

# keynshamvoice

June 2026

Issue 169

[www.keynshamvoice.co.uk](http://www.keynshamvoice.co.uk)



Salute to  
our Good  
Citizens:  
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FREE EVERY MONTH IN KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD

## Abandoned and left to rot. A dangerous 'playground' for bored thrill-seekers. Now this is all that's left.



● Full story and more pictures on Pages 2 and 3 *Image courtesy of 2K Abandoned Places*

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# keynshamvoice

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## July deadline

Our July edition will go to print on Monday June 29. To ensure your news or letter is included, please contact us by Wednesday June 24. 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.

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### Keynsham Citizens Advice Bureau

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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.

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## NEWS

# Investigation into



**Flames and smoke rise from the burning Treetops property in St Clements Road** *Image courtesy of Evie Brown*

THE former Treetops nursing home in Keynsham has been reduced to charred ruins by a devastating blaze.

Fire crews were called to the scene in St Clements Road at 12.51pm on Thursday May 21.

Surrounding roads were closed and the neighbouring Keynsham Health Centre was evacuated.

The cause of the fire was still being investigated as the *Voice* went to press.

A nearby resident, Keith, said: "I was in the kitchen just about to prepare something for lunch, and I looked through the window and saw the smoke.

"My window was open, so I could smell smoke creeping in. So I then went out to see what was going on. But the police and fire crews were just telling everybody to go back inside and close all your doors and windows."

A total of 12 fire engines were involved in fighting the blaze at one stage. They used water taken from the River Chew near Dapps Hill Bridge and pumped through a hosepipe that trailed up to the site of the fire.

Most of the fire had been put out by 5.15pm. Crews stayed at the scene until the late evening to check for any remaining hotspots with thermal imaging cameras to rule out any chance of reignition.

Avon and Somerset Police helped to control traffic in the area and keep the scene safe.

Roads that had been closed during the incident were later reopened. The health centre reopened the following day.

Avon Fire & Rescue Service said: "Thankfully there were no casualties. The cause of the fire is currently unknown, with a full fire investigation yet to take place."

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NEWS

# fire that destroyed former care home



Firefighters still at the scene several hours after the fire broke out on May 21. Right, smoke rises beyond Keynsham Health Centre in this photo taken by Keith, a nearby resident, from the kitchen of his flat. Below, the scene in St Clements Road the following day

“We’d like to thank local people for their patience and support while we dealt with the fire.”

The former nursing home became derelict after closing in 2018. It became a target for anti-social behaviour, including criminal damage and numerous fires.

After repeated attempts to redevelop the site, outline planning permission to build 36 flats there was finally granted to Horizon Developments in March 2025.

But the property continued to lie empty and concerns were raised about safety at the site.

In January this year, the *Voice* reported how an urban explorer exposed the dangerous and dilapidated state of the building. His video footage revealed smashed windows, damaged doors and floors littered with broken glass and



other debris. There was evidence of fires being lit.

Fixtures and fittings had been torn out, electric sockets smashed, wiring exposed and large holes knocked through walls. Walls were covered in mould and graffiti. Some doors and windows had been boarded up but not all.

The urban explorer, who posted the footage under the name of 2K Abandoned Places,

said the damage was much more severe than when he previously visited in 2023-24.

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

“The kids are coming here with nothing better else to do. It’s ready to collapse.”

He said the building needed to be fully boarded-up or demolished before someone was injured.

Local police told the *Voice* at the time that they were concerned about the safety of people accessing the unsafe site. They said they were in ongoing contact with the building’s owners to discuss improving security measures to prevent further access.

In April this year, Horizon Developments applied to B&NES Council to seek a “minor variation” to the approved plans to reflect detailed design development.

One resident who commented in support of the plan said: “Can we get this site moving forward.”

They added: “Antisocial behaviour from kids on site goes on all night.”

The proposed flats development is still listed on the Horizon Homes website as ‘coming soon.’ The *Voice* has approached Horizon Homes for comment.



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## NEWS



Teamwork from (left to right) Leo Porter, Luca Porter and Leo Nicholls helped the boys raised more than £600 for Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal Photo: Molly Pipe



The boys with Leo Nicholls' sister Adley, who is also a patient at Bristol Children's Hospital

# Caring boys cross finish line together

THREE caring Keynsham boys have turned training and teamwork into a fundraising feat in aid of Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal.

Leo Nicholls and Leo Porter, both aged 8, and Luca Porter, aged 4, took part in the Great Bristol Mini Run on May 9.

They raised more than £600 for the appeal, which is the charity for Bristol Children's Hospital.

The hospital has helped shape their childhoods - both Leo Nicholls and Luca are patients, and so is Leo Nicholls' sister, Adley, aged one.

Leo Nicholls was born with multiple heart conditions and needed life-saving open-heart surgery at just seven days old. He spent his first two months on the cardiac ward and will need further surgery in the future.

Alongside his heart condition,

he also experienced vocal cord paralysis. Speech and language therapy has helped, but he can still get breathless because his airways are restricted, making this run a significant feat.

His sister Adley was born with all her major organs in her chest and spent two months in the neonatal intensive care unit at St Michael's.

Adley returns every three months for clinical appointments at St Michael's Hospital and continues her care at Bristol Children's Hospital for ultrasounds and regular blood tests.

Luca suffers from gastro-oesophageal reflux disease (GORD). He had a PEG tube fitted last September to help ease the physical symptoms and is now under the care of a paediatric dysphagia specialist to help him eat and drink.

The fundraising idea began with Leo Porter. He spotted an advert for Wallace & Gromit's Grand Appeal while at Bristol Children's Hospital waiting for his brother to come out of surgery.

Leo Nicholls and Luca wanted to be part of it too, so the friends became Team Leos and Luca.

Both Leos, who are naturally sporty, joined their school's athletics club to train for the race and practised with their football team.

But what mattered to them most was that they all finished together on the day. Because Luca can't run or jog very far, both Leos ran the 1.5km, looped back around, and then jogged with him over the finish line.

Lara, the mum of Leo Porter and Luca Porter, said: "We're so proud of the boys and their achievements - not

only for running the race itself and raising a lot of money for a very worthy cause, but for their teamwork, friendship, and compassion for others.

"The Leos looping back around after completing their race to join Luca and run across the finish line together is a wonderful example of this, and a memory we'll cherish forever."

Leo Nicholls' mum Aimee said: "I'm so proud of them. They encouraged and supported each other and kept going, crossing that finish line together."

"The fact they've raised over £600 for the children's hospital is extra special as the hospital has played such a big part in all of their lives.

"Alex - Leo Nicholls' dad - ran with them. He said they really enjoyed it, and he loved being able to run with them and be a source of encouragement."

## Tributes to 'a true gentleman' as optician Roger dies

TRIBUTES have been paid to Roger Spooner, the founder of Norville Opticians in Keynsham, who has died.

Roger set up the practice in the 1980s and after he retired in 2012, it became Norville Opticians.

The company said on Facebook: "Roger was a fabulous optician who cared for all in the community. He was involved in setting up the Salford Santa Dash which has raised over £150k for local charities."

A representative of Salford Santa Dash said: "Roger was a true gentleman whose kindness and community

spirit touched so many lives. Our thoughts are with his family and friends.

"The Santa Dash stands as a lasting testament to his generosity and vision, and what a remarkable legacy he leaves behind."

Several other people responded on Facebook with sadness to the news of his death.

One said: "Such a lovely man, a true gentleman. Mr Spooner was my optician for years, I have very fond memories of him."



NEWS

# Lidl: Have your say on our store plans

LIDL is inviting people to have their say on its proposals to build a new store in Broadmead Lane, Keynsham.

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

It is seeking views ahead of submitting a planning application to Bath & North East Somerset Council.

People can view the plans and comment on the consultation website - <http://keynsham.newsites.lidl.co.uk>

Daniel Preece, regional head of property at Lidl GB, said: "We have been looking to bring a new Lidl food store to serve Keynsham for some time and are delighted to have secured what is the best available location.

"We hope as many as possible share their views on our proposals to help shape the best offer for people here."

Lidl says there is no deadline for the consultation and that comments will be accepted



An image from Lidl's public consultation website

throughout the planning process.

The store chain says it plans to redevelop the current car park and storage areas at Jewson into a 137-space car park with landscaping. There would also be cycle parking. The new store would create up to 40 full-time and part-time jobs.

Lidl says it hopes to submit a

planning application by the end of June and receive a decision from the council by the end of 2026. Construction would start in 2027 and the store would open in 2027/28.

However, Aldi is still awaiting a council decision on its plans for a new supermarket on the A4 Bath Road, having submitted its

planning application back in May 2024.

Meanwhile, Lidl has asked B&NES Council for 'prior approval' to demolish two industrial buildings on the Jewson site to clear the way for a new store.

The council rejected Lidl's original application on April 24 on the grounds that there was insufficient information to assess the potential impact of the demolition on protected species, including bats. Lidl has since submitted a new application containing information the council has requested.

If demolition is approved, Lidl says it would take between four and six weeks. Work would take place between 7.30am and 6pm Monday to Friday and 7.30am to 1pm on Saturday. No Sunday work is anticipated.

As reported in last month's Voice, Jewson said it would remain open for business in Broadmead Lane until it could move to a new site in the area.

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## NEWS

# Fury over design for park's play area

PARENTS have reacted with fury to designs for the revamp of Keynsham Memorial Park's upper play area.

Bath & North East Somerset Council has released two images that are similar but not identical. It is believed the one printed here more closely reflects its proposals.

But residents reacting on Facebook have not been impressed, complaining that the design shows too little equipment, too much empty space and a lack of imagination.

One said: "One of the biggest green spaces in the area and that's the best we can do? All those questionnaires and "what would you like to see?" I can't see a single thing I've recommended as a parent of 3."

Another commented: "The longest wait for the biggest underwhelming plan I've ever seen! Hugely disappointed."

Some called for extra play equipment, such as a wooden climbing castle and bridge, and a zip line.

One person said: "Make the long silver slide a double one so children can race down. If whoever "designed" this actually was a parent who attended the park, they would know there is always a queue of children waiting to go down that one slide."

There was a feeling that Keynsham is missing out on the quality of facilities provided elsewhere. It was pointed out that B&NES Council has just received seven Green Flag Awards for beautiful parks and green spaces, and all of them are in Bath itself.

Some people were baffled that the design showed the number of swings being reduced.

One person said: "We



don't need lots of open space and landscaping, because the whole huge surrounding park provides that! We need sufficient swinging, sliding, climbing, spinning and jumping equipment to suit a wide range of ages and abilities and not require children to stand around waiting to play on things half the time they're there."

It was also felt there was a lack of facilities for children in wheelchairs or with other disabilities.

B&NES Council recently issued an updated tender for the play area improvement project after the previous tender failed to attract any bids by the closing date.

The council said: "We anticipate the play area works will begin in autumn 2026, once a contractor has been appointed and avoiding disruption to summer events in the park.

"We will replace the outdated play equipment with modern, accessible and safe play equipment. The design also includes improved surfaces for all users of the play area as well as new planting. This will result in a more inclusive play park suitable for children of all ages and abilities."

"The smaller play area at the bottom of the park for younger children will remain as it is now."

B&NES Council says the project is being funded by Section 106 money (secured from developers during the planning application process) and Keynsham Town Council. The expected cost of the park and landscaping improvements will be £250,000.

It adds: "The final design has been based on the extensive community consultation."

But Martin Burton from

Keynsham Labour Party said B&NES Council needs to think again.

He said: "This is a once-in-a-generation opportunity for Keynsham, and residents feel we should be aiming higher."

"The Memorial Park sits at the heart of our town and has the potential to become a flagship family destination, supporting both community wellbeing and the local economy."

"The message from residents is clear: they want a play space that is imaginative, high quality, makes the best use of the space available and is of an equal quality to those that BANES Council have already created in Bath."

"We hope the council will listen carefully to the concerns being raised and consider what further improvements can still be made before the plans are finalised."

## Tidy effort from the Wombles

KEYNSHAM Wombles took part in a successful litter pick around St Francis Church to help tidy the area.

In 2026, they have not only run their own group picks but also supported community efforts across Keynsham and beyond - providing equipment for litter picks in Abbotts Wood, Compton Dando, Burnett, Publow, High Littleton, and Brislington, working alongside schools, Scouts, the Lions, and other community groups.

