at the optioneering stage."

The Keynsham Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan focuses on such themes as shopping, travel, arts and culture.

The appendix that details the projects that make up the action plan describes the weir as a remnant of Keynsham's industrial past, which served the water mill that is no longer there.

It continues: "The weir is the most downstream barrier to fish passage in the River Chew catchment, and obstructs migratory fish such as Atlantic salmon, sea trout, sea lamprey, European eel, and resident coarse fish species from travelling up the watercourse.

"The weir stops water flowing

naturally, creating a slow-moving section of river like a canal, which causes build-up of silt and loss of biodiversity. This has contributed to localised flooding along the riverbank in recent years.

"Previous public consultation has highlighted how important the green space and wildlife of the park is to local people, and that there are existing concerns around the deep silt and regular flooding of footpaths.

"The council, with other partners, is exploring options for the future of the weir to improve the river for wildlife, especially within Keynsham Memorial Park."

This discrepancy between the covering report and detailed appendix was highlighted by Paul Benn, who is journal and Facebook editor for the Keynsham and Saltford Local History Society.

He told the *Voice*: "I visited the consultation exhibition in the library in early June, where residents were invited to give

feedback on the plans for the park, but there was no mention of the weir removal, resulting in attendees initially giving their support.

"However, following the re-posting of your weir removal information on social media, the public feedback was overwhelmingly negative."

Paul said: "As a keen historian and environmentalist, I have competing loyalties concerning this issue."

He added: "The reason why I feel that it is important to protect the weir is that it is of historic importance both locally and nationally as it is probably the earliest known structure built by Abraham Darby, who went on to be a main player in the Industrial Revolution."

In its response to the *Voice*, B&NES Council supplied a comment from Councillor Paul Roper, cabinet member for economic and cultural sustainable development.

He said: "We know from consulting on the Keynsham Town Centre Regeneration Action Plan which sets out ambitions for the area that there are concerns around deep silt and regular flooding of footpaths caused by the weir, as well as its effects on wildlife.

"With partners we are in the early stages of exploring the options available to improve fish passage for endangered species, balanced against the heritage value of the weir and flooding risks. These options will be consulted on as the project progresses."

## ■ CHEW VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

# Celebrating a half century of making music

**Chew Valley Choral Society rehearsing in Chew Magna Church**



CHEW Valley Choral Society came into being in 1976 through a group of singers learning Handel's *Messiah* together at an evening class.

Nearly 50 years and many concerts later, the choir is still performing in venues round the Chew Valley and beyond.

To celebrate our 50th anniversary in 2026, we are planning two concerts and a workshop where you can come along and sing extracts from Handel's *Messiah*.

If you would like to join us, either as

performer or audience member, the important dates are:

**Saturday May 9, Publow Church:** For this concert, we will be celebrating our own history alongside that of the Chew Valley and surrounding areas. We have been working with local history groups and others to explore our shared history through music and stories. With their help, we are putting together a varied selection of music and spoken word for a different type of event from our normal offering.

**Saturday June 13:** Handel's *Messiah* 'come and sing' workshop, 2pm-5pm, Bishop Sutton Village Hall.

**Saturday November 28:** *Messiah* concert, 7.30pm, St John's Church, Keynsham.

Rehearsals for 2026 will start on Tuesday January 20 in Bishop Sutton Village Hall and we will be holding a taster session on Tuesday January 27. We would love to see you there.

For details of these event, please visit [www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk](http://www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk)

## NEWS

# Road rage fears over 20mph limit bid

CONCERNS have been raised over plans to extend the current 20mph speed limit on Charlton Road in Keynsham.

Bath & North East Somerset Council has proposed extending the limit for 396 metres to the west of the existing 20mph zone.

But Alan Hale, Independent councillor for Keynsham South, has told the council he believes the proposal will not improve road safety.

Cllr Hale is an academy member of Road Safety GB, former senior road safety officer for South Gloucestershire Council, and has chaired the West of England Road Safety Partnership.

He also has 20 years' experience of police road patrols as an advanced class 1 driver and as a qualified advanced police driving instructor. He is currently a driving examiner for IAMRoadSmart.

Cllr Hale said: "Currently, the length of Charlton Road from High Street through to just south of Charlton Park junction is subject to a 20mph speed limit.

"Any observation or measurement will, I am sure, show that very few motorists



The current 20mph limit along Charlton Road from High Street turns to 30mph just south of the junction with Charlton Park

drive at no more than 20mph, and many are in excess of the old 30mph. However, on this stretch, such a limit is justified due to the very narrow road width and the inferior and narrow pavements.

"When the school crossing is being patrolled near Kelston Road and the wig-wags are flashing to show a 20 limit, observance is sporadic despite the presence of the crossing patrol and the schools.

"It might be better to extend a full-time 20mph limit from the end of the existing limit through to the junction with Lockingwell Road. This would cover the school and the nursery."

But he said a 20mph limit

beyond that junction would achieve little, as drivers frequently exceed the current 30mph limit. Reducing the limit would just lead to further abuse, and drivers trying to stick to a 20mph limit would be subject to road rage and dangerous overtaking.

Cllr Hale added: "The fact that Avon and Somerset Police have virtually no road motor patrol capability means that the limit will be abused on the basis that being caught is highly unlikely. Equally the speed detection team are extremely thinly spread."

He said it would be better to install a significant number

of 'build-outs' causing traffic to slow down and give way to traffic coming the other way.

The council has also proposed cutting the de-restricted speed limit on Charlton Road, Woollard Lane, and Redlynch Lane to 40mph. Cllr Hale said he supported this proposal.

Councillor Duncan Hounsell (Saltford, Liberal Democrat), who said he backed the council's proposals in the interest of safety for all, added: "The junction of Redlynch Lane with Charlton Road is a notoriously difficult junction to navigate safely because of poor sight lines.

"The junction opposite is similarly dangerous, and that junction is the only significant way in and out of Queen Charlton village. There have been vehicular accidents on Charlton Road near this location and have been attributed at least in part to excessive speed.

"The proposal to reduce the speed limit on Redlynch Lane is welcomed but I wonder if that speed limit could be further reduced to 30mph in this rural lane."

The council's consultation on the proposals closed last month.



Hays Travel staff (front) Imogen Cullum-Knight, Ellie Fuller, Helen Hayes, (rear) Jessie Broom, Ellie Ashford and Rachael Wichard

## Staff support for Mencap

STAFF at Hays Travel in Keynsham raised money for a good cause during the town's winter festival.

Their activities raised £340 Keynsham and District Mencap, their chosen charity for the year.

Staff member Rachael Wichard, said: "We really enjoyed raising money for such a worthy charity."

The staff asked for donations from local businesses to raffle off. These included two cream teas at the Ivy, a £30 Avon Valley voucher, four tickets to Aerospace Bristol,

two £50 holiday vouchers from Hays Travel, two tickets for Ninja Warrior, a £10 Greggs voucher and two free milk shakes from Blend.

Rachael added: "We also had a 'name the frog' competition and we sold Christmas decorations that Helen's mum made."

Molly Hale from Keynsham Mencap said: "Hays were absolutely amazing in raising that much for our charity. Our charity is completely self-funded so their support is so important."

## Community libraries 'deserve more help'

COMMUNITY libraries like Saltford's should get more financial support, according to a group of councillors.

The Independents for B&NES group, which includes Saltford councillor Chris Warren, are asking Bath & North East Somerset Council to give each of the district's 11 community libraries an annual grant of £6,000.

Cllr Chris Warren said: "The staff and volunteers who run our community library in Saltford are tremendous. They provide a first-class service for the village which is hugely appreciated.

"Many residents tell me often how they rely on our library for support, help and access to local information.

"With 3,000 books in stock and more than 60 volunteers helping to keep the doors open, financial support from B&NES would be welcomed to

ensure the library can continue operating long into the future."

Independents for B&NES will call for a range of measures to support community libraries at a meeting of the full council in the New Year.

They will ask the council to:

- Recognise community libraries as a valued and integral part of the Bath & North East Somerset library network.
- Commit to exploring options for future dedicated financial support, such as a Community Library Sustainability Fund.
- Bring forward proposals in the 2026/27 budget for sustainable financial support to the network of 11 community libraries.
- Ask officers to work with community library groups to identify additional external funding sources and provide coordination and support to maximise the opportunities.



## NEWS

# Vinyl curtain as record store moves on

CELEBRATED independent music store Longwell Records is leaving Keynsham.

Having traded from Temple Street for almost 10 years, it has struggled financially in recent times and needs more customers to survive.

Owner Iain Aitchison said the shop would be leaving Keynsham at the end of January and reopening in Clifton Arcade sometime next month.

He described Keynsham as one of the best towns around, adding: "It's heartbreaking but that's the reality of a small business, especially a niche business like this."

Many customers have told Iain of their shock and sadness at the decision.

One said on Facebook: "Wishing you all the very best in your new home but sad you're going."

Another said: "Best of luck with the move and hope you have a brilliant final month in Keynsham."

Iain was inspired to make the move to Clifton by his friend Vince John, who runs the 1LOVEART gallery above the shop that Longwell Records will occupy.

Iain recently met up with Fatboy Slim during the gallery's launch. The DJ signed copies of his albums for sale, with all profits donated to Keynsham Foodbank.

Iain said of Clifton Arcade: "It's a beautiful setting, lots of people around, and quite arty, so lots of other like-minded shops."

He hopes to continue in-store events, such as band performances and comedy



Iain Aitchison and friend at Longwell Records, one of whose supporters is Stephen Merchant, below



nights, in Clifton, subject to landlord approval.

Notable gigs in the Keynsham store have included Razorlight, Billy Nomates (her debut), Amber Run, and Mike Peters of The Alarm, who died last year.

Longwell Records specialises in vinyl, whose tangibility and artwork offer a unique way of experiencing music, Iain says.

"People like the fact they can pick up a record, put it on the turntable and listen to it, and think 'yeah, I own that'."

"And records go through generations. They go through families, friendships, break-ups

and new beginnings."

With its crackles, pops, and slight blemishes, vinyl isn't for everyone, Iain admits, but many others see these imperfections as part of the joy of collecting and a "beautiful experience."

Famous supporters of Longwell Records include comedian and vinyl enthusiast Stephen Merchant, from Hanham, who cast Iain as a pub landlord in his BBC TV series *The Outlaws*.

Southmead-born Iain lived in various parts of Bristol before he and his family settled in Longwell Green, which gave his

business its name.

He set up Longwell Records online in 2015 after a long career as an NHS drug and alcohol worker, and opened the shop in Temple Street the following year.

He loves all types of music, especially reggae and two-tone, and his favourite band are Massive Attack. But if he had to choose one desert island disc, it would be a bootleg of Radiohead performing at Glastonbury in 1997.

"I was there that year and it is such a beautiful atmospheric album. I don't know how it sounds so good."

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# NEWS

## Park survey fuels bypass bus lane fears



Holes dug by contractors working in Keynsham Memorial Park alongside the bypass

THE West of England Combined Authority (WECA) has insisted that proposed 24-hour bus lanes on the Keynsham bypass have been scrapped, despite concern that the scheme may still be on the cards.

Speculation was fuelled when a resident saw contractors working in Keynsham Memorial Park.

Nick Norris contacted local councillors to say: "They are currently surveying it – to use the words of the workmen undertaking the survey 'ready for the bus lane'."

