

bishopstonvoice

April, 2026 Issue 159

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Delivery robots arrive in Glos Rd – to dismay of dogs!



The robots ready for action

Photo: Bishopston Fish Bar



Yorkshire terrier Flora

Photo: Cllr Emma Edwards

NEW delivery robots on Gloucester Road have sparked safety fears after a councillor's dog was almost run over.

The small robots have been delivering takeaways in the Gloucester Road area since February as part of a trial launched by Just Eat.

Bristol City Council was not informed about the trial in advance and does not have a policy on the use of delivery robots. It's unclear what powers the council has to manage them,

if any. Council staff have been asked to investigate how the trial is being conducted and what permission was required.

The robots were raised during a member forum meeting last month, when it emerged that Green Councillor Emma Edwards's dog, Flora, narrowly avoided getting hit by a robot.

Responding to the concerns, Just Eat said that they had not been contacted by the council with any specific concerns, and risk assessments were carried

out ahead of the trial.

Green Councillor Ed Plowden, chair of the transport policy committee, said: "Emma's dog was nearly run over by one of these a couple of days ago. It's a very small dog so it may be that the tech bros need to do some more work. But there's a wider point here. We've got people like this company dumping risk onto the people of Bristol.

"They're paying very low wages, they're not assessing the
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New lease of life for park's pond

The restoration of the wildlife pond at St Andrew's Park has been completed.

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Mixed views on 20mph zones

Nearly 100 new 20mph zones could come in on 'residential main roads' across Bristol.

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Outdoor seating allowed to stay

People power has saved the outdoor seating at Cotham tapas restaurant Bravas..

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A member of the



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Delivery robots

From Page 1

safety of the vehicles being used from which they're deriving profit, they're putting a lot of risk on the people who work for them, but that risk is being externalised onto the people of Bristol, whether that's robots or human beings powering what are basically illegal vehicles."

Bishopston & Ashley Down Cllr Edwards told the Voice that Flora, a five-year-old Yorkshire terrier, had been unharmed by the encounter, although it had given her quite a fright.

She said: "I was just walking her down the Gloucester Road. The robots are electric and so I didn't hear it coming but I saw the lights. Flora was on her lead so I was able to yank her out the way in time.

"The robots have sensors to stop them hitting people and street furniture, but because Flora is so small I don't think they detected her. I can imagine them being an issue around vulnerable pavement users and becoming quite a hazard."

The delivery robots are designed specifically for pedestrian environments

and operate at low speeds on pavements. The trial is in partnership with Delivers.AI.

A Just Eat spokesperson said: "We work hard to operate in a safe and responsible way, collaborating closely with local authorities. We have clear guidelines in place to ensure our independent couriers meet all licensing and insurance requirements. We regularly share with them up-to-date safety information and last year we were the first delivery aggregator to partner with leading road safety charity Brake.

"We're working with an expert partner on a small-scale ground robotics trial in Bristol. As in any town or city where these personal delivery devices are used there has been extensive planning and risk assessment to ensure the technology can safely travel through the local environment. We'll continue to gather feedback from the community on the trial."

Just Eat said couriers earn on average significantly over the national living wage for the time they are on an order.

By Alex Seabrook, Local Democracy Reporting Service

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NEWS

'We don't want to be UK's first green slum'

ST PAULS residents are pleading with Bristol City Council to get rid of the communal bins dotted around the neighbourhood. They say the large bins attract fly-tipping and vermin and are calling on leading councillors to “not let St Pauls become the UK's first green slum”.

The communal bins were first rolled out 15 years ago after concerns that the pavements did not have enough space for individual wheelie bins, which were “overcrowded and untidy”. So these were replaced with “mini-recycling centres”, which are just large bins at the end of the street.

However campaigners say the communal bins have led to much less recycling and more vermin, such as seagulls. Council bosses said during the environment policy committee on February 26 they would try to remove the communal bins, “where they can” .

Pavlos Kyriacou, a local resident, said: “Why was St Pauls treated differently from other areas? Why was a failed experiment allowed to persist for so long? Please don't let St Pauls become the UK's first green slum. We have become the land that time forgot. If you place a skip at the end of a residential street, people will fill it. If you empty it twice a week, you create a culture.”

He added that the communal bins were leading to residents throwing away more rubbish rather than recycling. This means that materials that could be recycled are



instead sent to energy-from-waste plants, where they are incinerated and converted into electricity.

Tara Miran, another resident, added: “We've been campaigning, as the Better Streets campaign, for almost two years. We brought the rubbish in our area and did an exhibition right next door, and invited everyone in the council and Bristol Waste to come and see what we have to live like.

“Communal bins and uncollected waste in St Pauls are contributing to vermin, odour, unsafe pavements, and poorer mental health and wellbeing.”

Last year the committee carried out a major review of the recycling service, but this covered houses putting out boxes and sacks, as well as collecting black bins for general waste every three weeks instead of two. This review didn't cover the communal bins in St

Pauls.

But there is extra cash planned for clearing up fly-tipping, which is a problem in the area. Another plan is a collection service for places like flats above shops on busy roads, where residents will be given sacks to leave their rubbish in, as often space for normal bins is lacking. This will be rolled out in parts of St Pauls where council bosses think it's “operationally feasible”.

Ken Lawson, the council's head of waste, said: “I'm expecting the review this month to come back from Bristol Waste, to see how we can improve and reduce the number of large communal bins on the streets — and then with some long-term recommendations for how we could get rid of them entirely, or formalising some of the arrangements like you would have in blocks of flats.

“All the skips, as you call them, we will be looking to get rid of them where we can.”

Since the communal bins service was introduced in 2011, the number of homes in the area has shot up from 2,500 to 4,000, partly as large houses are converted into smaller flats. The council is also exploring whether landlords could be held accountable for placing bins on their properties instead of the street. Options will be presented to councillors in the summer.

Green Councillor Izzy Russell, who represents the Ashley ward and sits on the committee, apologised for telling residents that the communal bins would be reviewed by the task group for recycling containers and three-weekly bin collections. They said: “They weren't, clearly. It turns out that there's way more services than I thought within Bristol Waste.”

They added: “It is taking longer than I thought. But it is on our agenda and I do want to get rid of them. More is happening behind the scenes. I'm really sorry that it hasn't happened sooner.”

By Alex Seabrook, Local Democracy Reporting Service

Fly-tipping cameras 'too expensive'

FIVE new mobile cameras used to catch fly-tippers would be too expensive to maintain and connect to the internet so they have been ruled out, councillors have been told.

Fly-tipping is blighting

many parts of Bristol and councillors voted last year to invest in new cameras, but now these won't actually be bought.

An update on the work was given to the environment policy

committee on Thursday, February 26. Councillors voted to scrap the plan for the five new cameras and slightly raise littering fines. Labour criticised the decision and said the cameras were needed.



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NEWS

More e-scooter parking bays planned

PARKING bays for electric scooters are planned to be installed in Bristol and the wider area after a raft of complaints. Pedestrians and people in wheelchairs will be all too familiar with clambering around a scooter parked in the middle of the pavement, but new bays could soon help the situation.

Construction is due to start by the end of the year in Bristol, Bath and South Gloucestershire,

although it's unclear how many bays there will be in total. The West of England Combined Authority is responsible for managing the electric scooter and electric bike trial run by Dott.

An update was given to councillors on the West of England audit committee in March. The combined authority is working with councils in the region on where the bays will be

created. £1 million has been set aside for creating them, but more could be spent in future too.

Rental e-scooters are still technically a trial, which began in 2020. At some point the government will decide on whether to legalise them permanently. Permission to run rental schemes runs out in 2028.

Lib Dem Cllr Stephen Williams said: "Lots of residents are unhappy with scooters and



bikes being parked all over the place and not in designated bays. But we are effectively making permanent something that legally is still a trial."

Bays will be created both off the street and on the street.

Have your say on planned new 20mph zones

NEARLY 100 new 20mph zones could be introduced in Bristol – among them major routes such as Gloucester Road and Kellaway Avenue.

Bristol City Council is considering lowering the speed limit from 30mph to 20mph as part of a wider push for safer streets.

It will open a six-week consultation this month on proposals for 97 roads. Councillors on the transport policy committee, meeting in March, approved plans to seek views about the proposed lower limits.

But opinions were split, with the plans being welcomed by members representing Hotwells and Totterdown as well as Clifton, where Upper Belgrave Road next to the Downs is included, but opposed by councillors from other areas.

Green Councillor Serena Ralston, representing Clifton Down, said: "When I was 11 my best friend was knocked down by a speeding hit-and-run driver on a zebra crossing just outside her home. She was in hospital for months and sustained a brain injury. We know that lower speeds save lives and reduce

injuries."

It's expected that public opinion will also be divided, with people tending to want lower limits where they live but not where they drive through. The last time limits were lowered en masse, a decade ago, was also controversial.

Liberal Democrat Cllr Nicholas Coombes said: "I'm not clear that the public consensus has been built up yet. Are drivers, pedestrians and cyclists in favour of these changes? When this was implemented in Wales a couple of years ago, there was pushback that caused a political U-turn on several of those roads which are going through the process of being reversed now."

The Tories are criticising the plans, which they say could lead to more congestion, longer journeys and higher emissions. Drivers might also be encouraged to divert onto "unsuitable residential streets", which would be less safe than using main roads.

After the meeting, Cllr Mark Weston, leader of the Conservative group, said: "The proposal to include long stretches of the A4018

(Westbury Road and Falcondale Road) on a round-the-clock basis makes absolutely no sense. At peak times, traffic is already at a standstill. Outside those periods, there is no justification for artificially slowing vehicles unless the intention is to push motorists off the road through pressure and disincentives.

"These creeping restrictions look like the latest phase of an ongoing anti-car agenda pursued by successive administrations and now enthusiastically adopted by the Green-led council. I urge the travelling public to take part in the consultation and make their objections and suggestions known."

The council has come up with a list after assessing all roads in Bristol with a 30mph speed limit. It would mean further restrictions on a total of 59 miles, or about five per cent of the city's road network. Three in 10 of serious and fatal casualties in Bristol happen on these roads. If all 97 roads had lower speed limits, that could mean 46 fewer slight casualties and seven fewer serious or fatal casualties every year.

Between 2010 and 2014, many roads across Bristol had

their speed limit lowered to 20mph. This is estimated to have saved between four and five lives every year, as well as preventing 11 serious injuries annually and boosting active travel by a fifth.

Some roads would have their speed limits changed only on sections, rather than the whole road. Main roads such as Bond Street and Temple Gate already have low average speeds of around 10mph. The full list of proposed roads is as follows:

These are some of the roads that would be affected:
 Westbury Road and Falcondale Road South
 Filton Road and Gloucester Road
 Filton Avenue
 Kellaway Avenue
 Muller Road
 Southmead Road
 Wellington Hill West
 Southmead Road and Henleaze Road
 Clifton Down
 Shirehampton Road
 Parrys Lane
 Avonmouth Way
 Henbury Road
 Westbury Road and Falcondale Road North
 Penpark Road
 Stapleton Road and Bell Hill
 Upper Belgrave Road
 Greystoke Avenue
 Sylvan Way, Dingle Road, Canford Lane and Canford Road
 Kings Weston Road
 Stoke Hill, Druid Hill and Stoke Road
 Shaldon Road and Romney Avenue
 Avonmouth Road

FOREIGN cars and fake number plates have been blamed for a huge amount of Clean Air Zone fines being written off. Drivers of older vehicles who should pay to enter the zone but don't are hit with a penalty charge notice, but it has emerged that many are simply not paying these fines.

From April 2024 to September 2025 Bristol City Council wrote off £22 million of unpaid Clean Air Zone fines. Leading councillors faced questions about why so much money owed to the council has not

£22m fines written off

been paid, during a meeting of the transport policy committee on Thursday, March 19.

Green Councillor Ed Plowden, committee chair, said: "An awful lot of those cars, we just cannot trace the owners. Some of them are from other countries and there does seem to be some persistent offenders. It may be that we're seeing fake number plates or other things.

"Somebody in my ward [Windmill Hill] had a car registered to his address and had bailiffs turn up at his front door, which nobody wants. And it turns out that he doesn't own that car and has never owned that car. So there's a lot of people doing all sorts of nefarious things to buck the system."

The figures were revealed in a recent report to the strategy and resources policy committee.

**REPORTS BY ALEX SEABROOK,
LOCAL DEMOCRACY REPORTER**

NEWS

Time for a fresh look at dealing with our food waste?



Ailsa Marshall reports on a project that aims to reconnect us with the soil

TAKE a stroll through Bristol on bin day and you'll see it everywhere – brown caddies stuffed with vegetable peelings, half-eaten meals, and forgotten leftovers. For many households, once food hits the bin, it's out of sight and out of mind.

But according to Bristol Waste, discarded food costs the average household about a thousand pounds a year. So what if those scraps were put to good use?

For Alex Montgomery of Generation Soil CIC, the city's food waste isn't 'rubbish' at all. The organisation is working to transform the way Bristol deals with this by turning everyday scraps into "living compost" that helps regenerate soil and support local food growing.

Its project collects food waste from households and small businesses across the city and processes it locally rather than sending it away to large-scale waste facilities. The material is then fermented and composted before being returned to gardens, allotments, and community growing spaces.

Alex, from Redland, believes part of the problem lies in how disconnected people have become from what happens after food is thrown away.

