

Police step up patrols after attacks on cyclists

POLICE are carrying out extra patrols along the length of the Bristol & Bath Railway Path after a man was stabbed and a boy was robbed of his bike.

Two teenagers have been arrested after the attack on the man, which took place in Bitton at about 8pm on August 11.

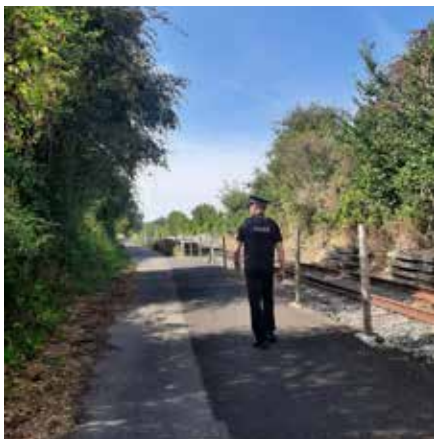
Avon & Somerset police said the injured man, who is in his 30s, was taken to hospital with what police described as "non-life-threatening injuries".

He was wounded on a section of the path near the Avon Valley Railway's Bitton station, which was sealed off after the incident while forensic investigations took place.

A police spokesperson said one teenage boy was arrested on the night of the incident and a second the following afternoon.

Both were released on bail while enquiries continue, with conditions including not entering the railway path and an overnight curfew.

The following day a boy in his late teens suffered what police described as "minor physical injuries" when he was mugged by



eight masked youths on a stretch of the path close to the former Mangotsfield station.

The boy had a grey Carrera Crossfire 2 bike taken from him by the group, described as being in their late teens or early 20s.

Police said the first attacker was white, 5ft 8in and of large build, with brown eyes. He wore a black bucket hat, black face covering, black Adidas coat and black jogging bottoms.

The second was described only as wearing black clothing.

The third was Asian and of large build. He was wearing a

black bucket hat, dark face covering, a thin waterproof jacket with a hood and black joggers, and rode a black e-scooter with red markings and a screen.

The fourth was black, about 6ft 2in and slim, with messy afro hair. He had a face covering and was wearing a black tracksuit and black joggers with a white stripe, and was a passenger on the e-scooter.

The fifth and sixth suspects were white, wearing bucket hats and face coverings. One wore a black jacket and white and black joggers, and the other a black Nike tracksuit.

The seventh mugger was of mixed race, 6ft 4in and of a large build. He was wearing a grey tracksuit top and black Nike tracksuit bottoms, a bucket hat and face covering, and was riding a dark grey electric bike.

The eighth was white, 6ft, of average build with black clothes, including a bucket hat. He was riding a grey road bike with no lights or reflectors.

Police say the two incidents aren't believed to be linked.

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Help dancers follow dream

A streetdance crew from Oldland Common are raising funds to take part in competitions this season.

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Big plans for Grimsbury Farm

Brandon Trust is now running Grimsbury Farm after signing a lease with South Glos Council and has ambitious plans for the popular attraction.

PAGE 8

Students hail exam successes

Teenagers at schools and colleges in the area are moving on to the next step in their educational journey after receiving A-level and GCSE results.

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

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A member of the



NEWS

Lollipop man mourned

The community at Courtney Primary School has been saddened to learn that Cyril Rice, their lollipop man for 21 years, has died after a short illness.

A spokesperson for South Gloucestershire Council's road safety team said: "Cyril helped generations of children and families cross safely and, during his time on patrol, he witnessed many children grow, develop, and achieve milestones throughout their school journey."

"He took great pride in his role and very much valued being part of the school community, which included dressing up each year as Father Christmas, bringing smiles and joy to all.

Debby, from the team, made a special teddy bear gift from Cyril's uniform which was presented to his family.



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NEWS

Jake, 8, triumphs at Transplant Games

AN eight-year-old boy from Oldland Common has returned from the British Transplant Games with a clutch of medals – and a message to local people to join the organ donation register.

Jake had a life-saving liver transplant at Birmingham Children's Hospital after becoming ill with a viral infection when he was four years old.

His dad James said: "Thanks to the generosity of a female in her 60s, Jake received his transplant and the gift of and is now living his life to the full. He absolutely loves sport and every year looks forward to competing at the British Transplant Games."

Watched by James, mum Michelle and brother Max, Jake competed at his fourth Games in the 50m sprint, obstacle race, long jump and sports stacking, winning three golds and one silver medal. He was absolutely delighted with his long jump distance of 2m96.

More than 1200 competitors

between the ages of three and 70 gathered to compete, in the 2026 Games in Sheffield along with 2000 supporters. The transplant games are intended to promote an active and healthy lifestyle following transplant, whilst providing an opportunity for recipients to honour their donors and families through competitive sport.

James said: "The organ donor waiting list is at a record high level. I'd like to encourage anyone considering becoming an organ donor to register their decision on [organdonation.nhs.uk](https://www.organdonation.nhs.uk).

"Even though the UK operates an 'opt-out' system, family members still have to provide consent for organs to be donated. I urge anyone who would like to be an organ donor to let their loved-ones know so they can honour your wishes if the worst should happen. Registering your decision takes just two minutes and could save up to nine lives."



Sporting star Jake with his medals and in action in the long jump



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NEWS

Harmony on High St

HANHAM High Street will become an open-air music venue this month as a community event brings live performances to unexpected places.

The Hanham Harmony Trail, organised by arts organisation Can't Sit Still and funded through South Gloucestershire Council's Creative High Streets Fund, will take place on Saturday September 5.

The free, family-friendly event will see talented professional musicians performing in pop-up locations along the High Street, inviting visitors to follow a trail map and discover a range of live music.

The accessible trail aims to remove the barriers to accessing cultural experiences.

The idea builds on the success of popular local events such as the annual Halloween and Scarecrow Trails, which

attract around 1,000 people each year, while introducing something entirely new to the area.

Cat Boot, artistic director of Can't Sit Still and Hanham resident, said: "Hanham Harmony Trail is all about bringing people together through the shared joy of live music. We want people to stumble across brilliant performances in places they would never expect, creating moments of surprise, connection and happiness. By transforming the High Street into a welcoming cultural space for everyone, we're hoping to boost the local economy, improve social cohesion, inspire the younger generation and show what's possible when creativity is placed at the heart of the community."

Visit www.cantsitstill.org or follow them at @cant_sit_still_arts on Instagram and FaceBook for more info.



Olivia and Zac Bence, from Kingswood, watch the eclipse from Rodway Common, Mangotsfield

A moment to remember

PEOPLE across the Hanham and Kingswood area found different ways to watch the biggest solar eclipse over England since 1999.

Across parks and open spaces, in gardens and out of upstairs windows, people took advantage of the clear skies on the evening of August 12 to experience an astronomical phenomenon.