There have been discussions in the past about using part of the park as a transport hub, in connection with the previously proposed bypass bus lanes, and that such a hub could include a cycle path through the park.

The *Voice* understands that the contractors were digging in various areas of the park, some of them alongside the bypass, to test the ground for its stability.

The work has included sinking holes eight metres deep to test the ground for water

content. The *Voice* understands that evidence of further buried remains of Keynsham Abbey may be a factor in deciding the ground's suitability to support a structure such as a potential cycle path.

Councillor Alan Hale contacted Metro Mayor Helen Godwin, leader of WECA, to ask for an explanation after the resident raised concerns that a bus lane on each side of the bypass was still under consideration.

He said: "This is contrary to what you told me at the time of the mayoral elections where I understood the idea to be dead and buried."

"Keynsham Memorial Park is part of the Keynsham Conservation Area and should not be abused by a traffic hub that would require the removal of well-established mature trees and hedgerow."

"Can you please as a matter of urgency confirm or deny that the four-lane Keynsham Bypass is at risk and indeed the sanctity of the Memorial Park and the

conservation area?"

The *Voice* was unable to discover whether Cllr Hale (Independent, Keynsham East ward) had received a reply as this edition went to press.

But a spokesperson for WECA told us: "The previous proposals for this section of the A4 will not go ahead. Officers have been tasked with developing alternative options for local people to consider and have their say on in 2026. These proposals have yet to be finalised."

"On-site survey work is taking place to help understand potential new ways to increase public transport options for the area, in line with the position consistently set out by the Mayor."

"This design work is still ongoing, in partnership with local councils, so was not included in the recent consultation about other parts of the transport corridor between Bath and Bristol."

The spokesperson said that in emails to residents about the subject since November, Helen

Godwin had stated: "Following careful consideration, the proposed 24-hour bus lanes on the Keynsham bypass are not going ahead."

"The previous proposals have not been taken forward into this round of consultation, which essentially looks at the ends of the A4 either side of Keynsham. I have asked officers from the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to revise the ideas, and we will go back out to consult when these are acceptable."

In his message to councillors about the work in the Memorial Park, Nick Norris said: "We will of course be told that this is just a preliminary survey pending 'public consultation' but as they have already surveyed for the initial consultation, the only conclusion I can draw is that the decision has already been made."

"They have consulted on the road developments either end of the bypass, so clearly they intend to significantly modify the bypass to join up the ends (Saltford and Brislington)."

## Scrap metal firm can continue trading from site

A SCRAP metal firm in Keynsham has been told it is legally allowed to trade from its site in Broadmead Lane.

Bath & North East Somerset Council has decided that a certificate of lawfulness can be granted for use of the premises by Luna Metal Recycling.

The applicant's agent, Stokes Morgan Planning Ltd, said the certificate was needed to allow the applicant to meet the conditions of an environmental waste carrier licence.

A B&NES Council officer's report stated: "A certificate of lawfulness is a legal document stating the lawfulness of past and present use."

"The certificate is not a planning permission. The planning merits of the use,



operation or activity in the application are not relevant."

Luna Metal Recycling trades at Unit 11F-G at the Broadmead Lane Industrial Estate, alongside the River Avon.

It collects and receives scrap metal including copper, lead, brass, steel, zinc and aluminium, as well as some appliances,

cables, and lead acid batteries. The metal is sorted, graded and prepared for re-sale, then moved on. Much of the work is done by hand, and involves the use of the industrial scales, powered cutting equipment, and a forklift.

The application letter stated that the property was originally part of a soap factory built in the 19th century. Before the applicant bought the unit, it was used by a firm registered as DJF Industrial Coatings Limited but trading as Keynsham Industrial Coatings.

"There have been no apparent lawful changes of use or alternative permissions on the site, and this application is made on the basis that the unit has been in continuous use for industrial purposes," the agent said.



## NEWS

# Next step in bid for up to 200 homes

AN OUTLINE planning application is to be submitted for up to 200 new homes on green-belt land west of Charlton Road in Keynsham.

Persimmon Homes Severn Valley is seeking permission from Bath & North East Somerset Council for the development.

As previously reported by the *Voice*, B&NES has ruled that an environmental impact assessment (EIA) must be submitted for the proposals.

Nexus, the agent acting for the housebuilder, had argued that the scheme would not cause any "unacceptable" landscape and visual harm.

But B&NES Council decided that the

development was likely to have significant environmental effects - particularly concerning landscape and transport - in view of other potential housing developments to the north and south-east of the site.

Independent B&NES councillor Alan Hale wrote to the council expressing his opposition to the proposals when they were first revealed in the autumn of last year.

He said Charlton Road was already over-burdened with traffic and that the extra vehicles generated by the proposed development would make matters worse.

Although there are no detailed proposals at this stage, it is envisaged that 45% of the new homes would be "affordable".

Two access roads are proposed - one from the existing three-arm Charlton Road/Linnet Way roundabout and another about 25 metres north of the Aesop Drive junction.

The development would have open green spaces, allotments, a community orchard, equipped play areas and an informal kick-about area to the south-west of the site.

Construction would take between one to two years.

Land to the west of Charlton Road has already been earmarked for potential new housing development in B&NES Council's draft Local Plan, which has undergone a public consultation and is due to be formally adopted in its final version this spring.

## SALTFRD SANTA DASH



## Jingle all the way for festive runners

THE streets and sports field were bursting with festive colour, jingling bells and smiles for this year's Salford Santa Dash.

From the first warm-up stretch to the final finish-line cheer, the energy and community spirit were unforgettable.

The youngest participant was just four months old, cosy in a buggy, while the oldest Santa was aged 82 years, proving that Christmas magic never gets old.

Between them were families, friends, seasoned runners, first-timers, and even dogs dressed in their own festive costumes.

The route was lined with supporters cheering, children waving, bells jingling and cameras catching every moment.

To add to the special atmosphere, there was music from the Zest Choir, filling the air with festive singing, and The Music Man, a talented group from Keynsham & District Mencap, whose performance lit up the morning.

Their voices and enthusiasm summed up everything the Santa Dash is about -



togetherness, joy and community.

This year's event raised money for two good causes:

Keynsham and District Mencap - supporting local people with learning disabilities through activities, friendship, confidence and inclusion.

Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY) - in memory

of Jack Boulton, raising awareness and funds to help prevent sudden cardiac deaths in young people and support the families affected.

Every runner, walker, buggy, dog, donation and cheer helped make a real difference.

And the message from organisers is: See you next year for another incredible Santa Dash!



## ON THE BEAT

# Let's walk and talk to tackle unsafe areas

WELCOME to January's update and a very happy new year. I hope everyone has had a great time and, unlike me, not gained too much festive weight.

Many of us will be making New Year's resolutions. So, whether you're focusing on weight loss, spending less or anything else, please consider thinking about what you can do to help your neighbours or wider community.

I talk a lot about Keynsham High Street and the work we did around the reduction of anti-social behaviour, but I want people to know that this needs to be wider. I want to ensure that shops and residents all over Keynsham are reporting incidents so we can ensure we are targeting the right areas at the right times.

Avon and Somerset Constabulary have introduced a CCTV upload scheme called NICE which assists with digital evidence. We have been encouraging businesses to register online so that, rather than officers attending to take footage from a USB stick,



**Sgt Rob Turner**  
Keynsham Police

it can be sent straight in. I am also aware you can link your Ring doorbell footage as a viable means of evidence for police to use. None of this means we can access your camera - it just means that, should an incident occur in your area, we can contact you to upload any evidence. The link for this (and a full explanation of the process) is available via the QR code printed here. Or visit <https://qr.avonandsomerset.police.uk/register-cameras>



Another way we can help is by identifying those areas where

people don't feel safe. One of Avon and Somerset's priorities is reducing VAWG (Violence Against Women and Girls) and there are two schemes we use to do this:

**StreetSafe:** This service allows you to report safety concerns about public places without giving us your name. This includes issues like poorly lit streets, abandoned buildings, or vandalism, as well as instances where you feel unsafe due to someone following or verbally abusing you. Information about StreetSafe can be accessed from the home page of [www.police.uk](http://www.police.uk)

**Walk and Talk:** Avon and Somerset Police are inviting women to meet female police officers and PCSOs to show them areas where they feel vulnerable or unsafe.

Walk and Talks are open to women aged 18 and over, will take place at a mutually convenient time, last around 30 minutes and be tailored to the areas you wish to discuss. For more information, visit the Avon and Somerset Police website and search for 'walk and talk'.

By reporting those areas of concern (dark lanes, parks etc) we can approach other agencies about the possibility of improvements such as better lighting. This will strengthen our community.

More than 100 arrests were made for driving under the influence in the first two weeks of December. This takes those people willing to harm others with their irresponsible attitudes off the road. Please, if you have any fears of people committing driving offences, let us know.

We want to help. This is true for all offences and, if you need us, we will be there for you.

Finally, myself, PCs and PCSOs conduct what we call "Talk to Me" events every few weeks. These are primarily at Keynsham Library - details can be found on the Avon and Somerset Police website by searching for 'Keynsham' and then looking at the list of upcoming events. Please come along to say hello and ask any questions you might have.

Until next month, stay safe.

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## NEWS

# Plans for crossings on roundabout

THE NEED for a new bus lane along part of the A4 Bath Road in Saltford has been questioned by the parish council.

The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) has been consulting on its proposals to shape the future of travel along the A4 between Bath and Bristol.

They include a bus lane running for about half a mile from the Broadmead roundabout to just before Copse Road.

It would run in the Bath direction only and is shorter than the bus lane WECA had proposed previously.

But Saltford Parish Council says this section of the road generally flows well, even at peak times, and has few bus stops, so the benefit of the bus lane would appear limited.

It therefore asks WECA provide traffic modelling data to show how the proposed lane would reduce bus journey times and improve reliability.

The parish council is concerned that the bus lane



**Proposals for three new crossings at the Broadmead roundabout, as envisaged in this design, have come under fire**

would reduce green space and bring pedestrians and cyclists closer to traffic.

It also argues that replacing pedestrian islands with several crossings controlled by traffic lights could significantly disrupt traffic flow and increase journey times for all users, including buses. It recommends retaining island crossings where possible.

The parish council is also critical of WECA proposals to introduce three crossings with

traffic lights at the Broadmead roundabout.

Although it recognises the intention to improve safety for pedestrians and cyclists, it says these crossings are likely to increase congestion and the risk of accidents.

It says pedestrian islands would be preferable to the crossings proposed for B3116 Bath Road entrance, Broadmead Lane junction and the Bristol-bound approach. Also, the

Broadmead Lane crossing should be moved further back.

Keynsham Town Council has also expressed "grave concerns" about the impact the proposed changes to the roundabout would have.

It says: "The roads in this location are already at capacity, with long queues exiting Broadmead Lane. These queues have increased immensely since the opening of the Pixash Lane Recycling Centre, where traffic is directed along Ashmead Road to join already queuing traffic from Waitrose, the industrial units on Broadmead Industrial Estate and the retail and industrial units on Ashmead Industrial Estate."

"The suggestion of installing crossing points close to this already busy roundabout is an accident waiting to happen. The sight lines when manoeuvring around this roundabout are obscured by excessive foliage which is probably left in order to slow traffic down."

"A much safer option would be the construction of

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## NEWS

# are 'an accident waiting to happen'

underpasses which would allow for safe walking routes to school for the many young children that already have to cross the busy Bath Road and those wishing to walk to the takeaway outlets on Broadmead Lane."

