

MINA MATTERS

BS2



Now is the time to find out what's going on

PUBLIC POLICE MEETING

Tuesday 5 July

7.30pm at Community Centre

Now is the time to find out what's going on and to ask all those questions and possibly get some answers about:

- Robbery
- Drug dealing
- Fear of crime
- CCTV. Do you want more or less?
- Parking. Considered resident parking permits? Main problem – Mina Road near tunnel
- Prostitution
- Anti-social behaviour
- Burglary
- Lighting. For example, Mina Road Park – does lighting need to be improved?

Steve Wyatt, our Police Beat Manager, will be at the Centre at 6pm on the day to see anyone who can't attend the meeting because of time.

Henry will chair the meeting so that everybody gets to speak, as well as be listened to.



MinaMatters really does need your help!

Can anybody offer:

- | | |
|------------------------|----------------------------|
| Typing | Editing |
| School reporter | Gossip around St Werburghs |
| Proof reading | Cartoons |
| Pictures | Photography |
| Articles | Telephone calls |
| Has broadband internet | Answer emails |

Avril is leaving the group and we need at least two or three replacements. Involvement can be as little as one hour every two months. Please support this newspaper because

.....
(fill in your own caption)!

Email or ring Henry 914 3311

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MM Editorial

Goodbye MM

This is my last *MinaMatters*. I remember writing the front page 'welcome' for the first issue, which came out in June 2002. "Our aim is to inform, act as a forum for local opinion, and to be the challenging and stimulating voice of St Werburghs", I said, after four of us had thrashed out aims and objectives. I believe we've succeeded in those aims over the past few years, thanks to a combination of brilliant community response; the vision, energy and commitment of diverse editorial teams; an excellent designer; and continued financial support from Neighbourhood Renewal.

My leaving means there's a gap on the paper for an editor, but also one for a photographer, as Richard, our long time photo man, takes a new job in Devon – thanks to him for lots of great pics and dry humour!

I'm still concerned that the newspaper thrives and develops, so please read the 'help wanted' ad. and get in touch. We originally started MM without knowing how to put a community newspaper together, made mistakes and learned as we went along, so don't feel you need any special skills to join in. Living in St Werburghs is enough for starters. Your local editorial team needs you – just get on board – the rest will happen!

Avril

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Disclaimer
The editors would like to state that views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the contributors not necessarily those of the SWNA editorial team.

Next Issue Copy Deadline:
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POLICE REPORT

from PC Steve Wyatt



During the course of my duties I get information about areas of drug dealing activity. This month officers have successfully conducted two search warrants at addresses which were being used for selling controlled drugs. It is now hoped that the disruption of illegal drug activity will improve the quality of life for local residents in the area.

Plain clothes officers have reported an incident where a male was disturbed in the early hours of the morning trying to gain access to an address in St Werburghs. The male was pursued by the officers, who were assisted by a police dog and the police helicopter. If you observe any suspicious activity, please call the police.

Finally, there is going to be a Community Police Meeting at the St Werburghs Community Centre on 5 July 2005. The main meeting will start at 7.30 pm and all are very welcome. I will be at the Centre from 6.00pm onwards for those who can't make it to the main meeting or want to speak to me alone. I have also arranged for Inspector Bennett (local Inspector for St Werburghs) to be present at the meeting. Look forward to seeing you.

Regards

PC Steve Wyatt

PC Steve Wyatt, Trinity Road Police Station Tel. 07919 538848 or email: steven.wyatt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

Alliance update

What is the Alliance again?

It is a collaboration between the St Werburghs Neighbourhood Association and St Werburghs Community Centre Association; along with the support of local groups working in St Werburghs.

Does it have a mission?

Yes. The reason for its formation is to fund a development worker. This person is to help the residents of St Werburghs to sort out the issues and concerns compiled from the Safer Streets/Built Environment consultations: things like prostitution, traffic, youth boredom and youth offenders.

Now what?

We have some money to pay a researcher to assist us in filling out a Lottery Application Document. Getting this application right will take a good four months from start because we are all volunteers with a busy work life as well, not to mention a social life!!

Interested residents can contact me, Henry Bassadone, on isshenry@hotmail.com

TRANSLATIONS

If English is not your first language and you need a translation, we can get one for you.

URDU

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو ترجمہ کی ضرورت ہے تو ہم آپ کے لئے فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

PUNJABI

ਜੇਕਰ ਇੰਗਲਿਸ਼ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਅਤੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਬਾਰਾ ਬੋਲਣ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਸਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

HINDI

यदि आंग्रेजी आप की पहली भाषा नहीं है और आप को अनुबाद की आवश्यकता है तो यह हम आप को प्रदान कर सकते हैं।

BENGALI

ইংরেজী আপনার মাতৃভাষা না হলে এবং আপনার কোন অনুবাদের প্রয়োজন হলে আমরা তা প্রদান করতে সক্ষম।

GUJARATI

જો તમારી પહેલી ભાષા અંગ્રેજી ન હોય અને તમને ભાષાંતરની જરૂર હોય તો અમે તમને તે આપી શકીએ છીએ.

POLISH

Jezeli angielski nie jest twoim podstawowym językiem i wymagasz interpretacji, skorzystaj z naszych usług.

VIETNAMESE

Nếu quý vi không thạo Anh văn và cần bản dịch, chúng tôi sẽ giúp quý vi một bản.

