

downendvoice

www.downendvoice.co.uk

October 2026, Issue 159



20 St James Place Mangotsfield BS16 9JB
0117 910 9002

FREE EVERY MONTH IN DOWNEND, MANGOTSFIELD, STAPLE HILL, BROMLEY HEATH & FRENCHAY



Owen and Reuben Devey, of Staple Hill, pictured with PCSO Amy Williamson and PC Josh Millward, were among hundreds of visitors to September's Emergency Services Fun Day in Page Park. Full story: Page 3

Scooters seized in crackdown

POLICE have seized more than ten electric scooters, motorbikes and e-bikes in response to a rise in crime and antisocial behaviour.

Officers have been carrying out "enhanced patrols" along the Bristol & Bath Railway Path following a stabbing, a mugging and a rise in complaints about illegal use of e-scooters and modified e-bikes.

Patrols have involved neighbourhood policing teams, mounted officers and specialist bike units,

with support from South Gloucestershire Council's community safety team.

As well as high-visibility patrols, the force has also carried out "targeted enforcement operations" involving plain-clothes officers.

Away from the path, police have also been targeting illegal e-bike and scooter use in Mangotsfield, Frenchay and Emersons Green - seizing one e-bike that had a top speed of 62mph.

Turn to Page 3



Pool is saved

Parents and businesses have worked together to save an infant school's swimming pool.

PAGE 18

Driver jailed

A driver who mounted a pavement, went the wrong way around a roundabout and forced oncoming traffic to stop as he tried to flee police has been jailed.

PAGE 14

Act of kindness

An act of kindness by a group of friends from Downend has changed the life of a young DJ with autism.

PAGE 13

Big turnaround

A pre-school in Staple Hill has improved thanks to its leaders' hard work, says Ofsted.

PAGE 15

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.craiganthony.co.uk



Autumn Gardening



Matt Sutton

Plan your work in the garden

As the leaves are turning golden and you may find yourself with lots of clearing up to do in the garden, we've put together a guide to keep your back in good shape whilst looking after the garden.

We don't often think of gardening as exercise but it is, and you'll get the most out of it and your body if you treat it in the same way.

Warm up

Start with a brisk walk around the garden or gentle star jumps to get the heart rate up, you want to be on the edge of starting to get out of breath. Then move on to the lighter jobs you have to do to and build to the larger or heavier jobs now you're thoroughly warm.

Break up the job

Even if your garden is covered in leaves, don't go raking up leaves for an hour in one go. Aim for spending 20-30 minutes on any one thing and take regular breaks. Perfect time for a cuppa!

Make it easy for yourself

Use tools to cart around the heavy bits, sack barrows and wheelbarrows are and absolute god sends when it comes to bending and lifting.

Tips for using the ladder

When using a ladder or steps, make sure you are always facing it, keeping your shoulders, hips and knees pointing in the same direction. Rather than leaning or reaching, move the ladder or step regularly to keep up with where you are. Any kind of ladder must be

firmly and safely planted in position and, if possible, have someone else there to keep an eye on things.

Clothes

Wear moderately warm, comfy clothes that don't restrict your movements. You should be a little bit chilly to start with and this will encourage you to get working and warm – better for your immune system too!

Seek professional advice

If you want to prevent back aches/pains or are experiencing some now give us a call to stay well and keep active!



**Other Specialties at
Sutton Chiropractic**
Pain Posture Performance



**Christchurch Family Medical
Centre, North Street,
Bristol BS16 5SG**

**T: 0117 214 1636
W: www.suttonchiro.co.uk
FB: @suttonchiro
E: reception@suttonchiro.co.uk**

Bikes and scooters seized

From Page 1

An Avon & Somerset police spokesperson said that in the first two weeks of September, officers seized six e-scooters being used illegally on the Staple Hill, Mangotsfield and Emersons Green stretches of the Bristol & Bath Railway Path, another in Mangotsfield and two in Frenchay.

An e-bike which had been illegally modified was seized in Mangotsfield and a Sur-Ron off-road e-motorbike was seized in Emersons Green - a total of 11 vehicles being used illegally.

All of them will now be destroyed.

It is illegal to ride privately-owned e-scooters on public roads and paths. Illegally-modified e-bikes are those that can go above the legal speed limit of 15.5mph, have a battery of more than 250w or are capable of being ridden using a throttle instead of pedals.

The e-bike being ridden in Mangotsfield on September 7, which was being ridden by a teenager wearing a balaclava, had been modified to travel at up to 62mph. The e-scooter seized the same day could travel at up to 31mph.

Police say many of the riders they have stopped have never passed a driving test, have no training and are riding on roads, pavements and green spaces as well as the cycle path.

Neighbourhood Inspector Barny Mabbett said "a significant number of officers and staff" were involved, adding: "The operation has generated considerable community engagement, with officers speaking to path users, local businesses, and residents to provide reassurance and gather information and intelligence relating to concerns on the path."

Insp Mabbett said patrols would continue "for the foreseeable future" to reduce anti-social behaviour, tackle the unlawful e-scooter and e-bike use, and make the railway path safer for "legitimate users".

Police launched patrols after two incidents in two days on the path.

On August 11 a man in his 30s was stabbed on the railway path at Bitton, suffering what police described as "non-life-threatening injuries". Two boys were arrested on suspicion of attempted murder and later released on police bail.

The following day a boy in his late teens suffered what police described as "minor physical injuries" when he was mugged by eight masked youths on a stretch of the path close to the former Mangotsfield station. The boy had a grey Carrera Crossfire 2 bike taken from him by the group, who were described as being in their late teens or early 20s.

Police said the attackers were wearing black face coverings and bucket hats, and black jogging bottoms and jackets. Four of the suspects were white, one was black, one was Asian and one was of mixed race. One was riding a black e-scooter with red markings and a screen, and others had e-bikes or road bikes.

Anyone with information about the mugging should call 101 and quote the crime reference number 5226 227 034; the reference number for the stabbing is 5226 226 130.

South Glos Council is installing 20 permanent CCTV cameras on the path between Staple Hill Tunnel and Mangotsfield Station.

• Police are trying to trace a man who assaulted a teenage boy on an e-scooter who collided with a woman "at low speed" on Emersons Green Lane, near the junction with Guest Avenue, at around 12.35pm on August 14. The boy suffered minor injuries, while the woman was unharmed.

The suspect was white, in his mid-30s, with brown, curly shoulder length hair, and was wearing a dark baseball cap, a navy-blue T-shirt, khaki shorts, sunglasses and orange shoes. Anyone with information should call 101 and quote the crime reference number 5226 228 878.



Police cycle patrol officers with a seized e-scooter

Horses are a big hit

HUNDREDS of people found out more about the police, their work and their equipment at a community event organised by the force.

The Emergency Services Fun Day in Page Park gave people the chance to try on riot shields and helmets, chat to their local officers and sit in the driving seat - or be locked in the back - of a police van.

Police horses Michael and Windsor received plenty of attention from animal lovers visiting the event in September.

Although commitments elsewhere meant the fire and ambulance services were unable to attend, organisers from the Avon & Somerset Police Diversity and Inclusion Team said the event went very well.

Diverse outreach worker Abdulkadir Sheikhussein said: "The feedback from residents was overwhelmingly positive, and there was a genuine sense of community spirit throughout the day.

"For us, the event was all about bringing people together, strengthening community cohesion, and creating opportunities for local residents to connect with each other and the organisations that serve them."

The team hopes to bring the event back to Page Park for a fifth time next year.



Police horses Michael and Windsor and their riders meet the public in Page Park

90 MINUTES.
BIG IMPACT.
Help build Skills for Life.
No experience needed.
Just enthusiasm.



Volunteer with Scouts

mangotsfieldscouts.org.uk/volunteer
info@mangotsfieldscouts.org.uk



Scouts
67th Kingswood
(1st Mangotsfield)

downendvoice

www.downendvoice.co.uk



Publisher Gary Brindle
0117 907 8585
07799 461169



Journalist Linda Tanner
07770 700579



Journalist Ken McCormick
07715 770377



Follow us on 'X'
@downendvoice



Find us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/
downendvoice



ADVERTISING

sales@downendvoice.co.uk
Tel 0117 907 8585
Tel 07799 461169

EDITORIAL

news@downendvoice.co.uk
Letters to the publication can be sent to the above e-mail address.
The editor reserves the right to edit your letter.

DEADLINE

Our November edition deadline is October 14.

LOCAL INFORMATION

West of England Mayor
Mayor Helen Godwin
mayor@westofengland-ca.gov.uk
0117 428 6210
70 Redcliff Street, Bristol BS1 6AL
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) 0808 808 5252

We are Bristol helpline
Freephone 0800 694 0184
Mon-Fri 8.30am-5pm
Weekends 10am to 2pm

PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Downend 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. Downend 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@downendvoice.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 Downend Voice, contact the publisher using the details below. We aspire to follow the Code of Conduct of the NUJ (National Union of Journalists), which holds journalists to a high standard of behaviour. Further details of the complaints process can be found on the Voice website here, or can be obtained by contacting the Publisher.



Tech shop burglar is jailed

A MAN who broke into a Staple Hill shop and stole a "significant number of mobile phones and tablets" has been jailed.

Scott Carroll, aged 35, admitted burglary, attempted burglary and handling stolen goods after the shop in Broad Street was targeted in an overnight break-in last September.

Police identified Carroll, of Kingswood, through CCTV footage of him and a car used during the burglary, which was later found burnt out.

During his arrest the stolen tech products were found and returned to the shop owners, who said they "couldn't believe" police had been able to recover them all, adding: "It's our livelihood."

Carroll had been due to be sentenced for the crimes last year but was then arrested on suspicion of further burglary, vehicle fraud and handling stolen goods offences, which he denied.

He was convicted of three further charges following a trial this year, and has now been sentenced to a total of four years in jail.

Neighbourhood Inspector Barny Mabbett said: "We know the significant effect shop thefts have on our businesses, particularly small ones, and wider communities and we are working hard to identify offenders and bring them before the courts."

"The swift actions of officers to identify the suspect and make an arrest led to the victim getting their property back."



Scott Carroll

Shoplifter took steaks

A 'PROLIFIC' shoplifter who stole steaks worth "hundreds of pounds" from supermarkets has been jailed for more than 18 months.

John Iles, aged 46, of no fixed address, targeted supermarkets and convenience stores in Downend, Staple Hill and Bradley Stoke, including branches of Tesco and Aldi.

He was arrested in August and brought before Bristol Magistrates Court, where he admitted nine counts of shop theft and one parcel theft.

Magistrates sentenced him to 82 weeks in prison and ordered him to pay compensation to the businesses he targeted.

PC James Mullin said Iles is "a prolific shoplifter who shows a total disregard for his actions," adding: "Shoplifting is not a victimless crime and the harm it can cause businesses and the wider community is immeasurable."

"Not only does the loss of merchandise affect the running of a business, but the theft and related anti-social behaviour can cause harassment, alarm and distress to shop owners and staff."



John Iles

Thief breached sentence

A STAPLE Hill man who breached a suspended sentence and a court order to stay away from shops he repeatedly stole from has been jailed.

Anton Varga, aged 39, of Berkeley House, admitted six counts of shop theft when he appeared at Bristol Magistrates' Court in September.

The court heard Varga had only recently been given a suspended sentence for previous shoplifting offences. He was also in breach of a Criminal Behaviour Order to stay away from shops he had previously targeted.

The five-year order was imposed in January of last year, when Varga was jailed for earlier shoplifting offences. He continued to steal after being released, and was given a one-year prison sentence last June.

This time around, Varga was jailed for eight weeks and ordered to pay compensation and a victim surcharge of £154.

Sgt Matthew Cooke, from the Staple Hill Neighbourhood Team, urged shopkeepers to continue reporting incidents.



Anton Varga

Frankie and Lucciano charm the crowd

A SINGING grandad and grandson who were a hit on TV show Britain's Got Talent drew a large but relaxed crowd to Page Park.

Frankie Johns and Lucciano Mortimore were the best known of the acts to perform in this year's Lazy Sunday Afternoon summer concert series in the park.

The duo sang, danced and chatted to an audience who sat on deck chairs and picnic blankets surrounding the bandstand in the late August sunshine.

During the act they left the bandstand to serenade the front row, and Frankie called out to concert-goers, some of whom had travelled from the other side of the Severn to listen to him and Lucciano, who lives in Wales.

Frankie, of Kingswood, and ten-year-old Lucciano provided one of the most memorable moments of the ITV talent show series this year, when Lucciano called his grandad out of the audience at the start of his audition, to sing a duet with him on stage.

The audition has been viewed more than three million times on YouTube, while Lucciano has been praised by singers Robbie Williams and Michael Bublé.

The free concert series was organised by Melody Beard of the park's Bean Tree Cafe, supported by £500 each from South Gloucestershire Council and the Friends of Page Park to meet the cost of staging seven shows in July and August.

Friends vice-chair Steph Purser said: "The day of their concert there were well over a



Frankie Johns and Lucciano Mortimore on the Page Park bandstand

thousand people in the park.

"It was just one of the brilliant concerts we've had this year - Kelly Loveridge, who performed before Frankie and Lucciano, was also really good.

"When you see everyone coming together and enjoying themselves like that, it's what the park is all about."

Park news: Page 39



Frankie serenades a member of the audience

Pollution rises in drought-hit rivers

DROUGHT conditions led to higher than usual levels of pollution in rivers and streams in the Downend and Frenchay area during tests carried out this summer.

A survey by "citizen scientists" for the Bristol Avon Rivers Trust found high levels of phosphates and nitrates in the River Frome and Leap Valley.

Volunteers collect and test water samples for the two chemical nutrients on waterways across the Bristol Avon catchment, which includes the Frome and its tributaries.

This year was the 11th annual RiverBlitz organised by BART, which took place from July 25 to August 2, following "exceptionally low rainfall for many weeks".

More than 200 volunteers took part, testing at 283 sites, including six on the Frome between Hambrook and Frenchay, four on the Leap Valley stream and one on the

Bradley Brook at Hambrook.

High levels of phosphates were recorded in eight out of the 11 sites - four on the Frome, three in Leap Valley and in Bradley Brook.

The others all had medium levels of the pollutant.

High levels of nitrates were recorded at six sites, including all four in the Leap Valley and two in the Frome, with the other three sites on the Frome having medium levels and the Bradley Brook site recording a low level.

The charity says lower water levels in rivers and streams leads to pollution becoming more concentrated.

BART says phosphates occur naturally in rivers, but high levels are often linked to treated and untreated sewage, as well as agricultural fertiliser, and contribute to harmful algal blooms, which can be poisonous to wildlife, livestock and dogs.

Across the region, 52% of the 283 sites tested had high

phosphate levels, compared to a ten-year average of 42%, but below the figure of 61% for last year's RiverBlitz, which also took place after "prolonged" dry weather.

Nitrate levels were lower than usual on the whole, with 25% of sites reporting low readings this year compared to the ten-year average of 10%.

One explanation for this is that because nitrates are commonly found in fertilisers washed off agricultural land, without any rain the chemicals stayed on the fields.

Once rain does fall, they can be washed into the rivers in "worryingly high amounts", as can other pollutants, including heavy metals, oils and microplastics flushed through drains from road surfaces.

BART chief executive Simon Hunter said: "During periods of low flows and drought, nutrients such as phosphate and nitrates become more concentrated,

placing even greater pressure on wildlife and the ecosystems our rivers support.

"Every sample collected by our volunteers helps us better understand these impacts, identify where action is needed most, and build the evidence to support further investigation to protect and restore the Bristol Avon catchment for the future."

BART said this year's RiverBlitz provided a "valuable snapshot" of river health during drought, which is expected to become more common because of climate change.

The charity says reducing the amount of pollution reaching rivers is a "critical priority", as are measures to slow the run-off of water when it rains, including promoting wetlands, woodlands and floodplains in the countryside and increasing vegetation, the use of water butts and fewer hard surfaces in towns and cities.

Hosepipe ban: Page 6

Hosepipe ban in force

BRISTOL Water has announced a hosepipe ban for all customers. The company, which supplies homes in South Gloucestershire, says it is introducing temporary restrictions on hosepipe use for all customers to protect water resources in the River Severn, following a drought order by the Environment Agency.

The ban was introduced at the end of August, and people who breach it could face a fine of up to £1,000.

Bristol Water said: "Prolonged dry weather, low river levels, significantly below average rainfall and high demand continues to place increasing pressure on both water supplies for people and the health of river systems and wildlife habitats.

"The restrictions mean customers should not use hosepipes for activities including watering gardens, washing cars, patios and boats, or filling swimming and paddling pools. Water can still be used as normal for drinking, flushing toilets, washing and cooking.

"During periods of dry weather, Bristol Water takes over half of its water from river sources, including the River Severn via the Gloucester and Sharpness Canal, to help manage reservoir levels.

"The drought conditions have resulted in a significant impact to the River Severn, one of its major sources, leading to the Environment Agency and Natural Resources Wales applying for a drought order to protect this essential water source."

A drought was declared in the region by the Environment Agency at the end of July. Despite recent rainfall, it is part of an area covering almost three-quarters of England that remains officially in drought after an exceptionally dry spring and summer.

A drought is only declared over when rivers, groundwater and reservoirs are back to normal levels, and the agency says the country will need 120% of typical rainfall over the next seven months for all areas to be considered out of drought. More details on the ban, and exemptions, are available at bristolwater.co.uk.

No decision on post office

POST Office customers will have to wait a while longer to find out when Downend will have a new counter service.

The area's previous post office closed in August when Morrisons shut the convenience store in Downend Road that hosted it.

All Morrisons and Post Office branding had now been removed from the building.

At the time of the closure, Post Office Ltd said it was "working through" bids from businesses to host a replacement Downend branch, after advertising the vacancy.

However, when asked by the Voice in September, a spokesperson said the company had no update to provide to residents.

The spokesperson said: "We fully recognise the inconvenience the closure has caused our customers and small businesses who rely on our banking and parcel services in particular, so we want to open a replacement branch as soon as possible."

Cafe closes its doors

A BIKE-themed cafe set up in Mangotsfield has closed.

Brigstow Bike Café was set up by the team behind the Revolution Workshop next door in Cossham Street at the start of the year.

The owners of the business said the idea was to create a good independent café alongside the bike business, and sold "cyclist-friendly fuel" and bike parts and accessories alongside coffees, teas, cakes and toasties.

But they said a lack of trade in August and September meant the venture was not able to break even, adding: "We've given it a proper go, but unfortunately there simply hasn't been enough regular trade to make a separately staffed café viable.

"The Revolution Workshop next door remains extremely busy, and we're now going to concentrate our time, money and energy on developing the bike business."

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

Lin's Leisure Trips

DAY TRIPS FOR SENIOR CITIZENS, DISABLED PEOPLE AND FRIENDS

COACHES OR
MINIBUSES ARE
HIRED TO MEET
REQUIREMENT

WEDS 7th OCT 2026

SANDBANKS 8 a.m.-4 p.m. £31 (£29 conc) age 17 or under £27

FRI 9th OCT 2026

HAMPTON COURT CASTLE, HEREFORDSHIRE 8 a.m.-4 p.m.
£42 (£40 conc) age 17 or under £38 - ENTRANCE INCLUDED

FRI 16th OCT 2026

HAMPTON COURT PALACE, SURREY 8 a.m.-4 p.m. £33
(£31 CONC) age 17 or under £29 - Transport Only

FRI 23rd OCT 2026

BATSFORD ARBORETUM AND GARDEN CENTRE
8 a.m.-3 p.m. £31 (£29 conc) age 17 or under £27 - Entrance Included

FRI 30th OCT 2026

**TYNTESFIELD NATIONAL TRUST or NOAH'S
ARK ZOO FARM, WRAXALL**
8 a.m.-3 p.m. £22 (£20 conc) age 17 or under £18 - TRANSPORT
ONLY

If you cancel once a coach or minibus has been booked your
money can only be returned if your seat reservation is resold or we
cancel. Coach may be cancelled if less than half full.
LIN'S LEISURE TRIPS WAS REGISTERED AT COMPANIES
HOUSE JULY 2012



Lin's Leisure Trips is a not for profit community interest company

For details or booking a trip please contact

0117 937 2364

07511 559 744

Email daytrips99@gmail.com



Golden Valley Farm Shop & Cafe

Breakfast, Lunch, Coffee & Cakes and Afternoon Teas

WE ARE PERFECT FOR:

PRIVATE HIRE & CORPORATE EVENTS

Baby Showers & Christenings • Afternoon Teas, Buffets or
Sit Down Meal • Weddings • Parties
• Celebration of Life • Corporate Events

We can accommodate 50 people inside and 450 outside!



OPENING HOURS
Tues-Sun 9am-4pm

07511 11 62 61 gvfarmshop@gmail.com

Golden Valley Lane, Bitton BS30 6NZ

School's 'culture of belonging' praised

A PRIMARY school in Staple Hill has been praised for its welcoming, inclusive environment and the rich experience it gives pupils.

Three inspectors from Ofsted visited the Tynings Primary School in Eastleigh Close in June.

They said the school met the regulator's expected standard in all areas: achievement; attendance and behaviour; curriculum and teaching; early years; inclusion; leadership and governance; personal development and well-being.

The inspectors said: "The Tynings Primary School provides a welcoming and inclusive environment where the vision of 'Learning through Beauty and Excellence' encourages pupils to see the beauty in the world and strive to be and do their best.

"Leaders have created a culture of belonging, ensuring that pupils feel valued, respected and cared for.

"The school provides a rich and memorable childhood experience.

"Leaders make excellent use of the extensive outdoor environment to encourage exploration, curiosity and adventure."

The report said the school, which has 291 pupils aged from four to 11 on its roll, has a "broad and balanced curriculum", with improvements to the teaching of



Pupils from The Tynings Primary School

reading, writing and mathematics ensuring consistency in quality.

The inspectors highlighted the "positive start" children have in early years, and said pupils as a whole achieve in line with national averages.

