keynshamvoice

November 2026 Issue 174 www.keynshamvoice.co.uk

FREE EVERY MONTH IN KEYNSHAM & SALTFORD

Care home hosts first dog show: Pages 8-9

Fundraiser launched to fight local plan

Local resident Leo Pargeter has launched a crowdfunding campaign to help local residents access advice to challenge B&NES' draft local plan

By Lucy Frost

A SALTFORD resident has launched a crowdfunding campaign to pay for professional planning advice in response to development proposals affecting the village in the B&NES draft local plan.

The fund aims to raise money for local residents to access "professional planning expertise so proposals can be scrutinised in detail and the strongest possible evidence can be put forward".

Organiser Leo Pargeter said there has been significant concern regarding the scale of development being proposed around Saltford, particularly affecting infrastructure, roads, local services and the green belt.

According to the Crowdfunder page, the money raised will contribute towards the cost of professional planning work from Pearce Planning. The company would examine proposals in detail and prepare

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Roadworks saga

A councillor has urged for lessons to be learned after delays to the A4 cycle path project.

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Remembrance plans

The Royal British Legion has revealed plans for Remembrance events in Keynsham.

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Killer sentenced

A man found guilty of the manslaughter of a pensioner has been jailed for 15 years.

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Professor honoured

A university vice-chancellor from Keynsham has been appointed as Somerset's Deputy Lieutenant.

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Ramp backlash

New council homes have sparked questions as the ramp to the front door ends in a step.

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November deadline

Our December edition will go to print on Monday November 30. To ensure your news or letter is included, please contact us by Wednesday November 25. 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
0117 986 8683
www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Keynsham Citizens Advice Bureau
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West of England Mayor
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mayor@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
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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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Meet the new editorial team

Hello! You may have noticed a few new names in this month's edition of the Keynsham Voice, so we'd like to introduce ourselves and say how excited we are to be a part of this wonderfully collaborative publication!

After the previous editor, Steve, took a step back last month to pursue a higher education course Lucy Frost and Rebecca Carter and have taken the editorial reins.

We know how important community is for a publication like the Voice, and we're excited to work and get to know everyone, whether it be for news, regular submissions or readership.

Having prior experience in the wider 'Voices' publications, we're building on strong foundations with a clear focus on supporting our local community and businesses.

We understand we have big shoes to fill after all of Steve's hard work over the years and wish him all the best of luck in his future endeavours.

Thank you for your continued support and we look forward to the next chapter of the Keynsham Voice. Our inboxes are always open, so feel free to drop us a message!

Lucy & Rebecca

■ NEWS

Villagers raise cash to challenge homes plan

■ **Continued from front page**

a response on issues including transport, site suitability and infrastructure. Any surplus funds will be held for further professional planning work connected with development proposals affecting Saltford.

Mr Pargeter, who is the chairman of the North East Somerset and Hanham Conservative Association, said the fundraiser has been launched in a personal capacity rather than through the organisation.

Around 1,290 new homes have been proposed for Saltford as part of the local plan — around 75 per cent of Saltford's existing housing stock of 1,716 homes.

Around 960 of these homes would be built on the fields between Saltford and Keynsham.

The government has told B&NES that it needs to find space for 27,340 new homes to be built across the district over the next 18 years.

The plan sets out space for 5,900 new homes to be built in Bath. But Keynsham, which has an estimated population almost five times smaller than the city, would be expected to take almost as many – 5,700 – in addition to having the new town of Hicks Gate built next door.

At the time of publication, the campaign has raised £600 out of its £1,200 target. It can be found at: tinyurl.com/saltford-local-plan-fund

■ **Turn to pages 10-11 to read more about the local plan**

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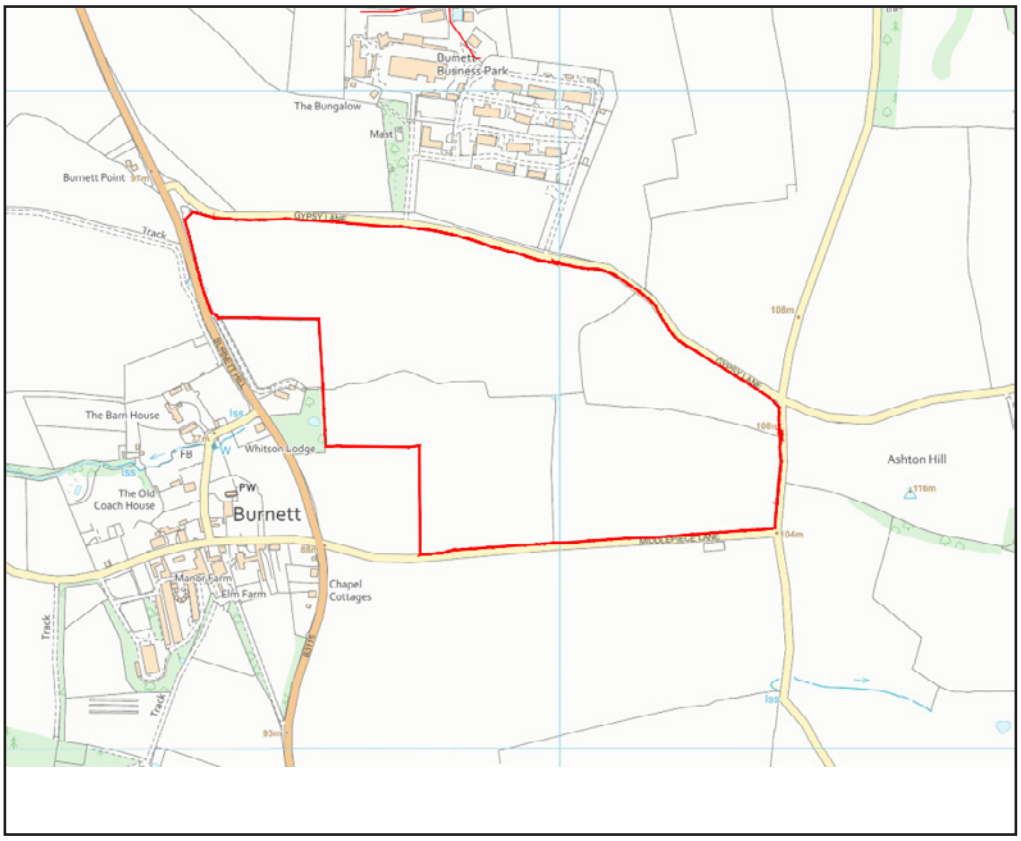
NEWS

'Eyesore' solar farm given green light



An outline of where the solar farm will go south of Keynsham, next to Burnett village. Image: Conrad Energy

By John Wimperis, LDRS reporter

A SOLAR farm blocked by local councillors can now go ahead, as the fields it would be built on have been ruled to be "grey belt".

Bath and North East Somerset Council's planning committee had voted to refuse planning permission for the 28 hectare solar farm in September 2025. People from the neighbouring village of Burnett warned it would spoil their "rural idyll" and councillors agreed that it would be an inappropriate development in the green belt.

But now it has been approved after an appeal to the government's planning inspectorate, which ruled that the fields were "grey belt" and not green belt after all. The idea of grey belt was introduced by Labour as a way to ensure that developments on low quality areas, such as former car parks, were not blocked just because they lay inside the green belt.

These fields have never been previously developed and lie in the open North East Somerset countryside, just across the brow of a hill from Keynsham.

But the planning inspectorate said that it was precisely because they were not next to the town that they could be classed as grey belt, as it was not contributing to the purpose of the green belt.

Planning inspector R. E. Jones said: "Whilst the appeal site appears large when viewed at a local level, it nevertheless occupies a very small proportion of the intervening green belt land between Keynsham and Bath. Its development as a solar farm would not therefore result in a loss of visual separation between these towns."

The inspector said that the plan would "industrialise a sizeable part of the local countryside" and harm the landscape character, but warned this had to be balanced against the positive impacts.

The solar farm would generate up to 22 gigawatt hours of clean electricity a year, enough to power 5,574 homes.

The planning committee's decision to block the solar farm, despite the council having declared a climate emergency, was controversial at the time.

As councillors voted in September 2025, planning committee member John Leach (Walcot, Liberal Democrat) rejected the idea the site would be an "eyesore".

He said at the time: "I don't see it as an eyesore and I think future generations will be even more likely not to see this as an eyesore but to see it as a possible sign of our efforts to deal with a crisis as a crisis."

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■ ADVERTORIAL

Britain's Installation Company of the Year is on your doorstep – and in the running to keep the title

Last year The Window Hub was named Installation Company of the Year at the G-Awards, the fenestration industry's biggest night. It was one of three national awards the Bristol, Exeter and Cardiff firm took home in 2025.

This year the judges have called them back. The Window Hub has been shortlisted to defend Installation Company of the Year at the G26 Awards, and is also a finalist for the Business Excellence Award on the same night. Before that, at the National Fenestration Awards on 24th October, the company is up for Customer Care Company of the Year and its Managing Director, Daniel Robb, is a finalist for Managing Director of the Year.

Four national finals in one year is rare for any installer. For a local, independent company, it's almost unheard of.

Daniel, who has worked in the industry for over 30 years, says the credit belongs to the whole team. "Being asked to defend the title is a huge compliment, but the judges are really just confirming what our customers already tell us. Every installer, surveyor and office colleague we have is measured on one thing: would that homeowner recommend us to a neighbour? That's the award that matters."

Most of The Window Hub's work is replacing tired windows and doors in homes people already love, so the team is used to working carefully around family life and leaving every room clean and tidy. Installations are FENSA registered, and every job comes with an insurance-backed guarantee from InstallSure, included in the price rather than sold as an extra. Quotes are clear, fixed and free, with no pressure and no gimmicks.

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NEWS

Work begins on SEND school with homes

WORK to convert a deregistered care home in Keynsham into a new specialist school for young people with special educational needs began in October.

The project will create a 30-place specialist school for children and young people aged 11 to 18 with complex needs, including autism and social, emotional and mental health needs.

Two separate children's homes, each providing a home for up to four children, will also be created.

Councillor Paul May, cabinet member for children's services, said: "Starting work at Charlton House is an important step towards providing more specialist education and care closer to home for children and young people here in Bath and North East Somerset.

"We want children with complex needs to be able to receive the right support close to their families, friends and local communities.

A CGI of the main entrance to the new SEND school

"The new school and children's homes will provide a safe and welcoming environment where children and young people can learn, develop their independence and thrive.

"I would like to thank local residents for their continued engagement with the project. We will work closely with the contractor to keep neighbours informed as the work progresses."

Beard, the contractor on the Charlton House site, will be carrying out a six-week programme to prepare the site for the main construction works. This will include installing site hoarding and welfare facilities, setting up temporary services, fire safety and security systems, and carrying out works within the existing building.

These preparatory works will help ensure the project can progress efficiently and safely when the main refurbishment programme begins in late November.

Charlton House has been vacant since it closed in March 2024. The residents received support to find alternative placements to suit their needs and preferences and staff members were largely transferred to other council-run residential services.

The scheme is part of Bath & North East Somerset Council's wider work to help more children and young people receive the education, care and support they need locally, reducing reliance on placements outside the area.

Planning permission for the change of use of Charlton House was granted in July. Work should be finished, ready for school to start in the 2027/28 academic year.

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Futura Learning Partnership

■ NEWS

Hotel conversion withdrawn

Grasmere Hotel on the corner of Chandag Road

By Lucy Frost

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

Haywards Group Ltd submitted a planning application to Bath & North East Somerset Council earlier this year.

The proposal would have involved demolishing the side and rear extensions of Haywards at the Grasmere and changing the use of the hotel building near Chandag Road.

At the time, Keynsham Town Council commented that the loss of the hotel would be detrimental to the growing town.

They said: "Not only the hotel provision but the community asset of a local restaurant will be lost."

In June, the hotel made a statement on Facebook to clarify they are "not going anywhere".

One commenter said they were "devastated" at the prospect of the community asset closing down.

A spokesperson for the hotel said: "At present, there are no further plans to comment on, and the hotel will continue operating as usual."

The spokesperson did not comment when asked if revised proposals may be submitted in future or the reasoning behind the withdrawal.

Diseased tree to be replaced

A TREE is due to be removed and replaced on Somerdale Estate, following an inspection by BANES.

Cllr Martin Burton raised concerns in last month's Voice about the care and maintenance of the trees, which then led BANES to carry out an assessment. As a result, one horse chestnut on The Avenue will be removed and replaced due to its condition. The estate's management company has also offered to plant an extra horse chestnut in a gap elsewhere.

It has also looked at a dead sycamore in a group to the east of the Somerdale Primary School. The tree has sooty bark disease, an increasing issue affecting trees. The estate management will be replacing it with an oak tree.

Cllr Burton said: "I am pleased to see BANES council working with the estate management company, trees do get disease and sometimes need cutting down but the ones on Somerdale will be replaced."

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NEWS

'Lessons to learn' from 'diabolical' roadworks

By Lucy Frost

LESSONS need to be learned from the A4 cycle path roadworks, after Saltford residents "felt trapped", a local councillor has said.

Saltford Lib Dem Cllr Duncan Hounsell has urged the West of England Combined Authority (WECA) to learn lessons from the delayed construction of a cycle path between Keynsham and Saltford ahead of future transport plans on the A4.

WECA says the path, which runs between Pixash Lane and Grange Road, was built by housing association Curo, not the authority, as part of wider A4 improvements linked to its 208-home development.

Work to create wider pedestrian and cycle lanes alongside the A4 began in September 2025 and was expected to last 35 weeks, but was only completed at the end of this summer.

Speaking at a WECA scrutiny meeting, Cllr Hounsell said the scheme suffered lengthy delays which caused major congestion on the A4.

