

keynshamvoice

July 2026

Issue 170

www.keynshamvoice.co.uk



Daredevil duo take the plunge: Page 28

FREE EVERY MONTH IN KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD

Relief as future of town bus service is secured

FUNDING for Keynsham's local bus service has been secured for the next three years, it has been revealed.

The K1 will become the K2 from July 26. It is understood that its timetable will be published once its route has been finalised.

The K2 is among new and revised bus services across the region that are being launched with funding secured by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority (WECA).

WECA said: "In Keynsham, a review will look to ensure that connections currently offered by the K1 are protected going forward – with the new K2 and commercial 43 service in the meantime."

Since its launch in September 2024, the K1 has linked neighbourhoods in south Keynsham - including Bilbie Green and the Bilbie Estate - with the town centre, Keynsham railway station, the Chocolate Quarter, and key local amenities such as St Augustine's Surgery.

The K1 is currently run by The Big Lemon Bus Company. The

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Adley Nicholls has inspired her mum to write a children's book that aims to encourage more people to give blood: See Page 3

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Victory for Aldi

Aldi has been given the green light to open a new supermarket in Keynsham.

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Bus frustration

Bus passengers face an "extremely puzzling and frustrating situation" when trying to use a stop in Keynsham.

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Homes battlefield

More than 500 objections have been made to plans for up to 90 new homes on a field in Saltford.

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New town backed

Leading politicians have backed plans to build a new town of up to 3,000 homes between Keynsham and Bristol.

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Arson probe

The ruins of the former Treetops nursing home in Keynsham have been cleared and the site has been levelled following an arson attack in May.

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Keynsham Voice contacts

Emma Cooper Publisher


0117 908 2121 / 07715 770448
emma@keynshamvoice.co.uk


Advertising sales

0117 908 2121
emma@keynshamvoice.co.uk

News

0117 908 2121
news@keynshamvoice.co.uk

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August deadline

Our August edition will go to print on Monday July 27. To ensure your news or letter is included, please contact us by Wednesday July 22. Advertisers are asked to contact us by the same date.



Your views

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

Local information

Keynsham Town Council

15-17 Temple Street, Keynsham
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www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Keynsham Citizens Advice Bureau

0844 848 7919

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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



Striking social workers in Keynsham earlier this year

Photo:
Unison
B&NES

Social workers end pay dispute with council

A PAY dispute which saw children's social workers go on strike at Bath and North East Somerset Council has ended.

A total of 28 team managers and deputy team managers in the council's children's services department carried out four days of industrial action in as many months over a pay restructuring that put them on the same grade as some of the staff they manage.

Now the council and trade union Unison have struck an agreement.

A spokesperson for B&NES Council said: "After constructive and focused discussions in recent weeks, the council and Unison have reached agreement on the pay dispute relating to the roles of deputy team managers and team managers in children's services.

"Achieving a joint solution is important for us all as this supports the service to work together to deliver great outcomes for children, young people and families in Bath and North East Somerset."

Team managers and deputy team managers voted in February to take industrial action.

They went on strike for a single day in March, followed by three days in a row in May, with a picket held outside the council offices at Keynsham Civic Centre.

Although the pay dispute is resolved, there is a separate dispute regarding a restructuring of the children's services department which will see several existing teams deleted, five people made redundant, and staff moved into different roles. A total of 229 people could potentially go on strike over the issue.

In that strike ballot in May, 90% voted in favour of strike action, while 97% voted in favour of taking action short of a strike.

Unison says it will decide whether to use its strike mandate based on what the council does with its proposals.

The issue is partly driven by the government's "families first" social work reforms, which require the creation of new multi-disciplinary family help teams. The council says it should mean that families experience fewer changes in social workers.

John Wimperis, Local Democracy Reporting Service

● **Apprenticeships offer: Page 16**

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Solving your legal problems ...locally

NEWS

'Absolute miracle' Adley inspires tale of magic and hope



Aimee Nicholls reads to her daughter Adley from her children's book



Adley with her brother Leo. Right, Adley soon after she was born

A KEYNSHAM mum has written a children's book to encourage more people to give blood.

The Girl Who Borrowed Stars by Aimee Nicholls is inspired by the experiences of her daughter Adley, who needed multiple transfusions after she was born with all her major organs in her chest.

Adley, an IVF baby, was diagnosed at 17 weeks of pregnancy with a congenital diaphragmatic hernia (CDH).

This meant she had a hole in her diaphragm that caused organs to push through. They had squashed her lungs, stopping them from developing, and displaced her heart.

Aimee and her husband Alex then faced a critical decision.

"She was given a 50% chance of survival," said Aimee. "But we decided to go ahead and continue with the pregnancy and give her the best chance."

At birth, Adley was immediately sedated, ventilated and paralysed so she could undergo surgery.

She then had to battle against various heart, lung and kidney afflictions, including pneumonia, severe pulmonary hypertension, left-ventricular (LV) dysfunction, and acute

renal failure. She also developed sepsis.

Due to all of this, she needed numerous blood and platelet transfusions.

Her condition was so unstable that it wasn't until she was three weeks old that Aimee and Alex were able to hold her for the first time.

But thanks to her treatment at Bristol Children's Hospital, Adley managed to pull through and now, at the age of one year and nine months, she is thriving.

Aimee said: "She's doing amazing now.

"When they operated and moved the organs back, they couldn't all get put into the right places so everything is a little bit everywhere.

"Her heart remains displaced and she's at risk of scoliosis as she gets older due to the pressure from the organs on her spine.

"She's respiratory vulnerable but is an absolute miracle. She makes us all so happy."

Adley doesn't attend nursery due to the risks to her health, but she does receive physio and is able to walk and run.

Now Aimee is hoping her independently published book will encourage more people to donate the blood without which children like Adley wouldn't survive.

The Girl Who Borrowed Stars tells the story of a little girl who receives life-saving blood transfusions - each one a borrowed star that fills her dreams with magic, adventure and hope.

It is described as a "gentle, inspiring tale that reminds us all that even the smallest act of kindness can light up the world."

Aimee said the aim of the book is to spread the conversation around blood donation and to inspire hope and a sense of magic in those needing the transfusions themselves.

"We don't want our children to see them as something scary," she said.

"We've put several copies in the children's hospital so far and are going to continue to donate more whenever any profits from the book come in."

Aimee previously wrote a book called *Leo's Heart*, about her son Leo, who needed open-heart surgery as a newborn baby. She wrote it for his classmates when he began attending Chandag Infants School to help them understand his circumstances.

The Girl who Borrowed Stars, illustrated by Keynsham-based Katie Cox, is available from Amazon.



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NEWS

Fear Hall appeals for support

ONE of Keynsham's oldest social institutions is looking for some help.

The Fear Hall on the High Street is well-known to many local residents as a venue for dancing lessons, exercise classes, local society meetings, birthday parties and many other events.

The hall was built about 90 years ago and is run by a charitable trust. All profits from lettings are ploughed back into maintaining and improving the premises. There are five trustees and it relies on a small number of volunteers to manage administration and improvements.

To take this well-used community venue forward, the charity is looking for one or two new faces to join the committee and perhaps to move on to becoming a trustee.

Chair of the management committee, Richard Dyson, said: "The role is not onerous and will only involve a few hours a month. We would particularly welcome volunteers of any age with an interest or experience in either social media or managing business/finance.

"If we can share the work with some extra volunteers then we will be able to run more smoothly in future."

If you might be interested in helping and would like to know more, please contact Richard on 07727 602525 or by email at dysonr69@gmail.com

Osteopaths on the move

REDFERN Osteopaths have moved to a new home in Keynsham High Street.

They have taken over the unit at number 55, which used to be occupied by the Gloden Tanning salon.

The salon was among a number of Gloden Tanning branches that closed when the business went into administration in August 2025.

Redfern, which used to be based in Bath Road, opened its new High Street premises on June 15.

Wait goes on for river bridge

FUNDING has yet to be found to build a bridge over the River Avon from Keynsham to Hanham – a year after the scheme won planning approval.

The proposed bridge would allow pedestrians, cyclists, wheelchair users and horse riders to cross the river, which forms the border between Bath & North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire.

It is a shared project between the two district councils, which both granted planning permission for the bridge last summer.

At the time, B&NES Council told the *Voice* that a potential timescale for construction was still to be confirmed because funding to deliver the scheme had not been secured.

But the council added that, by having a detailed design and planning consent, it would be able to progress funding bids and grant applications.

However, little significant progress appears to have been made since.

Councillor Sarah Warren, deputy leader and cabinet member for sustainable transport on Bath & North East Somerset Council, recently told the *Voice*: "Planning permission



How the bridge could look from the Keynsham side

Image: Moxon Architects/Buro Happold

for the bridge was obtained on both the South Gloucestershire and B&NES side last year.

"The council continues to explore funding options to progress it to construction. At present no specific external grant source has been identified."

The bridge, spanning the river from a location near Durley Lane in Keynsham to south of the Chequers Inn at Hanham, would be 40 metres long and up to 4.3 metres wide, with a rubber-tiled surface suited for horses.

It has been designed by Buro Happold, the lead consultant, and Moxon Architects.

For the planning stage, funding contributions were

made by the West of England Combined Authority as well as Taylor Wimpey, as part of its development of the Somerdale estate.

The bridge is part of the WaterSpace Connected programme, which aims to enhance the River Avon corridor between Bath and Bristol for people and nature.

The proposal attracted numerous comments of support from members of the public on both sides of the river during the planning stage, with supporters welcoming the fact that it would promote active travel in a safe way while connecting to wider routes.

Villagers back the fight against crime

COMPTON Dando residents showed their support for the fight against crime when the West Country Crimestoppers Banner Van visited the village.

Among them was Dale Abbott, landlord of the Compton Inn, who said he was delighted to show his backing for the Crimestoppers charity.

Crimestoppers enables anyone with details of criminal activity to pass them on to the police anonymously, without fear of exposure or retribution.

Rewards are available for callers who provide information leading to the arrest and charge of an offender.

The charity says 10 arrests are made across the UK daily because of reports made to Crimestoppers. In the South West, it receive an average of 800 pieces of actionable information every month which they pass to the police.

Karen MacDonald,



Visiting the Crimestoppers van are (from left) Dale Abbott, landlord of the Compton Inn, five-year-old Ayla, Karen Abbott, local resident Derek, and Harriette Dottridge, resident and Crimestoppers volunteer

Crimestoppers regional manager for the South West, said: "We know that it can sometimes be difficult to come forward with information. You might have seen or heard something about a crime but don't know what to do or are scared to come forward.

"It's easy to think there is nothing you can do, but we offer you a safe way to do this."

People can ring Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111 or submit through <https://crimestoppers-uk.org/give-information>

NEWS

Residents celebrate town bus victory

From Page 1

operator of the K2 has yet to be announced.

The news that the future of Keynsham's bus service has been secured has been welcomed by local Lib Dem councillors George Leach and Alex Beaumont.

Cllr Leach (Keynsham North, Bath & North East Somerset Council) said: "Myself and Alex would like to thank everyone who supported efforts to keep Keynsham connected, and a particular thanks to the residents of the Chocolate Quarter who collected over 340 signatures by hand for their petition for me to pass on to WECA.

"This is a great example of our community working together to save a valuable service."

Among the Chocolate Quarter residents who campaigned for the bus to be retained was Yvonne Browne, who said: "It's a great asset to its residents to know that they can get to the High Street in just a few minutes



Chocolate Quarter residents celebrate with local councillors Alex Beaumont (left), George Leach (right) and Souzan Leach
Photo: Rob Browne

and visit three pharmacies, three opticians, one dentist, an osteopath, a jeweller, a cobbler, a PO, a bank hub, two solicitors, two funeral directors, several computer businesses, endless charity shops, various cafes and other eateries, a florist, a pub and a library, as well as Iceland for fish, and Tesco for

everything else. What more could we want?

"Thanks to all who have campaigned for this. It's exactly what we need here once we are car-less - better still, before."

The K2 and the other new services are being funded by multi-million-pound investment from WECA's three-year Bus

Grant from the Department for Transport.

Helen Godwin, Mayor of the West of England, said: "Our investment in these routes and services means better buses for passengers across the West Country and gives people certainty until at least spring 2029."

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NEWS

Housing plan for relic of the Cold War

DEVELOPERS want to build homes on a site where a blast-proof electricity grid control centre was established during the Cold War.

An outline planning application is being prepared for about 50 flats and houses at the Devonport House complex on the northwestern side of Keynsham.

The site is accessed via Durley Park, off Durley Hill, near Hicks Gate Fire Station.

The former estate house - originally known as Fairview - was built in about 1860 in landscaped grounds.

In the 1950s, the site was bought by the British Electricity Authority and became a grid control centre for the South West. More recently, the site functioned as a regional headquarters for aerospace and defence company Babcock.

Its three main structures are the former Victorian villa, now known as Devonport House; a blast-proof 1950s control room



Flats plan: Devonport House

and extension known as Wessex House; and a second extension dating from the 1960s, known as the Control Building.

A large part of the site comprises a 189-space car park for the offices, which have been vacant since April 2024.

Developers propose to convert Devonport House into apartments. But they state that the other two main buildings are too dilapidated and should be demolished.

They say: "The scheme will respect surrounding properties, ensuring that open space and

landscaping is retained and enhanced on the site boundaries. It will also include on site parking, and the design team is looking at measures to improve the main site access."

The registered owners are Willow Bay Investments Limited and Ma'am Investments Limited, who bought the site for £5 million in 2016. They are working with South Wales-based Loyn+Co Architects and the Avril Baker Consultancy to submit an outline planning application to Bath & North East Somerset Council during the summer.

Separately from the developers' plans, a community-led idea has been raised for the site to provide a venue for Keynsham. Supporters have suggested that the former main control room could be converted into a performance space and hall, with the existing large car park seen as one of the site's advantages.

Campaigners have been trying

to establish such a venue in the town for years.

Among them is local councillor Dave Biddleston, who said: "There is a clear and recognised need for a multi-use community venue in Keynsham, and we've worked hard to ensure this is reflected in both the Keynsham Redevelopment Plan and the emerging Local Plan.

"While Devonport House has been suggested as a potential option and does have some obvious merits, we are still at an early stage of exploring delivery options, and no decisions have been made on specific sites.

"It's important that we consider all opportunities carefully alongside the wider regeneration and housing needs for the town.

"That said, it's very positive to see the level of local interest and advocacy around creating a proper community space, and it's something I strongly support in principle."

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NEWS

Aldi wins permission for town store

ALDI has been given the green light to open a new supermarket in Keynsham.

