

emersonsgreenvoice

www.emersonsgreenvoice.co.uk

September 2026, Edition — Issue 112

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



Onwards and upwards!

These students from Downend and Mangotsfield Sixth Form are preparing to start university courses, apprenticeships and careers after achieving what school leaders described as "an excellent set of A-level and vocational results". *Exam results: Pages 8-15*

Schools are ready to go

LYDE Green's two new schools are ready to welcome their first children into classes.

Lyde Green Community School in Honeysuckle Road will start with about 150 Year 7 pupils, while next door the new Lyde Green Primary School will have 21 Reception children and 80 Year 6 pupils from its twin site in Willowherb Road.

Both schools will open to pupils on September

7 - marking the completion of a £58.3 million building project paid for by the government and South Gloucestershire Council.

It follows decades of campaigning, for a secondary school to serve the Emersons Green area and for enough school places to serve Lyde Green - and a four-year delay from the initial opening date.

Full story: Pages 2 & 3



Rowing crew break record

A surgeon from Emersons Green is one of a crew of five who broke the record in the 2,000-mile GB Rowing Challenge.

PAGE 17

At last! Surgery set to reopen

Emersons Green Medical Centre is due to reopen this month, almost two years after shutting because boiler repairs were needed.

PAGE 5

Cyclists attacked on railway path

Police are carrying out extra security patrols on the Bristol to Bath railway path after a stabbing and a mugging.

PAGE 7



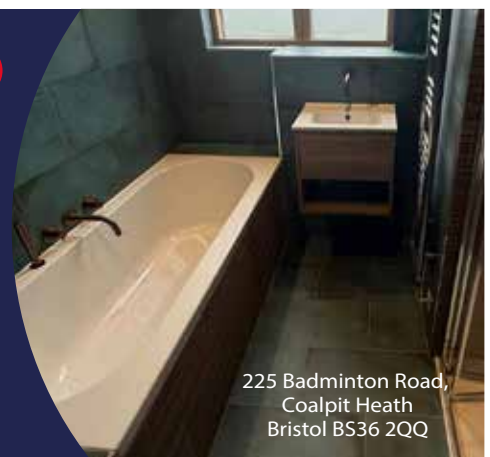
Bathroom
& Boilers Ltd



Bathroom & Kitchen Design & Installations
Boiler Servicing, Breakdowns & Installations

POP INTO OUR SHOWROOM

Call us on **01454 527357** or email us at info@gt-plumbing-heating.co.uk
www.gt-plumbing-heating.co.uk



225 Badminton Road,
Coalpit Heath
Bristol BS36 2QQ

emersonsgreenvoice



Publisher
Gary Brindle
0117 907 8585
07799 461169



Journalist
Linda Tanner
0777 0700579



Journalist
Ken McCormick
07715 770377



Follow us on Twitter
@emersonsgreenvoice



Find us on Facebook
emersons green voice



ADVERTISING

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 October edition deadline is September 16.

LOCAL INFORMATION

South Gloucestershire Council
www.southglos.gov.uk
01454 868009

Police
www.avonandsomersetpolice.uk
general enquiries: 101
Emergency: 999

Fire
www.avonfire.gov.uk
General enquiries: 0117 926 2061
Emergency: 999

NHS 111
Safer Stronger team
sscg@southglos.gov.uk
01454 868009
Anti social behaviour team
asbreporting@southglos.gov.uk
01454 868582
Streetcare/litter/vandalism etc

streetcare@southglos.gov.uk

Environment/trading standards
01454 868001
Well Aware
Health and social care information
www.wellaware.org.uk Tel:
(freephone) 0800 808 5252

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Emersons Green Voice is independent. We cannot take responsibility for content or accuracy of adverts, and it is advertisers' responsibility to conform to all relevant legislation. We cannot vouch for any services offered. Opinions are not necessarily those of the editor. Emersons Green Voice is distributed each month to local residents. If for some reason you do not get a copy, please get in touch or collect one from local pick-up points. Feedback is welcomed, call Gary Brindle on 0117 907 8585 or news@emersonsgreenvoice.co.uk.

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.

A member of the



An aerial view of the completed school buildings, with the primary school on the left and secondary school on the right. Picture: South Gloucestershire Council



The primary school library ready to be filled with books



The primary school playground



The primary school's distinctive corner building facing Honeysuckle Road, with the secondary school to the right

Lyde Green schools ready to welcome pupils at last

LYDE Green's long-awaited £58.3 million new schools are ready to welcome their first ever pupils - four years later than first planned.

The primary and secondary schools in Honeysuckle Road will both open to children on Monday, September 7.

Around 150 Year 7 pupils will start at Lyde Green Community School, run by the Olympus Trust.

Its eventual capacity will be 900 pupils aged 11 to 16.

Head teacher Tom Hill said about a third of the first intake of 11-year-old pupils are from Lyde Green itself, with the rest from Emersons Green, Pucklechurch and the wider area.

He said: "Everyone who put the school down as first choice got a place."

Teachers and teaching assistants are ready to cover every specialism except music: pupils will get extra music lessons next year.

Mr Hill said the school will break with tradition in some areas, including pupils addressing teachers by their first names.

The idea is based on methods at some "really high-performing" schools in London and America, and on workplace practices.

He said: "When schools were first designed, people used to call their boss Mr something or Mrs something, but that doesn't happen any more."

Tutor groups will be known as teams, and pupils will have a role in naming them, and the school's houses.

The uniform has no ties, and all elements can be bought in a supermarket, prioritising "affordability and durability".

The school has fully-equipped science and domestic science rooms, a hall with retractable seating, a dance studio with sprung floor, full-sized sports hall and lifts.

There is an indoor dining area and covered tables and benches outdoors, as well as sports fields, artificial pitches and courts.

Many facilities can be booked by the public outside school hours: some are already fully booked.

Mr Hill said: "The building's amazing. The feedback we've had has been gushing with praise."

Although the school is full of new technology, mobile phones will be shut away all day, and the school will not be using AI in its teaching.

Mr Hill said: "We want to be forward-facing, but we're not experimenting and guinea-pigging children."

Next door, a primary school with space for 420 pupils will welcome its first 21 Reception children.

Run by the Castle School Education Trust in tandem with the existing Lyde Green Primary School, head teacher Tom Hutchings said the new buildings will also host all three of the twin school's Year 6 classes - around 80 pupils.

They are being moved to Honeysuckle Road to support the transition to secondary school, and to relieve crowding at the Willowherb Road site.

Around 10 members of staff will be based only at the new buildings.

Senior leaders and support staff will move between the two sites, which Mr Hutchings says have been nicknamed Willow and Honey.

He said the opening is "a hugely exciting time for the school and indeed the community."

It follows decades of campaigning, for a secondary school to serve Emersons Green and for enough school places for Lyde Green.

Funding was first approved in 2021, with a view to opening in 2022, but the project was hit by a series of delays.

The new schools are the largest in England to have been built to eco-friendly Passivhaus standards, which will ensure they are warmer in winter, cooler in summer, and cheaper to run.

Around £34.3m of funding came from the Department for Education, with £24m from South Gloucestershire Council.

Council cabinet member for schools Ian Boulton said: "Long-promised and now delivered, these state-of-the-art schools will serve the Lyde Green community for generations."



Lyde Green Community School head teacher Tom Hill in one of the new classrooms



The secondary school hall, with banked, retractable seating



Covered seating, seen here through a classroom window, will enable pupils to sit, eat and socialise outside at break times



The secondary school facilities include this dance studio, with a sprung floor, and a separate drama studio

ALMOST two thirds of patients of a GP practice serving Emersons Green are waiting longer than a week for appointments.

Around 650,000 people nationwide took part in this year's NHS GP Patient Survey, sharing their experiences of booking and attending appointments.

They included 96 patients of Emersons Green Medical Centre, and 100 from Three Shires Medical Practice, which serves Wick and Pucklechurch.

Emersons Green Medical Centre has been shut since October 2024 after its heating and hot water system failed. Patients have been seen instead at Leap Valley in Downend, which is run by the same doctors' group, Green Valleys Health.

When making appointments, 12% of Emersons Green patients were offered a same-day appointment, up from 4% last year; the national average is 27%.

Another 1% were offered one the next day (down from 3%). The proportion waiting a week or more was 64% - down from 74% last year but double the national average of 32%.

Asked how they felt about the wait, 63% of respondents said it was too long. Other patients either waited less than a week, or couldn't remember how long they waited.

At Three Shires, 28% were seen on the same day (up from 26%), 7% on the next

Patients say they wait too long to see a GP

day (down from 8%) and 23% waited a week or longer (down from 27%). Asked if they waited the right amount of time, 85% said yes.

The survey found just 13% of Emersons Green patients found it easy to make contact with the practice by phone - although this was up from 3% last year - and 77% found it difficult. Nationally, 57% of patients found it easy to get through by phone.

Only 29% of respondents found it easy to use the practice website to get in touch (up from 17%), and 19% found it easy to use the NHS app (up from 12%), compared with national averages of 58% and 54% respectively.

By contrast, 86% of Three Shires patients found it easy to get through by phone (down from 93%), 80% online (up from 68%) and 71% using the app (up from 57%).

Once patients saw a health professional, 87% of Emersons Green patients had confidence in them, as did 98% at Three Shires. The national average is 93%.

Some 45% of Emersons Green patients said their overall experience of the practice was good, up from 32% last year but below the national average of 77%.

At Three Shires, 95% of patients said their experience was good (up from 88%). NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board, which is in charge of funding surgeries, said overall patient experience was "very good" across the region.

Deputy chief medical officer Dr Geeta Iyer said: "Surgery teams deserve huge recognition for their dedication to patient care and their focus on making it easier for people to get help quickly, including same-day care where needed."

"However, we know that not all patients report a positive experience."

"The high levels of need are putting sustained pressure on services, and practices are balancing the need to offer quick access to appointments with maintaining continuity of care, particularly for people with long-term conditions."



village church

Sunday | 10:30am

Mangotsfield Primary School

 vcemersonsgreen.org



Become part of the Avery Membership Club and enjoy a range of exclusive benefits designed to help you stay active, connected and engaged with your local community.

As a member, you'll receive invitations to a variety of events and experiences throughout the year, including:

- Monthly events at the care home
- Complimentary afternoon teas
- Health and wellbeing talks
- Community outings, including golf trips and local excursions
- Quarterly lunch invitations

Whether you're looking to make new friends, enjoy new experiences or simply become part of a welcoming community, we'd love to welcome you.

Avery

Avonmere
CARE HOME

Avon Valley
CARE HOME



Join Now

Please contact:

Bea Lush
Bea.Lush@averyhealthcare.co.uk
07749 432772
339 Badminton Road, Downend,
Bristol, BS36 1AJ

Medical centre to reopen after two years

EMERSONS Green Medical Centre will reopen in September, after being shut for almost two years.

The surgery in St Luke's Close, which has more than 11,000 patients on its books, closed suddenly in October 2024 when the building's water and heating failed.

Now Green Valleys Health, the GP partnership that runs the practice, has said it will reopen in early September, following the installation of new water and heating systems.

A practice spokesperson said: "We would like to sincerely apologise for the length of time the site has been closed.

"We understand that this has caused inconvenience for many of our patients, and we are extremely grateful for the patience, understanding and support you have shown throughout this period.

"The work carried out has been essential to ensure the building provides a safe, comfortable, and reliable environment for both our patients and our staff.

"While the closure has been longer than any of us would have wished, these improvements are an important investment in the future of the practice and the service we are able to provide to our patients within the neighbourhood.

"We would also like to thank our



Emersons Green Medical Centre closed in October 2024

dedicated staff and our Patient Participation Group for their continued support during the closure. Their flexibility, understanding and commitment have helped us to continue delivering care while these essential works have been completed."

The practice said more information about appointments and services would be shared with patients closer to the reopening date.

It thanked patients for their "continued patience and support".

Since the closure Green Valleys Health has been running services for Emersons

Green patients from Leap Valley Surgery in Downend.

Councillors on South Gloucestershire Council's health scrutiny committee raised concerns that some patients had trouble reaching the other surgery, and that waiting times for appointments had gone up.

The work took place after a long process of negotiating funding. In October last year, the health scrutiny committee was told work was expected to start the following month, and take six weeks.

But it wasn't until April of this year that Green Valleys Health confirmed it had reached an agreement with Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire Integrated Care Board (ICB), which is in charge of funding NHS services, for work to start.

The Voice asked whether the reopening of the medical centre would enable patients to be seen more quickly, after waits of more than two weeks for appointments were reported by 45% of patients in this year's NHS GP Patient Survey.

A spokesperson said: "We recognise that timely access is important to patients. Appointments are triaged by the clinical team to ensure we manage urgent on the day and routine appointments appropriately."



Emersons Green Baptist Church

Sunday service 10:30am
Emersons Green Village Hall
Monday Bible study 2pm



Free Children's Craft Service
6th September




Website **Facebook**



Here to Help Emersons Green!

Are you finding the lack of a public bus difficult?
Do you need help with transport?

Call Green Community Travel!

We travel in and around Emersons and Downend and then towards Yate, but we have a team of volunteers to help with hospital appointments!
 Shopping, GP/Hospital and Dental Appointments,
 Hairdressers and much more! We even do trips out!

