

bishopstonvoice

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Outcry over delays to residents parking zone

PEOPLE living in St Andrews are angry that plans for a residents parking zone have been delayed by up to three years.

Councillors and officers have confirmed that the proposed restrictions, agreed at the end of last year, will not now come in until 2029.

St Andrews has been moved down the priority list for a controlled parking zone, known as an RPS – even though problems in the area are getting worse.

St Andrews Parking Action Group says there has been an increase in people from outside the district parking in roads throughout the area and particularly around the park.

One resident, Richard, says his home is surrounded by camper vans on both sides of his street.

He said: "It's definitely got worse since the council ordered van dwellers away from the Downs last year.

"We know that many have simply re-parked their vehicles here in St Andrews. I cannot



Parking has blighted St Andrews for years, residents say

believe the council's stupidity to allow the vans it forcibly moved off the Downs to simply re-park their vehicles around St Andrews Park, it beggars belief!"

Resident Hugh said the council should keep the

promise made in December 2025 to extend an RPS to cover St Andrews. At the time it said residents could expect preparation, consultation and delivery in 12-18 months.

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Cheap pints and friendly faces

We look at how a social club with a long history is looking to the future by welcoming new and younger members.

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Plea from plots

Allotment holders in Bishopston are urging visitors not to leave litter or dog mess.

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Call for lights

Hundreds have signed a petition calling for lights on Concorde Way cycle route.

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GCSE successes

Teenagers are back at college or school after notching up some great GCSE results.

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NEWS

Allotments group urges visitors to avoid leaving litter and dog mess

A HIDDEN valley between Cranbrook Road and Birchall Road in Bishopston is lined with over 100 allotment plots where people work hard to grow fresh fruit, flowers and vegetables.

Unlike many other allotments however, the Birchall Road field is not fenced off from the general public, allowing people to walk along the access track that runs between the plots. Jan Davies, the field representative for Birchall Road on the Horfield and District Allotment committee, says this is something they feel very positive about.

"We really enjoy the fact that people come through. Before Covid many people didn't know it was there but during the pandemic people found it to be a place to enjoy being outdoors in a little bit of nature. We like the way people often chat and ask questions about what we are doing because they're interested."

Sadly, however, not everyone is so respectful and plot-holders are increasingly telling of problems from two main kinds of unwanted behaviour.

"We've had several incidents of young people using the allotments as a recreational space and leaving litter as well as causing damage," Jan reports.

"There's occasionally theft of things like chairs, and sheds have been broken into."

This behaviour is obviously annoying and also can be intimidating for people to experience. As a result the association is now in discussion

with local secondary schools and police to try and identify the culprits.

The other main issue stems from dog walkers.

"We have put signs up asking them to keep the dogs on the lead and not let them wander onto the allotments. We know, however, that some people do let them stray, and as a result, we are finding dog poo on the plots."

Jan says. "That is not very pleasant or healthy - we are growing food to eat, after all. We will be putting more signs up reminding people to keep dogs on a lead and off the allotments but we would like it if responsible dog walkers could help us by challenging anyone they see letting their dog run free or people doing anything else untoward - like vandalism."

It is important to understand that this is what is known as a permissive path and not a public right of way.

"As a permissive path it is open as long as the landowner agrees that it's all right to be used that way."

Jan explains. "We are generally happy about that and we really don't want to close it off to the public or to fence ourselves in like other allotments. But we do feel we need to do something about the fact that some people are not respecting the boundaries to the path."

"Everybody works hard to keep their allotments healthy and productive and we're simply asking that people appreciate the privilege of sharing the space that we care for."



Jan Davies with her dog Roo on the path

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NEWS

Expansion plans

PLANS to expand a scout hut in Bishopston to meet demand for youth and community activity space are being considered by the city council.

Bristol 63rd Scout Group has found that the headquarters in St Bartholomews Road, which it built in 2015 to replace its former 'tired ex-military' premises has proved extremely popular.

The modern facilities are used weekly by more than 400 children who attend beavers, cubs, scouts, explorers, guides and brownies meetings.

It is also used extensively by community groups for activities such as exercise classes, while the council uses it as a polling station for elections and as a designated 'community place of safety' providing short-term refuge

for local emergencies such as floods, major fires and gas leaks.

Children's parties are held at the scout hut too. Local schools make use of it for meetings and activities are held there during school holidays.

It's so busy that sometimes the older explorer scouts have to meet elsewhere.

The 63rd Scout Group has drawn up plans for an additional main hall, with a meeting room and store room above. Its intention is to divide the existing hall into a multi use room and a quiet room, which will enable groups to meet the needs of some users with special needs.

The plans can be viewed on the council's planning portal by searching the reference 26/13557/F

Ban on fast-fashion ads

A BAN on adverts for Black Friday, holidays abroad, fashion flash sales, flights, cruises, airports, and travel agents has been approved by Bristol City Council in a crackdown on goods and services that could harm people or be bad for the environment.

The new restrictions apply to the authority's property, including bus shelters, digital screens and billboards, after councillors voted 8-1 in favour of the new policy.

But Cllr John Goulondris (Conservative, Stoke Bishop) said: "Whilst there is logic in supporting advertising restrictions on products which are clearly linked to public health, such as measures to discourage smoking, these latest proposals are grossly patronising and a hideous example of woke virtue-signalling by the Green administration."

Bristol City Council deputy leader Cllr Heather

Mack (Green, Lockleaze) said the new rules prohibited adverts of high-carbon products on the authority's property.

She said: "Advertising forces itself upon all of us. Whilst scrolling, whilst walking, whilst waiting for the bus, it has negative impacts on our health and wellbeing, as well as the climate, environment and local economy."

"The Bristol Greens are committed to pushing back on this."

"As the first council to introduce restrictions on the advertising of fast fashion, we will continue to look at how we can keep improving our advertising policy so that our outdoor spaces reflect the positive values of Bristol, reduce our climate impact and improve our local neighbourhoods and economy."

Bristol campaign group Adfree Cities said the decision last month was an important moment for the city.

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporter



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■ NEWS

Back to last century – or the one before? I'll drink to that!

AMY FOSS-CLARK discovers the charms of a traditional social club night out

THE average price for a pint in Bristol is £6. Combined with Bristol recently being labelled as being the most expensive city to rent in the UK, it's no surprise that people are feeling less inclined to go to the pub, meet new people and socialise. So a thought came into my head, what's happened to Bristol's old pubs and clubs? Surely they're still offering cheaper prices - but are younger people like me welcome?

It was dark as I walked towards The Somerville Club, a pen and paper in my bag, fascination pushing me forwards - the streets were quiet as it was a Wednesday night and I could just about make out some bunting billowing in the wind and a red and blue 'Open' flashing against a window. I walked up towards the cream building and rang the buzzer - in I stepped.

