

# The Week *in*

East Bristol & North East Somerset

FREE

Issue no 407

28th January 2016

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Appeal over deregistration of common dropped

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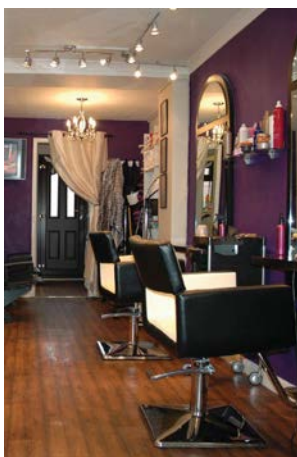
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# Warning of roadworks on the A4

Drivers and residents are being warned to brace themselves for disruption next month when there will be lane closures and temporary traffic lights on the A4 through Saltford due to resurfacing works.

Motorists have already had to put up with long delays this month with temporary traffic lights on the A4175 Keynsham Road between Willsbridge and Keynsham because of water main works.

B&NES Council, working in partnership with construction company Skanska, has announced that resurfacing works at Saltford will begin on 22nd February. The lane closures and temporary lights will be in operation between 7am and 7pm and the work is expected to last up to a week.

In a letter to local homes, highway chiefs say that where possible they will try to maintain access for residents to private

frontages but only when it is safe to do so and as site operations allow: "Unfortunately there will be periods when vehicular access will not be possible so please be prepared to make other access arrangements."

Bus operators have also been informed and will be adjusting services where required during the works.

Notices will be positioned along the route to warn drivers of the roadworks and possible disruption to journey times.



## Downend

### Teenager arrested on suspicion of flashing

Police have now arrested a 16-year-old boy in connection with a series of indecent exposures in the Downend area in December.

The arrest relates to five incidents in total, all happening between 6pm and 10pm.

One was on Tuesday 15th December, two were on Sunday 27th December and two were on Monday 28th December. All were in the Westerleigh Road neighbourhood. The boy has been released on bail, pending further inquiries. A 29-year-old man and a 26-year-old man, both from the local area, had previously been questioned by police about the incidents.



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# Green bin row resurfaces as council tax is set to rise by almost 4%

**Council tax in South Gloucestershire looks set to rise by 3.99% from April and there are more cuts to services on the way as austerity continues.**

Budget papers setting out future spending plans were published last Friday but the Conservatives, who won control last May, have come under fire for not including their election promise to re-introduce free green bin collections.

The Tories were against the £36 per annum charge introduced in April 2014 which Liberal Democrats and Labour councillors voted for.

This week Claire Young, the Lib Dems' lead member on the Communities Committee, said the Tories "flagship policy" was nowhere to be seen: "We knew the council wouldn't be able to afford to keep free green bins so made sure the service was financially viable. The Tories had the same information and either didn't understand it or decided to mislead the public.

"Their new budget is without a single mention of garden waste collections. They promised to phase out the charge."

In response, the Conservatives said the charge was put in place at a cost of £650,000 to plug an identified budget gap of only £350,000. Having been left with "no choice", large numbers of residents signed up for it and it raises nearly £1.5m a year.

Council leader Matthew Riddle said: "The Conservatives committed to finding ways to responsibly remove the green bin charge and further committed that if elected, we would begin phasing it out. In our initial plans for this year we were confident we would be able to fund a £6 reduction in the charge at a cost of around £250,000.

"Following the local government finance settlement, we have had to take a tough decision and prioritise other frontline services. We will be protecting youth services, introducing an all-hours bus pass for the blind and saving our welfare grant for our most vulnerable.

"We've written to ministers to raise our concerns about the settlement and still plan to fulfil our manifesto commitment during our time in office."

The budget will be considered by the Policy & Resources Committee on 1st February, with the final vote taken by

councillors on 17th February. The 3.99% rise follows a five-year council tax freeze. From 2011 to 2015 the council has saved nearly £45m each year in annual spending. By the end of 2015/16, these are targeted to have delivered £56m per annum of savings.

From 2016/17 to 2019/20, the council has a provisional savings programme of an additional £23m per annum and expects to have to identify another £8m of savings by the end of the decade.

PCSOs At last Wednesday's Communities Committee meeting, councillors had to cut £277,000 from the community safety budget and voted to axe nine Police Community Support Officers. Other options they rejected included cutting support to tackle anti-social behaviour, domestic abuse and hate crime.

The committee also approved plans to consult the public about changes to the library service to save £640,000 a year.

Plans for community hubs were discussed and councillors adopted a policy of co-located services, including libraries and One Stop Shops, in single, easy-to-access facilities. They also agreed to keep public loos under review and facilities could close where suitable alternative facilities are identified within half a mile.



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# Well-known Rotarian dies

Elder Rotarian Edward Cannock has died at the age of 92. He passed away peacefully on 15th January after a short illness.

He joined the Rotary Club of Keynsham in 1960 and was secretary from 1965 to 1969. He became president in 1973/74. Edward's interests were many but he was particularly involved in overseas activities and enjoyed the social exchanges with the Argentan Rotary Club in France with which the Keynsham club is twinned.

He had a particular interest in the charity Tools for Self Reliance, which recycles much-needed hand tools to African countries.

And he was meticulous in keeping articles and information about the club and was its archivist for many years.

In recognition of his outstanding service to Rotary, he was

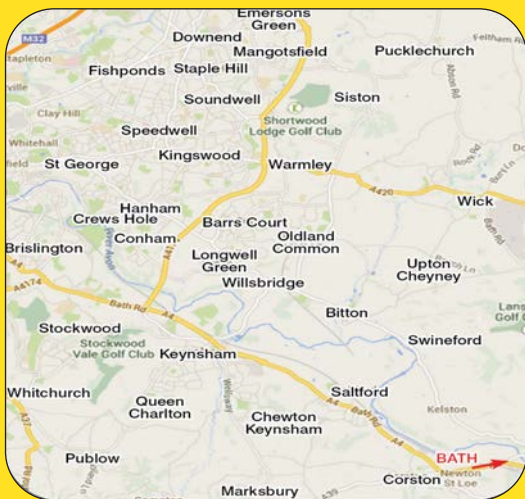


presented with a Paul Harris award in 2008 and a supplementary Sapphire award in 2014.

A spokesman for the club said: "Rotary looks for the highest standards from its members and Edward exemplified the very best of those qualities both in his business life and Rotary activities. We will surely miss Edward but we will remember him with affection as a friend and colleague who it was a great privilege to know."

The funeral is at Haycombe Crematorium in Bath on Tuesday 2nd February at 2.30pm.

## The Week in Keynsham & Salford Times



Barrs Court, Bitton, Brislington, Cadbury Heath, Compton Dando, Corston, Downend, Emersons Green, Fishponds, Hanham, Hillfields, Keynsham, Kingswood, Longwell Green, Mangotsfield, Marksbury, North Common, Oldland Common, Pucklechurch, Salford, Staple Hill, Stockwood, St George, Warmley, Whitchurch, Wick, Willsbridge.