CANTONESE

如果英文不是您的第一語言，而您需要翻譯的話，我們可以為您安排。

ITALIAN

Se l'inglese non è la vostra prima lingua e vi occorre una traduzione, ve la possiamo fare noi.

SOMALI

Haddii Ingiriisku aanu ahayn afkaaga kowaad oo aad u baahan tahay turjumaad, annagaa kuu samayn karra.

Also available in braille and audio.
* Contact details opposite.

Plan B Theatre

We are writing to introduce ourselves to you. We are Plan B Theatre, a professional theatre company specialising in the development of new plays. We have become a member of St Werburghs Community Centre and will be running a regular youth theatre for young people aged 14 and upwards starting in September 2005 every Tuesday night at St Werburghs. Each term will culminate in a staged performance of the work developed over the course of the term and the year will end with a fully staged production. We will also be running a half term project in October 2005 from St Werburghs.

This is something that might fit in with the general idea of finding solutions to bored, local young people, teaching them new skills and engaging their interest.

There is no need for the participants to have any previous theatre experience just an interest in learning about how a play gets put together from an initial idea through to the staged performance, and in having fun and in working with professional theatre artists. Participants can also learn other skills such as directing, stage management, publicity, set and costume design if they are not interested in acting – so people shouldn't feel put off if they don't have a burning desire to be the next Kenneth Branagh or Judy Dench. The participants will also be the driving force in deciding what each play the group produces will be about, so they'll get plenty of say in what they are doing.

We'd be very interested in discussing things in more detail to see if it is a project that *MinaMatters* could help publicise and help recruit participants for.

If you are interested in further information about the company we have a website at www.planbtheatre.co.uk

Alison Kennedy
Artistic Director

Alison Reynolds
Producer

Megan Thomas
Producer



Why not come and help with conservation work on Narrowways Hill?

(pruning, clearing brambles, litter picking etc)

These are dates for 2005

20 August

15 October

Plus an extra day to be arranged for hay cutting

Meet at 10.30 a.m. on the top of the hill by the seat then work outside for an hour or two

phone Naomi: Tel. 0117 955 6890
or email: naomi.bristol@virgin.net



MANTRA YOGA & Mysticism weekend

with MUZ MURRAY

Saturday and Sunday 16–17 July 2005

10am – 5.30pm

Willow Arts Studio, Warminster Rd,
St. Werburghs, Bristol

A weekend to explore and experience the many benefits of mantra yoga with renowned mantra yogi Muz Murray.

For more information see Muz's website:
<http://www.mantra-yoga.com>

£65

*Car parking

*Full wheel chair access

*Vegetarian cafe and organic food store within walking distance

For bookings & information tel: 0117 330 1747
email: stef@yoganada.org

IN SHORT

Mary Seccole Court – again

Information from a local resident

Maybe I am behind the times here... but Mary Seccole Court has planning permission to become 24 new flats!

I found this looking at the Council Planning Applications (oh I am a sad person)... It was granted with conditions on 24 January 2005. It will be

4 x 3 bed flats = 12 people minimum

6 x 2 bed flats = 12 people

14 x 1 bed flats = 14 people

Seems like an awful lot to cram into that building...

UsBus – New Route

The UsBus begins its new route on Monday 9 May, which includes a school run that serves nine schools, a day time route that includes Barton Hill, Old Market, Broadmead and the Eastgate Centre and an afternoon and evening schedule that serves the Avonmead Retail Centre. Each journey costs 50p.

For more details or to apply for FREE membership please contact:
Karl Marsh (Development Officer) Tel: 0117 902 6310
email: mailto:development@bristolcommunitytransport.org.uk

Open Space 05

Review and pics by Matt Smith

The brilliant weather of Saturday 19 March saw the Malcolm X Community Centre positively overflowing with sun, fun and community vibes, as Open Space brought a smile to the faces of just about everyone who turned up and had a great time. It was the third event of its kind in as many years, originated and organised by members of the St Pauls Arts and Culture Group, to showcase local talent in the area, and to show the world that St Pauls is a great place to be.

This year the event was a two part affair with a free afternoon attracting nearly 800 people, who took part in a whole series of activities, from workshops in face painting and dancing, to wandering around stalls provided by local people and watching a whole series of top class local acts. Singers from the Studio Seven performance school, presented by local music teacher Kizzy Morrell, started the showcase, closely followed by some amazing African dance and drumming from Mankala. However, the highlight of the day had to be the Funk It Up Dance Crew, who positively ripped up the main stage to a huge and enthusiastic audience with their dance routines, combining martial arts moves with elements of hip hop and street dance, packing out the main hall with all ages from young to old.

The evening was more of a big people's dance on an urban tip with a twist. At just the cost of a fiver, the evening was introduced by an amazing circus comedy cabaret from the Albany Centre perform-



ers collective, drawing laughter and gasps of amazement all round. Local teenage scratch master turntablist, DJ Snafu, got things musical well and truly underway alongside Se Fire, veterans of last years Ashton Court Festival, closely followed by the Allstars, rap crew Afro Saxon and funk soul sensations Mosiamo. But for that big brass jazz finish, it has to be said that Smerins Anti Social Club just rocked the socks off the crowd, with more blow than most people could cope with, playing their own unique brand of party down bebop fun, which had the crowd in a frenzy, whooping for just one more....Watch this space for details of next year's memorable occasion to come...



