

bishopstonvoice

September, 2026 Issue 164

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Can they jump as high as the temperatures? Trinity Academy students celebrate the school's first A-levels results

Season of highs and lows

BRISTOL is emerging from a summer that has been the hottest on record.

Students at schools and colleges collected their A-level results on one of the many days when temperatures went above 30C.

The weather has affected bin collections throughout the city, with heat exhaustion, shortage of drivers and increased demand affecting the service.

An official drought has been declared and Bristol Water is urging customers to try to

reduce consumption. Meanwhile Horfield Organic Community Orchard says its apple and pear harvests have been devastated and it is looking for support to help stage its annual Apple Day event next month.

Reports: Pages 6-9 & 14-29



In praise of Open Mic nights

Amy Foss-Clark takes a look at Bristol's Open Mic nights, which she believes are helping keep communities alive.

PAGE 5

PCC hails work of boxing charity

Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody has visited Empire Fighting Chance in St Pauls to back its work on early intervention to support young people.

PAGE 11

Medic Kamran's double role

Bristol medical student Kamran Dhariwal has signed his first full-time professional contract with Gloucestershire Cricket.

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01/09/26
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Strange Brew

01/09/26
she's green
Rough Trade

02/09/26 **LOW TICKETS**
Way Dynamic
Strange Brew

07/09/26 **LOW TICKETS**
Kurt Vile & The Violators
The Prospect Building

08/09/26
James Felice & Will Lawrence
The Louisiana

10/09/26
The Selecter
The Fleece

19/09/26
Luke Haines
The Louisiana

21/09/26
The Tubs
Exchange

23/09/26
Death Cab For Cutie
The Prospect Building

26/09/26
Goldie Lookin Chain
Electric Bristol

28/09/26
Francis Of Delirium
Exchange

30/09/26
Lauren Auder
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OCTOBER

02/10/26 **LOW TICKETS**
Lime Garden
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09/10/26
Ian Prowse & Amsterdam
Thekla

11/10/26
Devotchka
The Lantern

13/10/26 **LOW TICKETS**
Seth Lakeman
St George's

21/10/26
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Gurriers
Electric Bristol

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NOVEMBER

04/11/26 **LOW TICKETS**
Teenage Fanclub
Trinity Centre

09/11/26
Temples
Strange Brew

10/11/26
Flora Hibberd
The Louisiana

19/11/26
Big Sleep
Rough Trade

20/11/26
Liz Lawrence
Strange Brew

21/11/26
wilt
Rough Trade

24/11/26
Lavender
The Croft

26/11/26
Ash
Electric Bristol

DECEMBER

01/12/26
Welsh Of The West End
St George's

05/12/26 **LOW TICKETS**
Young Knives
Strange Brew

05/12/26
Pyncher
The Croft

05/12/26
James Yorkston
Folk House

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Razorlight
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NEWS

No curb to pub opening hours in spite of noise complaints

The Kingsdown Vaults



THE Kingsdown Vaults pub has seen off an attempt to have its opening hours restricted.

Neighbours Helene Turon and Neil Chapman asked Bristol City Council to review the licence conditions.

They said the pub was quieter when they moved into their home in Kingsdown in 2020 and the garden was not in use but since the lockdown ended the pub garden had become noisier.

They wanted the garden to close at 7pm and a maximum of 12 customers allowed at once. Five other people jointly applied for the review too, but did not attend a licensing hearing in July. Mr Chapman said: "It interferes with our reasonable enjoyment of our gardens and flats. It is like the pub guests have been invited into our own gardens and houses. It's not our intention to close down the pub."

He added that cigarette smoke and foul language in the pub's garden was a nuisance. The pub already closes the garden at 10pm, although its licence actually lets it stay open later.

Ms Turon added: "We can hear every word of their conversations. In our garden it's impossible to read at the weekend and it's impossible to

have lunch and hear ourselves and have our own conversation. It's very different from gentle chatter, it's a lot of noise. I used to live next to a pub, and it was never a problem."

Three residents who live nearby came to the hearing to support the pub. They said that although Kingsdown was a residential area, the neighbourhood is also very close to the city centre so some level of noise should be expected.

Jim Fox, a local resident, said: "We've just seen the Green Man round the corner close down. So to have further restrictions placed on the few friendly pubs we have just seems to be a backward step."

"We don't think it's an area where there's rowdy fights. I used to live in the centre, down in the docks area, and you would see every weekend people coming into the centre and there being trouble. I've never seen problems in the Kingsdown Vaults."

Anyone can ask the council to review the premises licence of places like pubs, bars or clubs, if they reckon the four licensing objectives are not being followed. These are: preventing crime and disorder, public safety, preventing public nuisance, and

protecting children from harm. As a last resort, councillors can revoke a premises licence, which effectively bans the sale of alcohol.

Jeremy Woodcroft, representing the Kingsdown Vaults, said: "The garden is a fundamental contribution to the viability of the premises. Way above simply being a smoking area, it is critical on a bright summer's evening. People will choose to go elsewhere if there isn't an outside area available."

There were no concerns raised from Avon and Somerset Police nor the council's neighbourhood enforcement team, which deals with noise complaints. Councillors said there were no grounds to review the licence, and decided not to impose any new restrictions.

Cllr Fi Hance said: "There's not a large community that's been affected, as witnessed by the mix of comments we've had. We would however point out that we are aware that noise complaints have been made to Bristol City Council and noise diaries were submitted in 2025, and we understand that no further action was taken as a result."

By Alex Seabrook,
Local Democracy Reporter

NHS teams shortlisted

HEALTH and care services in the West have been shortlisted seven times in this year's national HSJ Awards for their commitment to healthcare excellence.

The stoma prescribing model developed in partnership with BNSSG ICB and Bristol NHS Foundation Trust has been shortlisted for the Medicines, Pharmacy and Prescribing Initiative of the Year Award.

North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT) has been shortlisted for Trust of the Year, as has South Western Ambulance Service NHS Foundation Trust (SWASFT).

The John Green Campaign for Prostate Cancer Awareness Month has been shortlisted for the NHS Communications Initiative of the Year Award.

It is a collaboration between Bristol NHS Foundation Trust, Somerset, Wiltshire, Avon and Gloucestershire (SWAG) Cancer Alliance, Bristol Rovers Football Club and Bristol Rovers Community Trust.

The Robotic Process Automation tool, used in recruitment processes, has been shortlisted for the Driving Efficiency Through Technology Award.

The Timely Handover Process (THP) has been shortlisted for Provider Collaboration of the Year. It was developed in partnership with SWASFT, NHS England and local hospitals and Integrated Care Boards.

SWASFT's Staying Well Hub has been shortlisted for the Staff Wellbeing and Culture title.



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Our October deadline is September 16. To ensure your news or letter is included, please contact us by this date. Advertisers are also asked to contact us by the same date.

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NEWS



Tom Martin and Sophie Sutton are just two of the performers at the popular Gallimaufry on Gloucester Road

By Amy Foss-Clark

COMMUNITY. A word you don't hear that often any more. Everyone's too busy on their phones, too anxious to meet new people or just too 'busy'.

With more than half of Britons feeling socially disconnected from society and roughly 22% of adults suffering general anxiety, it is now more important than ever to highlight the importance of community-building.

I am very proud to say that Bristol is a city that is actively keeping the community spirit alive and I believe that the fighting force behind it is Bristol's varying 'Open Mic Nights.'

For those not in the know, an open mic night is an evening, usually based in a pub, where performers of all levels and all manner of talents gather, and, you guessed it, perform. A multitude of instruments are brought along and people from all walks of life hop on to the stage to sing, rap, recite poetry or play an instrument. It makes for a night of great entertainment.

I first attended an open mic night at The Gallimaufry on the Gloucester Road. I was there to watch. I had just come out of a break up and my friends were beginning to leave the city so I decided to push myself and go to an evening where I knew no one, no one knew me, and with the hopes of hearing some music and who knew, maybe make some friends.

Upon entering I was nervous so I quickly grabbed a pint and stood by the bar and focused my attention on the man singing on the stage and playing the guitar. My self consciousness quickly ebbed away and I fell into the music's web. In front of me was a

How Open Mic nights help keep communities alive

table full of musicians waiting their turn, ukuleles on their laps and guitars strapped to their backs.

A lady on the table noticed me eyeing up the empty seat next to her and smiled at me and patted on the bench, encouraging me to sit down. So I did, and soon enough I was engaged in whispered conversation with everyone at said table, each person asking if I was performing, what sort of music I liked and commending me for coming alone, though I must say, I very quickly did not feel alone. I spoke with about ten other people that night, watched an eclectic array of performances and left with my head held high.

The majority of these people I did not see again, yet they were swapped out for new friendly faces the next week, and so the cycle went on.

A regular performer at The Gallimaufry's open mic night is singer song writer, Sophie Sutton.

I asked Sophie why she thought that people are so drawn to open mic nights; "They offer people a sense of belonging to a place," she answered, "the main focus of the best open mic nights I've been to has been inclusivity; all are welcome and I think that's why they're so popular!"

I admitted to Sophie that I was sceptical before attending my first open mic night as I knew there would be regulars and I found this intimidating, Sophie said; "Each open

mic will have its regulars and newcomers alike, but no matter where you sit on that spectrum, everyone's presence and artistic offerings contribute to the sense of togetherness for the night.

"You're all weirdly vulnerable together so it all adds to the fun and camaraderie of the night."

In a city as small as Bristol, you are never short of different open mic nights to go to: The Canteen offers a similar vibe to the Gallimaufry whereby it has a great open feel to it. You also have The Golden Lion which has a cosier feeling to it, and then you have The Bristol Fringe, which provides an intimate space for their open mic evenings, creating a private concert atmosphere, which is clearly appreciated by the artists and the observers.

These are just to name a few, if you were to try and attend all of Bristol's open mic nights in one week then I'm afraid you'd be having to watch two at once as there are at least 20 occurring each week!

Each night is full of people of all ages, from all types of backgrounds, coming together in one place to share the same passion. Whether you perform or just watch, it's a night on impossible to feel alone in places like these.

So I urge you to have a look and see what open mics might be happening near you, and why not pop your head in.

Who knows what might happen!

NEWS

World Cup and heatwaves hit bin collections

A LEADING councillor and council boss have apologised over missed bin collections in Bristol during the summer heatwaves.

At the end of June the temperature in the city hit a record high of 37 degrees, leaving binmen struggling to complete rounds and catch up with a backlog. Staff reportedly went off sick with heat exhaustion, and a prolonged shortage of drivers added to pressures. As the extreme heat combined with the World Cup, the amount of recycling collected was 50 per cent higher than average, and residents complained their bins were overflowing.

Bristol Waste and Bristol City Council are now preparing to deal with future high temperatures differently, the environment policy committee heard on July 30.

Green Councillor Abi Finch, chair of the committee, said: "Apologies to anyone who has

experienced any disruption to their waste and recycling collection over the recent few weeks. It's largely because of the number of extreme heat events that we've had in the city. But also there have been other factors that have played in, such as driver shortages.

"Bristol Waste and Bristol City Council have learned really valuable lessons from the experience. It's not related to issues we had in previous years about waste. This really is a one-off incident because of adapting to the extreme heat. Looking ahead, Bristol Waste is recruiting more drivers and is also looking at the way the service is managed in red weather events."

There is a national shortage of drivers, partly as wages for similar jobs are rising. This summer has also seen unprecedentedly high temperatures, affecting all sorts of public services, and the Met Office has warned that

temperatures will continue to climb in future years.

But the disruption was criticised by opposition councillors, who said some residents didn't have food waste collected for three weeks. They called on Bristol Waste to carry out more preparation for extreme heat and manage staffing levels better.

Conservative Cllr Mark Weston said: "To suddenly find yourself so short of drivers, unless they all simultaneously quit, or they were all simultaneously fired, means then we have a problem of HR planning. We shouldn't be in that predicament. In Southmead, Henbury and Brenty, it took a month to recover. It's quicker at Christmas. Our bins were rancid and literally crawling — mine nearly waded to me. It was a fiasco. I commend the staff who ploughed on regardless for sterling work. But actually overall, 'must do better' would be the grade I would give."