"There are bins you put your food waste in, you never see it again, and it feels to me very disconnected," he says. "So instead of quickly trying to transport food waste away from ourselves and our homes as quickly as possible, we can deal with it within a city, turn it into compost - and then we can use it to improve the green spaces around our city."

The project offers members a simple

system: a bucket, bokashi bran used to ferment food scraps, and the promise of regular local collection. Last year Generation Soil composted 2,640 litres of food waste, avoiding an estimated 13.8 tonnes of carbon dioxide-equivalent emissions.

Beyond reducing waste, Alex says the project is also about reconnecting people with the importance of healthy soil. "A lot of people don't realise the importance of soil," he explains. "The soil beneath our feet provides over ninety per cent of the food we eat, and when the soil's not so good, everything just looks a bit less full of life."

As Bristol continues to search for ways to cut waste and reduce emissions, projects like this suggest that solutions might be closer to home than many people think.

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NEWS



BISHOPSTON Window Wanderland was where it all began!

Since artist Lucy Reeves-Khan organised the first community trail in the area to brighten the dark nights in 2015, the festival has spread across the country and beyond, involving nearly 400 festivals and more than 27,000 displays.

The theme for 2026 was Hope. Lucy said: "I found out that thinking and acting hopefully can help your brain to be more resilient when times are bleak. Window Wanderlands are already incredibly hopeful festivals, so this theme seemed a natural fit for us."

Many people took part in workshops ahead of the event on February 27 and 28 and March 1 - and, as always, the window art was hugely varied, with a Stranger Things display proving a particular hit.



Hope lights up north Bristol streets



Our Chandos Window Wanderland was held at the end of February – after all the rain, Saturday was a beautiful dry evening for a wander round our area. Sunday’s weather was slightly less appealing!

We had windows inspired by the Window

Wanderland organisation theme of Hope, using the lovely dove stencils provided. One window was a shadow theatre of an artist painting the dove, who then took flight. One road became the Street of Modernised Art with several reiterations of classic art work with a modern

touch. Jack appeared, chopping down the Beanstalk leading to Trump castle. There were teddies, a safari, bakehouse and many strings of lights to brighten up the streets.

Fiona McVey,
Chandos Neighbourhood Association

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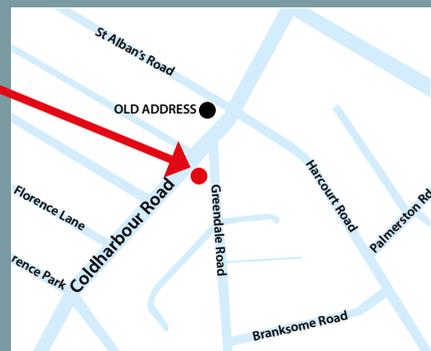
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■ ADVERTISING FEATURE

When is the right time to sell your business?

There are many reasons that could prompt the sale of a business or company. These could be retirement, a change in market conditions, a health or family reason or because there is strong financial opportunity to capitalise on what has been built to date.

Formerly known as Entrepreneurs Relief (now Business Asset Disposal Relief), business owners could apply for a reduced rate of capital gains tax at the point of selling a business. Subject to meeting certain conditions, the rate was fixed at 10% up until the 2024 Autumn Budget. The rate increased to 14% from 6 April 2025 and is set to rise again to 18% from 6 April 2026. The rate applies to the first £1m of lifetime gains.

We have seen lots of clients moving forward with their sale plans to beat the 6 April deadline but whatever the driver for sale, preparing for sale is crucial to maximising the value received for your business.

The process

The sale process requires input from lawyers, accountants and most importantly the sellers them-

selves (it is time consuming!). Most sophisticated buyers will make an offer based on the net asset value or an EBITDA multiple on the understanding that completion accounts will be prepared to understand the final financial position of the business (between the date of offer and the date of completion). An astute seller should therefore have a good estimate of what the cash, debt, and working capital will look like by completion so they can plan for what a final sale price might be. As the gap between offer and completion is a moving part, completion accounts can adjust the sale price upwards or downwards. In most cases, a cash surplus = price up and a debt deficit = price down.

Between an offer being accepted and completion taking place, the legal process follows a generally accepted structure of entering into heads of terms and a confidentiality agreement, completing the buyer's legal, commercial and financial due diligence process, drafting, negotiating and finalising the asset purchase or share purchase agreement, preparing

all corporate governance and ancillary documents and gearing for completion. This process will usually take months to conclude and the heads of terms should plan for a realistic timetable.

Preparation for sale

In our experience, when acting on the sale side, deals can fall through because they take too long, there is a significant change in market or political conditions or the sellers have not prepared adequately and the buyer either reduces their offer or loses faith in the deal altogether.

As best practice, business owners should be able to put their hand on anything a buyer may reasonably request in due diligence. To give a few examples, sellers should be able to provide correctly completed and up to date company registers, evidence of all corporate and regulatory compliance, all material contracts (for clients, suppliers and services), all employment and pensions information and evidence that any intellectual property rights used in the business are protected or have due authority for the current use.



Key takeaways

When advising our corporate clients we always explore their short and long term goals and discuss when or what a good sale opportunity looks like. In our view it is always a healthy stance to have a sale strategy, even at the point of starting the business and then ensuring you have your 'deal team' around you to work towards and then in the arena when a buyer is found.

You never know when the market could be at its peak or how quickly appetite for acquisition could dissipate. A bit like investments, it takes a genius to time the market!

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NEWS



Eloise with her mum Rebecca six months after the transplant. Right, Eloise, now 25, on her red bench at Bristol Arrow Bowling Club



Eloise honoured as red bench raises awareness of vital heart charity

A RED bench at Bristol Arrow Bowling Club celebrates a local woman's heart transplant.

Eloise Allen is one of just 65 people across the UK chosen by the British Heart Foundation (BHF) to have a bench with their name on it, to celebrate 65 years of the charity funding life-saving cardiovascular research.

Eloise, now 25, had her transplant in 2002, just before her second birthday, after she had been diagnosed with viral dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) caused by the Hand, Foot and Mouth virus which she caught at nursery. Within 24 hours of going on the urgent transplant list, a donor was found. Eloise, who was nearly two, had a cardiac arrest on her way into theatre and another on the operating table but was

resuscitated and the transplant was successful.

Today, thanks to advances in research and treatment, Eloise lives a full and active life. She enjoys going to the gym and playing lawn bowls at Bristol Arrow Bowling Club and has completed a degree in Business Computing and a Masters in Sustainability Development. Eloise and her mum Rebecca, who is a nurse, are also in contact with her heart donor's family.

Eloise is determined to raise awareness surrounding heart disease.

She said: 'It's really cool to tell people about I have a bench. Usually a bench is for people who have passed but this is a celebration of life. I'm honoured to be involved in the campaign

which I really hope will promote wider awareness of heart conditions.'

"Thanks to the incredible progress of research into heart conditions, this year marks 24 years of my new heart, which is just amazing. I'm always happy to share my story as I know it's a success story that can bring others hope.

"I hope the bench inspires people to learn more about heart conditions and about the BHF.'

Every three minutes, someone in the UK dies from cardiovascular disease, which affects more than eight million people nationwide.

Eloise said: "I had my heart transplant as a child but it has affected my mental health as an adult. I have generalised anxiety and I do worry that my

life expectancy might be lower because of my transplant. I can never fully know what the future holds but I am still so grateful for the life I've been given thanks to my transplant.'

British Heart Foundation hopes the benches will encourage others to open up about their experience of living with cardiovascular disease, and help raise awareness across the UK.

The charity is also urging people for donations so they can help fund more groundbreaking research to keep the nation's hearts beating.

Dr Charmaine Griffiths, chief executive at BHF, said: "Eloise's story shows the true reality of living with cardiovascular disease, and we are so grateful that she is courageously sharing her experiences to help others."

■ BHF has funded research into heart transplantation since the early 1960s, even before the UK's first heart transplant in 1968. BHF-funded Professors Donald Ross, Donald Longmore and Jane Somerville were part of the team who performed this first transplant.

■ B In 1985, the BHF-backed Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub's pioneering work at Imperial College London to uncover why the body rejects donor hearts. His research helped to improve transplant survival rates for people like Eloise. But rejection is still a challenge and BHF continues to fund the search for solutions.

■ A BHF survey found many misconceptions about heart disease, with people saying they thought it only affected old people. More than half of heart patients questions they have felt judged or embarrassed about their condition.

■ Eloise told how at a bowls match someone asked her why she was drinking so much water. "I told them I had to as my body isn't great at regulating its own temperature. When I explained I'd had a heart transplant, they nearly spat their drink out because they were so surprised."

NEWS



Full of the joys of spring as pond revival project succeeds

Shooting new life at the restored pond, left
Before and after, right



FROGS and toads are returning to a newly restored wildlife pond in St Andrew's Park, just weeks after volunteers completed a renovation project to help the pond spring back to life.

By mid-February, amphibians had begun to reappear, and by the end of the month, clusters of frogspawn were already visible - an encouraging sign that the habitat is recovering well.

The restoration was led by the Friends of St Andrew's Park (FoSAP) and support from the community. The pond, originally dug in 1993, had deteriorated over time.

Damage to the liner caused water loss, while overgrown vegetation made the pond swampy and less suitable for wildlife. Although volunteers carried out routine maintenance, it became clear about two years ago that a full restoration was needed.

FoSAP members took initiative despite limited initial funding. A successful grant from the Veolia Environmental Trust covered

most costs, and a community crowdfunder raised an additional £2,750. Work began in January under challenging weather conditions, but contractors persevered to complete the project.

"It was unbelievably rainy and muddy, but the contractors from Keystone just slogged through it. They were brilliant," says local mum Trucie Mitchell, who was part of the FoSAP pond project group.

The restoration process involved draining the pond and carefully moving wildlife out of the pond. It was then re-dug, fitted with a new liner, and refilled, creating a healthier environment for aquatic life. A new gate was also installed along the pond path as part of the first phase of improvements.

Volunteers are planning to add oxygenating plants, as well as marginal plants and bulbs around the pond to attract pollinators like bees and butterflies. They also intend to build a "five-star" bug hotel to provide shelter for insects and small

creatures, further boosting biodiversity.

The early return of wildlife highlights the success of the project and the impact of community effort. Volunteers have expressed gratitude for the support received and are pleased to see such positive results so quickly.

To celebrate the restoration, a Pond Re-opening Event will take place on Sunday May 3, from 10am to midday, weather permitting. Visitors can participate in a family-friendly workshop to help build the bug hotel and learn more about local wildlife.

In addition, FoSAP will host informal monthly park chats starting on Easter Sunday, offering residents a chance to connect, share ideas, and get involved.

FoSAP continues to contribute to the park through planting, a community garden, and community projects. As the pond continues to recover, visitors are encouraged to look out for more returning species, including dragonflies.

By Ailsa Marshall

SOUTHMEAD Development Trust (SDT)'s Greenway Centre is living up to its name with the recent planting of 200 trees around its site on Doncaster Road, creating a woodland area on the edge of its open space, as well as around the car park area. It will indeed form a real 'green way' for wildlife.

The aim of the project is to create more of a wildlife corridor between the Greenway Community Garden and Badock's Wood Nature Reserve, so that wildlife can move easily between the two areas. This

Showing the green way

increases the shelter and food sources available to local wildlife, thus supporting biodiversity.

Ella Tainton, SDT's climate and nature action co-ordinator, explained: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with the Forest of Avon Trust - it is something we have wanted to do for so long and teaming up with the Trust means we have support for the project, funding to buy and maintain the trees, and the expertise to make sure our new

trees get the best start."

On planting day itself (which was not, inevitably, blessed by the weather), a steady stream of visitors came along to help, including some stalwart volunteers, residents and staff from both Trusts.

A highlight was a visit from the children at Raised In Bristol at Greenway - a CIC nursery on the site - who lent a hand and learn about nature - with worms being a particular attraction!

Looking to the future, Ella added: "To maximise the chance of success, we have carefully chosen tree species which are local to our surrounding area and will support lots of wildlife. These include oak, hazel, beech, rowan, and wild cherry - lots of recognisable native and naturalised species for us all to enjoy for years to come."

The space will be open for all to visit at leisure, and regular news feeds will keep locals informed of events and activities planned to care for and maintain the site.

NEWS

Disharmony over new parks licences

A 'BRING your own baby' choir for parents fears it will be forced to pay to sing in parks in Bristol from this month.

New rules from Bristol City Council say that anybody carrying out "commercial activities" in open green spaces across the city will have to apply for an annual licence.

The changes also affect professional dog walkers, who have been ordered by the council to walk no more than four dogs at a time for safety reasons.

Anybody caught without a licence could face a £500 fine. Questions about the impacts of the licences were raised during a full council meeting and member forum on March 10, including why dog walkers get a discount.

Julia Turner, founder of the BYOB Choir, said: "Why does Bristol City Council think that commercial dog walkers are more worthy of reduced fees for using Bristol parks than small health and wellbeing groups? I'm currently being asked to pay twice what commercial dog walkers will be, to keep running my classes that support the mental health of postnatal women.

"Over five years of running classes outside, the only problems I've encountered in the parks — except for the lack of clean, safe facilities — are problems with dog poo



and mismanaged dog behaviour. I'm not against commercial dog walkers, but I do not see why they merit special consideration."

The choir meets at St Andrews Park on Tuesday mornings and at three other parks in the city. Its aim is to create a supportive group for parents, who say the choir builds confidence and a sense of community, in a baby-friendly environment.