THE ART GARDEN SCA Project 2005

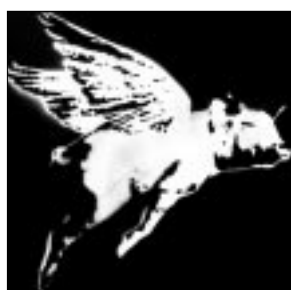
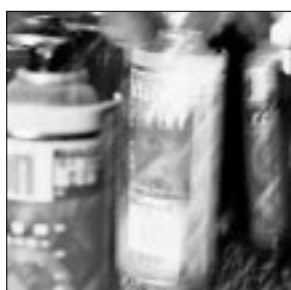
Octavia Morris on installation, innovation and surrealism at the Community Centre

The evening of Saturday 30 April saw an estimated 150 people making a pilgrimage to the sleepy streets of St.Werburghs for The Art Garden, a charity arts show organised by two Bristol University students to raise money for Sudan.

The atmosphere of the community centre was brought to life by a rich variety of paintings, photographs, graffiti art, projections and installations by both student and professional artists. The Art Garden brought these artists together in an unexpected location and succeeded in its aims of escaping the stiffness of gallery art and creating an event with a vibe that was open to everyone.

On a shoestring budget the exhibition was innovatively presented with artwork balanced on tyres, plants, scrap metal, easels and hung from chains, contributing to the quirky atmosphere of the evening. Black and white pix from underground culture, projected by local photographer Matthew Smith, were dubbed out by the MudHut DJs and a down tempo laptop set from Unforscene, whilst outside in the car park an intimate crowd gathered in the evening light to watch live art and graffiti by True [leanpeople], Chris Lucas and Ghostboy, surrealistically backed by an old Beatles tape crackling from a car radio.

The Art Garden raised £300 for Sudan which has been donated to Oxfam, who are working across the region providing aid for the 1.8m refugees who have been forced to flee their homes, many having seen their families abused, killed or raped. Julieta Cima and Octavia Morris, organisers of the Art Garden, are enormously grateful to all who came to support the event and who made this donation possible.



Tale of the Vale

by **Lori Streich**

When people living on the Farm side of the railway tunnel heard that SGB were selling up, and McAlpine had submitted a planning application to build on the scaffolding yard, they were concerned. The proposals were to build “40 bog standard little boxes” which would have greatly increased traffic in St Werburghs, and would have “imported a community” of people with no relationship to St Werbs. Residents wanted to see “a community building itself”. In true St Werburghs fashion, a campaign was born which successfully fought the original proposal. AVAG, the Ashley Vale Action Group, grew out of the loose affiliation of people who had influenced the planning proposal. In May 2000, it formed an organisation to purchase and redevelop the site.

Five years on, it has received a lot of publicity, locally, nationally with articles in the Guardian and the Telegraph, and in the specialist press. MM wanted to find out what’s been going on in Ashley Vale. We spoke with some of the AVAG Directors, some self-builders, and some of the people who have expressed their concerns about the development. Many strong and often opposing views were expressed. MM’s role is simply to bring into the open “The Tale of The Vale”.

The first consultation about Ashley Vale took place at the Farm Fair in June 2000, as a “Planning for Real” event, which created a picture of what was wanted. About 250 people took part, most of whom lived in St Werburghs. Those involved with running the consultation exercise were overwhelmed and uplifted by the enthusiasm shown for:

- Local rather than commercial development, with mix of housing and workspaces
- Different styles of building on the site, including self building, and taking environmental issues into account
- A low density of housing
- “Home Zoning”, and priority to pedestrians and cyclists over car drivers

The Planning for Real report states that the consultation confirmed AVAG’s intention to “create a sustainable development which will contribute vitality and tolerance to a small inner-city area, and which will reflect the qualities of that area.”

AVAG’s vision for the development had two main elements: affordability and sustainability. This is where the idea of self-



building comes from. House prices in St Werburghs had already reached about £150,000 by 2000; by self-building, the cost of buying and building could be kept down to below £100,000, enabling some people who were already committed to the area to put down roots which they could not otherwise afford to do. Mike Harvey, an AVAG director and long-term resident, told MM that self building goes further in building local communities: the commitment of each builder to their home and to the area in which it is located is immense. And one of the self builders described how hard it would be to move, because “we’ve put love and tears into every part of every component in the building”.

The interest in ecology and sustainability was partly a response to the initial consultation. Self-builder Jackson Moulding explained that there was also a view that “if you have the opportunity to build a house, you might as well make it sustainable over the life of the house.... sustainable measures add only a small proportion to the total cost of the house”.

Until the start of the development process, there was agreement. But as soon as AVAG started the process of raising the money to buy the site and became embroiled in the reality of its development, seeds of dissent were sown. There are several different versions of events from here on. One issue was the process

of allocating plots. AVAG developed criteria, including connections to St Werburghs, and the ability to raise the money to buy a plot and build a house. Some people now argue that this created a handpicked and self-selected group. One outcome of the development, which is a source of continued dissatisfaction for some, is that there is no longer a group of travellers living in vans at the end of Mina Road. AVAG directors told MM that they were always open to working with the local travellers, but they were unable to retain part of the site for them (as originally hoped), because it couldn’t be financed.