Book in advance!
 We are here for anyone that can't access public transport, need to travel door to door, may be disabled or have a health or mobility concern.

Our buses are fully accessible for wheelchairs and scooters. If you're unsure — give us a call!

Friendly team, accessible travel and discount for bus pass holders. You can even book a regular slot with us!

Call or email us to find out more, we're also on Facebook!

01454 228706
admin@greencommunitytravel.co.uk

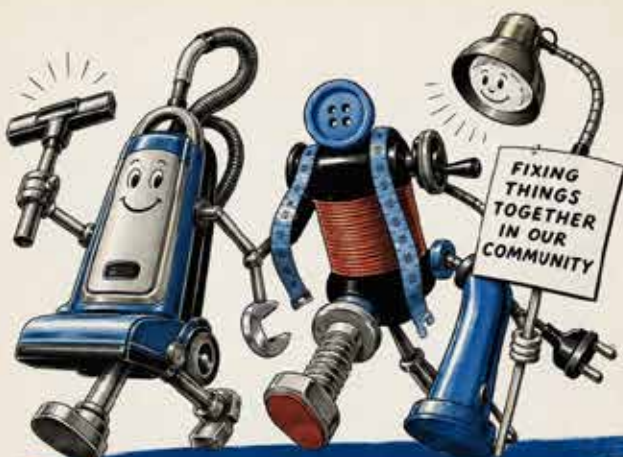


REPAIR CAFE



**Starts
12/09/2026**


EMERSONS GREEN
TOWN COUNCIL



**EMERSONS
GREEN
REPAIR CAFÉ**

**FOLLOW US ON
FACEBOOK FOR UP
TO DATE
INFORMATION:**



Don't Bin It – Repair It! Free Repairs by Local Volunteers

10am – 12pm
The Second Saturday of each month.
Town Council Building – BS16 7AN
(Accessed via the Wetherspoons car park)

clerk@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk

Cyclists stabbed and mugged on path

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

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

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

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

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

following afternoon.

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

The following day a boy in his late teens suffered what police described as "minor physical injuries" when he was mugged by a group of eight masked youths on a stretch of the path close to the former Mangotsfield station.

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

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

The second was described

only as wearing black clothing.

The third was Asian and of large build. He was wearing a black bucket hat, dark face covering, a thin waterproof jacket with a hood and black joggers, and was riding a black e-scooter with red markings and a screen.

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

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

The seventh mugger was of mixed race, 6ft 4in and of a large

build. He was wearing a grey tracksuit top and black Nike tracksuit bottoms, a bucket hat and face covering, and was riding a dark grey electric bike.

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

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

Anyone with information about the mugging should call the police on 101 and quote the reference 5226 227 034, the stabbing reference is 5226 226 130.

South Gloucestershire Council was due to finish work to install 20 permanent CCTV cameras on the path between Staple Hill Tunnel and the former Mangotsfield Station during August.

Email us: news@emersonsgreenvoice.co.uk



ENGLISH AND MATHS TUTORING

Primary - Secondary • Qualified Teachers • Personalised Learning Programmes

Book a **free** assessment today



In Centre



Online

BRISTOL NORTH - 0117 373 8367

23 Badminton Road, Downend, Bristol BS16 6BB

kipmcgrath.co.uk/bristol-north

**Kip
McGrath**
EDUCATION CENTRES

TURNER'S VISION

New beginnings...

Whew... what a summer!

I hope you've enjoyed yours, wherever life has taken you, and that at some point you managed to become at least partially acclimatised to the seemingly persistent heat!

There's something about the end of summer that always feels like a time for new beginnings. For some it's a new school, a new term or perhaps a new job. For others, it's simply returning to the familiar routines that somehow disappeared somewhere around July.

For us at Turners, it's a little bit of both.

Our Henleaze practice continues to grow, perhaps more steadily than I'd like, simply because I still feel there are so many local people who've yet to experience a visit to Turners Opticians and the World Class Eye Care we aim to provide to every patient.

For us, that means taking the time to listen, understand how you use your eyes and vision, and provide reassuringly thorough eye care rather than simply checking

whether you can read the bottom line of an eye chart.

And, when glasses are needed, we believe they should be rather special too. Great eyewear shouldn't simply help you see better. The right pair should feel wonderful to wear, complement who you are and perhaps even attract the occasional "I love your glasses - where did you get those?"

Meanwhile, on the other side of Bristol, we've experienced a rather bigger new beginning.

Our move from Fishponds to our new Downend practice actually went remarkably smoothly, all things considered!

Having the same base for around 50 years does, however, mean accumulating an extraordinary amount of history, as well as a certain amount of generational baggage.

Who'd have thought, for example, that during the clear-out I'd discover a windsurfing sail?

Windsurfing was my Dad Philip's passion before he had children. That would, of course, make me partly

responsible for putting an end to all that fun!

I'd like to think, and the photographic evidence appears to support me, that I brought a rather different kind of fun into his life.

Sadly, Dad is no longer with us, and neither is the sail. After 32 years tucked away in a dry bag it had completely perished, so there was definitely no pretending it was a treasured Turner family heirloom!

But perhaps that's the lovely thing about new beginnings.

You don't have to leave everything from the past behind. You take the best bits with you.

So, as children head into new classrooms, teenagers start new adventures and the rest of us return to something resembling normality, perhaps September is a good opportunity to look forward with a little confidence and optimism.

And if clear, comfortable, effortless vision would help with whatever your own new beginning might be, we'd love to help.

We hope to see you soon at Turners Opticians in Henleaze or our



Peter Turner
of Turners Opticians
0117 962 2474
0117 965 4434
www.turnersopticians.co.uk

new home in Downend.

Because world-class eye care doesn't have to be on the other side of the world.

Sometimes... it's just around the corner from you.

To find out more or to book an appointment, visit our website or contact our friendly team by

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.

Family Eye Care - For Generations

19 Badminton Road
Bristol BS16 6BB
0117 965 4434

57 Henleaze Road
Bristol BS9 4JT
0117 9622 474

eyecareteam@turnersopticians.co.uk
www.turnersopticians.co.uk

Turners Eye Care Ltd 1/A Turners Opticians Incorporated in England & Wales Reg No. 8201460

Trees at risk from drought and fires

ARSONISTS set fire to a tree in Emersons Green, days after firefighters warned of the extreme risk caused by drought conditions.

The maple tree on Vinney Green, next to Emersons Green Lane was set alight on the morning of August 18 shortly after 9am.

Firefighters from Kingswood extinguished blaze using hoses, and informed police that the fire was believed to have been started deliberately.

Days earlier, the government had sent out an alert to all mobile phones in the country, warning of the "very high risk" of wildfires and asking people not to undertake any activity that could start a fire.

Avon Fire & Rescue Service had also advised people to avoid lighting any open fires or flames, not to throw lit cigarettes from cars or into grass and to keep lighters and matches away from vegetation.

Area manager Steve Quinton said: "With the hot and dry

conditions we're experiencing, even the smallest spark can lead to a fast spreading fire."

A spokesperson said the service had attended 397 fires involving grassland, woodland or crops since the start of June, 111 of them in South Gloucestershire.

Some have started accidentally while others, including two on the Oldbury Court estate in Fishponds on July 31 and August 10, were started deliberately.

Meanwhile, workers and volunteers have been trying to keep young trees alive as parks and open spaces struggle through drought conditions.

Emersons Green Town Council environmental services manager Paul Kearsley said council staff had been watering the avenue of lime trees planted in memory of Queen Elizabeth II on Rodway Common in Mangotsfield last year.

They had also applied a layer of green waste compost mulch around the trees to preserve moisture, following a successful



Grass on Rodway Common had turned yellow by mid-August. Trees there were watered by council staff

trial in a previous heatwave last year.

Mr Kearsley said: "Even with the benefits of mulching, the prolonged periods of hot, dry weather have meant that the trees still required supplementary watering, at least once a week throughout the heatwave, to help ensure they remain healthy and continue to establish successfully."

South Gloucestershire Council workers have increased the frequency of watering flower beds, planters and hanging baskets, and carried out watering of younger street trees and

recently-planted woodland sites, due to the extremely dry conditions.

A drought was officially declared in the region by the Environment Agency at the end of July, after the Bristol area received only 1% of its expected average monthly rainfall.

In nearby Downend, volunteers and residents living near Hill House Park organised to water more than 20 trees planted last year that have been struggling in the heat.

Even some older, more established trees had yellowing leaves by the middle of August.

TURNERS HEARING CARE BLOG

Have you heard? We've moved to Downend!



After around 50 years in Fishponds, Turners Opticians has moved just up the road to our lovely new practice in Downend, and we've brought our ear wax removal clinic with us!

While the surroundings may be new, the friendly, professional hearing care remains exactly the same.

One of the most common reasons people come to see me is because their hearing suddenly doesn't seem quite right. Perhaps one ear feels blocked, sounds seem muffled, the television has mysteriously become quieter, or conversations are becoming harder to follow.

Sometimes the answer can be surprisingly simple: ear wax.

Ear wax is completely natural and actually plays an important role in protecting and keeping our ears healthy. Usually, it gradually works its own way out of the ear canal. Occasionally, however, it builds up and becomes impacted, causing a blocked sensation, reduced hearing, discomfort, tinnitus or sometimes even dizziness.

That's where I can help.

At our new Downend practice, I can carefully examine your ears using video otoscopy, which means you can even see inside your own ears too! If wax is causing the problem, I can safely remove it using modern microsuction equipment.

And if your ears are beautifully clear but your hearing still isn't quite what it should be, we can advise you on the appropriate next step.

So, if you've been turning the television up lately or saying "Pardon?" rather more often than you used to...

Perhaps it's time to find out what's going on.

I look forward to welcoming you to our new home in Downend.

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.

Love Clear Hearing This September




Turners
Opticians

Ear Wax Removal

19 Badminton Road
Bristol BS16 6BB

0117 965 4434

EyeCareTeam@TurnersOpticians.co.uk
www.TurnersOpticians.co.uk

Downend School celebrates 'excellent' results

DOWNEND and Mangotsfield Sixth Form students achieved "an excellent set of A-level and vocational results" this year.

The combined sixth form for the area's two secondary schools, based at Downend School, reported that 44% of A-levels sat by students had grades at A*-B and 39% of vocational qualifications received Distinction or Distinction* grades.

Overall, 95% of A-level grades were awarded at A* to E.

Head of Downend and Mangotsfield Sixth Form Kate Long said: "This is an excellent set of A-level and vocational results, marking the culmination of two years of commitment, resilience, and ambition.

"These outcomes highlight the continued strength of our sixth form provision and the determination shown by our students throughout their studies.

"Many have secured outstanding grades and are now progressing to university,

degree-level apprenticeships, and other exciting next steps.

"We are delighted with what our students have accomplished.

"Their results reflect determination, high-quality teaching, and the strong sense of community within our Sixth Form.

"They have grown into capable, confident young adults who contribute positively to those around them.

"As they take their next steps — whether university, apprenticeships, or other exciting routes — they do so ready to succeed and make their mark.

"Congratulations to all our students — your success is richly deserved."

The sixth formers were among more than 320,000 across England who sat A-levels this summer, with a total of 835,950 results published in August.

Nationally, 78.1% of grades awarded were at C or above, up 0.4% on last year and 2.7%

above 2019, before the pandemic affected several years of exams.

The proportion of A or A* grades was 28.3%, up 0.2% on 2025.

The Department for Education said this year was a "strong year for maths," adding: "The highest ever number of students received A-level maths results (up 3.7% on 2025) and more A and A* grades were awarded in this subject (up 0.6%)."

"This year also saw more students taking up A-level subjects in science, technology, engineering and maths (up 3.7%)."

More students applying for universities and colleges were accepted onto a higher education course this year (up 2% on last year) and 194,800 English 18-year-olds were accepted into their first choice of university (up 1%).

Nationally, a total of 221,095 vocational and technical qualifications at pass or above were awarded.

Phoebe Burden, of Downend, is planning to apply for an apprenticeship in finance and accounting after achieving a top Distinction* grade in her Cambridge Technicals business qualification, along with Bs in sociology and criminology. She plans to take a year off first. Phoebe said: "I'm relieved. It was a lot of hard work. "I think sociology was extremely hard - that was the one I was worrying most about.



This included almost 20,000 students taking T-levels, a technical qualification equivalent to three A-levels, a 65% increase on last year's figure, with a pass rate of over 90%.

*GCSE results were announced after the Voice was published - a report will appear in our October edition.



Downend School Open Evening

Thursday 10th
September 2026
5:30pm – 7:30pm

For further information and tickets for the headteacher's talk, please visit our website www.downend.com



Error sees uni offers cancelled

A BLUNDER by an examination board saw A-level history students at Downend School having university offers

Ashleigh Serle, of Downend, plans to apply for a scholarship with the Royal Navy after achieving an A in psychology



and Bs in chemistry and biology. She has an offer of a place at Reading University next year, and hopes eventually to work in biomedical science.

Ashleigh said: "The results were what I needed so I'm really happy with them."

"During the exam season I was sat on the same chair in the common room and wouldn't move while I was working. The wait for results was excruciating - it seemed so long."

Evelina Steinart, of Downend, is heading to Nottingham University to study sport and exercise science after achieving a Distinction* in sport, an A in psychology and C in maths.



