

Drum jam proves big hit

Cheddar positively vibrated to the tune of four score drums just before Christmas.

The Big Christmas Drum Jam at the Kings of Wessex Academy attracted 80 drummers for a day of practise before an impromptu evening concert.

Organiser Giles Hicks said: "It went exactly as we planned it. The children were very focused and we started rehearsing at

9.30am once everything was set up. We worked on all the pieces until 5.45pm and so everyone only had 40 minutes before the concert."

More than 400 people turned out for the show on December 22 and two encores were demanded, the drummers choosing to deliver the Devil's Dance twice.

Another drum jam is hoped to be put on again.



Some of the mighty drummers bashing away at the Christmas Drum Jam

Photo: Ray Ham

Students' team work helps to fix it for food disorder charity

Kings of Wessex students and a Wedmore eating disorder charity will feature on ITV's *Fixers* tonight.

Fixers has been helping Anorexia and Bulimia Care (ABC) with the 13-strong Kings team to create a website.

Jane Smith from ABC said: "This project has been great to be a part of as it's been a real joint effort. The sixth formers at the academy have put together a plan to create the peer-friendly site and have come up with ideas on how to make it usable and appealing to the target audience. Their focus has been on prevention, awareness and recovery."

The *Fixers* are young people who create a project to benefit others nationally. The *Fixers* are funding the design and creation of the site and filming short videos of young people who have struggled with eating disorders talking about their recovery. ABC has been supplying information and quizzes for



Lead Fixer Kathryn Manners

the site.

One of the *Fixers*, Kathryn Manners, 17, of Wedmore, said: "Many people feel isolated by an eating disorder. We feel there are many

young people who need educating about eating disorders, not just the sufferers.

"There are friends who need help understanding how to ap-

proach a friend, and many taboos about eating disorders that need to be changed.

"That is why this website will also contain information for friends, parents, and even teachers on how to best support someone with an eating disorder."

Kathryn's fellow *Fixers* are: Harry Bishop, Jonty Bolland, Ellie Bradley, Joel Butcher, Elizabeth Clarke, Heather Cooke, Sam Hill, Jack Landers, Laura Paterson, Helen Pearce, Sophie Skelding and Jamie Strawbridge.

Last year was an exciting one for ABC, which was invited to join the steering committee for education within the cross parliamentary group for self-esteem and body image, meaning that this project will contribute to parliamentary recommendations.

For more information about ABC and the work it does visit www.anorexiabulimiacare.org.

Fixers is on from 6pm tonight on ITV1.

Lengthy road closure plan

> Continued from page 1

Between the two closures about a mile of the B3135 is closed – the same route ironically that was shut for Cheddar Festive Night on December 7.

To get around the Cliff Street closure, where a new water main is being put into the existing 4in pipe, the county council has published a diversion using A and B roads.

But residents more familiar with the road network are more likely to use parallel St Andrew's Road to get around the closure.

A spokesman for Bristol Water said: "There will be traffic lights put in at some point and access for residents.

"We have consulted with Somerset County Council and they need to resurface at some point and this has to be done before that."

Meanwhile on Cliff Street, sewage climbed out of the drains and lay on the road for days during Christmas.

Wessex Water, in charge of the sewer systems, sent in a large tanker to Cliff Street on the Sunday before Christmas Day to spend the afternoon pumping the sewer.

However, by Boxing Day the sewage had returned and spilled out onto the street.

Water staff have been in attendance daily and at the time of writing the discharges had stopped as of Saturday.

■ **Are the road closures affecting your life or is it no big deal?**

Write to editor@midsonnews.co.uk or The Editor, Cheddar Valley Gazette, Southover, Wells, BA5 1UH.

Future of council budget remains uncertain

The future of North Somerset Council's budget remains uncertain following news from central Government.

Funding allocations for 2013-14 were unclear as the council won't receive all the figures until later this month. Although headline fig-

ures have been received from central Government, there is vital information that has still to be shared with the council which is making the budget setting process an even greater challenge.

Leader of the council, councillor Nigel Ashton said: "The severe

funding cuts we face are challenging enough, but it doesn't help us to consider budget allocations for the year ahead when we still don't know the final figures.

"We are anticipating having to find savings of £13.5 million in the year ahead, but the information we

received, plus the uncertainty around the figures still to be shared means that the amount could be as much as £15 million."

The council needs to set its budget next month but warned some considerations will be delayed while final figures are awaited.

Superstore plans debated

The big trio of plans facing Cheddar are up for public debate from Tuesday.

Cheddar Parish Council is hosting two meetings. The first is to discuss Sainsbury's revised planning application for a superstore at Steart Farm on Wedmore Road on Tuesday.

The following Tuesday will be about Tesco's intention to replace Cheddar Football Club with a superstore and the club moving to Labourham Drove.

The meetings are at Fairlands Middle School from 7pm.

To register to speak for up to three minutes contact clerk Wendy Barritt at clerk@cheddarparishcouncil.org or 01934 743217 by January 4 for Sainsbury's or January 11 for Tesco or Cheddar AFC. Requests will be on a first come, first served basis.

■ Flyers urging Cheddar people to support Sainsbury's bid in writing have been put through residents' letterboxes.

The Freepost postcard paid for by Sainsbury's lays out the firm's case for a superstore and is already addressed for posting on to planning officer Colin Arnold at Sedgemoor District Council.

Weather

Outlook for mid-Somerset:

During the next few days there will be plenty of cloud, but the weather will be largely dry. Some drizzle is possible over west-facing hills, with the best of any brighter spells being to the east of high ground. It will be mild, with daytime temperatures of up to 10C, falling only to 7C to 9C at night. But by Sunday, night-time temperatures start to fall and may drop as low as 1C or even go into minus figures overnight on Monday or Tuesday.



Today's weather picture was drawn by Louis French, at Cheddar First School. Each week we publish a weather picture sent in by a mid-Somerset school or parent. The address is Weather Pictures, The Editor, Mid Somerset News & Media, Southover, Wells BA5 1UH.

Contacts

Editor
Philip Welch
editor@midsonnews.co.uk
01749 832331

News Editor
Oliver Hulme
newsdesk@midsonnews.co.uk
01749 832301

Sports Editor
Harry Abbott
sport@midsonnews.co.uk
01225 322232

What's On Editor
Ken Edmonds
events@midsonnews.co.uk
01749 832321

Display advertising
01749 832311

Classified advertising
01749 832306/832316

Billie Bear
billiebear@midsonnews.co.uk

Advertisement Manager
Ann Johnston
ann.johnston@midsonnews.co.uk
01749 832303

Newspaper Sales
01935 709717

Promotions
01935 709724

Subscriptions/Home Delivery
08444 068 744

Photograph Sales
08444 060 269

Address
Cheddar Valley Gazette,
Southover, Wells BA5 1UH.
Reception number: 01749 832300

Website
www.thisissomerset.co.uk

Fax
Newsdesk/editorial
01749 832347