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# Preparation works begin at station for new electric trains

A drop-in session was held Tuesday for people to find out about the closure of Keynsham Station in April for works connected to the electrification of the Great Western Main Line.

And there was welcome news for transport campaigners about the new shelters due to be installed at the station as part of the modernisation works.

There had been criticism that the replacement canopies would be little more than bus shelters, but there has been an assurance that although still at the design stage, they will be more substantial than outline drawings suggested.

However, Network Rail executives who were at last Tuesday's drop-in session at St John's Parish Hall were keen to point out there were constraints because of the overhead electrical lines. The Keynsham project involves creating extra overhead clearance through Station Road Bridge to make room for the power lines and the track will have to be lowered to achieve this.

The project's manager Stephen Boyne said the current canopies had to go as they were too big, as well as being old and shoddy. There will be a replacement shelter on the platform for Bristol while on the Bath side, the old canopy won't be replaced but the more modern brick shelter closer to the car



park will be made bigger.

## Station closure

Preparation work began at the station last Saturday and it will be closed from 2nd April to 11th April. Buses will replace trains between Bristol Temple Meads and Bath Spa during the nine-day closure. People living nearby have been warned to expect a lot of noise during the nine days of work.

Currently 368,000 passengers use Keynsham Station a year and with new development in Keynsham, Whitchurch and Bitton, that is set to rise to 400,000. New, high-speed electric trains were due to enter service next year, bringing extra capacity, faster journey times and greater passenger comfort on trains between Bristol and London. However, electrification work is now understood to be over budget and running behind schedule.

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# Bid to list the Lamb as a community asset ...

A campaign has been started to get the Lamb pub listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV) to protect it from any future move to demolish it or change its use.

The campaign is being led by youth worker Dennis Stinchcombe MBE (pictured), who grew up in Cadbury Heath and still lives there. He decided to apply for ACV status after reading a story in The Week In about the legislation.

Without ACV status, a pub can be demolished or converted into several other uses including small supermarkets, betting shops and estate agents without planning permission or community consultation. To date 1,200 pubs across England have been listed as Assets of Community Value, with CAMRA (the Campaign for Real Ale) hoping to boost that number to 3,000 by the end of this year.



Mr Stinchcombe's bid has the backing of Kingswood MP Chris Skidmore and Oldland Parish Council.

The Lamb was recently chosen by Mr Skidmore as his Community Pub of the Year.

This week he called it "a wonderful success story of a community pub" that had gone from strength to strength after coming close to demolition in 2009.

The MP said: "If the pub is listed as an Asset of Community



Value, this will allow local residents the chance to organise a group and purchase the pub, potentially keeping it in the hands of the local community.

"I know that the Lamb is highly valued by the Cadbury Heath community, so making it an Asset of Community Value will recognise exactly what it is to the local community."

Mr Stinchcombe, who drinks at the Lamb at least once a week, said he'd had an affinity with the pub since he was a boy as his father used to drink there.

He said the pub had a committee which fundraises for the community, such as paying for the funeral of a young man whose family could not afford it, and collecting enough money to pay for a defibrillator to go outside the Lamb.

"This pub is an integral part of community life in Cadbury Heath," he said.

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# ... But move to safeguard Tennis Court pub fails

Campaigners who hoped to protect the Tennis Court Inn by getting it listed as an Asset of Community Value have been left disappointed after their bid was rejected.

Last June a planning application was lodged to demolish the 19th century landmark pub on Deanery Road and replace it with a block of 14 flats.

There was opposition from the local community, supported by MP Chris Skidmore, and a petition was signed by more than 300 people to protect the pub, which at the time was trading. It has since closed.

South Gloucestershire Council's conservation officer objected to the planning proposal which was lodged by Tollgate (Hanham) Ltd, saying it failed to assess the significance of the building correctly and that a scheme of "conversion and extension" should be explored if it ceased being a pub.

There was some relief when the plans were withdrawn last July but Mr Skidmore said he intended to press on with the campaign to protect the pub and called a meeting of those interested in protecting it from change of use by having it listed as an Asset of Community Value (ACV).

Last week he told us: "I had hoped that we could have listed the pub as an ACV to show that we have community support for the



pub; however the council wanted evidence that we would be putting in a financial bid for the pub.

"But we had around 50 people join the community group, run by local resident Ray Bazeley, which I hope that when we know what will be happening to the pub, or if it comes under threat of demolition or change of use, that we can use this strong base of support to oppose any change."

A spokesperson for South Gloucestershire Council said: "The nomination to register the Tennis Court Inn as an Asset of Community Value was rejected due to a lack of evidence being submitted of community use that would justify listing the property in this way."



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# Letters

## Bus consultation was deeply flawed

Dear Editor,

As one of the attendees at the First Bus so-called consultation on Thursday January 14th at Cadbury Heath Library, I wish to express my disgust at their assertion that they were providing the public with an opportunity to express their concerns about the proposed bus changes.

The staff arrived late and were unprepared. One asks the question, did they come by bus? The space was very small and the library was being used by a regular Thursday group. It was difficult to hear and we were intruding on their activities. Yet Cadbury Heath Hall next door was not in use - a much more suitable venue.

Residents saw the notification about this meeting being put on bus stops on Wednesday afternoon! The Week In managed to get details in the edition that came out on that Thursday after learning about the consultation just before they went to print.

Great emphasis was put on the online consultation but many folk don't have access to this and they need prior notice. There are many bus users who are at work and unable to express their concerns.

This was a deeply flawed exercise, excluding the majority of the bus-using public.

Come on First Bus, you need to improve your consultation with your customers.

Jane Allinson, North Common

## Slip road closure concern

Dear Sir,

I was surprised to hear about proposals for the Cherry Garden roundabout slip road to be closed off to through traffic.

Firstly I do not recall seeing any public consultation about this matter, maybe I missed it? Apparently the residents have submitted a request to South Gloucestershire Council, plus they wanted the layby to be parking for residents only. Normally there is a charge for residential parking. Are they expecting free parking spaces on a public highway which taxpayers have paid for?

This slip road is used by thousands of road users every day, the closure of the slip road will affect the flow of the traffic and cause queues at the roundabout which will back up. The slip road currently allows for cars to avoid the roundabout which in turn eases traffic at the roundabout.

Bitton parish councillors all approve of the scheme.

This is a waste of taxpayers' money - money which could be spent better elsewhere.

S Freeman

## Honours List 'farce'

Dear Editor,

When is this Honours List farce going to stop? It is being so widely distributed now there will be very few citizens without one.

We do not have an empire any more but it shows the mentality of our leaders. I gave up on it years ago when I discovered a person who had just pushed a pen for 30 years as civil servant had an MBE.

William Houghton

## Where does MP stand on Green Belt development?

Dear Editor,

In last week's edition you had a report on the Bitton church car park application and the South Gloucestershire Council Planning Committee meeting.

