

MINA MATTERS

BS2



UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR PARKWAY PARENT AND CHILD PROJECT



For the last six years the Parkway Parent and Child Project has largely been funded by the Lottery's Community Fund. This funding has now run out and the fund itself has also come to an end.

The Project is intending to apply to the new 'Big Lottery Fund', but there have been delays in the setting up of the fund. This means that even with a successful bid there would be no money available until September 2006, leaving the Project with a serious funding gap. The Project Manager is actively fundraising, and she and the management committee remain optimistic.

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Public Police Meeting

Come along to the St Werburghs Community Centre on Tuesday 20 September 2005 at 7.30pm.

On 5 July 2005 a community meeting was held in the St Werburghs Community Centre. There were a number of issues discussed at the meeting some of which included,

- better ways to contact the police.
- A 'street drinking' ban in St Werburghs.

As part of the problems in Mina Road park, a street ban on drinking alcohol was discussed at the meeting.

What are your views?

Come along to the St Werburghs Community Centre on Tuesday 20 September 2005 at 7.30pm. There will be a discussion about a 'street drinking' ban and any other local issue you wish to discuss...

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MM Editorial

At least once a day, if not more, motorists drive the wrong way up Sevier Street. To avoid congestion at peak hours on James Street a car will poise at the junction with Mina Road, like a bull waiting to charge, and then set off at 50 miles per hour having spied a clear road. What the driver has not taken account for is the numbers of small kids playing in the street and the traffic backing out of Durham Grove and Dorset Road. The risk of an accident is high.

Residents have suggested, as a traffic calming measure, that planters be placed on the road. On the negative side this would cut down on parking which is already limited, being a one-way street. As an alternative, the street could be blocked in the middle with entrances at both ends. This would not allow for turning circles for vehicles. Let us know what you think.

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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.

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HELLO TO ALL RESIDENTS OF ST WERBURGHES



Continued from front page

As a result of the meetings, I have now set up a St Werburghs Community voice mail box. This is a non-emergency number which can be used to contact me. See the new number below.

I will be setting up an email address which residents can also use to contact me. The benefits of the new voice mail and email address is that other officers will be able to access them.

It will hopefully mean that if I am called away on other duties, there will still be another

officer who will be able to respond to your voicemail/email. These new contact details will replace my current telephone and email address advertised.

Finally on a different subject, if you have a problem in you street with drugs litter e.g needles or even litter as a result of prostitution, you can call 9222241 and they will be able to deal with the problem.

Until next time, goodbye.

Regards

PC Steve Wyatt
Tel. 0117 945 4800 or email:
steven.wyatt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

State of the Neighbourhood

Want to know more about key statistics on the quality of life in St Werburghs? As you may know, as part one of Bristol's ten designated Neighbourhood Renewal Areas, St. Werbs receives some central government funding – called Neighbourhood Renewal – aimed at improving local services to people in disadvantaged neighbourhoods. This is funding which comes down to local government office and is managed by the council and a number of other partners, including the Neighbourhood Partnerships.

The State of the Neighbourhoods Database (SON) is a new resource, coordinated by the city council. SON provides information relating to key issues such as crime, education and health. It enables comparisons between priority regeneration areas – including St Werburghs and Ashley area – and the rest of the city on indicators to standards of living. You can see from figures how, for example, the neighbourhood has improved in terms of educational achievement at GCSE level, and that the number of burglaries for 2002/03 was 129 per thousand households, compared to 99 for 2003/04. The number of households with smokers is higher in St Werburghs (35%) than the Bristol average (31%).

Visit <http://www.bristolforward.net/evaluation/neighbourhoods.asp#7>

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 ਦੱਸਣ 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.

What's happening behind the hoarding?

A large grey hoarding has appeared along James Street, in front of Mary Seacole Court. What's behind it? MM spoke with Connolly & Callaghan Ltd, the Bristol based property development company which has bought the site for re-development. C&C are going to convert the building into 24 flats: 14 one-bed flats, 6 two-beds and 4 three-bedroomed flats. All will be for sale. Prices will reflect current market values, and the size of each property. There will not be any affordable or social housing.

C&C hope that builders will be on site in August, and they anticipate that the conversion will take about a year. Since most of the work is internal – changing the inside of the building – they do not expect that residents will be inconvenienced by the work: all works vehicles will be parked in Mary Seacole Court's existing car park and not on the street.

The plan is to re-use 80% of the existing structure, but the outside of the building will look different after the conversion: there will be different brick work, the doors will be in different places and the grounds will be changed. C&C aims for the building to look more residential, like a terrace of houses rather than a block of flats.

There will be 18 parking spaces, and a larger amount of cycle parking. The smaller number of car spaces than flats was imposed by the Planning Department (to meet Planning Guidelines), as was a requirement to widen the pavement on the junction of James Street and Mina Road.

The grey hoarding will be there throughout the conversion. At a later stage, C&C will use the hoarding to keep us informed about the development (we are promised a large picture showing what it will look like) and to advertise the flats for potential buyers. In the

meantime, the developer undertakes to paint regularly over any graffiti and remove unsightly fly posters.

Mary Seacole Court was paid for initially by public funds, and has now been lost for Public Use. We asked the City Council (Planning) what issues were considered in agreeing this change of use, but did not receive a reply. Nor were we able to find out if any steps could be taken to ensure greater affordability. Councillor Shirley Marshall told MM that because the properties will be in private ownership "the city council can only regulate what happens through the planning process".