There were also concerns about the way AVAG ran itself as a community group. There was real vision, and even more idealism in the early AVAG. But there was little experience of running an organisation and an absence of attention to details. This has contributed to problems throughout the development. A recent article in a journal for regeneration practitioners described how “the early enthusiasm for a community-based scheme and the pace of decision making required to purchase the site overshadowed the need for a long term framework” and for thinking through the management and governance issues. Most of the people interviewed for this article agree that this has been the cause of many, if not most, of the problems which are being experienced today.

These issues concerned Dom Wood, an AVAG member and early Director, from an early stage. Some of the boring, if essential, issues were never worked out, and this led, in some cases with considerable bitterness, to members leaving and denouncing the scheme. AVAG members and self-builders are very clear now that they would have addressed all this differently. They would also have planned the site and written contracts differently. But, they say, hindsight can't be applied retrospectively, and in 2000 and 2001, AVAG had to get on with buying and building the site.

The self-build houses have generated real interest among architects and sustainable builders. And they have generated real controversy among some of the people living in the older houses at the end of Mina Road, who believe the new houses are too high, and this has resulted in a loss of privacy. They say that some of the houses were built to heights exceeding their planning permissions. MM discussed this with a senior Planning Officer at Bristol City Council, who said that each house was built according to the plans agreed by the local authority, following the consultation process required for any planning application. Self-builders told us that "nothing was hidden and there was always ample opportunity for discussions and debate and dialogue." But some of the residents in the existing houses feel that changes to the plans were not communicated effectively enough to members of the rest of the community.

There is agreement that the houses along Mina Road are too high. There should have been height stipulations and controls. Tighter design specifications would have improved the relationship of the scheme to its surroundings. Self-builders told MM that they would be willing to discuss constructive solutions, but that the criticisms have been personal, negative and destructive and that this has worked against everyone engaged in finding solutions.

AVAG members highlighted some other issues that should have been stipulated from the start, such as a district heating system on site, and solar hot water panels for all the houses. Initial contracts should also have required people who bought but didn't build to sell back to AVAG not on the open market, as happened with two of the plots after two group members experienced changes in their lives which meant they were unable to continue with the scheme.

This led to criticisms that self-builders are 'profiteering' from AVAG. It is true that the self-build houses would no longer be affordable if they were sold on the open market. This is part of a much bigger issue about house prices in St Werburghs. Local Estate Agents Ocean and Kendal Harper told MM that the Ashley Vale development is an attractive addition to an already popular area, which has added to "the desirability" of the immediate area. And while the self-build houses have increased in value, so has every other house in St Werburghs.

Jackson Moulding told MM that "the whole scheme only happened because local people were willing to put a great deal of time and effort into making it happen", and AVAG has been described as "almost unique in how it has proceeded without expert advice or public funding" (Keith Cowling). Everyone involved with AVAG will say they have made mistakes along the way, and perhaps attention now needs to be paid to resolving some of these issues, so that the positive aspects of the development, such as sustainable building and innovative design, are not masked by the grievances held by some residents in Ashley Vale.

As soon as SGB said they were selling the scaffolding yard, the area was going to change. It's up to each reader to decide whether they think the changes are better or worse for St Werburghs.



References:

- 1) Keith Cowling: article in *Regeneration and Renewal*: 25 March 2005
- 2) *Planning for real report: Ashley Vale Action Group: Building a Community; Consultation Report June 2001*
Available on AVAG Website
- 3) AVAG Web site: www.ashleyvale.org.uk

Ashley Vale Action Group and Ashley Vale Self Builders are two separate organisations

AVAG is a community group whose aim is “to take control of the re-development of a brown-field site in our neighbourhood”.

Ashley Vale Self-Builders is a Workers Co-op “committed to building sustainable, low impact, affordable, energy efficient houses in order to create a socially diverse, mutually supportive, integrated community”.

From the Mission Statements of AVAG and the Self-Build Co-op.

But what of the plans for rented housing on the site?

The ‘Central Plot’

AVAG wanted to develop a ‘mixed community’, including some rented housing, preferably for older people. Redland HA came into the picture early on, and bought six plots. But before they started on site, Redland HA experienced difficulties with the Housing Corporation, and then a change in management priorities that resulted in its being unable to develop the ‘central plot’ as originally intended.

As with so many other aspects of AVAG’s development, there are many different versions of the events which follow. There is agreement that there have been considerable delays with the development of the central plot, and that information has been miscommunicated all along the complex chain of relationships needed to make this part of the development happen. There is also agreement that Redland and Bristol City Council tried unsuccessfully to sell the plot on to other Housing Associations, so that it could be developed as housing for affordable rents. The plot is now owned by AVAG. At the time of writing, AVAG directors were working out the details about what to develop and how.

The Home Zone

The idea of developing ‘Home Zones’ in Ashley Vale came from the initial consultation in 2001. MM was told that there was a great deal of consultation about the Home Zone Plans, which involved all the residents in Ashley Vale. The changes to the layout of the streets have been paid for by



AVAG from money raised from the sale of land on the SGB site. *Home Zoning raises a number of issues, which MM will report on in the next issue.*

Office Block

Developing the office block as starter business units was another of the early plans that has not materialised. Mike Harvey told MM, “we were very innocent of the real world” of Fire and Building Regulations, and of the very poor condition of the building itself. AVAG commis-

sioned a feasibility study and discovered that the cost to renovate the whole building would be £1 million, and that it was impossible to combine the aspiration of charging affordable rents to small local businesses, and running a financially viable building.