The Wombles have once again been asked to pick litter at Keynsham Music Festival from July 2 to 5, and they will also pick litter at Tesco and the surrounding area on Saturday August 22.

For more information about Keynsham Wombles and how to take part in their litter picks, visit [keynshamwombles.org](http://keynshamwombles.org)



## NEWS



Tom Jenkins, left, and Joe Money running in the London Marathon. Right, the pair are congratulated by family and friends who cheered them on



# Supporters go the distance in Daniel's memory

MORE than 100 people supported the fourth annual coffee morning held at Keynsham Cricket Club to raise money for Daniel Money's Cancer Research UK campaign.

Daniel was diagnosed with stage 4 metastatic bowel cancer in November 2022, at the age of 24, while working as a junior doctor at Heartlands Hospital in Birmingham.

He attended Chandag and Wellsway schools and was involved in many local clubs, including Keynsham Cricket Club, Keynsham Hockey Club and Keynsham Town JFC, before going on to study medicine at the University of Birmingham Medical School in 2016.

After his diagnosis, Daniel underwent chemotherapy and two major operations at the QE Hospital in Birmingham. But after two and a half years of treatment, the chemotherapy he was receiving stopped keeping his cancer at bay and an alternative chemotherapy regime had little impact.

He died on September 11 last year at Birmingham Hospice surrounded by his girlfriend Abbie, family and close friends.

Daniel set up his Cancer Research UK fundraising page in February 2023 and there have been more than 50 fundraising events since then.

He was grateful to those who had donated to Cancer Research



The coffee morning at Keynsham Cricket Club raised more money for Cancer Research UK

UK in the past as they had allowed new treatments to be developed that he benefited from.

Although Daniel realised that money he raised for Cancer Research UK would not help his treatment, he hoped that anyone receiving a similar diagnosis in the future would receive a much more positive prognosis.

Fundraising for Cancer Research UK continues in Daniel's name and this included the coffee morning at Keynsham Cricket Club on April 24. The event raised £950 and an additional £400 towards Joe's London Marathon Sweepstake, making £1,350 in total.

Fine weather allowed those who attended to sit outside and

enjoy the cricket club's new benches and the refurbished outside area. Organisers are grateful to the club committee for allowing them to use the clubhouse for the fourth year in a row.

The coffee morning was a team effort involving family, friends, and members of the local community. Organisers wish to Julie, Pete and Anna Tweedie, Helen Stone, Luke Hall, Teresa Parker, Louise Riddoch, Chris Westgate, Rachel Murch, Sharon Williams, Jane Haycocks, Terry Sears, Caroline Sedar and Sue Wedlock.

Following the coffee morning, Daniel's brother Joe Money and his friend Tom Jenkins ran in

the London Marathon on Sunday April 26 for Daniel's campaign.

More than 30 friends and family travelled to London to support the pair, who were running their first marathon.

Joe's fundraising has exceeded £8,200, while Tom has surpassed his sponsorship target of £2,500, with his total currently standing at £2,600.

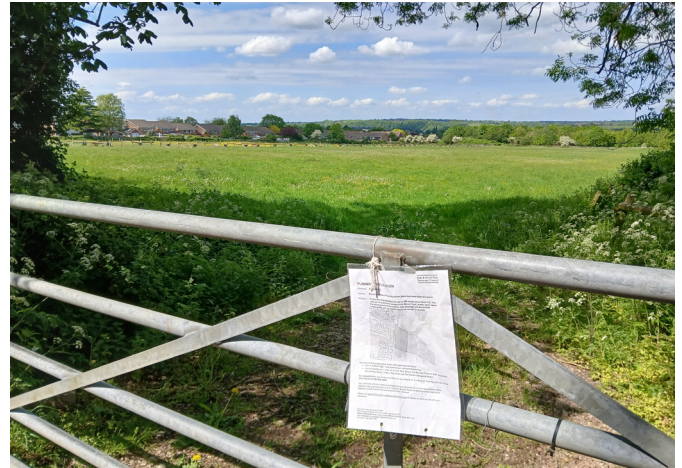
The grand total for Daniel's fundraising page now stands at over £99,400.

Sarah Stone, Daniel's mum, said: "Thank you very much to everyone who has supported Daniel, Abbie and Daniel's family since his diagnosis in November 2022 and have helped to raise this amazing total."



## NEWS

# Protect this green space, say objectors



Residents oppose plans to build up to 105 homes on this field

OPPOSITION has been growing to plans to build up to 105 new homes next to Manor Road Community Woodland in Keynsham.

Taylor Wimpey wants to develop land to the south of its previously approved scheme for 70 homes off Minsmere Road. It has submitted an outline planning application to Bath & North East Somerset Council for the site on the eastern edge of town.

The scheme would include 45% "affordable" housing, public open space, habitat creation, drainage infrastructure, and links for pedestrians and cyclists. It would be served by new vehicular access from Manor Road.

The developer says the site is grey belt, a term used to describe lower-quality land within the protected green belt deemed suitable for housing development.

The site appears in B&NES Council's draft Local Plan as a potential area for new homes.

Taylor Wimpey said: "The proposal will make an early and meaningful contribution towards addressing the council's identified housing land supply shortfall."

It argues that development would be contained and not reduce separation between Keynsham and Saltford.

Keynsham Town Council has objected to the plan. Its concerns include historic drainage problems and highways safety, stating: "This is a single-track lane without footpaths used by many pedestrians, cyclists and horse riders."

It is also concerned at the prospect of losing habitat vital to abundant wildlife.

"The site will be abutted on three sides by Manor Road Community Woodland which gives rise to concerns for the impact on historic nature corridors and in the impact of the fauna."

The town council added: "Public transport is extremely poor in this locality."

Councillor Andy Wait (Lib Dem), who represents Keynsham East on B&NES Council, has asked for the application to be called in for determination by the planning



The red outline on this Taylor Wimpey image marks the development's border - the yellow lines are permissive footpaths

committee. He argues that the plans would result in over-development, resulting in even more traffic on residential roads, and described the proposed access as "bizarre and dangerous".

Cllr Wait added: "The strongest objection of all is the existence of a rich natural diversity of wildlife in that field."

He said a study of the land as part of the Keynsham Town Council Nature Action Plan had identified that a vast number of animals used the field - badgers, bats, rabbits, foxes and deer - as well as 37 species of birds that included two buzzards.

"This delicate habitat will be destroyed and never replaced if this development is agreed," he said.

Cllr Alan Hale (Independent, Keynsham South) also objected, saying: "This development is as far from a main road as it could probably be, and as such, many unsuitable roads will be blighted by the passage of HGVs for a considerable time."

He added: "The Manor Road playing field is a recreational area much used by families and children who currently only have to consider a normal weight of traffic rather than a succession of HGVs back and forth. There is a road safety hazard in this."

Cllr Hale said that, at the point of the proposed development, is a "narrow country lane" used as a route to and from school.

"This additional demand for road space will become a road safety hazard because there is frequently pedestrian traffic and pedal cycles as part of the school commute."

Cllr Duncan Hounsell (Lib Dem, Saltford) argued that the site should not be designated as grey belt.

He said: "This land does contribute strongly to checking the unrestricted sprawl of a large built-up area. It does prevent neighbouring "towns" from merging into one another viz Keynsham and Saltford."

The proposal had attracted more than 160 objections by the time the deadline for comments passed on May 8.

One objector said: "The area is full of wildlife and should be protected for future generations. The lanes are used by joggers, cyclists, horse riders, children and families enjoying the access into a small piece of countryside within a very built-up area. The lanes are already used as rat runs and are not suitable for heavy or increased traffic."

There was one comment in support, from someone who said: "As a born resident of Keynsham on Homesearch facing long waits, with several hundred others also waiting, then I will always support any development offering social/affordable rents."



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NEWS

# Developer reveals homes plan hopes

PERSIMMON says it hopes to start building new homes on land west of Charlton Road in Keynsham early next year.

Representatives of Persimmon Homes Severn Valley gave a presentation on its revised plans to Keynsham Town Council's planning and development committee.

The company is seeking permission for up to 200 homes from Bath & North East Somerset Council.

When asked by Keynsham councillors when work could start, the developer said the site is being bought under an option agreement reserved until the end of the summer.

Persimmon said it hopes permission would be granted by the end of this year and that development could start in early 2027.

Keynsham councillors queried why the plans are coming forward so soon, when the Bath & North East Somerset Local Plan will not be approved by central government until at

least the summer of next year. The councillors suggested that developers proposing to build in or near this location should work together to deliver community facilities rather than isolated provision.

Persimmon responded that it is working closely with B&NES planning officers to identify facility requirements proportionate to the scheme. It said it is in discussions with other developers about connections and services, including active travel and pedestrian links.

"We are not running this as a piecemeal development," it said.

The developer said changes to national housing targets and five-year housing supply rules mean B&NES Council needs more sites, and it believes its proposal can help meet local demand. It stated it is "above 45% policy compliant" for affordable housing.

It said: "We are fully aware of B&NES' affordable housing waiting list and understand that

there are over 5,500 needing homes. It is a balancing act between the Local Plan which is several years away and B&NES needing to top up their five-year supply in order to have a more robust position."

On the planning process, Persimmon said an outline application was submitted to B&NES Council in December 2025 and that it expects the proposal to be considered by the B&NES planning committee this month.

Responding to questions about traffic and construction, the developer said it would need to agree a construction management plan governing delivery levels, operating hours and routes to site.

Persimmon said that Community Infrastructure Levy funds from the development would contribute to infrastructure improvements and school place provision.

It added: "We know that there is a market for homes for young people/families to get on

the housing market and that is why our home prices are at the affordable end."

Asked whether it controls other sites in the Keynsham and Saltford area, Persimmon said it does not.

The Keynsham committee has resolved to object to the revised Charlton Road plans.

In a consultation response to B&NES Council, it said: "The council considers the proposal to be inappropriate, excessive in scale, and entirely out of keeping with the character of the area."

"It represents an unacceptable form of overdevelopment on a greenfield site and would result in the unnecessary loss of valued open land, causing lasting harm to the local environment and to the amenity of existing residents."

It said the town council noted residents' concerns that Keynsham needs affordable housing but that "such housing needs to be built in the right place with the required infrastructure in place."

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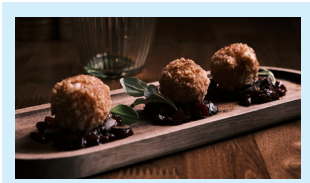
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NEWS

# Ofsted highlights St Keyna improvements

PARENTS and carers are positive about the support and quality of education their children receive at St Keyna Primary School in Keynsham, according to Ofsted's latest inspection.

The education watchdog said the school meets expected standards in five areas: achievement, attendance and behaviour, curriculum and teaching, inclusion, and personal development and wellbeing.

However, Ofsted said improvements are still needed in early years, as well as in leadership and governance, before those areas can meet the expected standard.

Inspectors said pupils retain a strong body of knowledge across the curriculum, helping to prepare them well for secondary school.

Attendance has improved and is now close to the national average, while persistent absence has fallen.

Pupils also play happily together and enjoy the activities available indoors and outdoors at lunchtime.

Ofsted added that the curriculum is broad and ambitious, with teachers clear about what should be taught and when.

The school also works closely with pupils, parents and carers to identify barriers to learning. Staff receive advice and training from external professionals and therapists,



which helps them assess pupils with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) accurately.

Inspectors found the school's personal, social, health and economic (PSHE) education programme to be effective, helping pupils develop confidence and a clear sense of right and wrong.

The report also praised the school's work in developing pupils' understanding of fundamental British values, including the importance of rules and listening to different viewpoints.

In early years, however, Ofsted said there

are weaknesses in how the curriculum is implemented. Inspectors noted that leaders understand what needs to improve and have put a detailed action plan in place.

The report said leaders and governors do not yet have strong enough oversight of all aspects of the school's work. As a result, some necessary improvements, including in early-years provision, are only just beginning.

In other areas, though, governors' recent challenge and support have already led to positive change, including improvements in attendance monitoring.

Some staff have raised concerns about how the school operates, and a minority said they do not always receive the support they need to carry out their roles effectively. Ofsted said governors are working to improve staff wellbeing and workload through regular surveys and by acting on staff feedback.

Ofsted also said the school has an open and positive safeguarding culture, with all legal requirements being met.

The report added: "Staff work closely together and are proud to teach at the school. Parents and carers recognise this and are very positive about the caring support and quality of education that their children receive. Almost all parents would recommend the school to another parent."



