

hanham&longwellgreenvoice

November, 2026 Issue 119

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Back to school energy!

ELECTRICIAN James Harvey has installed solar panels at venues including Glastonbury's Worthy Farm, Bristol Beacon and Windsor Castle over 20 years with Bristol firm Solar Sense.

But a recent job had particular resonance for James - it was at his old school, Longwell Green Primary! The school is one of 11 in South Gloucestershire that benefited from a recent initiative to bring in renewable energy.

Report: Page 13

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We will remember all who served

PEOPLE across the area are preparing to mark Remembrance Day this month.

Thousands of people have been buying paper poppies at various outlets, in particular Asda at Longwell Green, where sales help Bitton & Oldland Royal British Legion branch to raise extraordinary sums every year.

In Bitton, an impressive cascade made up of more than 2,800 poppies knitted and crocheted by local volunteers is on show at St Mary's church. Services will be held there and at other churches and war memorials on Sunday November 8 and on Armistice Day, November 11.

Hanham's war memorial will host a service starting at 10.45am on the Sunday. Kingswood & Hanham branch of the RBL will take part in the Kingswood parade alongside the town council and We are BS15, with a procession starting at 2pm from Cecil Road car park to the war memorial in the grounds of Holy Trinity Church.

Farewell to war veteran: Page 4 Lest we forget: Page 25

• The poppy cascade at St Mary's Bitton, right



Teia is a world champion

Young kickboxer Teia Doyle, from Hanham, has returned from a competition in Italy with one world title and two silver medals.

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Outdoor music and films at pub

The Old Plough pub in Westons Way, which has had a £280,000 revamp, has won permission to play recorded music and show films outdoors despite protests.

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Star surprises charity top gun

A man who's raised thousands for Kingswood charity Jessie May was given a surprise thank-you by Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise.

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Hanham & Longwell Green Voice contacts

Publisher

Emma Cooper

0117 908 2121 / 07715 770448

sales@hanhamandlongwellgreenvoice.co.uk

Editor

Linda Tanner

0777 0700579

news@hanhamandlongwellgreenvoice.co.uk

Advertising Sales

0117 908 2121

sales@hanhamandlongwellgreenvoice.co.uk



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December deadline

Our December edition deadline is November 25th. 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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A member of the



NEWS

Call for action on path safety

SOUTH Gloucestershire Council is being urged to make urgent repairs to a section of the Bristol & Bath Railway Path where a cyclist crashed and suffered a brain haemorrhage.

Emanuele Ziglioli, aged 50, spent ten days in a coma after the incident in August next to Siston Common.

The steep stretch of path, between a bridge over the Avon Ring Road from Siston Hill and Warmley, is uneven because of tree roots pushing up underneath the surface.

Katie Moss, of Bristol Cycling Campaign, told the BBC: "People have been reporting issues here for quite a long time. It shouldn't take accidents to have to fix key arteries like this."

A council spokesperson said: "We are aware of an accident on the path in which a cyclist was injured, and we wish them a full and speedy recovery. We inspected the area and installed warning signs. As with any highways issues, repairs are assessed and prioritised, and work at this location will be carried out as soon as possible."

The council is encouraging anyone who spots a defect anywhere on the highway network to report it at tinyurl.com/yfx4ywwn.

Robbery bid 'hate crime'

POLICE say they are treating an attempted robbery on the Bristol & Bath Railway Path as a hate crime.

Officers say a man in his 50s was riding a mobility scooter near Warmley Forest Park between 2.45-3pm on September 18 when he was attacked, suffering minor injuries. The three offenders, who were wearing hoods and face masks, fled into the nearby woods.

Anyone with information should call 101 and quote the crime reference number 5226 268 405.

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NEWS

Tribute to space scientist Colin Pillinger

A COMMEMORATIVE plaque honouring the groundbreaking Beagle 2 Mars mission, championed by Kingswood space scientist Professor Colin Pillinger, has been unveiled at M Shed.

With a team led by Professor Pillinger, the Beagle 2 lander became the first British and European spacecraft to successfully land on Mars when it touched down on Christmas Day 2003. The mission captured the public imagination with its distinctive mix of science, culture and ambition.

The plaque was unveiled by Shusannah, the daughter of Colin and Judith Pillinger, and Chris Lee, former Chief Scientist at the UK Space Agency. Also present was Colin's sister, local historian Doreen Lindegaard.

It was originally thought that Beagle 2 got lost on its descent to the surface of the red planet but in 2015, imagery from NASA revealed the lander had touched down safely, close to its



Doreen Lindegaard with Lord Mayor of Bristol Cllr Yasson Mohamud

intended target. Further analysis showed that a partially deployed solar panel had prevented communication back to Earth, confirming that the mission came very close to full operational success.

Professor Colin Pillinger, who was educated at Kingswood Grammar School and Swansea

University, was appointed a CBE in 2003 and died in 2014.

Philip Walker, head of culture at Bristol City Council, said: "Beagle 2 remains one of the most ambitious and inspiring chapters in British space exploration, and we're proud to recognise Professor Colin Pillinger's remarkable

achievements here at M Shed. We hope the story of Beagle 2 captures the imagination of the Bristol people once again."

Judith Pillinger, who coined the name Beagle 2 in honour of Charles Darwin's ship HMS Beagle, said she and Chris Lee had pushed for more recognition of the mission and the landing site.

This had led to 15 red plaques, including one at Aerospace Bristol, being installed at sites across Britain and Europe.

"Colin would be delighted that his home city of Bristol is showcasing the plaques commemorating the successful landing of the mission he led."

Chris Lee said: "It's not every city that can claim to have a piece of technology sitting proudly on the surface of another planet. But Bristol can. It was a difficult time for the local space community in the late 1990s but when Colin Pillinger challenged us with his vision for a unique mission, Bristol engineers stepped up."



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NEWS

Farewell to war veteran Harry, 101

ONE of the region's last surviving Second World War veterans has died, aged 101.

Harry Francis served in the Royal Navy before transferring to the Royal Marines and becoming one of the first members of the elite Special Boat Service.

He passed away peacefully at his Soundwell home on the morning of September 24.

Harry, who grew up in Wiltshire, lied about his age to volunteer in 1942, when he was still 16.

He fought in the Battle of the Atlantic on the destroyer HMS Brecon, hunting U-boats and escorting convoys, before being deployed to Malta in the Mediterranean.

After volunteering for the Royal Marines, Harry became an early recruit to the SBS in 1943, fighting in Sicily and mainland Italy during the Allied invasion and taking part in raids on Lebanon, which was governed by the Vichy France government.

He was sent on a mission to German-occupied Yugoslavia with an envoy from Winston Churchill, during which time he met partisan leader Tito.

Harry and his comrades in No. 2 SBS then fought the Japanese, first on the Andaman Islands in the Indian Ocean, then in Burma. There they carried out



Harry Francis pictured on his 100th birthday

reconnaissance and lightning raids on Japanese units, operating behind enemy lines around the Irrawaddy river.

On one raid Harry was stabbed in the stomach by a Japanese soldier, and had to be carried back to an outpost by his comrades before being taken to hospital, first in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and then in the UK.

After the war he worked as a painter and decorator, and moved to Bristol around 40 years ago.

Last year, as he turned 100, Harry shared his memories with Voice readers for the 80th



Harry Francis during his time in the Navy

anniversary of VJ Day, which marked the end of the war.

His wife Gwen said: "Harry was the love of my life, and the heart of our family. To everyone who knew him, he was just H."

"He was so proud to have served with the Royal Marines, and especially to have been one of the first to join the Special Boat Service."

"But he was just as proud of his family. He was a loving dad, grandad and great-grandad, and he adored every one of them."

"He loved being part of this community. He was never happier than when he was right

in the middle of it, with a story to tell.

"We're all heartbroken, and I'll miss him more than I can say. But we're so grateful for all the kindness people have shown us."

Harry regularly attended events organised by Staple Hill & District Royal British Legion, which covers Fishponds, most recently taking part in South Gloucestershire Armed Forces Day at Page Park, in June.

RBL branch and Armed Forces Day organising committee chair Ian Campbell said: "Harry belonged to a generation that gave everything so that we could live in freedom."

"His quiet bravery, and his remarkable life, will not be forgotten."

"Our thoughts are with our dear friend Gwen and her family at this time, and we will always remember Harry and his legacy."

Branch president and co-leader of South Gloucestershire Council Ian Boulton said it was a great privilege to know Harry, whose presence in the community will be "greatly missed".