With the Moon covering 93% of the Sun in Bristol, anyone wanting to see the eclipse needed either a pair of special eclipse glasses - which block out all ultraviolet and infrared light, and more than 99% of visible light - or find a way to watch it indirectly.

Some made pinhole cameras, used special filters on cameras, or tried using colanders to project an image of the sun onto a wall, the ground or a piece of card - with mixed results.

Olivia and Zac Bence, from Kingswood, and their family headed to Rodway Common in Mangotsfield to get a clear view.

Nan Sharon Glastonbury said they went to the common after finding the green space at Cossham Hospital on Lodge Hill was already full of people.

To see a total eclipse people needed to visit Spain or Iceland.

The next solar eclipse visible from Bristol will be on August 2 next year - but the Moon will only cover around half of the Sun here, with the line of totality crossing the far south of Spain, North Africa and parts of Saudi Arabia.

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NEWS

12 dancers. One team. One dream.

ONYX is an Under 14 Intermediate street dance crew made up of 12 young dancers.

The group, from Danni's Dance Academy in Oldland Common, have just returned from competing at the UDO World Street Dance Championships 2026 in Blackpool where they competed alongside dance schools from around the world.

For 2026/27 they have some amazing opportunities ahead, including UK Worlds, European Worlds, International Hip Hop, Super Weekender and other competitions and events.

But, a spokesperson for their families said: "Taking part in so many opportunities comes with considerable costs for families - competition fees, travel, accommodation, team expenses and kit all quickly add up.

"As parents, there is one thing we feel particularly strongly



about: If one dancer can't go, we don't go without them. We want all 12 to experience these opportunities together."

They are reaching out to the community and businesses

for support. They are looking for multiple local sponsors, rather than one main sponsor, and would love to hear from businesses that may be able to help through financial or

team sponsorship; Sponsorship towards future team kit; raffle prizes, vouchers, products or services; donations. They have also set up a fundraising page: <https://tinyurl.com/39w5h77r>



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NEWS

Surprise celebration

RESIDENTS, colleagues and families at Brunelcare's Little Heath Care Home in Cadbury Heath surprised newlyweds Aparna and Melbin with a wedding celebration the day they returned after their wedding in India.

The couple, who work as carers at Little Heath Care & Support, were married in Kerala. They were welcomed back with a party organised by Alison, a resident they care for. The celebration took place in the home's café.

The occasion was made even more special when the couple's wedding video was shown across all of the home's units, allowing residents throughout Little Heath to share in the celebrations.

The celebration marked another milestone for the couple. Aparna joined the Little Heath team in August 2022. Melbin remained in India while the couple maintained a long-distance relationship. Two years later, in October 2024, Melbin also joined the Little Heath team, allowing the couple to finally live and work together in the UK.

Home manager Krishna said: "Melbin and Aparna really are the dream team. They work incredibly hard, and our residents absolutely love them. They're a brilliant duo both inside and outside of work."

Melbin and Aparna said: "What the staff did at Little Heath was amazing. Having a party to celebrate our wedding on the day we arrived home was so special."



Desire for railcar

AVON Valley Railway has launched an appeal in the hope of buying a rare piece of rolling stock.

It has set its sights on bringing home a Class 117 Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU), which was based at the Bristol (Bath Road) depot in the 1980s.

AVR says the 1960-built railcar has unexpectedly become available and could become one of the most valuable operational assets at the Bitton-based railway.

It says the key advantages of the DMU include:

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NEWS

Grimsbury Farm 'means so much to Kingswood'

FAMILIES have been enjoying Grimsbury Farm this summer safe in the knowledge that the future of the popular destination has been secured.

Brandon Trust, which already runs two cafés at the site, took over responsibility for the attraction from August 1.

It is currently improving animal habitats and has ambitious plans to develop a sustainable and successful community farm.

Its proposals include

- A skills centre, forest school sessions, and wellbeing activities for young people;
- A farm shop and 'field to fork' programme;
- Artisan outlets, a children's sustainable fashion shop, and co-working space;
- Workshops, community events, volunteering opportunities.

Brandon Trust, a charity that supports people with learning disabilities and autistic people, intends to build on its experience in developing and running a successful care farm at Elm Tree Farm in Stapleton.

It says no immediate changes are planned for visitors.

The charity's chief executive Helen England said: "Grimsbury Farm is a much-loved part of the local community, and we are proud that South Gloucestershire



Cllr Alison Evans at Grimsbury Farm

Council has entrusted Brandon Trust with its future. We know how much this special place means to local people, and our commitment is to protect what makes the farm so valued while creating even more opportunities for people to enjoy it.

"We want Grimsbury Farm to be a place where everyone feels welcome – a place to connect with nature, learn new skills, spend time with family and friends, and be part of the community. By working closely with local people, volunteers and partner organisations, we will build on the farm's strong foundations and help it thrive, while creating meaningful opportunities for autistic people and people with learning disabilities."

The council said Brandon Trust had been

selected following a thorough assessment of proposals. It had demonstrated "an established understanding of the farm and its role within the local community".

The council had sought a partner for Grimsbury Farm because it could not continue subsidising the operating costs with taxpayers' money.

Cllr Alison Evans, cabinet member for cost of living, equalities and public health, said: "Grimsbury Farm is much-loved by residents and visitors, and we know how important it is to Kingswood. We are delighted to have completed the lease agreement with Brandon Trust, securing a sustainable future for the farm. We've been working with Brandon Trust to ensure that Grimsbury Farm will be even better in the future, with much needed investment to improve facilities and the general offering of the farm.

"Brandon Trust has a strong presence on the site and an excellent track record of supporting people with learning disabilities. Their commitment to inclusion and ensuring the farm remains a community asset, with the opportunity for visitors to enjoy nature, a variety of animals and great day out makes them well placed to build on everything that makes Grimsbury Farm special."



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NEWS

Hanham Woods students show the way

HANHAM Woods Academy is celebrating the achievements of its Year 11 students following the release of the summer 2026 GCSE results.

The school community came together on August 20 to mark the culmination of five years of hard work, resilience, and ambition.

This year's outcomes reflect a strong performance across the curriculum, with the academy achieving an Attainment 8 score of 43.31. Notably, 62.1% of students secured a grade 4 or above in both English and maths, while 42.9% achieved grade 5 or above in these core subjects - representing an improvement on last year's results.

Principal Kath Cooper commented: "We want to congratulate all of our Year 11 students who received their results. We are incredibly proud of their achievements and hard work."

"These results are a testament to their passion, commitment, and the unwavering support of our staff and families."

"At Hanham Woods Academy, we strive to aim high and raise aspirations for all of our students as they move into the next chapter of their education and training."

A number of students achieved



exceptional academic success, securing a suite of grades 7, 8 and 9. These include: Emma Knowles, Lily Hawthorn, Grace Clements, Harrison Price, Ava Balman,

Arabella Bennett, Emma Chan, Sonny Webb, and Thomas Sullivan, all of whom have clear and ambitious plans for their next steps in their education journey.

