

emersonsgreenvoice

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August 2026, Edition — Issue 111

FREE EVERY MONTH IN EMERSONS GREEN, LYDE GREEN, SHORTWOOD & PUCKLECHURCH

Summer fun!



Young visitors to Lyde Green Community Association's Summer Sizzler event had a hall full of bouncy castles to choose from. More pictures: Page 6



New school is ready to open

Head teacher Tom Hill and his team welcomed more than 300 people for a preview of Lyde Green Community School, which opens next month.

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Crowds flock to flower show

The first Emersons and Lyde Green Flower, Produce and Craft Show proved a huge success and was a fitting end to the sixth Earthfest event.

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Firm fined over poor bin service

Refuse collection company Suez is being fined by South Gloucestershire Council for its "appalling" level of service.

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Go-ahead for 140 homes

A DEVELOPER has been given permission to build 140 homes on land in the heart of Mangotsfield.

Taylor Wimpey first applied for permission to build on a field between Cossham Street and Rodway Hill Road 17 years ago. Those plans were rejected by

South Gloucestershire Council after a huge campaign by residents.

But with the site about to be moved out of the Green Belt under the council's new Local Plan, in July a council planning committee granted permission for the company to build on it.

The approval came despite objections from residents and councillors about the hundreds of extra vehicles that would end up using the already-congested Cossham Street, where the only road access to the development is planned.

Turn to Page 3



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225 Badminton Road,
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emersonsgreenvoice



Publisher
Gary Brindle
0117 907 8585
07799 461169



Journalist
Linda Tanner
0777 0700579



Journalist
Ken McCormick
07715 770377



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sales@emersonsgreenvoice.co.uk

Tel 07799 461169

EDITORIAL

news@emersonsgreenvoice.co.uk

Letters to the publication can be sent to the above e-mail address.

The editor reserves the right to edit your letter.

DEADLINES

Our September edition deadline is August 12.

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COMPLAINTS

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 Emersons 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, or can be obtained by contacting the Publisher.



100 new homes for Pucklechurch



How the development, marked in red, in Pucklechurch could look
Picture: Stantec

PLANS to build 100 homes at Marsh Farm, Pucklechurch, will go ahead after a council decision to refuse permission was overturned.

The new homes will be built on the eastern edge of the village off Feltham Road.

IM Land 1 Limited applied to South Gloucestershire Council for planning permission last year.

A total of 125 residents objected to the plans, as did Thornbury & Yate constituency MP Claire Young and Pucklechurch Parish Council. There were no public comments in support of the scheme.

The council's strategic sites delivery committee rejected the plans in May, due to the impact on views of the Cotswolds.

But the application was then sent to the higher spatial planning committee, which approved it in July.

Due to new government rules about removing Green Belt protection from development, and new housing targets, rejecting planning permission has become harder.

Experts from the Cotswold National Landscape Board played down the harm to views, saying any harm to them would be acceptable.

Another concern was a plan to build a new footpath and bike path in the new estate that would emerge at the "dangerous" junction of Abson Road and Feltham Road.

Pucklechurch Parish Council chair Gail Boyle said: "The proposed pedestrian and cycle access is inherently unsafe.

"This junction is tight, visually constrained by topography, and sits on the end of the conservation area, where vehicles approach at speed with minimal braking. Pedestrians do not cross here today, precisely because it is so dangerous."

She said a new mini roundabout proposed by the developers for the centre of the village would be disruptive, and said there was no need for a proposed new play park area.

Resident Rosalind Abbott said the only road access to the estate would be busy.

She said: "I observe the morning rush hour most days. There is a continuous stream of traffic north and south along Abson Road.

"It's most probable that many cars would leave home at roughly the same time, and there is only one exit. There will be a backup of cars trying to leave the estate."

There were also concerns about the village struggling to cope with so many new residents.

Overall the developer will contribute £865,000 to improving local infrastructure, including education, outdoor sport and the village's community hall.

Planning agent Michael Knott said: "The benefits of this development are wide-ranging: 100 new homes in an area which cannot demonstrate a sufficient five-year land supply, and where there is an evidenced high level of demand and need; and the delivery of 50% of those homes as affordable."

By Alex Seabrook, Local Democracy Reporting Service

Site in heart of Mangotsfield can be developed

From Page 1

Taylor Wimpey says it expects to start building next summer.

The field, which borders the grounds of Mangotsfield United Football Club, Cleve Rugby Club and Mangotsfield School, was the subject of an application for 180 new homes in 2009.

That plan was rejected the following year on the grounds that it was Green Belt land, protected from development.

Taylor Wimpey kept the site in its 'land bank' of potential housing sites, and in 2024 it announced new plans for 150 homes.

The same year, the government introduced higher housing targets for councils, along with the concept of 'grey belt' land – sites in Green Belt areas that don't strongly contribute to protecting the countryside, and can be built on.

The council has now earmarked the site for homes in its draft Local Plan, a development blueprint currently being examined by planning inspectors.

Taylor Wimpey revised its plans in March, cutting the total number of homes to 140, half of which would be 'affordable housing' for social rent or shared ownership.

The company says there has also been "significant evolution" in the design, to reflect the local character of buildings and adjust landscaping and public open space provision.

But the most common

objection raised by the 60 residents who wrote to oppose the plans, as well as councillors who spoke at the strategic sites delivery committee meeting in July, was the single vehicle entrance and exit on Cossham Street, which has not been changed.

The effect on local services such as health and education provision was also highlighted.

'Fundamental flaw'

Although the field is in Mangotsfield, it is part of the council's Emersons Green ward.

Conservative ward councillor Rachael Hunt said: "The fundamental flaw here is transport. Cossham Street is narrow and already choked with bottlenecks at peak time. Additional cars will heighten the concerns on this road.

"If this plan goes ahead, it will inevitably lead to heated arguments with existing residents.

"This is a classic case of putting houses where the infrastructure does not exist."

Labour ward councillor Katrina Al-Hassan said: "The site has been empty and fenced off for so long, and in theory I don't have a problem with housing being built here.

"However, we need to listen to residents' concerns, particularly in regards to traffic and the strain on existing infrastructure.

"Emersons Green Medical Centre is still closed and you



What Taylor Wimpey's field looks like now

would be more likely to find gold at the end of a rainbow than to get an NHS dentist appointment."

Committee member Michael Bell, who represents the Staple Hill & Mangotsfield ward, told the meeting: "It's not a public field, it's a private field, but 140 homes is overdevelopment - it's a bit crowded."

Emersons Green Council Town Council and Staple Hill & Mangotsfield Parish Council also raised concerns about traffic safety and local infrastructure.

The committee granted planning permission by seven votes to two, after council officers recommended approval.

Mike Drew (Lib Dem, Yate North) said the plan would "almost certainly get approved" if taken to an appeal by the developer, adding: "I don't like the access road but highways say this is acceptable."

Matthew Riddle (Con,

Severn Vale) said he was "very reluctantly" voting in favour because the government had "watered down the protection of this site by making it a grey belt site".

Taylor Wimpey strategic projects director Chris Dolling told councillors: "The site has already been identified to help meet South Gloucestershire's housing need.

"That matters because a plan-led system depends on suitable sites coming forward rather than leaving housing need to be met from speculative and opportunistic site proposals elsewhere."

The company said transport surveys predicted there would be "just over one car a minute entering or leaving the site at the busiest time of the morning and evening".

Meeting report by Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service

Developer will hand sports ground to public

AS part of the deal to allow new homes to be built, Taylor Wimpey will hand over playing fields it owns on Pomphrey Hill for permanent use by the community.

The developer owns 23,000 sq m (more than five acres) of land between Mangotsfield School and the ring road.

It says the fields will now be handed to South Gloucestershire Council "so they can remain in community use forever".

A Taylor Wimpey spokesman said: "Pomphrey Hill playing fields play an important role in everyday life for many people in Mangotsfield.

"Our proposals would help secure a substantial part of the playing fields for community use forever. That is a major long-term benefit for Mangotsfield."

The application was supported by Pomphrey Hill Community Sport Association, who told the committee: "If approved, this application would help ensure that Pomphrey Hill remains a place where people can play sport, exercise, volunteer, learn new skills, attend community activities, build friendships and strengthen their connection to the local area."

Taylor Wimpey says it will

make "significant contributions" towards community facilities, NHS provision, libraries and schools.

The company expects to have dealt with final planning details by the end of this year, with building anticipated to start next summer and the development finished by the end of 2029.



The housing site is outlined in red and the land being handed over is in blue

Flower show is fitting end to festival



Flower show volunteer Roger Lloyd and chair Claire Ruggiero with some of the floral displays.