Recent figures show that Bristol Waste had been performing well before the start of the hot summer, after recovering from previous disruption when routes were changed across the city. Even last Christmas, there were relatively few missed collections.

But this summer, the heat and World Cup led to a huge increase in the amount of rubbish people were recycling, adding to pressures on the service. Last year, Bristol Waste collected an average of 400 tonnes of recycling a week. This June, binmen collected 500 tonnes in the first week, 580 tonnes in the second week, and then 600 tonnes in the third week.

One option is getting crews to mix all recycling together, which speeds up collections, and then separate materials again back at a depot. Or crews could be sent to specifically pick up cardboard, which now forms the bulk of what binmen pick up due to the rise of online shopping. And a new fleet of bin lorries being bought by Bristol Waste should create extra capacity too.

Green Cllr James Crawford said: "I never would have considered that climate change would have disrupted waste collection. But it's such a key service to the city and getting planning in for these emergency situations is just going to become more and more vital over the future. All credit to the waste crews, it's a very challenging situation."

After the meeting, a Bristol Waste spokesperson thanked residents for their patience and said the company was preparing with the council for future red weather warnings. During the extreme heat, they focused on urgent collections like food waste and clinical waste.

The spokesperson said: "We appreciate everyone's patience and support as we adapted services to keep our colleagues safe in response to the red weather warning (danger to life) caused by extreme heat in June and the high temperatures throughout this summer. Our absolute priority is the safety of our teams."

Bristol Waste is hiring new lorry drivers. Class 2 licence holders can earn £37,000 a year, with no experience of waste and recycling collections needed.

By Alex Seabrook, Local Democracy Reporter

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Waste chief's big payoff

THE boss of Bristol Waste was handed a payoff of nearly £120,000 to leave the company, on top of a £146,000 salary, it has been revealed.

Managing director Richard Williams left the city council-owned firm on March 2 this year after 17 months in charge.

He was the business's fifth MD in less than four years in a round of revolving doors at the very highest level of the business.

The council's annual draft accounts show Mr Williams was paid £146,106 in salary, fees and allowances from April 2025 up to his departure, plus £15,094 in employer pension contributions.

But he also got an additional £119,461 for 'compensation of loss of office' — essentially a golden handshake. This took his total package for 2025/26 to £280,661.



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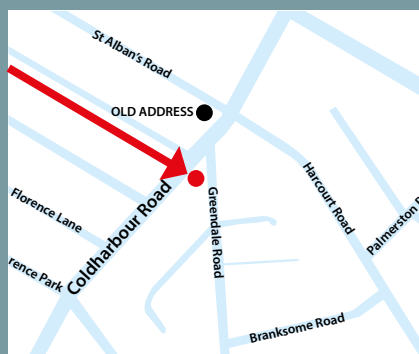
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■ HORFIELD ORGANIC COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Drought, heat and a plague of grubs – all change for Apple Day

EVERY summer, as we start harvesting orchard fruit, we also begin planning October's Apple Day. This community event is the highlight of our year. We look forward to welcoming hundreds of visitors to celebrate the orchard, the harvest, and the hard work of our volunteers.

Sadly, this year, it looks like we won't even be able to salvage enough fruit for our much-loved Tasting Table. Clearly, carrying on as if nothing has changed is no longer an option.

Sixty hot and rainless days. Every tree, and every living thing in Horfield Organic Community Orchard (HOCO) is in distress – including us. Every one of our trees has been afflicted by moth grubs – affecting almost all the fruit. We have never experienced devastation on this scale before. Even if rains return, it will be too late for this year's longer-keeping dessert apples.



A drought-distressed Winter Nelis pear



Codling moth and frass in a Ribston Pippin

Sunday 18 October, 2026. Please put this date in your diary! Orchard members and supporters are a resourceful and creative bunch. It's too early to say for sure how this year's heartbreak will grow into an inspiring community resilience event. We are sure some good

can rise from the ashes. HOCO is open to new connections to co-create this event. Are you creating community-based action for climate and nature? Get in touch, c/o the website. We'd love you to share your experience, knowledge, and skills for a fruitful future.

Fruitful Future: Climate & Nature Orchard Action Apple Day: More information and updates: <https://community-orchard.org.uk/>

*Words by Shannon Smith aka The Apple Tree Lady
Photographs by Jamie Carstairs*

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NEWS

Plea as drought goes on

BRISTOL Water is asking its customers to help reduce water use as prolonged hot, dry weather continues to drive exceptionally high demand across the area.

The sustained heatwave has put pressure on parts of the local drinking water network as demand across the region has increased by 40 million litres a day.

The Environment Agency has declared half of England, including Bristol, in drought. There have been droughts in three of the last five years, 2022, 2025, 2026.

England recorded its driest July since records began in 1836 and exceptionally hot weather continued past the first half of August, with rainfall below 5 per cent of the expected average.

Tony Grayling, from the Environment Agency and Chair of the National Drought Group, said: "Drought conditions are worsening and will continue to do so until we see significant and sustained rainfall."

"We know the hot and dry weather is taking a real toll on farming and there will be long-lasting impacts on our environment. We want everyone to stay safe and hydrated over the summer, but we need everyone's help in using a little less water to make sure our current water reserves last. Every drop we can save is a drop more for your local farmers, local wildlife and local rivers."

Bristol Water said customers could help by:

- Taking a four-minute shower
- Turning off the tap while brushing their teeth
- Only using washing machines and dishwashers with full loads
- Using a watering can instead of a hose where and when possible
- Watering gardens in the early morning or late evening
- Keeping a jug of drinking water in the fridge instead of running the tap until it is cold
- Checking for dripping taps or leaks around the home.

Chance to see climate film

TWO showings of the film *The People's Emergency Briefing* are taking place in the Henleaze area this month.

The 50-minute film about the climate crisis features Chris Packham, Jennifer Saunders and others. It was produced following a briefing in November 2025 to which over 1,200 leaders - including MPs, peers, and experts in science, business and national security.

It is now being screened across the country with time included for discussion and suggestions as to how people can respond to the issues locally.

Bristol North West MP Darren Jones is hosting a screening on September 5. He says: "Many constituents have contacted me about this film, so I'm pleased to have the opportunity to watch it for the first time with you."

The film will be followed by a conversation between the MP and Dr Alix Dietzel, a climate justice and climate policy expert at the University of Bristol.

The film is at 12.30pm and the conversation at 2pm. Constituents can book for both events; tickets must be booked separately. Go to darren-jones.co.uk/events

Meanwhile, another screening will take place at the Bradbury Hall, Waterford Road, Henleaze BS9 4BT on Sunday September 20 from 5.30 - 7.30pm, organised by Trinity-Henleaze URC Church and St Peter's Church, Henleaze.

Places need to be reserved and can be booked via <https://tinyurl.com/3ey9prdx>



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■ ADVERTISING FEATURE

Preparing your SME for sale: Why the legals matter

Many SME owners focus on growing their business, naturally so, but they can often overlook whether their business is ready for sale should an opportunity arise. The old adage of "you can't time the market" applies so it is always advisable to ensure a business has a sale checklist in mind, as it progresses through growth.

Corporate compliance and company structure

The Companies Act 2006 is the primary piece of legislation that regulates companies in this country. The legal foundation matters and is sometimes overlooked by smaller SMEs who have not built a working relationship with a corporate legal team. What sounds expensive and synonymous with large corporations really is a concept of film. The majority of businesses in the UK are SMEs and whatever the size, there is a place for ensuring the company prospectus is maintained, in case

a sale opportunity arises or comes unexpectedly.

Establishing clean corporate governance with documented board minutes, shareholder agreements and formal policies illustrates professionalism and awareness of statutory obligations. This can also reduce the time legal due diligence can take and ultimately reduces the risk of a buyer walking away or re-negotiating price.

Financial and contract maintenance

Potential acquirers will scrutinise contracts, customer agreements and supplier arrangements. Undisclosed liabilities, informal verbal agreements or contracts containing onerous conditions or exit penalties can push a buyer towards a reduced offer or to demand a retention (to hold part of the purchase price in escrow until key customers or suppliers commit to a market standard legal agreement).

When to start planning for exit

Exit readiness is not a 'one size fits all' process. We are always having strategy conversations with our clients as market forces can change all too often in the SME world. Typically, 12-18 months is a good time to start the company clean as going to market and finding a buyer will also take some time. Identifying any vulnerabilities that could impact a sale will at least bring into scope the time or cost needed to polish.

Bottom line

Engaging legal and tax support early on in the sale process should play an important role in helping to achieve a valuation that will not be chipped away at. For most SMEs, selling their business is a one-time shot and for that reason it is imperative not to leave value on the table or leave the door open for post-sale disputes.

Your exit strategy isn't something to tackle when you've found a buyer. It is something to build and plan



for in advance.

The corporate team at AMD specialise in advising SME business owners and family owned businesses on acquisitions growth and exit strategy. Contact the team on commercial@amdsolicitors.com or **0117 9621205** as the team are always delighted to hear from business owners.



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NEWS

Parking fees move to simple hourly rate

SIMPLIFIED charges for pay-and-display parking have been introduced in central Bristol.

A new single hourly charging structure has replaced the previous daytime, evening and overnight tariff system. Everyone is charged based on how long they park, and the regime will be easier to understand, especially for users whose stay covers the transition period from daytime to evening.

The end of the charging period has been brought forward from midnight to 10pm to reduce the impact of the changes on those parking in the evening. During the first year, parking charges between 6pm and 10pm will also be reduced by £1 per hour. This discount will then reduce by 20p each year until

the standard rate applies. Drivers parking overnight will also be able to pre-pay parking for the following morning.

Maximum stay limits remain in place for all parking bays. The changes mean drivers will now pay £4.50 an hour between 8am and 6pm, seven days a week, in the 1-hour maximum stay bays and £3.50 an hour within the 2 and 4-hour maximum stay parking bays. Between 6pm and 10pm there will be no maximum stay limit.

Blue Badge holders and motorcyclists will continue to be able to park free of charge in designated bays and pay and display spaces, with no time limit.

Further changes are set to be introduced across Bristol in the coming months as part of

ongoing work to make parking arrangements clearer and easier to use, while helping to support local businesses, including those that operate at nighttime.

Councillor Ed Plowden, chair of the transport and connectivity committee, said: "These changes will make parking charges simpler and more consistent across central Bristol, helping people understand what they need to pay, while helping to manage parking spaces more effectively."

"They balance the needs of residents, businesses and visitors, support our local economy during the day and night-time, and help ensure limited kerbside space is used efficiently."

More details on the council website.

Boxing clever to support young people

POLICE and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody has pledged more funding for the work of Empire Fighting Chance in St Pauls.

She visited EFC, which uses non-contact boxing to provide early intervention and inspiration, for an event that brought together young people and police officers.

Clare donned boxing gloves for the Fighting Barriers, Stronger Together event. She has committed funding for the charity to develop and deliver its Box Champions programme. This will see children in educational settings who are at risk of permanent exclusion, exploitation or criminal activity given mentoring, coaching and support.

The funding is being provided by the Home Office via the Avon and Somerset Violence Reduction Partnership – which is chaired by Clare in her role as PCC.

Clare Moody said: "Reducing serious youth violence is a priority in my Police and Crime Plan, and this starts with investing in early intervention to ensure that young people have safe and positive pathways for their future. We know that the work being delivered by Empire Fighting Chance gives young people the confidence and opportunities to fulfil their potential and make safe choices, reducing the risk of them becoming victims or perpetrators of crime and violence."

"This event was an invaluable



Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody dons boxing gloves for a visit to Empire Fighting Chance aimed at supporting young people by providing coaching and mentoring

opportunity to ensure young people's voices are represented within policing, helping to build understanding, strengthen trust and shape local policing through the lived experiences of the communities it serves."