Is it just me who is very curious that the local MP Chris Skidmore has made no public comment? His election leaflets and the local Conservative councillors' election leaflets were full of fine words on protecting the Green Belt in our area. Here was a perfect situation for him to put this into practice and give his support to the objectors.

However, once again, nothing. Does this mean that he has changed his stance because it is in his own patch of Bitton? Are we now to believe that he no longer supports the Green Belt?

Perhaps he can really stand up and be counted and let us all know where he stands?

Mr J Hawkins, Warmley

## Sudoku

### 1-Easy

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

### 2 -Hard

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

## CHEMISTS WEEKEND OPENING

Sunday 31st January

Boots, Gallagher Retail Park, Longwell Green (10.30am-4pm)

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# Letters

## Elected mayor would have serious consequences

Dear Stephen,

I feel I must write to challenge much of the letter written by Philip Raby championing his rationale for a directly elected mayor for Bath & North East Somerset.

First of all, it appears clear to me that he does not live in Keynsham. Contrary to Mr Raby's perception of our town, we are very good at standing up for Keynsham and making our voice heard on B&NES. Keynsham's six Conservative councillors meet regularly with BANES officers to talk directly and specifically about Keynsham issues. Our residents don't hesitate to contact us if they have a problem or a view on an issue and we act to address their concerns or take their views forward so that they are heard at the highest level - for example, views on the new leisure centre! Mr Raby also uses emotive language - a directly elected mayor would "represent and champion the entire community... their first loyalty would be to the people who elected them". I was elected, through the ballot box, by the people of South Keynsham. I owe my position to them, my primary responsibility is to serve them and then the wider community of Keynsham. If I don't do my job, then they will not vote me in at the next local government election.

He claims "an elected mayor saves money by being efficient, cutting waste and reducing costs" - excuse me! A mayor's salary, which will include pension and National Insurance contributions, would probably be more than double that paid to the current leader of council - himself ballot box elected - so that over a four-year term it would cost the taxpayer an extra £200,000! The leader of the council is answerable to his cabinet, political group and the rest of

council - all elected by residents of Bath & North East Somerset. He/she could be removed during the four-year term if they don't perform. A directly elected mayor could cling on for the whole term, even if their performance was abysmal!

Keynsham, in the past, has long suffered 'second-class citizen status' against the big, beautiful city of Bath. This has changed with our administration. We locally 'fight our corner', but there is also strong Conservative representation throughout Bath and North East Somerset so we are committed to helping the whole of our district. Where would this 'directly elected mayor' live? Are they likely to be apolitical and totally impartial, treating both the city of Bath and the towns and rural areas of North East Somerset with equity?

I firmly believe that our current system of residents electing their ward councillors, the majority party forming the administration and the current checks and procedures for the process of council (particularly the passing of the annual budget) is the best, sound, democratic system. I strongly urge all residents of Keynsham and beyond to reject this proposal and instead vote to keep our current 'leader and cabinet' model for B&NES. The outcome of this referendum will be decided on a simple majority of those who have voted. If you don't vote, a small minority could change the way our local area is managed - with serious consequences for the way our town is represented on the council.

**Cllr Lisa O'Brien**

**BANES Conservative Councillor for Keynsham South**

## Why keep the status quo?

Dear Sir,

I had to smile at last week's coverage and accompanying letters concerning the elected mayor for B&NES.

In particular the letter from Philip Raby accusing the Tories running B&NES of coming out with "inaccurate and implausible

stories of what an elected mayor will cost" and right above it - a letter from Conservative councillor Alan Hale containing... well.

So the cabinet-run council in B&NES is better than George Ferguson's Bristol because the ratepayers didn't have to suffer a 2% rise in council tax last year. If Mr Hale used facts, rather than repeating party dogma, he would probably have added that Bristol council tax payers actually voted for a 1.98% increase, rather than see cuts to council services - something which emerged from a record-breaking consultation exercise with the mayor.

An elected mayor would be paid more than the council leader. Let's conveniently forget Mr Hale's Keynsham colleague Charles Gerrish and the seven other councillors who each receive £19,000 a year for sitting alongside the council leader in his cabinet. Then there's the permanent staff led by the chief executive on £150,000 a year (plus £30,000 pension & NI contributions), six directors on over £100,000 and a further 80 staff earning over £50,000.

Of course we can all come out with figures and statistics to justify an argument and nobody can expect to run a £400m budget without experienced staff. The one question that remains to be answered, as Philip Raby points out, is why is everyone so keen to maintain the status quo? They say 'if it ain't broke, don't fix it'. But since B&NES was created, council administrations of different persuasions have presided over the likes of the Bath spa, Keynsham town centre, the Bath bus gates, K2, 20mph zones and Bathampton Park & Ride. They have also removed swathes of land from Green Belt control and given it over to housing while doing absolutely nothing about roads or transport infrastructure.

Government money flowing into Bristol since 2012 dwarfs any funding heading in B&NES direction and the (Conservative) Chancellor George Osborne has made clear that more will follow into regions that elect

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# Letters

their own mayors. Makes you wonder why people like Alan Hale are so keen to keep things just the way they are.

**G Warne**

## Too few police on the streets due to cuts

**Dear Editor,**

I have to ask myself the question, is the robbery of a lady in her 80s in Tenby Road in Keynsham last week a portent of things to come, when we no longer see a visible presence of warranted police officers on our streets?

It is reported that violent crime has increased by 27% nationally. I wonder why? It is reported that Avon & Somerset Police were disappointed in the number of positive breath tests during one of their operations. I wonder why?

Sadly the criminal classes will take the chance if they believe they will get away with it. Also I read that it is now suggested that perhaps volunteers may be given uniforms to patrol the streets with a power to detain someone for 30 minutes. Forgive me, but my experience tells me that someone who needs to be detained is not going to stand quietly by whilst a police officer is summoned and attends - assuming there is an available officer - to arrest him or her. The police officers we have, such as they are, are not to blame, Chief Constables and Police & Crime Commissioners should have been shouting it from the roof tops that you cannot continue to cut funding and expect everything to stay the same.

As members of the community, you need to be writing to your MPs to tell them of your concerns if you have them - I certainly do! I have written and have received back a letter from the Home Office via Mr Rees-Mogg

that puts everything back on the local forces because "they know how best to spend their money", we are told, even if that money is woefully inadequate.

What we need is a police service that does not end up running its staff ragged but one where there are sufficient police constables out there to deal with everyday crime and hopefully the prevention of it, and to reassure the community and keep it safe.

Pick up your pen or fire up your computer and let the Government know how you feel and what you want.

**Alan Hale (CIIR) AMRSGB**

**Keynsham South Ward**

**Vice chairman B&NES Council**

**Advocate for Road Safety**

**Avon Fire Authority Member**

**Chairman of Keynsham Area Forum**

**Tel: 0117 9837923**

## Keeping history alive at Somerdale

**Dear Stephen,**

What a delight it was to read in last week's Week In (Issue 406) the story of the revival of chocolate making on the Somerdale site. While this has no connection with Cadbury's, this site is clearly known as the home of chocolate making in Keynsham. Somerdale Chocolate Ltd is the brainchild of business partners Kelly Daw and Mike Bradley who hope to have one of the retail outlets when the factory is converted.