The town council welcomes planned routes for cyclists and pedestrians from the Broadmead roundabout to the A4 junction with Norman Road in Saltford.

It says: "The separation of cycle paths from waking routes is an improvement and Keynsham Town Council support this proposal."

Regarding proposals for Norman Road, Saltford Parish Council welcomes improvements aimed at pedestrians and cyclists and welcomes WECA's confirmation that no parking spaces will be lost.

But it questions the need for raised road surfaces, as speeding on Norman Road and the High Street is generally not a problem.

It also says that the signage and 28 new road markings



Changes loom: Traffic on the A4 Bath Road through Saltford

proposed would harm the historic appearance of the area.

Although the parish council welcomes improved access from the A4 for cyclists using the Bath to Bristol railway path, it stresses the need for a dedicated continuous cycle route to avoid safety and congestion issues on Saltford's narrow roads.

The parish council objects to the proposal to resurface and widen the path behind the Bird in Hand pub to improve access to railway path. It says it prioritises cyclists, risking the safety of pedestrians and users of mobility

scooters due to a steep gradient that would increase cycling speeds.

It recommends that cyclists should be banned from the path and instead use Avon Lane (0.2 miles away), which offers safer access and better visibility.

The parish council welcomes proposed changes and upgrades to bus stops within Saltford.

It recommends positioning bus stops as far back from the highway as possible, to improve safety and comfort, especially in bad weather. Where possible, dedicated lay-bys should be used

to keep buses out of traffic.

Keynsham Town Council says the proposal to move some bus stops out of lay-bys has not been thought through properly.

It said: "Road users are often stuck behind buses where the driver has stopped for a lunch break, a rest break or to switch over drivers, due to the bus being stopped on the main highway."

The town council added that many bus stops needed to be upgraded, timetables should be clear, and disused bus stops needed to be marked as such to avoid bus users standing at stops that are not serviced.

Saltford Parish Council said all bus stops should have shelters (the Bath-bound stop at The Shallows currently lacks one) and have digital displays showing live bus updates.

In general, Saltford Parish Council (SPC) considers that the WECA consultation lacks enough detail for a fully informed response and that many key aspects remain unclear.







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## NEWS

### Drink and drug driving arrests

AVON and Somerset Police made more than 100 arrests in the first two weeks of their Christmas drink and drug driving campaign.

A total of 117 people were arrested, an increase on the 111 arrests in the same period last year. Police have been carrying out roadside checks and talking to motorists about the dangers of drink and drug driving, which was the core factor in 25 per cent of all fatal collisions in 2025.

If you believe someone is currently driving under the influence of drink or drugs, call 999. To anonymously report a suspected drink or drugs driver, you can fill in the 'report drink and drug driving' form on the Avon and Somerset Police website or visit a police station in person.

You can also contact the independent charity Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111 or via the online form on their website.

## KEYNSHAM MEMORIES

with Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society



A feature of Keynsham life at one time was the Boxing Day Raft Race, which took place on the cut leading to Keynsham Lock.

Unfortunately, we don't have

a date for this photograph or any details of the event, but it certainly took place in the early 1980s.

It shows a somewhat more relaxed approach to water

safety than would be the case today, but everyone was clearly having fun.

If you can give us more information, please send it to [info@keysalthist.org.uk](mailto:info@keysalthist.org.uk)

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# KEYNSHAM AND SALTFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY



## Two centuries of change at 53 High Street



Right, the eyelet factory workforce in the early 1900s

Above, Strudwick's in 1983

Left, a Kena box lid about 1913



Of all the buildings on Keynsham's High Street, the one with the most interesting history is No 53. Familiar to most readers as the home of the Halifax Bank/Building Society, this has just been given a new lease of life as the town's banking hub. But its history goes back more than 200 years.

In 1803 the building was a storey lower than today and was the workshop of a basket-maker. His craft was well-established in the area, using the withies that grew along the Avon and Chew.

The building belonged to William Malpas, who sold it for £45 to the Keynsham Methodists to become their first chapel in the town. Methodism was a thriving religious force at that time and the congregation grew, justifying a rebuild to add a third storey a few years later (this is clearly visible on the sides).

By 1887 the Methodists needed and could afford larger premises, and they built what is today the Victoria Methodist Church at the corner of Charlton Road.

No 53 went on the market and by early 1889 Mr James Morris, a Bristol boot and shoe manufacturer, had converted it into a factory. At some stage in the next ten years the use changed from making footwear to specialising in the

manufacturer of boot eyelets. It was still in the hands of the Morris family, with a Mr C Morris in charge.

The eyelets were not made from local brass, as one might have expected, but from celluloid. They were produced in a range of colours, and by 1910 the company had become the Fast Colour Eyelet Factory Co Ltd. More than 20 people were employed at the site, making it one of the largest employers in the town.

During 1910 a downturn in business led to closure of the company and from the end of that year until about 1917 the building was owned by Sydney Caddy, who lived at Rookhill on the Wells way and was the proprietor of the "Kena" Manufacturing Company.

Mr Caddy was an inventor and manufacturer and appears to have been a somewhat colourful character. He renamed No 53 as the "Empire Works" and, obviously keen to be in the forefront of technology, was allocated the telephone number "No 2 Keynsham".

Together with colleagues he registered four patents, and his business card listed 11 products manufactured by the firm. They were based on springs, but the variety was remarkable and included the Empire skipping rope, chest

expander, puncture-proof tyres, gas lighters, spring mattresses and folding camp beds. A 1913 advertisement in Country Life promoted an emergency tyre grip enabling motorists to avoid spinning wheels on wet grass, mud and snow.

The enterprise did not last long, perhaps due to difficulties in obtaining steel. By 1918 the factory was empty and for sale and in 1921 the company was wound up.

Unlike the eyelet factory, Mr Caddy and Kena have left little mark on the town's collective memory. However, the society's archivist Sue Tatford has been given a box containing an unused 'skipping rope/developer' made by the company, which led her to research Kena.

The factory was next owned by Throspers, but we know little about their work and that period.

In 1936, No 53 was taken over by Ivan Strudwick, initially as an ironmonger's shop. Later he developed it into an electrical store and in the early 1950s the young of Keynsham would sit on the remains of the wall in front and stare in wonder at the small black-and-white flickering television displayed in the window.

Strudwick's closed in 1983 and the building was bought by the then Halifax Building Society.

Richard Dyson

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## KEYNSHAM IN BLOOM

# We're making tracks for a bright new year

KEYNSHAM in Bloom volunteers have been taking a breather after a busy year looking after our various projects around the town.

It's a murky day and I am so lucky to be looking through the window at the Christmas lights while I compose our January article.

The High Street troughs have been emptied and bone meal added ready for our herbaceous plants.

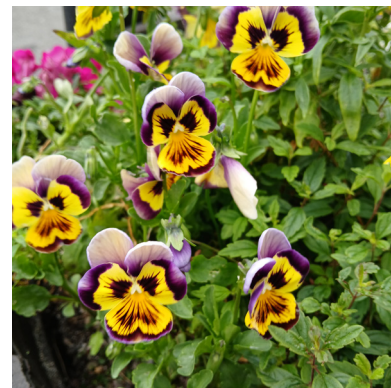
I would like to thank all the folk who say hello when we are working on the troughs - it's so nice to rest our backs and meet potential volunteers. If you would like to join us, please email [catherinemarywoodman@gmail.com](mailto:catherinemarywoodman@gmail.com) or pop into the Keynsham Town Council office and leave your details.

Our railway station is looking lovely, with more projects to happen in 2026, and we have just heard that the station has been shortlisted for a silver medal in the It's Your Station category of the Community Rail Awards, with the winners to be announced at a ceremony in Derby in March. Bravo to our hard-working volunteers and project leader Mary Maule.

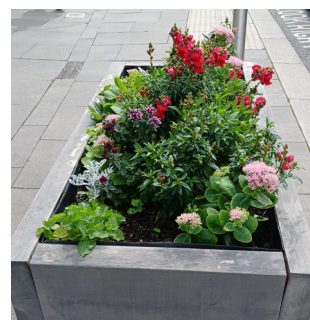
While the weather is unseasonably warm, the Pocket Park grass is still growing and will need another cut when drier, and several succulents are in flower which add colour at this dull time of year. Work is continuing on the Queens Road, Holmoak Road and Chandag Road containers, and the Crown in the Memorial Park is full of colour.

Enjoy the photos and stay well.

Mary Woodman



Clockwise from top left:  
A container brightening up the railway station; grumpy violas in Queens Road pots; a trough in Keynsham High Street; and a water lily in the Pocket Park pond



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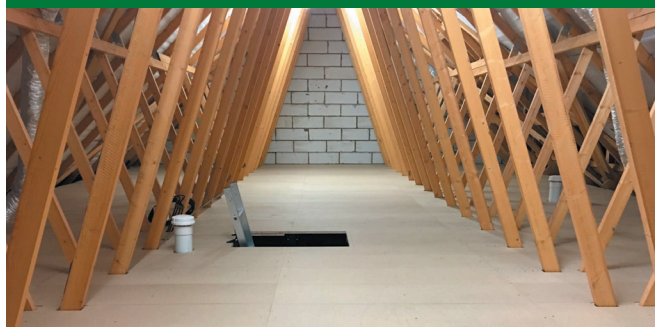
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## NEWS

# A4 traffic concern over Aldi store plan

PLANS to build a new Aldi in Keynsham must take care not to disrupt traffic on the A4, a councillor has warned.

The supermarket chain has received strong support for its plans, but concerns have been raised about the impact on the busy Bath Road.

Although cars will be able to enter the car park from the A4, the only exit will be to the back onto World's End Lane opposite Keynsham Recycling Centre.

Keynsham East councillor Andy Wait (Liberal Democrat) wrote in response to the application: "I think the community of Keynsham and Saltford will welcome a new store on this site to further enhance the retail development of the town. My only concern is the traffic flow around the site."

World's End Lane is meant to be a right turn only onto Pixash Lane, but the road marking is widely ignored.

Mr Wait said: "With the expected extra traffic along



**A sign prohibits left turns from World's End Lane into Pixash Lane**

there caused by the new store, there needs to be a lot more enforcement of this no-left-turn restriction as otherwise the traffic on the A4 will be disrupted."

The council's highways department had called for Aldi to remove the turning into the car park from the A4 from their plans and for the shop to only be accessed from World's End Lane.

Highways officers warned: "The A4 corridor is heavily used by children travelling to/from school and can also experience peak hour traffic congestion."

The no left turn on World's End Lane means traffic should follow Ashmead Road to the Broadmead Roundabout by Waitrose. But, in an objection to the plans, Helen Mulholland warned: "This does not make sense as traffic would still need to rejoin the A4 at some point."

But she was one of just 14 people who lodged objections to the plan on the council's planning portal while 186 lodged comments in support.

Keith Stover said: "This new store will alleviate the

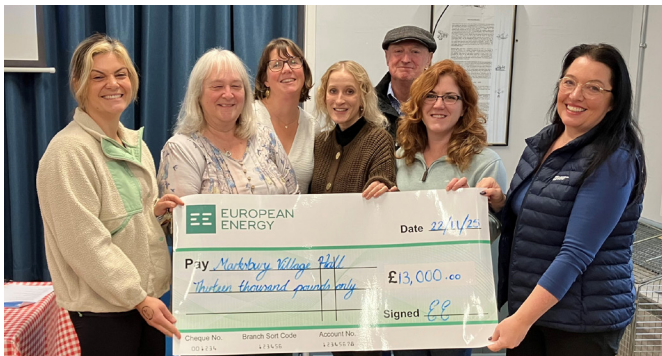
overwhelmed Tesco store where parking is impossible at peak times."

