

bishopstonvoice

August, 2026 Issue 163

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Scouts are sew caring ...

Scouts from the 91st Bristol Group, based in Horfield, got to work to make wound drain bags for patients leaving hospital after cancer surgery. These have now been handed over to Bristol Breast Care Centre.

Report: Page 6



Rubbish crews feel the heat

BRISTOL Waste is appealing for help and understanding from the public as it tackles staff shortages during a very hot summer.

The company, which is owned by Bristol City Council, has adapted operations to keep teams safe from dangerous heat, causing "unavoidable delays" to collections.

When temperatures are forecast to reach 25 degrees or above, crews start and finish earlier than usual, meaning some bin collections have to be made on different days. Garden waste collections were paused for two weeks last month so crews could be redeployed.

Bristol Waste has also launched a recruitment drive, seeking driver loaders with an annual salary of £37,000

A spokesperson said: "We appreciate residents' patience as our crews work hard to catch up following the recent extreme 'red weather' conditions.

"Our recovery efforts are facing an additional hurdle as, like many others in the sector, we are also facing a significant shortage of drivers for the collection vehicles."

Turn to Page 2



Teacher unveils secret formula

Fairfield High School science teacher Katy Tyrrell has a surprise in store for students who travel on London Underground this summer.

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Hospital trusts join forces

North Bristol NHS Trust and University Hospitals NHS Bristol & Weston Foundation Trust have merged to form Bristol NHS Foundation Trust..

PAGE 4

Council wards set for shake-up

Bishopston & Ashley Down could get a third representative on Bristol City Council if proposed reforms to ward boundaries go ahead.

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Despite our best efforts, we sometimes get things wrong. We always try to resolve issues informally at first but we also have a formal complaints procedure. If you have a complaint about anything in the Bishopston Voice, contact the publisher using the details below. We aspire to follow the Code of Conduct of the NUJ (National Union of Journalists), which holds journalists to a high standard of behaviour. Further details of the complaints process can be found on the Voice website here, or can be obtained by contacting the Publisher.

A member of the



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NEWS

Bin crews feel heat

From Page 1

The spokesperson added: "Our crews make 23 million collections each year in all weathers, walking around 30,000 steps a day. We are incredibly grateful for the support we've received from our community, appreciative messages, and kind offers of cold drinks during the heatwave.

"While we navigate our current staffing shortages and service pressures, you can make a massive difference: Wash and squash cans and plastic bottles, fold or cut up cardboard, and sort recycling correctly. This not only creates more space in your recycling bags and boxes, it also allows our hardworking crews to complete more collections, faster."

Garden waste collections were paused from Monday, July 6 until Friday, July 17. Residents who pay for garden waste will have their subscription extended to make up for the gap in service.

A list of rescheduled recycling collections can be found on Bristol Waste's website.

Warning over wildfire risk

BRISTOL City Council is warning of a very high risk of wildfires, and advising that people should not have barbecues in parks nor open spaces. However people are having barbecues anyway, residents told a full council and member forum meeting on July 14.

Sharon Smithen, a local resident, said: "I was quite appalled to see a whole load of barbecues, some on the ground."

Liberal Democrat Councillor Stephen Williams, chair of the public health and communities policy committee, said: "Nobody in their right mind should be lighting barbecues or fires in any of our public spaces, whether it's grassland or woods, at the moment."

By Alex Seabrook, Local Democracy Reporter

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NEWS



May Park Primary School pupils brought colour and music to St Paul's community celebration

Carnival returns to grassroots

TENS of thousands of people turned out on the streets of St Paul's on carnival day in July despite the cancellation of the official event and parade.

People in the community organised grassroots music and activities, working with the police and the council, for the annual celebration of African Caribbean culture.

Police said afterwards that the community event had been a success.

Neighbourhood Policing Inspector Tom Tooth said: "More than 300 officers and staff were involved throughout the day and into the night to ensure the safety of those attending this important cultural event.

"We were very grateful for the

engagement of members of the community before and during the event to support our policing operation.

"The majority of sound systems were turned off at the times previously indicated to us, as we worked with partners and community members to minimise the impact of the music on the wider community as the event drew to a close.

"While a small number of incidents did occur, and a number of arrests were made, overall the event was peaceful and good-natured."

St Paul's Carnival CIC announced in May that it was unable to "safely and sustainably deliver" a full-scale carnival in 2026.

It said it hoped to organise a "community rooted" event next year and is already making plans for the sixtieth anniversary in 2028.

As in previous years when there was no full carnival, smaller events including workshops, family activities and the Elders' Breakfast went ahead.

Among the schools who provided entertainment for the elders was May Park Primary.

Safiya Nur, from the school, said: "The children represented our school with confidence and enthusiasm, and their hard work and dedication were evident throughout the performance. They made us all incredibly proud."

Signed copy of rare book raises £25,600

A RARE book donated to the Oxfam shop in Cotham Hill has raised more than £25,000 for the charity.

The first edition of *The Waves* by Virginia Woolf, inscribed "Virginia Woolf Oct. 1931", by the author, was spotted by volunteer Maria Fenner while checking prices on older books.

Maria recruited another volunteer and keen historian, Angela Iliff, to compare it with authenticated signature examples and scrutinise publication dates, and on realising it could be a signed first edition, they alerted the rest of the shop team. Their careful research led to the book being authenticated before it went under the hammer at Bonhams, where it sold for £25,600.

Ian Falkingham, Oxfam's books expert, said: "This remarkable discovery shows the extraordinary difference donations to our shops make. It is helping fund Oxfam's work tackling poverty and responding to disasters, including the ongoing emergency in Venezuela. We're hugely grateful to everyone who donates to Oxfam, and to the volunteers and shop teams whose expertise helps uncover finds like these."



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NEWS

Bristol NHS trusts join forces

JULY 1 marked a significant milestone in healthcare with the launch of the Bristol NHS Foundation Trust (BFT).

The new trust has been formed by a merger between North Bristol NHS Trust and University Hospitals Bristol and Weston NHS Foundation Trust, creating one of the biggest health trusts in the country, with 28,000 members of staff and a £2.6 billion annual turnover.

The new organisation has been formed to give people across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire better access to seamless, high quality, equitable and sustainable health care.

Bringing the two organisations together removes some of the barriers that have prevented healthcare across the city being as joined up as it should be, and now that teams are part of the same trust, they can continue to improve services to benefit the local population and patients across the South West and beyond.

The merger started when clinicians from the two former trusts joined forces to create a Group Clinical Strategy. As teams worked to develop these aims, they realised being a single organisation would make it easier to deliver these ambitious plans.

There are 10 clinical services across BFT

already working together as single, joined-up teams to reduce duplication and streamline services.

Joining forces also increases the research and innovation potential for the new trust. It was revealed recently that merging means that BFT ranks ahead of any other trust in the country for the amount of National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) received. This firmly places Bristol in a prime position to continue to improve care and cutting-edge treatments for the local population, as well as across the South West, nationally and internationally.

Bristol NHS Foundation Trust chief executive, Maria Kane, said at the time: "This is a momentous day for health services in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire and we are delighted to now be one single organisation working together to improve care for patients, support our people, reduce inequalities across our population and make the best use of public resources.

"While merging is a significant milestone, it is just a step on our journey and we look forward to building on the foundations we have already laid to ensure Bristol NHS Foundation Trust is fit for the future and continues to grow and innovate to provide

the best care for our patients."

Bristol NHS Foundation Trust chair, Ingrid Barker, added: "I'm incredibly proud to have been part of this journey so far, and now that we are one organisation, I'm excited to see what our 28,000 colleagues will achieve together for the people whose lives we touch.