There are two significant points here. Firstly, the Somerdale name, which will always be associated with chocolate because of Fry's/Cadbury's. I am glad Kelly and Mike had the foresight to have lodged the name with Companies House. This is important because there has been a concerted effort to remove Cadbury's existence from Keynsham's history, accumulating in the refusal to allow some of the new streets to be named after Cadbury products made on site.

Secondly, the slogan on the wrapper - 'Somerdale, made where chocolate bars began'. It's a reminder of what type of business once stood on this site so that hopefully its history will live on. I gave over 32 years of my life at Somerdale and I am saddened at the way it is becoming forgotten. So yes, this is a significant venture. I wish these two entrepreneurs every success.

Changing the subject, although linked, to Bob Eastaugh. Well done for being rewarded by Crime Commissioner Sue Mountstevens in recognition "for services to the community in which they live". I worked with Bob during our time at Cadbury's - an honest, decent, caring person. This is a fitting tribute for his many years given as a Neighbourhood Watch co-ordinator. Nice one Bob!

**John Howlett, Keynsham**

## Praise for new chocolate company

**Dear Stephen,**

Congratulations to Kelly Daw and Mike Bradley in putting Keynsham town back on the map with their chocolate producing company (Issue 406).

It is absolutely wonderful and I hope that all the retailers of confectionary in the region and beyond will support their venture. The designs show quality and style. I hope that careful consideration will be given to keep packaging costs to the minimum.

**Brian T Jenkins**

## Comic relief

**Dear Sir,**

I know a sick little boy in hospital - he's only 11 and he will be having treatment for six months. He loves the Beano comic. If anyone has any back issues or even an annual, I'd be happy to buy them.

**Marlene Jones, 0117 9087507**



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# Pupils plant orchard with the help of woodland charity

Reception pupils at the Meadows Primary School have helped plant a mini orchard of apple and pear trees on their field.

Anna Brunton, from the Forest of Avon Trust, was on hand last Tuesday to guide the children who can expect to see their trees bear fruit within two to three years.

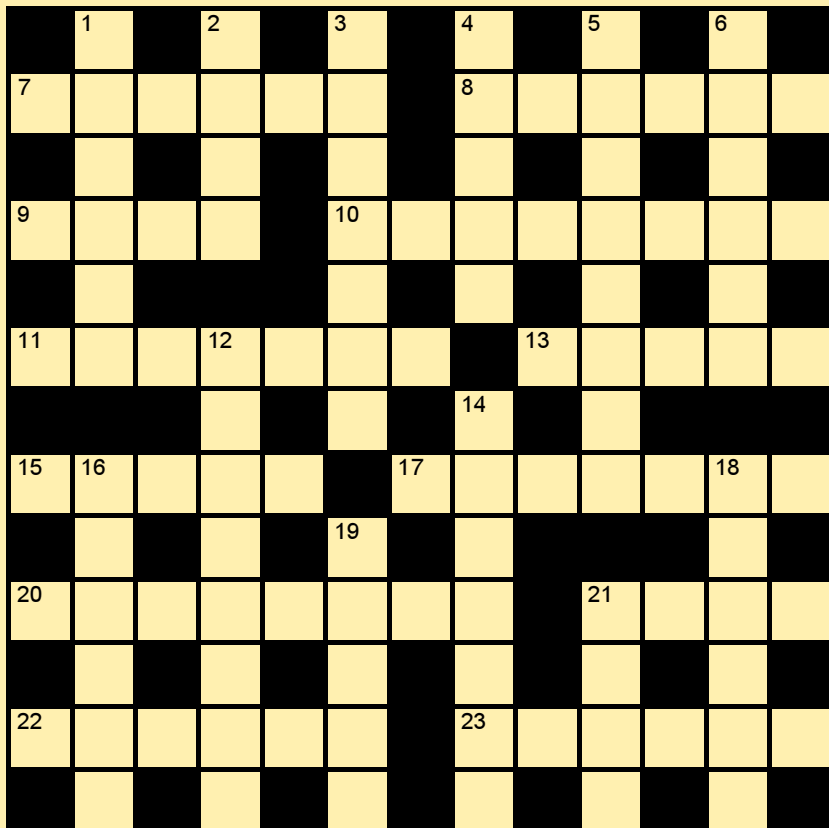
The charity recently received funding from Western Power Distribution and South Gloucestershire Council via the New Homes Bonus grant to plant trees in the community and contacted the Meadows after learning that the school had a gardening club. As well as the 10 fruit trees, a cherry, rowan and hornbeam were planted in the Meadows' forest school area.

Headteacher Fran Harding said the school was very grateful for the trees. Jon Clark, executive director of the Forest of Avon Trust, said: "Schools' orchards are a great way of involving children in improving their environment,



as well as providing a local source of healthy food." Find out more about the charity at [www.forestofavontrust.org](http://www.forestofavontrust.org)

## Crossword



**ACROSS**

- 7 Decline (6)
- 8 Tools (6)
- 9 Outer boundary (4)
- 10 A purgative drug (8)
- 11 Cleanliness (7)
- 13 Old English and legal word for concerning (5)
- 15 Amusing (5)
- 17 Nocturnal mammal which emits a foul smell (7)
- 20 Member of an ancient Jewish sect (8)
- 21 Change direction (4)
- 22 Two-dimensional (6)
- 23 Cut or plug in (6)

**DOWN**

- 1 Period of greatest success (6)
- 2 To govern (4)
- 3 Decisive (7)
- 4 Type of resin (5)
- 5 Meagre amount (8)
- 6 Cowardly (6)
- 12 Unaware of (8)
- 14 A group of friends or followers (7)
- 16 Outrageous (6)
- 18 Atmospheric phenomenon in the night sky (6)
- 19 Money lending at high interest rates (5)
- 21 Rubbish! (4)

# Bygone Keynsham and Salford

## Special DVD Offer

Keynsham and Salford has a long and fascinating history, as illustrated on this DVD, with the help of rare archive photographs and some remarkable cine film from 1935 through to the 1960s.

The geographical position of Keynsham, close to the confluence of the rivers Chew and Avon, with rich pastures and abundant woodland, has made it attractive to settlers from early times. There is evidence of prehistoric man passing through, and the second largest Roman house in the country was discovered under Keynsham Cemetery.