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NEWS

SBL celebrates success in A-levels and GCSEs

STUDENTS and staff at Sir Bernard Lovell Academy in Oldland Common are celebrating a record-breaking year as the Sixth Form achieved the best A-level and Level 3 Applied General results in the school's history.

An impressive 55% of A Level grades were awarded at A* to B, while the A*-E pass rate was 100%. Applied General qualifications were a particular strength, with students achieving an average grade of Distinction, well above the most recent national benchmarks.

Headteacher Robin Bassford said: "We are delighted to celebrate our best ever Sixth Form results. As the first cohort to complete their studies in our new Sixth Form centre, our wonderful students have embraced every opportunity that has come their way to contribute to the school community, maximise their personal growth and fulfil their



SBL sixth formers celebrate their results

academic potential. It has been a great privilege and joy to work with such an engaging group of young people who have set a new benchmark for success at SBL."

Year 11 achieved an excellent set of GCSE results, with the vast majority meeting or exceeding their challenging target grades. There are many individual success stories to celebrate, including 24 students

achieving at least five grades 7-9, with one exceptional student securing eight grade 9s. The school was pleased to see strong attainment across the broad curriculum, especially in subjects linked to science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM), alongside impressive outcomes in the creative and performing arts.

This year group will be

remembered not only for their academic success but beyond the classroom.

This is exemplified by the exceptional student leadership team and through sporting achievements, including the Girls' Under-16 County Cup victory and the Boys' Football Team winning the prestigious Woodcock Shield at Ashton Gate in Year 1



Happy faces at SBL on GCSE results day too



Open Events coming soon

We warmly invite you to our Sixth Form Open Evening, Thursday 8th October between 6-8pm

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NEWS

Hard work pays off

STUDENTS at Wellsway School and IKB Academy in Keynsham achieved excellent results in A levels and vocational qualifications.

Many are moving on this month to a study subjects including Medicine, Economics, Artificial Intelligence, Film Studies, Nursing, Geography and Palaeontology at universities across the country. Others are taking up apprenticeships in finance, retail, quantity surveying, construction, engineering, IT and communications, as well as careers within the Royal Air Force and a range of other employment opportunities. Amy Chapman, Director of Sixth Form, said: "I am incredibly proud of our students and all that they have achieved. These results are the culmination of years of hard work, perseverance and dedication."



Smiles on A-levels results day at Wellsway/IKB

At GCSE, Wellsway saw 61% of students achieved passes in both English and Mathematics at Grade 5 or above, while 80% secured passes in both subjects at Grade 4 or above. Students

achieved an average grade of 5.2 across all GCSE entries. Executive head Rob Pearsall said: "When I think about the Class of 2026, I think about their kindness, humour,

inclusivity and the way they have consistently supported one another. They have embraced opportunities, overcome challenges and made a positive contribution to our community."



Wellsway and IKB students collect GCSE results

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NEWS

Digitech students have a proud role to play

STUDENTS at Digitech Studio School in Warmley are celebrating excellent achievements by its students in their post-16 qualifications.

More than 80 students achieved the highest possible grades across Digitech's specialist courses in art, media, esports, music, acting and sport, while over half of its Year 13 cohort achieved a distinction grade or higher.

The school works in partnership with Boomsatsuma, Robins Foundation and Bristol School of Acting to support young people aged 16 to 18.

Many of the youngsters are now off to university courses, higher-level apprenticeships and other exciting opportunities within their chosen fields.

Digitech Principal Chris Ballard said: "These exceptional results reflect the commitment

and creativity of our students and reinforce the strength of our unique industry-focused curriculum. We are immensely proud of all of our graduating year 13 students and their achievements.

"We wish to congratulate all of our students and look forward to seeing the impact they make in their chosen industries in the years ahead."

Tom Sowden, Boomsatsuma director of education, said: "Results Day reflects the creativity, commitment and resilience our students have shown, as well as the confidence they've built through real creative industry experiences.

"At Boomsatsuma, we want every student to leave with the skills, ambition and belief to shape their future and take their next step."

Charlotte Plumb, Robins



Foundation head of education, said: "Over 80% of our Level 3 cohort have achieved or exceeded their target grades, which is a brilliant reflection of their hard work, perseverance, and dedication. While their results are a fantastic achievement, we are equally proud of the personal growth and development we have seen from them all over the past two years."

Stuart Wood, Bristol School of Acting head of school, said: "To see so many securing places on drama school and university courses, alongside the range of other exciting destinations, is incredibly rewarding. The grades are fantastic, 94% distinction or distinction star, but what makes us most proud is seeing these young people leave with confidence and ambition."



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Visit dates are here <https://www.longwellgreenprimaryschool.co.uk/starting-school/>



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NEWS

Ready for next steps

CLF Post 16 students achieved great results across their A-level and vocational qualifications.

Students studying subjects from engineering to drama exceeded their target grades and have now secured their places at top universities and competitive apprenticeships.

70% students on vocational courses achieved Distinction* - Merit grades. Students with SEN performed particularly well.

- . Amy Elston achieved A*AAB in maths, further maths, religious studies and chemistry and is now taking up a place to study mathematics and philosophy at Bristol University.
- . Jasmeet Gharyal will study dentistry at University of Bristol.
- . Ayesha Asad will read law at the University of Bristol.
- Kieu Anh Dang, psychology with Innovation at University of Bristol.
- . Yousef Ibrahim is studying chemistry with a year in industry at Cardiff University.



A bright future awaits

JOHN Cabot Academy is celebrating the achievements of its Year 11 students in GCSE and vocational qualification results this summer.

Alongside academic achievements, students have made significant contributions through leadership opportunities, enrichment activities, sport, the arts and service to the wider community.

Gemma Read, head of school, said: "We are immensely proud of the resilience, character and determination shown by this year group throughout their time at John Cabot Academy. Our vision is to empower young people to fulfil their potential and make a positive difference in the world. I would like to thank our dedicated staff, whose commitment makes such a difference, and our parents and carers for the partnership they have shown over the past five years."



Empower yourself.
Empower our community.



We look forward to welcoming you!

Discover John Cabot Academy

Located in the heart of Kingswood, John Cabot Academy is proud to serve its local community, supporting every student to thrive academically, flourish and grow as young people, and develop a strong sense of self and their place in the world.

Choosing the right secondary school is an important decision – come and experience our welcoming, inclusive academy for yourself.

Explore our facilities, meet our staff and students, and discover what makes John Cabot Academy such a great place to learn.



Open Evening

Tuesday 22nd Sept 2026, 4-7pm

No booking required.

Open Day Tours

**Wednesday 30th Sept &
Tuesday 20th Oct 2026**

Tours at 9am and 2pm. Book online from September.