The club was founded in 1893 as Horfield Liberal Club. By 1923 the name had changed to the North Bristol Liberal Club and subsequently to the non-politically aligned Somerville Club. According to the website, it seems the road name was spelled both with single and double Ms and when the club was named a single M was in vogue.

Anyway, 133 years in, it is among a handful of clubs in Bristol that operate on a 'members only' basis. I managed to secure a way in by being friends with one of the bar staff - nerves were high as I was aware that it was only five years ago that the club began allowing women to become members independently.

When I walked in, it felt as though I was stepping inside a pub that time had forgotten. It was warm and cosy with carpeted floors and cushioned chairs and everything was



Honours board at The Somerville

wooden - except for the little fruit machine that couldn't have been much younger than 50 years old. In a time of AI and endless 'self-checkout' machines in supermarkets, walking into this club was like remembering what life used to be like.

I sat down at the bar, on a green cushioned stool and ordered a pint of Madri. £4.40!

Taking my first sip, I noticed that the price for a double vodka was just £4! Was I sure I hadn't been transported back to the 90s?

My friend behind the bar had told me just the other day how keen the club was to get new members, how desperate they were for it. This surprised me as I thought that such a small and old club would surely not appreciate lots of new faces, surely they'd want to keep it how it is?

So I spoke to the club's treasurer, Naomi Knotts, who said: "If we don't have enough people being members, coming in regularly then the club will disappear and it will have to be sold and shut down. We can't compete with the quality of food



Amy Foss-Clark at the club with regulars Jason and Sean Keene

on Gloucester Road, so this is an affordable little den and what we've got to do is provide something that gives people a reason to come in for.

"For instance we have Open Mic nights on Thursdays, bingos on Wednesdays and live bands once a month."

I asked Naomi what she would say to new people considering becoming a member.

"It's a safe, comfortable environment and you get cheap drinks! At only £35 a year, I see it as a no brainer."

Two well known characters on Gloucester Road, Jason and Sean Keene, are twins who love coming to the Somerville. They told me: "It's a chance to meet new people, feel safe and everyone's nice and welcoming." One of the twins, Jason, pointed to my friend behind the bar, smiled and said: "The bar staff are nice, especially trouble!"

My pint was half finished and people had started arriving for the bingo - it was a Wednesday, remember - my friend behind the bar knew all the people's names and remembered their usual drinks. Everyone greeted

everyone with a smile.

A man named Jeff stood next to me to buy his bingo cards, I turned to him and asked him what he thought about new people becoming members: "I say to them, just get in here. It's a safe place to drink, reasonable prices, good entertainment and good company." Jeff has been a member of the club for 45 years and welcomes the prospect of getting new, younger members joining up.

Paul, who has been a trustee at the club for 15 years, said: "More members will make it more fun, pubs are going downhill now, they're too expensive. Here you will always have cheap beer and no trouble."

As a 24-year-old woman, I'll admit I did feel safe and even took part in a night of bingo - I won £2! So maybe it's time more members-only clubs started branching out and encouraging younger people to join, and maybe it's time for us all to take a step back in time and welcome cheap booze, community focused spaces and support our old clubs that have been around for centuries.

NEWS

Parking zone delay

From Page 1

Now the action group has been told “funding and resources do not permit this timescale” and that “an operational delivery matter” means the scheme will not be in place until 2029.

Members believe St Andrews RPS has been moved below seven other schemes but say they have not been told why.

“The unlimited parking blights the whole of St Andrews,” said Hugh.

“I cannot think of any other town or city in Britain - or even area of Bristol - where this would be tolerate and, to add insult to injury, the council have given St Andrews residents and park users including families, the elderly, disabled and dog walkers, no proper explanation for this three-year delay.”

Karen, another St Andrews resident, said she felt commuter parking, additional e-bike and e-



Close-parked vans and cars in a street in St Andrews

scooter bays, the clean air zone, long-term vehicle storage on the streets, and displacement from other RPSs had all contributed to rising problems throughout St Andrews.

“Scarce residential parking must be managed fairly,” she said.

Bristol City Council’s lead

member for transport, Councillor Ed Plowden, wrote in a blog on the authority’s website last month that it was essential to get the balance right in managing limited parking in the city.

He said the council was working on a city-wide Parking and Kerbside Strategy, which had already brought simplified pay-and-display charges and charging at nine car parks that used to be free.

“These changes sit alongside other conversations we’re having with residents and businesses about the future of transport in Bristol, including proposals for a workplace parking levy and exploring introducing more residents’ parking schemes across the city which help people to park near their homes and encourage commuters to consider alternatives to single occupancy car use. We’ll be bringing forward proposals in the south soon, followed by areas in the

north and east of the city,” Cllr Plowden wrote.

Councillor Tim Wye, one of the three Ashley ward councillors, said in his column in this month’s Voice that he and Cllr Plowden had met residents in St Andrews to explain why the RPS – sometimes also known as an RPZ – could no longer be brought in during 2027.

“This is a complex area with dense parking, narrow streets as well as the visitor demands of the park and Gloucester Road shops. The team don’t think it can realistically be on the ground until late 2028/early 29,” he said.

“Many residents will find this very disappointing and we understand that, but it is important to get it right. The commitment is there and officers have already been out and about carrying out initial surveys of the streets as the first step to making this happen.”



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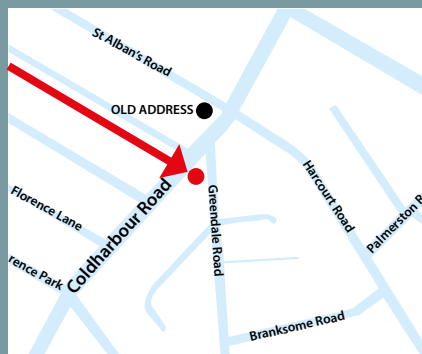
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■ HORFIELD ORGANIC COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Climate Emergency Apple Day will celebrate resilience

THE return of rain is refreshing. It's too late for our fruit. The whiplash weather events of 2026 are forecast to become more extreme during 2027. Farmers and gardeners around the world are wondering how to prepare for another challenging year. We all need to eat. What can we do to ensure a fruitful harvest next year, and in future decades?

Horfield Organic Community Orchard (HOCO) is organising a Climate Emergency Apple Day on Sunday 18 October. It's a do-it-ourselves festival of community resilience that features positive, practical action for food, nature, and climate. Action, education, celebration, and joy are powerful antidotes to doom and gloom.