More information will be on C&C's website:
www.connollyandcallaghan.co.uk

NEW – advertising page in *MinaMatters*

We are launching an advertising page for local self-employed residents and businesses. Please advertise with us to not only promote yourself but help us out financially. This box at one eighth of a page costs £30, larger boxes are pro rata.

Email MinaMatters@hotmail.com
with finished copy or artwork.

St Werburghs Gateway Scheme

Works on the St Werburghs Gateway Project (Gatton Road Enhancement) are progressing somewhat slower than originally anticipated.

Construction of the new computer workshop on the site of the demolished Mina Road Flats (east block) should commence by the beginning of August. The contractor is Pyramid Construction Ltd who took over the site on Monday 18 July. It is anticipated that building construction work will be completed early in 2006.

Once the new computer workshop is completed the existing workshop at 14 Mina Road will be demolished to allow for a new junction layout, new industrial access road and environmental improvement works on Gatton Road. It is intended that the full scheme will be completed by September 2006.

Mobile Library

A little known but vital resource needs your help if it is to continue to serve the area writes
Sarah Jefferies

A mobile library visits St Werburghs every fortnight (it could increase to weekly if the demand is there) with a large collection of books for adults, teenagers and children, plus large print, other languages and audio. Videos and jigsaws can be borrowed and books ordered for a small fee.

Just take identification along on your first visit and then write the date and times of visits on you calendar.

Monday:
Community Centre 10:25 – 10:55
Opp. Miners Arms 10:55 – 11:25
September 12th & 26th and so on.

If you need further details please phone 0117 903 8531 or phone Sarah on 987 0718

Use it or lose it!!!!!!

LETTERS

Dear *MinaMatters*,

As a resident St Werburghian, I am writing to state my concerns about the current prostitution situation in our area.

I was out on the streets for five hours last Saturday night, and unable to find a single prostitute.

What is our neighbourhood coming to?

Kind regards
Mr P Albatross

Fab Quote

"Someday is not a day of the week."
Source unknown

Bollywood hits St Werburghs

From Mumbai to Mina Road the art of Indian dance has been visiting the Community Centre for the last 8 weeks reports Kerry

Under the expert tuition of Prerna, our instructor, local residents have been attempting a mixture of bhangra and classical moves that together to tell a story. Each move means something specific – ie an emotion, or bangles being jangled, so they have to be right.

It looks so easy when you watch the TV just before Eastenders – but it's so much harder than it looks. You have to use your head, shoulders, hands and feet all at the same time, usually going at different speeds... well, in theory you do... in practice I think in eight years, rather than eight weeks, I may have mastered the basics.

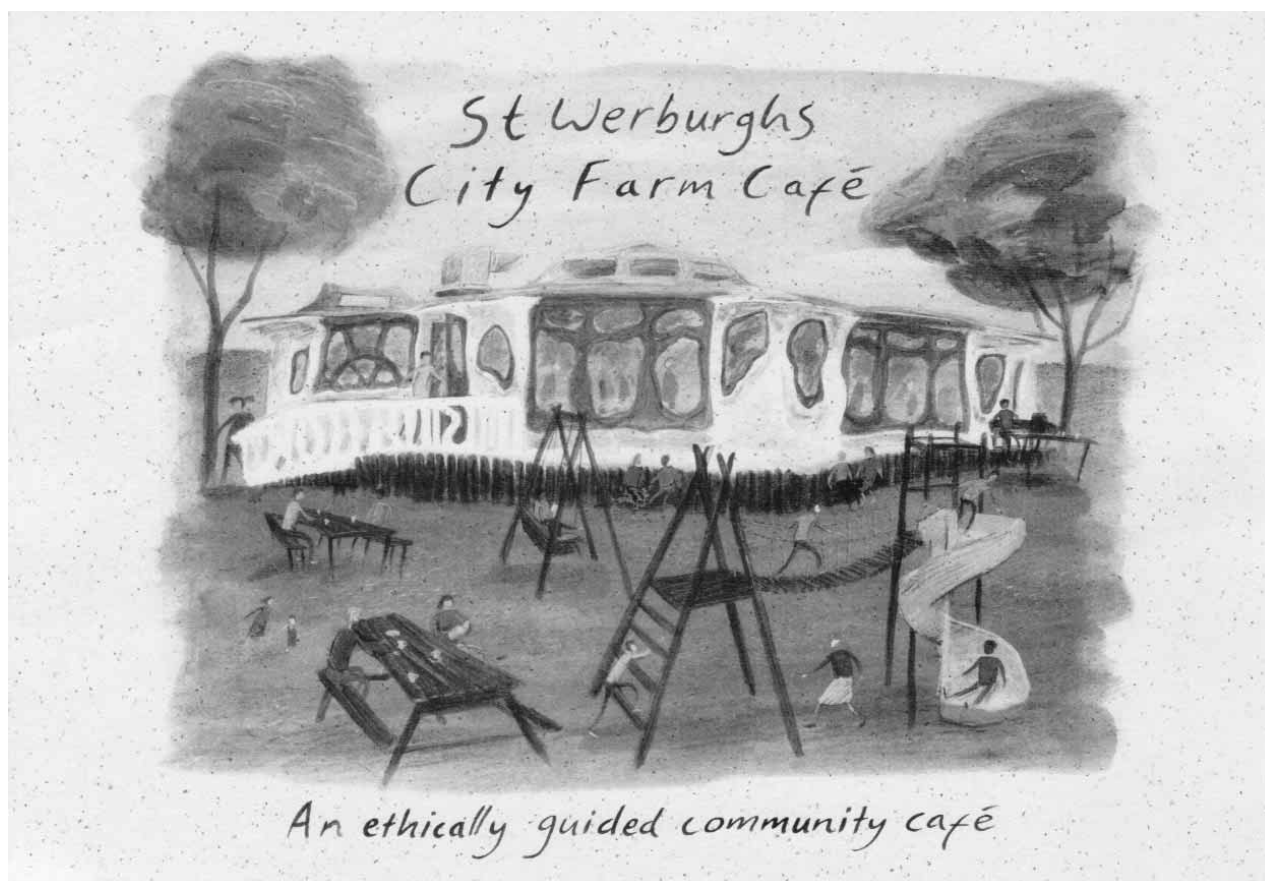
I would like to say "thanks" to Prerna and St Werburghs Community centre for putting on this excellent course... and what's more it was free.