0117 976 3000



jcainfo@clf.uk

www.johncabotacademy.clf.uk



A collage of students in various school uniforms and sports gear, including a rugby player, a basketball player, and students in formal attire, set against a dark background with a crest.

- Find out more ● Meet pupils ● Tour the grounds

 Tour the grounds

We can't wait to meet you - book your place.



COMMUNITY NEWS

LONGWELL GREEN PROBUS CLUB

RETIRED and semi-retired men across Longwell Green, Warmley and surrounding areas are being invited to discover friendship, companionship and new activities by joining the Longwell Green Probus Club.

Based at the Warmley Community Centre, the Club offers a friendly and welcoming environment where Members and their partners can enjoy regular meetings, guest speakers, social events, outings and the opportunity to make new friends.

Although a men's Club, partners are invited to join in all the social functions and activities including holidays, outings and selected meetings and meals

The club is now introducing an exciting new initiative — Special Interest Groups — designed to bring together members and their partners with shared hobbies and interests. These smaller groups will allow participants to enjoy activities and discussions centred around subjects such as walking, history, gardening, photography, technology, sport, travel,

dining and many other interests suggested by members themselves.

Club representatives say the new Special Interest Groups are intended to make the club even more engaging, sociable and relevant for today's retired and semi-retired men and their partners.

"We want the club to be much more than simply a monthly meeting," said a club spokesperson.

"The new Special Interest Groups will give Members and their partners the chance to pursue interests, learn new things and build lasting friendships with like-minded people."

Longwell Green Probus Club welcomes men who are retired or semi-retired and looking to widen their social circle and become more involved in the local community.

Anyone interested in finding out more or attending as a guest is warmly invited to get in touch.

For further information, ring Geoff on 07896 719772 or Ralph on 0117 3296994. Alternatively email our clubsecretary, David Priddey, at lgpc2026@googlegroups.com.

SOUTH GLOS WINE CIRCLE

THE second part of our 60th Anniversary Celebration took place at the Avon Valley Railway on Sunday August 2. It was a lovely sunny afternoon which began with a train ride and then an afternoon tea with sparkling wine reception in the static carriage. The tea was wonderful with freshly prepared finger sandwiches, homemade scones with clotted cream and jam plus a selection of cakes. The usual debate then ensued – cream first or jam first with no clear outcome. The chairman made a speech and we all toasted the circle and looking forward to the future.

We don't meet in the hall in August or September but we will be organising some socials in the meantime. In October we will be tasting Portuguese wine and port.

There will also be stage three of our celebrations. Planned to be a Sunday lunch, currently looking at two possible venues.

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 on the email address below or take a 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

Send us your group's report

news@hanhamandlongwellgreenvoice.co.uk

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PEOPLE

It's a question of fun and friendship

By Gianina Turner

FOR nearly 20 years, local resident Suzanne Head, known as Su, has been bringing people together through quizzes, conversation and friendship.

The 47-year-old quiz host has built a loyal community around her regular events in Hanham and Longwell Green, including The Queen's Head, The Harvester and, more recently, Hanham Community Centre. Su now hosts weekly quiz nights at Hanham Community Centre every Tuesday. Teams of up to six people are invited to arrive from 7.45pm for an 8pm start, with entry costing £3 per person.

Su Head said: "I do two nights a week, Sundays and Tuesdays. On Sundays we alternate between The Queen's Head on Lower Hanham Road and The Harvester in Longwell Green, and every Tuesday we are at Hanham Community Centre."

What started as a small gathering of family and friends in



Quiz queen Su Head and some of her regular quizzers

2007 has grown into a thriving community, with between 40 and 60 people regularly attending each event.

Su explained: "When I was pregnant with my first son in 2007, relatives came to stay with us from Australia and wanted to do a quiz night in a local pub. When we got there, the quizmaster didn't show up. Not wishing to disappoint them, I asked if I could read out the questions. By the end of the

night, the pub asked if I could do it every week."

That unexpected opportunity marked the beginning of Su's quiz nights. As the years passed, Su refined the format, learning what people enjoyed and creating an evening that was about far more than answering questions. People would return, friendships were made and a strong community group was formed.

Today, participants enjoy a

variety of games alongside the quiz itself, including Connect 5, Play Your Cards Right, true or false jackpot rounds and Duck and Chocolate Bingo.

"I soon realised it was more than just a quiz night," said Su. "Connect 5 gives even the weakest teams a lucky break to win, and I like to make sure everyone has a chance to join in and enjoy themselves."

"I put many hours in each week writing them and making



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at Su's popular quizzes



They arrive as quizzers and leave as friends, says Su of her quiz devotees

them unique," said Su. "The quizzers are my friends. We genuinely care about each other, friendships have been made and new people join all the time. It's the friendliest group, and I can't wait for next year when we celebrate our 20th year."

With help from family and friends, Su organises the events each week while keeping them affordable.

"Where can you go out these days for a full night of fun for

£3 per person?" she said. "I'd like to think people come for the social side too. Of course it's nice to win, but it's more than that. Friendships are made weekly. That's priceless."

The friendships formed through the quizzes are reflected in the loyalty of many regular attendees. Some have been following Su's quiz nights since the very beginning. Among those regulars are Barbara Williams and Alan Bryan, who have

attended Su's quizzes throughout the past 19 years.

Alan Bryan said: "At Christmas my family always had quizzes in the evening, so going to Su's quiz nights was like having Christmas every week of the year. In 2022 I was in hospital after a cancer operation and before I went in, Su gave me some quizzes to do while I was recovering. She is always such a thoughtful and caring soul."

Inclusivity is another

important part of the group's success. Su has adapted games over the years to make them accessible to people with visual impairments. One regular attendee, Andy Flowers, who is registered blind, has been coming along for 12 years.

Andy said: "When I go to a quiz, I really enjoy myself. It's a good night and very social, talking to different people, and the atmosphere is lovely."

Over the years, the group has celebrated births and marriages, supported one another through illness and loss, and welcomed countless new faces. Malcolm, known to everyone as Malc, remains fondly remembered.

"Many of the quizzers helped him complete items on his bucket list during his final year," said Su. "One request was a zip wire, so a group of us did it in support. We gave him a superhero cape to wear. He is greatly missed."

Su's Quiz Tour offers far more than an evening of trivia. It provides a place where people can meet, make friends and feel part of something special. As Su puts it: "People arrive as quizzers and leave as friends."

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NEWS

12,000 waste collections a week missed

MORE than 71,000 bin and recycling collections across South Gloucestershire were missed over just six weeks this summer – an average of almost 12,000 households a week.

Opposition Conservatives have accused the council's Lib Dem/Labour ruling coalition of running a waste service in "chaos" since introducing three-weekly black bin days in May.

In the authority's latest briefing to councillors, based on data from mid-June to the end of July, officers told members there had been 71,000 recorded missed collections.