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**KEYNSHAM MEMORIES**

with Keynsham &amp; Salford Local History Society



This picture, although not of perfect quality, gives a good flavour of the occasion when the band of the Black Watch Regiment marched through

Keynsham on 17th July 1963. They were on their way to Keynsham Grammar School, although our records don't give details of the occasion. Behind them stands the

Lamb and Lark Hotel, which dominated this end of the High Street until the early 1970s.

*From the Russell Leitch collection*

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KEYNSHAM AND SALTFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

# This sporting life still thrives at rugby club

KEYNSHAM is home to several flourishing and long-established sports clubs, and one of the oldest is Keynsham Rugby Club.

The game is supposed to have been first played at Rugby School in 1823, and in Keynsham a rugby football club is believed to have been in existence during the 1890s. There seem to be no detailed records of this, but we know that in 1923 the modern club was inaugurated with a group of players supported by a committee.

The first matches were played at the 'Gastons' (behind Keynsham House, on Bath Road at the bottom of Chandag Road) with their post-match washing facilities consisting of four baths at the Lamb and Lark Hotel at a cost of £5 a season.

The chairman of the club at this time was Frank Taylor, who was also chairman of Keynsham Cricket Club, while Dr Claud Harrison was elected as president in 1928 and continued until his death in 1957.

In 1930 the club moved to Avon Road, where the changing facility was a railway coach purchased for £14, including railway sleepers and delivery to Keynsham station! The coach was converted into a changing room with coal-fire heated showers.

In 1937 the club took the coach when it moved to Manor Road. Of the 56 playing club members in 1939, 50 went to war, of whom five were killed in action.

Post-war in 1945/6, the club returned to the 'Gastons' for one short season before moving to the Crown Field, which was made possible by Mitch Bond and Jack Hickling who, with others, formed Keynsham Playing Fields Ltd. They leased out the pitches to both the rugby and football clubs at an



Above, the first XV celebrate having just won promotion in 2017  
Below, the first XV in 1971, with president Dennis Cockbaine

Photos reproduced courtesy of Keynsham Rugby Club



affordable rent. Changing rooms now consisted of an old, adapted butcher's shop, with players washing in water tubs heated from coal-fuelled boilers. What happened to the railway coach?

On the pitch, the club grew through the 1950s, fielding a fourth XV in 1953. A scheme was developed to bring on the youth players to feed through to the senior level. It was in 1961/2 that the club first fielded a Colts (under 18) XV.

This programme was driven by Dennis Cockbaine, who played

a huge part in the growth of the club both on and off the field in the post-war period.

In the 1950/51 season he organised possibly the most important match in the club's history, against a star-studded international and county XV. This attracted a crowd of 3,000 and although Keynsham lost the match, the consolation was a profit of £65, which was used to fund a clubhouse extension and new showers.

This was the start of a rebuild of the clubhouse, which was

completed in April 1955 and included a bar, creating a new source of income for the club.

Dennis later became a dedicated committee member and chaired the club from 1963 to 1970.

In this period the club purchased most of the playing fields and land for the clubhouse. A much-improved building was constructed in the 1980s, with everything sited above the level of the floods that inundate the fields in most winters. In 2007 the club also bought the lower fields, which they had been leasing, thus securing all their land.

Throughout the club's history the social side has been a strong feature, with the annual dinner and notable guest speaker a highlight. As well as club activities, the grounds and buildings have been used for firework displays, festivals, weddings and commercial activities, all bringing in valuable funds.

Today, the club continues to be a major part of Keynsham life and regularly fields three senior teams, a Colts XV, and teams for younger players, with many children participating on a Sunday morning.

Richard Dyson

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**KEYNSHAM WALKERS ARE WELCOME**

# Spectacular views along the Cotswold Way



**A view from the walk along the Cotswold Way near Pendean Farm**



KEYNSHAM'S Walkers are Welcome group met for their monthly walk on Sunday May 17.

A group of ten, led by Richard Dyson, caught the bus from Keynsham to Newbridge for a seven-mile hike along the edge of the Cotswolds.

The route started with a long flight of steps and a steep climb to join the Cotswold Way. Along the next length we had spectacular views over Weston and along to Pendean Farm.

After another mile we diverted to Kelston

Round Hill, where we paused to admire the views and look down on familiar sites in Keynsham and Saltford.

After that it was level along to just below Prospect Stile and then along the old track to the village of North Stoke. To the left there were pleasant views of the Avon valley with the dinghies on the river at Saltford.

After a length along an old sunken lane we dropped into Swineford, where we stopped at

the Swan for lunch. The final leg was along the riverside path to Keynsham Marina. By the river, the meadows are not being grazed so there were plenty of grasses and wild flowers, with insects attracting swallows, swooping over the water.

It's a walk to recommend if you want a varied route and some outstanding views – and the only demanding bit is at the beginning.

The group's next walk is a short circular walk to Abbot's Wood on Sunday June 14.



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NEWS

# Council social workers stage 3-day strike

CHILDREN'S social workers have picketed the offices of Bath & North East Somerset Council in Keynsham during three days of strike action.

Team managers and deputy team managers in the council's children's services department are in dispute over changes to pay gradings which put them on the same grade as some of the staff they manage.

The 28 social workers held a picket line outside Keynsham Civic Centre throughout the three days of industrial action from Wednesday May 20 to Friday May 22.

One striking social worker said there had been an "amazing" response from the public.

On the second day of the strike, the managers arrived to the picket line at 7am to find that colleagues had written "managers, we support you" across the flagstones in a message of solidarity.

Announcing that the strike action would take place, Unison South West regional secretary Tim Roberts said: "This strike action shows the depth of feeling among staff over the council's failure to resolve concerns about pay and grading.



Social workers protesting outside Keynsham Civic Centre

"Children's social care managers do highly skilled and demanding work supporting vulnerable children and families. They shouldn't have to fight to be paid fairly.

"The council must now come back with a clear and credible offer that properly addresses staff concerns and helps prevent further disruption to services."

The council's executive director of people, Darryl Freeman, was questioned by councillors about the potential

impact of the strike at a scrutiny panel on May 18.

While acknowledging that strike action would be disruptive, he said: "I think both our striking colleagues, who I have a lot of respect for, and those colleagues who will provide cover, will do their very best to ensure that children do not come to harm."

He also hit back at claims the staff received "paltry pay."

He said: "As they have chosen to raise the issue in this way, let me be clear what their pay is. A

deputy team manager receives a salary in the band of £47,181 to £51,356 per annum, and a team manager receives a salary in the band of £52,413 to £57,864 per annum."

The affected staff, who are represented by trade union Unison, previously went on strike for a "day of action" in March. When Unison balloted the affected staff in January and February, 100% backed strike action on a 94% turnout.

While the current action concerns 28 team managers and deputy team managers, a separate dispute about plans to restructure the teams in the department and make five people redundant could see 229 members of children's services staff go on strike. A strike ballot concerning that dispute was recently approved by 90% on a turnout of 70%.

The ballot means that trade union Unison now has a mandate for the massive industrial action, although the union says it will decide whether to use it based on what the council does with its proposals.

John Wimperis, Local Democracy Reporting Service  
● Letters: Page 20

## Snap and Stroll at music festival

KEYNSHAM Snap and Stroll community photography group will be part of the Arts Space Tent at the upcoming Keynsham Music Festival.

Members' images will be on display and available to buy, as will photographic greetings cards, during the festival's Big Weekend in the Memorial Park on Saturday and Sunday July 4 and 5.

On the Saturday afternoon, the group will host a 'photograph hospital', where visitors can raise questions, challenges and problems with resident expert Adrian Wyatt - no appointment necessary.

● Music festival preview: Pages 24 & 25

## £3,000 to tackle antisemitism

AN APPEAL run by the Bath and North East Somerset Faith Foundation has raised £3,000 for a new campaign to tackle and raise awareness of antisemitism.

The money was raised through donations from the public, as well as grants from the Medlock Trust and the Spalding Charity.

Events across Bath & North East Somerset will include tree planting, school assemblies, film screenings, art exhibitions, interfaith and civic gatherings, and a 'Bridging Generations' public awareness campaign. For more details about the campaign and how to get involved, email the foundation at [info@bathnesfaithfoundation.org.uk](mailto:info@bathnesfaithfoundation.org.uk)

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## ■ BACK TO NATURE

# The secret life of limestone grasslands

THE rolling hills and river valleys around Keynsham provide one of Britain's most fascinating limestone landscapes.

These calcareous rocks, made largely of calcium carbonate, create thin alkaline soils that support a remarkable variety of wildflowers and shrubs adapted to dry, sunny, nutrient-poor conditions.

The result is a mosaic of open grassland, rocky slopes, and patches of scrub where water drains quickly and soil remains shallow. This scrub also provides valuable habitat for migrant songbirds such as blackcap, whitethroat, chiffchaff, willow warbler, and garden warbler.

For centuries, grazing by livestock and rabbits kept these slopes open and species-rich. Where grazing stopped, scrub spread and shaded out many smaller plants. As a result, limestone grasslands now survive mainly on steep slopes, nature reserves, and old quarries where cultivation is difficult.

Around Keynsham, limestone grassland plants can still be found in parts of Stockwood Vale, at the top of Charlton Road, and along sections of the Bristol-Bath railway path, where limestone chippings were once laid on the track.

The plants of these calcareous habitats differ greatly from those growing on nearby clay soils. Many are specialists adapted to drought and alkaline conditions.

Bird's-foot trefoil, black medick, clovers, and restharrow belong to the pea family and host nitrogen-fixing bacteria in their roots, helping them thrive in nutrient-poor soil.

Salad burnet, rock rose, and knapweeds add colour and texture through midsummer while attracting pollinators.

Centaurry, ox-eye daisy, eyebright, hawksbeards, and goat's-beard are also rich sources of nectar and pollen.

Some plants are especially important for insects. Horseshoe vetch is the food plant for the rare Adonis and Chalkhill Blue butterflies. On limestone rock faces, wall-rue, maidenhair spleenwort, and ivy-leaved toadflax grow in tiny crevices. In thin turf, milkworts, agrimony, and cowslips appear in spring and early summer.

Calcareous grasslands are also famous for



Left, mating burnet moths on bird's foot trefoil. Above, stunning pink of the pyramidal orchid Photos: Dave Sage

their orchids, including early purple, common spotted, pyramidal, and bee orchids.

A few plants have an almost unique local connection. Bristol rock-cress and Bristol onion thrive on the limestone cliffs of the Avon Gorge, where low competition and warm south-facing slopes create ideal conditions. These species form part of the famous "Gorge endemics" noted by early botanists for their rarity and beauty.

Several local sites demonstrate the richness of limestone habitats.

Again Avon Gorge, including Leigh Woods and Clifton Down, supports many other nationally rare plants.

Dundry Hill contains species-rich limestone grassland with orchids and field scabious.

Goblin Combe, south-west of Keynsham, combines wooded valleys with open slopes rich in rock-rose, marjoram, and butterflies.

Walton Common, managed by Avon Wildlife Trust since the 1990s, has been transformed from dense scrub into a superb mix of grassland, woodland, and scrub maintained by light cattle grazing.

And of course, all of these limestone

grasslands and scrub support a rich variety of insects thanks to their warm, flower-rich conditions and sheltered slopes. The mix of wildflowers, bare ground, scrub, and sunny banks creates excellent habitat for pollinators, butterflies, grasshoppers, beetles, and many specialist species.

Despite their beauty and importance, limestone grasslands remain under threat from urban expansion, quarrying, climate change, and changing agricultural practices. Today, wildlife organisations, Natural England, and volunteers work to protect these fragile habitats through grazing, scrub clearance, and monitoring of rare plants and insects.

So make this summer a time to get out and explore some of these fascinating sites. Look for the unusual plants and the wide variety of insects that live there.

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

Dave Sage

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## 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.

### Concern for future of social services

As you might be aware, the deputy team managers of social services at Bath & North East Somerset Council are involved in industrial action and have been picketing Keynsham Civic Centre.

This morning (May 20) I went to ask them directly what their grievances are. I was well received and those I spoke to were very balanced in what they told me.

As a result of my visit, I came away very concerned for the effective future of our social services and that, in turn, means people in the community who already live very difficult lives are going to suffer if the service is degraded.

As someone representing what I believe is the second most disadvantaged ward in B&NES, it means it could have a direct impact on many of my constituents.