E Mail info@bollywooddance.co.uk or WWW.artsindia.co.uk for more information



St. Werburghs City Farm Café

Open Wednesday to Sunday 10am – 5pm



The Farm Café has reopened with a new environmental and community approach. The manager, Leona Williams, talked about the way that food is locally sourced to cut down on food miles. The cafe aspires to being adventurous with seasonal food. Much of the meat and fish are brought from local farms at the Farmers Market and Eastville Market. The business aims to cut down its impact on the envi-

ronment by recycling, composting and using Ecover products. Each time you have a drink – the coffee, milk and sugar are organic. The coffee and tea are Fair Trade, so helping the environment and producers in the developing world.

Leona said that they aim to use food that's in abundance on the menu. Different species of fish, like whiting and pollack

are cooked as whole fish at the weekend. Wild salads are on offer and wildflowers are used in food. The Horticultural Therapy Unit on the Farm, who work with people with learning disabilities, grows salads, beans and herbs for the Farm Café. The wild flowers are specially grown rather than picked from the hedgerow. Today's menu offered warmed asparagus salad, a homemade soup and burgers. There are daily specials. The chef has experimented with Jamaican and Spanish cuisine.

The Café is child friendly and has a regular trade in people coming back. During the week many groups use the café, including people with special needs and a nursery. People appreciate the ethics, atmosphere and friendliness of the staff. The comments book offers feedback to staff about what customers would like to see on the menu. Parties and buffets can be catered for in the evening and people can bring their own wine. Rather than corkage, people make a donation to the charity of their choice.

A further ambition is to make the Farm Café an educational eatery. In the summer a cookery school for 6 – 11 year olds is run in the afternoon and early evening. As an NVQ assessor Leona offers some training in catering. Leona says 'We try to put the passion back into what people feel about food'.

St Werburghians – Community People

A new feature by **Raj Carr** covering local people

Ashtiaq Ashrif has lived most of his life in St Werburghs. His father set up Ashrif's Food and Wine store after he moved over to the UK from Kashmir. His mother is a Liverpoolian. Ashtiaq, now 24, took the store over from his father six years ago and in this time he has managed to massively increase the turnover. "I listen to customers requests and a lot of people want organic these days" says Ashtiaq with a smile. "We've also started the key cutting and Pay Point services which have attracted customers".



Father of three, Ashtiaq and his wife Minaz and children live above and beside the busy store. "It's changed a lot in the last few years, I designed the new artwork on the front myself". Ashtiaq went to St Werburghs nursery, Willow Green, Cutler's Brook and Fairfield schools, "from the age of 8 – 13 I lived in Kashmir where I learnt to speak Urdu, it was the best thing I could have done at that time in my life" he reflected.

"St Werburghs has the best people in Bristol, very friendly and I like how all the different communities get on together". There's one thing that bugs Ashtiaq and that's the prostitutes: "At one point they'd disappeared but now they're back again!" apart from that he wouldn't change a thing.

Favourite film – "I'm not a film fan"

Favourite Music – Bhangra

Favourite Book – The Quran

Favourite Food – Salounney (a Kashmiri brown rice dish)

"When I'm 40, if I make it that far, I'd like to live in Kashmir, it's very beautiful and the people live close to nature!" Ashtiaq described

with sadness the way Kashmir had been partitioned, dividing a country, now one part in India the other in Pakistan and the way communities had been torn apart.

Ashtiaq's goal in life is to build a centre for disabled adults and children in Kashmir. "One of my children is disabled and the services here are good but in Kashmir there is almost nothing. Disabled people are left to beg on the streets". Ashrif's Food and Wine raise £300-£400 a year from one of their charity boxes that goes to help people in need in Kashmir, "£400 there can do a lot for people, it's worth almost 10 times more in Pakistan!"

Getting back to the shop we're suddenly surrounded by Ashtiaq's cousin and friends. Yasrab has just moved down from Manchester to open a Claims Business on Mina Rd. It's almost time to go, but as a recycling truck pulls away full of cardboard into the afternoon drizzle Ashtiaq noted "We've been doing recycling for years". It's clear to see that Ashtiaq and his family have worked hard to build up a thriving business and provide an essential local service.

Who would you nominate to be covered for St Werburghians?
Contact rajcarr@tiscali.co.uk

St. Werburghs Art Trail

Following the rumour that there is to be an Art Trail in St. Werburghs several local artists have expressed an interest. Options include open door exhibitions held in artists homes or an exhibition to take place in a community venue.