Our inspirational programme includes our friends Pigsty Morris. Julian Gregg returns for Art in the Orchard. Meet Street Goat volunteers (and goats - if it's not raining). Ry from Moyse's Mushrooms needs helping hands to inoculate orchard apple wood logs. The Apple Tree Lady shares ways to nurture and protect trees and fruit. There's a mix of drop-in and book-in-advance activities, and something for all ages.

Apple Day is our most popular event, and it's an essential fundraiser for the orchard. We are selling tickets (by donation) in advance, and



Pigsty Morris at last year's HOCO Apple Day

limiting the number of tickets available at the gate on the day. Please book in advance! There will be homemade cake for sale. We hope to have juice, or other refreshments, and preserves for sale. Payment is cash only.

Our excellent value HOCO grafted Apple and Pear trees will be listed for sale in October. Please order them in advance for collection

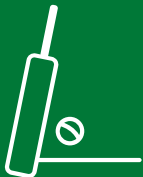
from the orchard in November. Information and advance booking: <https://community-orchard.org.uk/>

Words by Shannon Smith aka The Apple Tree Lady

Photographs by Jamie Carstairs

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COMMUNITY NEWS



REDLAND Green Choir has returned after the summer to begin preparing for its winter concert, which will feature the Charpentier Te Deum. The choir was accompanied at its summer by the Long Ashton Orchestra and four professional soloists in a performance of Mozart's sublime Requiem. St Alban's Church in Westbury Park was packed with an appreciative audience who also enjoyed the orchestra's rendering of Haydn's Clock symphony and several shorter unaccompanied pieces by the choir.

This was the latest in a collaboration between RGC and the LAO which goes back several years. The choir's musical director, Huw Morgan, and the choir are already looking forward to next summer's big concert, a performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah. Redland Green is a non-auditioned choir which performs an eclectic mix of music from Broadway musicals to mediaeval plainchant to commissioning new works from local composers. If you are interested, please contact the membership secretary at membership-sec@redlandgreenchoir.org.uk or visit www.redlandgreenchoir.org.uk/

Forum date

THE Henleaze Community Forum is an opportunity for residents, and those working in the Henleaze area (including the part of Westbury Park which is within the Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze ward), to come together to exchange views on local issues and to discuss them with our Ward Councillors and Neighbourhood Police.

The next Henleaze Community Forum will be held in the Leonard Hall, Trinity-Henleaze URC, Waterford Road on Thursday 15 October at 7pm. The issues to be discussed will be determined by those attending the meeting.

There is no need to book places in advance. Feel free to come along to share your views. For details visit www.henleazesociety.co.uk/henleaze-forum/



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■ ADVERTISING FEATURE

Probate application fee increase – what this means for executors

AS of 13th July 2026, the court fee payable to the probate Registry when applying for a Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration in England and Wales has increased to £526 from £300 for Estates valued at over £5,000, which is an increase of 75%. The Ministry of Justice has said that this increase reflects inflation and the cost of maintaining and improving the probate service.

Whilst this cost can be reimbursed from Estate funds, it is often the case that banks are unable to release money until the Grant is obtained, meaning the Executor needs to cover the cost themselves in the first instance.

It is important to note that not all Estates require a Grant, but this is largely down to the type of assets held and their value. Executors

should therefore seek to establish if a Grant is needed as soon as possible.

Whilst the application fee has substantially increased, there has also been reduction in the cost of additional copies of the Grant if ordered at the same time as making the application. Previously copies cost £16 each, but this has reduced to £2 per copy. If an estate has many assets, each requiring an official copy, this can help to keep administrative costs down a little.

Executors have a great number of responsibilities and duties, which include valuing the estates assets and liabilities, considering whether the deceased made any gifts in the 7 years before they died and the value of any trusts in which they held an interest, settling

liabilities and any Inheritance Tax due to HMRC (if applicable) and distributing assets to beneficiaries. The estate administration process is lengthy, unexpected complexities can arise and costs are often incurred throughout, so it is important to understand likely costs involved at an early stage in order to avoid any sudden surprises or financial pressures that may arise.

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NEWS

HUNDREDS of petitioners have called for better lighting to be installed along the Concorde Way cycle route.

Local councillors said the part of the path between Muller Road and Mina Road was “perilously dark” during the winter months. More than 740 people signed a petition calling on Bristol City Council to install streetlights along Concorde Way near the Ashley Down train station.

The petition was presented to councillors on the transport policy committee September 17.

Green Councillor James Crawford, who represents Bishopston and Ashley Down, said: “This lack of lighting has a disproportionate impact on women and girls, many of whom understandably feel quite unsafe using these isolated, unlit paths after dark.

“This isn’t really an isolated problem. Inadequate lighting affects routes and paths across our communities, and we need a much more systemic approach to identifying and addressing these safety concerns. I’m hoping that

Hundreds back call for Concorde Way lights

this petition is a start of a wider piece of work looking at making our city feel safer.”

This section of the route is used by many people including schoolchildren at Fairfield High School and passengers heading to Ashley Down train station. But there have been reports of muggings and attacks in the tunnel underneath the railway.

The hundreds of signatures on the petition will demonstrate the support of the local community for better lighting. But at this stage it’s unclear how much the lighting would cost to install, and where the funding would come from.

Green Cllr Emma Edwards, who also represents the ward, added: “This is something that we’ve been working on for a really long time. It’s one of the

main walking routes for children at Fairfield School going back up into Bishopston. And then obviously we’ve got the Ashley Down train station now, so people are walking up to the train station.”

Around 1,000 commuters use Concorde Way every day, connecting people to major employers such as the University of the West of England and the Ministry of Defence. The seven-mile walking and cycling route runs through St Pauls, St Werburghs, Ashley Down and Lockleaze, and all the way up to Cribbs Causeway.

Ashley Down station opened in 2024 as part of a major investment in local train services by Network Rail and the West of England Combined Authority.

Reports by Alex Seabrook, Local Democracy Reporter

1hr bus ticket on the cards

A NEW city centre circular bus service and a one-hour ticket are being considered as part of a £4 million upgrade.

A one-hour ticket would let passengers catch two different buses in the same journey, instead of having to pay twice.

The city centre loop bus would run anti-clockwise, potentially running from Temple Meads to Old Market, Cabot Circus, Broadmead, the Centre and Redcliffe.

These are two ideas for how best to invest income from the Clean Air Zone to make travel in Bristol easier. Another is to reduce fares for day rider tickets.

The city council’s transport policy committee voted last month to set up a task group of councillors to discuss how to spend the £4 million, with new bus services or ticket changes potentially launching in April or September next year.