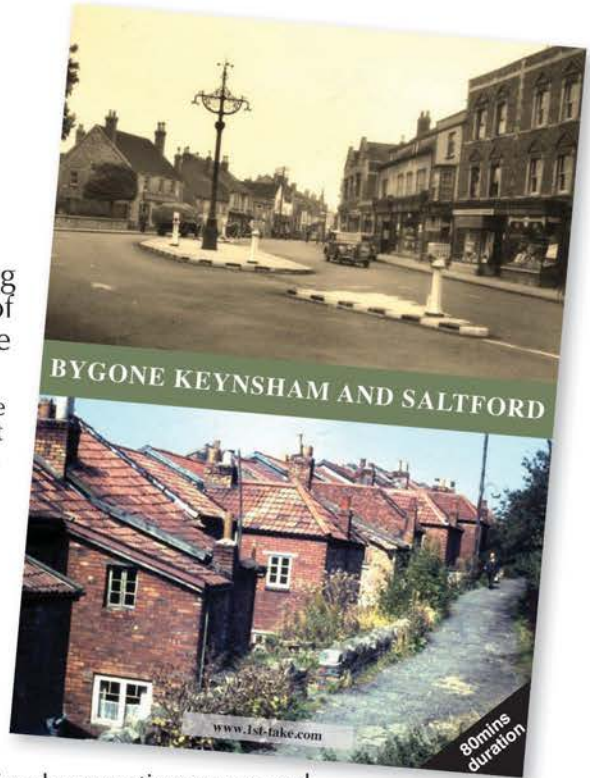
Salford Manor House, arguably built in 1150, lays claim to being the oldest inhabited house in England, and the nearby Church has a history that dates back to Saxon times.

The remains of what was a substantial and important abbey have been plundered piecemeal since 1539, with the construction of Keynsham bypass in the 1960s dealing the final blow. The Parish Church, which touches on so much of the towns history, is also explored in depth.

The abundant supply of water made Keynsham a favourable site for cheap motive power, and three local mills are featured in detail. In more recent times, the Somerdale site of Frys (later Cadbury's) was key to the areas prosperity. Other subjects covered include the Railway, the Workhouse, Schools, Bridges and the 1968 floods.

This DVD will be enjoyable and informative to anyone with an interest in the Keynsham and Salford area.

Readers of The Week In can enjoy this special offer. The DVD normally retails at £13.95 plus £2.50 postage but by using the voucher below you can purchase your copy for just £11.95 with FREE delivery.

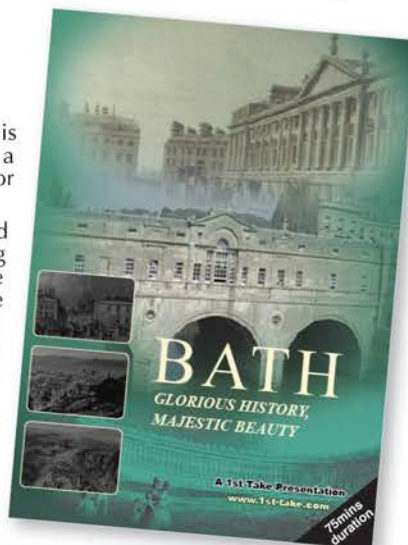


# Bath . . .Glorious History, Majestic Beauty

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Quiche, potato  
and salad

Wood Pigeon  
Pie, potato choice  
and vegetable

Nut Roast  
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# Witness appeal following robbery of 82-year-old woman

**Police are appealing for witnesses after an elderly woman was robbed in Keynsham last Friday morning.**

The 82-year-old victim was walking along Tenby Road at about 8.10am when a Marks & Spencer carrier bag she was holding was snatched from her grasp.

She fell to the floor and suffered bruising to her arm and ribs as well as a swollen knee.

The suspect, thought to be a man in his teens or early 20s and wearing dark clothing, made off with the bag in the direction of Kelston Park. Inside the bag was the woman's purse containing her bus pass, medication and a small quantity of cash.

The victim gave chase but lost sight of the suspect.

Officers later recovered the carrier bag but the woman's purse had been taken.

Detective Sergeant Simon Chubb said: "This was a shocking incident in which a vulnerable woman was pulled to the floor as her bag was ripped from her hands.

"The victim, who thankfully didn't sustain any serious injuries, demonstrated great bravery during and after the robbery and should be praised for this.

"We're now appealing for anyone who saw the incident, or a young man fleeing the area, to get in touch on 101, quoting 5216014998."

## Appeal to Asda over trolleys

Oldland Parish Council is writing to Asda's head office to complain about the number of abandoned trolleys found in the Longwell Green area after one was hurled off a bridge on to the ring road earlier this month, striking a lorry and injuring the driver.

The council's clerk Victoria Hicks had written to the store in Craven Way before the recent incident to flag up the problem of abandoned trolleys but said she had not received a response.

In the wake of the incident in the early hours of 14th January when a trolley was thrown from the footbridge leading from Palmers Close on to the A4174, the council has decided to go straight to senior management at the store's Leeds headquarters to try to get something done.

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- Sharing platter - Breaded mushrooms, beer battered onion rings, BBQ chicken wings, filo prawns, garlic mayonnaise, tomato & chilli salsa with a thousand island dip - £9.95

**Mains**

- Ballantine - Chorizo, red pepper & garlic stuffed chicken Ballantine, sea salt sauté potatoes, seasonal vegetables, tomato, spring onion & chilli ragu - £12.95
- Venison - Pan-fried Venison steak with a strawberry & pepper sauce, potato & parsnip rusty with seasonal vegetables - £14.95
- Ravioli - Porcini mushroom, ricotta ravioli, sauté spinach, roasted pine nuts, pesto dressing & garlic ciabatta - £9.95
- Poussin - Honey roast poussin, sage, thyme & onion stuffing, served with roasted new potatoes, seasonal vegetables, red wine & shallot gravy - £12.95
- Pork Loin - Roast pork loin with a blue cheese cream sauce, seasonal vegetables, fondant potato & apple puree - £11.25

**Desserts**

- Irish cream liquor cheese cake with Chantilly cream
- Lemon torte with mango sorbet
- Strawberries, clotted cream, meringue with a chocolate sauce
- Cheese Board, apple chutney, grapes, celery & biscuits

*All desserts - £4.95*

# New season of live music concerts

Cossham Hospital and Southmead Hospital are hosting a new series of live music concerts.

The Fresh Music concerts are part of North Bristol NHS Trust's Fresh Arts scheme.

Funded by the Southmead Hospital Charity, the live performances by top musicians help to provide a focal and talking point for patients and staff, as well as aiming to create a more relaxed atmosphere and positive healing environment.

Belshazzar's Feast, who blend folk with classical music and comedy, will be at clinics at Cossham and in the League of Friends coffee shop area on 18th February.

On 17th March the band Archer-Pearce, who embrace gypsy jazz, bebop and swing, will be at Cossham, while harpist and soprano Joy Cornock will be there on 21st April.

For the full line-up of concert go to the Southmead Hospital Charity website and search for 'Fresh Arts Live Music 2016'.

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The successful applicants will be subject to a Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Disclosure check.