ORGANISERS of the first ever Emersons and Lyde Green Flower, Produce and Crafts Show are “thrilled” at the response from the community.

The show, held at Emersons Green Village Hall on June 27, attracted just over 300 entries and hundreds of visitors.

Exhibits ranged from flowers, fruit and veg to jam, cakes and needlework, with special classes for children, family and group entries.

There was also some seasonal entertainment from the Brigstowe Village Band, who performed outside the hall in traditional English country summer costume.

The volunteers who put on the show are already planning another one next year.

Show chair Claire Ruggiero said: “The quality of the exhibits was fantastic, thanks to the hard work and enthusiasm of local residents who supported this community event.

“There were several local craft stalls and a charity plant sale, which was very popular.

“The delicious homemade cakes with coffee and tea, served by the WI Beechmere Belles, were a great success and helped raise much-needed funds.

“The village hall is an amazing space to showcase our first-ever flower and craft show.

“Everyone is thrilled with the hundreds of fantastic exhibits, the wonderful WI café, the amazing Brigstowe Village band, which kept everyone entertained, and the community buzz throughout the event.

“It was a great day that everyone enjoyed.”

Claire and her team also thanked Sainsbury’s and The Wild Zinnia for their support, and are encouraging more local businesses to help grow the event next year.

The show was the final event of the month-long Earthfest festival organised by the Friends of Emersons Green Park and Emersons Green Town Council.

The annual celebration of our relationship with the Earth featured 18 different events in its sixth year.



Prize-winning veg



Beechmere Belles WI served tea and cakes for visitors



Councillor Katie Cooper showed her talent for creating hand-thrown pottery at her Wallow Pottery stall



The Brigstowe Village band held an outdoor concert

New school opens for tours

FUTURE students and residents have had a chance to take a look inside the new Lyde Green Community School ahead of its opening in September.

The Olympus Trust, which runs the school, and head teacher Tom Hill welcomed more than 300 people through the doors of the building in Honeysuckle Road on July 14.

The secondary school and primary school next door are being made ready to welcome pupils in September as a £58.3 million building project enters its final stages.

A trust spokesperson said the guests included local community and sports clubs interested in hiring the school's new facilities, neighbours, local businesses keen to work with the school and many Year 5 learners and their families, who will be choosing a secondary school in the autumn.

The spokesperson said: "The event offered a special chance to explore our impressive new building and facilities before we welcome our first cohort in September.

"Head teacher Tom Hill and his leadership team were pleased to welcome everyone who



Lyde Green Community School head Tom Hill in the main dining area

has shown an interest in the school and its journey within the community."

Children who will be starting as Year 7 pupils in September have also been able to visit the school.

Visitors to the new buildings have been impressed.

Mr Hill said: "The feedback we've had so far has been gushing with praise!"

The secondary school expects to welcome around 150 Year 7 pupils and the primary school - a twin site to the existing Lyde Green Primary School in Willowherb Road - will take 60 Reception pupils.



An outdoor social and eating area, bike sheds and sports pitches, seen from an upstairs classroom

While it has not had any public tours, the children who will be starting at the primary school, run by CSET, have been able to visit.

In a change to previous plans, the primary school will switch all three Year 6 classes from Willowherb Road to the new building in Honeysuckle Road in September.

Primary school head teacher Tom Hutchings said: "We have done this for a number of reasons, partly to support transition to the secondary school, but also so that the existing Willowherb Road site becomes less crowded."



Emersons Green Baptist Church

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Emersons Green Village Hall



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Lyde Green sizzles in the sun



A queue at the balloon animals stall

LYDE Green Community Association's Summer Sizzler lived up to its name with a sun-baked day of activities and entertainment.

Stalls, attractions and rides took over the car park in School Square, while for those who needed some time out of the sun there was plenty to do inside the community centre, including a puppet show, games and a hall packed with inflatables to bounce on.

Animal lovers were able to meet Zara the Sheltand pony, brought by Naturally Healing Yoga, and get hands-on with the snakes, tortoises and millipedes of Bristol Reptile Encounters.

LGCA charity and centre manager Helen Crew said: "What a fantastic day it was!

"We loved spending the day in the sunshine with our wonderful community and seeing so many smiling faces enjoying everything the event had to offer.

"We can't wait to do it all again next year - we already have some exciting plans."

The event was made possible thanks to a team of volunteers and sponsors, including Emersons Green Town Council, which provided a grant to enable the LGCA to provide a range of free activities, including a workshop where children could create their own custom vinyl record graffiti artwork.

Helen said: "Any parent will know just how valuable it is to have access to high-quality, free activities for children, and we are incredibly grateful for the council's continued investment in our community."

Thanks also went to LGCA trustees who helped run everything from the raffle and badge stall to securing the car park to keep it free for the stalls and visitors.

The raffle was supported by donations from local businesses including Botteginos, Aerospace Bristol, Five Elements Therapy and Cook Stars Bristol North.

Helen said: "Thank you to everyone who came along, bought raffle tickets, supported our stallholders, took part in the activities and helped create such a lovely atmosphere.

"Events like Summer Sizzler are only possible because of the incredible community spirit that exists here in Lyde Green and Emersons Green."



Creating street art using old vinyl records



A traditional hook-a-duck game



Zara the pony was popular with visitors and volunteers alike



A puppet show kept children and parents entertained

Emersons Green misses out on culture prize

EMERSONS Green has missed the cut in the race to be named UK Town of Culture 2028.

The town council was one of 398 to apply for the government-run competition, a companion to the established City of Culture programme.

It was one of 42 contenders from the South West in the small town category: just one, Ilfracombe in Devon, made the shortlist of 15 and will now be given £60,000 each to develop a full bid.

To apply each town had to send in a digital postcard and a theme for their bid, listing some of their strengths.

Emersons Green's postcard started with the message: "Where roots run deep and futures grow."

"Community is at the heart of everything we do. From allotments and youth provision to open spaces, we are a diverse, evolving area with a rich history, shaped by green spaces and our commitment to the environment."

Emersons Green Town

Council was invited by the office of Filton & Bradley Stoke constituency MP Claire Hazelgrove to submit a bid.

A spokesperson said the concept bid was developed by council staff, with input from councillors, businesses and community partners around the theme 'Growing Culture Together', with the intention of showing that culture in the area extends to 'heritage, creativity, sustainability, learning, wellbeing, and community participation'.

The council highlighted cultural events including the musical Ham Farm Festival, 2025's Sustainable Fashion Show, alongside the creation of a community orchard, EarthFest events such as the installation of a wicker dinosaur in Emersons Green Park, and the council's youth programme.

Mayor James Hunt said: "It was a privilege to represent Emersons Green on the national stage."

"The bidding process



The 'postcard' sent by the town council in support of its bid

provided an opportunity to celebrate the rich culture, strong community spirit and ambitious vision that already exists across our parish.

"It showcased how Emersons Green is bringing established and emerging communities together while continuing to grow into an even more vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive place to live, work and visit."

Culture Secretary Lisa Nandy said: "The fact that we received so many applications just goes to show how proud people are of

their towns.

"I am so glad that so many towns have applied and I hope each and every town, whether they have been shortlisted or not, is incredibly proud of the work they have done to champion their local community."

UK Town of Culture Chair Sir Phil Redmond described the response to the competition as "overwhelming" and praised the "exceptionally strong and diverse range of applications" received from across the country.

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www.abbeywoodschool.com



Bradley Stoke Community School
Tuesday 22nd September / 5:00pm - 7:00pm
www.bradleystokes.org.uk



Lyde Green Community School
Tuesday 29th September / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
www.lydegreenschool.co.uk



Patchway Community School
Thursday 17th September / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
www.patchwayschool.co.uk



Winterbourne Academy
Wednesday 16th September / 5:00pm - 7:30pm
www.winterbourneacademy.org.uk

Further information on booking talk times and attendance can be found on the Olympus Academy Trust website and also on individual school websites



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www.olymustrust.co.uk

POST 16 OPEN EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 ENTRY



Abbeywood Community School
Tuesday 3rd November / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
www.abbeywoodschool.com



Bradley Stoke Community School
Wednesday 4th November / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
www.bradleystokes.org.uk



Winterbourne Academy
Thursday 5th November / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
www.winterbourneacademy.org.uk

Further information on booking talk times and attendance can be found on the Olympus Academy Trust website and also on individual school websites



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Subject staff will have stalls on the night for students to talk through the different courses on offer.