If spread evenly among the 118,000 homes in the district, that represents 60% of households missing one collection – but many have missed more than one, while others have not been affected.

The council says a combination of factors, including extreme heat, had caused the issues.

In July, the council fined its kerbside collections contractor Suez for its 'appalling' service, and said the company was in breach of its contract.

Successive heatwaves over the summer, which forced crews to work more slowly and finish early before temperatures became unbearable, combined with new collection routes and reduced black bin collections,



A bin lorry leaves Mangotsfield's Sort It centre

have caused confusion and missed bin days.

Tory group leader and Frenchay & Downend ward councillor Liz Brennan said: "Residents have endured a summer of chaos.

"The administration has failed to deliver even the basic services people pay for.

"Residents have been asked to pay more for less by accepting these changes, and now they will not receive any kind of remuneration for not receiving the basic service their council tax pays for.

"The situation is completely unacceptable."

The Tories are urging the coalition to conduct a full review of the waste service changes and provide transparency on contractor performance.

A council spokesperson said the "vast majority" of waste and recycling collections went ahead on the correct day, but successive heatwaves had a significant impact.

Black bin, hygiene and nappy waste collections were prioritised over weekly recycling collections.

The spokesperson said: "Recovering these collections took time, as delayed recycling often results in larger volumes being presented the following week, increasing collection times, and placing additional pressure on vehicles and crews.

"Just as services were recovering from one period of disruption, further hot weather led to additional delays and extended the recovery period."

The spokesperson said the move to three-weekly black bin collections had increased the resources available for recycling collections, to manage increased amounts of recyclable material, and four dedicated hygiene and nappy waste vehicles had also been introduced.

The spokesperson added: "We recognise that some residents have experienced missed or delayed collections and apologise for the disruption caused."

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service

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Bristol & Keynsham

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WHAT'S ON

SEPTEMBER EVENTS

September 1

■ KINGSWOOD HISTORY

SOCIETY Presentation by Andy Stowe; Highlights & Stories From the Rostrum (please refer to website www.kingswoodhistorysociety.org for any late change). Park Centre, Kingswood, Tuesday 1st September, 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-830pm 3rd Tuesday of the month 15th July (Aug holidays) Free. Organiser Catherine Dhanjal Call Catherine on 07941669925 or follow <https://www.facebook.com/CymraegBrysteCaerfaddon>

WEDNESDAY

■ BARRS COURT 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-830pm 4th Wednesday of the month 23 July (Aug hols) Free. Organisers Steve James & Catherine Dhanjal Call Catherine on 0794 1669925 or join L'Amicale Francaise de Keynsham <https://www.facebook.com/groups/429989176573347/>

■ OLDLAND VILLAGE CLUB

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

■ OLDLAND VILLAGE CLUB

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

■ **SHORT MAT BOWLS** Every Wednesday and Friday at the Longwell Green community centre, Shellards Road. Beginners welcome. 1.30 til 3.30. Text 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 lan on 0117 9603435

■ **HANHAM ART CLUB** We meet every Thursday evening between 7-9pm upstairs in the Somerset Room, at Hanham Community Centre. Members paint in various mediums, doing there own thing. There is no tutor. We are a friendly group, willing to help new members, sharing our knowledge, and experience. For more details contact Hilary Bailey 07880548481 or email tweenuk2003@yahoo.com

■ 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 линдab2023@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 longwellevgreens@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

School's back, life's busy, fresh start at uni?

SCHOOL is back, summer is drawing to a close and, for many families, life is suddenly getting much busier.

The return to school and work also brings the time of year when coughs, sore throats, earaches, sinus problems and other seasonal illnesses become increasingly common.

But when illness strikes, you may not need to dash around looking for a minor ailments clinic or wait for a GP appointment.

At Ellacombe Pharmacy, our NHS Pharmacy First service makes getting help straightforward and convenient. For many common conditions, it can mean a genuine one-stop NHS visit — assessment, examination and, where clinically appropriate, treatment and medicine supplied during the same consultation.

For busy parents, workers and carers, that's less disruption and valuable time saved.

WHAT CAN WE HELP WITH?

Through NHS Pharmacy First, our pharmacists can assess and, where appropriate, treat:

- Sinusitis — adults and children aged 12+
- Sore throat — adults and children aged 5+
- Earache — adults and children aged 1+
- Infected insect bites — adults and children aged 1+
- Impetigo — adults and children aged 1+
- Shingles — adults aged 18+
- Uncomplicated UTIs — women aged 16–64

Our pharmacists don't simply hand over medicine. We clinically assess your symptoms and, where necessary, can examine your throat or look inside an ear using an otoscope. If treatment is appropriate, prescription-only medicines, including antibiotics

when clinically indicated, can be supplied.

You don't have to be one of our regular patients or collect your prescriptions from us. There is no charge for the NHS consultation, while the usual NHS prescription charge and exemption arrangements apply to medicines supplied.

STARTING UNIVERSITY THIS AUTUMN?

Don't forget our **free NHS Meningitis B** protection.

Eligible young people, including those starting their first undergraduate year in 2026/27 and those born between **1 September 2007 and 31 August 2008**, can access free NHS MenB vaccination at Ellacombe Pharmacy.

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1 October. Eligible patients can simply walk in, with NHS booking routes also available.

Don't wait until winter infections are rising — get protected early.

At Ellacombe Pharmacy, accessible NHS care is our priority. When illness strikes, remember that help may be closer — and easier to access — than you think.

NEED NHS CARE? Come into Ellacombe Pharmacy and speak to our team. Telephone: **0117 932 2293**

STARTING UNIVERSITY?

GET YOUR FREE NHS MenB VACCINATION

You may be eligible if either of these applies to you:

1 Starting your first year of undergraduate study in 2026/27

2 Born 1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008

Year 13 during the 2025/26 academic year is included

PROTECT YOURSELF - VACCINATE TODAY



WALK IN TODAY OR CALL TO BOOK

No appointment needed - simply come in and speak to our team

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Call to check eligibility or arrange your visit



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■ ANTIQUES

The vinyl revolution



MAKE no bones about it, we're seeing vintage vinyl records making lots of money at the moment. The vinyl collecting market has been 'on the up' for a while now, and it appears to be as popular as ever. Despite the convenience and ease of modern-day streaming services who offer every song ever written straight to your ears at the touch of a button, there is a huge movement working against that.

The vinyl collectors of today are largely the under-fifty-somethings with a passion for the 'old school' methods of listening to music. It's analogue, it's retro, and it's cool - so they tell me!

At the time of writing, we have just published a very special single-owner collection of records. The vast array of some 8,000 LPs were discovered by us in a house in Wales, and it took three Luton vans to bring them back to our saleroom. Over the next six weeks or so our entire team spent time sorting, cataloguing, valuing and photographing them. A monumental task! At one stage, you couldn't move in our saleroom for piles of Iron Maiden, Thin Lizzy, and Dolly Parton LPs.