I found that the officers I was talking to were not hot heads or troublemakers. They were managers very concerned for the future of their service, and the likely reduction in the service to care for those they support and help. These were managers who make decisions all the time that have a direct impact on people's lives.

They are managers who have given decades of their lives to the council and their clients.

They are aggrieved they are now managing teams who are on the same pay scale as themselves. How on earth does that work? For that pay scale, unlike those they are managing, they are making management decisions, ensuring members of the team have returned safely from calls and all other management actions, for no advantage of remuneration beyond the pay of those they are managing.

I am told they are expecting a new assistant director role on a salary, they say, of £90k a year. What they are losing are well-trained social workers who are fleeing the sinking ship to go to other councils.

They make the point that decisions regarding their service and their professional lives are being made by people who do not understand their roles and do not understand the nature of the lives their clients are enduring.

We councillors pride ourselves on being corporate parents and yet it seems the officers who sit between us and the families are



A wood pigeon has become the proud mum of a pair of baby pigeons hatched from a nest in the garden of Voice reader **Tony Kirby**. He said: "When close to their parents on the lawn, they still flutter their wings asking to be fed."

His garden has also been visited by the fox pictured here. Our thanks to Tony for sharing his photos with us.



being thrown to the dogs.

This cannot be right if we have any respect for those officers, who are doing their best to deliver the service so important to the communities that councillors like me represent and serve. Equally, we are also the employers of these officers who feel totally let down.

I trust that the administration will take positive action to rescue this situation before it is too late - that is, assuming that it is not already too late!

**Alan Hale,**  
B&NES councillor for  
Keynsham South, Independent

### Ambiguity over bypass bus lane



Your May issue raised several different points concerning local authority plans for Keynsham. Of primary importance is the bypass bus lane, which still rumbles on despite the hollow assurances previously suggesting the scrapping of the concept.

Councillor Alan Hale, independent, should be applauded for his tenacious attempts to chase the issue down. Like Councillor Hale, I too have exchanged correspondence on the subject with West of England Mayor Helen Godwin and was also informed plans had been dropped.

But although the plans for a 24-hour bus lane may well have been 'shelved' (not scrapped), the assurance is misleading in that a 23.5-hour bus lane could still be imposed and technically conform to this ambiguously worded assurance.

Central government insists there is a need for the building of large-scale housing projects in England. B&NES was given a directive regarding the number of houses it was required to supply, with a breakdown of the number to be built in Bath itself and the remainder spread amongst surrounding communities.

B&NES, of its own volition, decided to ignore the terms of the government directive, in order to reduce the impact on Bath, by pushing a disproportionate number of these properties into the surrounding areas. Predominately - Keynsham.

It appears little thought has been applied to infrastructure requirements, even for the basics of water supply and sewage. Certainly, no sensible thought has been applied to road movement. The largest proposed site is on ground to the far side of the railway line, off Stidham Lane, although wholly unsuitable due to bridge height and weight restrictions.

Supermarket Lidl have applied to build on the current Jewson site, which stands at the entrance to the proposed development, at the current outskirts of the town. This is done in North America, Europe and most other civilised nations. The plans are laudable and sensible, providing competition to the current cartel.

But B&NES have rejected demolition plans as they might (just might) impact bats, if

any exist. Interestingly, the groundwork, levelling and building of many hundreds of homes will have no impact, but the demolition and reconstruction of one building might.

Frankly, I feel the bats don't 'hang out' at Jewson, but instead inside heads of the intellectually challenged numpties at B&NES.

**Colin Brook**

**Editor's note:** *The West of England Combined Authority says it plans to consult on the future of the Keynsham bypass once its proposals are more developed and ready for feedback.*

*Although B&NES Council's draft Local Plan identifies potential areas for new housing, any proposed developments would be subject to the usual scrutiny regarding wildlife habitat and other issues.*

*Lidl has submitted a fresh demolition plan for the Jewson site in Broadmead Lane, Keynsham, including information about the potential impact on bats.*

### Park needs clearer 'no cycling' signs



#### No cycling: A sign at the Bath Hill entrance to the Memorial Park

I have recently told two people that cycling is not allowed in Keynsham Memorial Park. Please can 'no cycling' signs be more prevalent (for adults, not little children).

There is a rumour that cycling could be allowed. If this happens, the park will be inundated with cyclists using the paths as a racetrack.

At the moment, the park is such a lovely place to walk and where children can run around and play without the fear of bikes tearing past them.

Heaven knows there are very few places left for pedestrians to walk without cyclists zooming by - even un-designated pavements are fair game.

**Susan Brown**

LETTERS

Bring back the old bus timetable!



Whilst the Easter weekend brought glorious sunshine, it also brought a new bus timetable for Keynsham and a non-stop convoy of double-decker buses along the Wellsway and Chandag Road area.

For those of us who live in this area, it brings noise pollution, congestion on winding streets, and gawkers looking straight into our houses and gardens.

I am a regular bus user but never had a problem with the old timetable and service, and I don't see why so many routes need to be rerouted to this area. In fact, the more convoluted routes are less convenient for my commute. The buses follow each other and are mostly empty.

Please can First Bus revert back to the old service and timetable, or at least send single-decker buses suitable for our streets instead.

**Sophie, Keynsham resident**

Public meeting on the Local Plan

I am holding a public meeting on Friday June 26 at Saltford Hall 7.15pm on the subject of the "The draft Local Plan and Saltford".

This will be a non-political information-sharing event which will help local residents know how to engage in the next round of public consultation.

Agenda papers for a B&NES cabinet meeting which will include the draft plan are expected to be published on Wednesday June 24. The draft Local Plan will be considered by B&NES cabinet on July 2 for approval to publish it for public consultation.

It is likely that public consultation will commence on July 16 for six or eight weeks. This round of public consultation is about whether the draft Local Plan is "sound" and if not, why not.

Saltford residents are very welcome to the meeting at Saltford Hall on June 26. Do put it in your diary.

**Cllr Duncan Hounsell, B&NES ward councillor (Saltford ward)**

NEWS



Good Citizen award recipients, above from left, Imogen Ellis, Jethro Payne and Patricia Veale. Right, Dave Sage receiving his award from Andy Wait, chair of Keynsham Town Council



Salute to our Good Citizens

PEOPLE who have made an outstanding contribution to the local community have been recognised in the Keynsham Good Citizen Awards 2026.

Each recipient received £100 to be donated to a cause of their choice.

The award winners were as follows:

Patricia Veale, winner of the 'Service to the Community of Keynsham' award, donated £100 to KTCRFm.

Jethro Payne, recipient of the 'Good Citizen' award (over 25s), donated £100 to Keynsham Mencap.

Dave Sage, recipient of the 'Lifetime Achievement' award, donated £50 each to Avon Wildlife Trust and Keynsham Snap and Stroll photography group.

Imogen Ellis, recipient of the 'Good Citizen' award (under 25s), donated £100 to Butterflies Haven, a Keynsham charity that supports families of children with autism.

The awards were presented during Keynsham Town Council's annual town meeting in

The Space on April 23.

The event brought together residents, councillors, and community organisations for an evening celebrating local achievements, community spirit and discussions on issues affecting the town.

Dave Sage, chair of Avon Wildlife Trust (Keynsham Group) gave a talk called "Wildlife Encounters in & around Keynsham".

It illustrated the rich variety of wildlife found locally and encouraged residents to engage with and protect the natural environment around them.

The evening concluded with a public forum, where residents raised concerns about local issues, such as speeding, heavy HGV traffic, road damage, and enforcement of the 20mph limit on Bristol Road and Station Road.

Andy Wait, chair of Keynsham Town Council, encouraged support for Community Speed Watch and said the issue would be raised with local police.

Discussion also covered

preserving and publicly displaying Keynsham's locally discovered ammonites, with the town council supporting efforts to showcase them.

Concerns about poor lighting in public areas were also discussed, with councillors confirming work is ongoing to improve safety before winter.

Town clerk Dawn Dury said: "It was wonderful to see so many residents attending this year's annual town meeting and celebrating the people who make such a positive difference to our community.

"Congratulations to all of this year's award winners and thank you to everyone who continues to support and strengthen community life in Keynsham."

The minutes of the annual town meeting can be found on the Keynsham Town Council [www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk)

The council's 2025/2026 annual report is available from the town council office and online. The next annual town meeting will take place on Thursday April 22, 2027.

● Patricia honoured: Page 38

Huge line-up for village festival revealed

SALTFORD Festival preparations are warming up ahead of its packed line-up of activities from Friday June 12 to Sunday June 21.

More than 70 events will take place in the village during the biennial event, which began in 2011.

Festival organisers are excited to welcome a village fete at St Mary's Church, afternoon tea at Saltford Manor, Saltford Community Coffee Club, a virtual tour of Clifton with tea and cakes, a line dancing class, Saltford's Got Talent, a festival breakfast/brunch, and dancing to live band Identikit - all for the first time.

This is in addition to tried-and-tested events including an open morning showcasing local organisations, a murder mystery staged by Saltford Drama Club, a quiz, jazz evening, lunchtime talks, open gardens, parish walk, repair café, heritage display, school summer fair, and a craft fair.

These will all rounded off with a family sports day at Saltford Sports Club on Sunday June 21, which will include taster sessions for cricket, football, tennis and petanque.

More information about events can be found on Facebook and [www.saltfordfestival.org.uk](http://www.saltfordfestival.org.uk).

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Adult Fiction

Major Bricket and the Circus Corpse

Simon Brett

This month's Year of Reading theme in B&NES libraries is crime fiction - as regular readers of this book review will know, this is my favourite genre. This book may be labelled "cosy crime" but it is a good story and well-paced - a combination of a Miss Marple story and a Midsommer Murders episode.

It is set in the village of Stunston Peveril, where the residents are expecting the return of the elusive Major Bricket. Everyone is speculating why he is returning but the Major just wants a quiet life and a pint of Devil's Burp. However, when he returns, he finds the corpse of a clown spreadeagled on his lawn.

The circus is in Stunston Peveril for the annual village fair. But all their clowns are accounted for. So could the body on the Major's lawn be connected to the annual Fincham Abbey Costume Ball instead? Luckily the Major is a bit of expert on investigations so he could not resist trying to solve the mystery! A great read.

A Rising Man

Abir Mukherjee

A great historical crime novel that can be found as a quick read or in general fiction in the library catalogue.

In 1919, Captain Sam

Wyndham, needing a fresh start after the horrors of the First World War, arrives to take up a post in Calcutta's police force. He is soon called to the scene of a murder.

The victim was a senior official, and a note left in his mouth warns the British to leave India - or else.

Wyndham is joined by Sergeant 'Surrender-not' Banerjee. They must solve the murder quickly, with the stability of the empire under threat. But danger lies around the corner and there is someone on their tail desperate to stop them.

This is the first of the Wyndham and Sgt Banerjee novels and I would recommend the series. They are pacy and well written with great historical detail.

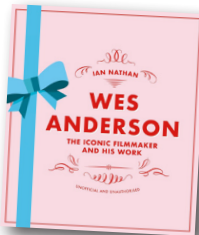
Adult Non-Fiction Wes Anderson

The Iconic Filmmaker and His Work

Ian Nathan

reviewed by Emilie Bioud, Keynsham Library assistant

With the exhibition 'Wes Anderson: the archives' running at the Design Museum in London, I thought I would have a look at this beautiful book, presented like a box of



chocolates from the film The Grand Budapest Hotel.

Although not a biography, it covers the years that shaped Wes Anderson, as well as his signature style, inspirations, favourite movie-makers, and favourite genre of music - everything you need to understand his world, and decrypting each of his films.

To me, it is truly like a box of chocolates when I put a Wes Anderson movie on. I go into a comfort zone and carry a sense of fun, nostalgia, and happiness for the rest of the day.

The Real Roald Dahl

Nadia Cohen

reviewed by Emilie Bioud, Keynsham Library assistant

I didn't know much about the life of Roald Dahl until I read this book, which gives you a glimpse into his life, from spy and pilot during the Second World War to famous writer. Although biographies can sometimes be dry and overlong, this one is interesting, well written and concise.

While it covers Dahl's most controversial aspects, it leaves you to decide where you stand. I very much enjoyed it and I'm now reading his books with new insight on each story.

Children's Non-Fiction Songs in the Shade of the Cashew and Coconut Trees

From West Africa to the Caribbean

collected by Nathalie Soussana

I love how this book introduces us to the nursery rhymes of other countries. It gives you the song in its original language and its translation and also includes a QR code that takes you to a website where you can listen to the songs.