"But we know this is not something we can do alone. By working closely with our partners across health and care, the voluntary sector, our Community Participation Group, Council of Governors, and the people and communities we serve, we will shape the kind of organisation we want to become."

Bristol NHS Foundation Trust formation officer, Paula Clarke, said: "People accessing care with us will still be cared for by their local teams, but merging means we can improve the ways our services work together when someone needs to access care in more than one place."

To support the merger of the trusts, Southmead Hospital Charity has now become part of Bristol and Weston Hospitals Charity. With the launch of BFT, came the launch also of a new website - bristolft.nhs.uk - for news, events and information about the new organisation.

Drugs property closed

POLICE have secured a closure order against a property in Montpellier due to its association with drug supply and anti-social behaviour.

The three-month closure order was obtained against the property in Ashley Road, from Bristol Magistrates' Court on July 8.

Montpelier and St Werburghs Neighbourhood Policing Team, Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Anti-Social Behaviour Unit, and Places for People, the owner of the property, secured the order by demonstrating its links to criminality, which has caused significant distress to neighbouring residents.

The property has been linked to the use and supply of drugs, anti-social behaviour, loud arguments, and the aggressive behaviour of visitors to the property has also caused significant harassment and alarm to others living in the area.

Discarded drug paraphernalia linked to the property has also caused public health concerns, which a

neighbour paid to have cleaned.

Tina McIvor, an anti-social behaviour coordinator for Avon and Somerset Police, said:

"Residents will be relieved to see the property has been boarded up and they can also take comfort from the fact that if anybody returns and attempts to enter it, they will be committing a crime and will face further prosecution.

"We understand the distress and frustration residents would have felt while being subjected to this unacceptable behaviour, and we just hope this action demonstrates how committed we are to tackling such issues.

"We encourage members of the community to continue to report behaviour of this nature, so we are aware of the scale of the problem and what resources are needed to tackle it."

While the order is in place, Places for People will work on the long-term future of the property.

Kelly Street, from Places for People, said: "With 1.3 million households waiting for a social home, it's vital these homes are used responsibly."

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NEWS

Mural marks 10 years for Old Library

VOLUNTEERS who run the former Eastville library as a community space have launched a fundraising campaign to help secure its future.

The Old Library building on Muller Road was taken over as a community asset by a group of residents ten years ago.

To mark the anniversary the group has launched a "10+ fundraiser", encouraging supporters to donate £10 or more. Members hope to raise £5,000 towards some important building improvements and cover rising running costs.

The Old Library, Eastville Community Hub is part of the South Lockleaze and Purdown Neighbourhood Group Community Interest Company,



Artist Vickoi at work

a non-profit organisation set up to manage the former council building.

The volunteers run monthly activities, including a repair cafe and quiz, along with larger-scale family-friendly events. A recent event, the Purdown Sessions, was a daytime gig showcasing local musicians.

On Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays the building is open to the public from 9am to 3pm and

hosts a cafe run by a resident, selling breakfast and lunch.

It is also hired out for community workshops and classes including yoga, a book club and pottery classes.

The 10-year celebrations started in May, with a fun day including bouncy castles, games and a scavenger hunt, entertainment and music. A party is planned on September 12 with more music and a

barbecue. All money raised at events goes towards the running costs of the building, which is available to hire by contacting hire@theoldlibrary.org.uk.

Kate, one of the volunteers said: "The Old Library is a very special place & we are thrilled to have reached the 10 year milestone which absolutely couldn't have happened without support from the local community. The upcoming events are a chance to say thank you and also recognise everyone who has contributed to this amazing community hub."

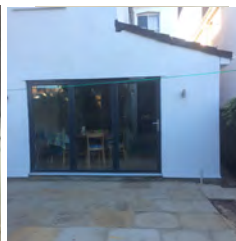
Also marking the anniversary is an eye-catching mural from local artist Vicky Clark AKA Vikoi.

She said "I paint robots and nature together, a mixture we have often been told are opposites. The Library hosts so many diverse community groups and is surrounded by the green space of South Purdown and Stoke Park. I wanted to tell that story on the wall."

People can donate to the 10+ Fundraiser online at www.theoldlibrary.org.uk.



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NEWS



Oli and Carol with some of the drain bags made by the Scouts

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Handing over the bags at Bristol Breast Care Centre

Scouts make bags for cancer patients

91st BRISTOL SCOUTS

THE 91st Bristol Scouts had a sewing evening at which they made 21 wound drain bags for patients leaving hospital after breast cancer surgery. This was inspired by two group volunteers having had breast cancer earlier this year. One of these volunteers needed a drain bag and was told none were available as they were only donated occasionally by one lone person.

This sounded like a job for the scouts, so a call went out for help. 21 bags were made at that initial Scout meeting and a further 70 followed, made by Scouts, parents and even a neighbour of an ex-Scout!

The 91 bags were handed over to the team at the Breast Care Centre in June and the Group

have already heard from one very grateful patient who was cheered up by receiving a scout-made bag.

In other news the Scouts have also been busy entering a contraption (with the Harbour Masters) in the Bristol Birdman competition plus camping, geocaching and building birdboxes. The Cubs have been sailing, learning to cook on fires, making bird feeders and extracting DNA from fruit! The Beavers have set off indoor fireworks, grown cress, navigated around St Andrews Park, and joined a district sleepover at AirHop.

The Group has a long waiting list and is always on the lookout for new adult volunteers to help us give these young people a fun and exciting experience whilst gaining skills for life.

Jo Strong

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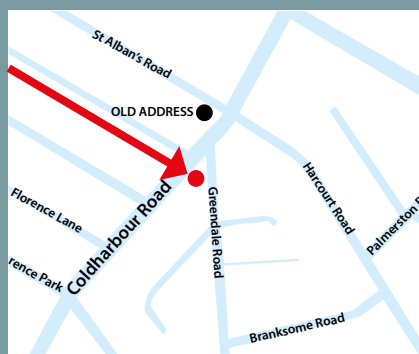
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NEWS

Miss, you're on the Tube and on YouTube!

A SCIENCE teacher at Fairfield High School features in the Department for Education's latest national campaign promoting teaching as a career.

Katy Tyrrell successfully progressed through rounds of auditions, including one online and one in London, before being chosen as one of just 11 teachers to take part.

Filmed over two days in a London school, the campaign has now officially launched. As a result, posters featuring Ms Tyrrell, as she's known to her students, though the posters use a pseudonym, are appearing across the UK, including on the London Underground, with accompanying video on Instagram and YouTube.



Katy Tyrrell demonstrates her love of teaching at Fairfield

Edel Cronin, Principal at Fairfield High School, said: "It's a fantastic achievement to be selected for a national campaign and a wonderful opportunity to showcase the passion and professionalism of teachers."

"We're delighted to see Katy represent both Fairfield and the Excalibur Academies Trust so positively on a national stage."



Katy's message on teaching goes Underground

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NEWS



Some of Badminton's swimming successes



Badminton swimmers at the national school championships in Sheffield

Girls are making waves

BADMINTON School is expanding its swimming programme for the coming academic year following a season of remarkable success.

Both the Prep and Senior School teams were crowned Bristol School Champions, while the Prep School secured a place among the national finalists at the English Schools' Swimming Association (ESSA) Primary Team Championships.

Individual swimmers continued to excel, with several pupils competing at

regional and national level.

Badminton School has an established partnership with Bristol & South Gloucestershire Swimming Club. The expanded programme will provide even greater support for performance swimmers, combining the benefits of school and club training within a personalised development framework.