We found many special issues - a first press of Oasis' What's The Story Morning Glory? (worth a few hundred pounds), a good limited edition David Bowie record (also a few hundred pounds) to name just two. But we were also able to make up lots of groups by genre; country, rock, heavy metal etc. The entire collection is expected to fetch thousands and thousands, and I'm sure it will.

If you want a bit of nostalgia, or if you want to add to or start your own collection of vinyl - go and take a look. There really is something for everyone! Rock on!

Andy Stowe, Auctioneum

■ NEWS

Climate crisis film

SCREENINGS of a film about the climate crisis are planned this month in Kingswood and Hanham.

The People's Emergency Briefing will be shown at Holy Trinity Church Hall on September 10 and at Hanham Community Centre a week later.

Both showings of the 45-minute film will be followed by discussion of the issues raised.

The film is a condensed version of the National Emergency Briefing, presented before an audience of more than 1,000 invited guests at Westminster Hall in London earlier this year.

According to the organisers, the briefing presents scientific evidence showing that climate change is already contributing to more frequent and severe extreme weather events around the world, including floods, wildfires and heatwaves. It also highlights opportunities to strengthen the UK's economy,

resilience and quality of life through timely action to reduce emissions and adapt to future climate risks.

The Kingswood screening is from 7-9pm. Admission is open to members of the public. More details and reservations are available using Eventbrite and searching for 'Peoples Emergency Briefing - Kingswood'. Bookings are helpful but not essential. Please contact kingswood.peb@gmail.com for further information.

Tickets for the Hanham screening on September 17 from 7.15pm can be booked via Eventbrite <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/121276957440>. For further information please contact Fio Adamson on 07799 538544.

The campaign is also calling on the UK Government to deliver a nationally televised public climate emergency briefing led by independent scientific experts.

Reservoir fun run

BRISTOL Water has opened applications for its second annual fun run at Chew Valley Reservoir to raise money for The Grand Appeal, the Bristol Children's Hospital charity.

The event, to be held from 9am on Sunday 20 September 2026, will cater to runners of all abilities with participants able to choose the distance which suits them best, from 2.5k, 5k or 10k.

All participants will be given a personalised runner's bib and at the finish line everyone will receive goody bags and medals - with trophies going to the winners of first, second and third places for each race.

Tickets cost £15 with all proceeds going to The Grand Appeal, the official charity for Bristol Children's Hospital.

• www.bristolwater.co.uk/your-community/reservoir-run

SlimmingWorld

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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




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LETTERS

Can you solve a wartime mystery?

I WONDER if your readers could help me with a mystery?

In the 1939 census, David Williams is listed as living in Hanham and was a schoolteacher and an ARP Warden. He went in the RAF and was killed on the 28th of January 1942.

I went to Broadstone Primary School, in Dorset, from 1964 to 1971. In the last two years, I was sports girl of the year and was presented with a silver cup. As the primary school became the first school and the middle school was opened, I was never asked to return it.

I have been trying to trace its origin as it has an inscription on it 'in memory of David Williams 28.01.1942. The only person I could find was a gentleman from Newport, Wales, who was a school teacher but I could never make a connection with Broadstone.

I wonder if there are any records of where he taught and how he came to be in Broadstone. One thought was that he came

with evacuated pupils. I have tried all the websites, local history and records but have drawn a blank. The school does not have any records. It's a long shot, but I would like to find out more

David Llewellyn Williams is listed on the war memorial at Hanham Methodist Church

He was born in 1912 and married in 1941.

David joined the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve in August 1940. He was commissioned as a Pilot Officer on 13/09/1941.

David served with No. 78 Squadron RAF. The squadron record book on 28/01/1942 states "This aircraft left base at 1720 hours. Nothing further was heard until a message was received from Middleton-St-George that the aircraft was shot down by a Naval Trawler off Harwich at 1905 Hours. The crew were all killed. Two bodies were recovered".

Their aircraft was an Armstrong Whitworth Whitley Mk V bomber No. Z.9305. It had a crew of five.

Christine Hawkins

Foodbanks issue urgent appeal

WHILE food bank use eased across the UK last year, North Bristol & South Gloucestershire Foodbank's didn't, and we are now buying more of our own stock than ever to keep our nine outlets supplied.

We are appealing for donations of 11 specific items, after a year in which local need held steady while donations fell behind it, leaving stock low this summer.

It's part of a pattern we have watched build over the past year.

Nationally, food bank parcels fell by 12% last year as inflation eased. Locally, that fall didn't happen: North Bristol & South Gloucestershire Foodbank handed out 15,045 parcels across 2025, 58% above 2019 levels and above the England average.

Every week I see what it takes to keep nine outlets stocked and this year that's meant reaching into our charity's own funds more than ever before.

Last year we had to buy a record one in every four items we gave out, because donations alone

weren't enough.

That's money that should be funding advice services and support, going instead into holding our stock together.

The following items are what our warehouse needs first, in order of urgency:

1. Tinned fruit
2. Desserts (not chilled)
3. Fruit juices and squashes
4. Cereals
5. UHT milk
6. Tinned tomatoes and cooking sauces
7. Laundry detergent (small boxes)
8. Washing-up liquid
9. Hair care (shampoo and conditioner)
10. Baby food (not formula)
11. Tinned halal meat

You can help in three ways: dropping items at a collection point at a local supermarket or at the food bank's office - locations are listed at tinyurl.com/3zkpef8h - order directly from an online shop that delivers to the warehouse or donate money.

Ellen Wood
N. Bristol & South Glos
Foodbank



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HANHAM & KINGSWOOD PHOTO CLUB



The Barbara McLellan



Porth



Having fun with a hose



Badminton flowers

■ THE Hanham & Kingswood Photo Club meets regularly for outings. With a friendly atmosphere and a shared passion for visual storytelling, the club's outings have become a highlight for members eager to develop their craft while enjoying the outdoors. If you're looking to improve your photography, whatever your camera or smartphone, meet friendly creatives, and explore the world through a fresh lens, Hanham and Kingswood Photo Club is the perfect place to start.

Recent outings: A lens on local interest

Members have spent the past months venturing across Bristol and Bath, Gloucestershire, Wiltshire, Somerset and South Wales, discovering fresh perspectives in familiar places. Recent excursions have included:

- Bradford-on-Avon boat trip, picture The Barbara McLellan;
- Porth Mining Village, Rhondda Valley, picture Porth;
- Badminton Flower Show, picture Badminton Flowers;
- Fairford Steam Classic & Retro

Show, picture Having Fun with a Hose.

Upcoming outings: Join our adventures.

