

We say

Bravery of Sian makes us humble

SOMETIMES the sheer courage of people leaves you in awe. And at the same time makes you feel ashamed for moaning about minor problems.

Take Sian Clark. At 29 she is approaching the prime of her life. She is beautiful and understandably wants to live life to the full.

For her to have been diagnosed with a rare form of cancer is cruel.

But for her to have to face losing one of her legs to try to rid herself of the disease makes it much worse.

Her response was remarkable.

She opted for chemotherapy to try to keep the tumour from growing.

That is a gamble.

And although chemotherapy is less drastic, it is still a far from easy option. But for her, it is preferable to having a leg amputated.

Hopefully it will buy her time.

No wonder her friends think she is astounding.

The fact that they have responded by organising a 1940s theme party means that not only will Sian be able to have a good time and a lot of fun, but that a lot of money will hopefully be raised in aid of Cancer Research.

That, in turn, may mean that one day a young woman diagnosed with cancer like Sian will not be faced with the prospect of amputation.

By telling her story and facing her illness with such bravery, Sian will help others in similar circumstances.

And she will inspire them.

In praise of Andy Levy

AS with all brilliant inventions, you wonder why someone had not thought of a vibrating tip to test diabetic patients' sensitivity before.

But that is precisely what makes Professor Levy special.

For he saw the possibility in using the vibrating motion of a razor to help his patients.

And then, in the quiet of his garden shed, worked on developing a device smaller than a thumb.

Potentially millions of patients will benefit.

What an extraordinary man.

Editor Mike Norton

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Fruit and veg business: Terry Goad pictured outside his shop on his last

Pubs at risk from closure

Save the White Hart

A COUPLE of years ago there were four pubs in Brislington Village, and then the Hollybush was demolished for flats.

And now the White Hart is at risk; it is a Grade II-listed pub built in 1738 and was originally a coaching inn.

On January 14, an application No 09/04821/F was made. The proposal is for the change of use of a public house to a children's centre for the performing arts and cafe. For further information go to www.bristol.gov.uk/planning or contact Brunel House, St George's Street, Bristol.

It may not be too late to save the White Hart to continue as a pub; hopefully there will be enough

objections sent in to persuade the Planning Committee (South) not to decide in favour of the proposal.

Local pubs are having a hard time due partly to cheap alcohol from supermarkets, and I think the older generation nowadays is less inclined to socialise in their local pubs.

Before Christmas, Tesco was selling 30 bottles of Budweiser for £16, that's 53p a bottle. You can't get drunk in a pub for £16, but 30 bottles of Bud would get you legless. It's the supermarkets who should be targeted for tax rises not pubs.

So the Hollybush is no more, the White Hart is at risk, that leaves the Kings Arms and The Pilgrim. If village pubs are not given enough support they could all be gone in the next few years.

What a dismal outlook, a village with no pubs.

Bob Evans
Brislington

A Muslim in Bristol

IN the last two years, I've written just over 100 columns for the *Evening Post*. Each one of them has been an absolute privilege.

Throughout that time, everything I've written has been from the heart. Born and raised here, I am simply one of many Muslims living in Bristol. I've never claimed to represent anyone nor have I sought to. I have never tried to make Islam "look good"; I have simply told it as it is, always spoken the truth, always living by a simple principle taught to me as child, from the *Qur'an*:

"O ye who believe! Stand out firmly for justice, as witnesses to God, even (if it be) against yourselves, or your parents, or your kin, and whether it be (against) rich or poor: for God can best protect both. Follow not the lusts (of your hearts), lest ye swerve (from doing justice), or distort (justice) or decline

I hope I've paved the way for the next generation

to do justice, verily God is well-acquainted with all that ye do."

I am astounded and honoured by the number of people that read and comment on my column every week, both on www.thisisbristol.co.uk and to me personally. I hope I have gone at least a part of the way in building a bridge to better understanding, in a world where much is misunderstood.