Andrew Turton, a member of EFC who took part in the event, said: "The Fighting Barriers, Stronger Together event is something I'll always remember. I learned so much about policing and how young people and the police can work better together. It showed me the people behind the badge and completely changed the way I

see the police. I now understand that they're there to help us, and we were there to help them by sharing our experiences and ideas on how policing can improve. I'm grateful to everyone who made it happen and for giving young people the chance to have our voices heard."

The impact of EFC's early intervention can be seen in young people like Andrew as well as his boxing coach Serena Wiebe.

Serena credits EFC for giving her the support she needed when she was struggling and after losing her close friend, Eddie

Kinuthia, to a fatal stabbing in St Pauls in 2023.

Now 21, Serena has been awarded British Empire Medal for her services to young people as a mentor, EFC boxing coach, and nationally recognised campaigner against knife crime.

She said: "I'm proud to have organised this event with the PCC. The conversations were open, honest, and incredibly valuable. This is what partnership working looks like – creating opportunities, breaking down barriers, and working together to shape the future of policing and stronger communities."

Following the event, a joint working group between EFC, the Office of the PCC, and Avon and Somerset Police has been established to continue exploring ways they can bring young people and policing together, to strengthen trust and facilitate partnership working.

Megan Knowelden, head of programmes at Empire Fighting Chance, said: "Young people are often talked about, rather than being an active part of the discussion. This event showed what's possible when we create the right environment for open, respectful conversations. By stepping into the gym together, young people and police staff were able to see each other beyond the stereotypes and begin building genuine understanding. That's exactly the kind of partnership we believe can help create safer communities and better futures for young people."

■ ADVERTISING FEATURE



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Why is back care so important to Back In Action?

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What can be done to fight back pain?

"Our philosophy is really simple: the body needs to move and the furniture we use needs to encourage that. Solving back pain is not one-

size-fits-all, so we aim to work with every individual to find the perfect match."

What's the Back In Action product that you're most passionate about?

"Without a shadow of a doubt, it's the Mobiliser. We see it change lives and that's so exciting for us. The Mobiliser is free to trial in our Bristol store."

Any final thoughts on back care?

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SCHOOLS NEWS



Henbury Court Primary Academy celebrated its 70th birthday by welcoming back former pupils and staff. Pupils aged from three to 11 researched the school's history and completed projects that were on display at the celebration event. Bristol Lord Mayor Councillor Yassin Mohamud officially cut the ribbon to the newly planted commemorative orchard, which will serve as a lasting reminder of the milestone.

Hard work pays off for A-level students

STUDENTS across Bristol are celebrating their A-level, T-level and BTEC results with provisional figures showing 94 per cent achieved at least three A-levels at grades A* to E across the city's state schools and colleges.

Early figures submitted to Bristol City Council also show that 12.7 per cent of students achieved three A-level grades of A* to A. The council is continuing to receive data from schools and colleges, including results for BTEC and T-level qualifications.

Councillor Christine Townsend, chair of the children and young people committee, said: "Congratulations to everyone receiving their results. You have worked hard to reach this point and should feel proud of your achievements.

"Whether you studied A-levels, BTECs, T Levels or a mix of qualifications, today is an important step towards university, an apprenticeship, further training or employment.

"I also want to thank the teachers, support staff, parents, carers and families who have been there for Bristol's young people throughout their studies.

"For anyone feeling disappointed or uncertain about their results, support and advice are available. There are many routes to success, and you don't have to work it out on your own."

Julia Gray, chief executive officer at City of Bristol College, said: "Level 3 results day is a major milestone for students who have spent the last two or three years working towards their academic, vocational and technical goals.

"Alongside their studies, our students have gained workplace experience, exhibited their work publicly, visited inspirational locations abroad and developed the skills to support their next steps in education and employment.

"Their grades are just one part of their overall achievements, and I wish them the very best as they continue to pursue their goals, contribute to society and support the regional economy."

Support is available for anyone who is unsure about their next steps. The National Careers Service exam results webpages include advice for students and guidance for parents.

Students can also phone the National Careers Service helpline on 0800 100 900. The helpline is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 5pm on Saturdays.

Results remain provisional while schools and colleges complete their returns to the council. Final validated results will be confirmed later in the autumn.

Reports: Pages 16-29

NEWS FROM BISHOP ROAD PRIMARY

Music at the heart of Bishop Road Primary

Bishop Road Primary School, with the help of the PTFA, is embarking on an exciting new chapter as it seeks to enhance music at the school, strengthening opportunities for children to sing, perform and create.

As part of this commitment, the school is delighted to welcome Richard Croughan, Primary Music Lead for Bristol Beacon, who will be working alongside staff to develop the music curriculum, enhance the teaching of music and strengthen wider musical provision across the school. His expertise will help ensure that all children benefit from high-quality musical experiences, both in the classroom and beyond.

Over the next two years, Bishop Road Primary School also plans to transform part of the school into a dedicated music studio. This exciting new space will provide a home

for music, offering a specialist environment for lessons, rehearsals and performances.

The studio will host informal concerts, music tuition, choir rehearsals and a range of other musical activities, creating opportunities for children to develop their talents and share their achievements with others. The aim is to create a vibrant hub where music can flourish and become an even more visible part of school life.

The school's ambitions extend beyond its pupils. As part of its long-term vision, plans are also being explored to establish a community choir, bringing together local residents through a shared love of singing. The hope is that song will continue to ring out across Bishopston long after the school day has ended

Bishop Road PTFA

Thanks to the incredible support of families,

staff and the wider school community, the PTFA ended the 2025/26 school year on a real high, with June's summer fair bringing the school community together for a fantastic afternoon and a fitting end to the year.

The PTFA fulfilled its pledges by donating £47,400 to the school in July, helping to fund a wide range of valuable enrichment opportunities including outdoor learning sessions, books for the class and main libraries, author visits, externally-run workshops, playground improvements and resources for the school's new music suite which is in development.

A huge thank you to everyone who has volunteered, attended events or supported fundraising over the past year. We're already looking ahead to our next big event: the Bishop Road Fireworks Extravaganza on Saturday 7 November.

**Inspired
today**

**Unstoppable
tomorrow**

**Bristol
Grammar
School**



**Open Evening
Friday 2 October**

EDUCATION

Good day for NBP16

NORTH Bristol Post 16 Centre, a collaboration between Cotham and Redland Green Schools, is celebrating strong A-level results.

Among the notable achievements, 38 students achieved all A or A grades*, including 12 students achieving all A or equivalent grades*. In addition, 50 students achieved an average grade of A or above, highlighting the strength and consistency of academic performance across the cohort.

More than one in ten grades achieved in 2026 was an A* and well more than half of all grades achieved was a B or above. The centre also saw excellent outcomes for applied courses where over 80% of students achieved a merit grade or higher.

The majority of university applicants secured their first-choice places, with many heading to some of the UK's and the world's most competitive institutions.

More students than ever are choosing the apprenticeship route, including several who have earned highly competitive degree apprenticeships in sought-after fields such as finance and engineering.

Directors Aimi Potter (Cotham School) and Owen Tiplady (Redland Green School) say: "It is a great privilege to celebrate an excellent set of results with our students. These achievements are a testament to the hard work, resilience, and creativity our brilliant young people have shown over the past two years.

"We are incredibly proud to see so many securing their chosen next steps: whether that's a place at a top university, a prestigious apprenticeship, or another exciting path. We know they leave us not only with excellent qualifications, but with the skills, confidence, and ambition to thrive in whatever they choose to do next."

Collegiate's success

STUDENTS, staff and parents at Collegiate are celebrating an excellent set of A-level, BTEC and CTEC examination results.

The vast majority of Collegiate Year 13s have secured the grades they need to access their next educational or professional step, having secured the necessary examination results to access their chosen university courses or degree-level apprenticeships.

Headline figures include:

- 40% of A Level grades awarded at A/A*
- 70% of A Level grades awarded at A*/B
- 88% of CTEC and BTEC grades awarded at Starred Distinction / Distinction (the equivalent of A*/A at A Level)
- 20 students (29% of the cohort) achieved the equivalent of AAA or better
- 93% of applicants secured their first or second choice university course or apprenticeship

Head Jeremy McCullough said: "Our lovely, grounded students have worked very hard, and have been brilliantly supported by their teachers and their parents. They have earned fantastic results that will see the vast majority of them move on to their first or second choice university or apprenticeship but they have achieved so much more than this in their time at Collegiate.

"This cohort have contributed so much to the life of the school, in so many different ways, that we have to remind ourselves that there is more to their school careers than these results, no matter how good they are. Indeed, we firmly believe that the co-curricular engagement of our young people is key to the success they have in their examinations. I am confident that they will also go on to be valuable and valued members of their communities."



Open events for prospective Year 7 2027 pupils

Bridge Learning Campus

William Jessop Way, Bristol BS13 0RL

Tuesday 15th September 5.00-7.00pm

Bristol Cathedral Choir School

College Square, Bristol BS1 5TS

Thursday 17th September 4.00-7.30pm

Thursday 24th September 4.00-7.30pm

Orchard School Bristol

Filton Rd, Bristol BS7 0XZ

Wednesday 23rd September 4.00-7.00pm

St Katherine's School

Pill Rd, Ham Green, Pill, Bristol BS20 0HU

Thursday 24th September 4.00-7.00pm

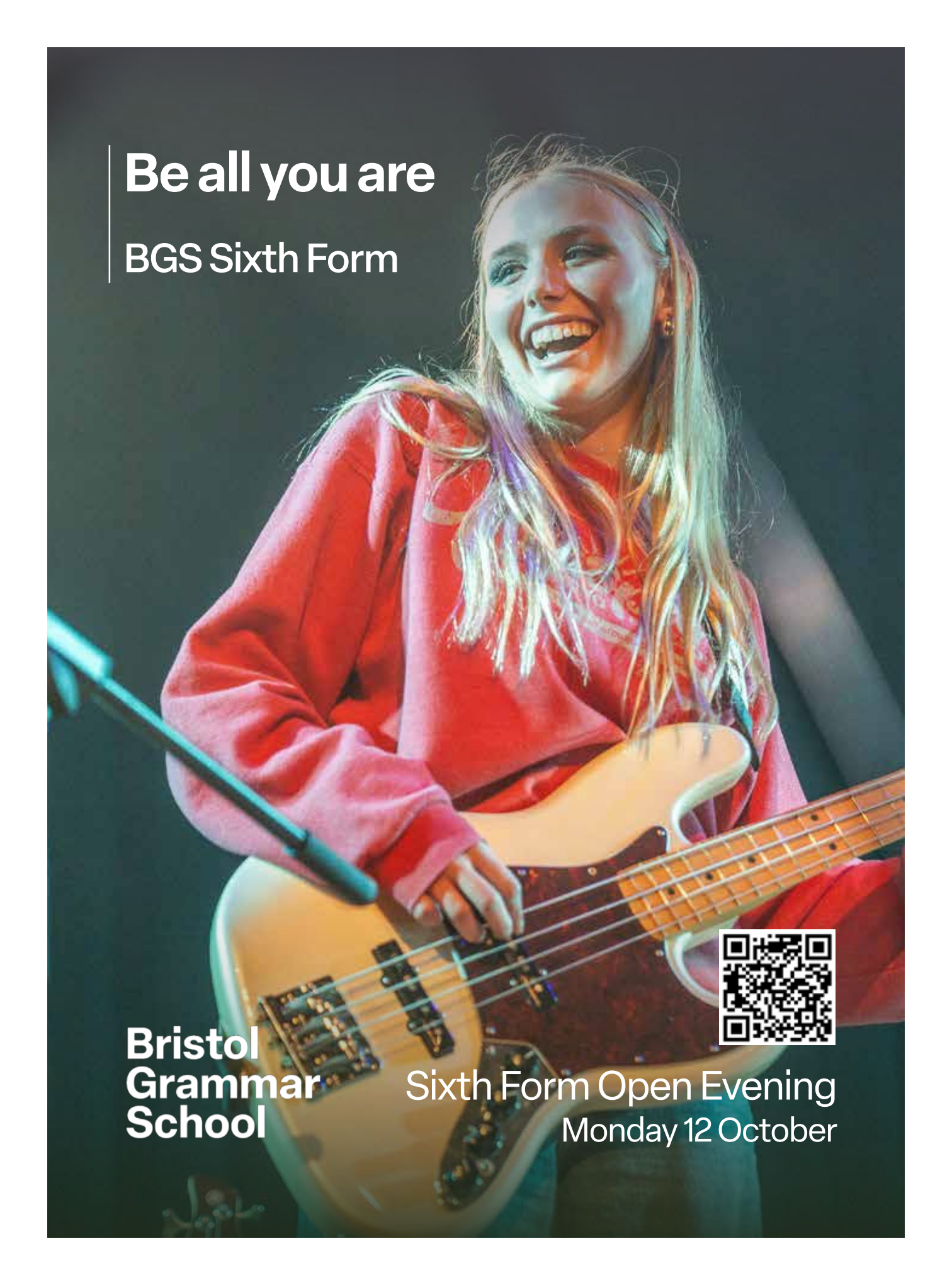
Trinity Academy

Romney Ave, Lockleaze, Bristol BS7

Tuesday 22nd September 4.45-8.00pm

Scan the QR code for more information:





Be all you are

BGS Sixth Form

**Bristol
Grammar
School**



Sixth Form Open Evening
Monday 12 October

EDUCATION

A day to remember

CLIFTON College is celebrating an exceptional set of A Level and BTEC results, with pupils' commitment and perseverance reflected in impressive achievements across subjects. This year's outcomes include notably strong performances in Fine Art (100% A*-B), Photography (83% A*-B), English Literature (94% A*-B), Economics (96% A*-B) and Mathematics and Further Mathematics (80% A*-B) at A Level. BTEC results were equally strong, with Sport (88% D*-D), Music Technology (100% Distinction) and Applied Psychology (100% D*).

Among this year's high achievers was Joung Youn, who joined Clifton College in the nursery and achieved four A*s in Maths, Further Maths, Economics and Music. She will progress to Imperial College London to study Economics, Finance and Data Science.



Hugs as Clifton College's Class of 2026 returns to collect their A-level results

Fergus, also a former nursery pupil, achieved an A* in Maths and three As in Further Maths, Physics and Computer Science, alongside an A in his Extended Project Qualification. He secured his first choice place at Bath University to study Robotics Engineering.

Heather achieved three A*s in Maths, Chemistry and Physics, plus an A in AS Further Maths. She will begin Mechanical Engineering at Bath University this September.

Halbie achieved double

distinction in Sport BTEC and an A Level in Geography. He plans to spend a gap year developing his tennis coaching qualifications before progressing to university to study Sports Performance.

Sophie, who joined Clifton in the Sixth Form, achieved two A*s in Maths and History and an A in Chemistry, securing her place at Durham University to study Law.

The majority of pupils have secured offers from their first choice universities, both in the UK and internationally, including the University of Hong

Kong, Sciences Po (Paris), Yale University, and the University of Toronto. Christa Clark, Deputy Head Academic, said: "We are thrilled to celebrate the outstanding achievements of our Year 13 students. Their results reflect not only academic excellence, but the maturity and ambition they have shown throughout their Sixth Form journey. Our pupils have developed into thoughtful, independent young adults ready to make a genuine impact on the world. We could not be prouder."



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- who enjoy school and love learning

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BADMINTON
SCHOOL

Autumn Open Events



Whole School Open Morning (for ages 3 – 18)

Saturday 10 October

Pre-Reception & Reception 'Stay and Play'

Friday 16 October

Visiting Morning

Friday 20 November



Scan to book your place

EDUCATION

STUDENTS at Badminton School are celebrating another year of exceptional A Level results, with 37% of all grades awarded being an A* or A.

Badminton's Class of 2026 now prepare to embark on their higher education journeys at leading institutions across the UK and around the world, including The University of Oxford, multiple Russell Group universities, and prestigious establishments in Hong Kong and America.

Seventy per cent of students secured a place at their first-choice university. A number of students sailed into results day with the added reassurance of having secured unconditional offers for higher education to study Global Sports Management, Archaeology, Sociology, Fashion Design and Photography.

Many attained straight A*/A grades, with some achieving four A* grades. One of these students was Joey, who commented on her achievement: "I am really excited to start studying Medicine at Imperial College in September. I'm grateful to all my teachers and friends at Badminton who have supported me throughout A Levels. I'm going to miss the community here and especially playing football with my friends".

Other straight A*/A students included Tiffany (going on to study Physics at Oxford), Evangeline (going on to study Computer Science and Maths at Edinburgh), Anna (Physics and Meteorology at Edinburgh), Sofia (Law at Warwick), Asma (Design

Brilliant! Joy at Badminton



Badminton School students celebrate their A-level results

with Innovation at Bristol), Ami (Pharmacy at Manchester), Tiffany (Economics at UCL), Dora (Veterinary at Bristol), Anna (Computational Physics at Edinburgh) and Florence (going on to study Fine Art at Oxford).

Head Girl Sara said: "Badminton has given me far more than an education; from

performing and leading to the friendships and opportunities that have shaped who I am, it has truly been home for me, and I will carry those memories with me into the next chapter of my life."

Head Jessica Milessaid: "Badminton's Upper Sixth Cohort of 2026 have once again

delivered on their ambition and promise with these results.

"We are exceptionally proud of the wide range of courses and institutions that they are joining from September, ranging from Fashion Design to International Relations, Psychology to Egyptology and Archaeology, History to Fashion Jewellery."

BGS students achieve record outcomes

BRISTOL Grammar school saw the best A-level results in its history with 40% of students awarded three or more A* or A grades. Nearly 60% of papers taken achieved an A* or A grade.

Students took 28 different subjects, including modern and classical languages, music technology and dance. Of the 26 students who opted for Further Mathematics, an impressive 92% achieved an A*/A.

Matthew Pattie, deputy head, academic, said it was testament to the tenacity and hard work of the students, many of whom have achieved so much while continuing to focus on music, performance and sport.

"They should all be incredibly proud of themselves. Our BGS framework of learning helps students to connect long- and short-term memory to embed knowledge.

We've leveraged this across our teaching and assemblies but, most impressively, the students have put this into practice in their own learning and revision.

"Combined with their commitment and hard work, it's wonderful to see how they've re-ally excelled, not just in their A-level results, but in continuing to take part in the breadth of opportunity on offer."

Student Tom, who has secured a place at UWE Bristol to read Robotics, said: "I really knuckled down to study for A-levels and am excited to be going off to uni. It will be a big change, but I feel ready for it!" Remaining in Bristol was critical for Tom so that he could continue playing for the city's U19 ice hockey team, a sport he successfully juggled with his studies throughout his time at BGS.

Harriet, who is heading off to Oxford to

read Biomedical Sciences, is a great example of squeezing it all in. Having just returned from representing Great Britain in the European Water Polo Championships, she was thrilled to obtain three A*'s and an A. She will be heading there with Naomi, who will be reading History and English.

A keen cello player, in her time away from the pool Harriet has also been a core member of the Music Department, singing in the choir and playing in the orchestra.

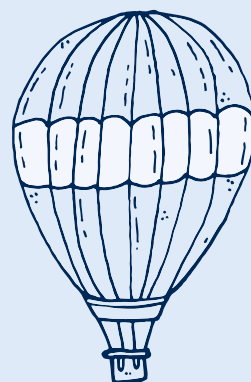
Khandi, who led a group of Upper Sixth students in compiling the leavers' yearbook, has secured a place to study Interior Design at Manchester Metropolitan University.

Students are heading off to read subjects as diverse as Medicine, Law, Musical Performance and Dance, Architecture, Geography and Neuroscience.



BADMINTON
SCHOOL

Explore Sixth Form at Badminton



With an average class size of nine, 26 A Level subjects, no option block limitations and weekly specialist higher education sessions, discover Sixth Form at Badminton.

Sixth Form Open Evening

Friday 25 September

Sixth Form Taster Day

Tuesday 13 October



Scan to book your place

■ EDUCATION

Trinity Academy celebrates first A-level results

TRINITY Academy celebrated a milestone as its first intake of students received their A-level results.

The moment marked the Academy's coming of age as the school reached full maturity.

Both students and staff were delighted with the results which were an opportunity to celebrate the journey of students who signed up to the new school in 2019 or who joined the new Sixth Form in 2024.

Strong performances across the student body saw pupils reaching their potential and going on to pursue a broad range of higher education studies.

Anastasia Manioti achieved two A*s and two As. She is one of two female students who have successfully secured engineering degree apprenticeships. Anastasia signed up to the vision for Trinity when it was just a powerpoint.

She said: "I am beyond delighted and it is the ultimate



Budding engineer Anastasia opened her A-level results in Greece

reward for all the hard work I have put into my studies. Trinity provided such a brilliant environment and supportive community to learn in, I'll always look back on my school days with immense gratitude. I want to say a massive thank you to all

my teachers whose guidance and passion for their subjects made a huge difference."

Filsan Muhumed also joined Trinity before it had been built. She achieved an A* and two As and has successfully secured a place to study medicine at her

first-choice university, Bristol. She said, "I'm really thankful for all the support I've received from my teachers at Trinity and from my family."

Ester-Rose Hoatson joined Trinity's Sixth Form in 2024 as it opened. She obtained three As, securing a place to study Biology at University of Bristol.

The school is celebrating many other successes with pupils off to study a range of degrees from Engineering to History to Law and Criminology to Arabic and Politics to Chiropractic.

Headteacher, Eiron Bailey said, "I am really pleased with our first set of A-level results. They are testament to the hard work of our wonderful students and staff. It is challenging for new schools to achieve strong results in their first year and Trinity has risen to the challenge. This cohort signed up to a vision and it has been a privilege to support their academic progress and achievement."






**TRINITY
ACADEMY**

TRINITY ACADEMY OPEN EVENTS

OPEN EVENINGS

Y7: Tuesday 22nd September 2026 / Post16: Tuesday 20th October 2026



To find out more visit
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Ofsted Overall: Good
Teaching & Learning: Outstanding
Leadership & Management: Outstanding

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QEH
BRISTOL



WHOLE SCHOOL

OPEN MORNING

SATURDAY
3 OCTOBER



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TIME TO

DO GOOD

EDUCATION

Future's bright for Redmaids' High girls

REDMAIDS' High girls achieved some extremely strong A-level results.

Fifty three per cent of grades were achieved at A* or A, significantly higher than the national average of 28.5%, with 82% of grades achieved at A*-B, and 95% A*-C.

Twenty two students - nearly a third of the cohort - achieved three or more A*-A grades, with eight students achieving all A* grades. One outstanding student secured 5 A* grades and will be pursuing Medicine at Birmingham. All the students wishing to pursue Medicine secured their first-choice Medical School, and overall, 88% of students achieved their first-choice course.

Clearly, recent world and geopolitical events have



Celebrations in the sun for A-level students at Redmaids' High

piqued interest with a high number of students set to study International Relations and Modern Foreign Languages. Many students have also chosen workplace-focused routes and courses with integrated industrial training or study abroad opportunities. These courses include food technology and bio-processing, journalism and meteorology and climate studies. Alongside the university route, the picture for students



pursuing an apprenticeship as an alternative route was equally pleasing. For example, one student will be starting a Radiography apprenticeship as a pathway to a medical career.

Several departments are celebrating very successful results. 100% of students received A*-A in French, over 80% achieved those grades in Government and Politics, and 75% in Spanish. Students also performed particularly well in

Economics, History, Maths and Further Maths.

The school is thrilled with the progress all students made, with excellent results secured in subjects ranging from Photography to Sociology.