Bath and North East Somerset Council's planning committee has voted to grant planning permission for the new store on the former Brincliffe Nursery site on the A4 Bath Road.

Although eastbound cars would be able to enter the Aldi car park from the A4, traffic would have to leave via World's End Lane, at the rear of the site, opposite the recycling centre.

The planning committee's decision went against the recommendation of the council's own planning officers, who warned that the store should be turned down due to the potential for it to cause major delays on Pixash Lane and Broadmead Lane.

Despite these concerns, almost 200 people lodged their support of the plans with the council, while just 20 raised objections.

Aldi's Elliott Saunders told the planning committee at its meeting on June 10: "The message is clear: Keynsham wants and needs an Aldi."

He said: "This is a major investment that will deliver real, tangible benefits - most notably 40 high-quality, secure jobs, with Aldi proud to be the UK's highest paying supermarket."

"At a time when household budgets are squeezed, the store will give local families access to



LIDL says it will continue with its plans to build a supermarket in Broadmead Lane, despite the Aldi store being approved.

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

Daniel Preece, regional head of property at Lidl GB, said: "Lidl is now the UK's fifth-largest supermarket and continues to grow - but Keynsham shoppers are currently missing out.

"That's why we're committed

to delivering a new Lidl foodstore on Broadmead Lane, the best location for a modern discount supermarket to serve Keynsham.

"The site offers excellent transport links, makes use of previously developed brownfield land, and is conveniently located for Keynsham residents.

"Hundreds of local residents have supported our plans during consultation, and we look forward to providing further updates soon."

high-quality food at the lowest prices in the market."

A traffic-modelling exercise commissioned by B&NES Council had suggested that, if the store were approved, significant queues were 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.

But Mr Saunders said the predicted congestion was due to other planned development and

would happen whether the Aldi was built or not.

It is relatively unusual for planning officers to recommend rejecting a planning application over traffic impact, but the council's highways team had warned that the new supermarket could lead to drivers making dangerous manoeuvres to get out of traffic jams.

Planning committee member Hal McFie (Keynsham East, Liberal Democrat), who represents the area where it

would be built, said he had been excited to get an Aldi.

He said: "We know that we need it - our residents have told us on the door."

But he said he would vote against the plan.

"I waited two hours to get out of Waitrose on one particular day. So the traffic has to be right - and it clearly isn't."

Toby Simon (Bathwick, Liberal Democrat) said: "If the effect is to grind the entire estate to a halt for the evening peak and Saturdays, it would impact on council's provision of refuse services and it would impact on the access to the police station."

But Shaun Hughes (Midsomer Norton North, Independent Group) said that if traffic was bad during peak hours, people would adapt and shop at another time.

He said: "Residents should be entitled to competition and choice which they don't currently seem to have."

As well as concerns about traffic, the council had been concerned about the potential impact of a new Aldi store on Tesco and linked shopping trips to the town centre.

B&NES planning committee was tied 4-4 in a vote to refuse the plans. Councillors later voted 6-2 to delegate power to their officers to grant planning permission, subject to new conditions.

John Wimperis, Local Democracy Reporting Service

Hannah floats in for canal trust celebration

THE Kennet & Avon Canal Trust's boat Hannah passed through Hanham Lock last month as part of the trust's 75th anniversary celebrations.

The wheelchair-accessible, wide-beam canal boat has been travelling all the way from Bristol to Reading.

Founded in 1951, the organisation has worked over many years to save and repair the derelict canal, which was fully re-opened for boats to travel between Bristol and Reading in 1990.

The canal is now maintained by the Canal and River Trust and volunteers from the two charities met up at Hanham Lock, which is on the River Avon between Hanham and Keynsham.

The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust continues to promote, protect and enhance the canal in a variety of ways. Almost entirely run by volunteers, it operates a fleet of four holiday-hire boats for people with disabilities, a narrow boat for youth groups, six boats for day trips and the world's oldest steam engine that is still in perfect working order.



CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Wildlife needs help to adapt as temperatures rise

MAY and June have seen unprecedented heatwaves, and the Met Office predicts we're likely to see unseasonably hot weather spikes for the rest of the summer too.

If it's hard for humans to cope with these increasingly extreme and unpredictable weather patterns, what must it be like for nature?

Last year, the Met Office and The Wildlife Trusts brought together climate scientists and conservationists to assess how temperature fluctuations, shifting rainfall patterns, and rising sea levels are affecting nature across the UK.

They found that changing weather has a big impact on species behaviour. Birds' nesting habits change, which can disrupt breeding cycles and food availability. Invasive species compete with native wildlife for space and

resources, and oxygen levels in freshwater ecosystems reduce, causing mass fish die-offs.

Secondly, climate change is altering plant life cycles. An early heatwave means flowering periods get shorter, which reduces food for pollinators and limits fruit production in autumn, creating food shortages for birds and mammals.

Thirdly, extreme and unpredictable weather is causing habitat loss. Natives woods are fantastic habitats, but climate change is increasing the prevalence of pests and diseases like the oak processionary moth, which is infecting our native woodlands.

Fourth, as temperatures change, species shift their ranges northwards. In the UK that means birds, insects and other wildlife usually seen in southern England are establishing themselves

in the north. This increased range might benefit some species, but others will lose out.

As climate change continues to reshape our natural environment, government, environmental charities and individuals need to work with nature to make sure that wildlife has the best chance of adapting to the challenges we all face.

We can all do simple things like providing access to fresh, clean water and shade. Give exhausted bees a helping hand by gently picking them up and laying them on a flower. Water street trees and other foliage, which will provide shade for both people and wildlife. And over the longer term, plant nectar-rich flowers in your outside spaces and provide shady spots for wildlife to shelter from the midday sun.

Elizabeth Willitts

POETRY CORNER

Summer Days

Summer in all its glory's arrived,
Making each one of us glad we're alive.
Lanes boast wild flowers, sturdy and bold,
Dressed in bright colours, a joy to behold.

Blooms in the gardens filling the beds,
Pinks, blues and yellows nodding their heads.
Such an assortment to make the heart sing,
Like birds in the air we fly on the wing.

Friends sit outside for tea, cakes and chats,
Enjoying the sunshine, wearing cool hats.
Time standing still as the hours pass away
Worries and cares are all kept at bay.

Oh, what a pleasure this season can be,
Calming the mind both for you and for me.
Counting our blessings as all come our way,
Praising and thanking the Lord for each day.

Sylvia Kirby

Chrysalis

A bird chirrups 'oft near ours,
and like the everlasting stars,

a bud emerges from the snow,
and as my child watches it grow,

the petals fold out one by one,
each bloom brighter than the sun.

A laugh rolls over a warming lake,
and all of my life's cursed mistakes,

billow back into the past,
and never last, they never last.

A kiss and hug around my head,
blurs out words I never said.

Time heals - it heals - all wounds I know.
It dims the pain, to come, then go.

Clare Taylor

KEYNSHAM AND SALTFORD PROBUS CLUB

When Hitler's bombs fell on Bristol

The May meeting of Keynsham and Saltford Probus Club was the first of new president Graham Lenton's tenure - and it got off to an explosive start.

The Bristol Blitz was the subject of a talk given by Rob Pritchard of the Bristol Historical Association.

Rob covered the six major raids from November 1940 to April 1941, when 919 tons of high explosive and thousands of incendiaries were dropped on the city, resulting in 1,253 deaths and thousands of buildings destroyed or damaged.

The photo shows Graham Lenton holding an incendiary bomb of the type dropped on Bristol.

Rob also talked about the defences which tried to thwart the Luftwaffe and the fluctuating morale of Bristolians who endured the Blitz.

Following the talk, Mike Crane reminded members that our July meeting requires their input. The topic will be DIY disasters and we hope that shared memories of mishaps will provide much hilarity.



KEYNSHAM PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Free exhibition puts local talent in focus

A FREE exhibition showcasing the work of members of Keynsham Photographic Society starts later this month.

It will feature a wide range of images, from landscapes and wildlife to portraits, architecture, street photography and creative work.

The exhibition also offers an opportunity to find out more about the club, which has been running for many years.

Members range from complete beginners to experienced photographers, and use everything from smartphones to digital cameras.

The society meets regularly to enjoy guest speakers, practical evenings, competitions, image critiques and photographic outings, providing a friendly environment where members can develop their skills, exchange ideas and make new friends.

Prospective members are invited to attend a club meeting free of charge to experience the



Photo titled 'What Do I See' by society member Rob Dyer

welcoming atmosphere for themselves.

The exhibition takes place at MakeSpace, 2 Riverside Square, Keynsham, from Friday July 24 to Sunday August 2 (10am to 4pm).

For more information about the exhibition or the society, visit www.keynshamphotographicsociety.co.uk or follow the society on Facebook and Instagram.

NEWS

Why doesn't the bus stop for us here?

BUS passengers face an “extremely puzzling and frustrating situation” when trying to use a stop on Charlton Road in Keynsham.

Both the 43, run by First Bus, and the K1, operated by The Big Lemon, stop at the Lays Farm northbound stop.

But only the K1 appears to stop at the Lays Farm southbound stop to let passengers on or off.

The nearest alternative stops are Lockingwell Road to the north and Bilbie Green to the south, which are both about 450 metres from Lays Farm.

The northbound stop has a shelter and sign, whereas the southbound stop has neither and is located in a lay-by where residents park their vehicles.

A passenger who contacted the *Voice* said: “We were initially told that the number 43 would stop opposite the northbound bus stops, but the buses have stopped doing this, even



K1 buses stop for passengers in this lay-by opposite the Lays Farm northbound stop, left

though they stop at all the other northbound stops.

“On enquiring with First Bus they have informed me that this is a council problem but have not said why the bus doesn't stop.

“I have been informed by drivers that they have a memo on their noticeboard to say not to stop there, but they have been unable to produce the document.”

The West of England Combined Authority (WECA) has told the passenger that it is Bath

& North East Somerset Council, as the highway authority, which is responsible for highway infrastructure including bus stops.

“As service 43 is a commercially operated bus service, it is not us that sets the route, stopping pattern and timetable for the service,” WECA said.

The *Voice* approached First Bus and B&NES Council for an explanation, but neither had commented by the time we went

to press. The Big Lemon has confirmed that its K1 drivers stop at both the north and south Lays Farm stops.

Alex Beaumont, B&NES councillor for Keynsham North, said: “This has been an extremely puzzling and frustrating situation. I've had several residents come to me to raise their concerns.

“I'm still liaising with BANES and the combined authority to find out the reason this issue persists.”

SALTFORD BUSINESS NETWORK



Membership keeps growing

SALTFORD Business Network (SBN) held its AGM at Salford Golf Club on June 9.

Kevin Reeves was re-elected chair. Also present were Richard Burgess, business engagement officer for Bath & North East Somerset Council, B&NES councillor Duncan Hounsell (Salford ward), and Cllr David Halton of Salford Parish Council.

Following the AGM, Richard Burgess led the business session for members and non-members with updates on the training and business support available from WECA (the West of England

Combined Authority) and Cool Ventures, a business training and support provider.

SBN has almost 40 members providing networking opportunities and mutual support as well as encouraging local people and companies to use local businesses.

Kevin Reeves said: “I am delighted that SBN membership numbers continue to be strong and diverse, with new members joining all of the time.”

More information on SBN can be found at www.saltfordbusinessnetwork.org.uk



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NEWS



An artist's impression, below, from Crest Nicholson of homes they want to build on the site above in Manor Road, Saltford



500 objections to

MORE than 500 objections have been made to plans for up to 90 new homes on a field south of Manor Road in Saltford.

Crest Nicholson, which is seeking outline planning permission from Bath & North East Somerset Council, says 45% of the properties would be 'affordable'.

Saltford Parish Council is among those objecting to the scheme.

It notes that a previous proposal for new homes on the same site was refused by B&NES Council and subsequently dismissed on appeal by the Secretary of State in 2014, on the grounds that it constituted inappropriate development in the green belt.

The parish council also argues that the site should not be regarded as grey-belt land and that significant weight should be given to the site's landscape value.

It also points out that the site is not identified for potential

development in B&NES Council's emerging Local Plan.

Particular concern is expressed regarding the relationship of the site to Longwood woodland, wildlife corridors, mature trees and hedgerows along Manor Road, and the potential impact on protected and notable species.

The council has requested that a full environmental impact assessment be undertaken before any planning decision is reached.

It questions the need for housing at this site, citing Saltford's significant growth over recent decades.

It is concerned about the prospect of extra traffic in the area, particularly with existing congestion on the nearby A4 Bath Road, and the cumulative impact of development on school provision, health services and community facilities.

The parish council is also worried about highway safety near Saltford Primary School and Happy Days Pre-School.


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NEWS

homes on field that 'holds memories'



Crest Nicholson is seeking permission to build up to 90 homes on a field near Saltford Primary School

B&NES councillor Duncan Hounsell (Saltford ward) has requested that the planning application be determined by B&NES Council’s planning committee.

He said: “This is one of the most sensitive sites in Saltford. There will be considerable public interest both locally and further afield.”

In calling for the plan to be refused, Cllr Hounsell said:

“This attractive rise of land has a distinctive character and quality and is highly valued, reflecting this land’s significance as a place.

“The field holds memories and associations stretching back generations.”

He added that the proposed two-storey homes would obscure the view of the skyline.

“Approval of this application would set a precedent and produce a “domino effect”

putting green belt around Saltford under great threat.”

Crest Nicholson says the development site is close to community facilities, supporting sustainable living, and the scheme includes open spaces, play areas, and green buffers.

The developer said a new pedestrian crossing is proposed in response to concerns about schoolchildren crossing Manor Road.

The deadline for comments has now passed. There were three in support, citing the need for housing for local people.

As previously reported in the Voice, Taylor Wimpey wants to build up to 105 new homes on a field on the Keynsham side of Manor Road.

The proposal, for a field next to Manor Road Community Woodland, has also attracted much opposition.

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MP WATCH

Climate crisis film raises vital questions

A PACKED house of over 70 people at Keynsham Baptist Church viewed the film *The People's Emergency Briefing*, about the climate and nature crisis, and then had a lively discussion about their reactions.

The powerful film describes scientific evidence presented to politicians at Westminster last November regarding threats to food, health and the economy.

For some, the impact of the screening on June 1 was emotionally charged, prompting shock and anger about the situation, whilst others felt motivation and hope.

A number of Bath & North East Somerset and Keynsham town councillors attended and participated in the discussions.

The evening moved on to consider what practical steps we can take. As author Octavia Butler observed: "We don't have to wait for anything at all. What we have to do is start."