Marjorie Phillips added: "It's about time that we had an affordable supermarket in this area. As pensioners we are unable to afford to shop at our local supermarket Waitrose. Aldi is our regular supermarket where we shop each week but we have to drive over to Longwell Green for the privilege."

Many responses, however, used a boilerplate letter of support. Objecting, Mr C McVie warned: "This repetition raises concerns about the authenticity of these comments and whether they genuinely reflect the views of individual local residents."

The planning application was submitted in July last year and the expected decision date from Bath and North East Somerset Council has been pushed back several times. A new expected date has yet to be revealed.

*John Wimperis, Local Democracy Reporting Service*



## Village hall's energy boost

MARKSBURY Village Hall has been given £13,000 to make it more accessible to the community.

European Energy UK Ltd has awarded the money from its EE UK Developer Contribution Fund.

This fund was created to support projects and initiatives that benefit the Marksbury community, in connection with Marksbury Plain Solar Farm.

The award has enabled improved accessibility to the village hall. It includes new disabled and pushchair access to the village's only playground, as well as to the hall's refurbished lower ground floor, which has now been renamed 'Valley View'.

A gently sloping path now links

the playground to the lower floor, making both areas fully accessible for wheelchair users, pushchairs, and young children.

While building work was under way, a local childminder noticed the improvements and contacted the village hall to learn more about the newly accessible space.

Her enquiry has led to the establishment of Little Lavenders, the first village playgroup in over 20 years. Operating on a long-term agreement in Valley View, the playgroup not only provides childcare for local residents but also boosts the village hall's income, enabling the committee to plan further improvements for the community.

**Cllr Chris Warren, left, and Saltford Brass Mill Chairman Stavros Christofides with a water vacuum and floor scrubber used to deal with the effects of flooding**



## Flooding aid for brass mill

SALTORD Brass Mill has received a £500 grant to help it cope with the effects of flooding.

The sum has been awarded by Chris Warren from money that Bath & North East Somerset Council allocates to each councillor to spend on local projects.

Cllr Warren (Independent, Saltford) said: "Saltford Brass Mill is an asset to our local community and is run by a dedicated team of volunteers. Unfortunately though, with the building being located next to the river, the site can be prone to flooding, so I wanted to secure some funding from my ward councillor's empowerment fund to address this."

The £500 has gone towards



equipment that the brass mill can use to clean up after flooding from the River Avon.

The brass mill has undergone a number of programmes of restoration, renovation and repair over the years and is open to visitors several times a month. Visit [www.brassmill.com](http://www.brassmill.com) for details.

## ■ BACK TO NATURE

JANUARY is one of the most revealing months of the year for one of our most resourceful mammals, the fox.

Foxes divide opinion, yet few wild animals live so closely alongside us. There is something special about locking eyes with a fox at dusk or hearing their calls echo across a frosty night. These moments remind us that we share our spaces with nature.

Foxes often have a bad reputation due to noise, concern over pets, raiding bins, and digging in our gardens. But maybe we should consider their positives.

Foxes are naturally cautious and avoid confrontation. The behaviours that sometimes frustrate us are normal, seasonal, and temporary.

Urban foxes are incredibly adaptable, living in small and tightly packed territories, navigating a maze of gardens, parks, railway lines, and alleyways. Gardens provide food, shelter, and safe routes between territories. Compost heaps, fallen fruit, discarded takeaway boxes, and natural prey like rats and pigeons all contribute to their winter diet.

Despite their scavenging reputation, foxes are skilled hunters and play a role in keeping urban ecosystems balanced. At this time of year, foxes may appear bolder or even active during daylight as they conserve energy and search for food.

Around the town's outskirts, rural foxes roam farmland, riverbanks and woodland edges. They cover larger territories than urban foxes and feed on rabbits, rodents, birds, invertebrates, and carrion. They are more wary of people and disturbance, staying hidden during the day and resting in underground earths or dense cover.



## Clues to secret lives of foxes

AVON Wildlife Trust Keynsham Group begin the new year with a wildlife talk entitled 'Watercress Farm Rewilding' on Friday January 9.

Watercress Farm is one of Belmont's nature recovery and connection projects just outside Bristol. The rewilding project aims to restore an environmentally degraded landscape to benefit nature, climate and community.

Belmont has been rewilding and rewetting the landscape, enabling the land to act as a functioning floodplain while restoring natural water flow and creating a haven for birds, pollinators, and plants. Speaker Martin Williams is head of nature connection at Belmont Estate.

The talk starts at 7.30pm in the Keynsham Baptist Church hall BS31 1DS, entrance £3.50 for Wildlife Trust members, £5 for non-members, to include refreshments served at 7.15pm. No booking required.

For more information on our group, visit our website at [www.keynshamawt.org.uk](http://www.keynshamawt.org.uk), email [info@keynshamawt.org.uk](mailto:info@keynshamawt.org.uk) or phone Kathy on 07850 508702.

January's bare landscapes make fox activity easier to detect: look for well-worn paths along fences, hedges, and field edges; narrow pointed paw prints in frost, mud or snow; their droppings placed on raised objects such as stones or tussocks, used as a form of communication. These clues often reveal foxes even when the animals



themselves remain unseen.

This month foxes are entering the peak of their mating season, making them more vocal, active, and noticeable than at any other time of winter. Still January nights often carry the haunting barks, screams, and yelps of foxes over long distances - sounds often



**Left, rural fox in the snow**  
 Photo: Martin Farrell

**Above, urban fox in an underground car park**  
 Photo: Kathy Farrell

mistaken for cats or even human distress. These calls help foxes locate mates, defend territories, and warn off rivals. In our towns, the sounds echo between buildings; in rural areas, they drift across open fields and woodland edges, sometimes travelling for over a mile.

As mating season draws on, vixens (the females) begin to prepare breeding earths. These may be old badger setts, rabbit burrows, or self-dug dens in banks and woodland edges - or maybe under your garden shed!

By late winter, fox activity becomes quieter as energy is conserved ahead of cubs being born in early spring.

Whether urban or rural, the cheeky fox is an intelligent, highly adaptable animal that plays an important role in controlling rodent populations and clearing carrion. It is an animal to celebrate and not fear or dislike. And in January, while much of nature appears quiet, foxes remind us that wildlife is still active even on our doorsteps.

**Kathy Farrell**


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## NEWS

# The gold standard for children's rights

SOMERDALE Educate Together Primary School in Keynsham has been recognised for its efforts to promote children's rights.

It is to be re-accredited 'gold' by UNICEF UK's Rights Respecting School programme, the first and only school in the county to achieve this accolade.

UNICEF is the world's leading organisation working for children and their rights.

The Rights Respecting Schools Award is granted to schools that show commitment to promoting and realising children's rights and encouraging adults, children and young people to respect the rights of others in school.

Gold is the highest accolade given by UNICEF UK and shows a deep and thorough commitment to children's rights at all levels of school life.

More than 600 schools across England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales have received gold. Somerdale Educate Together is the first and only school in Bath and North East Somerset to achieve this award.

Chris Thomas-Unsworth,



**Children from Somerdale Educate Together share the good news alongside their headteacher, Chris Thomas-Unsworth, deputy headteacher, Sam O'Regan, and Bob, the Rights Respecting Gnome**

headteacher of Somerdale Educate Together, said: "We are incredibly proud to have been re-accredited with the UNICEF UK gold award. This recognition reflects the dedication of our pupils, staff, and wider school community in placing children's rights at the very heart of everything we do."

"The Rights Respecting Schools approach has had a profound impact on our school, fostering a culture where every child feels valued, listened to, and empowered to make a difference. Achieving gold once again is a testament to the commitment and passion of our whole community, and I would

like to thank our pupils, families, staff, and governors for their unwavering support in ensuring Somerdale Educate Together continues to be a place where children's rights are lived and celebrated every day."

The award recognises achievement in putting the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child at the heart of a school's planning, policies and practice.

The director of the UNICEF UK Rights Respecting Schools Programme, Martin Russell, said: "Somerdale is a very inclusive school where children report feeling valued and safe irrespective of their background."

"Pupils also have many genuine opportunities to have their views heard and influence key aspect of school life, in turn creating a positive learning environment."

"It was also clear that children had an excellent grasp of children's rights and social justice, and so did school staff, parents, carers and the school's governors. Everyone should be very proud of their achievement."

## Stirring concert hits high note

KEYNSHAM Orchestra's concert on November 29 was a smash hit at a packed-out Saltford Hall.

The concert, - *Symphonic Sands – Orchestra Sounds of the Middle East* – comprised Saint-Saens' *Bacchanale* from *Samson* and *Delilah*, Nielsen's *Aladdin Suite*, and Rimsky-Korsakov's *Scheherazade*.

The orchestra's conductor, Phil Draisey, has paid tribute to his players for their performance.

He said: "I am still riding the wave of pride from Saturday's concert - what an extraordinary afternoon of music-making!"

"The joy, colour and atmosphere in the hall made this one of the most satisfying and uplifting performances the orchestra has given in my time here."

"From the opening of the *Bacchanale*, it was clear that everyone was on terrific form. The rhythmic bite, the rich string sound



and the characterful wind and brass created exactly the sense of wild celebration the piece needs. It was a fantastic, high-impact way to launch the concert and immediately drew the audience in (both musically and verbally!)"

"The *Aladdin Suite* was full of vivid character and contrast. The way you captured the different scenes, from the more intimate, lyrical moments to the big, sweeping intimidating ones, showed such stylistic awareness and flexibility."



**Jane Smith's solo playing in *Scheherazade* at Saltford Hall was described as "expressive, fearless and endlessly imaginative"**

"The wind and brass solos were played with great personality, and the strings provided a wonderfully warm and secure foundation throughout. Suites like this are difficult to rehearse given the range of orchestrations, and I appreciate everyone's patience as we tackled it over the term."

"*Scheherazade* was the heart of the programme and a real milestone for the orchestra. Jane's solo playing was absolutely stunning - expressive, fearless and endlessly imaginative - and it was

a privilege to be able to perform it with her. The solo is so challenging, and it was wonderful to work on it so deeply over the last few months. I'm very sad to let the piece go."

The next Keynsham Orchestra concert is on March 14 at St John's Church, Keynsham. The program will include two movements from Holst's *The Planets*, music from *Star Wars* and *Star Trek*, Debussy's *Claire de Lune* and the theme from ET. Check out our website for more information - [www.keynshamorchestra.org.uk](http://www.keynshamorchestra.org.uk)

## LETTERS

Letters for publication can be sent to [news@keynshamvoice.co.uk](mailto:news@keynshamvoice.co.uk) 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.

### 4Concrete ruling raises questions

THE article in December's *Voice* 'Concrete firm wins planning appeal' has raised several issues that I feel need to be challenged.

1. The planning inspector appears to have been misled by the Banes senior environmental protection officer, who failed to emphasise that during the one-year trial of noise barriers, 4Concrete did not keep early-morning noise below the limits set. Winning the appeal now means early noise is a permanent feature, which has a serious effect on me, my family and my neighbours, every weekday morning.