She hopes to work in sports psychology after her degree.

Evelina said: "The results were what I expected and I got into my first-choice university - that's what I'm most excited about."

"It has been a lot of work and revision but it was worth it in the end."

Lola Forsey, of Downend, achieved an A* in A-level art, with a C in psychology and a D in maths.



She is planning to take a gap year before heading to Falmouth University to study illustration.

Lola said: "I was expecting an A in art, so I'm really happy to get an A*. "It was a lot of hard work but I'm proud of myself!"

withdrawn.

The mistake by Cambridge OCR led to students wrongly being given an 'X' grade, which is usually only given to candidates who have missed part of an exam, despite the board also giving them correct marks for all individual parts of the course.

The school became aware of the problem before results day. It immediately contacted OCR, and was "assured" the error would be rectified in time

- but the incorrect grades had already been sent by the board to universities, and were not corrected.

After "continuous contact" between the school and board, the correct grades were issued late in the evening of results day, but students had to contact their preferred universities and appeal the rejections in the meantime.

One said: "It was a complete shock to find out I'd been rejected from both universities

who had made offers, along with most of the people in my class, and then to find out it was because of an administrative error."

"Hopefully things will all be resolved, but it was quite a dampener on what should have been a day of celebration."

A Cambridge OCR spokesperson said it is working with the school to resolve the issue, adding: "Our focus is on helping the students affected."

Mangotsfield School Open Evening



Come and join us!

Thursday 24th September 2026
5:00 pm to 7:45pm



Mangotsfield School is "highly inclusive" with a "broad and ambitious curriculum and assiduous leadership." (Ofsted 2026)

Headteacher's talks: 5:00pm, 5:45pm and 6:30pm.
Please book via the school website.

Open Morning tours available by appointment only.
To book an appointment, please email man-info@cset.co.uk adding 'Open Morning' in the subject line.



Mrs Hetty Blackmore
(Headteacher)

mangotsfieldschool.org.uk

Mangotsfield School
Rodway Hill
Mangotsfield
Bristol
BS16 9LH

**Inspired
today**

**Unstoppable
tomorrow**

**Bristol
Grammar
School**



**Open Evening
Friday 2 October**

STUDENTS at SGS Sixth performed above national benchmarks in a number of subjects in this summer's A-levels.

The sixth form, based in Filton, draws students from across the region and is part of the wider SGS College with campuses from Stroud to Bristol.

The college said that SGS Sixth students sat a total of 595 A-levels, with a 96% pass rate and 205 (34.5%) grades at A-B*, including 70 (11.8%) at A* or A.

A spokesperson said: "Biology, psychology, criminology and core maths all performed above their respective national achievement benchmarks.

"Biology was a particular standout, with a 100% pass rate, achievement 10.2% above its national benchmark, and 46% of grades at A*-B.

"Year 2 criminology performed 12.8% above its national achievement benchmark, while psychology recorded a 100% pass rate.

"Mathematics also achieved a 100% pass rate, with 44% of grades at A*-B."

SGS interim director of sixth

'Special moment' at SGS Sixth

form Hazel Budd said: "Results day is such a special moment, because you see plans students have talked about for months turning into something tangible.

"Across SGS Sixth there have been celebrations, relief, hugs, calls home and plenty of conversations about the future.

"Students are celebrating A Level results today, with university places confirmed, new opportunities opening up and months of planning turning into decisions about the future.

"We are incredibly proud of their results, but also of the confidence, independence and determination they have developed during their time with us.

"Behind every grade is an ambition, a next step and, often, a story of what it took to get there."

One SGS Sixth student is heading to Bristol University to study law after achieving A* grades in law and her Extended Project Qualification, along with As in psychology and sociology.



High-achieving SGS students show off their grades

Another is planning to study dentistry at Liverpool University after taking a gap year, after achieving three As.

Another SGS Sixth student overcame back surgery and family illnesses to win a place at the University of the West of

England to study physiotherapy, after achieving three Bs.

Vice principal for teaching, learning and assessment Alex Gaiger said: "It's about journeys and opportunities, and there are so many students that are going on brilliant things."

Hard work pays off at Winterbourne

LEADERS at Winterbourne Academy have hailed the "brilliant outcomes" achieved by A-level and vocational course students this summer.

The school, which has many young people from Downend, Frenchay, Emersons Green and Lyde Green among its pupils, said 22% of A-level grades were A* or A, while 72% were at A*-C.

On vocational courses, 72% of grades were Distinction* or Distinction.

Overall there was a 98% pass rate, and the school highlighted strong results in A-level drama, where 100% of grades were at A* to B, Spanish (78% A*-B) business (73%), religious studies (67%), and physics (63%).

In vocational courses, 100% of BTEC engineering students achieved Distinction* or Distinction grades, with 83% doing so in CTEC Media and 77% in CTEC Sport.

Among those whose achievements have been highlighted by the school are Isaac Ahmed, who is deciding whether to continue his studies at university or join the RAF after achieving an A* in maths, an A in physics and Bs in computer science and further maths.

Michelle Chan will study accounting and finance at Exeter University after achieving As in business, maths and psychology.

Stephen Coney will start an engineering apprenticeship with Rolls-Royce after achieving a Distinction* in engineering, A* in

physics and A in maths.

Alice Gregory will study computer science at Southampton University after achieving an A* in maths, As in computer science and physics, and a B in further maths.

Harry Kerslake, with As in business and economics and a B in Maths, is starting an accounting apprenticeship with PK Francis, while Sienna King will start a legal apprenticeship with Burges Salmon, after achieving As in law and psychology and a B in Spanish.

Erica Masters will study politics and international relations at Birmingham University, after achieving an A* in business and As in psychology and Spanish.

Dulcie Phillips is deciding whether to continue her studies at Oxford or Cardiff after achieving three As in biology, history and maths and a B in French.

Sam Richer-Coward will study chemistry at Bristol University after gaining A*s in biology, chemistry and maths.

Head teacher Jenny Cartwright said: "I know that the students and the amazing teachers and pastoral staff at Winterbourne have worked so hard together to make these possible.

"We are proud of all of the results across our sixth form – behind each grade is a story of a young person who has striven hard, sometimes in challenging circumstances, to



Sam Richer-Coward picks up his results

gain their outcomes and secure their next steps, and they should feel proud of what they have achieved." **Ofsted report on p29**

Could you see your child here?



Collegiate School **Open Morning** Saturday 26th September

- Find out more
- Meet pupils
- Tour the grounds



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



Students' academic and apprenticeship moves

THE college with the most university applicants in the region is also celebrating the success of students choosing apprenticeships.

More than 500 A-level candidates at St Brendan's Sixth Form College, which has many students from the Emersons Green area, applied to university this year, and the college says the majority will be taking up places at their first-choice institution.

St Brendan's is the biggest education provider exclusively for students aged 16 to 19, with around 1,800 students drawn from across the region.

This year 859 students took a total of 1,949 A-level exams.

Leaders at the college in Brislington say A-level students achieved a pass rate of 97.6%, with 40.8% of grades at A*-B and 71.3% at A*-C.

The 533 students who sat 805 Level 3 BTEC and Applied General vocational courses achieved a combined total of 299 grades at either Distinction or Distinction*.

The college says 191 students achieved high grades in all subjects they studied.

They include one student who will study Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Oxford University, after a gap year, after achieving an A* and two A grades in graphic communications, history and physics respectively, plus an A* Extended Project Qualification (EPQ).

Another student is heading to Durham University to study theology after achieving three Bs, while another is set to study business management at Bristol University.

The college says it has seen "significant success" in higher and degree apprenticeship applications, with students securing opportunities with employers including finance firms KPMG and Deloitte, lawyers Osborne Clarke and aircraft builder Airbus.

Principal Marian Curran said: "I could not be prouder of our students.

"These results reflect their



Students at St Brendan's Sixth Form College are heading for academic courses and apprenticeships

resilience, ambition and sheer hard work, and they have earned every grade.

"But a results day at St Brendan's is about far more than numbers - it is about the confident, thoughtful and well-rounded young people who leave us ready for whatever comes next.

"My thanks go to our dedicated staff, whose commitment makes days like this possible, and to the families

who have supported these young people every step of the way.

"The success we celebrate today belongs to our whole college community.

"With the largest A Level cohort in the region, the College is celebrating the achievements of a diverse and ambitious group of students as they take their next steps towards university, degree apprenticeships and rewarding careers."



REDMAIDS' HIGH SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS • BRISTOL
GDST

We invite you this Autumn

to join us at our

Senior School Open Morning, Saturday 3 October



BOOK HERE

Inspired
today

Unstoppable
tomorrow

**Bristol
Grammar
School**

Junior School Open Morning
Tuesday 22 September





Stefano Capella (right) with brother Marco, first mate Felix Wood, skipper Mike Eager and Sam Gibbons. Picture: GB Row Challenge

Stef rows into the record books

A SURGEON from Emersons Green has rowed his way into the record books as part of a crew racing around the coast of Great Britain.

Stefano Capella, his brother Marco and three other members of Team Rowmads became the first and fastest crew of five to complete the GB Row Challenge unsupported, finishing the 2,000-mile journey in 32 days, 30 minutes and 58 seconds in July.

Stef is a Royal Navy trauma and orthopaedic surgeon, who has lived in Emersons Green for more than two years.

When he is not on deployment he works at hospitals across the region, including Southmead, treating bone and muscle injuries for the NHS.

He and his teammates spent three years planning the epic voyage, which started and finished at Tower Bridge in London and took them around the coast.

Stef said: "I have some friends who have some quirky ideas, and we sat around in a pub and threw them around. We thought about rowing the Atlantic but decided on something that was closer to home."

After training by running,

cycling and using rowing machines, the team built up experience on the water, including a five-day row from Plymouth to Portsmouth.

During the challenge, each rower spent two hours on and one hour off the oars for 18 hours a day, then two hours on and four hours off overnight.

Rowing unsupported meant they relied on a solar-powered desalination machine to provide drinking water, and cloudy weather over 10 days around the Scottish coast meant it stopped working. The rowers rationed themselves to two litres of water a day for a week, and were down to the last 10 litres of their 100 litre reserve by the time the sun emerged again.

They also lost the solar power to their speakers and radios, so had to make their own entertainment until the sun returned in time for them to recharge the batteries - and catch up on England's World Cup campaign.

Stef said: "The biggest highlight was seeing just how extraordinary our country is from the water."

"We had dolphins following the boat, and saw otters, whales and incredible stretches of coastline."

"There were some brutally hard moments, like being on the oars at two in the morning for the fifth night in a row, rationing water and dealing with no power. But morale stayed remarkably high because we had such a fantastic team."

"It was amazing having our families at the finish at Tower Bridge - that's a day I'll never forget."



The Rowmads pass the white cliffs of Dover

Each team member was raising money for a charity - Stef was supporting a charity called Day One Trauma Support, which helps patients who have suffered major trauma injuries to rebuild their lives.

As the *Voice* went to print the team had raised £8,750 of their £10,000 target and their fundraising page is still open at tinyurl.com/yxth3sjj.

The team also carried out research monitoring the health of the seas around Britain, using hydrophone monitoring, twice-daily environmental DNA readings and daily microplastic sampling. They also collected a wealth of biomedical data on themselves to aid university research projects into sleep, bone health, human metabolism, and small team psychology.

Expert legal advice?

WARDS
SOLICITORS

Expert services for you, your family and your business

Get in touch 01454 204880.

6-8 Fountain Court, New Leaze, Woodlands Lane, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 4LA

wards.uk.com

13 offices located across the South West:

Bradley Stoke | Central Bristol | Clevedon | Clifton | Henleaze
Keynsham | Nailsea | Portishead | Staple Hill
Thornbury | Weston-super-Mare | Worle | Yate

Solving your legal problems...locally

Charity ride on a bicycle built for three

AN engineer from Mangotsfield shared a bike with two colleagues as they rode for 500 miles to raise money for charity.

Scott Baker is a member of the Engineering & Maintenance team at Oldbury Power Station, near Thornbury.

Along with colleagues Andy Smart, from Yate, and Nigel Reed, from Keynsham, cycled from the power station, which is being decommissioned, to another nuclear plant at Sizewell in Suffolk, and back again.

They did it on a three-seater 'triplet' bike they named Scarlett, towing a trailer, called Bob, behind them.

The trio did the ride in July to raise money for JIGSAW Thornbury, which works with children and young people aged under 25 who have additional needs or disabilities.

Andy, who has worked at Oldbury for 37 years and is currently head of maintenance, said: "Like all good plans, it was hatched over a curry and pint.

"I've never cycled to the

Sizewell site, so it seemed like a good idea.

"JIGSAW is the chosen site charity this year. It's a fantastic opportunity to support the wonderful work they do.

"During the ride we were regularly checking the amount of donations that were being made and seeing people's generosity was a huge motivator for us."

Scott, a senior system engineer, said: "We chose to take Scarlett and Bob on this 'coast to coast' ride as we thought it would provide an unusual challenge.

"Although the three of us are experienced solo cyclists, riding Scarlett was physically challenging, especially when going up hills.

"We were also extremely fortunate to have great weather and no punctures.

"After a total of just over three days on the road, we arrived back at Oldbury site to the most incredible reception."

On route, the trio caused a stir going past Buckingham Palace.



