

hanham&longwellgreenvoice

March, 2025 Issue 112

www.hanhamandlongwellgreenvoice.co.uk

FREE EVERY MONTH IN HANHAM & LONGWELL GREEN



Let the third decade begin!

This group from 3D Dance, based at Hanham Community Centre, are celebrating the dance school's 20th anniversary. The dancers were among nearly 300 who took part in a concert to mark the anniversary of 3D Dance, which was founded by Louise Hopton in early 2006 and has gone from strength to strength.

Report: Page 3

Fears for future of wildlife site

THE popular wildlife habitat at Wick Golden Valley is at risk of losing its status as a local nature reserve (LNR).

The site is home to diverse species of bats, birds, invertebrates, fungi and plants, and was declared as an LNR in 2005.

Since then, South Gloucestershire Council has managed site access, rights of way and maintenance of trees, habitat and safety fencing, with a series of different landowners over time responsible for historic industrial structures under an "access and management agreement" (A&MA) between the two parties.

Under a 1949 law, for a site to remain a local nature reserve, an A&MA must be in place.

But the current two landowners have told the council they no longer wish to be part of this agreement, which means the LNR status could now be withdrawn by Natural England.

South Gloucestershire councillors have agreed to begin public consultation into what this means for the future of Wick Golden Valley, which is also a site of nature conservation interest – a designation which would remain in place.

The committee voted unanimously to begin public consultation.



Please back our fundraising

Regulars at the Queens Head in Hanham are putting their backs into a fundraising march for the military charity Combat Stress.

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School pays tribute to Bob

Children and staff at Beacon Rise school are mourning their oldest ex-pupil, Bob Barrett, who has died aged 98.

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Football – it's Her Game Too

Longwell Green Sports FC's second Her Game Too weekend, aimed at promoting inclusion at all levels of the game, proved a big success.

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April deadline

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Despite our best efforts, we sometimes get things wrong. We always try to resolve issues informally at first but we also have a formal complaints procedure. If you have a complaint about anything in the Hanham & Longwell Green Voice, contact the publisher using the details below. We aspire to follow the Code of Conduct of the NUJ (National Union of Journalists), which holds journalists to a high standard of behaviour.

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

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A member of the



NEWS

Warning as brick thrown from ring-road bridge

A MUM was left terrified when thugs hurled a brick at her windscreen as she travelled with her toddler.

Sam Mapston had been driving with her two-year-old daughter in the back of her car on the A4174 near Bristol when two people launched the brick from a bridge overhead.

The pair escaped the incident near King's Oak Academy without injuries but were left covered in shards of glass when the windscreen shattered.

Shocking images show the damage to the vehicle. Fragments of glass were littered inside the car, before it was cleaned up and taken for repairs.

Sam was also travelling with their dogs – a French bulldog and Labradoodle – in the boot. She had been driving at about 45mph when the car was struck.

Dad Owen Mapston said: "Sam saw two young guys standing on the edge. "She came past the bridge and bang – the windscreen was out. It all happened so quickly.

"It was a stupid thing for the guys to do and I'd say it's akin to attempted murder. They're playing with people's lives so these actions should be taken very seriously."

Avon and Somerset police said in a statement: "We received a report of a brick being thrown from a bridge and colliding with a car travelling along the A4174 near Brook Road, in Warmley, on Sunday 18 January.

"We are asking anyone with any information, or any dashcam footage, to get in touch by calling 101 and quoting the reference number 5226016094."

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NEWS



Glorious! 20 years of dance joy

3D Dance, based at Hanham Community Centre, celebrated their 20th anniversary with a huge show involving more than 280 dancers of all ages.

The show was opened by Britain's Got Talent winners Twist & Pulse, whose high-energy and creative performance was an inspiration to pupils and their families

3D Dance started in February 2006 with just one class & has grown to a thriving dance

community with pupils attending weekly street dance classes, adults classes, pre-school sessions, home ed, contemporary and theatre classes.

The 20th Anniversary Show was held at Trinity Academy concert hall in Lockleaze.

3D Dance founder, Louise Hopton, said: "Our show was a huge success. We look forward to creating more opportunities and memories while helping our dancers build confidence and have fun."

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NEWS

No one walks alone: Pub's vow as it backs veterans' charity

REGULARS at the Queen's Head in Hanham are preparing for a March in March in aid of the military charity Combat Stress.

The idea came from Yvette Singer, whose partner Paul Arnold is an ex-serviceman. It was enthusiastically backed by landlord Allen Williams and his wife Hayley as well as other pubgoers.

Yvette said she remembered how her partner had taken a call from a veteran in need, recommended they contact the Combat Stress line and given them the number.

"We thought it would be nice to get a group together for the March in March to raise money for Combat Stress and give

something back," she said.

"The Queen's Head isn't just a pub — it's a community. The landlord and regulars, many of whom are ex-servicemen and women, will be taking part in the charity walk to raise money for Combat Stress. This is our way of standing shoulder to shoulder with those who have served and now need support."

Yvette said she chose the team's name of "No One Walks Alone" as a nod to landlord Allen, who was a serving member of the Green Jackets and hails from Liverpool.