Anyone interested in meeting up to discuss the Art Trail should e-mail: minamatters@hotmail.com



Scorpion Karate Academy



Scorpion Karate Academy at St Pauls Carnival 2005
Classes for children and adults starting at the St Werburghs Centre from 10 September, Saturdays 10 – 11.30am

Ban drinking in St Werburghs Streets and Parks?

It's a lovely summer's day in Mina Road Park. A group of friends are having a picnic, parents are taking their children to the playground, and some older men are sitting on a bench and drinking. For some, it's all part of life in St Werburghs. Others are put off from going to the park because of it. One response is to ban nuisance drinking in the local park.

The question of drinking (alcohol) in Mina Road Park, and the difficult behaviour which sometimes follows was discussed at a Community/Police meeting in July. Some residents reported that they can feel intimidated, particularly in the area near the children's playground, particularly because of the number of, usually, older men who sit round all day long, drinking, leaving litter (and sometimes worse), and sometimes arguing with each other or people nearby. Some parents prefer not to take their kids to their local park because of the problems they experience with anti-social behaviour when people are drunk in this public space.

One way to address the issue would be to introduce a 'Street Drinking Ban', soon to be replaced by a Designated Public Places Order (DPPO), in an agreed area around the park. This has to be granted by the Council, and is then enforced by the police. It is easy to put in place, and can be implemented for a trial period of six months. Once set up, the police can require people who are drinking in the designated area to dispose of their alcohol (although not by drinking it). If they don't, the police can confiscate the booze. If the drinkers resist this, they can be arrested.

PC Steve Wyatt told MM that in reality, a great deal of discretion can and usually is used in applying bans on street drinking. There tends to be more discussion, rather than simple enforcement, and action is usually taken only when there is a nuisance, such as aggression, intimidation or obscene behaviour.

Street Drinking Bans have been used in other locations. In Bristol, there is a ban in the Stokes Croft area. They are generally applied in City Centre areas, rather than residential areas, although in some cities with bans, persistent drinkers move away from the centre to drink elsewhere.

This raises important questions about the area for a ban – if a ban is adopted in St Werburghs. The aim of such a ban is to stop the intimidating behaviour which can arise from heavy drinking in Mina Road Park. The aim is not to move the problem elsewhere in the neighbourhood. On the other hand, if the designated area is too big, a ban wouldn't be enforceable.

A realistic area might include Mina Road Park (because that seems to be the area with the greatest problem now), all the side roads off Mina Road between James Street and the Motorway (John, Cleave, and Tyne Streets, Sandbed and Gatton Roads), and Roseberry Avenue. To avoid displacing the problem to the nearest park, it might include the James Street Park, by the railway bridge in Glenfrome Road. But what does this mean about the community green space in James/Sevier Street? What about the Community Garden in Mina Road, and Narrowways Hill? What about the area around the Farm? The area near St Werburghs Primary School?

On the other hand, rather than ban drinking completely, what about designated drinking areas, with a broader ban on drinking in the street/parks everywhere else. If this approach is agreed, where should the designated drinking area – or areas – be? Can it be enforced?

The idea of a street drinking ban raises a host of issues apart from the enforcement area. If action is only taken when there is a nuisance, what counts as 'nuisance'? Most Werburghs residents will



probably have an image of the sort of person this applies to... But is it the same image? Who's to decide what counts as nuisance and what is harmless fun? How many people have to feel intimidated before any action is taken?

MM discussed this with some local teenagers (not all of whom were wearing hoodies), who were worried about the public perception that they are always out to cause trouble. "It doesn't matter what we do. All we have to do is be out together and once there are more than two of us, we must be up to no good!" Another asked how old you have to be before it's OK to have a friendly picnic (with beverages) in the park or on Narrowways Hill.

Another question which has been raised is whether the ban would apply to street parties in any of the designated streets.

MM has been told that there will always be discretion in the application of a ban, but how might conflicts of interest in the park be dealt with. If someone is sitting on a bench and drinking alone, possibly heavily throughout the day, and a group of people having a picnic (with drinks) at the same time, will they both be banned?

The Parks Group told MM that they have always believed that alcoholics living in the local hostel have civil rights too, and that consuming alcohol in the park is not a problem as long as the people drinking do not behave in ways which offend or threaten other park users. The Parks Group looked into the introduction of a street drinking ban last year, but found it was a very slow and complex procedure. They are now in favour of a DPPO (Designated Public Places Order) covering the whole of St Werburghs, as this seems to provide a low level, discretionary solution to deal with a low level local problem.

Is this a way to balance the needs of all park users and to value the diversity within this community?

*Come to a Community/Police Meeting
to decide if there should be a ban on
drinking in public places in St Werburghs*

COMMUNITY/POLICE MEETING

Tuesday 20 September

7.30pm at the Community Centre

Amnesty International in St Werburghs

When the first four items on the news concern bombs and warfare, it's easy to feel powerless in a world gone mad. Especially if, like so many of us, it seems you barely have time to cook a meal in the evening, let alone save the world.

Right here in St Werburghs, you have two very straightforward opportunities to genuinely make a difference. First, there is the Amnesty International letter writing session in the Miners Arms on the fourth Tuesday of every month. Starting at 7.30, you can turn up whenever you like, enjoy a pint or two, sign a few letters on behalf of victims of human rights abuses, and enjoy a relaxed chat with like-minded people.