I don't know any better way to allow children to discover the world around them. It's beautiful and brings the sunshine inside your house. I will definitely borrow it again in the near future and I'm looking forward to the other books in the series.

Children's Fiction Picture Book

You Can't Take an Elephant on the Bus

Patricia Cleveland-Park

I love this picture book and read it frequently at the library's regular storytime sessions. It's funny with great illustrations.

Of course you cannot take an elephant on a bus - it would make an awful fuss, as elephants as just too big! What about monkeys in shopping trolleys, a giraffe in an aeroplane and a pig on a skateboard?

How will all the animals travel? Read on to find out.

Library news

2026 is the national Year of Reading, so pop into your library for some 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 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/

Advertisement for Loft Boarding South West, featuring text: 'IN NEED OF MORE STORAGE SPACE? Make use of your loft and create more space in your home. ✓ Loft Ladders ✓ Raised Loft Storage ✓ Loft Lighting ✓ Insulation' and contact information: '01373 813 438 www.loftboardingsouthwest.co.uk'

KEYNSHAM SCOUTS

# Sale success keeps Explorers blooming



KEYNSHAM has one of the area's longest-running charity summer bedding plant sales, now celebrating 33 years.

In 1993, Keynsham Venture Scout Unit, as it was known then, was given the opportunity by a local professional grower to sell bedding plants to the community. The aim was to raise a small profit on each tray for the Scout unit while offering good-value plants to local residents.

The sale quickly proved successful. Over time, it expanded to include tents for on-the-day sales alongside pre-orders.

The Covid period did not stop the unit, now known as Keynsham Explorer Scouts. Instead of asking customers to collect orders, the team prepared them in advance and delivered them safely to homes.

Since the Covid years, demand has grown so much that on-the-day sales are no longer possible. Many customers return year after year, some having supported the sale since the very beginning. This year, orders were in the hundreds, including 160 hanging baskets.

Keynsham Explorer Scout Unit would like to thank everyone who placed an order. Your support helps fund their activities while bringing

quality summer bedding plants to people across the community.

We know that many will appear in Keynsham in Bloom displays this summer. If you would like to join the mailing list for 2027, please email [Plantsale@1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk](mailto:Plantsale@1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk)

● The Explorer Scouts, who meet on Friday evenings at the Keynsham Scout HQ, are seeking adults to grow their leader team. If you are interested and would like to know more, email [scouts@1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk](mailto:scouts@1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk)

An Explorer Scout unit is made up of young people aged 14 to 18, led by adult volunteers who are on hand to share their skills and keep everyone safe.

Being an Explorer Scout is all about discovering the world, making the most of what you have, wherever and whoever you are. Alongside friends, they master the skills that will make them feel stronger and happier in the long run, and try things they would never get the chance to do at home or at school.

Whether travelling to faraway lands, trying new activities, developing leadership or simply growing in confidence, the list of benefits is endless.



Hanging baskets were especially popular at this year's Keynsham Explorer Scouts' bedding plant sale

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ADVERTISING FEATURE - KEYNSHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL 26th June – 5th July

Festival Week 29th June - 5th July 2026

Book your Tickets Now





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Festival Week 29th June - 5th July 2026

Book your Tickets Now




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# Thank you for the music - it's your generosity that keeps us going



WE are thrilled to be able to welcome everyone back to the Keynsham Music Festival - a whole week packed with a variety of music and art, supported by our sponsors and Keynsham Town Council.

It would not have been possible without the generosity of those who gave to our Crowdfunder and the exceptional hard work of the volunteers who continue to give their time so freely.

We are proud to host one of the South West's largest community events. It is important to us that every family, regardless of circumstances, can enjoy the activities. So, to ensure this can continue, we ask for donations on both Saturday and Sunday.

We are again asking for a minimum donation of £5 per adult (or free if you need it - no questions asked). You will be able to donate by cash, card, or phone. If you are a taxpayer, we would be very grateful if you could let us have your details so that we can take advantage of Gift Aid.

If we want the festival to continue next year, then it's essential to donate if possible. Please, please be as generous as you can.

Your donations not only keep the music and art going but they allow us to do so much more. For example, those living in our community with dementia can experience a small part of the festival atmosphere in a completely safe environment at their own mini-festival.

The Abbey Stage on Saturday will again become a dedicated youth stage. This will provide a platform for 70-plus young people to perform in front of a much larger audience. This year, it will also feature a discussion panel led by local students.

It's not just about those who perform. We will again be welcoming up to 30 young people from local schools and colleges to work with us for the weekend. They'll be shadowing the stage managers, the sound engineers, the event management team, and the photographers - experiencing the event from behind the scenes.

Added to their CVs, this experience will be important as they progress



future careers in the events industry.

We are currently busy with our Flying Puppet Project with Above & Beyond, Green Ginger and BANES Willow Project, which combines learning to fly on the trapeze and puppetry. With this ambitious project we hope to increase the confidence and self-esteem of a group of young people from across BANES who have experienced difficult times. Look out for a few new circus performers and, maybe, even a flea circus!

These are the hidden benefits to the community that your donations allow us to do. Please keep them coming!

# ADVERTISING FEATURE - KEYNSHAM MUSIC FESTIVAL 26th June – 5th July

Here are a few highlights of the festival week:

### FRIDAY 26th JUNE - Chico Time!

Kicking the festival off is Britain's Got Talent winner Chico! Come and relive your youth!

### MONDAY - Glam Rock

Festival favourites, now called HighFly, will be performing the hits of the 70s and 80s at Club 22.

### TUESDAY - Spoken Word

New this year, we are really excited to bring Spoken Word to the festival. Hosted by Manganaro, we will be welcoming two headliners – Saïlle Katebe and Erin McDonald. There will also be an open mic opportunity for all of you budding poets!

### THURSDAY - The Pirates of Penzance

Opera in a Box will once again deliver a night of opera to remember. This performance will be an ideal opportunity to introduce opera to younger family members.

**Piano Recital** - Alan Schiller, St John's Church.

### FRIDAY - Ska Party Night

Local legends Ya Freshness and the Big Boss Band will provide a night of high energy ska. Supporting them will be Fraser Morgan, who has built a deserved reputation for his punk / folk performances.

The Good Afternoon Choir and Mencap will perform in St John's Church.

### SATURDAY - Family Festival

Hosted by Jo Jo Sparkles, the line-up for the Top Stage looks amazing – Keynsham Library on Tour (Going on a Bear Hunt), Darryl Carrington, Kwabana Lindsey, Phoenix Youth Theatre (The Addams Family) and Angie Mack.



**Youth Stage:** Your chance to see the best local talent from around the area.

**Choir Festival:** Six choirs delivering an afternoon of varied styles of close harmony.

**Discovery Zone:** A chance for families to see, experience and take part in research projects from the local universities, including the Bristol Robotics Laboratory.

**Avon Valley Country Park:** Say hello to baby dinosaurs and enjoy the animatronic dinosaur roaming the park.

There will be craft and circus skills workshops and the ArtSpace Gallery.

**Circus Arena:** The amazing skills of local circus students. See the fantastic walkabout acts, street performers and even a Zumba session!

Of course, the Family Festival wouldn't be the same without the Lions' Duck Race!

**Americana Night:** See the night out with our 4th July Americana celebrations. We will have two bands, line dancing teaching sessions and a few American classic cars around.

**Piano & Violin Recital** - Nurry Lee, Yoonseo Oh, St John's Church.

### SUNDAY

This year has seen the highest quality music performer applications that we have ever received – you are guaranteed to find something for you on any one of our three music stages.

The Dance Stage will again showcase the best of local talent – including, from London, a professional ballet performance which is sure to be a hit with young and old.

There will also be Super Pirates and plenty of active workshops.

We have plenty of world food stalls and four bars for you to choose from all weekend.

Full schedule and tickets can be found at [keynshammusicfestival.co.uk](http://keynshammusicfestival.co.uk)

Festival Week 29th June - 5th July 2026

**Opera in a Box**

**Keynsham Music Festival 2026**

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Festival Week 29th June - 5th July 2026

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### THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH



Rev Aidan Watson  
Team Rector of Keynsham Parish

## We have welcomed young people who began exploring faith online through social media accounts like the Tiktok Vicar and The Way UK on Instagram

LAST year, a YouGov poll sparked a lot of interest as it suggested that church attendance - particularly among young adults - was rising sharply in England and Wales. The Bible Society report spoke of growing openness to Christianity and even the possibility of a "quiet revival".

However, in recent weeks, both YouGov and the Bible Society acknowledged problems with the survey data, and the original report has now been withdrawn.

Even so, for those paying attention to churches and communities, this was never the only indication that something spiritual may be stirring.

Other studies and wider trends still point towards growing openness to faith and spirituality, particularly among younger generations. Bible sales, for example, have risen sharply, and many church leaders continue to speak of renewed spiritual curiosity.

More importantly, many of us working in churches are seeing genuine curiosity and openness firsthand.

In my previous role in Derbyshire, churches regularly contacted me because new families and young people were unexpectedly turning up wanting to explore faith. Since moving to Keynsham in October, I have seen similar things here. Through our Alpha course and other church events, we have seen dozens of people asking questions and thinking more deeply about life and faith.

We have also welcomed young people who began exploring faith online through social media accounts like the Tiktok Vicar and The Way UK on Instagram. Some have arrived at church already identifying as Christians and looking for a community to support them.

One of the wonderful things about Keynsham is the range of churches serving

the town. Within the Anglican parish alone, we have four churches serving different communities and worshipping in different ways, alongside churches from other Christian traditions - all following the same Jesus.

Churches are not perfect, but they can offer something increasingly rare: space. Space to reflect, to pray, to explore questions, find community, and consider whether there might be something deeper and more hopeful at the centre of life.

As Christians, we believe that hope is ultimately found in Jesus Christ - not simply as an idea, but as someone who can bring meaning, forgiveness, transformation and peace.

Whether you consider yourself religious or not, there has never been a better time to explore those deeper questions that life of and see if Jesus' hope, love and community might be exactly what you need.

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NEWS

# Highways team objects to Aldi store bid

COUNCIL highways officers have objected to Aldi's plans for a store in Keynsham, warning of significant delays on nearby roads.

The supermarket chain wants to develop the former Brincliffe Nursery site on the A4 Bath Road.

In a response dated May 7, Bath & North East Somerset Council's highways team says the applicant has submitted more information that addresses earlier concerns about the site layout and parking arrangements, with the plans now offering the number of spaces "appropriate for a typical daily demand".

But officers have decided to formally object to the scheme following a "comprehensive" traffic modelling exercise it commissioned.

The modelling focuses on the weekday afternoon peak period for an opening year and a future year (2032). It works on the assumption that left turns from World's End Lane to Pixash Lane (currently banned) would be



allowed. It excludes any predicted effects of the A4 travel changes being considered by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, because details have yet to be finalised.

The modelling indicates that, in the opening year, significant queues are likely to form on the Broadmead Lane approach to the A4 Broadmead roundabout, as well as on Pixash Lane, with queues extending back from the A4 junction to the World's End Lane junction. Similar delays are likely to occur during other busy times, including weekends.

Officers say the queues would cause substantial delays for all

motorists using Broadmead Lane and Pixash Lane, potentially affecting access to the police centre on Ashmead Road and the recycling centre accessed from World's End Lane and Pixash Lane.

There is also concern that the delays would encourage drivers to undertake "pressured" turning manoeuvres at both junctions with the A4 Bath Road, with the risk of accidents.

But the highways team says the development is unlikely to have a "material impact" on the operation of the A4 Bath Road itself, with journey times showing only marginal changes.

It adds that if the planning authority is minded to grant permission, the highways authority requests the opportunity to recommend planning conditions.

Meanwhile, Lidl's plan to build a supermarket on the Jewson site in Broadmead Lane has prompted B&NES Council to reassess the "sequential test" for Aldi's proposals on the Bath Road.

Lidl argues that its proposed site is much closer to the town centre than Aldi's.

But a report prepared for the council by Nexus Planning says the Jewson site lies more than one kilometre from Keynsham's main shopping centre and so should be classed as out of centre, the same as the Bath Road site.

The report states: "There is no material difference between these locations in relation to connectivity and accessibility associated with Keynsham town centre. Therefore, the sites should be considered to be sequentially equal."