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*References available.
Brigitta Liegis*



COMMUNITY NEWS

FRIENDS OF REDLAND LIBRARY

On Thursday October 8, the Friends of Redland Library are hosting a talk on "W.A.S. BENSON: an influential pioneer of the Arts and Crafts movement" given by Professor Ian Hamerton of the University of Bristol.

William Arthur Smith Benson (1854-1924) was both an architect and designer renowned for his imaginative and practical metal work designs. A close friend of both William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, Benson was a founder member of the Art Workers Guild and was instrumental in establishing both the Home Arts and Industries Association and the highly influential Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society. Benson is best known for his daring and innovative work in the sphere of electrical lighting; examples of his work have always been widely admired (even during his own lifetime) and are becoming increasingly rare and desirable. Professor Hamerton is editor of the 2005 book "W.A.S. Benson: Arts and Crafts Luminary and Pioneer of Modern Design".

On Tuesday October, 20 we are celebrating the world's longest-running radio drama series "The Archers", which has aired over 20,000 episodes since its first broadcast in 1951. In "Ambridge Lives: The Archers", we are joined by guest speakers John Telfer and Caroline Harrington.

John Telfer has appeared as the Reverend Alan Franks in over 300 episodes of The Archers since 2003. He is also fondly remembered as Willy Pettit from the BBC crime drama Bergerac.

Caroline Harrington has written 470 episodes of The Archers from 2008 to 2023.

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, visit <https://FriendsOfRedlandLibrary.org.uk>

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

Finally, we need volunteers to help organise and publicise our events. If you would like to help, email FriendsOfRedlandLibrary@gmail.com



EMMANUEL BISHOPSTON

ONCE a month, Emmanuel Bishopston hosts The Coffee Pot, a community café for people who are free on a Friday lunchtime.

Since it began in January 2025, The Coffee Pot has welcomed an array of guest speakers. It kicked off with Kate Evans, a local declutterer who shared many hilarious and heart-breaking anecdotes, followed by Tabs Moynagh, a sleep consultant who works independently and for the NHS. More recently, they had a flower-arranging demonstration from Roz Evitt of Wild Zinnia and listened to interviews with a volunteer at the Bristol North West Food Bank and a director from Refugee Welcome Homes.

Team leader, Claire Walford, explains: "The Coffee Pot is designed to be a community café for people of any age and stage. We have had a real range of visitors - from people in their 20s on a random day off from work to 80 year olds! Each month, there has been a lovely buzz in the hall as people have enjoyed home-made tea and cake and the space to chat, make friends and hear an interview from a member of the church. We

would love anyone who is free on a Friday lunchtime to consider coming along."

Autumn schedule:

Friday September 25

Will Evans talks about SAT-7's surprising work in the Middle East and North Africa. PLUS our big cake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Friday October 23

From NHS to HMS and back - the journey of a Royal Navy medical officer

Friday November 27

Getting crafty - an opportunity to make something special with Rosie Gardner.

Friday December 11

Why is Handel's Messiah so wonderful? A talk and musical demonstration from Richard Powell.

The Coffee Pot takes place at Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, Bishop Road, BS7 8NA, from 1-2.30pm. It aims to meet on the last Friday of each month but some months, this date is moved because of school holidays. There is a voluntary contribution of £2 to go towards the cost of the refreshments. For details, email bishopston@emmanuelbristol.org.uk

HENLEAZE SCHOOL

Park Grove, Henleaze, Bristol BS9 4LG



Hiring!

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If you join us, on a typical day in this role you'll be responsible for overseeing the reception, answering calls and dealing with face-to-face enquiries and visitors, looking after attendance, providing administrative support and maintaining school records.

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<https://www.henleazeschools.org>

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WEST BRISTOL ARTS TRAIL

OCTOBER
10/11
2026

HOTWELLS

Open homes and studios in
Clifton, Cliftonwood and Hotwells
10am - 5pm

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CUMBERLAND ROAD

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■ BOOK REVIEW

Pick a Colour

THIS novel is set in a nail salon in an unnamed city in an unnamed country. Our narrator is 41-year-old Ning, an Asian immigrant and the salon owner who lives in an apartment above the salon.

While Ning and her team are all Asian immigrants, the customers are mainly white natives. Every staff member has a name tag with Susan printed on it because Susan is easy to pronounce. Susan is always available. Susan is never fully booked. All the staff have black shoulder length hair and wear black T shirts with black trousers. The novel takes place over one working day. Ning fills us in with her backstory and those of her co-workers. Ning was once a boxer but retired after putting an opponent into a coma. Her trainer fixed her up with a job in a nail salon. After 12 years working for someone else, Ning opened her own salon. She has lived alone for five years, but has invented an imaginary partner called Bob as her customers like it when you have a man to complain about. She often brings him up to fill out a conversation. Every day she hears about babies, affairs and the ups and downs of married life.

Her customers come to talk as well as

by Souvantham Thammavongsa

having their nails done. The salon offers 83 different nail colours. Every customer is met with the phrase Pick A Colour.

Her colleague Mai is confident, assured and lives with her ailing mother. Nok turned up on her first working day with her two kids as she had no place to drop them off with. She subsequently brought them with her for all her shifts.

We meet a fascinating array of customers. There is Marla who has suffered five miscarriages and who has a loud voice, hence her nickname Miss All-Caps. We also met Roger who always has a sport pedicure and always gives the salon a one star rating on Google. Ning and her team often chat to one another in their native language, ridiculing their demanding white customers.

This is a funny, tender and multi layered novel, chronicling the immigrant experience and the dignity and despair of work with savvy witty dialogue between Ning and her co-workers. For this book and many more, drop in on your local library in Gloucester Road where you will be assured of a warm 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

■ ADVERTISING FEATURE



Welcome to the West Bristol Arts Trail 2026

THIS is the 19th year of showcasing artists in the west Bristol area. Over 120 artists will exhibit their work over 34 venues, often private homes and studios but also larger venues hosting multiple artists.

Each year we have seen new artists as well as returning artists exhibiting with us and there is a range of work to be seen: paintings, sculpture, prints, ceramics, jewellery, textiles, photography and mixed media.

Why come to the trail? It's a great day out, the art is affordable and there is a chance to talk to the artists. While there is no pressure to buy, the arts trail offers a unique chance to buy directly from the artists if you wish to do so.

The trail is one of the main events in Clifton each year, but also covers Cliftonwood and Hotwells.

We are delighted to welcome back established large venues—including Holy Trinity Church, the Scout Hut (Clifton Village) and The Chesterfield (Nuffield Hospital). We are also excited to introduce new locations this year: Bristol Grammar School, Future Leap (The Old Chapel) and St Paul's Church.

For more detailed information on the artists and venues please visit www.westbristolartstrail.co.uk

Children are most welcome at the Trail but must be supervised.