While dog walkers will get a discounted rate on licences, they have been ordered to walk no more than four dogs at a time.

Green Councillor Emma Edwards said: "I've had quite a lot of emails about this and quite a bit of upset. What we're hearing from these businesses is that if they're having to cut their business down, because they're going from walking six dogs to four dogs,

they're worried about the viability of their businesses."

Licences for one park will cost £480, and licences for up to seven parks will cost £720. Half price discounts are available for Bristol-based businesses with an annual turnover of less than £25,000, on licences for up to seven parks. Licences for between eight and 15 parks will cost £960 and will not be eligible for a discount. All these figures include the council fee plus VAT.

For commercial dog walking, licences for up to seven parks will cost £360, while licences for eight to 15 parks will cost £600. Half price discounts are available for Bristol-based businesses with a turnover of less than £25,000 who operate in seven or fewer parks. There is also a £60 application fee.

Liberal Democrat Cllr Stephen Williams, chair of the public health and communities policy committee, said: "Inevitably there will probably be some issues that will crop up during the first year of operation. I've said all along we'll keep it under review and we'll make changes for the 2027 renewal of the licence. If anything particularly stark comes up during the year, then we can fine-tune it during the year as well."

By Alex Seabrook, Local Democracy Reporting Service



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Set within the magnificent gardens and parklands of the Cote Lane retirement village is Garden House, a care home where life is truly celebrated and the staff are dedicated to creating a life affirming atmosphere for all residents.

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www.stmonicastrust.org.uk



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Registered Charity 202151

Inspected and rated

Good

Care Quality Commission



CQC rated 'Good'




NEWS



Young musicians from Redland Green, Fairfield and Ashton Park schools relish the experience of the big stage

Battle of the Bands rocks the Beacon

STUDENTS from Fairfield High School and Redland Green School took to the stage for an electrifying night of live music at the Bristol Beacon.

Excalibur Academies Trust's first Battle of the Bands, which also featured Ashton Park School, featured everything from energetic rock sets to powerful vocal performances, highlighting the talent of performers from Year 8 and above.

Performing on the Bristol Beacon stage was a privilege for the students, who benefited from professional sound, lighting and staging, giving them a true live music experience.

The judges crowned Turbo Island from Redland Green School as the winning band. Their performance not

only secured them the top prize and the opportunity to perform again, but six hours of rehearsal time in a professional studio space.

Tim Roderick, music teacher at Fairfield High School and co-organiser of the event, said: "The first Battle of the Bands was a resounding success, celebrating the incredible musical talent of students across the Trust. With such an unforgettable atmosphere, we hope this event will become an annual highlight."

Richard Uffendell, headteacher of Ashton Park School, added: "Judging the Battle of the Bands was an exciting and challenging experience. We were amazed by the talent and creativity of the students."



Turbo Island from Redland Green were the winners



Students shine in spring showcase

MONTPELIER High School's Spring Showcase at the Bristol Beacon brought together singers, instrumentalists, choristers and poets for an inspiring evening of performance.

A school spokesperson said: "We are proud to have held this celebration at the Bristol Beacon, a venue that plays a central role in music education across the city, delivering an award-winning schools programme, offering instrumental lessons, whole-class ensemble tuition and enrichment opportunities."





CLIFTON
COLLEGE

cliftoncollege.com

PRESCHOOL - YEAR 6

Open Event

FRIDAY 1ST MAY

Clifton College is an independent co-educational day and boarding school nestled in the heart of Bristol, for pupils aged 3-18 years. Join us on Friday 1st May to see the classrooms, meet our wonderful supportive staff and speak to other parents in the Clifton College community.

📍 Clifton College Prep School

The Avenue, Clifton, BS8 3HE



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YEAR 6 - YEAR 9

Open Event

FRIDAY 8TH MAY

Join us at our state-of-the-art sports complex, where you can meet our teachers, take part in a fun selection of interactive activities and learn more about what life at Clifton College can offer.

📍 Chellaram Sports Complex

*Clifton College Sports Ground,
Abbots Leigh, BS8 3QD*



Book your visit!

*Minibus service partially provided by a third party

NEWS

Girls rise to Lego contest challenge

YEAR 6 pupils from Redmaids' High Junior School showcased their talent and teamwork at a Lego League regional competition held at GKN in Filton.

The event brought together young innovators from across the region. The Redmaids' High team began by presenting their innovation project: a thoughtfully designed prototype robot to assist archaeologists in delicately brushing away dirt and soil to uncover fragile discoveries.

The competition then moved into the action round, where teams navigated a Lego robot through a complex obstacle course.

Redmaids' High Juniors were the only all-girls team competing and were significantly outnumbered by boys. However, the team approached the competition with enthusiasm and self-assurance, demonstrating that STEM is a field where they feel entirely at home.

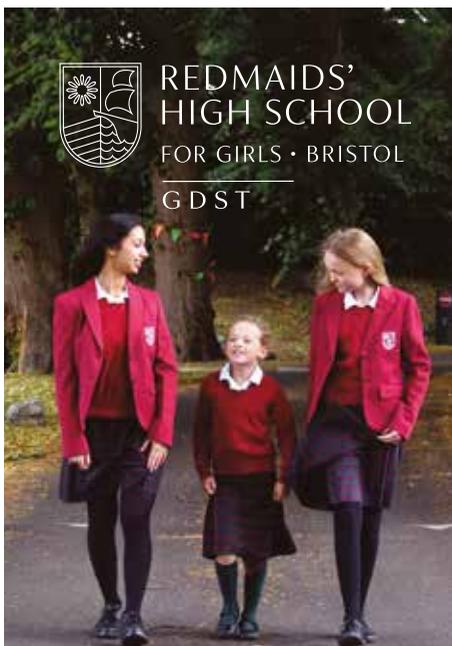
Their dedication and innovation were



ultimately rewarded with the Innovation Project Award — a recognition of their hard work and ingenuity.

A school spokesperson said: " Their

achievement marks an exciting milestone, and the school looks forward to seeing where their curiosity and talent will take them next."



Whole School Visiting Morning



Scan to join us on Tuesday 5 May to explore our Junior and Senior School





BADMINTON
SCHOOL

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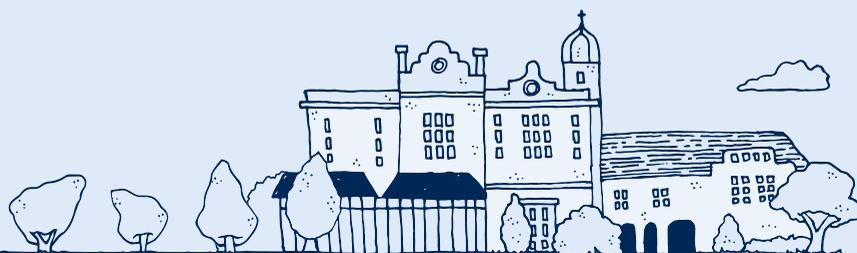


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Educating girls aged 3 - 18



Whole School Open Morning

Friday 1 May

Pre-Reception and Reception 'Stay & Play'

Friday 8 May



Scan to book your place

■ FROM BRISTOL CENTRAL'S MP

Safety through unity, not division

THIS month, I've been thinking a lot about safety – particularly who gets access to it and why. The idea of safety is increasingly used by the likes of Reform, who suggest that our safety is threatened by the most marginalised. But in reality, safety is shaped by political decisions.

For example, Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood has just made major, cruel overhauls to the asylum system, which will impact tens of thousands of people seeking sanctuary in the UK each year. Now, many people fleeing war and persecution will be denied access to the tools that would grant them basic safety.

Those who were previously granted five years' leave to remain will face reviews every 30 months. Study visas from Cameroon, Sudan, Myanmar and Afghanistan have been halted, shutting down those safe and legal routes. Some will be offered £40,000 to leave – a refresh of an old BNP policy. The government has also removed its legal duty to financially support

asylum seekers.

In my constituency office, I and my team already do what we can to support asylum seekers who face many years of uncertainty, living on less than £10 a day. With Labour's changes, more people will be pushed into poverty. I and other Green MPs will continue to stand up for migrants in our communities, whether they came here for work, for love, or for safety.

Political decisions also influence our children's safety. Tech giants knowingly expose them to addictive, algorithm-driven extremism, negative body image content, exploitation and abuse – all in their pursuit of profit. It's clear that something needs to change. I and my fellow Green MPs are calling on the government to stand up to these forces – advocating for tougher regulation to protect children (and adults!) from online harms.

→ To get the solutions right, policymakers and representatives need to listen to the experiences

of children, parents, carers, teachers and children's organisations. If you are invested in the issue of children's online safety, please respond to the government's consultation on the topic, which opened this month, and is on the gov.uk website. I've often been struck by how insightfully children speak about this issue, complementing the voices of parents, carers, loved ones and teachers. It's government listening to these voices, not the profiteering tech companies, that will keep children safe.

Finally, a sense of safety and wellbeing was in full force the other day when I went along to help out at Redcliffe's first community Iftar, organised by community development practitioner Samina Iqbal, where people of all ages, faiths and backgrounds came together to break fast, celebrate and socialise. This family-friendly event was packed with kids, including an adorable boy who sidled up to



**Carla Denyer
writes for
the Voice**

me to say: "You look like that lady that's Green."

• If you live in Bristol Central and need help with a local issue, email me at bristolcentraloffice@parliament.uk or write to Carla Denyer MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. For national issues email me using carla.denyer.mp@parliament.uk

■ FROM BRISTOL NORTH WEST'S MP

We're putting out the fire

IN February, I met with the Chief Fire Officer of Avon Fire and Rescue Service and the Chair of the National Fire Chiefs Council at Avonmouth Fire Station – just down the road from where the fire authority's headquarters might be moving to in 2028, on the (aptly named) Smoke Lane.

Hot on the agenda was the government's funding settlement for fire authorities, which was finalised on February 9.

I'm pleased to share that Avon Fire Authority will get an extra £15 million boost over the next three years above what they had expected to receive.

Following 14 years of underfunding and cuts, our firefighters and others were sounding the alarm about hollowed out public services. This government has answered their call and is putting out the fire.

Back in June 2025, after only a year in power, we announced an overhaul of the outdated way that local authorities and police

and fire authorities are funded. It was a big undertaking, but this government has now delivered on this commitment with our 'Fair Funding Allocations', which use a new evidence-based approach – including the latest data on levels of deprivation – that properly recognises local need and the true costs of providing services in deprived areas.

For my constituents, who have seen failing public services in Bristol, it may not come as a big surprise that our local authority has been recognised as one of the areas of greatest need, receiving the 29th highest Fair Funding Allocation (out of 317 local authorities across England).

Avon Fire Authority gets a separate funding allocation from central government. In the financial year 2024/25, it was given £8.6 million by central government, and Avon Fire Authority had anticipated only a marginal increase for 2026/27. However, for the upcoming financial year this will

increase to £12.5 million.

Furthermore, this government has announced the first multi-year funding settlement in over a decade for our councils and police and fire authorities – with £14 million and £15.4 million to be given to Avon Fire Authority for the subsequent two years – giving three years of financial certainty that will allow them to plan ahead, not firefight year to year.

I am happy to report the funding settlement was welcomed by our hardworking firefighters during my visit at Avonmouth Fire Station.

Finally, I recognise that many of my constituents are still feeling the pressure of the cost-of-living crisis. This government is working at pace to help put more money back into your pockets, too.

From April, for example, this government is taking £150 off household energy bills; boosting the minimum wage; removing the two-child benefit cap, which will benefit 2,420 children across



**Darren Jones
writes for
the Voice**

Bristol North West; and launching the second government-funded breakfast club in our constituency, at Badock's Wood Primary School in Southmead.

• As always, if you need my help or have a question, you can get in touch with me on email at darren.jones.mp@parliament.uk, by calling my office on 0117 959 6545 or by writing to me at the House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA.

NEWS

BRAVAS in Cotham has been allowed to keep its outdoor seating after councillors overturned advice from planning officers to refuse permission following overwhelming public support.

Applause rang out from the public gallery at City Hall as the planning committee approved the application from the popular Cotham Hill tapas restaurant by 8-0 votes, with one abstention, after hearing that rejecting the proposals would be “petty and vindictive”.

The decision followed Avon Fire & Rescue Service’s 11th-hour decision to withdraw its objection, which it initially made amid concerns the al fresco dining structure did not leave enough room for a fire engine to get past on the street, which was pedestrianised during Covid.

But after revisiting the premises, off Whiteladies Road, Redland, to measure the gap, it reversed its decision and found that the width on the highway was adequate for emergency access – by a whole metre more than previously stated.

About 1,200 people wrote in support of Bravas’s bid to retain the seating, making it one of Bristol’s most popular planning applications ever.

The venue now faces a fresh battle with Bristol City Council’s highways authority for a pavement licence for the terrace, which is also required for it to trade outside despite now having planning consent.

The highways team issued the restaurant with an enforcement notice in October ordering it to remove the structure, which it said appeared to have been put up without lawful authority and was an obstruction.

That was put on pause days later because highways officers had not realised a separate planning application was under way.

1,200 messages of support help restaurant to a planning victory



In a report to the committee in February, planning officers recommended refusal on the grounds that the fire service had at the time objected, that it would hinder access to underground utilities and street cleaning, and that the narrow space would create conflict between cyclists and pedestrians.