He said: "Despite the extraordinary and heroic experiences he had during the war, Harry remained a modest and thoroughly good-humoured man."

"Harry represented a generation whose courage, resilience and sense of duty helped secure the freedoms we enjoy today."

Harry's funeral is due to take place on October 26 at Westerleigh Crematorium, at 1.30pm.

Imjin soldier Reg dies

A VETERAN of the Gloucestershire Regiment's famous stand at the Battle of Imjin River during the Korean War has died, aged 94.

Reg Portlock helped save the city of Seoul from a huge invasion force of Chinese soldiers in April 1951.

The 750 men of the 1st Battalion

fought a defensive battle against more than 10,000 Chinese troops of the 63rd People's Volunteer Army, eventually becoming surrounded on what would later be known as Gloster Hill.

Reg believed he was the last ammunition truck driver to make it out from the battlefield.

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NEWS

Gas fans boost hospice funds

BRISTOL'S much-loved St Peter's Hospice raised almost £2000 at a charity takeover at Memorial Stadium, thanks to generous Rovers supporters.

The charity raised £1,896 at Bristol Rovers' home game against Barnet as part of its new Wear It Blue fundraising campaign.

The charity takeover brought together football fans, Hospice staff and volunteers to raise vital funds, celebrate the charity's work and spread awareness of the care and support it provides to people living with life-limiting illnesses and their families.

Spirits were high at the Memorial Stadium with St Peter's Hospice organising a human fruit machine, face painting and a bucket collection. Hospice mascot, Lenny, was also there to meet fans and help spread the word about the charity's work.

Hanham's own world champion

A YOUNG kickboxer from Hanham has won a world title.

Teia Doyle returned from the WAKO Youth World Championships in Jesolo, Italy, with one championship win and two silver medals.

Teia beat a Spanish opponent in the juniors kick light final to become world champion and was placed second in both light contact and points fighting.

Teia captained an 11-strong squad of fighters from EPiC Martial Arts and Fitness at the event, which brought together contestants from 76 nations. They prepared through a dedicated 12-week training camp.

Two other EPiC fighters took world titles and the squad won a total of 13 medals.

EPiC runs clubs across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire. Its founder Andy Cleaves said: "My heart is full. Every one of our athletes gave absolutely everything, through the highs and the lows. Three world champions and 13 individual medals from one club is an incredible achievement, but I'm just as proud of how they conducted themselves on and off the mats.

"They've trained for years, then spent 12 weeks preparing specifically for this competition. They handled pressure, setbacks and some of the best young fighters in the world with real determination



Teia Doyle at the event

and sportsmanship.

"Watching young people from different nations compete so fiercely and then show each other such respect is a reminder of everything this sport can give them."



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NEWS

Kai drives to glory

A YOUNG racing driver from Mangotsfield is celebrating winning his first national championship - at the age of 12.

Kai Pearce, who races under the name Kai May, won the Junior Banger UK Open Championship at Ringwood Raceway in September.

Kai, a Year 8 pupil at Downend School, is in the third generation of his family to race bangers.

His dad, also named Kai, and mum Nadine both raced, as did their dads, Richard May and Martyn King, and his uncle Sam May.

Nadine said: "He's got it in his blood."

Kai first got behind the wheel of a car aged eight, having tried his hand on a digger aged five at his dad's haulage company.

Banger racing is a contact motor sport, with cars frequently colliding and crashing as they race on a circuit at up to 70mph.

Kai's debut at Ringwood Raceway in September last year

saw him crash into a fence, bending his car. He needed treatment in an ambulance after bruising his ribs and biting his tongue - but still finished third.

He did a full season of racing this year, attending nine meets at the Hampshire track, racing three times each meet against other young drivers from across the country and picking up seven trophies along the way.

Kai races Nissan Micra cars, with his dad and family friend Andrew Worthington, who is also a former banger racing driver, keeping the cars running.

He takes two cars to each meet to ensure a backup is available if the first car is put out of action.

Over the past year he has got through four or five cars, racing with his dad's number 502 and the nickname Little Dipper.

His grandads both help keep him racing - Martyn owns Yate Car Breakers, supplying tyres and parts, and Richard owns RA May & Sons, transporting cars to



Kai Pearce, front, with mechanic Andrew Worthington in the background

the race circuit.

Nadine said: "As a family, we have supported Kai every step of the way and could not be prouder of everything he has achieved."

Kai is aiming to defend his title next year, and will take part in Ringwood Raceway's Junior Bangers World Championship in December.

But he could soon have competition from home -

younger sister Elsie can start racing in the novices category when she turns ten next year, and join the junior championship in two years' time.

Kai said: "The buzz and the adrenaline is something I can't explain, but it feels amazing to race."

"I want to be the best and continue to improve in a sport I enjoy."

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NEWS



Happy smiles at the tea party in aid of Breast Cancer Now. Right, young musicians Maia and Lettie

Charity tea party raises £2,200

AN afternoon tea party held in Kingswood on 22 August has raised £2,200 for Breast Cancer Now.

The event was organised by Julie Langdon and Jackie Stevens, with support from Linda Woods, Karen Rhys-Jones and Jeff Pring. A total of 63 guests enjoyed an afternoon of sweet and savoury treats, scones with jam and cream, and a welcome glass of Prosecco.

The community showed tremendous generosity, donating 90 raffle prizes. The top prize, a golf day for four at Castle Combe, was donated by RW Projects. Other prizes included meal vouchers from

Botteginos, The Huntsman and La Piazza, afternoon tea experiences, beauty treatments, gifts, vouchers and a variety of other generously donated prizes.

Guests were also entertained by the talented Maia and Lettie, aged 11 and 8, who delighted everyone with a musical performance on the keyboard.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who attended, volunteered, donated prizes and supported the event. Their generosity helped make the afternoon a great success while raising vital funds for Breast Cancer Now.



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NEWS

Community cafe closes

THE cafe at the Coronation Centre in Cadbury Heath shut at the end of last month after just a year.

Announcing the closure on social media, the centre said the decision has been taken with great sadness. "Although we have only been open for a year, we have loved welcoming members of our community through our doors and building so many wonderful connections. Unfortunately, despite trying a number of different approaches to make the café sustainable, the rising cost of living and increasing operating costs have hit hard. Sadly, the finances simply do not add up, and we can no longer continue running the café at a loss.

"This has not been an easy decision to make, and we are incredibly disappointed that we have reached this point.

"We will still be using the kitchen for events and buffet catering, and we look forward to continuing to support the community in that way."

The centre team thanked everyone who had supported the cafe.



Showing racism the red card

CHILDREN at Summerhill Academy came together for a special assembly to support the Show Racism the Red Card campaign, demonstrating their commitment to standing against racism and promoting a school community where everyone feels valued, respected and included.

The assembly provided an opportunity for pupils to reflect on the importance of challenging racism, celebrating diversity and treating others with kindness and fairness. Through coming together, the children showed that everyone has a role to play in creating a world free from discrimination.

The initiative reinforced the message that racism should never be ignored or accepted, and that even small actions, such as speaking up, showing kindness and supporting others, can make a meaningful difference.

A spokesperson for Summerhill Academy said: "We are incredibly proud of our children for coming together to stand against racism. We believe every child deserves to feel safe, respected and included, regardless of their background or identity. This assembly was a reminder that we all have a responsibility to challenge racism, celebrate our differences and treat one another with kindness."

NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

Building careers, as well as homes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

professionals.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

This year, almost £3m will be allocated to



Metro Mayor Helen Godwin
writes for the Voice

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

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

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

NEWS

Revamped pub gets consent to show films outdoors

A REVAMPED pub in Kingswood has been granted permission to play recorded music and films outside despite neighbours' objections.

But Marstons, which runs The Old Plough in Westons Way, withdrew controversial plans for an exterior bar and open-air live music after backing down to residents' opposition and admitting the proposed outside bar was 'a step too far'.

The pub has had a £280,000 facelift to turn it into one of the chain's 'Grandstand' venues, includes multiple huge TV screens and tiered seating.

South Gloucestershire Council licensing sub-committee approved the changes, which also include more CCTV and letting children stay in the pub after 10pm if they are with an adult at a pre-booked function, such as a birthday party.

Nine residents objected, including one who told the meeting: "Residents wish to be clear that they do not object to the refurbishment, the



The Old Plough in Westons Way has had a £280,000 refurb

investment being made in the premises, improved facilities, or the continued success of The Old Plough as a local business.