The report said: "They are proud of their work, which is generally good quality."

Teachers actively promote respect, equality and inclusion, had made "ongoing improvements" to attendance, and encourage all pupils to take part in music, art and performance.

The Tynings was last inspected in 2022 under Ofsted's previous rating system, when it was judged to be 'good' in all areas.

Head teacher Lois Haydon said she was pleased that the report reflected the hard work of the whole community, despite the

inspectors' visit taking place in the middle of a heatwave.

She said she was particularly pleased with the inspectors' comments on the childhood experience the school gives pupils and its culture of belonging.

Mrs Haydon said: "This is something we have really focussed on over the past few years, creating good lunchtime play with an OPAL (Outdoor Play and Learning) Platinum Award, and creating an ethos where children are allowed to be children.

"The school has four next steps to work on to achieve our aim of being 'strong' in the next inspection. We have already begun working on these, with a particular focus on improving further our outcomes in reading and writing."

Smokefree South Glos

This Stoptober, why not let us help you quit for good!

TO BOOK YOUR FREE SESSION:

 Text your name and the word "READY" to 80011

 **01454 865337**

 **oneyou.southglos.gov.uk** for more information



Because life's better SMOKEFREE

Starting school in September 2027?



Come and see what



has to offer!

Join us for a tour of our wonderful school and meet our team:

Saturday 3rd October 2026	10am
Thursday 8th October 2026	9:30am
Thursday 15th October 2026	9:30am, 2:30pm & 4pm
Wednesday 21st October 2026	2:30pm
Tuesday 3rd November 2026	5.30pm

Please contact the school to book your place

Telephone **01454 867240** and speak to the school office

OR

Email enquiries@staplehillsschool.co.uk

"Staff are caring and have high expectations. The early years environment is a calm, safe place to learn. The children treat it with respect. Children's wellbeing is a priority." – **OFSTED 2026**


Ofsted



Read our report ↗

Pride in GCSE achievements at Mangotsfield

MANGOTSFIELD School "could not be prouder" of its Year 11 leavers after this summer's GCSE results.

The school said 61.3% of candidates achieved grade 4 or higher in English language, and 61.4% achieved grade 4 or higher in maths.

Almost a quarter of students (23.8%) achieved a grade 7 or higher - the equivalent of A or A* under the old grading system - across all of their GCSE entries.

In vocational and technical awards, 92.3% of pupils received a pass or higher.

Among those whose achievements were highlighted by the school is Noelle Hui, who achieved ten grade 9 GCSEs, which head teacher Hetty Blackmore described as "an incredible tribute to her hard work and attitude".

Other students who achieved "incredibly strong results" include Charlie Elkington, Humaira Islam, Daniel Pak, Mollie Chilcott, Freya Harding, Taiiya Buckley and Chloe Harris.

Mrs Blackmore said: "I could not be prouder of our Year 11 students.

"These results reflect real determination - theirs, and that of the staff who have supported them every step of the way.

"For every student who has achieved the grades they hoped for, and for every student who has worked hard against real challenges to get here, this is a

moment worth celebrating.

"We were proud of all our students but a few had overcome incredible challenges to secure the results they needed to get to their next stages of education. For these students, attending school and sitting the exams were reward enough but then to go on and achieve as well as they did was certainly tear jerking!

"We continue to drive forward improvement in our school so that every child leaves with the best life chances and best life choices for their future.

"Thank you to our staff, whose commitment to every student has helped make these results possible, and to our families for your continued support of your children's education. "Congratulations, Year 11 — we wish you every success in whatever comes next."

Across the country around 600,000 Year 11s received their GCSE results in August, with another 400,000 or so people taking resits or sitting exams as adult learners.

Overall, GCSE results improved for school leavers, with 70.7% of grades at 4 or above - up 0.2% on last year - while the figure for all candidates, including over-17s, was 67.3% (down 0.1%).

The government hailed the performance of 16-year-old candidates in maths, where the number achieving grade 7 and above in maths was up by 6,000



Alfie Jordan, Mohammed Eltahir, Will Jenkins, Harrison Hathaway, Taiiya Buckley, Humaira Islam, Olimpia Sochanowska and Chloe Harris pick up their GCSE results at Mangotsfield School.



Noelle Hui achieved ten grade 9s



Mollie Chilcott with head teacher Hetty Blackmore



Charlie Elkington

this year, the largest ever rise in the top grades, which are



Freya Harding

equivalent to A* and A in the previous system.

Downend sees 'strong set' of results

DOWNEND School said its students' "strong set" of GCSE results reflected their hard work, resilience and determination.

Overall, 73% of Downend GCSE candidates achieved a grade 4 or above in both English and Maths, while 48% achieved a strong pass (grade 5 or above) in both subjects.

Head teacher Rachael Corns said: "These are excellent results, and a real testament to the hard work, resilience and determination of our students.

"I would like to congratulate every student on their achievements and thank our dedicated staff and supportive families for the important role they have played in helping our young people reach this point.

"These outcomes represent a significant achievement for our students and provide a strong foundation for their next steps beyond Year 11.



Downend School pupils pick up their GCSE results

"We are incredibly proud of our students and the progress they have made. These results provide a strong platform for their next steps and we wish them every success for the future."

The school said the results showed the "sustained commitment" shown by students throughout their time in secondary



education.

Downend students are now moving on to a wide range of destinations, including studying A-levels at the joint Downend and Mangotsfield Sixth Form, which is based at Downend School, moving to other sixth forms or colleges, starting apprenticeships or training.

Inspired
today

Unstoppable
tomorrow



Bristol
Grammar
School

Come and visit
Thursday 5 November



School hails 'fantastic' GCSE results

LEADERS at Winterbourne Academy have hailed the "fantastic set of GCSE results" achieved by students this summer.

The school said 28% of grades were at grade 7 or above, the equivalent of an A or A* under the old grading system - well above the national average of 21.8%.

More than half of pupils (52%) achieved a grade 5 or above in both English and maths, and 74% achieved a grade 4 or above in both subjects, considered a 'standard' pass. Individually, more than 80% of results in English and maths were above grade 4.

Subjects with particularly strong performance included drama, where 89% of candidates achieved grade 7-9, and physics, where 57% of grades were 7-9. Half (50%) of chemistry candidates achieved grades 7-9 and the top three grades were also achieved by 44% of music candidates and 46% of Spanish students.

In vocational BTEC exams, grades of Distinction or Distinction* were achieved by 41% of sport and 44% of media students.

The overall exam pass rate was 99%.



Aisha Shah finds out her GCSE results

Head teacher Jenny Cartwright said: "We are very proud of this Year 11 cohort, who have performed so well in their exams and who have also contributed so positively to the school during their time here."

"Students of all abilities, with a variety of circumstances and needs, have achieved their best and should feel proud of what they have done."

"Their teachers have offered great support, which I know so many students are very grateful for, and students have dedicated themselves to achieving their best."

Among the individual achievers highlighted by the school were:



Micaiah Scott sees his results

Aisha Shah, of Downend, who achieved eight top grade 9s and three grade 8s;

George Turner, of Frenchay, who achieved eight 9s, one 8 and two 7s;

Micaiah Scott, of Emersons Green, who achieved four 9s, one 8, two 7s, three 6s and a Distinction;

Phoebe Turner, of Emersons Green, who achieved six 9s, three 8s and two 7s;

Jonas Zhang, of Emersons Green, who achieved seven 9s, one 8, two 7s and a Distinction*.

Assistant head teacher Sarah Barker, who leads the school's Key Stage 4 years, said: "I'm so proud of every one of our Year 11 students."



George Turner collects his results

"These results reflect a huge amount of hard work, determination and resilience, and they should all take a moment to celebrate what they have achieved."

"It's been a privilege to watch them grow over the last few years, and we're excited to see where their next steps take them."

"Congratulations to all our students, and thank you to our staff and families for the support they've given along the way."

Many of the students will move on to the school's sixth form, while others will head off to colleges, apprenticeships and training.

Academy trusts join forces

THE organisation that runs Downend School and Mangotsfield School has merged with another educational trust.

Castle School Education Trust (CSET) and The Priory Learning Trust (TPLT) officially joined together at the start of the academic year in September to form Pathway Trust.

The new organisation is responsible for 11,000 pupils aged from four to 18, in a total of 20 schools in South Gloucestershire, North Somerset, and Somerset.

Schools that were part of CSET in the area also include Lyde Green Primary School, Cherry Garden Primary in Willsbridge and two other secondary schools, Castle in Thornbury and Marlwood in Alveston.

Former Priory Learning Trust schools include three secondaries

in North Somerset and Somerset, Priory, Worle and King Alfred.

The chief executive of the merged trust is Will Roberts, who was head teacher at Downend School from 2012, before becoming chief executive of CSET in 2016.

He has also been part-time chief executive of TPLT since 2023, with responsibility for all of the schools now in Pathway Trust, during three years of "successful formal collaboration" between the two organisations.

Mr Roberts said: "Coming together as a single family of schools is central to our shared ambition of achieving a great education for every child."

"Through working together, we have significantly improved outcomes in recent years."

"Across a larger trust, we can more easily connect colleagues and direct resources where they

make the biggest impact."

The new trust says the merger will enable it to improve education through its "regional school network", allowing greater collaboration between schools.

It also says merging its central services provision will enable it to provide "stronger operational support at a lower cost through improved purchasing power, allowing savings to be directly reinvested into schools and professional development".

The new trust has more than 1,500 staff, and says it is expanding initiatives to "recruit, train and retain top talent" through training, development, apprenticeships and leadership pathways.

Ahead of the merger teachers and support staff at Downend School and Mangotsfield School held four days of strikes in a dispute with CSET management.



Will Roberts

Members of the National Education Union said concerns over "excessive workload", "inappropriate direction of staff" and "lack of consultation on important working arrangements" had not been addressed by the trust, and said more strike action could follow.

The NEU is calling for an increase in staffing capacity, and has raised concerns over a move away from South Gloucestershire term dates and a new curriculum being introduced this academic year.

TURNER'S VISION

Autumn eyes: When the seasons change

ANOTHER month passes, and Autumn, albeit a mild one so far, is definitely in full swing. It's not often I hear us Brits welcoming the rain, but it's made more than just a few folk I know smile - broadly!

For me, I'm re-visiting my back catalogue of glasses. I have a set made with a rain deflector. Now before you start imagining me walking round with some weird and wonderful contraption on my nose, don't worry, it's just a lens I was trying out a few years ago that the rain drops off more easily than most. They do work, although for various reasons they never really took off.

As seasons change our eyes have to adapt too. If you've noticed a change in how your eyes feel then you are not alone. Our dry and watery eye specialist Optometrist has noticed an increase in clinic bookings again this month. Marta commented that although the warm summer notably helped people, they are now reporting concerns again.

If your eyes are just not right,

then most likely we have a solution for you. Please get in touch and we'll be happy to see how we can help.

It's not only how our eyes feel that can change at this time of year either.

The days are getting shorter, the light levels lower and, before we know it, many of us will be driving to and from work in the dark. I often find patients who have been perfectly happy with their vision throughout the brighter summer months suddenly notice that things don't seem quite so effortless.

Headlights become more distracting, road signs aren't quite as crisp, reading in the evening becomes a little more tiring or you find yourself reaching for brighter lighting.

Sometimes there is a very straightforward reason. Your glasses may simply need updating. At other times dry eye, early cataract or another change in the eyes can reduce the quality of vision, particularly as the available

light falls.

And sometimes, of course, you just need to clean your glasses. As an Optometrist (my excuse is the cycling) even I occasionally discover the miraculous improvement in vision achieved with a clean lens cloth! If you feel it's time for a new cloth you are welcome to pop in to either practice and pick one up, with our compliments.

Seeing clearly is important, but so too is seeing comfortably. You shouldn't have to squint, strain or simply put up with eyes that feel tired, gritty or watery because you've assumed that's just what happens to our eyes over time.

Whether it's dry eye treatment, a change to your prescription, clearer lenses for driving, or simply reassurance that everything is healthy, the starting point is finding out why something has changed.

So, as we dig out the coats, umbrellas and, in my case, rain-deflecting glasses, perhaps take a



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

moment to think about your eyes too.

If your vision or eye comfort isn't quite what it was during the summer, we'd be delighted to help at Turners Opticians in Henleaze or Downend

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.

Autumn eyes?

As the seasons change, so can your eyes.

From dry or watery eyes, to changes in your vision in lower light, we're here to help you see and feel your best.

Same great care. Whatever the weather.

Dry & Watery Eye Care
 Comprehensive Eye Examinations
 Specialist Lenses for Every Lifestyle
 Friendly, Personal Service

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 T/A Turners Opticians Incorporated in England & Wales Reg No. 8201460

Friends' good deed changes Adam's life

AN act of kindness by a group of friends from Downend has changed the life of a young DJ with autism.

Adam James had travelled to the Boomtown dance music festival in Hampshire on his own. His family was so worried that his dad made plans to bring his 23-year-old son home if he wanted to leave the five-day festival early.

But as Adam set up camp alone, a chance conversation with Ciaran Herniman, of Downend, and a group of his friends from the area changed everything.

Ciaran said: "We'd been to Boomtown before and have a spot where we like to camp.

"We got there and put our tents up, and in the process someone said they needed a mallet.

"This kid who was camped next to us offered to lend his.

"I noticed he was on his own, he had the smallest tent and he didn't have a mattress.

"Then he said it was his first



Ciaran Herniman front left, with Adam James, right, and some of the other Downend friends

festival.

"I thought 'that's bad' - the festival has got about 80,000 people, and he's on his own.

"As soon as he told me that, I said 'jump in with us'. We moved his tent into our circle and just set off from there. We looked after him and made sure he was all right.

"He loved it and when we came to leave, he was crying his eyes out!"

Afterwards Ciaran, who works for insurance company Aviva's accident repair service, and his friends kept in touch with Adam.

They invited him to Downend to DJ at the Trident pub. Then he played at Bambalan rooftop bar, opposite the Bristol Beacon.

Ciaran said: "Some of my boys I hang around with got him on the bill - he absolutely killed it!"

But it was a social media post

from Adam's dad Andy, of High Wycombe in Buckinghamshire, that took things to another level.

Andy's post thanked the "lads from Bristol" for helping Adam to realise his dreams of enjoying the festival.

It went viral, bringing the story to the attention of the music industry and national media.

Adam and Ciaran appeared on *BBC Breakfast News* and *ITV's Good Morning Britain*, and Adam, who performs as Adzo, has now been invited to DJ at next year's Boomtown festival.

Before that, he will perform at a dance music celebration called A History of Rave at Bristol's Prospect Building, headlined by DJ Eats Everything and Groove Armada, on October 17.

Adam said: "It's been overwhelming, but absolutely brilliant."

He said Ciaran and his friends "could have just ignored me, but the fact they saw I was on my own and took me in was just amazing".

TURNERS HEARING CARE BLOG

Hearing clearly as the seasons change

October always feels like a month of change. The evenings have begun to draw in, there's a definite freshness to the morning air, and after the slightly different routines of summer, life seems to find its rhythm again.

It's also a surprisingly good time to think about your ears.

As an audiologist, one thing I regularly hear is, "I'm not sure if my hearing has changed, or whether my ears are just blocked."

And actually, that's a very good question.

A build-up of ear wax can gradually reduce the sound reaching your eardrum. Because this often happens slowly, you may not immediately notice. Instead, you might find yourself turning the television up another notch, struggling with conversation when there's background noise, or thinking that family and friends have suddenly developed a terrible habit of mumbling!

There may be other clues too. Your ear might feel full or blocked, you may notice ringing or buzzing, or one ear might simply seem different from the other.

The important thing is not to worry or assume it will just fix itself!

That's why an ear examination is such a useful starting point. At our ear wax removal clinic, now in the heart of Downend, I can carefully examine your ears and show you what I can see. If wax is causing the problem, we can discuss removing it using gentle microsuction.

Microsuction allows me to work precisely under direct vision, carefully removing troublesome wax without introducing water into the ear canal. Where appropriate, softening the wax beforehand with olive oil spray can make removal easier and more comfortable.

And please resist the temptation to investigate things yourself with a cotton bud! Ears are remarkably good at looking after themselves and wax has an important protective role. Poking around can push it further down the canal and turn a little wax into a much bigger blockage.

Of course, not every change in hearing is caused by ear wax. That's another reason I'd much rather you came in and let me have a look than simply put up with it. If something needs further investigation, I can advise you on the appropriate next step.

So, as October has brought us back to lunches with friends, clubs, family gatherings and everyday conversations, perhaps ask yourself one simple question:

Am I hearing them as clearly as I used to?

If the answer is "I'm not quite sure," come and see me in Downend.

Sometimes a gentle ear check is all it takes to find out.



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.

Sales? Call Gary on 07799 461 169

Love Clear Hearing

Hear more of what matters

Gentle, professional ear wax removal at Turners Opticians in the heart of Downend.



Clearer Hearing



Easier Conversations



Gentle Microsuction



A More Confident You

Turners Opticians

Ear Wax Removal

19 Badminton Road
Bristol BS16 6BB

0117 965 4434

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

EXPERT CARE | FRIENDLY SERVICE | LOCAL TO YOU

Dangerous driver who fled police is jailed

A DRIVER who mounted a pavement, went the wrong way around a roundabout and forced oncoming traffic to stop as he tried to flee police has been jailed.

Duran Amet sped at more than 60mph on a 30mph road before driving into a dead end, abandoning the car and running off into traffic on the Avon Ring Road.

Amet, aged 36, was jailed for 28 weeks after he admitted dangerous driving, driving while disqualified, driving without insurance, failing to stop for police and using a vehicle without a valid MOT.

Police officers tried to stop a Ford Focus estate on September 10 as it approached the Wick Wick roundabout on the ring road, between Bromley Heath and Emersons Green, after it was flagged as uninsured.

Instead of pulling over, Amet drove off down Folly Brook Road towards Emerald Park industrial estate, forcing oncoming traffic to stop, driving on a footpath and reaching more than 60mph as he tried to evade the officers.

He was carrying a 16-year-old passenger, who was not wearing a seatbelt.

After driving the wrong way around a roundabout Amet drove into Longmead Road, a dead end.



The car mounts a pavement

There he dumped the car before running through a hedge and over a fence and onto the ring road, where traffic had to stop on the dual carriageway to avoid him and a police officer chasing him on foot.

After his arrest Amet, of Berwick Road in Easton, was remanded in custody and jailed at Bristol Magistrates Court the following day.

PC Jack Fare said: "Amet's driving showed a complete disregard for the safety of other road users and pedestrians. Throughout the incident, his actions created significant risk to



Amet running on the A4174

members of the public.

"It is particularly concerning that he carried out these dangerous manoeuvres while a passenger, who was a minor and not wearing a seatbelt, was in the vehicle.

"We welcome the custodial sentence, which reflects the seriousness of his offending."

A video of the police pursuit and arrest can be seen at tinyurl.com/yp3w3hx8.



Duran Amet

LET US KNOW YOUR VIEWS - EMAIL US AT: NEWS@DOWNENDVOICE.CO.UK



EDA

For all your Washing machines
• Ovens • Hobs • Dryers
• Fridge Freezers • Dishwashers
• Cookers etc

**HERE AT EDA
WE'RE ALWAYS
REACHABLE**

**... WE EVEN ANSWER THE
PHONE WITHIN 5 RINGS**

- NO HIDDEN EXTRAS • STORE TO DOOR IN 48 HOURS
- LARGE RANGE OF STOCK IN STORE
- OLD APPLIANCES REMOVED • NEW ONES FITTED
- QUALITY AFTER SALES SERVICE
- GUARANTEED DELIVERY TIMES

744 FISHPONDS ROAD, FISHPONDS BRISTOL

0117 958 4769

Hard work brings improvements at pre-school

A PRE-SCHOOL in Staple Hill has improved thanks to its leaders' hard work, says Ofsted.

An inspector who visited Little Sheep Pre-School, based at Staple Hill Methodist Church on the High Street, says it now meets expected standards in all areas: achievement; behaviour, attitudes and establishing routines; children's welfare and well-being; curriculum and teaching; inclusion; leadership and governance.

The education regulator returned to the pre-school in June, just over a month after publishing a report that said it required 'urgent improvement' in five out of six areas.

In the latest report, published in August, inspector Sarah-Louise Clements said: "Leaders have worked hard since the last inspection to implement high expectations for behaviour and attitudes.

"They have introduced clear routines and consistent approaches, which staff follow consistently to create a calm and



Little Sheep manager Ellie Brooks with children at the pre-school

predictable environment."

Since the previous inspection in January, Ofsted says there is a stronger curriculum and "more organised, calm and purposeful learning environment" at the pre-school, which has 21 places for children aged two to four.

The inspector said: "Staff report that they feel well supported, and recent changes to leadership have had a positive impact across the whole setting.

"Children feel safe, settled

and cared for in a calm and welcoming environment. They build trusting relationships with staff, who know them well and respond sensitively to their needs.

"Children enjoy their learning and show curiosity in the experiences provided."

The report said children at the pre-school develop independence and resilience, and feel "included and valued".

The inspector said: "Staff

welcome families and involve them in events and celebrations, helping children feel a sense of belonging. Children are happy, engaged and develop the skills they need for their next steps of learning, including school."

The pre-school's management committee said it was "delighted" with the new report, which "reflects the hard work, dedication and commitment shown by the team over recent months".

Manager Ellie Brooks said: "Every member of staff has shown a genuine commitment to creating a warm, welcoming and nurturing environment where children can flourish.

"We are incredibly proud of what has been achieved together.

"I would like to thank our wonderful families for their support and encouragement throughout this journey.

"Their confidence in us has been invaluable as we have worked to turn the preschool around and build a positive future for our children."

Aged 17–21 and could use some extra support?

SGC Youth Guarantee is here to provide personalised support for young people with additional needs; including SEND, emotional and mental health.

Get FREE help into work, training or interviews...