They considered the terrace to be a permanent structure that could not be dismantled quickly, although the team had no objections to Bravas’s other outdoor seating over the road which could be removed easily.

A planning officer admitted at the meeting that they might have made a different assessment if the fire service had reversed its opposition earlier.

Cllr Fabian Breckels (Labour, St George Troopers Hill) told the committee: “This strikes me as one of those cases where decisions seem to be made to refuse planning permission for something regardless even if the evidence then changes.

“It’s not a good look, it makes the council look petty and

vindictive.

“Post-Covid, post-Brexit, after 14 years of austerity, life is still tough for businesses and we need to do all we can to support them, not throw obstacles their way.”

Cllr Ani Townsend (Green, Central) said: “It’s pedestrianised, using the public realm for uses such as this in order to cultivate a thriving high street.”

Cllr Caroline Gooch (Lib Dem, Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze) said: “I disagree with the recommendation. It adds to the vibrancy of the street scene. It’s a really good use of a small amount of space. The public benefit outweighs the objection.”

Cllr Sibusiso Tshabalala (Green, Central) said the number of submissions of support showed what community power looked like.

Deputy head of planning Jonathan Dymond said that if a motion to approve was put forward, there should be conditions to ensure the structure’s upkeep and to

guarantee the available width on the road.

But Cllr Townsend proposed granting consent as applied for with no strings attached.

Committee chairman Cllr Don Alexander (Labour, Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston) said: “We have a proposal from Cllr Townsend which is to approve without conditions, so from the local planning authority doesn’t cover any of the other bases, which is possibly unwise.”

It was approved by 8-0 votes with Cllr Alexander abstaining.

Restaurant co-founder Imogen Waite told the meeting: “As the support for our planning indicates, Bravas is a real community, not just a business.

“For nearly five years this terrace has helped to turn an old parking space into a place where people actually spend time together.

“In that period there have been no recorded accidents linked to the terrace, no complaints about obstruction, and no occasions where emergency or utility access has been blocked.”

A planning officer said the original objection by the fire service was a “key reason” for recommending refusal but as it had been withdrawn so late, earlier that day, they had not had enough time to change the report or provide an updated proposal.

He said: “The removal of the objection is a significant late change.

“Were this to have come to us earlier, a different assessment could have been made.”

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service

FRUSTRATION continues to grow for people living around the St Peter’s Community Centre in Manor Farm over inability to park outside their own houses. They argue that spaces are being taken up by non-residents such as those parking for the hospital and community centre.

Complaints raised on social media blame lack of adequate staff parking at the hospital so employees have to park in local streets instead, the apparent scrapping of a proposed RPZ due to lack of funding/

Parking woes

density of housing, poor parking on pavements or over driveways, and spaces occupied by groups of people coming to use the community centre.

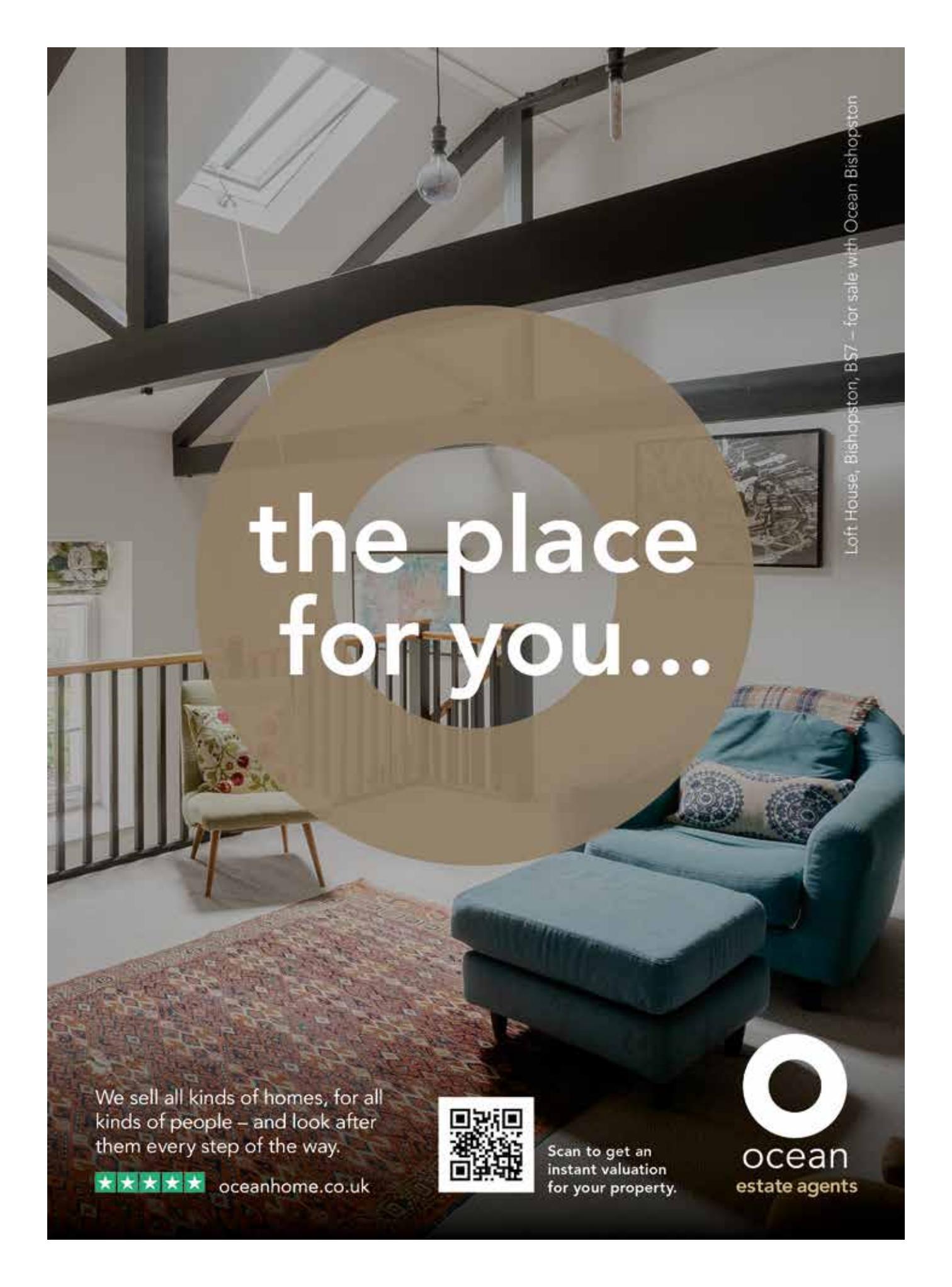
There is also confusion over to what extent spaces are allocated for residents and tenants to use outside their own houses versus spaces being free for public use.

Those frustrated by the lack of space

to park include mothers forced to unload young children and shopping at a distance from their houses and elderly residents.

A councillor surgery held on March 12 at the community centre and attended by local councillors, as well as a member of the council housing department, was an opportunity for residents to highlight the issue.

Details from this meeting and any progress or plans made to remedy the situation are yet to be announced.



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NEWS

Bristol widow's message as she backs new hospice campaign

44 days might be all you have – so make sure you live them well ...

TACEY Bain knows how precious the final days of a loved one's life can be.

Her husband David spent the last two weeks of his life at St Peter's Hospice, where specialist staff cared for him after a sudden cancer diagnosis. Now Tacey is sharing her family's story to support the hospice's new 44 Days fundraising campaign.

The campaign highlights the average amount of time a patient spends under the charity's care and asks people to reflect on an important question: what would you do with 44 days left?

For Tacey, from Westbury Park, those final days together were made immeasurably easier because of the hospice.

"David was a lovely man," she said. "He was a very good family man – he regarded his greatest achievement as our three children and was enormously proud of them. He worked as a family law solicitor, supporting people during some of the hardest moments in their lives, which made him appreciate all the things that were good in life.

"He loved sport. At the age of 71 he was still playing hockey at Masters' level. His team won the European Spirit of Masters Gold Cup in Valencia a year before he died."

Cycling was another of David's great passions. He completed Land's End to John O'Groats with a friend and regularly took part in charity rides, including the St Peter's Hospice Tour de Bristol.

In 2024 the couple walked the Camino de Santiago, but towards the end of the trip David began suffering from stomach pain. At first, they assumed it was caused by something he had eaten but by the time they returned home, the pain had worsened significantly. After



David Bain with his daughters, wife Tacey and enjoying his active life, which included walking and hockey

several hospital visits and scans, the couple received devastating news.

"Just one month after coming home David was diagnosed with cancer and we were told there were no treatment options available," said Tacey.

When David's pain became too difficult to manage at home, he was referred to St Peter's Hospice directly from hospital.

"The diagnosis was entirely unforeseen and a big shock to us all, especially as David kept so fit and healthy," she said. "It was a very overwhelming time but being at the hospice felt completely different.

"Everything ran so smoothly once we were there. They know what they're doing and they're good at it. There was no moving between beds and wards, we could really settle.

"We found great comfort in the calm environment and the time it gave us together. The room was hotel standard and the food was brilliant. Even though it was hard for David to eat we

felt nourished by the generosity. The whole set up made things far easier."

For Tacey, one of the most important aspects of hospice care was the privacy it allowed.

"You can close the door, and even the curtains if you like, and create a private space. Because of the pace of David's illness there was a feeling of 'what do I need to say before it's too late'.

"Our nine-month-old granddaughter was made to feel welcome, which in turn made it much easier for our daughter to visit.

"All three of our daughters' partners were able to go into the room one at a time and reassure David that they would take care of them. This was incredibly important for David. And because of the Hospice, he was comfortable enough to hear it."

David spent his final days at St Peter's Hospice, just 100 metres from his childhood home, and died peacefully on 6 June 2024, less than two months after returning from holiday.

This sense of giving quality time to patients at their end-of-life, is central to the new 44 Days campaign the Hospice is running to raise vital funds.

Their aim is to fill those precious days with love and light, taking on the paperwork, the medication and the practical aspects of care, so that families can simply enjoy being together.

The 44 Days campaign also holds a special significance for Tacey and her family.

She said: "Forty-four was David's lucky number. It was the number on his school locker, he used it when he raced Clubman cars in his 40s and it was in his email address.

"We feel so lucky that he was referred to the hospice and would encourage everyone to donate to this amazing campaign. Even now the hospice are supporting me through bereavement support, it is such a vital community resource."

To support 44 Days, visit <https://www.stpetershospice.org/support-us/44-days/>

PHARMACY COLUMN

Worried about Meningitis B? We can offer you a vaccination

SPRING is here—and with it comes a timely reminder to look after your health and those around you. We're here to help you stay protected, informed, and feeling your best this season.

Covid

The NHS 2026 Spring COVID Booster Campaign launches on Monday 13th April. If you're aged 75 or over, you're eligible—so just come in or book online for an appointment.

Our service as you know is quick, simple, and flexible. Whether you book online or walk in, we'll get you protected in minutes. Don't delay—your booster could make all the difference.

Meningitis B:

Recent cases of meningitis have understandably raised concern. This serious infection of the

brain and spinal cord lining can develop rapidly and become life-threatening without urgent treatment.

While viral meningitis is often mild, bacterial meningitis is far more dangerous and can lead to severe complications or even death.

It spreads through close contact such as coughing, sneezing, or kissing. Early symptoms may feel like flu—fever, headache, vomiting, or drowsiness—but can worsen quickly. A rash that doesn't fade when pressed (the "glass test") is a critical warning sign.

Working with our Bristol Travel Clinic partners, we have provided Meningitis B vaccinations since 2018 in response to a patient's request for an affordable local service. We also support the

Meningitis Now campaign for improved NHS vaccination cover and raise symptom awareness.

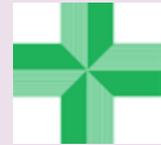
Vaccination remains the most effective protection. To learn more or book, visit: www.bristolmeningitisclinic.co.uk

Hay fever

As pollen levels rise, so do the challenges for hay fever sufferers. Around 1 in 4 adults in Bristol are affected, along with many children—impacting sleep, concentration, and even school performance.

Symptoms such as sneezing, itchy eyes, and runny noses can disrupt daily life, but simple steps can help.

Keep windows closed on high-pollen days, shower after being outdoors, and start antihistamines early—ideally before symptoms begin. Wearing



0117 9246579
18 Kellaway Avenue,
Westbury Park, BS6 7XR

sunglasses outside or applying a small amount of Vaseline around your nostrils can also reduce exposure.

We're here to help

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■ MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Together we make neighbourhoods safer

I RECENTLY attended a Neighbourhood Watch event.

It was a reminder of something I see across Avon and Somerset time and again: the powerful impact of people looking out for one another.

Neighbourhood Watch is rooted in that simple, vital idea of bringing people together, strengthening connections and creating places where people feel included and safe.

One of the key principles of Neighbourhood Watch is prevention, which is a priority in my Police and Crime Plan.

One of the most visible elements of that work is increasing neighbourhood policing.

We have added officers to neighbourhood teams because I know that when officers are

present and familiar, when they know the communities they serve, and those communities know them in return, it builds trust and reduces crime.

People feel reassured. Concerns are raised early and acted on quickly.

Neighbourhood policing is practical, visible prevention and it matters. The officer who came to the Neighbourhood Watch meeting last week demonstrated the effectiveness of that.

But prevention also means investing in the right support, at the right time, in the right places and this work is happening across Avon and Somerset.