AVAG members have many ideas about the development of the office building, including setting up a Housing Research and Resource Centre, some community space, and perhaps a small café.

See the next MM for more about this!

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT: What the Self-Builders have done about this

- Houses have been raised up by 800mm, on low masonry foundations to provide for drainage. This has avoided the need to break up the 150mm slab of concrete that covers the site. Breaking up the concrete would have meant noise, dust, energy waste and land-fill
- House construction is timber frame and almost all materials are the most environmentally sustainable possible, drawn from Category A of the Building Research Establishment's Green Guide.
- Thermal insulation standards are generally 100mm greater than building regulations require. Most of the self-builders have used insulation materials based on recycled paper.
- AVAG received a grant for the cost of photo-voltaic solar conveyors (solar panels), and this provides up to 23kWhs of electricity from the whole site.

(From Regeneration and Renewal, 25 March 2005)



AVAG has bought the land at the centre of the self-build site (on Mina Road) from Redland Housing Association in order to keep it within the local community. The aim is to build the six bungalows planned for that site.

For further information please contact Bethan c/o 228 Mina Road or on avag@ashleyvale.org.uk

Dissent

We had one resident who disagreed with some of what was written here but they didn't want to put their comments in this article nor did they wish to be named.

Thanks to Lori Streich who wrote this article – let's see more reports from *MinaMatters* readers



Central & East Bristol Community Health Care Centre

Public Involvement Group

**Your opportunity to influence plans and designs
for the proposed community health facility
in central/east Bristol.**

Monday 20 June	7pm	Community at Heart, Salisbury Street, Barton Hill
Monday 11 July	2pm	Rose Green Centre, Gordon Road, Whitehall
Monday 22 August	10am	St Werburghs Community Centre
Monday 12 September*	4pm	Old School Surgery, Manor Road, Fishponds
Monday 17 October	7pm	Community at Heart, Salisbury Street, Barton Hill
Monday 14 November	2pm	Muller Hall, Seymour Road, Easton
Monday 12 December	7pm	Venue TBC

All welcome – help us to plan your health centre

For more information contact Anna Masserick on 0117 900 2199
or Mark Woodcock 0117 900 2543.

** It would be helpful if you could let us know in advance whether you will be joining the group, but you are welcome to just turn up on the day; except on 12 September when we do need to know in advance who is coming. Please ring Anna (900 2199) if you plan to attend on 12 September.*

Brownie Holiday

During the Easter Holidays the Brownies who meet in the Community Centre went on Brownie Holiday to Frenchay Village Hall. Their theme was Old MacDonalds Farm, their adult helpers were named accordingly, and all the activities were related to this theme.

Each Brownie kept a diary and here are some extracts from Imani's:

Wednesday: *The doors opened and we went in. On our beds we had a list of things we needed to do. Then Scarecrow and Old MacDonald showed us where they belonged. At last it was bedtime. Some people went to bed and some people stayed up. Some people had to move!!*

Thursday: *Francine threw my teddy up onto a light. We had to tie three sweeping brushes together to get it down. We went out to feed the ducks and looked at different buildings. In the evening each six had to do a puppet show.*

Friday: *We all went out for a walk and did a quiz. All of our six got them right. In the evening we had a disco to music that we brought. All of us were dancing.*

Saturday: *We went and saw some horses and some of us stepped in mud... squelch!! squelch!! We all had to go outside and find pictures of animals. It was fun. Me and Francine also said our Brownie promise.*

Then it was over and we were all picked up and taken home.

A big thank you to our adults, Old MacDonald, Scarecrow, Badger, and Millie's Mum, our Cook.

Day of Dance at Blaise Castle

**Kerry Hall watched the
Brownies perform**

Sunday 8 May saw the 56th & 174th St Werburghs Brownies taking part in the Hobby Horse Club Children's Day of Dance at Blaise Castle Estate.

The dances, a mixture of ancient and modern, were performed in front of a large crowd who enjoyed the sun and the dancing. The Brownies were taught the routines by Rupert and Paddington and performed 12 dances, including the Devon Jig, The Grand Chain Square and the Boston Tea Party.

Fab Quotes

I try to take one day at a time... but sometimes several days attack me at once.
Jennifer Unlimited

If you can't be a good example... then you'll just have to be a horrible warning.
Catherine

St Werburghs Community Link with Palestine – Meeting 16 June

Quite a few St. Werburghs residents attended the lively fundraising benefit for Palestine, held at the St. Werburghs Community Centre this April. Over two hundred others signed a petition in support of a 'people-to-people' link with a Palestinian community and offered to do what they can to support a humanitarian project of some kind.

Six people, all members of the Bristol Palestine Solidarity Campaign who have visited Israel or Palestine recently, are happy to suggest possibilities for St. Werburghs residents to choose from.

Projects in urgent need of support include an orphanage in Tulkarem – desperately underfunded, where the children have very little in the way of play or educational facilities – and a youth project in a refugee camp in Nablus, run by international peace

activists and local people together.

In the end, though, it's up to St. Werburghs people collectively to choose what they think is most useful.

On Thursday 16 June, there will be a meeting at the St. Werburghs Community Centre (7.30-9.30 pm), where everyone is invited to decide who they would like to help – and how. People with recent experience of staying in the communities in Palestine are encouraged to bring their information, their pictures, and their concerns to discuss. We hope that out of this will come a definite plan to support a particular project (or projects).