Paula McAnuff, director of sport at Badminton, said: "We are incredibly proud of what our pupils have achieved this year."



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NEWS



Splash hit

SARAH Austin, owner of Puddle Ducks Bristol & Bath, has been given a national award.

Sarah received the Supports the Network honour for the way she shares her experience, championing others across the business.

Having run Puddle Ducks Bristol & Bath for 18 years, Sarah has built a reputation for providing award-winning swimming lessons to babies, toddlers and children.

Sarah said: "Our focus will always be on giving local children the best possible start in the water, but being part of a wider network means we can also support, learn from and celebrate each other."

Swim scheme is so special

MORE than 5,000 swimming lessons have been delivered to children with disabilities and additional needs across leisure centres in Bristol thanks to a flourishing partnership between swim charity Level Water and leisure operator Everyone Active.

The initiative, launched in 2022, has supported 108 children to access one-to-one swimming lessons and group sessions, helping them to build confidence in the water, improve physical wellbeing and develop essential swimming skills.

Specialist swimming teachers at Horfield Leisure Centre, Bristol South Swimming Pool, Easton Leisure Centre and Henbury Leisure Centre – run by Everyone Active in partnership with Bristol City Council – have been leading the sessions.

Parents have been supportive of the scheme after initial challenges to find suitable swimming options for their children.



Five year old Ira Aldridge with his swimming teacher Hannah Barber

Five-year-old Ira Aldridge, a deaf swimmer, couldn't swim less than a year ago but is now confident in the water thanks to learning on the scheme at Horfield Leisure Centre.

Clare Devon, Ira's mother, says the lessons have been

transformational.

"Level Water has enabled Ira to access one-to-one swimming lessons with a fantastic teacher, Hannah Barber, who understands Ira's communication needs and even uses British Sign Language to communicate.

"Ira started the lessons worried at times, as we had been swimming as a family with him in armbands being held by a parent most of the time. Now Ira really looks forward to his lessons with Hannah and can float and swim a short distance by himself. It's staggering. He would not have been able to achieve this in traditional swimming lessons."

Cameron Bate, Everyone Active contract manager, said: "We're blown away by the uptake of our specialist swimming lesson scheme. We firmly believe in the charity's mission to kickstart a love of swimming in children with disabilities."

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A new era of weight management treatments
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Introducing the new needle-free option – Wegovy tablets

A major recent development is the approval of **Wegovy tablets**, the first GLP-1 weight-loss tablet licensed in the UK.

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The arrival of Wegovy tablets means treatment can be tailored more closely to individual preferences, lifestyles and clinical needs. We can now also offer this treatment at Kellaway Pharmacy. **Treatment is only part of the journey**

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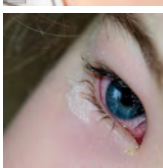
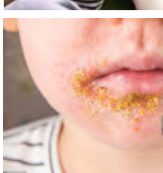
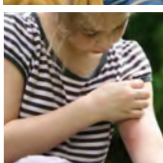
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NEWS

Hospice charity celebrates volunteers

ST Peter's Hospice (SPH) has paid tribute to its team of 1,600 supporters working across its shops, fundraising department and at the hospice itself.

Russell Cowan, head of volunteer resources at SPH, said the hospice would not

be able to run as it does without volunteers.

Russell said: "Their compassion, hard work and dedication means we can be there for everyone who needs us. From handing out medals at our fundraising events, to welcoming families into the hospice at

reception or photographing items for our eBay shop - every role they do makes a huge difference.

"We rely heavily on funds raised by the public and on help given by the community. Without volunteers we wouldn't be able to continue running our charity shops across the city, which contribute so much to funding care for life-limited patients both at home and at the hospice.

"Volunteers really are the unsung heroes of the hospice and we're pleased to have been able to thank them."

Across the retail team there are 1,200 volunteers working in the 45 shops, the warehouse, and for the eBay and online shop. Last year the shops raised over £1.7m.

St Peter's Hospice also runs numerous fundraising events and challenges throughout the year and its fundraising volunteers are essential. From marshalling to bucket collecting, handing out medals and cheering on participants, every role helps create an exciting atmosphere and ensure the events run smoothly.

If you would like to learn more about volunteering at St Peter's Hospice visit <https://www.stpetershospice.org/support-us/volunteer/>

Fancy climbing Kilimanjaro?

ADVENTURERS, fund-raisers and bucket-list seekers are invited to take on one of the world's most iconic trekking challenges in aid of St Peter's Hospice.

The charity has launched its Mount Kilimanjaro Trek 2028, giving supporters the opportunity to summit Africa's highest mountain and raise vital funds for patients and families facing the most difficult times of their lives.

Taking place from February 3-13 2028, with its expedition partner, Global Adventures, the 11-day expedition will see participants trek 69 kilometres to reach the 5,895-metre summit of Mount Kilimanjaro, the world's highest free-standing mountain.

Molly O'Donoghue, fundraising manager, said: "This truly is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. Without challenges like

this, we couldn't continue our work in caring for patients and their families."

Three registration options are available – full fundraising, partly self-funded and self-funded and with only 30 spaces available, anyone interested is being encouraged to register interest early.

Support will be provided. For info, visit <https://www.stpetershospice.org/support-us/join-our-events/kilimanjaro-trek/>

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■ FROM BRISTOL NORTH WEST'S MP

Giving kids their childhood back

BEFORE we delve into the main topic of this month's column, let me start by sharing with you some government initiatives to help make it more affordable to create fun family memories this summer.

Firstly, the West of England Mayor Helen Godwin's 'Kids Go Free' initiative for free bus travel over the holidays has been rolled out nationally by this government. And, at the end of June, the Chancellor announced her 'Great British Summer Savings' tax cut, with VAT reduced from 20% to 5% on admission tickets at attractions and kids' meals in restaurants.

Of course, aside from visiting attractions, there are many beautiful green spaces to enjoy across Bristol North West that don't cost a penny – that is, if you can drag your children away from their smartphones!

In addition to keeping children indoors instead of engaging with the real world, the advent of smartphones and social media

has had other adverse impacts on children, with bullies, for example, no longer left behind at the school gates. And then there's 'doomscrolling', in which children can be exposed to an excessive consumption of negative news, causing stress and anxiety.

That's why I'm pleased this government is banning social media channels for under-16s from spring 2027 – to give kids their childhoods back.

The ban will use the same model as Australia, whereby Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X are banned for under-16s. But the UK ban will go even further, blocking functions such as livestreaming and communicating with strangers for under-16s.

Messaging services, such as WhatsApp, won't be included in the ban, and children will still be able to go online safely to access educational content.

Overnight curfews (from midnight to 6am) will be switched

on by default for 16- and 17-year-olds on social media apps. And features that can keep users online for longer – such as video autoplay and having an endless amount of personalised content served up as you keep scrolling – will also be switched off by default for older teenagers.

Already, 1,070 constituents in Bristol North West have written to me in support of a social media ban for under-16s. But I want to dig deeper and hear what you think about this government's plans.

Please share your views in my survey at darren-jones.co.uk/social-survey I'm especially interested to hear from those aged 16 years and older who have grown up with technology, so please encourage your children and grandchildren to take part. I'll also be visiting schools in the autumn to hear from younger children – the ones directly impacted by the ban. And I'll be visiting again in spring/summer



Darren Jones
writes for
the Voice

to hear reactions after the ban has come into force.

Until then, I hope you all take some time to log-off this summer and relax. Enjoy!

• As always, if you need my help or have a question, you can get in touch with me 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.

■ FROM BRISTOL CENTRAL'S MP

THE Green Party continues to work hard in Bristol and across the country to change how politics is done and who politicians are working for.