Scott Baker, Andy Smart and Nigel Reed with the three-person bike

Nigel, the plant's engineering section head, said: "The sight of three people on one bike, with a trailer in tow, generated huge amounts of interest wherever we travelled, especially in London."

The 'coast-to-coast' return trip took the team just over three days to complete, and had raised more than £4,700 as the Voice went to print.

The donation page is still open at bit.ly/4hjSSNp.

Nuclear Restoration Services staff and JIGSAW representatives cheered them to the finishing line at Oldbury.

JIGSAW spokesperson Bonnie Rayment said: "I have been astounded by the teamwork and determination of Andy, Nigel and Scott."

PRIMARY SCHOOL
**OPEN
EVENTS**
FOR COHORT 2027

POST 16
**OPEN
EVENTS**
FOR SEPTEMBER
2027 ENTRY



Meadowbrook Primary School
Tuesday 6th October / 5:00pm
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.bradleystokecs.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.



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.bradleystokecs.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

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:
www.olympustrust.co.uk/post-16/



admission@olympustrust.co.uk
www.olympustrust.co.uk

Sculpture project delayed

A MANUFACTURING delay has put back the installation of a giant sculpture as part of a project to improve links between Emersons Green and Lyde Green.

The 4m tall bronze flower had been due to be placed on open space between Emersons Green Retail Park and the Newlands footbridge over the Avon Ring Road in July.

But South Gloucestershire Council, which is carrying out the Linking the Greens project, says it will not now take place until the autumn.

The nearby skate park, which shut for safety reasons in April, reopened in time for the start of the school summer holidays in July, but most of the surrounding area is still fenced off.

A council spokesperson said: "The remaining landscaping works, including soil distribution, site clearance, and reinstatement of the Jamie Clapp sign and litter bin, will be completed following installation of the 4m high bronze clover flower sculpture.

"This is now due to take place in the autumn following a delay by the manufacturer."

Work to refurbish the Newlands Bridge, and widen and improve foot and cycle paths on its approaches, is complete and temporary fencing and cabins are expected to be removed soon.

Steps up to the bridge on the Lyde Green side will be built during the autumn, which will involve a temporary path closure.

Man, 21, on burglary charges

A LYDE Green man has been charged after an investigation into burglaries where car keys were stolen.

Jack Hicks, 20, of Honeysuckle Road, has been charged with two counts of burglary and attempted burglary and appeared at Bristol Magistrates Court in August. He will appear again at the Crown court in September.

Hicks has also been charged with handling stolen goods, two counts of the theft of a motor vehicle, possession of a class B drug, and other motoring offences relating to incidents across the West Country between April and August this year.



George given honorary degree

A SOCIAL media star who grew up in Emersons Green has received an honorary doctorate.

George Clarke, who was the runner-up in the final of BBC show Strictly Come Dancing last year and has millions of followers on TikTok and YouTube, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Arts from Bath Spa University at its graduation ceremony at the end of July, "in recognition of his outstanding contribution to contemporary entertainment, digital media and the creative arts".

The university said: "George Clarke is a creator, podcaster and entertainer whose innovative approach to digital storytelling has made him one of the UK's most influential creative voices." George congratulated the university's graduates on receiving their "real-life degrees" and added: "Once you test yourself once, each time afterwards it becomes easier. And suddenly you realise the judgement doesn't hurt...unless it's from Craig Revel Horwood, in which case you'll be bringing it up almost a year later at any possible public event."



Care for a life you love
with Right at Home Bristol

At Right at Home, care is about so much more than everyday support — it's about helping you enjoy life on your own terms.

From tailored companionship and dementia care to 24-hour and live-in care, our support adapts as your needs change, giving you confidence for today and peace of mind tomorrow.

With care designed around you, we'll help you make the most of every day, at home and out in the community.

12,000 waste collections a week missed

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

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

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

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

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

In July, the council fined its kerbside collections contractor



A bin lorry leaves Mangotsfield's Sort It centre

Suez for its 'appalling' service, and said the company was in breach of its contract.

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

Tory group leader and Frenchay & Downend ward

councillor Liz Brennan said: "Residents have endured a summer of chaos.

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

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

"The situation is completely unacceptable."

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service

uPVC Windows, Doors, Conservatories & Bi-Fold Doors



Local, family business established for over 20 years

- Free, no obligation quotations
- All work guaranteed
- Backed by Certass certification

MS Systems

Based in Bromley Heath, Bristol

Tel 07970 793590

Email: mssystems@blueyonder.co.uk

**BROKEN
DOWN AND
MISTED GLASS
REPLACED**

Fridge and freezer collections suspended

SOUTH Gloucestershire Council has stopped accepting fridges or freezers for disposal at recycling centres.

The council will also not collect the appliances through its bulky item service, unless the collection was booked before August 5.

Announcing the temporary change, the authority said it was because of "a national shortage of recycling capacity".

Earlier in the year the council had warned that fridge and freezer recycling might have to be suspended for the same reason.

It has advised residents whose old fridge or freezer is still in working order to consider selling it, giving it away or offering to donate it to a charity or community group.

Anyone who is buying a new appliance is being urged to check whether the retailer can dispose of their old one, or to store the old one safely until recycling can resume.

The council said: "We will provide an update as soon as the situation changes."

An earlier suspension of accepting lead acid batteries, such as car batteries, at Sort It centres has now been relaxed.

The council temporarily stopped accepting them while changes to storage arrangements were made.

Happy birthday, Isambard!

THE UK's most powerful artificial intelligence supercomputer has celebrated its first year of operation.

Since being switched on last summer at the Bristol & Bath Science Park in Emersons Green, Isambard-AI has helped researchers tackle some major challenges, including:

*Improving understanding of Alzheimer's disease using AI trained on NHS data

*Building large language models - AI systems trained on huge amounts of text - to support languages including Welsh, Scottish Gaelic and Cornish

*Creating air pollution models to improve public health

*Accelerating research into heart disease and cancer

The computer cost £225 million to develop and build, but can work at speeds

100,000 times faster than the average laptop, according to Bristol University, which runs the Bristol Centre for Supercomputing (BriCS).

In its first year, Isambard-AI has supported around 1,000 research projects involving more than 4,000 people.

BriCS director Professor Simon McIntosh-Smith said: "One year ago, we switched on a national capability that gives UK researchers the computing power to tackle problems at a completely different scale. In 12 months we've seen extraordinary demand and, more importantly, extraordinary impact. From healthcare and climate science to farming and AI safety, researchers are using Isambard-AI to make discoveries that simply weren't possible before."

"This is what investing in sovereign AI infrastructure looks like: world-class research, economic opportunity and real benefits for society."

Among the Bristol University projects benefiting from Isambard-AI is research led by Professor Andrew Dowsey at Bristol Veterinary School, which is using video data to improve



Supercomputer Isambard-AI

the health and welfare of dairy cattle, training AI models to recognise small behavioural changes that can indicate illness long before the symptoms become obvious to people.

Prof Dowsey said: "No farmer can watch every animal every minute of every day, but AI can. "Isambard-AI gives us the computing power to spot the earliest signs of disease before they're visible to the human eye, helping us intervene sooner, improve animal welfare and reduce the impact of disease on farms."

"Our ambition is to turn this research into an affordable tool that supports farmers across

the UK while helping build a healthier, more sustainable future for livestock farming."

Isambard-AI is the world's fastest university supercomputer. Ranked 13th most powerful in the world, including commercial supercomputers, it is the seventh most powerful in Europe and fourth greenest globally, on the basis of its use of renewable electricity and its energy efficiency.

BriCS is now planning its next phase, including the Bristol AI Data Facility (BRAID), a massive data storage unit next to Isambard-AI which the university says will "unlock the supercomputer's full potential".

SURECAR



M.O.T . SERVICING . REPAIRS



10% OFF LABOUR*
WHEN YOU QUOTE THIS ADVERT

**ENGINE DIAGNOSTICS
DIESEL SPECIALIST CLEANING
AIRCON REGAS AND REPAIRS
ELECTRICAL REPAIRS
FREE COLLECTION AND DELIVERY
FREE COURTESY VEHICLES
WOMEN & PENSIONER FRIENDLY
FLEETWORK**

0117 939 5555
www.sure-car.co.uk

OPEN: Monday - Friday 08.30-17.30 Saturday & Sunday: Closed
Unit 1 Stoke View Road, Fishponds Road, BS16 3AE
Email: admin@sure-car.co.uk

*must be mentioned at time of booking

LOOKING FOR LEGAL ADVICE?

We offer you friendly, professional expert advice

Your **LOCAL** Solicitors offer you friendly professional expert advice

FLEXIBLE TIMES FOR APPOINTMENTS

- Family Law - Divorce & Separation
- Child matters
- Employment Law
- Litigation & Legal Disputes

FREE 30 MINUTE INITIAL MEETING

CONTACT US TODAY

0333 320 8600

www.bevanevemy.co.uk



Meet the team

Bevan Evemy Solicitors

Tina
Bennett

Lynn
Bevan

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, Overndale Road, Downend, 7pm, with expert Daisy Finniear. Free event - donations to Severn Wildlife Rescue. Organised by the Friends of Lincombe Barn Park & Woods.

September 5

■ **EMERGENCY SERVICES FUN DAY** at Page Park, Staple Hill from 11am-3pm. Free event bringing together emergency services, community groups, charities and other groups to offer information, advice, demonstrations and activities. Meet local policing teams and try out kit. All welcome.

September 8

■ **SODBURY AND DISTRICT FLOWER ARRANGEMENT SOCIETY** meets at the Old Grammar School Rooms, Chipping Sodbury, 7.30pm. Demonstration: Autumn Inspiration, with Nicky Heal. Visitors £7.50, members free. More details from rosemary.cummins2@gmail.com.

September 12

■ **EMERSONS GREEN REPAIR CAFÉ**, Emersons Green Town Council offices, Westerleigh Road (next to Wetherspoons) 10am-noon. Community-led initiative to help repair everyday items instead of throwing them away. Will take place every second Saturday of the month going forward.

September 12

■ **FRENCHAY CHURCH BELL TOWER** is open to visitors from 10am-noon. See and hear the bells, learn about bell ringing heritage and how to ring. No need to book, just turn up. Part of Heritage Open Days.

September 19

■ **SONGS FROM THE SHOWS CONCERT**, Christ Church Downend, 7pm. Raising money for the church roof and the Alfie Nick Foundation. Tickets: £7 adults, £3 under-18s, available from parish office, by email at parishadmin@christchurchdownend.com or from Anita on 07753 233950. Accessible building and toilets.

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, Overndale 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.

■ **BEECHMERE BELLES WI** meet in Emersons Green Village Hall at 7.30pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. More details from

beechmerebelles@gmail.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.

Share your views on NHS dentists

I HOPE you've had a good summer and been able to have a bit of a break.

Summer can be a great time to make lifelong memories, but it can also be expensive and not always easy to know what support is available.

To help, I brought local organisations together in one room at my free Community Advice Drop-in, held at Patchway's Coniston Community Centre.

I'm grateful to North Bristol Advice Centre, Avon & Somerset Police, Severn Wye Energy Agency, Wessex Water and DWP for joining this impactful event, and to all the local



people who came by.

I also visited Emerson's Green Library to see how they are supporting our younger residents with this year's Summer Reading Challenge: it was great to see so many names on the progress board!

Thank you to everyone working in our fantastic local libraries – the joy of reading and exploring different worlds through books is such an important one for every generation to be able to discover.

I joined the Filton Twinning Association at the end of a week's exchange visit from residents from St Vallier-sur-Rhône in France and Witzenhausen in Germany. These links and friendships were forged during the Concorde years, and it is good to see them still going strong.

It was useful to meet with the North Bristol and South Glos Foodbank team again, to hear about their latest priorities, how long-term donations help, and to talk about recent action to help ease the cost of living, including the return of £2 capped bus fares and removal of VAT on energy bills. More long-term support is needed, and I will always push for this for our community.

Before I was elected, I ran a survey on local experiences of accessing NHS dentists, given



how hard this had become.

I've used your responses to push for change and shared your experiences in the Commons and with health ministers.

Two years on, there are more urgent appointments locally, and changes are being made to encourage more dentists to stay in the NHS.

I'm running a new survey to find out what has improved and what hasn't, so I can keep pushing for what we need.

Please share your experiences at tinyurl.com/ycxcvd6k.

This month, my small team and I worked on 747 new cases supporting local people. I held my regular advice surgery, this time in Downend, and knocked on doors to listen to fellow residents in Stoke Gifford.

As Parliament returns, I look forward to continuing to be a strong voice for us in Westminster.

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

HG Harris
SHEPPARD FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Local independent family funeral directors based in Staple Hill for over 80 years.

Specialists in bespoke funeral services, burials, cremations & pre-paid funeral plans.

24 Hour Phone Service
01179 569 479

sheppardfunerals.co.uk

2A Victoria Street, Staple Hill, BS16 5JS

WE TAKE THE DRAMA OUT OF MAKING A WILL.

- Will Writing**
Meet with a local professional and receive full guidance and support.
- Family & Property Trusts**
Ensure your loved ones receive the maximum benefit by protecting your estate with trusts.
- Lasting Powers of Attorney**
Give someone the power to make decisions on your behalf, no matter what happens.
- Probate Services**
Our specialists help make a difficult time as stress-free and straightforward as possible.