- Up to 4 weeks of careers coaching and job matching
- An 8-week supported work placement with a 1:1 job coach
- Tailored mental health support
- A free bus pass and vouchers

Sign up for this employability programme, designed to give you the very best help into work!



If you want to take part you need to...

- Be aged 17–21
- Not be in work, education or training
- Live in South Gloucestershire

How it works...

When you've signed up, you'll get...

- Help to understand your interests and goals
- Matched to a work placement that suits you – with full support from a job coach
- Up to 4 weeks of personalised coaching
- Ongoing support once you're in work
- A free bus pass

To find out more and sign up...

Scan the QR code, call 0117 332 1500 or email skills.connect@southglos.gov.uk



YOUTH GUARANTEE
Funded by UK Government

Funded by
WEST
OF ENGLAND
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

skills
CONNECT

South Gloucestershire
Council

YOUTH GUARANTEE
Funded by UK Government

Funded by
WEST
OF ENGLAND
COMBINED
AUTHORITY

skills
CONNECT

South Gloucestershire
Council

MP shares story of mother's death

DOWNEND'S MP has shared the story of her terminally-ill mother's decision to end her own life alone, after suffering "excruciating" pain.

Claire Hazelgrove made a moving speech calling for an end to the "harmful status quo", as Parliament debated a proposed law to allow people who have less than six months to live to seek medical help to die.

She said: "Last October, my mum, Ruth Hazelgrove, chose to bring her late-stage terminal illness to an end, on her terms, at home, with dignity and with a strength that I can only try to imagine."

Ruth died aged 61, having been diagnosed with a rare blood cancer, polycythaemia vera, at the age of 32.

Ms Hazelgrove said that in 2024 her mum's condition took a significant turn.

The Filton & Bradley Stoke MP said: "That autumn, while we debated the initial version of this Bill, her pain was excruciating.

"She had access to good palliative care, but what we learned the hardest of ways is that not all pain can be palliated.

"I will never forget seeing her writhing and screaming in pain, at points for weeks.

"For mum, it was not a choice of life or death; it was a question of what kind of death she would have.

"She was clear that she did not want a painful or undignified death. She wanted peace.

"For us, it will always be a tremendous personal sadness that the current law meant that she could not tell us her plan, and we could not say goodbye to her—but more importantly than that, that she could not say goodbye at the end of her life, or be surrounded by her loved ones, which is what she would have wanted for her death.

"Instead, the harmful status quo meant that mum died alone, with photos of us around her."

Ms Hazelgrove said that in her final note, her mum wrote: "I wish the Assisted Dying Bill would have come into force in my lifetime...Maybe there will be hope for others in the future."

After five hours of debate, MPs voted down the Terminally Ill Adults (End of Life) Bill by 286 votes to 270. A new version of the bill could be reintroduced next year.

Ms Hazelgrove and Bristol North East MP



Claire Hazelgrove makes her speech.

Picture: UK Parliament

Damien Egan, whose constituency includes Staple Hill and Mangotsfield, both voted in favour of the bill.

Afterwards Ms Hazelgrove said she was glad to have spoken up for her mum and "others with terminal illnesses who want to have choice over their life and their death".

She added: "The hardest part is knowing that many more people will now have to go through this same experience as my Mum, me, and my whole family, before this next comes back to the Commons - and I truly wouldn't wish this on anyone."

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



YOUR Community NEWS

Brought to
you by



**DOWNEND & BROMLEY
HEATH PARISH COUNCIL**

Residents overwhelmingly back plans for Hill House Park nature reserve

RESIDENTS have shown strong support for proposals to develop Hill House Park as a wooded nature reserve, following a community consultation which received 194 responses. More than 90% of respondents said they supported or strongly supported the plans, with the vast majority living within a 10-minute walk of the park and regularly using the space. Residents highlighted the importance of protecting the area from future development, supporting wildlife and biodiversity, planting more trees and maintaining a peaceful place to enjoy walking and nature close to home.

The proposals would see Hill

House Park gradually developed as a nature-focused green space, including additional trees, wildflower areas, retained wildlife habitat and walking routes. Feedback from the consultation has also highlighted helpful information such as accessibility, seating, dog walking and the balance between open space and wildlife, which will help shape the next stages of the project. The Parish Council will now consider the findings while continuing discussions with South Gloucestershire Council about the long-term lease. No physical work can begin until the necessary legal agreements are in place.



Celebrating Two Years of King George V Pavilion

WE are incredibly grateful to everyone who contributed, whether by volunteering behind the scenes, staff of Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council, running a stall, providing entertainment, supporting the activities or simply turning up and joining in.

With something for everyone to

enjoy, the highlights included the excitement of hot air balloon tethering, entertaining doggy demonstrations, free taster sessions for yoga and drama classes, as well as a selection of food, refreshments and stalls to explore. It was wonderful to see families, friends and members of the local community

coming together, enjoying the Pavilion and discovering all that our community has to offer.

Your support has helped make the King George V Pavilion a vibrant and welcoming community space, and we look forward to celebrating many more milestones together!



DOWNEND & BROMLEY HEATH PARISH COUNCILLORS

Downend Ward

Councillor Phillip Abbott

phillip.abbott@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 0117 957 0075

Councillor Janet Biggin

janet.biggin@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 0117 957 6987

Councillor Jacky Dockerty

jacky.dockerty@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 07963 841 270

Councillor Matt Pitts

matt.pitts@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 07837 870 039

Councillor Mike Richards

mike.richards@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 07846 893 543

Councillor Raj Kumar Sood

raj.sood@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 07901 621 632

Councillor Sam Burch

sam.burch@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 07812592256

Councillor Terry Meech

terry.meech@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 07900451267

Councillor Georgina Bennett

georgina.clarke@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk

Councillor Sharon Nobbs

sharon.nobbs@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 07534603704

Staple Hill Ward

Councillor Dave Somers

dave.somers@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 07831 239 195

Councillor Stephen Pick

stephen.pick@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk 07584 425 242

Clerk to the Council

Mr Kevin Spratt - Email: clerk@dbhparishcouncil.co.uk

www.dbhparishcouncil.uk



Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council

Community rallies to rebuild school pool

PARENTS, businesses and a school community have come together to save a Downend school's swimming pool.

Earlier this year Christ Church Infant School learned that its pool, where generations of children have learned to swim, could no longer be used without repairs that would cost more than £35,000.

Head teacher Anna Martin said it would have been impossible for the school to find the money and the future of the pool was in serious doubt - but the response was "nothing short of remarkable".

Mrs Martin said: "Our school community rallied together with determination, generosity and an incredible willingness to help."

Parent Nathan Pratt, who runs local business Opulent Carpentry & Joinery, took on the work and "transformed" the project.

Mrs Martin said: "Working tirelessly during evenings and weekends, Nathan has single-handedly rebuilt the swimming pool, supported along the way by generous donations from local businesses and families."

"We are extremely grateful to WDM, WPA Healthcare Practice and High Voltage Grid Services, one of our parents' companies, for their significant contributions, which helped make the project possible. Amy Brewer, who works for Oldbury Court Out of School Clubs at



Christ Church Infant School pupils back in their pool



Parents help with the rebuild

our school, also ran a 'Rockbox' Fitness Class for parents to raise money.

"We would also like to thank Jane Short, owner of First Strokes Swimming School, for her continued support – financially and through advice on the pool structure.

"Parents also rolled up their sleeves and joined us one Friday evening to clear the old pool and remove mountains of rubble. It was hard work, but the sense of community spirit was truly inspiring."

The school also received financial support from South Gloucestershire Council, while parents and supporters raised more than £1,800 in donations.

The huge effort meant that the pool, which is used during school hours and for after-school lessons, was rebuilt and ready to use before the start of term, when swimming lessons were back.

Mrs Martin said: "We know how lucky we are to have our very own swimming pool. The benefits are enormous."

"What began as a disaster has become a wonderful example of what can happen when a community comes together."

"The response has far exceeded anything we could have imagined and has demonstrated just how much our school and pool mean to local families."

"I feel incredibly proud and fortunate to be part of a school community that has shown such kindness, generosity and determination."

New head teachers for schools

TWO schools in Downend have welcomed new head teachers for the start of the new academic year.

Edward Huxley is the new head of Christ Church Junior School, taking over from Pippa Osborne, who stepped down in the summer.

Karlina Lock is the new head of Stanbridge Primary School, taking over from David Payne.

Both have come to Downend from Fonthill Primary Academy in Southmead, where Mrs Lock was the head teacher and Mr Huxley was the assistant head teacher.

Mr Huxley has a background as an engineer and worked in the church before

teaching at a number of schools around Bristol.

He said: "I am so pleased to have joined Christ Church Juniors, and to have started working with the team, meeting the wonderful children and families and getting to know the team at Christ Church Infants, the Church and wider community."

"I was drawn by the clear vision that is rooted in Christian values and the close partnership with Christ Church Infants and the church."

"I look forward to continuing to welcome everyone into our school as well as reaching out to our community."

Christ Church Infants head teacher Anna Martin said: "I am thrilled to be welcoming Mr Huxley to the Christ Church schools family and am looking forward to developing our already established relationship even further."

Mrs Lock said: "I am delighted to be joining Stanbridge as head teacher and feel incredibly privileged to become part of such a welcoming community."



Edward Huxley



Karlina Lock

"Alongside my work in education, I am also involved with Papaya Talks, an organisation that works with schools and families to promote healthy relationships with technology and support children's well-being in an increasingly digital world."

"What has already stood out to me is the strong sense of community here. I have been warmly welcomed by pupils, staff and families, and I am excited to get to know everyone over the coming months."

"I am passionate about ensuring that every child feels safe, valued and inspired to achieve their very best."

TARREN + RHONA MACFARLANE

FRIDAY 16 OCTOBER 2026

A FAST-rising Bristol four-piece headline Downend Folk & Roots' October concert as part of their Autumn tour of the UK.

Tarren is a collaboration between Sid Goldsmith (he/him), Alex Garden (they/them) and Danny Pedler (he/him). Formed in 2021, this trio is creating New-Folk music, inspired by the English tradition while incorporating modern influences and their trademark modular hooks and riffs. They released their debut album *Revel* in 2022 to high critical acclaim with the album being likened to *Faustus* and *Lau's* iconic debut *Lightweights* and *Gentlemen*. This success was built on in 2024 with the release of their second studio album *Outside Time*.

Tarren has built an audience that encompasses modern contemporary acoustic music lovers as well as the traditional Folk audiences. Frequently touring the UK and beyond, They are fast becoming known for intricate and dynamic arrangements of traditional and original material, tight musicianship, a forward-thinking outlook, and an inclusive and engaging on-stage presence.

Opening the evening will be Rhona Macfarlane, a rising Scottish singer-songwriter whose emotive voice and evocative storytelling have been described as 'casting a gentle spell over her audience'. Macfarlane creates a deeply immersive and emotional soundscape, whether through gentle guitar and intimate vocals or expansive, cinematic arrangements with



soaring strings, crafting worlds that feel both vast and personal. Her work has been described as "building an atmosphere of tranquillity and respite", drawing listeners into a space of reflection and serenity.

Macfarlane released her highly anticipated debut album, *As The Chaos Unfolds*, in January, 2025. The album was co-produced by Macfarlane and Matt Ingram. *As The Chaos Unfolds* is an evocative collection of songs that captures the essence of a "coming of age" experience.

Tickets for the concert, which takes place at Christ Church Downend on Friday 16 October 2026, are available online via downendfolkandroots.com or from Downend Cards and Gifts (cash only). They are priced at £15

each in advance or £17 on the door. Doors open at 7.00pm and the music starts at around 7.45pm.

There will be a bar, stocking cider, soft drinks, wine, hot drinks and real ale from Bristol's Hop Union Brewery. Audience members are encouraged to bring their own glass/mug/tankard, as well as reusable bottles for water, as part of the drive to be more environmentally aware; there is a 50p discount for those that do. There will also be sweet treats available at the bar courtesy of Radstock-based The Great Cake Company, as well as a prize draw, which helps to fund the support artists for each concert.

For further information, please email info@downendfolkandroots.com or find them on social media.

bristol carpets

Your feet will thank you for this.
Attentive advice, flawless fitting,
and long-lasting quality flooring.
We can bring samples to you or
visit our lovely high-street shop.
Contact us today for a quote,
or pop in to say hello!

102-104 Henleaze Road,
Henleaze, Bristol BS9 4JZ

0117 951 7717

bristolcarpets.co



Mini-library for Cleeve Wood

A NEW mini-library has been installed in Downend.

The free book exchange is at Cleeve Wood Road shops, on the wall of Cleeve Wood Pharmacy.

People can bring, take, borrow and swap books at the exchange, which is in a wooden unit built by Downend Men in Sheds.

Adam Jones of West 70 Photography, which is based at the shops, contacted Men in Sheds after seeing the exchange they built in Mangotsfield, which featured in the Voice earlier this year.

Downend & Bromley Heath Parish Council covered most of the cost, with some also met by the Cleeve Wood Road Shops committee, who will manage the exchange and keep the selection fresh.

Adam said: "I'm an avid reader myself, and books are a wonderful way to connect the local community with each other."

"It's also great to share a love of reading."

"Men in Sheds did a wonderful job of building the book exchange from scratch."

"We've already had such an overwhelmingly positive response to its installation, and the books are often changing as people visit and swap or take books."



The Cleeve Wood book exchange. Picture: Adam Jones



Florals all the way

IT was florals all the way at the afternoon tea at Christ Church Downend, from the vintage Laura Ashley dress collection to the dainty china tea cups. The collection of dresses were modelled by church members and family, representing different eras of Laura Ashley's style – all beautifully made.

The event at the end of August raised £1,500 for church roof repairs and for the breast cancer charity BUST.

Organiser Maggie Nichols said: "It was a wonderful occasion and the team worked extremely hard to give people an enjoyable afternoon. Raising much-needed funds was just the icing on the cake!" **Anita Dobson**

DREAM DOORS®

NEW LIFE FOR OLD KITCHENS

Transform your existing kitchen for **up to 50% less** than the cost of a new fitted kitchen.

We give tired kitchens a completely new look without the disruption, mess or expense of a full replacement.

BRISTOL'S NO.1 KITCHEN MAKEOVER COMPANY

BEAUTIFUL KITCHENS. BETTER LIVING.

FAMILY RUN
LOCAL BUSINESS
SERVING
BRISTOL



UP TO 50% LESS THAN A NEW FITTED KITCHEN

OUR SIMPLE PROCESS



HOME VISIT

We'll visit your home at a time that suits you to discuss ideas and take measurements.



TAILORED QUOTE

A fixed quotation with no hidden surprises.



MANUFACTURE

Made-to-measure products crafted to the highest standards.



INSTALLATION

Professionally fitted by our experienced team.



ENJOY YOUR NEW KITCHEN

A stunning new kitchen without the stress.



AFTERCARE

We're here long after installation for your peace of mind.

ARRANGE A HOME VISIT

We'll visit your home, discuss ideas, take measurements and provide a no-obligation quotation.



0117 944 3223

bristol@dreamdoors.co.uk
www.dreamdoors.co.uk
11, The Promenade, Gloucester Rd,
Bishopston, Bristol BS7 8AL
Visit our local showroom

Checkatrade

9.8/10

★★★★★
400+ Customer Reviews

TRUSTED BY
LOCAL HOMEOWNERS
★★★★★

"Professional service from start to finish.
Excellent workmanship and
outstanding results."
- Bristol Customer

Artificial Intelligence and Almighty Intelligence

AI. Even if you do not use it or fully understand it, you have almost certainly heard about it. Names such as Nvidia, ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini and Tesla's humanoid robot Optimus are becoming increasingly familiar. Huge investments are being poured into microchips, data centres, robotics, power plants, space rockets and satellites. What once belonged in science fiction now seems to be becoming reality at lightning speed. But at what cost, and do we really want a world controlled by it?

The increasing demand for energy and the earth's resources is already having an alarming environmental, and therefore humanitarian, impact: hotter climates, droughts, poor harvests, melting glaciers and floods. There is also the risk of technology replacing parts of the human workforce. Some people even warn that AI could create extreme dangers through cyberattacks or

the development of bioweapons. Scary stuff!

One of the problems is that we are helping create the demand. Most of us want things quicker and easier. If artificial intelligence can answer our questions, write our report, build our cars or even drive them for us, why bother using our own intelligence and energy? Perhaps the 2008 Disney film Wall-E was prophetic. Could this planet become a lifeless, polluted scrap heap while those who can afford to escape are reduced to muscle-depleted blobs who do little more than stare mindlessly at the screens before them? It is a good film, but I would not want it to become reality any more than it already has.

So, what is the solution? Should we throw away our mobiles, turn off our Wi-Fi and petition the government to ban all AI development? There are times when I certainly feel like doing that, but I believe we need something

even more fundamental and important: something that will affect our future to an infinitely greater extent. Rather than seeking only the help of Artificial Intelligence, we would be far wiser to seek Almighty Intelligence.

The Bible teaches us that God is all-knowing, all-powerful and ever-present. Crucially, despite being all that, he is also good, merciful and loving. We should turn first and foremost to him for all we need. He is the Creator: the designer, maker, initiator and provider. Yet, like a foolish adolescent who rejects the love and wisdom of a parent, humanity thinks it knows best. We chase after things we believe will help and satisfy more than the all-wise, all-sufficient One who gives us life and offers us life in all its fullness.

God knows we have made a mess of things: our lives and his world. That is why he sent his Son to earth: to save and rescue. We



do not have to turn to artificial intelligence or other planets as our solution. Our hope is found in Almighty Intelligence: in God's plan, in Jesus' life, death and resurrection, and in the Bible that tells us about him. If you would like a Bible, or if you would like help to read and understand it, we would be delighted to help you, just get in touch.

Pastor Paul Donovan
07721645279
hello@pendennisgoodnews.com



Looking for hope and encouragement?
Join us for uplifting music, a message of hope,
and a warm community.

Sunday - 11am

Vincent Court, 89 Soundwell Road
Bristol, BS16 4QR

www.kingselim.org.uk

ELIM FOURSQUARE GOSPEL ALLIANCE.
REGISTERED CHARITY 251549 (ENGLAND & WALES) AND SC037754 (SCOTLAND)

SUN 4TH OCT 10.30AM
- 11.30AM

Harvest

ALL TOGETHER CAFE STYLE
WORSHIP SERVICE

BRING DRY GOODS
FOR FOODBANK

ALL WELCOME



CHRIST CHURCH
DOWNEND BS16 5UF

 Learning to Live the Jesus Life
CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND

'Car key' burglary charge

A MAN has appeared in court charged with conspiracy to commit a series of burglaries where car keys are taken in order to steal vehicles.

Harley Sheppard, aged 20, of Broad Croft in Patchway, appeared at Bristol Magistrates' Court in late August.

The charge relates to eight burglaries, including at Downend, Yate, Almondsbury, Gloucestershire and North Somerset, earlier this year.

Sheppard was remanded into custody to appear at Bristol Crown Court.

Another 20-year-old man, Deniz Dikmen, of Coalpit Heath, appeared at Bristol Magistrates' Court in September, charged with four counts of burglary in Bristol, Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire, and one of possessing criminal property.

The charges relate to burglaries where keys to BMW and Mercedes cars were stolen.

Dikmen was remanded in custody ahead of a hearing at Bristol Crown Court in October.

Display will help more good causes

TICKETS for Downend Round Table's annual charity fireworks display go on sale at the start of October.

Organisers say this year's entertainment - the traditional main and quiet displays, bonfire and stalls - will again be boosted by a pre-display show by the "incredibly talented" Bataala Bristol samba group.

The group will return after its debut at the event last year was a hit with the audience.

But Round Table says the "real stars of the show" are the range of local charities and community organisations whose work throughout the year is supported by money raised by the event.

Last year the display set a new fundraising record, making £61,000 for charities including:

*Julian Trust Night Shelter, which provides safe spaces for homeless people across the South West

*Mothers for Mothers, which supports mums experiencing mental illness

*It's in the Bag, which raises awareness and support for testicular cancer

Round table chairman Daniel Deffley said: "This is one of the highlights of our calendar every year, and we're delighted to be bringing it back for its 55th anniversary.



Testicular cancer charity It's in the Bag had a stall at last year's display

"It's a huge team effort, and none of it would be possible without our fantastic sponsors and the local community, who come out and support us every year.

"Every ticket sold goes towards helping incredible local causes, so we can't wait to welcome everyone back for what's going to be a brilliant night."

Tickets go on sale online on October 1 at downendrt.co.uk, where more information is available.

Downend Round Table says standard ticket prices will be frozen from last year, and there are also a limited number of 'early bird' discount tickets - these sold out within 36 hours last year.

Seated and VIP options will also be available again.

Daniel thanked sponsors CJ Hole, Happy Days Nurseries, We Do Your Group and MCS Ltd, which are supporting the event this year.

BRISTOL DOWNEND CHRISTADELPHIANS

*The entrance of thy
words giveth light*

BIBLE TALKS IN OCTOBER

SUNDAY @ 2PM

- 4th How the Bible Interprets Itself
- 11th Evidence for Jesus in History
- 25th Adult Baptism Not Infant Christening

THURSDAY @ 7.30PM

- 15th How we know the Gospels are authentic

Come along to the Christadelphian Hall on Hill House Road, Downend or watch live on YouTube.

Visit bristoldownend.com for more details

Call for slaughterhouse decision

ANIMAL rights campaigners are calling on South Gloucestershire Council to make a decision on plans to expand a slaughterhouse where up to 3,000 pigs a day are killed.

Pilgrim's Pride applied to the council for planning permission to build new facilities at its Pilgrim's Europe abattoir at Oakley Green Farm, Westerleigh, north of Lyde Green, in October last year.

The consultation period over the plans closed in June, but the council has not yet said whether the application will be decided by a committee or officers, or when it might make a decision.

