

Lions support local hospital's 'Forget Me Not' initiative



Members of the Lions presenting their cheque for £500 to staff at the RUH Maternity Unit.

The Bereavement Team within Maternity Services at the RUH strive to respect and honour the precious babies who tragically die before birth and provide expert support to bereaved families.

In 2013, the UK still had one of the highest rates of stillbirth in Europe, a highly traumatic experience for parents.

The Bereavement Team have many plans in place to improve the service, including refurbishing the Forget Me Not suite, creating a private entrance, free photography service with professional photographers, free car parking facilities and improving staff knowledge through education.

A number of staff within the Maternity Services are committed to improving this service and have so far raised over £600 through a sponsored walk and a cake sale, which raised £500.

The Bereavement Team are very grateful to the Radstock and Midsomer Norton Lions for the very generous cheque of £500 to continue with this very worthwhile project.

Margaret Small

Neighbourhood Plan next for Westfield

Having become the first Parish Council in the county to have been awarded the prestigious national, 'Quality Award', Westfield Parish Council is continuing to build on its progressive reputation by commencing the drafting and formal endorsement of a Neighbourhood Plan.

Neighbourhood Plans are a new process set up by central government to ensure that local interests, wishes and aspirations form an integral part of the future planning for our local communities.

Westfield's Neighbourhood Plan will be drafted after extensive consultation with all members of the community and that process will include open days and community meetings, where residents can have their say on exactly how things should be done in their community.

For example, that means what style and quantity of housing is to be built, the kind of shops and public buildings which residents need, provision for young people, what and where education is provided, which areas we prefer to keep protected as green space and how traffic and local services are managed and so on.

The finished plan is then published and voted on by a local referendum of Westfield residents and only then are the results submitted for formal endorsement by the Planning authorities, after which, Westfield's Neighbourhood Plan becomes a legal document, which the Local Authority needs to consider in its decisions for the neighbourhood.

Lesley Welch

Tank joins Horticulturalists

Clutton Horticultural Society has organised a cabaret for Saturday, 19th March, with popular singer and first rate comedian, Tank Sherman joining them.

The evening will include a two-course meal at Conygre Hall, Timsbury, as this accommodates more people than Clutton's hall and organisers expect tickets to sell fast. For details or tickets, contact Aubrey Willcox: 01761 452420.

Your chance for a veg patch at Allotment Open Day

Spring is not far away, so this is a great time to consider becoming more self-sufficient and growing your own vegetables. The Midsomer Norton Community Allotments Association has had a makeover and now has a monthly newsletter, a website, and social events – the first one being Wednesday, 2nd March.

These well aspected plots will produce a good supply of beans, potatoes, rhubarb, lettuce to name but a few.

The new secretary, Brian Snellgrove, is also very keen on networking with the other Allotment Associations in the area and has had interest shown from Westfield, Timsbury, and Frome. "There is so much knowledge that can be shared, so we can all get better at what we do," said Brian. Brian ran a social

organisation in London with a membership of 3,500, so he is well skilled at all aspects of organising.

If you would like to consider having an allotment, visit the website: www.msn.allotments.net or call Brian on: 01761 415473. There are only five plots available, so it is first come, first served.

The Open Day is between 10 a.m. – 12 noon on Saturday, 20th February. The site is

opposite the Car Shop on the road between Midsomer Norton and Radstock. The postcode BA3 2AD will get you there!

If you are interested in coming along, send an email to: brian@pobox.com with the word OPEN DAY in the subject matter for full information. If you cannot manage that day then write anyway, and you will be kept in touch.

Brian Snellgrove, Secretary, MSN Allotments Association.

Party in the Park grants scheme now open

Peasedown St John's Party in the Park has re-opened its grant scheme to give money back to the community.

Peasedown St John's Party in the Park is held every summer on Beacon Field, and due to the success of the seventh event last year, thousands of pounds have been raised.

The majority of the money will go towards funding this year's event, but the organisers have set an amount aside – the Party in the Park Grant Fund, to reinvest back into the village in the form of small and medium-sized financial grants.

Since the scheme was set up in 2010, a total of £7,000 has been given away to organisations such as Peasedown Methodist Church, Little Treasures Toy Library, Peasedown Youth Albion FC, the Children's Centre, Peasedown Residents' Association, the local Credit Union, Peasedown Cricket Club, Laurel Farm Kindergarten and the local scouts.

And now, event organisers are proud to announce they are giving away almost £2,000 this year.

Party in the Park Chairman, Nathan Hartley, said: "When the organisers first met to plan Party in the Park, we decided that no matter how much money we raised, we would like to give some of it back to the community.

"This is our way of thanking residents for supporting last year's festival and making it such a special day."

Local organisations can apply for funding themselves, or be nominated by a third party.

To qualify for a Party in the Park Grant, applicants must be part of an organisation based within Peasedown St John. The organisation should be not-for-profit, a registered charitable trust, or seeking



Party in the Park team members, left to right, Mike Auton, Nathan Hartley, Joy Fraser, Jeannie Heath, Karen Walker, Craig Gill and Jo Davis.

funding for one-off costs that cannot be met from their existing finances.

Applicants and nominators can apply for up to £500 each. Preference will be given this year to groups and individuals who have not applied before.

Joy Fraser, Festival Treasurer, said: "All the members of the Festival Team have a strong sense of pride in Peasedown St John. We believe passionately in supporting the community at a grassroots level. Therefore, as well as just organising a large summer event each year, we also want to do things for the

community all year round.

"We want to know from the public how they think the money should be spent. Anyone with ideas can get in touch."

The closing date for applications is Friday 1st April. All interested applicants can download a copy of the Grant Fund application form at: www.peasedownpartyinthepark.org.uk or email Joy Fraser at: jvfraser65@yahoo.com

Successful grant applicants will be congratulated at Party in the Park on Saturday, 11th June on Beacon Field, Peasedown St John.

Support Chew Valley School

Chew Valley School Society's upcoming Quiz Night is a key fundraising event and is renowned for being challenging, but fun.

This year's Quiz Night is on Tuesday, 26th April for school funds. Quiz Master will be Chew Valley School teacher, Mike Gaynor, and promises to be an entertaining evening.

This year, local pubs (and their quiz teams), restaurants, businesses and primary schools are encouraged to enter teams, donate raffle prizes and get involved. Tickets include a ploughman's supper, with doors opening at 7 p.m. for a 7.30 p.m. start.

Teams are of 4–6 people and tickets are available from 11th April from Chew Valley School Reception: 01275 332272 or the Ring O' Bells, Compton Martin: 01761 221284. Or if you are a business or organisation, email: chewvalleyschoolsociety@gmail.com or telephone Helena Craig on: 07798 818772.