"My objection is limited to the request for a permanent licence permitting outdoor events and entertainment that generate external noise with recorded music and film.

"I do not see a compelling justification for this element of the application.

"There will be a significant impact on residents."

Solicitor Michelle Hazelwood, representing Marstons, told the panel that the pub would not be

changed significantly or become just a sports bar but would improve its food menu with a big investment in the kitchen and show films and also cartoons for children.

She said: "Residents can have confidence that these premises are not going to change their world, they're not going to cause public nuisance or crime and disorder."

Ms Hazelwood said no complaints had been registered against the pub since Marstons began running it 20 years ago.

But she said the company accepted that applying for an

outside bar had been 'a step too far', and that any external music would only be recorded and end by 10pm.

She said: "Yes, live music is very hard to control, and that small space with the size of the beer garden, it was inappropriate, that has been withdrawn, the same with the external bar."

Marstons area manager George Hoare said: "Although we talk about this being a Grandstand concept, the pub will be very much The Old Plough – it's The Old Plough working within the Grandstand format."

There were no objections from any of the authorities, including environmental health, while conditions were agreed beforehand with the police.

Granting the amended application, sub-committee chairman Cllr Chris Davies said the changes to the original plans were sufficient to mitigate neighbours' concerns.

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service

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■ MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Court changes will help victims

EVERY victim deserves to be treated with dignity, supported when they need help and to be able to access justice without unnecessary barriers.

As Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset, one of my responsibilities is funding services that help victims cope with and recover from the impact of crime.

Through these organisations, I hear directly about the challenges victims face, from the trauma of abuse itself to navigating a criminal justice system that can sometimes feel overwhelming.

Those experiences also inform my national role as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' joint lead for victims, where I work with colleagues across the country to advocate for changes that improve outcomes for victims

and survivors.

That is why I recently welcomed two significant national developments, which have the potential to make a real difference.

The first is the rollout of specialist rape and sexual offences courts across England and Wales.

For survivors, this is about far more than court administration.

These courts will prioritise rape and serious sexual offence cases, helping to reduce delays that can leave victims waiting months or even years for their case to be heard.

They will also provide more trauma-informed facilities, including private waiting areas and entrances, improved facilities for pre-recorded evidence and options for victims to observe sentencing remotely.

The aim is simple: to reduce

the additional trauma too many survivors experience while pursuing justice, and to create a system that better understands their needs.

The second development is the introduction of a new requirement for courts to formally record when domestic abuse was a factor in offending.

While it may sound like a technical change, it could have a significant impact on victim safety.

Until now, domestic abuse was not consistently recorded when offenders were convicted of other crimes linked to abusive behaviour.

The new arrangements will make it easier for police, prisons and probation services to identify perpetrators, understand patterns of offending and better protect victims.

These reforms are important



With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody

steps forward, but they must go hand in hand with continued investment in the specialist support services that victims rely on every day.

Whether supporting victims locally through commissioned services or advocating for change nationally, my priority remains the same: ensuring victims are heard, supported and given the best possible chance to rebuild their lives after crime.



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NEWS

Tom Cruise thanks charity's top gun Lloyd

A MAN who has raised thousands of pounds for a Kingswood-based children's charity was stunned when he was thanked for his efforts - by Hollywood superstar Tom Cruise.

Lloyd Kembrey was invited to London by the BBC on the premise that he was being interviewed for a documentary about endurance fundraising.

But about 20 minutes in to the interview, the door to the hotel room where they were filming opened and Cruise walked in.

The star of *Top Gun* and the *Mission: Impossible* movie series delivered a message as part of a feature on *The One Show* called *One Big Thank You*, aimed at highlighting people who have "gone the extra mile to help others in their community".

Lloyd was picked out for his outstanding record of fundraising for children's hospice at home charity, *Jessie May*.

He has raised around £60,000 for the charity in honour of two cousins who died in their teens from a life-limiting condition, including £48,000 in a year of extreme challenges that ranged from an ice ultra-marathon to climbing the equivalent height of Everest on a 12m (39ft) wall.

Lloyd, from Downend, said: "Honestly, it completely took me by surprise. When you see these sorts of shows you think the person must have some idea of what's going to happen, but I really didn't. I've done interviews about fundraising with the BBC and ITV before, so it didn't seem unusual, but then all of a sudden Tom Cruise walks in! It was quite a surreal moment."

Lloyd, a facilities manager at Bristol University, admits that he hasn't actually seen many of Tom's films, apart from *Top Gun* and its sequel, but said the star was "really lovely".

He said: "We spoke for about 15 minutes after the cameras went away, with his sister and his nephew as well."

"He said the reason he liked my story was that it turned a negative or sad story to a positive outcome - he believes how healthy or important it is to see opportunities or ways to improve in adversity, that bad things happen but it's how you react to



Picture of Lloyd, his wife Alexa and Tom courtesy of One Tribe TV

it that makes you who you are."

Tom said: "I've done a lot of wild things and stunts, but when I heard about Lloyd's adventure, I just thought - I've gotta meet this guy."

He posed for a picture with Lloyd and his wife Alexa, telling Lloyd: "It's wonderful, what you've done."

The actor and producer invited Lloyd to the royal premiere in London of his latest film, *Digger*. Lloyd took his friend Joe Humphreys, from Frampton Cotterell, who joined him in some of his fundraising challenges, and they posed for a selfie with Tom on the red carpet.

Lloyd, aged 30, has been fundraising for *Jessie May* since he was six years old, and is now an ambassador for the charity.

His twin cousins Francesca and Josephine Kembrey, of Coalpit Heath, were diagnosed with Sanfilippo disease type A, a rare and fatal genetic condition, when they were aged four, just after Lloyd was born.

Jessie May nurses were a fixture of family life before the twins died, in 2006 and 2009, and their parents Julie and Chris



Lloyd with fellow fundraisers on one of his challenges

have continued to support the charity, with Julie setting up a group for bereaved parents.

In 2023, supported by friends, Lloyd took on a series of 15 extreme fundraising challenges including a 31-mile ice skating ultramarathon on a frozen lake in Finland, an Everest climbing challenge at

UWE, canoeing the length of the River Wye, a swim relay over the distance of the English Channel in Cromhall Quarry, Sodbury Slog and Tough Mudder cross-country races and a three-day, 94-mile Jurassic Coast walk.

For more information about fundraising for *Jessie May* visit jessiemay.org.uk/support-us.

COMMUNITY NEWS

BRISTOL u3a

BRISTOL u3a is hosting an open day at Emersons Green Village Hall.

If you drop in on November 26, between noon and 3pm, you'll be able to find out about u3a as a whole, chat to local group leaders and also make suggestions for new local groups.

Most of the 35 groups that are local to this side of Bristol will

be there, together with others representing Bristol u3a as a whole.

To give you an idea about how groups work, here's what a member of the Folklore group says: "We'll agree a topic like 'rivers', and then share relevant stories the next time we meet. Recently, we heard about Sabrina, the goddess of the River Severn, and also stories about ancient mythical rivers like the Styx and the Lethe.

This is a common format for all discussion groups: decide on a topic ahead of time and then everyone contributes.

If you're interested in crafting, the Eastside Crafters group either work on their own projects while enjoying a natter, or one member explains how to do a favourite craft and everyone joins in.

One member says: "As a new member of u3a, everyone made me

very welcome."

Another says: "It's been fun to step out of my comfort zone and learn new crafts."

If you are looking for something more physical, you can chat to representatives from the Weekend Amblers walking group and both of the two local Daytime Disco groups.

Amblers members enjoy routes of 3-5 miles, while the organisers of the discos offer safe spaces for members to dance their worries away, while rediscovering moves (and muscles) long-forgotten.

If you can't make the open day, why not join one of our café socials? In November you'll find us at: Ivy's in Hanham Hall on the 6th, Turners in Fishponds on the 10th, the Crafty Egg in Fishponds on the 18th, Hillfields Community Centre on the 19th and Mokka Downend on the 30th - all at 2pm except Ivy's, which is at 10am.

You can also email me at learnlaughlive@bristolu3a.org.uk.

Lindsay Gough

HILLFIELDS CAN

THE Hillfields CAN (Climate and Nature) group organised a series of events in October to discuss the climate crisis and how communities can help to tackle it.

A screening of a film, the People's Emergency Briefing, was watched by around 70 residents in the Hillfields Park Community Centre sports hall.

Community centre spokesperson Sam Ryan said: "Afterwards, we invited everyone to stay for a discussion about what the film means for Hillfields and how we can tackle these challenges by pulling together.