He said: "Saltford residents felt trapped, local businesses such as Flourish suffered significant loss of trade, buses were delayed and eventually rerouted, and this vital highway link between Bath and Bristol was gridlocked with costs to the economy in our region.

"The saga had a severely negative effect on people's perception of WECA as an organisation capable of managing such a project and increased cynicism about the aims of active travel."

Cllr Duncan Hounsell at the WECA scrutiny meeting

Cllr Hounsell explained that he fully supported WECA's aim to facilitate walking, cycling, and public transport, but called for "better public communication on a regular basis".

He asked the scrutiny panel to "satisfy yourselves that the future planned works on the A4 at this location are managed in a way that minimises disruption at all times of the working day".

Paul Castle, managing director of Flourish, described WECA's communication as "diabolical".

He said: "The disruption to our business was horrendous, a loss of income and a loss of jobs, 30 to 40 min tailbacks were the norm.

"We couldn't get deliveries in, staff were often late. All in all there was no consideration or recourse for small business. We are still reeling from the huge loss of income."

The comments come as further A4 transport improvements are planned for the area.

A consultation on the plans ran until September 22 2026. All feedback is being analysed and a summary will be published once complete.

Responding to Cllr Hounsell at the scrutiny meeting, a spokesperson for WECA said his comments would help inform project management for future transport schemes.

A spokesperson said: "While WECA is not responsible for these works or the associated traffic management, it recognises the concerns raised and are taking these experiences into account for any future improvements along the A4.

"A detailed construction programme will be confirmed once a contractor has been appointed, with work between Broadmead Roundabout and Bath expected to be delivered in phases from May 2027 with the aim to minimise disruption while improvements are delivered."

Curo was contacted for comment.

NEWS

'Dedicated' care worker reaches final

Deputy manager Shania Saini

A LOCAL woman is through to the national final of the Barchester Care Awards 2026.

Shania Saini at Kingfisher Lodge care centre in Saltford has been selected for deputy manager of the year, a role that she has held for just a year after five years of dedicated hard work and commitment.

The prestigious Barchester Care Awards are organised by Barchester Healthcare, which provides nursing and dementia care across the country.

The awards aim to recognise and celebrate the achievements and professionalism of all staff within the company nationwide.

Claudia Popescu general manager for Kingfisher Lodge said: "This award celebrates individuals who have demonstrated outstanding excellence in their work and Shania could not be more dedicated to top-quality care and management.

"We are all so proud of her for reaching this stage of the competition and hope she goes all the way!"

The awards ceremony will be held at The Queens Hotel in Leeds on Thursday October 29.

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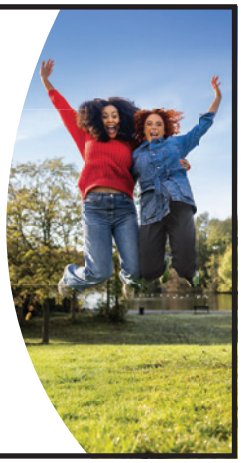

■ WOOF FEST

Care home hosts first-ever dog show

There were non-stop smiles as residents at Meryton Place Care Home judged a range of pooches as part of Woof Fest — its first-ever dog show

PAWFECT pooches competed for prizes this autumn when a local care home held its first-ever dog show, with residents as judges.

Meryton Place Care Home on Bath Road welcomed pets, owners, visitors and children from the community to join them for a joyful day of competition at 'Woof Fest', raising £274 for charity.

Residents Peggy Coleman, Clive Alexander and Marjorie Vile took on the roles as judges, assessing the good boys and girls in categories including 'Prettiest Girl', 'Most Handsome Chap', 'Waggiest Tail', 'Best Rescue' and 'Child's Best Friend'.

There were non-stop smiles as residents and community friends watched the proceedings and got a lovely chance to fuss the delightful dogs.

Peggy, 102, said: "Judging these lovely dogs was a very difficult task – you want to give them all the top prize!

"It was a true privilege to meet so many adorable pets and their owners - I thoroughly enjoyed the day."

Fellow judge Clive, 93, added: "The dogs were magnificent and very well-behaved."

Claire Perkins, a veterinary nurse at Highcroft Veterinary Centre, was on hand to provide expert assistance.

'Woof Fest' was a charitable endeavour too, with all funds

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WOOF FEST

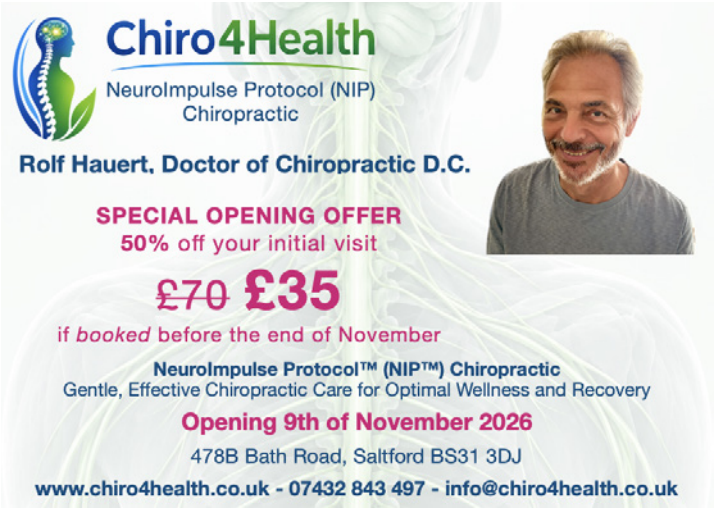
raised going to Food Fairies for Street Dogs & Cats, who help care for vulnerable animals.

Wellbeing lead Cheryl Woodward said: "We were absolutely delighted with the success of our first Woof Fest. It was wonderful to see so many dogs and owners join us, and our residents thoroughly enjoyed every moment.

"Thank you to everyone who attended, supported the event, and helped us raise money for such a fantastic cause."

Chiro4Health NeuroImpulse Protocol (NIP) Chiropractic Opening in Saltford

On the 9th of November 2026, Rolf Hauert, Doctor of Chiropractic D.C. will open Chiro4Health at 478B Bath Road in Saltford, next to the dental surgery behind the post office.



Dr Rolf has been a chiropractor for over 30 years. He graduated from Palmer College of Chiropractic - West in California, USA in 1993 after 4 years of medical school in Bern, Switzerland followed by 3 years of chiropractic studies in San Jose, California. He had his own successful chiropractic clinics in New Zealand, Australia and France and has been working in Bristol as an associate chiropractic consultant for the last 8 years.

For the last 15 years, Dr Rolf has specialised in NeuroImpulse Protocol™ (NIP™), a cutting edge system of very light force chiropractic based on the ever expanding knowledge base of the function of the human brain, developed by Australian chiropractor, author and teacher Dr Neil Davies.

The advantages of NIP™ over traditional chiropractic are:
- Very light force adjusting, no clicking or cracking
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- Very safe for people of all ages, from newborns to the very elderly

Dr Rolf decided to open Chiro4Health in Saltford because he wants to make NIP™ chiropractic available to the whole Bristol and Bath area. In his experience, NIP™ chiropractic has helped many patients with a whole array of health issues where traditional chiropractic and other health care approaches have failed. He is also hoping to encourage other chiropractors to learn NIP™ so more and more people can live a happier, healthier life.

If you would like some more information, pre-book a free 10 minute video call or a full consultation, don't hesitate to contact Dr Rolf on info@chiro4health.co.uk, call or text 07432 843 497 or visit his website www.chiro4health.co.uk.

■ GREEN BELT

Green belt 'shredded' for more homes

By John Wimperis, LDRS reporter

THOUSANDS of homes could soon be built across swathes of Somerset countryside which were, for decades, protected from development by Bristol's green belt.

Two new towns could soon be built on the edges of the city and many villages could expand dramatically — with one set to triple in size. It comes as mandatory housing targets, government planning reforms, and some local challenges have left the green belt — in the words of one councillor — "shredded."

The Avon Green Belt was introduced around Bath and Bristol in the 1950s and covers a large amount of Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES) and about a third of North Somerset. Now both councils are set to allocate many areas currently in the green belt in their new local plans, major documents which set out where future housing developments should go for the next 15-18 years.

After the Labour government was elected in 2024, it changed how councils' housebuilding targets were calculated to depend more on affordability. Bristol saw its housing target go down, but North Somerset and B&NES saw theirs increase — with Bath and North East Somerset's doubling. In order to hit those mandatory targets, both councils say they have little choice but to look to the green belt.

Bath's UNESCO World Heritage Site listing limits how much the city can build upwards or outwards. B&NES' proposed local plan would see 5,900 new homes built in the city over the next 18 years, largely on brownfield sites along the river. The council says it has been left little choice but to site the rest of the 27,340 homes it has been told to build in North East Somerset.

Despite lying in the green belt, the council says the "Bristol and Bath corridor" is the best place for new homes as it is closest to jobs and transport infrastructure. The local plan proposes allocating this area for a total of 8,900 homes by expanding Keynsham and Saltford, tripling Whitchurch village in size, and building a new town around the Hicks Gate roundabout.

B&NES cabinet member for planning Matt McCabe (Bathavon South, Liberal Democrat) told a cabinet meeting about the plan earlier this month: "This Labour government has unleashed a tidal wave of development that we are powerless to stop."

In neighbouring North Somerset, it is not just metaphorical tidal waves they are concerned about. Huge areas of the low-lying North Somerset levels are at risk of flooding from the sea in the future. The council does not want new developments built on land which could flood and has been left with little option to turn to the green belt after the government increased its housing target.

North Somerset's local plan notably takes a huge area out of the green belt at the Woodspring golf course for a new town to be built. A planning application to build the homes has already been submitted by housebuilding giant Taylor Wimpey.

At the same time, the new concept of the "grey belt" has opened the door for the countryside to see more speculative development — applications by developers which sit outside of councils' local plans. The idea of the grey belt was introduced by Labour as a way to ensure that developments on low quality areas, such as former car parks, were not blocked because they lay inside the green belt.

But the concept has been

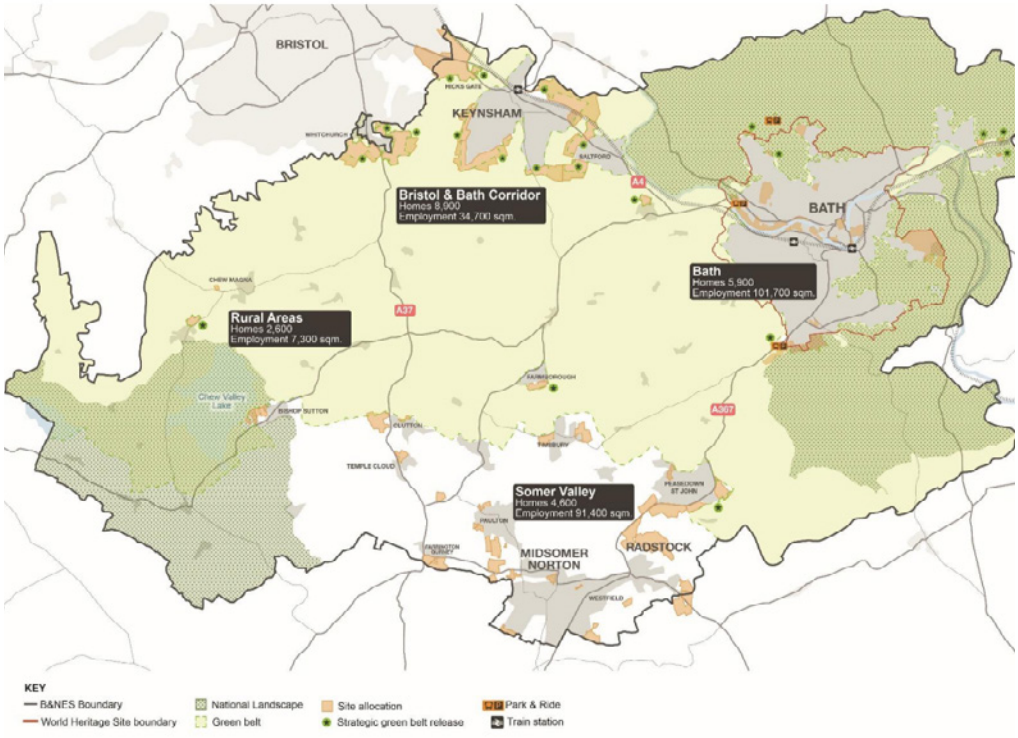
GREEN BELT

applied more widely than many expected. Recently, a 28-hectare solar farm in the countryside next to the village of Burnett, which B&NES had turned down, was granted planning permission on appeal. Planning inspectors said the agricultural land counted as grey belt because, being almost a kilometre away from Keynsham, the fields were not needed to stop urban sprawl.

Mr McCabe has warned that the grey belt definition might stretch even further than that. Speaking at the cabinet meeting earlier this month, he said: "The government has shredded the green belt rules, removing protection for our villages. People are worried that most of our green belt is now grey belt."

North Somerset's local plan has already been submitted to the government for approval. Bath and North East Somerset's is currently undergoing its final public consultation, which runs until October 30.

You can respond to the consultation here: haveyoursay.bathnes.gov.uk/localplan/



The draft local plan for Bath and North East Somerset, with sites allocated for development shown in orange

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REMEMBRANCE PARADE

Town's Remembrance plans unveiled

REMEMBRANCE Sunday will be celebrated as usual with the uniformed parade led by the Royal British Legion.

The band will form outside Poundland from 9.05am, before parading along the High Street for the 9.30am service on November 8.

At 10.30am the parade will leave the church and walk to the Memorial Park gates for the laying of wreaths service and to observe the 11am two-minute silence.