Director of Sixth Form Dr Alice England said: "Our results across a diverse range of subjects are impressive and I am thrilled that so many of our students are able to confirm their first-choice option either for a university course or apprenticeship. For those planning a gap year, I know they will have an amazing experience before taking their next steps and we will be here to support them in the coming years. The breadth of destinations for our Year 13 cohort is incredibly exciting, and I look forward to hearing of their progress and achievements in the future."

Head teacher Paul Dwyer said: "This year's results are testament to the dedication of our students and staff over their Sixth Form journey. I wish them all the very best for their next steps – they have been a privilege to work with over the years."



REDMAIDS'
HIGH SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS • BRISTOL
GDST

We invite you this Autumn

Enquire
about our
Year 3 Learn
Without Limits
Grant

to our Junior School Open Events
Friday 16, 23 October and Saturday 7 November



BOOK HERE

EDUCATION

Tales of resilience at Montpelier High

STUDENTS at E-ACT Montpelier High School are celebrating successful A-level results. Students with particularly impressive academic attainment include Rhianna Aderogba (A* A* A*), Ellie Lunt (A* A* A*), Mako Mohamed (AAA), who made the most progress in the Sixth Form, and Ruzaynah Azad (AAA), all of whom will move on to university to study Medicine. Rhianna and Ruzaynah will study at the University of Birmingham, Ellie at the University of Exeter, and Mako at the University of Bristol.

The school is equally proud of those students who have made fantastic progress in the sixth form such as Sophia Macey (A, Distinction*, B) who will progress to University of Cardiff to study Psychology, Arsh Chaudhry (A*AB) who will progress to University of Bristol to study Dentistry, and Edith Brand (ABB and a B in Extended Project Qualification) who will progress to University of Durham to study Psychology.



Happy students at E-ACT MHS with deputy head Caroline McClean

There is something particularly special about celebrating students who joined Montpelier as Year 7 pupils. Among them are Rhianna Aderogba (A*, A*, A*), Ellie Lunt (A*, A*, A*), Mako Mohammed (AAA), Amenze Iyen (AAA), Ruzaynah Azad (AAA), Sophia Macey (A, Dist*, B), Rochir Stokes (A*, A, B), Mia Powles

(A, A, B) and Bee Fenwick-Moore (Dist*, A, B), Edith Brand (ABB and B in EPQ).

Amenze has shown determination to achieve (AAA) after being diagnosed with Long Covid in Year 11, which significantly affected her attendance. Supported by her teachers and pastoral team, Amenze has secured a place at

the University of Nottingham to study Environmental Engineering.

Rochir Stokes has combined academic success with a contribution to student leadership at MHS, and has secured a place in the Royal Navy to begin marine engineering.

Caroline McClean, vice principal and head of sixth form, said: "We're delighted to be celebrating the superb achievements of our students. Many have secured university places at impressive destinations or have the results they need to progress onto ambitious apprenticeship places or employment choices."

Vanetta Spence, headteacher of E-ACT Montpelier High School, said: "We are incredibly proud of every Montpelier High Sixth Form student receiving their A-level results."

"The Class of 2026 has demonstrated ambition, resilience and determination throughout."

Looking for a Year 7 Place for September 2027?

CHOOSE



E-ACT Montpelier
High School

Open Evening

6pm - 8pm

Tuesday 22 September 2026

Open Morning Tours

9am

Wednesday 30 September 2026

Wednesday 7 October 2026

Wednesday 17 March 2027

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- ISI Report Summer 2026

”

OPEN MORNING

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9.00-11.00am

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EDUCATION

Clifton High hails A-level triumphs

CLIFTON High School is celebrating exceptional A-level outcomes.

This year, over 39% of all grades awarded were A*-A, with more than two-thirds of grades achieved at A*-B, significantly exceeding the national average of 28.3% for A*-A grades.

The results reflect the dedication, resilience and ambition of Clifton High's Sixth Form students, as well as the strength of teaching, learning and academic support throughout the School.

Students achieved outstanding results across the curriculum. Further Mathematics and Chinese recorded a 100% A*-A pass rate, while every student studying History, Sociology, Photography, Spanish and German achieved grades A*-B.

Art continued its tradition of excellence, with all students

securing A*-B grades. One student achieved one of the highest marks in the country, mirroring a similar accomplishment by a Clifton High student last year.

Strong results were also seen in the sciences, with more than three-quarters of students studying Biology, Chemistry and Physics achieving grades A*-B. Across the cohort, one in five students attained exclusively A*-A grades.

The School's Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) also delivered impressive outcomes, with 73% of students achieving grades A*-B. The qualification enables students to undertake independent research while developing valuable academic and transferable skills.

These achievements have enabled students to secure places on an impressive range of courses and destinations.



Among the cohort are two students progressing to the University of Cambridge to study Medicine and Mathematics, while others are heading to institutions including Imperial College London to study Civil Engineering and the University of the Arts London to study Fashion Photography. Students will also go on to study disciplines including International Relations, Politics, Aviation, Motorsport Engineering and Veterinary

Science, highlighting the talent and aspiration of the year group.

Tom Appleby, Head of Sixth Form, said: "Whilst no student should be defined by the results they receive, these grades are a wonderful reflection of our students' genuine curiosity, determination and intelligence. "Every student has travelled their own unique journey through Clifton High School and can step confidently into adulthood knowing they are ready to thrive in whatever comes next."

Looking for a Sixth Form Place for September 2027?

CHOOSE



E-ACT Montpelier
High School

Open Evening

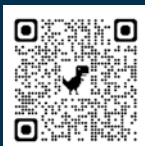
Tuesday 6 October 2026

5:45pm - 8pm

Welcome briefing from
Head of Sixth Form at
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■ PHARMACY COLUMN

School's back, life's busy, fresh start at uni?

SCHOOL is back, summer is drawing to a close and, for many families, life is suddenly getting much busier.

The return to school and work also brings the time of year when coughs, sore throats, earaches, sinus problems and other seasonal illnesses become increasingly common.

But when illness strikes, you may not need to dash around looking for a minor ailments clinic or wait for a GP appointment.

At Kellaway Pharmacy, our NHS Pharmacy First service makes getting help straightforward and convenient. For many common conditions, it can mean a genuine one-stop NHS visit — assessment, examination and, where clinically appropriate, treatment and medicine supplied during the same consultation.

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- Shingles — adults aged 18+
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1 October. Eligible patients can simply walk in, with NHS booking routes also available.

Don't wait until winter infections are rising — get protected early.

At Kellaway Pharmacy, accessible NHS care is our priority. When illness strikes, remember that help may be closer — and easier to access — than you think.

NEED NHS CARE? Come into Kellaway Pharmacy and speak to our team. Telephone: **0117 9246579**

STARTING UNIVERSITY?

GET YOUR FREE NHS MenB VACCINATION

You may be eligible if either of these applies to you:

- 1** Starting your first year of undergraduate study in 2026/27
- 2** Born 1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008

Year 13 during the 2025/26 academic year is included

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Call to check eligibility or arrange your visit



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NEWS

Book Bingo challenge to lure adult readers

READING challenges are not just for young readers - Bristol Libraries are running Book Bingo for adults.

The initiative invites participants to explore a wide range of books, discover new genres, and celebrate the joy of reading – all with the added incentive of a £100 book token prize draw.

- Taking part in Book Bingo is simple and flexible;
- Sign up online or in any Bristol library
- Read books that match each category on the bingo card
- Mark progress by crossing off categories at

home or get your card stamped at a library

Submit your completed card by Thursday 31 December 2026. All completed entries will be entered into a prize draw for the £100 book token.

The Book Bingo challenge forms part of wider efforts to encourage reading for pleasure and is aligned with the National Year of Reading 2026, a UK-wide campaign promoting the benefits of reading for wellbeing, creativity, and connection.

Stephen Williams, chair of the public health and communities committee said: "I'm thrilled to be supporting this fantastic

new initiative for adult readers here in Bristol. As a keen reader myself, I can attest to the sheer enjoyment that books can bring, offering entertainment, inspiration and new perspectives. This is why it is so important that we encourage everyone, no matter their age to pick up a good book, so do make sure to get involved."

Participants are encouraged to read in any format that suits them, including physical books, eBooks, and audiobooks. A variety of categories is designed to inspire readers to broaden their choices and discover new favourites.

Defibrillator No100 in memory of Sam

A CHARITY formed in memory of a Bristol rugby player has installed its 100th public access defibrillator in Millennium Square.

The Sam Polledri Foundation has placed the device alongside its first defibrillator. It says the initial one is deployed regularly and can't always be replaced instantly so having a second one close by will offer more consistent coverage.

The charity works with Great Western Air Ambulance Charity to install the life-saving devices and encourage people to develop confidence to use them.

Sam Polledri was just 24 years old when he had a cardiac arrest on a night out with friends in Millennium Square early in 2022. Sadly for Sam, there were no public access defibrillators around at the time. GWAAC's crew attended Sam that night and did all that they could to help.

Sam's mum Louise Polledri said: "We'd like to thank everyone who has contributed to the Sam Polledri Foundation, including those who generously donated at our recent Charity Dinner. The funds raised are helping us, through GWAAC, put lifesaving equipment into public spaces, ensuring fewer families experience the heartbreak we know all too well. We want to ensure that anyone who suffers an out-of-hospital cardiac arrest has someone nearby who knows how to perform CPR and has a public access defibrillator within a three-minute walk."



Sam Polledri

One quarter of GWAAC's call-outs are to people suffering a cardiac arrest, and the specialist crew are the first to say that immediate bystander CPR and defibrillation are so important for giving someone their best chance of surviving a cardiac arrest when it happens outside of hospital.

Caroline Kivungi, from GWAAC, said: "We are very proud of the Sam Polledri Foundation's achievements. In just four years, they have raised over £318,000 and have unveiled their 100th defibrillator. Together we are raising awareness of the importance of CPR and defibrillation and helping to make communities a safer place for people who suffer a cardiac arrest."

Find out more at: <https://greatwesternairambulance.enthuse.com/cf/sam-polledri-foundation>

Appeal for book donations

BOOK lovers are being encouraged to visit the book room at the St Peter's Hospice shop in Westbury Hill, where hundreds of titles line the shelves, offering something for every reader.

Visitors can browse an extensive range of fiction, non-fiction and children's books, alongside a carefully curated vintage section.

To keep the shelves well stocked, the shop is now appealing for donations of bestselling novels, biographies, cookbooks, children's favourites or vintage editions. Visit the shop or call 0117 9625085.

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■ FROM BRISTOL CENTRAL'S MP

We need bold climate leadership to keep us safe

WE have just had the driest July for 190 years. Whatever your day-to-day looks like in Bristol, this unrelenting heat will undoubtedly have made its presence known.

For us in Carla's team, it's been eye-opening to read correspondence from constituents about how the heat disproportionately impacts those already struggling. Whether that's those living in poor-quality housing, those having trouble accessing NHS services, or those unable to get to a green space.

The grim reality is that these are likely to be some of the least extreme summer temperatures any of us will see in our lifetimes. Clearly, climate change isn't something that's coming over the horizon; it's here, putting lives and livelihoods at risk. If we're to avoid even more catastrophic effects, something has to change, and that needs to start with bold political leadership to give voice to the 68% of people who want the government to do more to tackle the climate crisis.

That's why Green Party

leader Zack Polanski called an emergency press briefing in the first week of August. In a ten-minute address, carried live by Sky News and online, Zack laid out the impact extreme heat is having up and down the country and challenged the government to act with the urgency that we need.

Among the speakers that joined Zack to share their frontline experience was Bristol GP Dr Veena Aggarwal. She spoke clearly and movingly about the pressure NHS services in our region and across the country face in these temperatures; how ambulance teams are stretched to breaking point by the volume of call-outs, and how equipment in operating theatres is rendered unusable because even inside hospitals the temperatures are too high. "The climate crisis is a health crisis," she said.

Her testimony, alongside that of a London fireman, a former soldier and the broadcaster and campaigner Chris Packham, highlighted the true cost of inaction paid by ordinary people.

