

Nailsea Methodist Church's eco group is hosting an Eco Fair in March



MARCH DATE FOR ECO FAIR IN NAILSEA

Members of the Nailsea Methodist Church's eco group are busy arranging an Eco Fair to take place on Saturday, March 9, where local organisations with an interest in the environment can get involved by having a stall, putting up a display, giving a short talk, or showing a short film. All Nailsea residents are invited to attend this free event that is taking place at 74 Silver Street between 10am and 3pm.

Organisers have already received positive responses from a wide range of local groups in attending the Eco Fair, including the Avon Wildlife Trust, Friends of Trendlewood Park, Nailsea & District Horticultural Society, Nailsea in Bloom, North Somerset Master Composters, Nailsea Climate Emergency Group, Nailsea Shedders, the Yatton & Congresbury Wildlife Action Group and many more. Richard Lancaster, organiser of the fair said: "We hope that this will be an opportunity for groups to promote themselves, educate and attract new members as well as giving everyone involved the chance to network and perhaps find opportunities to work together in the future."

STUDENTS ACHIEVE SUCCESS BY KEEPING PORTISHEAD CLEAN

Since September 2020, Turn The Tide Portishead has been offering volunteering opportunities to students on the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme at Gordano School, Badminton School and Collegiate School in Bristol.

Gill Gunnell, a spokesperson for Turn The Tide Portishead said: "These students litter-pick as our volunteers in order to complete one section in the Award Scheme. They are required to complete a certain number of hours for each badge choosing where and when to work and then report back to us."

To date, the environmental group has managed final assessments for eight Gold, 10 Silver and 81 Bronze entrants. Since September 2023, they have also signed up one Gold, five Silver and 25 Bronze students who are now actively volunteering. In total, 130 young people have been given the opportunity to help keep the local beaches and areas free from rubbish, and during this project, they have spent 1,018 hours litter picking in 36 locations which has resulted in the collection of more than 1,500 bags of waste. Gill added: "Many of our students express a new awareness of the effect littering has on both our local and wider environments and a desire to spread the word among their peers and to carry on the good work."

For further information, email doe@turnthetideportishead.co.uk or visit www.turnthetideportishead.co.uk



Students on the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme volunteering with Turn The Tide Portishead

Money raised from the quiz will go to St Anthony's Nursery School in Malawi (seen here)



SPECIAL FUNDRAISING QUIZ NIGHT IN CLEVEDON

A fun quiz evening to help raise money for a small nursery school is taking place at St Andrew's Church Centre in Clevedon, on Saturday, March 2. Former Clevedon Mercury editor, Steve Knight, will be asking the questions. He said: "They won't be terribly cerebral, but you may need a quirky sense of humour."

He added: "Seriously though, this is for a wonderful cause, and we hope that lots of people from all over the area will come along and support it. "It is £2 per player for teams of up to six and the evening starts at 7.30pm sharp. Bring your own nibbles and drink and have a great, fun evening." As well as the quiz, there will be a raffle and all money raised will go to the St Anthony's Nursery School in Malawi – one of the projects being supported this year by the St Andrew's Church congregation.

PORTISHEAD'S SWIMATHON MAKES A BIG SPLASH FOR CHARITY

The countdown to Portishead's annual swimathon has begun. Portishead Rotary Club, which organises the fundraising event, is hoping to make a bigger splash than ever for charity this year, as the event celebrates its 26th year.

Over the years the swimathon, which is supported by individuals, community groups, clubs and businesses from across North Somerset, has raised more than £245,000 for good causes. The race is now on to recruit a record number of teams to take part in this year's special event which will take place at Parish Wharf on Saturday, March 23, and will be known as the Mollie Young Memorial Swimathon, held in memory of Rotarian Mollie Young who was the event's main organiser and who sadly died last July.

The big swim is open to all ages and all abilities, with swimming aids allowed for those who need them. Participants swim in teams of six in relay for 35 minutes and the lengths completed by each team are recorded by lane counters. Funds are raised by way of sponsorship and all teams can nominate their own good cause, while some of the money is donated to the charities chosen by the Rotary club. This year those organisations are the Jessie May Children's Hospice at Home Charity and Motor Neurone Disease Association. The first session starts at 11am and the last, finishes at around 7pm.

For entry forms and information, visit www.portisheadrotary.or.uk



This year's Swimathon is being held in memory of Rotarian Mollie Young