Information about courses can be found here:
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PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS FOR COHORT 2027



Meadowbrook Primary School
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www.meadowbrookprimary.co.uk



Filton Hill Primary School
Wednesday 7th October / 5:00pm
www.filtonhillprimary.co.uk



Charborough Road Primary School
Thursday 8th October / 5:30pm
www.charboroughroadprimary.org.uk



Bradley Stoke Community School
Tuesday 13th October / 5:00pm
www.bradleystokes.org.uk



Callicroft Primary Academy
Wednesday 14th October / 5:00pm
www.callicroftprimary.org.uk



Stoke Lodge Primary School
Thursday 15th October / 5:30pm
www.stokelodgeprimary.co.uk

Book your place via the Olympus Academy website or individual school websites:



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www.olymustrust.co.uk

Ofsted: School is a caring community

INSPECTORS have praised Mangotsfield School's "broad and ambitious" curriculum, support for pupils and energetic leadership team.

Ofsted visited the school on Rodway Hill, which has 1,158 pupils aged 11 to 16, in June for its first inspection under a new, more complex assessment system.

The regulator said the school had met its expected standard in four areas: curriculum and teaching, inclusion, leadership and governance, and personal development and well-being.

Two areas need attention: achievement and attendance.

The inspectors said pupils "describe the school as feeling like they belong to a caring community".

They said: "Leaders check the effectiveness of the curriculum carefully. It is broad and ambitious. They act to make changes and adaptations so that it is well-suited to pupils."

The inspectors said teachers work carefully to identify pupils' needs and help them "address any barriers" they may face, with extra teaching for pupils who arrive with gaps in their knowledge and the increasing number whose first language isn't English.

School leaders have a "cohesive and relevant programme" for pupils' personal development and organise a wide range of extra-curricular activities, careers and personal, social and health education that focuses on "issues that are especially relevant", including online safety.

In their comments on achievement, the inspectors said

"too many pupils" don't perform in line with national averages in exams including maths and humanities.

They said: "However, thorough work by leaders to improve pupils' achievement is evident lower down the school. Areas of the curriculum have improved and, as a result, pupils are learning more."

Ofsted said attendance at Mangotsfield is below the national average, with "too many" disadvantaged pupils persistently absent.

But they said leaders are taking "positive action" to improve attendance, working closely with parents and carers.

Head teacher Hetty Blackmore said: "The report paints a really positive picture of our school, a school supported by students and parents and a school where staff feel valued."

Mrs Blackmore said students and parents had made "extremely positive" comments about the school to inspectors.

She said the issues of attendance and achievement were linked, and related to year groups who have now left the school, including many pupils who had joined the school for a "fresh start" after leaving other schools.

Mrs Blackmore said inspectors had recognised the "massive work already in place" to improve attendance, including a family liaison worker and a hub being set up to support children with anxiety.

Mrs Blackmore said: "It's really important to note that the students who attend well, do well in terms of attainment, in line with national average or above."



Mangotsfield School Diamond Award winners - Year 7 students Arthur Hoodless, Oscar Nash and Faith Harvey - who earned more than 1,000 house points throughout the year, with head teacher Hetty Blackmore.

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**Mangotsfield
Primary School**

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Peter

Peter Turner is an Independent Prescribing Senior Optometrist at Turners Opticians in Bristol. He also works as a Senior Medical Optometrist at Bristol Eye Hospital and has a specialist interest in visual development and performance.



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Bin company fined for 'appalling' service

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Suez UK municipal general manager Nick Browning said: "The introduction of new services has coincided with

several periods of extremely high temperatures, which affects how long and how quickly our crews are able to work."

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

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

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

"In some cases, collection

rounds have had to end early to protect crews from the hottest conditions."

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

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

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

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service

TURNERS HEARING CARE BLOG

Listening better isn't just about your ears

ONE of the nicest things about hearing well is staying connected with the people around us. Whether it's chatting with family, enjoying time with friends or hearing the grandchildren's latest stories, good communication helps us feel involved and confident.

If your hearing isn't quite as sharp as it used to be, a few simple listening tactics can make conversations much easier.

A quick ear wax fact...

Did you know that excessive ear wax doesn't just affect hearing? It can also leave some people with a feeling of fullness in the ear or even occasional dizziness. The good news is that, if wax is the cause, it's usually straightforward to treat.

Here are a few simple tips that can really help:

- Let people know if you're finding it difficult to hear. Most people are happy to speak a little more clearly once they know.
- Watch the speaker's face. Lip movements, facial expressions and body language all help us understand what's being said.
- Choose quieter surroundings where possible, or sit closer to the person you're talking to.
- Use your hearing aids if you have them, making sure they're switched on, clean and working well.
- Ask people to rephrase rather than simply repeat themselves. Different words are often easier to understand.
- Make use of technology, such as live speech-to-text captions on your smartphone.

Good communication is always a two-way process, and these simple strategies can make conversations feel much more relaxed and enjoyable.

If you're asking people to repeat themselves more often, turning the television up, or your ears feel blocked, don't just put up with it. Whether it's ear wax removal, a hearing assessment or simply some friendly advice, we're always here to help you hear life a little more clearly.

Deb Campbell

Debbie Campbell is a qualified and experienced Audiologist, who has joined the clinical team at Turners Opticians in Fishponds having worked for many years in NHS Audiology clinics.



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Family 'overwhelmed' by support after fire

A FAMILY left homeless after their home was struck by lightning and set on fire say they have been "overwhelmed" by the generosity of donors.

An online fundraising campaign set up after the house in Wadham Grove, Emersons Green, was wrecked on June 22 had raised more than £21,700 as the Voice went to print.

People also rallied round to offer practical help to the family whose home was destroyed, including offers of clothes and places to stay.

The house was hit during a violent storm that swept through the area, in the middle of a heatwave that saw a rare Red Extreme Heat warning issued, schools closed and recycling collections cancelled.

Avon Fire & Rescue Service said the fire in Emersons Green was one of five caused by lightning strikes during the storm, which also caused power cuts and internet outages, and knocked out traffic lights on a roundabout on the Avon Ring Road.

After the fire a friend of the family in Wadham Grove, Georgia Thomas, set up the fundraising page on website Gofundme with their consent.

The family sent a message of thanks to everyone who had stepped forward, saying: "We continue to be overwhelmed by the help, offers of support and contributions to the GoFundMe that we have received.

"The generosity shown by family, friends, colleagues and people we have not, and will probably never meet, continues to leave us humbled.

"Words cannot express how much everyone's support has meant to us, but we know we'll never be able to thank everyone individually.

"In these tough days it has warmed our hearts to know people have been looking out for us."

The fundraising page can be found at [tinyurl.com/mryh2xv8](https://www.tinyurl.com/mryh2xv8).

South Gloucestershire Council confirmed that traffic lights at the Rosary Roundabout,



The home in Wadham Grove was wrecked after being hit by lightning.

on the A4174 next to Emersons Green Retail Park had been temporarily knocked out during the storm.

A spokesperson said: "We believe this was related to lightning, as several electrical components within the circuits failed at the same time."

The Red Extreme Heat 'risk to life' warning issued by the Met Office for June 24 and 25 - only the second ever - led to most schools closing, along with some buildings such as Staple Hill

Community Hub.

*An online fundraiser has been launched for two families in Lyde Green whose homes were badly damaged by a fire on June 28.

The neighbours, a family of four and a couple, saw their semi-detached homes in Lilac Drive badly damaged in the blaze, which started accidentally and left one person needing treatment for smoke inhalation.

The fundraiser can be found at [tinyurl.com/3pkz96f2](https://www.tinyurl.com/3pkz96f2).

Scan the QR code to find out more or visit www.tockingtonmanorschool.com.

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'Warm and welcoming' nursery praised

INSPECTORS have praised the "warm and welcoming environment" of a nursery in Emersons Green.

Ofsted visited Busy Bees Day Nursery, in St Lukes Close, in May.

It was the education regulator's first inspection of the site using a new assessment system, after overall verdicts were axed last year.

Inspector Victoria Nicolson said the nursery, which has 105 places for children aged four and under, had achieved the 'strong standard' - above the expected level - for inclusion.

It achieved Ofsted's expected standard in the five other areas assessed: achievement; Behaviour, attitudes and establishing routines; children's welfare and well-being; curriculum and teaching; and leadership and governance.

The inspector said: "Leaders and staff provide a warm and welcoming environment.

"They greet children positively and help them to feel safe and secure. As a result,

children form deep attachments with staff and demonstrate that they feel cared for.

"Staff use their knowledge of children's needs to tailor experiences effectively.

"Babies benefit from a calm and nurturing environment, where staff respond sensitively to their needs.