Recent activity includes:
*South Gloucestershire: Youth work and graffiti prevention project engaging young people

in places impacted by Anti-Social Behaviour.

*Bath: youth work and mentoring sessions engaging young people.

*Across Avon and Somerset: More than 100 sports diversionary sessions, delivered to young people to reduce antisocial behaviour and youth violence.

Together, these programmes make shared spaces safer, support young people with positive opportunities, and reduce risks before harm occurs.

While formal schemes and funded programmes are essential, so too are the everyday actions each of us can take.

Creating safer communities doesn't come from just one initiative or one organisation, or just from better neighbourhood



With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody

policing.

It's the sum of many actions, choices and relationships. It's communities pulling together, looking out for one another, refusing to let division take root, choosing compassion and care.

Every area can have a Neighbourhood Watch scheme but, with or without that formal arrangement, together we can continue building safer, stronger and more confident communities where everyone can live, work and thrive free from fear.

■ NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

Next stop: better buses

REGULAR readers of my column will know I am determined to build a transport network people can trust.

It is time to tackle unreliable journeys and deliver reliable, affordable services with one ticket and one timetable.

We want to help more people across our region get home sooner, get out into nature more and explore the best the West has to offer, rather than being stuck waiting for a bus or in traffic.

Now, though, it is time to hear from you.

We are asking for your views on what matters most when it comes to travelling by bus, as we develop our Bus Plan to improve services across the West.

What is most important to you when it comes to your local bus services? Do you want them to be more reliable, or more frequent?

Do you want more green buses or to be able to get on multiple routes with one ticket?

I am determined to have a bus network we can be proud of, and for that we need you to have your say.

We want to hear from residents, businesses, bus users - and people who don't get the bus, too - about what matters most, to help shape improvements across the network.

We have secured a record-breaking investment in transport in the West and are planning to invest £150 million into bus improvements.

The best way to spend that money will be shaped by you.

Visit haveyoursaywest.co.uk/betterbuses online and have your say, from March 30 until May 10.

Paper copies are also available at Bristol and Bath bus stations.

You can also contact your local library to see if they have any in stock.

Since I was elected, we have delivered more than £2 million in savings for families through the Kids Go Free holiday scheme and the £1 child fare cap, which is set to continue for another three years.

The Diamond Pass, for older people and people with disabilities, has also been extended and we are going to continue funding free bus travel for care leavers up to the age of 25.

Thanks to successful bids for funding, we are also one of the best-funded regions in the country when it comes to the number of electric buses in the region.

Soon there will be 250 green buses across Bristol and Bath, meaning that more modern, reliable bus travel is delivering cleaner air and



Metro Mayor Helen Godwin writes for the Voice

quieter streets too.

People are already seeing and feeling the changes we have made to our bus network, on their journeys and in their pockets. But we need to do more.

With your feedback we can make sure to get the most out of our huge investment into regional transport and deliver the bus network we all deserve.

Please do take a few minutes to have your say on what you want from your local service, because the next stop is better buses!

■ ADVERTORIAL

Adventure, opportunity and community: Woodhouse Park shows what Scouting makes possible



Adventurers start young at Woodhouse Park



by Mel Woolley, Local Growth Officer for Wiltshire and Avon Scouts

LAST month I had the chance to visit Woodhouse Park Activity Centre while attending the Squirrels and Beavers Adventure Days, where hundreds of young people from across the area came to experience outdoor adventure.

I was given a tour of the site by the centre manager, Andy Scully, and spent time speaking with volunteers who help make these experiences possible.

Hidden among rolling countryside and woodland near Almondsbury, Woodhouse Park is an incredible space for young people to challenge themselves and experience the outdoors. Set among beautiful grounds and even home to a magnificent 450-year-old oak tree, the centre offers a huge range of activities.

Young people can take on the climbing wall, tackle Jacob's Ladder, or try the centre's new snow tubing slope. Campfire areas are dotted throughout the woodland, and the views across the countryside make it a truly special place for camps and activities.

Over the past five years, the site has been transformed into a thriving hub for outdoor adventure thanks to the passion and dedication of the team who run it. Andy, who lives on site and works closely with staff and volunteers, says his approach is

simple: whenever young people or volunteers come forward with an idea or an activity they'd like to try, his aim is to find a way to say "yes."

The centre is also creating opportunities beyond adventure. Through an apprenticeship programme, young people have been able to train and develop careers in outdoor activity leadership. One apprentice has even progressed into a management role on site. A great example of how environments like this can help young people build skills for the future.

Accessibility is a key focus. The team work hard to ensure activities can be adapted so that young people with mobility challenges or additional needs can still take part, including experiencing the climbing wall and other activities. =

But what really stood out during the visit was the role volunteers play in making experiences like this possible.

Challenge

Many adults first get involved in Scouting because their children join a group and then they stay because they discover how rewarding it can be.

One volunteer I spoke to joined when her son was a Beaver. Years later her son is now a Group Lead Volunteer, and she is still involved alongside her husband. When I asked what her favourite part of Scouting was, she didn't hesitate.

"Camping," she said. "And encouraging kids to try new things."

It's a sentiment shared by many volunteers. The County Lead Volunteer, who was also visiting the event, said he often attends activity days like this so he can be reminded of why he does what he does.

Watching young people challenge themselves, support each other and achieve things they didn't think they could do is at the heart of Scouting.

During the Adventure Days, even the youngest members of Scouting were getting involved. Squirrels as young as four years old were proudly taking on the climbing wall, supported by volunteers and instructors as they challenged themselves to reach the top. For many, it was their first time trying an activity like this, and watching their confidence grow with every step was a powerful reminder of how Scouting helps young people build resilience and believe in what they can achieve.

The team at Woodhouse Park are keen to welcome more local Scout groups from Avon to experience everything the site has to offer. They have even offered free camping opportunities for Avon groups who might otherwise struggle with the cost of camps, helping ensure that cost is never a barrier to adventure.

Experiences like those taking place at Woodhouse Park show

what Scouting is all about. Adventure, confidence, teamwork and creating opportunities for young people to grow.

But these experiences only happen because adults give their time to make them possible.

Scout groups are always looking for more volunteers to help create opportunities like these.

From lighting campfires and supporting activities to helping young people climb higher than they thought possible, volunteers are the people who make Scouting happen.

If you've ever looked at places like Woodhouse Park and thought "that looks incredible," you could be part of it.

Volunteering in Scouts isn't just about supporting young people; it's also about being part of the adventure yourself. Whether it's helping at weekly meetings, joining camps and activities, being on a trustee board or sharing skills and hobbies, there's a place for everyone.

Because Scouting isn't just for young people - it's for the adults who help make the adventure possible too.

Want to be part of the adventure? Whether that is at the forefront or behind the scenes, Scout groups across Avon are always looking for volunteers. For more information, email volunteer@avonscouts.org.uk

NEWS

Bristol misses out in City of Culture bid

BRISTOL has not made the longlist to be the UK's next City of Culture.

It means it will not be following in the footsteps of Hull, Coventry and Bradford – and has lost a chance to win £10 million to invest in a year of events in 2029 that would have boosted the local economy.

The city was beaten by the likes of Milton Keynes, Blackpool, Ipswich, and Swindon on to a longlist of nine.

Bristol was eliminated with eight others including the Isle of Thanet, Peterborough, Plymouth, and Reading, who also submitted expressions of interest to the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DMCS).

Cllr Tony Dyer, Bristol City Council leader, said: "We are committed to delivering a new approach to culture. Our cultural strategy demonstrates our long-term commitment to the sector

in this city.

"We're committed to building on the great work of the recent Citizens for Culture citizen's assembly and ensure that culture can be enjoyed, celebrated and participated by everyone in our city regardless of postcode."

He thanked the authority's partners for helping to build Bristol's 'visionary' bid.

Trinity Community Arts CEO Emma Harvey said: "The connections Bristol has built through this expression of interest have been huge.

"We've come together around a shared, citizen-led vision for culture in our city and region – one grounded in the people and places that make our area so magical.

"Though we weren't longlisted, it's the energy and spirit of our place that matters, and Bristol has that in abundance.



A protest by the union Equity over proposed arts cuts, which were later reversed

"This was never just about a bid. It's about how we show up for each other as a city.

The task now is to keep going by working together, backing each other and getting on with delivering a cultural offer that represents all of us."

The snub from DMCS, which runs the City of Culture competition every four years, comes just days after it emerged the Green-led council had quietly axed the successful Bristol Nights partnership.

That sparked anger from Labour and an open letter to Cllr

Dyer urging a rethink from about 100 representatives of the local nighttime economy and cultural sector, including some of the city's most influential venues, festivals and voices.

It also follows a U-turn in January when the local authority scrapped proposed £635,000 cuts to grants for cultural organisations following a protest campaign led by performing arts union Equity, with the money in the budget now being protected for three years.

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service



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Photo credits (left-right): Bristol Steppin Sistas, Beccy Golding, Maggie Thomas and Bristol Walking Alliance

NEWS

Group puts mature actors centre stage

A SEMI-PROFESSIONAL theatre company, which puts on contemporary plays and new writing in and around the Bristol area, has now been running for four years and is about to present its latest production.

Misplaced Theatre was created with the idea of bringing back actors to the stage whose acting careers had been put on hold for a variety of reasons. The company also support younger actors/writers at the start of their careers by giving them opportunities to work with a committed team of producers/directors looking to bring interesting, high-quality theatre to the arts scene in Bristol and beyond.

The four co-founders all met for the first time on a Shakespeare summer school at the Bristol Old Vic; Ciaran Corsar is an actor and had been working with the White Rabbit Theatre Company in Switzerland and was new to Bristol; Amy Tanner, an acting tutor, was looking to enhance her teaching skills; Norberto Bogard, who is primarily New York-based, had been working as a journalist for many years before deciding to pursue an acting career; Joanna Butler already had a vast amount of experience as a singer/actor and director but was keen to try something different in Bristol. While working on 'A Midsummer's Night's Dream' at the Summer



The four founders of Misplaced Theatre, who met at a summer school at the Bristol Old Vic

School, the four immediately bonded and setting up a theatre company seemed a natural progression.

The first Misplaced production was Decadence, a satirical study of 1980s Thatcherite Britain, by Steven Berloff. It received excellent reviews and inspired the team to keep up themomentum and they followed this up with Tender Napalm, Life in the Theatre, Doubt and Switzerland. With Norberto working on projects in Mexico and Joanna focusing on her music and writing, Ciaran and Amy, who both live in St Andrews/Montpelier, took the reins,

and they are now in intensive rehearsals for their next production, A Bright New Boise by Samuel D Hunter.

The play explores themes of family, faith and fundamentalism and the desire for connection set in the confines of the Hobby Lobby Store in Idaho.

Describing how the play came about, Amy, the play's director, said, "I saw this play performed by LAMDA students in London in 2024. One of our network, Robert Furey, was the assistant director. It left a powerful impression on me, so I am really excited to have the opportunity to put this on in Bristol. It is a great play for actors as Hunter has created such interesting complex characters, each with a full inner life of their own. We are lucky to have Louie Wanless as our assistant director. Louie starred in our last play, Switzerland and is now very much part of the Misplaced family."

Cast members of A Bright New Boise are: Tyler Landry as Will, Maya Hingorani as Anna, Jack Parrott as Alex, Jaleelah Galbraith as Pauline and Rhys Myhill as Leroy. It is on from April 14-18 at the Alma Tavern Theatre, Clifton.

You can buy tickets on the Alma Tavern website: <https://www.almatavernandtheatre.co.uk/>

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NEWS

Rewind the tape – cardboard creations, puppets and punk

AN unusual art exhibition entitled Cardboard, Puppets and Punk takes place in Bishopston this month.

On show will be the work of a disabled and neurodivergent artist called James, who makes models and props using repurposed corrugated cardboard and industrial tape.

James says: “My hands just love cardboard and tape. When my mind is moving fast, these materials keep up with me, allowing me to really be myself.

“I want people to see that my ADHD and autism are not just challenges—they are the very things that allow me to turn the ‘ordinary’ into something I can transform.

“This exhibition is my way

of showing the world how I see, feel, and build from my imagination. These materials help me relax my body and mind.”

The show features a giant hand-crafted puppet robot. James uses various puppets to tell non-verbal stories in his films, brought to life through flickering, rhythmic movements that mirror the fast-paced energy of his neurodivergent experience.

The exhibition is housed at GAS (Garage Art Space BS7), the domestic garage of artist and art psychotherapist Hal Camplin, who uses it as a studio to hold gatherings and shows of art, most regularly as part of the North Bristol Arts Trail.

He said: “It works well as a



The artist at work



One of the giant puppets

drop-in venue, so I thought this would be an opportunity to give James a chance to show others how he uses these materials to express himself and connect with joyful parts of himself.”

Visitors to the exhibition, which also features a live performance by local band

Badgertrap, on April 17, 2-4pm, will be able to see James making some work. The show will also be open 10am-4pm on Saturday April 18 and Saturday April 25.

To find GAS, follow signs from 179 Bishop Road, BS7 8NA. The garage entrance is on Queens Drive.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

FRIENDS OF BISHOPSTON LIBRARY

The friends of the library (all volunteers) are hosting more workshops and talks this spring and summer. If there's a topic that you'd like to hear more about, do email us and we will find an expert speaker to run it. On **Tuesday April 21**, 6.45-7.45pm, our talk is for all genders, and covers how to "Overcome sleep issues to tackle stress and anxiety" with local therapist, Debs Penrice (pictured). Doors open at 6.30pm and tickets including refreshments cost £4 plus booking fee via Eventbrite. When you can't sleep, it makes everything more difficult. Thoughts circulate, stress levels rise, and you might start worrying at the point when you want to lie down and relax.