Your second opportunity is right here in Mina Matters. Each issue will highlight a different human-rights related case with instructions on who you can write to and what to put in your letter. It doesn't take long and you can do it from the comfort of your own living room.

For more details about the Amnesty International Bristol group or the Miners Arms letter writing session, call Molly on 07736 433891 or Sally on 07742 930169.

ERITREA: Detained for husband's opinions

Mother of four, Aster Yohannes was detained by security personnel in December 2003 when she returned to Eritrea to be with her children after three years of study in the USA. She is being held incommunicado at an unknown location and may be at risk of torture or ill-treatment. AI believes she is detained solely because of her husband's political opinions.

Her husband, prisoner of conscience Petros Solomon, was head of security and intelligence in the Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) during the liberation struggle. He was arrested with other former EPLF leaders and government ministers calling for democratic reform, whom the government claims were "traitors" in the 1998-2000 war with Ethiopia. He has been detained incommunicado since September 2001. There are possibly several thousand prisoners of conscience held incommunicado without charge or trial, particularly following the 2001 crackdown by President Issayas Afewerki, the former EPLF leader.

Aster Yohannes was reportedly given assurances of safety on her return to Eritrea but was arrested on arrival at the

airport in Asmara, the capital. It is not known where she is held and the authorities have given no reason for her arrest. She has not seen her children or other relatives since her arrest. AI is concerned for her health as she suffers from a heart condition and asthma. Many political prisoners are held in extremely harsh conditions – some in metal shipping containers and others in underground cells.

Aster Yohannes was a member of the EPLF but had reportedly not been politically active since Eritrea gained independence from Ethiopia in 1991. AI believes the sole reason for her detention is her husband's opposition to President Issayas Afewerki.

Please write, calling for the immediate and unconditional release of prisoners of conscience Aster Yohannes and her husband Petros Solomon. Call for Aster Yohannes to be given immediate access to any necessary medical care.

Send appeals to:

Issayas Afewerki, President of Eritrea, Office of the President, PO Box 257, Asmara, Eritrea

Fax: +2911 125123 (it may be difficult to get through but please keep trying).

New Central and East Bristol Community Healthcare Centre

The next stage in producing this exciting new centre is to agree an outline business case for approval by the Strategic Partnering Board (which oversees LIFT developments) and Avon, Glos & Wiltshire Strategic Health Authority (AGW).

The centre provides the 'hub' for a range of services complemented by 'spokes' based in Primary Care Centres and GP practices. In the hub there will be outpatient clinics, diagnostic services, simple day treatment, a minor injuries unit, GP out of hours base, education

and training facilities and a base for integrated community healthcare teams.

The preferred site for the new facility is alongside the Eastville health centre. We have agreed to see whether the development of the health centre could be brought forward to coincide with the community healthcare centre.

The business case is due for approval in November. In the meantime, we are looking for a name for the project rather than the rather unwieldy title above.

Let us have your suggestions at Bristol North Primary Care Trust (PCT).

Contact Kyla Dawe: kyla.dawe@bristolnorth-pct.nhs.uk

A pleasant sight for all our visitors writes Kerry

Friday 24 June saw a huge fire in Gatton Road when a dumped caravan caught fire. Two fire appliances attended the blaze and the caravan was completely destroyed. The caravan was outside the community centre and luckily not outside residents' houses as the centre is set back further than the houses.



However the story doesn't end there! You would think that this eyesore and the debris from the fire would be quickly removed wouldn't you? Residents are still waiting for this to happen two weeks after the event.

Perhaps if the council ignore it long enough this will be thought of as a piece of modern art and have a protection order put on it.

UNCERTAIN FUTURE FOR PARKWAY PARENT AND CHILD PROJECT

continued from front page

During the last twenty years 'Parkway Parent and Child Project' has become an integral part of family life in St Werburghs and the surrounding communities. At present, over 160 families depend on the Project. Its 'Parent and Toddler' sessions offer parents of pre-school children a place to meet and support each other. A dedicated and caring staff team run a high quality, Ofsted registered crèche, 'Two's Group and Playgroup, which provides the only low cost childcare in the area for parents and carers. In recent years it has also been running a variety of free courses with crèche. The waiting lists for services are testament to the popularity of the project and the need in the community, as the following comments confirm;

"I found that after having my first baby, I was feeling quite isolated as I had just moved into the area and knew no-one else who had children. I then discovered Parkway and it was a life saver... what a relief to find other parents in the same position as me."

"Parkway has been the route of many enduring friendships, it must continue so new parents gain the support I found."

"My child benefited enormously by attending crèche and now playgroup. He has developed greatly and I have been able to develop my own career."

"It's a brilliant and essential part of this community. Without it, low income families would have no childcare provision."

The Project receives no local or central government funding, which shocks many users, who consider the Project to be an

essential public service. All at the Project are keen to make the council and our new MP, Stephen Williams, sit up and take action to secure the future of this lifeline for local parents. It is essential to mobilise support from current users and those who have good memories of the Project. Emails and letters of support would be helpful, as they can be used to demonstrate local feeling. Contact details can be found at the end of this article.

The management committee is also keen to gain the attention of the national press, so if any one has any useful contacts or feels they can offer their time to help with fundraising, distributing petitions, or offering any energy and support then please contact Nicola Strange on 942 9448 or Myf Faulkner on 373 9216.

