

hanham&longwellgreenvoice

August, 2026 Issue 117

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Green fingers

Children from Cherry Garden Primary enjoy a visit to That Plant Place to see Dean, who helps them at the school gardening club.
More details: Page 7



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Tasha's triumph

A young woman from a well known Hanham family has published her first novel at the age of 20,
PAGE 15

Charges sought

Police investigating allegations against local MP Dan Norris have sent a file to the Crown Prosecution Service.
PAGE 3

Just rubbish!

The company in charge of bin collections in South Glos is being fined by the council for "appalling" service.
PAGE 4

Top of the class

Samuel White's Infant School has become the first in the West to be given an Exceptional rating under a new Ofsted regime.
PAGE 9

Heat sparks wildfire fears

AVON Fire and Rescue Service has urged people to be aware of the risks of starting a blaze in the very dry ground conditions caused by this summer's extreme temperatures.

Steve Quinton, area manager, said: "Small actions can have serious consequences. With the hot and dry conditions we're experiencing, even the smallest spark can lead to a fast-spreading fire.

"We're asking everyone to take simple, responsible steps to protect our communities.

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September deadline

Our September edition deadline is August 19. To ensure your news or letter is included, please contact us by then. Advertisers are also asked to contact us by the same date.

Your views

Letters for publication can be sent to the above email addresses or by post to Letters, Hanham & Longwell Green Voice, 16 Ashmead Business Centre, Ashmead Road, Keynsham, BS31 1SX. The editor reserves the right to edit your letter.

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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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NEWS

Tory Graham wins council by-election

THE Conservative candidate Graham Hardwell won a by-election for one of the two Longwell Green seats on South Gloucestershire Council.

Mr Hardwell received 951 votes, with Reform's Stephen James Burge coming second with 698. The Lib Dems' James Pringle Corrigan was in third place, polling 511, with Labour's Jack Matthew Friend netting 246 votes and the Greens' Rachel Emily Ward in fifth place on 143.

The total number of votes cast was 2551, including two spoiled ballot papers. With an electorate of 7,587, this represented a turnout of 33.62 per cent.

Mr Hardwell will join fellow Conservative Carol Strange in representing Longwell Green on the council. The by-election was called following the resignation of Tory councillor Kris Murphy, who has joined the Royal Navy.

North East Somerset and Hanham Conservatives welcomed Mr Hardwell's victory.

They said: "This result reflects the hard work of Graham and the entire local Conservative team. We would like to thank every volunteer who knocked on doors, delivered leaflets and supported the campaign, as well as every resident who placed their trust in Graham."

"We look forward to seeing Graham work alongside Councillor Carol Strange and stand up for the people of Longwell Green."

Letters: Page 11



Graham Hardwell

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NEWS

Police seek sex charges against MP

THE Crown Prosecution Service is considering whether to bring charges against North East Somerset and Hanham MP Dan Norris.

Avon & Somerset police submitted a file of sex offence allegations against the Labour MP and former West of England Metro Mayor on July 1.

The force, which has never named Mr Norris, said in a statement: "We've been carrying out an investigation into allegations of sexual offences which led to the arrest of a man in his sixties. The investigation, which is being led by officers with Operation Bluestone, our dedicated rape and serious sexual assault investigation team, began in December 2024. The allegations being investigated relate to rape against three women, sexual assault against a fourth woman, as well as voyeurism and upskirting against a number of women. All are alleged to have occurred between the 2000s and 2020s.

"As a result of our enquiries, a file has been submitted to the Crown Prosecution Service to consider a charging decision. We've updated the victims about this significant development, and we'll continue to make sure they have access to any help or support they need. We'd respectfully ask people not to speculate on the circumstances so the investigation can continue unhindered."

Mr Norris, who has said he "vigorously and entirely" denies the allegations, has not been to Parliament since he was first arrested on suspicion of rape and other offences in April 2025.

He continued to vote on laws through a proxy vote cast on his behalf by the Labour Party's whips, despite having been suspended from the party at the time of his arrest.

But his proxy vote has not been used since July 1, the date it was revealed that a file had been submitted to the CPS.

The MP is understood to

have been banned from entering Parliament under its risk-based exclusion policy shortly after his initial arrest, which can restrict access to MPs arrested on suspicion of a violent or sexual offence. In February 2026, the MP told the Local Democracy Reporting Service that he was still serving constituents to the best of his ability, handling casework, submitting written questions and voting by proxy.

Government whip Sir Nicholas Dakin, who had been casting the proxy vote for Mr Norris, used it for the last time on July 1, in a vote to amend the rules around employment tribunals.

Mr Norris continues to submit written questions to ministers.

Government policy prescribes a "maximum of seven months" when granting an MP a proxy vote but this can be "extended multiple times" for the same length of time. An MP granted a proxy vote can choose when to use it, with Dan Norris's voting

record showing frequent use until July 1.

Unless the proxy voting resumes, there is now nobody casting a vote on behalf of North East Somerset and Hanham in Parliament.

This could, cynically, be said to make little practical difference. Mr Norris' vote was always cast in line with the Labour Party which has a majority of more than 150 in the Commons.

In September 2025, one constituent started a petition — now with more than 4,000 signatures — calling on Mr Norris to step down. The petition said that, despite acknowledging the principle of "innocent until proven guilty," the situation did "severely undermine his ability to effectively represent us in Parliament".

The only mechanism for constituents to remove an MP is if 10% of them sign a "recall petition."

By John Wimperis, Local Democracy Reporter



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NEWS

Bin company fined for 'appalling' service

THE company in charge of South Gloucestershire's bin collections is being fined by the council for its "appalling" service.

The council recently signed a new deal with Suez to continue kerbside rounds after a previous 25-years contract expired.

But a move to three-weekly black bin collections in May, new collection routes and three heatwaves have led to thousands of homes being missed off rounds, with bins, recycling and nappies left out on pavements.

Council leaders say they have had enough, and are fining Suez for breach of contract. The authority said it cannot disclose how big the fine is because it is "commercially sensitive".

Opposition Conservatives say the authority has introduced a "failing policy that cannot cope".

The council's ruling Lib Dem/Labour coalition says there have been "significant issues" with waste and recycling collections, and the authority is being

inundated with complaints.

Cabinet member for infrastructure Chris Willmore (Lib Dem, Yate North) said: "The council took out a new waste contract with Suez in good faith but the level of service that we have received from the company has been appalling.

"Residents expect their bins to be collected on time and to be able to communicate with the company when there is an issue – for many people this has not happened.

"Councillors and residents alike all feel we have been let down."

Tory group leader Liz Brennan (Frenchay & Downend) said: "Residents have been left dealing with chaos.

"It is simply not good enough that families are left with hygiene waste and rotting rubbish piling up outside their homes, particularly in hot weather."

Suez UK municipal general manager Nick Browning said:

"The introduction of new services has coincided with several periods of extremely high temperatures, which affects how long and how quickly our crews are able to work.

"This, coupled with a shortage of drivers and older trucks breaking down, has disrupted recycling collections in some areas.

"I'd like to apologise to all those affected by the disruption and reassure residents that we are working hard with council officers to recover the missed collections – our crews are working overtime where practical and we have brought in trucks from other areas to provide support."

A council spokesperson said: "Waste collection is physically demanding outdoor work, involving long periods in direct sunlight and repetitive manual handling. During periods of extreme heat, collection crews have to adapt working

arrangements to protect their safety and well-being. In some cases, collection rounds have had to end early to protect crews from the hottest conditions."

The spokesperson said priority was given to black bin and hygiene and nappy waste collections during the heatwaves, which resulted in some recycling collections being delayed or missed, and the arrival of several heatwaves in quick succession made it more difficult to get back on schedule.

Since three-weekly black bin collections started in May fewer vehicles are used for black bin collections, while extra resources have gone into recycling collections, while the new hygiene and nappy waste service has four dedicated collection vehicles.

The council's recycling vehicle fleet is due to be replaced next year.

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service

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NEWS

'Inclusive' Digitech wins Ofsted praise

DIGITECH Studio School in Warmley has been praised by Ofsted for creating an atmosphere in which students are able to 'achieve well'.

In its first inspection under the watchdog's new framework, the school received 'strong' grades for inclusion and post-16 education, and was told it meets expectations in all other areas.

Digitech was also praised for its effective safeguarding by inspectors who highlighted its success creating a culture of belonging for students who often arrive at Digitech with 'a multitude of complex barriers' to effective schooling.

Lead inspector Rachel Hesketh wrote: "Pupils join Digitech Studio school in Year 10 or 12 to study a specialised curriculum in creative or digital arts. They enjoy learning a curriculum that covers many creative areas, from esports and digital technology to art, acting and music. Pupils gain specialist knowledge and are prepared well for future careers in the creative-



Principal Chris Ballard, right, and head of school Simon Jones, left, with Digitech students

based sector.

"Because pupils are only at the school for a short time, staff work quickly and skilfully to help them settle in. Pupils experience a warm and supportive environment.

"Students, wherever they complete their studies, are well cared for. Leaders work with their partner providers to oversee the high-quality education and support."