EDUCATION

Cotham Gardens off to a positive start

COTHAM Gardens Primary School has begun the new school year brightly with a positive Ofsted report and an improved outside area at its infant block.

Decking at the Elmgrove site was replaced over the summer after the original construction had proved inadequate.

Chris Seaton, chief executive of the academy trust that runs the school, said: "We are so delighted that the children can once again enjoy the full benefits of outside play at Elmgrove. The new decking lifts the whole site."

"This part of the site is now in a better condition than when it opened 10 years ago, an achievement that required a great team effort from my colleagues in school as well as partners in Bristol City Council. We are grateful to them all."

Cotham Gardens has become a one-form entry school this year. Just before the end of the last academic year, the school received a second monitoring visit from Ofsted following its last full inspection in December 2024. The visit report has just been published, and it makes encouraging remarks about all the main areas of the school.



Staff and pupils at Cotham Gardens on the renewed decking at the school's Elmgrove site

The inspectors praised efforts to improve reading, noting that "better resources, staff training and consistent approaches to teaching" had resulted in phonics and early reading becoming a recognised strength of the school.

Ofsted also highlighted a culture of belonging at Cotham Gardens, leading to attendance levels above national averages.

Head of school Emmeline Smith said: "We are so pleased that this report reflects the commitment of our staff, pupils, trustees and families to ensuring every child feels valued, supported and inspired to succeed."

"While we remain ambitious for further improvement, we are proud of the strong progress being made and excited about the journey ahead."

HENLEAZE

JUNIOR SCHOOL

Tours for September 2027

Tuesday 29th September 9:30-10:15

Tuesday 13th October 11:00-11:45

Thursday 22nd October 9:30-10:15

Thursday 17th November 1:30-2:15

Friday 4th December 11:00-11:45

Thursday 7th January 1:30-2:15

We are also offering a Stay and Play session for families who are new to our school community on **Thursday 12th November 9:45-10:30.**

Tours and play session are by appointment only. Get in touch to book.

www.henleaze.schools.org

office@henleaze.infantschool.org

0117 377 2442

Reception 2027 Open Events

Morning Sessions with Stay & Play

Thursday 15th October 2026 at 9.30am

Friday 11th December 2026 at 9.30am

Friday 8th January 2027 at 9.30am

Evening Sessions

Tuesday 22nd September 2026 at 6.30pm

Thursday 12th November 2026 at 6.30pm

Scan the QR code to book your place

Or contact us: 0117 3772610 / office@cothamgardens.co.uk



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

Inspired
today

Unstoppable
tomorrow



Bristol
Grammar
School

Come and visit
Thursday 5 November



EDUCATION

Happy smiles as Fairfield GCSE students celebrate

STUDENTS at Fairfield High School are celebrating a strong set of GCSE results, reflecting their aspiration, talent and hard work, alongside the remarkable resilience shown throughout their secondary school journey.

Fairfield's focus on academic excellence has delivered strong results, with a remarkable 'no gap' between girls' and boys' attainment at grades 4+ and 7+ in English and maths. Overall attainment at grades 5+ and 7+ also improved on previous years.

Subjects across the sciences, humanities and arts sustained or improved attainment at grades 5+ and 7+. Sports Science also performed strongly in Cambridge Nationals, with over 85% of students achieving a Level 2 Pass or higher.

Beyond the headline figures, Fairfield recognises the achievements of students

facing significant medical, social, or emotional challenges who, with the support of many internal teams, are celebrating strong results. The school has seen marked improvements in its headline measures for disadvantaged students.

Vice principal Cashan Campbell said: "Through our collaborative approach across the school community, we have worked hard to ensure that our most vulnerable students have been supported to show their best selves and achieve some great results. We are proud of their achievements."

Principal Edel Cronin said: "We are immensely proud of our Year 11 students and all that they have achieved. Their attitude, dedication and commitment have been second to none. "Days like these reflect the strength of our school community."



**Fairfield
High School**

Achieving Excellence



“ From transition to GCSEs, staff have been relentless in their **commitment to the young people** in their care, **pastorally and academically**. We appreciate Fairfield's **incredible community spirit** and the **diversity and inclusion** it embodies.”

Parent



For Open Events, please visit
www.fairfield.excalibur.org.uk

EDUCATION

Badminton boost

BADMINTON School is celebrating a fantastic set of GCSE results, with over a third of Year 11 pupils achieving grades 9-7 in every subject. Overall, 73% of all grades awarded were at 9-7.

Headteacher Jessica Miles said: "This year's GCSE cohort have all demonstrated incredible determination, studiousness, and enthusiasm, and these results are a reflection of those qualities. I am immensely proud of how they have embraced the demands of their schooling as well as co-curricular commitments with dedication and passion."

"Whether excelling in their classrooms and the exam hall, pushing themselves through sporting endeavours, or contributing to our local community, they have all set a wonderful example of what it means to be a part of the Badminton community."

"I know that the whole school will join me in congratulating them on their efforts, and of course in thanking the staff who have helped to guide and support them throughout their journey so far."



CHS's record results

CLIFTON High School's Class of 2026 achieved the best GCSE results in the school's history.

This year, 24% of all grades awarded were 9s, with 43% at 9-8 and 63% at 9-7. 97% of pupils achieved 9-4

William Phelan, head of school, said: "We are immensely proud of our Year 11 pupils and all they have achieved. These record-breaking results are richly deserved and reflect not only academic excellence but also the determination, resilience and character shown by this cohort throughout their time at Clifton High School. "These outcomes are important, but they sit alongside the personal growth, confidence and wider achievements that make each pupil unique."



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

- We foster academic excellence within a supportive environment
- MHS is in the top 2 secondaries in Bristol for progress
- Students from all backgrounds succeed
- FFT data shows girls perform on average 10% better in their GCSEs at all-girls schools

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EDUCATION



Triumphs at Trinity

TRINITY Academy celebrated its third set of GCSE results with extremely strong performances.

Seven students achieved all 8s and 9s. Among them were Megan H, Henry M and Lucy W.

Trinity has a diverse student body so is proud that 70% of students achieved a 4 or more in both English and Maths GCSE. The school is equally proud of all students who made strong progress.

Headteacher Eiron Bailey said: "I am absolutely delighted with these GCSE results. They are testament to the hard work of our wonderful students and staff. A particular joy is to see our students able to access their post 16 places of choice because of their exceptional outcomes here, with many staying with us in our new Sixth Form."

Redmaids on a High!

REDMAIDS' High students saw 63% of GCSE grades awarded 9-8 (A*-A), significantly higher than the national average of 12.3%, with 82% at 9-7 and 98% of grades awarded 9-5.