Contact us today
0117 952 0698

feefo
Platinum Trusted Service 2024 4.8 Star Rating

elm-online.co.uk
765 Fishponds Road, Bristol, BS16 3BS

ST. ALDAMS FARM NURSERY

EST. 1973

BUY DIRECT FROM THE GROWER

THE BEST PLANTS AT THE BEST PRICES



PANSIES
TRAY OF 20 PLANTS

£7.50



**PRIMROSES AND
POLYANTHUS** 12 PLANTS

£7.50



VIOLAS
TRAY OF 20 PLANTS

£7.50



**HARDY GARDEN
CHRYSANTHUS**

£3.00



Large selection of Ceramic Pots



Growmore Multi Purpose Compost

£7.50 or £20 for 3



What do we supply?

- Extensive range of bedding plants
- Large selection of ceramic pots and gifts
- Hanging baskets and plastic containers
- Huge selection of perennials
- Range of composts

*Look forward to your visit.
Come and find us on The Westerleigh
Road between Pucklechurch village and
the Westerleigh Crematorium*

**SEE OUR WEBSITE
FOR SPECIAL OFFERS**

www.staldamsnursery.co.uk



OPEN 7 DAYS - Mon-Sat: 9am-5pm Sun 9am to 4pm

WESTERLEIGH ROAD, PUCKLECHURCH, BRISTOL BS16 9PY

MOST people probably know the story of the band on the deck of the sinking Titanic, playing on as the ship went down.

Not so many know the connection with Downend.

Rev Robert Bateman was born in Staple Hill, and lived for a time in Oldbury Court Road. His parents were from Mangotsfield.

He was a stonemason by trade, his father a leather worker.

He married Emily Hall, from London, and emigrated to Canada, then moved to the USA, with a growing family - six children in all.

Bateman was an evangelical minister, of the fire and brimstone variety; it isn't clear whether he was Methodist or Baptist.

While in the USA he was heavily involved in setting up missions in the rougher parts of several towns, notably Knoxville and Jacksonville, Florida, where he finally settled, and was an effective helper of the poor and dispossessed.

Bateman is thought to have continued as a stonemason, but it seems he may latterly have had some wealthy supporters.

He travelled back to Bristol with his sister-in-law, Ada Ball, to study the Mueller orphanage system, and to arrange for a headstone for his mother Esther's grave in Anglican Christ Church, Downend. She had died many years earlier, in 1891.

While in Bristol, Bateman also preached at evangelical centres. He seems to have been something of a local celebrity, as when he left to return to the USA, 200 people paraded him to Staple Hill station.

On returning on the ill-fated Titanic, it is said Bateman was asked to conduct the ship's band.

When the ship hit the iceberg, he escorted his sister-in-law to one of the last boats, gave her his Bible and tie, and stayed on the ship, probably to lead those still on deck in prayer.

He is thought to have asked the band to play his favourite hymn,

Downend's Titanic hero



Robert Bateman. Picture: Encyclopaedia Titanica

'Nearer my God to Thee', which survivors in the boats, including Ada, heard.

Bateman's Bible is still held in the Kellogg Titanic Museum in Pigeon Forge, Tennessee.

Apparently, in a postcard to a nephew before he set sail, he wrote: "If this ship goes to the bottom I shall not be there, I shall be up yonder."

Bateman's body was recovered from the sea a few days later. He seems to have also been an active Freemason, as masons in Jacksonville were reported as clearing a large mortgage on the family home, and he had a gold Masonic pin on him.

Bateman was buried in Jacksonville, where there is both a tomb and a memorial stone.

His widow stayed in Baltimore with her child, Grace, who lived to 95, dying in 1990.

His father, Charles, was reported to have emigrated to Baltimore and died there. This last claim is inaccurate, as both parents are definitely buried in Christ Church Downend.

The modest slab gravestone



The Titanic leaves Southampton

is in section 19, plot 32, close to the alley next to the churchyard, behind a prominent tall headstone, and below a large holly tree. It holds both parents.

Thanks to Jenny Alcock of CHAP, who cleaned the barely-legible grave. It looks as if two hands did the inscription: the top line is Gothic, maybe a pre-carved standard line.

Perhaps Bateman, as a stonemason, carved the rest himself - it would seem in character.

There might be evidence in church records.

Robert Bateman was a fascinating character, clearly quite charismatic and inspirational.

Downend has had a good share of interesting characters, but he and his parents deserve to be better-known locally.

There are two truly bizarre American Titanic museums with half-replicas of the ship - one

in Tennessee and the other in Branson, Missouri in the Ozark mountains, both hundreds of miles from the sea!

For more on Bateman's life visit the Encyclopaedia Titanica at tinyurl.com/2zv5j7dj or Bristol History at tinyurl.com/mvwr4y5p.

A booklet of his life and the US religious context has been published: 'Robert Bateman - The Minister that inspired the Titanic', by Stephen Flick.

Downend Community History and Arts Project (CHAP) is a not-for-profit voluntary organisation that aims to create a coherent identity for Downend and Emersons Green, built around interesting or significant places, people and events from the past.

For more information visit www.downendchap.org, email big.gin@yahoo.com or write to CHAP, 49 Overhill Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 5DS.

Jonathan Seagrave



The grave of Bateman's parents at Christ Church Downend. Picture: Jonathan Seagrave



One of the American Titanic-shaped museums. This one is in Branson, Missouri. Picture: Brad Tolman.

MILITARY WIVES BRISTOL

Military Wives Choir Bristol performing in Page Park



WHEN people hear the name Military Wives Choir, they often make a few assumptions.

The biggest is that you have to be a wife. Next, that you need to be able to sing.

Neither is true.

Military Wives Choir Bristol welcomes women from across the military community – whether you're serving, a veteran, a reservist, a partner, mum, daughter, sister, widow or work in support of the Armed Forces.

If military life has been part of your story, you'll find a warm welcome.

Another common misconception is that everyone already knows each other. In reality, many of our members walked through the door for the first time knowing no one at all.

Before long, they found themselves chatting over a cup of tea, sampling someone's homemade cake and discovering that choir night is about far more than singing.

We'll be starting rehearsals for our Christmas concert when we return, but there's no pressure to perform.

Some members love taking part in concerts, while others simply enjoy coming along each week for the music, the company and a chance to switch off for a couple of hours.

There's no audition, no need to read music and no expectation that you'll have a perfect voice.

If you enjoy singing in the car, in the shower or around the house, that's all the experience you need.

If you've ever wondered whether our choir might be for you, come along and see for yourself - we meet every Tuesday from 7-9pm at Mangotsfield United Reformed Church, starting again on September 8.

For more information or to arrange a free taster session, email bristol@militarywiveschoirs.org.

Military Wives Choir Bristol

EMERSONS GREEN VILLAGE HALL

WE'RE looking for amazing talent!

Talent in the Green will take place at Emersons Green Village Hall on October 17 from 4pm and we're looking for people who want to take to the stage and inspire the community.

Do you have a talent you'd love to share?

It's free to take part, and people of all ages and abilities are welcome, including children.

Solo acts, duos or groups, singing, dancing, comedy, magic, music or drama - we want to see you shine!

Like X Factor and BGT, there will be a panel of judges, and awards will be given out on the day.

The event is being organised by Emersons Green Village Hall and funded by Emersons Green Town Council.

Application forms for auditions can be obtained from the village hall reception - applications close on September 30.

Tickets for the audience will be available from September. It is free to attend (donations are welcome) but we need to allocate tickets so we know how many people are attending.

For more details call 01454 862182, email reception@egvh.org.uk or drop in at the village hall.

Nikki Frost

BEECHMERE BELLES WI

I CAN'T believe we are heading into September – the year started slowly but became just a rush of hot dry days, and hardly a drop of rain.

We hope the dry weather continues until 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!

In September, we'll be back in our Willow Room in Emersons

Green Village Hall, when we'll have a talk on scam prevention.

I think we'll all learn something – it's so easy to be taken in by these ruthless scammers as they are so plausible but thankfully once we know what to listen for, we'll all feel safer.

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, tea or coffee and cake. We meet at 7.30pm on the fourth Thursday of the month.

If you would like to know more, please contact us via email at beechmerebelles@gmail.com or follow our Facebook page.

Wendy

MANGOTSFIELD DOLLY MIXTURES

ALTHOUGH we didn't meet in the hall in August we were still busy with our pub lunch at the Lamb, which is always good fun.

On the 6th a few of us caught the bus into Bristol for our History of Chocolate in Bristol walk. We met at the Hotel du Vin at noon, with a few invited friends from South Glos Wine Circle and Warmley Jazz Club.

A very nice lunch was had at the hotel; it is a beautiful venue. Then at two o'clock we met our guide Duncan at the bottom of Christmas steps. As we had had a couple of cancellations, there weren't enough of us for the chocolate tour, so Duncan kindly added us on to the Bristol Blitz one. It worked well, as most of our party had not done this before.

On the 10th we went to the Cinnamon Tree in Burley Grove for our curry night. As always, the staff are very good to us, the food excellent and, of course, it is local.

In September our meeting in the hall will be an informal evening, catching up with everybody, over tea, coffee and cake.

We have our visit to Glenside Hospital Museum on the 15th. We were due to go in August but due to building works at the museum we had to re-arrange.

Subs will also be due, and we'll start planning for the winter months and 2027.

For more information about Mangotsfield Dolly Mixtures, email carol@applause.co.uk.

Carol Coombs

Craig Anthonys

HAIR DESIGNERS

Here at Craig Anthonys we pride ourselves not only on the styles but also the advice that we can provide. Our award winning team with years of experience in colouring and cutting can provide a style unique to suit you.

To arrange a no obligation consultation pop in or give us a call.



Tel: 01179 571551

1 Willow Centre, Downend Road, Downend

www.craiganthonys.co.uk

Repair cafe launch

A NEW Repair Café will open in Emersons Green in September.

The Repair Café is a community-led initiative designed to help residents repair everyday items instead of throwing them away. With the support of skilled local volunteers, visitors can bring along a range of items including small electrical appliances, clothing and textiles, bicycles, toys and other household items for assessment and repair.

By repairing rather than replacing, residents can play an important role in reducing the amount of waste sent to landfill while also extending the life of products that still have plenty of use left in them.

The initiative has already attracted support from local volunteers who have expertise in electronics, sewing, woodworking and bicycle maintenance.

However, we are always looking for additional volunteers willing to share their skills and help make the project a success.

The response from the community has been fantastic, there's a real enthusiasm for reducing waste and helping one another.

Repair Cafés are about much more than fixing things: they're about building stronger communities.

The first Repair Café will take place on Saturday, September 12 from 10am to noon at Emersons Green Town Council's offices on the Westerleigh Road, next to Wetherspoons.

The café will take place on the second Saturday of every month after that.

In addition to practical repairs, the events will offer refreshments and opportunities for residents to share knowledge, learn new skills

and connect with others who are passionate about sustainability.

Come along, whether or not you have something to repair, if you would like to find out more about the project.

For more information about upcoming sessions, volunteering opportunities and how to get involved, contact the Emersons Green Repair Café team at clerk@emersonsgreen-tc.gov.uk or visit the town council's Facebook page.

Bobbie Sunderland
Deputy Mayor Emersons
Green Town Council



Party at the station

An organised party at the former Mangotsfield station on August 15 drew a small crowd of dancers and surprised many people travelling on the Bristol & Bath Railway Path. DJs played trance music from 1pm to 11pm.

A nearby resident, who took this picture, said: "Gauging the response from residents in the vicinity and social media it was a 50/50 split as to whether it was a success or an unwanted nuisance."

"Nevertheless, it was generally welcomed. It was also noted that the station was left very tidy and free of any litter from the event."

Save tools from scrap

WE are inviting as many people as possible to come to a massive sale of pre-loved tools at Kingswood Heritage Museum.

The tools have been donated to our charity, which supports

people in Africa and the UK to build sustainable livelihoods by providing skills training and quality tools, but are surplus to requirements.

We want to save the tools from going to the scrapyard - they are in such good condition.

There are tools for all your DIY, building, carpentry, engineering and gardening needs, plus lots of hardware - all electrical items are PAT tested and everything is at bargain prices.

The sale takes place on September 19 and 20, from 11am to 4pm at the museum at Tower Lane, Warmley.

We want to make it a big fund-raising success.

Sarah Townsend
Volunteer
Tools for self-Reliance

Food banks need your help

"I've never seen it this empty" is what our logistics manager said to me recently.

He was talking about the warehouse that keeps nine food bank outlets stocked, and supplies at the lowest levels he has personally seen.

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

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

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

Nationally, food bank parcels fell by 12% last year as inflation eased. Locally, that fall didn't happen: North Bristol & South

Gloucestershire Foodbank handed out 15,045 parcels across 2025, 58% above 2019 levels and above the England average.

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

Last year we had to buy a record one in every four items we gave out, because donations alone weren't enough.

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

This community has shown up for us many times before, and I believe it will again.

Harvest and Christmas take care of themselves, but it's right now when donations dry up.

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

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

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

You can find out more at nbsg.foodbank.org.uk

Ellen Wood
Chief Executive
North Bristol & South
Gloucestershire Foodbank



Spectrum

Accountancy Solutions

Are you getting expert advice and support on the following topics?