2. The planning inspector says that additional hours would not have an unacceptable impact on residents. His statement has no factual basis as he did not undertake an early-morning visit to the properties most affected by 4Concrete noise. Being woken early every morning by the noisy arrival of staff and then subjected to relentless noise throughout the day does have an unacceptable impact.

3. 4Concrete came to Keynsham in 2019 and since then they have degraded our neighbourhood and the town with their noise, dust, spillages and hazardous road blocking. Avon Mill Lane is often blocked by large delivery tankers as they attempt to access 4Concrete's site. This alone indicates that 4Concrete's site is not in the right location.

4. Without planning permission, 4Concrete set up their operation 'on spec', applying for permission retrospectively, not for operating a ready-mix plant, but for two large silos. This application went unchallenged by Banes. What was the Banes environmental protection team thinking? They could have made objections; asked for an environmental impact assessment and a highways assessment - instead they made no comment whatsoever. Is there anywhere else in Banes where a new ready-mix concrete plant is allowed to set up within a few metres of peoples' homes without these steps being taken?

5. In 2021 after being flooded with complaints of noise and dust, the environmental protection team began to catch up with events and decided that 4Concrete should build noise mitigation barriers to offer residents some protection. Throughout the one-year trial of these barriers (August 2023 to

August 2024) 4Concrete failed to keep below the generous noise limits set by environmental protection, only reducing noise levels when an acoustic expert was present to measure their activities.

6. During the trial, 4Concrete were supposed to adhere to a management plan. This they failed to do on multiple occasions, a fact also overlooked by the planning inspector. Following the appeal, 4Concrete now have a new management plan designed to protect residents' amenity - a 'work of fiction' as one of our neighbours put it. Why would 4Concrete follow a new management plan if it is not being enforced by Banes planning?

7. The article says that the planning inspector did not observe significant dust issues during his site visit. My view is that the inspector should have spent more time on the site visit and research before granting this appeal. Dust escaping 4Concrete's site is a real issue, especially in spring and summer. Concrete dust contains RCS (respirable crystalline silica) which can travel a significant distance and is a known hazard to health (HSE publication).

8. The planning inspector has said there is nothing to stop Banes enforcing any breaches of planning control. So why don't they? Residents have been asking Banes to enforce the planning breaches from as early as March 2020. We were told that Banes are working hard on a resolution, so I must conclude that this is not such a priority for the council as it is for my family and other residents.

9. Banes planning did, however, make a strong case to refuse 4Concrete their appeal for extended hours, but their case was undermined by the senior environmental protection officer who, once again, had no objection to make.

10. The planning inspector may not have witnessed any traffic problems during his brief visit, but the blocking of Avon Mill Lane with delivery tankers and tipper trucks is a regular occurrence, as I or anyone held up on their way to work or taking their kids to school will have experienced.

The many large vehicles associated with concrete mixing, pumping and distribution all travel through Keynsham to access this site. Surely these vehicles affect people living on the route to the A4, on Bath Hill and Bath Road?

I see this case as having wider implications of how planning conditions are enforced, or not,

within Banes and how a business allowed to establish itself in an inappropriate location can impact the town as a whole.

For decades I and my neighbours lived here happily, the Old Station Yard being used for light industry only. But under our noses the site morphed to general industrial where apparently, anything goes. Banes are definitely not improving people's lives in this part of Keynsham. For me this situation has proved seriously detrimental to my health.

**A very concerned resident**

### We must engage with Local Plan

Change. Sometimes we hope for it, sometimes we fear it. It is both welcomed and opposed. Here in the UK we have a healthy democracy that empowers us to deal with the changes we face to our way of life.

Councillor Chris Warren does not serve or empower his residents by venting unfounded and vague attacks talking about 'betrayal' [Letters, December issue]. Rather than burying his head in the sand about potential changes to Saltford, he should be helping residents by providing an explanation about what residents can do to protect the village from bad developments.

The fact is the Government has changed the technical definition of the "green belt" and so protection is not what it was. Coupled with this, the Government has changed and massively increased its targets for house-building which places more green areas at risk of speculative applications for development.

We ALL cherish the green setting of Saltford, Keynsham and surrounding countryside and we all want what is best for the environment and residents. B&NES Council only really has one way to prevent, control or mitigate bad housing development; that is through having a Local Plan.

Proper engagement with the Local Plan will allow the council to tell the Government's planning inspectors that it has a plan for meeting government targets in the region and will allow the council to ensure any permitted developments are done in a way that cares for the environment and has transport and homeowners in mind - most importantly to ensure there is a beautiful and pleasant community for all to live in. What we all want to avoid is horrendous, short-sighted, ill-thought-out

projects where developers can just maximise profit.

Cllr Warren opposes change but offers no hope or help to those he represents. This plays right into the hands of housing developers who would be looking to bypass council control.

The Local Plan is not propaganda and is not a done deal. It will be a carefully considered plan which is the only means B&NES has to try and wrestle control over the Government's housing policy targets.

It is important for people to understand and engage in the Local Plan and it is important councillors help residents with this. This is where true empowerment comes from.

**Hossein Pirooz, Saltford & Keynsham Liberal Democrats**

### Now's the time for serious debate

What an interesting edition of *Keynsham Voice* the December 2025 one was!

However, I believe the local plan consultation debate is only just starting to warm up.

Whether we like it or not, there are certain things B&NES is obliged by law to do. But there are also certain things it chooses to do, and I don't think it is clear which is which.

The December *Voice* was full of strongly held views often presented as facts and the net result was probably inflammatory as, I believe, it was intended to be.

It is good to know that there are many well-informed people who wish to engage on this important subject. It is also good to know that we have active local government (at parish, town and B&NES levels) that will conscientiously and thoroughly engage with us both formally and informally.

It's now time to get off the soapboxes and start the long slog of objective, lucid debate.

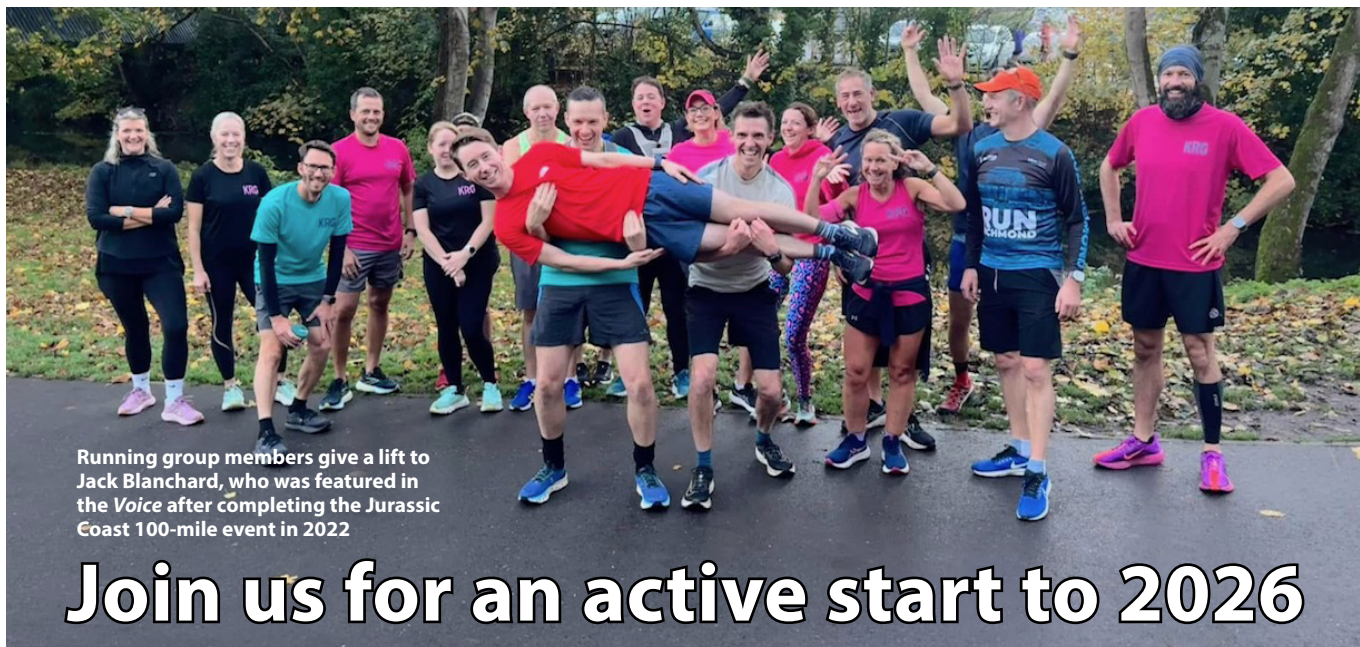
This will involve openly addressing the A4 overload, the Keynsham bypass bus lane, the imbalance between Bath and the rest of B&NES, the lack of local infrastructure, the Hicks Gate heronry, the sacred cows of Bath's UNESCO heritage status, the green belt and central government edicts and many other things.

It will be difficult but it's the least we should do, so that we leave the best environment we can to the people who will, in the future, be living in what we leave them.

**Paul Sims**



## NEWS



Running group members give a lift to Jack Blanchard, who was featured in the Voice after completing the Jurassic Coast 100-mile event in 2022

# Join us for an active start to 2026

KEYNSHAM Running Group is encouraging more people to join them for some great exercise in good company.

The group started as a Facebook page in 2019. While plenty of running chat was happening online, founding member Rich Hopkins felt it was time for members to leap from their sofas and meet in person.

That's how the Saturday morning Coffee Run was born. Since then, it has become a fixture in Keynsham's running scene and has

grown into a welcoming community whose motto is: no runner left behind.

Rich said: "We pride ourselves on being inclusive, supportive, and open to runners of all abilities."

"There's no cost to join - just bring yourself and a pair of trainers."

The group meets twice a week. On Saturdays, members gather in Keynsham Memorial Park near Bath Hill East car park, assembling by the Keynsham Coffee

Company van at 7.20am for a 7.30am start. This is followed by a 5K run around Somerdale.

On Wednesdays, the runners meet outside Wild About Flowers in the High Street at 12.15pm, then head out together for another 5K run around Somerdale.

To keep up to date with times, routes, and events, you can follow the group on Facebook or Instagram - just search for Keynsham Running Group.



Keynsham residents Jenny Smart, Angela Luckham and Lee Goulding, who was making a scarf on her weaving frame

## Crafts galore at workshop

MONTHLY craft workshops in Compton Dando have started up again for the winter, with the second one attracting 26 people to the village hall for lunch and many different activities.

Organiser Harriette Dottridge said crafts included weaving, knitting, embroidery, card-making, painting, and also stone-felting for which she thanked Jenny and Eileen for providing materials.

The event made a profit of £80. At the end of the workshop season, the profits will go to Compton Dando Community Association.

The last two craft workshop days will be held on Saturday January 10 and Tuesday February 3, 10am-4pm at Compton Dando Village Hall. To book a place, or to find out more, contact Harriette on 07791 832592 or email [hdottridge@hotmail.com](mailto:hdottridge@hotmail.com)



Barbara Baxter, Jan Durk, Clare Hudson and Margaret Thomson, who are all from Keynsham - Margaret recently donated 62 twiddlemuffs to Age Concern, with help from Barbara



Valerie Belston, from Corston, Jean Tadman, from Newton St Loe, and Jan Glossop and Joan Crew, from Keynsham Photos: Ros Anstey



## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

### Adult Fiction

#### Flesh

David Szalay

*Flesh* won the Booker prize last year and was heralded as the book of 2025. I decided to write a review but must admit I found the story very hard going. It is complex, with many adult themes, and the lead character, Istvan, is difficult to sympathise with.