What if you could quieten your mind, feel safer in your body, find a better routine and allow sleep to come naturally again? This session will help with learning:

- What might be affecting your sleep and anxiety levels
- Is this insomnia or something I just have to put up with?
- How can I change my routine to get more sleep?

- What works beyond standard sleep hygiene?
- How do I handle not getting enough sleep?

The week after, on **Thursday April 30** from 7.15-8.15pm, we are hosting Alison Boulton for an interesting session on "Telling Tales: bringing your family history to life." Alison has studied family history for years and has found unexpected ways of researching and tracking down the facts beyond a family tree. If you are curious about your own family, she'll provide valuable tips on where to start. So many families are not so ordinary as they seem on the surface. Doors open at 7pm and tickets including refreshments cost £4 + booking fee.

On **Saturday May 9**, we are hosting our Birthday Café, celebrating the anniversary of our library opening. Come along for drinks and cake from 11am-1pm while the library is open. For our evening events, we use the side entrance, through the gate next to the car park gates. A volunteer will come down to let you all in.

Booking links are also on the Bristol Libraries Events page <https://bristol.events.mylibrary.digital/> and our Facebook page as well as Eventbrite.

Please join our mailing list or check our Facebook page for more information.

We would love a few more people to join in the Friends of Bishopston Library group. Get in touch with us: friends@bishopstonlibrary.org.uk

FRIENDS OF REDLAND LIBRARY

The Friends of Redland Library is a voluntary group set up to support Redland Library. We organise talks and panel events. Screenwriter, director and author Tim Sullivan will be talking about his bestselling novels The George Cross Mysteries at Redland Library on **Wednesday April 15**.

The critically acclaimed crime series is set in and around Bristol and features the brilliantly persistent DS George Cross who has Autistic Spectrum Condition. This clever, twisty, touching and funny series has won an army of fans and is critically acclaimed on both sides of the Atlantic. It has sold over one million copies and been described in the national press as "iconic" and hailed as the best detective series since Sherlock Holmes.

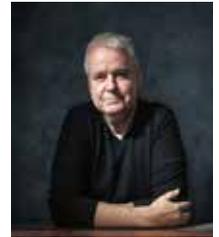
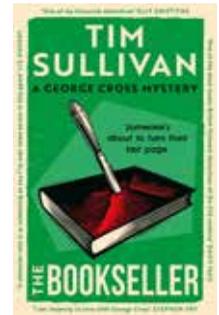
Sullivan, who grew up in Bristol will talk about how the city has shaped both him and the rich ensemble of characters who populate his books.

Signed copies of his books will be on sale. Starts 7.45pm; doors open 7.30pm.

Tuesday April 28 - Desert Island Books on Nature. A panel of experts discuss books on nature. Starts 7pm; doors open 6.45pm.

Admission is £3 (pay at the door - cash only)

• For full details of our April and future events, please visit our website <https://FriendsOfRedlandLibrary.org.uk>



BOOK REVIEW

Bread of Angels

by Patti Smith

THE singer, songwriter, poet and author Patti Smith was born in Chicago on 30 December 1946. Due on New Year's Eve, she arrived a day early, denying her mother the opportunity of receiving a promotional New Year gift of a new freezer.

Patti was the eldest of four children, with a brother Todd and sisters Linda and Kimberly. The family relocated twelve times in her first four years before settling in New Jersey. Plagued by ill health including pneumonia, tuberculosis and scarlet fever Patti finds solace in art, books and music. For her seventh birthday, her mother takes her to the local bookshop where it was store policy to let a child fill a shopping trolley with free books on their birthday. Her father takes her to the Philadelphia Museum of Art where she is spellbound by the works of Picasso and Modigliani.

Another birthday sees her mother presenting her with Another Side of Bob Dylan.

We follow Patti through her teenage years including getting pregnant at 19 and giving up her baby for adoption. She leaves home for New York City where she meets a soulmate in the photographer Robert Mapplethorpe. Patti starts performing her poetry in front of live audiences in art galleries and museums, whilst working in a local bookstore. She composes Piss Factory, a song based on her experience as a factory worker in New Jersey. The single was pressed and sold in the streets for two dollars. She signs with Arista Records insisting on full creative control of her work. In 1975, she releases Horses her highly acclaimed debut album.

Patti goes to Detroit where she meets the love of her life in

Fred Sonic Smith, guitarist and member of the rock band MC5. Fred and Patti get married and Patti retreats from public life, moving to Detroit where she gives birth to her son Jackson and her daughter Jesse.

Patti then suffers the trauma of losing the three most important men in her life in close succession. Robert is the first, dying of AIDS in 1989. Five years later, her beloved Fred dies of a heart attack with her brother Todd dying from a massive stroke a month later. A devastated Patti gradually rebuilds her life, rediscovering the joy and therapy of writing and of performing on stage.

This is a moving and intimate memoir from one of our greatest living artists, available from your library at 100 Gloucester Road.

Review by Bob Deacon, from Bishopston Library



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Saturday 11am-5pm

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FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Bishopston & Ashley Down: Emma Edwards and James Crawford (Green Party)

Petition for lighting on Concorde Way

Residents have raised concerns about a lack of lighting along Concorde Way and under Ashley Down Station. This pathway, a vital corridor for children walking home from school and for cyclists and pedestrians, becomes perilously dark during the winter months.

We have been trying to find solutions for a few years now, but have not had any success, so we have set up a petition asking for environmentally considerate lighting along this crucial stretch of Concorde Way. Our petition call on the Council and Network Rail to prioritise this matter, allocate the necessary funds, and begin the process of installing new streetlights along Concorde Way.

By signing this petition, you are voicing your support for a safer, more secure, and environmentally mindful infrastructure. Let's make our streets a safer place for everyone, especially during the darker months.

Please sign this petition to urge the necessary action. <https://www.change.org/p/improve-street-lighting-on-concorde-way>



Progress made on road safety in the ward

We were delighted by residents' engagement with the new Improve My Street tool, which created a map of all the streets where dangerous driving, speeding, traffic and parking are issues. This has got us one step closer to getting road improvements in the area. Residents also joined Emma and James at a workshop looking at these potential changes. Applications are now being put in for consideration. We hope this means that we can improve road safety in the ward. Up until now, the only money available for such projects has been community interest levy

money (CIL), which has never been very much in our area. However we have been working with officers to find ways to supplement CIL money specifically for projects to do with transport. Money is now being taken from the Clean Air Zone to make more money available for transport projects. We look forward to seeing how these projects may be taken forward.

Warm Homes, City Leap

James recently asked the Council how the Government's new Warm Homes Plan will affect Bristol, especially the work of City Leap, which is helping retrofit homes to cut bills and carbon emissions.

The Council explained that the Government will provide two types of funding:

- Warm Homes Social Housing Fund – money for improving council and social housing.
- Warm Homes Local Grant – support for low income households in private homes.

Both pots of funding will be run through the West of England Combined Authority and match the kind of work City Leap is already doing in Bristol.

For social housing, about £295 million is expected nationally next year, but councils will need to add their own match funding. If Bristol's Housing Revenue Account cannot cover this, some projects may need to be delayed or funded differently.

For private homes, the grants will not require match funding, which means more low income families should be able to get help with insulation and energy saving improvements. The good news is that City Leap already has many projects ready to go, so Bristol can move quickly once funding is confirmed.

Update on Dog Walker Licensing

Many residents and local dog walking businesses have contacted me over recent weeks about the new Parks Business Licenses, particularly the decision to reduce the

maximum number of dogs that can be walked at one time from six to four. Dog walkers are rightly concerned that this represents a potential 33% loss of income per hour, and many felt they had not been consulted on changes that directly affect their livelihoods.

At the March Member Forum, I raised these concerns with the Chair of the Public Health and Communities Committee. I highlighted the risk that the new restrictions could push small businesses to the brink, limit choice for dog owners, and even negatively affect dog welfare if services become less affordable.

In response, the Committee confirmed that the new four dog limit was introduced based on welfare and safety guidance from organisations such as the Dogs Trust and the RSPCA, and that many other councils already operate similar caps. The Council said that consistent limits help ensure dogs are properly supervised and that parks remain safe and enjoyable for all users.

I have also been told that fees and the licensing scheme will remain under review so will continue speaking with dog walkers and pushing for a system that is fair, workable, and transparent – one that protects animal welfare without undermining small local businesses.

Active Bristol Strategy

Bristol City Council have launched a new resident's survey. This survey will help gather views to help shape the development of the new Active Bristol Strategy. Bristol should be a happy and healthy city where everyone can move more, be physically active, or play sport in ways that work for you. Share your thoughts, ideas and feedback in a short survey to help shape the new Active Bristol Strategy. Deadline is Monday 6th April! <https://tinyurl.com/activebristolsurvey>

Contact us

Cllr.james.crawford@bristol.gov.uk

Cllr.Emma.edwards@bristol.gov.uk

NEWS

Hopes for improvements to park

PEOPLE living near the playground on an area of grass outside Horfield Leisure Centre have expressed concerns to local councillors regarding its current state of disrepair.

The 'broken and tired' play equipment is currently fenced off in parts and with no indications of when it will be replaced, has become an 'embarrassment and an eyesore'.

Following a public question hearing at a Council meeting on March 10, Councillor Tom Renhard of Horfield Ward, who had raised the issue some months previously, updated on the situation: "The Council has said they will replace in the new financial year, although we are trying to pin the Council down on a more exact timeline rather than at some point between April 2026 and March 2027."

Further information on developments is still to come.

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FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Redland: Martin Fodor and Fi Hance (Green Party)

Crossing repainted – success!

We've long shared concerns about the worn out road markings and supported residents who asked about the pedestrian crossing close to Bishopston Library. Repainting road markings fell behind when budgets shrank from austerity. Fi and Martin both chased this on various occasions as we know how well used it is and how important road safety is. The good news is the budget was increased for repainting and a contract was finally let. The crossing and its zig zag lines are at last refreshed! We're hoping this will be safer and left unobstructed by parked vehicles.

Lamp post chargers

We said there will be better charging facilities coming for electric vehicles for people without home charging. The first lamppost electric vehicle chargers across Bristol are now operational including several lampposts in our ward, mainly close to homes without driveways that offer an adequate power supply and are by the road side [not the property wall].

We're pleased these installations have been rolled out, including many in the area with terraced streets in the Bishopston part of our ward, as

EV vehicle ownership rises. All relevant lighting columns have been upgraded, and installation of about 150 new charge points across the city is mostly complete. As each charger is installed it becomes live for public use and is shown on a public map of locations. Instructions on how to use it and the tariff are clearly displayed on the Fuuse app with simple instructions on the post next to the charge point.

We know there are some concerns about how these will work at different times of day between people using roadside parking with non electric cars and we shall be keeping a close look at how the use of spaces next to charger columns is managed.

We've also been notified of the new scheme where a household can request and pay for a pavement gully to be installed so that a power cable might be used from the house itself. This trial now starting and an application process is available. If you have any queries do get in touch as always.

Community Weeding for your street

The council recently adopted a weed management policy and strengthened the informal scheme for residents to opt out of glyphosate spraying. This now

features on the council website on the road maintenance page <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/road-maintenance/community-weeding-scheme>

Residents who want to work together can download details of how this works and an opt out letter to send to streetscene [and let us know] when they've set up a group to keep the street weed free themselves.

Progress to halve use of Glyphosate by 2030 is continuing. The most recent report in autumn showed it's already down 42% since 2020 thanks to various measures to eliminate or minimise use. The new policy looks for alternative ways to manage weeds in pavements as well as enabling residents to opt out if they manage weeds themselves, plus increased manual weeding. Use of community payback workers in partnership with the probation service is also growing to help with various street scene tasks.

Clean-up helps Bishop Road

Our thanks to council officers and Bristol Waste for tidying the bins and mess on Bishop Road by Bishop Lane. This location has long attracted waste problems and got worse since we last got it cleared. With the eyesore growing we backed calls for

the various bins and boxes to be identified and replaced where they belong, or removed if unclaimed. Proper storage of recycling and waste helps everyone and we'll keep an eye on the area to try and prevent this slipping back. We've raised the issue of landlords who don't provide proper storage areas with officers and have asked what can be done to raise standards in houses in multiple occupation and new blocks of flats.

Community Spring Clean time

Local groups of residents are invited to join in the Great Bristol Spring Clean which is from 20 March to 20 April. If you've a local area that's been neglected you can borrow a litter picking kit for free from Bristol Waste. It's a great activity for the body, mind, and environment - and all ages can get involved.

Visit the Bristol Waste Company website to find out more <https://buff.ly/w570Hzr>

Contact us

Fi: Cllr.fi.hance@bristol.gov.uk
 Martin: Cllr.martin.fodor@bristol.gov.uk
 Fi: 0117 3534720. Martin: 0788 4736101
 Facebook.com/cllrmartin.fodor or /cllrfi.hance

COMMUNITY NEWS

SEA MILLS FLOWER AND CRAFT SHOW

THE Sea Mills Flower and Craft Show has been an established event in the life of the city almost since the first buildings went up in the area in 1922. It has always been held in the autumn, most recently on the first Saturday in September. Entrants are welcome from across Bristol and the organisers always appreciate seeing friends from Henleaze and Westbury represented.