More than 4,100 objections have been made to the plans: many have been from people raising animal welfare concerns but nearby residents have also written to object in large numbers, with one writing that the "pervasive smell" from the slaughterhouse "frequently engulfs the whole village and its surroundings", earning Westerleigh the nickname 'The

Smelly Village'.

Residents have also raised concerns about effluent leakages into the ground and local waterways.

There have been 55 comments in support of the expansion, which the company says will "upgrade and expand" the livestock processing facility so that it can slaughter 25,000 pigs per week.

It says: "The proposals aim to improve operational efficiency, enhance environmental performance, and provide modern infrastructure in support of the site's existing lawful use."

In September, more than 70 activists held a vigil outside the slaughterhouse, organised by Animal Save Movement through Bristol Pig Save.

Representatives from Animal Justice Project, Animal Aid, Viva!, the Vegan Society, VegfestUK and Bristol Animal Rights Collective also attended.

Organiser Andrew Garner said: "We are calling for an end to the killing.



The vigil outside the Pilgrim's Europe abattoir

"If these were dogs being sent into gas chambers, there would be public outrage. Pigs feel fear and pain too, yet because they are farmed for food, society has been conditioned to look the other way.

"We are calling on South Gloucestershire Council to do the right thing and reject this expansion. Councillors now have a choice.

"They can reject plans to expand this slaughterhouse, or approve an expansion that will further entrench the killing of

pigs at this site.

"We urge them to reject it and not have the blood of these animals on their hands. Stopping the expansion is only the first step.

"Ultimately, we want to see these gates close for good and slaughterhouses consigned to history."

The Voice has asked the council whether the application is going to be decided on by council officers or a planning committee and if so, when the committee is likely to meet.

Sheen Studios



Instant Passport
Photos ID,
OCI Visa



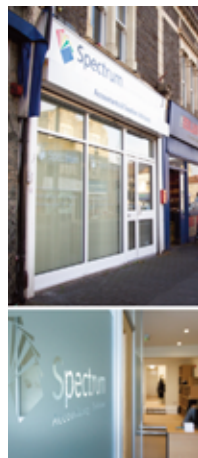
Picture Framing
Vast range of
frames available



KEY CUTTING
SERVICE
NOW AVAILABLE

Tel: 0117 956 0967

110 High Street, Staple Hill, BS16 5HH



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

g+ in f www.spectrum-accountancy.co.uk

EMBROIDERED WORKWEAR



PLEASE
CHECK
OPENING
HOURS



BIRTHDAY BANNERS

NEW
CONTACT
NUMBER

PRINTED HOODIES & T-SHIRTS



TSHIRTS4YOU, 108 High Street, Staple Hill

Tel: 07741536076

info@tshirts4you.co.uk

Various Days

■ AVERY MEMBERSHIP CLUB

- 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. Monthly meetings, afternoon teas, Health & Wellbeing talks, Community Outings and quarterly lunch applications. Contact Bea Lush at Bea.lush@averyhealthcare.co.uk or call 07749 432772, 339 Badminton Road, Downend BS36 1AJ.

October 3

■ HARVEST COFFEE MORNING

with bacon butties and stalls, 9.30am-12.00noon. Supporting Turnaround Bristol (homelessness charity). Food donations welcome for Turnaround. At Badminton Road Methodist Church BS16 6NU.

October 4

■ **MESSY CHURCH** at Staple Hill Salvation Army, Broad Street, 406pm. Craft-based afternoon for all the family, with shared meal. No need to book. Call 0117 956 9733 for more details.

October 7

■ **MOTHERS UNION**, Christ Church Downend, 2.15pm. Talk by Maureen Price: Travels in New Zealand, plus worship, refreshments, fundraising and friendship.

October 8

■ **FRENCHAY VILLAGE MUSEUM** Winter Talks 2026/27 Something for everyone, on your doorstep Thursday 8 October 2026: The History of Christmas (talk postponed from November 2025) Travel back through time to explore the origins and development of the Christmas customs that we experience today. Speaker: Professor Ronald Hutton, Professor

of History, University of Bristol, author and broadcaster Open to all! 7.30pm at the Quaker Meeting House, Beckspool Road, Frenchay Common BS16 1NT Entry £3, pay at the door (cash or card)

October 9

■ DROP-IN LUNCHTIME

CONCERT with Frenchay Foxes at the David Baker Room, Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, 1-2pm. Free admission, with free retiring collection - suggested donation £2. Refreshments from 12.30pm.

October 10

■ ART EXHIBITION BY BADMINTON ROAD METHODIST CHURCH MONDAY GROUP,

Badminton Road, 10am-2pm. Christmas present ideas, percentage of sales to Help Bristol's Homeless charity. Tea & coffee.

October 11

■ **BUBBLE CHURCH** at the Church Centre, Quakers Road, Bromley Heath, 4pm. Interactive short service for families with young children, followed by children's tea.

October 13

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

October 15

■ **DEMENTIA CAFE** at Warm Space, Christ Church Downend, 11am-1.30pm, with lunch. Also on 2nd & 4th Thursday of month: live music from Music Train with soup & roll lunch. Free. Accessible building and toilets.

October 17

■ **PUMPKIN PATCH EVENT** in Page Park, plus artisan market, 11am-3pm. Children's scary fancy dress competition at 2pm, pumpkin display, silly games, rides and stalls. Raising money for new park play equipment.

October 17

■ **ART EXHIBITION** at The Nest, Bean Tree Cafe, Page Park, 10.30am-3.30pm. Local painters showing artwork, available to buy. Free entry, donations to the Braintrust brain tumour charity welcome.

October 19

■ **DOWNEND SENIOR FILM CLUB** 2pm The Choral (12) The Ballad of Wallis Island (12) Carers welcome, easy access Refreshments £4 Christ Church Hall, 57 North Street, Downend BS16 5SG For more information, please call 0117 435 0063.

October 22

■ **THURSDAY CHURCH** at Staple Hill Salvation Army, Broad Street, 11.15am-noon. Relaxed, traditional Christian worship service. Refreshments from 10am.

October 24

■ **CLOTHING SALE** In aid of the church roof fund 11am - 3pm Frenchay Parish Church BS16 1LJ Good quality, new and nearly new Mens' and ladies' clothing, shoes and accessories, sports and ski-wear, vintage, formal, partywear and workwear, jewellery, cosmetics, toiletries and perfume. Donations of clothing gratefully received until 20th October CONTACT VICTORIA FALANGO 07971 978 534 victoria.needham@needhamhaddrell.com

October 24

■ **COFFEE MORNING** at Staple Hill Salvation Army, Broad Street, 10am-noon. Drop in for breakfast, coffee, cakes, and a chat.

October 26

■ **CAMEO** relaxed craft evening open to anyone, Staple Hill Salvation Army, Broad Street, 8pm. Different crafts each month and a chance to make new friends.

October 27

■ **VINTAGE ADVENTURE** at Church Centre, Quakers Road, Bromley Heath, 2-3.30pm. Activities, refreshments, friendship and a

Christian message for the season, for seniors. All welcome.

October 30

■ **LIGHT PARTY ALTERNATIVE TO HALLOWEEN.** Games, crafts, food, silent disco and more at Staple Hill Salvation Army, Broad Street. To register email staplehill@salvationarmy.org.uk or call 0117 956 9733.

October 30

■ LIGHT & LIFE - AN EXHIBITION OF PAINTINGS BY PAUL WEAVER

Frenchay Village Hall, Beckspool Road, Frenchay, Bristol BS16 1NU **Friday 30th October 2026** 12.30pm - 4pm **Saturday 31st October and Sunday 1st November 2026** 10am - 4pm Tea, coffee, cold drinks and cakes will be available, proceeds from which will be donated to Dementia UK. For further details of Paul's classes and examples of his work, please visit: www.paulweaverart.co.uk

October 31

■ **THE DOWNEND AND KINGSWOOD BRANCH OF THE RNLI** are holding a coffee morning on Saturday 31st October from 10-12 pm at Staple Hill Methodist Church. Cakes and bric a brac on sale. Everyone welcome "

REGULAR EVENTS

■ **BRISTOL U3A:** Have you reached a point in your life where you have fewer responsibilities and more time for yourself? Would you like to take part in activities where you can share skills, abilities or hobbies whilst having fun and making new friends? Go to www.bristolu3a.org.uk for details.

Monday

■ **SINGALONG 4 ALL** - Mondays 10.30/11.30, Grace court, Dial Lane, Downend BS16 5UP. £4 ...£1 tea n bikkies Tel: Barbara 07816839141.

■ **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.

■ **SILK PAINTING** at Downend Baptist Church. Come along to an enjoyable afternoon, every alternate Monday 2pm-4pm. Make cards, tuition given, tea and biscuits provided, cost includes all materials. One large card £2 or 3 for £5, small cards £1 each. Please contact 0117 9608935 for more details.

■ **LUNCH CLUB AT STAPLE HILL COMMUNITY HUB**, Berkeley House, Berkeley Road, every Monday, 12.15pm. More details from the hub on 01454 868374.

■ **KINGSWOOD LACE MAKERS** - meet at Lincombe Barn, Overndale

Downend Library

On Friday the 16th of October we have **Sporting Memories**, a reminiscence group for older people to socialise and reminisce about past sporting events.

On Monday the 26th of October we will have **NHS Talking Therapies** in the library doing a drop in stall around what they offer and will help people to self-refer to the service.

On Monday the 26th **Boxtropolis** is coming to Downend Library, from 10:30am to 3:30pm! Presented by Cardboard Adventures, this free drop-in craft-a-long extravaganza gets the whole family creating and building together.

On Wednesday the 28th of October 2.30-3.30 we have our autumn **children's craft activity** where children can come along and participate in free autumn themed crafts.

Rhymetime on a Wednesday morning from 10.30am-11.15am

Coffee morning Friday 10.30-11.30

Knit and Natter Monday 10am-12pm

Please contact the library for dates

Downend.library@southglos.gov.uk

WHAT'S ON LOCALLY

Road on Monday afternoons from 2-4pm, evenings 7.15-9.15pm every third Monday. New members welcome, first meeting free. For more information contact Beverly on walkingwithlace@yahoo.co.uk.

■ JOB SEARCHERS SUPPORT

Staple Hill Community Hub, 2-4pm. Benefits advisor available second Monday of each month.

■ **FRENCHAY CHAPEL** 'Wild, Wise Curious' Discussion Group with coffee and cake 12.30 weekly For more info or to go on weekly email contact petera.bruce@gmail.com 07527-118586

■ **FRENCHAY CHAPEL** Mindful Pilates weekly – Contact Debbie 07771 544549

■ **ADULT TAP DANCING CLASSES**, Frenchay Village Hall, Monday mornings, 10.30-11.30am Fun class with lots of laughs. £9 a session. Call Suzanne 07787 396718

■ ARTS AND CRAFTS GROUP

Every Monday, 10am -12.30pm. Page Hall, Staple Hill. Bring your own arts and crafts project materials, and enjoy a relaxed, friendly space to work alongside like-minded people. No experience necessary.

£5 per session, including a hot drink and biscuits. For more information, please call 07944550442.

Tuesday

■ **DOWNEND GARDENING IN RETIREMENT CLUB** meets at the Assembly Hall, Salisbury Road, on the third Tuesday of every month at 9.45am. Speaker at 10.30am. Non Members welcome, £3 including tea/coffee.

■ **BOARD GAMES NIGHT** every Tuesday from 7pm. All Welcome The Wooden Walls Micropub, 30 Broad Street, Staple Hill, BS16 5NU

■ **LINCOMBE BARN CAMERA CLUB** meets every second, fourth and fifth Tuesday of the month at Lincombe Barn, Overdale Road. New members always welcome. For information see website at www.lincombebarncameraclub.co.uk or email lincombe.barn@gmail.com.

■ **BROMLEY HEATH GARDENING CLUB** Meets at Christ Church Centre, Quakers Road, every third Tuesday of the month at 2.30pm. Talks, day trips and short holidays - everyone welcome. Call May on 0117 957 3695 for details.

■ **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 07843240414.

■ **MESSY SPACE**, Badminton Road Methodist Church Downend. Term-time group for toddlers and their carers, 10-11.45am. Toys, books, play dough, paint & craft,

singing and refreshments. First visit free, then £3 per child or £5 per family. More information at www.badmintonroadmethodist.org.uk or 0117 956 1106.

■ DOWNEND BAPTIST CHURCH:

Coffee time 10.30-12.30 the first Tuesday of the month.

■ FRIENDSHIP & EXERCISE

GROUP, Salvation Army, Broad Street, Staple Hill, every Tuesday 10-11.30am.

■ **MOVE-IT CLUB** for children aged 7-11, Staple Hill Community Hub, Berkeley House, Berkeley Road, every Tuesday 3.30pm. More details from hub on 01454 868374.

■ **TEA AND TOAST** after school drop-in for primary aged children and families, Christ Church Parish Hall, North Street, Downend, term-time Tuesdays, 3.15-4.30pm. All welcome for tea, squash, toast, board games, colouring and play in a friendly atmosphere.

■ **DOWNEND WI** meets at Christ Church Hall, North Street, Downend on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm. For details email downendwi@yahoo.co.uk.

■ **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. For more information contact Graham on 07968 050 320

■ **SINGING FOR THE BRAIN**, free music club for people living with dementia and Alzheimer's, Staple Hill Hub, every Tuesday 2-3pm. Call 01454 868374 for more information.

■ **COFFEE AFTERNOON** with free coffee & cake, friendly conversation and a 'thought for the day'. First Tuesday of the month, 2pm at the Pendennis Good News Centre, Pendennis Road, Staple Hill. All welcome.

■ **KARATE FOR MUMS AND DADS**, 7pm, Page Community Association Staple Hill. More info from www.zenkarate.club.

■ **MEDITATION** at Frenchay Chapel, 7pm. Kundalini Osho movement meditation on 1st Tuesday, person-centred meditation on 3rd Tuesday.

■ **DOWNEND BAPTIST CHURCH COFFEE TIME**, first Tuesday of the month, 10.30am-12.30pm. Join us for tea, coffee, cakes. Relax together. Quiet area. All ages welcome. Starts July 1. www.downendbaptist.co.uk

■ **BRISTOL MILITARY WIVES CHOIR** meets at Mangotsfield and Castle Green United Reformed Church, Cosham 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.

■ GREENBANK BOWLS CLUB

Gordon Road, Whitehall, BS5 7DP (What three words: same.zone. frozen) Every Tuesday 5pm until dusk. All equipment provided Please wear flat soled shoes, eg. trainers. No need to book Car Parking Licensed Bar greenbankbowls@gmail.com

Wednesday

■ DOWNEND BRIDGE CLUB - NEW MEMBERS ARE WANTED

Come and join us and play duplicate Bridge at Lincombe Barn Downend on Wednesday afternoons 2pm. All levels welcome. Please contact evforbes77@gmail.com or 0117 9836886 or Yvonne Scoulding rscoulding@googlemail.com or 0117 9568944

■ MONTHLY MINDFUL

MIDWEEK YOGA @ Frenchay

Quaker House: Gentle somatic and yoga practices to help you slow down, unwind & reconnect. All levels welcome. Every 3rd Wednesday, Visit yogawithmisha.co.uk for more information/details.

■ CLEEVE SINGERS OF

DOWNEND This four part choir meet at Lincombe Barn, 7.30 p.m. from September until July. For more information contact the

Secretary on 0117 9561881.

■ DOWNEND SENIOR CITIZENS CLUB

Musical entertainment from 2-4pm every 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month at North Street Church Hall. All are welcome.

■ ROYAL BRITISH LEGION

WOMEN'S SECTION 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 on 0117 956 3407.

■ DOWNEND TANG SOO DO

meets at Christchurch Parish Hall, North Street on Wednesday evenings from 7.30-9pm. Suitable for beginners and ages 10+. First class free. More details from Ian on 07817 744689 or at the Downend Tang Soo Do Facebook page.

■ FRENCHAY PROBUS CLUB

We meet at Frenchay Village Hall on the first Wednesday of each month between 10.00 and 12.00 hrs. For further details contact: davidhjryan@gmail.com.

■ **WARMLEY JAZZ CLUB**, Every Wednesday except first one of the month, 7.30pm, Cadbury Heath Social Club, £7 on the door. More details at warmleyjazz.co.uk.

■ BRISTOL SCRABBLE CLUB

meets every Wednesday evening



Avery Membership Club

Free Community Membership

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

WHAT'S ON LOCALLY

at 7pm until 10pm at Filton Community Centre, Elm Park, Filton BS34 7PS. New members welcome-first visit free so come along and give us a try. Information: Jo Hunter by email atpurplewellies@live.co.uk

■ **CROSS STITCH** Like to learn this absorbing relaxing hobby and have fun at the same time? Why not join the Club at Lincombe Barn. Beginners and those with all abilities welcome. New term commences beginning of September on Wednesday mornings 10.00 am until noon. Lincombe Barn 9562367.

■ **THE FRENCHAY FOLK DANCE CLUB** meet fortnightly at Frenchay Village Hall from 7:45 until 10:15pm. All standards of dancer are welcome to enjoy live Bands and experienced Callers. Visit frenchayfdc.co.uk or call 0117 3021543 for more information.

■ **FRIENDLY VOICES** dementia-friendly singing group, Mangotsfield & Castle Green URC, Cosham Street, second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, 10.30am to noon. No charge, carers welcome. Sessions led by music therapist. More details from June Watts on 0117 956 6625.

■ **WEDNESDAY CAFE FOR SENIORS**, at Badminton Road Methodist Church (BS16 6NU) every Wednesday 10am to 12 noon. All Welcome – just come along – make

new friends over a cuppa and cake. Information: 0117 239 5984

■ **DOWNEND FLOWER ARRANGING CLUB** We are a friendly group, we meet at 7.30pm on 1st & 3rd Wednesday each month from September to June at Emersons Green Village Hall, Emersons Way, Emersons Green, BS16 7AP Ring Genise on 0777 2451217 for more information.

■ **LADIES ENTERPRISE CLUB** We are a friendly group who meet in Downend Baptist Church Salisbury Road Downend on the 3rd Wednesday afternoon of the month from 2.30pm - 4.00pm. Everyone is welcome. For details Contact Ruth on 07733413823

■ **MOTHERS UNION** - worship, friendship, supporting charities, refreshments: First Wednesday of the month, 2.15pm at Christ Church Parish Hall, North Street. Non-members welcome. More details from 0117 908 9867.

■ **FRENCHAY & HAMBROOK HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** meets at Friends Meeting House, Frenchay, 7.30pm first Wednesday of the month from September to March. Talks on garden-related topics, meet other gardeners, trips in April & May. Phone 0117 967 2390 for more information.

■ **COFFEE MORNING**, Staple Hill Community Hub, Berkeley House, Berkeley Road, every Wednesday 9.30-10.30am. More details from the hub on 01454 868374.

■ **KEEP FIT**, God's House International Centre, The Sanctuary, 55 High Street, Staple Hill, every Wednesday 10-11am, followed by cup of tea and a chat. For adults 50+. More information from Lin on 0770 707 6281 or email Lincornish@hotmail.co.uk.

■ **SPROUTS**, free gardening and nature club for children aged 7-11, Staple Hill Hub every Wednesday, 4-6pm. Call 01454 868374 for further information. Thursday

■ **HOLY COMMUNION** at St James Church, Mangotsfield, from noon.

■ **QUIZ NIGHT** at St James Church, Mangotsfield, 8pm.

■ **BEECHWOOD READING GROUP** Meets at the Beechwood Club, Fishponds. Third Wed of the month 1.45pm to 3.15pm. New members welcome. Contact Carolyn at 07527 841443

■ **LADIES-ONLY KARATE GROUP**, 7pm Page Community Association Staple Hill. More information from www.zenkarate.club.

■ **HANHAM BRIDGE CLUB** Every Weds 7-10pm at Hanham Community Centre, new members welcome. See www.hanhambridgeclub.co.uk or call Graham 07790 491564

■ **ST JOHN'S BADMINTON CLUB** plays at Kingswood Leisure Centre, Church Road, Soundwell every Wednesday, 8-10pm. New members welcome - more details from Sue on 07715 738131.

Thursday

■ **BARN BELLS** handbell ringers meet at Lincombe Barn, Downend, from 2-4pm weekly. Anyone who can read music is welcome to join.

■ **DEWDROP INN CAFE**, Resound church, Blackhorse Road, Mangotsfield. Every fourth Thursday of the month, 2-4pm. A place for the community to relax and unwind

with old & new friends. Tea, coffee, cakes and biscuits £2.

■ **ROOTED YOUTH GROUP** at Christ Church Downend - age 11-18 7pm-8.30pm Every Thursday in term time. Games, crafts, reflections Contact Paul on 07939 125375.

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

■ **SCRABBLE** Downend Folk House Thursdays 10-12noon Info: 07789772538 Jonathan Seegrove.

■ **WARM SPACE CAFE** at Christ Church, Downend, free every Thursday 11-2pm. Soup and roll lunch from noon. Live music, including Music Train on 2nd and 4th Thursdays. Dementia-friendly cafe on 3rd Thursday of the month, 11am-1.30pm.

■ **HAMBROOK MEN'S PROBUS CLUB** meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of each month, 10am-noon at Whiteshill Chapel, Hambrook, with a speaker at each meeting. Friendly group, new members welcome. For details call the secretary on 07788 882386.

■ **BROMLEY HEATH PROBUS CLUB**, holds fortnightly meetings with Speakers for ladies and gentlemen on the 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month from 10:00 am till 12:00. We also enjoy lunches/ outings together. Please join us at the Assembly Hall, Downend. More details on 0117 9574583 or see our website.

■ **FRIENDSHIP AND EXERCISE GROUP**, Staple Hill Methodist Church, High Street, Staple Hill, every Thursday - first session 9.30am, second session 11am.

■ **BROMLEY HEATH WI** meets at Bromley Heath Junior School Hall on the second Thursday of each month (except August) at 7.30pm. Email bromleyheathwi@gmail.com for more information.