# Threat to Lyde Green Common withdrawn - for now

Norft, the company which last year applied to deregister ancient Lyde Green Common, sparking fears it wanted to develop the land for housing, has withdrawn its proposal.

A planning inquiry had been due to take place in the coming months but Norft has now told the Planning Inspectorate it will not be proceeding with the application. The decision has been cautiously welcomed by campaigners amid speculation that this might only be a temporary reprieve for the Common.

Norft is based in Devon and headed by Julian Darling, who claimed ownership of the Common some years ago after buying the lordship of the manor of Westerleigh. His company applied to deregister the Common for "health and safety" reasons, saying the area would become more heavily trafficked with the new Lyde Green development being built nearby, with a risk to people using the Common. A site off Coxgrove Hill was proposed by Norft as an alternative Common.

But campaigners believe Norft's intention is to ultimately sell the Common for housing. The land was included in a development plan in 2004 but removed in 2011.

Kingswood MP Chris Skidmore said: "This is a historic common land dating back centuries that should be preserved for future generations to enjoy, in particular the new growing community at Lyde Green that needs green space among the new houses. "The next stage must be to protect our common land and recognise its historic and valued status; in particular, I am concerned that this patch of common land is not registered as



Green Belt land, and I will be making the case that common land such as this should be protected under Green Belt regulations, or else future challenges like this may occur."

Commoner Gerald Taylor, of Howsmoor Lane, said: "I am very happy it has been withdrawn but going forward there needs to be enhanced protection for the Common as it is an obvious target."

Emersons Green Town Council, which had been against deregistration and started a petition, said it was important that people moving into the new houses at Lyde Green used the green space.

Around 2,500 homes are being built at Emersons Green East over the next 10 years by several developers, including Taylor Wimpey, Linden, Barratt and Persimmon, and the new development will border the Common where hedgerows are said to date back at least 1,000 years.

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# Twitching to go to Spain

A holiday location where you can see dolphins, chamois and golden eagles is a proposition which appeals increasingly to those who have already done traditional package holidays to death and are looking for more authentic experiences.

Niche tour operator Wessex Continental has used its location in Plymouth to good effect over the last 40 years. As the gateway to direct ferry destinations in Brittany and Northern Spain, the company has built a reputation as experts in these two under-discovered areas and in the case of the latter, this goes well beyond simple sightseeing.

The Spanish regions of Asturias and Cantabria are home to national parks including the Oyambre and the Picos de Europa,



and in a land where mountain peaks give way to sandy beaches and estuaries, the list of native birdlife is as wide as it is extensive. While raptors like the Giffon Vulture, Golden Eagle

and Lammergeier soar high above the Cares Gorge, the Joyel marshlands are home to the Eurasian Spoonbill, Purple Heron and Glossy Ibis.

Then there is the journey itself. The luxury ferry service to Spain has for many years been used by wildlife watchers as a means



of getting a closer look at whales and dolphins which live or migrate through the Bay of Biscay at varying times of the year. What you see on a wildlife tour of Northern Spain depends on where you chose to travel (Wessex offers two different locations on its five-day breaks), the time of year, and of course, some luck. But these are parts of Spain that have not seen Mediterranean-style tourist development and where the population is no threat to wildlife.

English-speaking nature guides accompany all the wildlife excursions (one for every 10 customers) and the real beauty is that you don't need to be an expert to take part. Sometimes just



having something explained about the wildlife that has always been around you brings a joy of discovery in its own right.

The beauty of these wildlife tours is that they use the same hotels that have featured in Wessex Continental's traditional holiday programmes for a number of years. One is located directly on a secluded, golden beach and the standards of comfort and cuisine are exceptionally high for the price. It also means that the five-day breaks can be enjoyed by partners who may not want to take part in the wildlife excursions as special provision is made in the programme for them too.

Experienced twitchers already know what they can expect to find in Asturias and Cantabria but for many people it may just be something they have always wanted to know about. These five-day breaks provide an ideal opportunity to dip a toe into a fascinating world that won't break the bank.

There are departures from Plymouth Ferry Port between June and October and the tours include two nights' cabin accommodation on board the ship, two nights' hotel accommodation with dinner (including wine) and breakfast, and wildlife excursions with specialist guide leaders, as well as packed lunch provided. Costs range from £385 to £405.

For full details call 01752 846880 or visit [www.wessexcontinental.co.uk](http://www.wessexcontinental.co.uk)

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# Row over growing football club's floodlighting plans

AEK-BOCO Football Club's plans to put up six 15-metre high floodlights at its Greenbank Road ground have sparked letters of objection from neighbours.

The plans, which can be viewed on South Gloucestershire Council's website, include a supporting statement from the club highlighting its success.

It says it is the largest FA Community Club in the region with nearly 650 players representing the club every weekend. There are 41 teams accommodating boys and girls aged five to 18, as well as four men's sides and two women's sides, with a membership of nearly 1,500 members.

Without floodlights the club says it cannot continue the progression of amateur sport to the next level for its members.

It says the floodlights will be predominantly used during the football season - every Saturday and Sunday from September to May - as well as at games on some Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. But objectors are concerned about light pollution and say the club has outgrown its site and that extending play until after 9pm will increase noise, traffic and nuisance.

One resident claimed the cabling for the proposed lights had already been installed ready for the lights to be fitted which was a breach as the planning application states that no work towards installation has started.

Comments include: "I believe that the success of the club means



AEK in Hanham

they have now outgrown the field and am concerned about implications of any further progression through the football league."

Another said the proposal was "an indication that the club has through its own success and intent outgrown this public amenity which sits in extremely close proximity to neighbouring houses".

Another said the bright floodlights would be a hazard for motorists and they could act as a "magnet" for groups not associated with the club to congregate. People have until 10th February to comment. The reference number is PK15/5492/F.

This week a spokesman for the club said they were aware of concerns raised. He said: "We will be holding a meeting at the club before the 10th February deadline where local residents can raise their concerns directly with the club.

"Details of the meeting will be circulated to local residents shortly. I can also confirm that no work towards the installation has started, including any cabling."



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# Appeal over armed robberies

**Police have appealed for information following armed robberies in Whitehall and Fishponds.**

Investigators believe the same two men are responsible for both robberies. The appeal was launched last week by investigators who say that even though the raids were last October and November, they are confident someone in the Bristol community will have information about the pair.



The first robbery was at the Coral betting shop on Whitehall Road shortly after 9.30pm on 20th October. Two men, one wearing a scarf around his face and the other wearing a mask, entered the shop

and demanded money from the tills.

Both carried what appeared to be firearms and they stole a large quantity of cash before leaving.

The second incident was at Gala Bingo on Fishponds Road on 4th November. At 10.30pm, two men wearing masks entered the building and demanded money from the till. One was brandishing a knife and the other had what appeared to be a firearm. Again, a large amount of money was stolen.

Both suspects were dressed completely in black and both wore black jackets with a white North Face emblem on the rear right shoulder. In both robberies the men threatened physical violence.