Participants in March in March are asked to walk or run 10 miles during the month at their own pace.



The Queens Head team who're taking on March in March for Combat Stress

"We have team members of varying abilities and hence the motto of No one Walks Alone; it is not about being the fastest to complete the march, it is about making sure we all look out for each other and come home together," she said.

Funds are needed to provide hours of support on the Combat

Stress helpline, which offers compassionate, confidential support to veterans struggling with mental health. Last year alone the helpline received more than 17,000 calls.

The team's initial aim was to raise £500. Funds had already topped £1000 before March even arrived.

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NEWS

MP arrested again

NORTH East Somerset and Hanham MP Dan Norris is facing new allegations of sexual offences.

Avon & Somerset police initially arrested the 66-year-old politician in April last year on suspicion of rape and child sex offences alleged to have happened between the 2000s and 2020s. He was placed on police bail as officers from the Operation Bluestone dedicated rape and serious sexual assault team continued their investigation.

In February police said: "Following our enquiries, the man has been further arrested on suspicion of rape against a second woman, sexual assault against a third woman, as well as voyeurism and upskirting against a number of women."

"We're no longer actively investigating any sexual offences against children, but the original rape and misconduct in a public office investigation is continuing."

"Investigations into sexual offences are sensitive and complex and as a result, it can take a significant amount of time for enquiries to be completed. The man remains on conditional bail."

Mr Norris, who was the Mayor of the West of England until last May, was suspended from the Labour Party immediately after his arrest but remains an MP, though he is banned from Parliament.

He issued a statement after his further arrest, saying: "I vigorously and entirely deny the serious allegations made against me. They are untrue. I am challenging them through my legal representatives."

He told the Local Democracy Reporting Service: "I would like to make clear that I am still representing constituents on a broad range of issues, including handling casework and policy, submitting written questions, voting by proxy and staying across all local and national developments in order to continue to serve constituents to the best of my ability."



Repair cafe's milestone

THE Hanham Repair Cafe celebrated its second birthday in February, marking two years of bringing people together to save money, reduce waste and share practical skills — all powered entirely by volunteers.

Since launching in February 2024, the repair cafe has:

- Looked at 529 items brought in for repair
- Welcomed over 400 visitors
- Contributed 465 volunteer hours

Of the 529 items brought in to the Repair Cafe 60 per cent were fixed on the day with a further 27 per cent being repairable with more time or spare parts and just 11 per cent being deemed as unrepairable.

The Hanham Repair Cafe runs every second Wednesday and last Saturday of the month at Christ Church on Church Road in Hanham. Visit www.hanhamrepair.cafe or contact hanhamrepaircafe@gmail.com.

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NEWS

Trevor's legacy 'will help strengthen our community'

THE family of the late Trevor Poole, a much-loved local resident, has made a generous donation to the Juice Community Project CIC in Cadbury Heath. Trevor regularly attended the project's social activities, and his relatives wanted to honour his memory by supporting a cause that makes a real difference to the community.

The cheque was presented by Trevor's children, Eve Dodge and Mark Poole, to Janice Suffolk, founder of Juice Community Project, with whom the family has shared a close friendship for over 20 years.



Trevor Poole

"We wanted to give something back to a place that meant so much to Dad and helps so many people," said Eve and Mark.

"The Juice Project creates a safe and welcoming space for everyone — just like Dad always believed in."

Janice Suffolk expressed her gratitude for the donation, saying: "We're so thankful to

Trevor's family for their kindness and support. Trevor was a wonderful part of our community, and this donation will help us continue the work he



Eve Dodge and Mark Poole with Janice Suffolk

cared about — supporting local people and bringing them together."

The Juice Community Project CIC continues to offer a range of services and social activities designed to improve wellbeing, reduce isolation, and strengthen community connections in Cadbury Heath and beyond.

Back to Beeching

AVON Valley Railway is holding an event this month to mark 60 years since the rail line closed.

The People and Their Protest on Sunday March 8 will take visitors back to the Beeching era.

Members of the Kingswood Players will be roaming Bitton station and on board the trains protesting against the impending line closure.

Dr Richard Beeching is also said to be making an appearance.

AVR will use the day to reaffirm its commitment to restore the Avon Valley Railway to the outskirts of Bath with the unveiling of a new sign at Avon Riverside station.

Trains will run to a special timetable. Tickets are available with a bonus offer allowing under 16s travelling with a full fare paying adult to ride for 20 pence (four shillings) — the approximate price of a ticket in 1966.

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NEWS

SOME of the individuals and organisations that make Kingswood great had a deserved moment in the spotlight at the 2026 South Gloucestershire Chair's Community Awards ceremony.

The annual event celebrates the amazing contribution made by volunteers across the district. Among those honoured by the council chair Councillor Katie Cooper were Rafick Ackbar, who has spent decades supporting Kingswood Park and other initiatives; Vicky Robinson, founder of the community group WeAreBS15; Hayley Ryall, who campaigns on knife crime following the death of her son Mikey Roynon; Lizz Williams, for her work at Kings' |Forest School, Kingswood Rugby Club, for its inclusive provision for people of all ages and abilities; WeAreBS15 and Kingsmeadow @ Made Forever, a welcoming community hub since 2012.



