

# In your Forest Citizen today



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## Alley used as toilet

AN alleyway hit with graffiti in Gloucester is being used as a toilet by passersby – and putting off visitors to a nearby restaurant.

Diners at Sebz Portuguese restaurant and tapas bar with a window seat have a clear view of drinkers urinating in the alleyway opposite.

Owner Sebastian De Silva, 42, said his customers have been leaving bad comments at restaurant-rating websites.

A city-wide clampdown on the problem is being worked on.

# Fears for stations as Surl launches review

**FEARS** police stations could disappear totally from the Forest of Dean have been raised as a major review of operations is launched.

Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Martin Surl has started a widespread look at the future of policing in the district.

He is working with Gloucestershire Constabulary which is under pressure to cut costs across the county.

Mr Surl said he remains committed to developing a hub for police in the Forest but will not be reopening police stations

He said of the review: "I want to widen the consultation and gather as much information as possible to ensure services are developed in the best way to meet the needs of local people."

## Forest

A random sample of residents will be contacted within the next few days to ask their views on how to make their streets safer.

Chief Constable Suzette Davenport said: "As a constabulary, we will need to find the best way to deliver an effective and efficient police service while operating on a smaller budget."

Lydney Mayor Bob Berryman is a former policeman himself and said: "I feel, reading between the lines, they are backtracking and looking at going back to the police authority plan to close all the Forest police stations and work out of Gloucester."

He said that would be a mistake and a full public consultation, open to all, should be held on the issue.

Coleford Mayor Sue Merrikin said the town council was yet to meet Mr Surl, despite Coleford being named as the favoured spot for the 'hub'.

She said: "We would love to have an in-depth discussion with him about it. Employing a market research company isn't great given all the cuts we are looking at. If police came to us we would be able to relay what residents have been telling us."

An independent market research and analysis company has been appointed to contact a random sample of residents in Cinderford, Coleford, Newent, Lydney and Sedbury. They will be asked to meet as focus groups in the autumn and give their views on neighbourhood policing, fear of crime, accessibility, spending priorities, partnership working and how to improve community safety.

Pictures: Allan Rhodes, not for resale



■ **GOOD SPORT:** Paul Rhodes plans to run 435 miles to help support British Forces with PTSD.

## Trailblazer Paul clocking up miles for charity

**SERVICEMAN** Paul Rhodes was among the runners who took part in the Trailblazer 10k Rat Race on Saturday.

The third annual event saw almost 1,000 competitors pound pathways through the Forest of Dean.

Paul was there as part of his charity challenge, Miles for the Many.

The 33-year-old is part of 90 Signals Unit and is aiming to run 435 miles to help support British Forces with PTSD (Post traumatic Stress Disorder).

The winner of the race was Jon Barnes, with a time of 34 minutes and 35 seconds.

The fastest woman was Georgina

Wood, coming in at 36 minutes and 55 seconds.

Danielle Brodie, from organisers Rat Race, said: "It was a great day, really sunny, which was good as it encouraged loads of people to sign up on the day."

To sponsor Paul, visit [www.milesforthemany.org.uk](http://www.milesforthemany.org.uk).



■ **EFFORT:** Best run time was Jon Barnes, centre, Gareth Rees, right, and Richard Moule, left. Right, entrants warm up.



## In Brief

**POLICE** have charged a man over allegations he launched a racist attack at a curry house in Newent.

Officers, including a force dog handler, were called to Newent Tandoori in Broad Street between 11.15pm and 11.50pm on Saturday, May 25 after a window was smashed.

Officers dealt with the smashed window, with the perpetrator paying compensation for the damage through a community resolution. He was also treated by police and paramedics for cuts to his arm.

A man has been charged in connection with allegations of racially aggravated assault and other offences. Newent mayor Roger Beard said he was saddened by the alleged incident.

"It is sad and fortunately something very rare in Newent," he said. "I didn't know about this incident but Newent Tandoori has been there a long time as a takeaway, but the restaurant has been there for a short time, and attracts many people in from outside the town."

Michael Panting, 54, of Glebe Road in Newent, has been charged with three counts of racially aggravated common assault, one count of racially aggravated use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour causing another person harassment, alarm or distress, one count of use of threatening, abusive or insulting words or behaviour causing another person harassment, alarm or distress and three counts of common assault. He is due to appear in Cheltenham Magistrates' Court on June 26.

A **FOOD** and craft fair will be held at Coleford Baptist Church on Saturday.

It will run from 10am to 2pm and feature Fairtrade and local produce, handmade crafts, jewellery, cards, plants, refreshments and homemade cakes.

Tables are still available priced at £7.50 for a large one or £5 for a small one. Contact: 01594 834547

A **SUMMER** fete will be held at Lydney Community Centre on Saturday. It will be hosted by Forest of Dean Sea Cadets from 2pm.

It will include a bouncy castles, stalls, demonstrations, face painting, tombola, hook a duck, book stall and locally made food and cakes.