Inspectors offered further positive assessments in a number of key areas. The partnerships with other providers, including Boomsatsuma, The Robins Foundation at Bristol City FC and Bristol School of Acting, were highlighted.

On attendance and behaviour, the report said: "A substantial number of pupils join the school in Year 10 having been out of education or having low

engagement in their previous settings. Leaders work quickly to understand the previous patterns of attendance and why pupils might not have attended school well. They work closely with pupils, parents and carers, and build positive relationships."

On teaching, the inspectors said: "Leaders have developed a well-organised specialised curriculum. They have clearly structured the curriculum to link well with the creative subjects pupils choose to study."

Principal Chris Ballard said: "This report recognises the strength of our school community and, in particular, the commitment we share to ensuring every young person is supported to succeed. It is especially pleasing that Ofsted has highlighted the strength of our inclusive approach to education, which sits at the heart of everything we do. "We are proud of what we have achieved together, and we remain ambitious to continue improving further."



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NEWS

Plea for clarity on funding changes

CHANGES in the running of local assets such as parks, open spaces and public toilets will be made over the coming years.

South Gloucestershire Council's cabinet has agreed a policy that opens the way for town and parish councils across the district to take over management and in some cases ownership of these services.

It will mean the local councils charging through their council tax precept rather than the provision being funded by Special Expenses from SGC.

South Glos said the transfer of funding for discretionary services would improve fairness, promote choice and give local people more control.

However, following many concerns raised by town and parish councils over the proposals, the transition will now take place over three years.

SGC said that during this time, town and parish councils in consultation with local people will decide what level of services they want, when they are ready to take on management of those services, and how they want to run them going forward.

The hope is that the move will help protect local services, which South Glos is not legally obliged to provide, at a time of increasing financial pressures. The council has a limit on the amount by which it is allowed to increase

its council tax while town and parish councils do not.

SGC said: "As each town and parish council is unique, with a wide range of existing services, responsibilities and capacities, over the coming months and years we will work with each of them individually to help aid the transition."

Town and parish councils have welcomed the alterations to the process in response to feedback but say they still have many questions and concerns.

Siston Parish Council sought further information from SGC under a Freedom of Information request to find out what the plans could mean for its residents.

It said in a statement: "The parish council will be carefully looking at resourcing to take on the additional responsibilities, the costs of doing so now and in future years. No decision has been made on what we can manage locally yet."

Oldland Parish Council said: "Over the coming months, the parish council will carefully consider the opportunities and challenges presented by the Local Choice Policy. Any decisions on whether to take on additional services will need to be supported by a clear understanding of the resource requirements, long-term costs and the potential impact on local residents."

Pucklechurch Parish Council chair Gail Boyle said: "Pucklechurch Parish Council opposed this policy on the grounds that it is an inequitable, cost-shifting exercise that lacks financial transparency, places an unfair administrative burden on small local councils, and forces an uncapped tax burden onto Pucklechurch residents."

"Whilst I welcome the changes introduced to allow for a better-informed, phased approach, it must be acknowledged that not all town and parish councils start from the same position."

For a smaller council like Pucklechurch, with limited staffing and a low tax base, taking on these services is no simple transfer.

Kingswood Town Council, which was formed only three years ago, discussed the proposals at its meeting in June. Members said more clarity was needed for a policy that was "in effect the dismantling of a single service that works across 40 plus parishes in the area, and the rebuilding of 40 new smaller services, with the consequences of a much more costly service, and leaving the residents worse off".

It said the change was a big commitment with significant liabilities and commitments. However, local control and management of assets could ultimately be positive for the town.

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NEWS

Finding joy in the magic forest

CHILDREN at Cherry Garden Primary School have been enjoying the great outdoors this summer.

They have been glad of the shade in the school's Magic Forest, where areas have been developed to make them more wildlife friendly.

The development has been supported by families and by the school's parent teacher association, who gathered together to help clear parts of the site.

The forest now includes an outdoor reading library, a fence and a platform in the school's pond, where pupils have enjoyed pond-dipping.

"This has come at the just the right time for the children to use during the summer term and as the school continues to develop



Cherry Garden pupils in the Magic Forest

its outdoor learning provision," said deputy head Vicki May.

The learning doesn't stop when classes end though. Children and adults in the extra-

curricular gardening club have been visiting 'That Plant Place' each week to learn about how to look after and grow different plants and have even grown some

to take home.

Dean, from the plant nursery, also visits the school site to work with children all year round.

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PSYCHIC VIBRATION ON THE MEDIUM WAVE

Steve Holbrook, regarded by many as one of the UK's top Clairvoyant Mediums, is visiting locally very shortly, and he explains how he hears the voices of our loved ones that have passed away. His ability has taken him to Theatres and Hotels around the country, and as far as the Caribbean, demonstrating his unique ability to act as a telephone exchange between this world and the Spirit world.

His ability to give messages of re-assurance to people who have lost their loved ones, has been overwhelmingly witnessed by thousands over the years, and Steve says 'It helps them understand that life continues, just simply in a different dimension'. One lady's mum came through to her in one of Steves messages, and said to the daughter "don't forget the brown Prada handbag on Friday". The lady replied "I'm putting it in my mums coffin on Friday, she only died 5 days ago". Who would know this information?

One of Steves best friends is the BAFTA Award-winner Jane MacDonald, singer and once co-presenter on ITV's 'Loose Women', Channel 5's 'Cruising with Jane MacDonald', and 'Jane and Friends'. Steve met Jane in a Spiritualist Church many years ago, and predicted she would be on BBC TV as part of a cruise entertainment documentary. She didn't believe it, but the year after it came true, and she was the star of The Cruise, the first docu-soap, and she had the biggest selling debut album of all time. She has dedicated her autobiography to Steve, calling him her inspiration and guru, and can't thank him enough for being there when she needs guidance. Steve always believed in Janes undeniable talent, and this was all penned in his first Autobiography, published 18 years ago – and Jane received her BAFTA Award this year!

Steve now has 4 books out, 'Light in the Darkness', 'Out of this World', and 'Survival', and the brand new 'In a World of my Own', these all offer a true insight into the day-to-day life of a working medium, Steves beliefs on many areas of Spiritualism, and a great background in to Steves life.

Steve has raised tens of thousands of pounds for charities over the years, £30000 for his local hospice in Wakefield, £5000 for MacMillan Support, and most recently our current total for PACT – a charity that helps terminally ill children and their parents across the country – is almost £30000. He is dedicated to raising funds and awareness for this charity.

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NEWS

World Cup crackdown

NEARLY one in four motorists stopped by police in Avon and Somerset during a dedicated drink and drug driving campaign linked to the FIFA Men's World Cup were arrested on suspicion of drink or drug driving offences.

Operation Limit ran throughout the tournament, with officers carrying out proactive patrols centred on England matches.

They stopped 465 motorists, and made 113 arrests for suspected drink and drug driving offences.

Of the suspected offences identified during the campaign:

- 82 related to suspected drug driving.
- 31 related to suspected drink driving.

The majority of those arrested were male (85 per cent), while more than half (57 per cent) were aged between 25 and 40 years old. A further 25 per cent were aged between 41 and 60.

£900k 'squandered' on payoffs

THE West of England Combined Authority has "squandered almost £1 million of hard-earned taxpayers' cash" on exit packages to senior staff, councillors say.

WECA's recently-published annual draft accounts show it made £242,000 in payoffs between April 2025 and March this year, adding to the £457,000 the year before and £219,000 in 2023/24.

The accounts also reveal chief executive Stephen Peacock received a £235,454 annual salary, along with £34,593 in employer pension contributions – a package of about £270,000.

And the number of staff on £50,000 or more almost doubled, from 64 to 113.

Bristol city councillor and WECA audit committee member Jonathan Hucker (Con, Stockwood), a qualified accountant, said: "Over the past three years, WECA has squandered almost £1m of hard-earned taxpayers' cash.

"To put this into context, this equates to the annual income tax paid by over 200 workers on the average wage.

"It is a shocking and disgusting waste of taxpayers money by this completely dysfunctional organisation."

A table in the accounts shows the number of staff at the combined authority – comprising

Bristol, South Gloucestershire and Bath & North East Somerset councils – who were paid at least £50,000 soared last year, as did the number paid £80,000-plus.

A WECA spokesperson said the authority would not comment on HR matters.

The comments followed revelations that WECA's deputy mayor did not deputise a single time for Metro Mayor Helen Godwin last year, despite being paid a £19,300 salary for the role.

A Freedom of Information (FOI) request showed Kevin Guy, who is also Bath & North East Somerset Council's leader, had little to do in the role between May 2025 and May this year.

Democracy campaigner Andrew Lynch told Weca's audit committee that the authority "had no clue about what the deputy mayor was up to on Weca's behalf".

Metro Mayor Helen Godwin and Cllr Guy said in response that the position of deputy mayor was "important" and legally required, although Ms Godwin's predecessor Dan Norris did not appoint a deputy throughout his tenure from 2021-25.

They said the special allowance for the role of £19,300 was decided by an independent remuneration panel.