■ **FAMILY DROP-IN** with free after-school refreshments and

Art EXHIBITION



SATURDAY
17TH OCTOBER



10:30AM - 3:30PM



THE NEST
@ BEAN TREE CAFE
PAGE PARK,
STAPLE HILL
BRISTOL BS16 5LU

PAINTINGS
SKETCHES
PRINTS
CARDS
AND MORE

FREE ENTRY



Are you curious about handbells?

WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY?

We are a friendly group, who meet at Lincombe Barn, Overdale Road, BS16 2RW on Thursday afternoons 2-4 pm during term time

We welcome new players, with or without experience. Bells, music and tuition are provided each week. If you don't read music, we can provide marked up copies for you. Our repertoire is quite varied, but tends to be music from the shows, and other popular songs.

We hope you will come and join us, for a period of brain exercise and making music together which always raises the spirits.

For more information contact:

Heather Wren 07540647655 or

Zoe Tanner (Barn office manager) 01179562367

WHAT'S ON LOCALLY

activities for families. Every Thursday, 3.15-4.45pm during term time, at Pendennis Good News Centre, Pendennis Road, Staple Hill.

■ **DOWNEND HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY** meets every second Thursday of the month at Downend Assembly Hall, Salisbury Road, at 7.30pm. New members welcome. More details from downendhortsoc@gmail.com.

■ **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.

■ **EMERSON'S GREEN QUILTERS** meet at the Christchurch Centre, Quakers Road on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm. New members and visitors welcome. Socialise, talks and activities. For more information email emersonsgreenquilters@gmail.com.

Friday

■ **TAI CHI FOR PARKINSON'S**. Weekly beginners Tai Chi & Qi Gong class for people with Parkinson's disease, their families and carers. Lincombe Barn. (term times) 10.15 - 12.15 including tea / coffee break. Contact: Claire - Claire@Taichibodyandmind.co.uk (07769 857672) or Sarah - buqiworks@gmail.com (07815 662844)

■ **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.

■ **JIGSAW TODDLER GROUP**, Fridays in term time at Christ Church Parish Hall, North Street, from 9.45-11.15am.

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

com/lateratresound.

■ **ARTWINGS**, Resound church, Blackhorse Road, Mangotsfield. Every fourth Friday, except August & December, 7.30pm. Explore new ways of creating and making, natter over refreshments. £5, includes materials.

■ **RAINBOW TOTS PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP** meets at Emersons Green Village Hall every Friday morning in term time, from 10-11.30am. For more info email church.egbc@outlook.com

■ **IN-THE-PINK** Exercise to music 9-10am followed by chat & coffee time. Pay session-by-session basis. Get yourself fit & make new friends at Hillfields Park Baptist Church, Thicket Avenue. For details call Julie 07903123793.

■ **TUTTILUTTI**, an inclusive ensemble welcoming flautists of all ages from Grade 3 up, rehearses at Lincombe Barn in term time, from 6.30-7.30pm. New members welcome. Details from Fiona on 07817 629 691.

■ **LUNCH CLUB**, Staple Hill Community Hub, Berkeley House, Berkeley Road, every Friday from 12.15pm. For details 01454 868374.

■ **AFTER SCHOOL DROP-OFF KARATE GROUP** for mums and dads, 9am, Page Community Association Staple Hill. www.zenkarate.club.

Saturday

■ **BRISTOL SUGARCRAFT GUILD** We are a small friendly group who meet every third Saturday of the month 2pm to 4pm at St Andrews Hall, Elm Park, Filton. If you would like to make sugar flowers and models we hold workshops with instruction. Beginners very welcome. For more information contact Julia Mackay on 07563 628513

■ **STAPLE HILL METHODIST CHURCH** coffee mornings, every Saturday 10am-noon in aid of church funds or charities. Fairtrade coffee, tea and home-made cake. Repair Cafe open every third

Saturday: donations to church funds.

■ **BALLET CLASSES** at Assembly Hall, Salisbury Road, Downend. Baby ballet (aged 2 1/2 to 4) at 3pm; Royal Academy of Dance pre-primary ballet (4-6 year-olds) 3.45-4.25pm followed by introduction to tap, 4.25-4.45pm. Contact Rosie on 07534 119467. Starting April 26.

Sunday

■ **EMERSONS GREEN BAPTIST CHURCH** services are held every Sunday morning from 10.30am-11.30am at Emersons Green Village Hall, Emersons Way. Contact Simon on 07765 201435, e-mail church.egbc@outlook.com or visit www.emersonsgreenchurch.org

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

■ **COMMUNITY GARDEN WORKING PARTY**, Percy Walker Court, Lincombe Road, Downend, every Sunday 10am-noon.

■ **KARATE FOR MUMS AND DADS**, 7pm, Page Community Association, Staple Hill. More information www.zenkarate.club.

■ **FRENCHAY CHAPEL** Beckspool Road. Sunday services, weekly at 10.30am. All welcome. More details from peter.a.bruce@gmail.com.

■ **BADMINTON ROAD METHODIST CHURCH BS16 6NU**. Sunday worship 10.30am. Service of Holy Communion usually fourth Sunday of the month. More information from www.badmintonroadmethodist.org.uk

■ **STAPLE HILL METHODIST CHURCH**, High Street, Sunday worship at 10.30am + Sunday Club for children aged 5-17. Holy Communion every 2nd Sunday of the month - all welcome. Contact Rev Martin Slocombe on 07769 982367 or Philippa at

staplehillmethodist@hotmail.co.uk or www.staplehillmethodist.com.

■ **FRIENDS OF LINCOMBE BARN AND WOODS** litter picking and woodland management, first Sunday of month, 10-11am (weather permitting). ■ **SERVICES AT ST JAMES CHURCH**, Mangotsfield. Holy Communion at 8am every Sunday. 10.30am services: 1st Sunday Holy Communion, 2nd all-age service, 3rd Holy Communion, 4th morning worship, 5th morning worship with healing.

■ **FRENCHAY CHAPEL** Beckspool Road. Community Arts for all, Frenchay Chapel, Beckspool Road. 1st Sunday of the month, 12.30pm.

■ **GREENBANK BOWLS CLUB** Gordon Road, Whitehall, BS5 7DP (What three words: same.zone. frozen) Every Sunday 10am to Noon All equipment provided Please wear flat soled shoes, eg. trainers No need to book Car Parking Licensed Bar greenbankbowls@gmail.com

■ **ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS**, Frenchay Chapel, Beckspool Road, 6pm weekly.

■ **CHRIST CHURCH DOWNEND**: 9.15 am Traditional morning worship (Holy Communion on 2nd & 4th Sundays) at Church Centre, Quakers Road BS16 6NH. 10.30 Morning worship with youth and children's groups at Christ Church Downend, Downend Rd BS16 5UF

■ **FRENCHAY QUAKER MEETING**, at the meeting house, Beckspool Road (opposite Frenchay Village Hall), every Sunday 10.30-11.30am. All welcome to come and experience stillness, reflection and connection, with refreshments afterwards. Regular children's meetings. More details from frenchay.clerks@bristolquakers.org.uk or 0117 956 7337.

■ **ALL AGE WORSHIP** at Staple Hill Salvation Army, Broad Street, 10am. With band, choir and children's band and singing group. Call 0117 956 9733 for more details.



Pilates and Therapeutic Yoga for everyone

King George V Pavilion Downend -
Tuesdays Therapeutic Yoga at 7.30am
Lincombe Barn Downend -
Wednesdays Pilates at 9.30am

Classes also available at Fishponds Old Library and Meadow Vale Community Centre, Speedwell

No booking needed just drop in and Pay-As-You-Go - Beginners Welcome
For more information please call Emily 07974252486 or email info@teachmepilates.co.uk

15 YEARS EXPERIENCE OF TEACHING MIXED LEVEL CLASSES

teachmepilates.co.uk
Follow me on Facebook and Instagram




Daves Garden Services

- Low maintenance specialist
- Patio, Walling, Gravels and Sleeper work
- Fencing, Decking, Turfing, Planting and more!
- Experienced landscaper, locally based
- We aim to beat any similar quote
- References/Photos available
- Artificial grass available

SPECIAL OFFER
25% OFF
OAP's 30%
with this ad
HURRY BOOKINGS GOING FAST

Call Dave on 07901554068 for a free quotation

Diagnostics and pain management

Get answers sooner with fast access to diagnostics and pain management

When you're experiencing pain or waiting for answers about your health, getting the right diagnosis and treatment quickly can help you move forward with confidence.

Practice Plus Group Hospital Emersons Green, near Bristol, offers fast access to a range of diagnostic services, including MRI, CT, X-ray, ultrasound and pain management injections. Available to private self-paying patients and those with private health insurance, the hospital provides prompt appointments, fixed pricing, high-quality imaging technology and expert clinical support in a modern, patient-focused environment. Private CT and X-ray appointments require a referral from a GMC-registered clinician.

For private patients experiencing persistent pain, diagnosis is often the first step towards finding the right treatment. Alongside diagnostics,

the hospital now offers pain management options, including its new Shockwave Therapy treatment, which can help manage certain painful musculoskeletal conditions and support recovery.

Whether you need a scan to investigate ongoing symptoms or are looking for options to manage pain, fast access to diagnostics and specialist support can help you understand what's causing your symptoms and help you feel back to your best sooner.

To find out more or book an appointment, call 0117 453 0877 or visit www.practiceplusgroup.com

Cataracts premium lenses

Choose a cataract lens to suit your lifestyle

Cataracts can gradually affect the things you enjoy, from reading and gardening to driving, playing sport or spending time with family. Surgery can restore clear vision by replacing the cloudy natural lens with an artificial one – and at Practice Plus Group Hospital Emersons Green, private patients can choose from a range of lens options to suit their lifestyle.

A TECNIS Eyhance lens could be a good choice if you want clear distance vision with improved intermediate vision – useful for



computer work, cooking, using a sat-nav or seeing the golf course.

A TECNIS PureSee lens offers a wider range of clear vision, making it an option for active people who enjoy driving, walking, sport or being outdoors and want to reduce their reliance on glasses.

For those who love reading, sewing, painting or other close-up hobbies, a TECNIS Synergy multifocal lens provides clear vision across near, intermediate and distance ranges, helping you enjoy activities at different distances.

If you have astigmatism, a toric lens can correct this alongside your cataract, potentially improving

clarity for activities where sharp vision matters, such as golf or detailed crafts.

Your consultant will recommend the most appropriate lens based on your eyes, lifestyle and visual priorities. Private patients can access treatment through their private medical insurance or by self-paying. Flexible payment options are available.

To find out more or book an appointment at Practice Plus Group Hospital Emersons Green, call 0117 453 0877 or visit www.practiceplusgroup.com.



Practice Plus Group

- ✓ Hips
- ✓ Knees
- ✓ Hernias
- ✓ Eyes
- ✓ MRI
- ✓ Ultrasound
- ✓ X-ray
- ✗ Hidden costs

Fast access to expert healthcare, without any hidden costs at **Practice Plus Group Hospital, Emersons Green.**

Get started today with a £145 consultation, and **get it sorted.**

0117 453 0877



Steve Palmer
Operating Department Practitioner

Cambodia trek will raise money in memory of Sandie

A FORMER councillor's son and daughter are embarking on a trek through Cambodia to raise money for the hospice that helped her in her final days.

Sandie Davis was a South Gloucestershire councillor, charity trustee and school governor, whose personal dedication to improving life for people with disabilities saw her and husband Jim foster around 35 children and adopt four children with disabilities.

Sandie, who lived in Downend for many years, before moving to Emersons Green in 2000, was diagnosed with stage 4 pancreatic cancer in March 2024, the day before her golden wedding anniversary.

She went into St Peter's Hospice the day before her 70th birthday and died there less than two weeks later.

But her short time there made a deep impression on her family, with staff helping Sandie and Jim host her planned family birthday party at the hospice.

Now Sandie's eldest daughter Louise and son Liam are about to embark on a nine-day hike through forests, valleys and mountains in Cambodia to pay something back to the charity that runs the hospice.

Louise, of Mangotsfield, is a former deputy head teacher who is about to start a



Sandie Davis

civilian job with the police, and Liam, of Soundwell, works for South Gloucestershire Council.

Louise said: "Mum spent so much of her life doing things for other people - as a nurse, foster mum, adoptive mum, councillor, charity trustee and governor, and particularly through her work supporting and advocating for people with disabilities.

"After losing her, we wanted to do something positive in her memory and

hopefully continue just a little bit of that legacy.

"Although Mum's time at St Peter's was short, what they did for her, and for all of us, has stayed with us.

"They helped us celebrate her 70th birthday there as a family and cared for her with such dignity and kindness. At probably the worst point in our lives, they looked after not only Mum but all of us around her.

"It's very difficult to appreciate quite what a hospice does until your family needs one. We can't ever really repay them for what they gave us, but raising money so they can provide that same care for another family feels like a pretty good place to start."

Alongside their training, Louise and Liam have so far raised around £6,000 for the hospice, through events including quiz nights, and sponsorship.

Anyone who would like to donate can do so via their fundraising page at tinyurl.com/yjxm7e38.

Louise said: "We've been absolutely blown away by the support we've received so far.

"I think Mum would be really proud that we're raising money for St Peter's, although she'd probably think choosing to trek up mountains and sleep in tents was absolutely ridiculous!"



**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



LLOYDBOTTOMS
chartered accountants

118 High Street, Staple Hill, BS16 5HH
www.lloydbottoms.co.uk

Local accountants, offering a friendly and personal accountancy and taxation service to individuals and businesses.

Contact us now! — Free initial consultation
Call - 0117 9573537



GROW YOUR FAITH

@FaithHouse
Family Church

EVERY SUNDAY 10:30AM

VENUE: Page Community Hall, Page RD, Bristol BS16 4NE

CONTACT: 07709062657
dfalithhouse@gmail.com

For we walk by Faith not by sight... (2 Cor. 5:7)



Your pace, your space, your club

0117 910 4296 | spirit@hibristolfilton.co.uk

Holiday Inn, Filton Rd, Bristol, BS16 1QX

Membership deals are available

3 hours free parking*

20% off drinks

Member referral scheme

4 & under swim FREE!

*Terms & conditions apply



Start your wellness
journey today and
sign up by scanning
the QR code



**HOLIDAY INN
BRISTOL FILTON**



THE PERFECT SPACE

Holiday Inn Bristol Filton offers 11 stylish, fully equipped rooms for meetings, celebrations, and more. From dry hire to afternoon tea, private lunches, and elegant dinners, we create the ideal setting for your event.

Whatever the occasion, we have the perfect space to make it unforgettable.

For more information or to book your event please contact

Tel: 0371 942 9014 | Email: meetingsandevents@lghhm.com

Call for action on 'dangerous' road crossing

RESIDENTS and a councillor are calling for safety improvements at a "potentially dangerous" road crossing outside a park home estate.

There is no pavement on either side of the entrance to Cleveewood Park on Cleeve Wood Road, between Downend and Frenchay.

People living at Cleveewood Park say the lack of a dropped kerb to access the pavement on the opposite side of the road means anyone who relies on a walking aid, mobility scooter or wheelchair faces having to use the side of the busy road to reach nearby shops and services.

Resident Valerie Hamblin said: "I often feel like a prisoner in my own home because I cannot safely cross the road to access local shops, services or even go for a walk independently."

"A simple dropped kerb and safe crossing point would give me and many of my neighbours the freedom to remain active, independent and connected to our community."

Residents say increasing traffic volumes and speeding vehicles on the road, which is used by many drivers to avoid queues on the Avon Ring Road, have made crossing it "increasingly difficult and potentially dangerous".

A formal highway improvement request has been made to South Gloucestershire Council, highlighting concerns over safety and accessibility, and proposing improvements including extending the existing pavement, installing dropped kerbs, creating a safer crossing point and installing traffic calming measures between Cleveewood Park and the Downend end of the road, where residents use shops and bus stops.

Frenchay & Downend ward councillor Liz Brennan is backing the bid for urgent improvements, and is calling on the council to provide a timetable for assessing and delivering them.

She said: "Residents of Cleveewood Park have

highlighted a genuine and longstanding safety concern, which affects some of the most vulnerable members of our community."

"Many residents are older people who rely on walking aids, mobility scooters or wheelchairs, yet the current road layout makes accessing local services unnecessarily difficult and potentially unsafe."

"We fully support the request for improved pedestrian facilities, including dropped kerbs, safer crossing provision and traffic-calming measures."

"These improvements would make a real difference to residents' independence, wellbeing and ability to remain connected to their community."

"The proposal also supports wider council objectives around accessibility, active travel, reducing social isolation and helping residents remain independent for longer."

A council spokesperson said: "We received a formal request for a dropped kerb and associated



Councillor Liz Brennan is backing the residents

works at Cleeve Wood Road in August.

"The request will be considered through our highway improvements assessment process, which is used to evaluate and prioritise proposals for road safety and accessibility improvements."

"Requests are assessed using a scoring system and if eligible, are prioritised alongside other schemes."

"Any proposal is subject to the outcome of the assessment process and the availability of capital funding."

WE NOW PROVIDE A BATHROOM INSTALLATION SERVICE



GLOBE HEATING

Central heating specialist

Specialists in:
Boiler Changes
Boiler Servicing
System Upgrades
Conversion to Combi
Full Heating Systems

t: 0117 3690 072 www.globeheating.co.uk
e: info@globeheating.co.uk

Proud members of
Checkatrade.com
Where reputation matters



Get a FREE Grand Appeal Will and support Bristol Children's Hospital

We are so lucky to have Bristol Children's Hospital covering our area. It provides an unrivalled level of service when our youngsters are most in need.

Local solicitor John Baden-Daintree says, "The Bristol Children's hospital literally saved our 6 year old daughter's life – mobilising an expert team not available elsewhere. During her recovery we saw how The Grand Appeal charity covered the many extras that the NHS cannot – making life a bit more bearable for sick children and their families at the toughest of times"

This October our local Will experts – Simpson Solicitors – have again teamed up with The Grand Appeal.

The scheme allows you to leave a legacy to support the Children's

Hospital in your Will.

As there is nothing to pay for your Will the charity hope that in exchange people will use their Will to give a small percentage of their Estate to The Grand Appeal. It means a generous donation is more affordable, as your donation will not be taken until you have died – supporting future generations of local sick children.

There are limited places available under the scheme so book now. Then Simpson Solicitors will prepare your Will (or 2 mirror Wills for a couple) absolutely free to you. You will still receive their full award-winning service. They will check your home ownership for £7 and advise you on optional extras such as Additional Trust Protection to protect the inheritance you leave against Care Home Fees) and

Lasting Powers of Attorney.

You will still receive their award-winning service from a fully regulated law firm. It even covers Simpson's free home visit scheme for those who cannot easily get to their offices.

Michelle Baden-Daintree says "I hope many people will take advantage of the scheme and leave a generous gift in their Will to the Grand Appeal. Call our friendly team saying you'd like to make a Grand Appeal Scheme Will. Then by leaving a donation in your Will, you can gift a sick child a brighter future."



John Baden-Daintree



Michelle Baden-Daintree

Kings Chase Shopping Centre, Kingswood

0117 960 8594

message@simpsonslawuk.com

simpsonsollicitors 

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.

20% OFF
full price if you
buy 2 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 | simpsonsollicitors.com

We need our Post Office services back

I'VE been campaigning to bring the local Post Office services we need back to Downend following the closure of the local branch.

More than 120 residents have filled in my local survey. I have shared this invaluable feedback with the Post Office, arranged a meeting with the relevant government minister, and will continue pushing for a solution.

Thank you to everyone who shared my survey, particularly local residents Sue and Hillary, who helped take paper copies around, and the Lincombe Barn team for kindly taking in returned paper copies.



Claire Hazelgrove discussing bus services at an event in Winterbourne

This shows what we can do, working together as a community, for our community.

I recently hosted the launch of the Hydrogen in Aviation Alliance's new report. It highlights our area's world-leading aerospace heritage and potential to lead the future of hydrogen-powered flight, reducing the environmental impact of aviation.

I want to see Britain seize the opportunity to lead this, with Filton at the very heart of it.

I also met with the Defence Procurement Minister to discuss the important work so many do locally to support our national security and that of our NATO allies. This is all the more important in these more uncertain times globally, and our local contribution is highly valued by the Government.

Following my visit to the Frenchay Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, I was pleased to co-chair a parliamentary round-table discussion on brain injury rehabilitation, with the team based there and other experts from across the country.

I also visited 'mydentist' in Filton following the launch of my second survey on local NHS dentistry. This was the first issue I raised for us in Parliament, and we've seen some good progress with over 19,000 more urgent NHS appointments in our NHS area, but there's more to do.



As with my first survey, I will use this insight to continue to champion what we need locally. Please share your experiences at clairehazelgrove.co.uk/survey-dental-services.

This month, my small team and I worked on 528 cases to support residents directly - including at my advice surgery, held in Bradley Stoke.

I ran my latest 'Coffee with Claire' event in Winterbourne, bringing residents together to share their experiences and make the case for better buses, particularly for journeys across our community. I have shared local views from this, and my online survey, directly with transport ministers, First Bus, and the West of England Combined Authority.

I spoke in the Commons about the importance of our local pubs, and welcomed government action to cut their business rates bills by 20%. My first job was waitressing and pot washing in a pub, aged 14, and I know how much they all matter to us locally.

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

Emergency Number: 07798 905337
KEEP IT IN YOUR MOBILE

Lock Stuck and Barrels

The complete door & window specialist

Locked Out?

Need to replace or change your locks?

- Swift low cost emergency service to all home and commercial lock-outs
- Non destructive entry methods gaining entry quickly and efficiently from the initial call
- Keys or handbag stolen? Burgled? Need your locks changed or re-keying on a new home? Call us.