"The room was buzzing with energy, and the ideas were fantastic, including bringing people together to enjoy nature through events, learning to grow your own food through gardening courses and swapping seeds with neighbours."

The following day group held its third Climate and Nature Day at the community centre, with residents taking part in activities and picking up tips on keeping energy bills down, making homes more comfortable, installing water butts and planting fruit trees.

To find out more about Hillfields CAN visit tinyurl.com/rm8d4nzh.

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**Thursday 26th November
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- ✓ Ask questions

'The atmosphere in classrooms is calm' (OFSTED 2026)



OPEN DAYS

Pupils enjoy coming to this inclusive and welcoming school' (OFSTED 2026)

NEWS

James brings solar power to his old school

LONGWELL Green Primary is one of a number of schools and public buildings in South Gloucestershire benefiting from lower energy bills and reduced carbon emissions thanks to solar panels.

By coincidence, one of the people installing the environmentally friendly measures at the primary was one of its former pupils, James Harvey.

James, now 44, an electrician with the award-winning Bristol-based SolarSense for over 20 years, said: "My teachers have retired now and, of course, renewable energy wasn't part of the conversation or curriculum when I was in the classroom

"But to go back to where I started, and to see them embracing renewables and bringing what children are learning about climate action to life right above their heads was really pretty special."

Headteacher Darren Brown said: "A couple of years ago, we saved up to replace every light in the school with energy efficient LEDs, and now, with wonderful support from our Local Authority, installing solar panels takes that further again, bringing classroom conversations around sustainability to life."

South Gloucestershire Council has been able to expand renewable energy generation at 11 schools this year, partly funded by



James Harvey is back at his former primary

the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority as part of Great British Energy's Mayoral Renewables Fund.

New Horizons primary and secondary schools and St Stephen's Infants benefited from the scheme too.

The council has also invested in solar capacity at community facilities, such as libraries and children's centres, including Hanham and Cadbury Heath libraries.

The investment has more than doubled the council's rooftop solar generation capacity.

Cabinet councillor Louise Harris said: "Putting solar panels on the council buildings and schools was a real way we could make a difference. We're really pleased to see solar installed across the council's buildings.

"It is estimated that each school or public building that's had solar installed as part of this programme will save around a third of its energy costs. It's a win for the environment and keeps costs down.

"By harnessing the power of the sun, solar panels produce clean, low-carbon energy, helping to reduce dependence on traditional electricity and gas supplies.

"We are putting our climate and nature action plan into action and demonstrating the council's continued commitment to addressing the climate and nature emergency, reducing carbon emissions, and supporting the transition to a cleaner, greener future for South Gloucestershire."

Helen Godwin, Mayor of the West of England, said: "Saving money through green energy today can help protect tomorrow, and thanks to more new funding, we will be able to help even more communities. It's great to see South Gloucestershire Council matching the investment provided by the Mayoral Renewables Fund, secured from Great British Energy."



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COMMUNITY NEWS



BARRS COURT PROBUS

WE have just returned from a wonderful Welsh adventure with Barrs Court Probus Club, accompanied by our wives and partners, and we can proudly report that we reached the summit of Snowdon.

In the interests of honest reporting, however, we should admit that we took the train. We may be retired, but we still know a sensible shortcut when we see one!

Our holiday took us to Snowdonia National Park, also known as Eryri, where a journey aboard the Snowdon Mountain Railway carried us to the top of Wales's highest mountain. At 1,085 metres, it was quite an achievement — especially for those of us who prefer our uphill journeys with a seat.

We needed no ropes, crampons or heroic feats of endurance, but there was still a real sense of adventure as we travelled up the mountainside. Reaching the summit together was a memorable highlight, even if the locomotive had done rather more exercise than we had.

We also visited Bodnant Garden, exploring its formal terraces, wooded valleys and riverside paths. It provided a delightful contrast to our mountain adventure, with plenty to discover at a more leisurely pace. Here, we did our own walking — there are limits to how much work you can delegate to a railway.

Another memorable stop saw us gather for a photograph outside the station at Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerych-wryn drobwllllantysiliogogoch. Getting us all into the picture was one challenge; fitting the station's name into the caption was another. Thankfully, nobody required us to pronounce it before letting us leave.

We had a great time, sharing new experiences, good company and a few laughs along the way. Our holiday was a reminder that retirement need not mean putting adventure behind us. We may choose a more comfortable route to the summit these days, but we still enjoy reaching new heights.

At Barrs Court Probus, we are an active retired men's club, with wives and partners joining us on our outings and holidays. We are looking for new members who enjoy good company and would like to share in future adventures. To find out more, contact Robert Puddy at robertpuddy@gmail.com

Robert Puddy



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- 

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5–6pm



Tuesday
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■ NEWS

Carbon neutral plan dropped

SOUTH Gloucestershire Council has dropped plans to make the district "carbon neutral" by 2030.

A new four-year nature and climate draft strategy has been approved, replacing the one agreed in 2020, and will instead focus on improving lives and health for residents and wildlife, with few targets.

A report to the council's health and wellbeing board in October said both the council and the district as a whole were reducing harmful emissions but that the rate was not fast enough to reach 'net zero' by the end of the decade. It said that while renewable energy was growing, this was not at the levels needed to achieve the original goal.

The new draft strategy has ten aims by 2030, which still include making the authority itself a carbon neutral council, despite a pessimistic update in the report. The aim to make South Gloucestershire as a whole net zero is replaced with a vague pledge towards "area wide emissions reductions".

The report said: "In 2019, South Glos Council declared a climate emergency pledging to provide the leadership to enable South Glos to become carbon neutral by 2030. We wrote the original public facing strategy in 2020 and the agenda has moved on since then."

The report said 500 residents and businesses took part in a survey asking what actions were most needed to tackle the climate emergency.

It said: "The two most important issues to residents were protection and restoration of nature and improving the quality of water and rivers. These were closely followed by support for those who are more impacted by local climate breakdown (eg, the elderly and very young, people with existing health conditions) as well as support for increasing locally based renewable energy."

The revised strategy will be submitted to the cabinet and full council in December.

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service

Drug driver sentenced

A MAN who was caught driving while disqualified, uninsured and under the influence of cannabis has been sentenced.

Adam Baker, 27, of Kingsway Avenue, Kingswood appeared at Bristol Magistrates Court in October after admitting a series of driving and drug offences.

Officers were alerted to Baker's BMW 1 Series travelling on A370 heading out of Bristol towards Backwell in April, after intelligence indicated it may have been being driven by a disqualified driver.

The vehicle was located and stopped after it pulled into a petrol station near Backwell.

Baker was identified as the driver and officers established he was travelling with family members, including young children, in the vehicle.

Due to concerns he may have been under the influence of drugs, officers carried out a roadside drug test, which indicated the presence of cannabis. He was subsequently arrested.



Adam Baker

Further checks confirmed Baker was disqualified from driving and did not have insurance. During a search, officers also found a quantity of cannabis in his possession.

Baker was sentenced to carry out 120 hours of unpaid work and was disqualified from driving for 36 months.

PC Ben Tucker, of the local response policing team, said:

"This case demonstrates the value of intelligence-led policing and the proactive tactics we use to target those who choose to disregard the law."

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■ ADVERTORIAL

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

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

unheard of.

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

Most of The Window Hub's work is replacing tired windows and doors in homes people already love, so the team is used to working carefully around family life and leaving every room clean and tidy. Installations are FENSA registered, and every job comes with an insurance-backed



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COMMUNITY NEWS

THE EVERGREENS

TWELVE members met for a spot of lunch before going on Bristol's Air Raid Shelter & St. Nicholas Market Walking Tour. This included a walk through the old town to see the WW2 Blitz damage, spectacular architecture and learn about Bristol's trading past. After this, their guide, dressed in WW2 costume, led them beneath the streets for a subterranean tour through Bristol's biggest public air raid shelter. This was a time capsule providing visitors exclusive access to areas of the city that are usually unavailable to the public. It is said that you may even meet Margaret – the friendly ghost!

At the last monthly Evergreens' meeting, with the nights drawing in and the weather on the turn, members were busy with Halloween/autumnal themed fun craft activities. Nimble fingers and imaginative brains were put to the test, creating two different sorts of interior wreaths, spooky scratch art and colourful window silhouettes. Everyone had fun, and the results were hauntingly good. This was followed by refreshments,

including homemade cakes and biscuits.