This year, however, the show is moving to May – to be held instead on Saturday May 9 at St Edyth's Church in Sea Mills. Why the change?

Sue Hazelden of the show's committee explained that there were a number of reasons and it wasn't a decision taken lightly: "One consideration has been the frustration of clashing with the Westbury Village Show. We know entrants have been able to enter and pop in to both shows, but we organisers have no hope – and it sounds like a great day! They might have ideas we can pinch ...

"We also run a well-attended free Art and

Craft session for children in Sea Mills Library, and want to encourage children to enter. But a September entry deadline, just as school starts, is a busy time for families. We can't push the show later, because the other big autumn event in Sea Mills is Apple Day, on the third Saturday in September. It's another fantastic event, but very different, so merging the two didn't make sense, and we felt October was too late in the year for the Flower Show's 'growing' classes.

"So we started to look earlier in the year. If you want to avoid the start of a school term, and Easter, and summer exams, you end up in May – and we landed on the second Saturday. Initially it seemed rather daunting to organise everything over three months earlier than usual, but we got off to a good start and it's all coming together to make for a fantastic afternoon.

"One piece of news is that Henry Michallat, current Lord Mayor (and Councillor for Stoke Bishop including half of Sea Mills) has agreed to open the Show for a second time! And that's only possible because of the earlier date. So if you'd like to see him in all his

finery, do come along. We also have local social media Influencer @The Food Guy66 not only attending, but also judging the Sausage Roll category!"

There's a whole new section this year for 'Made in my Shed' – and any 'shed' will do. Naturally there are still the regular handicrafts, photos and edibles. 'Trauma Teddies' have been added to the Handicraft section, hoping to have some donations to the local Fire Service.

Stall-holders are already signing up, and as well as a wide range of beautiful crafts, local organisations will also hold some 'information' stalls. Entertainers include local musician Sarah Jane Warren, Bristol Ukulele Club, the Shyne Ladies Belly Dancers and Rich on guitar.

The small team of organisers are always in need of a large team of volunteers on the day, so get in touch if you want to know more, or could help. They'd love to hear from you.

seamillsflowershow@gmail.com ;

Entry form: bit.ly/SMFCS

Schedule: Facebook: [Sea Mills Flower & Craft Show](#); Instagram: [seamillsflowershow](#)

WHAT'S ON IN OUR AREA

■ **LA SCALA DELI** - The Italian Hub of Henleaze
Join us for one of our signature Wine Tastings led by our in-house sommelier:

April 2nd & 9th - Liguria & Valle D'Aosta

April 10th & 23rd - Spanish Wines Special

May 14th & 22nd - Emilia Romagna

May 21st & 23rd - Dry Whites & Big Bubbles

June 11th & 19th - Emilia Romagna

June 12th & 18th - Dry Whites & Big Bubbles

SPECIAL EVENTS - Wine & Dine Dinner Party Tasting Menu - 5 courses, 6 paired wines:

April 4th - Rome (Lazio)

May 16th - Calabria

June 27th - Calabria

Tickets at www.lascaladeli.com/ tickets and in-store - more dates online

April 27th

■ **HENLEAZE SENIOR FILM CLUB** 2pm. Maria (12). The glamorous and moving story of iconic opera singer, Maria Callas. Paris, 1977: Once the world's greatest soprano, Callas now hides in an apartment, having lost her voice and retreated from the world. She dreams of returning to the stage, but can her body and mind take the pressure? Starring Angelina Jolie in a career-defining performance. Carers welcome, easy access. St. Peter's Church Hall, The Drive, Henleaze BS9 4LD. For more information, please call 0117 435 0063

■ **BLAISE COMMUNITY GARDEN** behind Blaise Museum, BS10 7QS. Open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday 10-2. Interesting walled kitchen garden, free entry, new volunteers needed & welcomed. Plants always available. Cash & cards accepted. Events: Café on 11th April 9.45-2pm and Spring Market & Café on 9th May 9.45-3pm.

April 15th

■ **BRISTOL OPERA CLUB ROMÉO ET JULIETTE** : we will be viewing the brilliant 2008 Salzburg Festival production of Gounod's wonderful rendering of Shakespeare's heart-rending tragedy, for some the finest French opera ever written!

All are warmly welcomed. 6.30 for 7.00pm. The Apostle Room, Clifton Cathedral, Worcester Road Entrance. £8.00/£1.00 cash only please, dedicated parking, Bar. Details: borkmail100@gmail.com 01275 848526

2nd May

■ **BRISTOL ARROW BOWLING CLUB OPEN DAY** Saturday, 10am to 4pm At: Bristol Arrow Bowling Club, 80 Redland Road, Bristol, BS6 6AG (Adjacent Bannatynes Health Club). Put on your flat-soled shoes, then drop in to meet us and try lawn bowls for free. Whatever your age, bowls is brilliant for concentration, mobility, strength, flexibility and balance. Expect lots of gentle, meditative exercise in good company, plenty of craic and some healthy competition too. For more information: Kathryn Nicholls (Club Secretary); mob. 07811 097199; email: bristol.arrow.sec@gmail.com

REGULAR EVENTS

Various days

■ **PILATES** classes, Northcote Scout Hall, BS9 3TY. Mondays 9.30am (Improvers), 10.30am (Mixed Ability inc. Beginners); Tuesdays 9.30am (Improvers), 10.30am (Gentle); Thursdays 9.30am (Improvers), 10.45am (Mixed Ability - inc Beginners). Small, friendly classes. Please register interest before attending. Full details at www.mindbodypilates.org. Contact: Leanne 07817189474 or leanne@mindbodypilates.org

■ **GENTLE PILATES** Small and friendly group classes with a mindful approach. Beginners welcome. Tuesdays 7.15-8.15pm and Thursdays 11.30-12.30am at Bristol Yoga Space, Princes' Place, BS7 8NP. For further information visit pilates.ittahowie.co.uk or email Itta@mail@ittahowie.co.uk

■ **BRISTOL HOME LIBRARY SERVICE.** A free home delivery service for Bristolians provided by local volunteers. For anyone affected by age, disability or caring responsibilities. 07714898558

Monday

■ **SHARED READING AT ST PAUL'S LIBRARY.** Meet and connect with

others Mondays 2pm - 3.30pm. St Paul's Learning Centre, 94 Grosvenor Road, Bristol BS2 8XJ. Email: support@thereader.org.uk

INSTRUMENT AMNESTY:

If you have an unused keyboard, guitar, violin or ukulele gathering dust Folkstars would love to hear from you! We will come and collect from you. Any condition, we will fix and use to give more kids in Bristol the chance to play an instrument. Smaller sizes a bonus but all sizes useful. Please email info@folkstars.co.uk to arrange a collection. Folkstars is a non-profit setup to give more children in Bristol the chance to learn an instrument. We provide affordable instrumental tuition during school time that's free for pupil premium, inclusive and fun. If you would like your school to be considered please email info@folkstars.co.uk

■ **REDLAND WIND BAND** has vacancies for some woodwind, brass and percussion players. This friendly group meets 7.30-9.30pm at Redland Church Hall, Redland Green. Contact via email on redlandwindband@gmail.com

■ **DICKENS SOCIETY.** 7pm, at Leonard Hall, Henleaze URC, Waterford Rd, Bristol BS9 4BT. Talks, costumed readings, book club and social events. See www.dickens-society.org.uk or phone Roma on 0117 9279875.



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■ **PLAY BOWLS** at Canford Park in a friendly, social atmosphere. Qualified coaches and equipment provided. Contact: Les on 07305695579

■ **BRISTOL COMMUNITY GAMELAN** play the music of Java at Cotham School from 6.30-8.30. We play by numbers - only 1-6, without the 4

! So no auditions, no need to read music. If you fancy a different musical experience, contact us via email on keithrhipley27@gmail.com

■ **WESTBURY ON TRYM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** meets on the third Monday of the month in the Westbury Village Hall, Eastfield Road, BS9 4AG, from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. We have interesting speakers, and extra activities of crafts, lunch club, skittles and outings. For more information call Sascha on 07961619806 or Traci on 07766073917

Tuesday

■ **WESTBURY PARK WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** meets on the first Tuesday of every month in the Girl Guide Hut on Westmorland Road from 7.00 - 9.30pm. We are an active and friendly group with a varied programme plus extra sessions for craft, coffee, book clubs, walks etc. Visitors are always welcome and for more information do call Sue on 07813795936 or email westburyparkwi@gmail.com

■ **THE ARTS SOCIETY BRISTOL** welcomes new members. Our lectures, given by specialists in their own field, take place on the second Tuesday of the month from September to May at 7.30pm at Redmaids' High BS9 3AW and by internet. For more information visit our website www.theartssociety-bristol.org.uk

■ **GENTLE PILATES** Small and friendly group class with a mindful approach. Beginners welcome. Tuesdays 7.15-8.15pm at Bristol Yoga Space, Princes' Place, BS7 8NP. For further information email Itta@mail@ittahowie.co.uk

■ **BRISTOL HARMONY WEST GALLERY CHOIR** and band sing and play lively church and village music from the 18th century. St Edyth's Church Hall, St Edyth's Road, Sea Mills, 7.30 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday each month. All voices (SATB), string, wind and reed instruments welcome. No auditions but ability to read music helpful. www.bristolharmony.wordpress.com or call Fritjof 0117 924 3440. Contact before attending.

■ **POETRY UNLIMITED** - poetry circle meet on the First Tuesday of every month 11am - 12 midday. Basement Room, Café Kino, 108 Stokes Croft, Bristol, BS1 3RU.

£2.50 - £3.00 donation towards the cost of the room. Bring a couple of poems to share, other poets or your own. Contact Dee: wetwo@gentlyblown.co.uk Web: www.poetryunlimitedbristol.weebly.com

■ **COMPANION VOICES BRISTOL** We are a 'threshold choir' looking for new people to join us. We meet in Easton on the 3rd Tuesday

of the month from 7 to 9 pm to learn songs by ear and build skills in sensitivity/compassion/loving presence to sing at the bedsides of people nearing the end of life. To join/support us in this work, contact Valerie on bristol@companionvoices.org. Visit www.facebook.com/CompanionVoicesBristol and www.companionvoices.org

■ **BRISTOL A CAPPELLA:** Tuesdays 7.30pm, Victoria Methodist Church. Bristol A Cappella is an award-winning mixed barbershop chorus of around 30 members who love to sing close harmony a cappella. Our songs are mainly from pop music, with a bit of rock and some musicals. www.bristolacappella.co.uk/ Contact: membership@bristolacappella.co.uk

■ **BRISTOL GOOD AFTERNOON CHOIR** rehearses at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church (BS9 3AA) 2-4pm (term time only). We are a fun and friendly, non-audition, community choir for both male and female voices - one of 32 Good Afternoon Choirs who 'sing in the afternoon' around the South West and further afield. New members are always welcome and, whether you come alone or with a friend, we will be very pleased to meet you! For further details please visit our website - www.goodafternoonchoir.org - or contact us on 01761 472468 or via e-mail at gac@grenvillemusic.co.uk

Tuesday and Saturday

■ **BRISTOL HF RAMBLING CLUB** We are a friendly sociable club with a variety of walks. We have 2 Tuesday walks of either 8-9 miles or 5-6 miles. On Saturdays we have varying length walks including a hill walk eg Brecon Beacons once a month. If you would like more information please visit our website.

Wednesday

■ **OPEN DEVELOPMENT CIRCLE** For those interested in developing their spiritual awareness and mediumistic ability. 7.15 for 7.30 start at Westbury Park Spiritualist Church, Cairns Road BS6 7TH. Just turn up or visit www.westburyparksc.org

■ PULSE: MUSIC & MOVEMENT CLUB FOR ADULTS

Join Bristol Beacon's friendly community club for adults who wish to improve their health and wellbeing. Together we will make music through our instruments and voices, move our bodies, relax, listen, breathe and connect. Weekly sessions on Wednesdays in term-time 11am - 3pm. Beacon Music Centre, Stanton Rd, Bristol BS10 5SJ. First session free, then £3 per session. Find out more and sign up: bristolbeacon.org/whats-on/pulse

■ **HEALING SESSIONS** Spiritual Healing is available from 2pm to 3.30pm by the accredited healing team at Westbury

Park Spiritualist Church, Cairns Road BS6 7TH. Just turn up or visit www.westburyparksc.org

■ **GOLDEN HILL WI** Meets the first Wednesday of every month. 1-3pm. Golden Hill Sports Ground, Wimbledon Rd, BS6 7YA. A vibrant, lively new afternoon WI in BS6. Contact Pam Scull at goldenhillwi@gmail.com.

■ **BRISTOL VOICES COMMUNITY CHOIR** welcomes new members at any time. We meet at 7.30pm in St Werburghs Primary School during term time. See www.bristolvoices.org.uk for details.

■ WELCOME WEDNESDAY

Friendly and free coffee afternoon on the last Wednesday of the month, 2-3.30pm at The Beehive Pub, Wellington Hill West, BS9 4QY. Meet new people, have fun, and find out what's happening in your local area. Call 0117 435 0063 for more information.

■ **CLIFTON CRAFTERS** We all have craft items we started and are now lurking in a drawer unloved - dig them out and come and share a morning of knitting, crochet, tapestry, rag rags or whatever you would love to resurrect or mend! Every Wednesday in October at Clifton Library 10.30-12.30pm.