Please send emails of support, with your own comments of why the project is or has been of value to you, to:

Stephen Williams, MP:
stephenwilliamsmp@parliament.uk

Cllr Shirley Marshall (Ashley Ward):
Shirley_marshall@bristol-city.gov.uk

Cllr Jon Rogers (Ashley Ward):
jon_rogers@bristol-city.gov.uk

Cllr Claire Cook (Chair, Bristol Early Years and Childcare Partnership):
Claire_cook@Bristol-city.gov.uk

Alternatively if you would like to write a letter, please send to C/O Nicola Strange, Parkway Parent and Child Project, Conduit Place, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9RU, and we will forward your letter.



Past and present users – do you recognise anyone?

YOUR LOCAL SCHOOL NEEDS YOU!

Do you like working with children?

Do you like having fun and playing games?

St Werburghs Primary School is looking for anyone interested in becoming a School Meals Supervisory Assistant.

Our children are 4 – 11 years of age.

The hours are 12.00 – 1.00 pm Monday to Friday.

No previous experience is necessary as on the job training will be provided.

For more information and to get an application form please phone Mrs Haines on 903 1466 or pop into the school office.



What's new down on the farm?

This year's Summer Fair – an Epilogue

A huge thank you to everyone involved in the fair this year. We had over 80 volunteers involved, and probably as many local people again who participated as performers and stall-holders. We estimate that 3,000-4,000 people came along on the day – the most yet. The fair raised a substantial amount of money for the farm, and, we hope, was successful in communicating our environmental message promoting sustainable transport and safer, greener, more people-friendly streets. We also hope that everyone who came along had a really good time!

If you have any comments about your experience of the fair, good or bad, please let us know – all feedback helps us improve the event in years to come.

Nine New Piglets

Sapphire, our younger Küne Küne sow, gave birth to nine healthy piglets at 1pm on July 14th. All of them are doing well, and can sometimes be seen with their mum in the front pig pen, opposite the café.

Keeping the farm open – How can you help?

Times are hard for small charities at the moment, and the City Farm is no exception. Although the farm has been a vital part of the community since 1980, there are never any guarantees about our survival, and now more than ever we are aware that we need to be fundraising hard to keep providing all our services.

St. Werburgh's City Farm depends on grant-funding and donations to maintain its services and yet we have realised that a lot of people living in the area assume that the farm is run by the City



Council. We do receive some grant-funding from Bristol City Council, but the farm is an independent charity in need of all the support it can find.

One source of support that we are keen to explore more fully is that of the business community. We would love to hear from anyone who is a supporter of the farm who may be able to help us build relationships with businesses whose support may be able to help keep us running.

SWCF, Watercress Road, St. Werburgh's, Bristol BS2 9YJ. Open everyday, 9-4 in winter; 9-5 in summer. Free entry. Tel: 942 8241

Safer Routes to the new Fairfield School??

by Henry Bassadone

Here are some of the conversations and dialogues going around on the subject:

... I agree with Henry that Boiling Wells Lane presents more of a problem with safety due to the lack of houses. It was, however, one of the more popular routes chosen by parents and students when they were sent questionnaires ...

... If it is improved and well-lit and a large number of students use it hopefully this will lead to a reduction in crime (is it actual crime or a perception that it might be a good place to commit a crime?) ...

... I have already decided that in the winter my son will walk home along Muller/Glenfrome Road or catch the bus if it is dark, and is not to walk alone along the proposed routes in day light hours, lighting or no lighting because the area is so secluded. As a parent I have taught my son to take the safest route even if it is the longest route, and walking along a path that is lit but secluded is not safe ...

... As to the suggestion that they walk along the main roads, I used to love walking my children through the allotments, often using different routes to explore the area... Just because they are older doesn't mean that they can't appreciate something more environmentally and aesthetically pleasant than Glenfrome Road in full rush hour ...

... I am delighted to hear that lighting will be installed. To me this is about making a safe route for children. Yes, we do need lighting as it does get dark early in the winter. What is wrong with having a timer so that the lights come on at 7am and go off at 7pm ...

... I can see why people are concerned over the prospect of the potential improvements especially regarding Boiling Wells Lane which at present is a rural scene complete with livestock ...

... groups need to work together. Sadly, once again this is not showing Bristol City Council in a good light. After all, if safer routes to school are promised and even displayed, then it would not be unreasonable for parents to assume that there is not then going to be a problem further down the line. They would naturally assume that the right people have been consulted at the right time, the fact that clearly they have not been has come as an unpleasant surprise to all ...

The St Werburghs Centre Timetable Aug-Sep 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
 18:30 – 20:00 Yoga of the Heart Summer Drop in – 25th July, + 8th, 15th, 22nd August 2005
 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 Alexander Technique (12 weeks from 12th Sept) **NEW!**

Tuesdays:

- 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*) (tbc from September)
 18:30 – 19:30 Flamenco (from 4th October 05)
 19:00 – 20:30 Guitar class for beginners (6 week course from 20th Sept) – need to book **NEW!**
 19:30 – 21:00 Narcotics Anonymous
 19:30 – 21:30 Plan B Theatre – Youth theatre group for 12 – 18 year olds (from 6th September) **NEW!**

Wednesdays:

- 10:00 – 13:00 Art + Power
 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)
 20:15 – 21:45 Astanga Yoga (until end August 05)

Thursdays:

- 09:15 – 12:30 Cookery for Absolute Beginners – suitable for adults with learning difficulties (*Term time only*)
 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** (tbc from September)
 18:00 – 20:00 Salsa Workshop
 19:30 – 21:30 Arabic Drum Classes
 19:30 – 21:30 Pheonix West Indian Cricket Club (PWICC) – monthly meetings
 18:45 – 20:15 Alcoholics Anonymous
 20:00 – 22:00 Bristol Taiji (until end August 05)

Fridays:

- 09.45 – 13:00 Celebration cookery – for adults with learning difficulties (*Term time only*)
 10:00 – 14:00 Art + Power
 10:00 – 12:00 Community Bi Lingual Advocates Project
 18:00 – 19:30 NA Hospitals + Institutions monthly meetings
 19:00 – 21:00 Federation of Holistic Therapists (meetings every 3 months)
 20:00 – 21:30 Essential Tai Chi

Saturdays:

- 10:00 – 11:30 Scorpion Karate Academy Class for adults + children (from 10th September) **NEW!**
 10:00 – 13:00 Refugee Support Project IT class + crèche (*Term time only*)
 19:30 – 21:00 Bristol West Indian Parents & Friends Association (monthly meetings)
 19:30 – 21:00 Barbados & Caribbean Friends Association (monthly meetings)

Sundays:

- 18:30 – 21:30 Jesus Fellowship Church

**Keep an eye out for other events, workshops and new courses:
at the centre, on our website or in Mina Matters.**

The St Werburghs Centre, Horley Road, St Werburghs, Bristol BS2 9TJ
Tel 0117 955 1351 Fax 0117 904 0049

office@stwerburghs.org.uk

www.stwerburghs.org

St Werburghs Centre IT News

Website launch

The Community Centre now has its very own website! Visit us at:

www.stwerburghs.org.uk

The website has lots of useful information including: our latest timetable of classes and events, general news and information about the Centre, and lists of our facilities and how much they cost to use (when they're not free, of course!).

There's also general information about the Centre itself including our contact details and directions for people who may not know where we are.

Free access to computers and the Internet

We are continuing to run our popular open access sessions in our UK Online Centre over the summer and into the autumn. Come along during the Computer Room opening hours – we have 10 modern machines available for you to use with a fast Internet connection and an experienced member of staff available to answer questions and provide assistance.

Day	Times
Monday	12 to 3
Tuesday	10 to 12.30
Wednesday	6 to 9 (evening)
Thursday	12 to 3

In addition we now have two computers available in our lobby for use whenever the centre is open!

Easy E-Government

Are you looking for work? Need to make a tax or benefit claim? Did you know that the government and the local council are offering more and more services on-line?

The Internet can be a very convenient way to get hold of information and a quick way to get things done that otherwise might involve long waits on hold on the phone or time-consuming trips into busy offices.

If you need to get things like this done on-line, we can offer help and assistance – even if you are unsure of yourself around computers and the Internet. Come along to one of our open access sessions and see for yourself!

Management Committee Member required

St Werburghs Community Association would be interested to hear from anyone who might be interested in becoming a member of the centre's Management Committee.

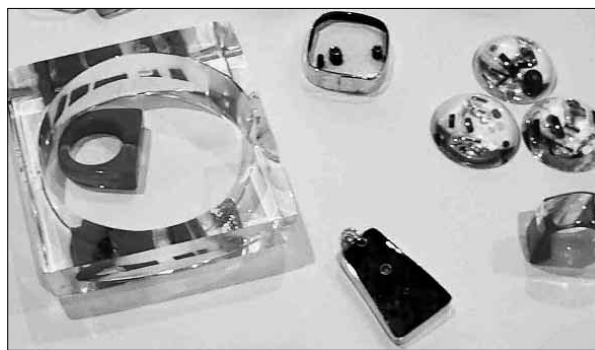
If you are interested, please contact
Linda Bell, Centre Director to discuss
on tel: 0117 955 1351 or email:
linda@stwerburghs.org.uk

Resin Jewellery Making Course

"...and our last session will be a cocktail party." I did wonder if I had heard this correctly. Emma Caton, our tutor for the next eight weeks, was describing the course aims and objectives. I thought I had signed up for a resin jewellery making course and wondered what I could have mistaken for the word "cocktails".

The course was small and perfectly formed, just like the jewellery we were hoping to create. The first two pieces we each created were directed by Emma: our final pieces were to be of our own design, using the principles and techniques already learnt. Almost impossible to believe that after a few weeks we could use these skills to create very impressive and ambitious pieces.

Emma was an inspiration to us and incredibly generous. Each week was an opportunity for completely switching off



and losing ourselves in this craft.

And the "cocktails"? I hadn't misheard – at the end of the last session we all got dressed up, wore our creations and had a celebratory drink at Bar 130. As Emma said "what else is body adornment for – it should be worn to go out and have fun". It certainly was.

For more info, visit Emma's website – www.emmacaton.com

St Paul's Learning and Family Centre Darkrooms

St Paul's Learning and Family Centre has well-equipped and spacious photography darkrooms with various courses and projects running throughout the year.

Non-accredited summer courses include:

- Pinhole Camera workshops
- Camera and Darkroom courses
- Cyanotype and Salt-print courses

Accredited courses beginning in September 2005 include:-

- Fundamental Photography OCN Level 2
- Social Documentary Photography OCN Level 2
- Advanced Black and White Photography OCN Level 3
- Photography – Darkroom Techniques (Improvers)
- Photography – Cyanotyping and Salt Printing
- Photography – Finding Your Subject

Whether you are an absolute beginner or someone who wants to improve their existing photography skills, there is a course for everyone.