Recently, Carla wrote a letter to the Chancellor to draw attention to the unfair burden of **business rates** faced by many in Bristol Central. We've heard from small businesses across Bristol, from cafes and pubs to music venues and chip shops, that the Government's increases to these rates have added significantly to the pressures many businesses are already facing. She was very pleased to be supported in this intervention by many local businesses, as well as local councillors for Bristol Central and Bristol City Council's leadership.

It has been gratifying to hear from North Somerset Council that our 34 Bristol Green councillors were joined by over 1000 members of the public in **opposing the proposal to expand Bristol Airport**. At the same time as unprecedented heatwaves made worse by human-caused climate change have cost thousands of lives in this country,

it is completely unthinkable that anyone would be supporting or investing in one of the country's highest-polluting sectors. Hopefully, this is something North Somerset Council is considering very seriously.

During Carla's ongoing leave of absence, her constituency team has continued listening to and supporting the community of Bristol Central on the issues that matter to them, including meeting with local groups involved in community outreach and safety, human rights and housing. In June, Carla's team met with the Minister for Building Safety, where they were able to ask for clarity on how and when leaseholders in buildings under 11m would be supported to **remove unsafe cladding**, which could make a meaningful difference for some residents in Bristol Central.

Carla and her team are incredibly concerned by the **EHRC's code of practice**, which is set to exclude trans people from public services and spaces. Once again, the trans community is being unjustifiably targeted, made to feel unsafe and scrutinised in

their daily lives. Carla's staff met with trans-led charities to discuss responses to the guidance, and following this, fellow Green MP Siân Berry has sent a letter to the government on Carla's behalf to raise serious concerns.

As well as tackling the hardships felt here in the UK, the Green Party continues to draw attention to those in other countries whose plight is falling out of the news cycle. In May, when the **Global Summad Flotilla was illegally intercepted** by Israeli forces, Carla wrote to the Foreign Secretary and Prime Minister to express her outrage at this attack on peaceful civilian boats and concern for the welfare of those on board. This included Bristol campaigner Lewis (Benn) Trowell and Green Party Member Zakaria Khan.

Since then, Carla's team has heard directly from those present on the flotilla about the violence they were subjected to when they were intercepted. Although these campaigners are now safe, our thoughts and theirs remain with those Palestinians who continue to be illegally detained by Israel.



Team Carla
writes for
the Voice

• Carla is currently taking a leave of absence for health reasons but her constituency office is functioning as usual. If you live in Bristol Central and need help with a local issue please continue to email bristolcentraloffice@parliament.uk or write to Carla Denyer MP, House of Commons, London, SW1A 0AA. For national issues email using carla.denyerp@parliament.uk

NEWS

New era begins at Bristol Dockyards

ss Great Britain
at Bristol
Dockyards

Photo courtesy of
Adam Gasson and ss
Great Britain Trust



A NEW museum at the site of the ss Great Britain aims to tell a more rounded story of the historic ship.

Bristol Dockyards, which opened on July 18 during the Bristol Harbour Festival weekend, explores the impact of Brunel's creation on the world, on the lives of those on board, and on the places to which it travelled.

The new curation, which has added 2,000 square feet of exhibition space, uses newly discovered material, interactive exhibits and history discovered by the people of Bristol.

Researchers have uncovered previously untold human stories from the ship's 41 years of service, from her construction in Bristol in the 1840s to her voyages to New York, Australia, India and San Francisco.

The ss Great Britain was the first modern ship. Made of metal and with engines and a propeller, she was bigger and faster than anything before. Her size and speed shrank the world. Between 1845 and 1886, the ship reached every inhabited continent and carried passengers from 51 nations.

The museum includes interactive exhibits that explain the revolutionary design, life-sized digital recreations of the characters

who travelled on board, artefacts carried at sea more than 150 years ago, and historic and modern art. Elements of the ship's working life, such as the record-breaking yard that carried its sails, and the rudder that steered it around the world are displayed alongside intimate on-board objects, voyage logs, diaries and first-class passenger tickets that reflect the experiences of 19th century travel.

The exhibition honours the individuals who built the ship, such as the Johnsons, five brothers who travelled from the Wye Valley with their father to work as shipwrights.

In the Australian section of the museum, the displays focus on the ship's impact on migration as the most popular ship connecting Britain and Australia. The ss Great Britain made 32 round trips from Liverpool to Melbourne carrying 15,885 emigrants to Australia, completely changing the Australian continent and the lives of its First Nations inhabitants.

The museum examines the ways in which the ss Great Britain was used as a troop carrier in global and imperial conflicts. She

made several journeys carrying troops and horses to take part in the Crimean War, including the regiments of Ottoman General Omer Pasha, and later it travelled to Mumbai carrying British soldiers in an effort to quell the Rebellion in 1857.

The reopening of the museum is the first phase of development by the ss Great Britain Trust ahead of the 60th anniversary in 2030 of the ship's return to Bristol from the Falkland Islands in 2030.

Andrew Edwards, CEO of Bristol Dockyards and the ss Great Britain Trust, said: "We are committed to safeguarding this extraordinary heritage while being ambitious about what it can become: a dynamic cultural campus rooted in community participation, learning and maritime heritage."

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NEWS

Bristol set for ward boundaries shake-up

THE biggest changes to Bristol City Council's local elections voting map in over a quarter of a century have been proposed. The independent Local Government Boundary Commission for England has launched a consultation into its plans to increase the number of councillors from 70 to 76 and redraw every existing ward's boundaries except one to reflect population changes, ensure every member represents about the same number of residents, and keep distinct local communities together in the same area at the ballot box.

It would mean two extra wards, up from 34 to 36, with some of the current ones scrapped and replaced, merged or rejigged.

The electoral map was last reviewed in 2015 and kept the number of councillors at 70.

This was last increased from 68 to 70 elected members in

a review in 1999/2000, when the city had 292,200 registered voters.

This has mushroomed to a projected 351,700 by 2031 – a 20.34 per cent rise of nearly 60,000 people.

Among the key changes are:

The current three-councillor Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze ward would be separated, with each new area returning two elected members. In effect, this would return to the arrangement before the last reorganisation.

Bishopston & Ashley Down would be expanded from a two- to a three-councillor area, with the ward extending towards Cranbrook Road to include more of Bishopston.

Cotham & Redland – currently two separate wards, each with two councillors – would be merged into a three-member ward.

Clifton Down ward would be extended to include the area

around the University of Bristol.

Launching the consultation, Boundary Commission chair Bev Smith said: "Bristol is a unique place and we want residents to help us get these boundaries right."

"We have drawn up proposals for new wards and want to make sure they truly reflect local communities – but we need to hear from the people who know those communities best."

"Whether you agree with our proposals or think something should change, please let us know."

Tim O'Gara, Director of Legal and Democratic Services at Bristol City Council said:

"These are draft recommendations and no changes will come into force until 2028. We are encouraging everyone in Bristol to get involved. Local knowledge is key and residents are best placed to explain how their communities

fit together.

Share your views with the Boundary Commission about the places you identify with, how neighbourhoods connect, and whether the proposed wards reflect real community boundaries. Your input will help shape the final decision."

The 10-week consultation closes on September 7, with the final recommendations expected in December ahead of the changes for the 2028 local elections.

More details and an interactive map are here: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/bristol>

People can give their views there, email reviews@lgbce.org.uk, or by post to Review Officer (Bristol), LGBCE, 7th Floor, 3 Bunhill Row, London, EC1Y 8YZ.