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### ■ PEN TO PAPER

#### Procrastination

I know I should write something,  
I've not written something for ages.  
I've plenty of pens and some pencils,  
And loads and loads of clean pages.

But the sun is shining so brightly,  
And the sky is a beautiful blue,  
I should really be out in the garden,  
Where I know there is plenty to do.

But I can't make a start in the garden  
While the house is a mess and a stink.  
Suppose someone calls unexpected,  
Whatever will they think.

And I'm sadly out of practice,  
My music is gathering dust.  
And my instruments need some attention,  
Before they seize up with rust.

And I've stuff to prepare for lessons next week,  
My teaching plans are all at sea.  
I should really be keeping one lesson ahead,  
But my pupils are one up on me.

But it's lunchtime, I'm hungry, it's Sunday as well,  
I'm feeling a slight loss of heart.  
And I've not yet read yesterday's paper...  
Tomorrow I'll make a fresh start.

**George Liddell**

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

### ■ WELLSWAY SCHOOL

## Chair of governors steps down

WELLSWAY School in Keynsham is marking the end of a key chapter in its governance as Dawn Drury, chair of governors, and Simon Parsons, vice chair, step down after eight years of service.

Dawn has been part of the Wellsway community since 2005, initially through the Friends of Wellsway PTA, where she helped organise many of the school's most-valued fundraising and community events. In 2018, she became a community governor and soon after was appointed chair of governors.

During her time as chair, Dawn has provided consistent, thoughtful leadership and a strong focus on supporting students, staff and the wider school community.

She will continue to remain connected to Wellsway through her community work and involvement with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.

Simon, who has served as a community governor and most recently vice chair of the local governance committee, is also stepping down.

Simon brought extensive experience from legal education and public service, contributing knowledge, fairness and careful consideration to governance discussions throughout his tenure.

The school has now announced the appointment of Louisa Aldridge, parent



**Louisa Aldridge, left, the new chair of governors, with her predecessor Dawn Drury**

governor, as the new chair of governors. Louisa brings more than 20 years of experience in education, has previously served as vice chair of governors at another school, and is committed to supporting the continued success of Wellsway School.

Rob Pearsall, headteacher, said: "Dawn and Simon have given exceptional service to Wellsway School. Their leadership, dedication and integrity have had a lasting impact. We are extremely grateful for their contribution and warmly welcome Louisa Aldridge as our new Chair of Governors."

Wellsway is also seeking to recruit new governors. Full training is provided. If you are interested in the role, email the Clerk to the Governors at [JDUFFUS@wellswayschool.com](mailto:JDUFFUS@wellswayschool.com)

**Bath & North East Somerset Council**

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NEWS

# Plans to turn Grasmere Hotel into flats

PROPOSALS have been drawn up to turn the Grasmere Hotel in Keynsham into nine homes.

Haywards Group Ltd has submitted a planning application to Bath & North East Somerset Council.

The scheme would involve demolishing the side and rear extensions of Haywards at the Grasmere and changing the use of the hotel building at 22-24 Bath Road in Keynsham.

The hotel currently provides bed-and-breakfast accommodation in 14 en-suite bedrooms and has a restaurant, bar and function room.

The building, on the junction with Chandag Road, comprises two Victorian semi-detached properties that have been extended to the rear.

The applicant is seeking outline planning permission to convert the main building into eight flats - five with one bedroom and three with two bedrooms. The scheme also includes a separate two-bedroom



mews-style house to the rear. The existing parking area in front of the hotel would be used to provide nine parking spaces – one for each flat plus one visitor space. The house at the rear would also have one parking space.

There would be secured, covered cycle storage for two cycles per dwelling.

The agent for the applicant said the scheme would remove

“unsympathetic additions” to the hotel and restore it to a form more compatible with its surroundings.

They said the proposal would not cause significant harm to the amenities of neighbours through loss of light, overshadowing, loss of privacy, noise, smell, traffic or other disturbance.

The proposals include a new driveway from Chandag Road to serve the house.

The agent said the scheme represents “an efficient use of the existing building that improves the local area in terms of design and character and that the new dwelling provides a value additional to meeting local housing need in a compatible way.”

Keynsham Town Council, following a meeting of its planning committee, commented that the loss of the hotel would be detrimental to the ever-expanding town, especially to the east, which has borne the brunt of substantial development.

The town council added: “Not only the hotel provision but the community asset of a local restaurant will be lost.”

A spokesperson for the hotel told the *Voice*: “At present, the hotel continues to operate as normal, and there are no changes to the business.”

B&NES Council is expected to reach a decision on the plans this month.



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## NEWS

# Choirs team up for music festival

# Appeal over solar farm rejection



**Keynsham Good Afternoon Choir and South Gloucestershire Good Afternoon Choir with the Keynsham's choir leader John Hare - their special guests will be the Music Man Project, below**

KEYNSHAM Good Afternoon Choir will join forces with South Gloucestershire Good Afternoon Choir to perform during Keynsham Music Festival.

The event on Friday July 3 at St John's Church from 7.30pm will also feature special guests the Music Man Project.

The choirs are part of a family of 30 fun and friendly, mixed-voice community Good Afternoon Choirs with 1,000 singers who "sing in the afternoon" around the South West, Wales and London.

Keynsham Good Afternoon Choir rehearses on a Wednesday afternoon in Keynsham Methodist Church (Victoria Centre) from 2pm to 4pm with its leader John Hare.

The Music Man Project is an award-winning, world record-breaking international music education charity for people with learning disabilities. Musicians learn how to play a wide variety of percussion, ukuleles and other



instruments as well as to sign actions along to their songs.

Good Afternoon Choir founder Grenville Jones said: "This will be a very special concert for our members with a mix of music to suit everyone. It will be a great evening for Keynsham Good Afternoon Choir and South Gloucestershire Good Afternoon Choir, who very much look forward to welcoming the Music

Man Project to help entertain you and to put a smile on your face."

For more information, visit the Good Afternoon Choir website – [www.goodafternoonchoir.org](http://www.goodafternoonchoir.org)

Tickets for the concert cost £10 on the door or in advance from [gac.ticketlight.co.uk](http://gac.ticketlight.co.uk) or by calling 0844 888 9991. Under-16s are free.

● **Music festival preview: Pages 24 & 25**

AN ENERGY company has appealed against the rejection of plans for a proposed solar farm at Burnett.

A planning inspector appointed by the Secretary of State was due to visit the site in Middle Piece Lane before reaching a decision.

The proposals by Conrad Energy (Developments) II Ltd were rejected by Bath & North East Somerset Council's planning committee.

The proposed 28.2-hectare solar farm would have generated enough electricity to power 5,763 homes and increased the renewable energy being generated in the area by two fifths.

But the planning committee voted to refuse planning permission on the grounds of inappropriate development in the green belt, significant harm to the landscape, and adverse visual impacts.

Announcing its appeal, Conrad Energy (Developments) II Ltd said it "strongly disagrees" with the council's refusal.

While the scheme is acknowledged to be in the green belt, the appellant argues the site should be treated as "grey belt" under the updated National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) because it does not strongly contribute to green-belt purposes.

# Trevor takes over as chair of village hall committee

COMPTON Dando Village Hall committee has a new chairman following the retirement of John Dottridge.

Mr Dottridge, who has served on the committee since around 2004, is handing over to near-neighbour Trevor Scurr.

The chairman's role involves leading a small team to keep the hall - which seats up to 80 people - warm, dry and welcoming.

Regular users enjoy pilates, yoga, art and keep-fit classes, as well as table tennis, badminton, children's activities and even voting. It can also be used for meetings, parties and family gatherings by residents in the parish.

Mr Scurr and his wife Claire moved to Compton Dando during lockdown in May 2020 with three of their four children, who have subsequently flown the nest following their eldest.

Mr Scurr said: "We enjoy village and



**John Dottridge, left, welcomes Trevor Scurr as the village hall committee's new chairman**

country life and are regularly out walking our aged Springer, Poppy.

"I am retired after building a UK/US

business in pensions administration software with four others, initially based in Bath and then Emersons Green, which we sold in 2019 and finally exited in 2024.

"Now that I am retired, I am currently working on planting our field with trees and crops. My wife Claire works as a counsellor, particularly for survivors of trauma, although she is currently taking some time out to plan her next steps."

He added: "I'm looking forward to helping run the village hall and encouraging local people to make the most of the fantastic facilities it provides."

Mr Dottridge welcomed Mr Scurr as his replacement and said: "I am delighted to hand over to a younger and capable person."

The village hall is available to residents of Compton Dando Parish to rent. Contact Nicki at [Compton.dando.hall.uk@gmail.com](mailto:Compton.dando.hall.uk@gmail.com)

NEWS

# It was a privilege to host the Coat of Hopes

AFTER a walk of 2,200 miles, it was a great honour to welcome the Coat of Hopes to Keynsham on May 18.

The latest leg of its current pilgrimage from Lowestoft to Land's End was from Frome via Freshford to Keynsham.

Walking through our beautiful countryside with the coat and its companions was such a privilege. Many people responded to the offer of wearing the coat and were often extremely moved as the coat's song was sung to them.

The coat started its journey in 2021 on a continuous nine-week walk from the Sussex coast to Glasgow for the COP26 climate conference.

Since the failure of COP26, it has been worn by hundreds of people as they walked across the UK. Patches have been added to the coat expressing people's hopes for the places where they live and for our futures, in the face of climate and ecological breakdown.

The coat was hosted in Keynsham by St John's Church and an event was held, which people from the local community joined. Participants included the rector, Rev Aidan Watson, and Rev Kevin Durrant from the Baptist Church.

Many wore the coat and spoke, acknowledging the context of the crisis we face and of the hope we have in each other when we come together in our communities. It was an extremely moving and meaningful event.

After staying overnight at the church, the



Rev Aidan Watson with Barbara Keal, instigating artist of the coat

pilgrimage continued its journey to Bristol the following day and the coat will stay in Bristol churches and the Folk House until mid-June.

While climate talks fail to make the essential changes required, the Coat of Hopes will continue to walk throughout the land, collecting people's sewn hopes and inviting all who encounter it along the way to wear the coat in the

understanding that "the turning of our future is on all our backs and feet" (as its song says).

The intention is to continue the coat's journey until the climate and ecological situation is no longer an emergency. Currently, of course, there is no end in sight. For more information, visit [www.coatofhopes.uk](http://www.coatofhopes.uk)

Rich Prior, Keynsham Extinction Rebellion

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First Floor Office 1



First Floor Office 2

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## NEWS



Above, children help to identify insects during the plant swap, while Izzy displays her findings from the bug safari



Above, Christine managing the plant tables  
Left, Kathy and Julia on the stall run by Avon Wildlife Trust's Keynsham Group

# It's good to share at plant swap

GARDENERS and nature lovers came together to share their passion for plants at a community plant swap organised by local residents.

After testing the waters with a similar event last autumn, where it was clear there was lots of local demand, Katie Brandwood and Emma Ford decided to return with a spring edition.

This volunteer-run event attracted residents from all over Keynsham and the surrounding area, along with plenty of plants and enthusiasm.

Taking place at the Meadows Community



Building and using the green space outside, the event attracted a steady stream of growers of all ages, offering something for everyone regardless of gardening experience. With a range of indoor plants, outdoor plants, veg, trees, seeds and more, everyone went away with something new.

Outdoors, children enjoyed an array of free activities including seed-sowing, binocular-making and a bug safari led by Alex Rowson from Broadlands Community Orchard, as well as the freedom of the open green space.

Avon Wildlife Trust's Keynsham Group

ran a stall offering advice and information on how to protect and support local wildlife.

Feedback from attendees during and after the event was overwhelmingly positive. The event was not only a place to swap plants, but a welcoming space to chat and connect with like-minded growers and nature lovers.

Katie and Emma would like to thank everyone that attended the plant swap, their wonderful team of volunteers and bakers, and look forward to hosting future events.

If you would like to stay up to date about future events and projects, please contact [bs31gardeners@gmail.com](mailto:bs31gardeners@gmail.com).

## POETRY CORNER

### The Wedding Season

Weddings arranged are often in June,  
If the weather is fine it can be such a boon.  
Brides in white dresses, grooms looking smart,  
Both taking vows and giving their heart.

The banquet and speeches all take their place,  
Guests in their fineries, 'oft dressed in lace.  
Father and bridegroom, waiting their turn,  
Rehearsing the words they took time to learn.