Avon & Somerset police say they are keen to hear from anyone who might know who these men are and any information, no matter how small or insignificant you think it might be, could prove crucial. Information can be given to the police on 101, quoting crime reference number 5215023569, or via Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

## Hanham

### Tack shop closing but business will continue

ZB Equine, the second-hand tack shop in Hanham High Street, is closing this weekend and there is 30% of all stock this week. Vicki Best and her granddaughter, Zoe May Goscombe-Best opened the store in 2014 and 40% cent of all donated tack, rugs and equipment goes to the Whitchurch-based rescue charity HorseWorld.

Vicki said they would continue trading and supporting HorseWorld from Zoe's home in Longwell Green as well as online and visiting shows, yards, table tops and pony clubs.

Their website address is [www.zbequine.co.uk/](http://www.zbequine.co.uk/)

Moorfields Estate Agents will be moving from their current home further along the High Street into the premises when ZB Equine leave.



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# £100,000 for play projects in St George

Two volunteer groups in St George are celebrating news of £100,000 to improve play in Dundridge Park and Troopers Hill Field.

Both groups worked together to apply for grants from SITA Trust, an independent funding body which provides funding through the Landfill Communities Fund.

Troopers Hill Field just has a 1980s slide and a few logs, with many people driving their children to surrounding parks to access play facilities while Dundridge Park's small, ageing play area is only suitable for very young children.

The funding will allow the Friends of Troopers Hill and Friends of Dundridge Park, working with landowner Bristol City Council, to create a small, fenced play area for under-fives with an access path on Troopers Hill Field, and an improved play area on Dundridge Park.

The chair of Friends of Troopers Hill, Susan Acton-Campbell said: "We are so grateful to SITA Trust for this grant. It took a lot of work, particularly from local parents, Chris & Lisa Deane, Richard & Bethany Evans and Millie Colwey, to do the necessary consultations and preparation. Without the guarantee of match-funding from the St George Neighbourhood Partnership we could not have applied, and Bristol Parks have been very supportive.

"Thanks also to everyone who completed the consultation questionnaires, Air Balloon Hill Primary School and Summerhill Infant School who helped with questionnaire distribution, and Avon & Somerset police, Bristol City Council and our MP Kerry McCarthy who wrote letters of support."



The chair of the Friends of Dundridge Park, Geoff Reeson, also thanked everyone for their support.

- The next closing date to apply for a St George Neighbourhood Partnership Wellbeing grant is 8th February. Local community groups with ideas to improve the St George Neighbourhood Partnership area and life for local people are welcome to apply.

Last quarter one of the grants went to the St George Park Community Garden so the sides of raised beds could be made higher to make gardening and picking produce easier. Weather permitting, the volunteers will be carrying out this project in St George Park on 8th February. Another grant went to fund publicity for a community fair taking place on 12th March at St Aidan's Church to showcase local groups.

For more information visit [www.stgeorgenp.org.uk/grants/](http://www.stgeorgenp.org.uk/grants/)

Some Wellbeing projects will be showcased at the next St George Neighbourhood Forum on 9th February at Summerhill Methodist Church from 7pm-9pm.

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# You're never too old to exercise

When Sirona's physiotherapist Dan Taylor asked 90-year-old great-grandfather John Micklem what his goal was after he was discharged from hospital, he wasn't expecting the reply he received - John told him he was determined to return to the gym.

And for the last few weeks Dan has been taking John from his home to the YMCA Health and Wellbeing Centre gym in Bath for a work-out.

John is sharing his story at the start of the New Year in the hope of inspiring others to take up exercise.

Dan said: "John had been in hospital for a while and when he was discharged home his goal was to get back to his normal routine. When I had the first meeting with John and his family it was felt that the gym was so much part of his life it was important to get him back there and the staff at the gym are a fantastic support to him.

"One of the things Sirona tells all its staff is to ensure that we focus on the individual and what their goal is, not what we think it should be. So I set about supporting John to get back to the gym.

"We have been gradually building up his exercises and helping him to keep as healthy and as well as he can. He really is remarkable; we've had people in their 30s and 40s keen to return to a sport after injury but this is my first nonagenarian."

Dan will continue to work with John until both feel he is safe to



John Micklem

return to independently visiting the gym.

John said: "I have been coming here for a very long time. I like feeling active and I have always enjoyed walking. It's very important that people do exercise; not a lot of people my age do it. My late wife Pauline and I used to go on distance hikes; we both enjoyed the gym and shared some lovely times together."

Sirona care & health CIC provides specialist community health and social care in Bath and North East Somerset and South Gloucestershire and is NHS and local authority funded.



## Wellbeing College

*The Wellbeing College courses in  
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The Wellbeing College offers free courses and activities to any resident of B&NES, who is 16 or older, to support their health and wellbeing.

They are designed to give you the knowledge, skills and confidence to manage your own wellbeing.

Have you set yourself some personal goals this year?

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### Improve your wellbeing

The Wellbeing College, which provides access to courses and activities to B&NES residents, is running free courses in Keynsham and Salford.

Managing Life with a Health Condition is a free course from 10am to noon on Thursdays from 18th February to 24th March at Salford Hall.

If you are less able to do the things you used to do, or perhaps are feeling generally down, the Wellbeing College may be able to help you get back on your feet and feel more like yourself again.

Over six sessions you will be supported to build your knowledge, skills and confidence to self-manage areas pain and fatigue, exercise or dietary changes, anxiety or depression. You will also get help finding support groups and useful local resources. You are welcome to attend with a friend, relative or support worker.

And on Monday 18th April from 10.30am to 1.30pm there will be a workshop at Keynsham Baptist Church Hall introducing the '5 Ways to Wellbeing'. This will be a fun and interactive session where you are helped to look at your goals and are signposted to the course or activity that fits you best. To book or find out more email [enquiries@wellbeingcollegebanes.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@wellbeingcollegebanes.co.uk) or call 01225 831820.

### Friendship and fun

Kingswood Young at Heart Group meets every Tuesday from 2pm to 3.30pm at the Salvation Army Hall a 266 Two Mile Hill Road.

The friendly group has a varied weekly programme which includes guest entertainment most weeks. There are also 'fun and games afternoons', the occasional afternoon tea for special occasions, and a good sing-song, plus refreshments. It costs £1.50 per visit and the friendship and fun is free.

The group is open to anyone who would like to come along, especially anyone feeling lonely or isolated. A warm welcome awaits you, whether you come on your own or with a friend.

On Tuesday 2nd February Hanham Ladies' Choir will be giving a concert. Doors open at 1.30pm and there is no need to book.

There is also a lunch club for members. More details can be obtained by ringing 0117 9670996 where you may leave a message.



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Saltford/Keynsham

# Parish council helps Dial-a-Ride passengers

Saltford Parish Council has presented Keynsham & District Dial-a-Ride with wheelchair and mobility scooter restraints for use on their minibuses. These allow for passengers in wheelchairs to be transported safely and securely.