Prime Minister Andy Burnham had to take notice.

A week later, he took a first step toward action and convened an emergency 'COBRA' meeting on extreme heat. But we need more than meetings. We need to tax fossil fuel giants to pay for firefighting helicopters and government support to create safe, cool spaces in our communities. The government must also emphatically rule out any new drilling for oil and gas, including at the Rosebank and Jackdaw fields.

This summer Bristol's Green-led council announced it will endorse a charter recognising that the river Avon has rights to health and vitality - a huge milestone in bringing this waterway back to full ecological health. This is a testament to how people in our region already understand and recognise the inviolable relationship between people and planet. The more loudly this message reaches the ears of government, the harder it will be to ignore.



**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,

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■ NEWS

Foodbank seeks support as stocks run low

NORTH Bristol and South Gloucestershire Foodbank is appealing for support after stocks a fall in stocks.

The foodbank, which has nine outlets, said it had avoided a national decline that began last year because of the cost-of-living crisis, but had seen a drop in 2026.

Across the country, donations fell by 12 per cent in 2025 but North Bristol & South Gloucestershire handed out 15,045 parcels, 58 per cent above 2019 levels.

Increasingly, it has had to buy stocks to give out to people in need, because not enough has been donated to meet demand.

Ellen Wood, the foodbank's CEO, said: "Every week I see what it takes to keep nine outlets stocked, and this year that's meant reaching into our own funds more than ever before."

"Last year we had to buy one in every four items we gave out, because donations alone weren't enough. That's money



MP Darren Jones with Stewart North and Ellen Wood at North Bristol Foodbank in Horfield

that should be funding advice services and support, going instead into holding our own stock together. This community has shown up for us again and again, and I believe it will again. Harvest and Christmas take care of themselves, but it's spring and summer, right now, when

donations dry up."

The items needed, in order of urgency, are: tinned fruit, desserts (not chilled), fruit juices and squashes, cereals, UHT milk, tinned tomatoes and cooking sauces, laundry detergent (small boxes), washing-up liquid, shampoo and conditioner, baby

food (not formula), tinned halal meat.

Bristol North West MP Darren Jones backed the appeal after the visiting the foodbank this summer.

He said: "The volunteers are doing incredible work. Right now, donations are running low. If you're able to, please consider adding an extra item to your shop and donating it at your local supermarket collection point."

Every donation makes a difference. Members of the public can help in three ways:

- dropping items at a collection point at a local supermarket or at the foodbank's office, all locations listed at nbsg.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-food/#locations;

- ordering directly from an online shop that delivers straight to the warehouse, at nbsg.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/shop-online/;

- donating money at nbsg.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/.



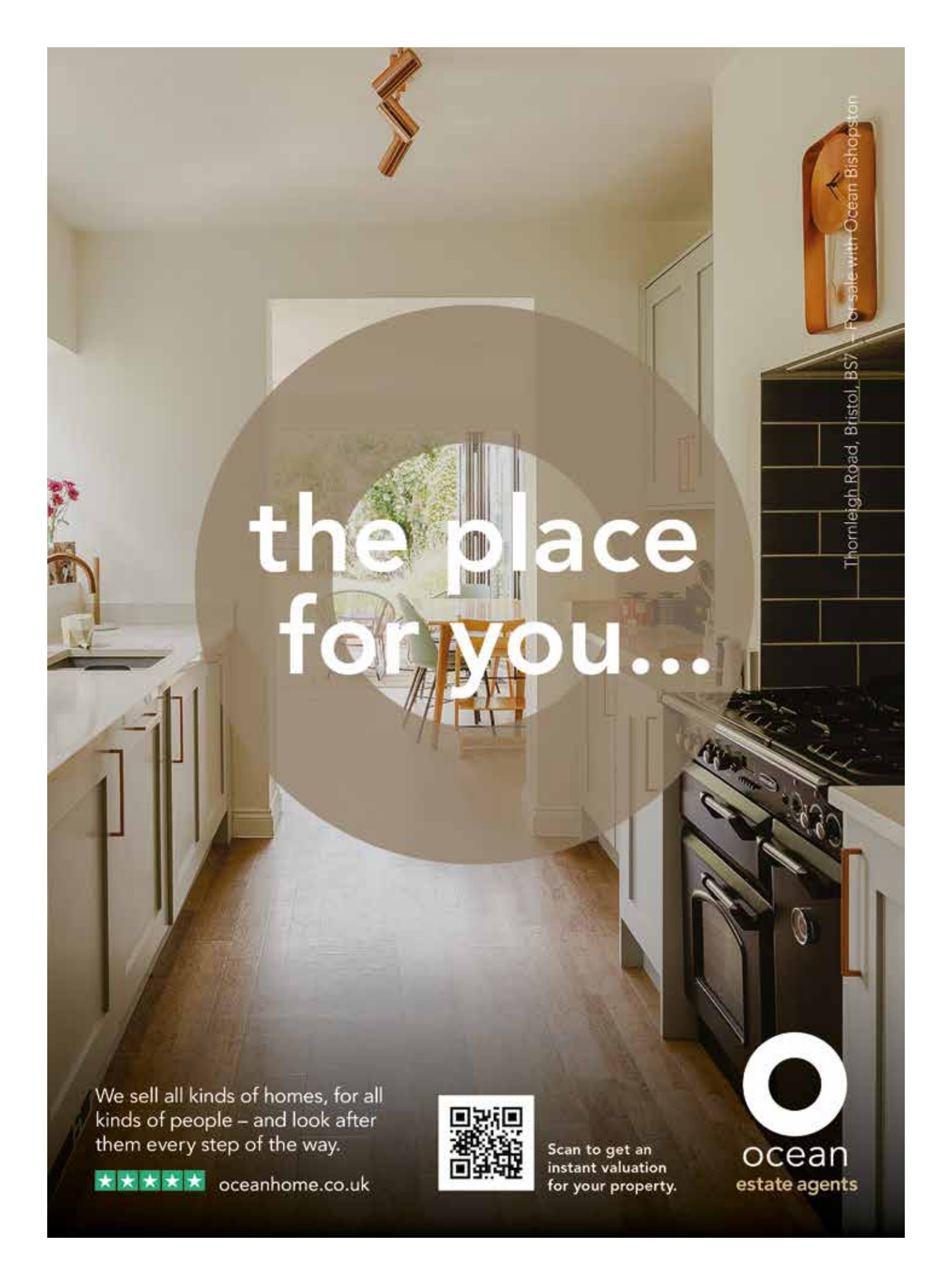
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SPORT

'The Doc' gets big Glos cricketing chance

A UNIVERSITY of Bristol medical student signed his first full-time professional contract with Gloucestershire Cricket.

Kamran Dhariwal, a 21-year-old top-order batter, has earned a two-year deal with the county side after a breakthrough season which included a record-equalling 50 from just 13 balls in Gloucestershire's thrilling Vitality Blast victory in July.

The contract follows a successful year-long rookie deal signed last summer and comes after Dhariwal made his senior Gloucestershire debut in May at the Seat Unique Stadium, Bristol.

The contract will allow Dhariwal to continue pursuing both his cricket career and medical studies, earning him the nickname "The Doc" among his Gloucestershire teammates.

Dhariwal, who starts the third year of his Medicine degree this month, said: "I couldn't really do one without the other. I'd find it challenging to do just cricket on its own without that balance."

"Cricket teaches you resilience, which is just as important when studying medicine. Hospital settings can be stressful at times, so having the mindset to keep going and always strive to improve helps in both."



Kamran Dhariwal, a medical student and a professional cricketer. Photo: Ciara Hillyer

"My current plan is to crack on with my studies, and the balance is quite nice at the moment. I've had massive support from the University, the Medical School and the Performance Sport team."

"I will continue to communicate with them as clearly and as early as possible to make sure to avoid any disruptions. Everyone has been brilliant in their understanding of the situation."

Matt Paine, Performance Sport Manager at the University of Bristol, which is proud to become Dhariwal's new player sponsor at Gloucestershire Cricket, said: "Kam's

achievement is a fantastic example of what can be accomplished through talent, dedication and an exceptional ability to balance academic study and elite sport."

"Studying Medicine is demanding in its own right, so to secure a professional cricket contract while pursuing one of the most intense degree programmes is outstanding."

"We are extremely proud of Kam and look forward to continuing to support him as he strives to excel both academically and professionally."

Jon Lewis, Gloucestershire's Director of Cricket, said: "Kamran is an exceptionally promising talent. Balancing his studies at one of the country's premier universities with elite professional cricket is a testament to his drive."

"His performances at Sophia Gardens and New Road showcase his quality as a batter, and we are committed to helping him reach his high ceiling. Working alongside the University of Bristol, we look forward to supporting Kamran's growth both on and off the pitch."

Dhariwal grew up in Hampshire, where he first developed his love of cricket playing alongside his older brother under the guidance of their father, who coached the sport.

Dramatic finish to schools' Cricketer Cup final

THE Old Cliftonian cricket team secured a dramatic victory in the 2026 Cricketer Cup final, defeating Old Malvernians in a super over after the match ended in a tie at Arundel Castle Cricket Club.

After posting 228 all out in 48.5 overs, the Old Cliftonians matched Old Malvernians' total of 228 (49.4 overs) before hold-

ing their nerve in the deciding super over.

The Cricketer Cup, an annual tournament for independent school alumni, plays an important role in reconnecting former pupils with their schools and sustaining lifelong sporting friendships.

This year's win carries particular significance. The Old

Cliftonians last lifted the trophy in 1993, having also reached the final in 1987 and 1994. Notably, members of the current squad - Brooks and Meadows - are following in the footsteps of their fathers, who were part of the victorious 1993 team.

Reflecting on the achievement, Jim Williams, cricket professional at Clifton Col-

lege, said: "The game was a wonderful match with lots of high-quality cricket played by our young OC team. From a personal perspective, and as an OC myself, it was great to have played a small part in all their journeys and, importantly, to see them continuing to enjoy the game and flourish after leaving Clifton."

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BOOKS

Author Jane uncovers more heroines

HAVING already uncovered, researched and shared the stories of 750 Bristolian women, author Jane Duffus has now turned her attention to Bath... and shares the stories of 200 overlooked Bath women in her new book.

Inside *The Women Who Built Bath* you will find the previously untold stories of 200 incredible women from Bath's history. They were all women who helped to shape Bath into the extraordinary city that it is today. A few of them you will know but most of them will be new names to you.

You can expect to find 26 suffragists, six artists, four doctors, two pioneering police officers and one big-hearted chicken in here... plus many more besides. Such as the sisters who enjoyed wild swimming

into their 70s, the woman who founded a community of almshouses for single women, the doctor who travelled to her patients by horse so as not to be late, and the homeowner who made her voice heard by sunbathing in a scandalously yellow bikini.

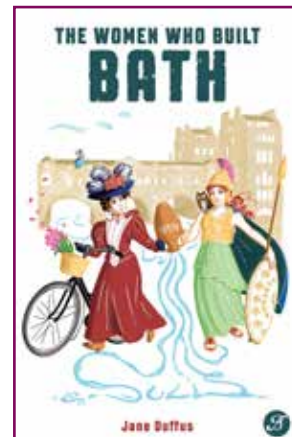
The characters in *The Women Who Built Bath* come from all walks of life and all parts of the city, spanning laundresses and workhouse inmates to theatre revolutionaries and city councillors. Every woman featured in this new book has made her mark on Bath and deserves her moment in the sun.

Jane says: "It's almost a decade since I began '*The Women Who ...*' project, initially thinking it would just be one book about women from Bristol. It's astonishing there are now

five books in the series, but also to hear about the different ways that other people have picked up certain stories and been inspired to create artworks, murals, community projects, school activities and so much more."

The cover of *The Women Who Built Bath* is illustrated with a new drawing by Bristol-based artist Tina Altwegg, who has brought to life the Victorian activist Madame Sarah Grand and Roman goddess Sulis Minerva, while Jane Austen perches on Pulteney Bridge and watches on.