The poppy cascade, which would normally hang from the tower at St John's Church, will be moved inside the main aisle of the church to maximise the longevity of the display.

Everyone is welcome to visit and view the display from Monday, November 1 to Friday 13, 9am until 12 noon at any of the Sunday services, together with the November 11 Remembrance Day Holy Communion service in church and the service at the park gates.

Left: Mock-up poppies in Keynsham Church.
Below: Last year's parade along Bath Hill

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ON THE BEAT

Zero-tolerance approach to illegal e-bikes

Sgt Rob Turner
Keynsham Police

OVER recent months, concerns from residents about the misuse of electric bikes and electric scooters have continued to grow. Whilst legitimate e-bikes can provide a safe and environmentally friendly method of transport, a significant number of the vehicles being reported to police are not legal for use on public roads and are increasingly linked to anti-social behaviour across our town.

Many of the machines causing concern are not genuine electrically assisted pedal cycles. Instead, they are often high-powered or modified e-bikes capable of speeds far exceeding the legal limit, sometimes operated solely by throttle without the need to pedal. In the eyes of the law, these vehicles are motor vehicles and therefore require registration, insurance, a driving licence and compliance with road traffic legislation. In most cases, the riders using them have none of these requirements in place.

The situation is similar for privately owned e-scooters. Despite their popularity, private e-scooters remain unlawful to use on public roads, pavements and other public places. Yet they continue to be ridden through residential streets, parks, shopping areas and pedestrian zones, often creating risks for both riders and the wider public.

Unfortunately, these vehicles are increasingly becoming associated with anti-social behaviour. Residents regularly report riders travelling at excessive speeds, weaving through pedestrians, ignoring traffic signals, riding on pavements, and gathering in groups that intimidate members of the public. Complaints often include near misses involving children, elderly residents and vulnerable people who can feel particularly threatened by fast-moving vehicles operating in areas intended for pedestrians.

The very nature of these vehicles makes them attractive to those involved in anti-social behaviour. They are quick, agile, relatively quiet and capable of accessing areas where conventional vehicles cannot go. Riders frequently wear face coverings and can quickly leave an area before police arrive. This can create understandable frustration within communities who witness the behaviour and want immediate action taken.

We want residents to be reassured that tackling illegal e-bikes and e-scooters remains a priority. Our neighbourhood policing teams are working proactively to identify offenders, gather intelligence and target those responsible for causing harm and disruption within our communities.

Importantly, we have adopted a zero-tolerance approach towards the illegal use of these vehicles. Where officers identify an e-bike or e-scooter being used unlawfully, particularly where it is linked to anti-social behaviour, offences under road traffic legislation or criminality, we will use our powers to seize it.

Residents should be aware that seizure is not simply an inconvenience. In many cases, recovering a seized vehicle requires proof of ownership, proof of insurance and payment of recovery fees. For many illegally modified e-bikes and privately owned e-scooters being used unlawfully, these requirements cannot be met. This often means that owners are unable to reclaim their vehicle and it will be destroyed or otherwise disposed of in accordance with legal processes.

The message is therefore simple: if you choose to use an illegal e-bike or e-scooter in our town, particularly in a manner that causes alarm, harassment or distress to others, you will lose that vehicle permanently.

We also need the support of our community. Information provided by residents helps us identify offenders, build intelligence and deploy officers to problem locations.

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Steve, Client

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KEYNSHAM MEMORIES with Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society

ON JANUARY 16, 1858 the Keynsham Gas Works started operating, and "the streets and shops were beautifully illuminated".

The council paid the company to provide the street lighting, and by 1891 the town had 51 street lamps, some of which still exist in the Dapps Hill area. The business closed in 1928 after a large main was laid from Bristol.

This picture shows the works at the bottom of Dapps Hill, with the manager's house in the centre. The two gas-holders are on the left and the retort house to the right. The chimney from the furnace that burned the coal can be seen behind.

To see more photographs of old Keynsham, visit our website at www.keysalthist.org.uk/gallery

KEYNSHAM AND SALTFORD LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

How locks gave rise to riots in Saltford

NEW technology often gives rise to fears about jobs being lost and future employment prospects. This was as true in the past as it is today, and there are examples locally of these fears giving rise to violent protests.

The Avon Navigation was completed in 1727 and involved constructing locks at the various weirs between Bristol and Bath. One consequence was that it became easier and cheaper to transport coal to Bath from mines in Shropshire via the rivers Severn and Avon than from the local North Somerset pits. This caused disquiet amongst the local miners around 1731, and there were threats to destroy the Navigation. The proprietors took the threat seriously and advertised in the local papers that August, noting the penalties for tampering with or destroying any part of the navigation. The concerns then appeared to die down.

There were obviously problems in other parts of the country, as in 1735 new legislation prescribed the death penalty for wilful damage to the works of a navigable river. This did not deter an attack a few months later, somewhere along the River Avon, although we have no details. A few years later, the Navigation proprietors were prompted to publish another warning but on the night of November 15, 1738 the lock at Saltford was attacked by a mob and, according to press reports, it was almost destroyed.

The attackers left two threatening notices stating that 300 men had been involved and that this was only the beginning of "much greater mischief" that was intended against the Navigation and thousands of men would be involved. A reward was offered for information leading to the discovery of the offenders, but no one was ever caught. The lock must have been repaired quickly so that navigation could be resumed, and we have no evidence of any further incidents of trouble.

Saltford Lock, once badly damaged by rioters, as it is today

This was a period when technology in many industries was developing quickly, causing many workers to lose their jobs. Times were hard and often no work meant no food on the table.

The woollen industry was important locally but was shrinking with wage cuts and some mechanization. In Bristol in 1728 it was reported that "the weavers have risen again this week with 500 involved in seizing and burning 30 looms". The rioters visited Pensford and Keynsham and "destroyed a great many looms and one house".

In Keynsham one of the largest employers was the cotton mill at South Mill now known as Albert Mill. In 1788 this was taken over by William Overend who mechanised some of the processes.

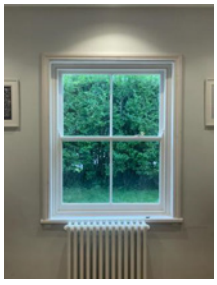
The Bristol Mercury reported in March 1790 that "on Tuesday last a number of women assembled at Keynsham for the avowed purpose of destroying certain machines recently introduced but were prevented from doing this… by the civil powers."

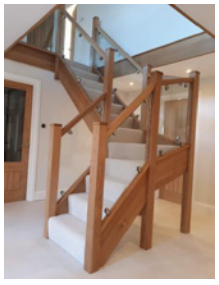
It may be significant that a few weeks later it was reported a detachment of the 1st Regiment of Dragoon Guards arrived from Exeter and were stationed in Keynsham, but there are no later records of disorder.

Bypasss careers

My August piece described a career that started with work on the Keynsham bypass. I have been told by Edmund Prideaux, a well-known personality whose career was also sparked by the same project. This was the late Mick Aston, who became well-known as a television archaeologist and author. Many years ago he told Edmund that he knew the Keynsham Abbey site well and, as a young member of the team from the Bristol Folk House, he had taken part in the archaeological work on the bypass. He said it was his experience there that convinced him that this was a career he wanted to follow.

Richard Dyson





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KEYNSHAM IN BLOOM

Opticians wins golden watering can

IT IS with great happiness that Keynsham in Bloom can announce that the winner of our Golden Watering Can trophy is Norville Opticians. Thank you to all the businesses in the High Street who were involved, and please don't forget we will be running the competition next year.

Smart Computers were financially involved as the young men do not have green fingers but we received a lovely donation for which we are very grateful. The two troughs outside of their business show the logo of a successful company.

As I write about our town, I feel I must mention two young people who I met while filling up the troughs with compost last week. Keynsham in Bloom are keeping the trailing begonias in the cascade outside of the Methodist Church as they are full of flowers at the moment. I decided to brush under the seat to the left of the container and explained my actions to the people sitting on the seat. Without being asked the young lady jumped up took the dustpan and brush from me and swept below the seat and around the cascade. If you read this article, a big thank you, and you do the young people of Keynsham proud.

Moving on. It's a great feeling when a plan comes together and yesterday morning our lovely volunteers joined me to plant up the High Street containers with bellis daisies, pansies and dwarf daffodils. The herbaceous perennials have stayed and will act as our support troops to the bedding. We started at 9am and completed the work about 100am and Mother Nature has been kind by sending rain to help our babies on their way to adulthood.

Volunteers Barbara, Ty, Keith, Jenny and Sally

The Community Triangle has extra herbaceous plants, tulips and daffodils, plus slow-release fertiliser and compost added, so watch out for a colourful springtime.

Our next job is Monday October 26 when we empty the troughs at the station and plant up the containers with plants as per the High Street so there is a theme running through Keynsham. The Dee James Memorial Train is being planted with polyanthus and wall flowers, plus bulbs, and we are keeping the fuscias and nepeta as they are happy bunnies.

The Pocket Park needs extra work on the grass and some tidying before winter but is under control.

Holmoak containers are still looking colourful, and when the summer bedding is finished, the alpines will stay in. Fresh plants will be added in the spring.

Queens Road Containers will have extra compost and some of the alpines kept plus violas, bellis daisies and dwarf daffodils.

Chandag Road containers will need extra compost and will be planted up in the spring.

Well, we will know on Friday how Keynsham fared in the South West in Bloom competition held in Newquay and the results will be published in the December Voice.

Stay safe, well and keep gardening.

Mary Woodman

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PENSFORD EVERGREENS CLUB

Winter entertainment to brighten the darker evenings

WITH the hot summer days now just a distant memory, our attention on these mellow days of autumn fruitfulness turns to our winter evenings' entertainment programme, our five-day coach trip to Blackpool in November and, looking further ahead, plans for a four-day spring break to Falmouth next April.

Our November evenings' entertainment programme includes visits from familiar favourites Chris Rainbow, Woodchuck, the Filtonaires and the Keynsham Brass Band. Quite a line-up of excellent entertainment to brighten the cold, dark evenings of November.

Our four-day spring coach break to Falmouth commences from Pensford on April 23, staying at the popular Membly Hall Hotel, which is in a seafront location with views across Falmouth Bay.

The price, which includes dinner, bed and breakfast and evening entertainment, is £359 per person and includes excursions to Truro and St Ives. Non-members are very welcome to travel with us and further information can be obtained from Heather Curtis on 07593 348 863.

Non-members are also very welcome for two hours from 7pm on Thursday evenings at the Pensford Memorial to enjoy our live entertainment, a cup of tea and raffle for £4 per person.

Terry Phillips

A rare tree sparrow. Image: Tony Kirby

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■ BACK TO NATURE

Urban wildlife: life in a changing season

AS THE nights creep in and the temperatures dip, like many animals, I start to slow down, returning to the warm embrace of my bedroom. But with a changing world and warming climate, I found myself wondering if animals behave in the same way that they used to. Autumn's average temperatures are getting warmer year-on-year, with urban environments a few degrees warmer than rural habitats; this must surely be affecting animal behaviour.

To survive, there is no one-size-fits-all master plan, so animals use different strategies in these colder months. Whether they hunker down and hibernate, grow thicker coats, or leave for warmer climes, their focus switches to survival. But warmer conditions affect seasonal behaviours in British wildlife.

Scientists have observed that increasing numbers of individuals in migratory bird species, including blackcaps and chiffchaffs, are not migrating south for the winter, relying instead on gardens and bird feeders. Garden birds that forage far and wide throughout summer are becoming familiar sights as they return to feeders, and redwings arrive from Scandinavia later in the season to take advantage of berries. Foxes continue to actively forage in warmer weather, especially in urban environments that remain warmer than rural areas. Exotic plants and warm autumn conditions provide food late into the season for insects, with bumblebees even adapting their lifecycle to take advantage of warmer conditions.

But there's a price to pay for this warmer weather. Unpredictable food availability and unexpected cold snaps can wreak havoc for foraging hedgehogs and dormice, species that would usually slowly hunker down in cold conditions. Trees that are reliant on colder weather to kill off pests and disease are being hit hard, as these pests are able to survive the winter.

Above: Overwintering blackcaps enable them to obtain the best breeding sites in spring (Paul Tompkins) Right: Do you see urban foxes at night? (Alex Handover)

It's official: From November 1 the RSPB advises you can feed your garden birds all their favourite foods again, including sunflower hearts and peanuts, as risk of infection falls in the colder weather of winter. But please keep those bird feeders clean!

Blackcaps that overwinter in the UK have been found to have higher breeding success than those wintering in the Mediterranean; shorter migrations allow them to pick prime nesting territories. Gardens in the West of England are favoured by blackcaps, with visitor numbers here exceeding the rest of Britain.

Robins are fiercely territorial in the lead-up to the breeding season, which starts in January. Known as a vocal bird year-round, the males sing from a perch, defending their patch of land through winter. Whilst the countryside darkens, urban areas remain light. As a bird that naturally sings with the Sun, light pollution from newer LED lights affects their behaviour, keeping birds awake at night. Urban robins sing for longer, unnecessarily expending energy that is hard to come by in November's cold conditions.

Foxes have adapted well to urban life, becoming increasingly bolder throughout the colder months. As November evenings draw in, urban foxes venture through Keynsham's streets, searching amongst gardens and the Memorial Park for tasty morsels. Their thick coats protect against biting cold, and it is at this time of year when male cubs disperse to find territories of their own before the breeding season starts in December.

Milder Novembers mean extended activity, and the potential for more food, yet aren't without their challenges. Wildlife is plentiful on Keynsham's doorstep, if you only know where to look. Next time you're on an evening walk, stop and listen out for a robin's song near a street lamp, and keep your eyes peeled for a stealthy fox trotting along garden walls.