Groups and individuals from Kingswood who received awards include Rafick Ackbar, Hayley Ryall, Vicky Robinson, Kingswood Rugby Club, Kingsmeadow@ MadeForever and WeAreBS15

Winners of South Glos Chair's Community Awards 2026:

VICKY ROBINSON: Vicky is the driving force behind We are BS15, creating inclusive, community-focused projects that tackle isolation, poverty, and loneliness, and transforming lives through her passion, determination, and innovative leadership.

WE ARE BS15 which started in March 2020 is a volunteer-led organisation that tackles loneliness, poverty, and isolation through inclusive projects like affordable meals, food clubs, community cafés, and wellbeing

initiatives, transforming lives and strengthening community spirit in Hanham and Kingswood.

RAFICK ACKBAR: Raf has dedicated decades to improving Kingswood Park and the local community, leading fundraising efforts, maintaining green spaces, creating a thriving community garden, and inspiring others through his passion and generosity.

KINGSMEADOW@MADE FOREVER centre, which started in 2012 is a welcoming community hub that combats isolation and promotes wellbeing through

inclusive activities, emotional support, and events, with staff who go above and beyond to make everyone feel valued and connected.

KINGSWOOD RUGBY CLUB, which traces its roots back to 1954 is an inclusive community hub offering rugby for all ages and abilities, from youth teams to walking rugby and all-inclusive rugby, breaking barriers and promoting health, fitness, and social connection while earning national recognition.

LIZZ WILLIAMS: Lizz's exceptional dedication has transformed Kings

Forest School and the surrounding community through fundraising, wellbeing events, and voluntary initiatives - from running a community hub to supporting eco projects and countless activities that benefit hundreds of families.

HAYLEY RYALL: Hayley's extraordinary dedication in founding and running Mikey's World - while working full-time and studying - has saved lives, raised awareness of knife crime, and provided vital training and resources that empower communities and protect young people.



Award winners Becky Winterson and Dave Beer with David Withey, principal and CEO of SGS College and South Glos council chair Katie Cooper

BECKY WINTERSON: Becky's outstanding leadership and dedication to village life in the Wick and Abson area - through Girlguiding, community events, and early years support - have strengthened Wick and Abson and inspired others to contribute.



DAVE BEER: Dave's 50 years of dedicated service to Wick Sports Ground have kept it a thriving hub for sport and community, fostering teamwork and local pride across generations.

NEWS

Hayley turns heartache into help for others

A KINGSWOOD mum’s powerful contribution to a national documentary is helping shine new light on the urgent need to prevent youth violence in South Gloucestershire and beyond.

Hayley Ryall took part in a recent episode of the Crime+Investigation UK series to talk about the death of her son, 16-year-old Mikey Roynon, who was killed in a knife attack in 2023. The programme, House Party Killer, explores the tragic events that led to Mikey sustaining a fatal stab wound at a house party. The programme aired in January and is available on Sky and Prime Video.

In the aftermath of her loss, Hayley founded Mikey’s World, a charity dedicated to preventing teenage violence and supporting young people and parents across South Gloucestershire. Taking part in the documentary was both painful and purposeful for Hayley: “I wanted to raise awareness around knife crime and that it can happen to anyone.

There was no reason for Mikey to lose his life that day. In a split second, the choice to take a weapon to the party ruined so many lives and ended my boy’s.”

Hayley was approached by the production team months before filming began. Although revisiting events was emotionally difficult, she felt strongly that sharing Mikey’s story could help stop other families experiencing the same heartbreak.

“It helps me tell the world how I feel. I find it hard to talk to people I know because I don’t want them to hurt. But talking about Mikey helps — I love talking about him — and it raises awareness of knife crime,” Hayley explains.

Mikey’s World is also expanding its local impact through a pioneering new project that uses virtual-reality (VR) headsets to help families recognise the dangers of grooming, exploitation, coercion and knife crime.

Funded by donations from

Mewburn Ellis, the charity purchased ten VR headsets and is now offering free workshops for parents and young people. Sessions take place at New Cheltenham Community Centre, with support from React Building Supplies Ltd, which covers the venue’s rent.

“The headset means you are fully immersed, seeing situations through the eyes of a young person,” Hayley explains. “The programmes encourage real discussion around prevention, and we share support options if parents are worried.”

The initiative has already drawn strong interest from schools and youth organisations. Mikey’s World is now working with Pathways Learning Centre in Downend — where Mikey once studied — as well as Knowle DGE Academy and Creative Youth Network.

“The aim is prevention of young lives being lost,” says Hayley. “We’re fortunate to have a company sponsoring us for two



Hayley Ryall and son Mikey

years, which means we can keep these sessions going.” Hayley is also due to complete her Level 2 Youth Work qualification in March, enabling the charity to expand its support and outreach even further.

With the documentary and the introduction of innovative tools such as VR, Mikey’s World continues its mission: to save young lives, educate communities and honour Mikey’s memory with positive action. mikeysworld.co.uk

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Happy days! Makers Market returns to Hanham

SPRING is in the air – and the first of the popular Makers Markets in Hanham takes place this month.