Everyone in St. Werburghs is welcome. Tea and coffee provided. See you there?

Margaret Jones Tel. (0117) 946 6885

ST WERBURGH'S CITY FARM



What's new down on the farm?

St Werburghs City Farm Summer Fair

St Werburghs City Farm Summer Fair, the annual fundraiser for the farm is set to be a chilled, creative and fun-packed day with live music, good local organic food, street theatre, rural craft workshops and market stalls.

Extra bike parking was organised thanks to help from residents and Bicknell Holdings who have arranged with their tenants to lend us the garage space on Mina Rd. We are hoping that the journey to the Fair will inspire and enthuse people to visit St Werburghs by healthier means in the future.

This year, as ever, we've had loads of input from local people, businesses, schools and organisations – too many and too talented to mention. A big thank you to all those who've contributed to making the Fair not only possible but a really positive and enjoyable community event.

MinaMatters goes to print before we can advertise or review this day.

Summer Playscheme

For info and booking forms for our summer playscheme please contact Kate on 9428241 before Friday 24 June.

What's in a street name?

Asks Kerry Hall

Ever wondered why the road you live in is called what it is? Here are a few explanations of St Werburghs road names... is yours here?

Gatton Road: The place where goats are kept

Horley Road: Tongue of land formed by two streams

Sandbed Road: Possibly named after the local soil.

Mina Road: Named after a hero of the Peninsular War, General Francesco Esposito Mina, a leader against the French under Wellington.

Boiling Wells Lane: Taken from a hillside spring which fed the stream near Ashley House. The water was gaseous and it looked like it was being boiled.

Hopetoun Road: Named after John Henry Louis Hope, 7th Earl of Hopetoun and 1st Governor General of Australia.

Mary Carpenter Place: Named after the Bristol benefactress who devoted her life to helping and educating orphaned children.

Minto Road: Named after the 4th Earl of Minto. He was Governor General of Canada and Viceroy of India.

Interesting isn't it?

(From *Bristol Street Names and their Meanings* by Veronica Smith)

Fairfield Governing Body party to "rubber stamping"

Avril Page has been in touch with dissatisfied Fairfield Parent Governors

Parent Governor Kai Paulden has recently resigned as a parent-governor at Fairfield High School and given us permission to print his letter of resignation, saying in an e-mail: "As the Governing Body is supposed to be open to the community and transparent, I would be happy for my letter to be published in *MinaMatters*. Many governors and also non-governor parents chat about their concerns in private, but are mostly hesitant about dissenting publicly. My intentions have always been to improve the way Fairfield is run."

Attn:
All Governors of Fairfield High School
10th May 2005

I hereby notify you of my resignation from the Governing Body of Fairfield High School.

Despite much effort on my part to improve the way we did business, I feel that it is still the position of many governors, especially parent governors, that they are party to a rubber-stamping process, and not properly contributing to decisions.

The reason for my decision to resign is that I do not feel I can play a proper part in the process. I have always felt frustrated at the way the GB conducts its business, and do not feel that it is parent-friendly. I also feel that governors are out of touch with much of what goes on at the school, and not enough is done to encourage this to change.

In my opinion, far too much and too wide control is held by the school's Head. This can be seen as diligent and healthy interest in all that goes on; but it unhealthily pivots around an inner clique. It feels as though healthy dissent and questioning is not welcome, and not taken seriously when it occurs.

I was given an inadequate induction and no formal mentoring; I often had too little time to read up on topics to be discussed due to material coming to me close to meeting times. Hence decisions were made as a group that, too often, I did not feel the group was ready for. Regulations, it seemed, were often observed only if it suited the 'Executive'.

I feel that there is an unhealthy reliance on the Head. When too much power rests with one person it can be a recipe for serious collapse of democratic processes.

If any governor would like to discuss any of the above with me, you can reach me on: 0117 939 1800, or mobile: 07775 530556, or via email: kaipaulden@hotmail.com

Yours sincerely

Kai Paulden
Parent

In addition, ex-Fairfield Parent Governor, Nick James, e-mailed us in support of Kai's action and expressed his concern that something constructive comes from speaking out publicly:

"You can add me to the list of disgruntled ex-Fairfield governors if you like, though I'm not sure what we can do...I have found that quite a lot of people have bad times as governors, so although Fairfield is very annoying, maybe it's not unusual."

LETTERS

Dear MinaMatters (see following letter)

How about a campaign to have a dedicated school bus? Maybe some enterprising person, or the UsBus, could be persuaded to run a school bus. There must be 20 schoolchildren going to Whitefield from this area... that's £180 a week (I think), surely that would be worth someone's time and a vehicle. What do you think?

Carrie Hitchcock

Traffic Commissioner,
Complaints Department
Bristol BS1 6EH

3 May 2005

I would like to lodge a complaint concerning the fact that First Bus was unable to get my daughter to school on time for the whole of last week, and failed to provide a realistic explanation.

It was not one 5A bus that did not arrive on Monday 25 April, but three scheduled services that did not arrive, 8:22, the 8:37, and the 8:52. I understand that the 8:37 is a subsidised service.

