

Trapped in a lift: Fire crew called

FIREFIGHTERS were called someone was stuck in a lift on Monday morning.

The five-strong crew from the Kingsditch station in Cheltenham was called to Hewlett Road at 7.30am.

They were on scene for 15 minutes and released the person without any injuries being reported.

A member of the public called the team.

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LOTTERY

SATURDAY, APRIL 21

LOTTO: 10, 23, 25, 34, 41, 47.
Bonus: 30.

THUNDERBALL: 6, 8, 13, 18, 21.
Thunderball: 5.

Pictures: Allan Rhodes, not for resale



FULL SPEED AHEAD: One of classic vehicles taking part in The Prescott Bike Festival

Classic machines head up the hill for appeal



RACING AWAY: TV commentator Steve Parrish driving a Morgan

FANS of two-wheeled transport got on their bikes to head to an annual celebration of the vehicles.

More than 5,000 people made their way to Prescott Bike Festival to help boost the funds of the Nationwide Association of Blood Bikes.

The event features classic and modern bikes and three-wheelers with many aiming to tackle the famous hill climb course.

It has proved so successful in recent years, that organisers have already earmarked the day for next year's festival.

The blood bikes cost £42,000 each year to run in Gloucestershire with the weekend event bringing in an estimated £50,000 towards the cause.

Gordon Downie, chairman of NABB, said: "The great part about the day is that everybody can take something different away from it."

Teen's death at water park was an accident

Picture: The Hounslow and Brentford Times



Kajil Devi

THE death of a 15-year-old girl who drowned at Cotswold Water Park while playing with her cousins was an accident, a coroner has ruled.

But the family of Kajil Devi, who could not swim, said they might privately prosecute the water park, near Cirencester.

The four-day inquest in Gloucester heard Kajil and her cousins were playing with an inflatable dinghy. When the boat started to drift away with a young cousin in it, Kajil tried to reach the rope to pull it back but slipped into the water and disappeared.

The inquest heard that Kajil, who lived in South Road, Feltham, west London, could not be resuscitated when she was pulled from the water on August 11, 2010.

She had been missing for about 20 minutes as there was

confusion as to whether she was in the water, or had gone onto the beach. She was found under the water by a swimmer but was pronounced dead in hospital the following day.

The inquest heard criticism of the park's management and organisation and that only two inexperienced lifeguards had been on duty at the time. But assistant deputy Gloucester

coroner Tom Osbourne said Kajil had probably just slipped under the water when she got out of her depth and even if more lifeguards had been on duty, it was unlikely that she would have been seen.

Summing up, Mr Osbourne said: "The first aid kit was limited and there was no heart defibrillator available, but these would not have affected the outcome."

He said criticism of the park management, the allegation of insufficient lifeguards, that there was lack of leadership of the lifeguard team and that no proper risk assessment had been carried out, made no difference to the outcome.

Kajil's oldest brother Sumit, speaking on behalf of her family, said maybe it was an accident, but if there had been more lifeguards it would have been

more likely that she would have been spotted.

"There were only two inexperienced lifeguards managing about 200 people on the beach and in the water," he said.

"Something was bound to happen and we may take out a private prosecution. This has been hard on my mum and dad and we will also have to consider it."

Press and media officer for Cotswold District Council Bob McNally said: "This was a terrible tragedy and, as the Health and Safety regulating authority, the council will now consider the issues and evidence that emerged at the inquest.

"Any enforcement action could only be considered once the council's current investigation has been completed and proper consideration given to the evidence as a whole."

Inquest hears GCHQ spy Gareth Williams wanted to return home

FROM PAGE ONE

believe Mr Williams would let a potential killer in his upmarket London flat, adding: "I cannot emphasise enough his conscientiousness."

M16 were "dragging their feet" in approving his request in April 2010 to return to GCHQ, she said.

His naked and decomposing body was found in the bath of his top-floor flat in Pimlico, west London, on August 23 2010. Mr Williams was curled up in a large holdall, sealed with a padlock.

The discovery sparked a painstaking investigation, worldwide media frenzy and several outlandish conspiracy

theories. Mr Williams was a keen cyclist, fell runner and mountaineer, and passionate about art, music and fashion, the inquest heard.

He was an "exceptional" academic who passed his O-levels aged 10, his A-levels a few years later, and studied at Bangor University when he was just 16.

Friction

Ms Subbe's statement said: "He disliked office culture, post-work drinks, flash car competitions and the rat race. He even spoke of friction in the office."

Explaining her comment, she added: "The job was not quite what he expected. He

encountered more red tape than he was comfortable with."

His sister was asked about £20,000 of women's clothes which were found in his flat after he died.

She said it was "not particularly" surprising, adding that they were "possibly a gift".

In a statement read out earlier, Ms Subbe said: "In terms of a big brother figure, Gareth was perfect."

Ms Subbe said: "As a family we were incredibly close."

Mr Williams, of north Wales, was supposed to be on a three-year secondment to London. But "as time went by his enthusiasm began to fade", Ms Subbe said.

Bosses had agreed to let him

leave on September 1, 2010 - just a week after his body was discovered. Mr Williams had failed to turn up for a meeting at M16 on August 16 2010, the inquest heard. His parents Ian and Ellen were on holiday in Toronto, Canada, celebrating Mrs Williams's 50th birthday when they heard about their son's death.

Ms Subbe, who was accompanied at the inquest by other family members, said her brother never told her he was being followed or felt threatened in any way, adding: "I cannot think as to why anybody would want to harm him."

She said he was a private man who never talked about his

work. The inquest, which attempts to solve a 21-month mystery, started with Coroner Fiona Wilcox saying the death was "highly controversial".

Dr Wilcox also expressed sympathy to family members, who fear "some agency specialising in the dark arts" leaves them with no way of knowing how and why he died.

Lawyer Vincent Williams said charges were still a "real possibility".

He warned a "careful line must be struck between open justice" at the inquest and a criminal investigation.

The inquest is due to continue with fellow agents, police officers and friends to give evidence.

Band perform in charity gig

THREE bands will be performing a special charity gig in Cheltenham tonight.

The event has been organised by Liz Rogers to help raise money for talking newspaper service, the Cotswold Listener. Money raised from the event will go towards producing CDs to be sent out to those who use the charity.

The gig is taking place in the Barn Bar at the Frog and Fiddle in High Street. Doors open at 7pm.

Help for homeless

£21,000 for people sleeping rough in Cheltenham



Tomorrow