It's a great chance to meet local artists and craftspeople and pick up some Mother's Day or Easter gifts.

The market is on Saturday March 7 at Hanham Community Centre from 10am to 2pm. It's the first of four organised by Nicola Bartlett, who ran Eclectic gift shop in Hanham High Street for some years before taking the business online and branching out as a filmmaker.

The others are planned for June 6, November 21 and December 12 - so add the dates to your diaries!

Nicola says: "Every market will be home to a new group of small, independent businesses and some of your favourites will return too, so you can expect to find a huge range of handmade, local gifts under one roof."



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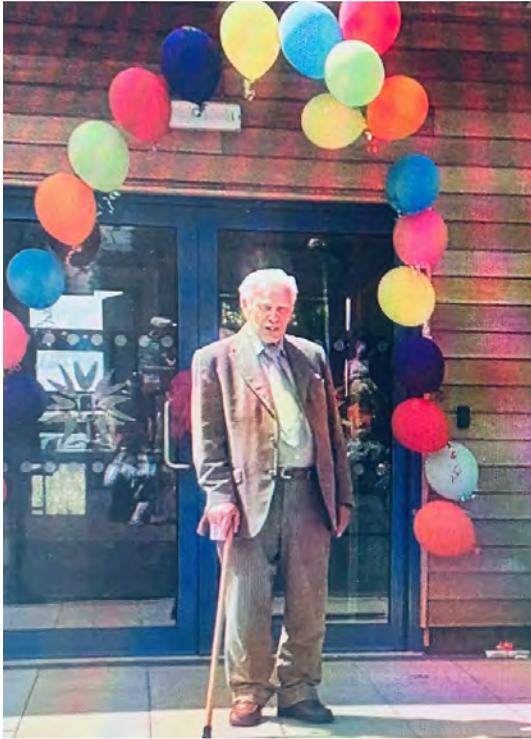
A new hygiene and nappy waste collection will take place every two weeks (if registered).

FIND OUT MORE



southglos.gov.uk/three-weekly

NEWS



Thanks for the memories, Bob

BEACON Rise Primary School is mourning its oldest ex-pupil, Bob Barrett, who has died at the age of 98. Bob had been a regular visitor to his former school until very recently and had fond memories of his time as a pupil.

He started at the school, then Gloucestershire Infants School, at the age of four and would tell pupils of his recollections of feeling nervous as he was dropped off by his mother, the smell of the gas lighting and the strictness of the Headteacher.

Headteacher Chris Thomas said: “Bob would stand on parquet floors he once sat on as a pupil, sharing the learning he experienced. The power of his emotion and the clarity of his memories evoked a poignancy that was a pleasure to experience for anyone listening.

“When a new building was created to accommodate school expansion, Bob was the obvious guest of honour to

lead the opening ceremony. A plaque, recognising Beacon Rise’s pleasure at having Bob celebrate with us in this way, welcomes the hundreds of pupils attending each day.

“Bob was exceptionally proud of his daughter, Annette Box, who is currently continuing his links with the school as the Chair of Governors.

“Before his death, Bob arranged for an award in his name, presented to a pupil or member of staff demonstrating kindness to others, to be commissioned. Unfortunately, on the week of its first presentation, Bob passed away before he was able to attend the assembly arranged for his visit. The recipients of the award in years to come will be reminded of Bob’s kindness as they receive recognition for their own.”



The new award

Bob Barrett was guest of honour at Beacon Rise

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COMMUNITY NEWS

HANHAM WI

THE new year began quietly for our branch. When January's scheduled speaker had to cancel at short notice, members did what they do best: turned an unexpected gap into an opportunity for good conversation, companionship and, gorgeous chocolate biscuits accompanied by cups of tea and coffee. It was a reminder that, while guest speakers and activities are always welcome, the heart of the WI lies in friendship and community.

February, however, saw business as usual resumed. Our first guest was a representative from a Ukrainian charity. She had come along to collect items of toiletry which members had donated to go to her war-torn country. She offered her thanks and gave a brief description on the work of the charity and how our donations would be used.

This was followed by a fascinating and inspiring talk from Elana and Andy of the Bristol unit of the Marine Service Volunteers. A recognised national maritime

training organisation and UK-registered charity, the MSV has more than 20 units across the country. The Bristol team works closely with Bristol City Council, where Andy also works full-time as Emergency Co-ordinator.

Despite what their name might suggest, the MSV do far more than maritime training. Their work spans a wide range of emergency and resilience roles, helping to prepare for and respond to floods, fires, evacuations, environmental incidents and much more. While their primary focus is keeping people safe around Bristol's historic city docks, their support extends across the community in times of need — from distributing food and blankets to helping source emergency accommodation during crises. Members were particularly struck by the breadth of their skills.

The Bristol unit is a small, friendly group of boating and seafaring enthusiasts with two boats at their disposal. They undertake extensive training in navigation, boat-handling, meteorology, tides, radio procedure and marine engineering.