Upcoming activities include an evening supper at Zest in Hanham with the option of 2 cocktails for 1 before 7 pm, a Craft Day, a coach trip to the Longleat Light Show, an evening buffet at the Saltford Golf Club and, of course, the Christmas Party.

We now have just over 60 members which is great news. Next month's talk will be on AI and the use of WhatsApp and other IT related issues.

There are currently four book clubs running, other activity groups include knitting, gardening, cinema, walking, social suppers, craft days as well as separate Day Trips being organised.

The Evergreens' meetings are on the third Friday of the month at 7.30 pm at Longwell Green Community Centre and new members are welcome. If you are interested in visiting, please get in touch by email at longwellevergreens@gmail.com, or come along on the meeting evening. We look forward to seeing you.

Kamann Huang

HANHAM WI

HANHAM Community Centre was transformed into a catwalk fashion venue on a warm October evening as 130 ladies gathered to enjoy a fabulous fashion show in support of local charities.

Organised in partnership with Colours, who generously provided their services free of charge, the event showcased a stunning selection of discounted clothing from many well-known high street brands. Over 90 minutes, the compère and models displayed an array of stylish outfits catering for all ages, shapes and sizes, proving that fashion really is for everyone. Guests were delighted to discover many items were available at up to 70% below high street prices.

A selection of leather handbags complemented the clothing collections, and once the show had ended, the audience had the opportunity to browse, try on garments and enjoy some retail therapy of their own.

The Colours team were professional, friendly and enthusiastic throughout, helping to make the evening a great success.

Thanks to ticket sales and a raffle—boosted by a generous £50 gift voucher donated by Colours—we raised an impressive £660 for local charities. Free tea, coffee and cake for all our guests rounded off a thoroughly enjoyable evening.

Our attention now turns to our ever-popular Autumn Fayre, taking place at Hanham Community Centre on **Saturday 7th November** from 10am to 1pm.

All 28 stalls have been booked, promising a wonderful variety of goods including Christmas gifts, fresh produce, woodcraft, books, jewellery, handmade crafts, greetings cards and, of course, delicious homemade WI cakes.

Our famous bacon rolls will once again be available, together with a selection of hot and cold refreshments. There will also be a grand raffle featuring some superb hampers and prizes.

Whether you're looking for early Christmas presents, a bargain, or simply somewhere to enjoy a coffee and a catch-up with friends, we'd love to see you. Entry is free, there is ample free parking, and everyone is welcome.

Dianna Coles



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■ COMMUNITY NEWS

BITTON WI

OUR group were welcomed on another unseasonably warm Monday afternoon in October where we learned that we had lost another former WI member and villager, Gill Gibson. Our group sent our condolences to her husband, Ken and her family at this sad time.

Some of our Group members had enjoyed a visit to a warm and sunny Sidmouth and our Group Fashion Show hosted by Hanham WI. I understand they made over £600 at the event to give to charities, which is tremendous. Our crafters have still been busy producing poppies for the church display and we understand they have already started the process of sewing some 3,000 poppies onto the netting. It will be lovely to see the finished product on the Church in November.

Our speaker this month came to us from the Great Western Air Ambulance charity. Sully is one of their fundraisers who joined us to tell us about the great work the charity does.

Sully reiterated that they are a charity and whilst they work with the NHS they have no funding from them or the Government. She told how they usually attend the worst 1%

Alongside their well known green and blue helicopter (Helimed 65) they also have cars which are all equipped to a high specification to help patients in their time of need. The cars are used for at least two-thirds of the call outs and especially when the weather grounds Helimed65. They are also preferred when it is easier and often quicker to get to a patient by road, when it is dark, or if it is unlikely that the Helimed can land close enough to the patient. Both Helimed and the cars are fitted out with specialist equipment and much more than can be found in a usual ambulance. They can also carry medications and bloods to allow them to administer these to critical ill or injured patients.

We heard how there are two teams of highly skilled trained crew. The teams consist of specialist paramedics who have gone through a stringent enrolment process and a further

2 years training to work with the critical care teams. There is also a Dr who is often a specialist consultant working in our local hospitals. Again they will have 2 years training to work with the team. Finally, the crew has a pilot, who as the name suggests flies the Helimed. These too are skilled in flying their helicopter in difficult or unknown conditions.

The service is called upon on average, at least 6 times a day. Their biggest call out by far is for a Cardiac Arrest and they now offer training to individuals on CPR which can save lives if administered quickly enough.

A really interesting insight into their work and an acknowledgement that without them a lot of lives may be lost.

Our next meeting will take place on 9th November 2026 in the Church Hall at 2 pm. This will be a Special Meeting rather than an Annual Meeting as it is likely that our WI Group will be suspended. This is for a number of reasons, but mainly because we no longer have enough members wishing to sit on the Committee. I will bring you further news on this and what

happens next in my December news.

Karen Davidson

INSIDE OUT GROUP

A NEW support group for those who have had their lives turned Inside Out following loss begins in November.

It is coordinated by retired Methodist minister Anthony Hick.

He said: "I have been aware for some time that there's a need for a local peer support group where it's safe to share how they are coping with loss – loss of a loved one, loss of job, loss of identity."

"I believe there's something to be learned from characters in the past and their stories of how they have coped, as well as our own journeys."

The Inside Out group will meet over six weeks on a Wednesday afternoon, starting on 4th November at Wesley Cottage in Kingswood.

For more details and to book a place, contact Anthony Hick on 07726342744.



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WHAT'S ON

NOVEMBER EVENTS

November 3rd

■ **KINGSWOOD HISTORY**

SOCIETY Presentation by Clive Burlton: **A Night at the Cinema** (please refer to website www.kingswoodhistorysociety.org for any late change). Park Centre, Kingswood, Tuesday 3rd November, 7pm for 7.30pm start. Visitors £4 incl tea/coffee and biscuits.

November 13th

■ **WARMLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE.**

Presentation by George Harrill, the Battle for Arnhem and the Bridge to Far, September 1944. £5 entry with proceeds to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Starts at 7.30 pm on Friday 13 November at the Warmley Community Centre, 20 Deanery Road, Kingswood, Bristol. BS15 9JB. Tea coffee and other refreshments will be available. Contact George Harrill on 07939 267721 email georgeh66@icloud.com

REGULAR EVENTS

MONDAY

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

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

TUESDAY

■ **LIP READING CLASS**, 1.30-3pm at North Common Village Hall, Millers Drive, BS30 8YH. Contact Mary Hall 07790 283939, lipreadingmary@yahoo.com

■ **TUESDAY CLUB** a social group meet every Tuesday 1.45-3.45pm at Longwell Green Community Centre

■ **EXERCISE AND FRIENDSHIP GROUP** at The Community Project in Cadbury Heath (BS30 8EL) every Tuesday, 11:00 – 12:30. Join our over 65s. Improve strength, balance, and more in a fun, inclusive environment. Just £5/session includes tea/coffee and chat. Don't miss out on boosting your well-being! For more information contact Adam - 07875503586

■ **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

■ **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

■ **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 Probud club members meet 10-12 on the second Wednesday of each month at the United Church, Bath Road, Longwell Green. Website: <https://barrscourtprobud.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 Ian 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 is 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.blacksheepharmy.com

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

■ **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 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

Looking after your health and wellbeing

Winter can be a beautiful time of year, but it can also be incredibly difficult. As the days grow shorter and temperatures fall, many of us face challenges that go far beyond coughs, colds and seasonal illnesses.

For some, winter brings loneliness. For others, it means worrying about heating bills, managing existing health conditions, or simply finding the energy to get through another day while caring for and supporting others.

If you are finding things difficult, please remember: you matter, your health matters, and you do not have to face everything alone.

Looking after our wellbeing means caring for both our physical and mental health. They are deeply connected. Getting enough rest, eating nourishing meals, staying active and maintaining contact with friends, family and neighbours can make a real difference. Even a short walk,

a conversation or a moment of kindness can help lift someone's day.

We will always make time for you at Ellacombe Pharmacy but looking after ourselves also means knowing when to ask for help.

Ellacombe pharmacy is more than somewhere to collect medicines. It is a community health -hub : a place of care, compassion, reassurance and practical support.

Through the NHS Pharmacy First service in England, our pharmacists now assess and treat common conditions providing effective treatments including antibiotics for infected sore throats, sinusitis, earache and urinary tract infections. You can receive the advice and treatment you need without waiting for a GP appointment.