Ben Morris-French

Our monthly talk on Friday November 13 is "The Weird and Wonderful World of Moths". Moths are bizarre, beautiful, ancient, vital, and wildly misunderstood.

Join Charlie Tallis from BS3 Moth Club on a journey into the strange and surreal world of the moths living in your garden and beyond!

Keynsham Baptist Church Hall, BS31 1DS. Entrance: Avon Wildlife Trust members - £3.50; non-members - £5.00. Includes refreshments served at 7:15pm, the talk begins at 7:30pm. All welcome, no pre booking required.

For more information on Keynsham Group, visit our website: www.keynshamawt.org.uk Email: info@keynshamawt.org.uk or phone Kathy 07850 508702

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NEWS

Man jailed over local pensioner's death

A MAN has been handed a 15-year jail term after being convicted of manslaughter over the death of a vulnerable pensioner in Keynsham.

Following a re-trial in July 2026, a jury unanimously found Wayne Milsom, 51, from Keynsham, guilty of causing the death of Stephen Ridgeway, 72.

Mr Ridgeway died in hospital on Saturday, December 7 2024, after being assaulted at his home in Keynsham in the early hours of Sunday, November 3 2024.

A sentencing hearing at Bristol Crown Court on Wednesday, October 21 heard in mitigation that Mr Milsom has now expressed sorrow for Mr Ridgeway's death and had engaged positively while on remand.

His Honour Judge Julian Lambert told Milsom: "You have an appalling record for violence."

He said there was an element "close to torturing" Mr Ridgeway in what was "a cruel, callous and calculated attack on a vulnerable elderly man in his own home".

During the trial the jury heard Mr Ridgeway's 999 call to the ambulance service, in which he described being attacked and being in "terrific pain".

He told police officers who attended his home that two men forced their way into his home, demanding drugs, attacking him when he told them he did not know anything about any drugs.

Mr Milsom admitted being at the house when Mr Ridgeway was injured, but denied manslaughter, claiming the victim instigated the physical altercation. The jury did not believe his account.

In a 2025 trial, Mr Milsom was acquitted of murder, but the jury failed to reach a verdict relating to manslaughter, leading to a re-trial this year.

A second man, Ryan Robbins, 35, also from Keynsham, was acquitted on all counts at the 2025 trial.

Mr Ridgeway's brother is also in his seventies and too unwell to attend court.

Wayne Milsom, left, has been handed a 15-year jail term after being convicted of the manslaughter of Stephen Ridgeway, right

In a statement read on his behalf, he explained that he was on good terms with his brother at the time of his death, although they had not seen each other often due to his mobility declining.

The brother acknowledged Mr Ridgeway's history with drug addiction but said: "He came through this and he had been doing well with this in the last year of his life."

He explained that the circumstances of Mr Ridgeway's death meant he had not "properly grieved for him".

He said: "The way in which Stephen died has caused me to feel very vulnerable and unsafe."

NEWS

Winter flu jab drive begins

THIS year's drive to protect the most vulnerable people against the winter flu virus has begun for those in Bath and North East Somerset.

People aged 65 and over can receive a flu vaccination for free on the NHS. Those eligible can get their flu vaccination at their GP practice or a participating community pharmacy, helping to protect themselves and those around them this winter.

Each year, thousands of people across the region will feel the unpleasant side effects of flu, but for those who are older or vulnerable, the risks posed by the virus can be much greater.

Dr Barry Coakley, deputy chief medical officer for Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, Dorset and Somerset Integrated Care Boards Cluster, said: "Flu is not just a bad cold. It can be very serious, lead to severe illness and even be life-threatening.

"The flu vaccine is a safe and effective way for people to reduce their risk of becoming seriously unwell, and those eligible are strongly encouraged to take up the offer, not only to protect themselves, but also their loved ones."

Along with people aged 65 and over, others who are also being encouraged to get protected include under-65s who have been identified as clinically at-risk, care home residents, people who share a home with someone who has a weakened immune system, frontline health and care workers, pregnant women and children.

Flu vaccinations are available through local GP practices and community pharmacies.

Anyone eligible for vaccinations can book online at www.nhs.uk, by downloading the NHS App, or by calling 119.

KEYNSHAM WALKERS ARE WELCOME

Capability Brown's lake delights walkers

THIRTEEN walkers joined this month's walk leader, Dawn Drury, for a short bus ride from the Keynsham Memorial Park to the Globe Roundabout near Newton St Loe.

Here, under slightly grey skies, the group began their walk up Corston Drive and into the grounds of Bath Spa University.

Approximately halfway up the drive, the group took a gravelled pathway on the right heading towards woodland and Corston Brook.

Just along the permissive path, the group went through some ornate wrought iron twin gates heading uphill through the woods and passing a fishing lake on the right.

Coming out of this small section of woodland, the group was amazed at the picturesque view before them — a beautiful lake and grounds that, during the history of the estate, were radically re-designed by Capability Brown in 1761, under a commission of the then-owner Joseph Langton.

In the distance, beyond the lake known as the Fish Pond, high on the hill, features a surviving medieval tower, seen in the photo.

After taking photos, the group skirted the lake, which was teeming with life, including swans, ducks and coots, and headed for the university's walled garden.

After a short stroll around the grounds of the walled garden, the group headed up Newton Drive, passing various university campus buildings, including the front of the old Manor House.

Along the drive, the walkers followed a sign directing them to Newton St Loe Farm Shop.

On arrival at the Farm Shop, the sun began to shine, and our walkers sat and enjoyed some very welcome refreshments before heading out of the university grounds and catching the bus back to Keynsham.

The walkers in front of a surviving medieval tower on Bath Spa University's grounds

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POETRY CORNER

Winter Approaches

November's upon us, the Autumn is over,
But that doesn't mean we can't be in clover.
With more time indoors we'll value our home,
Finding hobbies and jobs, not wanting to roam.

A reason to sit quietly, reading a book,
Discover new menus, explore meals to cook.
Sift through the brochures for next year's fresh seed,
Put nuts out for birds, now no young to feed.

Go for a walk, leave behind indoor fug.
Don hats and gloves, wrap up warm and snug.
When kicking up leaves on a cold misty day
A glimpse of the sun always brightens the way

So be ready to smile at the people you meet,
Laugh with your friends whom you greet in the street.
And remember with troubles - little or large,
God's always around, let Him be in charge.

Life's ever changing for man and for beast,
But something is certain — and this not the least.
The one thing in life that's forever the same
Is God's presence with us, He knows every name.

Sylvia Kirby

NEWS

Walk raises more than £1,100

STAFF at Hays Travel in Keynsham have completed their own 10k walk for charity after their planned fundraising event was postponed, raising more than £1,100 so far.

The seven-strong team, including Jayne, Jessie, Helen, Immy, Elle, Sev and Poppy, had been due to take part in the Cancer Research UK Shine Walk on October 9, aiming to raise £700 between them.

The event was postponed until October 16 because of protests in Bristol, however, only three of the team were available for the new date.

With all seven having worked hard to collect donations, the team decided everyone should still take part and mapped out their own 10k route around Bath city centre and completed it together.

Team member Sev, who was on holiday in Turkey, did her 10k in the sunshine.

The team has now raised £1,196.91, far exceeding its original target.

Above: Walkers Jayne, Jessie, Helen, Immy, Elle and Poppy in front of the Royal Crescent. Below: Sev on her 10k walk in Turkey

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KEYNSHAM SCOUTS

Thousands raised at auction

THANK YOU to everyone who made this year's Scout Auction, Book and Toy sale such a huge success — £7,000 was raised towards supporting Scouting in Keynsham, a fantastic result.

We would like to share some words from one of the attendees on the day. It made the organisers so proud: "What a great day we had at the auction this year.

"I've been a few times and always enjoy it, but this year my youngest daughter came up with me for an hour and was having so much fun she ended up staying all day.

"Interesting lots, great value, good vibes and relaxed atmosphere. My wife and in-laws even joined for the last hour because they couldn't drag me away. I came back with more than a car full, including a dog bed, a liquid thermometer, a computer monitor and a leather dog that are now fixtures in the house.

"I also came back with some Audi roof bars, a box of bells and two hedgehog doorstops that we have no need for, but that are delightful.

"Still gutted I missed out on the tall wooden giraffe and kicking myself for not bidding on the vintage deck chair (hope the new owner brings it back next year!)."

Finally, a shout-out to the Keynsham Voice, with our advert on the back page and landing on everyone's doormat; it makes the event such a success and brings it to everyone's attention. Thank you.

Next year's event will be on Saturday, September 25. Why not pop it in your diary today so that you do not miss out. There is something for everyone.

The Scout Auction raised £7,000 for Scouting in Keynsham

Clay pigeon shooting is our next challenge for you. Never tried it? Now is your chance! Visit www.1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk/clay/ and book yourself in. Dates are November 21 or 22. Fun for everybody, all equipment and tuition provided.

Leadership, fun and friendship

OUR Scout group is thriving, with more young people taking part than at any time in our 117-year history.

It's wonderful to see so much enthusiasm, although we still have young people waiting to join.

We're also delighted that our adult team is growing too!

We'd love to hear from adults who may be interested in getting involved.

You might enjoy a leadership role, helping behind the scenes with marketing or events, joining our friendly Monday morning maintenance team, leading a sport such as climbing or simply having a chat to discover where your interests and skills could fit.

Whatever you choose, you can look forward to fun, friendship and a little adventure along the way.

To find out more, email us at scouts@1stkeynshamscouts.org.uk or call 07714237525 and ask, "What can I do?" We'd be very happy to welcome you.

NEWS

Leader's email blunder to council opponents

By John Wimperis, LDRS reporter

A B&NES council leader has accidentally sent an email warning about "political opponents" to all of his political opponents on the council.

Kevin Guy (pictured, right), the Liberal Democrat leader of Bath and North East Somerset Council, warned that opposition councillors were trying to "spread misinformation and attack the administration" in a weekly email intended for local Liberal Democrats. But alongside major party donor Baron Paul Strasburger and local Lib Dem MPs, the email also CCed a mailing list for every councillor on the council.

One Green councillor said the email was an attempt to "smear" those holding the administration to account. A member of the Liberal Democrat administration admitted the email had been sent "in error" but defended its claims as accurate.

Mr Guy's email began with updates about his work in the

last week before addressing the controversy around a new cycle lane in Bath's Royal Victoria Park (RVP). He wrote: "The RVP project should be a really good news story with improvements to lighting, pavements and crossings, as well as a cycle route aimed at giving pedestrians and cyclists their own safe routes.

"Unfortunately, our political opponents are using this project to spread misinformation and attack the administration. We're going to see more of this as we approach the election, so please do rely on and highlight official sources of information. Please don't amplify our opponents' campaigns."

Saskia Heijltjes, a Green councillor who has been a critic of the scheme, said: "It is a serious accusation for the leader of council and former deputy mayor of WECA to suggest that questions on the process to spend public money is "disinformation". [...] His comments are disingenuous and appear to want to smear anyone including those holding this administration to account."

Manda Rigby, the Liberal Democrat council cabinet member for communications, said: "The email referred to was sent to all councillors in error." She said she was responding on the leader's behalf as he is "currently at WECA committee securing a £7m investment for BANES".

The statement continued: "The email highlights a lot of the very positive achievements of the week. The piece about RVP is factually very accurate. There is misinformation being spread, and it's increasingly clear that some are overtly trying to do this for political gain.

"As the leader of the Lib Dem group, I think it's highly appropriate that Kevin writes to the team weekly, points to the achievements, and asks them to ensure they pass on the right information so that any debate is a legitimate one based on facts, rather than on misinformation."

The cycle lane through Royal Victoria Park is not only opposed by the Greens. 84 per cent of the 261 people who responded to a consultation on the scheme were against it and almost 3,000 people have singed a petition against the plan.

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Trade opportunity in The Paddock

MOBILE businesses are invited to submit an expression of interest to trade at The Paddock, an area of land in Keynsham that sits next to St John's Church and is accessible from Station Road.

You may have noticed Keynsham Coffee Company has been trading from The Paddock over the past few weeks.

This is a temporary trial while Keynsham Town Council explores potential future uses for this location.

As part of this process, the council is inviting expressions of interest from mobile businesses that may wish to trade from the pitch in the future.

If you have a proposal, please submit an outline of no more than two A4 pages, explaining your business, how you would use the pitch, and the benefits your business could bring to the local community.

Expressions of interest should be emailed to townclerk@keynsham-tc.gov.uk by 30 November 2026.

All submissions will be considered, with a recommendation to be presented to the Town Council meeting on 15 December 2026.

Please note that no decision has been made regarding the future use of The Paddock. The current arrangement is a trial only, and any longer-term proposal will be subject to a full public consultation before any final decision is taken.

We look forward to hearing from local businesses and entrepreneurs with ideas that could enhance The Paddock for residents and visitors alike.

Remembrance Day Parade Schedule:

9:30am: Church Service at St John's Church.

10:30am: Parade will proceed from St John's Church along the High Street via Bath Hill to the Memorial Gates.

11am: Remembrance Service at the Memorial Gates.

11:20am: Service concludes and the Parade will head up Bath Hill and back onto the High Street where it will fall out and disperse.

Part road closures will be in place from **9am to 11.30am** on **Sunday 8th November** for the High Street, bottom of Charlton Road by the Ashton Way Roundabout, bottom of Rock Road into Temple Steet and Bath Hill. Please avoid parking on the High Street and along the parade route.
Vehicles can not be moved within the road closures during the Parade times.

Dawn and Kelvin receiving the award

Silver award for local cemetery

KEYNSHAM Cemetery has scooped a Silver Award at the National Cemetery of the Year Awards 2026/2027.

Keynsham Cemetery won Silver in the Parish, Town and Community Council Cemetery category of the national competition.

