

Marlborough, Pewsey and Devizes

Big star for little fry

ADVENTURER Bear Grylls took a break from a hectic filming schedule yesterday to help children from Ramsbury School release baby trout into the River Kennet.

The youngest man to reach the summit of Everest, Grylls is currently appearing on *Born Survivor* on TV on Sunday evenings, and his tales about survival have made him a best seller.

Grylls and his wife and two children live on the Wiltshire-Berkshire border and he was asked to Ramsbury School for the culmination of a novel green project.

Children at Ramsbury and Preshute schools were invited by Action for the River Kennet to see if they could rear brown trout from eggs.

Since the start of January the children at the two schools had nurtured the eggs, making

sure their water was filtered every ten minutes during the school day and watching the trout fry hatch out.

Yesterday was the big day when the fingerling fish were released into the Kennet, coinciding with the opening of a new riverside amenity area in Mill Lane acquired by the parish council and ARK.

Rolling up his trousers, Grylls waded into the river and invited each child to use a net to scoop one fish out of the bucket and set it free.

There were a few more fish than children so Grylls tipped them into the river with the words: "God bless these fish."

He said that by rearing the fish the children had been given a valuable lesson in ecology.

"I encourage children like these to get out and enjoy the outdoors and the water," added Grylls.



GOING SWIMMINGLY: Bear Grylls helps Ramsbury pupils release the trout fry into the River Kennet

News IN BRIEF

Council boosts fighting fund

RAMSBURY: The parish council has agreed to give £250 towards Savernake Hospital campaigner Val Compton's fighting fund in the event of a shortfall in the public appeal to cover her High Court costs.

Toast to Penguins

MARLBOROUGH: The Penguins Swimming Club celebrated its 50th birthday last night with a wine and cheese evening for members past and present at the Town Hall.

Dramatic holiday

ROWDE: A half-term drama workshop for all children aged eight to 11 takes place at Rowdeford School next Wednesday, from 11am to 3pm. For more information, ring Lesley Sinclair on 07810 550261.

Beer and nibbles