

# keynshamvoice

May 2026

Issue 168

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**FREE EVERY MONTH IN KEYNHAM & SALTFORD**

**Four friends who attend Saltford C of E Primary School ran 5k around the loop at Somerdale, Keynsham, as part of their efforts to raise money for a Down Syndrome charity.**

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Questions remain over whether bus lanes will be installed on the Keynsham bypass, a local councillor has said.

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## Lidl unveils town store plan that rivals Aldi's

A BATTLE of the supermarkets is looming after Lidl revealed plans to open a store in Keynsham.

The discount chain wants to redevelop the Jewson Builders Merchants site opposite Waitrose.

And Lidl says that the site in Broadmead Lane is a better

location than the one its rival Aldi wants to develop further out of town on the A4 Bath Road.

Lidl confirmed it had bought the Jewson site after seeking a suitable location in Keynsham for some years.

It said it intends to submit a planning application soon, along

with a public consultation.

But it has already suffered a setback, with its demolition plans at Jewson to clear the way for a new store being refused by Bath & North East Somerset Council.

Lidl had applied for prior

■ **Turn to Page 3**

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Our June edition will go to print on Monday May 25. To ensure your news or letter is included, please contact us by Wednesday May 20. Advertisers are asked to contact us by the same date.



## Your views

Letters for publication can be emailed to news@keynshamvoice.co.uk or posted to Letters, Keynsham Voice, 16 Ashmead Business Centre, Ashmead Road, Keynsham, BS31 1SX. The editor reserves the right to edit your letter.

## Local information

### Keynsham Town Council

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### Keynsham Citizens Advice Bureau

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### West of England Mayor

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### Council Connect

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### Fire

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### Anti-social behaviour team

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01225 842462

### Well Aware

Health and social care information  
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(Freephone) 0808 808 5252

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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

# Children's care home application is rejected



Full planning permission would be needed to turn this property in The Avenue into a children's care home, B&NES Council has ruled

AN APPLICATION to turn a house in Keynsham into a children's care home has been refused.

The property at 8a The Avenue has been used as a house in multiple occupation (HMO) providing supported accommodation for up to six young people aged 16 to 21.

Focus Futures Care, Support & Learning had asked Bath & North East Somerset Council to issue a certificate of lawfulness so it could become a children's care home instead.

But the council has ruled that the change of use is not permitted development and will therefore need full planning permission.

In its application, Focus Futures had told the council there would be a maximum of five young people in the home. Staff would be on site 24 hours a day, supported by a manager and on-call system.

There would be at least one staff member to every two young people, and the maximum number of staff on shift would be three.

The applicant said all staff

would be trained on safeguarding and behaviour management as part of their induction.

The house would operate similar to a domestic household, with shared living, staff and young people eating meals and watching TV together, and morning and evening routines. Visitors would need to make an appointment in advance.

The house has its own private driveway for up to four cars. The young people and staff would also be encouraged to use public transport where possible.

The applicant said: "The proposed change of use is not a big departure from current use.

"As the property already meets a lot of the agreed standards for a supported accommodation service, there won't be a significant amount of changes required to make the transition to a children's care home."

Permission to change the use of the five-bedroom residential property into a house of multiple occupation was granted in 2018.

Current use of the property as an HMO was due to cease on March 2.

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NEWS



# Lidl challenges Aldi over store plans

■ From Page 1

approval to knock down two industrial buildings on the site which it says are no longer fit for purpose. It had hoped to start the work on May 1 and be finished by June 19, with work taking place between 7.30am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 7.30am to 1pm on Saturday.

But B&NES Council has rejected the request, stating: "There is insufficient information to assess the likely potential impacts of the proposed demolition on protected species, including bats."

The council said one letter of objection to the plans stated: "If this went ahead, the traffic would be even worse in this area than what it is now. There are no pelican crossings at the Broadmead roundabout and it is very difficult to cross the road there."

"It would be the death knell for Keynsham High Street, which could do with a boost. If Lidl, or Aldi for that matter, wanted to have a supermarket in Keynsham, it should be in the



Lidl wants to redevelop the Jewson site, above, opposite Waitrose in Broadmead Lane

High Street or somewhere very close to the High Street.

"We lost the opportunity to have another decent size supermarket in the centre of Keynsham when the new town hall [civic centre] was built. The Sainsbury local could have been much bigger to encourage people to shop in the centre of Keynsham."

Lidl told the *Voice* its purchase of the Jewson site has ended a long search for the right location in the town.

A spokesperson said: "We've been looking for a suitable site to bring a Lidl store to Keynsham for a number of years. We're therefore delighted to have acquired this brownfield site

in an established location for development, which benefits from existing highway and pedestrian access.

"While we prepare to submit the application and go through the planning process, the current occupiers, Jewson, will remain on site. As part of our proposals, a transport assessment will also be submitted."

Meanwhile, planning consultants for Lidl have lodged an objection to Aldi's plans for a supermarket at the site of the former Brincliffe Nursery on Bath Road.

Aldi submitted its planning application to B&NES Council in May 2024 and has received strong support from the public.

But concerns have been raised about the impact on the busy main road, which has already been affected by new housing developments, and the council's expected decision date has been pushed back several times, with a new date yet to be revealed.

In objecting to Aldi's plans, Lidl's planning consultants referred to a pre-application submission for the Jewson site made to the council in December.

They said the need for a Limited Assortment Discount store in Keynsham was not disputed, but the Jewson site was closer to the town centre than the old Brincliffe Nurseries and should be considered "sequentially preferable".

Regarding the future of Jewson in the town, a company spokesperson told the *Voice*: "We remain open for business and our branch team will keep supporting customers with their project needs from Jewson Keynsham on Broadmead Lane until we relocate our operations and colleagues to a new site in the area."



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## NEWS



Somerdale is among the Keynsham developments not adopted by the council

# Frustration as adoption wait goes on

RESIDENTS of Somerdale in Keynsham are still waiting for their roads to be adopted by the council after more than a decade – with no clear end in sight.

Among those frustrated by the long wait is resident Richard Hillyer, who has lived on the estate for more than 10 years.

He is calling on Taylor Wimpey, who built the development, and Bath & North East Somerset Council to resolve the matter.

He said: “The council and Taylor Wimpey are playing this long game backwards and forward between themselves, whilst the residents are left in limbo with any issues or action needing to be taken on site.”

Richard cited problems such as a huge pothole outside Somerdale Educate Together Primary School, which many cars hit every morning, and the lack of traffic-calming measures and a crossing by the school.

Kerb edges are damaged and loose across the estate, he said, while workers in nearby businesses are lining the streets with their vehicles rather than using their allocated car parks.

“Yellow lines are not enforced as the roads are not adopted,” he said. “Complete waste of paint.”

Richard said green areas were maintained only because residents paid for this service.

George Leach, Liberal Democrat councillor for Keynsham North on B&NES Council, said: “I share residents’ frustration and fundamentally believe new developments across B&NES should be adopted as soon as possible; it is not morally right that residents receive a different service from other



residents based on where they live in the authority.

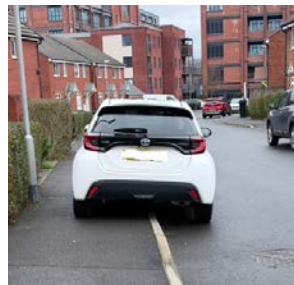
“That said, much of the work to get the developments in a fit state for adoption rests with the developer and I’m advised there is little the council can do, under the agreements put in place when planning was approved some years ago across multiple developments in Keynsham, to force the issue.

“This is a point of particular concern as there seems to be very little ability to hold large housing developers to account, regardless of what they deliver.

“In regards to Somerdale, I’m advised that there are too many defects to list in the phase 1 build and no agreements are yet in place for phases 2, 3 and 4 for officers to even undertake an initial inspection.

“Further, the sewers have yet to be adopted by Wessex Water – an issue on other developments across Keynsham also – and various traffic regulation orders are not in place.

“It’s therefore a mixed bag, as I cannot advocate for the council to take on significant liabilities that would require considerable



Road maintenance and parking are among the issues cited by resident Richard Hillyer

remedial work at a cost, but equally I have much sympathy with the position residents living there find themselves in.

“This is the situation in four developments across Keynsham, some of which are much older than Somerdale.”

Cllr Leach said he would like to see more leadership on the matter within the council and foresight with regards to planning applications.

“With the Local Plan for thousands of new houses on the horizon and multiple planning applications being put in, this could easily become a major issue across the authority rather than just being disproportionately limited to Keynsham, as it currently is.”

Resident Richard Hillyer runs a guitar coaching business from Somerdale which coaches students one to one and at guitar club sessions held at the Somerdale Pavillion.

He said: “Don’t get me wrong – we live on a wonderful estate. But cracks are already starting to show with no plan to resolve the issues whilst this negotiation takes place.

“With Minsmere Green being developed at the minute, I believe they will also encounter the same issues further down the line, and it’s important to make house buyers aware.”

He said he was disappointed that Taylor Wimpey had not granted residents’ requests for a meeting to discuss these issues. But the company told the *Voice* that a meeting would take place in due course.

A spokesperson for Taylor Wimpey said: “We remain committed to progressing the adoption of roads and sewers at Somerdale and are actively working with Wessex Water and Bath & North East Somerset Council to advance this process.

“We understand the concerns of residents and will be meeting with them to answer their questions directly. Any maintenance issues brought to our attention will continue to be addressed promptly.”

Councillor Lucy Hodge, B&NES Council cabinet member for sustainable transport delivery, said: “We know this situation is frustrating for residents. The council is unable to inspect whether the roads are suitable for adoption until repairs have been completed by Taylor Wimpey and the sewers have been adopted by Wessex Water.

“The council has no legal powers to make developers offer roads for adoption. However we are continuing to engage with Taylor Wimpey to identify how progress could be made. We advise residents living on unadopted roads to contact the developer directly and as a group.”

NEWS

# No sign of action at accident blackspot

PEOPLE concerned about an accident blackspot on the A4 Keynsham bypass are still waiting for action to be taken.

They say the issue is caused by vehicles pulling across traffic to access the retail park at the former Wyevale Garden Centre, instead of continuing to the Hicks Gate roundabout and then swinging around it to rejoin the bypass on the opposite side.

They want the reinstatement of a no-right-turn sign that used to be in place to stop drivers making the dangerous manoeuvre.

When the *Voice* reported on the issue in April 2025, Bristol City Council said it was aware of the safety concerns.

Councillor Ed Plowden, chair of the transport and connectivity committee, said at the time: "We are now considering next steps and will continue to explore both short-term and long-term options to improve road safety at the junction."

But a year on, road users continue to raise the issue on FixMyStreet and the city council says it is waiting for the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to finalise its travel proposals for the A4 between Bath and Bristol.

Cllr Plowden told the *Voice*: "Following our initial review after the removal of the no-right turn sign by the previous landowner, we



The exit of the retail park (left) where some drivers cut across the bypass to leave and go right, towards the Hicks Gate roundabout or to enter from the Bristol direction

decided that we would not progress a Traffic Regulation Order at this junction whilst other longer-term plans were being considered for this section of the A4.

"However, keeping residents safe on our roads remains a priority, and as our continual monitoring of collisions across the city has identified an increase in injury collisions at this location in recent years, we will revisit our previous review to determine if any other options are now feasible."

In response to a freedom of information request, Avon and Somerset Police told the *Voice* last month that, since the start of 2023, they had recorded a total of 21 collisions on

the A4 near the retail park, with incident severities ranging from 'damage only' to 'fatal'.

A Keynsham motorist who contacted the *Voice* last year said drivers were also leaving the retail park in a dangerous manner, by turning right from the exit opposite Ironmould Lane and cutting across the bypass to head towards Hicks Gate.

He said: "Locals have been warning that without action it's only a matter of time until somebody is killed at this point."

The retail park is home to a gym, hot-tub showroom, used-car showroom, a private ambulance station, and a hand carwash.

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NEWS



# Let's have fair play over park revamp

DELAYS to the long-promised improvements at Keynsham Memorial Park have come under fire.

Bath & North East Somerset Council did not receive any tenders by the end of March for an upgrade of the upper play area, which is part of the council's four-year Memorial Park plan.

It is now proposing to re-tender the scheme to target a wider range of landscapers.

Should this be successful, the council is proposing that construction starts in early September this year.

The delays have prompted Keynsham Town Council to decide to send a "strong" response to Councillor Sarah Warren, B&NES cabinet member for parks, requesting an improvement in communications about the matter.

The town council, at its meeting on April 21, agreed to



**Labour councillors Chris Davis, Deb Cooper, Martin Burton and Dave Biddleston at the upper Memorial Park play area**

cite "the unfairness of all the parks being completed in Bath whilst Keynsham's is continually delayed" and highlight the fact that the town council has been able to get numerous contractors to quote for its park refurbishments.

Meanwhile, Keynsham's Labour councillors have

expressed their frustration at the delays, warning that the community is being let down by a lack of progress.

They say that, with inflation and rising costs, the delay risks significantly reducing the value of the original investment.

Deb Cooper, speaking for the Labour group on the town

council, said: "This is simply not good enough. Residents were promised timely investment in a much-loved community space. Instead, they are seeing delay after delay, with no clear explanation and diminishing value for money."

She added: "It is deeply frustrating that while parks in Bath have been upgraded and opened, Keynsham Memorial Park remains stuck in limbo."

The Labour councillors are calling for urgent action from B&NES Council to bring forward the timetable, provide transparency on the causes of delay, and ensure that the original vision for the park is not compromised.

They are urging the B&NES Council leadership to prioritise the project and deliver on commitments made to the people of Keynsham without further delay.



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## ■ YOUR PHOTOS

# Wildlife galore in Memorial Park



THESE photos of some of the abundant wildlife to be found in Keynsham Memorial Park were taken by photographer Chris Philpott, who has kindly shared them with us.

The otter and kingfisher were spotted in the River Chew, while the newly hatched ducklings were seen splashing around the river and the duckpond. More Keynsham wildlife photos can be found on Chris's Instagram: @keynshamwildlife



## Bishop Rose's visit boosts St John's 750 Appeal

A FUNDRAISING evening at St John's Church in Keynsham has been hailed a great success after attracting more than 130 people and raising over £1,000 towards the church's 750 Appeal.