The school celebrated strong results across a range of departments including English Language and Literature, maths, art, Latin and modern foreign languages.

Rebecca Armsby, Head of Year 11, said: "We are immensely proud of our Year 11 and all that they have achieved. It has been a real privilege to share this journey with them and to watch them grow into the remarkable young women they are today. It has been a joy to see all that they have accomplished, and we look forward to seeing where their talents and ambitions take them in the years ahead."

Jane Prescott, the school's interim head, said: "These extraordinary GCSE results are a reflection of the hard work and determination of our students, and the dedication of the staff who have supported them along the way."



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9.00-11.00AM**

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EDUCATION



STUDENTS at E-ACT Montpellier High School celebrated some strong GCSE results.

Head teacher Ben Spence said: "We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students. Results day is about so much more than the grades on a piece of paper; it is about recognising the hard work, resilience and courage that sit behind them. Our students have worked incredibly hard, supported by staff and families who have believed in them and encouraged them every step of the way.

"We have high expectations for every young person at Montpellier High School, and it is wonderful to see so many students now able to take their next steps with confidence and ambition. Whatever their destination, we celebrate them, how far they have come and all that lies ahead."

New sixth-form centre

MONTPELIER High School sixth formers have started the academic year in their new HQ.

The former Dolphin School site, close to MHS, has been converted into a new centre following the primary's amalgamation with E-ACT Fairlawn Primary School on the Fairlawn site.

The centre is designed to support both study and independence. includes a purpose-built library, dedicated study rooms, a spacious common room and rooftop terraces.

The new provision remains fully co-educational and is now known as E-ACT Montpellier High Sixth Form, or MH6.

Head Ben Spence said: "The new name was chosen to celebrate our sixth form's connection with lower school and brings the whole school community together under a shared identity and commitment to achieving excellent outcomes for all of our students.



Looking for a Sixth Form Place for September 2027?

CHOOSE



E-ACT Montpellier
High School

Open Evening

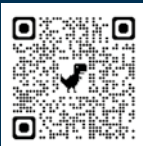
Tuesday 6 October 2026

5:45pm - 8pm

Welcome briefing from
Head of Sixth Form at
5:45pm and 6:20pm
No booking required

- We foster academic excellence within a supportive environment
- Sixth formers have access to unique opportunities to help secure competitive university and apprenticeship places
- Every student benefits from a personalised mentoring programme
- Students from all backgrounds succeed

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■ PHARMACY COLUMN

Time for your flu and Covid jabs

FROM October 1, you can just come into Kellaway Pharmacy, roll up your sleeve and get your free NHS Flu and Covid jabs. Job done in five minutes!

YES, we offer both flu and Covid vaccines together in one visit; this is now standard clinical practice and much more convenient for people who are eligible for free vaccinations.

WHY? Studies on this "co-administration approach" show it is very safe to get a flu and Covid vaccine at the same visit, helping people get up to date in one visit without arranging a second appointment or forgetting to return for a delayed one!

NO - there are no side effects associated with this approach. You can, however, still choose to come back at separate times if you prefer. Remember: the earlier you get your jabs, the better, as it can take up to two weeks for your body to develop a strong immune response after vaccination.

YES, this explains why some people still contract the flu and Covid infections a few days after vaccination. You may have been infected before your vaccination or before the vaccine immune response could fully protect you.

NO, you cannot get the flu or Covid infection from the vaccines; it is impossible.

YES, even if you had a flu vaccination last year and have lost count of your Covid boosters. As we all know, vaccine protection (immunity) declines over time. Also, new virus variants will emerge, so new up-to-date vaccinations are offered to those who need them, who are at increased risk of getting seriously ill from flu or Covid. This may be due to your age, a health condition, or the work or role you have, such as looking after others who are more vulnerable.

NO, just because you rarely or never experience respiratory symptoms—even from a common

cold—does not mean you cannot catch or pass on flu or Covid-19. You can still unknowingly spread the infection to vulnerable people (not every infected person has symptoms), which is why you must get vaccinated. If you are eligible, vaccination remains an important way to protect yourself against serious illness and help protect others. Don't be a spreader!

YES, even though you never have any respiratory symptoms, not even a common cold, that only means you can still unknowingly be spreading the infection to the vulnerable (not every infected person has symptoms), hence why you must get vaccinated.

How to get your jab? Kellaway Pharmacy offers Walk-In appointments, so just turn up. You can book on the NHS website or via the NHS App.

Are you eligible? The free NHS Covid-19 vaccination is available this autumn to:

- aged 75 or over, including those



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

who will turn 75 by 31 January

2027;

- residents of care homes for older adults;

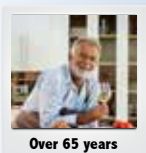
- people aged six months to 74 years who are immunosuppressed because of a health condition or treatment.

The free NHS flu vaccination is available to a wider range of people, including: those aged 65 or over, including those who will turn 65 by 31 March 2027; those aged 18 or over and in a clinical risk group; people with diabetes, chronic respiratory ailment, heart disease, are immunocompromised, people experiencing homelessness and front-line workers in social care settings.

Questions / Unsure? Just come in and chat with us at Kellaway Pharmacy or call 0117 9246579

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■ NEWS

Wear It Blue for SPH

ST Peter's Hospice is calling on people across Bristol to turn the city blue this October as it launches a campaign encouraging communities to come together in support of the city's only adult hospice.

The charity is inviting schools, businesses, community groups, families and individuals to take part in Wear It Blue activities during Hospice Care Week from 5–11 October.

People can get involved by dressing in blue, hosting a fundraising event and helping raise awareness of the vital care St Peter's Hospice provides to local adults living with life-limiting illness and their families.

Whether it's a workplace dress-down day, a blue-themed bake sale, a school non-uniform day, afternoon tea, colour run or something unique, supporters are encouraged to choose a date during Hospice Care Week – or another date that suits them – and get creative.

As part of the campaign, St Peter's Hospice is also encouraging people to visit its charity shops,

where they can pick up affordable blue clothing, accessories and hidden treasures ready for the week. Every purchase helps raise additional funds, making it even easier to support the hospice while finding the perfect outfit.

Hayley Ali, events fundraising manager, said: "We're really excited to be launching our brand-new campaign, Wear It Blue. It's a simple and fun way for people of all ages and abilities to get involved and celebrate Hospice Care Week."

"We can't wait to see the creative things our community comes up with to support the campaign."

Anyone taking part can download a free fundraising pack to help make their event a success.

St Peter's Hospice receives only 20% of its funding through the government, with the rest made up of funds from fundraising events, generous donations and its retail shops. It costs around £30,000 a day to run the hospice.