■ **BRISTOL SCRABBLE CLUB** meets every Wednesday evening at 7pm until 10pm at Filton Community Centre, Elm Park, Filton BS34 7PS. New members welcome- first visit free so come along and give us a try. For further information contact Tania by email at tania lake@yahoo.co.uk

Thursday

■ **HIGHBURY BADMINTON CLUB:** Pete Stables 0117 950 1524 or www.pete4458.wixsite.com/highburybadminton Thurs 7:30pm mid September to End April, Westbury-on-Trym Village Hall

■ **THE STEPFORD SINGERS WOMEN'S COMMUNITY CHOIR** meets at Horfield Baptist Church, Bishopston on Thursday afternoons, 1pm to 3pm. No auditions and no need to read music! Come for a free taster session with our friendly, supportive group and learn to sing in harmony. For info, contact Fran franbolton66@gmail.com

■ **MINDFULNESS YOGA.** Thursdays 5.30 - 6.30pm. Deepen your yoga practice & awareness, through a meditative & loving-kindness approach. Classes adaptable for beginners and intermediates. By donation. See www.bristol-buddhist-centre.org/yoga/ for more details. Or email info@bristol-buddhist-centre.org

■ **GENTLE PILATES** Small and friendly group class with a mindful approach. Beginners welcome. Thursdays 11.30-12.30am at Bristol Yoga Space, Princes' Place, BS7 8NP. For further information email Itta at mail@ittahowie.co.uk

■ **THE READER:** We meet to share

experiences using stories and poems that we read aloud; no pressure to read or talk. 11.30am to 1.00pm at Bishopston Library. Dee Derbyshire 07980364909 & Juliet Harvey

■ **SWIFTS INCLUSIVE SPORTS** swimming sessions are for adults 18+ with any disability (hoist available) on Wednesday evenings from 7-8pm. £5 per session at Henbury Leisure Centre. Contact Karen Lloyd at 07734 335 878.

■ FRIENDS TOGETHER

DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAFÉ A Dementia accessible café for all on the first Thursday of every month, 10am-12pm; The Randall Room at All Saints Church, Pembroke Rd, Clifton. Support, guidance, information and friendship with complimentary tea, coffee and homemade cake. No need to book - just come along and be a part of our community! For more information contact All Saints Parish Office: 0117 974 1355

■ ENJOY SCOTTISH DANCING]

Looking for a new hobby? Join us for fun, fitness and friendship (singles welcome). First evening free! Thursdays: New/Inexperienced dancers 7-8.30pm (£4). Intermediate/Advanced dancers 7.30-10pm (£6). St Monica Trust, Oatley House Main Hall, BS9 3TN. www.rscdsbristol.info. Contact Ruth 01179683057.

■ **BRISTOL BACH CHOIR** are now recruiting new members. We are a friendly auditioned choir of between 30 and 40 singers. All voice parts are welcome. We rehearse on a Thursday evening at Bristol Grammar School from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. If interested please contact Julie at membership@bristolbach.org.uk

■ HENBURY SINGERS WELCOMES

NEW MEMBERS Do you have a yearning to join a choir? Whether you are new to choirs, or returning after a short or long break, a warm welcome awaits you at Henbury Singers. We meet each Thursday 7.30 - 9.15 at Stoke Bishop Primary School, Cedar Park BS9 1BW during school term times. We perform a wide range of sacred and secular music under our conductor Barbara Rusbridge. No auditions. See our website www.henburysingers.org. Contact the secretary at secretary@henburysingers.org

■ **HENLEAZE LADIES' CHOIR** Join us as we fill St Peter's Church Hall in Henleaze with a diverse selection of music. We are a friendly choir and meet on Thursday afternoons in term time from 1.45 to 3.45. There are no auditions, and the ability to read music is not necessary. Contact Jeanette on 9685409 or Jane on 07752 332278

■ **HEALING FOR WELLBEING -** New time, 5pm to 6.15 pm. Drop in

sessions with trained practitioners. Redland Meeting House, 126 Hampton Road, BS6 6JE. All welcome - donation basis. For information, visit <http://www.facebook.com/BristolHealingGroup> or <https://www.thehealingtrust.org.uk/healing/healing-centre> or phone Selina 0117 9466434.

■ **BISHOPSTON COMMUNITY CHOIR** Meet on Thursday evenings, 7.30pm to 9.00pm at Horfield Baptist Church, 160a Gloucester Road, Bishopston BS7 8NT. Everyone welcome, no audition necessary. Contact us on bishoproadchoir@gmail.com

■ **LOCAL CHOIR ACTIVELY RECRUITING NEW MEMBERS.** We meet at Stoke Bishop CE Primary School, BS9 1BW on Thursday, 7.45 - 9.15pm. We are a well-established mixed choir performing both sacred and secular music. See website www.henburysingers.org contact secretary at secretary@henburysingers.org.

Friday

■ **BRISTOL SPANISH CIRCLE** Come and meet a group of friendly people and enjoy talks in Spanish, musical events and social evenings. We meet every month from September to June, usually on the last Friday of the month, at St Peter's Church Hall in Henleaze. For more info, see <https://www.spanishcirclebristol.com/>

■ **COFFEES AND CRAFT** at Horfield Baptist Church, This community event is open to all who enjoy making and doing activities with their hands. Please bring your craft to work on and expect to have a relaxing and social time. When: Fridays in January 9th, 23rd and 30th, February 13th and 27th. Times 10.30 to 12.15. For further information please contact the church office office@horfieldbaptist.net

■ HENLEAZE BOWLING CLUB.

Come along at 5.45pm on Fridays to see if bowling could be the sport for you. Coaching available. Experienced bowlers welcome. Grange Court Road, by Newman Hall. This is a friendly Club with good bowling facilities and social events throughout the year. Phone, Tom Logan, on 0117 962 1669 or email hbcsec@henleazebowlingclub.org.uk for further details.

■ **FOLK NIGHT** every third Wednesday of the month at the Victoria inn, Chock lane, Westbury on Trym. 7.30-10.30pm. All musicians and singers welcome or just pop in. Call 0117 959 0834

Saturday

■ **SEA MILLS REPAIR CAFE** offers sewing, woodwork, general, electrical and cycle repairs at the Methodist Church, Sea Mills Square, from 10am-12pm, every second Saturday of the month (except August). This is a voluntary service run by experienced repairers. Donations welcome. FFI see Facebook @seamillsrepaircafe

SPORT

Clifton Rugby mourns Matt Salter

CLIFTON Rugby Football Club was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Matt Salter early in March.

Matt was a hugely respected figure in the Bristol rugby community. An iconic player for Bristol Rugby, where he captained the club for four seasons and was named captain of the Guinness Premiership Dream Team in 2006, he also played professionally for London Broncos and Leeds.

Following his playing career, Matt dedicated himself to developing the next generation of players, serving for many years as Head Coach at Clifton RFC and as Director of Rugby at Clifton College.

Matt's impact on the game in Bristol will be felt for many years to come. As a player, captain and coach, he inspired countless teammates, players and students, and his passion for rugby and for helping others develop through the game was clear to all who worked with him.

Many will consider his finest moment at Clifton was leading Clifton's successful promotion to National League One at the end of the 2024-25 season by winning the hugely competitive National League 2 West

Tributes to him were made in the national press and from across the world of rugby.



Matt Salter with coaches Paul Fincken and Luke Cozens winning promotion in 2025

Thoughts remain with his wife Charlotte and their children.

Huge admiration was shown before the first home game since his passing against local rivals Dings Crusaders, a clash he would have relished.

The next home game this season is with Birmingham Moseley at Station Road at 3pm on April 18.

The first game after Matt's passing was a challenging visit to London to face promotion candidates Rosslyn Park. Emotions understandably ran at a high level throughout the day. The occasion was honoured by the attendance of Matt's parents on a ground where he made his Clifton playing debut in 2009.

The game was a fine tribute to him with pulsating open end to end rugby. During the exciting afternoon the outcome was a 43-40 win for the Londoners with the lavender and blacks returning with two richly deserved bonus points. Clifton had the first strike and, although trailing at half time, fought back to take the lead as the game entered its final quarter before the Park responded to take the spoils by a narrow margin.

The players and travelling fans earned great respect for handling such a sensitive occasion with dignity, courage and the utmost respect for a fine rugby man.

- A memorial service to celebrate the life of Matt Salter will take place at Bristol Cathedral, College Green, BS1 5TJ, on Thursday 16th April at 1pm.

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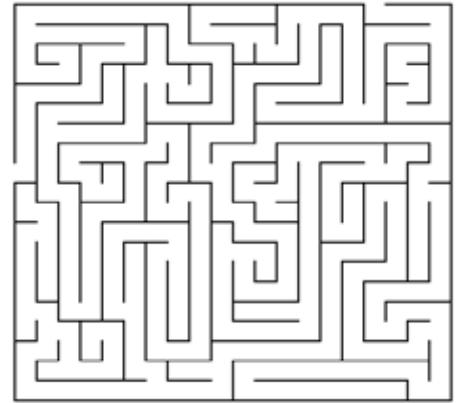
Sudoku

Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

			9		4		6	5
	2			6	1		3	
		7					9	
7				3	5		8	
	8						1	
5		4			7			
				4	6			2
			1		3	5		

For younger readers

Can you help the Easter Bunny find the eggs?



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■ VINEYARD NEWS with INGRID BATES

Vineyard visits are on the calendar

THE fruit growing season is fast approaching, and it's been lovely to have a reminder of what a spring or summer day feels like over the past few weeks.

It's amazing how quickly we can forget the smell and feel of a warm spring day when we're in the depths of winter, but we've been lucky enough to experience a few days like that recently.

In the vineyard, we've finished pruning the vines. The grass has started to shoot up, so we've invited our farming neighbour to lend us some sheep to delay having to mow for a few more weeks. The willow windbreak has come into leaf and looks quite beautiful. We're still working



our way through them all, cutting them back to a one-metre stump as we do every spring. I'm always amazed at how much they grow over the course of just one summer.

On the wine front, we have two bits of exciting news.

The first is that we're hosting a wine and cheese tasting



An Evening of Cheese and Wine Pairing with Dunleavy

evening with our friends at the Bristol Cheesemonger on Gloucester Road on May 21st. Please visit the Bristol Cheesemonger website for details and tickets.

The other news is that we've released information about a series of vineyard tour days that we'll be running from our

Wrighton site this summer. These will take place on the first Sunday of every month, starting in May and running through to September. Please visit our website for more information.

In a couple of months we'll also be releasing information about a free open day at our new site for Crowdfunder supporters. We'll also be in touch with our Adopt-a-Vine supporters to find out the name they'd like for their baby vine!

hello@dunleavyvineyards.co.uk

www.dunleavyvineyards.co.uk

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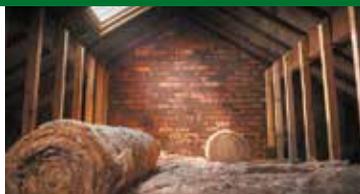


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NATURE WATCH with Dawn Lawrence

The noble history of the humble waybread

A FELLOW botanist recently told me that in colonial Africa the plant we call greater plantain was known as “white man’s footprint” because, previously unknown in sub-Saharan Africa, it appeared wherever the white men went. This memorable name combines close observation of the plant’s habits with a record of its history.

The greater plantain has a tough ecological “niche” (this word encompasses all the conditions that define a particular species’ usual home). Look for it around gateways and along footpaths on the very edges of the bare mud or dust (areas that are too heavily scuffed, trampled and compacted even for greater plantain to survive). Here you will find its neat rosettes of rounded leaves with parallel veins and its stringy stems of plain green flowers modestly pressed close to the ground. Its English name comes from the root “plantar” meaning the sole of the foot, because greater plantain has evolved to tolerate being trodden on. It will, however, grow upwards to about a foot long (a metric conversion would simply not do!) given the opportunity.

The Anglo-Saxons called this plant waybread; another fitting name because it



Greater plantain or waybread: we can eat the leaves and birds love the seeds.

Photo: lawnweeds.co.uk/

grows by the wayside and you can eat it - the young leaves as a salad vegetable and the older ones cooked for greens. Its astringent leaves can be crushed to soothe nettle and insect stings and can also act as a styptic for cuts and grazes (and the stung, scratched and hungry traveller can stumble upon it without effort). Its ability to grow in compacted soils means that it can be used for breaking up the hard pan once the disturbance has ceased. In

this role it is the architect of its own demise as other plants will now shoulder it out in these improved conditions. And so it travels along its path by hitching a ride on animals’ feet or our boots with its tiny seeds that become sticky when wet.

That’s not even all: this most pedestrian of plants has a surprisingly noble history. It had its portrait painted in 1503 by one of the greatest artists of all time, Albrecht Dürer, who, a few years later, painted the Emperor Maximilian I. But then, that is only fitting for a plant considered to be one of the Nine Sacred Herbs and Mother of Plants by the Anglo-Saxons. The greater plantain refuses to let all that praise and honour go to its head and can still be found along our pavements and gutters and by any muddy gateway, fulfilling its name of waybread as pigeons and finches feast on its tiny seeds. Dürer’s painting is called, rather wonderfully, “The Great Piece of Turf” and is lavished with no less skill and attention to detail than he devoted to the Emperor himself – it will be no surprise to you that it is one of my favourites, do look it up, it is perennially beautiful.

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