The club has an exciting calendar ahead: Calne Heritage Trail, Caldicot Castle, Bristol, St. John's on the Wall & Corn Street, Snowhill Manor & Gardens Glastonbury Zombie Walk

Each outing welcomes beginners and seasoned photographers alike, with no pressure—just enthusiasm, curiosity, and a shared love of the craft. More information a, including meeting details and upcoming events, can be found at www.handkphoto.club/ or by emailing handkpc@plphillips.plus.com

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■ NOSTALGIA

A Medieval Market in Bitton

Based on an article by William Evans



A Medieval Market: artist unknown



The 'dial' at St Mary's Church

IT'S a surprise to discover that there was a market in Bitton in medieval times, especially as Bitton's entry in the Domesday Book records very few inhabitants.

The earliest documentary trace of economic activity in Bitton after the Norman Conquest is a royal charter of 1231. Henry III granted to William de Putot the right to hold a market on Tuesdays. There had been an earlier attempt to establish a market in 1220 when Robert de Ameneville, William de Putot's father-in-law, promised 5 marks for the monopoly of holding a market. He did not pay up, but payment was not enforced, because he had not been able to establish the market.

Presumably the Bitton market became successful, because in the Lay Subsidy of 1334 Bitton and Hanham Court were together assessed to pay £92 10s. That implies that the crown's advisers thought the community capable of paying that sum. Bitton must have been fairly prosperous: more so than Keynsham, which was assessed at only £52 (but the abbey would have not been

assessed for a lay subsidy); on a par with Portbury (where the de Putot family also had lands) and Harptree; but not as rich as Bath (£133, again excluding the abbey), Yate (£143), and Marshfield (£270). On a route between Bath and Bristol, Bitton may have been a good site for a market.

We don't know if Bitton's market specialised. At Marshfield it was mainly sheep, later barley, hence the cluster of maltings and breweries. In Chipping Sodbury it was sheep. The name 'Chipping' (or cepen meaning 'market') was added to the name Sodbury to differentiate it from Old Sodbury.

Where was Bitton's market held?

Ellacombe wrote in his 'History of the Parish of Bitton' that it was near 'The Dial', but that proving a nuisance the market was removed to Warmley. Local historian Julie Johns wonders that if the market was relocated to Warmley it might have been in the area behind the Griffin pub, which was a cattle market until 1970s,

'The dial' mentioned by

Ellacombe as the location of the market would have been typical of dials at many medieval churches. The dials also known as 'mass dials', or 'scratch dials', were a form of sundial (but not accurate in telling the time) found on churches, often at chest height, about 15 to 20cm in diameter, and roughly inscribed or scratched on a south facing wall.

Many markets were held in churchyards, evidenced by the Bishop of Wells complaining in 1250 that annual fairs and weekly markets held in the cathedral precincts were a menace to the church. In 1285 a statute or Edward I ordered that "from henceforth neither fairs nor markets be kept in churchyards, for the honour of the church." Some charters stipulated where the market was to be held. Sometimes that was 'at the manor'.

There is indeed a 'dial', located at the eastern end of the south wall of St Mary's church. This 'scratch dial' meets the description of many dials that were cut into church walls.

From an article by William Evans

For the full article visit: <https://www.bittonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Medieval-Market-in-Bitton.pdf> And an update at: <https://www.bittonhistory.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Medieval-Market-Bitton.pdf>

Sources:

A gazetteer of grants of charters is at <https://archives.history.ac.uk/gazetteer/gloucs.html>. The gazetteer also gives the assessment figures for the lay subsidy. The original charter rolls are in The National Archives, TNA C53; for the lay subsidy, TNA E179.

Next meeting

September 15th 7:00 for 7:30pm
'Bristol Yarns' by Eugene Byrne
Venue: Unity Oldland Methodist Church, West Street, Oldland Common, BS30 9QS

KINGSWOOD HERITAGE MUSEUM



LENNARD'S

Founded in the 1870s, Lennard's grew into one of Britain's leading boot and shoe manufacturers. After moving to Soundwell Road in 1938, the company became famous for producing hard-wearing agricultural and work boots. At its height, the business had more than 200 shoe shops across the UK.

The photographs, courtesy of the South Gloucestershire Gazette and taken in 1971, give us an insight into Lennard's factory on Soundwell Road, Staple Hill – one of the area's most important

employers for many years.

One photograph shows the busy office long before the days of desktop computers. Another shows the factory building itself, while a third takes us into the stores, stacked high with boxes of boots ready for dispatch.

Did you work at Lennard's? Do you recognise anyone in these photographs? Kingswood Heritage museum would love to hear your memories—every story helps bring our local history to life. Please contact us on **0117 960 5664** or by email at: kingswoodmuseum@gmail.com

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.

Children under 16 are admitted free.

Museum Talk: "Lost Bristol"

The next talk at the Museum is on Wednesday 9th September, when popular local historian Chris Bigg will provide a fascinating illustrated talk on "Lost Bristol". From grand hotels and historic houses to iconic office buildings, Bristol's skyline has changed dramatically over the past 80 years. Some changes have been celebrated... others are still debated.

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.

Free admission for everybody: Heritage Open Days

Kingswood Heritage Museum and the adjacent William Champion's Garden and Grotto are

both open on Saturday 19th and Sunday 20th September 2026 as part of the annual national "Heritage Open Days". On both days the Museum will be open from 11am to 5pm, and the Garden and Grotto will be open from 11 am to 4pm.

All visitors are admitted for free on these two days. There is free parking at the Museum, and refreshments will be available in the Museum tea room.

Bristol Tools for Self Reliance will also be holding a Tool Sale on both days.

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!

■ COMMUNITY NEWS

Get set for church fete

BITTON'S annual church fête takes place on September 5 in the Glebe Field next to the churchyard, as well as in the church itself and in Church Farm, next to the church. There is free parking and entrance to the fête is £2 for adults and free for children. Gates open at 1pm.

This year's fête will be opened by Bitton's new vicar, the Rev Ness Brunner-Ellis, following a musical number by the Bitton Dawn Chorus, the village community choir, who will also have performance slots through the afternoon. The organisers are also pleased to welcome back The Bristol Morris and Prof Hudd's Punch & Judy to provide traditional entertainment.

The aim of the fête, say the organisers, is to provide a great afternoon out for all – with something for all ages and all family members. It is a lovely place to meet old friends and enjoy yourselves in a familiar setting.

There will be lots to do too. If you are looking to pick up a bargain, there are great stalls selling items new and pre-used. There's a children's tent, games and this year, a Silent Disco. For car and motorcycle enthusiasts, there will be a display of classic cars and bikes for inspection.

This year's Dog Show will be run by Kelsey's Pad of Oldland Common

The event always attracts a lot of lovely dogs - even those who are not competing will be most welcome. Food and other refreshments will be well provided with a food court offering fresh pizza, barbecue and pulled pork; and, of course, there will be a licensed bar. Teas and cake will be served in the church itself and delicious cream teas in Church Farm.

And as tradition demands, the fête will not end without the Great Bitton Egg Throwing Contest, when real eggs are thrown between partners – who will catch the egg or finish in an egggy mess.