ALSO: Low cost repair/replacement of uPVC ALUMINIUM WINDOW & DOOR: LOCKS, HINGES, HANDLES & MISTED UP/BROKEN DOWN DOUBLE GLAZED UNITS
Full explanation and costs given before any works carried out. All work fully guaranteed. No call-out fee

Call Dave on 07798 905337

www.thebristollocksmith.co.uk

Based locally in South Glos



SURECAR



M.O.T . SERVICING . REPAIRS



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

0117939 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*

Preparing for winter planting

AS usual it's been all go for the past month.

We are preparing the containers for winter planting: this year we are going for a variety of colours in the panolas, but we have also ordered quite a few trailing panola as well.

We are hoping these will look good in the three and six-tier planters and the pole planters - time will tell!

Back to the summer plants: on our last visit to the High Street, two weeks into September, they were still looking fantastic!

The deep pink and white Surfinas are superb - usually by this time they are almost dead.

I think we will have a lot of

moans and groans when we eventually take them out, but needs must.

At the beginning of September I was doing some In Bloom paperwork, and documenting what we had been doing over the last few years.

Even I was amazed at how much we have been doing! It is certainly true that In Bloom is not just about the flower displays.

With the work we do at the bee garden and with the pupils at Downend School, working with our local junior schools with our bee competition and talks about In Bloom, and more, it was a substantial list!

Talking of the bee garden, at our last meeting we had a run down of progress and future planning from gardener Pete.

He was saying how much work needs to be done to keep it neat and tidy, so if anyone has an hour or so to spare on a Tuesday morning (between 10.30am and 12.30pm) and would like to come along and help, it would be so appreciated.

The bee garden is such a beautiful, relaxing place, it is a joy



The summer plants still look superb

to be in, so please do consider this opportunity. If you come along and don't feel it's for you, that is okay as well.

Finally this month I just wanted to let you know that our bees in

the hive are still thriving: looking forward to some honey soon!

If you are interested in volunteering please text 07504 244361.

Jackie Baker



Merlin Carpets

CARPETS • VINYL • LAMINATE • LVT • ENGINEERED WOOD



FOR ALL YOUR FLOORING NEEDS

Expert advice • Family business with 40 years experience

Free measure service • We can move furniture

Uplift and dispose of old flooring

We cover domestic and commercial work

We fit carpet, LVT, laminate, vinyl and all commercial flooring

We use trusted brands like Amtico, Polysafe, Cormar, Cavalier Carpets, Kingsmead, Headlam, J2, Moduleo, Furlong Etc

Email info@merlincarpets.co.uk

Tel 01179551324

WhatsApp 07419982607

10 The Square, Broad Street, Staple Hill BS16 5LR

Steve Bellamy Carpets

LOW
OVERHEADS
= LOWER
PRICES

- Home selection carpet and vinyl's
- Huge selection of carpets and vinyl chosen in the comfort of your own home
- Free quotations without obligation to purchase
- No pressure selling
- Professional service established for over 30 years
- All inclusive prices, no hidden extras, the price quoted is the price you pay



Tel: 07860 441776

We will better any like for like all inclusive quote



LOFT BOARDING SOUTH WEST

Cheekatrade



LOFTZONE



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

Investing in your ideas to cut crime

FROM my experience as your police and crime commissioner, I know that the people closest to local challenges often have the clearest understanding of what could help address them.

I also know there is no shortage of passion, expertise and determination in our communities across Avon and Somerset.

Over the past two and a half years, I've heard brilliant ideas from grassroots organisations, volunteers, residents and community leaders.

But I have also heard that access to funding can be one of the biggest barriers to turning these ideas into action.

That is why I am investing £500,000 over the next two years to support community-led projects that prevent crime, reduce harm and make communities safer.

My new Community Fund invites voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise organisations to apply for grants of up to £10,000, for projects that will make a real difference and support my Police and Crime Plan priorities.

Those priorities include reducing crime, violence and anti-social behaviour, preventing crime, supporting victims, and

strengthening community relationships.

More than 1,000 people across Avon and Somerset helped shape these priorities during my time campaigning and when I was elected as your PCC.

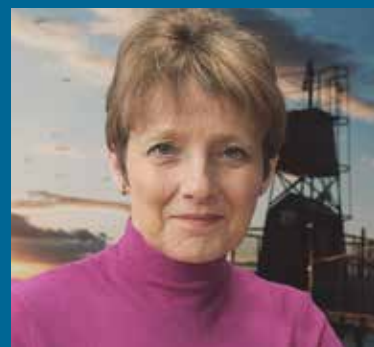
They reflect the challenges, issues and priorities that you raised with me.

While the police have a vital role to play in delivering these priorities, lasting improvements depend on partners, organisations and residents working together to prevent harm and improve safety in our neighbourhoods.

This fund is about supporting you to do just this. It's about backing local solutions and enabling more of our communities' ideas to become reality. It's about driving positive local change and helping people who are at higher risk of harm, victimisation or offending.

Applications for projects in South Gloucestershire, Bristol, Bath & North East Somerset and North Somerset are being administered through Quartet Community Foundation (quartetcf.org.uk). Organisations in Somerset should apply through Somerset Community Foundation (somersetcf.org.uk).

I encourage you to look at their websites



Clare Moody A&SPCC
writes for the Voice

for application rounds and criteria, and to explore whether the fund could support your work to improve safety and deliver these priorities.

There will be several opportunities over the next two years to apply for grants through the Community Fund, as part of my ongoing commitment to investing in you and your ideas, wherever you live in Avon and Somerset.

I look forward to seeing the ideas, projects and partnerships that emerge through this fund, and the difference they will make to people across our region.



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



OPENING ALL THE RIGHT DOORS!



Unlock your dream home this year. With our professional and personal approach, alongside our innovative marketing including your own FREE property website to share with friends and family, we will ensure all the right doors are open to you this year.

T. 0117 9566221

W. mcoleman.co.uk

E. sales@mcoleman.co.uk

Celebrating women

BRISTOL will become the first UK city to stage a truly city-wide festival celebrating women.

What Women Want Bristol 2027 will take place across the city from March 1-12, encompassing International Women's Day.

The ambitious new festival brings together Bristol Women's Voice, the city's leading organisation for women's equality and representation, and Lynne Franks OBE, creator of the original What Women Want festival at London's South Bank in 1995, a driving force behind London Fashion Week and a lifelong campaigner for women's empowerment.

What Women Want Bristol is about bringing the whole city together - women, organisations and communities - to celebrate how far we have come, confront where inequality still exists and, most importantly, create practical ideas for what comes next.

To get involved, visit www.bristolwomensvoice.org.uk.

Nathalie Sherring
Bristol Women's Voice

Sharing a love of bowls

DOWNEND Short Mat Bowls Club recently hosted a group from Kingswood Court care home. Residents there play a form of carpet bowls in

their lounge, and were keen to see how short mat bowls is played.

The club put on a demonstration match for the visitors then everyone, including carers, was able to have a go themselves.

It was clear to most that the game is a lot harder than it looks. However one of the residents, Trish Nunn, needed little coaching as she is a past member of Ardagh Bowling Club, had also played lawn bowls for Gloucestershire and was a past president of the Gloucester Bowling Association!

In the best bowls tradition, it was then time to share stories over cups of tea and plates of home made cakes.

It was a great opportunity for the two groups to meet over a shared love of bowls.

Mike Parsons
Downend Short Mat Bowls Club

Turn blue for hospice

ST PETER'S Hospice is calling on people across Bristol to turn the city blue this October in a brand new fundraising campaign.

We are inviting schools, businesses, community groups, families and individuals to take part in 'Wear It Blue' during Hospice Care Week, on October 5-11.

People can get involved by dressing in blue, hosting a fundraising event and helping raise awareness of the vital care St Peter's Hospice

provides to local adults living with life-limiting illness and their families.

Whether it's a workplace dress-down day, a blue-themed bake sale, a school non-uniform day, afternoon tea, colour run or something completely unique, supporters are encouraged to get creative while raising money for vital local hospice care.

Our network of charity shops will have affordable blue clothing, accessories and hidden treasures ready.

To find out more, visit www.stpetershospice.org/wearitblue

Hayley Ali,
St Peter's Hospice

Do your bit for trees

REGARDING the watering of young trees struggling because of drought (*Voice*, September), I have been doing this for a number of years, and my hydrating efforts seem to have contributed to the survival of the trees involved.

I choose trees that have been planted as part of the landscaping of new developments but which are outside the individual house plots.

It seems that stupid new house owners are only concerned about trees in their own gardens but an equally vulnerable new tree ten yards away has to fend for itself.

Christopher Richardson



**Affordable Local Independent
Funeral Director**

Direct Cremation
£1,500

Complete Funeral
£3,825

Call 24hrs 01179 564 796

8 Badminton Road, Downend, BS16 6BQ

Louise Boustead
Your local Family
Law and Divorce
legal specialist in
Staple Hill



0117 943 4800
20 High Street

WARDS
SOLICITORS

Alpine LANDSCAPING

Established family firm with 25 years experience

**25% OFF
WITH THIS
ADVERT**

- ★ Senior Citizens Special
- ★ Garden Clearance — Regular or one-off
- ★ Patios ★ Fencing ★ Tree Work ★ Turfing
- ★ Hedgecutting ★ Planting (Shrubs etc)
- ★ Organic manure delivered — Also applied
- ★ Professional and guaranteed work
- ★ Brick & Blocklaying

CALL JOE FOR A FREE QUOTE

Tel: 0117 959 2143

Mob: 07891 253 122

www.alpine-landscaping.co.uk



■ Colours entwined by Adam Wakefield



■ St Paul's Reflection Pool by Owen Richards



■ Heimat kölscher Helden by Owen Richards

Liquid reflections

ONE thing that photographers always enjoy capturing is reflections.

They allow us to see the world differently. It may be as simple as a mirror, posing the challenge of

keeping the photographer out of the picture. It may be a reflection on a highly-polished surface, such as a car bumper, distorted by the shape of the surface.

Water provides multiple opportunities, depending on its condition, the available light and what is being reflected. It's because of this that water reflections are a particular favourite of photographers.

A recent open competition

held by our club, with no specified subject, had three winners using water reflection.

St Paul's Reflection Pool, by Owen Richards, shows a relatively little-seen view of the famous London cathedral, with a twin reflected in the pool.

I'm old enough to remember when this was all bomb sites, with Wren's baroque masterpiece standing tall and defiant in the middle.

Seeing the calmness and natural beauty that replaces the rubble is something I find heart-warming, while St Paul's gazes down benignly on its own reflection.

Also by Owen is Heimat kölscher Helden, a view of a restaurant in Cologne, Germany. The reflections are very different from the tranquility of the St Paul's photo. It's a wet night, and the harsh artificial lighting shines from a puddle and wet cobblestones, a clear reflection of the restaurant dissolving into semi-abstract pools of colour.

Owen's photographs share a deep field of focus, so that the image is seen with clarity.

Adam Wakefield has taken a

very different approach with his photograph, Colours Entwined.

To start with, this is a close-up studio shot and the field of focus is kept very tight, so that we see only the row of coloured pencils with complete clarity.

In front of that, the reflection of the pencils in a pool of water becomes increasingly unfocused, a field of abstract colours.

So, there you have it: three very different ways of depicting reflections on water.

Whatever subjects you enjoy photographing, we'd love to see you at Lincombe Barn Camera Club. We're a friendly group who get together every other Tuesday, from September to June.

We host regular competitions, practical evenings, guest speakers, and in-house critiques. It's a great way to learn from others and improve your skills.

Your first visit is free, and there's plenty of parking on-site at Lincombe Barn, on Overndale Road, Downend.

For more details visit our website at www.lincombebarncameraclub.co.uk, or contact us on lincombe.barn@gmail.com.

Sid Stace

BRISTOL U3A

Rewrite the rules of ageing

THERE are plenty of studies that prove that the key to ageing well is about keeping your mind, body, and social life active.

Unfortunately, society is still somewhat ageist, and there isn't a wealth of activities for vibrant older people when they leave the workplace.

Isolation can be a major health risk when your social circle shrinks overnight, through leaving work or losing a partner, raising stress levels and speeding up physical ageing.

This is where u3a (you in your 3rd age)

steps in: we're an organisation of active, curious individuals determined to prove that growing older is not about slowing down or losing the ability to learn something new.

U3a runs on the simple idea: "Build it and they will come." It provides an environment where members meet to share skills, interests and hobbies. We come from all backgrounds, and there's lots to do while seated or active.

Locally we have around 25 seated groups, covering areas from discussion, language, games, arts and crafts to singing and ukulele.

We have 11 activity groups, including dancing, walking, table tennis, tai chi shibashi and cycling. There are even more groups to

join across Bristol – around 200 in total.

Why not pop along to one of this month's café socials to meet existing members and find out more about u3a in general?

You'll find us at Turners in Fishponds (previously known as Grounded, flat access) on October 13, the Crafty Egg in Fishponds (ramp) on the 21st, Hillfields Community Centre (flat access) on the 22nd and Mokka Downend (flat access) on the 26th.

Curious but can't make it to any of those events? Email me at learnlaughlive@bristolu3a.org.uk and I'll do my best to answer your questions.

Lindsay Gough

Friends of Page Park



The first Billy Kart Derby in 2023

PAGE Park's Billy Kart Derby will return next summer.

The event was first held three years ago, when teams who built their own human-powered karts raced each other on the path between South View and the park's clock tower.

Organisers Tom and Melody Beard, of the Bean Tree Cafe, plan to bring it back in August next year, as the cafe celebrates its tenth anniversary.

This time the format will be different: instead of racing head-to-head, teams will take their karts one at a time to the top of a ramp, then let gravity take over. The kart that travels the furthest distance after the ramp wins.

Organisers will be announcing how to enter a team nearer to the event. In the meantime, they are looking to build a team of volunteers and sponsors to make the event happen, including marshals and officials, engineers and mechanics for the ramps and karts, and businesses who can offer materials, equipment, prizes and financial support.

Anyone interested can send a message to the team via the Page Park Billy Kart Derby Facebook page - a post has been shared on local pages.

The next event in the park is the Pumpkin Patch on October 17, which will take place alongside the artisan market from 11am-3pm.

Children are encouraged to wear Halloween fancy dress for the annual competition, which will be judged at 2pm.

A pumpkin display will once again be on show this year for children to have their photos taken in front of, and there will be rides as well as the Friends of Page Park silly games stall, which is raising money towards a revamp of the park's play equipment.

Part of the tower in the park's wooden play

area was removed in September after it was judged to be unsafe because of rot, following a weekly safety inspection.

The Friends are calling for families who use the play areas to get in touch to help with the project to renew the play equipment.

Friends vice-chair Steph Purser said: "We need younger people with new ideas to help."

To help, email friendsofpageparkbs16@gmail.com.

Friends of Lincombe Barn Park & Woods



The bat walk had a big turnout

THERE was a wonderful turnout for our recent evening bat talk and walk.

Expert Daisy Finniear gave an inspiring talk, followed by a walk through the woodland and meadow, where we were treated to bats aplenty.

Pipistrelles could be seen flying over the woodland and meadow areas, while Daubenton's bats, also known as water bats, swooped low along the river.

It was particularly lovely to see one child bringing his own bat detector, having been inspired by our previous bat event. The talk and walk was free, with donations gratefully received for Severn Wildlife Rescue.

Our monthly Community Sundays, held on the first Sunday of every month, continue to go from strength to strength.

Volunteers of all ages have been doing a fantastic job keeping on top of litter and clearing paths of nettles and brambles, helping to keep the park and woods welcoming and accessible for everyone. It was especially encouraging to see the youth group from The Well Church, which meets at Lincombe Barn, joining us and getting stuck in!

After a period of uncertainty, there is now some encouraging news regarding the Jubilee Walkway, the deteriorating permissive path between Jubilee Bridge and Frenchay Bridge.

A Walkway Licence dating from 1984 was recently discovered and submitted to South Gloucestershire Council. Council representatives came out to walk the route and see the condition of the path for themselves. Discussions are now taking place about what can be done, and we are hopeful that this long-standing issue can move forward.

Our next community event will be the Big Autumn Clean, taking place from 10am to noon on November 1. We'll be litter picking and carrying out some gentle woodland management, and everyone is very welcome to join us. There will be refreshments to look forward to, including some delicious homemade cakes!

For more information, visit our website: lincombebarnparkwoods.co.uk or find us on Facebook.

Diane Paddon

Friends of King George V Playing Fields

WE were delighted by the enthusiastic response to our Looking After Our Park poster activity, held during the pavilion anniversary event in August.

Children were invited to design posters showing what they love about the park and what they would like to see there in the future.

The activity produced an impressive 77 posters on the day, with every child who took part receiving a goody bag.

The designs highlighted how much younger members of the community value the park's open spaces and want to see them cared for, kept clean and enjoyed by everyone.

The posters are being shared on the Friends Group's Facebook page, and the group hopes that some of the children's artwork can be turned into more permanent posters to be displayed around the park.

We were pleased to offer a free activity for children and welcomed the opportunity to speak with families during the anniversary celebrations.

Further community events are now being planned, including Halloween and Christmas activities. Details will be shared on social media and through a WhatsApp group.

For more information, please contact kgvdownend@gmail.com.

Fiona Konteh




PARKINSON

CARPENTRY & BUILDING

Tel: 0800 4880921

Mobile: 07923 122456

www.pcandb.co.uk

info@pcandb.co.uk

Find us on [Checkatrade.com](https://www.checkatrade.com)

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

Don't stay silent

If you want to save a local organisation from closure, don't stay silent.

The Bromley Heath Neighbourhood Watch annual meeting will be held in the Sandringham pub on October 19 at 7.30pm.

A motion will be put, proposing that, on my retirement as chair, the group exists for a further year only, producing its four newsletters for online and email distribution. No more meetings or other business will take place.

If, during that period, a volunteer or volunteers don't come forward to take the role on, the treasurer will be authorised to close the bank account and transfer any remaining funds to the national Neighbourhood Watch, and I will notify all other relevant parties that BHNW has closed.

If you don't wish to see another local organisation close, to wider community disbenefit, give us a ring on 0117 956 3325 or drop us a line at contactus@bhnw.org.uk.

We have some tasks suitable for young people looking for short-term community service projects to count towards D of E or uniformed organisations' awards. They are to log our lamppost signs and to sort our committee meeting and annual meeting records, as well as our treasurer's reports, into three complete electronic records.

If you can help, please get in touch using our contact details above.

Over past weeks, the national Neighbourhood Watch Network has released six episodes of our new podcast, hosted by former police officer and award-winning comedian Alfie Moore.

Through remarkable personal stories, guests explore everything from burglary and street crime to cyber fraud, romance scams and coercive control, with practical advice to help keep people safe.

You can find out more and listen at tinyurl.com/3jf5wtyn.

Thankfully the immediate risk is abating, however, wildfires are increasing as periods of hotter and drier weather become more common.

A new page to help understand the risks and take action to help protect our neighbourhoods and green spaces has been set up at tinyurl.com/mr2yk9dh.

Bill Crocker



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

After the pumps ran dry



■ Brodrick's garage in 1935



■ The garage building is demolished in 2006, before redevelopment



Photographer Chris Bigg shares some of his collection of 2,000 pictures of Downend, taken decades apart

This month's pictures feature the garage on the corner of Badminton Road and Cleeve Hill.

As a petrol station it had the disadvantage of having a small forecourt, set at a diagonal between two roads. Access was not ideal, as the only satisfactory entry was via Badminton Road, exiting via Cleeve Hill.

In the 1930s it was a prominent feature of the local area, built on what was then known as the Cave estate. In the early days it was named Brodrick Engineers. Austin Brodrick had first run his business from a stable in Downend before moving to the site.

When it became Lambs garage, Sid Jury is well remembered as the chief mechanic and a classic car collector.

Many people will remember a prominent but baffling sign that stated Alldays & Onions. It was a lasting local mystery, although nowadays an online search reveals that it was an early car and tractor manufacturer that last made vehicles a century ago.

The site sold petrol for over 60 years and was a Jet garage when it eventually closed in the early 2000s.

The site then sat idle for a long time due to the difficulty of extracting the underground petrol tanks.

The site was eventually redeveloped in 2007 as 15 residential flats and named Crossways Court. The other one, Cleeve Hill Tennis Club, remains to this day.

Chris Bigg

A sense of belonging

WHAT a turbulent ten months it's been for Downend Men in Sheds! On a chilly, damp early January morning, a group of 18 or so members gathered in a dusty, cold, drab, recently-vacated workshop to make a momentous, collective decision.

Should we take out a lease on the workshop, commit to paying more a month in rent than some felt safe, then try and convert the uninviting, musty, leaky space into a bespoke, well-equipped workshop for our members?

Without going into detail, our options were very, very limited: we took the plunge, and so began a new chapter.

The transition from our base at Bromley Heath playing fields to our new home on Cuckoo Lane, Winterbourne, has taken 10 months to date, and we are almost there.

The challenges have come thick and fast.

The comfortable routines of our previous existence were thrown into disarray, new skills had to be learned, we had to ensure that we had sufficient funds to keep moving forward, and there were days when our resources were stretched to the limit - but our members stuck with it!

They kept adapting, helping, remaining positive and forward-looking.

So what motivates our members to continue to be part of Men in Sheds?

I recently asked them to reflect on what DMiS means to them - here are some of their heartfelt personal reflections:

Friendship & connection

"I now have lots more friends than I had before, and very good friends too - friends I can talk to about anything at all without being judged...and I now have a sense of belonging."

"The friendship received from all members and their kindness really turned my life around and gave me a reason to get out of bed at least twice a week."

Regaining a sense of balance

"18 months after my wife passed on, a lady friend suggested DMiS to combat loneliness, anxiety, boredom, and depression."

"DMiS has provided a good balance in my later years."

Skills and service

"I have learned a number of new skills that I didn't have before and have the satisfaction of working on a number of different projects that benefit the local community, not just Downend."

"My grammar school education led me to



academic subjects. It was decades later that DMiS rectified that with light woodworking experiences making items for the community."

This is only a glimpse into the stories and reflections that our members could tell, but it's easy to see that there is a sense of value in what can be found within the organisation.