The novel begins with Istvan living in Hungary as an isolated young person who begins a friendship with an older married neighbour. This relationship soon spirals out of control.

Years later, Istvan again joins the army, travels to Europe and ends up in London, where he meets the super-rich and becomes wealthy himself. Throughout, Istvan questions where his life is going.

This is a challenging read but very well written and a story you can have great discussions about.

#### Emily Goes to Exeter

M.C. Beaton

from B&NES virtual library

This is the first in the *Travelling Matchmaker* series by MC Beaton, which I listened to on audiobook through BorrowBox.

There was a good narrator and it was a nice short story, ideal for car journeys and walks.

Having never read anything by this author before, I wasn't sure what the story was going to be about, but I was pleasantly

surprised and found it to be an enjoyable listen.

Hannah Pym inherits some money from her dead employer, which allows her to resign from housekeeping. She decides she wants to travel the country by stagecoach (the original version of the Megabus, but in the 1800s). On her journey she meets a variety of passengers and find herself in a small adventure. All the while she finds herself doing a spot of matchmaking between the unsuspecting passengers.

It's a fun and fast-paced tale, with a happy ending. Each title in the series follows Hannah on a stagecoach journey to a different city, the second being Belinda Goes to Bath.

#### Instructions for Heartbreak

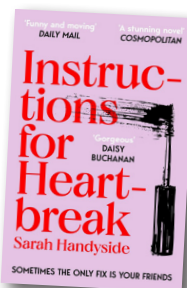
Sarah Handyside

from the B&NES virtual library

Katie is not prepared for the sudden ending of her long-term relationship.

Her three best friends decide she needs a handbook to help her process her heartbreak and start rebuilding her life. The friends use an old sketchbook to create the entries for Katie – they include food, new bedding, and music to listen to, but also help with the rage, the tears and, of course, practical advice on new dating apps.

The handbook reveals Katie's friends' own heartbreak struggles but ultimately strengthens their bond. A warm, witty tale.



### Adult Non-Fiction

#### Easy Meals Every Day

Pip Payne

January is always the month when you might start thinking of becoming a little healthier. This book, part of the Slimming Foodie range, is great practical read. It covers more than 100 simple, tasty recipes that will not break the bank. There are weekly meal-plan suggestions, laid out in a clear style. From mushroom bourguignon in the slow cooker, sweet and sour pork, to my personal favourite, blueberry scones. A splendid way to start the New Year.



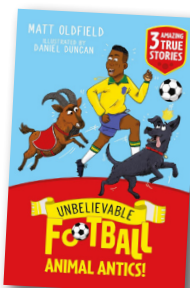
### Children's Non-Fiction

2026 sees the Football World Cup in USA, so here two books you might be interested in.

#### Unbelievable Football Animal Antics

Matt Oldfield

Discover three amazing stories about animals who got up to mischief on the football pitch. There is a story about a puppy and the England football team who were playing a Brazil team that included the football legend Pele. The puppy ran



on the pitch and caused mayhem, and you will have to read on to find out what happened next! Then there is a story about a goat who became a mascot to a famous northern football team. Great book for footie fans!

#### Messi v Ronaldo

Matt Oldfield & Seth Burkett

This title is part of the *Football GOAT* series of books, which are full of fun facts, stats and stories. You can then decide who is the best player – Messi or Ronaldo. Both brought their country to victory in international tournaments. It's a tough choice.

### Library news

Look out for the BookTrust storytimes this month for our younger readers. We will be showcasing a selection of books in our Storytime sessions and you get a chance to vote on your favourite.

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](http://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



# Capturing the fun of the 2025 Winter Festival

KEYNSHAM Winter Festival was a big success, as reported in last month's *Voice*, attracting thousands of people to the town centre. Here are some more photos of the event, taken by Mike May.



### Goods vehicle operator's licence

Magnum Scaffolding Limited trading as Magnum Scaffolding Limited of Yardbrook Estate, Stockwood Vale, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 2AL is applying for a licence to use Yardbrook Estate, Stockwood Vale, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 2AL as an operating centre for three goods vehicles and 0 trailers, and to use Yardbrook Estate, Stockwood Vale, Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 2AL as an operating centre for three goods vehicles and 0 trailers.

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Quarry House, Quarry Hill, Leeds, LS2 7UE, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available at [www.gov.uk/object-hgv-operator-licence](http://www.gov.uk/object-hgv-operator-licence)

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## NEWS

### Council tax consultation

BATH & North East Somerset Council is consulting on draft spending proposals for 2026/27, including ways to invest in care, generate income, make savings and balance its budget.

Proposals include increasing council tax by 4.99%. This includes the adult social care precept, which is 2% and which will be ring-fenced to support the most vulnerable.

To respond to the consultation, visit [www.bathnes.gov.uk](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk) and search for 'budget consultation'.

If you need support, a printed survey, or information in another format including audio, braille, large print or in another language, contact [budget@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:budget@bathnes.gov.uk) or call 01225 396053.

Completed forms can be returned to Budget Consultation, Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG

The consultation will close at 5pm on January 19.

## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



**Peter Morgan**  
chair of  
Churches  
Together in  
Keynsham  
and Saltford

Life is full of noise, pressure and distraction, and few of us are very good at slowing down long enough to listen.

WE'VE done Christmas. We've welcomed the New Year. And now... back to normal?

For many people, January brings a return to routines - work, school, commitments. But it can also be a moment to ask a quieter question: What really matters now?

From a Christian point of view, that question often includes asking God. Some people are comfortable with that idea; others aren't. Many would say, "God doesn't speak to me." That's an understandable reaction. Life is full of noise, pressure and distraction, and few of us are very good at slowing down long enough to listen.

The Christian belief is not that God shouts instructions from the clouds, but that he is interested in people - ordinary people - and that he does communicate, often in ways that are quieter and less obvious than we expect. It begins with being willing to ask the question, and to listen for an answer.

Listening doesn't mean switching off our judgement. When something feels important or challenging, it's wise to talk it through with others and to ask, "Am I hearing this clearly?" Faith has always involved trust, humility, and a willingness to be guided

rather than to stay in control. Here in Keynsham and Saltford, local churches are asking similar questions - not only about belief, but about action.

Churches Together in Keynsham and Saltford exists to help churches work together on things that make a practical difference in the community. That includes supporting a school chaplain, visiting local care homes, organising activities for children who simply enjoy sport and belonging, offering free lunches with no strings attached, producing the weekly *Believe Together* radio show on KTCRfm, and sharing local stories on Instagram at @churches\_together and on Facebook as BelieveTogetherRadio.

So here's a simple question: Is there something local churches could be doing that would help someone you know - or perhaps help you?

If you'd like to get in touch, you can contact me, Peter, at [BT@KTCRfm.com](mailto:BT@KTCRfm.com) or on 07879 402114.

And finally, at the heart of the Christian faith is the belief that God is personal and purposeful. Life is more than routine and habit. There may be something to begin, something to change, or something to let go of. We can't tell God what he should say, but we can ask, listen, and see what happens...

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## NEWS

# Honour for air ambulance fundraisers

THE family and friends of a man who died in a roofing accident have been recognised for their efforts to raise money for the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC).

Holly Sheehan, of Keynsham, and fellow supporters were finalists in the charity volunteers of the year category at the Air Ambulances UK 2025 Awards of Excellence.

An air ambulance crew arrived on the scene after Luke Allen's workplace accident in 2018, but despite their efforts they were unable to save him.

Since then, his sister Holly, her family, and friends of Luke have been raising money for GWAAC. Luke would have turned 30 last year, so the supporters wanted to mark his birthday by raising £30,000. They smashed this goal, having raised £40,000 in total so far, with friends of Luke completing a run from Westminster to Keynsham in March last year.

One of the runners was



Aaron Close, 27, of Keynsham, who described himself as "inseparable" from his childhood friend Luke.

Aaron was joined on the 150-mile run by friends Robbie Dury and Joel Milhofer, and they were greeted by well-wishers as they crossed the finish line at the New Inn at Keynsham.

While training for the run, he told the Voice: "The Great Western Air Ambulance Charity is such a vital service, and yet they receive no day-to-day funding from the Government or National Lottery."

He said he wanted to raise

as much money as possible in honour of Luke and to support anyone who needs GWAAC's help in the future.

Luke's sister Holly has been leading much of the fundraising, and GWAAC said she had shown incredible resilience and drive in the face of such profound loss.

Although she and Luke's other supporters just missed out on a win against competition from 10 others in their category, GWAAC said that being a finalist was "a wonderful recognition of their exceptional contribution."

Ian Cantoni, head of fundraising at GWAAC, said:

Holly Sheehan with her brother Luke Allen

Right, Aaron Close (centre) and his co-runners at the New Inn, Keynsham

Runners photo: Jekyll Photography



"Though we were never lucky enough to know Luke, his sister Holly's work has brought his memory to life and makes us feel as if we do.

"His legacy is a powerful story of grief transformed into action, led with true dedication by Holly.

"I can think of few people more deserving than Holly, her family, and friends to receive recognition in the Air Ambulances UK Awards of Excellence 2025."

Holly cut the ribbon at the opening of the new GWAAC charity shop in Keynsham High Street in 2024.



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### Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015. Notice under Article 13 of application for planning permission

Proposed development at Land West of Charlton Road, Keynsham.

I give notice that Persimmon Homes Severn Valley, Dr Richard Harries Jones and Mr Christopher J R Williams are applying to Bath & North East Somerset Council as local planning authority for planning permission to:

Outline planning application for the development of up to 200no. residential dwellings (Use Class C3); Class E floorspace (Use Class E); open space, strategic landscaping and earthworks, surface water drainage and all other ancillary infrastructure and enabling works with access from Charlton Road. All matters reserved except for access.

Any owner\* of the land or tenant\*\* who wishes to make representations about this application should write to the Council at Bath & North East Somerset Council, Lewis House, Manvers Street, Bath, BA1 1JG by 14th January 2026.

\*'Owner' means a person having a freehold interest or a leasehold interest the unexpired term of which is not less than seven years.

\*\*'Tenant' means a tenant of an agricultural holding any part of which is comprised in the land.

Signed: Dominic MacDougall, Nexus Planning  
On behalf of Persimmon Homes Severn Valley, Dr Richard Harries Jones and Mr Christopher J R Williams  
Date: 24th December 2025

## WHAT'S ON

### Friday January 9

■ Wildlife talk 'Watercress Farm Rewilding', Keynsham Baptist Church, BS31 1DS, starting at 7.30pm. Entrance: Avon Wildlife Trust members £3.50, non-members £5, to include refreshments served at 7.15pm. All welcome, no booking required.

### Tuesday January 27

■ Saltford & Keynsham Flower Club is holding its AGM at the Crown pub, Saltford, over lunch, starting at 12.30pm. Please see the website for further details. If you are considering joining the club, please come along too.

### Tuesday January 27

■ Chew Valley Choral Society taster session, 7.30pm-9.30pm, Bishop Sutton Village Hall, Wick Road, Bishop Sutton, BS39 5XQ. Details [www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk](http://www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk), email [info@chewvalleychoral.org.uk](mailto:info@chewvalleychoral.org.uk) or telephone Catherine Hunt on 07814098457.