Cllr Guy did not deputise for the mayor at any statutory public meetings and did not chair any advisory boards at Ms Godwin's request, although he did chair the transport advisory board in his capacity as a leader of one of Weca's constituent authorities.

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service



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NEWS

School earns rare Exceptional rating

A HANHAM school has become the first in the South West to receive an Exceptional rating under new Ofsted judgements.

The education watchdog changed its system last November, giving grades for a range of areas rather than one overall rating.

Very few schools score Exceptional; Strong is hard to achieve and Expected standard is higher than the former Good grade.

Samuel White's Infant School in Hanham was judged as Exceptional for its early years provision for children in nursery and reception classes and Strong for all other provision.

The inspectors who visited in May said: "The early years provision is extremely nurturing, ambitious and inclusive. Children receive an exceptional start to school life and achieve impressively well.

"Expert teaching ensures that children secure the personal, social, emotional and academic developmental steps needed at each stage."

Samuel White's, which is part of the Hanham Federation and The Leaf Trust, was rated Strong for achievement, curriculum and teaching, inclusion, attendance and behaviour, leadership and governance and pupils' personal development and wellbeing. Safeguarding standards were also met.



Ofsted said: "From the moment pupils arrive at Samuel White's, staff provide a warm welcome and ensure that school is a positive, rewarding experience. Staff leave no stone unturned to ensure that pupils feel safe, happy and ready to learn. Pupils thrive because staff are relentless in their efforts to provide the very best for them."

The inspectors noted that parents appreciated the caring and passionate staff, the nurturing environment and the high standards.

They said children were extremely proud of their school, achieved well in national tests, and had excellent behaviour.

"Governors, trustees and school and trust leaders share a clear vision and

determination for this school to provide an exceptional early education for its pupils, within the wider context of being federated with the junior school next door. Pupils are at the heart of this vision and of the decisions taken by leaders at every level," the report said.

Head teacher Gabby Howells said: "We are delighted with the Ofsted outcome. The pupils at Samuel White's Infant School were exemplary — showing the independence, responsibility and joy in learning that underpin everything we do. It is a daily privilege to watch them grow into rounded, confident learners and I'm proud that our visitors saw this for themselves.

"This success reflects not only our pupils but the unwavering commitment of our staff and the support of our local community, whose partnership makes such high standards possible."

Ross Newman, CEO of The Leaf Trust, said: "I could not be prouder of everyone connected with Samuel White's Infant School. This report reflects a school where children truly belong, grow and succeed. It reflects the dedication of staff, the support of families, the leadership of governors and school leaders, and most importantly the wonderful children who make Samuel White's such an exceptional school."

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NEWS

Poppy Appeal celebrates successful year

BITTON and Oldland Branch of the Royal British Legion held their annual Thank You evening for all those and others who had given up their time during the last 12 months, and some over many years before, to help the branch in a number of ways, and in particular the annual Poppy Appeal.

This year the branch raised a record amount of £43,000.12 toward the national appeal. This is largely due to customers of Asda in Longwell Green who regularly visit and support the Poppy Stand inside the main doors. The Bitton and Oldland Branch are very grateful to Asda, who for many years have allowed us to have the stand during the annual appeal. We also would like to thank local traders, including local pubs, clubs, post offices and The Sir Bernard Lovell Academy for collections raised by them.

The evening was held at the Golden Valley Farm Shop and Cafe in Bitton courtesy of Charlotte and John House. Bitton and Oldland Branch is a small branch by membership numbers compared to the bigger cities. Nevertheless we have a healthy membership and



Dawn and George Harrill with Bristol Army Cadet Force members

our oldest member Eddie Hawking in March celebrated his 100th birthday. However we are always looking for new and younger members. Annual membership remains at £22. If interested, please contact our Membership Secretary Cathryn Short on 07800 690339.

Should anyone want to help on the Poppy Stand at Asda

during late October to early November, even for an odd hour or two, please contact our Poppy Appeal organiser Dawn Harrill on 07966 267959 or email dawners@btinternet.com. The branch is also actively seeking knitters to help knit poppies to form a cascade to be hung from St Mary's Church in Bitton during the Remembrance celebrations. If you like knitting and are able to help, then please contact Dawn who will give you further details.

The Bitton and Oldland Branch was founded on the February 22, 1927, and next February will celebrate 100 years of raising monies to help the Royal British Legion support its help and assistance to military personnel and their dependents.

In August members of the Branch Committee are due to visit Dunkirk Memorial House, a Royal British Legion Home in Taunton to see how monies are used in helping dependent military personnel, whereby another cheque for £500

will be presented

There were near 60 people attended the Thank You evening, but it 'clashed' with the England v Argentina World Cup Football on TV and some 20 apologies were received

Dawn Harrill presented awards and certificates to several of those present, and special thanks were accorded to four children aged seven to nine who with their parents regularly attend and help at many fund raising appeals, the youngest being Dawn and George Harrill's grand daughter Ellie, aged seven. Also present were members of the Bristol Army Cadet Force, who attend many events supporting the Poppy Appeal. They raised £6,000 and were presented with a certificate and each cadet a small gift in appreciation of their efforts

During the evening, we heard from the Branch President Lt Col KCR Gibson TD, DL and the Branch Chairman and Secretary S.Ldr J.F.Dando RNR. The highlight of the evening was a talk from Capt George Harrill (Rtd) about "A History of Remembrance". Capt Harrill is a 'military historian' of renown. In early June he presented a talk on "D Day and the Normandy Landings" at the Church Hall in Bitton and raised £223 for the RBL. Louise Dolen, who is the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal Manager for Bristol and South Gloucestershire, also came along to offer her thanks to everyone present for what she described as a 'magnificent effort' for a small branch. She said that the National Poppy Appeal this year has raised £54.1 million pounds

Roger W Blake (Committee Member Bitton and Oldland RBL Branch)



RBL members forgo the football to celebrate

LIFT Broadlands in Keynsham is set to unveil a £20,000 dance studio in September as part of a wider programme of investment to transform the school's facilities.

As well as enhancing provision for students, the studio will also be available for community hire for dance, yoga and fitness classes. It will be created by converting the current gym space, with the fitness suite being moved to ensure students continue to benefit from high-quality sports facilities alongside a dedicated performance space.

The development is part of a

New dance studio

programme of improvement, with more than £1.5 million invested since 2023 in upgrades including toilet refurbishments, boiler replacement, fencing, resurfaced car parking areas, and extensive internal makeovers such as flooring, decorating, and improved learning environments.

Further works are planned, including roofing improvements, and investment in the fabric and safety of the building.

Alongside the physical improvements,

the school is also developing its creative offer further, subject to an external funding bid. Following the success of its first whole-school production in more than 20 years, Matilda, plans are under way to enhance lighting, sound and production facilities to further strengthen drama and performance opportunities for students.

Principal Laura Stone said: "This is an exciting period of continued investment in Lift Broadlands, and the new dance studio is a fantastic example of how we are enhancing opportunities for our students right now."

LETTERS

Use your vote - it's so important

THE local council election of Longwell Green South Glos had just over 33 per cent turnout. Nearly 67 per cent didn't vote. It's appalling that we have the opportunity for a democratic vote and it's wasted. The country is in a dire mess and most people don't get out there and vote. It's more important than ever that people get a better understanding of what the parties offer and decide who they can trust with our future. We don't want to be let down time and again with lies and misinformation. The last 16 years of disappointment after disappointment should be a lesson to us all.

M Durbin

Call for action on polluted river

WE'RE in east Bristol, Kingswood. The water is so clearly polluted, it's murky, brown and looks horrible. Having lived abroad several times

I know that it does not have to be this way.

We go down to Conham river or Saltford several times a week with our dog. We've been swimming most days in the heatwave as we live in a one bed flat that is absolutely sweltering. River swimming has kept us cool and sane but the water looks disgusting. We've heard of several people getting extremely ill and been warned not to swim, but honestly what choice do we have when it's 37c other than showering every half hour? It should be a basic human right to be able to use our rivers and not fear of being poisoned and sick as a dog for days.

There has to be another way of disposing of sewage. The fact that citizens will have their water bills increased again in under a week, so that water companies can finally start disposing of waste properly is absurd. Why are we being charged for something we have had no say in? Wessex Water profits were almost £12million last year, yet we struggle to keep up with payments as everything gets more expensive and wages stay the same. Something needs to change.

A Cooper

Nominate a pet for an award

BRISTOL Animal Rescue Centre has officially launched its first-ever Bristol Pet Awards, honouring the region's most beloved companion animals and the extraordinary bonds they share with their humans.

We are calling on the public to submit nominations and help shine a spotlight on Bristol's furry, feathered, or scaly heroes.

The five categories celebrating both incredible animals and the humans who stand up for them are: Bristol's Pet of the Year for an all-around exceptional pet; Bristol's Animal Hero for a remarkable person supporting animals; Remarkable Rescue Journey, for a rescue animal that has transitioned into a thriving, happy new life; the Unbreakable Bond Award for a deep, meaningful connection between a pet and their human companion; the Lifetime Achievement Award, sponsored by ELM Legal Services, recognising a service animal or one that has had a profound impact on people.