To mark the publication, there will be a launch event at 7pm on Wednesday 9 September upstairs at The Townhouse, 18-19 Old Bond Street, where Jane will be in conversation with BBC presenter Laura Rawlings. There will also be the chance to pick



up a copy of the book and get it signed by the author. Tickets cost £5 which is redeemable against a copy of the new book on the night: wegottickets.com/f/23120

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■ FRIENDS OF REDLAND LIBRARY

ON Thursday September 10, the Friends of Redland Library are holding a special event to coincide with the opening of The Bayeux Tapestry exhibition in The British Museum. The 'UK's Green Poet' Martin Kiszko will give a performance and talk, based on his new book *Bayeux Tapestry – The Epic Poem*.

Signed copies of his book will be on sale.

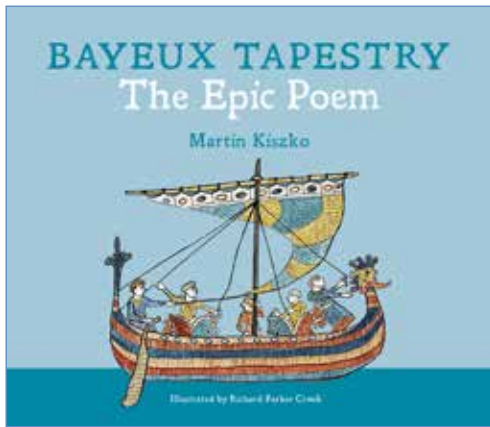
On Thursday September 24, Jane Duffus will be giving a talk on her new book *The Women Who Built Bath*. Jane is known to many as the author of the popular *The Women Who Built Bristol* series. Her new book, which is being published this month, explores the previously untold stories of 200 incredible women from Bath (See facing page). Signed copies of her book will be on sale.

Both events start at 7pm and doors open at 6:45pm. Admission is £3 pay at the door - cash only).

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 us at the address above.



■ BOOK REVIEW

Egrets, While War by Tishani Doshi

IN the opening poem of *Egrets, While War*, 'Amor Mundi', Tishani Doshi longs to share a joyful image. From her window she can see a pair of parakeets, 'emerald-bodied luminaries,' feeding on the 'bright orange goblets' which have erupted on the tree outside. 'Darling' she says – to her lover, to all loved ones, to her reader – 'I do not know how it happened that we found / a world to name and love' but 'I want to tell you.'

The final poem too, 'Some Words to the Close and Holy Darkness,' its title taken from Dylan Thomas' *A Child's Christmas in Wales*, offers delight in the natural world even as it also strikes a melancholic, temporal tone, exploring the endings that come for us and for the day too.

The egrets of the title poem are dinosaurs, doing their 'stalking dance' in the garden, a relic, their presence lively evidence of a far-distant past, while human history is short and our present destructive of the future.

Throughout the collection, poems emerge from such arresting images. Sometimes they offer levity, sometimes its opposite, though never hopelessness. Sometimes they are wholly angry, as in Doshi's 'Post-atrocity Statement,' sometimes a more subtle reprimand as in, 'The Albatross's Sonnet to Western Civilisation as the Madleen Sets Sail for Gaza.' Often I found myself smiling at a picture that reminded the poet and so the reader too of childhood, of grandparents, of a peaceful darkness and then felt my stomach drop as elsewhere the taps run dry or bodies pile up.

Doshi is playful too. She writes of drinking tequila with Rafael Nadal's thighs] and imagines Jeff Bezos going to space and becoming a Bhakti poet. She creates scenes that feel like grand paintings – her Welsh and Indian grandfathers meeting on a mountaintop and, without shared language, speak through the power of holding one another. She toys with what poetry can do – one poem longs to be a bird, one ends with instruction on how a poem starts, one develops a theory of the origins of language.

In *The Drunken Peacocks* Doshi writes, 'For those of us who live in time, all we have / is the power to shrink these moments. Smaller, / smaller, until those moments live in us,' an indication of one achievement, among many, in this extraordinary collection.

Elizabeth Moss, Heron Books, Regent Street, Clifton

■ BOOK REVIEW

Universality

by Natasha Brown

THE novel is set in 2020 with a rave at an abandoned farmhouse in Yorkshire with around 100 young people partying in defiance of the Government's lockdown restrictions.

We are introduced to the main characters in the story. We first meet Jake who has just stowed in someone's head with a gold bar and has run away from the crime scene. The farmhouse and the gold bar are owned by Richard Spencer, a disgraced banker with multiple homes, many investments, a wife and a much younger girlfriend. We also meet Miriam Leonard aka Lenny a newspaper columnist who pens provocative articles for The Telegraph & The Observer, and who is also the mother of Jake.

The person whose head was stove in with the gold bar, is Pegasus, an aspiring commundar, who is looking to create an

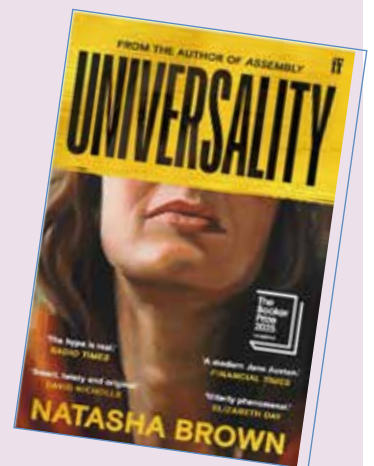
alternative society at the farm with a group of hippie activists.

The first third of the novel is in the form of a magazine feature written by Hannah a freelance journalist whilst the subsequent chapters are told from the viewpoints of the four main characters. We hear their back stories and soon start to question the veracity and objectivity of Hannah's version of events.

Written in sparse and impeccably precise prose, this is a witty and engrossing read, giving us brilliantly drawn unsavoury characters and providing the reader with a satire on contemporary British journalism.

For this book and many more, please come and visit your local library at 100 Gloucester Road. You will be assured of a warm and friendly welcome.

Review by Bob Deacon, from Bishopston Library



Bishopston Library opening hours

Monday 1pm-7pm

Tuesday closed

Wednesday 11am-5pm

Thursday 11am-5pm

Friday 11am-5pm

Saturday 11am-5pm

Sunday closed

■ NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

A devolution revolution is coming

I HOPE everyone has had an incredible August and a chance to enjoy the weather safely, whether you took in the Bristol Balloon Fiesta, headed for the beach or made the most of the summer close to home.

I was thrilled to see hundreds of thousands of children and young people taking advantage of our free bus travel scheme again this summer.

I know this is making a difference to parents' pockets, and Kids Go Free will be back again at Christmas to help families get out and about at what can be another expensive time of year.

First launched here in the West of England, children across the country got to experience Kids Go Free this August, as the scheme went national.

It's one of the reasons Andy Burnham chose the West Country for his first visit as Prime Minister, to announce a new national bus fare cap.

During the visit I spoke with Andy about the importance of buses for people in our region, a lifeline which connects our towns and rural areas, and our exciting developing plans for mass transit.

We also discussed a visit to Ashton Gate in

the future, to see Bristol City, whose London supporters' club he used to play for. Graciously, I have agreed to go - even though I remain a steadfast Rovers supporter.

I'm sure that we'll see lots more of Andy in the West of England, as he takes on his new role.

While the country is getting used to a new Prime Minister, there is another new beginning closer to home. I am thrilled to let you know we have been made an Established Mayoral Strategic Authority.

This means the West of England is now in the top tier of regions in England and is set to unlock a new wave of powers which will help us improve life for everyone in the West.

From now on, we are jointly front of the queue for further devolution, with greater control over transport, skills, housing, investment, public services and funding. It strengthens our voice nationally, gives us greater freedom to invest in our priorities and helps to ensure more of our region's success is seen and felt by local people and businesses.

This is the moment we have been working towards since I became mayor 15 months ago.

I am delighted we have achieved our goal, ahead of schedule, and I am excited for the



Metro Mayor Helen Godwin
writes for the Voice

opportunities we have ahead of us in the West of England.

With more powers coming to the regions, under the government's plans, we are going to have more funding and more freedom to invest in the West.

More decisions being made here in the West, for the West, will make sure we are building new homes where we need them, improving transport connections, and increasing jobs and opportunities for local people.

The government has announced a devolution revolution, and I cannot wait to get started.

■ MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Making our roads safer

LAST year, an average of two people per day were seriously injured or killed on Avon and Somerset roads. Tragically, there were 44 fatalities.

This year, at the time of writing, 34 lives have already been lost.

Behind each statistic is a person - someone loved, and a family whose lives will never be the same again.

Road safety is one of the top issues that people raise with me, in person, in meetings and through emails.

I hear directly from communities, from the outstanding volunteers in community watch schemes, and from the families and friends who have lost loved ones.

Their stories stay with me, as a constant reminder that all of us who use the roads have a responsibility.

Motorcyclists are among

the most vulnerable of our road users. Shockingly, 39% of fatal or serious injury collisions in our region last year involved two-wheeled vehicles, despite accounting for less than 2% of road users nationally.

Over the summer, Avon and Somerset Police ran an operation to engage this community, including patrols of high-risk routes and rural roads, the seizure of illegal e-bikes or e-scooters, targeted enforcement, and providing advice and education.

I also shared advice about motorcycle safety, because education is a key part of prevention. Careless driving, whether by car drivers or bikers, is one of the leading causes of serious injury and death on our roads.

Too often, the collisions that cause the greatest harm come down to a lack of awareness or a moment of inattention.

This may be the distraction of looking at a mobile phone or the failure to check rear-view or wing mirrors.

Other common causes include not wearing a seatbelt, speeding, or aggressive and inconsiderate actions like tailgating.

The awful truth is, so many of the tragedies on our roads are preventable.

That includes drink or drug driving; a contributing factor to around a quarter of fatal collisions on Avon and Somerset roads last year.

It's an entirely avoidable crime. Despite this, Avon and Somerset Police officers made almost one arrest for every four vehicles stopped during 'Operation Limit', when they conducted roadside tests for drink and drug driving throughout the World Cup tournament.



With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody

Roads policing operations run year-round, but this is not just a policing issue. It is a shared responsibility.

The police are responsible for enforcement, but it is far better to focus on prevention.

We all want to get home safely. We all want our loved ones to get home safely.

So please, remember to show care for those around you - and for yourself. We all have a duty to do what we can to save lives, prevent tragedy and make our roads safer.

FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Redland: Martin Fodor and Fi Hance (Green Party)

Changes to recycling containers

From this month, green recycling boxes will be phased out and replaced with red recycling bags. One of the goals is to reduce litter from boxes and encourage more recycling.

Between now and December, households with kerbside collections will get new recycling containers free of charge:

- a blue bag for paper and card, designed to accommodate all the extra cardboard now in use and the smaller amounts of paper being presented;
- a red bag for plastic containers and cans;
- a brown bin and caddy for food waste, if missing or damaged.

If you order replacement recycling containers before the rollout reaches your area, a delivery charge will apply.

When the rollout reaches your area, a crew will remove your old blue bag and green recycling box and replace with a new blue bag and red bag. Your brown food waste caddy and bin will only be replaced if missing or damaged.

Black recycling boxes will remain the same. A collection service for plastic film (soft plastic bags) is still being developed.

Hazards of barbecues

We heard worrying reports that despite warnings and news about wildfires people might still be tempted to use portable barbecues in the open. We are pleased that the sale of these has

now been banned. Care must still be taken in open spaces. Please never rest a barbecue on the soil and avoid any fires, flames, smoking or glass that could start a blaze. Never leave a hot barbecue untended. If at all possible don't use them in the open. We really do want to protect our precious open spaces and avoid damage.

Redland Green needs tlc

Thanks to residents who've been in touch with concerns about conditions on Redland Green.

We're pursuing two matters. The zip line was closed due to concerns about deterioration of the timber and the risk this could be unsafe. Tests have been carried out and professional examination is being analysed and the extent it may be repairable or need replacement. We're sorry this has taken some time but external specialists were needed. As soon as we have any news we'll let resident know but we're uncertain as we go to press whether there are a more serious defects or what the quote is for repairs that might be recommended.