The award was presented at the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management (ICCM) Learning Convention and Exhibition at the end of September, attended by Keynsham Town Council's Town Clerk, Dawn Drury, and Grounds Maintenance Supervisor, Kelvin Bush.

These awards are an excellent opportunity to reward hard-working staff and demonstrate the central role cemeteries can play in the community.

They provide places of peaceful contemplation and beauty, as well as being of historical, social and ecological importance.

The Keynsham Town Council Cemetery team for Keynsham Cemetery performed exceptionally throughout the extensive judging period which is focused on industry standards, good practice and freedom of choice for the bereaved.

Mr Bush said: "This award is such a wonderful pat on the back for our team, it acknowledges that we really go above and beyond to try and provide a reliable, friendly and quality service and we are thrilled to have received it."

Play area set for refurbishment

KEYNSHAM Town Council is delighted to announce that work to improve the Park Road play area is scheduled to begin on January 4 2027, with the project expected to take approximately three weeks, weather permitting.

Following a successful public consultation, the improvements will give this hidden gem a new lease of life with a refreshed and welcoming space for local families and children to enjoy.

The project is part of the Town Council's commitment to enhancing local play facilities and ensuring our community spaces remain enjoyable for everyone.

Deputy Town Clerk, Katherine Sears, said: "It's wonderful to be moving forward with these improvements following feedback from families who regularly use the space. We hope the refreshed play area will provide an inviting space for children to play, families to spend time together and everyone to enjoy for years to come."

We look forward to seeing Park Road play area revitalised and ready for the community to enjoy in the new year.

KEYNSHAM TOWN COUNCIL NEWS

Magical winter festival returns

KENYNSHAM Town Council invites the community to enjoy the magic of the Keynsham Winter Festival on Saturday November 28, from 12 noon to 6pm.

A highlight of Keynsham's festive calendar, the annual event will bring the town centre to life with festive fun, live performances across two stages from local groups, market stalls, food and drink, and the popular funfair.

Visitors can look forward to an incredible range of free family activities, including face painting, Santa's Grotto, children's entertainment and meet-and-greets, alongside a wonderful festive atmosphere as Keynsham Town Council brings the community together to celebrate the start of the Christmas season.

The celebrations begin a day earlier, on Friday November 27, with the lighting of the Christmas tree at St John's Church, adding to the festive excitement across the town.

Look out for new additions and venues to the programme, this year promising to deliver more fun for all ages; the Winter Festival is a fantastic opportunity to support local businesses, discover community groups and share in the festive spirit.

Katherine Sears, Deputy Town Clerk, said: "The Winter Festival is a wonderful celebration of Keynsham's community spirit, bringing residents and visitors together to enjoy the start of the festive season while supporting our local businesses. We're looking forward to another fantastic day of festive entertainment, family activities and community celebrations."

This year the event is kindly supported by the following sponsors, IJ Mcgill Transport Ltd, Muse Dental, Wards Solicitors, Gregor Heating, Singer Wealth Management, Smart Computers UK Ltd, Curo Sales, W&W Memorials Limited, Meryton Place Care Home, Rose Holistic Therapies Studio, Keynsham Bargain Booze, Pie&Lattes Pilates Studio, FDC Law, Simply Carpets, Redfern Osteopaths, Olivia's Boutique, Peapods Play Café and The Old Bank.

Keynsham Town Council looks forward to welcoming residents and visitors for another memorable celebration. Visit Keynsham Town Council's website and social media for further details. www.keynsham-tc.gov.uk

Road closures and parking suspensions

ON NOVEMBER 27 the loading bays behind the library on the entry leading to the Civic Centre Car Park will be closed to allow for set-up. On November 28 from 9am-9pm road closures will be in effect, this includes the whole of the one-way section of the High Street and Temple Street from Iceland to Carpenters Lane.

It is essential that the cars along the High Street and the parking bay by Market Walk and Sainsbury's are removed by 9am on November 28, or it could seriously impact the set-up of the event. It's also important to note that the Civic Centre Car Park is part of the festival space and will be closed to the public during the event.

Please note, Charlton Road, Bath Hill and Rock Road will remain open, however, we ask all drivers to drive slowly and be aware of pedestrians. We encourage all drivers that if you are passing through the Town Centre during the Winter Festival to use the diversion routes that will be in operation.

Local bus services

The local bus services including 17, 39, 42, 43, 522, A4, K1 and K2 Bus Services will continue to run taking into consideration Road Closures and Bus Stop suspensions on the Hight Street, Albert Road and Temple Street.

NEWS

Professor 'honoured' by appointment

BATH SPA Vice-Chancellor Georgina Andrews has been appointed to support Somerset's Lord-Lieutenant, who is the King's representative in the county.

Professor Andrews said in a statement published by Bath Spa University: "I am deeply honoured to be appointed a Deputy Lieutenant of Somerset. Having lived in Keynsham for more than a decade, Somerset is very much home, and I am delighted to have the opportunity to help promote the voluntary and charitable sector and to contribute further to the life of the county."

She will support Lord-Lieutenant Mohammed Saddiq, alongside three other deputies from Somerset.

Mr Saddiq said: "Our new Deputy Lieutenants bring a range of skills to the Lieutenancy and it is a pleasure to welcome them to their new roles.

"They will do a great deal to encourage, support and celebrate the lives and achievements of people and voluntary organisations in our county – and that is what the Lieutenancy is about. I look forward to working with them in the weeks and months ahead."

Professor Andrews has a background in law and led two distinctive and successful Business Schools before being appointed as the Deputy Vice-Chancellor and Provost of Bath Spa University. She became Vice-Chancellor in January 2025.

Her student-centred approach and academic credentials were recognised when she became one of the first Professors of Business Education in the UK.

She has lived in Keynsham with her family since 2015 and is a supporter of local voluntary sector organisations across Somerset.

Professor Georgina Andrews with Lord-Lieutenant Mohammed Saddiq

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CHANGE FOR THE BETTER

Nature promises are still unkept

THIS month, government officials and environmental experts are gathering for COP27 in Yerevan, the far-flung capital of Armenia.

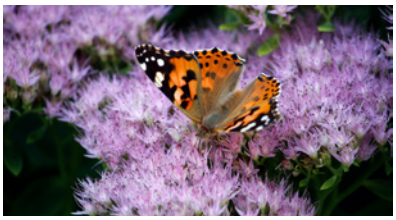
This COP focuses on nature and was established in Rio in 1992, where the signatories (most of the world's countries), committed to crucial nature targets such as protecting 30 per cent of land and sea for nature and restoring 30 per cent of the planet's degraded ecosystems.

Shockingly, governments haven't met a single one of the 23 targets set in 1992, and this year there's a big push to get at least some back on track.

One target going backwards is the commitment to reform and repurpose subsidies that damage the environment. Governments are still handing out tax benefits to fossil fuel companies, and grants for destroying rainforests to expand agriculture.

And yet developing countries need more financial support to protect the environment at a time when the developed world is reducing its funding. Green private finance, once the great hope of governments everywhere, has failed to take off as predicted.

Why should we care about this? Because our economy is dependent on healthy



ecosystems at home and abroad. There is no food without nature.

We rely on insects, fertile soil and clean water. Yet the UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world, and our rapacious demand for food and other goods is depleting other ecosystems around the world.

Steps we can take include lobbying the government to stand by its commitments to nature conservation at home and abroad.

We can donate money or time to environmental charities like the Avon Wildlife Trust or the RSPB.

And we can all make space for nature in our own lives, whether that's caring for a street tree, planting a window box, gardening for nature or volunteering at a larger scale. As Nelson Mandela said: "It always seems impossible until it's done."

Elizabeth Willitts

CHURCH NEWS

Council's grant helps music session continue

KEYNSHAM and Saltford Dementia Action Alliance's (SDAA) Music for the Mind sessions held at St Dunstan's Church Hall have now been taking place for nine years and we are starting to think about how we can celebrate 10 years next year on May 13.

Mike Knight (SDAA) with Cllr Caitlin Brennan

The Music for the Mind events continue to be well attended, with up to 60 attendees on a couple of occasions. They are fun events and always bring smiles to the faces of those who attend. The alliance is very grateful to Keynsham Town Council, which recently awarded us an £800 grant, which will enable us to continue not only with the sessions at St Dunstan's but also with special trips out.

We have just taken a group to watch the film 'Finding Your Feet' at the Chocolate Factory; afterwards, most of the group stayed on and had lunch in the restaurant.

Other events coming up are a boccia session on October 29 at St Dunstan's Hall and a visit to Cadbury's garden centre on Thursday November 19.

Our regular free Music for the Mind sessions are on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month in St Dunstan's Church Hall between 10.30am and 12.15pm. All are welcome. For more information, visit www.keynshamdaa.co.uk or e-mail ksdaa22@gmail.com

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THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

Kevin Durrant

Keynsham Baptist Church

> Like the fishing boats in Hokusai's picture, the plight of both soldiers and civilians often gets lost within the flash pyrotechnics of war

IF I was to ask you to name a Japanese artwork, it's very likely you would say "the one with the big wave in it."

The actual title is The Great Wave off Kanagawa, and it is a woodblock print made by the artist Hokusai in 1831.

It shows a huge wave of deep blue water topped with white surf which fills the left-hand side of the picture and is about to break. I'm ashamed to say that it was only recently that I looked more carefully at the image and noticed three narrow boats with some fishermen aboard, almost swamped by the swell and in great danger. So impressed was I by the massive wave, that I'd failed to see its human impact.

This reminded me of the phrase "shock and awe" much used during the opening phase of the 2003 Iraq War, when hundreds of cruise missiles lit up the night sky above Baghdad.

As a visual performance, it was very

impressive, but beneath it all, hidden from our view, hundreds of human beings were being maimed and killed.

Like the fishing boats in Hokusai's picture, the plight of both soldiers and civilians often gets lost within the flashy pyrotechnics of war. It is important, therefore, that we make an effort to remember the individuals who have suffered the effects of past conflicts. We do this each November, as we gather around Keynsham's Memorial Gates on which are inscribed the names of human beings just like us. It is a sad occasion, but not without hope.

If we look more closely at Hokusai's picture, we would also see the snow-capped Mount Fuji in the distance. This is no incidental detail, for the picture is just one of a series entitled "Thirty-six views of Mount Fuji" (currently on display at London's Dulwich Picture Gallery).

This enduring mountain, sacred to the Japanese, is the abiding motif.

It tells us that, even if the waves of war or other fearful circumstances threaten to overwhelm us, there is still something eternal we can hold onto.

It's why the Bible often speaks of God as our Rock. He is always there, like Hokusai's Mount Fuji, and we can place our trust in Him both during the good times and the bad.

Bath & North East Somerset Council

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NEWS

Step leading up to ramp sparks backlash

By John Wimperis, LDRS reporter

NEW council homes have sparked questions as the ramp up to the front door ends in a step — rendering it inaccessible to wheelchair users.

Located opposite the town's large Tesco store, the ten homes at Great Barn Court are Bath and North East Somerset Council's newest council homes. But they have sparked some concern on social media, as Keynshamites were quick to notice that the ramp leading to the entrance of block two ends suddenly in a step down to the pavement.

One person wrote: "Is this what is classed as accessible housing these days? A step onto a ramp!" Local councillor Alex Beaumont (Keynsham North, Liberal Democrat) said he had raised the issue with the council's building company Aequus. He said: "I haven't seen anything like it!"

The council's cabinet member for housing Matt McCabe (Bathavon South, Liberal Democrat) said: "While the development fully complies with planning and building regulations and all the accessible properties are in Block One, site constraints mean the current entrance to Block Two doesn't provide the level access we originally sought and this is being addressed."

He added: "However, this shouldn't take away from this achievement and the council's commitment to meeting housing needs in our area." He said: "We are really proud of this scheme — taking a small plot of land and investing in building affordable homes, which have made a real difference to people's lives."

The homes were built as part of Bath and North East Somerset Council's project to turn land it owns but does not use into new council houses.

Above: The ramp at Great Barn Court ends in a step. Image: Tracie-Jane Bath. Right: Council cabinet member for housing Matt McCabe

The first homes in the scheme were seven flats built it what had once been council offices in Bath. The ten homes in Keynsham were built on a council owned patch of land behind the High Street which had previously been used for informal parking.

The original plans stated that Block Two was not intended as wheelchair accessible accommodation.

The planning application said that, because the site was so small and constrained, it was decided not to include wheelchair accessible homes which would require more space and lifts. It stated: "The proposed designs ensure that the site maximises the density / number of new affordable dwellings."

Announcing that the homes were ready for people to move in earlier this month, Mr McCabe said: "Every new affordable home we deliver makes a real difference to people and families who need somewhere secure, high-quality and affordable to live."

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

with Judith Thomas from Keynsham Library

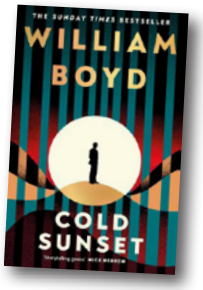
Adult fiction

Cold Sunset

William Boyd

This is the latest book from William Boyd about his reluctant spy Gabriel Dax. I saw William Boyd recently talking about this book and he gave brilliant insight into the characters and how he writes.

Set in 1964 at the height of the Cold War Gabriel is thrown yet again into the espionage world of The Institute and his enigmatic handler, Faith Green. From California to Russia to the frozen fields of Norway Gabriel's world is getting very complicated as he is tasked with bringing back a celebrated defector Kit Caldwell. Kit believes the KGB suspects him of treachery and he wants out. Gabriel must make plans, under the guise of being a travel writer, to arrange his escape. But tensions rise and loyalties are tested, especially his complicated relationship with his handler Faith Green. Can he finish his mission alive and return to his quiet writer's life in Surrey? This is the third book in the Gabriel Dax series and as usual, it is fast-paced, with great characters – Gabriel in particular. Enjoy.