Entry and programme are £2 for adults – children get in free. Food and the bar will be open from 1pm and the fête is expected to close by 5.30pm at the latest. Fête goers are asked to respect local neighbours and park in the designated parking rather than local roads. More information on the church website www.stmarysbitton.org.uk.

■ KINGSWOOD HISTORY SOCIETY

A Wreckers Tale – Ship Breakers of the Severn

by Paul Barnett – 4th August 2026

Another nautical talk by one of our regular speakers Paul. As always very entertaining and informative, following many years of research. The focus was next to the north pier of the entrance to Sharpness Canal into the Severn Estuary. A colourful character Tyke Langford, a well-known Sharpness shipwright was mentioned many times.

At one time the area was a Victorian Pleasure Ground, with a sandy beach. A tearoom and various dwellings for a holiday were in the vicinity. However, this did not last as the docks modernised.

We cannot be sure which ship was the first to be beached and broken up, either the Emigrant or The Madras (previous TS Vindicatrix and Arranmore) in the early 20th century. The evidence is not clear; indeed, Paul came across a model of The Madras in Canada which then clouded the facts.

Paul then went on to mention other notable ships that were broken up, HMS Tribune (a gunboat), the keel plate of which was then used as a demolition dock. HMS Wolfhound and SS Argentina were notable tales and had connections with another shipbreaker in Newport, Cashmores. There was so much coal dust in the silt of Newport docks, it was cut as a useful commodity.

The talk could not end without mentioning Tyke again. This time he took a ship which ran aground and broke into two but then joined the two parts back together. Not sure if that would be allowed today?

The practise ended in the 1940s and little can be seen of the site today. A warm round of applause to finish.

Next meeting at the Park Centre, Kingswood is Tuesday 1st September, 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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NEWS

Never too old to try something new ...

RESIDENTS and staff at Kingswood Court Care Home enjoyed a memorable day on a fishing trip to Boyd Valley Lake in Bitton.

The trip was organised by activities coordinator, Shayla Sharmeen, and head of maintenance, Adam, a fishing enthusiast.

Adam set up the fishing equipment while residents took on the important task of choosing the bait. After some patient waiting, their efforts were rewarded when they caught several fish, including some impressive carp.

For resident John, the trip brought back memories of fishing with his friends and family. For 94-year-old David, it was the first



A fabulous day's fishing for some residents of Kingswood Court Care Home

time in his life that he'd been fishing.

He said: "This was something completely new for me. I am always happy to try new things. Thank you to Adam and Shayla for arranging this day."

Attila Lengyel, general manager at the home, said: "It was wonderful to see our

residents enjoying something that was so meaningful to them. Fishing brought back special memories for some, while giving others the opportunity to experience something completely new. It was a fantastic day and a great example of how we can support our residents to continue doing the things they love."

Shayla added: "It's so important that activities are not just about filling time, but about understanding what each person enjoys and creating opportunities that have real meaning."

"When those big carp started coming out, I think I was almost as excited as the residents! It was a fantastic day."



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SPORT

KEYNSHAM BOWLING CLUB

AS As the competitive season draws to a close, teams are battling for points, some in the hope of gaining promotion and others to avoid relegation. At Keynsham Bowling Club, we are very much part of that process.

Our ladies are holders of the North Somerset League Cup, having won the league in 2025, and they are currently in third place with three matches of the season remaining. They remain confident of retaining the trophy.

They are also performing well in the Somerset County League, with just two matches to play. Their great achievement, however, is getting to the semi-final of the Southey Cup, when in mid-September they will play Portishead RBL at the Portishead green.

If successful, they will play the winners of the other semi-final - Clevedon or Ilminster - and the final will be played later the same day. Our men compete in the Bristol and District League on Thursday evenings, fielding three teams. The A team are fourth in division two, just outside the promotion

hunt. Our B team are mid-table in division three, whilst our C team are bottom of the same division and look regretfully like relegation candidates.

On Saturdays, two teams compete in the Somerset League. Our A team bowls are fourth in the East 1 league, just five points off second place, with an outside chance of promotion to the Premier League.

Our B team are third in East 2 League, with the fourth side unable to catch up. This is good news, as normally three teams are promoted.

We recently bowled against St Anne's Park in the Friday Triples Cup and were narrowly beaten in a tightly contested match. In the triples league, we are mid-table with another four games left.

On Friday evenings, we put out a team in the Mid Somerset Mixed League, where our aim is to nurture relatively new players to play in the other leagues. We are currently sixth in a league of eight and recently won away to the leaders, Weston Bath - a surprising but deserved result.

Mike Barrow

Fry's BOWLING CLUB

Bristol and District League: The visit of Severn Vale 'A' saw the visitors take the lead on rinks 1 and 2, but rink 2 pulled the deficit back slowly, but Severn Vale held the advantage. Rink 3 was tight all the way with Fry's dropping a single on the final end to take the rink points. Rink 2 had taken a 5 shot lead, then picked up 6 shots on the penultimate end. With rink 1 picking up useful shots, the scores were tied with 2 ends left. On both rinks it was Fry's number 3s getting the job done by drawing in the shots as Fry's took another 3 shot victory taking 8 points from the match.

After a 38-55 defeat at Bradley Stoke, Fry's hosted Long Ashton. Fry's held a lead at halfway, but LA fought back. Rink 3 finished first, dropping one shot to grab 2 points. Fry's skip on rink 2 drew shot on their last end seeing Fry's take another 2 points. This left Fry's one up heading into the final end on rink 1. Fry's no 3 took shot away from LA, securing a vital 8 points.

A home game against Keynsham was in the balance until Fry's opened the gap in the final

few ends taking 8 points from the 12 shot win.

Fry's picked up a useful 3 points at league leaders Bristol St Andrews 'A' which sees Fry's in sixth place with 2 games left.

Friday Triples League: Week 15 of the Triples League saw Fry's travel to Severn Vale. Fry's success with a 15 shot win on the third rink, but with other rinks losing by 21 and 7 shots, Severn Vale took a 68-55 win with Fry's only taking 2 points.

A trip to Page Park saw Fry's take two rinks, but a heavy defeat on the third rink saw Page Park take a 9 shot win as Fry's took 4 points.

The visit of St Anne's Park saw them take an early lead, but Fry's pulled the deficit back to take a small lead. A couple of big ends from St Anne's turned the game around. A last end decider on rink 1 saw St Anne's take all 12 points and a 58-41 scoreline.

A tough week at Begbrook Green saw Fry's on the wrong end of a 75-40 scoreline seeing Fry's back at the bottom of the table.

Cup: Fry's cup runs for the season ended at Knowle in the Somerset Bowls Association Wedmore Plate with Knowle winning 74-50.

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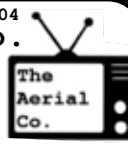
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