"Older toddlers enjoy exploring a range of activities, such as painting and digging in the sand, showing curiosity and engagement.

"Older children take part in group games, laughing and chasing each other in the garden as they use their imaginations in play. This demonstrates that children enjoy their learning and are motivated to take part."

The inspector said the nursery's leaders have "consistently high expectations for all children," adding: "They ensure that all children, regardless of their starting points or individual needs, have the support that they need to reduce barriers to their learning."

Additional supervision for



Staff and children at Busy Bees Emersons Green

children is provided when needed, and leaders "work in close partnership with parents".

The inspector said: "Most children are confident and keen to learn, and children are well prepared for the next stage in their learning, overall."

Children behave well, with staff acting as positive role models, the inspector said.

The curriculum includes a focus on promoting children's language skills, and ensures all children have regular access to

outdoor activities.

A spokesperson for the nursery said: "We are absolutely delighted with our Ofsted result.

"It is a wonderful recognition of the caring, nurturing environments we strive to create for children every day.

"We are incredibly proud to know that the children in our care are exactly where they should be - in a warm, supportive environment where they feel safe, supported and valued."

Teachers strike over 'excessive workload'

TEACHERS and support staff at the area's two secondary schools held four days of strikes in a dispute with management.

Members of the National Education Union at Downend School and Mangotsfield School walked out on July 6 and 7, and on July 13 and 14, saying concerns over "excessive workload", "inappropriate direction of staff" and "lack of consultation on important working arrangements" had not been addressed by Castle School Education Trust, which runs both schools.

They held a demonstration outside the trust's headquarters at Marlwood School in Alveston which, along with Castle School in Thornbury, is also affected by the dispute.

The NEU is calling for an increase in staffing capacity.

It has raised concerns over a move away from South Gloucestershire term dates from September, and the introduction of an "off the shelf, standardised curriculum developed by another multi-academy trust".

The union says CSET is providing the "minimum planning, preparation and assessment time alongside maximum teaching loads," prompting some teachers to leave for other jobs, and others to go off sick with work-related stress.

South Gloucestershire NEU branch spokesperson Elly Owen said staff are facing a "crisis", adding: "Our members care deeply about the children and young people they work with. They do not take the decision to strike lightly.

"This dispute is about ensuring schools are properly staffed and that staff have the time and capacity to do their work, so that every child in their schools can get the high-quality education they deserve and pushing back against a culture of trust executives unilaterally making significant decisions which affect the core fundamentals of members' working lives, and children's education."

The union is calling for the trust to use

its "significant financial reserves" to increase staffing levels and says it has made significant pay increases to senior leaders, which could be used instead to.

Responding to the claims, CSET said: "We are disappointed that strike action by members of the NEU is causing unnecessary disruption to pupils' education.

"This strike has come about primarily because NEU officials are demanding a 10% reduction in the number of lessons taught by teachers in CSET secondary schools.

"The current arrangements are determined by nationally agreed teacher contracts, and changing this would require a substantial and sustained increase in the funding provided to schools by the Department for Education.

"We have engaged with NEU officials and representatives over recent months. All of the other issues that they have raised have been addressed, and they have rejected alternative proposals to ease workload pressures."

Cyclamen Road

LAST month's Voice carried an article about a motorist who was banned after admitting drink-driving and failing to stop after a collision on the M4.

The report included the defendant's address in Cyclamen Road.

We have been asked to make it clear that Cyclamen Road is in Lyde Green and not in Emersons Green, as was stated in the article.

We are happy to set the record straight.

Police stop drivers

POLICE pulled over more than 100 drivers to check their vehicles in a road safety and crime campaign, during June and July.

Officers from the Staple Hill Neighbourhood Policing Team and the Special Constabulary carried out checks across Staple Hill, Downend and Cheswick, including on the A432 Badminton Road, .

One driver was arrested on suspicion of driving while disqualified, and several vehicles were seized in connection with possible offences.

Take the challenge

SOUTH Gloucestershire Council chair Adrian Rush visited Emersons Green Library to launch this year's Summer Reading Challenge.

Children aged four and over are being invited to visit the library and take part in the challenge, called Read to the Beat, which encourages them to explore the

connection between stories and songs, discovering how they can spark imagination and creativity together.

The free challenge runs until September 12.

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

Children are given a free activity bag to get started and read books of their choice throughout the summer, taking part in activities and collecting stickers and rewards along the way.

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

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

For details of activities at Emersons Green Library visit tinyurl.com/nhd98ewb.



Council chair Adrian Rush with staff and readers at Emersons Green Library



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New call for healthcare at Frenchay

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

A community hospital for the wider area was promised when the decision to transfer acute services from the old Frenchay Hospital to Southmead was taken in 2005.

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

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

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

ICB chief delivery officer David Jarrett told South Gloucestershire Council's health scrutiny committee that North Bristol NHS Trust - which has since become part of the merged Bristol NHS Trust - should consider selling the site to "generate further capital funds".

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

She said: "Patients and the public are being failed on a daily basis."

"Both the council and BNSSG ICB have now abandoned any further interest in healthcare provision on the Frenchay site."

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

Conservative group leader Liz Brennan, who represents the Frenchay & Downend ward, said: "The message to Bristol NHS Trust and the ICB is simple - please do not let this opportunity pass by."

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

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

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

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

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

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service

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Church celebrates 150th birthday

SHORTWOOD Methodist Church celebrated its 150th birthday with a flower festival.

The two-day event in July also featured paintings, crafts and a display of photos from the church's centenary celebrations in 1976.

A spokesperson for the Bristol & South Gloucestershire Methodist Circuit said: "For a small church, it was truly inspiring to see how the congregation came together to create such beautiful bouquets and floral displays.

"Every arrangement reflected the care, creativity, and dedication of those who gave their time to make the church look so welcoming for this special occasion.

"Visitors also enjoyed displays of old photographs and newspaper cuttings, which



One of the displays at the church flower festival

shared the story of the church's long and faithful history.

"They offered a glimpse into the life of the church over the past 150 years, reminding us how it has served generations of worshippers.

"Despite the challenges it has faced over the years, Shortwood Methodist Church has

continued to support local charities and care for its community with faith, love, and generosity.

"A heartfelt thank you to everyone who worked so hard to organise this memorable weekend, create the beautiful floral displays, welcome visitors, and serve a lovely cup of tea and refreshments."

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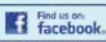
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EMERSONS GREEN VILLAGE HALL
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12-19 Age group 6pm-8pm

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Gardening club hits the big time

CHILDREN from Emersons Green Primary School won the opportunity to showcase their talent in the garden alongside the professionals at a prestigious show.

The school's gardening club won the chance to create a display at the Royal Horticultural Society's new Badminton flower show, held for the first time ever in July.

The young gardeners designed and created a planted wheelbarrow exhibit, drawing on the school's 'mighty futures' motto to name it Nature is Mighty.

Head of School Soraya Young said: "Their inspiring entry captured the imagination of the judges with its powerful message of environmental renewal.

"The display told the story of how nature has transformed land that was once shaped by coal mining into the thriving green landscape enjoyed by the local community today.

"Through carefully-selected plants and creative design, the children demonstrated how wildlife and nature can flourish when

given the opportunity.

"The project was a true team effort from start to finish. Gardening Club members spent weeks nurturing plants, carefully planning every aspect of their wheelbarrow design and bringing their vision to life.

"Their dedication and enthusiasm were rewarded when their creation was selected as a winning entry and showcased at the prestigious RHS Badminton event.

"During press day at the show, the pupils confidently spoke to visitors about their display, explaining the inspiration behind "Nature is Mighty" and sharing what they had learned throughout the project.

"Their passion for gardening and the environment impressed guests, making them excellent ambassadors for both their school and their local area.

"The success of the project is a testament to the hard work, creativity and teamwork shown by every member of the Gardening Club. It also highlights the importance of hands-on learning, giving children the opportunity to develop gardening skills, confidence and an appreciation for the natural world.

"None of this would have been possible without the dedication and encouragement of Gardening Club leaders Mrs White and Mrs Exton. Their enthusiasm, guidance and countless hours of support helped the children transform an ambitious idea into a winning display."



An Emersons Green Primary School gardening club member with the display



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£900k 'squandered' on payoffs

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service

Charges considered

POLICE have submitted a file of sex offence allegations against former Metro Mayor Dan Norris to the Crown Prosecution Service.

Lawyers must now consider whether there is enough evidence to bring charges against the former mayor, the MP for North East Somerset & Hanham.