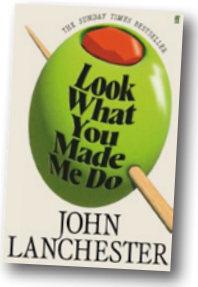


Look What You Made Me Do

John Lanchester

"What if the year's biggest TV drama seemed to be describing your own life?"

In John Lanchester's latest novel, Kate begins to wonder if a popular TV series has borrowed details from her own marriage. What follows is a story about relationships, secrets and the different ways people remember and describe the same events. If you've enjoyed Lanchester's Capital, perhaps his best-known novel, you'll want to give this one a try. If you've never read him before, this is also a good place to start. The writing is clear, often funny, and full of sharp observations about everyday life.



More focused on personal relationships than some of Lanchester's earlier books, Look What You Made Me Do is a thoughtful and entertaining read for anyone who enjoys contemporary fiction with believable characters and a good dose of humour.

■ **Reviewed by Judith's husband, Andy**

Testament of Youth

Vera Brittain

A timely classic, this is a heart-breaking, beautiful story and always extremely relevant as Remembrance Day approaches. Vera Brittain was twenty in 1914 and had been living a very comfortable, tranquil life and was destined to go to Oxford University. She lives with her brother Edward and is in love with his friend Roland. However, when the First World War begins, both men join up.

Vera and Roland's love story is poignantly described here, as well as the dramatic changes that the war brings on Vera and Britain. She does not take up her position at Oxford but volunteers as a nurse. This role gives her some purpose, travel to Malta, and nursing the wounded, both British and German. However, she emerges from those terrible years into a much-altered world.

Older picture books

Bunny Vs Monkey

Jamie Smart

In Keynsham Library you would not believe how many times we are asked about this series of books. He is everywhere, young boys would enjoy the whimsy of the story. Originally published as a weekly comic strip in the magazine Phoenix, the stories are put together in 10 volumes (a new one coming this autumn). In the woods, the peace of the animals is disturbed when a monkey lands and decides to create chaos; he is forming a team with Skunky, who is a mad scientist and wants to take over the woods. Bunny and his friend spend their time fighting their inventions or making revengeful plans. If you are already fan, you might be in luck and book a ticket for the Bath Children's Literature Festival and go to meet Jamie Smart.

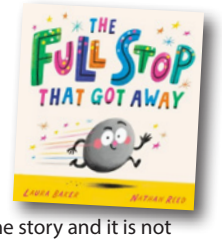
■ **Reviewed by Emilie Bioud, Keynsham Library Assistant**

Children's picture book

The Full Stop That Got Away

Laura Baker

This very cleverly done book explains why Frank, the Full Stop is the essential punctuation. He is needed to finish the sentence but also the book… but Frank decides it doesn't want to continue the story and it is not going very well without him.



A very nice idea, very unique and different from any stories. Hopefully Laura Baker will bring back Frank for more adventures.

■ **Reviewed by Emilie Bioud, Keynsham Library Assistant**

Rabbit! Rabbit! Rabbit!

Lorna Scobie

A little rabbit is enjoying his life as a single child, but his parents have other plans and soon siblings start to appear and disturb his peace and quiet. What could be the solution to pestering siblings? Maybe Mrs Fox, the neighbour, would know how to help? The illustrations are delightful and your little rabbit might find some wisdom and a lesson in this cute little book.

■ **Reviewed by Emilie Bioud, Keynsham Library Assistant**

Library news

Keynsham Winter Festival will be held on Saturday November 28 2026, 12pm-6pm.

The library will be open with Punch and Judy shows, crafts and face painting.

This year is the national Year of Reading. Look out in all the local libraries for some exciting displays and great book suggestions.

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

Tuesday 9.30-10am and 10.30-11.00am term time only 0-5 years, for families with children, sing along at Baby Bounce and Rhyme, or get comfy whilst listening to stories at our ever-popular Storytime, Thursday at 10.30am at Keynsham Library – term time only and for 0-4 years.

Joining the library costs nothing, so pop in or visit www.librarieswest.org.uk to also access thousands of eBooks.

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MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Investing in your ideas to cut crime

With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody

FROM my experience as your police and crime commissioner, I know that the people closest to local challenges often have the clearest understanding of what could help address them.

I also know there is no shortage of passion, expertise and determination in our communities across Avon and Somerset.

Over the past two and a half years, I've heard brilliant ideas from grassroots organisations, volunteers, residents and community leaders.

But I have also heard that access to funding can be one of the biggest barriers to turning these ideas into action.

That is why I am investing £500,000 over the next two years to support community-led projects that prevent crime, reduce harm and make communities safer.

My new Community Fund invites voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations to apply for grants of up to £10,000, for projects that will make a real difference and support my Police and Crime Plan priorities.

Those priorities include reducing crime, violence and anti-social behaviour, preventing crime, supporting victims, and strengthening community relationships.

More than 1,000 people across Avon and Somerset helped shape these priorities during my time campaigning and when I was elected as your PCC.

They reflect the challenges, issues and priorities that you raised with me.

While the police have a vital role to play in delivering these priorities, lasting improvements depend on partners, organisations and residents working together to prevent harm and improve safety in our neighbourhoods.

This fund is about supporting you to do just this. It's about backing local solutions and enabling more of our communities' ideas to become reality. It's about driving positive local change and helping people who are at higher risk of harm, victimisation or offending.

Applications for projects in South Gloucestershire, Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset and North Somerset are being administered through Quartet Community Foundation (quartetcf.org.uk). Organisations in Somerset should apply through Somerset Community Foundation (somersetcf.org.uk).

I encourage you to look at their websites for application rounds and criteria, and to explore whether the fund could support your work to improve safety and deliver these priorities.

There will be several opportunities over the next two years to apply for grants through the Community Fund, as part of my ongoing commitment to investing in you and your ideas, wherever you live in Avon and Somerset.

I look forward to seeing the ideas, projects and partnerships that emerge through this fund, and the difference they will make to people across our region.

SCHOOL NEWS

Literature festival inspires young readers

CHILDREN at Castle Primary School in Keynsham have enjoyed meeting with authors and taking home books from the recent Bath Children's Literature Festival.

Tom Gates fans from Castle Primary School (Year 4) met with Liz Pichon, author and illustrator of the ever-popular series.

Kelly Sessions, headteacher at Castle said: "The children thoroughly enjoyed Liz Pichon's lively and engaging presentation and loved learning how to draw in her unique style through a step-by-step drawing session. It was an inspiring experience that left everyone feeling creative and excited about reading and writing."

All schools are members of The Partnership Trust, a multi-academy trust of 17 first, primary and special schools in B&NES and Somerset.

Sarah Savage, director of school improvement (Curriculum and Assessment) said: "Having Bath Children's Literature Festival so close to our schools is a wonderful opportunity, enabling pupils to engage directly with authors and illustrators and inspiring them to develop a lasting love of reading."

Below: Liz Pichon during the draw-along. Right: Castle pupil Amelia enjoying the event

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.

Housing targets are the council's choice

WHILST I agree with one or two of Cllr Duncan Hounsell's points about the fairer distribution of local houses, some points risk spreading a fundamental misconception about how government housing policy works. Claims that the Labour government has set a specific, individual target of around 14,000 new dwellings for "North East Somerset" is simply factually incorrect.

To be absolutely clear, the Labour Government has not issued separate figures for Bath on the one hand and North East Somerset on the other. Under the 'National Standard Method' formula, reintroduced and updated by the Labour government to reflect local housing affordability based on property prices relative to local wages, a single, overarching housing need figure is calculated for the entire local authority area of Bath and North East Somerset as a whole. It is this Liberal Democrat Council that is responsible for the fair or unfair distribution of that housing need across our authority. The choice to build too little in Bath and other areas is this administration's political choice. Anyone that attended the Keynsham Forum meeting the other evening heard officers state that there are areas in Bath that are being explored for development but that they would not be included in the current Local Plan. The question for Keynsham and Saltford residents then is "why?"

Central government is not dictating how those homes are carved up between individual towns, villages, or sub-regions. How development is distributed across Bath, Keynsham, the Somer Valley, and our rural communities is strictly a matter for B&NES Council to decide through the current Local Plan spatial strategy, taking into account infrastructure capacity, transport links, environmental protections, and local constraints. Our message to our Lib Dem colleagues must be that the A4 corridor actually extends through Bath and out the other side! Not simply in Keynsham and Saltford.

Misrepresenting district-wide targets as specific mandates for individual areas distracts from the pressing need for genuinely affordable homes for young families who are currently priced out of the communities where they grew up. Rather than debating fictitious government quotas for specific parishes or sub-areas, our local discussion should focus on ensuring that the delivery of new homes,and critically, affordable housing, is distributed fairly across the entire district rather than disproportionately burdened on Keynsham and Saltford.

Cllr Dave Biddleston, B&NES Keynsham South Ward

The 'under-utilised' car park in Ashton Way. Image: Google Maps

Help put a stop to new homes plan

LAST month I wrote about how nearly three-quarters of the new homes in the Local Plan are being put outside Bath.

This month I am asking people to help stop it. North East Somerset First has launched a petition calling on B&NES Council to pause the Local Plan until local people have voted in May 2027. We are also asking for the roads, schools, GP surgeries and other services we need to be in place before major development goes ahead.

The council says the government decides how many homes B&NES must build. That is true. But the council still decides where those homes go. The plan includes 3,400 to 3,650 homes around Keynsham, around 2,000 at Hicks Gate and around 1,290 at Saltford.

Together, that is more than the roughly 5,900 homes planned for the whole of Bath. Keynsham's GP network is already short of space. Our roads are already busy.

Local people are right to ask how our area will cope. We are not against new homes. We simply want a fairer plan, proper infrastructure and a chance for local people to have their say first.

The council will decide on December 15 whether to send the plan to a planning inspector.

Please sign the petition at nesomersetfirst.uk/local-plan-petition.

Leo Pargeter, Chairman, North East Somerset & Hanham Conservatives

Car park is not 'under-utilised'

I WAS astonished to read the proposal to redevelop half of Ashton Way Car Park and the Labbotts on the basis that parking is supposedly "under-utilised".

The evidence that we requested simply does not support that conclusion.

Labour councillors requested to see the council's own parking survey, carried out in November 2022, which found Ashton Way Car Park reached 76 per cent occupancy during the week between 10am and 4pm and at times it was full. These are not the figures of a car park sitting empty.

The wider picture makes the case even stronger. Labbott South Car Park recorded an average occupancy of 128 per cent, meaning it was effectively full throughout the survey period, with drivers having to wait for spaces or circulate.

Labbott North averaged 72 per cent occupancy, again demonstrating consistently high demand.

Taken together, these figures show that Keynsham's principal town centre car parks are heavily used and play a vital role in supporting local businesses.

B&NES council decided to take the average over 24 hours – of course it is empty at 2am in the morning, but that brings the average down.

It is also important to remember the timing of the survey. The data was collected in November 2022, only months after the final Covid restrictions had ended. Across the UK, many high streets were still recovering from the pandemic, with footfall remaining below pre-Covid levels. If all the car parks were just about full during this recovery period, it is reasonable to expect demand to have increased further as shopping and town centre activity continued to recover.

The proposal also fails to recognise that Keynsham has experienced significant housing growth in recent years or that more could come. These additional residents will inevitably increase demand for town centre parking if we are to maintain a thriving High Street.

Decisions of this importance should be based on current conditions, not on data collected nearly four years ago and misinterpreted as evidence of "under-utilisation". B&NES Lib Dem councillors once again are found to be basing their arguments for

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housing in Keynsham on incorrect or misleading information, anything to avoid housing in and around Bath; this is deeply offensive to the residents of Keynsham.

Reducing parking when the evidence shows the town's main car parks are already well used risks harming the very businesses and town centre vitality that the Local Plan says it wants to support.

Martin Burton, on behalf of Keynsham and Saltford Labour Party

Bypass plan: good in theory, not in practice

THE proposal to install a pair of bus stops on Keynsham Bypass is good in theory, but I can't see it working in practice. How will we know whether to head for the Keynsham Church or Bypass stop when making for Bristol or Bath? I can imagine someone arriving at the latter, only to find that the last X39 to Bristol has gone, requiring a trek to the Church stop for the 39. At the very least, we'll need an integrated timetable for services 39, X39, 522, 43 and A4, printed and distributed with the Keynsham Voice. Pool Barton is not a viable option as major civil engineering work would be needed.

Jack Martin Leith

More roadworks; still very little action

YET again we have roadworks in central Keynsham! No action either over the weekend or today. Why?

Works on Station Road continue to cause traffic mayhem with really long queues on all roads around the church roundabout into Somerdale and down past the station.

The costs of delays to businesses and folks late for work appear to be of little concern to the roadworks team, if there is one!

With the congestion caused to traffic, there needs to be urgency to complete these works asap, not what appears to be a mañana approach.

David Buckland

Leave Ashton Way car park well alone

I HAVE just read in your paper and officially online about the possible plans of the Lib Dem-run council thinking of partially closing the Ashton Way car park.

Yes, around 114 spaces (half the car park) to replace with offices/flats. This, I am guessing, will put an end to most, if not all, the short-term free parking as well as a large proportion of the paid parking spaces? This proposal was put forward after, and I quote, "off-street parking surveys currently indicate under-utilisation of parking within the vicinity of Keynsham High Street".

Well, if you have tried to park in Ashton Way car park on a weekday or Saturday while the high street outlets are open, you will know that it involves driving two or three times around the car park whilst trying to find a space. The only way you can make this car park more utilised would be to stack cars on top of each other.