*By Adam Postans,
Local Democracy Reporter*



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COMMUNITY NEWS

CLIFTON & HOTWELLS IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

MEMBERS of Clifton and Hotwells Improvement Society (CHIS) are inviting people to the dedication of a commemoration plaque of a most unusual event in Bristol.

The city had its own dinosaur whose fossilised bones were found in 1834 in a quarry on Durdham Downs. It was later named *Thecodontosaurus*. It was the fourth dinosaur to be named.

A green plaque commemorating the discovery will be dedicated by Peaches Golding, Lord Lieutenant of Bristol.

There will also be a short talk by Professor Michael Benton, Professor of Vertebrate Palaeontology, at Bristol University's School of Earth Sciences.

The dedication ceremony will take place at 9 High Street, Clifton, at the junction with Quarry Steps. It takes place at 11am on September 19.

WESTBURY ON TRYM SOCIETY

BACK in November 2025, the council consulted on proposals for charging in the 10 currently free to use car parks outside of central Bristol, each serving a local or district shopping centre. We understand that the results of the consultation which elicited 325 responses is finally under active consideration and we await the final outcome.

As I have reported previously, Westbury on Trym town centre has suffered a series of body blows over the last three years with the closure of three bank branches, the loss of long established shops and the tactical closure of most of the car park behind Carlton Court by the owners, who are intent on redeveloping it and some of the shops there.

Like nearby Crow Lane, Henbury and Shirehampton, Westbury on Trym faces competition from the Mall with its abundant free parking. We know that footfall has declined significantly in the Westbury village

centre in the last few years and traders are reviewing their future here. There is likely to be a similar situation in the centres served by other district car parks, but it is perhaps more acute in north Bristol due to the massive attraction of the nearby Mall, with its thousands of free parking spaces.

Last year the council's Economy and Skills Committee, rightly concerned with the state of the High Streets in Bristol, set up a 'Task and Finish Group for High Streets' to see how the council can support them. We pointed out that charging for car parking would run completely counter to this objective and the most effective thing the council could do to help would be to drop the proposed parking charges.

We hope we will find out shortly that the council has listened to our arguments and business and community users will have confidence to keep their businesses and activities going in Westbury.

Whilst on the subject of car parking, Churchill Homes who are planning to build on most of

the Carlton Court car park and adjoining shop units, were asked to undertake parking surveys to demonstrate that their proposals would not adversely impact on Westbury. They declined saying that they were providing sufficient spaces in accordance with the council's standards. In light of this, the Society has undertaken its own survey of parking in the streets and car parks in Westbury and will be sending its findings to the council.

Another facility that has just been lost in the village is the use of the payphones by the old Post Office. These were stripped of their phone equipment and BT advise they are available for purchase. However, the approval of the landowner, which is not BT, is necessary, and when we previously made enquiries about this, the owner was unsupportive. We shall be reviewing the situation.

There will be no talk in Westbury library in August, but the Society's talks season will resume on Tuesday September 8 with a talk about the book 'The Ladies Mile' by Victoria Hughes.

Andy Renshaw, chair

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■ FRIENDS OF REDLAND LIBRARY

ON Tuesday August 11, the Friends of Redland Library will be holding a Desert Island Books event on "Faith and Religion". A panel of interesting people nominate their choice of books on a particular theme plus a 'wild card'.

The event starts at 7pm and doors open at 6:45pm. Admission is £3 (pay at the door - cash only).

We are finalising our Autumn programme which includes events on the Bayeux Tapestry, "The Women Who Built Bath" (Jane Duffus on her new book), the Arts and Crafts Movement, "The Archers" (with a cast member and a scriptwriter) and much more.

For more information on the events organised by the Friends of Redland Library, please visit <https://FriendsOfRedlandLibrary.org.uk>

Please contact us if you have any ideas for events or possible speakers.

Finally, we need volunteers to help organise and publicise our events; and also, to help water our library garden. If you would like to volunteer, please email FriendsOfRedlandLibrary@gmail.com



■ BOOK REVIEW

Country People by Daniel Mason

DANIEL Mason's latest novel opens with a series of excerpts from other texts recording the discovery of a place deep within the earth, fantastical, folkloric yet not, perhaps, fictional. Too long to be epigraphs but not enough to offer more than hints of what is to come.

The story begins and this short anthology might be forgotten as we are plunged into the lives of a family driving across America, uprooted for a year from California to Vermont where Kate is to take up a visiting professorship, Miles is to finish the dissertation he has been vacillating about for years, their children Wesley and Olive are to prove unstoppable and Giuseppe the dog is to test how much havoc an adored pet can wreak and still remain adored.

A story of a year in the life of an urban family in the country is promised, a story about the stories that families tell each other and an ode to storytelling itself. It is an ordinary set up until you catch yourself remembering that opening and that Miles is obsessed with folklore and fairytales, that Kate is an expert in Blake and Milton, that Wesley plays a world-building game so complicated and to such a level of expertise that he cannot explain it to his parents and that Olive is a talented artist, drawing the landscape to greater effect than her Crayola pencils should permit. Oh, and that Giuseppe is from a truffle-hunting breed which will not be distracted once in pursuit of a scent.

Country People is both a gentle, family story and a wild descent inspired by epic poems and monstrous art. The sound of scurrying in the walls leads Miles to befriend the 'Rat Man of Vermont'. Then he befriends a man who has found peace in scything. Then a man who believes the spirit of a long-dead photographer of snowflakes has taken up residence in him. The seasons take the family from hiking with Hugh, who once took Beyoncé and Jay-Z on a nature walk but definitely can't share details, to skiing with a man named Bjorn on whom readers and characters alike can develop a crush very quickly.

It is all somehow mad and quite normal. As is the radio show which punctuates the story, to which people phone in about snails on their lettuces, discoveries in their chimneys and rising swimming pools. As is the school play, A Midsummer Night's Dream, with more Pucks than there are monsters in Blake or caves in the Vermont landscape. All of which, through Mason's brilliant and clever writing, forms an exceptional, unfettered novel.

Elizabeth Moss, Heron Books, Regent Street, Clifton

■ BOOK REVIEW

Land

by Maggie O'Farrell

IT is 1865 and we find ourselves on an windswept peninsula on the Atlantic coast of Ireland. Tomas and his son Liam are working for the Ordnance Survey whose task is to map the whole country.

One day Tomas discovers a hidden copse with an ancient well. Drinking its water, he is transformed with far reaching consequences for himself and his family.

The novel then jumps back and forth in time. We find Tomas as a 12 year old boy in a workhouse with no recollection of his family or his childhood but the ability to write in a fluent script and to recite poetry in three languages. He meets a girl Phina and promises her that they will both escape for a life outside the workhouse.

One day the English redcoats visit the workhouse seeking a boy to assist with their survey work. Tomas seizes the opportunity to escape by impressing them with his sketch of the workhouse. He leaves the workhouse, promising Phina he will return for her.

He subsequently rescues her from a ship bound for Australia and they set up home on the peninsula with their children Liam, Enda, Rose

& Eugene.

We then travel a thousand years back in time when a hillfort occupied the land on which their family home is built.

We meet a child called Brith and her dog. They discover the copse and the well which contains her missing fathers gold ring.

A bloating sickness comes to the fort, killing many people. The elders decide to make a sacrifice to appease the gods, they kill Brith and her dog and bury them by the well.

Back in 1865, we witness a series of dramatic events resulting in all four children leaving Ireland seeking a better life across the sea.

This is an enjoyable and beautifully written novel tackling themes of colonization, intergenerational trauma, family resilience, mythology and our complex relationship with the land we inhabit. There is an imaginative range of narrators including a talking fish, a huge dog, an unborn child and the land itself.