They also offer a Marine Foundation Course, opening the door for newcomers keen to learn. Based in a former dockworker's cottage beside the Cumberland Basin they are always keen to welcome new members

Beyond the monthly meetings, our social calendar continues to flourish. The Coffee Group thrives, with members enjoying relaxed mornings out and the chance to catch up properly. February's destination was the refurbished The Jolly Sailor, providing the perfect backdrop for laughter and lively conversation.

Cinema outings also remain a favourite. January's choice was Hamnet, followed in February by Wuthering Heights — both enjoyed and much discussed. And for something completely different, members enjoyed a little friendly competition with a lively session of ten-pin bowling

If the start of the year is anything to go by, our 2026 calendar promises an excellent programme of events for our members to enjoy

Dianna Coles

SHORTWOOD WI

THE weather for our January meeting was very inclement, but we opened with a welcome to Philomena, who encouraged us all to follow her actions and do Seated Zumba to lively music.

This was followed with our 'News and Views' and a vote for the resolution that we want to be carried forward in 2026. We had a 'Santa slip-ups' sales table, raffle, cuppa and chat and a quiz.

Our February meeting included a visit from David and Zillah Savage, from the Siston Archaeological Society, for us to learn more about the historical village of Shortwood and the surrounding area.

We're planning trips to Oakham Treasures, Kingswood Heritage Gardens and Organic Blooms.

We are a friendly bunch, and our next meeting is on March 12 at 7.30pm, in the vestry of Shortwood Village Chapel. For more information, email millhousejoinery@aol.com - include the heading Shortwood Village WI.

Lynne Miller



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The Leaf Trust — a primary and early years trust serving **South Glos** and **Bristol** — is seeking **Volunteer School Governors** to join our Local Governing Bodies. Governors play a vital role in setting strategic direction, supporting school improvement, and ensuring strong leadership and financial oversight.

You don't need to be a parent or have an education background — we welcome diverse skills, perspectives and life experience from people who can support and uphold the values of the school and The Trust. Full training and support is provided.

The role typically involves attending around six meetings per year. You must be over 18 to apply

Safeguarding commitment: The Leaf Trust is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people. All appointments are subject to appropriate vetting, including an enhanced DBS check.

WHAT'S ON

Friday March 6

■ **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** 2pm, United Church, Longwell Green. Ecumenical, women-led service, set this year by Nigeria. All welcome.

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY

■ **LONGWELL GREEN ART CLUB**, no tutors. Would you like to do your own thing in the company of a small, friendly group that meet Mondays 9.30 to 12.30, arrive and leave as you please. URC Wesley room. Contact Jackie on 01179600273 or email colown@blueyonder.co.uk

■ **YOGA CLASSES AT HANHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE** - Monday evenings 7-8 pm. To book your place or for further information please email yogashula@hotmail.com or Text/ Tel 07949333548.

TUESDAY

■ **LIP READING CLASS**, 1.30-3pm at North Common Village Hall, Millers Drive, BS30 8YH. Contact Mary Hall 07790 283939, lipreadingmary@yahoo.com
■ **TUESDAY CLUB** a social group meet every Tuesday 1.45-3.45pm at Longwell Green Community Centre
■ **EXERCISE AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP** at The Community Project in Cadbury Heath (BS30 8EL) every Tuesday, 11:00 – 12:30. Join our over 65s. Improve strength, balance, and more in a fun, inclusive environment. Just £5/session includes tea/coffee and chat. Don't miss out on boosting your well-being! For more information contact Adam - 07875503586

■ **HANHAM TENNIS CLUB**
Adult Play - Tuesday & Thursday evenings and Sunday afternoons. Monday, Wednesday & Friday mornings, 9.30am - 11 am. . Beginners' session coaching - Wednesday 7-8pm. Junior coaching - most early evenings. New players welcome. Fully qualified LTA coaching. See website for details www.hanhamtennisclub.co.uk

■ **LONGWELL GREEN LADIES GROUP** meet at 2pm on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the United Church, Bath Road, Longwell Green BS30 9DU (opp. Aldi). Please phone Maureen on 0117 9322341
■ **LONGWELL GREEN SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB**, We meet Wednesday and Fridays 1.30 to 3.30 at the

Longwell Green community centre, Shellards road, in the California suite. All equipment provided. Beginners very welcome. We are a friendly group who need additional members. Email. Michael8bence@gmail.com. Tel 07800869837

■ **WELSH CONVERSATION GROUP** The Old Manor House, Keynsham 7pm-830pm 3rd Tuesday of the month 15th July (Aug holidays) Free. Organiser Catherine Dhanjal Call Catherine on 07941669925 or follow <https://www.facebook.com/CymraegBrysteCaerfaddon>

WEDNESDAY

■ **BARRS COURT PROBUS CLUB** Retired and semi-retired Professional and Businessmen: Meet 2nd and 4th Wednesdays 10-12 at Longwell Green Community Centre. Please contact our Membership Secretary, Mick Funnell: 0117 932 4104 or email bcprobusclub@gmail.com to arrange a visit. Website: <https://barrscourtprobus.org/>