Avon & Somerset Police issued a statement in July, saying: "We've been carrying out an investigation into allegations of sexual offences which led to the arrest of a man in his sixties. The investigation, which is being led by officers with Operation Bluestone, our dedicated rape and serious sexual assault investigation team, began in December 2024. The allegations being investigated relate to rape against three women, sexual assault against a fourth woman, as well as voyeurism and upskirting against a number of women. All are alleged to have occurred between the 2000s and 2020s."

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Balloon fires up children

A GIANT bulldog fired children's enthusiasm for this year's Bristol International Balloon Fiesta.

Bella is a 30ft tall special shape hot air balloon, and will be part of this year's fiesta at Ashton Court from August 7-9.

Children at Blackhorse Primary School sat on the school field and watched the tethered balloon inflate.

Head of school Neil Fry said: "Our mission is to offer extensive opportunities, and this was a great opportunity to create special memories for the children, whilst teaching them about Bristol's long ballooning history."

Bella is part of the fiesta's Schools Tether Roadshow, which launched last year.

One pupil said it was "amazing" to see a hot air balloon up close.

Afterwards, children in Key Stage 1 were treated to an assembly with visiting author Sian Hughes, who read pupils her book about the balloon fiesta, *Betty & Toff vs the puppy snatcher*.

CCTV work on path

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

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

The work is due to be finished by August 17.

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

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

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

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

The council says light machinery will be in use on the affected stretch of path, which will be temporarily narrowed at various locations where the cameras are being put up.

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

The work comes after police carried out an operation against illegal electric scooters on another stretch of the path. Officers stopped e-scooter users on the path through Fishponds.

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

MANGOTSFIELD RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

Working on consecrated ground

LAND that has been officially blessed and set apart for sacred use is known as consecrated ground.

Historically, it designates a space for the burial of baptised Christians, and ensures the graves are afforded long-term protection against being built over or used for secular purposes.

So what has it got to do with the Mangotsfield Residents Association?

Actually, quite a lot!

We knew that the Dame School grounds had been used by the church in the past: there are still headstones around the inner wall, as I'm sure many of you know.

But in finalising our plans for the Dame School art installation, South Gloucestershire Council have discovered that the grounds are consecrated, which means we need permission from the local diocese to place the installation on the site.

That's not likely to be a problem for the project. It does, however, mean that any future plans will involve an additional set of

permissions: how likely it is we'll get them will, of course, depend on the work we are doing.

Some years ago we uncovered some gravestones on the site, lying flat on the floor. We had assumed they were simply headstones, like the others that had fallen over. We may be wrong, and will be investigating.

We never thought our HAMS (hours a month) would be postponed or cancelled because the weather was too nice. How wrong we were!

Our weeding and tidying around the village HAM finally took place on July 3, and the volunteers have made a huge difference, as you can see in the pictures.

Our gardening team that meets on most Tuesday mornings has also been doing great work - I'm sure they'd welcome some help, so if you are interested, please let us know.

Our Christmas tree lights have been taken down and we'll be inspecting and repairing them over the coming months so they will be



The church wall on St James Place, before and after weeding

back to their best this year.

A question: would you prefer to see them put up as they were, around the tree, or as they were on the Preddy's tree, hanging in loops? Let us know, please.

Our next Red Lion Coffee Morning will be on August 5 at 10 am: all are welcome.

And finally, this very hot weather is likely to be the norm

going forward, so please keep an eye on one another, particularly on anyone vulnerable.

To get in touch email MangotsfieldRA@gmail.com, message the Mangotsfield Matters Facebook page, call our chair, Clive Heath, on 07507 168700 or me on 07918 701881.

Chris Amos

BEECHMERE BELLES WI

DID you come along to the Emersons Green Village Hall Flower Show at the end of June?

If you did, we hope you enjoyed the tea and cakes which we had on offer for you.

We had a fabulous afternoon chatting to so many lovely people.

At our July meeting we are talking saris – beautiful silks and satins, brought along by our speaker for the evening.

We'll learn some of their history and how to wear the yards of fabric that is used. There will also be jingly bangles to add to the gorgeousness.

Hopefully the weather will be kind to us on August 27, when we'll head into Emersons Green Park for our picnic.

Why don't you join us, bring a chair or blanket, your picnic and a pen? There will be a quiz! It's a very relaxed hour or so, from 7pm onwards – it's going to be fun.

We welcome guests to any of our meetings. It's free for your first one (unless it's a craft evening, when we charge £5 to cover materials).

We promise you a warm welcome, as well as tea or coffee,

and cake! We meet in Emersons Green Village Hall at 7.30pm on the fourth Thursday of each month.

If you would like to know more about our WI, please contact us via email at beechmerebelles@gmail.com or follow our Facebook page, which is Emersons Green & Lyde Green WI Beechmere Belles.

Wendy

RODWAY RUBIES WI

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

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

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

We were also supported by several volunteers from the BUST charity itself, who were appreciative of all the efforts, and the cakes!

St Aldams Farm Nursery in Pucklechurch gave us a very generous donation of plants to add

to those donated by members, so thanks to them too.

We don't have a meeting in August, so are looking forward to our Country & Western evening on September 18 at Lincombe Barn. Supper is provided and tickets are on sale now for £12 to all local WI members, not only Rodway Rubies. You don't have to get your boots and Stetsons on, but feel free if you want to enter into the spirit of the evening! Email rodwayrubies@gmail.com if you are interested.

We have a varied selection of speakers for the autumn, including local author Emily Koch in September.

We also have a couple of craft events, including a jewellery workshop in September.

We meet at 7.30pm on the third Monday of every month, except August, at St James' Church Hall, Richmond Road, Mangotsfield.

Jane Eldon

SHORTWOOD VILLAGE WI

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

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

Sarah started by telling us about turning her dull garden into to

a wildlife haven and Claire finished talking about ways to save water, with her enthusiasm for water butts.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

MANGOTSFIELD DOLLY MIXTURES

TWO ladies presented a 'quiz with a difference' for our meeting in the hall in July.

We were all placed in teams of four and the first part of the quiz involved pictures of cake items which we had to name; the second part was a series of ten questions that carried a theme, the object being to guess the theme.

After a break for tea or coffee and cake, the third part was a game of 'higher or lower', with giant playing cards, and finally a bingo session.

Certificates were duly given to the winning teams and individuals: it was a great evening, full of fun and laughter. We would love to have them back next year.

Another 60th birthday was celebrated, with a card and singing of Happy Birthday.

A few days earlier some Dollys joined in with the Bristol Jazz Society's annual river cruise, gliding up the river Avon from near the SS Great Britain to just past Bees Tea Garden.

Kevin Grenfell's Jazz Falcons 5, set up on the back of the boat, played toe-tapping music all the way along - much to the amusement of the cold water swimmers we encountered along the way!

Next year's cruise will be on July 10, from 11am-2pm.

There is no meeting in the hall in August, but we will meet up for an evening in the Cinnamon Tree in Burley Grove for a curry.

Our monthly pub lunch at the Lamb in Mangotsfield is, as always, very well supported: our thanks to Kate and her team.

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

Carol Coombs

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EMAIL US:

news@emersonsgreenvoice.co.uk

Brownies get taste of festival life



2nd Mangotsfield Brownies on the camp

BROWNIES held a festival-themed camp complete with face-painting, tie-dye making and campfire pizzas.

In all, 17 girls from the 2nd Mangotsfield Brownies, who meet every week at St James' Church Hall, took part in Browniefest, a two-night camp at Briarlands Activity Centre in Bitton in June.

The brownies, who mainly come from Emersons Green and

Mangotsfield, were joined by four other members of the group and more girls from the 23rd St Augustine's group for the day on the Saturday of the weekend.

Leaders Laura McCombe and Ruth Kavanagh said: "For some of the girls it was their very first time camping, and they wasted no time getting stuck in - pitching their own tents on arrival before settling down for the first evening.



The group made their own 'selfie board'

"The weekend was packed with activities.

"The girls created their own tie-dye designs, had their faces painted with beautiful flowers, and made campfire pizzas.

"They also enjoyed classic outdoor favourites including parachute games, giant bubbles, learnt to tie knots and plenty of campfire moments.

"Watching the girls grow in confidence over the weekend

was incredible. From pitching their own tents to trying new things, they absolutely rose to the challenge - we couldn't be prouder.

"The camp would not have been possible without the support of fellow leaders Liz, Stacy, Jo and Rhian, and young leaders Emily and Annie, who helped make the weekend the success it was."