For this book and many more, please visit your local friendly library at 100 Gloucester Road.

Review by Bob Deacon, from Bishopston Library



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Friday 11am-5pm

Saturday 11am-5pm

Sunday closed

■ NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

A once-in-a-generation opportunity

WHAT a summer we've been having!

I hope everyone has been staying safe in the recent heatwaves and found opportunities to stay cool.

Last month we battled through the heat to make sure our voices in the West are being heard in Westminster.

Since I last wrote to you I, along with some of our regional MPs, local authorities and other partners, headed to London to make the case for new town status at Brabazon and the West Innovation Arc.

With 40,000 new homes and 40,000 new jobs being created, this is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to deliver huge infrastructure and investment that our region, and country, need.

Our visit to Westminster was to show the government we are ready to deliver one of the most significant and exciting opportunities in the UK, which will benefit so many people living in the West and boost the UK economy.

We were able to showcase everything we are doing at Brabazon and the West Innovation Arc to Angela Rayner MP, the former Deputy Prime Minister and Secretary of State for Housing, Communities, and Local

Government, alongside representatives and ministers from the Department for Business and Trade, the Environment Agency, the Ministry of Defence and the Department for Transport.

I promise our campaigning for new town status does not end here. With a new prime minister in place, I will keep banging the drum for the West of England.

As devolution moves front and centre, we can go even further with the huge changes we are making to improve where we all live and work.

It is not just at Brabazon and the West Innovation Arc where we've set ambitious targets for new jobs and new homes, and we will proudly be making the case for more investment as more power and money move from Westminster to the regions.

It is so important to me that people who call our region home see opportunities for themselves here: opportunities to start a great career or find jobs while studying; the chance to own their own home without having to move miles from where they grew up; the option to travel quickly and sustainably for work and leisure.

I hope you all enjoy what is left of the



Metro Mayor Helen Godwin
writes for the Voice

summer and families are enjoying the school holidays. Remember, our hugely popular scheme Kids Go Free is running until Sunday September 6 (inclusive), where under-15s can travel on our buses without paying a penny.

The scheme has already saved families in the West more than £1.4 million and it has gone national for the whole of August, so you can travel even further - although, there is plenty here to keep you and the kids busy. The West is best, after all!

■ MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Lessons in crime prevention

THE drivers of youth crime, violence, and anti-social behaviour are complex.

Many young people are not only at risk of becoming involved in offending, but also of being exploited or harmed themselves.

There is no single cause, and no simple solution. But we do know that early intervention matters.

That is why I am funding the Pol-Ed programme for all primary and secondary schools across Avon and Somerset, to help young people better understand risk, safety, consequences and the law.

The programme offers teachers free access to practical resources, including hundreds of lesson plans, all mapped to the existing PSHE/RSHE curriculum and developed by teachers, police officers, and subject experts.

It covers topics such as exploitation, consent, hate crime,

anti-social behaviour, online safety and responsible citizenship.

The work speaks directly to my Police and Crime Plan priorities: to reduce serious violence, including youth violence and violence against girls, and prevent crime by working with other organisations and the public.

At its heart, it is about prevention; giving children the knowledge and confidence they need to make informed choices and stay safe, while reducing the likelihood of them becoming perpetrators or victims of crime.

It isn't just about abstract learning - it's rooted in what is really happening in our communities. Avon and Somerset Police officers can input information to the Pol-Ed platform about the issues affecting different areas, allowing teachers to tailor lessons to their students.

Importantly, introducing this

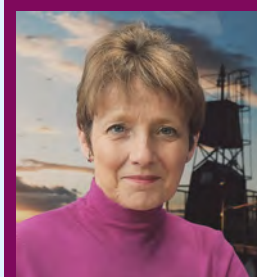
programme will help bring a more consistent, standardised approach to how crime prevention and safety education is delivered in schools across Avon and Somerset that, until now, has been missing.

By funding Pol-Ed centrally, instead of schools paying individually, we can also deliver this in a cost-effective way and ensure that every child, regardless of where they live, has access to the same high-quality support.

In June, we held a webinar with schools in Avon and Somerset to introduce the programme and support teachers to get started. Within that first week, more than 87 schools signed up, and Pol-Ed lessons were delivered to 997 children.

I'm encouraged by the level of interest we have seen so early on, as my office continues to roll this out to schools across the region.

It is a programme, I believe,



With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody

that can make a real difference to the safety, well-being and future opportunities of young people in our communities.

If you're a teacher, you can register for access to Pol-Ed directly on their website.

Or if you have any questions, you can contact the Violence Reduction Partnership, which I chair and is delivering this work alongside Avon & Somerset Police, at VRPHub@avonandsomerset.police.uk.

FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Redland: Martin Fodor and Fi Hance (Green Party)

Community Speedwatch

People often contact us with concerns about speeding in their streets. Fi and Martin recently met with local police officers to exchange recent policing related issues in the ward and the officers reminded us that they are happy to support residents wishing to set up a community speed watch. This involves residents monitoring cars using a speed gun on the roadside and forwarding detail of any problems witnessed to the Police. Whilst this won't lead to any formal action from the police, owners of speeding vehicles are sent a warning letter and it also helps the police to build a picture of where problems are occurring as they record details of what's observed. It's usually carried out on a regular basis such as the same time each week or two. Guidance of how to do this can be found on the Avon and Somerset police website. If you're struggling to find it, do let us know and we will try to help.

Police activity in Redland

At our meeting with police they also confirmed with us that they have made a number of arrests in the Arches area relating to people selling the drug spice. We've had a fair bit of antisocial behaviour in this location in the past, so its helpful to know that the police

are continuing to monitor the situation. They also informed us that whilst crime is very low in our area, a number of thefts are still taking place from cars so please do remember to keep any valuables out of sight and temptations way.

First steps to calm local traffic

Work is now underway on a proposal to help calm local traffic in the ward and create healthier streets. Martin tabled a proposal through our Area Committee suggesting 'rat runs' and streets with a lot of fast traffic should be made safer. There's now a prospect of a scheme being drawn up and considered. We know this has long been a concern in several parts of the ward.

The council's healthy streets officer, a transport engagement officer, and some residents joined us recently to walk focussed on local residential streets near Gloucester Road and discuss some of the issues that might be tackled as this project progresses. Ways to discourage through traffic and slow fast moving vehicles using residential roads could be proposed in an initial draft set of options which will then be offered for consultation. We don't know what the proposals will look like yet but we can say that the measures that might

be suggested will be based on healthy streets principles. This is not an exercise to install double yellow lines or manage parking which is a separate initiative that we're also looking forward to in the future. As the healthy streets project develops we'll report more in future news columns.

Proposed new ward boundaries

Every few years ward boundaries are reviewed in line with the government requirement for numbers of electors per councillor should be balanced evenly around the city. The review by the Boundary Commission has been published and is out for consultation now. It says the growth in city electorate means the council should grow from 70 to 76 members, with wards having one, two or three councillors pro rata to the size of the electorate in the ward. At the same time most ward boundaries within the city are likely to change. In our area the last change was 2016, but in future the existing Redland ward may disappear to create a new three member Bishopston and Ashley Down ward to the east, and the other part could become a three member Redland and Cotham ward in the west. You can have your say via the Boundary Commission website. Rest assured we'll keep serving

the whole of the current ward until any changes that would start at the next election in 2028.

Youth council priorities

At the city council meeting in July councillors were able to hear from several recently elected new Youth Council members. This was an important opportunity to hear from young people now engaged in raising their concerns and engaging with the political process. Their confidence and eloquence was an important lesson for the assembled councillors. We hear their concerns about safety and knife crime, the need for a fully inclusive and tolerant city, mental health stigma, and their wish for young peoples voices to be heard and acted on. Thanks to all young people who engaged in their recent election and especially those who stood. We hope there will be practical collaboration as their term of office continues.