The event featured an in-conversation interview with Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkin, Bishop of Dover, whose remarkable life story and reflections on faith, leadership and community captivated the audience.

Guests also enjoyed a lively question-and-answer session, along with refreshments and a book signing.

Cllr Dave Biddleston, who hosted the conversation, praised both the speaker and the community response.

"It was a truly fantastic evening. Bishop Rose is an exceptional speaker, and her honesty, warmth and insight really resonated with everyone in the room."



**Anna Hewett-Rakthanee, one of the helpers at the 750 Appeal fundraiser, with Bishop Rose Hudson-Wilkins at St John's Church**

He added: "To welcome over 130 people and raise more than £1,000 for the 750 Appeal is a wonderful result. It shows the strength of support for St John's and the

important role it continues to play in the life of our community."

The funds raised will contribute to ongoing renovation and development work aimed at securing the future of the church as a place for worship, community events and local engagement.

Organisers have described the evening as a great step forward for the 750 Appeal and hope it will build further momentum for future fundraising efforts.

Team rector Rev Aidan Watson paid tribute to those who made the evening possible.

He said: "Events like this don't happen without a huge amount of work behind the scenes. I'd like to thank all the volunteers who gave their time and energy to make the evening run so smoothly, as well as everyone who came along and supported it."

■ YOUR PHOTOS



This stunning photo of the early-morning sky was sent in by Voice reader Graham Day. It shows the view from his balcony across Keynsham towards Kelston Hill and was taken at 6.25am on Tuesday April 14. Our thanks to Graham for sharing it with us.

■ NEWS

# Youth centre alarm issues 'addressed'

PROBLEMS that have forced the late cancellation of sessions at the TimeOut Youth Centre in Keynsham have now been addressed, the town council has said.

A teenage who attends the youth centre contacted the *Voice* last month to say that the youth club had been closed for three or four consecutive weeks because of the issues.

They said sessions had been cancelled at short notice and announcements made only through Instagram, to which not all users have access. This meant that, unless they had been informed by their peers, young people were turning up to find the centre closed.

"I have seen various groups of youths hanging outside in the dark during youth hours - my group included, although we are the oldest of the bunch. I am more concerned for those younger than me," they said.

But Keynsham Town Council says the problems have now been fixed and the youth



centre should be able to operate as normal.

Katherine Sears, deputy town clerk, said: "Our TimeOut Youth Centre operates from 16 Bath Hill, a premises owned and managed by B&NES.

"Recent issues with the building's fire alarm system meant it was not safe to run our sessions for a period of time.

"These issues have now been addressed by B&NES, and we expect to be fully operational again by the time of publication.

"In the meantime, we are updating our contact information for parents and carers. To stay informed, please complete our online form by scanning the QR code below to join our mailing list or follow us on Instagram @Time.Out.22. If anyone has any further questions, please email [youthleader@keynsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:youthleader@keynsham-tc.gov.uk)"

TimeOut Youth Centre's open drop-in sessions are on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. The free sessions include cooking, baking, music studio recording, pool, table tennis, computers for internet use, gaming, and arts and crafts, as well as other activities during half terms and summer holidays.

Sessions are as follows:  
 Wednesdays and Thursdays:  
 6pm-8pm for those aged 14 to 19.  
 Fridays 4pm-6pm for those aged 11 to 14.



# Flying the flag with pride

A FLAG that will fly on Armed Forces Day next month has been donated by the Saltford-based City of Bath Armed Forces & Veterans Breakfast Club.

It was received on behalf of Bath & North East Somerset Council by Saltford councillor Duncan Hounsell.

The flag will be used at Bath and North East Somerset's annual flag-raising ceremony, which marks the start of Armed Forces Week.

This year, it takes place on

the morning of June 22 in Bath's Parade Gardens. The breakfast club meets on the second Saturday of every month at the Riverside Inn, Saltford, with up to 70 members of the Armed Forces community attending.

Pictured from left to right are club representative Dave Westall, Cllr Duncan Hounsell, Mark Shelford - county board member for Somerset for the Wessex Reserve Forces' and Cadets' Association (RFCA) - and club representative Simon Tattersall.



## NEWS

# Action pledge to keep vital access clear

CURO says it will take action to stop drivers blocking an access road used by emergency vehicles serving a Keynsham retirement housing complex.

The issue affects people live at St Anne's Court, whose properties are managed by Curo.

One of the residents told the *Voice* that the access road serves emergency vehicles and residents needing access to their homes.

He said it is often blocked by vehicles and that the problem has been going on for years, he said, adding that most of the tenants in the group of 13 bungalows are disabled and some area classed as vulnerable.

To get to the access road, vehicles have to cross yellow hatched markings at the end of the car park serving St Anne's Court.

Citing one example of the need to keep the access clear, he said: "An ambulance had to reverse up to my gate due to heavy rain to take me to hospital as I had come down with a virus which put my life at risk.



The access road to the right of the car park in St Anne's Court

"Various cars and vans block the emergency access road regularly, which affects me badly as I live at the end. It is worrying, as one of my neighbours has dementia and we may require a fire engine at some time in the near future."

He said that people who park in the access road have included people working on nearby

properties and residents of St George's Road whose properties back onto St Anne's Court.

The resident said he had been trying without to persuade Curo to replace a sign alerting drivers to the emergency access that was removed by UK Car Park Management (CPM), which manages the car park.

He says that CPM's signs

warning of parking restrictions are too small to act as a deterrent, resulting in people being fined. The solution, he says, is a sign large enough to be read while the driver is still in their vehicle.

"It's not rocket science - a simple sign with numberplate-size lettering, EMERGENCY ACCESS KEEP CLEAR, followed by the penalty.

"One improvement is that Curo no longer block our access lane."

He said he was frustrated when a Curo manager suggested that a sign could be put up in the road leading up to the car park rather than at the emergency access lane beyond it.

But a Curo spokesperson has now told the *Voice*: "We're grateful to residents of St Anne's Court for making us aware of this issue. We've listened to their concerns and agree there's a need to install a sign at their preferred location. We expect this work to be completed shortly."

## NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

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We've made a strong start: you will have noticed the West Country's voice growing louder during the last 12 months, as we continue catching up with other places and securing more investment for the country's fastest-growing regional economy.

We've secured a record-breaking £752 million to improve transport, including better buses, more reliable journeys and exciting mass transit plans for the future.

That's on top of investment which will soon see 250 new electric buses serve routes across the West, helping make more journeys cleaner and more comfortable.

We've continued to invest in rail too, with work on new and improved stations, including Bristol Brabazon and Charfield.

The Bristol & Portishead Line has received the green light, with work well underway, and half-hourly services are being protected.

The launch of our Kids Go Free scheme has helped families right across the West, with more than 910,000 free journeys taken last summer

alone, with the offer returning over the Christmas and Easter holidays.

It's been especially positive to see the difference it's making in communities where it matters most. The latest data shows that, in areas where families have some of the lowest incomes in the country, children's bus travel has doubled.

Alongside this, we've frozen the £1 child bus fare cap until 2029 and extended free bus travel for care leavers, helping young people and families with the cost of getting around.

While transport is at the heart of much that we do regionally, it's only part of the picture.

In September, we launched an ambitious Growth Strategy, with plans to create 70,000 new jobs over the next decade, backed by a new Business Board to help attract investment and support local businesses.

Our creative industries will benefit from £25m of new funding to help support jobs, skills, and opportunities in one of our fastest-growing sectors.

We've also made progress towards North Somerset joining the combined authority, with the majority of responses in a recent consultation showing that people and businesses support the move.

For communities, we've secured £45m to unlock new affordable homes, set out plans for a new regional hub bringing together charities to provide food and essential items to people who need it



**Metro Mayor Helen Godwin**  
writes for the *Voice*

most, and continued investment in our parks, high streets, walking, cycling and green spaces. We're also supporting nature and tree planting through the Western Forest, helping to make our region greener for the future.

We are also supporting the development of Brabazon and the West Innovation Arc, with the potential for the area around the upcoming Aviva Arena to become one of the UK's most significant new towns.

We've made real progress in our first year.

I'm determined to keep building on this momentum, working together to make the West of England the best place to live, work, study, and raise a family.

NEWS

# £5m road improvements under way

ROADS in Keynsham will benefit from a £5 million programme of improvements scheduled by Bath & North East Somerset Council this year.

The council will also spend £950,000 resurfacing footways, alongside maintaining and upgrading street lights, drains, public rights of way and bridges.

Resurfacing work will run from now until the end of summer, before cold and wet weather makes resurfacing more difficult.

Among local routes to benefit are Rock Road (scheduled for May), the A4175 Bristol Road (July), Woollard Lane (July) and Charlton Road (August).

Councillor Lucy Hodge, cabinet member for sustainable transport delivery, said:

“Keeping our roads in good condition is one of the things residents rightly expect from us, and we are committed to delivering it through planned programmes like this as well as smaller reactive work our teams



Lays Drive in Keynsham was among the first to benefit from the council's 2026 resurfacing programme in March

are out doing each day, like fixing potholes and carrying out inspections.

“Our highways teams have been working flat out fixing potholes, with 3,790 repaired in since January, a five-year high.”

The council has been using different ways to reduce its carbon emissions as it carries out resurfacing. Last year two schemes were delivered using in-situ recycling, which uses the existing road material to form

the new surface, and a carbon-neutral trial method was used in Whitchurch.

This year the council will spend £600,000 to deliver four micro-asphalt surfacing schemes which produce fewer carbon emissions than conventional resurfacing.

Surveys and inspections conducted by the council's highways team help identify and prioritise highways that need to be resurfaced and this gives rise to the programme of work each year. Residents can also report issues through FixMyStreet.

The council will be implementing Section 58 restrictions to each of the newly resurfaced roads which protects a road from certain utility works for up to three years and gives the council greater control over reinstatements if needed.

The full programme is on the council's website: <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/find-planned-street-works>. Dates may be subject to change.

# IGNITE

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## NEWS

# Caring girls sell cakes and run 5k for charity



FOUR Saltford schoolgirls have teamed up to raise more than £3,000 for a Down Syndrome charity.

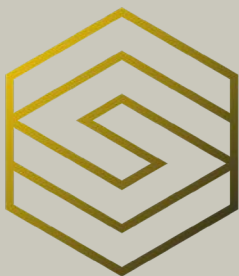
Ada, Beth, Carrie and Jess held a cake sale at their school, Saltford C of E primary.

Then, on World Down Syndrome Awareness Day, they ran 5k around the loop at Somerdale,

Keynsham, in under 45 minutes to boost their total. After the run, the girls joined family and friends to celebrate their success with more cake! The money they raised is going to Positive About Down Syndrome (PADS), a charity that Ada and her family have supported since her sister Frida was born.



The girls were able to speak to Nicola Enoch, the CEO of PADS, to reveal to her how much they had raised. Nicola told the girls that their sponsorship would fund six months of congratulations cards and welcome packs to new families who have a baby with Down Syndrome.



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NEWS

# Don't let our green belt be destroyed, Sir Keir



Photo credit: Keir Starmer ©House of Commons

SALTFORD Environment Group has sent a postcard to the Prime Minister calling for the green belt to be protected from development.

The message was sent to Sir Keir Starmer to coincide with last month's National Day for Action on Nature, Parks and Green Spaces, organised by the Community Planning Alliance.

The alliance was founded in 2021 by a group of local campaigners from around the UK who met on X (Twitter).

Its goal is to provide support, resources and training for grassroots campaign groups, and to lobby for the changes needed to put the environment and the climate crisis at the heart of decision-making.

Saltford Environment Group is currently

campaigning to protect the green belt from development in the Bath & North East Somerset Council Local Plan, in which up to 1,650 new homes are proposed for potential sites in the village.

In its postcard to the Prime Minister, Saltford Environment Group states: "The Green Belt is the countryside next door for 30 million people; its protection is essential for supporting nature, our health and well-being, and the nation's future food security.

"The economy is a wholly owned subsidiary of the environment; it is not the other way round. Building homes near employment, not in the countryside and rural areas, is sustainable development in its truest sense. Homes for Everyone has proved

the national housing target can be met without destroying the Green Belt.

"Please will you keep your promise to take a brownfield-first approach, to protect sensible use of the Green Belt, and that only genuine brownfield sites such as disused petrol stations and abandoned car parks will be developed, and there will be no "ploughing through farmland" to build the new homes the nation needs?"

"Please ensure planning decisions on new housing developments are not made by developers whose interests are different from local communities that have to live with the consequences of poor planning decisions.

"We look forward to your response."