Winter also brings increased risks from flu and COVID, particularly for older people and those with underlying health

conditions. Vaccination remains one of our most important protections. Remember unpaid family members with caring responsibility are eligible for the Free NHS flu vaccination.

We will help you understand your eligibility and access NHS flu and COVID-19 vaccinations where available. Our super affordable private Flu and COVID vaccination offer is designed to make being protected easier.

And if improving your weight or managing your long-term health is a priority, we offer supportive, confidential conversations about healthy weight management, lifestyle changes and appropriate treatment options. Our affordable ethical weight- loss clinic is transforming the health and wellbeing of many people locally.

There should be no judgement, no embarrassment and no shame in asking for support.

Perhaps most importantly, let's look out for one another.



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

Community is where the treasure of life is. Check in on neighbours, call someone who lives alone. Notice when a friend seems withdrawn. Small acts of kindness can have an extraordinary impact. Volunteer if you can, our community most certainly needs you!

In our pharmacy, we see every day that healthcare is not simply about treating illness. It is about listening, understanding and helping people feel valued.

This winter, please don't wait until things become overwhelming. Come in and see us, have a conversation and please let us help. Call us on 01179322293

Because a healthier winter begins with compassion, connection and the reassurance that nobody should be left behind.

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■ ANTIQUES

Got a hidden treasure?



ON November 16 we're holding an 'Evening Valuation Event', and you're welcome to bring along anything you're thinking of selling; from jewellery to ceramics, vintage toys to medals.

We get asked quite often if we do valuations 'out of hours', and we've finally taken the hint!

I cannot tell you how much we all really enjoy our valuation events. My favourite part of what we do is meeting interesting people, and discovering interesting items, and our valuation evening will no doubt tick both of those boxes!

To give you an idea of why myself and the team love these events so much, let me share a story from just last week. An elderly gentleman walked into one of our valuation roadshow events carrying a small box of his late wife's jewellery. He had previously taken it to one of those travelling

'cash for gold' companies who offered him £600 in cash, on the spot. Unsure if that was a fair price, he thankfully decided to bring it to us for a second opinion. When our specialist looked through the collection, we immediately spotted a couple of exceptional, understated pieces that were worth far more than the scrap value. We catalogued the items for our next sale, and after some spirited bidding from buyers, the collection sold at auction for over £3,000. It's a powerful reminder of why getting an expert opinion matters so much.

So mark Monday November 16 on your calendar. We'll be open late until 7.30pm, and since no appointment is needed, you can drop in whenever suits you best. Gather up those mystery objects and come join us - you never know, you might just be sitting on a hidden treasure of your own.

Andy Stowe

■ COMMUNITY NEWS

SOUTH GLOS WINE CIRCLE

OCTOBER was our first meeting back in the hall after the summer break. Sadly we had to announce the passing of one of our members who was a long standing supporter of the circle and a lifelong friend of our member presenting the tasting. Originally this was a Portuguese tasting but in memory of his friend he produced a tasting of her favourite wine Cotes du Rhone. It was a superb tasting and a great opportunity to raise a glass to her. We also gave a warm welcome to three new members who joined us.

November in the hall will feature a range of sherries. For the last of our 60th anniversary celebrations we have booked a private room at Hotel du Vin in the Centre of Bristol for a Sunday lunch. The hotel is easily accessible by bus and we are all looking forward to it.

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

SOMETHING TO SAY?

Email news@hanhamandlongwellgreenvoice.co.uk



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■ HANHAM & KINGSWOOD PHOTO CLUB



Railway man by Alan James



Top man by Russell Lawrence



Stallholder by Steve Hallam

Powerful portraits in the spotlight

OVER the coming months, Hanham and Kingswood Photo Club will be celebrating the creativity and skill of our members by showcasing work from a variety of photographic genres. Photography spans many popular styles — including portrait, landscape, street, sports, wildlife, architecture, event, and travel — each offering its own opportunities for artistic expression.

This month, we're delighted to highlight portrait photography, a genre dedicated to capturing people, emotion, and personality. From professional headshots to imaginative environmental portraits, portraiture remains one of the most versatile and commercially significant areas of photography.

Our members consistently produce striking, character-driven images that demonstrate both technical expertise and a strong creative eye.

We invite local readers, photography enthusiasts, and anyone curious about developing their skills to discover more about the club.

Whether you're an experienced photographer or just starting, Hanham and Kingswood Photo Club offers a welcoming space to learn, share, and be inspired.

More information, 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



Little smiler by Sue Bennett



Water fight by Steve Pickering

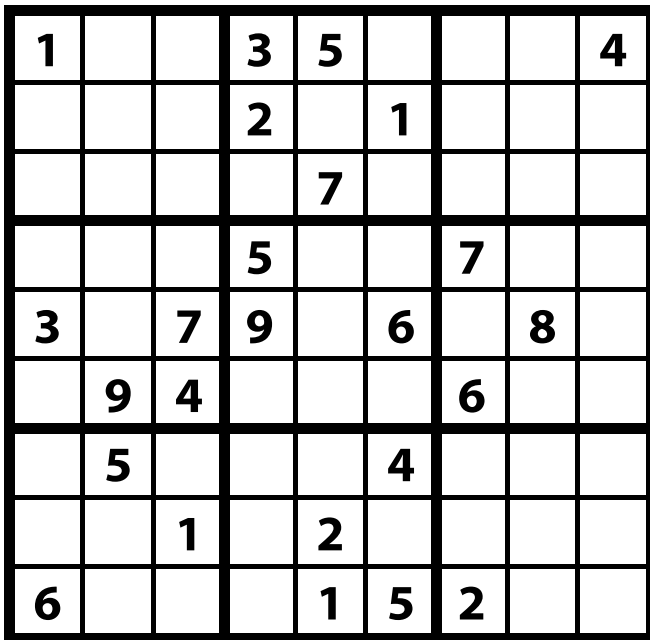


The tattooed man by Peter Weaver

PUZZLE PAGE

Sudoku

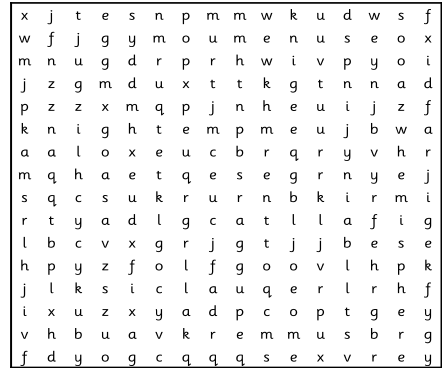
Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.



For younger readers



Autumn Equinox Word Search



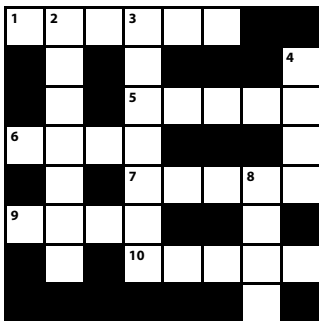
autumn day equal equator
equinox fall hemisphere night
northern September summer sun

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Activity
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Txtpert

Theme: Countries



Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.
For example: 2 could be A, B or C ... and 5678 could be LOST

Across

1 528842 (6)
5 86642 (5)
6 3454 (4)
7 26646 (5)
9 2822 (4)
10 63725 (5)

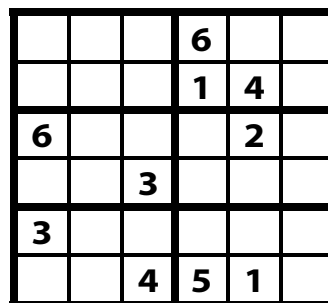


Down

2 2684482 (7)
3 8284226 (7)
4 3276 (4)
8 4826 (4)

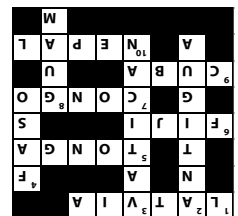
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Rules the same as the Fiend, but only six numbers in each box, row and column



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LOCAL HISTORY

How cricket brought a community together

Glenside Hospital Museum volunteer Evan Jenkinson talks to former nurse Stephen Evans about the social and therapeutic benefits of the hospital's cricket club

CRICKET was a popular activity at Glenside Hospital from its inception in 1861 to its closure in 1994.

Its impact is remembered well by Stephen Evans, who joined the hospital as a registered mental nurse in 1976.

He was 23, and quickly got involved with the cricket club, which he said was "just a knock about, but really important".

The pitch used during Stephen's time between 1976 and 1992 featured a square that had been laid down using coke filings from the hospital's boiler room in the 1950s, which patients rolled as part of their active work.