To sign up, download a fundraising pack or find out more, visit www.stpetershospice.org/wearitblue

FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Ashley: Tim Wye, Izzy Russell and Abdul Malik (Green Party)

HELLO and hope you all made good use of the summer and are ready for El Nino. We have a few things to report on in the St Andrews end of Ashley Ward which Bishopston voice readers are normally interested.

Firstly, we have really enjoyed watching the renovation of the **St Andrews Park Pond**. If you remember, councillors helped secure some community infrastructure money. In the end the Friends' group were able to raise the money themselves and we are looking to transfer that CIL money to long term repairs/enhancements to the paddling pool which we know is a valued resource (NB there were some false rumours that the pool was closing imminently).

Izzy is supporting some local residents who are starting a campaign around the **proliferation of Vape shops on Gloucester Rd**, something that quite a few residents have raised. Izzy sits on licensing committee and will be working with residents as some of the changes around these shops come in. the campaign can be contacted on novapesglosrd@gmail.com

Tim has been working with local people in making sure that we progress a **residents parking scheme** for the area. If you remember, some time ago, transport committee agreed to

progress this. Since then a new project manager has been recruited to drive these projects forward. Sadly, after appraising all the myriad of transport schemes around the city, officers do not have the capacity to deliver the new RPZ in the 2027 deadline outlined in November. RPZs need a long lead-in to manage the protracted design and legal phases and to ensure resident buy-in (remember the man who drove a tank to College Green in protest). This is a complex area with dense parking, narrow streets as well as the visitor demands of the park and Gloucester Road shops. The team don't think it can realistically be on the ground until late 2028/early 29. Many residents will find this very disappointing and we understand that, but it is important to get it right. Tim has been advocating for this for the last five years. The commitment is there and officers have already been out and about carrying out initial surveys of the streets as the first step to making this happen. Cllr Ed Plowden, Tim and officers met with residents recently to go through this and provide reassurance that the plans were very much progressing.

Of course Ashley ward is made up of more than St Andrews and as the three councillors we tend to focus on geographical areas and specialist knowledge areas (with Tim looking towards St Andrews) so it is worth mentioning a

couple of things happening across the patch. Abdul is leading some great work with residents, the police and council officers to look at **crime and anti-social behaviours** in St Pauls. We have done a resident survey and have drawn up action plans and are applying for some funding for practical measures. Abdul also continues to run weekly drop-ins at the Green Melon community Shop in St Pauls and has helped a lot of people with casework in the area that find it easier to come and talk in person.

Tim has been bringing together officers and residents in St Werburgh's to look at the density of Emergency Accommodation in the area as well as getting better contract management of the units in place. Ongoing but encouraging. Izzy and Tim have been working with officers and residents about better traffic management around Montpelier including a potential School Street for Fairlawn school. Very early days but again encouraging.

Finally, thanks for your ongoing support. You will never please all residents all the time but its nice that lots of people do thank us for our efforts advocating residents.

Contact us

Cllr.tim.wye@bristol.gov.uk

Cllr.Izzy.Russell@bristol.gov.uk

Cllr.Abdul.Malik@bristol.gov.uk

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■ FROM BRISTOL CENTRAL'S MP

It's great to be back working for you again

As you may have seen, on 1st September I returned to Parliament after taking a leave of absence for health reasons. As anyone who's ever had serious health issues can tell you, recovery isn't linear, but I am making good progress and am proud to be back and able to amplify the voices of those living in Bristol Central.

I firstly want to say a huge thank you to all of you, my constituents, for your understanding and compassion while I have been working on my recovery. Thank you especially to those who sent me supportive messages during my time away, sharing your own stories of burnout and recovery, and words of advice. I have been blown away by your kindness.

I recognise that I have been enormously fortunate to have been able to take this time, and that many people faced with the same situation would not be so lucky. No one should be penalised for being too unwell to work, and no one should have to jeopardise recovery because of job insecurity. This is something I am determined

to change.

My immediate priority as I return to full-time work is tackling the issues that are most important to our community. As you may have read in these pages, over the summer my team has been working tirelessly to help with the individual issues and collective concerns that you have raised. I will now be taking those further: demanding answers and action from those in power.

Already I have put questions to ministers on issues like the delivery of council homes, expanding bathing water designation, and the influence of fossil fuel lobbyists. I look forward to being able to report substantial answers and progress on these and many other issues in the coming months.

I have also been working particularly hard, alongside the other Green MPs, to hold the government to account on their climate commitments in the face of sustained pressure from the oil and gas industry. It is clear that if this government is serious about protecting our health, national security, and ecosystems, they

must prioritise moving faster on the transition to renewable energy and electrification, and leave fossil fuels in the ground. I attended the National Emergency Briefing screening at Cotham Parish Church, and was so inspired by the dedication and enthusiasm to take on this challenge in our community. I will never stop advocating for a safe future for us and future generations.

Finally, I wanted to let you know about my latest efforts to end the housing crisis in Bristol. You might have seen the headlines - Bristol is now the least affordable city for private renters in England, surpassing Greater London! Sadly, this wasn't a surprise to me, as I'm sure it wasn't to many of you. It's something I am committed to tackling. That's why I've launched the Bristol Central Renters Survey, which is open until October 16. I aim to gather hard data on the reality of renting in our city to take to the government and demand change. If you're a private renter and have five minutes to spare, you can contribute anonymously to this



**Carla Denyer
writes for
the Voice**

survey using this QR code.



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

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■ FROM BRISTOL NORTH WEST'S MP

A busy time on the backbenches ...

PARLIAMENT is back in session after the summer recess, and while I'm no longer in the Cabinet, I'm as busy as ever as I work from the backbenches to proudly represent my constituents in Bristol North West.

There are advantages to not being a government minister. For one thing, I've had much more time over the summer to spend with my wife and kids. It also means I'm less tied to London, which is great, as I much prefer being in Bristol! And I'm no longer bound by 'collective responsibility', whereby the decisions made by the Cabinet are binding on all members of the government.

Collective responsibility had also prevented me from signing petitions calling for the government to change its policies – as a minister, I would have been petitioning myself otherwise!

This means I can now support more campaigns that matter to me and my constituents. Take,

for example, the campaign for a national screening of a film that highlights the climate crisis, called People's Emergency Briefing – an issue that many constituents have written to me about over the past few months.

I had the opportunity to watch the film for the first time with about 170 of my constituents at an event that I held in early September in Westbury Park. I thought the film was excellent – a factual account of the threats we face, but not in an alarmist way. So, I am happy to share that I have now signed the Parliamentary call for a national screening.