Photos all taken it's then the first dance,  
Thoughtfully chosen - not left to chance.  
The young on the dance floor, the elders 'take five',  
Watching the children doing the jive.

The honeymoon calling it's time for goodbyes.  
'Good luck for the future' everyone cries!  
A memorable day to remember with love,  
God's blessings innumerable sent from above.

Sylvia Kirby

## NEWS

### Groups can apply for share of levy

KEYNSHAM Town Council is inviting local community groups, charities and organisations to apply for a share of £10,000 in community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding.

The levy is a proportion (15%) of the planning charge that Bath & North East Somerset Council receives from developers of new building projects in the Keynsham area.

Applications are now open and close Friday September 11. Successful projects will be considered by councillors at the town council meeting on October 20.

This will be followed by a community consultation, with final decisions announced at the annual town meeting on April 22, 2027.

Key eligibility points:

- Projects must provide a clear benefit to the local community.
- Funding must be used for infrastructure or capital-type improvements (not general running costs).

- Projects should align with local priorities and planning obligations.
- Applicants must show how the project will be delivered and managed.
- Some types of expenditure may not be eligible (see full policy for details).

It is important to note that this funding scheme is separate from the town council's community grant awards.

If you have applied for funding through the community grant awards scheme but feel this opportunity is more in line with your request, please withdraw your application before you have received confirmation of award and re-submit through the CIL scheme. (Applicants can only apply for one scheme).

You can find the CIL policy and suggestion/application form at [www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk](http://www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk) or contact the town council office - [admin@keynsham-tc.gov.uk](mailto:admin@keynsham-tc.gov.uk) 0117 986 8683.

NEWS

# Broadlands students make a difference

STUDENTS at Lift Broadlands in Keynsham have raised £1,000 for the Mikey's World charity through the national First Give social action programme.

Year 10 students took part in the initiative by researching community needs, selecting local charities, and delivering creative presentations to highlight important causes affecting their area.

The winning team supported Mikey's World, a charity founded in memory of Mikey Roynon, which works to educate young people about the impact of knife crime and promote positive life choices. The group delivered a standout presentation led by Jessy Thomson, Tamara Adams, Evie Mae-Williams and Ruby Mounty.

Special recognition was also given to Conrad Moon for bravely sharing a personal experience during the project, and to Lyla Marie-Wilson for stepping up as a leader within her group.

Following the final presentations, First Give awarded Mikey's World £1,000. The



charity then presented the school with an emergency bleed kit, which has now been installed outside the school for use by the wider community.

Students are also helping decide where further bleed kits could be installed in the local community using the remaining prize money.

Other participating charities, St Peter's Hospice and Developing Health & Independence (DHI), each received £100 donations from

the incoming chair of B&NES Council, Shaun Stephenson-McGall, in recognition of the students' efforts and impact.

All three charities praised the students for their enthusiasm, confidence and commitment throughout the project, with Mikey's World also expressing interest in future collaboration and inviting the winning team to present at a local workshop.

First Give is a national programme that helps students learn about social issues, work

with local charities, and deliver social action projects that make a positive difference in their communities.

The school is now looking forward to taking part in the programme again next year, building on this year's success.

Laura Stone, principal at Lift Broadlands, said: "We are incredibly proud of our Year 10 students for the way they embraced the First Give project. Their teamwork, creativity and commitment to making a difference in their community has been fantastic to see, and the impact they have achieved is something they should be very proud of."

Hayley Ryall, Mikey's mum and founder of Mikey's World, said: "It was a real pleasure to be nominated by Lift Broadlands, and they did so well presenting Mikey's World - it made me feel really proud.

"Mikey's World has loved the students being involved. They are the community's future and deserve to feel safe, equipped and aware of risks around them."

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## WHAT'S ON

### Friday June 5

■ 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. Future meetings will be held on July 3, August 7 and September 4.



### Saturday June 6

■ Lovin' Summer, Saltford Choir's summer concert, is at 7.30pm at Saltford Hall. Tickets are £10 from 01225 873224 or any choir member.

### Monday June 15

■ 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](mailto:bookings@keynshammethodistchurch.co.uk).

### 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.

### Tuesday June 23

■ Saltford and Keynsham Flower Club's meeting at 2pm in Saltford Hall will be a demonstration by Julia Harrison, called Backwards and Forwards. Guests are welcome and the charge is £8.

### Thursday July 2

■ Lunchtime piano recital by international concert pianist Allan Schiller featuring works by Chopin, Schubert, Grieg and Albiniz. 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](mailto: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.

■ 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.

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

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

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

### 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

■ Little Blessings runs on a Tuesday morning from 10.30am to 12pm (term time) at St Mary's Church Hall in Saltford. For parents/carers with babies aged up to one years old.

■ 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](mailto: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).

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

## WHAT'S ON

■ Saltford Village Choir continues to meet throughout June in the Wansdyke Room at Saltford Hall on Tuesdays at 7.30pm. Our concert is on June 6 in the main hall but we will still sing after that date, so do come along and give us a try.

■ 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 (June 7 and 16) in the Fellowship Room, Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham, 2pm-4pm. All welcome.

### 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

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ 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, 10am.

■ 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 (June 3 and 17) 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.

### Wednesdays/Saturdays

■ Keynsham Community Veg Plot in the Memorial Park (by the café and toilets) 2pm-4pm on the first Saturday & third Wednesday of the month. No experience or tools required but bring gloves if you use them. Whether you're new to the 'grow your own' hobby, you have the experience but don't have a suitable garden, or you just want to meet like-minded people, join us for a sociable afternoon. All the fruit and veg grown is shared. It's like a shared allotment.

### Thursdays

■ St Mary's Toddlers runs on a Thursday morning from 9.30am to 11.30am (term time) at St Mary's Church Hall in Saltford. For parents/carers with children aged 0-4.

■ Wonderfully Made - community craft group runs on Thursday afternoons (term time) from 1pm-2.30pm at St Marys Church hall in Saltford. For anyone of any skill level.

### 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.

■ Spanish class, Keynsham Community Hub, 67 Queens Road, 7pm-8.30pm.

■ 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/>

■ 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.uk](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 [keynshamtownwf@gmail.com](mailto:keynshamtownwf@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)

■ More What's On: Page 36

## WHAT'S ON

### 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

■ 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

# Charity changes people's lives through gardening



COUNCILLOR Duncan Hounsell (B&NES, Saltford ward) met with Dr Alex Eldridge, director of the charity Grow For Life, to hear about the charity's work transforming lives through gardening.

They toured the organisation's garden and nearby community orchard at The Walled Garden in Newton St Loe during the open days in May.

Cllr Hounsell said: "The organisation Grow For Life is helping change the lives of people living with low confidence, anxiety, depression, or isolation. The work of this charity is innovative and inspirational. People can self-refer."

More information can be found on the website [www.growforlife.org.uk](http://www.growforlife.org.uk).



## Join the Chatty Cafe for friendly conversation



A CHARITY that reduces loneliness through conversation has started regular sessions in Keynsham.

The Chatty Café Scheme operates at the Bonzo Lounge in Market Walk between 10am and 11am on Mondays (except bank holidays).

A 'Chatter & Natter' table hosted by a volunteer is allocated for those aged over 18 to come and mix with other people.

Anyone can join in, whether they are on their own, in a couple or with a friend. The scheme welcomes carers with the person

they care for, mums, dads or grandparents with babies, young people, older people and anyone in between.

People can stay for just five minutes or longer – just look for the table with the 'Chatter & Natter' sign.

The charity describes the scheme as a great way to meet new people in the community.

It says: "It's not about making life-long friends, just having good old-fashioned human interaction."

The Chatty Café Scheme was started by

Alexandra Hoskyn after a miserable day at a supermarket café with her infant son, where she noticed that no one was talking to each other. She found that simply putting 'Chatter & Natter' signs on café tables created a space for people to talk.

The Chatty Café Scheme commented: "The coronavirus pandemic has highlighted those experiencing loneliness and we know that simply having a chat can brighten someone's day."

For more information, visit <https://thechattycafescheme.co.uk>

NEWS

# Rugby juniors step out for tour funds



A GROUP of young rugby players, some of whom have been playing together for a decade, are raising funds for their final junior tour.

Keynsham Rugby Club's under-15s aim to raise £4,000 towards their tour of the Netherlands in October.

Their parents are supporting the 24 players' efforts. One said: "The U15s are a fantastic team who have worked unbelievably hard this year. This tour is an amazing opportunity for our players to grow and make memories that will last them a lifetime,

as well as celebrating the bonds they have developed over the years."

The boys, along with 15 parent and coach volunteers and four furry friends, undertook a 15k sponsored walk from Bath Rugby Ground back to Keynsham Rugby Ground.

After completing the walk in about three hours, they were welcomed back to the Rec in Keynsham by parents, who had continued the fundraising with a tombola, cake and sweet stand for all the age groups to enjoy.

Over 300 players below the age of 16, train and play matches each week at the club.

A club spokesperson said: "We are incredibly grateful for the support of our team parents, and for the generosity of strangers - including one very kind man who donated the lads £100 as we walked along the cycle track!"

The club is grateful to Uber Plumbing and MJ Patch Engineering Ltd for sponsorship of the tour and is keen to hear from any other businesses able to offer raffle donations or sponsorship.

The team's online fundraising page is at <https://tinyurl.com/4525bd9c>

## SALTFORD SCOUTS

### Tesco shoppers can support our camping adventures



YOUNG people in Saltford have been given an exciting opportunity to benefit from community support, as the 1st Saltford Scout Group has successfully secured a place in Tesco's in-store voting scheme.

Until the end of July, shoppers at Tesco stores in Saltford, Keynsham, and Longwell Green will be able to support the Scout group by picking up a blue token at checkout and placing it in the group's designated voting box.

The initiative is part of Tesco's community grant programme, which allows customers to decide how funding is distributed among local projects. The more tokens the Scout group receives, the greater the funding they will be awarded.

Leaders from the 1st Saltford Scout Group say the money will go towards replacing old and worn camping equipment, helping to ensure that local young people can continue to enjoy safe, high-quality outdoor adventures.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for us," a group representative said. "Camping and outdoor activities are at the heart of what we do, and updating our equipment will make a huge difference for our members."

Residents are encouraged to show their support while doing their regular shopping. Every token counts and can help provide improved resources for the next generation of Scouts in the community.



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## NEWS

# Patricia honoured for 'amazing' service



Councillor Andy Wait presenting Patricia Veale with her award for services to the community. Right, Patricia with dance pupils in her teaching days - this photo was taken in 2013 during the 40th anniversary of Keyford Dancing School, which holds classes at the Fear Hall in Keynsham

A DANCE teacher has been honoured for her services to the community at a ceremony in Keynsham.

Patricia Veale began teaching dance in Keynsham and Saltford in 1973, after previously dancing professionally and working at the Richmond Theatre and Whitehall Theatre in London as a performer and stage manager.

She was among those honoured at the Keynsham Good Citizen Awards 2026 as the recipient of the 'Service to the Community of Keynsham' award.

Patricia was presented with her award by Andy Wait, chair of Keynsham Town Council.

She said: "I was very surprised to receive the letter coming out of the blue, informing me I had been given the award.

"I have always enjoyed

everything I have been involved in, and to be recognised in this way was wonderful. I hope to continue supporting Keynsham and all the lovely people I have met over many years."

Patricia's daughter Janine Veale is also a dance teacher. They both administer dance schools covering Keynsham, Saltford, Chew Magna, Camerton and Timsbury.

Patricia, who has lived in Clutton with her husband David for over 40 years, is also one of the organisers and committee members of the annual Keynsham Winter Festival.

She also served as choreographer and wardrobe mistress for the hugely successful community musical show *Yesterday's Island*. Having debuted at Keynsham's Fear Hall in 1984, the production transferred to Bristol

Hippodrome in 1986/87, where it attracted sell-out audiences. In all, more than 50,000 people attended these shows.

Patricia has been a judge for Fry's talent shows and was also a judge at the annual Fry Club Search for a Star contest, which was organised in conjunction with the Bristol Evening Post and Radio Bristol.

She was also the choreographer and wardrobe mistress for the Fry's pantomimes, which ran for many years until around 2014/15.

Patricia also supports local schools offering classes as raffle prizes at fairs and fetes. And she still finds time to be the booking officer and a committee member for the Fear Hall in Keynsham.