He said: "It was so good and quick, and high - a beautiful pitch. Gloucestershire's second XI even played on it a couple of times."

Stephen remembers a teammate making 96, and a game of aiming at the oak tree on the far side of the pitch.

He also remembers playing on a hot dry day in the summer of 1976: "For some reason me



The building of the cricket pavilion in the 1950s, drawn by patient and artist Denis Reed

and another lad were the only two who could bowl, and must have done around 20 overs. I felt like I'd lost about 20 lbs.

"We played many local sides: Portway, Southmead, Stapleton and Frenchay.

"They've sadly built over the old pitch at Southmead, where I was lucky enough to hit my one and only 50 for Glenside."

There was also a resident football team, Glenside St Gabriel's FC; many men played both

football and cricket, as well as for local rugby sides such as Ashley Down Old Boys RFC, with whom Stephen is still connected today.

Sport supported the hospital's "moral treatment method", and also brought together the hospital community, and local society.

Whether on the pitch, in the clubhouse (also built in 1950s) or on the sidelines chatting with patients, staff or family and friends, the sport created many happy memories, with many games so popular they sold out.

Stephen said: "We had some great times, with annual dinners the standout. The vicar here at the time did an absolutely tremendous after dinner speech for us. His speech was hilarious, and he'd come and watch a lot as well; I'll never forget that.

"Cricket was the enjoyable community event people of all walks in the hospital, from senior management to humble workers elsewhere, could play and enjoy, be treated as equals and given opportunity.

"It epitomised all that was good and I loved it while it lasted."

• Glenside Hospital Museum is open on Wednesdays from 10am-1pm and Saturdays from 10am-4pm.

For more details visit glensidemuseum.org.uk.

Unlicensed breeder fined

A FRENCHAY woman has been ordered to pay more than £4,000 in fines and costs after she admitted breeding puppies without a licence.

Bristol City Council said its trading standards animal health team launched an investigation last year, after complaints that Eloise Templar had been breeding and selling high value puppies without a licence from her council-owned home address since 2023.

Investigators found that breeding and sales of puppies such as Cavapoos (Cavalier King Charles spaniel and poodle cross) without a licence were regularly taking place at the property, with each puppy being advertised at a cost of around £1,400.

The council said Templar had received previous warnings but continued with the sales.

She was charged with breeding and selling puppies from her home address without the appropriate licence under the Animal Welfare Act and pleaded guilty at Bristol Magistrates Court in September.

Templar was fined £1,442, ordered to pay a victim surcharge of £577 and £2,000 towards the council's costs.

Council public health and communities committee chair Stephen Williams said: "I welcome the magistrates' decision and thank our Animal Health Team for their hard work and dedication in bringing this case before the courts.

"This prosecution sends a clear message that we will take decisive action wherever there is evidence of poor animal welfare standards and will pursue anyone who breeds and sells animals without the appropriate licence.

"Anyone looking to buy a puppy or other pet should always check that the breeder is properly licensed before making a purchase so that you can be confident that the animal has been bred and cared for in line with health and welfare standards."

People are being urged to report unlicensed breeders to Animalhealth@southglos.gov.uk in South Glos and animal.health@bristol.gov.uk in Bristol.

New life for pushchairs

THE charity Baby Bank Network has set up a partnership with Bristol Airport to reuse pushchairs and prams that have been left behind by passengers.

Under the scheme, any pram or pushchair that is unclaimed and meets safety standards is stored in a purpose-built shelter at the airport until the Baby Bank team can collect them and pass them on to families in need - preventing them from being dumped in landfill.

Between June and August this year, Baby Bank collected 48 good quality prams in 'excellent' condition, with an estimated value of £4,880, which are being passed on to local families.

The partnership came about with support from Business in the Community, a group which connects businesses with partners to help local communities.

Baby Bank Network Bristol chief executive Becky Gilbert said: "Reuse is central to what we do - taking good-quality, pre-loved items that would otherwise go to waste and passing them onto families across Bristol.

"When we found out how many prams were being discarded, it felt like the perfect opportunity for collaboration."



Seonaid Davis from Baby Bank Network with some of the abandoned pushchairs

KINGSWOOD HERITAGE MUSEUM



LEST WE FORGET

Remembrance Sunday is observed at many venues across our area on the second Sunday of November, and commemorates all the members of our Armed Forces who have died

in wars and other military conflicts since the onset of World War I.

The traditional two-minute period of silence will be observed this year on Sunday 8th November, and church services and other ceremonial gatherings will take place

during the day. The national two-minute silence will begin at 11:00 am, marked by the firing of guns by the King's Troop on Horse Guards Parade.

Armistice Day is on Wednesday November 11, commemorating the

end of fighting in World War I on that date in 1918.

The two photographs show the Remembrance Services at St James Place in Mangotsfield in 1978 and in 1988. Both photographs are courtesy of the South Gloucestershire Gazette.

Opening times

The Museum is open until the end of November from 2 – 5pm every Saturday, Sunday and Tuesday. Children under 16 are admitted free.

Museum Talk: Boaters and Boathooks

This month's talk takes place at Kingswood Heritage Museum on Wednesday November 11th, when Alison Cannon will take us back in time to discover the adventures of Victorian pleasure boaters in "Boaters and Boathooks".

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

Events and Activities

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.

Guided Tours

Discover what happens behind the scenes at Kingswood Heritage Museum on Sunday 1 November at 2pm. Join Curator and local historian Steve Wood and Trust Chair Lynda Blackwell for a special guided tour exploring the museum library, archive collections, hidden treasures and the work involved in preserving local history. The 1½-hour tour includes museum admission and costs £8 per person. Places are limited and must be booked in advance via **0117 9605664**, or by email: kingswoodmuseum@gmail.com.

Windmill Winter Craft Fair:

Sunday 29th November, 11am – 4.30pm

Browse a wide variety of handmade gifts, crafts and festive treats at Kingswood Heritage Museum's popular Winter Craft Fair. Held in the historic setting of Britain's tallest industrial windmill, it's the perfect place to find unique Christmas presents, enjoy seasonal refreshments and support local makers. Entry to the Craft Fair is free, and the Windmill café will be open.

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.

Join us

Do you have some free time? Would you like to help us to conserve and display the history of our area, and to pass our knowledge on to future generations?

Whatever skills you can offer, Kingswood Heritage Museum would like to hear from you. If you would like to join our enthusiastic and friendly group of volunteers do get in touch by emailing us at kingswoodmuseum@gmail.com, or simply call us on **0117 9605664**. We would love to hear from you!

COMMUNITY NEWS

MANGOTSFIELD DOLLY MIXTURES

OUR guided walk and talk on Bristol's chocolate and sugar history began at the bottom of Christmas Steps.

We were very lucky passing St Bartholomew's Hospital, a medieval monastery hospital, as we were allowed entry to have a look round at some of the original 13th century building.

The tour continued to the Hotel Du Vin, originally the Sugar House, where we sampled some cane sugar, then under St John's Arch and along Broad Street to Guilberts Chocolates; across Castle Park and the river Avon to Finzels Reach and Ruby Hue chocolate makers, who grind their own beans: the smells were wonderful.

We had a Greek night out at the Olympus restaurant in Kingswood. The food was freshly cooked; it was all very authentic with music, dance and plate smashing. The Dollies would like to thank Teddi and her team for making it a super

evening.

We have just had our monthly meeting in the hall, where one of our members gave a demonstration on how breathing and simple exercises can assist sleep and help control stress and anxiety.

In November one of our members who is a florist will be demonstrating making a table decoration from silk flowers, and we will all take part.

We are supporting St James' Christmas Fair on November 28, providing tea and coffee.

December will be a minibus trip to Wells Xmas market, with lunch in the Swan Hotel.

Our meeting won't be in the hall but an evening meal in Madison's, with entertainment by Frankie Johns and his grandson.

We are also taking part in St James' Church Treefest on the 9th to the 13th, and displaying our decorated tree.

For more information, email carol@applause.co.uk.

Carol Coombs

news@hanhamandlongwellgreenvoice.co.uk

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KINGSWOOD HISTORY SOCIETY

The Origins of 'Liberties' in the Kingswood Chase Coalfield

by William Evans – 6th October 2026

William gave a comprehensive and engaging talk explaining how Kingswood Chase was divided into areas where associated names survive to this day.

He started by giving some background on the Forest of Kingswood which was administered from Bristol Castle with charges for digging coal. In 1228 it became disforested and became Kings Chase. Anyone digging coal or clay had to obtain a licence from the Crown.