Contact us

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

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

Missed waste collections

We were very unhappy to see the return of multiple weeks of missed collections across the ward, and we really appreciate everyone who contacted us to raise this. We know how frustrating missed collections are, particularly during hot weather when waste can quickly become unpleasant and difficult to manage. Bristol Waste have advised that the problem was caused by the compounding effect of the heatwaves, which reduced the period of times that crews could work safely, alongside a shortage of qualified HGV drivers which limited the number of vehicles available.

They have been working to rectify this, including by pausing garden waste collections. We will continue to press for reliable collections and will keep reporting missed streets when residents let us know. If your street is still not being collected, please report all missed collections to Bristol Waste and let us know too.

The heatwave and cooling spaces

The recent heatwaves have also been a reminder that Bristol needs to adapt to hotter summers. Bristol City Council's Keep Bristol Cool webpage includes advice on coping with

hot weather and information on places where people can cool down, with a focus on making them welcoming, safe, free and easy to access.

We would love to hear from any local venues, faith groups, community organisations, shops, cafés or public buildings in Bishopston that could help by registering or offering themselves as a cool space during periods of extreme heat. If you have somewhere with shade, seating, drinking water, accessible toilets, or simply a friendly welcome for people who need a break from the heat, please get in touch with us so we can help connect you with the council's work and share the offer with residents.

Boundary review: have your say

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England is currently reviewing Bristol's council ward boundaries. These reviews happen roughly every ten years and are intended to make sure councillors represent similar numbers of electors, while also reflecting communities and how neighbourhoods work in practice. The second stage of the consultation is now open, with residents invited to comment on the proposed new ward boundaries, ward names and councillor numbers. Local knowledge

really matters in this process, so we would encourage residents, community groups and local organisations to look at the proposals and make their views known before the consultation closes on Monday 7 September 2026. You can find the Bristol review and respond online by searching for "LGBCE Bristol review".

Gloucester Road and nearby road closures

Resurfacing works affecting Gloucester Road, Filton Road, Dorian Road, Wessex Avenue, Bishopthorpe Road and Bayswater Road are scheduled to take place over two weeks, on week nights only, from 17 to 29 August 2026. The works are due to run overnight between 8pm and 6am. We know road closures and overnight works can be disruptive, but resurfacing is important for keeping roads safe and usable. Please look out for on-street notices and allow extra time if you need to travel through the area while the works are taking place. As ever, if you are affected by any of these issues or have questions about local services, please do contact us.

Contact us

Cllr.james.crawford@bristol.gov.uk
Cllr.Emma.edwards@bristol.gov.uk

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:

Aug 6th & 14th - Meridiana - A producer exclusive

Aug 13th & 15th - Portuguese Tasting

Sept 3rd & 16th Italian Islands Wines

Sept 5th & 17th - Tuscany Regional Tasting

Oct 8th & 22nd Italian Islands Wines

Oct 21st & 24th Tuscany Regional Tasting

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

August 8th - Emilia Romagna

September 19th - Tuscany

October 10th - Tuscany

Call for Corporate/Private bookings
Tickets at www.lascaladeli.com/tickets and in-store
***W&D* - Tuscany - 19/9 & 10/10**

August 8th & September 12th

■ **BLAISE COMMUNITY GARDEN**, behind Blaise Museum, BS10 7QS. Open Monday, Wednesday and Saturday 10-2. Interesting walled kitchen garden, free entry, new volunteers welcomed. Plants always available. Cash & cards accepted. **Events:** Garden Café on 8th August 9.45-2pm and our annual Art Show & Garden Café on 12th September 9.45 - 3pm

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

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 at mail@ittahowie.co.uk

■ **ITALIAN CLASSES** Learn Italian in friendly, small-group classes in Bishopston and Henleaze. Daytime and evening options for beginners to advanced, taught by an experienced teacher. We hold sociable aperitivo events too. Trial lesson £15. NEW class for complete beginners starting in September. <https://ruthspencelanguages.co.uk/> Email: ruthspence@live.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

■ **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.

■ **WESTBURY ON TRYM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION** meets on the third Monday of the month in the Westbury Village Hall, Eastfield Road, BS94AG, from 2.00 - 4.00 pm. We have interesting speakers, and extra activities of crafts, lunch club, skittles, book club, coffee mornings and pub evenings. Our lively, friendly and inclusive group welcomes visitors at any meeting. For more information call Sascha on 07961619806 or Liz on 07587170766.

■ **PLAY BOWLS** at Canford Park in a friendly, social atmosphere.

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

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 keithringley27@gmail.com

Tuesday

■ **HORFIELD STROLLERS** take a leisurely 2 to 3 mile walk in Bristol or nearby on Tuesday's at 10.00am. Details of the next walk can be obtained by ringing the walk leader, Julianne, on 07999 865393.

■ **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.theartsociety-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 at 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.

■ **GLOUCESTER ROAD WI** We meet the 3rd Tuesday evening of every month at St Bonaventure's Parish Hall off Friary Road from 8-10pm. We are an active, social group with talks, craft, physical activities and outings. For more information visit <https://gloucesterroadwi.org> or email info@gloucesterdwi.org Visitors welcome (at a cost of £7.50).

MIXED ABILITY & POSTNATAL
PILATES
HORFIELD QUAKER MEETING HOUSE

MIXED ABILITY
PILATES
THURSDAY 9.15AM
FROM BEGINNER TO
INTERMEDIATE WITH
ADAPTIONS OFFERED

POSTNATAL
PILATES
(BABIES WELCOME)
THURSDAY 10.30AM
FOLLOWED BY TEA IN THE
GARDEN

Free taster passes available
www.pilateswithsylvia.com
pilateswithsylvia@gmail.com



■ **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: gentllyblown.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

WHAT'S ON IN OUR AREA

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 tanielake@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

■ 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

■ 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.

■ 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.

WHAT'S ON IN OUR AREA

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: 10,17 and 31 July, 14 and 28 August. 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

Send details of your events and activities:

in no more than 40 words,
email us at: news@bishopstonvoice.co.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

WESTBURY ON TRYM VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

DOES everyone in Westbury on Trym realise how privileged we are to possess such a beautiful and unusual Village Hall – and one that is an almost unique example of the mid-Victorian Gothic revival in its local design? Furthermore, that it was created as a Concert Hall and Cultural centre for what was then in 1869, its foundation year, a comparatively modest rural community around a small village in Southern Gloucestershire? What a far-sighted gift it was, from its wealthy benefactor - Henry St Vincent Ames - son of a banking family, a much-travelled explorer, photographer, musician and resident of the original Cote House on the Downs, which itself had been a centre of culture when built by the Wedgewood family in the later 18th century.

The Hall has been so special and significant to the life and identity of Westbury that we want to ensure it can continue as an independent, autonomous institution, serving the people of our community; to be as much a part of future twenty first century history as it has been to our lives in the last one hundred and fifty years.

So, the Hall's Management Committee, at present a team of seven, headed by Graham Plummer its Chairman and Jane Plummer, Secretary and chief of booking arrangements, is asking people to sign up as 'Village Hall Supporters'. Of course, if you feel able to offer help now and then or would consider joining our organising committee, that too will be most welcome. Anyone on our future supporters' list is guaranteed complete confidentiality and data protection for all personal contact details.