## Saltford's Green Belt is at risk from development!



Sir Keir Starmer :- (2024 & 2026)

"Brownfield-first approach"

"Sensible use of the Green Belt... Disused petrol stations; abandoned car parks; low value scrubland"

"We're not going to plough through farmland"







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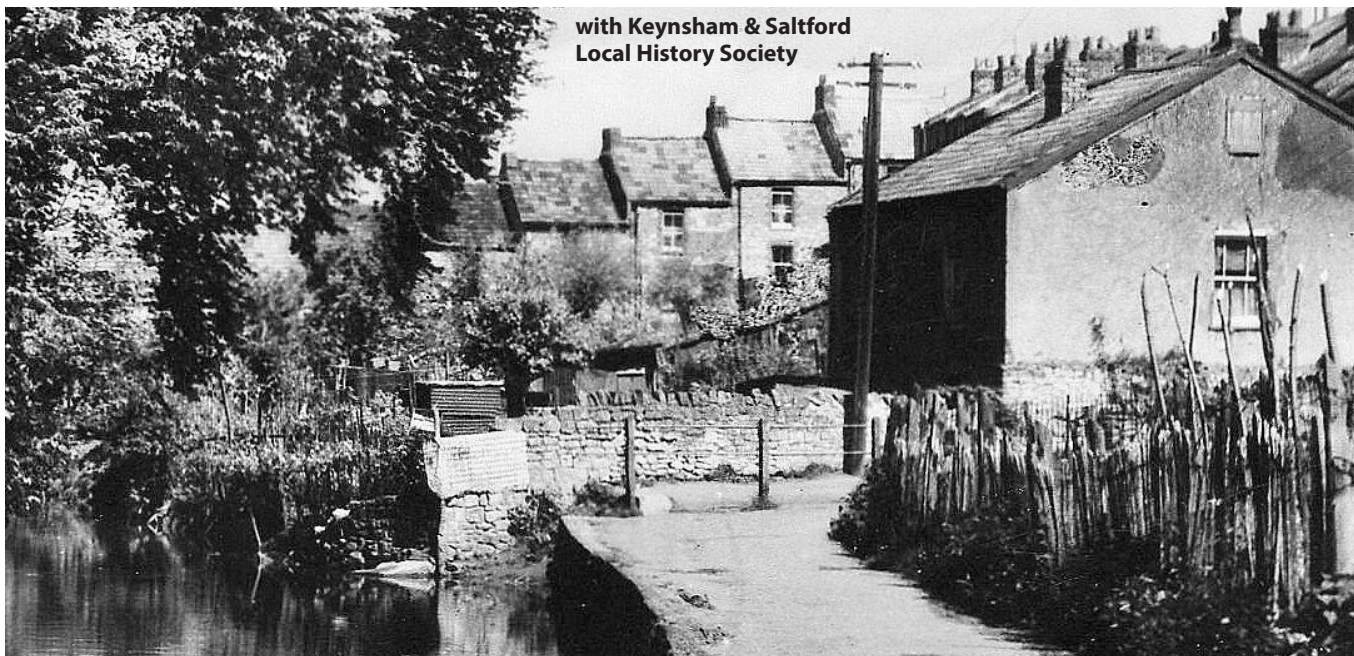
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## KEYNSHAM MEMORIES

with Keynsham & Salford  
Local History Society



This photograph shows a lost view of Keynsham. These houses were popularly known as Brick Town, as they used to be the only ones in Keynsham built of brick.

There were two terraces on the sloping land below the New Inn: Woodbine Cottages

running down to the river and Fairfield Terrace, comprising another 17 properties that backed on the path.

They were built in 1879, of poor quality with few amenities, but lasted until 1967 when they were demolished, the land being

incorporated into the extension to the Memorial Park. The path in the foreground was known as Poggam's Lane and the building on the right was a small Mission Chapel built to provide some religious education for the children from the houses.

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KEYNSHAM AND SALTFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

# Mary's talent deserves to be remembered



The back of a dustjacket highlighting the prize-winning book by Mary Fairclough

WHEN Mary Fairclough died on New Year's Eve 1999 at the age of 86, Keynsham lost one of its most talented and spirited residents.



The range of her skills was remarkable. When I wrote a short biography of her a few years ago, the information I had related mainly to her work on pictures and book illustration.

She was a skilled artist in various media, being described variously as a painter, printmaker, illustrator and potter. After studying at home with a tutor for several years, she attended part-time at the West of England Art College in Bristol.

Her work was shown at the Clifton Arts Club, the Ward Gallery and the Royal West of England Academy. Commercially, she worked for Macmillan and several other publishers, illustrating children's books.

But she was also a writer of imaginative children's books. Professor Robert Maslen of Glasgow University, whose interest is fantasy writing, has recently carried out extensive research on Mary's life and published works.

He has written a paper on this, accessible on the internet, and begins by quoting a colleague who wrote: "Who now remembers Mary Fairclough's 'Miskoo the Lucky', a beautifully illustrated book published to great critical acclaim in 1947?"



Mary's painting of Keynsham about to be swallowed up – painted many years ago, but still apposite. Right, St Keyna, as painted on a pebble, in one of Mary's "Cloughstones"



This picture book won the children's section of the inaugural United Nations Literary Competition – with prize money of £10,000 – which was sponsored by the publishers Hutchinson in 1947.

It recounts the story of a little Inuit boy, Miskoo, who acquires his nickname, 'the Lucky', after playing with a pair of polar bear cubs and meeting their mother.

Mary's literary success was a huge achievement which seems to have been lost entirely from our local history and our collective memory.

As well as art and writing, Mary was passionately interested in history and especially local history. Her knowledge of the story of Keynsham was unrivalled and she was a founder member of both Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society and Keynsham Civic Society.

Indeed, the civic society was formed when Mary and others were horrified at the demolition of the little cottages in Temple Street prior to the building of the large office block, which she would have described as 'egg-box' development, and determined to do something to prevent similar destruction in future.

After thorough research, she then put together the first list of Keynsham's important buildings, helping to gain them listed status, and in the 1970s pushed for the conservation area that now safeguards buildings in Dapps Hill and nearby.

In 1946 Mary painted a remarkable map for Keynsham's first children's library; this featured landmarks and characters to help tell the town's story across the centuries. This map has survived several changes of building and now hangs on the first floor of the modern library.

She was always delighted to share her knowledge with others and gave lectures and commentaries on the history of the area. Many of her photographs survive, with descriptions on the back describing snippets of history that would otherwise have been lost.

One of Mary's endearing characteristics was a wicked sense of humour, which she enjoyed directing at pomposity. This extended to her art, with a marvellous cartoon painting highlighting the threat to little Keynsham from the tentacles of the octopus monsters of Bristol on one side and Bath on the other.

Richard Dyson

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NEWS

# Firefighters clean up for good causes



FIREFIGHTERS at Hicks Gate in Keynsham have raised £2,113 from a charity car wash.

They also received a donation of £404 from Bristol Meat Machine from its Easter hamper raffle, boosting the total raised to £2,517.

The money is being split between the Fire Fighters Charity and Bowelbabe, which funds research into early detection, personalised medicine, and



awareness of bowel cancer.

Among those raising money for Bowelbabe on the day was Hicks Gate fire station manager Rich Wheeler, who did an epic sponsored run on a treadmill in full firefighter's kit.

Rich was also due to take part in the London Marathon on April 26 with his friend Paul Collings, of Willsbridge, whose wife Abbie is receiving treatment for stage 4 bowel cancer.



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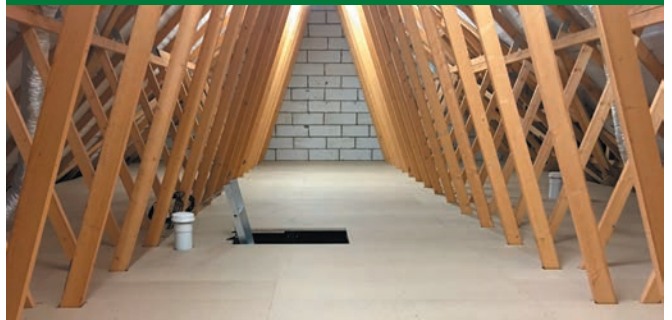


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**ON THE BEAT**

# Tackling violence against women and girls

YOU may recall a few months ago I wrote about tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) in our community. I have decided to revisit the topic to stress its importance.

This type of violence affects communities across Bath & North East Somerset, including here in Keynsham. Whether it happens in private settings or public places, it can leave people feeling frightened, isolated, and unsafe.

Avon and Somerset Police, alongside Bath & North East Somerset Council and local partner agencies, are committed to preventing VAWG, supporting victims, and ensuring that Keynsham remains a safe place to live, work, and travel.

VAWG includes a range of unacceptable behaviours, including:

- Domestic abuse and controlling or coercive behaviour
- Sexual offences and unwanted sexual attention
- Stalking and harassment
- Abuse that takes place in public spaces, workplaces, or online
- Exploitation or intimidation

These behaviours are never the victim's fault, and they are not something anyone should have to tolerate.

**Feeling unsafe in Keynsham? Tell us.**

Local residents have told us how important it is to feel safe when:

- Walking through the town centre or High Street
- Using transport links such as Keynsham railway station



**Sgt Rob Turner**  
Keynsham Police

- Walking near parks, riverside paths, or quieter residential areas
- Travelling early in the morning or after dark

You may not have experienced a crime, but if a location makes you feel uncomfortable or unsafe, we want to know about it.

**Your concerns help us:**

- Identify problem areas before offences occur
  - Adjust patrol routes and patrol times
  - Work with B&NES Council to improve lighting, CCTV, and visibility
  - Address repeat issues such as harassment in specific locations
- Even small pieces of information can make a big difference.

**What should you report?**

Please contact us about:

- Areas in Keynsham where you feel unsafe or vulnerable
  - Repeated incidents of harassment or intimidating behaviour
  - Poorly lit paths, subways, car parks, or cut-throughs
  - Locations where incidents happen but may go unreported
- You can report concerns:
- On behalf of yourself or someone else

- Without knowing the identity of the person involved
- Even if the incident happened some time ago

If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and report it.

**Supporting victims in B&NES**

If you or someone you know is experiencing abuse or harassment:

- You will be listened to and treated with respect
- Support is available whether or not you choose to make a formal complaint
- Specialist local services can provide emotional, practical, and safety support

If you are in immediate danger, call 999. To report non-emergency concerns, contact police on 101 or online. Anonymous information can be shared via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**A community approach to safety**

Reducing violence against women and girls requires the whole community. We continue to work with Bath & North East Somerset Council, transport providers,

schools and colleges, local charities and support organisations, and community groups across Keynsham.

By listening to residents and acting on local concerns, we can make positive, lasting changes.

**How you can help**

- Report unsafe locations in Keynsham
- Look out for others and speak up about concerning behaviour
- Share this information with friends, family, and neighbours
- Engage with local policing teams at events or online

Your voice plays a vital role in shaping policing priorities for our area.

**Our message to the community**

Violence against women and girls has no place in Keynsham or Bath & North East Somerset.

If a place feels unsafe - report it. If behaviour causes fear or distress - tell us.

Together, we can make Keynsham safer for everyone. Until next time, stay safe.

**PROBUS CLUB**

The AGM of Keynsham and Saltford Probus Club was held recently at Saltford Golf Club.

The last year has been very successful, with a healthy level of membership and a wide variety of guest speakers and group visits.

Our talks varied from historic subjects (Saltford Brass Mill; Clifton Suspension Bridge) to the future (International Space Station), the law (Trials of a Magistrate) and underground activities (Mendip Cave Rescue). Our visits ranged from the cultural (Bristol Museum) to the sensational (*Mamma Mia!* at the Hippodrome).

The AGM is the time when a new president takes the helm for the coming year, and the photo shows Graham Lenton receiving the chain of office from outgoing president Peter Wakeling.



## KEYNSHAM BOWLING CLUB

Bowling Green, Memorial Park, Keynsham, BS31 2BL



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## ■ BACK TO NATURE

# Feed safely and seasonally to save our birds

MANY of us enjoy watching birds come to our bird feeder each day, whether they are some of our commoner birds such as house sparrow and starlings or, if we are lucky, tits, finches and other birds. It brings such pleasure to see these creatures battling it out for space on the feeders.

However, in a significant update for 2026, the RSPB is urging a shift in how and whether we feed garden birds during late spring and summer. The key message is simple: "Feed safely and feed seasonally."

From May 1 to October 31, the RSPB now recommends stopping the use of seed and peanut feeders altogether. This change follows strong scientific evidence linking communal feeding to the spread of diseases such as trichomonosis.

First reported in 2005, trichomonosis (also known as canker) is caused by a protozoan parasite and is responsible for major declines in species like pigeons and finches.

Greenfinches alone have declined by over 65% (equating to over two million birds) over the last 20 years, with chaffinches and other finches following a similar pattern. Symptoms include lethargy, fluffed-up plumage, difficulty swallowing, regurgitating food, and wet, matted feathers around the face.

Warmer weather allows parasites to survive longer, and crowded feeders increase transmission risk when it is spread through the bird's saliva contaminating food and water especially at feeders. This is particularly relevant during the breeding season when parents are



**Increase food for the birds with more pollinator-attracting plants in your garden**

*Photo: Martin Farrell*

feeding their young chicks.

Feeding doesn't have to stop entirely, but it should be scaled back and adapted. The RSPB advises:

- Small amounts of mealworms (soaked if dried)
- Suet or fat-based foods (in moderation)

These foods are less likely to attract large flocks of vulnerable finches and are useful for breeding birds feeding chicks.

Where feeding continues, strict hygiene is essential:

- Clean feeders at least weekly
- Move feeding stations regularly
- Ensure food is eaten within one to two days
- Keep food dry and discard leftovers

These steps reduce contamination from saliva, droppings, and damp food - all key pathways for disease spread.

Avoid high-risk feeding setups - the RSPB now discourages:

- Flat bird tables or ground



**A juvenile goldfinch suffering from trichomonosis, possibly contracted through feeding from the parent**

*Photo: Songbird Survival*

feeding, where infection spreads easily, including window feeders and trays under hanging feeders

- Overcrowded single feeding points

Instead, use hanging feeders sparingly and space them out if used at all.

Fresh water remains important, but it must be handled responsibly:

- Change water daily using tap or natural water from water butts
- Clean bird baths regularly

If this isn't possible, the RSPB suggests it may be safer not to provide water at all due to disease risk.

Perhaps the most important shift: Birds don't need much help in May.

Natural food sources, especially insects, are abundant and crucial for chick development. So a shift to making our garden wildlife-friendly (like native flowers, seed heads, and berry shrubs) is now considered one of the best ways to support birds long-term.

Grow the right plants and your garden will support the bird life and particularly the insects that they depend on for food.

There's lots of advice online for creating a wildlife-friendly garden. Check out the Avon Wildlife Trust website: <https://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk/actions>

And we have a fabulous list of suitable plants for attracting pollinators provided by bee expert Richard Ricketts on our own website: [www.keynshamawt.org.uk/gardeningforwildlife](http://www.keynshamawt.org.uk/gardeningforwildlife)

Most important: don't be afraid to let your garden run a bit wild this summer, especially during May, which is designated "No Mow May" by Plantlife, and followed by "Let it Bloom June".

For more information on Keynsham Group of Avon Wildlife Trust and details of our talks, visit [www.keynshamawt.org.uk](http://www.keynshamawt.org.uk), email [info@keynshamawt.org.uk](mailto:info@keynshamawt.org.uk) or phone Kathy 07850 508702.

**Kathy Farrell**

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KEYNSHAM WALKERS ARE WELCOME

# Bluebells brighten a rewarding journey

A GROUP of 13 walkers, led by Dawn Drury, set out from Keynsham for a delightful five-mile linear return walk.