Between 1610 and 1750 mining rights were claimed in the coalfield and the land became demarked and formed into partitions called 'Liberties'. They are shown on a famous map dated 1779 by Daniel Cook, which was transferred from an original plan of Mr Player dated 1750.

Those who claimed Liberties included Arthur Player of Downend. This was for iron ore and smelting. John Newton of Barrs Court, Lord Stafford (ancestor of the Duke of Buckingham), John Symes Berkeley of Stoke Park, Samuel Whittuck of Hanham Hall and Thomas Chester of Knole House Almondsbury to name but a few.

Technically, a Liberty was a legal term, giving unique legal autonomy, tax exemptions and the need to pay for a licence from the Crown.

The talk was finished with engaging questions from the audience which William fielded admirably.

Next meeting at the Park Centre, Kingswood is Tuesday 3rd November, 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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SPORT

FRY'S BOWLING CLUB

WITH the weather turning autumnal, Fry's Bowling Club wrapped up the 2026 season.

Club Competitions:

The internal competitions provided some close matches with the winners and runners up being presented with their trophies at the AGM. The middle of July saw the club hold their annual triples day. A sunny but windy day greeted the bowlers as one triple looked set for the title before the lunch break. The afternoon saw things change as the leaders could only draw their first game after the break leaving the title in the balance. Some composed bowling late on the their final game saw the triple of Andrew Nicholls, Graham Jury and Stephen Day hold on for the title with Steve Nicholls, Jeff Budd and Terry Morgan the runners up. The pairs final was another close match coming down

to the final end. The pair of Sally Morgan and Graham Jury Won the game by a single shot with Nick Grenfell & Kevin Smith taking the runners up. Nick would see success in the Over 70's Handicap taking the win over Jeff Budd. In a third final of the season, Nick would face Stephen Day, already having wrapped up the triples earlier in the season in the Two Wood final. It would be the latter taking the victory regaining the title Stephen last won in 2024, having been runner up in 2025. Also a runner up in the Handicap in 2025, Stephen would once again reach the final wrapping up another title with the runner up being Don Gourd. This victory secured a second triple crown in 3 years for Stephen following a much closer battle in the Championship final against Jeff Budd. A tight encounter came down to a few shots, but it would be Stephen taking the Championship title setting up the course for another triple crown.

Alongside the competitive bowls, the club also played around 50 friendly matches on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday afternoons, as well as ladies friendlies. The ladies team had good season, with some matches played against regular league players, showing the improvement since the team started a few years ago. Wednesday's and weekend's proved more challenging than past years, but were able to maintain around a 50% record. The club's thanks go to the captains for managing to get a team out each week.

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

Mangos win FA Vase thriller

MANGOTSFIELD United bounced back from three defeats in eight days to put together a run of three wins.

Coming after a hectic spell of cup runs and league matches, the 2-0 defeat at lowly Droitwich Spa proved extremely disappointing and was described by some fans as just "one game too many".

The Mangos never really got going against the Worcestershire side.

Three days later, the Mangos faced another away game, this time at Devizes Town, and once again it ended with a disappointing 2-0 defeat.

Both goals were scored by Owen Demkiv, the brother of former Mangotsfield striker Dan Demkiv, who also lined up in the Devizes forward line.

The third defeat came away at bogey side Roman Glass St George. The Mangos trailed 2-0 at the break, and the hosts added a third goal on 86 minutes.

A week's break was just what the doctor ordered, and seven days later Mangotsfield turned in an excellent performance to defeat high-flying Thornbury Town in front of a crowd of 351 at Cossham Street.

It was a much-improved display. After a battling first half, the Mangos took the lead on 47 minutes through Mohammed Djalo. George Neill made it 2-0 on 73 minutes and, despite valiant attempts by Thornbury, Mangotsfield stood firm to stop

the slide into the lower echelons of the league table.

A week later came an FA Vase fixture against Gosport-based Fleetlands FC, previously unknown opponents.

It gave everyone another break from league football and what a game it was, finishing 3-3, with four goals in a thrilling second half, before the Mangos won the penalty shoot-out 4-3.

Mangotsfield's scorers were Mohammed Djalo (32 and 72) and Owen Pritchard (49).

They now travel to Andover New Street in the next round.

The return to Hellenic Premier League action brought a very welcome 2-1 win at Hallen.

The Mangos began strongly and were 2-0 ahead by 22 minutes, courtesy of George Lloyd (15) and Frankie McKay (22).

Struggling Hallen got one back in the second half but the Mangos dug in to clinch the 3 points, watched by a disappointing home crowd of just 50 spectators.

Sadly the club announced on October 15 that veteran official and lifelong supporter Alan Williams had passed away at the age of 93, two days earlier.

Alan was a stalwart of the club over so many years, and everyone who follows the Mangos knew him.

My deepest sympathy and condolences to Alan's family and friends.

Dave Smale



Alan Williams

Upcoming fixtures:

November 7:
Droitwich Spa (home)
November 10:
Thornbury Town (away)
November 14:
Banbury United Development - Hellenic Challenge Cup (A)
November 17:
Highworth Town (H)
November 21:
Hereford Pegasus (H)
November 28:
Royal Wootton Bassett Town (A)

Flying high

DOWNEND Flyers' Under-13 teams are making their mark in the Bristol Girls League and County Cup.

Our U13 Kites are enjoying an unbeaten start in the highly competitive Division A of the Bristol Girls League, and are also mid-table.

The Kites recently produced an outstanding performance in the County Cup against local rivals BOCO, securing a convincing 5-0 victory to book their place in the next round.

It's a fantastic result for the team and a great reward for all their hard work.

Our U13 Owls are also unbeaten, and sitting second in Division B of the Bristol Girls League as the Voice went to print.

They carried their excellent league form into the County Cup, putting in an incredible performance to defeat Longwell Green Pumas 8-1 and secure their place in the next round.

Our U13 Nightingales have made a brilliant start to the season in Division C of the Bristol Girls League, currently sitting comfortably in mid-table.

Under new management, the team has benefited from an incredible amount of time, effort and commitment from its coaches, who are working hard to help the girls develop, grow in confidence.

Steve Poole

SPORT

Hockey season off to great start for Bristol & West

THE new hockey season is well underway, and Bristol & West HC is making its presence felt across the regional leagues.

With standout scorelines, strong tactical discipline, and a buzzing club atmosphere at Mangotsfield School, B&W's squads have enjoyed a brilliant start to the campaign.

The Men's 1st XI are off to a flying start, with three wins out of three so far.

They started on the road with a proper 'smash and grab' job away at Swindon.

After going a goal down and levelling minutes later, with about 10 minutes to go the side conceded a penalty flick that was tipped onto the post and saved by goalkeeper Darren Ashley.

The lads went on to win the game with the very last touch of the match, the final whistle ringing as celebrations were still ongoing.

Returning to home turf, they followed up with a more composed performance to see off Royal Wootton Bassett 1s (5-2),



Bristol & West men's 1sts at Bath

then dominated in a convincing 5-0 away win over City of Bath 2s.

Top of the table, they are looking to keep the momentum going after 13 wins on the bounce, including the end of last season.

The Men's 2nd XI have made a solid start, displaying great attacking flair to see off Swansea 2s 6-0, followed by a 2-1 win away to Whitchurch 2s.

They lost a tough contest 3-1 against Cardiff University 2s, but spirits remain high moving forward.

The Men's 3s opened with a 6-6 draw with North Somerset 1s, then thumped their next two opponents 6-0 and 7-0 respectively.

The women's section has matched the men stride for stride.

The Firsts have hit the ground

running, demonstrating sharp tactical organisation, defensive solidity and clinical finishing.

Their impressive early wins - over Westberries 2s (3-2), Corsham 1s (3-0) and Team Bath 4s (1-0) - highlight the high standard of hockey being played across the board.

Not to be outdone, the L2s have also dominated early on with three wins out of three - a seriously impressive start.

Elsewhere, the club's heartbeat remains its flourishing junior section. Sunday mornings at Mangotsfield School continue to buzz with energy as new juniors pick up sticks for the first time, supported by dedicated coaches and volunteers who ensure the pipeline for local hockey talent remains robust.

Recent results saw the U14s go unbeaten at a tournament in Yate, followed by thrashing South Glos, who had a couple of adults on the pitch, 11-1.

For more information about the club visit www.bandwhc.org.uk. **Harry Bryant**

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