### Friday February 6

■ 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.

## REGULAR EVENTS

### Mondays

■ 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.

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

### OVER 30s DANCE PARTY at the superb BAWA Club, Filton

... on the FIRST Friday of every MONTH (NO dance in August or January) It's the ideal night out for the 30-60 age range. Come dance and socialise amongst a friendly, lively crowd. Dancing Thru' the Decades includes Motown, Soul, Club Classics... Music you can relate to. Club times are 9 'til 1. Last entry 11pm - very smart casual. No t-shirts or trainers and gents required to wear collared shirts. Entry: £8. [www.mingles.co.uk](http://www.mingles.co.uk). Facebook: @Luv2mingle

## 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](mailto:news@keynshamvoice.co.uk) or call us on 0117 908 2121/ 07715 770448

■ 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](mailto: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.

■ 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.

■ 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/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/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](http://www.corerehab-physio.co.uk)

#### ■ Beginners Pilates

Keynsham High Street. Friendly classes, helping to improve balance, strength and increasing flexibility. Mondays 5.45pm, Tuesday 9.30am (older adults). Call or message Sandhya 07565 976 129.

### 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. Loyalty card. Drop in and pay on the night. Cash or contactless. See [www.yogadad.co.uk](http://www.yogadad.co.uk) for further details.

### 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 application form on [www.butterflies-haven.com](http://www.butterflies-haven.com)

### Tuesdays

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

■ 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/](http://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 details, contact Linda on [lindachrisp@hotmail.com](mailto:lindachrisp@hotmail.com).

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ Saltford Village Choir returns to its weekly Tuesday meetings in the Wansdyke Room at Saltford Hall on January 13, 7.30pm. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome to come along and try us out before committing.

### 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@avoncountyrrowingclub.org](mailto:gorowindoor@avoncountyrrowingclub.org). uk to book. More details <http://avoncountyrrowingclub.org.uk/>

### Wednesdays

■ Hanham Bridge Club meets every Wednesday 7pm-10pm at Hanham Community Centre. New



## WHAT'S ON

members and visitors welcome. See [www.hanhambridgeclub.co.uk](http://www.hanhambridgeclub.co.uk) or call Graham 07790 491564.

■ 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](http://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](http://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](mailto:youthleader@keynsham-tc.gov.uk). Spaces available.

### Thursdays

■ 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](http://www.keynshamdaa.co.uk), [ksdaa22@gmail.com](mailto:ksdaa22@gmail.com) or 07392442966.

### ■ 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](http://www.corerehab-physio.co.uk)

■ 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.

■ 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](mailto: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.

■ Get fit in 2026! Try social badminton for fun and fitness. No experience? No racket? No problem! Play at your own pace. Join friendly, mixed adult group (18-80+) drop-in session in Keynsham, Thursdays 10am-12noon. Ring Clive 01179866793.

■ Keynsham Town walking football for the over-50s, 7.15pm-8.30pm. Play football at a slower pace for fun and fitness. New members welcome. Contact [keynshamtownwf@gmail.com](mailto:keynshamtownwf@gmail.com).

### 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](http://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](http://keynshamrepaircafe.wixsite.com/home).

■ 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.

■ 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>.

### 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.

## Dark side of local history



THE sinister side of our local past is explored in a new book by Keynsham author Mike Dean.

Entitled *The Dark Little History of Somerset*, it peers beneath the county's welcoming facade to uncover some of its more unsavoury secrets.

Who, for example, was the curate whose body ended up being boiled in a cauldron?

Why was Mary Norwood burned at the stake in 1765?

Why did Yeovil get through four vicars in two months between 1348 and 1349?

And what is the secret behind the discovery of two unknown chapels in the ruins of Glastonbury Abbey?

The answers to these and many other questions are to be found in the pages of this book, published by The History Press.

Battles, executions, murders, disappearances, rebellions and witchcraft all make an appearance, along with pirates, smugglers, fraudsters and many other shady characters.

Mike's previous books, *The Little Book of Bath* and *The Little History of Somerset* are also available from bookshops.

## ■ POETRY CORNER

### New Year's Hopes and Expectations

The New Year's full of hopes and dreams  
That wishes will come true.  
A brand new start, each day renewed  
To choose what we will do.

So let's give friends, today, a lift,  
For every day's a gift.  
Think wisely, speak a welcome word,  
Let only good be heard.

The future lays before us all,  
But it's not ours to call.  
Such little time, and time goes fast,  
Don't dwell upon the past.

The past has gone forever now,  
Let's keep the peace and never row.  
Be kind and caring, think of others,  
Spend precious time with all our brothers.

And God will help us from above,  
He's looking down with so much love.  
And wrapped up in His loving arms  
He'll shelter us from all life's harms.

Sylvia Kirby

## ■ PEN TO PAPER

### Walk in My Wake

The night is long and dark son,  
And the storm is gathering fast,  
And the road is strewn with rocks son,  
And the wind is an icy blast.

But I know that I can make it son,  
However long it may take,  
And you can make it too son,  
If you only walk in my wake.

The night is long and dark son,  
And the storm is gathering fast,  
And the road is strewn with rocks son,  
And the wind is an icy blast.

And now I'm past my prime son,  
Oh how my old joints ache,  
But I know that I can make it son,  
If I only walk in your wake.

George Liddell

Keynsham Creative Writers welcome  
new members – call George Liddell  
on 0117 914 8654

## It's quiz time

SALT FORD Community Association and Saltford Tennis Club are holding a joint quiz night at Saltford Hall on Saturday February 7, 7.30pm. Tickets are available online at [www.tickettailor.com/events/scaevents](http://www.tickettailor.com/events/scaevents) or from the Saltford Post Office and library hub.

## ■ CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

### Goods new to inspire us for 2026

SINCE the 1970s, the proportion of negative news in the British press has risen substantially, which can lead to feelings of powerlessness and overwhelm. It's even turning some people away from the news entirely. This is bad for our mental health and our society.

As the new year begins, I'm resolving to find a better balance. Whilst staying informed of the challenges we face, I'll seek out and celebrate the positive stories that inspire hope and action. Here are just a few good news stories from 2025 that I hope will kindle a spark of positivity that keeps you warm over these dark January days.

#### Nature's renewal

Dutch communities are competing for the prize to remove the most paving slabs from their gardens, rewinding urban spaces and easing pressure on drainage systems. A family of beavers in Czechia has built a dam exactly where authorities were planning one, saving taxpayers around £1m. Beaver releases in England were approved in February. India's tiger population, once almost extinct, has doubled in just over a decade, through efforts to protect them from poaching and habitat loss and reducing human-tiger conflict.

#### The sun's power

Older women in villages in Zanzibar without electricity are being trained to become solar power technicians, bringing power to these isolated rural communities. Solar farms planted with biodiverse habitats are a refuge for bumblebees and could boost their declining numbers. Vatican City is set to be the world's first carbon neutral state, after Italy gave it permission to turn a 430-hectare field north of Rome into a vast solar farm. Hopefully with bumblebees!

#### Mighty seaweed

Offshore windfarms across Europe are the perfect habitats for commercial-scale seaweed farms, with the first successful harvest off the Dutch North Sea in 2025. Seaweed is a major source of carbon capture and storage and when processed can be used instead of plastic. One seaweed packaging company has already replaced over 21 million items of single-use plastic across Europe and is aiming to displace one billion units by 2030. Its products are in use at major stadiums and venues across Europe, including Twickenham, the Oval and Aston Villa football ground.

Elizabeth Willitts

## ■ PROBUS CLUB

ALMOST 80 members and partners enjoyed Keynsham and Saltford Probus Club's sumptuous Christmas lunch at Saltford Golf Club.

The Rev Josette Crane gave the seasonal message, interestingly using *The Life of Brian* as an introduction.

Musical entertainment was themed around the 200th anniversary of the first ever train journey, which was achieved by George Stephenson's Locomotion No.1 travelling from Shildon to Stockton.

Mike Crane, Robin Dixon and Owen Cole (pictured) commemorated this in fine style.



## ■ 1st KEYNSHAM SCOUTS

### Help our Scouts to bag those badges

SIGNIFICANT milestone achieved by 1st Keynsham Scouts in 2025 included the completion of a new activity barn at Chelwood campsite and the launch of a Squirrel Drey, which contributed to an increase in youth participation.

Scouts are famous for badges and this year they have been awarded a record number, from cooking to artist, camping to master at arms. Whether you're an animal lover or an avid reader, an inspired photographer or a budding chef, you name it, they've got a badge for it - over 200 of them, in fact.

Scouts work together on badges at their weekly meetings, away at camps, on events or they can do them at home. There's never any pressure to do badges, so Scouts can do as many or as few as they like. Badges are easy to earn and, for lots of them, you don't need anyone special to sign them off, but you do need someone.

Looking ahead to 2026, 1st Keynsham Scouts

are planning further initiatives and seek additional adults to support the delivery of Scouting. Opportunities are available not only for regular leaders but also for individuals who can contribute occasionally, such as leading an event or activity once a month.

If you have expertise or enthusiasm for caving, climbing, kayaking, camping, or outdoor pursuits, your involvement would be highly valued. Skills in media, communications, marketing, and event promotion are also appreciated for essential behind-the-scenes roles. Leadership, support, and creativity are always welcome, providing opportunities for personal growth and development.

In 2026, the group aims to expand its offerings and increase youth membership. If you are interested in contributing to these efforts, contact us via our website at [1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk](http://1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk) or email [scouts@1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk](mailto:scouts@1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk).



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## NEWS

### Community Farm appeal is a success

THE Community Farm has raised more than £65,000 from its Crowdfunder campaign.

The money, raised from more than 500 supporters, will enable it to continue growing climate-friendly food, supporting nature, and offering volunteering, courses and events.

The not-for-profit, organic farm overlooking Chew Valley Lake received 3,500 visitors last year, including refugees, local school children and adults with mental ill health.

It delivered organic food to more than 500 homes each week, supporting more than 25 other ethical food producers in the South West. It also provides habitats for vulnerable wildlife species including dormice and little owls.

The Crowdfunder campaign, which was launched in October, aimed to secure the farm's future after a challenging year.

"We have been overwhelmed by support," said Tom Richardson, co-managing director.

"The Community Farm was founded by volunteers and has grown over the years thanks to the generosity of thousands of local people contributing time, money and expertise to the cause.

"To see and feel this enormous wave of support again now, 15 years into this project, is phenomenal."



Families making lanterns to take up the tower of St Mary's Church - and sparklers outside

### Perfect hiding place for a piece of our history



A view of the bell room at St Mary's Church

CHILDREN in Compton Dando have found the perfect hiding place in the village church for the time capsule they have been putting together.

They were helped by villager and church warden Clive Howarth, renowned for his unrivalled knowledge of the 800-year-old St Mary's Church. He led the children on a tour of the tower and bell rooms, sharing insights into its rich history.

Activities included lantern-making inside the church and a buffet tea. The celebrations concluded with sparklers outside to mark the switching-on of the community Christmas lights.

The time capsule was put together by the youngest children (under eight) in Compton Dando and neighbouring villages. They have each contributed an item, be it a first drawing, letter, or message to their future self, along with photographs and newspaper clippings.