Heading south beside the River Chew on Sunday April 12, the group made their way towards Chewton Keynsham and onward to the bluebell woods near Burnett.

The walk began by passing through Dapps Hill and the grounds of the historic Grade II listed Albert Mill. Built in the 1730s by the Bristol Brass Company, the mill has served various purposes over the centuries, including as a cotton, grist, and logwood mill, before being thoughtfully redeveloped into residential homes.

From there, the route continued across a varied landscape of riverbanks, open fields, and woodland paths. Along the way in Chewton Keynsham, the walkers encountered a friendly herd of mixed cattle, who calmly allowed the group to pass through their fields.

Although covering a fair distance, the walk was largely gentle, following mostly flat and well-trodden paths. The combination of scenic countryside and softly undulating hills made for an especially enjoyable outing.

Reaching the destination, the group was greeted by a stunning display of bluebells and wildflowers carpeting the woodland floor. The air was filled with their delicate fragrance, and with the sun shining, it was the perfect moment to pause on a grassy bank for refreshments.

After crossing a small bridge to the opposite side of the river, the group climbed a hill and passed through a gap in the hedgerow,



These walkers enjoyed the bluebell woods near Burnett on their April outing

which revealed sweeping views over Chewton Keynsham, Compton Dando, and the surrounding countryside. The route then descended back down, following the riverbank on the far side of the bluebell wood.

The return journey retraced part of the outward route until Chewton Keynsham, where the walkers

crossed the River Chew via the road bridge near Chewton Place. Turning left, they rejoined the fields and followed the footpath back towards Steel Mills and ultimately Keynsham.

Despite the rain holding off until just before the group returned, spirits remained high, and everyone agreed it had been

a thoroughly enjoyable and rewarding walk.

Keynsham Walkers are Welcomes' next outing is on May 17 - a strenuous circular 11-mile walk to Kelston Roundhill led by Richard Dyson. Other upcoming walks are as follows (starting at 10am from the Memorial Park bandstand unless otherwise stated):

**June 14:** A short circular walk to Abbots Wood (Dawn Drury).

**July 19:** A long walk to Compton Dando via Chewton Keynsham (Dave Vince).

**August 16:** Meeting at St John's Church at 10am and catching the 10.10 bus to Saltford for a short circular walk (Dawn Drury).

All walks are subject to change depending on walking conditions. For further information, check the group's website or contact Dave on 07866 440968.



Avon Federation of Women's Institutes is seeking to recruit a **FINANCE OFFICER** for its office in Keynsham

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## NEWS

# Questions remain over bypass future

QUESTIONS remain over whether bus lanes will be installed on the Keynsham bypass, a local councillor has said.

Alan Hale, who represents Keynsham South on Bath & North East Somerset Council as an independent, said the route's future as an uninterrupted dual carriageway is still in doubt.

He spoke after an online meeting with Helen Godwin, the Mayor of the West of England, to whom he said he has written several times about the bypass.

Cllr Hale said Ms Godwin made it clear that a 24/7 bus lane previously proposed for the bypass is no longer part of the A4 plans being considered by the West of England Combined Authority (WECA), which she leads.

He said she told him that, before becoming mayor, she visited Keynsham and found that about 90% of people she spoke to were firmly against the idea. She had therefore pledged not to introduce a 24/7 bus lane if elected.

However, when asked whether parts of the bypass could be reduced to one lane to allow a rush-hour bus lane, Ms Godwin would not be drawn, Cllr Hale said.

"Mayor Godwin said work is under way to bring forward alternatives for consultation, and that councillors would be



informed as soon as consultation plans are finalised," he said.

Cllr Hale said he warned that a rush-hour bus lane could turn Keynsham into a rat run, pushing traffic onto roads through the town, clogging routes and worsening air quality around the High Street.

He also criticised an earlier suggestion to cut the dual carriageway's speed limit to 40mph to accommodate a bus lane and to provide crossing points to reach the Bath-bound side of the bypass, as well as a bus stop.

"This would be nonsense both from a road safety point of view and yet another restriction on those who drive cars," he said.

Cllr Hale also warned against

building a proposed transport hub on part of Keynsham Memorial Park, saying it would mean the loss of mature trees and long-standing greenery. He added that cycle lanes linked to the hub through the park could pose a danger to children playing there.

Also taking part in the online meeting were fellow B&NES independent councillors Shaun Hughes (Midsomer Norton North) and Colin Blackburn (Westmoreland, Bath).

Cllr Hughes said some constituents in Midsomer Norton can no longer get to work by bus following recent service changes by First Bus. Cllr Hale described the changes as a "fiasco currently inflicting pain on bus travellers"

in Keynsham and elsewhere.

In response, Ms Godwin urged councillors to make constituents aware of the bus consultation WECA is running on its website at <http://haveyoursaywest.co.uk/betterbuses>.

Cllr Hale said: "I would encourage people to have their say, because if you do not tell them your thoughts then they will make decisions based on their own views - and they might not ride the buses for work or pleasure.

"Considering what has already been done to services, a large dose of common sense and stakeholder involvement is vital."

The consultation is open until May 10.



**Bypass talks:**  
Alan Hale and Helen Godwin



## POETRY CORNER

### The Answer

We often hear people saying, 'slow down'  
As we rush through each day with many a frown.  
No time to stop - time's not to waste!  
So much to do and all with such haste.

But life is so short, we must plan it with care,  
Take some time out as through it we tear.  
For life has a habit of trickling away,  
We must use our time wisely, work, but then play.

For what is the point of rushing each day?  
Surely there must be an easier way.  
We weren't meant to work 'til we burnt ourselves out,  
Then say to ourselves, 'what's life about?'

The answer's to take a deep breath when we wake,  
(Plans for the day we later can make.)  
First pray to God, to help and to guide,  
And life will be calmer, with Him by our side.

Sylvia Kirby

## COMPTON DANDO TABLE TENNIS

### Players celebrate 10th anniversary

TABLE tennis players in Compton Dando have celebrated ten years since the club's foundation in 2016.

They gathered for an anniversary lunch at the Compton Inn.

One of the organisers, Richard Davis, said: "We welcome additional players, who live in the surrounding area, including Keynsham, and all abilities are welcome to join our friendly group."

The club plays fortnightly in Compton Dando village hall, next to the Compton Inn, on Thursdays at 7.15pm and some Sundays at 2.30pm. It costs £5 to attend each two-hour session, which includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

The next sessions are on Thursday May 14, Sunday May 17 and Thursday May 28.



Further details and playing dates can be obtained by contacting Richard at [richardjamesdavis@hotmail.com](mailto:richardjamesdavis@hotmail.com) or 07968269841.

## 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.

### Keynsham East misses out again

I am writing again about the bus service, or lack of, in Keynsham East.

Readers are probably aware that First Bus has introduced new bus routes from the beginning of April. As far as I am able to find out, this involves the 522 continuing down the Wellsway as before and no longer travelling along Chandag Road, then follows its current route to Bristol.

The 349 service has been replaced by a new 43 half-hourly service that starts its route at Burnett Business Park, travels down the Wellsway, along Chandag Road and continues into Keynsham town centre then on to serve Keynsham West, following a similar route as the 349, then onward to Bristol.

A new 42 service has been introduced, also starting its route at Burnett Business Park, and then travels down the Wellsway into Keynsham town centre then along the Bitton Road and into South Gloucestershire.

The existing 17 service will continue, also starting its route at Burnett, travelling down the Wellsway, to Keynsham town centre, and then continue on its original route towards Southmead Hospital.

This is an improvement in service options but, with the exception of the new 43, all passengers will have to get to the Wellsway. For some reason First Bus have decided to use Burnett Business Park as a terminus. I don't know why but can only assume there are bus parking / turning facilities.

Unfortunately, all of the above has been implemented without serving the wider Chandag Estate. I have contacted First Bus regarding this but other than an acknowledgment I have not had a reply.

I have suggested to First Bus that at least one of the above services, perhaps the 43, does not terminate at Burnett but instead turns into Courtenay Road and follows established routes around Chandag Estate covering Lytes Cary, Manor Road, Hurn Lane, Minsmere Road, Windrush then onto Chandag Road in much the same way as the former 178, and there are already bus stop signs in place.

I don't see the benefit of all these buses travelling beyond Courtenay Road to Burnett passing



### Visitors welcome

Voice reader Tony Kirby sent us this photo of one of three squirrels that visit his garden in Keynsham. Tony says that although many gardeners dislike squirrels because of their habit of digging holes in lawns and flower pots, he is happy to leave groundnuts out for them to feed on. Our thanks to Tony for sharing his photo with us.



little in the way of housing. On balance, the overall journey time would be similar and have the added benefit of passing through more residential areas, thus probably increasing passenger use.

I recognise that is now too late to alter the April changes but can anything be done in time for September? I have made our local councillors aware of the above and they are supportive. If you share my views, please contact First Bus and your local councillors.

**Cynthia Withyman**

### Residents can act on noisy alarms

As a local councillor, I have recently received a number of complaints from residents in both Corfe Crescent and the Queens Road area of Keynsham regarding persistent alarm noise from nearby premises, including healthcare and commercial buildings.

In some cases, these alarms have been reported as sounding repeatedly during the night and

early hours of the morning, causing significant disturbance to residents, including families with children and people working shifts.

While alarm systems are clearly an important safety feature, they must be properly maintained and should not result in repeated disruption to neighbouring households.

Under the Environmental Protection Act 1990, local authorities have a duty to investigate complaints of noise that may constitute a statutory nuisance. This can include persistent or repeated alarm noise, particularly where it occurs at night and impacts the reasonable enjoyment of a home.

If an environmental health team is satisfied that a statutory nuisance exists, they have the power to serve an abatement notice requiring the responsible party to take action to stop or reduce the disturbance. Failure to comply with such a notice can result in enforcement action.

If you are affected by persistent alarm noise, you can:

1. Report the issue to your local council's environmental health or noise team.
2. Keep a simple record of incidents (dates and times where possible).
3. Report each occurrence to the responsible organisation (for example, facilities management or building owners).
4. Raise concerns with your local councillors if the issue is ongoing or unresolved.

You do not need to be repeatedly woken at night without recourse. These issues are taken seriously, and there are formal mechanisms in place to investigate and resolve them.

Where residents are experiencing repeated disturbance, I will continue to raise these issues with both the responsible organisations and Bath & North East Somerset Council's environmental health team to ensure appropriate action is taken.

No one should have to live with ongoing noise disturbance that affects their sleep and quality of life, particularly where it appears to stem from preventable or unresolved technical faults.

If you are affected by a similar issue, please do not hesitate to contact me at [david\\_biddleston@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:david_biddleston@bathnes.gov.uk) so I can support you in escalating it.

**Councillor Dave Biddleston**  
(Keynsham South)

## Homes bid at former kennels site

PLANS to demolish kennels and build seven homes near Keynsham have been submitted to Bath & North East Somerset Council.

The proposals relate to Latchets Kennels, Redlynch Lane, Chewton Keynsham.

Previously used for poultry rearing, the land was repurposed as kennels over 40 years ago and remained in that use until the business closed recently.

The site also accommodated additional activities until recently, such as a pet supplies shop, grooming services and dog training facilities.

Elsewhere on the wider plot are caravan storage areas that have operated for more than 30 years.

Consent was granted three years ago to convert the kennels and related buildings into four homes.

In the latest submission, the applicant argues that a small development of seven houses is suitable within the green belt and, while beyond the housing development boundary, the site sits in what is described as a relatively sustainable location.

The application reference is 26/01249/FUL, and comments must be submitted by May 22.

## Police identify body in river

A BODY recovered from the River Avon in Keynsham in January has been identified.

Police said she was a 54-year-old woman called Robyn. She was last seen in Meadows Lane, Bath, on November 28 and was reported missing on December 17.

Her body was found on January 22 after emergency services were called to the scene opposite the Lock Keeper pub on Keynsham Road.

The police said: "Significant work has taken place to identify the individual and to inform their next of kin. Her family has been updated, and our thoughts and condolences are with them at this incredibly difficult time."

Robyn's death is not believed to be suspicious, and enquiries are being carried out on behalf of the coroner.

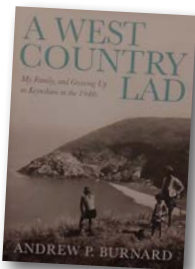
## BOOKS OF THE MONTH

### Adult Non-Fiction

#### A West Country Lad: My Family, and Growing Up in Keynsham in the 1940s

Andrew P Burnard

This month's Year of Reading theme in B&NES libraries is local history, and this book, written by a local resident, is



delightful. Andy Burnard recounts the first 10 years of his life, including the impact of the Second World War. Although he describes a much quieter life than in modern-day Keynsham, it was still a bustling town.

He lived in Manor Road and remembers cows being driven to pasture past his house every morning and then back again at the end of the day, and the aroma of chocolate wafting from Somerdale.

There is an interesting chapter on Keynsham in wartime – there were guns posted near the town, an ammunition site in Burnett, the author's grandfather joined the Keynsham Civil Defence staff, and of course memories of air raids.

This is a lovely book with some great recollections and stories.

#### I Feel Bad About My Neck:

#### And Other Thoughts on Being a Woman

Nora Ephron

Nora Ephron was the award-winning screenwriter of such classics as *When Harry Met Sally*

and *Sleepless in Seattle*, but she is also fabulous on the page. This selection of short essays is perfect to dip in and out of - funny and at times poignant.

She is a real New Yorker, so there is an essay on her buying a very expensive apartment and being determined never to leave it, as well as accounts of her relationships and her time as an intern in the JFK White House.

But my favourite is her attempt to find the perfect handbag (or purse in USA). Very funny.

### Adult Fiction

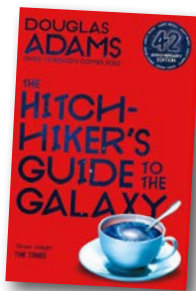
#### The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Douglas Adams

B&NES virtual library

'Ford... you're turning into a penguin. Stop it' I first read this when I was about 13, and a decade later it is still the funniest book I've read.