One member sums up his feelings thus: "I would recommend it to every man experiencing challenges. It's about learning new skills and having fun - and perhaps a few hours of peace and quiet for your wife or partner."

David Alcock



**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



***Looking for professional,
hands-on treatment for
acute/chronic pain or injury?***



Call Julia, your local osteopath today on: 07543 884598

www.staplehillosteopathy.co.uk

BROMLEY HEATH WI

AS we come into autumn, with the nights already drawing, in the committee are busy planning the next year's schedule of activities and trips.

Julie has been busy as our entertainment coordinator, and the trips include the theatre, going to London to see the Queen Elizabeth II clothes exhibition, Avery's wine tasting and a candlelight concert in Bristol Cathedral, to name a few.

This month Bromley Heath WI became a one night-only choir, thanks to the masterful choirmaster Beth Morgan, from the Great Day Choir.

We all had an excellent feel good evening with lots of songs, melodies and laughs.

Next month we are joined by Country Markets, and it's our WI AGM.

If you think you would like to join our friendly group, please email bromleyheathwi@gmail.com to arrange a visit.

We meet every second Thursday of the month at 7.30pm, in Bromley Heath Junior School hall.

Jane Hickey

DOWNEND WI

WE have had an amazing summer this year at Downend WI.

We had a fantastic talk from Alan Toyne, author of 'Gorillas in our Midst', and we enjoyed a wonderful evening at the University of Bristol Botanic Gardens.

We also enjoyed a fabulous talk from one of our members who is an acclaimed historical author, Alison Bacon, known for 'In the Blink of an Eye' and 'The Absent Heart'.

Alison shared the story of the birth of photography, along with tales of the historical figures she encountered while researching 'In the Blink of an Eye'.

At our September meeting, on the 29th, we will be getting crafty, with Amy Grimsby showing us how to create beautiful handmade cards.

It's sure to be a relaxed, friendly night full of creativity and conversation.

Coming up for the rest of the year we have our AGM, Quiz and Fizz on October 27 and Christmas craft evening on November 24.

If you'd like to come along and see what we're all about, you'd be very welcome.

We meet at Christ Church Hall, North Street, Downend, on the last Tuesday of each month at 7.30pm.

As a member, you're free to take part in as much or as little as you like.

Our programme is wonderfully varied, with something for everyone — and it's a great way to meet new people and try new experiences.

To find out more about joining us, please get in touch at downendwi@yahoo.co.uk.

Guests are welcome for a small charge of £3, which includes refreshments.

We look forward to welcoming you!

**Linda Russ
President**

FRENCHAY WI

IT was nice to catch up with all our members when we returned from our summer break.

We also heard from Fiona Warin, who told us all she knows about Land Girls.

In September a number of us attended the Avon Federation of WIs' annual meeting at the Winter Gardens in Weston-super-Mare.

The speakers included Amanda Parr, the BBC Points West news presenter, who gave us an insight into a busy newsroom.

Our meeting in October is dedicated to learning Christmas crafts from our very own Roma Wilder. This should prove to be a fun experience for all. Hope to see you there.

We have lots of interesting speakers and events lined up in the future, so do come along and join our friendly group this year.

We meet on the third Monday of every month at Frenchay Village Hall, at 7.30pm. There is always a friendly reception awaiting new members.

If you are interested in joining our WI, or would like more information, please email the secretary at FrenchayWI@gmail.com.

Linda O'Carroll

STAPLE HILL WI

AS we all know, it has been a hot summer, but nevertheless it was a very busy one for our members.

Perhaps we can now look forward to a cooler autumn, and maybe even some rain - who thought we would welcome rain?

A large group of us recently enjoyed a tour of Bristol's secret air raid shelter, which is located

beneath St Nicholas market.

Duncan, our guide, was extremely knowledgeable and made the visit very interesting. We followed the tour with lunch at the Commercial Rooms.

We will be continuing with our regular monthly walks and our popular coffee mornings at Wetherspoons.

Our last walk was around the harbourside, followed by lunch at the Lounge. Our October meeting will be our AGM, so there should be plenty to discuss.

We will no doubt be mentioning our November and December celebrations, plus there will be an opportunity to socialise over a coffee and cake.

If you would like to join us, you will be sure of a warm welcome and, as a member, you can join in as many or as few events as you like.

Our regular friendly monthly meetings are on the third Tuesday of each month, starting at 7.30pm, in Christchurch Parish Hall, North Street, Downend. There is plenty of parking.

Please come along and see what we are about, or visit our website at staplehillwi.weebly.com.

Linda Stephens

RODWAY RUBIES WI

SEPTEMBER has been a busy month for members.

A small group visited 20th Century Flicks on Christmas Steps in Bristol and watched a performance of the latest Downton

Abbey film. It is a tiny cinema, part of a video shop: you choose which film you want to watch, take your own drinks and have an entertaining afternoon.

We also had our Country and Western evening at Lincombe Barn, followed by our usual September meeting a couple of days later. A workshop for jewellery making was very successful with those taking part making some pretty items, including necklaces and bracelets.

We have another workshop in November for crafters who wish to make items for Christmas decorations.

We will be adding a table to our October meeting, so our ladies can exhibit various different items they have made, not only crafts but cards, jams and chutneys which are always popular and boost our WI funds.

We are still raising money for BUST, the breast cancer charity, and have topped £1,000 so far this financial year.

A lady singer is booked for our December meeting, to entertain us whilst we celebrate the festive season with a buffet for our members.

We also have events booked for next year, including our quiz and speakers talking about life on board the International Space Station, Medical Detection Dogs and orchids.

We meet on the third Monday of the month at 7.30pm at St James Church Hall, Richmond Road, Mangotsfield, if you would like to join us.

Jane Eldon

MANGOTSFIELD DOLLY MIXTURES

THE DOLLIES have just had their meeting in the hall after the summer break.

It was lovely to catch up with one another and discuss our plans for the Autumn with a nice cup of tea and a piece of home-made cake.

We had sign-up sheets for a visit to Glenside Hospital Museum.

Their mission is to de-stigmatise mental illness and learning difficulties, bring attention to personal well-being and increasing understanding of the brain and self-care.

Consultant director Stella Man was our guide for the afternoon; it was a very interesting and thought provoking tour.

The grounds and the museum are well worth a visit. More details at www.glensidemuseum.org.uk.

Our next trip is a guided walk and talk on Bristol's chocolate history, with Duncan from St Nicholas Market Tours.

The October meeting in the hall will feature a speaker on breathing exercises; also in October we have organised our first evening out to a Greek restaurant. All the Dollies have signed up for this, as I believe they are all intrigued.

In November one of our members who is a florist will be demonstrating making a table decoration from silk flowers, and in December we have booked a minibus trip to Wells Christmas market, with lunch in the Swan Hotel.

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

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

Carol Coombs

**Let us know your Community News
email news@downendvoice.co.uk**



■ Glen Coe by David Britton



■ The Cairngorms by David Britton

Visions of nature's splendour

LANDSCAPE photography encompasses a wide range of scenes, from majestic mountains and serene lakes to rolling fields and dense forests.

As well as technical skill, it requires creative vision and an appreciation for nature's splendour.

A well-composed image draws the viewer's eye into the scene. Foreground elements like rocks, trees, or flowers can add depth and interest.

Understanding and utilising natural light effectively is key to capturing stunning landscapes.

The quality of light can dramatically change the mood and impact of a photograph. The golden hours—shortly after sunrise and before sunset—are particularly favoured for their warm, soft light and long shadows, which add texture and dimension to the scene.

Two of this month's pictures were taken in the late autumn afternoon, in Glen Coe and the Cairngorms.

The waterfall image was taken early in the morning.

A sturdy tripod is essential for

landscape photography, especially when using long exposures or shooting in low light. This ensures sharpness and clarity throughout the image.

Wide-angle lenses are commonly used to capture expansive vistas, but telephoto lenses can also be effective for isolating distant subjects or compressing perspective.

Using a small aperture (high f-stop) increases the depth of field, ensuring that both foreground and background elements are in sharp focus.

All three images in this article were all taken using a tripod, an aperture of F8, to give a good depth of field, and a shutter speed of 1/200th of a second, with an ISO of 100.

Weather conditions can greatly influence the mood and composition of a landscape photograph: dramatic skies, with clouds, fog, rain, or snow, can add a sense of drama.

Being prepared to shoot in various weather conditions and times of day can provide a fresh



■ Waterfall in Brecon by David Britton

perspective.

Post-processing is an important step in refining landscape photographs. Adjustments to contrast, saturation, and sharpness can enhance the natural beauty of the scene.

Techniques like dodging and burning can help balance the exposure and bring out details in both highlights and shadows. Careful post-processing can transform a good landscape photo into a stunning one.

Landscape photography is a rewarding and inspiring genre that connects photographers with the natural world. By mastering composition, lighting and technical skills, photographers can capture the breathtaking beauty and diversity of our planet.

To find out more about Downend Camera Club, visit www.downendcameraclub.org.uk or come along to the Assembly Hall, Salisbury Road on a Tuesday at 7.45pm

David Britton

CHRISTINE'S COLUMN

A visit to Tortworth Lake

It was during one of those heatwaves, on a Sunday morning, that Kirsty asked me if I would like to go with her and the boys to Tortworth Lake.

I did not have to think twice, especially as it was somewhere I had not been before, and neither had Kirsty. It was only open once a month, so even more reason to take this opportunity and go.

Kirsty followed her sat nav and turned in at the Tortworth Court Hotel, hoping to find a way through the grounds to the lake.

Although we could not see an entrance to the lake, I enjoyed seeing the outside of Tortworth Court, as I had not been there before either.

Kirsty drove out of the entrance and finally found it on

another road nearby. There were other cars going in the same direction, so we could not get lost, and were directed to park in a field by a marshal.

From there it was a short walk to the lake, where there were benches to sit on, drinks to quench your thirst and snacks to buy.

The tables with food were protected by canopies to keep them from the strong sun's rays overhead.

Once we had taken in the view and Kirsty had taken some photos we began to walk around the lake. There were a lot of people doing the same thing, some with dogs on leads.

The lake was bigger than it had first appeared and, having only walked halfway round it, due to the heat we decided to head for the refreshments.

The path was quite stony in places, and we were all glad to have a welcome rest and something to drink, before driving home and reflecting on the morning's adventure.



Tortworth Lake

Terrapins and Sprouts are back!

TERRAPINS and Sprouts, two children's clubs run from Staple Hill Community Hub, have restarted for the new school year.

After breaking for the summer, the clubs have a fresh term of activities for local families.

Both clubs are funded by the Hub and delivered by Turtle CYP, a children and young people's charity, from the Hub's premises at 1a Berkeley House, Nelson Road.

Terrapins, for children aged from six to 11, runs every Tuesday from 3.45pm to 5pm and includes sport, games, and arts and crafts.

This term's activities include making toilet roll animals, scrapbooking, making flower presses and pressing flowers, and creating suncatchers, alongside indoor and outdoor games, apple tasting, and sharing healthy snacks each week.

Sprouts, the nature club for children aged six to 11, runs on Thursdays from 3.45pm to 5pm between March and October, with



Children enjoying a Sprouts club session

sessions focused on exploring nature.

This term the children will be

harvesting potatoes and carrots, planting flowers, making bird feeders and bug hotels, leaf

printing, and painting rocks for the planters.

Parents are full of praise for both clubs.

One mum said: "Terrapins and Sprouts are extremely important to us. My son learns new things, makes new friends and has tons of fun. He always comes away absolutely beaming and his confidence has skyrocketed."

"I am a big fan of everything Turtle CYP does for the community."

Another parent said: "Clubs are free, which is a huge advantage. Children learn to work together in a group, practise communication and conflict resolution, and make new friends outside of school."

"Thanks to these clubs, my daughter doesn't spend time in front of a screen."

For more information, contact the Hub on 01454 868374 or email hello@staplehillcommunityhub.org.uk.

Katie Cooper

NEWS: CONTACT US AT: NEWS@DOWNENDVOICE.CO.UK



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

OCTOBER DISCOUNTS

Cut out this advert and bring instore to receive a special discount off of your flooring



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



Volunteers create community orchard

A GREEN space near a primary school is being made even more nature-friendly by a team of volunteers.

The Friends of Blackhorse Meadows are working with Hambrook-based environmental organisation One Planet Matters to create a community orchard and 'pollinator pathway' to encourage insects at the South Gloucestershire Council-owned site near Blackhorse Primary School.

One Planet Matters director Kevin Thomas said: "The site has had little land management over the last few years but has a range of different habitats, all of which need managing and developing in a way that creates opportunities for both wildlife and the community to be involved."

"In a few years it will provide lots of wonderful fresh fruit for community members to come and help themselves to!"

The area has now been added to the Pollinator Pathway Project, run by an Avon Wildlife

Trust and funded by WECA.

Avon Wildlife Trust nature recovery officer Ben Stainton said: "The Pollinator Pathways project set out to restore and create pollen-rich habitats to support species at risk, and empower communities to develop and maintain the pathway in their area."

He said the aim is to create "strategic corridors" connecting areas with the best opportunities for restoring wildflower-rich habitat across the country.

Ben said: "Blackhorse Meadows is one such area. It offers an opportunity to enhance habitat on a site that will be managed for nature, while also providing a haven for local people to engage with and appreciate nature."

As part of the project, Avon Wildlife, One Planet Matters and the Friends of Blackhorse Meadows held a session in September preparing the ground to sow thousands of wildflower seeds that will create a new more pollinator-friendly habitat.



Volunteers prepared the ground and sowed wildflowers during a Pollinator Pathway Day at Blackhorse Meadows in September.

Picture: Kevin Thomas

One Planet Matters works to help communities improve the environment by creating their own orchards, nature reserves and well-being gardens.

Kevin said: "There are many opportunities to volunteer at this wonderful location and over the next few months there will be opportunities to learn about

pruning, coppicing, woodland clearing and dead hedge creation.

"If you live locally, why not come along to one of our upcoming activity sessions?"

For more details visit oneplanetmatters.com or the Friends of Blackhorse Meadows Facebook page.

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

Sales? Call Gary on 07799 461 169



**M.A.
HEMMINGS
BUILDER**

- New Builds
- Extensions and Renovations
- Loft Conversions
- Ornamental and Natural Stonework
- Patios and Driveways
- Fencing and Decking



SCAN ME



Message or call on **07725 762742**

Mike Hemmings

Established builder working in the building industry for **over 30 years**

Bristol & Surrounding Areas




'Tourism tax' will be invested here

IT has certainly been a busy month since I last wrote my column.

In September, the Government announced an overnight visitor levy which, alongside other regional mayors, I will be looking at implementing.

We are used to paying a visitor levy - or 'tourism tax' - when we go on holiday to other countries. Now is the time to look at making sure we can invest more in what matters through a small charge on overnight stays here - with common-sense exemptions where we need them.

Alongside the plans for more income tax raised here to be spent here, this is an exciting time for the whole region, as we move to generating more funding ourselves than ever before.

New, improved and upcoming attractions like the Bristol Zoo Project and Aviva Arena can, with continued backing, be joined by more top-quality sites like the Birnbeck Pier in Weston-super-Mare and Bath Fashion Museum.

We know that local people also want to see further improvements to our transport network, particularly our buses.

More late-night services would help more people enjoy what our region has to offer - and enable workers to get home more easily - and

so would some more funding for public spaces, including in central Bath and Bristol, alongside new support for the sectors that support tourism.

We are grabbing the chance to take more control of our future with both hands.

These extra sources of income for our region will enable me to invest more in what matters most to us, and help turbo-charge the West Country's future.

Of course, one of the reasons the West of England has such a thriving visitor economy is huge numbers of people wanting to get up close and personal with some of the locations for TV and film's biggest productions. From Bridgerton to Wonka, our region is now the third largest in the UK for TV and film production.

That's why last month I announced Greenlight West: a new £4.5 million production fund designed to increase the quantity, range and scale of film and TV productions made in the region.

Greenlight West is not only forecast to generate an estimated £20.7m in production spend in our region, but it will also support or create more than 230 jobs.

Creating more jobs in our region, across all sectors, is a critical part of our Growth Strategy,



Metro Mayor Helen Godwin
writes for the Voice

which we launched one year ago.

We still have a long way to go, but with more investment, including from the Mayoral Combined Authority, in the new entrance at Bristol Temple Meads, the opening of Bristol Brabazon this autumn, the designation of Brabazon and the West Innovation Arc as our first Mayoral Development Zone, we really are going full steam ahead.

I said it had been a busy month, but we are not slowing down. The next few months should be just as exciting for the West Country, as we continue to deliver changes you can see and feel where you live.



Quarry House
FISHPONDS

We Care Like Family

- ✓ *In-house physiotherapy team*
- ✓ *Regular décor upgrades*
- ✓ *Automated care plans*
- ✓ *Personalised medications*
- ✓ *Adapted wheelchair car*
- ✓ *Idyllic gardens & grounds*
- ✓ *Amazing activities plan*



Come and see us: 0117 9654466

A name on the memorial, remembered

ANYONE who lives in Downend will be familiar with the Boy Scout Memorial which stands outside Sainsbury's.

It commemorates six young men of the local scout group, and their leader Rev Alexander, who all lost their lives in the First World War.

However, there were many more local men who made the ultimate sacrifice. If you look above the door of the porch at Christ Church, you will see a large memorial plaque in their memory – 164 names in all.

One of these young men was Frederick James Coates. Born on June 3, 1891, he lived in Winterbourne in his early years.

His mother Paulina died when Freddie was just six years old, and his sisters Beatrice and Flossie were ten and eight. Their father Edwin died a few years later, in 1904. It is difficult to imagine how the young family coped with these hardships.

Freddie attended Winterbourne School and left



Frederick Coates was awarded the 1914-15 Star and two other medals for his service

aged 15, in 1907, to join the Royal Navy.

His family's financial situation may well have been the prime driver in Freddie's decision. In the Navy he had board and lodging and a regular wage, so he could

send money home to his family.

At this time boys as young as 14 could join up, but could not enter combat until they were 18.

We don't have a picture of Freddie, but naval records describe him at age 18 as 5ft 6in tall, with dark brown hair and light blue eyes. He had a tattoo on his left forearm.

Freddie did not marry or have children.

His naval career was varied, aboard many ships including HMS Impregnable, Vivid, Bellerophon and Cornwallis. He served at the Battle of Jutland during his time on HMS Marshall, from 1915 to 1916.

Freddie's final ship was a torpedo-boat destroyer named HMS Foyle, tasked with escorting convoys and hunting down the U-boats that mined British waters and attacked merchant vessels.

On March 15, 1917, HMS Foyle struck a contact mine laid by German submarine UC-68, approximately 12 miles southeast of Plymouth breakwater.

The explosion blew the ship's bows off, resulting in the loss of 27 of the 70 crew, including Freddie.

His body was not recovered.

Freddie's sister, Florence, was his next of kin and lived on Badminton Road in Downend.

Freddie is also commemorated on the war memorial at Page Park and on the Plymouth Naval Memorial.

He was awarded three medals for his service: the 1914-15 Star, the British War Medal and the Victory Medal.

Able Seaman Frederick James Coates, service number 23829: a young man who, like thousands of others, made the ultimate sacrifice for his country. Remembered with honour.

• For more details about Downend Community History and Arts Project (CHAP), visit www.downendchap.org or write to CHAP, 49 Overhill Road, Downend, Bristol, BS16 5DS.

Jenny Alcock

ALL ROOFING & BUILDING SERVICES S.W. LTD LOCAL FAMILY RUN ROOFING COMPANY

As a roofing company, we prioritise providing excellent service at competitive prices. We specialise in renewing old roofs using torch-on felt, rubber or GRP fibreglass roofing. Operating across your local area, handling projects from small residential homes to commercial properties.



The Best In The Business! | No Job Too Big Or Too Small



New Roofs



Emergency Repairs



Guttering

At All Roofing & Building Services S.W. Ltd, we prioritise customer satisfaction, which leads to most of our work coming from referrals. All projects include a full guarantee and are fully insured, with a 14 day cooling off period for cancellations in writing. We take pride in every job, regardless of size, to meet our customers needs. **We cover all roofing & building services.**

OUR SERVICES

- ✓ Pointing - Ridges and Gable Ends
- ✓ UPVC Guttering
- ✓ Re Roofs
- ✓ Moss Removal
- ✓ Lead Flashing Repairs
- ✓ Domestic & Commercial

& much more

- ✓ UPVC Dry Verge / Ridge
- ✓ Tiling & Slating
- ✓ New Roofs
- ✓ Facias & Soffits
- ✓ Gutter Cleaning
- ✓ Ridge Tiles
- ✓ Chimney Repairs

**SCAN ME
TO VISIT OUR
WEBSITE**



**0117 322 4981
07337 437940**



www.allroofingandbuildingservices.co.uk



info@allroofingandbuildingservices.co.uk

G25 INSTALLER OF THE YEAR!

WINNERS!



THE WINDOW HUB.CO.UK

G25
AWARDS
WINNER

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



Get in-touch today for a FREE no obligation quotation

Come visit our showroom

 **0117 3134 862**

 **72-74 High Street,
Staple Hill,
Bristol BS16 5HN**



 **info@thewindowhub.co.uk**

 **www.thewindowhub.co.uk**

600 watch FA Cup replay

A HECTIC four weeks for Mangotsfield United saw the side take Southern League Premier South side Gloucester City to an FA Cup replay and chalk up three league wins.

The Mangos also won through two preliminary rounds to make the First Round proper of the FA Vase.

A 2-0 home league win against struggling near-neighbours Hallen saw Curtis Jay Jemmett-Hutson score in each half, having opened his account three days earlier at Kintbury Rangers in the FA Vase.

Four days later Thatcham Town were the visitors to Cosham Street in the FA Cup Preliminary Round.

The Combined Counties Football League side were held up in traffic on the journey along the M4 from Berkshire, and it may have affected them as they went down 3-0.