The other matter is the sighting of rats in the play area. We've taken this up with the play team and pest control and hope to have action on this soon about ways to discourage rats nesting due to health risks.

Antisocial behaviour in Redland

Several residents have been concerned about anti social activity near the Arches We've

been following this up.

The police have 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 it's helpful to know 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.

We've also been in touch with the outreach team who support homeless people and have tried to secure support for people to deal with their needs.

As always if you are aware of any worrying behaviour or have any concerns please do call the police on their non urgent 101 number or of course let Martin or Fi know.

Proposed new ward boundaries

Electoral ward boundaries are reviewed every few years in line with the government requirement for numbers of electors per councillor to be balanced evenly around the city. A formal 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. 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 until September 7. Rest assured we'll keep serving the whole of the current ward until any changes that would start at the next election in 2028.

Cut back hedges

It's near the time of year when hedges, trees and shrubs are overhanging pavements. If your boundary plants are over the pavement please do cut them back to avoid obstruction.

City centre bus changes

A number of local bus services are being rerouted around the Broadmead area. This is to allow redevelopment and investment to support long term improvements to the area. See: <https://travelwest.info/bus/broadmead-bus-changes/>

Contact us

Fi: Cllr.fi.hance@bristol.gov.uk
0117 3534720
Martin: Cllr.martin.fodor@bristol.gov.uk
0788 4736101
[Facebook.com/cllrmartin.fodor](https://www.facebook.com/cllrmartin.fodor)
or [cllrfi.hance](https://www.facebook.com/cllrfi.hance)

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

Lighting petition for Concorde Way

It is your last chance to sign our petition for environmentally friendly lighting for the walking route between Muller Road and Ashley Down Station, as we will be presenting the petition this month. We have been blown away by the amount of people who have got in touch about this, signed and shared the petition, with over 650 signatures already. If you haven't signed yet and wish to, you can sign by visiting [Petition - Improve street lighting on Concorde Way - Bristol, United Kingdom - Change.org](https://www.petition-change.org/petition/improve-street-lighting-on-concorde-way-bristol)

The heatwave and cooling spaces

We know how concerned people have been about the heatwave lately and the fire risks. We have been looking at ways all summer to reduce the risk, and are asking people to continue to refrain from using barbecues in our parks and Green spaces.

The weather has 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 about free places where people can cool down, with a focus on making cool spaces 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.

Food waste and composting

A PhD researcher from Brunel University London has contacted us to invite Bristol residents to

take part in a short survey exploring how people think about food waste, soil and composting in everyday life. The questionnaire takes around 10 minutes to complete and is open to anyone aged 18 or over living in Bristol. No prior knowledge of composting is needed.

The researcher hopes to hear from a wide range of people across the city so that the study reflects Bristol's diverse experiences and perspectives.

If you'd like to take part, you can complete the survey here: https://businessschoolusers.fra1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_b4uH46ogZIIOhNQ

The study has received ethics approval from Brunel University London and participation is entirely voluntary.

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

Annual Special- Big Christmas Wine Tastings

Nov 12th, 14th, 18th, 19th, 28th. Dec 3rd, 9th, 10th, 17th, 18th, 19th

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

September 12th & October 10th

■ **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: Annual Art Show & Garden Cafe on 12th September 9.45 - 3pm and further "Jazz in the Garden" & Cafe on 10th October. 9.45am-2pm

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 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. Qualified coaches and equipment provided. Contact: Les on

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

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

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@gloucesterroadwi.org Visitors welcome (at a cost of £7.50).

■ **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

WHAT'S ON IN OUR AREA

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

■ 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

■ 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

■ **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 tanialake@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 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

WHAT'S ON IN OUR AREA

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: 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

GOLDEN HILL SPORTS PARTY IN THE PARK

GOLDEN Hill Sports will again be holding their popular annual community event Party in the Park on Saturday September 12 from 1pm onwards on the playing fields at their Golden Hill ground.

As always, there will be a range of entertainment and activities to enjoy during the afternoon and evening, a prize draw with an iPad as first prize, plus numerous other fabulous prizes generously donated by local businesses and individuals. A fantastic firework display at 8.45pm will bring proceedings to a close after what promises to be a fun-packed few hours for all the family.

The ever-popular Keynsham Brass Band will mark the opening of the event in front of the pavilion. They will be followed by a mixture of live entertainment performed by six bands playing on the stage – with the group formerly known as the Bristol Pop Orchestra again topping the bill. In between, a variety of dance groups, martial arts demonstrations and participation activities will be taking place in the arena throughout the day.

An appetising range of food and drink stalls to suit all tastes will be available, while in the 'shopping village', will be an array of beautiful arts and crafts. Amongst the general stalls you will find books, plants and other offerings being provided by local groups and charities. Younger visitors are guaranteed to be entertained (as will grown-ups) by a variety of fun activities such as go-karts, inflatable village, disco dome, tractor trailer rides, tug-of-war, horsey hoppers and many more attractions. Weather permitting it promises to be a thoroughly enjoyable day for all, so do come along and see what's on offer.

Entry is £4 for adults and £2 for children, with re-entry permitted on the day, but it is advisable to bring cash as some stalls will be 'cash only'. To pre-order 'fast track' tickets, please scan the QR code.



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PUZZLE PAGE

The FIEND

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.

NOTE After feedback from readers, we have made The Fiend SLIGHTLY easier!

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

For younger readers



Back to School Word Search



y	h	m	s	k	o	o	b	s	o	t	f
c	r	a	y	o	n	s	i	y	f	e	k
p	u	d	r	a	o	b	k	c	a	l	b
l	m	z	r	c	t	w	r	i	t	e	f
a	t	o	j	a	w	e	c	m	t	g	p
y	f	b	o	u	o	z	a	o	l	e	e
g	k	r	l	r	e	b	y	c	n	l	k
r	s	f	i	l	s	s	e	c	h	x	a
o	e	w	b	e	b	s	i	t	p	e	k
u	d	a	a	a	n	l	a	d	i	c	r
n	t	r	e	a	d	d	r	l	y	h	g
d	t	n	i	a	p	k	s	x	c	r	w

blackboard books classroom crayons
desk friends paint pencil
playground read table teacher

toys

whiteboard

write

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Easier sudoku Solutions

Rules the same as the Fiend, but only four numbers in each box, row and column

Txtpert

4			
1			
		3	
		1	

			O	H	C	E
E	D	O	M			I
I		R	O	I	R	I
O		E	U		I	
N	I	I	O	N	V	M
R	A	B		Y	A	R
		M	U	H	Z	D

Txtpert

Theme: Music

1		2					
3					4		
5	6		7				8
9							
					10		
11							

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.
For example:
2 could be A,
B or C ... and
5678 could be
LOST

1 q.o	2 abc	3 def
4 ghi	5 jkl	6 mno
7 pqrs	8 tuv	9 wxyz

Across

2 486 (3)

3 729 (3)

4 227 (3)

5 62636546 (8)

9 8746 (4)

10 6633 (4)

11 3246 (4)

Down

1 3786 (4)

2 4966 (4)

4 265376 (6)

6 247 (3)

7 386 (3)

8 6683 (4)

9 843 (3)

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■ VINEYARD NEWS with INGRID BATES

Cool! Old idea helps us chill ...

LAST month I commented on how hot and dry the weather had been, but at that point we'd had a nice combination of rain and sun which was just what the vines needed. August, however, has been a different story with unrelenting, hot sunshine every day! I think we may have had one decent rain shower across the whole month.

What does this mean for the vines? UK vines have rootstocks that are adapted for wet rather than dry conditions so they do actually need rain. This is the point in the season when the grapes are swelling and ripening, so ideally we could have done with a few more days of rain to help them swell to their full potential. Unfortunately, it's probably a little late for that now, but I'm still keeping my fingers crossed for some rain soon.

Harvest prospects across the UK seem to be quite mixed this year. Some vineyards are looking

at a plentiful crop, while those that were caught by the frost in May have a rather different story to tell. Our Wrington site is a bit of a mixed bag. There are definitely some grapes there, but not as many as we might have hoped for before the frost damaged our initial flowers.

At our new Kelston site, the vines are still too young for grapes, but they are doing surprisingly well considering the dry conditions. I'm relieved they've coped to this point but again, some rain would be most welcome here too!

Vineyards aside, we've enjoyed two events this month...

First, we celebrated the launch of our collaboration with Muchelney Pottery by joining the pottery team for their open day with our wine and collaborative noggins. The noggins are small, old-English drinking vessels. One of the great things about them is that you can keep them in the

fridge to create a ready-made cooling device to pour your wine into. Particularly useful given the weather we've been having!

We also had a fantastic day at Bath Soft Cheese in Kelston for our first collaborative Classic Car Event. Despite organising it at fairly short notice, we had around 30 classic cars exhibiting. It was a brilliant day of wine, food and cars and is definitely something we hope to do more of in the future.

Our sights are now firmly set on getting our new vineyard site ready to welcome visitors. There's still some prep to do, but we're hoping to be able to invite our Crowdfunder supporters to visit before the end of the year.



A noggin is the perfect vessel for serving our wine in summer

Photo: Stable Design

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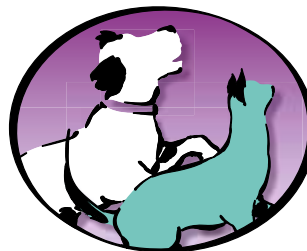
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■ NATURE WATCH with Dawn Lawrence

The wild and wonderful world of wasps

RECENTLY a neighbour was alerted to a wasp nest in their roof. Whilst not as welcome as a swift nest (I'm guessing), she and her close neighbours decided to tolerate them and try to adapt to their ways. During the earlier summer months common wasps hunt down garden pests such as aphids, caterpillars and flies which they feed to their grubs (the workers' siblings – like the honey bee the common wasp is a social insect). They often hunt on flowers and carry out useful pollination duties as they do so – the gardener's friend, I think we can agree. The grubs process their protein-rich diet and excrete a kind of honeydew which feeds the adult wasps (an unusual reciprocal arrangement).

Later in the summer, the grubs mature and there is no more honeydew, so the adults seek out sugary items (they cannot digest anything else); maybe nectar or maybe your iced bun. All the colony will die before winter except the queen, who hibernates and starts a new colony in the spring, so these late adults are on their last legs. We can adapt by covering food and sweet drinks and by not trying to swat them, which might prompt them to sting, or even to release a pheromone that will simply attract more wasps (having perceived a threat, they might call in reinforcements). Waving



The stunning ruby-tailed wasp
Photo by gailhampshire

them away gently is usually sufficient.

But the common wasp is only one of 32 species of their family which includes social wasps and the solitary potter and mason wasps. One sunny day, leaning against an aging wooden gate, you may hear a quiet rasping sound like somebody wielding a tiny piece of sandpaper: it is probably a wasp chewing the wood to create pulp with which

it builds its nest – a superb paper sculpture. Social wasps, including the hornet, all make nests of paper, whilst the potter wasps, as their name suggests, use mud or clay.

The largest group, and the reason why wasps, rather than beetles, are now believed to be the largest insect group of all, are the parasitic wasps (properly called parasitoid because they invariably kill their prey, which a true parasite does not). Many have a lifestyle which we might find rather hard to stomach: laying their eggs inside a living host (usually another insect larva) which is then consumed from the inside out. There are around 6,000 species in Britain alone! Woodwasps, gall wasps (including the species that produces robin's pincushions on wild roses), Ichneumon wasps (with extremely exaggerated wasp waists) are all part of this group but the cuckoo wasps are perhaps the most striking, flaunting jewel colours which sparkle in sunlight. We once encountered one on Gloucester Road – perhaps the species pictured – although there are several similar species. It alighted on a daughter's arm and repaid its gentle admirer with a sharp sting before flying off. If only we had wafted it gently away!

© Dawn Lawrence

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