We are also aiming to raise £15,000 directly towards supporting our vital rescue work.

Submitting a nomination is quick, easy, and completely free at tinyurl.com/mryefk6e.

Nominations close on September 1 at midnight.

Sally Hearn-Smith
Bristol ARC

Nature can help grieving process

ST Peter's Hospice has introduced a new nature-based grief support programme.

The Nature of Grief drop-in groups will be held at the Penny Brohn Centre, Pill, offering free sessions for adults who have lost a loved one to an incurable illness.

There will be a session on 25 August and one further date in Sept (TBC), where senior psychological therapist Pippa Ford will lead the group with support from qualified nature-based practitioners. For more information visit stpetershospice.org/NatureTherapies

OPEN EVENTS COMING SOON

Open Evening - Thursday 17th September
Headteacher's introduction starts at 5.35pm

Open Morning - Tuesday 22nd September
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NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

New buses connect more communities

SUMMER in the West of England is such an exciting time.

From Bristol's Harbour Festival to Valley Fest in Chew Magna, Countryfest at Weston's Grand Pier and open-air Shakespeare at Dyrham Park, there is something for all ages and hopefully we'll all be able to get out in the sunshine soon.

Connecting our communities through better transport is so important, which is why we are continuing to invest in bus services together.

Among the service changes from July 26 are:

65: Thornbury town service connecting more communities to the town centre.

K2: Keynsham town service connecting the Chocolate Quarter and town centre to neighbourhoods in South Keynsham.

100: hourly service between Bath and Bristol to serve Timsbury, Farmborough, Bishop Sutton, and Chew Valley.

101: service between Bishop Sutton and Radstock including Chew Magna, Paulton, and Midsomer Norton.

Y2C: service between Cribbs Causeway and Yate will also serve Ladden Garden Village and provide a bus from Westerleigh Road and Rodford Way into Yate town centre, and service for Severn Beach, Castle School and Iron Acton.

X91: Service between Ubley and Bristol, via West Harptree, East Harptree, Bishop Sutton is being

extended to Dundry.

25 is being extended to connect Southville to Bristol city centre, now terminating at Eastgate Shopping Centre.

768: service between Writhlington, Radstock, Timsbury, and Bath will have earlier and later journeys added.

Y8: Yate to Wotton-under-Edge service will be extended to serve Leyhill.

9, 21, 31, and 41: Park & Ride services in and around Bath and Bristol will be improved, including evening journeys.

525: service between Yate, Pucklechurch and Emersons Green will now run every 60 minutes Monday to Saturday, and every 120 minutes on Sunday.

534: route connecting SGS campuses in Filton and Stoke Gifford to Downend, Cadbury Heath, Kingswood and Fishponds will run three services on college days

Getting our region moving is one of our biggest priorities. Investing in these routes and services means better buses for passengers across the West Country and gives people certainty until at least spring 2029.

You can find the full list of service changes online at TravelWest.info.

Looking ahead, in Keynsham a review will look to ensure that connections currently offered by the K1 are protected going forward.

Options to connect Thornbury to both SGS College and Southmead Hospital are also being explored.



Metro Mayor Helen Godwin
writes for the Voice

More widely, work continues to fully assess options for how to take greater control of the region's buses – including through different types of franchising.

Alongside these changes, we want everyone to be able to make the most of our incredible region this summer, so we are bringing back Kids Go Free.

Running from July 18 until September 6, children and young people under 16 will be able to explore our whole region by bus free of charge again.

Kids Go Free is opening up our region, particularly for children from lower-income areas, and making a real difference to families – like our £1 regional fare freeze for children, saving people millions.

As a result, this August Kids Go Free will be rolled out across England with £100 million of investment - benefitting 7.5 million children.



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■ MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Why we need visible policing

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

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

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

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

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

to consistently advocate for local, visible policing.

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

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

Antisocial behaviour and local criminality have complex causes that require sustained

investment, resource, and dedication.

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

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

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

and youth outreach.

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

I hear your concerns, and I share them.

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



With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody



Open Evening

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NEWS

COUNCILLORS have joined campaigners in calling on the NHS not to sell off land at the former Frenchay Hospital for more housing.

Last month the Save Frenchay Community Hospital Group wrote an open letter in the Voice to the new Bristol NHS Trust, urging its leaders not to "abandon" the site, after plans for a rehabilitation unit were scrapped.

A community hospital was promised when the decision

NHS 'must keep Frenchay'

to transfer acute services from the old Frenchay Hospital to Southmead was taken in 2005.

But by the time the hospital closed in 2014, the plan had already been axed as part of austerity cuts.

Plans were later announced for a 50-bed facility, but never taken further.

In April the Bristol,

North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB), which controls local NHS spending, said the site was no longer needed, because the service was prioritising "neighbourhood-based, home-first rehabilitation".

ICB chief delivery officer David Jarrett told South Gloucestershire Council's health

scrutiny committee that North Bristol NHS Trust - which has since become part of the merged Bristol NHS Trust - should consider selling the site to "generate further capital funds".

At the committee's June meeting, Save Frenchay Community Hospital Group member Barbara Harris repeated the plea to Bristol NHS Trust chief executive Maria Kane and chair Ingrid Barker to step in and provide the rehab beds for people who currently cannot leave hospital because there is nowhere for them to go for rehabilitation.

She said: "Patients and the public are being failed on a daily basis. Both the council and BNSSG ICB have now abandoned any further interest in healthcare provision on the Frenchay site."

"Our question to this committee and to Maria Kane and Ingrid Barker is, are you going to abandon us yet again?"

Conservative group leader Liz Brennan, who represents the Frenchay & Downend, said: "Today, Frenchay is a growing community, yet it has no local GP provision. Residents are often forced to travel outside the area to access basic healthcare services, despite many facing limited transport options, despite Frenchay having this significant and growing older population."

"The question is no longer whether Frenchay needs local healthcare provision: the evidence is overwhelming. Let's not look back in 20 years and regret the chances we had today."

Marilyn Palmer (Lib Dem, Boyd Valley) told ICB chiefs at the meeting: "Frenchay is what we care about here. We really do implore you not to sell off the Frenchay site for housing - keep hold of the Frenchay site for some use for healthcare."

Ms Barker said: "I know that Frenchay really matters in this community, and we are very conscious of that."

Bristol NHS Trust chief medical officer Tim Whittlestone told the committee: "This debate over the Frenchay site has been going on for far too long."

"We need some clear and transparent decisions,

"There is huge potential, and with the Brabazon new town we have the opportunity to look at things differently and quite radically."

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service



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MEET THE AUTHOR

Many people know the Golding family through A.S. Goldings, the High Street business that has served Hanham and Longwell Green for more than 80 years. Now, 20-year-old Tasha Golding is making a name for herself with the publication of her debut young adult novel, *Surf and Turf*, released last month

Could you introduce yourself and tell us a little about your background?

TG: "I am 20 years old and I have been a book lover basically my entire life. The Percy Jackson series really got me hooked on reading (I know, shocker – it wasn't Harry Potter!). Books really got me through everything, including my scoliosis surgeries and uveitis flare-ups. I did my GCSEs at Digitech Studio School, as I have always been interested in and drawn to creative media, such as photography and graphic design. Back in school, I always loved English and creative writing, being able to express myself through words. I also used to model on the side, which I would love to get back into.

What inspired you to write your

debut novel?

TG: Funnily enough, *Surf and Turf* is technically the second book I've written, yet it's the first I've published. I love to surf and my dream is to live by the sea one day – it's where I feel happiest. Last summer, the story idea hit me. I'd only read a handful of surfer romances and wanted more, so I decided to create my own. Some of my biggest inspirations were the TV shows *Surviving Summer*, *Outer Banks* and *Blue Water High*. I started planning the book last autumn and spent several months drafting and editing it before publishing it in July 2026. I also designed the cover myself using my digital art experience. Marketing has probably been the biggest challenge, but BookTok and Instagram have helped me connect with readers.

Can you tell our readers a little about the story?

TG: *Surf and Turf* is a young adult romance set in the fictional Cornish town of Silvercove. It follows surfing champion Isla More and troublemaking skater Kai Velez, who are forced to work together despite a long-running rivalry between surfers and skaters. As

they help each other chase their dreams, friendship begins to develop into something more.

Were there any messages you wanted to explore through the book?

TG: One of the biggest messages I wanted to share was to not give up on your dreams. If you told me this time last year that I'd actually have published a book, I probably would have laughed, especially as I was actually still writing my other book at the time.

Has living in Bristol influenced your writing?

TG: There aren't any Bristol locations in the book, although there are mentions of Bath. However, many of the characters have been influenced by my local friends and family. What I love most about living here is the support I've received from the people around me. They've been excited about the book from the start.

Did growing up in a local family business inspire your writing?

TG: Yes. My family has owned A.S. Goldings for more than 80 years, and seeing the support it receives from the community inspired Kai's family business in the book. It's amazing to see a local business

continue to thrive thanks to its loyal customers.