Her daughter Janine said: "She loves being involved within the community helping

to organise events and meeting new people."

She added that although Patricia no longer teaches, she stays in contact with the dance schools, pupils and parents, helping whenever she can on exam days and shows which she loves."

Patricia was nominated for the Good Citizen award by Judith Cron, who has known Patricia for a long time and whose daughter, now in her 30s, danced with Patricia for many years. Judith herself does adult ballet and tap and is also involved in Keynsham Music Festival.

Judith said: "There is so much for us all to thank Patricia for - her amazing and loyal service to our town and residents. I can think of no-one more deserving of this prestigious award."



## 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!

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Upon entering, you will be greeted by a spacious layout featuring four reception rooms. The heart of the home is undoubtedly the stunning contemporary rear extension, which boasts a sun room with bi-folding doors that seamlessly connect the indoor and outdoor spaces, leading to a beautifully manicured mature garden.

The property comprises four well-proportioned bedrooms, including a master suite with en-suite facilities. Additionally, there is a modern bathroom and a downstairs w/c.

There is parking for two vehicles on



the driveway and a single garage. The property has gas-fired central heating and uPVC double glazing throughout.

In summary, this exceptional family home is a rare find, combining modern amenities with a prime location. It is an ideal choice for those seeking a comfortable and convenient lifestyle in the heart of Keynsham.

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## ■ FRY CLUB WOMEN JFC

# We did it! Promotion is secured

FRY Club Women JFC have secured promotion in just their second season playing 11-a-side football.

The team sealed promotion to Division 3 of the Gloucestershire County Women's League with an impressive 4-1 home victory over Thornbury on Sunday May 3.

The women finished top of the league after a fantastic campaign, winning 16 of their 18 matches, scoring 82 goals, and keeping seven clean sheets along the way.

The achievement marks a major milestone for the club and highlights the continued



growth of girls' and women's football at Fry's. Players and staff have praised the hard work and commitment shown throughout the season, both on and off the pitch.

The club would also like to thank all the coaches, sponsors, volunteers, and supporters who have helped make promotion possible this season.

Fry Club Women JFC are now

looking ahead to next season and welcome interest from potential sponsors. Anyone interested in supporting the team can contact club captain Char via email - [charlotte\\_buttery@icloud.com](mailto:charlotte_buttery@icloud.com).

## ■ KEYNSHAM CRICKET CLUB

# Final farewell to cricket legend Martyn Trescothick

A LONG shadow was cast over Keynsham Cricket Club by the death of Martyn Trescothick at the age of 79.

St John's Church was packed for his funeral, as was the cricket club for his wake.

Martyn was one of the first pupils of the then newly opened Keynsham Grammar School (part of Wellsport today). He excelled at all sports, but none more than cricket.

He joined KCC as a teenager, soon progressing to the first team and going on to become probably Keynsham's greatest player. He was a hard-hitting stroke player, and his skills with the bat were augmented by brisk medium-pace bowling and the ability to "catch pigeons", as the saying goes.

Besides being an outstanding

player, Martyn was club captain, chairman and president. He also found time to coach our juniors, with his son Marcus being the most successful of them.

Now Marcus obviously has a strong and valid claim to being the club's greatest cricketer. He gained 76 test caps (his England career curtailed by illness) and a 26-year career at Somerset, becoming their second highest run-scorer (19,654).

For those who saw Marcus play, he was undoubtedly a "chip off the old block."

Martyn, however, achieved more for Keynsham, whilst Marcus's triumphs were achieved on an international stage.

As is customary, the league cricket season started on the first Saturday in May – well, half started, actually. We scored a competitive

241 at Bedminster but their reply was almost immediately curtailed by a downpour. The season had definitely arrived.

Our first home game produced a comfortable seven-wicket win against Bristol Pakistanis, who we restricted to 205, with newcomer Rob Kingham producing an encouraging 8.0.34.1.

Captain Scott Tweedie made an impressive 52 opening the innings, while our new overseas player Luke Jongwe impressed with a commanding 65 not out on his debut.

The first XI visited Downend for their next league fixture. Downend is a very small ground, so when we subsided to 174-8 while batting first, the odds were very much against us.

Step forward two of our

younger players batting at nine and 10. Their stand of 104 transformed the game.

Sam Lowe struck a dominating 64 of 33 balls supported by Jack Stone (run out off the last ball) with a commanding 36 off 33 balls. Our resulting total of 278-9 in 50 overs was competitive but certainly gettable.

When Downend reached 254-7 well ahead of the run rate, prospects again looked bleak. But all was not lost. In an inspired decision, skipper Scott Tweedie turned to the much-underused leg spin of Will Burston, who proceeded to win the game in smart time with 1.4-0-2-2. The 17-run victory added 20 points to our total, leaving us tied at the top of the league. A good day was made better by all of our teams winning.

## ■ KEYNSHAM TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB

# Relief as Ks stay in Division One for next season

AFTER the Football Association released their non-league allocations in May it was confirmed that Keynsham Town had retained its place in the Jewson Western League Division One.

Unfortunately, near-neighbours Hengrove Athletic and also Cheddar were relegated.

The division has been reduced to 18 teams in line with the FA's plan for Step 6 in the future. The club can now plan for another season in the National League System and would welcome any potential sponsors and volunteers to help with next season.

Our new Ability team (<https://keynshamtownfc.co.uk/pdlt2526/>) completed their first season in the Somerset County Ability League and at the time of writing they are guaranteed either second or third place.

The Reserves were not so successful and are likely to be relegated to the UHLSports Somerset County League Division Two for next season.

However, our Under-18 side had a very successful second season in the Western Counties Floodlit Youth League, finishing in a

comfortable mid-table position after topping the table for many weeks.

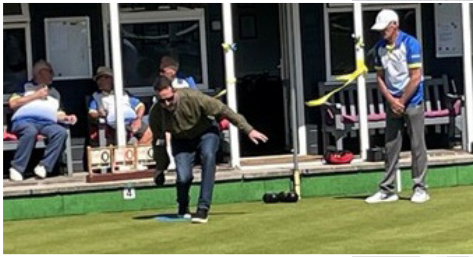
The club has now come under the banner of Keynsham Town Community Football Club and all parts of it will now be governed by a single constitution, in line with FA best practice.

This has taken two years to achieve but it now means that it can go forward into the future as a single entity with strength and a single vision of the future.

**Mike Slucutt, Trustee and Director, Keynsham Town Community Football Club**

## ■ FRY'S BOWLING CLUB

# Celebration as bright new look is unveiled



**Bowls on the green as the ribbon is cut to celebrate the completion of the clubhouse revamp**

FRY'S Bowling Club hosted an event to thank the St Monica Trust for completing the decoration of the club's interior.

The work, which the trust completed in January, included removing asbestos, levelling the floor, laying new carpet tiles, decorating the main club and changing rooms, and buying 60 new chairs.

Our thanks to David Williams CEO for his support on the work.

At the thank-you event, the club offered guests refreshments and bowling on the green.

Ben Kelly, the project manager, cut the ribbon.

Our thanks also to Katherine and Dawn at Keynsham Town Council and town councillors Caitlin and David for their attendance, as well as Imi Coley from the Chocolate Quarter.

All guests and members enjoyed the delicious scones and cakes provided by Carol Grenfell and her team.

### **Bristol and District League:**

Fry's began the new Bristol and District League campaign in Division 2 following last year's



unbeaten season in Division 3. The opening match was at Henleaze A, who finished third in Division 2 last year.

Fry's took the lead then, after the halfway point, Henleaze threatened to get back into the match, but Fry's limited the damage to stay ahead. Rink 3 dropped 5 shots on their penultimate end, with Henleaze taking the 2 points. Rink 1 sealed the match and with rink 2 securing shot on the last end, Fry's took 8 points to sit third in the early standings.

The second match saw last year's Division 3 runners-up St Anne's Park visit Fry's. St Anne's closed Fry's early lead, but Fry's were able to reopen the gap in the closing ends. On the last end, rink 3 got the 2 shots required to give Fry's 8 points to sit joint top of the

table. A challenging third match saw Begbrook Green Oaks see off Fry's attempts to get back into the game after taking an early lead, with Fry's only taking 2 points from the match.

### **Scores:**

April 30: Fry's 47-36 Henleaze A - rink 1, 20-10; rink 2, 12-9; rink 3, 15-17 (8-2).

May 7: Fry's 51-37 St Anne's Park - rink 1, 12-19; rink 2: 24-5, rink 3, 13-12 (8-2).

May 14: Fry's 40-46 Begbrook Green Oaks - rink 1, 9-20; rink 2, 19-11; rink 3, 12-15 (2-8).

### **Friday Triples League**

In contrast, the Triples League side have had a difficult start to the season. The opening home game against Victoria Park saw the away side take a 10-shot win, with Fry's only picking up one rink win.

It was a similar result the following week at the artificial

surface of Imperial, with the home side taking the win 64-40. The sense of deja-vu continued at home against Severn Vale as a 37-59 scoreline went against Fry's and Severn Vale took 10 points.

The following week, Page Park visited Somerdale. Fry's put up a good fight on rink 1, only going down by 2 shots, but with losses on the other two rinks, Page Park took all 12 points.

### **Scores:**

April 24: Fry's 44-54 Victoria Park - rink 1, 22-10; rink 2: 15-18; rink 3, 7-26 (2-10).

May 1: Fry's 40-64 Imperial - rink 1, 11-19; rink 2, 8-31; rink 3, 21-14 (2-10).

May 8: Fry's 37-59 Severn Vale - rink 1, 6-21; rink 2, 19-15; rink 3, 12-23 (2-10).

May 15: Fry's 39-67 Page Park - rink 1, 14-16; rink 2, 13-31; rink 3, 12-20 (0-12).

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**KEYNSHAM BOWLING CLUB**

# Action on the green begins in earnest

AFTER a series of friendly fixtures for Keynsham Bowling Club, the serious stuff has now started, with both ladies and gents competing in their various leagues.

Our ladies have started the season with games coming thick and fast. They have to date played 15 fixtures, six in the North Somerset League, four in the County League and five friendlies. Whilst results have been mixed, confidence is high as various cup games come into play.

On Thursday evenings, we field three teams in the Men's Bristol and District League. Our A team started their campaign by losing away to Bristol St Andrews, followed by a home defeat by Victoria Park, and then a high-scoring victory away to Long Ashton.

The first fixture for our B team was at home when they beat our C team, followed by a home defeat to Bristol B.

Following the defeat by our B team, the C team lost at home to Ardagh but then had a good win against Avonmouth.

The Saturday Somerset League, where we have entered two teams, is also up and running.

Our A team won away to Weston Bath then lost away to Bloomfield. Our B team started with a home defeat against Knowle B but the following week they beat Knowle C.

In the Friday Triples League, our men are



in fine form, having recorded home victories against Begbrook and Greenbank and away success at Knowle and Bristol, with just one defeat, away at Page Park.

In the Triples Cup, we were drawn away to Victoria Park, and what a game that was! At the conclusion of the 18 ends, the scores were level and an extra end had to be played on all three rinks, which we won by four shots. We now travel to Avonvale in the next round.

Our Monday Club Night has started successfully with between 20 and 30 members attending for a roll-up. Our open weekend attracted nearly 30 members of the public, who tried their hand at the sport, and from this event we anticipate recruiting some new members.

We hold coaching sessions every Monday and Saturday at 11am, with our qualified coaches in attendance, and these are open to experienced bowlers and novices, whether members of the club or not. A warm welcome is extended to anyone who wishes to attend.

The club hosted a county game between Somerset Indoor Bowls Association and Somerset Outdoor Bowls Association. This is one of the two fixtures held each year, with an indoor game in the winter and an outdoor one in the spring. The fixture was played over six rinks, with the outdoor team winning by 105 shots to 93.

Our captains this year have selected the Great Western Air Ambulance as the club's charity, and one of our members, Julie Matthews, took part in the Newport Marathon to raise £500 for the cause.

At the end of April, club members crowded into St Dunstan Catholic Church in Keynsham for the funeral service of our club secretary David Hockney, who passed away after a short illness.

In paying his respects, our club chairman Steve Coles said: "David was a well-liked and respected member of the KBC family, who was not only our long-standing club secretary but an accomplished bowler. He will be sadly missed, and we send our condolences to his wife Ann and his family on their loss."

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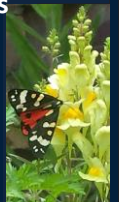
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