● Payroll ● VAT ● Bookkeeping ● Tax

Come and see us at our new, local office on Staple Hill High Street to see how we can support your business.

Call or come in to book your initial free consultation

(0117) 990 2218

18 Broad Street, Staple Hill, Bristol BS16 5NX

hello@spectrum-accountancy.co.uk

www.spectrum-accountancy.co.uk

OFFER OF THE MONTH



Colonial

5 DOORS
FITTED IN YOUR HOME FOR ONLY

£659

Any 5 white primed 'Suffolk' or 'Colonial' doors complete with a choice of 7 different handles, hinges and latch. Fitted in your home.

DOOR EXPRESS

08000 973333 - 07767 376770

A PHONE CALL WILL SECURE YOUR FITTING ORDER DATE

Offer applies to door sizes 78"x30" & 78"x27"



Suffolk

www.doorexpresssouthwest.co.uk

Fireworks return for 55th anniversary

DOWNEND Round Table has confirmed the return of this year's annual charity fireworks display at King George V Playing Fields in November.

The volunteer group will stage the 55th anniversary event in its traditional slot on the first Friday of the month, which this year will be November 6.

The show will stick to its established format of two displays: a quieter early one for younger children followed by the spectacular main event.

Award-winning pyrotechnicians SkyBurst will again provide the fireworks, which will be choreographed to music and incorporate a light show and G-Flame fire effects.

The traditional bonfire, built using 100% recycled wooden pallets, and a display of model hot air balloons will also help to light up the night.

There will be live entertainment including a foam party from Party Peeps, a fairground, food and licensed

bar, a wide selection of food stalls, and a family fairground.

Last year's event attracted more than 10,000 people and raised a record-breaking £61,000 for charities and local good causes, from tickets and on-site sales of quality glow-in-the-dark toys.

Downend Round Table spokesman Dan Upton-Arkless said: "We're proud to once again be running this beloved community event, which has been a local staple of the Bonfire Night period for many years now."

"The team are hard at work preparing for its return, and it's shaping up to be bigger and brighter than ever!"

"We couldn't do this every year without the amazing support from the public, and of course the many volunteers working behind the scenes to make sure everything runs smoothly."

"Every ticket we sell contributes to supporting some amazing local charities."

Tickets for this year's display



Last year's display raised a record £61,000

go on sale in October, with a limited number at "early bird" prices - more details in next month's Voice.

Downend Round Table is a

social and voluntary organisation for men aged 18 to 45; for more information email hello@downendrt.co.uk.



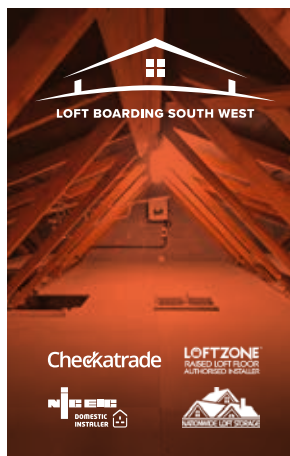
ALEXANDRA CORK HOME DESIGNS

Architectural plans drawn for your home

QUICK ACCURATE & AFFORDABLE SERVICE
FREE CONSULTATION - DESIGN & ADVICE
SURVEYS AND PLANS DRAWN
PLANNING PERMISSION SOUGHT

07867 592195 • info@alexandracork.co.uk

www.alexandracork.co.uk



IN NEED OF MORE STORAGE SPACE?

Make use of your loft and create more space in your home.

- ✓ Loft Ladders
- ✓ Raised Loft Storage
- ✓ Loft Lighting
- ✓ Insulation



Loft storage solutions for period and new build homes that don't void your warranty.

01373 813 438

www.loftboardingsouthwest.co.uk



**Microsuction and irrigation
(syringing) Ear Wax
Removal Service**

Ear Clear Bristol
THE SOLUTION IS HEAR

Call Sarah Hayward
(Ear Wax Removal Specialist) on
07798608859

or visit

www.earclearbristol.co.uk

92 Westbourne Rd, Downend, BS16 6RF



JAMIESON
FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Affordable Local Independent
Funeral Director

Direct Cremation
£1,500

Complete Funeral
£3,825

Call 24hrs **01179 564 796**

8 Badminton Road, Downend, BS16 6BQ

School's 'culture of high expectations' praised

INSPECTORS have praised Winterbourne Academy's culture of high expectations and clear sense of community.

Ofsted inspected the school, which has 1,783 students aged from 11 to 18, in April - its first visit in nearly four years.

It was the first inspection of the school, which draws many of its pupils from Frenchay, Downend, Emersons Green and Lyde Green, under the regulator's new, more complex assessment system, brought in after overall judgements were scrapped.

In their report, published in July, the team of six inspectors said the school had met Ofsted's expected standard in all areas: achievement; attendance and behaviour; curriculum and teaching; inclusion; leadership and governance; personal development and well-being; and post-16 provision.

The inspectors said: "Pupils enjoy being part of Winterbourne Academy. They generally behave

well in lessons and are keen to learn. Sixth-form students act as positive role models for younger pupils, showing self-discipline and maturity."

The report said pupil achievement is improving over time and is above national averages at GCSE in many subjects. Post-16 achievement is in line with national averages.

The inspectors said: "The curriculum is broad and ambitious. Leaders have carefully set out what pupils will learn so that they build their knowledge and understanding.

"Leaders, including those responsible for governance, ensure a culture of high expectations at the school.

"They make sure the interests of pupils and their families are at the forefront of every decision taken at Winterbourne Academy."

The school's "effective action" to further improve attendance was highlighted in the report.

The inspectors said:

"Leaders have created a sense of belonging, so that most pupils want to attend, and they understand the importance of coming to school.

"Leaders prioritise actions to ensure that all pupils feel part of Winterbourne Academy."

Attention to individual educational and pastoral needs of pupils includes a 'well-being hub' and a wide range of other support to help pupils look after their mental health.

The "well-designed" post-16 study programme includes a range of vocational and academic courses delivered in partnership with two other schools.

The inspectors said: "The courses are carefully matched to students' individual needs and aspirations."

Head teacher Jenny Cartwright said: "We are very pleased with the report and how the inspection team have noted and praised aspects of our school that are central to our aims and purpose, in particular a sense of

belonging, care and community, coupled with high expectations and breadth of provision.

"We are proud to be meeting the expected standard in all areas - a standard the government defines as 'a high standard, to make sure your children are receiving everything they need and deserve'.

"Throughout the whole report there are statements that reflect positively on the whole community at Winterbourne, staff, governors and students, as well as on the relationship with stakeholders beyond the school gates.

"There are always next steps after an Ofsted report and recommendations. Ours are to make sure that the best opportunities are always available to every single child all of the time, so that all barriers to learning and to attendance are consistently removed for every young person - and this indeed is our aim going forwards and our mission as a school."

SAVE £600 WITH A FREE OVEN & HOB

Available from 1st July to 30th September 2026.



DREAM DOORS®
NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

- Up to 50% less than a new fully fitted kitchen
- Replacement kitchen doors
- Cost effective made to measure solution
- Quick installation in 2-3 days by local professionals

Checkatrade.com 9.7/10
Where reputation matters

11-12 The Promenade,
Gloucester Road,
Bristol, BS7 8AL

Call us now for a free estimate:

01179 443 223



MODERN

CLASSIC

TRADITIONAL

CONTEMPORARY

THE UK'S #1 KITCHEN MAKEOVER COMPANY

Terms and Conditions apply. Offer only applies to selected oven and hobs. Participating showrooms only.

DREAMDOORS.CO.UK

Changes could rewrite council tax bills

A HANDOVER of services to town and parish councils could change the way council tax bills are added up in the future.

South Gloucestershire Council's cabinet has agreed a policy that opens the way for the smaller councils to take over management and in some cases ownership of assets such as parks, open spaces, play areas and public toilets.

It would mean town and parish councils charge for the services their council tax precept rather than the provision being funded by South Gloucestershire.

The move is part of a drive to end the charge on council tax bills for 'special expenses', services provided on a parish level by South Gloucestershire.

The authority says transferring funding for these 'discretionary' services would improve fairness, promote choice and give local people more control.

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

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

The hope is that the move will help protect services, which South Gloucestershire is not legally obliged to provide, at a time of increasing financial pressures.

The unitary authority has a limit on the amount by which it is allowed to increase council tax, while town and parish councils do not, which means they would be able to pass on above-inflation cost increases more easily.

A South Gloucestershire

Council spokesperson said:

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

Cabinet councillor Adam Monk said: "The cost to taxpayers of any changes will be minimal, as while local council precepts will likely rise, the special expenses charges will fall."

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

"Whilst I welcome the changes introduced to

allow for a better-informed, phased approach, it must be acknowledged that not all town and parish councils start from the same position. For a smaller council like Pucklechurch, with limited staffing and a low tax base, taking on these services is no simple transfer."

Emersons Green Town Council says any change to the current set-up would need very careful consideration. This would include a clear understanding of the long-term financial implications, ongoing maintenance requirements, and the expectations of residents.

Siston Parish Council, which covers the Siston Hill estate, sought further information from South Gloucestershire Council under a Freedom of Information request to find out what the plans could mean for its residents.

It said in a statement: "No decision has been made on what we can manage locally yet."

Norville & Dobinson Opticians | Hearing Care

Norville & Dobinson is an independent and established opticians in Downend, caring for the eyes and ears of the local community for over 35 years.

We are pioneers in advanced eyecare with the eye examination technology, our visionary lens technology with Zeiss Visufit and our myopia management & dry eye services. Our practice is open for both NHS and private patients with an excellent range of eyewear and sunglasses to suit all budgets.

To come see us, or to book an appointment, call our friendly team on **0117 956 0939**.

Unit 3, The Willow Shopping Centre,
Downend Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 5UJ
www.norvilledobinsonopticians.co.uk





Graves in the Dame School grounds

A grave undertaking

TIDYING up the gravestones in the Dame School garden has been on our 'to-do' list for quite a while now.

Step forward Simon Scothern, who has taken it upon himself to clear and tidy the stones in the garden, on the corner of St James

Street and Richmond Road.

What a fantastic job he's done! Not only has he cleared away years of undergrowth but also cleared out a path, so that they can be seen.

We should be and are very grateful for all his hard work, and the photos just show what a difference one person can make.

We have been thinking about future activities, conscious that we don't want to always be doing more of the same.



The new pathway

One of our members is researching what it would take to create a 1700s style classroom within the Dame School building, as a permanent exhibition.

After all, that is what the building was originally used for.

Our next hour a month sessions (HAMS) are being organised.

Dates are to be advised but they will include: war memorial bench painting (they need some TLC); bulb planting on the common in October; a parish

boundary walk, when it's a bit cooler; more litter picking; a talk on the history of Mangotsfield station and railway.

Our next monthly Red Lion Coffee Morning will be on Wednesday September 2 at 10am, all are welcome.

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**

BRISTOL u3a

It's more fun to do things together

BEING a member of Bristol u3a doesn't just enable you to attend some of the 215 interest groups running across the area.

Once you're a member, you'll also find that there are plenty of things to do informally as well.

Working on the principle that it's usually more fun to do something in company than on your own, a monthly local area email newsletter, supported by a members' WhatsApp group, enables members to suggest one-off activities.

Recently these have included: a summer garden party in a member's home; early evening pub meets and skittles evenings.

We've seen the formation of small groups to go to local outdoor events such as Pizza in the Park (Page Park) and Redcatch Park Big Picnic.

There are also semi-regular informal groups that go to live music events, quiz nights and fringe theatre shows.

Every month, members of Bristol u3a run café socials around the East and North-East of greater Bristol.

Non-members are welcome to come along and join in, meet existing members and find out more about u3a in general.

This month you'll find us at: Turners in Fishponds (previously known as Grounded, flat access) on September 8; the Crafty Egg in Fishponds (ramp) on the 16th; Hillfields Community Centre (flat access) on the 17th and Mokka Downend (flat access) on the 28th.

Becoming a member of Bristol u3a is remarkable value: just £20 a year for individuals, with discounts for two members sharing an address, or for members of other local u3as.

Once you've paid your membership, you're unlikely to be asked for money towards venue hire because of subsidies provided by the central committee. Curious, but can't make it to any of the events mentioned above? Email me at learnlaughlive@bristolu3a.org.uk and I'll do my best to answer your questions. **Lindsay Gough**



PARKWAY
MERCEDES SPECIALIST

www.parkwaymercedes.com

Mercedes-Benz specialist
with over 35 years experience

- Full diagnostic equipment
- Factory trained technicians
- Collection delivery service
- Courtesy car on request
- MOT's • Servicing
- Digital service book update



Tel: **0117 9656164**
Parnall Road • Fishponds • Bristol • BS16 3JQ

SUMMER WELCOME VOUCHER - 30% OFF Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs)

This summer, local experts Simpson Solicitors look forward to welcoming you (or welcoming you back) to finally sort out your Will and Lasting Powers of Attorney.

Your Will is how you make sure those YOU want to provide for benefit when you die

Why use Simpson Solicitors for your Will?: Simpson Solicitors' award-winning Wills Service starts with a genuine FREE advice meeting – taking as long as you need. They will cover Guardians for children, Inheritance Tax, ensuring your Will reflects how you own your home and Care Home Fee protection. It includes a follow-up Signing Meeting to ensure your Wills are legally valid.