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August 2

■ **LAZY SUNDAY AFTERNOON CONCERT AT PAGE PARK BANDSTAND**, 2-4pm, with Siobhan Olivia & Rock Choir. Also Ukulele Ben & Artuba on August 9, Mad Sax on August 16 (noon on the patio), Salvation Army August 16 (3pm), Kelly Loveridge, Frankie Johns & Lucciano August 23, Bristol Concert Wind Band August 30.

August 8

■ **GRAND OPENING OF THE NEW TENNIS COURTS AT BROMLEY HEATH PLAYING FIELDS**, 10am-1pm. All welcome to enjoy a game of tennis, have a go at pickleball, meet members of Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council and celebrate a new community facility.

August 11

■ **BEREAVEMENT GROUP** at Christ Church Downend, 2pm. Friendship, refreshments and a chance to reflect together with others who have lost a loved one.

August 13

■ **DOWNEND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY ANNUAL FLOWER SHOW**, the Assembly Rooms, Salisbury Road, Downend, 7.30pm. Free admission - all welcome. Entries open to all, with prizes for winners. Classes for flowers, houseplants, fruit and veg, home produce. Quiz. Refreshments. More details from dreacross@gmail.com.

August 16

■ **KING GEORGE V PAVILION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION EVENT**, 11am-5pm at the pavilion on King George V Playing fields, Downend. Free event with stalls, music, food and family activities.

August 27

■ **AFTERNOON CREAM TEA AND LAURA ASHLEY FASHION SHOW** at Christ Church Downend, 2-4pm. Fundraiser for church roof and Breast Cancer Research. Tickets £15 from Maggie Nichols on 0779 025 0853 or maggie.nichols@christchurchdownend.com.

August 28

■ **BAT TALK AND WALK** at Lincombe Barn, Overdale Road, Downend, 7pm, with expert Daisy Finnear. Free event - donations to Severn Wildlife Rescue. Organised by the Friends of Lincombe Barn Park & Woods.

REGULAR EVENTS

Monday

■ **PUCKLECHURCH SHORT MAT BOWLS CLUB** are looking for new players. We meet every Monday evening (7.15-9.30) and Sunday & Wednesday afternoons 3.15pm-6pm at Pucklechurch Community Centre. Refreshments available. For more information contact John 07926541933.

Tuesday

■ **RIDGEWAY BADMINTON CLUB** meets every Tuesday Evening from 8-10pm at Downend Sports Centre for informal badminton doubles/singles matches between adults of all ages. First visit free. More info from Graham on 07968 050320.
■ **MESSY SPACE** at Badminton Road Methodist Church, Downend, 10-11.45am. Term-time group for toddlers and carers. Toys, books, crafts, singing and refreshments. First visit free. More information at

badmintonroadmethodist.org.uk or 0117 956 1106.

■ **MONDAY ART GROUP** Spaces available Meets Monday 10-12.30 Badminton Road Methodist Church BS16 6NU Come along to see if you like it. Just doing your own art work with a sociable group.

■ **PUCKLECHURCH FOLK DANCING CLUB** Pucklechurch Community Hall, Abson Road every other Tuesday from 7.30 to 10.15pm. All welcome either with a partner or solo. Enjoy an evening with us. Call Sue on 07742114566 or Linda on 0784324014.

■ **BRISTOL MILITARY WIVES CHOIR** meets at Mangotsfield and Castle Green United Reformed Church, Cossham Street, every Tuesday 7-9pm. Open to women with a military connection. No audition or experience needed. Cake and tea/coffee provided. More details from bristol@militarywiveschoirs.org.

Wednesday

■ **THE WOMEN'S SECTION OF THE ROYAL BRITISH LEGION** meets on the first Wednesday of the month, 1-3pm at the YOU Foundation, Page Road, Staple Hill (by the long-stay car park). New members welcome. More details from Diane Roberts 0117 956 3407.

■ **MANGO JAMS BABY & TODDLER GROUP**, meets at Lyde Green Community Centre, 9.15am-10.45am, term time only.

■ **FRENCHAY FOLK DANCE CLUB** meets alternate Wednesdays, English and American folk dancing to live music, 7.45-10.15pm, Frenchay Village Hall. New dancers always welcome. More details at www.frenchayfdc.co.uk or email FFDCSecretary@gmail.com.

■ **CLEEVE SINGERS OF DOWNEND** Enjoy singing, then come and join this four part choir who meet on Wednesday evenings at Lincombe Barn, Overdale Road 7.30 p.m. from September until July. For more information contact the Secretary on 0117 9561881.

■ **DOWNEND FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB** meet at Emerson's Green Village Hall twice a month on a Wednesday evening, term time only. We are a friendly relaxed group, why not join us. For more information Downendflowers@gmail.com

Thursday

■ **NEXT DOOR BOOKS** welcomes new members. Book club meets on the last Thursday of the month at 11am, depending on numbers. Normally meets at Emersons Green library, email jessica.callaway@hotmail.co.uk.

■ **COFFEE, CAKE AND COMMUNITY MORNING** at Emersons Green Village Hall. Free Tea, Coffee, and Cake served 10am to 12pm, with extra time to relax and finish your drinks until 1pm. Everyone is welcome! Donations to Emersons Green Village Hall welcome. Supported by Emersons Green Town Council.

■ **WALKING WITH FRIENDS**, free group walks at a gentle pace around Siston Commons. Start and finish at Kingsmeadow@ Madeforever Community Centre, Fisher Road, BS15 4RQ, 1-2pm. For more details email kingsmeadowmade4ever.org.uk or call 07588 622 372

■ **SHORTWOOD VILLAGE WI** meets on the second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm, at Shortwood Village Chapel, Main Road, Shortwood. More details from millhousejoinery@aol.com.

■ **BEECHMER BELLES WI** meet in Emersons Green Village Hall at 7.30pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. More details from beechmerbelles@gmail.com.

com or Facebook.

Friday

■ **PAGE PARK UKULELE CLUB**, Bean Tree café, Fridays at 1pm. All abilities welcomed. Places £4 each. For further details call or text 'Ukulele' to Ben on 07910 668258.

■ **RAINBOW TOTS** parent and toddler group meets at Emersons Green Village Hall on term-time Friday mornings, 10-11.30am. All welcome. For more details email church.egbc@outlook.com.

■ **MANGOTSFIELD AND CASTLE GREEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH** regular coffee mornings, held on the first Thursday of the month, 10.30am-noon at the church in Cossham Street.

■ **LATER LIVE MUSIC**, Resound church, Blackhorse Road, Mangotsfield. Every second Friday monthly, except August & December, 8-10pm, £2.50. More details at facebook.com/lateratresound.

Saturday

■ **STAPLE HILL METHODIST CHURCH** Coffee mornings in our beautiful building every Saturday 10.00-12.00 in aid of church funds or charities. Enjoy Fairtrade coffee, tea and cake, and stalls.

Sunday

■ **MANGOTSFIELD AND CASTLE GREEN UNITED REFORMED CHURCH** hold regular weekly Sunday morning worship at Cossham Street. Services start at 10.30 a.m. with different speakers each week. New members very welcome. For more details please contact Peter Redding (Ch.Sec.) on 0117 9657075.

■ **BADMINTON ROAD METHODIST CHURCH** Sunday worship followed by sharing refreshments, 10.30am Service of Holy Communion usually fourth Sunday of the month, led by Rev Leigh Maydew. More information from www.badmintonroadmethodist.org.uk.

■ **STAPLE HILL METHODIST CHURCH**, High Street BS16 5HQ

Sunday services 10.30am + Sunday Club for ages 5-17. Holy Communion 2nd Sunday of the month - all invited. Taizé worship 6.00pm 3rd Sunday of the month. Contact Rev Dr Aboseh Ngwana 07482 550888, Philippa Church Liaison at staplehillmethodist@hotmail.co.uk or www.staplehillmethodist.com

■ **EMERSONS GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH** services are held every Sunday morning from 10.30-11.30am at Emersons Green Village Hall, Emersons Way. We also hold regular craft services. Contact Simon on 07765 201435, visit www.emersonsgreenchurch.org or Facebook page for more details.

■ **LYDE GREEN LITTER PICKERS** meet at 10.30am on the first Sunday of the month outside Lyde Green Community Centre, Thistle Close. See www.cleanupuk.org.uk/groups/lyde-green-litter-pickers for information.

■ **SERVICES AT ST JAMES CHURCH, MANGOTSFIELD**: 8am, holy communion. 10.30am, services rotate between all-age service (1st Sunday), morning worship (2nd & 4th Sunday), holy communion (3rd Sunday) and healing service (5th Sunday).

■ **PUCKLECHURCH BADMINTON CLUB**, Pucklechurch Village Hall, 8pm weekly. Play friendlies and mixed doubles. Over-18s only. For more details contact Mark on 07866 375512 or Pauline on 07570 046177.