There's no fixed time for how long the time capsule will stay, but the church and villagers hope the children will remember when they're adults and go back in a group to retrieve it.

## RETIRED AND SENIOR VOLUNTEER PROGRAMME (RSVP)

### You can make a difference to the lives of children

MANY people look forward to retirement, relishing the time they will have to pursue their love of gardening, music, reading or other activities.

Some can be fearful about how to use their time and want to continue to enjoy the sociability that work can provide.

Others want to use some of their spare time by doing something different and for the benefit of others as well as themselves.

There are therefore many reasons why people choose to join the Retired and Senior Programme RSVP, a registered national charity which offers opportunities for the over 50s to share skills and life experiences.

Our volunteers are diverse. Some are retired,

while others combine their volunteering with part-time or other voluntary work.

Some are grandparents who miss regular contact with their grandchildren, some have recently moved to the area or are recently widowed, while others are looking for new purposeful activities to enjoy. What unites them is their interest in being with youngsters and their desire to share with them their love of books.

Our aim is for volunteers to find a context in which they feel they can help make a difference to pupils' learning.

Volunteers delight in describing the pleasure they get from seeing a young child's face light up when they meet. For some pupils, having

another adult to relate to in school can make a big difference.

Our schools are enthusiastic as they recognise how the presence of other adults with time to spare can play a useful role in developing pupils' confidence and social skills.

We are active in BANES, Bristol, South Gloucester and North Somerset and are keen to attract volunteers and schools in and around Keynsham.

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer or are a primary school wishing to establish links with RSVP, we would love to hear from you. You can discover more about RSVP at [www.rsvp-west.org.uk](http://www.rsvp-west.org.uk) or by contacting [joan.whitehead@rsvp-west.org.uk](mailto:joan.whitehead@rsvp-west.org.uk) or on 01225 314860.



## SANTA SPECIAL



KEYNSHAM got into the Christmas spirit when the Original Santa Float made its annual visit to the town.

Supporting Santa again was a cast of well-loved characters including the Grinch, Stitch, Olaf from Frozen, and the Elf on the Shelf, as local residents lined the streets to wave and cheer.

Donations to the float, which is run by a team of volunteers, are supporting two good causes - Time is Precious, a charity dedicated to improving the lives of children in hospital, and the Guild of Friends of the Bristol Royal Hospital for Children, which provides vital support to young patients and their families.

RESIDENTS of Kingfisher Lodge care centre in Saltford got a visit from Father Christmas as part of the Saltford Santa trail.

General manager Claudia said: "We would like to thank Saltford Community Association for choosing our home to be the starting point to Santa's journey and we were more than happy to donate to their chosen charity Children's Hospice South West".

Pictured, Santa with Barbara and family.



Customers at Saltford Community Library and Post Office Hub were delighted to receive an early visit from Father Christmas. He dropped in to say hello to children who were choosing books to read while their parents posted parcels and letters at the Post Office. Santa is pictured with hub volunteer Jim Hughes.

## Singing the praises of the Christmas choirboy

FOR nearly two decades, one familiar figure has shone out from the Christmas lights along Keynsham High Street - a choirboy who has become part of the town's festive identity.

Originally installed as the winning entry in Keynsham Town Council's Design a Christmas Light competition, the choirboy was only expected to remain in place for ten years.

Now, almost 17 years later, it still returns to the same spot each Christmas, much to the delight of residents. Among his fans is Julia Chandler, who contacted the Voice to express her admiration.

She said: "It is delightful that someone still takes the trouble to keep him, put him on the lamp post and then light him. Thank you so much for keeping up this long-held tradition."

The winner of the design competition all those years ago,



Isabelle Goddard, said: "All the other lights on Keynsham High Street are the same apart from him, which I think makes people wonder what the story behind it is. It's lovely that it's a part of my childhood which I still get to see every Christmas."

This year, the council has had the choirboy professionally refurbished, ensuring he will continue to illuminate the High Street - and Christmas memories - for years to come.

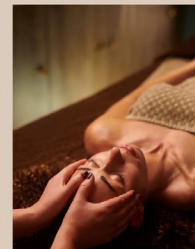


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## NEWS

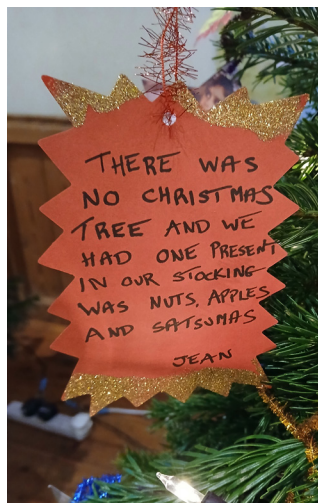


ALMOST 2,000 people braved the wet and windy weather to visit the Christmas tree festival at St John's Church in Keynsham.

Visitors young and old enjoyed the glittering spectacle of trees decorated by 48 local community groups.

There were refreshments and crafts, too, and visitors were entertained all weekend by a programme of local choirs, bands and musicians.

The organisers said: "A huge thank-you must go to the people of Keynsham for making it such a successful eighth Christmas tree festival."



Choirjam entertaining visitors to the Christmas tree festival at St John's Church

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## ■ SALTFRD TENNIS CLUB



# Thrilling tournament in memory of Russ

SALTFRD Tennis Club once again held their annual Remembering Russ Tournament, in honour of Russell Simmons.

Russ was an accomplished young sportsman and excellent coach who we sadly lost to suicide in March 2013. The tournament is an opportunity for Russell's parents, family, friends and the community to come together to remember Russ and raise awareness about the devastating impact of suicide.

Twelve competitors consisting of former and current members of Salford LTC and Russell's friends took to the court in October and produced competitive and entertaining tennis.

It was a round-robin format with the top two teams playing a championship tie-break final. The teams were so evenly matched that three teams (John Moruzzi and John Sweet, Guy

Muggleton and Elliot Jones, Neil Willey and Ed Collis) all finished on the same number of points.

By winning one more point than these three teams, Mark Collins and Ryan Fell finished second, earning a place in the final, where they faced Lucas Richards and Rhys Messenger.

The start of the final was close, but Lucas and Rhys produced some clinical tennis and raced out to a 9:3 lead. Then Mark and Ryan staged a comeback, winning three points in a row to narrow the gap. However, the gap proved too big to peg back, and Lucas and Rhys finally won the winning point to be crowned champions.

While watching some entertaining tennis, the spectators enjoyed a cuppa, tasty treats provided by the Little Coffee Shop, and freshly made sausage baps prepared by Milly Allen.

This year's charity was Hope Against Suicide,

chosen by Russell's parents. It offers mental health support across Bristol, from a team of volunteers with experience and training in suicide prevention. For more information visit <https://hopeagainstsucide.org.uk>

Before a toast was raised in honour of Russ, Joyce Pickard, who helped Russ on his tennis journey, paid a poignant tribute to him.

The event raised over £550 for the charity. The club thanks all the members who created a welcoming and friendly atmosphere, and everyone who cheered, cooked, organised, donated or simply showed up to make the day special.

The tournament once again proved that Salford LTC is as much about community as it is about competition. Finally, much love, respect and thanks to Jan and David Simmons.

## ■ KEYNSHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

# Under-18s flying high

BEFORE an important fixture in December against Oldland Abbotonians, Keynsham Town's under-18 side sat on top of the Western Counties Floodlit Youth League, North Division, having won five of its seven matches.

Several times the young lads came from behind in exciting matches to clinch all three points against some very talented local youth teams. It also reached the latter stages of the Roger Stone Memorial Cup and was due to meet Hallen just before Christmas.

Its young first team in the Jewson Western League Division One has given a good account of itself so far this season and achieved some notable victories.

The walking football club raised £815 for Keynsham Dial-a-Ride and South West Air Ambulance at its annual Christmas lunch. The latter organisation helped one member earlier this

year in a life-saving operation.

One of the largest such clubs in the area with over 150 members, it has raised around £40,000 for local and national charities over the years. It has eight teams playing in three local leagues, where it is regularly successful in bringing home some trophies.

More importantly, it has a very active social side and even those who are unable to play join us for a chat about football and a coffee.

It runs Turn Up and Play sessions regularly at the AJN Stadium, the home of Keynsham Town FC, on Tuesdays and Fridays (see <https://keynshamtownfc.co.uk/walking-football-home/>) but it needs players to join in its Thursday evening over-50s sessions. These run from 7.30 to 8.30 pm.

Anyone interested in playing in these should contact Alan Williams on 07771 603965.

## ■ BRISTOL BASEBALL CLUB

# Give our great sport a try

BRISTOL Baseball Club is running taster sessions at Wellsway School in Keynsham for those interested in playing for the club in 2026.

A session for adult men and women will be held on Sunday January 25 at 1pm.

There will be two sessions for youth players aged between six and 14 - on Sunday February 15 and Sunday March 29. Both start at 1pm.

A specific session for women and girls will be held at the school on Sunday March 29 from 3pm.

The club will also hold a session for adult men and women at Badminton School Sports Centre in Bristol on Saturday January 17, starting at 1.30pm.

Anyone who is interested should contact the club through its website [www.bristolbaseball.co.uk](http://www.bristolbaseball.co.uk) or email [info@bristolbaseball.co.uk](mailto:info@bristolbaseball.co.uk)

Club chairman Rhodri Theaker said: "The club is always on

the lookout for players of any experience to join the biggest club in the South West.

"We provide all the equipment needed for the tasters, which will be run by qualified coaches."

Bristol Baseball Club, based at Somerdale in Keynsham, runs four teams and the Bolts youth programme and is looking to kickstart its women's team for the coming season.

The club has been one of the most successful in the country, with the Badgers reaching the national AAA playoffs for the last five years.

In 2025 the Buccaneers won the A regional championship and reached the national semi-finals.

The Bats have reached the national AA playoffs while the Brunels, the club's development team, has established itself as one of the best for helping players develop.

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**07810 443235**

## ROOFING SERVICES

**Do It Right Roofing Contractors**  
Tile & Flat Roofing Specialists  
Repairs & New Roofs  
Chimney Stacks (pointing & rendering)  
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Competitive rates - Locally Based  
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**07821 557773** Est 20 years

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Fully qualified & insured tree surgeon

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07837629316

jhs treeservices@outlook.com

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Services we provide are:

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- Installation • Plumbing & Heating
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All plumbing & heating problems solved fast! 24 hour response calls.

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**Tom's Roofing & Property Maintenance**  
All ASPECTS OF ROOFING

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Call now for a free quote

**Tel: 0117 9861652**

**Mob: 07747 131431**

tomsroofingandmaintenance@yahoo.com

## WASTE DISPOSAL

**COLLSTONE**  
WASTE SOLUTIONS



WHAT WE DO: WHY CHOOSE US?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>House Clearances</li> <li>Household &amp; Garden Waste Clearance</li> <li>Construction &amp; Site Waste Removal</li> <li>Office &amp; Shop Strip-Outs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Covering Saltford/Keynsham/Bath and surrounding areas</li> <li>✓ Fast, reliable service</li> <li>✓ Eco-friendly approach</li> <li>✓ Licensed waste removal</li> </ul> |
|---|--|

**CALL ANDY ON**  
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# Save the date



## Wedding Showcase

Explore our elegant ceremony rooms, discover our licensed wedding venues and meet with talented local suppliers

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2026**

**10am – 2pm**

**The Guildhall, Bath**

**Bath & North East  
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**Free tickets**