Many have written to our MP to ask him to join the



The audience for the film screening at Keynsham Baptist Church

Parliamentary call for a televised national emergency briefing.

There is also a petition to secure a debate in Parliament to "hold a UK-wide briefing on climate and nature risks" - <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/767687> - which currently stands at just over 25,000 signatures, with almost 100

coming from our constituency.

Facilitator David Leverton, of organisers MP Watch, set a challenge to consider who else should see the film and whether more showings should be arranged for groups, at work and for others in the community.

More events are being planned as a result, joining the

almost 2,000 screenings currently planned nationwide (and now abroad). See <https://www.nebriefing.org/screening-map>.

There is already a wide variety of environmental initiatives in our community. To enable people to consider joining groups, a useful list was provided.

Finally, a number of personal actions were identified, ranging from food and diet, money and influence, travel, home energy, everyday habits, to consumption and waste – a leaflet produced by Simon Day covering these items was shared.

There were several questions raised at the event which will be addressed at the first Keynsham Climate Cafe at the same venue on Monday July 13 at 7pm. For more information, contact David Leverton on 07831101755.

● A list of community initiatives and a 'ways to cut your carbon footprint' guide can be found in the online version of this article on the *Keynsham Voice* website - visit <https://keynshamvoice.co.uk/>



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NEWS

Hicks Gate new town masterplan backed

LEADING politicians have backed plans to build a new town of up to 3,000 homes between Keynsham and Bristol.

Hicks Gate would be a “vibrant, zero-carbon community” built over the Brislington Park and Ride and fields on either side of the A4, right up to the edge of Keynsham.

The new town would span the boundary between Bristol and neighbouring Bath and North East Somerset, and would sit just across the river from South Gloucestershire.

The leaders of the three councils and West of England Mayor Helen Godwin voted to give their unanimous backing to their “masterplan” for the town when they met in Bristol as the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) committee on June 5.

Bath and North East Somerset Council leader Kevin Guy said: “This is an excellent example of why you need a combined authority - it crosses three areas, and only by working together can we draw down the huge sums of money that are needed to create the transport connectivity.”

The plan would see the park and ride relocated to a new multi-storey car park and transport interchange near the Hicks Gate roundabout.

The masterplan document



The masterplan covers the area outlined in red Image: WECA

states: “The interchange building will become a major entry and exit point into Bristol and also into the Hicks Gate site.”

Although the development would mean building over green fields, the leader of Green Party-run Bristol City Council Tony Dyer insisted: “The importance of nature, biodiversity, housing affordability, and transport infrastructure comes strongly through on the Hicks Gate masterplan.”

He added: “80% or more of our development is on brownfield sites. This is one of the few areas where there are some greenfield areas.”

The town would include

between 2,500 and 3,050 new homes, two new primary schools, and a site safeguarded for a secondary school with sixth form.

Although the homes themselves would be built by private developers, the masterplan sets out what is expected to be built and what will be permitted by the various council’s planning committees. WECA’s masterplan will be reflected in the local plans of each council.

Local plans are documents which run for over a decade, setting out a council’s planning policies and where developments should go. All three council’s local plans are currently at

various stages of being renewed.

Ms Godwin said: “By focussing on a joined-up approach rather than individual developments, we can coordinate access to key infrastructure for residents including nature and green space, core services, homes, and, of course, transport links.

“This masterplan is therefore key to continuing to work with local councils across boundaries to translate strategic goals into change that residents can see and feel.”

The masterplan area includes green-belt land where Crest Nicholson intends to seek planning permission for 550 homes north-west of the Hicks Gate roundabout, alongside the A4 Bath Road.

Hicks Gate is one of five new towns which could be built around Bristol to meet the area’s housing needs.

Other plans include the new town of Woodspring on the Woodspring Golf Course in North Somerset, the Brabazon new town on the former Filton Airfield, which is just over the South Gloucestershire Council boundary, a new town near Bristol Parkway (also in South Gloucestershire), and the North Lyde Eco-Tech village in the South Gloucestershire countryside just north of the M4.

John Wimperis, Local Democracy Reporting Service

Bid for 1,000 new homes and a primary school

A NEW neighbourhood including 1,000 new homes, a community hub and a primary school is being proposed on green fields to the south-west of Keynsham.

Barwood Land wants to develop a 70-hectare site (173 acres) east of Whitchurch village, off the A37 and Queen Charlton Lane.

The company says: “We have been very careful to retain a strong physical separation with Whitchurch Village while ensuring the scheme’s benefits are for all residents, new and existing.”

The proposed properties would be of between one to five bedrooms, with a “significant proportion of affordable homes.”

Land would be earmarked for a new primary school, including potential pre-school provision, a multi-purpose community hub, and community and commercial spaces for potential healthcare, shops, and workspace.

Barwood Land says there would also be

improvements to bus services and active travel, as well as significant highways investment.

Half the site would remain open, accessible, green space, protected in perpetuity, say the developers.

The main traffic access points would be from the south, where the A37 meets Queen Charlton Lane, via a new signalised junction, and from the north via Staunton Lane, with changes to the A37/Staunton Lane signals to improve traffic flow.

Most of the land covered by the scheme is the current home of HorseWorld.

The charity says: “HorseWorld’s Board of Trustees has confirmed its support for progressing the “East of Whitchurch” proposals through the planning process, recognising that a future land sale is the only viable way to secure the charity’s long-term future. It would enable HorseWorld to relocate to a new site nearby where it can

care for more horses and support more young people.

“If HorseWorld had the means to expand and invest in its current site, it would - but it does not have that option, and so this is the only realistic way to secure and grow its impact.”

Barwood Land says its proposals will help Bath & North East Somerset Council meet the housing targets in its emerging Local Plan in “a sustainable location.”

Attendance at a consultation event in Whitchurch on June 24 was affected by the heatwave, so another event will be held at a later date. The details had not been publicised by the time the Voice went to press. Barwood Land says it will assess consultation feedback before submitting its outline planning application to B&NES Council. It says the community will be consulted again on any future detailed application.

SALTFORD MEMORIES

with Keynsham & Salford Local History Society



This tranquil scene, possibly taken about 1904, shows the Avon Ferry at Salford. Before the Midland Railway bridge was built in 1869, the only means of crossing

the river was by boat, but the ferry continued for many years after this. From 1886 to 1908 it was operated by Hannah Gregory and her husband Charles. They

had two boats and this larger one was used for moving livestock and farm produce. The Jolly Sailor and Salford Lock can be seen in the background.

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KEYNSHAM AND SALTFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Time travel by side-saddle with Celia Fiennes

CELIA Fiennes is not someone that many people have heard of. But she deserves to be better known, among both historians and those who celebrate pioneering women.

She was born in 1662 at Newton Toney in south Wiltshire into one of England's old and landed families. Her father, Nathaniel, had been MP for Banbury and fought for the Parliamentarians in the Civil War. In religion, her mother, Frances, was an ardent non-conformist. Their fourth daughter's life was no doubt shaped by their beliefs, but this was a time when distinctions and behaviours of class and sex were very firm and accepted by everyone.

However, Celia Fiennes grew up to be a remarkable person and challenge some of these norms. She was independent, brave, resourceful and, most of all, curious about her country.

Money was not something she needed to worry about but, nonetheless, the project she embarked upon at the age of 35 was bold and unique. To tour the country on horseback would have been brave for a man, but for an educated lady of the upper classes it was almost inconceivable.

She made two journeys, in 1697 and 1698, the second exceeding 1,900 miles and including as many towns, cities and activities as she could. Further, she kept a meticulous diary of her travels - and travails - and this document, which has survived, describes aspects of life that are not recorded anywhere else.

In reality, although she rarely mentions this, she was not physically alone, which would have been impracticable. She was accompanied by probably two manservants, possibly a maid,



There are no pictures of Celia Fiennes but this painting by George Stubbs shows the Countess of Coningsby riding side-saddle in 1760
 Credit: Wikimedia – Creative Commons

and perhaps with a spare horse. Their assistance would have been essential for carrying her belongings and the considerable quantity of cash she would have needed.

Occasionally she stayed at the grand houses of relatives and connections but more often found her accommodation in inns and wayside hostleries, sometimes way below her station in life.

As a woman, for reasons of both dress and decorum, she would have had to ride side-saddle, which for long distances on rough roads may have been difficult and tiring. She must have been a skilled horsewoman, and only once, near the end of her journey, was she unsaddled.

Did Celia Fiennes visit Saltford

or Keynsham? Sadly, not. Had she made her journey a few years later, she might have discovered Keynsham Brass Mill. She would have delighted in describing the process of making brass pans and probably would have charmed her hosts into giving her some small brass keepsake.

As it was, we know she was fond of taking the water at spa towns and visited Bath in 1698. This was a few years before Beau Nash arrived and transformed it into the most fashionable provincial town in the country.

But she described it as "a pretty place, full of good houses all for the accommodation of [those who visit] to drink or bathe in summer" and her lodgings there as "giving you

very good attendance".

She commented that "there are chairs, as in London, to carry the better sort of people in visits" but said that "the spa water tastes like yew water [that boils] eggs".

From Bath she rode along the east side of the Avon (which was generally the better road) and passed through Kingswood, where she met many horses "loaded with coals dug just thereabout" and on to Bristol.

Her diary devotes several paragraphs to the "very great trading city" and describes the harbour (before the Floating Harbour) full of ships.

An interesting snippet is that "the streets are well pitched (i.e. paved) and preserved by their using sledges to carry all things about." This means that wheeled carts and wagons were banned and horses hauled goods on a kind of rectangular frame with the front of the poles harnessed and the back dragging along the ground.

She then went further west and described in great detail the workings of the thriving wool industry in Somerset and Devon before moving into Cornwall and returning to London.

● Information from *England From a Side-Saddle* by Derek J Taylor

Local history walk

On Sunday July 12, I will be leading a short walk around central Keynsham, looking at the history of the various railway and road bridges in the town. Leaving at 2.30pm from outside St John's Church, we will walk on pavements and through the park. Total distance 1.5-2 miles and up to 1.5 hours. There is no charge and no advance booking required.

Richard Dyson

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NEWS



Pupils do their bit for clean air

PUPILS at Castle Primary School in Keynsham travelled to school by scooter and bike to mark Clean Air Day on June 18.

Children who travel by car were encouraged to walk the final five minutes to school.

Pupil Arabella said: "I felt excited to be able to scoot like my friends. I enjoyed the fresh air."

The Castle primary pupils were among children across schools in the Partnership Trust Multi-Academy Trust who took part in the initiative.

Clean Air Day is the UK's largest air pollution campaign, which highlights the impact poor air quality has on health.

Apprenticeships offer in council pay shake-up

RECYCLING workers - including those approaching retirement - could be offered apprenticeships in Keynsham and Bath as part of council pay reforms.

Bath & North East Somerset Council plans to offer apprenticeships to members of staff who are being placed on a lower pay grade as part of its Being our Best (BOB) restructure.

The council's pay protection policy should mean that nobody ends up seeing their pay reduced, while completing an apprenticeship will allow them to move back up a pay grade.

The regrading affects 233 council workers in certain roles within its passenger transport and waste and recycling departments, some of whom have been at the council for over 20 years. The proposal to offer apprenticeships came from negotiations over career progression with the three trade

unions representing staff.

The council's director of people and change, Cherry Bennett, told its employment committee on June 12 that 133 of the affected members of staff had already said they were interested in doing an apprenticeship.

But she added: "Some people may not want to spend 18 months doing an apprenticeship if they are planning to retire in three to four years."

The apprenticeships will be undertaken at Bath College or on site at the Keynsham Recycling Centre where possible.

Staff will remain on existing salary levels while undertaking the training and progress to the "level II" role profile and higher pay grade upon completion of the apprenticeship. The employment committee unanimously backed the regrading after no trade unions objected to the plan.

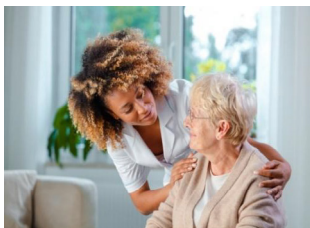
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ON THE BEAT

Dangers of fire-setting and its consequences

SETTING fires - often referred to as arson - is not a harmless prank or a momentary lapse in judgement. It is a serious criminal offence that carries significant risks to life, property, and the wider community.

From a policing perspective, incidents involving fire setting are treated with the utmost seriousness due to their potentially devastating and irreversible consequences.

First and foremost, the danger to human life cannot be overstated. Even a small fire can escalate rapidly, especially in dry conditions or built-up areas such as homes, schools, or garages.

Fire spreads unpredictably and produces toxic smoke that can overcome individuals within minutes. Emergency services frequently attend incidents where fires have been set deliberately, and in many cases, firefighters and members of the public are put directly at risk. What may begin as an act of curiosity or mischief can quickly lead to serious injury or even fatalities.

The damage caused by fire goes beyond immediate destruction. Homes lost in fires can displace families, destroy personal



Sgt Rob Turner
Keynsham Police

belongings, and cause long-term emotional trauma.

Fires in public spaces - parks, schools, or community buildings - can deprive communities of vital facilities and cost thousands of pounds in repairs. These costs are often borne by taxpayers, meaning the wider community suffers the consequences of an individual's actions.

From a legal standpoint, setting a fire deliberately is a criminal offence under the law. Arson offences can result in severe penalties, including high fines and lengthy prison sentences, particularly where there is intent to endanger life.

Even where no injuries occur, the courts treat such offences seriously due to the high level of risk involved. A criminal record for arson can have long lasting consequences, affecting

employment opportunities, travel, and future prospects.

A growing concern for policing teams is the involvement of young people in fire-setting offences. In some cases, young persons may not fully understand the consequences of their actions. Lighting small fires in fields, bins, or derelict buildings may be perceived as harmless experimentation or a way to alleviate boredom. However, these actions can quickly spiral out of control, leading to significant incidents.

When young people are involved, police work closely with youth services, schools, and families to address the behaviour early. Interventions may include educational programmes about fire safety, restorative justice approaches, or referrals to specialist support services.

However, it is important to be clear that criminal offences will still be investigated, and young persons can face prosecution where appropriate. Early involvement with the criminal justice system can have a lasting impact, and prevention remains a key priority.

Parents and guardians play a vital role in helping to reduce the risk. Having open conversations

about the dangers of fire, supervising activities, and being aware of where young people are spending time - particularly during evenings and school holidays - can make a significant difference. Reporting concerns or suspicious behaviour to local authorities can also help prevent incidents before they occur.