Two years of working for you

IT'S (somehow!) been two years since fellow residents elected me to represent our fantastic community in Parliament.

Every advice surgery, letter, email, Coffee with Claire and Pub Politics event, and every doorstep conversation shape the work I do serving you.

Thank you to the thousands of you who have contributed so far. It is the privilege of my life to serve you and our community – your home and mine.

In these two years, I have contributed 125 times in Parliament and voted 502 times on our community's behalf.

I have supported 7,832 fellow residents, securing at least £522,643.60 that they were



Claire Hazelgrove with Simon Hutchings, Adam Clarke and Alison Noon-Jones of Leidos UK in Emersons Green

due, by taking on 14,362 cases – and sending 32,194 emails.

Last month my team and I worked on 888 new cases and I held my advice surgery in Frenchay. My Coffee with Claire event at SGS College's WISE campus focused on opportunities for young people.

I'd like to thank Keir Starmer for his focus on our community – from visiting our excellent defence and aerospace companies to the Beaufort Arms pub, he got to know our community well.

I met with Andy Burnham ahead of him becoming our next PM. He made clear that he also knows our community is not only incredibly important, but where lots is happening that others could learn from elsewhere.

I also secured meetings with the Health Minister and Housing Minister to champion local priorities, including access to NHS dentistry and the proliferation of HMOs.

I met with defence ministers about the Government's new Defence Investment Plan to help strengthen national security and support local defence jobs.

I also visited defence logistics company Leidos UK at its base in Emersons Green, where it employs 210 people, to hear more about how its work is supporting both national and local priorities.



Following a recent event and survey on local mental health services, I wrote to the Health Secretary to help inform the government's upcoming mental health strategy.

Thank you to all those who contributed so thoughtfully.

In recent weeks I've met with UWE, Filton Town Council and the Elm Park Leisure Centre team, and Street Life and FareShare at St Chad's Church in Patchway, to help cook for homeless people.

I've also visited some fantastic summer fairs put on by dedicated volunteers, including the Frenchay Flower Show, the brilliant community festivals in Filton and Charlton Hayes, school fairs at Filton Hill, St Michael's and Bailey's Court Primary, and the re-enactment at Winterbourne Medieval Barn. What a special place, ours is!

Making it an even better place to live is what drives me everyday. There's lots more to do!

Please get in touch anytime at claire.hazelgrove.mp@parliament.uk.


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Downend CHAP chair Janet Biggin, centre, is surrounded by the group's re-enactors

Walking through time

SHOPPERS in Downend's high street came face to face with fascinating people from the past at Downend Community History and Arts Project's Promenade Through Time.

Put on with support from South Gloucestershire Council's Creative High Streets Fund, as CHAP member Jenny Alcock said: "Our aim was to make an impact and engage the public – and we certainly achieved that!"

Professional actors, re-enactors and volunteers strode up and down the high street in costume, answering questions about their role in the area's history.

They included a miner, a medieval peasant, World War One nurses, a suffragette, a quaker, a trade unionist, a 1940s housewife, a storyteller relaying ghostly tales from Downend's history, as well as cricketing legend WG

Grace, Holocaust survivor Hella Hewison and Edward Higgins, the disreputable local highwayman.

One young visitor said the Roman gladiators and soldiers were her favourite, saying: "They're so friendly and they've told me a lot of interesting things. I never knew there were female gladiators."

In turn, the Romans said how much fun it had been for them to be wandering around talking to people.

Instead of performing a set display at a re-enactment, this time they were part of the community, encouraging locals to examine at close quarters their armour, or even hold their weapons and shield!

A living statue of Lord Nelson atop Nelson's Column in Trafalgar Square gained a lot of attention, especially when he suddenly



A suffragette told the story of the battle for voting rights for women
All photos: ELLIOTT SARGENT

moved, startling passers-by.

Why was he there? Because EH Bailey, who sculpted him, came from Downend.

As well as all the live action CHAP had a stall, where photos of Downend in days gone by provided by Kingswood Heritage Museum created a real talking point for many people, who enjoyed reminiscing about how things were 'back in the day'.

The stall also displayed beautifully-made dolls depicting other characters from history, including Lady Cave, who would have lived in Cleve Hill House when the big stately home was at the heart of Downend, as well as a 'mad hatter' hat factory worker,

and a pin factory worker.

Another crowd-pleaser was local folk singer Lou Shepherd, who performed outside the Horseshoe, with the Riff Raff Choir also entertaining visitors who combined their journey through time with a browse of the many Sunday market stalls.

Downend CHAP is a not-for-profit voluntary group that aims to bring history to life through arts, publications, music and events that engage the community and build a sense of identity for Downend and Emersons Green.

For more information visit www.downendchap.org.

Helen Rana



The living statue of Lord Nelson moved to surprise visitors



Highwayman Edward Higgins and a miner



A medieval peasant and a 1940s housewife

144 teams in Flyers' tournament

DOWNEND Flyers' annual football tournament proved to be another outstanding success, bringing together more than 1,100 players for a weekend of exciting football, community spirit and celebration.

The tournament on Pomphrey Hill North playing fields at the end of June welcomed an incredible 144 teams, with 1,152 players taking part in more than 700 matches.

Across the weekend, more than 7,000 minutes of football were played, making it one of the club's biggest and most successful tournaments to date.

The event reached a fitting conclusion, as the Downend Flyers women's team were crowned tournament champions, providing the perfect finale to an unforgettable weekend.

As the club's main annual fundraiser, the money generated by the tournament will help support football opportunities for girls and women across the community.

However, organisers say the greatest achievement was seeing so many young players enjoying the game, developing their skills and making lasting memories in a positive and inclusive environment.

Downend Flyers sincerely thank everyone who made the event possible, including the dedicated players, coaches, referees, volunteers, parents and supporters who worked tirelessly throughout the weekend.

The club also paid tribute to its generous tournament sponsors, whose backing helped ensure the event was another resounding success.

There were plenty of reasons



The winning Downend Flyers women's team

to celebrate on the pitch, with several Downend Flyers teams enjoying excellent performances:

- Under-10 Falcons – Cup Runners-up
- Under-11 Condors – Cup Winners
- Under-12 Owls – Plate Winners
- Under-13 Rooks – Plate Runners-up
- Under-15 Hawks – Plate Winners
- Women's Team – Cup Winners

Club chairperson Fay Poole said: "What better way to finish our tournament weekend than with our women's team going all the way to be crowned tournament champions?"

"We are incredibly proud of every player who took part, and grateful to our amazing coaches, volunteers, sponsors and everyone who helped make the weekend such a success.

"While the tournament is our biggest fundraiser of the year



The tournament took over Pomphrey Hill North playing fields. Picture: Emily Beer

and raised an excellent amount for the club, what mattered most was seeing so many girls out on the pitch enjoying football. That's what Downend Flyers is all about."

With another successful

tournament complete, the club is already looking forward to welcoming teams back next year for what promises to be another fantastic celebration of grassroots football.

Duncan Gardner

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First team wobbles

CARSONS & Mangotsfield 1st team have finally wobbled, and now need to tighten the grip. The warning shot came at Long Ashton, where they were 68-6 chasing 143, rescued only by Kieran Gallagher (50no) and Tour Ponting (45no).

Against unbeaten Frenchay, the innings duly imploded: no hero this time. Bowled out for 118, they were saved from embarrassment only by a fierce bowling shift and a one-wicket margin, Jack Woodland's 3-28 the bright spot.

Bristol Sri Lankans followed, with another defeat - the team's first back-to-back league losses in over three years and a sharp reminder of how relentlessly consistent they've been while climbing the league.

The 2nd team have ricocheted between swagger and self-reproach.

Hampset and Bristol Mavericks handed out the reality checks, nudging them down a spot, although only behind the sides who clipped them.

The reset arrived smartly against Bristol Asians, Isaac Buckingham's 4-32 tightening the vice and leaving 131 to chase, a job Ben Johnson (51no) and George Farmer (40no) knocked off with ease. They followed it with a statement win against Bristol Sri Lankans 2nds: after a collective batting push to 212, the Sri Lankans were bundled out for 139, Jamie McDowell (3-33) and Sam Holbrook (3-22) sharing the spoils.

The 3rd team are still chasing that elusive first win, and it's close enough to feel cruel. A three-run defeat to Brislington (230-6) saw Ian Coles (41) and Pieter Hougaard (67) almost drag them over the line.