■ **BARRS COURT LADIES CLUB:** Wives and partners of the Probus club members meet 10-12 on the second Wednesday of each month at the United Church, Bath Road, Longwell Green. Website: <https://barrscourtprobus.org/>

■ **FILTON COMMUNITY BRASS BAND:** We are a community brass band with a huge emphasis on being friendly and playing at community fetes and a few concerts. We practise on Wednesday evenings in Kingswood and would love to encourage developing players and those who may not have played for a few years to join us. To find out more, find us on Facebook or email filtoncommunitybrass@gmail.com

■ **ZEST CHOIR** is an inclusive happy singing group for all adults who love to sing - even if you think you can't or might be Tone Deaf! We meet Term Time Wednesdays at Longwell Green Community Centre from 10.15am-11.45am and from 7-8.30pm. Contact Mary on 07954 170532 www.zestchoirs.com.

■ **LONGWELL GREEN PROBUS CLUB** meets at Warmley Community Centre on the first and third Wednesday of each month. New members welcome- for details contact Mike on 07817094147

■ **HANHAM BRIDGE CLUB** Every Weds 7-10pm at Hanham Community Centre, new members welcome. See www.hanhambridgeclub.co.uk or call Graham 07790 491564.

■ **HANHAM AND KINGSWOOD PHOTO CLUB.** A friendly club welcoming photographers of all abilities to share our hobby. Meeting 7.15pm for a 7.30pm start on most Wednesdays, St Barnabas Church Hall, Warmley, BS30 5JJ. See the

website for where meetings will be held (some on Zoom & some evenings out). For details visit <https://www.handkphoto.club> or contact Geoff Mallin at email address, geoffmemsechps@gmail.com

■ **RWP BADMINTON CLUB** play at Hanham Woods Academy 6.30-7.30 social club, 7.30-9.30 league club. Visitors welcome, please look at the website for more details

■ **LIP READING CLASS**, 10am-noon, Warmley Community Centre. Termtime only. Contact Mary Hall 07790 283939, lipreadingmary@yahoo.com

■ **FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP** The Old Manor House Hotel, Keynsham 7pm-830pm 4th Wednesday of the month 23 July (Aug hols) Free. Organisers Steve James & Catherine Dhanjal Call Catherine on 0794 1669925 or join L'Amicale Francaise de Keynsham <https://www.facebook.com/groups/429989176573347/>

■ **OLDLAND VILLAGE CLUB** Wednesday Weekly Bingo. Books on sale 7:15pm with Eyes Down 8pm. Open to Members and Non-Members. Over 18s only.

■ **OLDLAND VILLAGE CLUB** Monthly Coffee Morning take place every 3rd Wednesday of the month, 10:30am start; open to all, cake donations for the table greatly appreciated.

■ **SHORT MAT BOWLS** Every Wednesday and Friday at the Longwell Green community centre, Shellards Road. Beginners welcome. 1.30 til 3.30 Text Michael on 07800869837 or email michael8bence@gmail.com

THURSDAY

■ **AVON SCALE MODEL SOCIETY** We are a small friendly club, all subjects are included, aircraft, cars, armoured vehicles, fantasy, etc we meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month, at St. Anne's Hall, Barry Road, Oldland Common. at 8pm. Please contact Ian on 0117 9603435

■ **BLACK SHEEP HARMONY** We welcome new singers to any of our weekly rehearsals, to join in or just to listen. 7:30pm on Thursdays in Hanham Community Centre. Contact Noey: 07899 088180 or check out our website www.blacksheepharmony.com

■ **WALKING FOOTBALL FOR AGE 50 PLUS** 19.15-20.30 Keynsham Town Walking Football for age 50 plus. Play football at a slower pace for fun and fitness. New members welcome contact keynshamtownwff@gmail.com for details

■ Join our **SEATED FITNESS CLASS** at Longwell Green Community Centre, perfect for beginners, older adults and anyone needing gentle, low-impact exercise. Thursday 9:15-9:45am, first class free. Contact Sarah today to book your free trial class. on 07975 943589 or sarah@realfitnesswithsarah.com

■ **WALKING NETBALL** Broadlands School, Keynsham, 7pm -8pm £5 per session, ex players or new to netball welcome, for more info email lindab2023@gmail.com

■ **'STAND UP REACH OUT'** A social group meet every Thursday 2-4pm at Longwell Green Community Centre for different activities.

FRIDAY

■ **LONGWELL GREEN WI** meet on the third Friday of the month at 7.30pm at Longwell Green Community Centre. New members are always welcome. Email longwell-wi@gmail.com or tel. 0117 9864782.

■ **TAI CHI FOR PARKINSON'S:** Weekly beginners Tai Chi & Qi Gong class for people with Parkinson's disease, their families and carers. Lincombe Barn, Downend. BS16 2RW. Fridays (term times) 10.15 – 12.15 including tea / coffee break. Contact: Claire - Claire@Taichibodyandmind.co.uk (07769 857672) or Sarah - buqiworks@gmail.com (07815 662844)

■ **LONGWELL GREEN COMMUNITY CENTRE QUIZ NIGHT**, meets normally first Friday of each month at 8 pm. Bar available. For details please contact Marian.r.summerill@gmail.com, or ring 07503 989880.