From a policing perspective, tackling fire setting is about both enforcement and prevention. Officers work closely with fire and rescue services to identify patterns, gather intelligence, and respond swiftly to incidents. Community engagement is equally important - raising awareness, particularly among young people, about the real dangers and consequences of fire setting.

In conclusion, setting fires is not a trivial act; it is a serious offence with potentially life-threatening consequences. Whether driven by curiosity, peer pressure, or recklessness, the impact can be profound and long lasting.

By working together - police, communities, schools, and families - we can reduce the risk, protect lives, and ensure our neighbourhoods remain safe places for everyone.

Andrea awarded OBE after distinguished career in education

ANDREA Arlidge, former chief executive of Futura Learning Partnership, has been made an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (OBE) in the King's Birthday Honours.

The accolade is in recognition of a career spanning more than four decades, improving educational opportunities and outcomes for children and young people.

In 2014, Andrea founded Wellsway Multi Academy Trust, which changed its name in 2021 to the Futura Learning Partnership, to reflect its growth to encompass more schools.

She led the organisation from its inception until her retirement in 2024, helping to establish one of the South West's largest multi-academy trusts.

Gary Schlick, chief executive of

Futura, said: "Andrea's OBE is richly deserved and reflects 41 years of dedication to transforming the lives of children and young people."

Futura Learning Partnership (Futura) encompasses 26 schools in the West of England. Its Keynsham schools are Wellsway, IKB, St John's, Two Rivers and Chandag. Salford School is also a member of the trust.



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■ BACK TO NATURE



As you gaze up at the blue summer skies over Keynsham in July, you might notice a magnificent silhouette circling gracefully above our local woodlands and fields.

Often mistaken for eagles, the Common Buzzard (*Buteo buteo*) is a true master of the summer thermals and our most frequently seen bird of prey. While we often admire their soaring displays, July offers a unique window into the most critical phase of their fascinating life cycle.

The journey of the buzzards soaring above us today began much earlier in the spring. Common Buzzards form lifelong monogamous partnerships, returning to the same nesting territory year after year.

In March, couples perform spectacular aerial courtship displays, looping and diving through the sky in what is known as the 'roller coaster' flight. By April, the female lays a clutch of two to four eggs in a large nest, or eyrie, constructed high in the fork of a mature tree.

For 35 days, the female incubates the eggs while the male diligently hunts to feed her. The real challenge begins in May when the fluffy, helpless chicks hatch. For the first few weeks, the mother stays close to guard them from predators, while the father works tirelessly to bring home a steady supply of food.

By early July, these chicks have transformed into fully feathered fledglings.

This month is the absolute peak of their juvenile development. If you take a stroll near the wooded valleys of the River Avon, you will



The summer sky's master: Secret life of our local buzzards

A buzzard soaring above Stockwood Vale

Above left, buzzards mate for life

Photos: Martin Farrell

likely hear their signature, cat-like mewing call. This is the sound of young buzzards calling out to their parents for food as they test their wings.

You will often see entire family groups soaring together, with the adults teaching the youngsters how to ride rising warm air currents and master the art of the hunt.

Despite their impressive 1.3-metre wingspan and formidable hooked beaks, buzzards are remarkably adaptable. While they swoop down to snatch rabbits and voles from the long grass, July forces them to be opportunists. To feed hungry fledglings, parents can often be spotted strutting through freshly mown silage fields, feasting on large insects and earthworms.

These young birds will remain dependent on their parents for another few weeks before

being driven away to find their own territories by autumn. If they survive their treacherous first winter, they will live for around 12 years, starting the cycle anew when they reach breeding age at three years old.

Keep your eyes peeled the next time you are out exploring. Whether you are enjoying the sunshine in the Memorial Park or walking the rural fringes of town, look up. You might just witness a breathtaking chapter of nature's life cycle unfolding right above your head.

For more information on Keynsham group of Avon Wildlife Trust and details on our events, visit our website www.keynshamawt.org.uk, email info@keynshamawt.org.uk, or phone Kathy on 07850 508702.

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NEWS

Pupils' lesson in recycling

CHILDREN from Saltford School enjoyed an exciting morning of activities when they visited Keynsham Recycling Centre.

The Year 5 pupils learned about the different types of recycling carried out at the centre in Pixash Lane.

They were also warned of the importance of removing batteries from old toys, decorations and appliances before disposing of such items in rubbish or recycling, because batteries can start fires in recycling trucks. Used batteries should be placed in a small clear bag (tied) on top of your green recycling box.

The presentation was followed by four exciting tasks including mending a laptop; recycling rubbish into the appropriate boxes; stripping wire to recycle the copper; and separating the materials used in old electronic items. The visit linked to the pupils' science and geography topics of renewable energy, materials and looking after the planet.



Treetops site levelled after arson attack

THE ruins of the former Treetops nursing home in Keynsham have been demolished and the site levelled following the fire that destroyed the building.

Police launched an arson investigation after fire crews spent several hours tackling the blaze in St Clements Road on May 21.

An Avon and Somerset police spokesperson told the Voice: "We're grateful to everyone who has contacted us with information already."

"The investigation continues and we'd still like to hear from anyone with relevant information or footage who has yet to speak to us. Please call 101 and give the reference 5226139696."

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



Fire aftermath image courtesy of 2K Abandoned Places



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

Now Bath & North East Somerset Council is being asked to approve a "minor variation" of the approved plans.

Stokes Morgan Planning, acting for the applicant Treetops Bristol Limited, said the changes reflect detailed design development, including an

internal reconfiguration of the two, three-storey blocks of flats, a "modest adjustment" to Block A, and some amendments to the external layout, including cycle storage.

The application attracted five objections and two comments in support.

Concerns raised included the height and number of flats proposed, lack of parking, increased traffic, and that the scheme would be out of

keeping with the character of the surrounding residential area.

One resident who commented in support of the plan, before the blaze on May 21, said: "Can we get this site moving forward."

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

Another, who commented after the fire, said: "I would like to support this application as this is now become a very dangerous site due to the recent fire."

FREE ENTRY FREE ENTRY FREE ENTRY

Stacey Charles

oasis WHAM! QUEEN THE BEATLES BRYAN ADAMS ADELE

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LETTERS

Letters for publication can be sent to 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.

We need an election not a coronation

I have just witnessed the resignation speech of Keir Starmer, who in my opinion is a decent chap who did not deserve the treatment he received from his party.



In July 2024, he led Labour into office with victory in over 400 of 650 seats.

Andy Burnham did not contest a Westminster seat, being happy to sit on his throne as the King of Greater Manchester.

Anyone who follows politics realised Starmer was not in for an easy ride. Most local Labour constituencies are in the control of the extreme left and so, when selecting a candidate, the winner would be the one giving the answers most acceptable to the interviewers.

To be fair, this is little different from the Conservative Party, where those on the right exert such influence.

Starmer has been accused of making too many U-turns, many prompted by backbenchers with no understanding of how to operate in a wealth-creation environment.

An example of this was the abolition of the two-children benefit rule, which was not in Labour's General Election manifesto as the leadership rightly stated it would not deliver uncosted promises.

Roll forward to the local elections of May 2026 and we see 1,500 Labour councillors being ousted by voters who wanted to give Starmer a kick up the backside.

This created a panic on the Labour back benches, especially among those with a low parliamentary majority. Ministerial resignations then followed.

Into the arena comes the King of the North, whose castle is obviously no longer big enough for him.

Buoyed by the votes of 25,000 people from a constituency in the heart of his power base, he believes he has the mandate to represent us all.

I would suggest that in capital cities across the world the question being asked is "Who the heck is Burnham?"

Starmer, for any faults he had, commanded a presence on the international stage and followed

Boris Johnson in backing Ukraine, where President Zelensky must be desperately concerned while Putin will be laughing his head off.

What is now unfolding is an affront to democracy. Burnham has no mandate to become Prime Minister any more than Liz Truss had under the Conservatives.

As the country two years ago chose a Labour government under the leadership of Keir Starmer, the only way that should change should be by way of a General Election. Let the people decide!

Mike Barrow

New bus timetable has its benefits

I refer to the letter in the last *Keynsham Voice* entitled 'Bring back the old timetable!'

Firstly I think the additional services now available to the residents of Keynsham East are a step in the right direction. There is more availability and direct access to useful destinations e.g. Southmead Hospital, Longwell Green shopping centre and the other side of Keynsham.

Yes, there are more buses but I would hardly describe this as "a non-stop convoy". All of these, except the 522, start their journeys at Burnett Business Park and are therefore modestly used until they reach parts of the journey beyond.

The previous writer complains about buses travelling by housing, but surely that's what they should do, enabling easier access to more people. I don't know of any bus services that don't pass housing on their journeys.

It's unfortunate that the 522 route has been changed, no longer travelling down Chandag Road except in the evenings, but it remains accessible to those willing and able to walk to the Wellsway, something many residents have done for some time and still have to.

I agree reinstating the previous 522 route would be helpful, so this issue needs to be taken up with First Bus.

What would be of real benefit is if one of the "new" routes were altered as I have previously advocated. This would include Courtenay Road, Lytes Cary Road, Hurn Lane, Minsmere Road, Windrush Road and Chandag Road.

As for the size of the bus, I am sure First Bus have chosen double-deckers for good reason as the routes beyond Keynsham are extensive.

Cynthia Withyman



Bandstand musicians deserve to be heard

Why is there not more advertising around Keynsham and in the surround areas about the groups putting on music on the bandstand each weekend throughout the summer?

I have spoken to many people who live in Keynsham or close to it who had no idea.

It's a great way to bring people to the area, who will then likely wander through the High Street and spend their money in our independent shops and restaurants.

Free entertainment is something we so rarely get these days, and my husband and I very much enjoy taking a wander through the park and seeing what's on each weekend.

The council could absolutely do more to promote this and

bring more in to the area. A win for everyone!

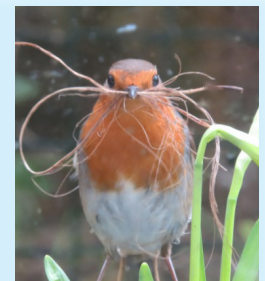
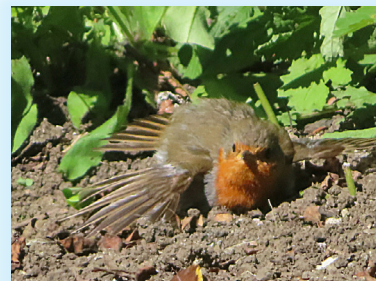
Laura Carter
(Keynsham resident)

Editor's note: *Keynsham Town Council has told us that programmes for summer concerts at the Memorial Park bandstand can be picked up from its office in Temple Street and are also handed out at every bandstand event.*

The council posts regular bandstand updates on Facebook and Instagram, and each band is promoted in advance.

The council also displays the bandstand programme on all its noticeboards around the town.

Listings of upcoming bandstand concerts can be found on Page 24 of this issue's Voice.



Nature on our doorstep - Voice reader Tony Kirby sent us these photos of a busy robin in his garden - having a dust bath, nesting in a box outside his kitchen window, and feeding its young. Our thanks to Tony for sharing them with us.



Park playground plan lacks imagination

I was disappointed to read about the suggested plans for rejuvenating the playground in Keynsham Memorial Park.

I thought the plans were very poor and lacked imagination. Nor did they take into account the ever-increasing population in the area.

Might I suggest that B&NES Council look at Yate's Kingsgate Park playground, built by a UK company Eibe, in 2024. It is an excellent playground with equipment suitable for a good range of ages.

Alison ter Haar

KEYNSHAM WOMBLES



Wombles clean up the town

KEYNSHAM Wombles have been out and about making the town look tidier.

Volunteers took part in a Keynsham-wide litter pick on Saturday May 30. Between them, they covered many areas of the town, starting from their homes and converging on the Memorial Park. The event was blessed with great weather and the bonus of coffee and cake.

The Wombles were due to help out at the Keynsham Music Festival, picking litter from Thursday June 2 to Monday July 6.

As well as being their biggest fundraiser of the year, enabling

the group to buy equipment and operate year round, the festival also gives the Wombles a platform to showcase the work they do to others who live in our town, changing perceptions around litter and recruiting more volunteers.

The Wombles will be busy again on Saturday August 22, picking litter at Tesco and the surrounding area. The group picks takes place from 9.30am to 11.30am, with more details to follow nearer the time.

For more information about Keynsham Wombles and how to take part in their litter picks, visit keynshamwombles.org

READ EASY

Hub to help adults who struggle with reading

A NEW Read Easy group is being launched in Keynsham to offer free, confidential, one-to-one reading coaching for adults who struggle with reading.

The Keynsham hub will form part of the wider Read Easy Bath group, which has been supporting learners since 2020. The new hub aims to reach local people who would benefit from support closer to home.

For many adults, being unable to read affects everyday life in ways that others may never notice. Filling in forms, reading signs, understanding letters or helping children with homework can feel overwhelming or impossible. The impact on confidence can be huge.

There are many reasons why someone may not have learned to read, from learning difficulties or eyesight problems to disrupted schooling or difficult home circumstances. For some, the biggest barrier is the stigma and fear of asking for help.

Read Easy offers a safe, understanding and confidential way for adults to build their reading skills at their own pace.

Once the Keynsham group is fully established, trained volunteer coaches will meet readers twice a week in a welcoming community space, using a proven



Hub pioneer Susan at a recent Read Easy networking event

phonics-based programme designed specifically for adults.

The new group is now looking for volunteers to help set up this life-changing service. They need people to join the local team running the Keynsham hub, as well as volunteers who would like to train as reading coaches.

To find out more, contact hub pioneer Susan – email keynshamhubpioneer@readeasy.org.uk or phone 07708 635718.

It's worth the journey for summer Sunday afternoon tea



Graham and Ruth Barnsby, from Westbury on Trym, first came across the church on a Ramblers' walk and vowed to return to enjoy the scenery and hospitality



Steph Butler, left, and Anne Millin preparing to serve afternoon teas to visitors Photos: Ros Anstey



EACH year, St Mary's Church in Compton Dando opens for tea every Sunday afternoon in the summer months, raising money for church funds, with this year being no exception.

It has gone well so far, with one of the organisers, Jenny Davis, saying: "We have

visitors coming from quite a distance

"We have several walking groups booked in and people from other churches too.

"We have had an amazing response from our volunteer bakers this year and, as well as our delicious cakes there is a small exhibition and a display of our church treasures.

"For those who enjoy reading, we have some mystery books to buy for adults and children. There may even be some homemade marmalade for sale too."