The 8:22 failed to arrive for the entire week. A single bus arrived after 8:15 on Monday, at 8:35 on Tuesday, 8:55 on Wednesday, at 8:45 on Thursday, and 8:50 on Friday. ...Last week was very important for her, the revision week for her SATs. This week she

sits her SAT exams, and we have had to make alternative arrangements at great expense and inconvenience to ourselves because we cannot rely on the bus service to get her to school.

Instead of subsidising this why don't you run a dedicated school bus service? I would be much happier to pay for that either directly or through taxation,

*Yours sincerely,
Carrie Hitchcock*

Dear MinaMatters

I am writing, belatedly, to thank you and the SWNA for awarding my caption with the prize of two meals for the price of one at Los Amigos restaurant. I have eaten in Los Amigos before and this will be a treat!

I moved into St Werburghs just over a year ago and I am delighted with the friendliness and community spirit here. I tell everyone I know that this is simply the best part of Bristol to live.

And thank you for producing *MinaMatters*, a local newspaper which is of interest to people who live outside St Werburghs as well.

Resident

P.S. Can anyone explain what is meant by "activities at Boiling Wells"?

Yes, we do have Youth Clubs...

I am writing in response to an article written by a local young person looking for stuff to do in the area (No Youth Clubs – February edition)...

As a youth worker for Ashley Youth Project, I thought I'd write and let *MinaMatters*, and hopefully those young people, know that there are, as far as I know, two youth projects running in St Werburghs.

The first is a youth club held at Parkway Methodist Church on a Wednesday and Friday Evening: Wednesdays are for juniors 11–14 (I think) and Fridays for seniors (14+). This is advertised in St Werburghs Community Centre if more details are needed.

Myself and my colleague also do detached youth work in the area for the Ashley Youth Project. We are currently planning activities with a group of young men who are keen to plan trips in the May and Summer holidays. We meet with them regularly and plan, as well as sometimes going out in the local area and doing sports/activities. We are happy to work with more young people in these projects. For any further info about this or any other Ashley Youth Project schemes, young people or adults can call Alice or Kassim on 0117 942 0516 or e-mail me at alcestubbs@yahoo.com

Alice

Salsa Music and Dance

**Summer Workshop and free demonstrations
2–7pm Saturday 30 July**

This workshop at St Werburghs Community Centre is for all those interested in salsa music and dance and focuses on afro-cuban rhythms and styles. As well as dance classes emphasising 'feeling the beat', there will be a guided jam session using afro-cuban percussion instruments (provided). No previous musical experience is necessary and you don't need to bring a partner.

From 5pm until 7pm there will be free dance demonstrations by members of the regular St Werburghs salsa workshop. This is a great opportunity to find out what you can learn in our weekly beginners, improvers and intermediate classes. These will be starting again on 15 September from 6pm.

For further information see the contact details above the picture.

Summer Programme

2pm –5pm **Feel the Beat Salsa Music and Dance Workshop** (£6/£5 concessions/ advance bookings)

5pm –7pm **Free Salsa Dance Demonstrations**

Cost: workshop £6 (£5 conc./advance bookings); demonstrations free.

Pictured below:

Rueda dancing at St Werburghs Community Centre



Venue: St Werburghs Community Centre, Horley Rd, Bristol BS2 9TJ. Tel 0117 955 1351

Contact details

For further information about classes and workshops; and a booking form for the summer event, please contact Norma on 0778 6063 634 or email salsa.workshop@blueyonder.co.uk

The St Werburghs Centre Timetable June 2005

Mondays:

- 10:30 – 14:00 Khaas (*Term time only*) **with crèche**
 12:00 – 15:00 Open Access computing for beginners – **FREE** drop-in session
 18:00 – 19:30 Yoga of the Heart (*Term time only*) – booking essential
 19:45 – 21:15 Yoga of the Heart (*Term time only*) – booking essential
 18:30 – 19:30 Astanga Yoga – beginners
 19:45 – 21:15 Astanga Yoga – intermediate
 18:30 – 20:30 Bristol LGB Forum (monthly meetings)
 19:00 – 21:00 Introduction to computing – **4 weeks from 6 June**

Tuesdays:

- 10:00 – 12:00 Parkway Parent and Child Project – Yoga class **with crèche**
 10:00 – 12:30 Open Access computing for beginners – **FREE** drop-in session
 13:00 – 15:00 Drama + Skills Theatre Group (*for home educated children*)
 13:30 – 16:30 Careers advice for adults (CSV) – **FREE** drop-in
 19:00 – 20:30 Resin Jewellery course for 16 years plus – **FREE** (8 weeks from 3rd May – need to book)
 18:30 – 19:30 Hip Hop Dance class for 13 yrs – adults
 19:30 – 21:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesdays:

- 10:00 – 15:00 Khaas sewing class (*Term time only*) – **with crèche**
 09:30 – 15:00 Working Communities – **FREE** drop-in employment, benefit + training advice
 12:00 – 13:30 Narcotics Anonymous
 17:45 – 19:15 Brownies (*Term time only*)
 18:00 – 21:00 Open Access computing for beginners – **FREE** drop-in session
 18:30 – 20:00 Essential Tai Chi
 19:30 – 21:30 Red Notes (Socialist Choir)
 19:30 – 21:30 Voices Choir (*Term time only*)
 20:15 – 21:45 Astanga Yoga

Thursdays:

- 09:15 – 12:15 Parkway Parent and Child Project – Parenting course **with crèche**
 09:30 – 12:30 Cookery for Absolute beginners (Community Education – *term time only*)
 10:30 – 12:00 UK Islamic Mission
 12:00 – 15:00 Open Access computing for beginners – **FREE** drop-in session
 14:00 – 16:00 The Phoenix Group
 16:15 – 17:15 Capoeira class for children (ECAP) – **FREE**
 18:00 – 20:00 Salsa Workshop
 18:30 – 21:45 Arabic Drum Classes
 18:45 – 20:15 Alcoholics Anonymous
 20:00 – 22:00 Bristol Taiji

Fridays:

- 09:30 – 12:30 Celebration Cookery (Community Education – *term time only*)
 10:00 – 12:00 Community Bi Lingual Advocates Project
 10:30 – 12:00 Yoga – six week course (Single Parents Action Network – SPAN)
 19:00 – 20:00 Flamenco Dance Class for all levels, beginners welcome
 19:00 – 21:00 Introduction to computing – four weeks from 6 May
 19:00 – 21:00 Federation of Holistic Therapists (meetings every three months)
 20:00 – 21:30 Essential Tai Chi

Saturdays:

- 10:00 – 11:30 Bollywood Dance Class for 16 years plus – **FREE** for eight weeks (from 30 April)
 10:00 – 13:00 Refugee Support Project IT class **with crèche**
 12:00 – 14:00 Asian Cookery – cook + eat Asian food – **FREE** for six weeks (from 7 May)
 19:30 – 21:00 Bristol West Indian Parents & Friends Association (monthly meetings)
 19:30 – 21:00 Barbados & Caribbean Friends Association (monthly meetings)

Sundays:

- 11:00 – 13:00 SGI UK monthly meetings
 18:30 – 21:30 Jesus Fellowship Church

FREE Open Access Computing

Free access to the UK Online computer suite at The St Werburghs Centre is now available thanks to funding from Ufi and the Big Lottery Fund:



Where? The St Werburghs Centre

When?

Monday lunchtimes	12.00pm – 3.00pm
Tuesday mornings	10.00am – 12.30pm
Wednesday evenings	6.00pm – 9.00pm
Thursday lunchtimes	12.00pm – 3.00pm

What?

- ☐ FREE access to computers, the internet and email
- ☉ Help and advice available from an experienced computer user at every session
- ➔ Access to First Time Online - an interactive basic computer skills training package that can assess your skills and provide options for learning more
- ☐ Printing available for a small charge
- ☐ Courses on more advanced topics (e.g. designing web pages) will be available in the coming months

Interested?

Then drop in and have a go or for more information contact:

Sam Pearson
 IT Co-ordinator and Tutor
 The St Werburghs Centre
 Horley Road
 Bristol BS2 9TJ
 0117 955 1351
 sam@stwerburghs.org.uk
 http://www.stwerburghs.org.uk/



Youth Matters

Life on the self build site!!!

Life on the site is really nice. Everyone knows everyone and we all get along very well. I do think the houses are a little too big but it is done now so there's not much one kid can do about that! I like my new house, new room, new area and everything, but that doesn't mean that I don't miss my old house. I only lived in Easton so it isn't that far away. I miss my old house and area a lot. I think it's because I knew everyone and I knew where everything was.

What I miss the most are my mates because I had like fifty just across the road from me. I know that I could go and see them sometime but I wouldn't know what to say or anything. I haven't seen any of them for about half a year now and I really would like to go back there some day and see all of them. So when I moved to the site I wasn't very happy at all. I missed my friends and my room and didn't know anyone in St Werburghs. Now the site is really cosy. I still haven't found many kids my sort of age, but I have found a good friend almost my age and she lives just on the other side of the road. So now I am feeling a lot better about moving, but I still miss my old friends.

Helen Wilson
Age 14



Thank you to **Helen** who will be receiving £15 from *MinaMatters*

CHILLIN' OUT @ Parkway

Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights in Parkway Methodist's church hall are something you rarely see.

It's full of young people enjoying themselves and chillin' out. Parkway Young People's Project runs three youth clubs during term time.

Wednesday nights are for 11-14 year olds. Trips to the bowling alley, cooking, games and arts and crafts are just some of the things this group did last term.

Thursday nights are for 8-10 year olds. Our younger group have enjoyed trips, games, drama and cooking.

Friday nights are brand new for the project. Basketball, pool and PS2 are just some of the activities available. Come along and make this club your own.

Wednesday nights	11-14 years old	6.30-8pm
Thursday nights	8-10 years old	6-7pm
Friday nights	14-18 year olds	6.30-8pm

ALL in Parkway Methodist church hall (off Mina Road)

For more information Phone Audrey on 924 8407

The beach is going bananas! 25-28 July

Fun, crafts, songs and games at Parkway Methodist Church Holiday club.

On 25-27 July 1-3pm, the church off Mina Road will be hosting the main part of the holiday club and a trip to Weston super Mare on 28 July 1-5pm, leaving from Mina Road Park.

The cost is only £4.50 for all four days, as we have funding from the City Council.

For more information or to register call Annie on 07834 346827.

Can't wait to see you there.

Changes to Hip Hop classes

Details for my Hip Hop dance classes have changed slightly:

Ages 8-12
in St. Werburghs Primary school on Tuesdays 5-6pm

Teens & Adults class
in St. Werburghs Community Centre on Tuesdays 6.30-7.30pm.

Still only three quid.

Contact Lucy 07790 908287