It works perfectly as a stand-alone book or as an introduction to its sequels. Arthur Dent, an average and unassuming human being, has his life somewhat interrupted by the destruction of his home planet and a bizarre series of events that culminate in him nearly having his brain removed by mice.



Along the way he meets Ford Prefect, Zaphod Beeblebrox, Marvin (The Paranoid Android), and a woman named Trillian, all of whom add to the book's humour and peculiarity.

The book, which has an enormous cult following, spawned a 1980s TV series and later film version.

I would highly recommend it to fans of any kind of literature, and even if you think science fiction isn't for you, the humour and style will draw you in regardless.

### The New Neighbours

Claire Douglas

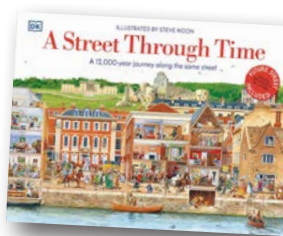
reviewed by Cathy Gray, Keynsham Library assistant

I borrowed this book after a recent author event in Keynsham Library, where Claire Douglas spoke about her inspiration.

Although it is not my usual genre of choice, this domestic thriller gripped me from start to finish. I loved the big twist at the end. Even though I knew one was coming - having interviewed Claire for the author event - it still took me by surprise.

I enjoyed the setting of Bristol and its surrounding area, and it won't be the last Claire Douglas book I read.

### Children's Fiction Picture Book A Street Through Time



illustrated by Steve Noon

This marvellous book from DK is always in demand when it returns to the shelf.

Discover 12,000 years of history through one street, from the age of nomadic hunter-gatherers to the modern day and even the future.

The pictures are brilliant, with cut-outs of buildings even down to the basement - there is so much to see. I love the castle on the hill that,

with Judith Thomas from Keynsham Library

as the street and town expand, becomes more of a ruin and even a tourist destination. Go and explore!

### Make it!

Jane Bull

If you're looking for things to do to occupy little ones during May half-term and also to help the planet, then try this book, whose motto is: So don't trash it - treasure it!

There are four sections - paper, plastic, metal and fabric - that have great ideas for reusing materials and creating funky things, such as pots from newspapers and junk mail; mirror mobiles from clean foil dishes; and rag mats from old clothes. There is even a "recipe" to make your own paste. So rifle through that rubbish and get creative!

### Library news

2026 is the national Year of Reading, so pop into your library for some exciting displays and great book suggestions.

As always, 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.

Come along, with a cushion, and listen to some fantastic new stories.

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

# The joy of shared stories

PRECIOUS moments were shared when Keynsham nursery schoolchildren celebrated World Book Day at a local care home.

The young visitors from Snapdragons Nurseries arrived at Meryton Place Care Home, Bath Road, in a colourful parade of costumes - from Paddington Bear to Spot the Dog - for a joyful day of storytelling and imagination with residents.

Centenarian and Meryton Place resident Audrey Hughes said: "How lovely for the children to visit. It's been many years since I read to children.

"I remember reading with my mother and father. We always loved books and enjoyed all the characters."

Together, children and residents enjoyed reading classics including *Stick Man*, *I Am a Tiger*, *The Gruffalo* and *Where's Spot?*

Meryton Place wellbeing assistant Hannah Phillips said: "It was so beautiful seeing the children sharing their stories, especially for those



Audrey, aged 101, shares a tale with a Spiderman

residents who couldn't see the books very well but loved the company. We had residents absolutely beaming."

Resident Peggy Coleman added: "It was such a lovely surprise having the little ones visit us. Seeing their costumes and hearing them read brought back so many memories of reading stories to my own children. They filled the room with laughter - it really brightened our day."



Residents Joyce, 93, and Anne, 91 with a young visitor in a police outfit. Below, Care home staff Maddie, Sarah Phelps, Lanie, Cheryl Woodward, Sarah Gravelle, Natalie James and Hannah Phillips get in character



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- \* Dog Show (2.30pm in the tennis court)

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KEYNSHAM IN BLOOM



Mary, who is Keynsham in Bloom's station project leader, sporting her sheep Easter bonnet at Keynsham Spring Show. Right, Jenny, Laura, Barbara, Keith, Julia and Sally take a break from working at the Triangle and community garden outside the Deli on Bath Hill



# It's all go for our green-fingered teams

IT'S been a busy time for our volunteers, but we are blessed with a hard-working group of individuals who give their time to make our town an attractive place to live and run a business.

Please contact me at [catherinemarywoodman@gmail.com](mailto:catherinemarywoodman@gmail.com) or drop into the Keynsham Town Council office in Temple Street if you can spare the occasional hour. We would love to meet you.

During the Keynsham Spring Show at our Scout headquarters, KIB were fortunate enough to have Harriette Dottridge, a wonderful spinner, to show the visitors how to work the wheel and perhaps join a class. Very relaxing and interesting to watch.

The children were entertained by decorating crowns and guessing the name of the lamb. Our hamper full of yummy items was won in the raffle, and plants of all kinds were sold at a very good price.

Best of all was that Mary, our station project leader, won the Easter bonnet competition wearing a sheep on her head. Nothing unusual there!

This will be the first year that Keynsham in Bloom have run a competition to determine the



Harriette Dottridge, above, at the spring show. Left, Laura and Sarah removing a large plant in the High Street

best-kept wooden trough in the High Street and win the Golden Watering Can, so watch this space.

The daffodil bulbs have been removed from two overgrown containers and will be replanted in autumn and spread amongst all wooden containers. The polyanthus will be removed this month and replaced with colourful

bedding to compliment the summer flowering herbaceous plants. The containers will be re-stained soon to look their summer best.

Weeding and tidying progresses at our triangle/ community garden outside the Deli. Several hebes have been added and summer annuals will

also be included this year for a pretty display. Most of the bulbs have finished but they will return in 2027.

The Pocket Park is thriving and visitors can enjoy a relaxing time for lunch or just a quiet moment in this pretty glade.

Our station is stunning as usual and the wildflower bed is looking lovely, as are all containers. The Dee James Memorial Train is being refurbished soon to look even more attractive for commuters who pass through our station.

The raised bed at Queens Road shops will be full of herbs now that the bulbs have been removed. The alpine containers need some work and perhaps updating but this is a discussion point.

Alpines at Chandag Road shops are looking healthy and the containers at Holmoak Road shops will have the bulbs removed and stored for the autumn. As usual, the crown in the Memorial Park looks beautiful and well maintained.

The weather looks fine and dry so please enjoy your garden, stay safe and well.

Mary Woodman

Spinning wheel inspires the next generation: Page 37

**■ CHEW VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY**

# Concerts to turn back the clock 50 years

1976 in the UK was a year of drought followed by floods. The average house price was £12,704. The average wage was £72 a week. A pint of beer cost 32p. A loaf of bread was 19p. Concorde made its inaugural commercial flight, and Chew Valley Choral Society was formed to sing Handel's *Messiah*.

We are not sure when this picture was taken but it was probably in the very early years of the choir and the location was Chew Valley School.

We recognise a few of the faces, but if anyone has any memories of the choir at that time, or knows anyone who does, please get in touch via the website [www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk](http://www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk)

Our first concert of our 50th anniversary year will be on May 9 in the beautiful setting of All Saints Church, Publow.

It will be a celebration of the Chew Valley and surrounding areas which, of course, includes Keynsham.

We have been working with



local history groups and others to explore our shared past through music and stories. With their help, we are putting together a selection of music and spoken word to give a flavour of the rich

and varied history of our area.

*Messiah* will feature again later in the year with a 'come and sing' workshop afternoon on Saturday June 13 in Bishop Sutton Village Hall and a concert in St John's

Church, Keynsham on Saturday November 28. You are invited to sing in either or both of these.

For more information on these events, visit our website [www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk](http://www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk)

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## THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



The Revd John Hayes

Minister at Keynsham Methodist Church

There were few hymn books available in those days, so they would learn the hymns by heart. In this way they sang what they believed and this really cemented their faith

On May 24 Christians will celebrate the day of Pentecost. Pentecost was where the first followers of Jesus experienced the power of God through the Holy Spirit in their lives – changing them, enabling them, filling them all with a sense of new confidence.

They shared the story of Jesus with everyone and their lives were transformed.

This is also the day when Methodists remember the religious experience of the Wesleys, when John Wesley had his own Pentecost experience in Aldersgate Street in London.

John described his "heart being strangely warmed". Methodists call this Aldersgate Day. His brother Charles had a similar experience three days before.

Both John and Charles Wesley recognised how important these experiences were in transforming their own faith journey. This was echoed in one of the primary expressions of the early Methodists' faith, which was in singing. Many early Methodists who could not read

or write learnt most of their understanding of God through the singing of hymns. There were few hymn books available in those days, so they would learn the hymns by heart. In this way they sang what they believed and this really cemented their faith as part of their experience.

Over the years many people's lives have been transformed through singing. In addition to their own lives being transformed, Methodists have always believed that they should help others in need to have their lives transformed too.

I am a trustee for the charity Turnaround in Bristol. The charity provides help and support for those who are homeless or in need in practical ways – hot meals, clothing, showers, laundry, and support and advice to help people get off the streets and into accommodation.

On Sunday May 3 Turnaround is due to feature on BBC's *Songs of Praise*. The programme will focus on the story of the Wesleys in Bristol, how people's hearts were changed by God's saving grace.

The focus will be on the Bristol New Rooms and Turnaround as a way in which the Methodist church seeks to help those in greatest need.

It's a great story and features people whose lives have been transformed through the love of God – both by singing and through the love expressed in reaching out to those in need. If you get a chance, it promises to be a memorable watch.

And it's not just the church's experience of the benefits of singing in terms of people's faith. Modern studies have shown that singing can help people develop better lung function, improve memory, stimulate immune response, reduce stress, help with grieving, and even reduce snoring.

Singing can also increase your sense of belonging and connection to other people.

Maybe you can testify to some of the benefits of singing for you – maybe you have experienced the sense of joy singing in a choir, a church or in a group.

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## Millstream

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APPROVED OPERATOR

NEWS

# New use approved for old garden centre

PLANS to redevelop a disused Keynsham garden centre have been approved by Bath & North East Somerset Council.

The council has agreed that five disused buildings at the former Whitegate Nurseries site on Stockwood Hill can be demolished and replaced with three new blocks containing a total of 15 industrial units.

The application, submitted by Whitegate Bristol Ltd, had faced objections from Keynsham Town Council, which said the proposals would amount to overdevelopment of the green-belt site, raise safety concerns over access onto Stockwood Hill, and generate traffic the road would be unable to cope with.

Concerns were also raised about the lack of safe walking and cycling routes to the site for workers, as well as recurring incidents of flooding in the area.

But B&NES Council planning officers, who made the delegated decision to approve the plans, said they were satisfied that these issues had either already been addressed or could be managed through planning conditions.

Under the approved scheme, the new industrial units would be arranged in three blocks, reducing the overall number of



buildings on the site. Officers said this would help to lessen the “visual clutter” and improve the openness of the green belt compared with the current layout.

Although the two-storey, metal-clad units would be taller than the existing structures, planning officers said their proposed height of six metres was not excessive and would allow for effective screening by surrounding vegetation.

Before any of the units can be occupied, further details will need to be submitted to the council covering hours of operation, deliveries and waste collection.

Avon and Somerset Police had initially objected to the proposals, saying safety and

security issues had not been adequately addressed. But the applicants later provided details of what the council described as a “comprehensive” CCTV system and additional security measures, which were judged to be acceptable.

Planning officers concluded that the development would not result in significant harm to neighbouring properties through noise, odour, traffic or other forms of disturbance.

The plans include 35 car parking spaces, along with additional provision for deliveries, servicing vehicles, visitors and cycle parking.

Whitegate Nurseries closed in 2018 after trading for 64 years. Earlier proposals for the site have failed, including a plan to build up to nine homes submitted in 2021 that was later withdrawn, and an application in 2022 to convert five of the six buildings into homes, which was refused by the council and later dismissed on appeal by a planning inspector.

Planning officers acknowledged that the earlier scheme had been rejected due to a lack of safe and convenient pedestrian and cycle access but said the latest application represented an “entirely different proposed use”.

## Home for kestrels at orchard



A NEW kestrel box has been installed in the Corston Orchard Project field.

It has been paid for by a ward councillor empowerment fund grant from local B&NES councillor Duncan Hounsell (pictured).

The kestrel box was made from scratch by George Foster of Newton St Loe and erected by a team from the nearby Bird of Prey Centre, which made sure that it was positioned with the right habitat.

Cllr Hounsell said: “I was delighted to support the Corston Orchard with a kestrel box. Kestrels are in decline nationally and are a priority species for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds.”

● Kestrel photo by Martin Farrell, Avon Wildlife Trust, Keynsham Group



# Dixons

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## ■ PEN TO PAPER

### Angel Darling Baby

Angel Darling Baby  
I was really stuck on you.  
You turned me on with your golden hair,  
And your big wide eyes of blue.

Angel Darling Baby,  
My mem'ry lets me down.  
It could be true your eyes are blue,  
But I think they might be brown.

I really loved your golden curls  
A-hanging down your back  
Or maybe they were short and straight  
And maybe blond or black.

That lovely day by the riverside  
With you within my reach  
The gentle murm'ring of the weir  
Or was it on the beach?

I loved that sweet red dress you wore  
The day that I met you  
I can still recall it well  
Or maybe it was blue.

Angel Darling Baby  
You really were a pearl  
My mem'ry of you is strong and true  
Or was it a different girl?

**George Liddell**

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

## ■ CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

### Renewable energy holds the key

EVEN if the conflict in the Middle East has eased by the time you read this, energy prices won't fall quickly. Resumption of oil and gas flowing through the Strait of Hormuz won't steady the global system overnight.

The war has underlined a hard truth: relying on fossil fuels is a risky, unstable strategy. Renewable power provides a steadier supply that helps keep household and business costs down.

Worldwide, solar and wind are already cheaper than fossil fuels, and new capacity is being added every day. Crucially, renewables also strengthen energy independence, leaving us less exposed to geopolitical shocks.

That said, renewables aren't entirely risk-free. Rare earth mineral supply chains often originate in unstable regions. That exposure can be reduced by sensible government strategies: recycling more materials, diversifying mineral supplies, investing in R&D, and building more products locally.