The teas continue every Sunday, from 2pm until 5pm, until the last one on bank holiday Monday August 31.

NEWS

Chew Valley 10k is another wonderful winner

THE 14th Chew Valley 10k took place in near-perfect running conditions, attracting a strong field of 790 runners.

First across the line on Sunday June 7 was Jack Chitty in 34:44, while Claire Hammett was the fastest female in 38:12.

Junior winners were Addie Butcher (36:28) and Emilia Quainton (47:43).

The race continued its tradition of encouraging new runners, with 160 participants completing their first-ever 10km race. A record 49 juniors aged 15-18 took part, alongside ten runners aged over 70.

Since its launch in 2013, the 10k has raised more than £100,000 for local schools, charities and good causes.

This year's beneficiaries were Bishop Sutton Primary School, Chew Valley School Society, NICU Support and Dorothy House.

Known for its friendly atmosphere and challenging route through the Chew Valley's undulating country lanes, the



event is supported each year by local residents, businesses, schools and sports clubs.

Gareth Beynon, who has run the race every year since becoming headteacher a decade ago, said: "The 10k has brought significant support to Chew Valley School.

"It has enabled the school to purchase equipment and provide experiences for students that would not have been possible without this invaluable help. It

is a fabulous community event that brings people together while raising money for worthy local causes."

Village support was once again out in force, with children from Bishop Sutton Primary School beating African drums along Widcombe Common to encourage runners, led by headteacher Tim Eustace.

The race was founded by local parents seeking to raise funds for Bishop Sutton Primary

School, combining community fundraising with a desire to encourage more people to get active through running. Since then, it has become a much-loved sporting event in the region.

After 14 years at the helm, the organising committee has announced its intention to step down, making the 2026 race the final event under the current team.

Race director Denise Mellersh said: "As a race committee, we've had so much fun putting on this wonderful event. We are incredibly grateful to our sponsors, the villagers of Bishop Sutton and Hinton Blewett, and the many volunteers who help make the race possible each year."

Matthew Cunio, who has run every Chew Valley 10k since the inaugural race, added: "I've loved the route, the marshals, the drumming group, the choir, the crowds and especially the cake. As I've said many times, it's the best 10k in the world. Thank you to everyone involved."



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Visitors welcome!



ADVERTISING FEATURE

Charity expands its dementia support

LOCAL charity ReMind UK is expanding its dementia support services into new areas around Bath and North-East Somerset (BANES), including Keynsham and Saltford.

The new, free services will help people with a dementia diagnosis and their families in these areas to connect, access support and build community as well as reduce isolation and loneliness.

This expansion has been made possible due to three years of funding awarded to the charity from the National Lottery's Reaching Communities Fund.

ReMind UK are building on their previous experience and success in providing post-diagnosis support in other areas of Bath and North-East Somerset (BANES).

Between 2023-2026 the charity's activities and interventions reached over 500 people in the BANES area.

Twelve 10-week wellbeing courses, 13 carers events and 24 seasonal events were delivered, 74



volunteers were recruited and over 2,770 people received ReMind UK's 'Handy Guide to Living Well with Dementia.'

The guide provides practical guidance and local resources for connection and support for people with a recent dementia diagnosis and carers.

Local partnerships were also created by the charity with a wide range of organisations including the Alzheimer's Society, Age UK BANES, Curo, the Holburne Museum, Peggy Dodd, the Carers Centre, BEMSCA, Live Well BANES, the National Trust, Alive! Activities and the FILO project.

Over the next three years, the

charity will provide a wide-ranging programme of activities and events in three postcode areas - BA2, BA3 and BS31.

The activities will include 10-week wellbeing programmes and carers information workshops. There will also be a variety of peer support activities and events such as visits to the Holburne Museum in Bath for craft workshops, coffee morning socials, poetry sessions, indoor team games and a tree trail event.

Melissa Hillier, CEO at ReMind UK, said: "We are delighted to bring our years of expertise in working with people affected by dementia to people who are newly diagnosed and their carers in new parts of Bath and North-East Somerset.

"These are communities we know are currently under-served for dementia support and where barriers such as travel or lack of awareness, particularly in more rural communities, can prevent people from accessing the support

they need at a challenging time in their lives."

Wendy and Bob Williamson, from Keynsham, who took part in ReMind UK's wellbeing programme, said: "It has been very informative, good fun and has given us confidence that dementia does not mean the end of life experiences, just a 'change' of direction – a way forward that seems more positive.

"Also, the connections and chance to share experiences and learn from each other has been great."

ReMind UK is also a research institute conducting world-class research into dementia treatments and provides dementia diagnosis services through its Memory Clinic.

For information about events and support services in your area, contact ReMind UK on 01225 476420 or visit www.reminduk.org/get-support.

The 'Handy Guide to Living Well with dementia' is available for free at www.reminduk.org

NEWS

Grounded coffee shop shuts

ALL Grounded coffee shops, including the one in Keynsham High Street, have closed.

Sources say staff and customers alike were given no notice and the closures were immediate.

Grounded also had shops in Redfield, Bedminster, Horfield and Fishponds in Bristol, as well as Corsham and Chippenham. The Keynsham premises at 39



High Street are listed as being available to rent on a letting site.

Keynsham customers reacted with shock and sadness to the news on Facebook, with one commenting: "Staff were lovely. I wish them well."

Another said: "It was my favourite place on the High Street and I'm so sorry to see it's closed."

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ReMind UK

Getting ahead of dementia

Are you, or a loved one, affected by a memory condition?



ReMind UK provides a programme of free support in Keynsham and across B&NES

- 10-week Wellbeing Programmes
- Seasonal activities and events
- Museum visits, Tree trail walks...
- Carers Information Days



Find out more:

📞 01225 476420
✉ info@reminduk.org
🌐 www.reminduk.org

Registered as a charity in England and Wales (No. 1042559)

NEWS FROM KEYNHAM TOWN COUNCIL



Join up to tackle low-level crime

An online initiative is available to help local businesses share information on anti-social behaviour, shoplifting, and low-level crime.



Scan here for info

DISC is a free, secure information sharing system, it does not replace police reporting but supports local awareness through a members-only platform, providing alerts, useful news, and reporting tools.

Businesses are invited to contact Amanda Leonard at amandal@keynsham-tc.gov.uk to begin the sign-up process.

Further information is available from the Keynsham Town Council Website www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk.

Explore great spaces during Heritage Open Days Festival



heritage open days

HERITAGE Open Days is England's largest festival of history and culture, encouraging people to visit interesting historic buildings, cultural venues, and natural spaces that they might not have visited before.

For ten days in September, our churches, Keynsham Cemetery, the Abbey, Albert Mill and the Library will once again be participating in this free event and we invite residents and visitors to come and explore Keynsham.

The festival runs from 11th to 20th September 2026. There will be a full programme of free events taking place across



Albert Mill can be explored during Heritage Open Days

our Town, which is steeped in history.

Keep your eye on the Keynsham Town Council social media pages, website and community boards for more

details in the run-up to the event.

A full programme will be available from the Town Council Office and Keynsham Library in August.

Bandstand in the Park

Live music continues on the Memorial Park Bandstand until September 2026

July	Saturday 11 th July	Thornbury Swing Band	2-3.45pm
	Sunday 12 th July	Phoenix Wind Band	12-2pm
	Saturday 18 th July	Bristol Concert Wind Band	2-4pm
	Sunday 19 th July	Nailsworth Silver Band	2-4pm
	Saturday 25 th July	Redland Wind Band	3-5pm
August	Saturday 1 st August	Bristol Fashion Chorus	2-3pm
	Sunday 2 nd August	Black Sheep Harmony	2:30-3:30pm
	Saturday 8 th August	Great Western Chorus	2-4pm
	Sunday 9 th August	Weston Brass	2-3.45pm
	Saturday 15 th August	Jelli Records presenting Malibu Barbie Delish & Davine Blues Collective	3-5pm
	Sunday 16 th August	Band of Avon Fire & Rescue Service	2-4pm
	Saturday 22 nd August	Zest Choir	2-3:15pm
	Sunday 23 rd August	Apollo Wind Band	2-4pm
Sunday 30 th August	Congresbury Brass	2-4pm	

September	Sunday 6 th Sept	Dodington Parish Band	3-5pm
	Saturday 12 th Sept	Serenade Big Band	2-4:30pm
	Sunday 13 th Sept	Keynsham Light Opera Group	2:30-4pm
	Saturday 19 th Sept	MSN & Radstock Silver Band	2-4pm
	Sunday 20 th Sept	Avon Wind Band Association	12-2pm
	Saturday 26 th Sept	Panache Steel Band	2-4pm
	Sunday 27 th Sept	Keynsham Brass Band	2-4pm

Find the programme here :

Follow our social media for updates.



Chapel renovations update



Essential repair work at the Keynsham Cemetery Chapel is continuing well and work is expected to complete at the end of July 2026. The safety of our visitors is paramount so there is still limited vehicle access during the day; gates will be unlocked from 4pm Monday to Friday and all weekend.

Grants for the Community

Keynsham Town Council Grants Committee met in June to award grant funding to local Charity Organisations and Community Groups.

For more than 18 years, Keynsham Town Council's Grant Award Scheme has supported new events, projects, activities, and items in the Town that demonstrate a benefit to Keynsham and/or residents.

We look forward to hosting the Grant recipients at the Grants Presentation Evening on Thursday 9th July. See the table on the right for details of this year's recipients.

Calling for stall holders at the Winter Festival 2026

This year's Keynsham Winter Festival is on Saturday 28th November, 12pm to 6pm.

We are excited to announce that expressions of interest are now open for traders and community groups at this year's Winter Festival.

If you would like to be considered for a trading spot, please complete our Expression of Interest form, which can be accessed by using the QR code below.

Please note that submitting the form does not guarantee a confirmed place at the event. We receive lots of interest each year and will review all applications carefully.

We will be in touch with applicants by the end of July to confirm successful traders. Full event details and set-up instructions will be sent to confirmed traders closer to the event date.

We cannot wait to bring another fantastic Winter Festival to the community and would love to hear from you.



KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL GRANT AWARDS

Organisation	Awarded
1st Keynsham Scout Group	£500
1st Salford Scout Group	£200
2386 Keynsham Air Cadets	£605.96
Age UK B&NES	£1,000
Albert Mill Heritage	£1,000
Avon Wildlife Trust Keynsham	£55
Bath Area Play Project	£1,000
Bereavement Support Keynsham	£1,000
Bright Start Children's Centre	£ 600
Bristol History & Archaeology Society	£668.60
Butterflies Haven	£1,000
Café Concerts CIO (Trio Paradis)	£1,000
Children's Scrapstore	£1,000
Combe Down Holiday Trust	£600
Dorothy House	£1,000
Forget Me Not Club	£500
Friends of Manor Road Community Woodland	£568
Frys Bowling Club	£850
Genesis Trust	£1,000
Golden Oldies	£496
Great Western Air Ambulance Charity	£1,000
Keynsham Amateur Swimming Club	£700
Keynsham & District Mencap Society	£1,000
Keynsham and Salford Dementia Action Alliance	£810
Keynsham Beekeepers	£200
Keynsham Community Fridge	£900
Keynsham Community Hub	£1,000
Keynsham Explorer Scout Unit	£ 600
Keynsham Girls' Brigade	£1,000
Keynsham Hockey Club	£800
Keynsham Life Saving Club	£330
Keynsham Light Opera Group	£853
Keynsham Methodist Church	£500
Keynsham Orchestra	£400
Keynsham Rugby U9s	£650
Keynsham Walkers Are Welcome	£500
One Church Keynsham	£1,000
Somerdale Shed and Community Garden	£1,000
Somerset Farmers' Market	£750
Southside Family Project	£500
South Western Ambulance Charity	£1,000
St John's Church	£600
Swan Advice Network	£1,000
The Brightwell	£100
We Hear You	£750
Total Grant Money Awarded	£32,586.56

MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Why we need visible policing



THE public tell me, in so many conversations, how important visible policing is to them.

Visible policing plays an important role in making people feel safe, improving communication with the public, and building trust and confidence in the police.

People want to know their communities are being listened to, and that their concerns are taken seriously.

Neighbourhood officers provide this significant link between the police and the public. They embed themselves into a community and become a consistent, dedicated contact, bringing people together and supporting community cohesion and safety.

Strengthening neighbourhood policing is one of the five priorities in my Police and Crime Plan, and I continue

to consistently advocate for local, visible policing.

It remains a national priority for the government, too, which has committed to an additional 13,000 officers, Police Community Support Officers, and special constables for neighbourhood teams across England and Wales, through its Neighbourhood Policing Guarantee – something I am working with Avon and Somerset Police to deliver locally.

But neighbourhood policing isn't just about being visible – it's also about meaningful engagement, long-term problem-solving, and strong partnership working. This is key to tackling local criminality and antisocial behaviour.

Antisocial behaviour and local criminality have complex causes that require sustained

investment, resource, and dedication.

While response officers play a critical role in responding to immediate threats or crises, neighbourhood policing focuses on solving problems at their root and delivering preventative, proactive action.

This requires coordinated action across all local services and community organisations; while neighbourhood officers play a vital role, they cannot deliver this alone, especially when we know that policing resources are already stretched.

That is why I continue to commission services and initiatives across Avon and Somerset that support preventative work and early intervention, including detached youth work, mentoring, school programmes, trauma-informed support, multi-agency research,

and youth outreach.

I know there is always more to do, and that antisocial behaviour and local criminality remain pervasive issues for our communities.

I hear your concerns, and I share them.

As your police and crime commissioner, I will continue to advocate for neighbourhood policing, focus resources where they are most needed, and work with partners to build safer communities.

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NEWS

Passengers rap bus changes in survey

KEYNSHAM Labour members have pledged to take residents' concerns directly to transport decision-makers following the survey they carried out on the impact of recent bus service changes in Keynsham.

The report based on the survey combines evidence from survey responses together with extensive feedback from residents on social media.

It highlights a number of concerns about the introduction of the new bus network, particularly around reliability, cancellations, bus stop arrangements and the provision of passenger information.

The survey found that about three-quarters of respondents felt services had become worse following the recent changes. The most frequently raised concerns included buses failing to arrive, delays, confusion over new routes and stopping locations, lack of timetables and route maps, and accessibility issues affecting elderly and disabled passengers.



Feedback from passengers has highlighted concerns about the new bus network

At the same time, the report identified some positive feedback, including improved access to parts of Keynsham, better links to Bristol and longer operating hours on some routes.

Martin Burton, who helped coordinate the survey, said: "We are grateful to everyone who took the time to complete the survey and share their experiences."