Pictured are Cllr Duncan Hounsell, chair of the parish council, and Bleddyn Phillips, a volunteer driver who lives in Saltford, who applied to the council for the special grant of £500 on behalf of Dial-a-Ride.



Dial-a-Ride serves well over 100 members in Saltford. Cllr Hounsell said: "Dial-a-Ride is a door-to-door fully accessible minibus service for those who cannot use conventional public transport. People in

Saltford use this service for shopping, attending appointments and visiting friends. It helps Saltford people take an active part in community life who would otherwise struggle. The parish council was delighted to support Dial-a-Ride in this practical way."

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## Meet the Active Ageing Team

A specialist Health Visitor team set up by Sirona to help older people remain independent in their own homes has helped hundreds of people across South Gloucestershire and Bath and North East Somerset.

The teams offer all 80-85-year-olds, who are not currently having health or social care, an MOT.

People are identified with the help of the local GP practices and everyone within the age group are offered an appointment at a location



The Active Ageing Team joining a community Park Run

of their choice; if someone needs help of whatever sort the team will work with them to find the help which is needed whether it's with shopping, finding local groups or managing a new condition.

It has been running for nearly two years in B&NES and a year in South Gloucestershire.

**Viv Hollis**, who heads up the team, said: "Our role is to support older people in their homes; we hope to

keep them safe, well and enjoying life."

The team is made up of health visitors, specialist public health nurses and support workers who liaise with other Sirona staff and a wide range of community groups to enhance the integrated services which can be offered to an individual.

To find out more call Sirona's **Clinical Lead Viv Hollis** on **0117 946 1084**.

St.Martin's Hospital, Clara Cross Lane, Bath BA2 5RP



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# Hanham's Clean for the Queen Campaign

People in the Hanham area are being encouraged to join an army of volunteers for the Clean for the Queen campaign to clear up Britain in time for the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations in June.

The official Clean for the Queen weekend is 4th to 6th March and it is hoped the campaign will help protect the wildlife and improve the quality of streets and public places, as well as generally raising awareness of litter problems. It costs taxpayers almost £1bn every year to clean up litter from our streets.

On Saturday 5th Hanham Abbots Parish Council is organising a litter pick in and around Memorial Road. People are asked to meet at 10am at Hanham Common Pavilion. Contact 0117 3039137 for more information.

Also on the Saturday, a litter pick is being organised by Hanham Parish Council on the field behind Aspects Leisure Park and on the footpath towards Stonehill. Volunteers will be meeting at 10am outside McDonald's. Find out more by calling 01454 862696.

And the Friends of Avon Valley Woodlands' litter pick is also on the 5th. Volunteers will be gathering at 10am in Conham River Park Car Park, at Hanham Common Pavilion and in Castle Farm Road Car Park. Call 07795 088738 for more information.

## Staple Hill

### Free dog microchipping

The Friends of South Glos Strays will be carrying out free dog microchipping in Page Park this Saturday (30th January) from 10am to 2pm, weather permitting.

Microchipping becomes compulsory in England from April 2016.

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email: admin@kingswoodgymnastics.co.uk

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## Regenerating surplus land

Neighbours overlooking a new home site in Downend have been putting pressure on builders Helm Construction to come and build on their surplus plots as well.

Managing director Paul Evans said the recently completed development at Peache Road had proved so popular they had now begun work on a similar scheme nearby.

"We were getting inquiries from neighbours before we had even finished the original project. Now we have begun work on a two-home scheme just opposite on Buckingham Gardens."

The houses will replace a former car parking area and is another example of the regeneration specialist's wide experience in returning surplus sites to the public realm and delivering much-needed new homes.

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**Football**

# Local derby win puts Keynsham into 3rd spot

Keynsham Town won a pulsating derby clash 2-1 at home to Oldland Abbotonians last Saturday, recording their sixth win on the bounce in front of a crowd of 135.

The hosts took the lead on six minutes with Ben Harris firing home a free-kick from the edge of the box. However, they were caught on the break two minutes later and after a couple of last-ditch clearances, Karim Rendell forced the ball home. The derby between fourth and fifth was living up to its pre-match billing with feisty challenges and chances aplenty at both ends. Both sides went in one apiece at the break.

The second half was again end to end but the decisive moment of the game came on the hour. After a flowing move which started from keeper Ash Wintle, the ball found midfielder Sam Duggan 30 yards from goal. He looked up and curled a fantastic strike into the top corner, giving Oldland custodian Ben Reed no chance. There were plenty of scares for the home side in the closing minutes but they hung on to claim three more points in their promotion battle.

The win moves Keynsham up to third place in Western League Division One. After a visit to Portishead Town next Tuesday, the Ks are next at home on Saturday 6th February when Chipping Sodbury Town, currently lying second in the table, visit Crown Fields (3pm kick-off) for another top-of-the-table clash.



Keynsham players celebrating winning the Team of the Month award

## Sudoku Solutions

### 1-Easy

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

### 2 -Hard

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

**Rugby**

# Keynsham back to winning ways

Keynsham Rugby quickly got back to winning ways with an impressive bonus point victory over Cheltenham on Saturday.

Having lost two games in a row following a run of 12 successive victories, the second placed side made a bright start, going ahead after 10 minutes from a John Pearce try. A second try followed through James Hurrell-Smith after good work from fly-half Joe Davies.

The home side continued to dominate in the second half and notched up the bonus point with further tries from Phil Harvey



and Gareth Bradnock. Cheltenham then crossed for their first try of the match, only for Keynsham's Hayden Johnson to restore the difference. The visitors had the final say, however, crossing late in the game for a converted try to leave the final score at 29-12 to Keynsham.

Club captain Jack Weston said: "It was good to get back to winning ways after the previous week's disappointing result and today's bonus point victory helps to keep the gap between us and the team's nearest beneath us."

Keynsham have another home game on Saturday when Wellington are the visitors.

## Crossword Solution

H	R	T	E	P	C								
R	E	F	U	S	E	P	L	I	E	R	S		
Y	L		L		O	T	A						
E	D	G	E		L	A	X	A	T	I	V	E	
A					I	Y	A	E					
H	Y	G	I	E	N	E		A	N	E	N	T	
			G		G		C		C				
F	U	N	N	Y		P	O	L	E	C	A	T	
		N		O		U	T					U	
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# WINTER SALE



## stanton oak bedroom

bedsides      2 over 3 chest      double bed

from  
**£69**

**£279**

**£239**



## stanton oak dining

two chair styles      sideboards      extending tables

**£89**

from  
**£199**

from  
**£329**



## weston oak

bedsides      5 drawer chest      wardrobes

from  
**£69**

**£249**

from  
**£329**



## dorset oak

chairs      extending tables      sideboards

**£89**

from  
**£339**

from  
**£179**



**branches**

Opposite Temple Meads Station | Bristol | BS1 6PL

Opening Times: Mon - Sat 9.30am - 5.30pm | Sun 10.30am - 4.30pm

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