Who owns our generating capacity matters if we want a just transition away from fossil fuels. We don't have to concentrate power in the hands of a few wealthy investors or large energy companies.

Households should be able to generate their own electricity and cut bills. Plug-in

solar is one promising option, already being taken up by people without roof space across Europe: small kits for balconies, terraces or shed roofs that connect (via an inverter) to a standard socket and feed electricity directly into homes.

Communities can also take control by investing in local community energy companies, which enable residents to collectively own, manage and benefit from renewable projects like large-scale rooftop solar. Any profits are reinvested locally to fund sustainability work, including energy-efficiency improvements.

This democratisation of energy can't come soon enough. Why respond to fossil fuel shocks by doubling down on fossil fuels, when we can choose a sensible route towards clean, abundant, affordable renewable energy that's fairly owned? I know which direction I'd rather take.

If you'd like to find out more about community energy, Keynsham Community Energy is hosting a free film about an urban street's attempt to become a renewable energy power station at The Space on Thursday May 21, followed by a Q&A. Book on Eventbrite (search 'Eventbrite Keynsham community energy power station').

**Elizabeth Willitts**

**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**

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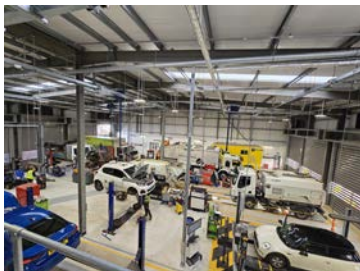
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NEWS

# Coat of Hopes pilgrimage comes to town

THE Coat of Hopes – which has been inspiring environmental campaigners during its pilgrimage through Britain – will arrive in Keynsham this month.

The patchwork coat will have travelled 2,200 miles by the time its pilgrimage reaches Keynsham, which became an important religious site from the ninth century and later founded an abbey.

The patch-less coat set out from a beach in Newhaven, Sussex, on August 30, 2021, on a nine-week walk to Glasgow for the COP26 climate conference.

Along the way, it gathered pieces of blanket into which people had sewn their hopes for the places they live in the face of climate and ecological breakdown.

When the Coat of Hopes arrives in Keynsham on the afternoon of May 18, there will be a procession in the town and down the High Street. This will be followed by an evening event in St John's Church from 7pm.

Organisers say they are committed to continuing the coat's journey until the



The Coat of Hopes visiting London on its journey around Britain

climate and ecological situation is no longer an emergency.

For more information, visit [www.coatofhopes.uk](http://www.coatofhopes.uk)

ADVERTISING FEATURE

# Farm swaps egg production for secure self-storage

MANOR Farm in Burnett near Keynsham, owned by fourth-generation farmer Adam Stratton, used to house 60,000 laying hens producing upwards of 55,000 eggs daily.

Over time, however, Adam decided to move away from traditional egg production, ushering in a new chapter for the 800-acre family farm.

Today, the land continues to grow crops but the former chicken barns have been transformed into Yolk Storage, a modern self-storage facility designed to serve the needs of local residents and businesses.

The site now offers secure indoor container storage of different sizes with convenient drive-up, ground-floor access. As a family-run and fully insured business, Yolk Storage provides peace of mind with 24/7 CCTV surveillance and NSI-approved alarms.

Ideally located between Bristol and Bath, the facility offers easy weekly payments with no long-term fixed contracts and access seven days a week, reflecting the farm's evolution to meet changing demands.

Plus, it's located in the stunning countryside with minimal traffic and offers scenic storage solutions with great service - just simple, convenient storage.



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## NEWS

# Broadlands is proud of its Future Brunels

STUDENTS from Lift Broadlands in Keynsham put their engineering skills to the test at a Future Brunels selection day, breaking a 14-year record in the process.

All year 7 students worked alongside industry experts from SS Great Britain and Babcock Engineering, exploring engineering concepts through practical challenges and using specialist kits to design and build their own models.

Working in teams, students applied creativity, problem-solving and numeracy skills, managing a mock £400 million budget to source materials for their designs. The focus was on developing key skills such as teamwork, resilience and innovation, with students showing enthusiasm and determination throughout.

The day concluded with a selection process to identify students who will progress to the next stage of the programme. Judges praised the high standard of work, highlighting two record-breaking helipad designs that held more weight than any seen in the programme's 14-year history.

The 12 selected students will now progress to a second selection day at SS

Great Britain, where they will compete for three coveted places on the Future Brunels programme.

The initiative, run by the SS Great Britain Trust, aims to inspire young people to explore careers in science, technology, engineering and maths through real-world experiences and engagement with industry professionals.

Laura Stone, principal at Lift Broadlands, said: "Opportunities like this show just how much they can achieve when they put their creativity and teamwork into action. I couldn't be prouder of all our Future Brunels."

Gemma Longhurst, science education manager at the SS Great Britain Trust, said: "It was fantastic to be back in Broadlands Academy with their year 7 students to start the process of selecting our newest cohort of Future Brunels."

"The aim of the STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) day was to create the strongest tower, and the students really stepped up to the challenge. In fact, two of the towers broke the record for the strongest we've seen in 14 years of the project. Well done, Broadlands Academy!"



Students from Lift Broadlands in Keynsham with their model at the Future Brunels selection day

## MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

# Antisocial behaviour: don't suffer in silence

ANTISOCIAL behaviour is one of the issues people speak to me about most often.

Whether it's persistent noise, groups causing concern in town centres, or behaviour that makes people feel intimidated, it can have a profound and lasting effect.

Antisocial behaviour doesn't just cause inconvenience - it can erode people's confidence in their neighbourhoods and undermine their sense of safety. That is why tackling antisocial behaviour is one of my priorities, and it is a priority shared across our public services.

I work consistently with the constabulary to deliver against the national neighbourhood policing guarantee. As a result, Avon & Somerset police have launched their new Five-Year ASB Plan, a strategy that focuses on prevention, early intervention and the right action

against the small number of people whose behaviour repeatedly harms others.

The plan strengthens partnership working, improves how vulnerable victims are identified, and places greater emphasis on understanding community concerns.

Good intelligence sits at the heart of this: reports from you as residents, insights from neighbourhood officers who know their areas well, and the information shared by partner organisations all help build a clear picture of where problems are happening and what targeted action is needed.

As an example, we have seen the value of this approach in Weston-super-Mare. Persistent antisocial behaviour in the town centre had left too many people feeling unsafe.

By bringing together council teams, voluntary organisations,

specialist support services and neighbourhood officers, we have been able to make a tangible difference.

A visible presence, targeted support for vulnerable individuals, and practical tools such as CCTV, street wardens and problem solving patrols have helped reduce the most harmful behaviour and reassure the local community.

It shows what is possible when everyone plays their part and when we listen directly to the people affected.

For anyone experiencing antisocial behaviour, knowing where to turn is vital.

Reporting it really does help. Even small or repeated incidents add to the intelligence picture and lead to better responses.

If you prefer to stay anonymous, you can contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

If issues persist and you feel not



With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody

enough has been done, you can request an antisocial behaviour case review through your local council.

This brings agencies together to look again at what more can be done to resolve the problem.

Victim support must always remain at the centre of our response.

I fund the Avon and Somerset Victim Service partnership, which provides free, confidential help to anyone affected by crime or antisocial behaviour, regardless of whether they have reported.

You can contact ASVS on 0300 303 1972 or go to [victimsupport.org.uk/avon-somerset](http://victimsupport.org.uk/avon-somerset) to find out more.

NEWS

# Hands off our common, airport is told

PROTESTERS from Keynsham and Saltford were among those demonstrating against land at Felton Common being taken to enable further expansion at Bristol Airport.

The airport wants to lengthen its runway so it can accommodate larger planes, which would mean it can offer long-haul flights.

The development would see landing lights and fencing installed on part of Felton Common.

The airport has said it will provide replacement land. It has put in a planning application to North Somerset Council for the expansion.

It already has permission to expand to 12 million passengers a year and now wants to increase the maximum to 15 million passengers a year.

Saltford councillor Duncan Hounsell, who attended the demonstration, said: "This will mean more planes, bigger planes, 1,000 more night-flights, more passengers, more pollution, more traffic. I and the B&NES Lib Dems are opposed to this further expansion of Bristol Airport."

Bristol Airport carried out its own public consultation in 2024 with 3,000 responses.

The public will be able to comment on the formal planning application soon, when the application is shown on the North Somerset Council planning web pages.



Night flights would rise to 5,000 a year. Cllr Hounsell added: "Noise from night flights in the summer is a significant issue for residents of south Saltford and the Compton Dando parish area. Expanding airports makes no sense when our planet home is facing the challenges of climate change."

The demonstration was organised by the Save Felton Common group. Among the protesters were members of Bristol Airport Action Network, which has described the airport's plans to develop the common as a "land grab".

Rich Prior, of Keynsham Extinction

Rebellion, also took part in the demonstration.

He said: "There is again a huge outcry and disbelief regarding Bristol Airport's continued desire to expand further."

"While most of us are taking action regarding the need to reduce our carbon footprint, the airline industry continue to disproportionately increase theirs."

"Sustainable aviation fuel is not going to help any time soon, if at all."

"The climate crisis is affecting us now, so we need to take action now and reduce our flying, not increase it."

"This further expansion to the airport is not wanted and must not be given the go-ahead. We all must continue to make our views known."

The airport, which is owned by Macquarrie Asset Management, says it expects to reach its proposed cap of 15 million passengers a year in the late 2030s. Currently, 10.8 million people use the airport annually.

The airport says aircraft movements would increase from 85,990 to 100,000 per year in the longer term to meet demand. On a busy day in peak periods, this would result in 35 extra aircraft movements.

"While night flying restrictions would remain, we are proposing to increase night flights by 1,000 - on average, that's four more flights on a busy night," the airport said.

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## MP WATCH NORTH EAST SOMERSET AND HANHAM

# Film puts 'national emergency' in spotlight

A NEW documentary that highlights national emergency risks facing the UK will receive a community screening in Keynsham next month.

*The People's Emergency Briefing* will be shown at Keynsham Baptist Church on Monday June 1 from 6.45pm.

The powerful film follows the National Emergency Briefing which took place in Westminster last November. The 1,200 political and civic leaders who attended included local and national representatives of MP Watch, which is hosting the screening.

The film describes scientific evidence presented to politicians regarding threats to food, health and the economy, aiming to foster local action and dialogue. Indeed, the government recently published a National Security Assessment on the impact of global biodiversity loss, ecosystem collapse and national security which has received surprisingly little media attention.

The film features TV wildlife presenter Chris Packham, a former UK army general, leading climate and nature scientists. Dragon's Den's Deborah Meaden and comedy star Jennifer Saunders, who reflect on the evidence presented as the scientists advise what can be done to safeguard Britain's future.

The film ends with a call for the Government to stage a prime-time, televised emergency



TV wildlife presenter Chris Packham in an image from *The People's Emergency Briefing*, which looks at the threats to our food, health and the economy - the film will be shown in Keynsham on June 1

briefing on climate and nature of its own.

The Keynsham screening will be followed by a discussion to explore what actions our community can take. Local councillors will be attending so they can hear your views.

Tickets are free, with a cash donation on the door to cover costs. They can be booked at

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/121276957440>

David Leverton, of MP Watch North East Somerset and Hanham, advised: "If there's more demand for tickets than the hall capacity, then we'll organise more screenings - it's vital that members of the public are informed about this existential threat to our survival."

## NEWS

### Artists' solar revolution to give power to the people

A DOCUMENTARY about one street's quest to generate its own electricity will receive a free screening in Keynsham this month.

*Power Station* will be shown at The Space, above the library, on Thursday May 21.

Straight after the screening, hosted by Keynsham Community Energy, there will be an opportunity to quiz a panel of local community energy organisation experts about the benefits of community-owned energy and how residents can get involved.

The screening starts at 7.30pm, with doors open and bar from 7pm and the Q&A from 9pm (panel line-up to be announced).

*Power Station* tells the story of how two artists in Walthamstow set out to take their street off the grid, kickstarting a solar-powered energy revolution.

Inspired by lockdown mutual-aid initiatives, artist-activists Hilary Powell and Dan

Edelstyn decided to turn their street into an energy-generating powerhouse - a prototype for a new way of living, with the hope of galvanising a wider push towards sustainable alternatives.

Directed by the duo, the documentary charts their turbulent journey, from pitching the idea to their neighbours and sleeping on the roof of their home, to raising finance and launching a bid for a Christmas number-one single.

By turns funny and heartwarming, Powell and Edelstyn's film is described as a vibrant portrait of their local neighbourhood, and a charming testament to the power of art in changing minds about what could be possible.

For free, ticketed entry, search 'Free film showing - power station' in Eventbrite.

Keynsham Community Energy is able to offer this event to the community for free thanks to a grant from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority.

[www.nebriefing.org](http://www.nebriefing.org)



National  
Emergency  
Briefing

# People's Emergency Briefing

## Keynsham

Film screening and discussion with our local politicians



Keynsham Baptist Church  
Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026

6.45pm for 7pm start

Admission free Cash donations on door

To reserve tickets use QR code or

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/peoples-emergency-briefing-tickets-1987954851475?>

MP WATCH North East  
SOMERSET  
and Hanham

NEWS

# Harriette's spinning wheel casts a spell

A SPINNING wheel demonstration wove its magic on people who attended Keynsham Spring Show.

Harriette Dottridge, who runs a series of craft workshops every winter at Compton Dando Parish Hall, attended the event at the request of Keynsham in Bloom, which had a stall at the show. She demonstrated how to spin wool from the fleece of a sheep.

Harriette said: "Once people started to arrive, they were mesmerised by the spinning wheel while I was spinning. Then of course some kids wanted a go. I had a queue."

She helped quite a few children to try the treadle and handle the wool, and she handed out details of the craft workshops in the hope of inspiring them to learn more.

"I might have to borrow some wheels and have a children's spinning class if they all respond," she said.

Explaining the appeal of the craft, Harriette said: "Spinning wool - and other materials, such as flax - can be a calming, creative and fascinating process. It can be done with a spindle and distaff, on a wheel or, nowadays, an electric spinner.