"The response demonstrates

how important local bus services are to residents and provides valuable evidence about the challenges people are facing since the changes were introduced.

"While some residents can see benefits in the revised network, there is a clear message that reliability, communication and implementation issues need to be addressed as a matter of urgency."

"One of the issues raised was accessing the bus by people with mobility aids or pushchairs. First Bus has confirmed that drivers are able to lower the bus or provide a ramp to help people get on the bus. If this applies to you then please alert the driver."

The report concludes that many of the concerns raised by residents relate not necessarily to the principle of the new routes themselves, but to the way the changes have been implemented and communicated.

In response to the findings, local Labour members will now be seeking meetings with the West of England Combined

Authority (WECA), Bath & North East Somerset Council (BANES) and First Bus to discuss the issues raised and explore potential solutions.

Local BANES ward councillor David Biddleston said: "We want to work constructively with First Bus, WECA and BANES to ensure that residents' concerns are properly heard and acted upon."

"Reliable and accessible public transport is essential for local people getting to work, education, healthcare appointments and leisure activities."

"The report provides a strong evidence base and we will be asking transport providers and local authorities what practical steps can be taken to improve reliability, provide better information for passengers and address the concerns that have been identified."

The Labour team will share the findings with transport partners and continue to engage with residents as discussions progress.

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NEWS

Jumping for joy - care home duo raise £1.5k



Daredevil duo Sarah Phelps, left, and Maddie Hewer, right, took the plunge to raise money for those whose lives are affected by dementia

TWO Keynsham care home colleagues have raised more than £1,500 for the Alzheimer’s Society after taking on a 10,000-foot skydive.

Sarah Phelps and Maddie Hewer from Meryton Place Care Home made the daring leap at Old Sarum Airfield in Wiltshire.

The pair free-fell for 30 seconds before their parachutes opened, and they safely landed back on solid ground.

Care home business administrator Sarah

said: “We had beautiful weather for it, and it was amazing. By far the best bit was the landing and having my feet back on firm ground!”

Receptionist Maddie added: “The plane ride up was my favourite part because it was really calm and peaceful, but physically jumping from the plane was definitely the scariest bit!”

The skydive was organised as part of

Dementia Action Week, which encourages people to take action to improve the lives of those living with dementia.

Sarah added: “We are incredibly grateful to everyone who has supported us and donated to the Alzheimer’s Society.

“Working in the care sector means we see first-hand the impact dementia can have, not only on those living with the condition but also on their loved ones.”

Bath & North East Somerset Council

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NEWS

BT loses appeal over street hub refusal

THE refusal of plans for a BT Street Hub in Keynsham High Street has been upheld on appeal.

The hubs are designed to replace traditional public phone kiosks, offering free public wifi, free phone calls, USB charging and other digital services.

BT Telecommunications wanted to put the unit between Poundland and Peacocks.

It would have included a 75-inch LCD display screen on each side showing digital billboard advertisements.

Bath & North East Somerset Council turned down the application in December last years after issa number of issues were raised, including antisocial behaviour.

BT Telecommunications then appealed to the Secretary of State against the decision – and now a government planning inspector has rejected that appeal.

The inspector ruled that the hub would be harmful to the character and appearance of the surroundings, being within the Keynsham conservation area and near Grade II listed buildings.

The inspector also cited information from local police about crime and antisocial behaviour in the High Street.

The inspector said: "The hub is likely to result in loitering and the gathering of



How the High Street hub would have looked
Image © BT / Mitie

individuals, which has the potential to increase instances of anti-social behaviour.

"I am also conscious of the comments that the illuminated nature of the advertisements can result in difficulties in the use of CCTV systems in discouraging and dealing with such occurrences."

When the plans were submitted to Bath & North East Somerset Council in September last year, Jason Price, a police designing out crime officer, sought the views of Sergeant Rob Turner of Keynsham's neighbourhood policing team.

Sgt Turner responded that "Poundland suffers the most ASB and theft in Keynsham, due to its location being on the main

thoroughfare for both senior schools in Keynsham.

"Due to the suggested location, this would cause groups, predominantly young persons, to gather in an area that already suffers issues with ASB and theft and, from over 22 years of policing experience, exacerbate them.

"I do not believe this is a viable option and would cause a strain on policing in the area."

Keynsham Town Council also objected to the scheme, as did local B&NES councillors Alex Beaumont and Alan Hale.

Cllr Beaumont (Keynsham North) said the hub would not fit in with the High Street's character and pointed out that there was already advertising on four bus stops in the town centre.

Cllr Hale (Keynsham South) said there was no proven need for the hub, as most coffee shops already offered free wifi. He also said the hub might get in the way of pedestrians and disability scooters at busy times, with the risk of people stepping off the kerb into the cycle lane.

Cllr Beaumont told the Voice he welcomed the decision to reject BT's appeal.

He said: "I'm not opposed to Street Hubs as a concept but this was a terrible location to place one, blocking use of the pavement in the middle of the High Street."

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CABARET MECHANICAL THEATRE

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Adult Fiction

Room on the Sea

Andre Aciman

This little book punches above its weight. During a scorching summer in New York, Catherine and Paul have been called to jury duty and face a long wait to be chosen in a stifling jury room.

They start talking about the book Catherine is reading, and so begins a lovely flirtation. They have lunch at a Chinese restaurant – Catherine's first experience of Chinese – they walk in parks, and have coffee in a favourite café. They get upset if the other does not turn up or is actually called into a court case. But as their jury time comes to close, they must choose whether to continue or abandon their time together. A great read.

July sees the launch of our popular Summer Reading Challenge. If you are aged between four and 11 years old, the challenge is to read six books over the summer holiday. You can collect stickers and receive a certificate at the end. Look out for some fun activities over the summer in your local library, too. So, to start you off:

Children's Fiction

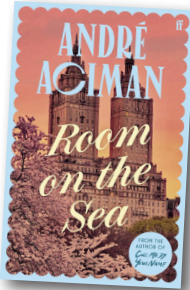
A Girl's Guide to Spying

Holly Webb

Holly Webb is well known for her fairy-inspired children's books, but this is a new adventure. She writes brilliantly for children, with great, gripping stories.

This book revolves around the Girl Guides during the Second World War and in particular Phyl, who is reluctantly dragged to her local Guides by her sister.

However, she is soon given a mission by her captain to deliver messages for MI5. Phyl is thrilled to be helping the war effort,



especially in espionage.

There are missing majors, secret codes and spies. Every chapter begins with a quote from 1940s newspapers and the Girl Guides Gazette to explain to the reader the real-life activities of Girl Guides during the war.

Doctor Bonkers

Jeremy Strong

Jeremy Strong is a great, funny writer and his stories are very silly, so ... cosmic pyjamas! Doctor Bonkers has invented the Doombuster and history is all topsy-turvy. Then the machine is stolen and a huge mix-up is unleashed. Rosie, her brothers and her new cosmic PJs have to beat pharaohs, Vikings and dinosaurs to put history right. Can they save the world?

Warning: side effects could include aching cheeks and tears of laughter.

The Intergalactic Bus Trip

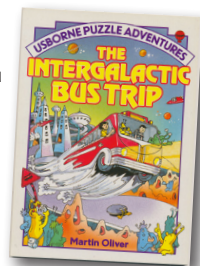
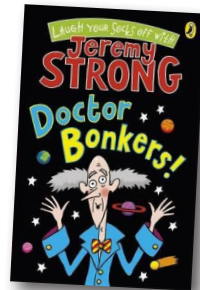
Usborne Puzzle Adventures

Martin Oliver

These puzzle books are great if you are a bit of a reluctant reader. Join Tom and Izzy on the number nine bus as it hurtles through its intergalactic bus route.

Who is the strange person sitting behind them who calls himself Roger and has a friend called Norman on the planet Nova? See what happens when Roger is kidnapped and Tom and Izzy have to find him, as he holds the clue to them finding the next bus back to Earth.

This book is part of the Usborne Puzzle Adventures series. Every page has a puzzle or clue to solve to take the reader onto the next adventure, with extra clues if you get stuck.



Some really exciting news. We have been working with the librarian at Wellsway School, Keynsham, and she has sent us some book reviews from their Rising Stars students. Thanks to everyone involved. Here they are:

Emma

Jane Austen

reviewed by Zara

The classic novel, published in 1815, is about Emma, a young, wealthy and clever girl who believes in her opinion that she is a match-maker, though she soon learns to recognise her own vanity and misjudgement.

She meets Harriet Smith - a young, rather pretty girl with little to no understanding of the modern world - and Emma decides this is her next match-making project.

Harriet has no money of her own and absolutely no idea of who her father could be, most likely a businessman in London. She soon explores her own romantic endeavours, much to Emma's dismay, and the outcome is unexpected for the two friends in the world of romance.

Harry Potter

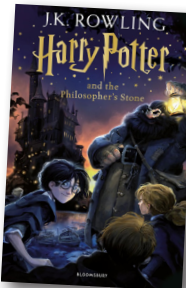
J. K. Rowling

reviewed by Izzy

Do you like the idea of going to a magical school? If so, you'll love Harry Potter, a series about a young boy who is accepted into Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

When Harry makes friends with Ron Weasley and Hermione Granger, they go on multiple adventures across the series that include magical creatures, flying, and several encounters with the antagonist Lord Voldemort (don't say his name!).

Most of these adventures involve the headmaster (Albus Dumbledore), who is loved by Hogwarts students and staff alike. As there's a new TV show coming



out in December 2026, I would really recommend these books. No matter what your age, this is must-read.

The List of Suspicious Things

Jennie Godfrey

reviewed by Florence

From Yorkshire to down south, disappearing women and murder - will Miv and her family need to escape these suspicious goings-on? My favourite part is when Miv and her friend Sharon (the main characters) go on an adventure to find out who is behind the mask. They ask their teacher - and his wife, would you believe? This made me laugh and I bet would you, too.

Although this is murder mystery, there is a bit of surprising humour. And at a serious stage of the story, there's a part you didn't expect to happen. This is the best murder mystery for teenagers, so give it a read! Do you want to find out who's behind the mask?

Library news

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

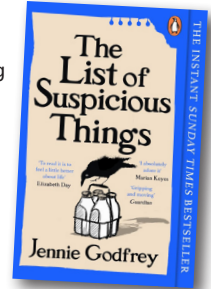
There is so much going on in all our libraries, and it's all free. So drop in and see what's on offer.

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 libraries 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/>



NEWS

Revised cul-de-sac plan wins approval



The bungalow at 22 The Tynings is to be demolished and replaced with four new ones in its large garden



PLANS to build a cul-de-sac on a Saltford bungalow’s garden have been approved, after developers agreed to build one fewer house than previously proposed.

A plan to knock down the bungalow at 22 The Tynings and build a cul-de-sac over its “rather large” rear garden was unanimously rejected by councillors on Bath and North East Somerset Council’s planning committee in January.

Councillors said the five bungalows the applicant wanted to build would be “over-development.”

But now they have granted planning permission for a revised scheme after the applicant

proposed building just four bungalows instead. The decision came down to a single vote.

Speaking for the applicant, town planner Morgan Jones said: “The applicant and the architect have carefully considered the comments made during the assessment of the original application and they have presented this revised proposal, which I hope you will agree addresses the issues that have been raised.”

Neighbours living near the site urged the committee to turn down the plans once again, warning: “Not enough has changed.”

But councillors said the

revised scheme was better.

Saltford ward councillor Duncan Hounsell (Liberal Democrat), said: “This is a better application, with the number of proposed dwellings on the site reduced from five to four bungalows, leading to a consequent increase in the proportion of biodiversity net gain that can be achieved on site.”

Planning committee member Fiona Gourley (Bathavon South, Liberal Democrat) said she thought it was an efficient use of space, given the need to build homes.

She added: “The fact that these are bungalows - smaller,

affordable, and suitable for older people - I think that that is good.”

But Paul Crossley (Southdown, Liberal Democrat) said he still was not convinced.

He said: “Five was massively over-development, and this is just simply over-development. I think it’s cramming far too much into this space.”

He added: “I think it is trying to take advantage of the government directive that we’ve got to build, build, build, build, build, build.”

Councillors voted 5-4 to grant planning permission.

John Wimperis, Local Democracy Reporting Service

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KEYNSHAM WALKERS ARE WELCOME



Sunny adventure in the woodland

These walkers saw a heron basking in the sun before they stopped to admire this striking ammonite sculpture at Abbotts Community Woodland

BLESSED with fine weather and pleasant walking conditions, around 18 walkers joined walk leader Dawn Drury for an enjoyable Sunday stroll to and around Abbotts Community Woodland.

Abbotts Wood was planted in the early 1990s as part of the Forest of Avon and Forestry Commission grant scheme. Thanks to the dedication of volunteers from the Friends of Abbotts Wood Community Group, together with the Bath & North East Somerset Council tree team, the woodland continues to thrive as a valued green space for the people of Keynsham and visitors alike.

The group gathered at the start point on Sunday June 14 before setting off through the park, passing the duck pond, where they were lucky to see a heron basking in the sun.

Turning into Dapps Hill, Dawn paused to share some fascinating local history, recounting the impact of the devastating floods of 1968, before the walkers continued up the narrow lane towards St Clements Road and the Park Road allotments.

One of the more adventurous sections of the walk followed the old Parkhouse Lane footpath,



which was both stony and heavily overgrown. Fortunately, fellow walker Adam came to the rescue, expertly clearing the way with his trusty secateurs and ensuring everyone could continue safely.

Recent housing developments have been linked to the historic route, and it was not long before the group exchanged rough ground for smooth tarmac paths skirting the Meadows estate.

As the walkers approached the woodland,

the bustle of the housing estates faded away, replaced by the tranquillity of birdsong and rustling leaves.

The group spent around 30 minutes exploring the network of woodland paths, enjoying the peaceful surroundings before stopping for refreshments and a group photograph beside the striking ammonite sculpture.

The sculpture celebrates Keynsham's rich geological heritage. The town sits on Jurassic-era Lias rock, where ammonite fossils, once known locally as "snakestones", have been discovered for centuries.

The return journey to Keynsham proved a little easier, avoiding the rocky and overgrown path near the allotments. With good company, interesting local history, beautiful woodland scenery and even a little light path-clearing along the way, it was a thoroughly enjoyable walk for all who took part.

● The group is delighted to report that it has received a £500 grant from Keynsham Town Council to help towards the cost of this year's walking festival in September. A big thank-you to council's grants committee for its generosity.



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.