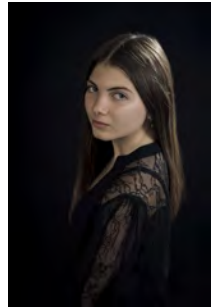
What's surprised you most about becoming an author, and what

advice would you give others?

TG: I'm still surprised to be able to call myself a published author at just 20 years old. It hasn't always been easy, and there were times when I felt like giving up. My advice is simple: keep going, take breaks when you need to, and don't be afraid to make changes to your work. This is just the start of my journey, and I'd love to be traditionally published one day.

What's next for you as a writer?

TG: I'm planning a sequel to *Surf and Turf* and also working on *The Witch's Diadem*, a fantasy novel I first started writing when I was 18. *Surf and Turf* is available on Amazon and Kindle. Follow Tasha Golding on Instagram: @tashagoldingauthor and TikTok: @tashas_bookshelf



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NATURE WATCH

with Dawn Lawrence

The story of a bird cherry tree's resilience

It may seem odd, at the apparent height of summer, to be thinking of autumn but, as birders will tell you, it can start as early as June! This is when the first ducks – those that failed to breed – start to moult their summer plumage. But even in our gardens the breeding season is winding down and the very hot weather has hastened the end of summer. It's already time to watch out for feeding flocks, including blue, great and coal tits, long-tailed tits and goldcrests – a mixed gaggle of tiny birds calling to each other as they raid the shrubberies for insects and early berries.

Last year, autumn came very early for a bird cherry on Horfield Common. Native to the northern parts of Britain, this is an attractive small tree with droopy clusters of white flowers and is often planted down south. The tree was looking happy enough in its fresh greenery until May when, day by day, a spooky grey gauze could be seen enveloping the canopy,



A ghostly bird cherry on Horfield Common in 2025

ultimately encasing the trunk and smothering every branch to the smallest twig. People stopped to gaze in fascinated horror at the spreading web and what appeared to be a deadly plague of caterpillars that were weaving it. By June all the leaves were gone, caterpillars were crawling away across the grass in search of a new victim and the tree appeared to be doomed, wearing nothing but a silken shroud in preparation for the end. But this is a story of a



The caterpillars and their web
Photos by Dawn Lawrence

tree's resilience – all was not lost.

Like the wild cherry, which is to be found in local ancient woodlands such as Badock's Wood, the bird cherry is deciduous, losing its leaves every autumn. Even as the adult moths began to emerge from thousands upon thousands of chrysalises the tree was already re-growing its leaves – having apparently gone through an entire year in a single season! By the end of June it was almost back to normal and

the insects had gone, though the web, tattered and torn, was still wrapped about the trunk and branches.

The cause was a little moth – the bird-cherry ermine – which is barely a centimetre long. It is shining white with small black spots, hence its name. It eats only bird cherry and it has moved south from the bird cherry's usual haunts to colonise those trees planted as ornamentals elsewhere. This year the same tree leafed out and flowered as usual with no apparent ill-effects from last year's early autumn. It is possible that a predator, or a parasite, of the bird-cherry ermine, has caught up and is now controlling the population. Or perhaps the moths moved on, driven by instinct not to attack the same tree twice so as not to kill their host. A useful warning to the gardener and park keeper not to chop down a tree too hastily!

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COMMUNITY NEWS

HANHAM WI

DESPITE the heatwave, branch meetings have continued to draw enthusiastic attendance, though one event — our coffee morning — did unfortunately fall victim to the soaring temperatures.

Evening all. The question on everyone's mind at our June meeting was simple: "Who dun it?" Members were treated to an entertaining night of intrigue courtesy of local group The Red Herrings, well known for their murder mystery performances. Fear not — no spoilers ahead.

The narrator opened the evening by setting the scene: the society wedding of the year takes a dramatic turn when the bride, a newspaper heiress, vanishes. Moments later, news spreads among the guests that her decorated war hero fiancé has been found murdered.

With the mystery established, the suspects assembled on stage to introduce themselves and discuss the unfolding drama. Audience members, now

promoted to detectives, were invited to interrogate the suspects in search of clues that might reveal the culprit.

After a final summary from the narrator, members stepped forward with their conclusions. A handful correctly named the murderer — though none for the right reason. All in all, it was a wonderfully entertaining and thoroughly enjoyable evening.

In July, Alan Clarke delivered a fascinating talk on the History of Place Names. Using slides, he explored the origins of names across towns and villages, many rooted in Celtic or Norse settlement. Hanham, however, remains a mystery — answers on a postcard, please.

Those unmoved by football stayed behind for tea, conversation, and a browse of our Red Sales Table. The football fans among us dashed off quickly, only to face an evening of disappointment and heartache. Alas... it's not coming home.

Dianna Coles

SHORTWOOD VILLAGE WI

WELL, it is hot! Let's try to enjoy the summer, now we have sunshine.

In June we had a fascinating talk from Sarah and Claire of Emersons Green Town Council.

Sarah started by telling us about turning her dull garden in to a wildlife haven and Claire finished talking about ways to save water, with her enthusiasm for water butts.

A few of us had to admit that we, unintentionally, already had a wildlife haven in our garden.

July was our lovely informal 'picnic on the lawn' evening hosted by Diane.

A quiz was set by Charlotte and we ended with an American supper, non-alcoholic Pimms and lots of chatter.

Due to varying stages of growth for our sunflower competition, this will be judged at our August meeting.

Some of our members helped out at the Shortwood Chapel 150th anniversary events, and the cream teas and flower festival were a great success.

We are a small, friendly bunch, so if you would like to see for yourself, we will welcome you to our next meeting, on August 13 at 7.30pm in the vestry of Shortwood Village Chapel, Main Road, Shortwood.

For further information, questions or just a chat, please contact us by email at millhousejoinery@aol.com - give your email the heading 'Shortwood Village WI'.

Lynne Miller

RODWAY RUBIES WI

GOOD weather helped us have a very successful coffee morning in June in aid of BUST, the breast cancer centre charity.

We raised just over £1,000, which was very heartening, and we are grateful to all our members who supported us, as well as their families, friends and the local community.

Thank you to all the cake makers and Mangotsfield URC members who ran the kitchen.

Jane Eldon

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COMMUNITY NEWS

BITTON WI

THIS year we changed things up so no meeting in July. Instead, we had our annual outing for our members to a lovely garden near Tetbury. On a hot and sunny day we visited the house. We were met by Head Gardener Sarah who took us to meet the owner of the house and gardens, Julie Record. Julie told us how she and her husband had bought the house in 2009 on impulse as they loved the look of it so much they didn't want anyone else to buy it before they could.

We learned that the walled garden, greenhouse, chicken enclosure and pool pavilion were all built by them, with some being her own vision and others that of her husband Neil. The house, with 190 acres of land, is their second home where they holiday and share weekends with their families.

We heard of previous owners of the house and of her very grand neighbour who was King Charles and Queen Camilla! Charlton Down House gardens were remodelled in the 1930s by Francis Lloyd, heir to a newspaper fortune. The Estate Manager and Head Gardener have worked their magic on the gardens, developing the borders within the walled garden and an organic vegetable garden. In 2012 Neil added a copse to celebrate the Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth, though unfortunately, a few trees had suffered and lost through ash dieback.

We were invited to take a tour of the garden with Sarah and her assistant. We

walked through the beautifully mown striped lawns, past the new pool pavilion and into the walled garden. There we admired the many types of flowers being grown and the abundance of lemons on some re-potted trees they had been working on.

It was plain to see that the family needs were all catered for in this home, with a playroom, an assortment of large outdoor park equipment and an even larger wooden bench they called the "Big Chair" which is at least two and a half times bigger than a normal bench. We were all encouraged to give it a go as, Julie had commented, it's not just for the children!

We were invited to take a buggy down to see the Jubilee Copse with the groundsmen. While the fresh air was welcomed in the open buggy, the bumpy grounds caused much laughter as we drove along.

After our tour we were invited for a welcome cup of tea and some lovely homemade cake. Julie, the owner sat with us and answered our many questions. She promised that next year they would be celebrating the 100 years of the National Open Gardens Scheme and something special will be planned which would be well worth a visit.

Our next meeting at St Mary's Church Hall will take place on Monday 14 September 2026 at 2pm where our speaker will be Soapy Jane on the "Ins and outs of making soap".

Karen Davidson
President

SOUTH GLOS WINE CIRCLE

OUR July meeting in the hall was 'Lagers with a Difference' presented by one of our committee members. Four beers - lager styles typical of German brewers - were sampled; Helles, Dortmund, Pils and Black Lager but brewed in England with English grown ingredients and using the more time consuming, double decoction processes that provides more flavour. The beers were well received even by the non beer drinkers

On Sunday July 12 South Glos supported the Bristol Jazz Society's annual river cruise. Gliding up the river Avon from near the SS Great Britain to just past Beeses Tea Garden. Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Falcons 5 set up on the back of the boat, played toe tapping music all the way.

Our 60th anniversary celebration, part two, will take place at the Avon Valley Railway with a ride on the train followed by a glass of fizz and afternoon tea in the static carriage.