"Wool is almost a waste product in this country and, I find, the most enjoyable to spin: it is best to learn from other people about types of wool and the best ways to spin it, and to prepare a raw fleece.

"Care must be taken when washing and

cleaning fleeces in order to avoid serious hygiene problems. Fleece can come from sheep, alpaca, goat and even dog hair!"

Harriette's spinning wheel is an Ashford Traveller which she bought second-hand around 20 years ago for about £100.

Having briefly learned to spin during art classes at school, she went on to attend a class at the Spinning Weal in Clevedon and made a scarf from sheep wool given to her by a cousin.

By then, Harriette was hooked. She grew her own flax and dye plants, and learned how to process them, spinning many different fleeces and knitting many garments. She also learned how to felt wool into useful and decorative items and then learned to weave once she had retired.

She said: "I find the 'going back to our ancestors' sense of no waste and handcrafting very satisfying and enjoy sharing this knowledge with other like-minded people."

Anyone wanting more information about spinning, classes and equipment can contact the Spinning Weal textile craft shop at Clevedon or any of the national Guilds of Spinners, Weavers and Dyers around the country - visit <https://www.wsd.org.uk/>

Harriette, who is a member of the Wiltshire guild, said: "Fleeces can often be obtained from local farmers, but it is best to get advice on how to choose a good one."



Photo courtesy of Keynsham in Bloom

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## WHAT'S ON

### Friday May 1

■ Keynsham RUHX Fundraising Group meets at Keynsham Library (ground floor by Pam's Pantry), 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.

### Monday May 18

■ Messy Church at Keynsham Methodist Church, Queens Road, BS31 2NN, 3.15pm-5.15pm, with our usual mix of craft activities, Bible story, songs, food and fun. All are welcome, book your place with the church office on 0117 9149408 or email bookings@keynshammethodistchurch.co.uk.

### Monday May 18

■ Keynsham Amateur Swimming Club, free swimming trial for children aged 6-9 (Years 1-4) to join our friendly competitive club. Keynsham Leisure Centre, 6.30pm. To book your place, email Thea on thea.beament@hotmail.co.uk.

### Tuesday May 26

■ Salford and Keynsham Flower Club's next meeting features a practice class called 'Lines for Designs'. Please see the club website for what to bring. Non-members welcome, entrance £8. This month we meet at 2pm in the Wansdyke Room, behind Salford Hall, as works are going on in the main hall.

### Saturday June 20

■ Winterbourne Wind Band will play on the Keynsham Memorial Park bandstand, 2pm-4pm. We are a fun amateur band, led by musical director Joe Galuszka, playing a range of music including pop, rock, jazz, musical and classical. Pack a picnic and come along and enjoy this free event.

### Thursday July 2

■ Lunchtime piano recital by international concert pianist Allan Schiller featuring works by Chopin, Schubert, Grieg and Albinez. St John's Church, Keynsham, BS31 2BL, 1pm-2pm. Tickets £10, available from Ticket Tailor or on the door. <https://app.tickettailor.com/events/keynshamconcerts1/2138250>

## We would love to publicise your event

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

## WHAT IT IS WHERE IT IS WHEN IT IS

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

### Saturday July 4

■ Evening concert by international concert pianist Nurry Lee, with guest virtuoso violinist Yoonseo Oh. Featuring solo piano pieces by Rachmaninoff, Chopin, Hamelin and Gershwin. Piano and violin 'Cine Duo' featuring excerpts from Pirates of the Caribbean, Lord of the Rings, Avatar, and How to Train Your Dragon. St John's Church, Keynsham, BS31 2BL, 7pm for 7.30pm to 10pm. Bar available. Tickets £20 from Ticket Tailor or on the door. <https://buytickets.at/keynshamconcerts1/2142260>

## 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.

■ 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).

■ 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.

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

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

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

### Mondays/Tuesdays

■ **Seated Pilates Class**  
Mondays and Tuesdays 11-11.30 am.  
Salford Hall (Avon Room), Wedmore Road, Salford.  
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)

### 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/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)

### Mondays/Thursdays

#### ■ Yoga For Men

Monday 7-8pm and Thursday 7.30-8.30pm. Mixed ability. Two Rivers School, Hygge Park, BS31 1GE. Free 1st class, £9 thereafter. Loyalty card. Book online. Pay on the night - cash or contactless. See [www.yogadad.co.uk](http://www.yogadad.co.uk) for further details.

### Tuesdays

■ Keynsham Mencap football for people aged 16 and over with a learning disability, every Tuesday 7pm-8.30pm at Broadlands Academy, St Francis Road, Keynsham, BS31 2DY. Contact laura@keynshammencap.org.uk for more info.

■ Welsh conversation group, The Old Manor House, Bristol Road, Keynsham, 7pm-8.30pm, third Tuesday of the month - May 19, June 16, July 21, (August no meeting), September 15, October 20, November 17, December 15. Free to attend. Organiser Catherine Dhanjal. Call Catherine on 07941669925 or follow <https://www.facebook.com/CymraegBrysteCaerfaddon>.

■ 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, school term time. 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, 6pm-7pm, at the Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham. For more details, contact Linda on [lindachrisp@hotmail.com](mailto:lindachrisp@hotmail.com).

■ Salford Village Choir continues to meet on Tuesdays in the Wansdyke Room, behind the main hall at Salford Hall, at 7.30pm. We are preparing for our concert on June 6 and anyone interested in trying us out is welcome.

## WHAT'S ON

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ Craft group meets on alternate Tuesdays (May 5 and 19) in the Fellowship Room, Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham, 2pm-4pm. All welcome.

■ Ladies group meets on alternate Tuesdays (May 12 and 26) at Keynsham Methodist Church, Queens Road, BS31 2NN, 2.30pm-4pm.

### Tuesdays/Weds/Saturdays

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

### Tuesdays/Thursday

■ Play & Shine – for children aged 0-5 years with a learning disability, emerging needs or would benefit from a small group. Tuesdays and Thursdays (term-time only) 9.30am-11.30am, Queen's Road Methodist Church, Keynsham BS31 2NN. Contact molly@keynshammencap.org.uk for more info.

### 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.uk to book. More details <http://avoncountyrrowingclub.org.uk/>

### Wednesdays

■ German conversation group, Old Manor House Hotel, Keynsham, 7pm-9pm, second Wednesday of the month - May 13, June 10, July

8, (August no meeting), September 9, October 14, November 11, December 9. Free to attend. Organiser Steve James. Join Keynsham Stammtisch on Facebook.

■ French conversation group, Old Manor House Hotel, Keynsham, 7pm-8.30pm, fourth Wednesday of the month - May 27, June 24, 22nd July 22, (August no meeting), September 23, October 28, November 25, December 23 (TBC). Free to attend. Organisers Steve James and Catherine Dhanjal. Call Catherine on 0794 1669925 or join L'Amicale Francaise de Keynsham on Facebook.

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

■ Buggy walk, meet outside Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, for coffee and play, every Wednesday in May at 10.30am.

■ 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 alternate Wednesdays (May 13 and May 27) 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

■ Saltford Bridge Club is a friendly group that meets to play duplicate bridge on Thursday evenings at Saltford Golf Club. New members welcome. If you don't have a partner, the club can often find one for you. For details, contact Val on 07989775780.

### Pilates Classes

Taught by Chartered Physiotherapist Kate  
Thurs 7pm (Intermediate)  
Thurs 8pm (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)

■ 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.

■ 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.

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

■ 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](mailto:Contact@longwellgreenorchestra.org). uk beforehand to tell us what instrument and what level.

■ 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 - only £3.20. 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 [keynshamtownwfg@gmail.com](mailto:keynshamtownwfg@gmail.com).

### Fridays

#### 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)

### Fridays

■ CAMEO, Keynsham Methodist Church group for people living alone, coffee morning at the Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham, 10am-12pm, first Friday of the month. All welcome.

■ Baby Comes Too toddler group meet every Friday in term time at Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, 10am-12pm. All welcome. For more information email [bookings@keynshammethodistchurch.co.uk](mailto:bookings@keynshammethodistchurch.co.uk)

■ More What's On: Page 36

## WHAT'S ON

### Fridays

■ 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.

■ Golden Oldies singing group, Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham, 2pm-3pm, with Sue Crick, on the last Friday of the month. All welcome. For more information, visit <https://www.golden-oldies.org.uk>

### Saturdays

■ 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).

■ Keynsham Abbey's remains are open on alternate Saturdays, March to October, from 2pm-4pm (weather permitting) at the top of the Memorial Park, Abbey Park road entrance near the station. Volunteers will be on site and

can give details of its history, as well as the work currently being undertaken. For more details, see the Keynsham Abbey web site at [keynshamabbey.com](http://keynshamabbey.com).

■ 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.

■ Keynsham Mencap Super Saturday Club for those aged 5 to 18 years with a learning disability, Saturdays (term-time only) 10am - 12pm, Queen's Road Methodist Church, Keynsham BS31 2NN. Contact [molly@keynshammencap.org.uk](mailto:molly@keynshammencap.org.uk) for more info.

### 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.

## NEWS

# Imogen hopes to raise a laugh for India journey

A KEYNSHAM teenager is raising funds to help fulfil her dream of representing local Guides at two international events.

Imogen, 14, lives in the town but has been part of Girlguiding in Bitton since the age of four. She currently attends Bitton Rangers and helps at Guides.

In January 2025, she was selected at a regional event to represent Guides on a trip to Belgium. Soon afterwards, she was chosen to represent the South West on an international visit to India this August. The trip will involve taking part in a community project as well as experiencing Indian culture and heritage.

More recently, Imogen was selected to represent Girlguiding at an international jamboree in Iceland next summer.

To raise funds, she has already organised a successful event at the Portwall Tavern in Bristol, supported by actor and BBC Radio 2 presenter Joe Sims. She is now hosting a quiz and comedy night at the Scout HQ in Keynsham on Saturday May 16.

The event, which runs from 6.30pm to 10pm, will include a barbecue and bar, with food, snacks and drinks available to



buy. The Scouts have granted use of the venue for free.

Tickets cost £5 and can be bought from Eventbrite – search for 'Get Imogen to India Quiz & Comedy night'.

Imogen, who attends Wellsway School, is just £500 away from reaching her £3,600 target for India. She is now starting to raise funds towards a further £2,700 needed for the Iceland trip.

She said: "Being part of Girlguiding has opened doors to opportunities I never would have imagined, helping me grow in confidence, independence and resilience.

"I am currently fundraising for future international trips to India and Iceland, which are incredibly important to me. These opportunities represent more than just travel – they are chances to challenge myself, experience new cultures, and develop skills that will stay with me for life.

"I will also be taking part in a community project in India, and I am really looking forward to supporting people who are less fortunate than me."

To visit Imogen's GoFundMe page, go to <https://gofund.me/2e3cf8fbf>

## KEYNSHAM FREEMASONS

# Open day raises £500 for community charity

KEYNSHAM Freemasons held a successful charity fundraising day at the town's Masonic Hall on March 28.

The event was attended by the Deputy Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Neil Dowdney.

He spoke to representatives of Operation Community Hamper, which is Keynsham Freemasons' charity of the season.

The open day also included displays by the Freewheelers emergency voluntary blood bike service, St John Ambulance and members of the various Freemasons lodges.

The event raised more than £500 for Operation Community Hamper.

Pictured (left to right) are Cleo Donaldson, Deputy Lord Lieutenant Neil Dowdney, Judith Harding, and Steve Coles, chairman, Keynsham Masonic Hall.



NEWS

# Party time for the Mad Hatters



Staff and residents at Kingfisher Lodge care centre in Saltford get into the party spirit

RESIDENTS and staff at a Saltford care centre threw a Mad Hatters' tea party in aid of a good cause.

The event was held at Kingfisher Lodge to support the Brain Tumour Research charity, which holds a Wear a Hat Day each year to raise awareness and donations.

The partygoers in the centre's newly refurbished reception café wore silly hats while performing tasks and enjoying tea and homemade cakes.

There were cowboy, Scottish and French hats, as well as some official Barmy Army bucket hats that toured with the England cricket team Down Under.

One of the residents, Nita, donned an Australian corked hat for the occasion.

Despite having visited the in-house hair salon just that morning, she said: "It's such a great cause that I don't even mind my hair getting messy."



Resident Jean and chef Karen



Residents Fred and Nita



Resident Sheila and care centre general manager Claudia

## New ladies' group offers warm welcome at the hub

A NEW weekly ladies' group has been set up at Keynsham Community Hub.

It offers a welcoming space for women to connect, socialise, and take part in a variety of creative and engaging activities.

The group meets every Wednesday from 1.30pm to 3.30pm at the Community Hub on Queens Road. Open to women of all backgrounds, the sessions aim to foster friendship, creativity, and community spirit in a relaxed and inclusive environment.

Each week will feature a range of activities shaped by the interests of attendees, from crafts and discussions to light workshops and social time.

Those attending will have the opportunity to meet new people and the new Keynsham and District Village Agent, Natalie Condick, who will be available for a friendly, informal chat in confidence to help get people connected to any support they may need.

One of the volunteers running



The new ladies' group is just one of the activities hosted by Keynsham Community Hub

the group said: "The group is run by a local, creative, friendly and supportive volunteers who are open to suggestions for new ideas to create an activity programme each week."

The group started in April and is proving popular with local women. Organisers hope the group will become a regular highlight in the local calendar, encouraging women to build connections and try something new.

For more information or to get involved, please contact [hello@keynshamhub.co.uk](mailto:hello@keynshamhub.co.uk)



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NEWS

# Leaflet error over defeated candidate

LIBERAL Democrat leaflets distributed in Salford have incorrectly named a defeated council candidate as one of their councillors.

Hossein Pirooz missed out on being elected as one of the village's councillors by just four votes in a Bath and North East Somerset Council by-election in January 2025. But more than a year later, Liberal Democrat activists were posting leaflets through letterboxes calling him a councillor.

The leaflets included a survey titled "Cllr Duncan Hounsell & Cllr Hossein Pirooz's local survey." But it was independent candidate Chris Warren who won the knife-edge 2025 by-election and is the village's second councillor alongside Mr Hounsell.