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For more info, contact kat.dingle@unitedresponse.org.uk

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NEWS

Afternoon tea raises £5,000 for charity

TWO successful events in Keynsham have helped to raise money for Operation Community Hamper (OCH).

The charity's volunteers support hundreds of families and vulnerable people throughout the year. They continue to develop initiatives that respond directly to community needs, providing targeted support where it is needed most.

OCH held its second afternoon tea event at Keynsham Rugby Club on May 31. While last year's event welcomed around 80 attendees, this year's was even more successful, attracting more than 160.

Guests were greeted with a glass of prosecco or orange juice before being shown to their tables. They were then served a selection of sandwiches, cakes and desserts, complemented by tea served in classic bone china sets.

The afternoon also featured a raffle and quiz, as well as a speech from Charlotte Churchill, the charity's CEO, about the history of OCH.



Operation Community Hamper offers young people the chance to borrow prom outfits for their special day. Right, tables laid out for the charity's afternoon tea at Keynsham Rugby Club

The event raised over £5,000, enabling OCH to continue supporting local families and young people.

OCH also held its second quiz night on Sunday June 14 at the Masonic Lodge in Keynsham.

Charlotte Churchill, CEO at OCH, said: "I am constantly amazed by the generosity of our community and the many

different ways people choose to support us. Whether it's donating prom attire to help young people attend their special events with confidence, bringing tables and teams to our quiz nights, dressing up in their summer dresses for our afternoon tea, or simply buying raffle tickets, every contribution makes a real difference."

Upcoming events include a sponsored colour run planned for September.

People can also support OCH throughout the summer by collecting blue tokens at Tesco stores in Keynsham, Saltford and Longwell Green, and voting for OCH as their chosen charity. Voting is open until July 31.

Meanwhile, OCH has once again been named a finalist in the BBC Make a Difference Awards.

Charlotte said: "Being named finalists in the BBC Make a Difference Awards is a real honour for OCH.

"I am often the face people associate with the charity and, naturally, I receive a lot of the praise, but the truth is that everything we achieve is down to the incredible people around me."

"They work tirelessly, often behind the scenes, to make a difference in the lives of others every single day.

"I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved together and grateful that their dedication and commitment are being recognised in this way."

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■ WHAT'S ON

Thurs-Sat July 2-4

■ Agatha Christie's *The Mirror Crack'd* will be performed by the Oldland Players at Longwell Green Community Centre on July 2, 3 and 4, 7.30pm. Tickets: www.oldlandplayers.co.uk or call 0117 932 5882.

Friday July 3

■ 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 August 7 and September 4.



Saturday July 4

■ Out of the Ashes in concert at Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, 7pm start, doors open 6.30pm.

Sunday July 12

■ Local history walk around central Keynsham, looking at the history of the various railway and road bridges in the town, led by Richard Dyson. Meet outside St John's Parish Church for a 2.30pm start. The walk will be on pavements and through the park. Distance 1.5-2 miles and duration up to 1.5 hours. There is no charge and no advance booking required.

Sunday July 12

■ Social at Broadlands Community Orchard, between 10am and 11 am, weather permitting. Entrances are on Winscombe Close and St Anne's Avenue. Bring a brew and chat with locals who are developing a community orchard on a little recreation ground. It would be great to get the views and ideas from people who regularly use the site for dog walking, picnics, kicking a ball about etc. All welcome.

Monday July 20

■ 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.

We would love to publicise your event

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

WHAT IT IS WHERE IT IS WHEN IT IS

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

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).

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

■ Keynsham Brass Band, Broadlands School, St Francis Road, Keynsham, 7.30pm to 9.30pm term time. Trombonists particularly needed for traditional brass band. Friendly, relaxed group who play at summer fetes in Keynsham Memorial Park and a few concerts. Call Sarah Medley on 0117 4625626 or email

sarah.medley1@btinternet.com, or see the Facebook page or webpage (Keynsham Brass Band).

Mondays/Weds/Thursdays

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

Mondays/Thursdays

■ Yoga For Men

Monday 7-8pm 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 for further details.

Mondays/Fridays

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

Tuesdays

■ Salford Bridge Club group meet Thursday evenings to play duplicate bridge at Salford Golf Club. New members welcome. If you don't have a partner, the club can often find one for you. Contact Val on 07989775780.

■ Little Blessings runs on a Tuesday morning from 10.30am to 12pm (term time) at St Mary's Church Hall in Salford. 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 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/

■ 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.

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

■ Salford Choir is holding its last meeting before the summer break on Tuesday July 7 with a sing-a-long and American supper. On July 21 and August 11 & 25, there will be social sing-a-long sessions from 7.30 in the Wansdyke Room at Salford Hall to which everyone is welcome.

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

■ 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 (next meeting July 14) 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.

WHAT'S ON

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@avoncountyrowingclub.org.uk to book. More details <http://avoncountyrowingclub.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 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.

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

■ 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.

■ 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

■ Discipleship group meets on alternate Wednesdays (July 1 and July 15) at Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, 10.30am-11.30am.

Wednesdays/Thurs/Friday

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

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.

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

■ 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://asp-poetrycircle.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 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.

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.

■ 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.

■ 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.

■ **More What's On: Page 36**

WHAT'S ON

Saturdays

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

■ 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 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

Meal vouchers scheme change

BATH & North East Somerset Council is changing the way it supports families who currently receive free school meal vouchers during school holidays.

The council will continue providing vouchers through the summer holidays, after which support will be delivered in a "more targeted way", focused on helping families facing financial difficulty and strengthening longer-term financial resilience.

The vouchers are funded through the UK government-supported Crisis & Resilience Fund, which is a short term response to financial hardship rather than a permanent scheme.

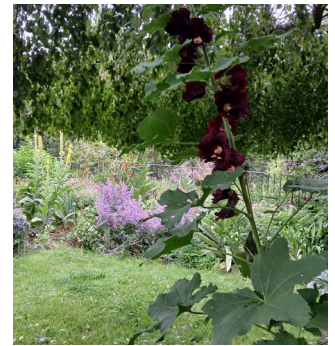
Families facing financial difficulty will still be able to apply for crisis support through the Crisis & Resilience Fund. The council's Welfare Support team will also continue to help residents with essential costs through the Local Welfare Provision scheme. For more information, go to <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/changes-free-school-meal-holiday-vouchers>.

KEYNSHAM IN BLOOM



Keynsham in Bloom volunteers helped Vinci Construction and B&NES Council officers to plant up new troughs to be displayed outside the Riverside retail units on Temple Street and Riverside Square

Can do! Traders in High Street play their part



High Street troughs and a flower bed in the Pocket Park

THANK goodness for local businesses watering our High Street containers, as temperatures hit the heights.

They have been helping to keep the displays pretty for the Golden Watering Can competition, which ends in September, and also for South West in Bloom judging on July 17.

Smart Computers have given a generous donation and the two troughs outside their business are flourishing. Thank you, Dean and the gang.

Our volunteers have been incredibly busy, especially working on the Dee James Memorial Train at Keynsham Station. It has been repainted and replanted and will be refurbished with a boiler, chimney and engine driver. It's not quite complete, so no photos until August. Dee would be very proud.

Weeding and grass-cutting continues in the Pocket Park and we have one froglet in our pond. Hollyhocks and vebasiums are triffid height, the roses are lovely, and this year we will be spreading our own compost.

The summer jasmine is coming into flower and home-grown sunflowers have been planted. Thank you, wonderful volunteers.

Another new project is seven wooden troughs in Temple Street. Although they are not part of Keynsham in Bloom, several of our members helped with the planting.

The Memorial Crown in the park has been planted with summer bedding and the rose is looking lovely.



A well-earned rest on the Dee James Memorial Train. Above left, the container in Holmoak Road

Bravo, volunteer Lin. Ty is looking after Holmoak containers and the Queens Road alpine are flowering. The raised herb bed is ready for another coat of grey stain and the herbs are so happy. The Chandag Road alpine containers are looking healthy and will love this weather.

If you would like to join us, please contact me at catherinemarywoodman@gmail.com or drop into Keynsham Town Council in Temple Street and I will find you. If you can spare an occasional hour, we would love to meet you.

Mary Woodman

KEYNSHAM SCOUTS

Our eager Beavers need your leadership



Colour runs and inflatable slides are part of the fun for the Beavers

ARE you over 18, up for a bit of adventure, and looking for a fun way to volunteer in your local community?

Our Beaver Scout colonies meet on Tuesdays and Fridays, and both are looking to grow their brilliant leadership teams. With waiting lists full of young people ready to join, we need more amazing volunteers to help make the adventure happen.

Beaver Scouts love trying new things - from camping and crafts to colour runs, inflatable slides, games and challenges.

Our Beavers recently took part in their district camp. You can see the smiles on the faces as they try new things with a real sense of adventure.

You do not need any Scouting experience - just enthusiasm, a sense of fun, and a desire to help young people enjoy unforgettable adventures. You are never too old to get involved.



If you think you could help, we would love to hear from you. Email scouts@1stkeynshamscouts.org. uk or pop into the Scout HQ on a Tuesday or Friday between 6.15pm and 7.15pm to see our Beavers in action.



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PROPERTY

**SALTFORD
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Nestled on the prestigious Homefield Road in Saltford, "Somercourt" is an exceptional detached family home that beautifully marries the charm of its 1930s origins with modern living.

With four spacious reception rooms, five well-appointed bedrooms and three bathrooms, this splendid property is designed to accommodate the needs of a growing family comfortably.

Set on a generous plot, the home is surrounded by a mature, enclosed rear garden. The property also includes a double garage and a driveway that can accommodate up to four vehicles.

For those seeking additional living space, there is potential for an annex with an en-suite.

The interior of "Somercourt" is enhanced by modern features such as under-floor heating on the ground floor and in the master bedroom. Two of the bedrooms also benefit from balconies that provide views towards the picturesque Kelston Roundhill.

Saltford is a highly desirable location, just six miles from Bath and



eight miles from Bristol. The property falls within the catchment area of well-regarded local schools, including Saltford Primary and Wellsway School in Keynsham.

An internal inspection is highly recommended to fully appreciate the quality and potential of this remarkable family home.

Arrange your viewing with Eveleighs on 0117 904 9000



ADVERTISING FEATURE

You'll feel right at home with the Eveleighs team

Fifteen years ago Eveleighs was founded by Robin Eveleigh and Bridget Mitchell with a simple promise: to put people and the places they call home first, and to be known as the most trusted agency in the area.

Today, following a fresh, modern rebrand, that promise remains at the heart of everything we do.

We began with an uphill battle: while most agents relied on prominent high-street offices, we chose a home-based model.

"Refreshingly different" was our positioning then, and that choice has stood the test of time. Post COVID it's increasingly recognised as a sensible way to deliver personal, flexible service.

As a proud, independent estate and letting agency working mainly across BS31, BS4 and BS14 (and the surrounding villages and areas), we've grown steadily and thoughtfully - primarily through recommendations from the people we've helped.

Our team has grown to 11 dedicated professionals, all of whom live and work in the communities we serve and bring many years' local estate-agency experience - 273 to be precise, which is pretty impressive for 11 people.

That knowledge, combined with a readiness to go the extra mile, has earned us more than



300 five star Google reviews from satisfied sellers, buyers, landlords and tenants.

To us, estate agency has always been more than selling, buying, letting, or managing a property; it's about relationships and community.

We're honoured to be invited into people's lives at pivotal moments - first homes, new babies, marriages, bereavement, divorce, upsizing, downsizing or empty nests.

Fifteen years on, it remains a privilege to share these important chapters and to support

our local communities through sponsorships and donations.

Robin and Bridget thank everyone who has supported us on this journey - many of you moving with us more than once. We couldn't have grown without your trust.

We look forward to the next chapter: continuing to deliver honest, personal service, strengthening the neighbourhoods we call home, and being part of your home moving journey. Visit our brand new website at www.eveleighs.com to see how we can help.

SPORTS NEWS

Plan for 3G pitch at Wellsway is backed

PLANS have been unveiled for an artificial grass pitch at Wellsway School in Keynsham that would benefit both the school and local community all year round.

Futura Learning Partnership has submitted a planning application for the scheme to Bath & North East Somerset Council.

It would involve replacing a natural turf pitch with a 3G facility measuring 97 metres by 61 metres.

The scheme includes a 4.5-metre-high perimeter fencing, hardstanding areas, a storage container and an access footpath.

The pitch would also have six 15-metre-high floodlights, a similar height to the floodlights on the adjacent hockey pitch.

The applicants say the pitch would be more than 70 metres north of the nearest house so the predicted noise reaching it would be below the 50 dB criterion set out by the World Health Organization.

The proposed opening hours will be 8am to 10pm Monday to Saturday, with lights out and a curfew of 10.15pm; and 8am to 8pm on Sundays and bank holidays, with an 8.15pm curfew.

The application says: "The design complements Wellsway School and the surrounding environment, ensuring minimal



The proposed 3G pitch location marked in red
Image: Surfacing Standards Limited

visual impact. It is sympathetic to its surroundings, avoiding any unacceptable impact on adjacent public areas or residential neighbours."

The scheme would involve the removal of trees on the site, so 19 trees would be planted elsewhere in the school grounds to compensate.

The proposals have attracted 31 comments on the B&NES Council planning portal, all of them in support of the scheme.

Many were from people connected to local sports groups such as Fry Club Juniors Football Club, Dads v Dads, and Keynsham Hockey Club.

One supporter said: "This additional pitch at Wellsway would really benefit our growing community (lots of new houses being built in the locality).

"It would support local sport teams and clubs which are growing in numbers and who currently are struggling to get enough time on the current pitch at Wellsway."

The proposal was also backed by a parent of three children who play a variety of sports, including football, rugby and hockey, but who miss out when the facilities they use become water-logged during heavy rain.

"We are in desperate need of this facility and it will be well supported due to the huge number of children and adults in the area that would use this pitch for various sports.

"I'd be grateful as a parent of young children and a sports participant myself if this would be speedily approved."

Keynsham Town Council planning committee said it supported the planning application.

WILD & LYE

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■ SALT FORD LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Let Wimbledon be your inspiration!

EVERY year around this time, Salford Lawn Tennis Club notice an increase in tennis court bookings – often referred to as the 'Wimbledon Effect'.

Inspired by the excitement of the championships, many people dust off their rackets and head to the courts.

As a community tennis club, we make our courts available for everyone to book at £6 per hour. Bookings can be made through our website – search for Salford Lawn Tennis Club.

Our club is run entirely by volunteers, with our head coach being our only employee. We are a not-for-profit organisation, and all income from memberships and coaching sessions is reinvested into maintaining our facilities and keeping our courts in excellent condition.