■ **CROFT END SILVER BAND** Hanham Tabernacle, Tabernacle Road, practice 7.15pm - 8.45pm. Players needed on all sections , all ages welcome and training given. We are a happy Band with a good atmosphere. More details contact Rob (Chairman) on 07788 473404

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Ellacombe Pharmacy **Weight-loss support clinics** continue to be very popular. Our holistic approach means we are not just focusing on how to lose weight but also on why you may struggle to eat healthily and, most importantly, how to maintain healthy weight loss.

A top tip we share is: Are you drinking enough water? When dehydrated, many people will snack. We do not drink enough water with our meals or during the day, and we even break the golden rule: Hydrate Well after Exercise. The NHS recommends drinking six to eight glasses of water or fluids daily. This includes lower-fat milk and sugar-free drinks, like tea and coffee. While we can

guide and provide effective weight-loss therapies, including the novel injectable therapies Wegovy and Mounjaro, we are determined to help inform better lifestyle choices. Do contact us; we can help.

Those eligible for the **COVID-19 Spring Booster** jabs can book on the **NHS website (use postcode BS30 9BA)** or just walk in here at Ellacombe Pharmacy. As with previous programmes, we are geared to deliver another excellent, well-run programme.

The NHS remains the embodiment of public service, rightly so, and we are grateful to the many individuals, not just clinicians, who help deliver all the care and supporting



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■ ANTIQUES

Whodunnit in Hanham?

It's not every day that you get to sit in a room surrounded by the private thoughts and inspirations of a literary icon. As we prepare for our upcoming Books & Works On Paper sale at Auctioneum, I've found myself spending quite a bit of time with the personal book collection of the late, great crime writer Catherine Aird.



Catherine was a true giant of the British crime writing scene, one of the last great 'cosy crime' writers, known for her Chronicles of Calleshire stories featuring D.I. Sloane and D.C. Crosby.

Leafing through these volumes, you really get a sense of the sharp wit that earned her the prestigious Cartier Diamond Dagger, the award given to authors who have 'made an outstanding lifetime contribution to the genre.' We have selected several hundred books from her vast library, all of which will be going under the hammer on March 9th.

There is something incredibly poignant about seeing the books she kept on her own shelves - the ones she reached for, the ones she likely referenced while dreaming up Inspector Sloane's next headache. It's about more than just a hammer price; it's about passing on a legacy from one book lover to the next.

Whether you've been a Sloan and Crosby fan for decades or you're a collector of fine modern literature, you're going to find something you want to buy on the 9th. It's going to be a special sale for the crime fiction community and a fitting tribute to a writer who was as gracious in life as she was clever on the page. We're currently putting the finishing touches on the catalogue, and I can tell you now, there are some real gems.

Andy Stowe, Auctioneum

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Tuesday: 9.30am
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NEWS

100-year-old Dot is a lesson to us all

IT was the 100th birthday her family never thought she would see.

When Dot Wallis went into Little Heath Care Home in Cadbury Heath last June for two weeks' respite, she was considered to be in need of end-of-life care.

But her health improved and she was able to celebrate her centenary on February 8 with her family and her new friends at the Brunelcare home, where she is now a permanent resident.

Dot, who was born in 1926, the same year as the late Queen Elizabeth, was a primary school teacher, working at The Meadows in Bitton in the late 1960s and early 1970s before moving away for her husband's job. The couple were married for 70 years.

Dot moved back to Bitton in 1921 to live with daughter Julia and son-in-law Paul. She is a proud great-grandmother to three great-grandchildren aged 17, 13 and eight.

Julia said: "Last March I never thought we would be celebrating Mum's 100th birthday. The carers at Little Heath are absolutely amazing and really go above and beyond. They organised the entire party; we can't thank them enough.

"Mum is the most selfless woman you will ever meet, so kind, caring and loving, and always thinking about others. I truly believe this is one



Party time at Little Heath for Dot

of the main reasons she's lived so long. She was always active and healthy, and that has helped too. I've lost count though of the number of neighbours, family and homeless people she has helped and fed when going through hard times."

Ruth Easton, homemaker at Little Heath, said: "It is an absolute joy to care for Dot. We had the most special time celebrating with her, bringing residents, families and staff together to celebrate such a milestone and a life so well lived."

KINGSWOOD HISTORY SOCIETY

March 3- 650 years of Bristol in 65 mins - David Parker

April 7 - The Motor Bus serving Bristol - Mike Walker

May 5 - Being Pantomime Dame - Tim Mayo

June 2 - William Bence and the Longwell Green Coachworks - John Hitchings

July 7 - Filton In Space - Terry Ransome

August 4 - A Wrecker's Tale - Ship Breakers of the Severn - Paul Barnett

September 1 - Highlights & Stories From The Rostrum - Andy Stowe

Oct 6 - Origins of 'liberties' in the Kingswood chase coalfield - William Evans

November 7 - A Night at the Cinema - Clive Burlton

December 1 - AGM

At the Park Centre, Kingswood is 7pm for 7,30pm start. Visitors £4 incl tea/ coffee and biscuits.
www.kingswoodhistorysociety.org