Your LPA protects you whilst you are alive but due to injury or serious illness you need support. It is how YOU appoint who YOU trust to manage your finances, pay your bills and speak up for you to ensure you get the care and medical treatment YOU would want.

Why use Simpson Solicitors for your LPAs? With

Simpsons there are no long forms for you to complete. They just get the full job done properly. You don't get a second chance at LPAs if errors are only spotted after someone has become too ill to re-do them. Last year alone the court rejected 51,000 applications. **Simpsons can help with the below 30% off Welcome Voucher**

SUMMER WELCOME VOUCHER

This is a special offer to welcome you to Simpson Solicitors (or to welcome you back if you have used them before).

This voucher entitles you to an incredible **30% off the full price** of their Complete Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) Service.

Present it at your **FREE** first meeting (or when you make your booking) to secure the **30% off discount**. It must be presented by **30th September 2026** at a South West office or home meeting. It cannot be used in conjunction with other promotions.



John Baden-Daintree



Michelle Baden-Daintree

Kings Chase Shopping Centre, Kingswood

0117 960 8594

message@simpsonslawuk.com

simpsonsolicitors 

Free Will Review

Book your **FREE MEETING** at home or at our Kingswood Office.

We make it easy to get up-to-date Wills and Lasting Powers of Attorney to make sure it is your wishes that are followed. Have peace of mind that everything is done properly by our award-winning team: In person meetings. Plain English advice. Clear fixed prices. No hidden costs. Protect their inheritance.

On your own: You choose who you want to inherit from you

Living together: Decide if and how your partner is protected

Parent Wills: Provide for children & name Guardians to raise them

Later Life Wills: Protect inheritance from Tax and Care Home Fees

Lasting Powers of Attorney: Appoint those you trust to make decisions, in case of serious illness or injury



"We were made to feel very welcome and cared for" H.L.

"You have lifted a great weight off our shoulders" C.R.

30% OFF
Lasting Powers of Attorney

Wills | Powers of Attorney | Probate



Get in touch: message@simpsonslawuk.com | 0117 960 8594

Or visit our ground floor offices (opposite Costa with car park):
7 Kings Chase Shopping Centre, Kingswood, BS15 8LP | simpsonsolicitors.com

A devolution revolution is coming

I HOPE everyone has had an incredible August and a chance to enjoy the weather safely, whether you took in the Bristol Balloon Fiesta, headed for the beach or made the most of the summer close to home.

I was thrilled to see hundreds of thousands of children and young people taking advantage of our free bus travel scheme again this summer.

I know this is making a difference to parents' pockets, and Kids Go Free will be back again at Christmas to help families get out and about at what can be another expensive time of year.

First launched here in the West of England, children across the country got to experience Kids Go Free this August, as the scheme went national.

It's one of the reasons Andy Burnham chose the West Country for his first visit as Prime Minister, to announce a new national bus fare cap.

During the visit I spoke with Andy about the importance of buses for people in our region, a lifeline which connects our towns and rural areas, and our exciting developing plans for mass transit.

We also discussed a visit to Ashton Gate in the future, to see Bristol City, whose London

supporters' club he used to play for. Graciously, I have agreed to go - even though I remain a steadfast Rovers supporter.

I'm sure that we'll see lots more of Andy in the West of England, as he takes on his new role.

While the country is getting used to a new Prime Minister, there is another new beginning closer to home. I am thrilled to let you know we have been made an Established Mayoral Strategic Authority.

This means the West of England is now in the top tier of regions in England and is set to unlock a new wave of powers which will help us improve life for everyone in the West.

From now on, we are jointly front of the queue for further devolution, with greater control over transport, skills, housing, investment, public services and funding. It strengthens our voice nationally, gives us greater freedom to invest in our priorities and helps to ensure more of our region's success is seen and felt by local people and businesses.

This is the moment we have been working towards since I became mayor 15 months ago.

I am delighted we have achieved our goal, ahead of schedule, and I am excited for the opportunities we have ahead of us in the West



Metro Mayor Helen Godwin
writes for the Voice

of England.

With more powers coming to the regions, under the government's plans, we are going to have more funding and more freedom to invest in the West.

More decisions being made here in the West, for the West, will make sure we are building new homes where we need them, improving transport connections, and increasing jobs and opportunities for local people.

The government has announced a devolution revolution, and I cannot wait to get started.



Quarry House
FISHPONDS



A life well lived can continue at our Care Home

Come And See Us : 0117 965 4466

US hockey team visits Mangotsfield

MANGOTSFIELD School played host to a visiting American hockey side on tour.

Bristol & West Hockey Club's women's 1st team, which is based at the school, took on the Bulldogs from Dean College, Massachusetts, for a pre-season fixture in August.

The Bulldogs arrived with considerable numbers both on and off the field.

After what started out as a tight game, B&W pulled ahead, eventually bringing in a 4-0 win in their first friendly of the season, and first international ever!

Head coach Joe John said: "This is exactly how we want to be playing so early in pre-season."

The game was played in fantastic spirits with great fun had by all involved - B&W look forward to continuing their relations with all past, current and future international sides, and thank the Bulldogs for visiting.

Two days later Bristol & West men's 1st team hosted Horsham Hockey Club 1sts in a competitive pre-season friendly on Mangotsfield School's 2G pitch.

The lads-on-tour left West Sussex in the early morning and arrived in Bristol ready for



Bristol and West Women (in black kit) and Dean College players (white/pink kits)

their first game against B&W, with another one scheduled for 2.30pm the same day against another local club!

B&W started quickly, with an early conversion from a penalty corner. Horsham replied soon after with a PC of their own that was batted into the roof of the net on the rebound.

The rest of the game was more than fiercely contested, but B&W added another three goals to seal a 4-1 victory.

The 1st team have multiple friendlies lined up before the season starts in late September.

They will once again be looking to claim promotion into the West Premiership, after narrowly missing out last time round.

Bristol & West HC is hosting an open club day on September 5 at Mangotsfield School, which is free to new members.

The event will include friendly games, a BBQ and a bake sale.

A junior tournament will run from 10-11.45am, followed by an adult tournament from 11.45am-3pm.

Everyone, including interested players, families and supporters, is invited to play in a friendly and social tournament, meeting players, coaches, and volunteers, to find out more about our club.

For more information on club day, training, membership and the upcoming season, please visit www.bandwhc.org.uk.

Harry Bryant

G25 INSTALLER OF THE YEAR!

WINNERS!

G25
AWARDS
WINNER



THE WINDOW HUB.CO.UK

Upgrade your
windows & doors
with the
UK's #1
installer!

Get in-touch today for a FREE
no obligation quotation

☎ 08000 219 319

Come visit our showrooms

📍 72-74 High Street, Bristol BS16 5HN

📍 208 Topsham Rd, Exeter EX2 6AA

✉ info@thewindowhub.co.uk 🔍 www.thewindowhub.co.uk



Cricket season reaches a crescendo

At the time of writing, the Carsons & Mangotsfield 1st XI remain the club's strongest promotion hope, sitting firmly in the mix near the top despite a few bumps along the way.

Back-to-back wins over Frampton Cotterell and Old Bristolians Westbury have steadied things at the right moment.

With only 17 points separating the top four, the next couple of weeks will decide who breaks into those top two spots heading into the final weekend. One to watch as the season tightens.

The T20 side have won Division 1 East in the Bristol Midweek League, sealing it with a thumping win over Rockhampton.

George Sutton's 3-24 kept them to 135, and the chase was handled with authority, Tom King's rapid 52 guiding the side home with four overs to spare.

The Premier Division will be new territory and a genuine test, but it's another clear marker of the club's upward stride.

The 4th XI produced one



Carsons & Mangotsfield's title-winning under-13 team

of the season's most dramatic finishes, edging local rivals Pucklechurch by a single run.

Tom Carter's maiden 50* set the tone, supported by Del Capel's 32, before Luca Talbot (3-23) swung momentum. With one run in it, Steve Edwards (4-27) held his nerve, taking the final wicket with the last ball to spark jubilant scenes.

A perfect advert for the 4s, that bridge between junior

cricket and the longer league format.

The Sunday side continues to flourish, leaning on the club's junior talent. A standout win over Clevedon featured young Dan Cook's (98) maiden senior fifty, followed by victory over North Bristol, where juniors claimed all ten wickets.

Edward Barr and George Clatworthy took three each, Stanley Bater and Max Holbrook

two apiece, before Sutton (72) and Farmer (59*) steered the chase with their junior partners.

The women's softball team have made an encouraging start, four games in with a first win and narrow defeats showing real promise. Winter training plans are forming, and new players are warmly welcomed.

Finally, the under-13s capped a superb season by winning their division in the Bristol Youth Cricket League.

Seven wins from eight, seven of the league's top ten wicket-takers — including the entire top four — and three of the top six run-scorers underline a remarkable effort from the players and coaches.

With several already stepping into adult cricket, the future at CMCC looks wonderfully bright.

If you're looking for a friendly, all-ability cricket home, drop us a line at info.carsonsandmangotsfield@gmail.com or connect with us on social media.

Jake Lane



NOW AT UNIT 1, DRAGON COURT, BS5 7XX

JUST 2 MINS AWAY FROM OUR PREVIOUS ADDRESS

- Massive choice of quality carpets, vinyl, laminate and LVT
- Fitting service available with expert fitters
- FREE measuring & planning service ■ FREE parking
- FREE NO obligation estimates ■ FREE sample service
- Trade enquiries welcome ■ Delivery service available

(Charges apply)

Opening hours: Mon - Sat 9am - 5pm Sunday / Bank Holidays CLOSED



Please ask one of our experienced team for details: **Unit 1 Dragon Court, Crofts End Road, Fishponds, Bristol BS5 7XX** Telephone: (0117) 985 0548
web: www.bristolcarpetco.co.uk email: sales.bristolcarpet@gmail.com
WhatsApp: 07572 285803 facebook: @Bristolcarpetco instagram: @Bristolcarpet

Sign up for
exclusive
offers



Seeking help with mole and lesion checks

James Singh, Advanced Nurse Practitioner at Cleve Chiropractic, gives professional advice on how and when to seek help with mole and skin lesion checks...

Most of us are good at noticing when our back, neck or shoulders feel different and are in need of attention – or even a little bit of TLC. However, we are not always so vigilant with any changes on our skin.

For Tim Button at Cleve Chiropractic, it took a comment from someone else to make him stop and take notice.

Tim had a lesion on his chest that he had not really given much thought to. Like many busy men in their 40s, he was probably more focused on getting through a workout session than inspecting his chest in the mirror. Thankfully, someone at the gym spotted it and said, "You should probably get that checked."

That simple comment was enough to prompt a timely call to action for Tim. He did get it checked out, the lesion was removed and thankfully it was benign. But this incident provides a helpful reminder that many of us put

things off, especially when something does not hurt or cause any obvious symptoms.

With the extremely hot summer we've been enjoying here in the UK, there's a fair chance that many of us have been exposing more of our skin than usual to the sun. It's timely therefore to outline the mole and skin lesion checks being offered, with specialist tele dermatology reporting, at Cleve Chiropractic.

The aim is simple: to make it easier for adults in the local community to get a mole or skin lesion reviewed and gain clarity on whether further action may be needed.

Skin cancer is common in this country. Cancer Research UK states that the melanoma skin variety is the fifth most common cancer in the UK, with around 19,400 new cases each year. While many moles and skin lesions are harmless, it is always worth taking seriously any changes you may have noticed.

The key things to look out for include a mole or lesion that is new, changing in size, shape or colour, bleeding, itching, crusting, growing, or simply looking different from the others around it. Some people describe this as the "ugly duckling" sign — one mole that does not seem to match the rest.

Some workers and people with outdoor hobbies may be especially exposed to UV light over time. Builders, roofers, gardeners, cyclists, runners, golfers and anyone who spends long periods outside should be particularly mindful of looking after their skin. Sun exposure is not only about holidays abroad; it can build up gradually over years.

The service at Cleve Chiropractic is available

for adults aged 18 and over and includes clinical image capture of the mole or skin lesion, followed by specialist tele dermatology reporting.

Results are usually returned within 72 hours.

This service may be suitable if you have noticed a mole or skin lesion and would like reassurance or advice on whether further medical assessment is needed. It may also be helpful if a partner, friend or family member has pointed something out to you and encouraged you to get it checked.

Prices are £60 for one mole or skin lesion check, or £99 for up to three lesions.

This service does not replace urgent medical care. If you have a rapidly changing lesion, significant bleeding, pain, or have already been advised to seek urgent medical review, you should contact your GP or NHS 111 as appropriate.

Tim's experience is a reminder that sometimes it only takes one comment to make us act. His lesion was benign, but getting it checked meant he had clarity and peace of mind.

So it's always worth taking a few moments to check your skin. Ask someone else to check any areas of your body you cannot easily see yourself, such as your back. And if something has changed, do not ignore it – we can help.