A Liberal Democrat spokesperson said: "This was an office error, and the calling card only went to a maximum of 120 houses out of the 2,221 in Salford before the mistake was

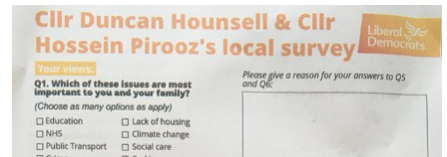
noticed and pulled. Two full apologies were sent to Cllr Warren on 31st March."

The survey on the leaflets asked what issues mattered most to people, how they rated the performance of the Liberal Democrat-run council, and who they voted for in the 2025 by-election. It was the closest electoral result in the history of the council and one of its most chaotic.

The Reform UK candidate only narrowly avoided having to shave their beard off, as they had promised to do so in a bet with a friend if the Liberal Democrats held the seat. Meanwhile, the Labour candidate was in Australia during the election and the party's support collapsed to just 60 votes.

The next elections to Bath and North East Somerset Council are in May 2027.

*John Wimperis,  
Local Democracy Reporting Service*



**Hossein Pirooz with B&NES Liberal Democrat council leader Kevin Guy at the by-election count in January 2025**



**Walkers returning across the cradle bridge back to St Mary's Church for tea and cakes**



## Beautiful bluebells

THE annual Compton Dando bluebell walk was blessed with fine weather as villagers ambled through the bluebell woods.

Afterwards, they joined others who did not take part in the walk for tea and cakes to round off the afternoon.

The event also served as a reminder that annual summer teas at St Mary's Church will start on Sunday May 24.

They will be held every Sunday, as well as bank holiday Mondays, until Monday August 31. Teas are served from 2.30pm until 5pm.

For more details, please ring Jenny Davis on 01761 490727.

## Charity shop and cafe opens



A CHARITY shop and café has opened in the former Buss greengrocer's store in Keynsham High Street.

Think Different sells secondhand, vintage and new clothing, as well as toys, antiques and cosmetics, to raise money to support those affected by mental health issues.

The greengrocer's shop closed in January 2023 after trading in the High Street for more than 60 years.



## Could you be a support worker?

United Response is national charity, employing over 3,500 people across the country to provide outstanding support for people with learning disabilities and autism.

We're looking for new support workers in **Keynsham** for our supported living services. You'll need full UK driving licence, but we'll provide all the training you need – just bring the smile!

[www.unitedresponse-jobs.org.uk](http://www.unitedresponse-jobs.org.uk)



For more info, contact [kat.dingle@unitedresponse.org.uk](mailto:kat.dingle@unitedresponse.org.uk)

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Upon entering, you are welcomed into two spacious reception rooms. The high ceilings, elegant coving, and intricate picture rails add a touch of character, while the central ceiling roses enhance the home's traditional charm.

The property comprises four well-proportioned bedrooms and benefits from gas-fired central heating and uPVC double-glazing.

Off-street parking is available for several vehicles, complemented by a large detached single garage, offering additional storage or workshop space.

The beautifully maintained rear garden is a standout feature, complete



with a gazebo that boasts a vaulted ceiling, heating, lighting, and power sockets.

Situated within the well-regarded Wellsway School catchment, this property is also conveniently located near local shops, amenities, and transport links, making it an ideal family home.

**Arrange your viewing with Eveleighs on 0117 904 9000**



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■ BRISTOL BASEBALL CLUB

# Flying start for Buccaneers and Brunels



Rohan Ninawe was among the Brunels who beat Taunton Pistols



BRISTOL Buccaneers and Bristol Brunels both swept their opening day opponents to launch the British Baseball Federation (BBF) season in style.

Defending regional champions the Buccaneers beat Cardiff Merlins A at Keynsham's Somerdale Pavilion 10-9 and 15-3 in a double header on April 12.

With the home team trailing 9-8 in the last inning, a Jordan Nichols single sparked the rally. Nichols then stole second before Tom Rowe reached first on a throwing error, allowing Nichols to tie the game.

Then veteran Keith Weinberg marked his return with a single to drive in Rowe for the winning run.

In game two, starting pitcher Patrick Mahoney struck out eight as the Buccaneers capitalised on 12 walks to take a 15-3 win.

Debutant Ryota Sugawara had three hits, including a double, and drove in five runs.

Also at Somerdale, the Brunels opened their BBF Division Five campaign by hosting Taunton Pistols.

In game one, starting pitcher Rohan Ninawe struck out eight and held Taunton to two runs on two hits, also collecting three hits (including a double), three runs driven in and three runs scored in a 15-2 win; Cesar Torres and Tom Cross combined for six hits, with Cross doubling and driving in two.



Veteran Keith Weinberg, left, of the Brunels and Yarlandis Despaigne of the Buccaneers



Game two was a cliffhanger: tied 11-11 going into the final inning, the Pistols scored four to lead, but the Brunels rallied as Joshua Flynn, Erin Hart and Georgia Powell walked to load the bases and further patient at-bats cut the deficit before Torres' single to left-centre drove in Declan Ryan and Paul D'Amore for a 17-15 walk-off win.

The Bristol Bats games against Cardiff Merlins AA were called off due to the weather.

● Andy Bergh impressed on his Bristol Badgers debut on April 19, striking out 10 Bracknell Inferno batters as the Badgers won 11-1 in game

two of the BBF Division 2 double header. He also had two hits, two runs and two runs driven in.

The tight pitcher's duel was broken open by John Brownlee's bases clearing double in the bottom of the fourth inning as the Badgers went ahead 7-1. Tim Singiser, Doug Scriver and Alex Martinson added multi-hit games as the Badgers split the double header.

In game one, Bracknell edged Bristol 7-5 after an early 6-4 lead; Keegan Martinjako drove in two runs and starred in left field, while centre fielder Singiser made a full-length diving catch to keep Bristol in contention.

Also at Somerdale, the Buccaneers swept Newton Abbott Brewers 14-5 and 11-4 in BBF Division 4, showing plate discipline (11 walks) and speed (eight steals).

Yarlandis Despaigne doubled, drove in a run and made an overhead catch at shortstop; in game two, Ryota Sugawara and Bryan Cromer doubled and drove in three runs between them.

In Yeovil, the Bristol Brunels split their BBF Division 5 double header with the Whirlwinds, winning 15-3 behind Rohan Ninawe (eight strikeouts, six hits allowed) in game one before losing 11-8 in game two.

Ninawe had a good all-round game with two hits, with Tom Cross, James Peterson and Cesar Torres among the key bats; Charlie Ricketts tripled and MVP Andre Shlmon doubled to left field.

■ FRY'S BOWLING CLUB

## Victory in friendly is a nice warm-up for new season

WITH the sun starting to poke through, Fry's have made a gentle start to the season. First up was a successful friendly at St Anne's Park, with Fry's taking the win, before a Saturday friendly at Begbrook Green.

The following week saw the first competitive match of the season with a visit to Avonvale. Challenging conditions saw Fry's get off to a slow start, after which they got back into the game. But unfortunately, the rain stopped the game early, allowing Avonvale to take the win.

The first home game of the season was

against Norwest, with 5 rinks in play. Across 4 rinks, the honours were tied, but with the final rink 10 shots in Fry's favour, they took the overall win.

The ladies started their season on April 21 with a match at Page Park. The Bristol and District League team begin with an away match at Henleaze A.

The social calendar for the season is taking shape, with plans for the annual summer barbecue in July, which will hopefully see a return of Oldland Ukelele Club along with

special guests. A new event for this year will see members take a boat trip along Avon Gorge at the end of August. Meanwhile, the green and gardening team have been hard at work getting everything ready for the new season.

If you would like more information about Fry's Bowling Club, or want to give bowls a try, please visit our website [frysbowlingclub.wixsite.com/frys](http://frysbowlingclub.wixsite.com/frys), search Fry's Bowling Club on Facebook, follow us on X (formerly Twitter) @FrysBowls, or contact our secretary, Stephen Day, email [frysbowlsclub@gmail.com](mailto:frysbowlsclub@gmail.com), tel 01225 872959.

## ■ FRY'S TENNIS CLUB



Fry's Tennis Club's attention is turning to the new summer league after their success in the Avon Winter League

## Winter team celebrates as summer campaign looms

A BIG well done to the Fry's Tennis Avon Winter League team, who ended the season in second place in division 4, securing promotion.

The team, consisting of Mark Long, Kerry Grace, Julian Hellyer, David Howell, Jo Taylor and Elaine Hanham, secured 6 wins

and 1 draw from their 10 matches, all against high-quality opposition. Highlights included convincing wins against rivals Portishead and Sodbury and being one of the only teams to take points from high-flying table-toppers Kings. Fry's now look forward to competing in

division 3 next winter, while attention turns to the summer league, which starts this month. For anyone interested in joining Fry's Tennis Club, please contact Tony Dicker at [ard@tonydicker.co.uk](mailto:ard@tonydicker.co.uk). Any ladies looking to play social or league games would be particularly welcome.

## ■ KEYNSHAM CRICKET CLUB

## Warm welcome awaits for start of new season

AS the clocks spring forward, the inevitability of the coming cricket season is soon upon us.

Indeed, at Keynsham Cricket Club it has already arrived, heralded by an encouraging win in the first round of the National Knock Out Cup, against Bristol Pakistanis at Keynsham.

Much hard work in the close

season saw the ground looking splendid. Additionally, the pavilion has been redecorated and considerable additional seating has been provided around the ground.

For those unfamiliar with the club, here is a brief introduction to the club and its activities.

The ground itself, whilst fairly central to the town, is well

concealed on the Wellsway. To find it, go out of town on the Wellsway for about a quarter of a mile.

You encounter a zebra crossing with Lime Kiln Close to your left. The road bends to the right, then straightens. The ground's small entrance is about 50 yards further on, to your left. Should you reach the next zebra crossing, you've passed it.

The ground consists of a large, enclosed playing area with a substantial clubhouse/bar fronted by an extensive patio equipped with numerous tables and chairs.

All are welcome to come and watch and, should they wish, partake in some (mainly liquid) refreshment. The ground's enclosure makes it ideal for families and children.

Cricket is played most weekends and evenings, especially during term time when teams made up of our 150 juniors generally perform.

They supplement four men's teams and a women's team. The first team play at a good standard

in the Bristol and North Somerset division of the West of England Premier League (WEPL).

This season their efforts will be supplemented by an overseas player, Luke Jongwe. Luke is a Zimbabwean all-rounder who has represented his country in all forms of international cricket. We anticipate he will provide both excitement and entertainment throughout the season.

The highly competitive league matches are played on Saturday afternoons, starting on May 2 when the first team visit Bedminster.

In addition to providing excellent cricket facilities, the club is also the home base of Keynsham Hockey Club (currently enjoying the most successful period in their history) and the Saltford and Sham Cycling Club, a successful and fast-growing club with an extensive membership. Both these clubs bring a positive diversity to the atmosphere of the cricket club.

Anyone interested in cricket or joining the thriving social scene at KCC will receive a warm welcome.

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## ■ SALT FORD LAWN TENNIS CLUB



# Wimbledon comes to Saltford!

SALT FORD Lawn Tennis Club enjoyed a touch of SW19 magic as its "Wimbledon Comes to Saltford" event delivered an afternoon of high-quality tennis, expert coaching, laughter and community spirit - with a distinctly professional edge.

The club welcomed former Wimbledon and Davis Cup player Danny Sapsford and former British No. 1 Lucie Ahl for a day of tennis-themed fun for all ages on Saturday April 18.

Proceedings began with an inclusive tennis taster session led by award-winning coach Andy Gray.

The children taking part were new to the sport, but under Andy's guidance they grew in confidence, learning to handle a racket and produce some impressive shots.

The experience clearly struck a chord, with both children signing up for the club's regular Saturday sessions.

The next two sessions featured junior masterclasses for players aged 4-10 and 11-16, led by Danny and Lucie. Through a series of engaging drills, players sharpened their skills and improved their technique. Each session concluded with personalised feedback from the professionals.

Attention then turned to the adult players, with sessions tailored for beginners and intermediates, followed by advanced and league players.

These proved extremely popular, with Danny's high-energy



**The players who took part in the thrilling exhibition match at Saltford - Kath Wilson, Tom Griffith, Danny Sapsford and Lucie Ahl**

coaching style keeping everyone fully engaged.

Players were encouraged to improve communication and movement in doubles play, while developing greater consistency and shot selection. Lucie offered individual guidance throughout, helping participants refine tactics and technique.

Adding a competitive twist, Danny brought along a radar speed gun to measure serve speeds. For context, Carlos Alcaraz regularly serves between 193 and 217 km/h.

Fifteen brave club members stepped up to test their own power. Milly Namayega recorded the fastest women's serve at 107 km/h, while Tom Griffith led the men with an impressive 146 km/h - formidable efforts that few would relish returning.

The highlight of the afternoon was a thrilling exhibition match, with the professionals partnering club players in a contest full of twists and high-quality rallies.

Kath Wilson teamed up with Danny Sapsford, while Tom Griffith

partnered Lucie Ahl. In a closely fought encounter packed with skill, humour and fast-paced exchanges, Lucie and Tom edged a 6-4 victory - though the scoreline barely captured the excitement, as the delighted crowd reacted with gasps to the dazzling play on display.

The event concluded with a spirited mixed doubles challenge, as six pairs of club players took on the professionals in a series of five-point tie-breaks.

While the pros maintained their unbeaten record, every match was played in fantastic spirit, filled with smiles, near-misses and moments of brilliance. It was an afternoon participants will be talking about for some time.

Off court, a team of volunteers ensured the event ran seamlessly, organising activities, refreshments and a raffle, with a top prize of a free family membership.

The event raised over £600 to support future inclusive tennis sessions and outreach activities, helping to make the sport accessible to even more people in the local area.

It may not have been Centre Court, but for one afternoon Saltford came close. And with tennis like this on your doorstep, there's no need to travel far.

For those interested in getting involved, the club offers a free first coaching session. To find out more, visit <https://clubspark.lta.org.uk/SaltfordTennisClub> or email [sec.saltfordtennis@gmail.com](mailto:sec.saltfordtennis@gmail.com)

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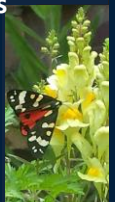


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