We don't meet in the hall in August or September but we will be organising some socials. October will be a tasting wines for winter and port. There will always be a warm welcome for those with a passion for wine, beer and food. If you are interested please get in touch or look at our website sgwc.org.uk. We meet on the first Wednesday of month; doors open 7.30pm for an 8pm start.

Carol Coombs, programme secretary
carol@applause.co.uk

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WHAT'S ON

AUGUST EVENTS

August 4

■ **KINGSWOOD HISTORY SOCIETY**

Presentation by Paul Barnett; A Wreckers Tale – Ship Breakers of the Severn (please refer to website www.kingswoodhistorysociety.org for any late change). Park Centre, Kingswood, Tuesday 4th August, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Visitors £4 incl tea/coffee and biscuits.

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

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-8.30pm 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 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/>

■ **BARRS COURT PROBUS** is a friendly local club for men recently retired or semi-retired. We're a mixed group- extradesmen, engineers, teachers, shopkeepers and professionals-who meet every 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month for talks, coffee and outings. Just good company, new experiences. Come as our guest and see what you think. Call Mick 0117 9324104 to check details and say you're coming. Bring a friend - everyone is welcome.

■ **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 via email handkpc@plphillips.plus.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-8.30pm 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 Dennis Jones on 07728 849629 or email dennismjones@hotmail.co.uk

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 keynshamtownwf@gmail.com for details

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

■ **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

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

FRIDAY

■ **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.

■ **LONGWELL GREEN**

EVERGREENS, New social group meets on the third Friday of the month at 7.30 pm. If you are interested in visiting, please get in touch by email at longwellevergreens@gmail.com

■ **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

■ PHARMACY COLUMN

Effective weight-loss support

HEALTHY weight loss is about more than appearance – it is about improving your health, wellbeing and quality of life.

Around two-thirds of adults in the UK are living with overweight or obesity. Achieving and maintaining a healthier weight can reduce the risk of serious health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and sleep apnoea.

Healthy eating, physical activity and sustainable lifestyle changes remain the foundation of successful weight management. However, for some people, additional support may be beneficial.

A New Era of Weight Management Treatments

Recent advances in medicines have transformed weight management options for suitable patients.

Injectable treatments such as Wegovy® (semaglutide) and

Mounjaro® (tirzepatide) work by helping to regulate appetite, reduce hunger and control cravings. When combined with lifestyle changes, they can help patients achieve significant and sustained weight loss.

Clinical studies have demonstrated impressive results:

- Wegovy® achieved average weight reductions of around 15%.
- Mounjaro® achieved average weight reductions of 20% or more in some studies.

Both medicines are approved by in the UK for weight management in appropriate patients.

Introducing the New Needle-Free Option – Wegovy Tablets

A major recent development is the approval of Wegovy tablets, the first GLP-1 weight-loss tablet licensed in the UK.

Containing the same active ingredient as the Wegovy injection, this once-daily tablet offers an effective alternative for

people who would prefer not to use injections. It provides greater choice and flexibility while helping to regulate appetite and support healthier eating habits.

The arrival of Wegovy tablets means treatment can be tailored more closely to individual preferences, lifestyles and clinical needs. We can now also offer this treatment at Ellacombe Pharmacy.

Treatment Is Only Part of the Journey

Whilst these medicines can be highly effective, long-term success comes from combining treatment with:

- Healthier eating habits
- Increased physical activity
- Behavioural and lifestyle support
- Realistic goal setting
- Ongoing monitoring and encouragement

At Ellacombe Pharmacy, we believe every weight-loss journey is unique. We take time



0117 932 2293
24 Ellacombe Road,
Longwell Green, BS30 9BA

to understand your health, goals and circumstances before recommending any treatment.

Patient safety remains our highest priority, and all recommendations are based on a comprehensive clinical assessment.

How We Can Help

Our private weight management consultations provide an opportunity to explore safe, effective and personalised options, including Wegovy injections, Wegovy tablets and Mounjaro.

Whether you are just starting your journey or looking for additional support after years of trying, we are here to help.

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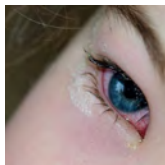
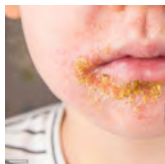
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■ ANTIQUES

As pretty as a peacock

There are few book covers in the world of literature as immediately recognizable, or as deeply coveted, as the 1894 "Peacock Edition" of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

Published by George Allen and featuring the breathtaking illustrations of Hugh Thomson, this book is a masterpiece of the late 19th-century Arts and Crafts movement. Thomson's design - a magnificent peacock proudly flaunting its gilded feathers across a dark green cloth cover - was a clever visual nod to Mr. Darcy's vanity and pride.



It completely redefined how Austen's work was packaged. It is iconic.

Here at Auctioneum, we've had the immense privilege of handling several copies of this iconic edition in recent times. It's always a thrilling moment when one lands on our desk because the market for them is incredibly dynamic right now.

Condition dictates everything. If you are lucky enough to find a clean, bright copy with vibrant, unfaded gilt on the cover and spine, you are looking at well over a thousand pounds, perhaps even two thousand. However, because these books were meant to be read and loved, many haven't survived the last 130 years unscathed. But copies that are perhaps a little 'well-read' can still fetch hundreds of pounds.

Just last month we were presented with one, a second edition, that had actually been found at a local car boot sale and purchased for the princely sum of fifty pence. We sold it for close to six hundred pounds!

And then last week we discovered another. Nestled on a bookshelf in the living room of a client's house, the gilt decoration literally glinting in the sunlight. It'll be coming up in our next specialist book auction in August.

So keep your eyes peeled for the famous Peacock Edition, and if you find one, let us know!

Andy Stowe, Auctioneum

■ NEWS

Joyce is 109 not out!

CELEBRATIONS were in full swing at Kingswood Court Care Home as resident Joyce marked her incredible 109th birthday.

In keeping with Joyce's wishes, this year's celebrations were a small private gathering at the home, where she was joined by fellow residents, family, friends and staff.

Guests enjoyed a special birthday cake created by the home's chef, Lee, while Joyce also received hundreds of birthday cards, including a congratulatory card from The King and Queen in recognition of her remarkable milestone.

Born in Somerset in 1917, Joyce began her working life in a glove factory, where she met her husband, Stan. She later worked as an accountant at Babyham and was among the first people to use a Comptometer, one of the world's earliest mechanical calculators.

Speaking about her special day, Joyce said: "I don't feel 109. I'm so glad so many people have celebrated with me." She also said to the younger generation, "never stop living your life".

Attila Lengyel, general manager of the home added: "We're delighted to be celebrating a truly remarkable woman as she reaches this amazing milestone. Joyce is such a popular resident who always has an interesting tale to tell, and we look forward to hearing many more as she breaks into her next century."



Hanham Community Centre.
118-124 High Street.
Hanham BS15 3EJ.
Saturday: 9.00am
Tel: Izzy 07824 365101

Longwell Green Community
Centre, Shellards Road
Longwell Green BS30 9DU
Monday: 6.00pm & 7.30pm
Tuesday: 9.30am
Tel: Karen 07889 408969

North Common Village Hall,
16 Millers Dr, North Common
BS30 8XX
Tuesday: 6.00pm & 7.30pm
Tel: Emma 07773 689229


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NEWS

CCTV work on path

WORK to install CCTV cameras on the Bristol and Bath Railway Path is now underway.

South Gloucestershire Council announced in July that work had begun to mount 20 permanent cameras on columns between Staple Hill Tunnel and the former Mangotsfield Station.

The work is due to be finished by August 17.

The council first unveiled plans for the cameras on the path, to help tackle crime and anti-social behaviour, in 2024.

Earlier this year it was confirmed that the West of England Combined Authority would spend more than £450,000 to fund the cameras and improve the path at nine "pinch points" between Siston Common and Warmley station.

An extra column at Warmley Waiting Room, with two CCTV cameras, is also being installed.

A consultation was held last year and the council has spoken with Bristol Cycling Campaign and others about the plans.

The council says light machinery will be in use on the affected stretch of path, which will be temporarily narrowed.

A spokesperson said: "While there may be some minor disruption for path users, the route will remain open. These locations have been carefully selected in response to reports of antisocial behaviour and criminal activity, helping to improve safety and security for everyone using the path. Thank you for your patience while these important improvements are carried out."

The work comes after police carried out an operation against illegal electric scooters on another stretch of the path.

A police spokesperson said: "As part of the operation, several warning letters were issued to riders found using e-scooters illegally. Please be aware that privately owned e-scooters cannot be used on public roads, pavements or cycle paths and may be seized by police."

KINGSWOOD HISTORY SOCIETY

Filton in space – 65 Years and counting

by Terry Ransome MSc FBIS – 7th July 2026

Terry started by giving background to his career in the space industry. Indeed, he graduated in the same month that man first walked on the moon.

He then went on to give a history of the various satellite programmes entered by BAC. All this taking place in a lone building on Golf Course Lane. Insights were quite detailed and BAC would be contributing to only parts of programmes. Albeit sometimes being the primary lead.