**Contact Wendy Leocque, Photography Technician, St Pauls Learning and Family Centre, 94 Grosvenor Road, St Pauls, Bristol BS2 8XJ
Tel: (0117) 914 5470 Email: wendy_leocque@bristol-city.gov.uk**

Arts + Crafts Fayre

After the success of our last fayre in April this year, we are holding another Art + Craft fayre at the centre on **Saturday 29th October, 1 – 5pm.**

If you are interested in having a table, please contact the centre for a booking form. Tables will cost £10 for arts + crafts, and £5 for table top.

Please book early so as not to be disappointed.

**For more information, please contact us: Tel. 0117 955 1351
Email: office@stwerburghs.org.uk
Or visit us at Horley Road, St Werburghs, BS2 9TJ**

More Course Information

Special thanks to Bhavana Adalja who ran the Asian Cookery Class. This class was a great success with students learning how to cook wide range of authentic Asian dishes. To contact Bhavana for more information, tel: 0117 949 1026

A BIG Thank You to The Community Learning Fund for supplying funding so we could run these courses at the centre for free. And special thanks to all our fabulous tutors.

We are running the events and classes above due to their popularity when they were previously held at the centre. It is

Guitar course for beginners

After the success of our last two guitar courses, we are running another six week beginners course. This course is aimed at absolute beginners.

Guitar class for beginners (adults)

£36 for 6 week course

Tuesday evenings 7 – 8.30pm

Starts Tuesday 20 September

Maximum of 10 places available (minimum of 8 people needed to run course)

Tutor: **Joe Volk**

To book a place, contact the community centre for a registration form and return to us with full payment before the beginning of the course (no later than Monday 19th September).

You will learn: How to tune your guitar, how to change a string, basic chords, basic strumming + plucking techniques, some simple songs.

You will need to bring an acoustic guitar.

To ensure a place, make sure you get your form in early.

Contact:

**St Werburghs Community Centre,
Horley Rd, St Werburghs, Bristol
BS2 9TJ Tel: 0117 955 1351
email: office@stwerburghs.org.uk
Website: www.stwerburghs.org.uk**

really helpful to know what courses people would like at the centre, so if there is any class you would be interested in us putting on, please let us know.

Keep an eye out for another Resin Jewellery course and a Cabaret night at the centre later on this year.

We are also planning a Big Green Environmental Day at the centre for early in 2006. If anyone is interested in getting involved by either being a volunteer helper or having a stall linked to environmental issues, please let us know.

To contact the centre, either visit us at Horley Road, St Werburghs, BS2 9TJ; telephone us on 0117 955 1351 or email us – office@stwerburghs.org.uk.

To keep up to date with what's going on, you can also visit our website – www.stwerburghs.org.uk

Youth Matters

PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

DANCE BRISTOL

Working to Support and Develop Dance at all levels across the City
For Immediate release 7 July 05

Some of Bristol's most talented young dancers will be taking part in auditions for places in a new Dance Academy in Swindon this Thursday (7 July 2005).

Young people from Bristol successfully impressed the audition panel at the first round of auditions for the new Gifted and Talented young dancers' scheme, funded by the DfES.

The scheme, which is being managed in our region by Swindon Dance (a National Dance Agency), is one of only four in the country and will focus on future potential rather than current or past achievements.

It aims to provide access to quality dance education for exceptionally talented young dancers, regardless of their social circumstances. Twenty five young people aged between 11 – 17 from the South West region will be selected to join Swindon's Youth Dance Academy, receiving training every Saturday during term times along with individual learning plans, mentoring, opportunities to see performances and means tested bursaries to enable them to travel and buy equipment etc.

The first auditions in Bristol were held at Circomedia, in St Pauls, and saw twenty five young people enjoy a contemporary and street dance class. Twelve of this group have now been invited to the final audition round, with nine of them coming from the Easton and St Pauls areas. Girls from Easton's City Academy performed

exceptionally well, as did one young male currently excluded from formal education and working at The Park in Knowle.

Dance Bristol is pleased to be able to offer this opportunity with Swindon Dance and especially gratified that so many disadvantaged young people from the inner city took this opportunity to shine.

We all know the talent is there and it's great to have this recognised!

FFI Contact: Katy Noakes, Action Research, Dance Bristol, Watershed, 1 Cannon's Road, Bristol BS1 5TX
Tel : 0117 915 0195 email: katy@dancebristol.net

Dance Bristol is a new organisation funded by Bristol City Council and Arts Council South West to support and develop dance at all levels across Bristol.



The Opening Doors Project

will run every Tuesday night
 from

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m

at

St Werburghs Community Centre

Horley Road, St Werburghs, Bristol, BS2 9TJ

**Cost £5.00 per session or
 £4.00 if booked in advance**

To book sessions or get more information, please contact:

Plan B Theatre
 Studio 203
 14 Clifton Down Road
 Bristol
 BS8 4BF

Tel: 07845 224935

Email: producer@planbtheatre.co.uk

The company's website can be found at www.planbtheatre.co.uk

Plan B Theatre is a Bristol based professional theatre company who specialise in the development of character based and story driven new work that explores themes of contemporary relevance through a fusion of text, physicality and multi media

The sessions will be led by Jen Camillin a professional theatre artist who lives in St Werburghs and who has worked extensively with companies such as Travelling Light and ACTA. Jen has an enhanced CRB check and all other professional artists who will participate in the project have a standard CRB check.