The Sunday side enjoyed a six-game winning streak, skipper George Farmer scoring 110 and Jack Woodland 44 of the side's 204 against Bradley Stoke & Almondsbury, with Craig Woodland's 3-48 keeping the chase at arm's length.

The streak ended with defeat to Old Cathedralians. Sam Holbrook (4-12) restricted them to 133 but the side were all out for 111.

To contact the club email info.carsonsandmangotsfield@gmail.com or follow us on our socials.

Jake Lane

Mangos start on the road

MANGOTSFIELD United returned to pre-season training in late June in readiness for the new season.

The first team will compete in the Hellenic League Premier Division for the fifth season in a row, starting with two away fixtures at Gloucestershire sides Fairford Town and Cirencester Town.

Manager Ollie Price will be looking to put together a side capable of challenging for promotion back to the Southern League, particularly as last season's campaign began so well but soon dipped into mid-table due to inconsistent results.

Ollie arrived back at Cossham Street in the middle of last season and did what he could with the side he inherited, but as they say, tomorrow is another day, and the Mangos will be having another crack at promotion.

The Mangos have taken on a series of Southern League sides in their pre-season fixtures, starting with a 2-0 home win over Yate Town of the Premier South division.

This was followed by three home defeats, 5-2 to Division One South team Portishead Town, 3-2 to Premier South side Chippenham Town and 4-0 to Bristol Manor Farm of Division One South.

The Mangos then travelled to Devon to take on AFC Bideford, another Division One South side, losing 2-0.

Pre-season friendlies are, of course, training games with various triallists playing on both sides who will come and go before the season starts. It is all about getting a squad of players ready for the new league season and at this point, it is impossible to know who exactly will line up for the Mangos in August. So far, all of the friendlies have been useful workouts for the manager to consider.

August 1: Fairford Town (away)

August 4: Cirencester Town (A)

August 8: Easington Sports (A - FA Cup)

August 15: Kintbury Rangers (A - FA Vase)

August 18: Hallen (home)

August 29: Westfields (H)

Dave Smale

Hambrook hosts cricket festival



Hambrook Cricket Club youth coach Mitch Vardy gets a soaking

WHITESHILL Common was host to Gloucestershire Cricket Board's first All Stars festival.

The event in July brought together young cricketers aged from five to seven from Hambrook, Frenchay and Knowle youth clubs to play fun games, ending with a hilarious round of 'Splash the Coach'.

The club is part of Hambrook Sports Club, which runs cricket, football, skittles, fitness classes and more for the community of Hambrook and the surrounding villages.

For more details visit www.hambrooksportsclub.co.uk.

Naomi Bowler

Pavilion project: Page 51

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From hills to heights: my first mountain

If you'd asked me a few years ago whether I'd ever climb a mountain, I'd probably have laughed – a lot.

The closest I'd come was walking a marathon with fellow Cleve chiropractor Catherine Quinn and my wife Jenny in aid of Motor Neurone Disease for our friend Marcus Stewart. It was an incredible cause, but if I'm honest, I was hopelessly underprepared. By the end of the day I was completely broken and Catherine and Jenny practically carried me back to the train. It wasn't exactly one of my finest athletic moments!

So when Catherine and I joined around 50 chiropractors to climb Mount Snowdon in memory of our much-loved colleague and university lecturer, George Rips, I approached it with a mixture of excitement and genuine nerves.

George helped many of us – Including me – through chiropractic university and some particularly challenging neurology exams. Climbing in his memory, while raising money for Prostate Cancer UK, made every step feel worthwhile. Thanks to everyone's incredible generosity we raised around £5,000, which was then matched by a corporate sponsor – an amazing achievement.

This time, however, things were different for me in the preparation department.

Over the last few years, I've made a conscious effort to practise what I've preached to patients for decades. Exercise has always been one of the pillars of health I talk passionately about yet, like many busy professionals, I often convinced myself I simply didn't have the time.

However, since turning 40, I've gradually changed that mindset for the better.

Training in the gym with our physio Keith a couple of times each week, running through the hills of Somerset and building strength and fitness has become something I genuinely look forward to. It gives me freedom, clears my head and helps balance a career that I absolutely love but which can also be wonderfully intense.

That preparation made all the difference when I was contemplating the not inconsiderable task of climbing the highest mountain in Wales.

Full of enthusiasm, we set off at around 6pm in glorious sunshine wearing shorts and T-shirts. The PYG Track (one of the main walking routes on Snowdon) was busy with people like us enjoying a beautiful summer evening. It felt more like a pleasant hike than a mountain expedition.

Then Snowdon reminded us who was in charge. Halfway up, we rounded a corner and were met by ferocious winds. That's when the extra layers of clothing came out. A little further on, we found one final sheltered spot overlooking the stunning lake below and paused to take it all in.

Then, almost unbelievably, the weather transformed again. Cloud rolled over the ridge, visibility disappeared and horizontal rain arrived with astonishing speed. Within minutes we had gone from summer clothing to waterproofs, hats and gloves as we battled the elements for the final push to the summit.

Reaching the top felt incredibly satisfying, even if the famous Snowdon sunset remained hidden behind thick cloud. The smiles, photographs and sense of achievement more than made up for it.

The descent, however, was a different challenge

altogether. Walking down the rocky path alongside the mountain railway line demanded constant braking through the knees and thighs. By the morning my knees felt enormous, even though they looked perfectly normal. It was a reminder that going downhill is often harder than climbing up.

Fortunately, spending a weekend with 50 chiropractors has its advantages! Everyone was looking after everyone else. Once I was back at work, I treated myself to red light therapy, enjoyed some much-appreciated massages from the team and even persuaded Cleve chiropractor Jack to give me an adjustment. By the middle of the week, I was feeling remarkably normal again.

Perhaps the moment that summed up the weekend best wasn't on the summit at all.

One of our colleagues, now 80 years old, struggled badly on the final descent as his legs simply refused to cooperate. We all waited together until half past one in the morning while he completed the final section. Despite offers of help, he insisted on finishing under his own steam. That determination earned everyone's admiration.

Snowdon challenged me physically, reminded me of the value of preparation and reinforced something I often tell patients: our bodies are capable of remarkable things when we look after them consistently.

Would I recommend it?

Absolutely.

It's tough enough to make you proud, achievable enough for most people with sensible preparation and even more rewarding when shared with good friends for a worthwhile cause.

Who knows... perhaps the experience has created a mountain climber in me after all.



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Club unveils pavilion project

HAMBROOK Sports Club has launched a £100,000 appeal to raise funds to transform its pavilion.

The club, based on Mooreend Road overlooking Whiteshill Common, wants to turn the current pavilion, built by members in the 1960s, into a modern, accessible building including: separate changing rooms for male and female home and away teams; a separate changing room for referees; step-free access to changing rooms; accessible toilets; a lift to an extended upstairs function room; a balcony for spectators to watch matches safely; a rainwater harvesting system for flushing toilets; solar panels and a battery to generate energy, and an air source heat pump; a new roof and upgraded insulation; a

green roof for pollinating insects and eaves with nesting space for a local colony of rare house martins.

Sports club chair Naomi Bowler said: "The goal for this project is to increase the club's capacity to meet the needs of a growing population, particularly our amazing female cricket and football teams, and to finally make the club inclusive for people with additional accessibility needs."

"It's going to deliver a sustainable building, with plans for renewable energy, including solar panels, an air source heat pump, and rainwater harvesting to flush toilets and help manage storm water flooding."

"Our hope for the future of the club is to deliver a building that can provide even more opportunities to play sport and enjoy social and wellbeing activities for our surrounding communities."

The non-profit club, which is run by volunteers, offers cricket, football, skittles, fitness and other activities.

It has applied for funding paid to South Gloucestershire Council by housing developers who have built in the area, as



What the new pavilion could look like. Picture: Place by Design architects

well as the Football Association, Gloucestershire Cricket Board, National Lottery Movement Fund, Bristol and Wessex Water, and the West of England Combined Authority Green Community Buildings Grant.

Naomi said: "Some of these funders operate on a 'match funding' basis, meaning they will only match what we can raise ourselves."

The club has launched an online donation page on the Crowdfunder platform, with a target of £100,000, which can be found at tinyurl.com/5erpzkzpa.

It is asking its 400 members and other supporters to organise sponsored events, and is asking

businesses with sponsorship programmes to get in touch.

Details of fundraising events already being planned can be found on the club website at hambrooksportsclub.co.uk and on its Facebook page.

The club is also calling on experienced tradespeople and those with project management experience to share their skills, and for residents to support the project when it applies for planning permission.

Anyone who can help can call Naomi on 0789 144 6060 or email officialhambrooksportsclub@gmail.com.

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