CLEVE the practice of pain relief
CHIROPRACTIC & PHYSIOTHERAPY CENTRE
MANGOTSFIELD

**20A COSSHAM STREET
MANGOTSFIELD, BS16 9EN
0117 9575388**

- CHIROPRACTIC
- PHYSIOTHERAPY
- DIGITAL X-RAY
- MRI & ULTRASOUND
- GUIDED INJECTIONS
- SPORTS THERAPY
- MASSAGE
- FOOD SENSITIVITY
- ACUPUNCTURE

“The ultimate professionals, I would highly recommend”

Kyle Sinkler
Bristol Bears, England
and British Lion

Loft Boarding & Insulation



www.useyourloftspace.co.uk

USE YOUR LOFT SPACE

is the reliable, affordable and trusted local company for all your loft boarding, and loft insulation requirements

0117 2980810



**USE YOUR
LOFT SPACE**

INFO@USEYOURLOFTSPACE.CO.UK

Cups bring cheer to Mangos

THE FA Cup and FA Vase gave Mangotsfield United their first wins of the season.

As the Voice went to print, the Mangos had yet to play their first home fixture, having started with four straight away games.

The team never really got going in the season opener at Fairford, despite the home side, who went ahead in the first half, being reduced to 10 men on the hour.

Mangotsfield could not make the extra man pay in the final 30 minutes, as Fairford stood firm to win 1-0.

The performance at Cirencester three days

later was much-improved, despite remaining goalless. Both sides worked hard and created chances, but they could not break each other down, and a draw was a fair result.

A 2-1 win at Oxfordshire side Easington Sports in the FA Cup gave the Mangos their first goals of the season.

They roared into an early 2-0 lead thanks to goals from Mohammed Djalo (5) and James Corey Horrocks (22), then weathered the storm before the break, as the Combined Counties League Premier Division North side fought back.

The hosts pulled one back from the penalty spot on 79 minutes, leading to a frantic final 11 minutes or so, but the Mangos held on to secure a home Preliminary Round tie against Thatcham Town, who play in the same league as Easington, on August 22 at 3pm.

On August 15 the Mangos kicked off their FA Vase campaign at Berkshire side Kintbury Rangers, who play in the Wessex League

Division 1.

An early penalty - after an incident that saw Mangos defender Jack Mills sent off - was saved by goalkeeper Ellis Parker, whose man-of-the-match performance saw him pull off several other great saves.

Barbados international Curtis Jemmet-Hutson scored the winner on 40 minutes and the Mangos held on through a nail-biting second half.

Dave Smale

Upcoming fixtures:

August 29: Westfields (home)

August 31: Malmesbury Victoria (away)

September 5: Highworth Town (H)

September 15: Corsham Town (H)

September 19: Droitwich Spa (A)

September 22: Devizes Town (A)

September 26: Roman Glass St George (A)

Flyers ready for take-off

DOWNEND Flyers have welcomed experienced coaches and the return of under-18s football as the new season approaches.

The Women's 1st team warmly welcomes Kyle Edwards as its new manager.

A UEFA B licence-holder, he brings a wealth of expertise from a coaching career spanning professional clubs, academies, and regional talent centres.

As the 1st team enters its 20th consecutive year in the South West Regional Women's Football League, Kyle's arrival sets a clear, ambitious tone for the squad's next chapter.

Reserve Team manager Matt Smith, who is UEFA C-licensed, returns to lead the side in the Gloucestershire County Women's

League Division Two, joined by new assistant player-manager Vic, whose extensive playing experience will add valuable insight both on and off the pitch.

Steve Poole takes over as A team manager following five years of coaching at Downend.

Having guided many of his players from youth setups into senior football, Steve is uniquely positioned to lead the group as they look to build on a highly competitive run last season.

The new season also marks the return of U18s football at the club after an absence of over a decade. This new side creates a crucial bridge between youth and adult football, giving rising talent a clear, structured pathway into senior competition.

In the girl's section the U12 Swifts had a great summer of tournaments, winning five cups, one plate and finishing as runners-up three times.

The girls always show unbelievable spirit and stand-out performances, often finding a



The Flyers U12 Swifts won a collection of trophies in summer tournaments

way to win but staying humble.

They are coached by Carla Reese and Kasha Kelly, who are proud to be an all-female coaching team.

With over 400 players ranging from age five to (nearly!) 50, the club remains dedicated to empowering women and girls through sport.

Matchdays at Pomphrey

Hill bring players, families, and supporters together, with that strong community spirit continuing after the final whistle at the sports bar - why not come down and become our newest fan? To learn more about playing, coaching, or supporting the club this season, contact info@downendflyers.com.

Duncan Gardner

LOCAL SERVICES

**EMERSONS
GREEN
VOICE LOCAL
SERVICES**

AERIALS

THE AERIAL MAN
TV Aerial and Satellite Specialist

Poor Reception Problems Solved
OAP Discount Digital Aerials Satellites
Two Year Guarantee Free Quote
CCTV & Ring Doorbells

Affordable Prices - Reliable Service
0117 967 9028
www.theaerialman.co.uk | info@theaerialman.co.uk

AERIALS



**Andy's
Aerials**

- Digital Aerials Fitted
- Local Engineer
- OAP Discount
- Free Quotes

Call Andy on:

07500 702566

LOCAL SERVICES

AERIALS

The Aerial Co. Est. 2004

- TV Aerials & Satellites
- Extra Points • Repairs
- Sky Work Undertaken
- Telephone Extensions • TV Wall Mounting
- CCTV • Data Points & Wi-Fi Extensions
- TV/DAB/FM Multi Point Systems
- Solar Panel Bird Meshing Supplied & Installed

Call Nick on 07970 529787
Email: theaerialco@yahoo.co.uk

BATHROOMS & KITCHENS

Bathroom & Kitchen Specialists

All work carried out by us
One call is all you need

Book now for your makeover
OSBORNE & SONS
All work guaranteed.
Call Tony 0777 6188595
tony1osborne@yahoo.co.uk
Find us on Facebook
[osborneandsons](https://www.facebook.com/osborneandsons)

BATHROOMS

OAKLEY BATHROOMS

Bathroom Design & Installation

★★★★★ Google

rob@oakleybathrooms.co.uk
07725529559
www.oakleybathrooms.co.uk

ADVERTISE HERE

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS
From as little as £22.50 + VAT per month
EMAIL: SALES@EMERSONSGREENVOICE.CO.UK

BATHROOMS & KITCHENS

Blue Flame Services

**BATHROOMS
SHOWER ROOM
KITCHENS**

**FULL KITCHEN AND BATHROOM
DESIGN & INSTALLATION SERVICE**

*En-suites / Under Stair Cloakrooms
Shower Rooms*

0117 9600 296 / 0797 0122 137
www.blueflameservice.co.uk
Info@BlueFlameService.co.uk

231 Lodge Causeway,
Fishponds, Bristol, BS16 3RA

CARPENTRY

**PHILIP PERKINS
Carpentry**

General Carpenter/Kitchen Fitter
(Member of the Guild of Master Craftsmen)

- Kitchens supplied & fitted or supply only
- Full kitchen or fronts only • Worktops
- Fitted Wardrobes • Door Hanging • Skirting
- Stairs & Balustrades • Laminate & Wood Flooring
- All aspects of general carpentry work

CALL FOR A QUOTE - NO JOB TOO SMALL
0117 9373941 OR 07788 115945

ELECTRICIANS

R A Moon
Electrical Services

Domestic - Commercial - Industrial
Installation - Testing - Maintenance

Local friendly service with over 30 yrs experience

Rewires Consumer Units Extra Points
Electrical Installation Condition Reports
Fault Finding

Call Bob for free advice and estimates
0117 3690000 07940 247514
www.ramoonelectricalservices.co.uk
Email: ramoon@blueyonder.co.uk

FENCING

**DOWNEND
FENCING**
(ERECTING SERVICE)

45 years experience - All types of
fencing, repairs, clearance etc.
NO JOB TOO SMALL

TEL: 0797 3381663

FENCING

**FRENCHAY
FENCING**
& PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

all work guaranteed
- all quotes free
OVER 20 YEARS
EXPERIENCE
LOCALLY BASED

**Call Mike on 07962226226
or Andy on 07747148106**

Contact us at Facebook: Frenchay fencing

ELECTRICIANS

**MARK EVANS
ELECTRICAL**
HOUSE RE-WIRING SPECIALISTS

- SMALL ELECTRICAL JOBS • LED LIGHTING
- GARDEN LIGHTING, OUTBUILDINGS & HOME OFFICES
- TESTING & INSPECTION OF WIRING
- LANDLORD CERTIFICATES

BURGLAR ALARMS, REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE & INSTALLATION

TEL: 0117 956 0695 MOB 07770 233 475
EMAIL ENQUIRIES@MARKEVANSELECTRICAL.CO.UK WWW.MARKEVANSELECTRICAL.CO.UK

FIND OUR REVIEWS ON
THE WHICH TRUSTED
TRADERS WEBSITE

Which? Trusted Trader

LOCAL SERVICES

EXTENSIONS & RENOVATIONS

**FOR ALL YOUR
Extensions
& Renovations**



WE CAN DO IT ALL!

DESIGN & PLANNING • ARCHITECTURAL SERVICES
EXTENSIONS • GARAGE CONVERSIONS
FULL HOUSE RENOVATIONS • HMO REFURBISHMENTS
FULL PLUMBING/HEATING AND ELECTRICAL SERVICES •
WINDOWS AND DOORS

**Blue Flame
Services**

0117 9600 296 / 0797 0122 137

www.blueflameservice.co.uk

info@BlueFlameService.co.uk

231 Lodge Causeway, Fishponds BS16 3RA

GUTTER CLEANING

Mark's Gutter Cleaning



Gutter Clearing
Gutter Cleaning
Fascia Cleaning

Call or Book online

www.marksguttercleaning.co.uk

Tel: 0117 3708528 Mob: 07543056558

Based in Downend, Bristol

HOUSE & RUBBISH CLEARANCE



**HOUSE CLEARANCE
GARAGE CLEARANCE
GARDEN CLEARANCE
GENERAL RUBBISH CLEARANCE**
FULLY LICENSED AND INSURED

MINIMUM COLLECTION FROM £49 - FREE QUOTATIONS

Visit us: www.junkmonsters.co.uk

Email us: info@junkmonsters.co.uk

Call us: 07592 506 003

PLUMBING

LOW COST PLUMBING



Taps, Washers ✓
Toilets, Cisterns ✓
Leaks, Blockages ✓
Tanks, Overflows ✓

Lead Pipes, Stopcocks....etc... ✓

OAP DISCOUNTS and NO VAT

0117 **957 5092**

PLUMBING & HEATING



AHS
Anderson Heating Services

07878249260
phil@andersonheating-services.co.uk

safe 629175

ELECTRICIANS

Electrician

www.alliedelectrical.co.uk

Do you find it difficult to get someone
to come and do a small job?

- Extra lights • Additional sockets.
- Replacement fuseboards • Rewires
- Landlord & homebuyers inspections.

Call Nick on 0117 2872371

I will assure you of a quick response and
a reasonably priced service



PLUMBING

A PHILLIPS
PLUMBING & BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS

COMPLETE BATHROOM INSTALLATIONS
TILING • PLASTERING • ELECTRICAL • CARPENTRY
LOCAL, RELIABLE, FAMILY BUSINESS

FULLY INSURED • LOCAL & TRUSTED • EXCELLENT WORKMANSHIP
FRIENDLY, HONEST & RELIABLE • COMPETITIVE PRICES

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTATIONS

CALL ANDY TODAY
07966 485627

ALSO AVAILABLE VIA
WHATSAPP & TEXT

www.andyphillipsplumbing.co.uk

FIND US ON FACEBOOK - WHATSAPP US

PLUMBING & HEATING

**CREST HEATING
& PLUMBING**



BOILERS, BATHROOMS AND
GENERAL PLUMBING

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
HONEST & RELIABLE

TEL: 07765 250816



GARDEN SERVICES

**D ATTWELL &
SONS
LANDSCAPING**

Whether you're looking for
new patios, garden fencing,
new decking installations, or turf laying
our landscapers are here to help



Call now for a free quote
07960 681921

www.dattwellandsonslandscaping.co.uk

PLUMBING

**LOCAL
PLUMBER**

- TAPS • WASHERS
- DRIPS • LEAKS • REPAIRS
- TOILETS • BALL VALVES
- LEAD PIPES ETC

0117 9564912

****NO VAT****

****O.A.P. DISCOUNTS****

PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

**T.L.C HOME & PROPERTY
MAINTENANCE**

- Bathroom & Kitchen Installation
 - Plumbing • Wall & Floor Tiling
 - Interior & Exterior Painting & Decorating
 - Guttering & Fascias • Plastering
 - Patios, Paving & Timber Decking
 - Fencing & Walls • Total Refurbishments
- NO JOB TOO SMALL - CONTACT US FOR
A FREE NO OBLIGATION ESTIMATE**

tel: **07974 222656**

email: williamtlc@hotmail.co.uk



sgscollege

Join us **now!**

We have a place for you this September!



**Results
Advice Hotline**

0117 915 3398

All Campuses
Open weekdays from
Results Day to 28 August
9am - 3pm

Call us to discuss your
options or book an in-person
appointment

Advice & Application Sessions

Weekdays Mon 24 Aug -
Fri 4 Sept: 9am - 3pm
Filton, WISE & Stroud
Appointment required

Evening Sessions

Wed 26 Aug & Wed 2 Sept
5pm - 8pm
Filton, WISE & Stroud
Appointment required



**Live from
14th
August**



Book your session at sgscol.ac.uk/now