If this madness goes ahead, then all shoppers, coffee lovers, Memorial Park users, not to mention the retail outlet owners, will suffer. Also, events like the music festival. Keynsham High Street is vibrant and busy.

The close proximity parking is cheap, safe and convenient for all. It works well for both the public and retailers. My advice is: LEAVE IT ALONE. If it ain't broke, don't fix it? You will destroy everything that Keynsham is now.

Andy Grimmer

A photo from last month's letters pages sent by Paul Rabbeth, who asked readers if they could shed light on this carving

Shedding light on ammonite carving

I CAN confirm that the ammonite-carved stone near the children's play area in the Memorial Park was supplied by the arts department at Broadlands School.

If I remember rightly, there was also a ring of painted flat stones associated with it, but maybe the parkies would know better, as they would have mown over them.

This was happening around the millennium, and they also did a scary 4m carved wooden cedar crocodile. This found a home in the new part of the park behind the leisure centre at the bottom near the river. There is a side channel there with an island in it, which was where he lived and is maybe still there but covered in weeds?

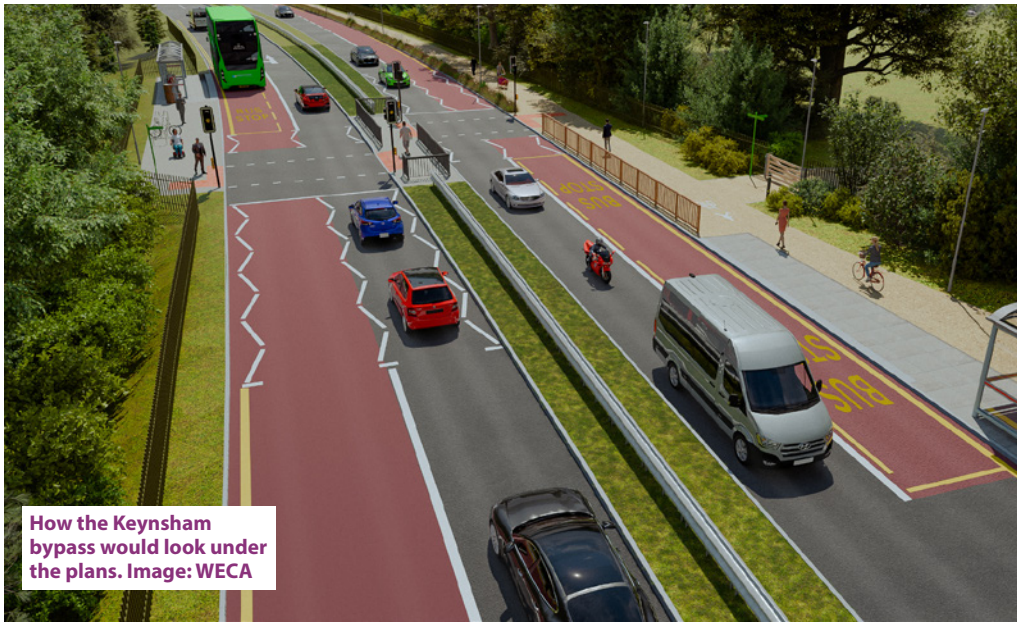
It led to a small stone building which I think housed pumping equipment, but that's been demolished, and the area is favourite with the ducks now.

Around the same time B&NES was actually doing something good for Keynsham — their museums education officer, Sue Potter, was overseeing an excellent community project involving schools and community groups creating mosaic panels telling bits of Keynsham history.

I was with Keynsham Community Association then and worked closely with the town centre manager, Rachel Ward, documenting the results. She found funding to produce a leaflet, The Mosaic Trail of Keynsham, while we did a larger print booklet on the Millennium Mosaics to put into schools to help with learning local history. Rachel was followed by Mark Tilsley, who got the mosaic panels framed and mounted in our lovely colourful flowerbeds in the town centre.

When they had to be moved for the new development, some were relocated to the park, but most were weather-damaged and needed a remake, so they are probably languishing in some basement of the council offices.

Sheila Crocombe



How the Keynsham bypass would look under the plans. Image: WECA

WHAT'S ON

Saturday October 31

■ CAMEO, Keynsham Methodist Church group for people living alone, tea and chat at Victoria Centre, High Street, 2.30pm.

Saturday October 31

■ A talk by Rev. Mike Leaves, "William Tyndale and the English Bible", Saltford Community Church, Norman Road, Saltford, 7.30pm. Refreshments provided. All welcome.

Monday November 2

■ Pensford Local History Group talk, 'Death and Service: The Commonwealth War Graves of Somerset', speaker Richard Cooper-Knight, 7.30pm, Pensford Memorial Hall (BS39 4HW) 7.30pm. The talk lasts about an hour. Attendance including refreshments is £3 (cash only). All welcome, no need to book. For more information, email pensfordhistorygroup@gmail.com

Friday November 13

■ Wildlife Talk "The Weird and Wonderful World of Moths" Keynsham Baptist Church Hall, BS31 1DS at 7:30pm. Entrance: £3.50 for Avon Wildlife Trust members; £5 for non-members includes refreshments served at 7:15pm. All welcome, no booking required.

Saturday November 14

■ Keynsham Farmers' Market, 9am-1pm at Market Walk. Make the most of one of the final markets of the year. Celebrate the autumn harvest with locally grown gourmet mushrooms and wild game. Warm up with a hot barista coffee and authentic street food in the fresh air. Support our dedicated independent farmers, bakers, and makers.

Saturday November 21

■ Keynsham Royal British Legion Women's Section will be holding their Christmas Fair with Craft Tables,10am-2pm. It is being held In the upstairs Function Room of The Royal British Legion Club, Charlton Road, Keynsham, BS31 2JA. Stair access only. Free entrance. We will be serving tea and coffee along with home made soups and crusty bread.

Tuesday November 24

■ 2pm at Saltford Hall, Saltford. Keynsham Flower Club is holding its Christmas demonstration 'Christmas With Carole'. Come along to enjoy this from Carole Norman, also a special hamper raffle! Sales table and tea available. Visitors very welcome. Tickets: £8

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

■ Line dance club Dance By-Line meets at Fear Hall, Keynsham, on Mondays, 7pm to 8.30pm.

■ 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.

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

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

■ 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.

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

■ Key Ring, Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham, 2.30pm to 4pm.

Mondays/Tuesdays

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

Mondays/Weds/Thursdays

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

Mondays/Thursdays

■ **Yoga For Men**
Monday 7-8pm 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/Thurs/Fridays

■ **Mat Pilates Classes**
Taught by Physiotherapist Kate
NEW: Mondays 9.15am (mixed ability)
Thursday 7pm (intermediate)
Fridays 10.30am (mixed ability)
St Francis Church, Warwick Rd, Keynsham.
6 week block of classes £60. You are welcome to do a taster class first £10
1:1 sessions also available at my studio in Saltford
Book online or by contacting Kate: 07454 047536
www.corerehab-physio.co.uk

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 4-11year 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

■ From September 8, Chew Valley Choral Society rehearsals start for 'Messiah', 7.30pm, Bishop Sutton Village Hall, Wick Road, Bishop Sutton, BS39 5XQ. Performance will be on November 28 in St John's Church, Keynsham. Details www.chewvalleychoral.org.uk/sing-messiah.

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

■ 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 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 – 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.

WHAT'S ON

■ 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 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.

■ Ladies group meets on alternate Tuesdays (October 6 & 20) at Keynsham Methodist Church, Queens Road, BS31 2NN, 2.30pm-4pm. Please check church calendar https://www.keynshammethodistchurch.co.uk/calendar/ for upcoming dates.

■ Craft group meets on alternate Tuesdays (October 13 & 27) in the Fellowship Room, Key Centre, Charlton Road, Keynsham, 2pm-4pm. All welcome.

■ 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.

Tuesdays/Weds/Thurs/ Sat

■ The Somerdale Shed and Community Garden is open Tuesday 6.30pm-9pm, Wednesday 9.30am to midday, Thursdays 9.30am-12pm, and Saturday 9.30am-12pm.

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 avoncountyrowingclub.org.uk

■ Saltford Village Choir continues to practice for our Christmas Blessings concert on Tuesday evenings from 7:30pm in the Wansdyke Room at Saltford Hall. Non-members welcome to come along and give us a try.

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.

■ Keynsham Photographic Society meet on Wednesday evenings at the Fear Hall in the High Street, 1st floor 7.30pm. A warm welcome group, open to anyone interested in photography at whatever level. From SLRs to mobile phones and everything in between. First meeting Wednesday September 9. Please see the forthcoming programme on the website https://www.keynshamphotographicsociety.co.uk/.

■ 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.

■ Buggy walk restarts weekly from October 14. Meet outside Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, for coffee and play, Wednesdays, 10.30am.

■ 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 - 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.

■ 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 October 21 at Keynsham Methodist Church, Victoria Centre, High Street, 10.30am-11.30am.

■ Kingsway Badminton Club needs new members to play with a friendly group of intermediate standard players at Keynsham Leisure Centre Wednesdays 6.50-8.50pm. Contact Sandra 07946 716591

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.

Wednesdays/Sundays

■ Keynsham Ladies Run. Free ladies social running group, part of This Woman Runs. 30 to 45-minute, chatty-paced runs with warm-up and cool-down. No need to book, come along and meet us at Ashton Way car park near the bus stop. Runs are on Wednesdays at 7.30pm and Sundays at 8am.

Thursdays

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

■ 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.

■ 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.

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

■ 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.

Thursdays

■ 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

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WHAT'S ON

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.

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

■ 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.

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

■ 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

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 website 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.

■ 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

Santa Dash back in town for more festive fun

THE ICONIC festive dash returns in December, bringing festive fun and fundraising to the local community.

The dash on Sunday December 6 will see hundreds of Santas once again fill the streets of Saltford and Keynsham, bringing Christmas cheer to the area.

Festivities will begin in the car park by Saltford Hall, and include a lively warm-up, a visit from Father Christmas, a choir performance, children's crafts and refreshments.

This year's event will raise funds for Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), in memory of local young man Jack Boulton, alongside Mentoring Plus which supports vulnerable young people.

CRY works to reduce young sudden cardiac arrest through awareness, screening, research and support for affected families, while Mentoring Plus provides mentoring and activity programmes for young people aged 5 to 25 experiencing challenges in their lives.

Organisers are also promising a charity raffle and plenty of festive atmosphere, they say "it's a morning not to miss!"

Registration is now open and can be accessed via Race Nation: race-nation.co.uk/register/saltford-santa-dash/saltford-santa-dash-2026

SCHOOL NEWS

Students learn the importance of CPR

HEARTSTARTERS volunteers from Great Western Air Ambulance Charity (GWAAC) trained the whole school over two days on 15 and 16 October 2026.

Through interactive sessions, which included practising the correct rhythm and pressure needed for effective CPR on manikins, students learnt what to do in an emergency and how to confidently administer CPR and use a defibrillator.

Kate Amor, education lead at GWAAC, said: "Delivering two full days of CPR and defibrillation training to the whole school was a wonderful way to celebrate this year's Restart a Heart Day on 16 October. The students were fantastic. They even wore green for GWAAC!"

The initiative reflects the school's commitment to creating a community where young people know how to respond in an emergency and have the practical skills to help protect the people around them.

Lift Broadlands students with Heartstarters volunteers from Great Western Air Ambulance, who trained the whole school on CPR over the course of two days

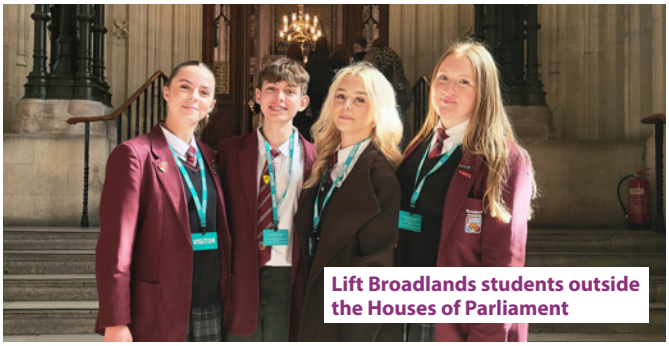
For one Lift Broadlands student and his family, the training was especially poignant. Hugo had a cardiac arrest while playing in a football tournament earlier this year. He is now back at school thanks to a chain of survival that included immediate CPR, defibrillation, and treatment from GWAAC's Critical Care Team.

Hugo's mum said: "I know from first-hand experience just how important it is to know CPR and how to use a defibrillator. When Hugo suffered a cardiac arrest, every second counted, and I'm incredibly grateful to everyone who helped save his life. I'm so thankful to Great Western Air Ambulance Charity and to Dr Glyn Thomas for the care and support he gave Hugo and our family.

Mr Dan Jackson, associate assistant principal for community and health at Lift Broadlands said: "Following Hugo's cardiac arrest earlier this year, it was vital that our school took direct action.

"We have been raising awareness all week through whole-school assemblies and listening to Hugo courageously share his personal story."

Parliament visit inspires



Lift Broadlands students outside the Houses of Parliament

STUDENTS from Lift Broadlands headed to London for a close-up look at Parliament, watching live debates from the public galleries.

The students visited both the House of Commons and House of Lords, where they watched proceedings taking place before exploring some of London's best-known landmarks, including Big Ben, the Cenotaph, 10 Downing Street and Buckingham Palace.

The visit also gave students the chance to ask thoughtful questions about Parliament and democracy, including whether an elected House of Lords would be fairer and how the age of its members might influence decisions.

The trip is part of Broadlands' wider approach to enrichment and personal development.