We also have floodlights, allowing play until 9.30pm throughout the year. A small additional charge applies for floodlight use.

Being a community club means more than simply providing tennis courts. We are proud to support local events, and we were delighted to be involved in this year's Salford Festival.

On Saturday June 13, we had a stand at the Salford Hall open morning, which allows local organisations to showcase their activities. It included a three-minute video highlighting life at the club. The event generated plenty of interest, particularly in our walking tennis sessions.

Walking tennis takes place every Wednesday and Thursday morning at 10am during term time and consists of coached sessions suitable for all abilities. The game uses slightly softer balls and allows the ball to



Kath Wilson and John Marsh ready to take on all-comers at the Salford School fair

bounce twice. It is ideal for anyone returning to tennis after a break or injury, or those who have never played before.

We also run a dedicated session every Thursday at 10.45am for people living with Parkinson's disease. These sessions have proved extremely popular, and our coach adapts activities to suit the needs of all participants. Anyone interested can attend their first session free of charge. For more information, email sec.salfordtennis@gmail.com.

On Monday June 15, we helped Salford

Community Association to organise its popular quiz night. The questions are written by keen tennis player and excellent quizmaster John Sweet, who has been hosting quizzes for around 25 years.

The evening included a ploughman's supper, licensed bar and prizes for the winning team. A total of 127 people attended, with the 'Answering Machine' team retaining their title from last year.

On Saturday June 20, we set up three portable tennis nets in the playground at Salford Primary School for the summer fair. We also provided rackets and balls so children and families could enjoy a free game. This is always one of the fair's most popular activities and allows us to introduce people to the club and our coaching programme.

The final event of the festival took place on Sunday June 21 at Salford Sports Club's sports fun day. In partnership with the sports club, we opened our courts for a free afternoon of tennis. Although it was quieter than usual – perhaps because it was Father's Day – we still welcomed several families who enjoyed playing tennis in the sunshine.

Salford Lawn Tennis Club cater for all ages and abilities, from inclusive tennis sessions for neurodivergent and d/Deaf children aged four to 16, to tennis groups for toddlers aged two to four on Friday mornings.

So, if you can hit a ball – or would like to give it a try – our club should be on your list of places to visit. We are open all year round.

For more information, please email sec.salfordtennis@gmail.com.

■ FRY'S BOWLING CLUB

Fightback earns Fry's a close victory at Seven Vale

Bristol and District League:

Fry's returned to the winners' column in a tight encounter at Severn Vale A. Severn Vale took the early lead, but Fry's went ahead after a comeback on rink 2. Heading into the final three ends one shot up, Fry's picked up a combined 3 shots, dropping only a single, to take a 49-46 victory.

League leaders Bradley Stoke A took all 10 points the following week. A tight local derby at Keynsham saw Fry's take 8 points with a 43-38 win. Rink 3 picked up a comfortable win, with Fry's skip adding a third shot on the last bowl to take rink 2.

Another tight game against Bristol St Andrew's A came down to the final ends with Fry's 3 shots up with 2 ends left.

With Fry's match down on the rinks, Fry's skip on rink 3 drew shot and, with a Fry's bowl knocked for second, they held a 5-shot lead. Bristol St Andrew's skip was unable to add to the count and a drawn second shot from Fry's skip secured a 41-37 win.

Poor middle ends would prove costly at Victoria Park A as they took a 52-45 win, leaving Fry's in 5th in the table.

Scores:

May 21: Fry's 49-46 Severn Vale A - Rink 1, 19-9; Rink 2, 19-21; Rink 3, 11-16 (6-4).

May 28: Fry's 38-38 Bradley Stoke A - Rink 1, 15-17; Rink 2, 9-13; Rink 3, 14-18 (0-10).

June 4: Fry's 43-38 Keynsham A - Rink 1, 11-13; Rink 2, 16-15; Rink 3, 16-10 (8-2).

June 11: Fry's 41-37 Bristol St Andrew's A - Rink 1, 12-13; Rink 2, 18-10; Rink 3, 11-14 (6-4).

June 18: Fry's 45-52 Victoria Park A - Rink 1, 13-13; Rink 2, 10-29; Rink 3, 22-10 (3-7).

Friday Triples League

Fry's put up a good fight against St Anne's Park but fell just short in week 6 of the Triples League. Fry's were able to take one rink by 7 shots, with another rink missing out by one shot. St Anne's won the third rink by 8 shots, which saw them take a 43-41 win, with Fry's taking 2 points.

Fry's ended a run of 6 games without a win in the league as they took 10 points against Begbrook Green, winning 59-48.

A tough day at Knowle saw Fry's come home with only 2 points. A 7-shot win on one rink and only losing another rink by 6 left the game tight, but Knowle comfortable won the third

rink to take a 56-41 victory.

Fry's earned their second win in a bottom-of-the-table match against the visiting Bristol Greenbank. Fry's won all 3 rinks and took all 12 points in the 53-36 win.

Scores:

May 22: Fry's 41-43 St Anne's Park - Rink 1, 15-16; Rink 2, 10-18; Rink 3, 16-9 (2-10).

May 29: Fry's 59-48 Begbrook Green - Rink 1, 26-14; Rink 2, 21-14; Rink 3, 12-20 (10-2).

June 5: Fry's 41-56 Knowle - Rink 1, 19-12; Rink 2, 7-23; Rink 3, 15-21 (2-10).

June 12: Fry's 53-36 Bristol Greenbank - Rink 1, 18-15; Rink 2, 17-9; Rink 3, 18-12 (12-0).

Cup

The first round of the Bristol and District League Lloyd Trophy saw Fry's make the short trip to St Anne's Park. Fry's struggled on rinks 1 and 2 as St Anne's pulled away to a 69-46 victory. The following week, St Anne's ended Fry's defence of the Triples League Cup.

Scores:

June 9: Fry's 46-69 St Anne's Park - Rink 1, 10-21; Rink 2, 6-30; Rink 3, 30-18.

KEYNSHAM CRICKET CLUB

Uneven performances leave room for improvement

KEYNSHAM Cricket Club hosted Brislington on May 23, winning the toss and choosing to bat.

The home team made a reasonable start courtesy of Will Burston's 58, but no one carried on the good work. In fact it needed the lower order in the shape of Sam Lowe (21) and Jack Stone (18) to achieve a meagre 183 all out.

Will Burston provided hope by bowling 10.1.44.5, but Brislington won by 2 wickets with 19 balls remaining. Disappointing - we must do better.

Next came a visit to Knowle,

where Keynsham were captained by Will Burston. We batted first. Will, who made 46, had promoted his brother James to number 3, which proved to be a masterstroke. James was last out for a superb 93 as we reached 231-8.

Would it be enough? Just. Knowle reached 220-7 without time pressure, then a crucial wicket fell. Last man Clancy hit a huge 6, leaving 5 runs needed for victory. Clancy then mishit, and James Burston dived forward to take a superb catch. A win by 4 runs.

Will Burston contributed

8.1.25.4, giving him an unbelievable 11/70 in 3 games. Outstanding.

Sadly, our trip to Bristol West Indies was rained off, so next we faced Frenchay at home. Having been put in to bat, we collapsed to 46/5. Yet again Sam Lowe (57) and Jack Stone "saved" us, as we posted 195.

It was not nearly enough. Apart from Will Burston (7.0.35.4) our attack was lacking, with Frenchay reaching their target with 8 down and 4 overs left. A poor Keynsham performance.

Top-of-the-table Bishopston away was next. Bish won toss, chose to bat and scored runs quickly all down the order to reach 268/8. Would five runs an over prove too many?

Will Burston's excellent 81 and James Burston's 48 saw us to 156-3, but we were behind the run rate and both fell attempting remedy this. Those following did likewise, as we subsided to an inauspicious 197 all out.

Considerable improvement is needed for our next encounter, home to Bath.

KEYNSHAM BOWLING CLUB

Club and county show true spirit of their sport



WHILST our ladies' and gents' league matches continue on a weekly basis, we are also embracing our internal club competitions, as well as those against other clubs.

The Ray Percival mixes triples ended in a win for Mary Millard, Geoff Yorath and David Howell. They

finished with the same number of points as Maureen Cavill, Ken Gaul and Richard Watkins but pipped them by a three-shot difference.

In the men's two wood, Geoff Yorath and Paul Matthews came out on top and will play each other at our finals day in September.

Our ladies beat Chew Stoke in the Southey Cup and now face Alexandra Park in the next round. In the Top Club competition, they went under to a very strong Long Ashton side. Our gents also lost their Top Club fixture, playing away to a strong Bath team.

Our club chairman, Steve Coles, is also president of the Somerset Bowls Association. This entitles him to host a series of county matches on his club's green, one of which is between the county and his own club.

Our president, John Nix, was on the gate to welcome players of both sides to our green. After the game, all players sat down for a meal prepared by Maggie Davies and her crew of caterers, with the Keynsham captain of the day, Paul Matthews, acting as the master of ceremonies.

John Nix said grace and, after the meal, asked all to stand for a toast to His Majesty the King. Paul then called on our men's club captain, Bob Edge, to welcome

all our guests. He expressed his pleasure at seeing so many past Somerset presidents attending and said he hoped to see many of them at the two county games Keynsham will host.

Bob was pleased to announce that the raffle raised £206 for the Great Western Air Ambulance Service, which is the ladies' and gents' captains' chosen charity for 2026.

In announcing the county as victors in the game, Bob said the occasion was all about new friendships being forged and old friendships renewed. He concluded by asking everyone to raise a toast to the Somerset Bowls Association.

Our MC Paul then invited president Steve to say a few words, followed by a conclusion to the day's proceedings and wishing all a safe journey home. This was an afternoon, I would suggest, that firmly illustrated the friendship and camaraderie of lawn bowling.

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KEYNSHAM AMATEUR SWIMMING CLUB

Lynne takes on president's role

LYNNE Bartlett of Keynsham Amateur Swimming Club has been appointed president of Somerset Amateur Swimming Association for 2026/27.

Lynne has been involved in swimming for more than 35 years, initially answering the call for poolside helpers before progressing through coaching qualifications and attending weekends in Loughborough to attain her level 3 coaching qualification.

Together with Thea Beament, Lynne led the coaching team at Keynsham ASC during the 2000s, overseeing a period of remarkable success for the club.

During this time, many swimmers progressed into performance programmes at the University of Bath and the City of Bristol. Notable achievements included the development of swimmers such as Siobhan Marie O'Connor and a decade competing in the Premier Division of the Western Arena League.

Following her retirement from regular poolside coaching, Lynne



became heavily involved in the club's committee and has served as chairperson for several years.

She has helped steer the club through significant challenges, including pool closures, the impact of the pandemic, and the increasing demands placed on swimming clubs.

Today, Lynne remains actively

involved with the club. With two grandchildren currently swimming at Keynsham ASC, retirement from poolside duties has proved short-lived.

She has returned to coach the preliminary squad, while her son, Tom, now coaches the junior squad.

Chris Metcalfe, secretary of Keynsham ASC, said: "I am delighted that these many years of service are being recognised with the presidency of Somerset ASA."

This appointment recognises Lynne's outstanding contribution to swimming and the lasting impact she has made on generations of swimmers in Somerset.

Keynsham ASC is a thriving competitive swimming club serving swimmers from Keynsham and the surrounding areas, providing coaching and competitive opportunities for swimmers of all ages and abilities.

If your swimmer is aged six-plus and would like to arrange a free taster session, please contact thea.beament@hotmail.co.uk

BASEBALL

Jacob earns GB U12 call-up

JACOB Wade, a member of the Bristol Bolts Youth baseball team, has been selected to represent Great Britain at the WBSC U12 European Championships near Paris.



He follows in the footsteps of Nathan Goodhew, who was part of the Great Britain U12 team in 2025.

Jacob said: "I'm so happy to have made the GB squad. I can't wait for the tournament in Paris - it's going to be great."

Jacob was one of the first members of Bristol Baseball Club's youth programme, which started in 2022.

Great Britain are due to play Czechia, France and Germany in the group stage of the championships, which start on July 7.

Bristol Baseball Club play their home games at the Somerdale Pavilion in Keynsham.

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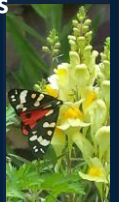
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Exciting times ahead for The Hanham Clinic as MRI scanner is introduced!

Over the past few years at The Hanham Clinic, one thing we've heard more and more from patients across Hanham, Longwell Green and Bristol is just how difficult it can be to access imaging quickly when you're in pain or worried about an injury.

Whether it's ongoing back pain, a persistent knee problem, or a shoulder injury that simply isn't improving, many people are facing long waits for scans — while private imaging can often cost far more than most people expect.

That's one of the main reasons we decided to introduce our new Open MRI scanner here at The Hanham Clinic.

Dean, the owner and founder of the clinic explains "As someone who has worked in musculoskeletal healthcare locally for many years, I've always wanted the clinic to offer more than just treatment alone. Quite often, people simply want clearer answers and reassurance about what's actually going on with their body. Having access to MRI imaging within the clinic allows us to help bridge that gap for local people."

We're really proud to now be able to offer MRI scanning right here in Hanham, without patients needing to travel into central Bristol or further afield.

One of the things that makes this scanner different is that it's an open-design MRI machine, which is generally a much more comfortable experience than the traditional tunnel-style scanners many people picture when they think of MRI. For patients who are claustrophobic or anxious about scanning, this can make a huge difference.

We've also worked hard to make the service more affordable and accessible than many private options currently available nearby.

Our introductory offer is currently £299, for one area to be scanned, which is significantly lower than many private MRI providers locally, where scans can often exceed £500. Although a large amount has been invested into setting the service, having much lower overheads than larger hospital type setups, means that we can pass that onto our patients.

A few highlights of the new MRI service:

- Open-design MRI scanner for improved comfort
- Ideal for patients who feel claustrophobic in traditional MRI scanners
- Fast appointment availability
- Introductory pricing from £299
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The response from local patients so far has honestly been brilliant. We've already seen how much of a difference quicker access to imaging can make for people who have often been waiting months trying to get answers elsewhere.

For us, this isn't just about having new technology in the clinic - it's about trying to improve access to healthcare locally and helping people feel listened to and supported earlier in their journey.

The Hanham Clinic has always aimed to offer a modern and evidence-based approach to musculoskeletal care, and bringing MRI scanning into the clinic feels like a really important next step for both us and the local community.

If anyone would like more information about the MRI service, our team is always happy to help.

To find out more about this exciting new service, please get in touch.



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