There will be an Extra-ordinary General Meeting on Monday September 14 at the Hall, starting at 7pm, when we shall present a revised and strengthened constitution for general approval. However, before then you can request further supporter membership details from the Hall website <https://wotvillagehall.org/> - or by coming to our Membership table at the Village Show on Saturday September 5.

Hilary Long

G25 INSTALLER OF THE YEAR!

WINNERS!

G25
AWARDS
WINNER



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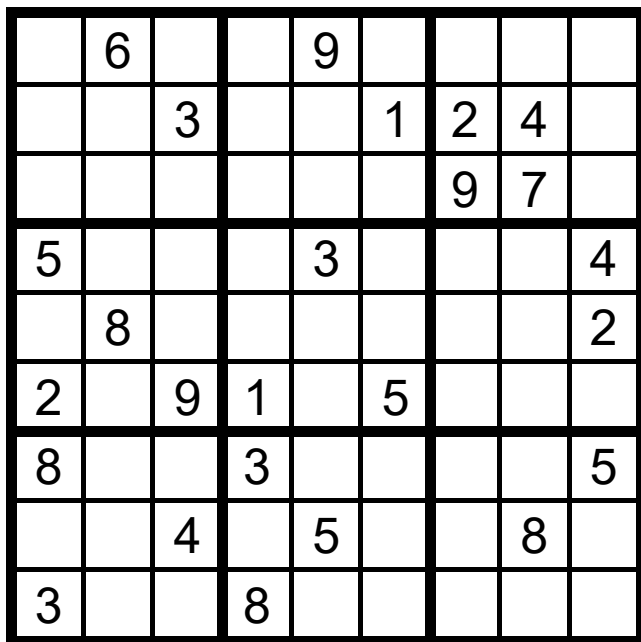
✉ info@thewindowhub.co.uk 🔍 www.thewindowhub.co.uk



PUZZLE PAGE

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.



For younger readers



Camping Wordsearch

Y	M	I	A	E	R	I	F	P	M	A	C
D	Y	S	K	Y	P	V	U	U	G	A	F
H	J	L	R	T	T	B	H	B	M	H	S
T	C	E	U	Z	O	O	F	P	M	Z	Z
F	H	E	C	M	C	R	S	C	I	O	G
U	U	P	K	H	S	I	C	P	T	N	T
Z	S	I	S	E	T	N	S	H	I	R	E
D	E	N	A	E	V	P	W	N	T	H	N
W	S	G	C	S	L	O	W	E	C	V	T
V	P	B	K	C	A	A	T	W	W	O	D
O	E	A	T	V	F	O	J	S	U	R	W
P	K	G	X	K	N	H	K	U	Y	X	S

awning

campfire

campsite

rucksack

sleeping bag

stove

tent

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■ VINEYARD NEWS with INGRID BATES

Use your noggin – enjoy our wines!

THE last month has been hot! Working in the vineyard during the recent heat has been quite tiring but thankfully the sunshine has been broken up by some much-needed rain as well. The vines at both of my vineyards have absolutely loved the combination of warmth and water, and they're looking very green and lush.

At my Wrington vineyard in North Somerset, it's still too early to know what sort of harvest we'll have this year. The frost we experienced in May damaged many of the young shoots and flowers which would have become grapes. Although the vines look healthy now, the damage has left us with bunches of grapes at different developmental stages. I'll keep a close eye on things over the next few weeks and make a decision towards the end of August about what to harvest this year.

Over at my new vineyard in Kelston, I've been battling with some incredible grass growth. I don't have all of my equipment at the new site so I haven't been able to keep it as tidy as I'd have wanted. Once everything is looking a little smarter I'm hoping to invite my 'adopt a vine' Crowdfunder supporters to meet their "baby vine" for the very first time. I'm really looking forward to finally welcoming visitors to the new site.

One exciting project I've been working on

recently is a collaboration with Muchelney Pottery in Somerset. Together we've recreated a traditional English drinking vessel called a noggin. The noggin is a beautifully simple, handmade wine cup about half the size of a modern wine glass. We'll be launching the first batch of 50 noggins at Muchelney Pottery's Open Day on July 25. One of my favourite things about the noggin is that the pottery retains heat, so if you pop them in the fridge they help keep your wine beautifully chilled while you drink it. Perfect for a summer evening!

As well as the pottery open day, we're still offering tours on our website and look out for details of a classic car event we're involved with at the Bath Soft Cheese café on August 9.

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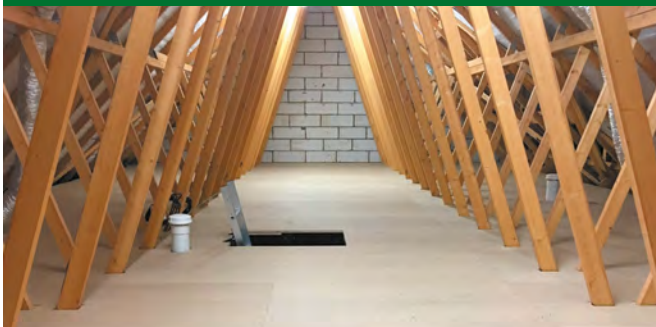
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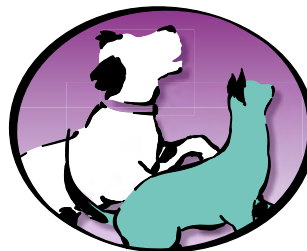
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NATURE WATCH

with Dawn Lawrence

The story of a bird cherry tree's resilience

It may seem odd, at the apparent height of summer, to be thinking of autumn but, as birders will tell you, it can start as early as June! This is when the first ducks – those that failed to breed – start to moult their summer plumage. But even in our gardens the breeding season is winding down and the very hot weather has hastened the end of summer. It's already time to watch out for feeding flocks, including blue, great and coal tits, long-tailed tits and goldcrests – a mixed gaggle of tiny birds calling to each other as they raid the shrubberies for insects and early berries.

Last year, autumn came very early for a bird cherry on Horfield Common. Native to the northern parts of Britain, this is an attractive small tree with droopy clusters of white flowers and is often planted down south. The tree was looking happy enough in its fresh greenery until May when, day by day, a spooky grey gauze could be seen enveloping the canopy,



A ghostly bird cherry on Horfield Common in 2025

ultimately encasing the trunk and smothering every branch to the smallest twig. People stopped to gaze in fascinated horror at the spreading web and what appeared to be a deadly plague of caterpillars that were weaving it. By June all the leaves were gone, caterpillars were crawling away across the grass in search of a new victim and the tree appeared to be doomed, wearing nothing but a silken shroud in preparation for the end. But this is a story of a



The caterpillars and their web
Photos by Dawn Lawrence

tree's resilience – all was not lost.

Like the wild cherry, which is to be found in local ancient woodlands such as Badock's Wood, the bird cherry is deciduous, losing its leaves every autumn. Even as the adult moths began to emerge from thousands upon thousands of chrysalises the tree was already re-growing its leaves – having apparently gone through an entire year in a single season! By the end of June it was almost back to normal and

the insects had gone, though the web, tattered and torn, was still wrapped about the trunk and branches.

The cause was a little moth – the bird-cherry ermine – which is barely a centimetre long. It is shining white with small black spots, hence its name. It eats only bird cherry and it has moved south from the bird cherry's usual haunts to colonise those trees planted as ornamentals elsewhere. This year the same tree leafed out and flowered as usual with no apparent ill-effects from last year's early autumn. It is possible that a predator, or a parasite, of the bird-cherry ermine, has caught up and is now controlling the population. Or perhaps the moths moved on, driven by instinct not to attack the same tree twice so as not to kill their host. A useful warning to the gardener and park keeper not to chop down a tree too hastily!

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