However, the first rocket was built at Banwell, Skylark 1 and launched in 1956, prior to Sputnik 1 albeit it did not go into space. There is a memorial to be found in Banwell. 441 Skylarks of several types were launched, last being 2005.

Notable satellite programs have been Ariel and Prospero. Prospero being the first and last British build and launch using the Black Arrow rocket in 1971.

We then covered the subjects of communication satellites, Intelsat, Skynet, Hydrazine rocket propellant and electromagnetic clean rooms. The clean room was in a separate circular building behind the BAWA club.

Further subjects covered Hubble Telescope, where Filton produced the solar arrays and Photon Detector assembly. Giotto that encountered Halley's comet in 1986. The comet can be seen in the weathervane of the Unitarian Chapel at Frenchay. Finally, Beagle 2 which can now be seen on Mars in photographs.

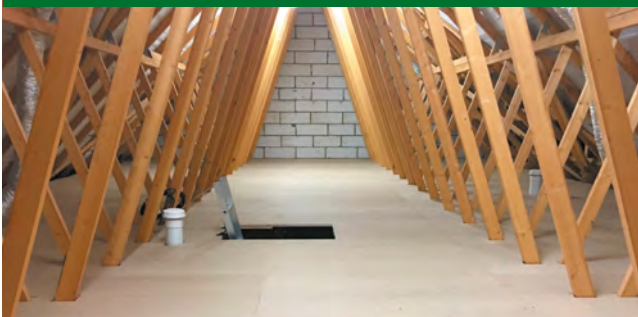
Filton closed on Dec 23rd, 1997, with operations moving to Stevenage. All is not lost for Bristol, recently ESA are looking into a spacecraft to Venus. This is based at the Science Park on the Ring Road.

The audience asked the common question on space debris. Terry responded to say it is a worry particularly in recent years. A warm round of applause finished the evening.

Next meeting at the Park Centre, Kingswood is Tuesday 4th August, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Visitors £4 incl tea/coffee and biscuits.

Full schedule of presentations can be found at www.kingswoodhistorysociety.org

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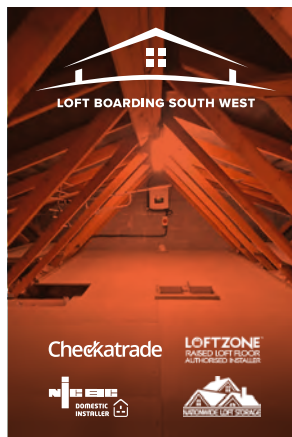
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■ HANHAM & KINGSWOOD PHOTO CLUB



Print: London Skyline by Kim Pickup *Highly Commended*



DPI: Moto Cross by Kim Pickup *Highly Commended*



Print: Milner Whiteman OBE by Steve Pickering *Commended*



Print: Thieves of Liberty by Julie Kaye *Commended*

■ LAST month's edition celebrated the top awards for the Hanham and Kingswood Photo Club's Best Picture of the Year competition, but the story doesn't end there. Behind the top honours stands a field of talented contenders, and this year's runners-up have earned their moment in the spotlight for this month's article. Here are the awards for the Highly Commended and Commended images.

Watch this space for future Hanham and Kingswood Photo Club images celebrating local life, community events, and creative photographic techniques.

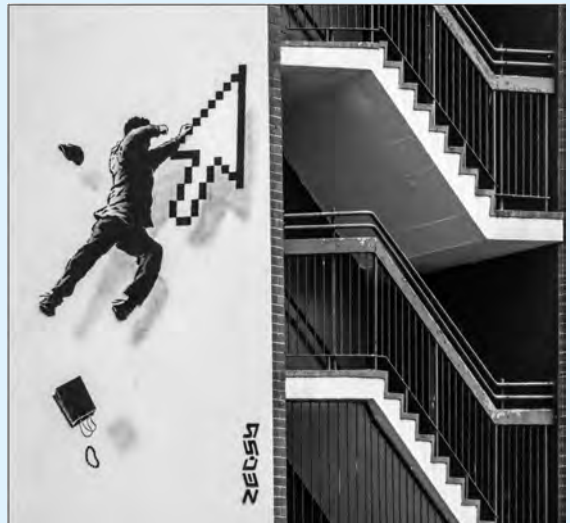
New members are always welcome, whether complete beginners or experienced photographers looking to refine their craft. More information about the Hanham & Kingswood Photo Club, including meeting details and upcoming events, can be found via the club's website: <https://www.handkphoto.club/> or by emailing handkpc@plphillips.plus.com



DPI: Is this Pose OK? by Steve Parker *Commended*



DPI: Shadow Lamp by Peter Weaver *Commended*



DPI: Pixels and Steps by Bruce Gibbs *Commended*

NOSTALGIA

Oldland Annual Flower Show

By David Noble

The 'Oldland Flower Show' was founded in 1921. This Annual event, which was held in the Village Hall located in West Street, Oldland Common, attracted many villagers and visitors for many years up until almost the Second World War.

In 1949 The First 'Oldland Village Club and Public Hall Horticultural Show' was held, and again it was a great village attraction.

Among these keen youngsters viewing these exhibits are Roland Stride, Clive Stewart, Robert Willmott, Kingsley Croome, David Noble, Suzette Jenkins, Naomi Isaacs, Alice Ann Hawkins, Jean Phelps and Myrtle Slade.

In the 1940/50s/60s the Village Hall in Oldland was used for an abundance of activities, including films shows, skittles,

Whist/Crib nights, Concerts, etc but also Rabbit Shows and was the headquarters of the Bitton and Oldland Homing Group.

An annual 'Fur and Feather Society Show' was held in the Village Hall. This was held around the 1940/50's. Harry Furber always used to win with his prize rabbits.

It was in the mid -late 1960's that the last Village Show in the Village Hall was held. In August 1973 the Show revived under a new committee and under a new name known as 'Oldland Horticultural Society'.

The show which was held for many years at St. Anne's School field was a great success and because of the great increase in numbers attending it was decided to move to a larger venue at the Sir Bernard Lovell School grounds in the High Street.



Ron Fussell, long standing stalwart of 'The Oldland Flower Show', pictured here at the show in 1974

Every year the show attracted in excess of eight thousand people and continued as an overwhelming success for many years.

This wonderful show, which was

one of the largest Horticultural and Village Fairs in the West Country, sadly came to an end in the early 2000's. Our grateful thanks to all those Officers and Committee members, who over many years worked so very hard in giving so much pleasure to so many.

Next Meeting

September 15th 7:00 for 7:30pm 'Bristol Yarns' by Eugene Byrne

Local people have always told tall tales – urban legends, conspiracy theories, fairy tales, unfounded rumours. Eugene Byrne knows a lot of them, having amassed a huge collection of stories that (probably) aren't true, from the distant to the recent past. They can be entertaining, but they can also offer insights into the times in which they were told.

Venue: Unity Oldland Methodist Church, West Street, Oldland Common, BS30 9QS
www.Bittonhistory.org.uk



Photograph of the 'Oldland Flower Show' original Committee, taken at the back of the Oldland Village Hall in 1921, the year the Show was founded



Young visitors admire some of the fine exhibits at the Oldland Village and Public Hall Horticultural Show, held in the Village Hall, West Street, Oldland Common, 3rd September 1951.



Book launch of 'An Oldland Boy Looks Back' Oldland Horticultural Show August 1991, held at St. Annes School Field, Oldland Common



'Oldland Horticultural Society' Committee Members, pictured after an outstanding and successful village show in 1993

KINGSWOOD HERITAGE MUSEUM



VINCENT MICHAEL BROWN

Kingswood Heritage Museum celebrates in its exhibitions the achievements of local celebrities, both alive and no longer with us. This month's "memory" celebrates the achievements of Warmley's own Royal Academy artist, Vincent Michael Brown.

Vincent is an artist and portrait painter, and co-founder of Browns' Arts Centre, an art school and studio based in The Clock Tower Association in Warmley, Bristol. He is also a composer, musician and singer/ songwriter, working as a performer from 1988 until 2002.

Vincent's roots are firmly here in our local community. Born in Cadbury Heath, he attended Parkwall Primary School and Sir Bernard Lovell School. His work



includes paintings capturing the lives of ordinary people within our area, as shown in the photographs on this page.

Vincent's work has been exhibited alongside David Hockney, Pablo Picasso and Andy Warhol at the internationally renowned Arter Museum in Istanbul. His painting Gossip Girls is currently on display

at the Royal Academy Summer Exhibition in London, and his work has featured four times on BBC One's The One Show.

Vincent has also exhibited at the National Portrait Gallery, the Royal Society of Portrait Painters, and in 2025 received the Art Critic Award at the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolour.



The photos are courtesy of Vincent Michael Brown, and show the artist alongside his work "Gossip Girls" and two more of his works: one features "Ron, Ted and Ron" outside the Lamb pub in Cadbury Heath; the other features the artist and his family and is set on Siston Common.

Opening times

The Museum is open until the end of November from 2 – 5pm every Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday, and from 11am to 5pm on Bank Holidays, including the August Bank Holiday weekend. Children under 16 are admitted free.