Mr Brendon Abood, Assistant Principal and Pastoral Team Leader at Life Broadlands, who accompanied the trip said: "It was fantastic to see our students engaging so thoughtfully with Parliament and asking such interesting questions. Being able to sit in both Houses and watch live debates gave them a real insight into how our democratic institutions work.

"I was also really proud of the way our older students supported the younger ones throughout the day. They represented Broadlands brilliantly."

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NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

Building careers, as well as homes

Metro Mayor Helen Godwin
writes for the Voice

AS the days turn colder and shorter I'm sure many of you, like me, are glad when you get back to the comfort of home of an evening.

Good homes build communities, and that's why I'm incredibly excited by our new Future Places Fund.

It's the combined authority's biggest single investment so far, at £130 million, and will help build thousands of new homes while tackling the housing crisis.

This fund is huge news for the West of England, as it's anticipated to grow our economy by up to £1 billion, creating and supporting 1,200 jobs a year in construction.

It will also open up opportunities for more investment into our cities, towns and villages.

With all this exciting development happening – including in places like Bristol Temple Quarter and Brabazon & the West Innovation Arc – we need even more skilled workers to help us put plans into action.

So, over the next three years we will also be injecting £11.5m to boost technical training, with a focus on much-needed construction skills.

Thousands of new places at colleges in our region will see on-site placements for students, alongside masterclasses from qualified trade professionals.

With tens of thousands of new homes needed in our region, we have to take this chance to help people build careers, as well as homes.

As we face colder winters and hotter summers, it's important that our infrastructure is prepared too.

Now the West of England has been promoted to the top tier of regions, we are unlocking new funding and opportunities through devolution.

This includes the regional delivery of the Warm Homes Plan. This is great news as it will ultimately mean more comfortable homes for residents, cheaper bills, and more job opportunities in retrofitting houses with insulation and green technology.

As Christmas and the colder months approach, I particularly want to highlight our work with charities and partners to tackle rough sleeping.

The government has allocated £12.3m for the West of England for the next three years to help get people off the streets.

This new funding will help provide safe, warm places for those most vulnerable as we head into the winter.

This year, almost £3m will be allocated to local councils, who are working alongside the brilliant charities and community groups across our region as we look to offer accommodation to everyone sleeping rough by Christmas - in line with a pledge made by the Prime Minister.

This is not just about helping people off the streets but giving them the support they need to move forward. Working together will help us to develop local solutions in our region as we work to end rough sleeping for good.

On housing, and so much more besides, there is plenty to be hopeful about and to look forward to in the West of England.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

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When you're experiencing pain or waiting for answers about your health, getting the right diagnosis and treatment quickly can help you move forward with confidence.

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For private patients experiencing persistent pain, diagnosis is often the first step towards finding the right treatment. Alongside diagnostics, the hospital now offers pain management options, including its new Shockwave Therapy treatment, which can help manage certain painful musculoskeletal conditions and support recovery.

Whether you need a scan to investigate ongoing symptoms or are looking for options to manage pain, fast access to diagnostics and specialist support can help you understand what's causing your symptoms and help you feel back to your best sooner.

To find out more or book an appointment, call **0117 453 0877** or visit **www.practiceplusgroup.com**

Cataracts premium lenses
- Choose a cataract lens to suit your lifestyle

Cataracts can gradually affect the things you enjoy, from reading and gardening to driving, playing sport or spending time with family. Surgery can restore clear vision by replacing the cloudy natural lens with an artificial one– and at Practice Plus Group Hospital Emersons Green, private patients can choose from a range of lens options to suit their lifestyle.

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PROPERTY

KEYNSHAM £950,000

NESTLED in the desirable Arcadius Way, Keynsham, this stunning detached house, built in 2020, presents an exceptional opportunity for modern living. With four spacious bedrooms and three well-appointed bathrooms, this home is designed to cater to the needs of families and individuals alike.

The heart of the home is the open plan kitchen and living area, which is both stylish and functional. It features air conditioning for year-round comfort and bi-folding doors that seamlessly connect the indoor space to the tranquil rear garden. The property is also equipped with solar panels, enhancing its energy efficiency and sustainability.

The master bedroom serves as a true sanctuary, complete with air conditioning, a private balcony, a walk-in wardrobe, and an ensuite shower room, ensuring a luxurious retreat. Two additional bedrooms also benefit from air conditioning and Juliette balconies, offering delightful views and an elegant touch.

For leisure and entertainment, the garage has been cleverly converted into a games room and bar area, making it an ideal space for hosting guests or enjoying quality family time. The low maintenance front and rear gardens provide a peaceful oasis for relaxation.

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SALTFORD LAWN TENNIS CLUB

Tie-breaks and triumphs

WHAT a fantastic 12 weeks of tennis at Saltford Lawn Tennis Club.

This year's in-house tournament brought together 52 players across five categories, with an impressive 64 matches scheduled. From singles showdowns to thrilling doubles encounters, the tournament showcased the talent, determination and wonderful community spirit that make our club so special.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part. We couldn't do this without our in-house tournament mastermind Louis Nicholson-Pallett who puts a considerable effort into planning and organising the whole event as well as designing a website for recording results — a fantastic achievement.

Organising the draws is one thing, but fitting matches into busy lives is quite another, and it was brilliant to see so many matches completed. Well done to all our players!

Action from the men's doubles final, which saw Tom Warren and Neil Willey crowned winners

Finals weekend: five finals, plenty of drama!

Thankfully, the weather played ball for finals weekend, with Saturday's threatening skies giving way to sunshine and some superb tennis on our courts.

Women's Singles: Kath Wilson vs Katie Robson — For the second year running, Kath and Katie faced each other in the final. Umpired by Neil Willey, the match featured long rallies, fantastic winners and plenty of determination. Kath edged the first set 6–4, before holding her nerve in a closely fought second set to win 7–5. A brilliant performance from both players!

Men's Singles: Joey Bellamy vs Simon Perkins

Joey made an impressive tournament debut by reaching the final against former champion Simon. With five previous champions in this year's draw, reaching the final was an achievement in itself. Joey raced into a 4–0 lead, but Simon fought back to force a tiebreak. Joey took the first set 7–6 (7–2), then maintained his relentless form to win the second 6–3 and lift the trophy. An outstanding victory and a fantastic final!

Men's Doubles: Tom Warren and Neil Willey vs Tom Griffith and Guy Muggleton — This match was much closer than the final score of 6–3, 6–1 suggests! Umpired by the tournament organiser, it featured powerful serves, superb volleys and games with more than ten deuces. Tom Warren and Neil Willey ultimately proved too strong, but all four players produced some exceptional tennis.

Women's Doubles: Katie Robson and Barbara Baldock vs Odette Reuter and Claire Pugh — The only final to go the distance was a real nail-biter, lasting an incredible two and a half hours! Katie and Barbara took the first set 6–4, before Odette and Claire fought back to win the second 6–4.

With the deciding set locked at 5–5, Katie and Barbara found another gear, winning the next two games to claim the championship 7–5. What a battle!

Mixed Doubles: Joey Bellamy and Sarah Dillon vs Austin May and Katie Robson — After a short delay to allow Katie to finish her other final (even she can't be in two places at once!), the weekend's final match got underway. Austin and Katie started strongly, but Joey and Sarah's powerful hitting, sharp net play and excellent teamwork helped them take the first set 6–3. Austin and Katie fought back in the second, taking the score to 6–5 before their opponents forced a tie-break. Joey and Sarah held their nerve to win it 7–6 (7–1) and secure the title. A wonderful display of doubles tennis from both pairs!

A successful finals weekend takes more than great tennis. A huge thank you to everyone who helped make the weekend such a success, especially those who brought food and refreshments. Special thanks go to Michelle Griffith, Rachael Tonkin and Ann Page for organising the clubhouse food and equipment; our umpires Tom Warren, Kath Wilson and Neil Willey; and our ball assistants Tom Griffith and Austin May.

Congratulations to all our finalists and champions, and thank you to every player who entered. Whether you lifted a trophy, battled through a marathon match or simply enjoyed competing, you helped make this year's tournament a great success.

Here's to more fantastic tennis, friendly rivalry and community spirit at Saltford Lawn Tennis Club!

NEWS

Cricket club raises thousands in Daniel's memory

KEYNSHAM Cricket Club has raised over £6,515 for Cancer Research UK following four coffee mornings held since April 2023, in memory of local doctor Daniel, who died from bowel cancer aged 27.

The fundraising events were organised with support from long-term member Pete Tweedie, the coffee mornings brought together Daniel's friends, family and the wider community in Keynsham.

Last August, a cheque was presented to Louise Gash on behalf of Cancer Research UK.

Daniel, who was born in Keynsham and attended local schools, chose Cancer Research UK as the charity he would like to support after benefitting from new treatments funded by the charity. His fundraising page has now raised more than £107,000.

Organisers thanked the friends, families and the local community who attended the coffee mornings and brought cakes, raffle prizes and donated money in Daniel's name.

Additional donations can be made here: fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/unite/

£6,515 has been raised in memory of local doctor Daniel. Image: Cancer Research UK's fundraising page

SALTFORD GOLF CLUB

Thousands raised for good causes in charity golf match

Andrew Palmer, Brian Purnell, Jon O'Brien and Paul Myers won the trophy

SOMERSET golf captains have been supporting Somerset Prostate Support Association (SPSA) this year with the ambition of funding two free PSA testing days at Mendip Spring & Saltford Golf Club.

The second main fundraising event was held on October 8. Our Captain of Captains, Marcus Woodward, held his annual charity Texas Scramble at Saltford Golf Course, choosing the SPSA as the main charity to benefit.

124 players, in 31 teams, played and in the end there was only one shot between the top four teams. The MOPPsters won with a nett 53, beating the West Wilts Wanderers on countback. It was so close that it went to the last hole on calculations.

£3,721 was raised for the various good causes on the day: £2,821 for the SPSA, £700 for Alzheimer's Research UK and £200 was also donated to Saltford Club Captain John Packer for his charity Dorothy House Hospice.

Well done to Andrew Palmer, Brian Purnell, Jon O'Brien and Paul Myers, who won the trophy.

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FRY'S BOWLS

Bowls season wrapped up

WITH the weather turning autumnal, Fry's Bowling Club wrapped up the 2026 season. The middle of July saw the club hold their annual triples day. A sunny but windy day greeted the bowlers as one triple looked set for the title before the lunch break. The afternoon saw things change as the leaders could only draw their first game after the break, leaving the title in the balance.

Some composed bowling late on their final game saw the triple of Andrew Nicholls, Graham Jury and Stephen Day hold on for the title, with Steve Nicholls, Jeff Budd and Terry Morgan the runners-up. The pairs final was another close match coming down to the final end. The pair of Sally Morgan and Graham Jury won the game by a single shot, with Nick Grenfell and Kevin Smith taking the runners-up.

Nick would see success in the Over 70s Handicap, taking the win over Jeff Budd. In a third final of the season, Nick would face Stephen Day, already having wrapped up the triples earlier in the season in the Two Wood final. It would be the latter taking the victory, regaining the title Stephen last won in 2024. Also a runner-up in the handicap in 2025, Stephen would once again reach the final, wrapping up another title with the runner-up being Don Gourd.

This victory secured a second triple crown in three years for Stephen following a much closer battle in the championship final against Jeff Budd. A tight encounter came down to a few shots, but it would be Stephen taking the championship title setting up the course for another triple crown.

The ladies team had a good season, with some matches played against regular league players, showing the improvement since the team started a few years ago. Wednesdays and weekends proved more challenging than past years, but were able to maintain around a 50 per cent record. The club's thanks go to the captains for managing to get a team out each week.

With the outdoor season now finished, work has started on the green, which will hopefully see some improvements to the playing surface. Throughout the winter, our regular short mat sessions will take place, along with the social events and planning for the 2027 season, which sees Fry's mark its 110th anniversary.

FRY'S TENNIS CLUB

Season ends on a high with superb finals

SEPTEMBER 26 saw the final of the Fry's Tennis Annual Club Championship. Running for two months over the summer, we had a large number of entrants, with many great matches played by players aged 13 to over 75.

We were blessed with glorious weather for the final and the crowds witnessed two great matches in the sunshine.

The singles final saw defending champion Mark Long take on Allan Fray. The first set started closely, with Allan's all-out attack matching up well against Mark's counter-punching style to produce some excellent rallies.

However, some superior serving and good use of his drop shot saw Mark take control of the first set and dominate the second to record a 6-1, 6-0 win; a scoreline which did not reflect the quality of the match and how close many of the games were.

Well done to Mark for his fifth title in a row.

The cracking doubles final saw Mark Long and Gilly Phillips take on Pete Randell and Ted Conway. Pete and Ted took a 5-2 lead in the first set as they settled quickly into the match.

However, Mark and Gilly raised their level and, after edging several tight games, stormed back to take the first set before comfortably taking the second, in a 7-5, 6-1 win.

An excellent match, with Gilly and Ted both representing our junior section impressively.

Left: winner of the singles final, Mark Long, with runner-up Allan Fray. Below: winners of the doubles final, Mark Long and Gilly Phillips, with runners-up Ted Conway and Pete Randell

Well done to all participants in both tournaments and a big thanks to those who came down to watch the final.

For anyone interested in joining Fry's Tennis Club please contact Tony Dicker at ard@tonydicker.co.uk.

We're always keen to hear from prospective members, whether you're interested in social play, competitive play or coaching.

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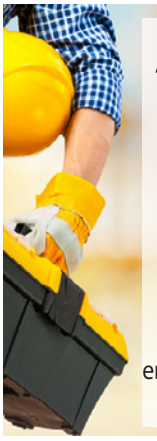

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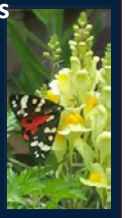

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