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NOSTALGIA



SCHOOLDAYS

One of the year's new exhibitions at Kingswood Heritage Museum will feature a photographic display celebrating local schools from across the area, including Wick Primary, The Grange, Kingsfield, the Chase, Rodway, and many, many more

The photos above include pictures from Hanham Road Girls school (now Beacon Rise Infants) from the 1960s and another (in colour) of a reunion from 2016. Kingswood Heritage Museum is currently gathering

information, stories and memorabilia about local schools in the area in order to include this in its displays. If you have old school photos, uniforms, programmes, exercise books, certificates – or even a great school story to tell - please let Kingswood Heritage Museum know by email at kingswoodmuseum@gmail.com, or by phone on **0117 9605664**

Kingswood Heritage Museum holds a vast collection of pictures, and can arrange a reunion for almost any school in the Greater Kingswood area. If you are interested in arranging a school reunion do get in touch using the contact details above.

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SPORT



Longwell Green U10s & U11s girls, who were mascots, with the Longwell Green Sports first team, before their match against Avonmouth

Her Game Too is a winner again

LONGWELL Green Sports FC celebrated another hugely successful Her Game Too weekend, drawing hundreds of players, families and supporters to champion inclusion.

Across a packed two-day schedule, 12 teams took part in training sessions and matches, from the U10s right through to the men's and ladies' squads. Both adult teams warmed up in Her Game Too T-shirts, a visual show of solidarity with the campaign. More than 200 players were involved, including many junior players who trained throughout Saturday morning.

The weekend kicked off with a lively junior training session on the 3G pitch, setting the tone for a great day of football. Crowds gathered ahead of the men's Western League fixture at 3pm, where an impressive 250 spectators gathered to support the team. The day closed with a spirited U11 v U10 girls' match under the floodlights at 5.15pm.

Sunday continued the momentum, beginning with junior matches and building up to the U12 girls' cup match at 12.15pm. The weekend concluded with the ladies' first team match at 2pm, cheered on by around 40 supporters who brought great atmosphere to the touchline.

The event also welcomed Skye Smit of the Gloucestershire FA, who was on hand to highlight grassroots opportunities for women and girls.

Organisers said interest this year event surpassed expectations. The club hopes to secure involvement from Bristol City and Bristol Rovers to support next year's event.

Lucy Ford, Her Game Too co-founder, praised the club's dedication and the joyful atmosphere: "A huge thank you to everyone at Longwell Green FC for their incredible and continued support of Her Game Too. Attending the second annual dedicated fixture weekend was truly something special."

"It was amazing to see the whole club wholeheartedly embracing the campaign—creating brilliant opportunities for younger age groups. The passion and enthusiasm across the club made the weekend another unforgettable one!"

Club chairman John Gibbs echoed the pride shared across the club.

"What a great weekend at our club celebrating Her Game Too. It was brilliant to watch the enthusiasm from both sets of mascots as they played their match under the floodlights."



Longwell Green Ladies sporting Her Game Too T-shirts following their pre-match warm-up against Ellwood Ladies



Longwell Green Girls with the Her Game Too banner

SPORT



£1,000 boost for football club

HANHAM Athletic FC's under elevens side is the latest recipient of Persimmon Homes' Community Champions fund.

The developer presented the £1,000 to players at their training facilities at King's Oak Academy in Kingswood. The money will go towards new clothing and equipment for the young players.

Established in 1896, the club is one of Bristol's oldest and currently plays in the Gloucestershire County League.

The Community Champions scheme sees £700,000 a year spent on good causes. Recent local recipients include Bristol Baby Bank Network, Bristol Normandy Veterans, Jessie May and Blood Bikes.

FRYS BOWLING CLUB

THE winter period maybe quieter on the green, but Fry's members still had plenty to do during the winter months.

Throughout the autumn and winter seasons, the club run popular short mat sessions since they were introduced a few years ago. The club now run six sessions throughout the week on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. With over 30 members playing, the short mat has proven a great way to keep the club together regularly throughout the winter.

The final social event of 2025 was the annual Christmas Coffee morning, which saw over 50 members and guests attending. Along with the coffee and mince pies, Chris Davies provided the entertainment with musical quizzes, which included a Christmas Carol bingo game.

Winter activities took a break through January as the interior of clubhouse underwent a refurbishment, courtesy of a

grant from St Monica Trust. An event is planned for April to celebrate the redecoration.

The redecoration done, the short mat sessions resumed and the first social event of 2026 was a Valentine's Day event which featured a love songs and Catchphrase quiz, as well as a sing along from Chris Davies to go with the Ploughman's Supper provided by a team of club members.

With the outdoor season only a month away, the preparations are underway with the fixture list nearly complete and green team working hard getting the green ready, the new season will soon be getting under way.

If you would like more information about Frys Bowling Club, or to give bowls a try, please visit our website: frysbowlingclub.wixsite.com/frys, search Frys Bowling Club on Facebook, follow us on X (formerly Twitter): @FrysBowls, or contact our secretary, Stephen Day, e-mail: frysbowlsclub@gmail.com, tel: 01225 872959.

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