Museum Talk: "Charles Heal - Showman"

The next talk at the Museum is on Wednesday 12th August, when Terry Sheppard will tell the story of "Charles Heal - Showman". Charles Heal was a prominent showman and businessman, and was widely known as one of Bristol's most successful fairground operators.

Admission costs £4.50, including tea or coffee; doors open at 6.45 pm and the talk commences at 7.30 pm; Seats must be booked in advance via **0117 9605664**, or by email: **kingswoodmuseum@gmail.com**.

Events

The Museum hosts a wide range of events

throughout the season. Full details of all of our events can be found on the Museum's website: **www.kingswoodmuseum.org.uk** and on our Facebook and Instagram pages.

Garden walks

Walks around William Champion's historic gardens will be available on the second Sunday of every month from June to October. Walks start at Kingswood Heritage Museum at 2.15 and cost £5, payable on the day.

Knit and Natter Group

The Museum hosts a popular Knit and Natter group on the first and third Wednesday each month, from 2pm to 4pm. Bring your own knitting, crochet, embroidery, etc., and enjoy a natter with like minded friends. Entry fee: £3 (which goes to the Museum). For further details please contact the Museum on **0117 9605664**, email us at **kingswoodmuseum@gmail.com**, or just come along to join us.

Volunteer with us

Kingswood Heritage Museum is run entirely by

volunteers. If you're interested in history and can spare some time to help us to conserve and display the history of our area, please do get in touch!

Whatever skills you can offer, Kingswood Heritage Museum would like to hear from you. To join our enthusiastic and friendly group of volunteers either email us at **kingswoodmuseum@gmail.com**, or simply call us on **0117 9605664**. We would love to hear from you!



SPORT

FRY'S BOWLING CLUB

FOLLOWING last year's Silver Gilt Award in the Keynsham in Bloom Competition, Fry's again entered this year. With a theme of wool, club members got involved creating our own flock of sheep, along with a range of plants and our special guest "Sheppard" welcoming the judges. Following the judging, the club were put forward for South West in Bloom, which was judged on 17th July. A big a thank you to the members who put the work in to make this possible.



Pavilion in bloom

Bristol and District League:

The second half of the Bristol and District League season saw Henleaze 'A' visit Somerdale. Fry's found the green tricky but remained in the game until the closing ends when things went in the visitors favour as Fry's took 2 points from the 34-49 defeat.

A short trip to St Anne's Park on hot night came down to the final end after a late fight back from the visitors. Rink 1 struggled with scoring all night, but with rink 2 taking the lead and rink 3 remaining close the game was tight at halfway. A couple of big ends for St Anne's saw them go over 10 shots up. A couple of big ends in reply from Fry's saw them needing 4 shots for the win. Rink 3 dropped a single to secure the rink points seeing Fry's take 4 points from the night. A trip to Begbrook Green Oaks followed which saw the game close at halfway. Begbrook took command of the game in the second half pulling away to a comfortable win. Rink 3 scored 4 shots in the final 2 ends to give Fry's two points.

Scores:

2nd July: Fry's 34-49 Henleaze 'A'; Rink 1: 13-16; Rink 2: 16-14; Rink 3: 5-19 (2-8)
9th July: Fry's 41-45 St Anne's Park; Rink 1: 7-23; Rink 2: 17-6; Rink 3: 17-16 (4-6)
16th July: Fry's 36-63 Begbrook Green Oaks; Rink 1: 15-30; Rink 2: 8-22; Rink 3: 13-11; (2-8).

Friday Triples League

A local derby in Triples League finished with a one shot difference. The trip to Keynsham saw Fry's take the win on two rinks, both by 4 shots, but the game was decided on the third rink which Keynsham won by 9 shots which saw them take the overall win 48-47, with Fry's taking 4 points.

The eleventh game of the Triples League season saw Avonvale visit Fry's. A late seven from

Avonvale on rink 3 was enough to see them home 53-46 as Fry's only picked up two points. Week 14 saw Imperial visit Fry's. Both sides would take a rink by a sizeable margin. The third rink was very much in Fry's favour with 4 ends remaining, however a failure to score in those final ends made the difference as Imperial would overturn a 7 shot deficit to win by 4 shots, seeing Imperial take a 58-55 win leaving Fry's with only two points.

Scores:

19th June: Fry's 47-48 Keynsham; Rink 1: 11-20; Rink 2: 16-12; Rink 3: 20-16 (4-8).
3rd July: Fry's 46-53 Avonvale; Rink 1: 15-22; Rink 2: 18-16; Rink 3: 13-15 (2-10).
17th July: Fry's 55-58 Imperial; Rink 1: 16-20; Rink 2: 29-5; Rink 3: 10-33; (2-10).

Cup

Norwest visited Fry's in the preliminary round of the Somerset Bowls Association Turnbull Cup. After a close start Norwest pulled away to take a comfortable 69-48 win. Fry's hosted the annual Alsop Shield against Keynsham Tuesday night looking to regain the shield after Keynsham's win last year. Fry's comeback from 20 shots, but could not quite complete the comeback as Keynsham would see out the game to retain the shield.

Scores:

30th June: Fry's 48-69 Norwest; Rink 1: 13-13; Rink 2: 9-21; Rink 3: 11-15; Rink 4: 15-20.

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PUZZLE PAGE

Sudoku

Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

	6			9				
		3			1	2	4	
						9	7	
5				3				4
	8							2
2		9	1		5			
8			3					5
		4		5			8	
3			8					

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D	Y	S	K	Y	P	V	U	U	G	A	F
H	J	L	R	T	T	B	H	B	M	H	S
T	C	E	U	Z	O	O	F	P	M	Z	Z
F	H	E	C	M	C	R	S	C	I	O	G
U	U	P	K	H	S	I	C	P	T	N	T
Z	S	I	S	E	T	N	S	H	I	R	E
D	E	N	A	E	V	P	W	N	T	H	N
W	S	G	C	S	L	O	W	E	C	V	T
V	P	B	K	C	A	A	T	W	W	O	D
O	E	A	T	V	F	O	J	S	U	R	W
P	K	G	X	K	N	H	K	U	Y	X	S

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campsite

rucksack

sleeping bag

stove

tent

torch



NEWS

Summer reading challenge

CHILDREN aged four and over are being invited to visit their local South Gloucestershire library and take part in the 2026 Summer Reading Challenge.

Called Read to the Beat, it encourages them to explore the connection between stories and songs, discovering how they can spark imagination and creativity together.

The free challenge runs until September 12.

It aims to help children become more independent readers and keep them reading over the school holidays.

Children are given a free activity bag to get started and read books of their choice throughout the

summer, taking part in activities and collecting stickers and rewards along the way.

Those who finish the challenge receive a medal and certificate, along with a voucher for a free swim at their local leisure centre.

Council chair Councillor Adrian Rush said: "I'm sure all of the children taking part will have fun discovering some fantastic stories and developing a love of reading that can last a lifetime."

For details of activities at Cadbury Heath, Kingswood, Hanham and Emersons Green libraries, visit tinyurl.com/nhd98ewb

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SPORT

KEYNSHAM BOWLING CLUB

AS the ladies and gents of Keynsham Bowling Club continue with their various league fixtures, different cup matches also are taking place.

Our ladies played at home to Purnells in the Fear Cup, losing by 7 shots in a game curtailed due to the hot weather. They will now be entered into the Somerset Plate Competition.

Our men were also drawn against Purnells, in the preliminary round of the Turnbull Cup, and they won on our own green by the narrowest of margins – 73 shots to 72.

Another close result followed in our first-round fixture away to Knowle, where we won 67-64.

Our triples side beat Bristol by 12 shots in the cup semi-final played on the neutral green at Severn Vale. They will play St Anne's Park in the final later in the season.

A regular fixture each year sees Keynsham and Frys compete for the Allsop Shield trophy, which was donated in memory of AJ Allsop, Keynsham secretary from 1964 to 1967.



This year it was played at Frys. Although Keynsham were well in front at the halfway stage, Frys made a spirited recovery, only to go under by 70 shots to 60 due to Keynsham's strong finish.

It was the 56th time this fixture has been played, with Keynsham

winning 31 times and Frys 25. The match was played in the usual friendly spirit, with Frys being generous hosts in providing a supper of sausages and chips.

At the start of July, we hosted a Somerset county game against visiting team the Royal County of

Berkshire.

During an extremely hot day, our air-conditioned clubhouse provided a welcome retreat from the green, particularly for the hydration break of ice lollies at the halfway stage. Our catering was acknowledged by the visitors, who stated on their website that "the meal afterwards was plentiful and we hope that we will get to play there again."

We were asked to host the Bowls England Somerset family regional final of the three-wood competition, when the father-and-son partnership of Phil and Kyran Davis, from St Anne's Park, played against grandad and grandson Nigel and Jack Vine from Norwest. In what turned out to be a fine evening of quality bowling, Nigel and Jack were victorious by 21 shots to 10.

Our club funds were recently boosted by proceeds from the monthly book stall at Tesco, and we thank them for their support. Our photograph shows members Richard Stackhouse and Ian Tweedie receiving the cheque.

Mike Barrow

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