Owen Pritchard netted the first goal on 6 minutes and Harlee Vozza made it 2-0 before the break. Thatcham kept plugging away but to no avail: a late goal by Owen Pritchard sent Mangotsfield supporters home buzzing.

On August Bank Holiday Saturday the Mangos beat Hereford outfit Westfields 4-1

in the league. The score was 1-1 at the break, but a strong second-half display and some clinical finishing ensured the points stayed at Cosham Street, even though Westfields looked a very useful side. Mangotsfield's goals came from Vozza, Pritchard, Mohammed Djalo and debutant Ricardo Thompson.

Two days later, a penalty scored by James Corey Horrocks with just 10 minutes left was enough to win a hard encounter at Malmesbury Victoria, 1-0.

The following Saturday the Mangos travelled to Gloucester City as complete underdogs in the FA Cup First Qualifying Round.

They came away with a 1-1 draw after a valiant performance, with keeper Ellis Parker playing an absolute blinder all game. The hosts led 1-0 at the break, but Horrocks' leveller on 53 minutes ensured the Mangos battled out a deserved draw.

The replay three days later at Cosham Street was played in front of an amazing 601 spectators.

This time the result reflected the visitors' higher status: the Tigers tore into the Mangos right from the start and led 3-0 at the break, adding a further goal after half-time.

However, the Mangos players deserved every bit of praise going for taking a side two levels higher to a replay.

Mangotsfield were back on song on September 12 with a 3-0 FA Vase win at

Combined Counties League club Eversley & California - a side they had never played before.

On a difficult pitch, Archie Morris (37), Francis McKay (75) & Ricardo Thompson (90) got the goals.

Three days later, the Mangos entertained Hellenic League leaders Corsham Town and bagged a deserved 2-2 draw.

Morris put the hosts ahead on 4 minutes, but Corsham regrouped and levelled through Mangos old boy Kye Simpson (26). A superb free kick then put the visitors in front and it seemed the Mangos were going to fall short, as Corsham were not giving an inch.

However, a 40-yard free kick from George Fowler on 87 minutes sailed over everyone's heads, including the Corsham keeper's, to give the Mangos an unexpected but deserved point.

Dave Smale

Upcoming fixtures:

September 26: Roman Glass St George (away)
October 3: Thornbury Town (home)
October 10: Fleetlands (FA Vase - H)
October 13: Hallen (A)
October 17: Cirencester Town (H)
October 24: Tuffley Rovers (A)
October 31: Bradford Town (A)

Flyers beat fly-tippers to start season

DOWNEND Flyers are excited to have kicked off the football season on a high.

All of our home games went ahead as scheduled, despite uncertainty in the lead-up to the season after Johnsons Road was heavily fly-tipped just a week before kick-off.

After a challenging few weeks, it has been fantastic to see our players back where they belong — on the football pitch — and what outstanding football has been played across the club!

One of the highlights has been watching our brand-new Under-18s team take to the pitch for the first time.

Facing stern opposition from a travelling Evesham side, our players showed tremendous ability, determination and composure. It was a hugely proud moment for Downend Flyers to see our first-ever U18 team competing at such a high level.

With the talent within this group, the club has high hopes for their future, and it is exciting to think that we could be watching the foundations of our



Downend Flyers first team

future women's first team.

At the other end of the age spectrum, the FA's introduction of 3v3 football for the youngest age groups has been a huge success. Smaller-sided games give young players significantly more involvement, more touches of the ball and more opportunities to make decisions for themselves. With fewer players on the pitch, there is nowhere to hide

— encouraging confidence, creativity, movement, passing, communication and problem-solving. Most importantly, it keeps young players actively involved and having fun.

There is a fantastic standard of adult female football being played across Downend Flyers, with our women's First Team, Reserve Team, A Team and Under-18s all providing brilliant opportunities for players to

develop and compete.

Join us at Pomphrey Hill or Johnsons Road for our home fixtures and support some fantastic female football - bring the family, bring your friends and be part of something special.

The football doesn't have to end at the final whistle. We love heading to the Pomphrey Hill Sports Bar afterwards for a drink, a debrief and, naturally, a detailed discussion about the tactics — because everyone is an expert after 90 minutes!

Whether you're a lifelong football fan or simply want to support girls and women in sport, come along and see what Downend Flyers FC is all about.

Female football is thriving — and we are incredibly proud to be part of it.

Steve Poole

Home fixtures:

October 11: 1sts v Bishop's Cleeve
A's v Berkeley
October 18: 1sts v Mangotsfield
October 25: Reserves v Newent

How padel has given me a new lease of life

I've just come off the padel court after another cracking game with Dele, one of our chiropractors, Angie from reception and sports therapist Emily. We have created a Cleve Chiro team!

Unfortunately, Emily and I lost both sets. The second went all the way to six games each before we narrowly lost the tie-break. Despite the result, it was probably some of the best padel we have played.

That may not sound particularly impressive, but six months ago we were all pretty rubbish. We have gradually improved, the rallies have become longer and the games far more competitive. More importantly, we have had enormous fun doing it.

We laughed so loudly at times that I wondered whether we were annoying the people on the other courts but, whenever I looked around, everyone seemed to be smiling and enjoying themselves too. You can be fiercely competitive one moment and helpless with laughter the next – well at least the way we do it!

For anyone unfamiliar with padel, it is a racket sport somewhere between tennis and squash, usually played as doubles on an enclosed court, with the walls forming part of the game. It is sociable and surprisingly addictive – a great new kid on the sporting block.

Rediscovering the joy of sport

When I returned to regular exercise at 40, running became my main activity. Over the past year, I have also introduced more strength training. Both have been beneficial, but padel has added something different: the excitement of playing a competitive sport again.

You become so absorbed in chasing the ball, anticipating the next shot and trying to outmanoeuvre your opponents that you almost forget you are exercising. There is friendly rivalry and the satisfaction of noticing yourself improve. It really has given me a new lease of life.

For me, the combination works brilliantly: weights for strength, running for aerobic fitness and a game that challenges my average coordination and reactions while giving me something to look forward to. Exercise feels much easier to fit in when you actually want to do it.

Padel and the Four Pillars of Health

Padel also connects with the Four Pillars of Health we always endeavour to focus on at Cleve Chiropractic.

Movement is the obvious one. There is plenty of running, reaching and changing direction. Alongside my gym sessions and running, it adds variety to my week.

Nutrition means thinking about fuel and hydration. Turning up thirsty or having skipped lunch is hardly ideal preparation for chasing Dele's shots around the court.

Sleep is our opportunity to rest and recover. Booking another match is also a useful reminder to leave time for recovery between busy days.

Mindset is where padel has made the biggest difference for me. For that hour, I am thinking

exclusively about the ball, my playing partner and the next point. Work takes a back seat and I've discovered that looking after yourself can involve laughing with friends until your sides hurt.

Looking after yourself on court

Of course, enthusiasm can get ahead of preparation. Repeated hitting and sudden changes of direction can put demands on elbows, shoulders, backs and legs, especially when you are new to the game.

It's important to give yourself time to warm up, build playing time gradually and wear footwear suited to court movement. Keep some strength work in your routine and allow recovery between matches. If pain persists or changes how you move, make sure you get it assessed. At Cleve Chiro, we are well known as injury specialists but now we can add another sports discipline to our armoury. So don't hesitate to get in touch if you have hurt yourself and need some specialised treatment and advice.

I still enjoy running and weight training, but padel has reminded me how much I missed playing alongside other like-minded people. The score matters in the moment; afterwards, it is the laughter and the company that stay with you. Emily and I may have lost this time, but we are improving. We'll be back for the rematch, probably just as loudly.



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

20A COSSHAM STREET
MANGOTSFIELD, BS16 9EN
0117 9575388

“ The ultimate professionals, I would highly recommend
Kyle Sinkler ”

“ The sessions I had with Tim really helped prepare me for Saturday's game
Mike Tindall MBE ”

“ Seeing Catherine to work on my back and hip mobility regularly allows me to continue training
Les Ferdinand ”

Under-19s provide perfect end to season

CARSONS & Mangotsfield's Under-19s ended the club's competitive cricket season with a T20 Development Final win that neatly book-ended the summer after their early-season success.

Isaac Buckingham's poised 53, before retiring, not out, gave their 129-7 backbone and intent.

Tour Ponting's sharp 2-17 led a disciplined squeeze on Stoke Bishop's reply that held them to 107-6; the trophy was defended by a group playing with growing maturity and confidence.

For the first time in six years, there were no promotions for the club's weekend sides.

The 1st XI reached the final game very much in the hunt, only for the day to be washed out before they could lay a glove on champions Frenchay.

They finished in fifth place, ten points shy of promotion, after a debut Division 3 campaign that looked assured throughout, with Kieran Gallagher making 529 runs and Jack Woodland 30 wickets.

The 2nd XI are lodged in a



The victorious u19s team

bottleneck in Division 7, where only one side goes up, finishing third despite cricket that deserved more.

Harry Ravenscroft's 431 runs and Ben Child's 28 wickets formed the spine of a side that refused to drift.

The 3rd XI is in a rebuild,

which in club cricket usually translates to "half the team nearly has GCSEs".

Relegation sends them to Division 9, but their purpose remains clear as a proving ground for youth. Mike Norris topped the run charts with 245, while Liam Nichols' 14 wickets

led a bowling group learning quickly.

The 4th XI wrapped up early, finishing mid-table after a season of social, developmental and surprisingly competitive cricket. Tom Carter's 227 runs and Ben Harvey's 15 wickets were the standout contributions.

The Sunday XI's finale was also rained off, and they finished a respectable fourth. George Farmer made 482 runs and Jack Woodland 21 wickets.

So no weekend promotions but a senior T20 league win and junior silverware reminding everyone that the club's momentum didn't stop, it simply shifted.

Cricket seasons aren't judged solely by tables, but by the tales they leave behind. Carsons & Mangotsfield have written a good one in 2026.

To get involved contact *info.carsonsandmangotsfield@gmail.com* or connect with us on our socials.

Jake Lane

'Fantastic year' for Downend cricket

IT has been a fantastic year for Downend Cricket Club.

The 1st XI just missed out on promotion, finishing third in West of England Premier League Division 2, winning 11 out of 18 games and fighting at the top of the table until the end.

Callum Loud top-scored with 1,180 runs, Jordan Garrett hit 850 and Masoor Khan 832, while Ross Robbins took 30 wickets, Maz Khan 24 and Matt Jackson 21.

The 2nd XI experienced a

challenging but hugely valuable first ever season in WEPL 3.

We knew the step up in standard would be a tough one. Unfortunately, a number of injuries, alongside several players moving away from the area, weakened the squad. The team played some really good cricket, with some excellent highlights, including memorable wins over Knowle 1st XI and Bath 2nd XI. They came agonisingly close in five or six key games, but will be back

in the B&D Senior League next season.

Downend 3rd XI had a good season. After a poor start, they put a good run of results together to finish fifth.

Standout performers included Temoor Naeem, with 27 wickets and 215 runs, and Rehan Shahid, who took on the responsibility of the new ball every week and bowled consistently throughout.

They look to kick on and hopefully gain promotion next

season.

After several years without one the club was delighted to field a 4th team again - a great reflection of the growth of our junior section.

Our Ladies were Softball T20 South champions, thanks to some incredible team performances and outstanding individual displays.

The team represented the club brilliantly all season and fully deserve their success.

Miles Davis

ADVERTISE HERE

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS
From just £22.50 + VAT per month



sales@downendvoice.co.uk

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

Est. 2004
The Aerial Co.
• 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

Call Nick on 07970 529787
Email: theaerialco@yahoo.com

LOCAL SERVICES

AERIALS



Andy's Aerials

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

Call Andy on:

07500 702566

BURGLAR ALARMS AND SECURITY



MARK EVANS ALARMS

- BURGLAR ALARMS, REPAIRS
- MAINTENANCE SERVICE & INSTALLATION
- WE SERVICE ALL MAKES OF ALARMS FROM AN UPGRADE AND SERVICE TO NEW ALARM SYSTEMS
- ALARM SERVICES FROM £55

FIND OUR REVIEWS ON THE WHICH TRUSTED TRADERS WEBSITE



TEL: **0117 956 0695** MOB **07770 233 475**

EMAIL ENQUIRIES@MARKEVANSELECTRICAL.CO.UK WWW.MARKEVANSELECTRICAL.CO.UK

ACUPUNCTURE

ACUPUNCTURE

Gisela Norman, a highly experienced acupuncturist of 30 years

Gisela treats a wide range of conditions from physical complaints, including infertility to emotional and stress related problems.

Call her to discuss your health issue on:

07968 855 001

or make an appointment direct at the

Willow Surgery, Hill House Road, Downend on: 0117 970 9505

A Member of British Acupuncture Council and Lecturer

BATHROOMS & KITCHENS

OAKLEY BATHROOMS



Bathroom Design & Installation



rob@oakleybathrooms.co.uk

07725529559

www.oakleybathrooms.co.uk

CARPET CLEANING

Team Carpet
Clean Bristol

07400 764500

Cleaning Carpets, Sofas
& Hard Floors too

Over 300 5★ Google
Reviews

APPLIANCE REPAIRS

[pandaelectricservices](http://pandaelectricservices.co.uk)

**SPECIALISTS
IN VACUUM
CLEANER
REPAIRS &
FOOD WASTE
DISPOSAL
UNITS**



GET IN TOUCH

CALL ANDREW ON 07860 241181

Pandaelectricservices.co.uk
5 Buckingham Place, Downend, BS16 5TN

BATHROOMS & PLUMBING

A PHILLIPS Plumbing & Bathroom Installations

We undertake all aspects of plumbing and specialise in complete bathroom installations, which include tiling, electrical, plastering & carpentry works. We are a local, reliable, family company.

Please contact Andy on 07966 485627



A Phillips Plumbing

Also available via
WhatsApp & Text.

Facebook:

A PHILLIPS PLUMBING

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

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



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



All types of domestic electrical work undertaken,
from changing a light fitting to full rewires.

For an efficient, friendly, reliable, local electrical service...

call **Oliver** on 07747866436 or 01179602974



FREE Quotations

www.atomelectrical.co.uk

info@atomelectrical.co.uk

LOCAL SERVICES

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




GARDEN & WASTE SERVICES

Harvey's Waste & Garden Services

We load and clear unwanted waste ... cheap and fast. House clearances to single items. Garages & sheds cleared.

PLUS

Tree trimming, fencing, hedge and grass cutting

07956 548756

NO JOB TOO BIG OR SMALL

harveyswgs@outlook.com any time to book

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 2872392

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





FENCING



DOWNEND FENCING

(ERECTING SERVICE)

45 years experience - All types of fencing, repairs, clearance etc.

NO JOB TOO SMALL

TEL: 0797 3381663

GARAGE DOORS

EGD Bristol

All Types of Garage Doors

- Third generation Family Business
- World Class Customer Service
- Independent Specialists
- Free Surveys & Advice
- 10 Year Finish & "Safe & Reliable Function" Warranty
- Downend Based



Call Charlie on 07375 883596 or email charlie@egdbristol.com
EGDBristol.com

ELECTRICIANS

Elderwood Electrical

Electrical Installation, Maintenance and Testing

Free Quotes

Inspection and Testing

Landlord Certificates

New builds and Extensions

Extra Sockets and Lights

Fire Alarms, Smoke Detectors

www.ElderwoodElectrical.com

Office - 0117 9322379

Mobile - 07725 058581



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



GUTTER SERVICES

P.J.R. Plastics



Do your gutters need . . .

Unblocking?

Cleaning?

Repairs?

Call **Paul**
01454 850201 or
07980 001109

GARDEN MAINTENANCE



SOUTHGATE

WEALTH MANAGEMENT

- Business advice
- Retirement planning
- Protection
- Investment planning
- Later life planning

07863 164159

www.southgatewm.co.uk

SJP approved 27/04/2026

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



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

LOCAL SERVICES

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

PAINTING, FENCING & GUTTERS

DECORITE

Established 1985

- PAINTING & DECORATING
- GUTTER CLEANING & REPLACING
- FENCING REPAIRS & REPLACING

Contact **Bob** for more information
t: 07814 397 934 e: extracoats@hotmail.com

PLASTERING



Domestic & Commercial
35 years experience
Clean & reliable
Fully insured

Call Clayton 07968143696

KITCHEN SPECIALISTS

M J CRAWFORD

**CARPENTRY & KITCHEN
FITTING LTD**

Your local carpenter who carries out
all types of carpentry work.

- Kitchens • Bathrooms
- Doors • Skirting • Flooring
- Decking • Pvc cladding

Call Matt on 07909 928413
or 01179 864304 for a free quote

E: mjcrawfordcarpentrykitchen@yahoo.com
W: www.mjcrawfordcarpentry.co.uk

PAINTING & DECORATING

J L Painting & Decorating

Jason Lee
Qualified Painter & Decorator

No Job too small
Free No obligation quote
Telephone:

**07474573780
0117 2792264**

e: jl.painting.decorating@outlook.com

PLASTERING

SC PLASTERING



- Pebbledashing specialist
- Waterproof rendering
- Thin coat render systems
- Internal plastering
- No job too small
- 35 years experience
- Fully insured

Call Steve 07792844225 or 0117 9677414

OVEN CLEANING

We Clean Ovens

...so you don't have to

"Dave did a wonderful job today - not only does he leave everything looking like new, but he works quietly and efficiently and leaves things tidy - a real professional. Worth every penny!"

oven  Call Dave on
oven valeting service 0117 2872467

oven.co.uk/oven_cleaning/bristol-east

PAINTING & DECORATING

SJM DECORATING

Professional Decorating
Local Qualified tradesmen
Internal & External Decorating
Fast, reliable & friendly service
Fully insured

Free Quotations

Call Scott 07515 523 623

0117 3824411

www.sjmdecorating.freeindex.co.uk

PLUMBING

JJ Gow Plumbing

(Est 40 years)

- Bathroom • Showers
- Kitchens

Full bathrooms installations

No job too small - No VAT

Locally based

T: 07961 346752

E: jjgowplumbing@yahoo.co.uk

PAINTING & DECORATING



Renovation ■ Painter ■ Tiler ■ Decorator

- Interior & Exterior Masonry ■ Tiling
- Interior & Facade Painting
- No Job Too Small ■ Free Quote
- 17 Years Experience

T: 0117 382 7716 / 07557 335 956

E: dacriscobuilder9@gmail.com



PAINTING & DECORATING

STEVE PAINTER DECORATING SERVICES

Third generation family business
offering professional exterior and interior
painting and decorating services locally.

- ✱ Traditionally trained
- ✱ Quality workmanship
- ✱ Paperhanging specialist
- ✱ Friendly and reliable
- ✱ Competitively priced

Call Steve Painter on:

01179 565 190 / 07853 250 035

PLUMBING & HEATING

CREST HEATING & PLUMBING



**BOILERS, BATHROOMS AND
GENERAL PLUMBING**

OVER 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE
HONEST & RELIABLE

TEL: 07765 250816



LOCAL SERVICES

PLUMBING & HEATING



AHS
Anderson Heating Services

07878249260
phil@andersonheatingervices.co.uk

safe
429179

PLUMBING & HEATING



Cherry Plumbing & Heating Services
Over 20 yrs experience

EST 2004

Boiler Breakdown
Service & Installation
Engineer

All makes and models worked on

**Call Darren on
07787 956651**

safe
429179

TREE SURGEONS



CMC Tree Services

Tree Removal • Pruning
Hedge Trimming • Planting

NPTC Qualified & Fully Insured

Telephone: 07543 241644
Email: info.cmctreeservices@gmail.com

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

Chambers Plumbing

Plumbing and Heating Engineer with over 30 years experience

- Heat Pump problem solving
- Boiler installation and servicing
- Central heating maintenance and efficiency improvements • Unvented cylinders
- Shower repair specialist
- Friendly locally based plumber • No VAT

Call Lee on 07968 231 485
or via email leeplumbers@gmail.com

safe
429179

WASTE DISPOSAL

**RUBBISH
CLEARED**

Registered upper tier waste carrier licence no CBDU225074

We load and clear rubbish/junk from houses
Flats, Sheds, Attics, Gardens etc etc
No job too small - we even clear single items
Cheaper than a skip and we load no VAT

Contact Stuart or Sue
Freephone 0800 0234 995
Mobile 07770944727
anytime inc. weekends

PLUMBING

**LOCAL
PLUMBER**

- * TAPS, WASHERS
- * BALL VALVES
- * LEAKS, WASTES
- * OVERFLOWS, DRIPS
- * LEAD PIPES
- * TOILETS, FLUSHES

NO VAT  **CALL GARY**

(0117)
9564912

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

ROOFING

**N. BROWN
ROOFING LIMITED**

SLATING • TILING • REPAIRS
GUTTERS • FASCIAS

FREE NO OBLIGATION QUOTES

Give Nigel a call he's local and has a
wealth of experience

07779 786072

TREE SURGEONS

**J.A. Cole & Sons
Tree Surgeons**

- Tree Surgery • Hedge & Shrub work
- Precision Felling • Size Reduction
- Fully insured
- Domestic & Commercial

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERT
SERVICE - 40 YEARS
EXPERIENCE OF TREE WORK**
Free Quotations & Advice

0117 9567298
07768 973291
www.bristol-tree-surgeons.co.uk



WINDOW & DOOR SOLUTIONS

**TREADWELL
WINDOW & DOOR
SOLUTIONS LTD**

www.treadwellwindows.co.uk



Local business based in Downend

- We replace & install Windows, Doors, Bi-Folding doors, Conservatories + much more
- uPVC, Aluminium and Timber Windows & Doors
- Service & repairs of all types of uPVC, misted double glazing, lock repairs & hinge replacements
- Internorm UK specialist for the South West

Call us today for a FREE no-obligation quotation

Windows • Doors • Conservatories

07786730804 ☎ 0117 279 9409

 sales@treadwellwindows.co.uk

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