Films like this are important to inform the public, and the government does need the support of the public to keep our plan to reach Net Zero by 2050 on track. But on the world stage, I want to assure you that the government is already doing more to tackle climate change, with the Foreign Secretary, Ed Miliband, leading the charge to

persuade other countries to cut emissions faster.

In other local environment news, several constituents have been in touch about a proposed data centre in Avonmouth, raising concerns about its energy and water consumption. (Data centres are basically giant computers that get very hot, and so they need water for cooling.)

The good news is that this data centre has been designed to be powered by energy generated from burning waste that cannot be recycled. Furthermore, I've been told the data centre would use a 'closed loop system', which means the water inside the data centre would be reused, keeping its water needs low.

It's right that we develop these technologies in line with our climate commitments, which is a red line for me. On energy and water consumption, I think the developers for the data centre in Avonmouth are doing a good job to strike this balance.



Darren Jones
writes for
the Voice

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



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■ HORFIELD ORGANIC COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Climate Emergency Apple Day will celebrate resilience

THE return of rain is refreshing. It's too late for our fruit. The whiplash weather events of 2026 are forecast to become more extreme during 2027. Farmers and gardeners around the world are wondering how to prepare for another challenging year. We all need to eat. What can we do to ensure a fruitful harvest next year, and in future decades?

Horfield Organic Community Orchard (HOCO) is organising a Climate Emergency Apple Day on Sunday 18 October. It's a do-it-ourselves festival of community resilience that features positive, practical action for food, nature, and climate. Action, education, celebration, and joy are powerful antidotes to doom and gloom.

Our inspirational programme includes our friends Pigsty Morris. Julian Gregg returns for Art in the Orchard. Meet Street Goat volunteers (and goats - if it's not raining). Ry from Moyse's Mushrooms needs helping hands to inoculate orchard apple wood logs. The Apple Tree Lady shares ways to nurture and protect trees and fruit. There's a mix of drop-in and book-in-advance activities, and something for all ages.

Apple Day is our most popular event, and it's an essential fundraiser for the orchard. We are selling tickets (by donation) in advance, and



Pigsty Morris at last year's HOCO Apple Day

limiting the number of tickets available at the gate on the day. Please book in advance! There will be homemade cake for sale. We hope to have juice, or other refreshments, and preserves for sale. Payment is cash only.

Our excellent value HOCO grafted Apple and Pear trees will be listed for sale in October. Please order them in advance for collection

from the orchard in November. Information and advance booking: <https://community-orchard.org.uk/>

Words by Shannon Smith aka The Apple Tree Lady

Photographs by Jamie Carstairs

Graham Cook

Gardener and handyman

Grass cutting, hedge and shrub trimming, weeding, planting, felling small trees, clearing, small painting jobs including garden fences and other maintenance work.

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FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

As autumn gets under way, we wanted to update residents on local services, community opportunities and the work we have been doing on behalf of Bishopston and Ashley Down.

New recycling bags and collection updates

Residents may have seen the new recycling bags now being rolled out across Bristol. They have been introduced following feedback from residents and councillors about ways to make recycling easier. The bags have a larger capacity than the green boxes, are easier to secure, less breakable, have a weighted base to help stop them blowing away, and should be easier to store.

We have been receiving regular councillor updates from Bristol Waste and continue to feed back residents' experiences. The rollout is taking place across the city in phases, and Bristol Waste has said it will monitor how the new system is working and respond to issues as they arise.

If you have experienced problems with deliveries, collections or storing the new bags, please let us know so that we can pass this on. Resident feedback is invaluable in helping improve the service.

We have also been reassured by Bristol Waste that collections are getting back on track after the difficulties over the summer, when staff shortages led to missed collections. Please continue to report any missed collections through the Bristol Waste website, and contact us if problems have not been resolved.

Concorde Way lighting petition

Thank you to everyone who signed the petition calling for improved lighting along Concorde Way.

Concorde Way is a vital walking and cycling route used by many people travelling to work, school and local amenities. However, the lack of lighting on parts of the route can make it feel unsafe, particularly during the darker months of the year, which is something residents have been raising with us for a while.

The petition reached more than 620 signatures, and we presented it to Bristol City

Council's Transport and Connectivity Committee on 17 September. It showed the strength of local feeling and the importance residents place on making active travel routes safe and accessible throughout the year.

We will continue to push for progress and will keep residents updated on next steps.

Delivery robots and national legislation

On 14 September, Emma attended a panel discussion in Westminster to speak about the growing use of delivery robots on pavements.

This had been an ongoing issue locally. While new technologies can bring benefits, they have also raised important questions about pedestrian safety, accessibility and how public spaces are shared. Residents had told us about the impact these devices could have on busy pavements, particularly for disabled residents, people with visual impairments, wheelchair users and others.

The Westminster discussion was an opportunity to share those local concerns and to make the case for clearer national rules, so that innovation happens in a way that protects access, safety and confidence for everyone using our streets.

Area Committee 2

The Area Committee 2 meeting was due to take place on Wednesday 23 September at 5.30pm. Area Committee 2 covers Stoke Bishop, Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze, Redland, Bishopston, and Ashley Down, and is one of the ways councillors consider local priorities and decisions affecting our area.

These meetings are a useful opportunity to follow local decision-making and understand how issues and funding decisions are being discussed across neighbouring wards. Residents can find the agenda and joining details on the council's democracy pages.

Our City, Your Jobs 2026

We are pleased to help share details of Our City, Your Jobs 2026, a free recruitment event organised through Bristol's Race Equality

Strategic Leaders' Group. The event will take place on Tuesday 20 October, from 3pm to 6.30pm, at City Hall.

The event will bring together more than 30 major Bristol employers, with information on live vacancies, careers advice, courses, development opportunities, internships, apprenticeships and volunteering. It is open to all Bristol residents, and citizens from racially minoritised backgrounds are particularly welcomed, as they remain under-represented within many of the city's employers.

Tickets are free and can be booked through Eventbrite by searching for "Our City, Your Jobs". Please do share the event with local networks, community groups and anyone who may be looking for work, a new role or support to progress in their career.

Have Your Say on Adult Social Care Services

Bristol City Council has launched a public consultation as part of its Strategic Review of In-House Provider Services. The consultation gives Bristol residents who use the services, their families and carers an opportunity to share their views. The consultation opened on 8 September and will close on 17 November.

These services are incredibly important to many people across Bristol. Decisions about their future should be informed by the experiences of those who use them and those who support or care for loved ones.

We encourage anyone with an interest in these services, whether as a person who uses care and support, a family member, carer, member of staff, stakeholder or resident, to take part and make their voice heard. The consultation is available through the council's Ask Bristol platform. Enquiries can be sent to ASC.Consultation@bristol.gov.uk.

Contact us

As always, if there is an issue you would like to raise with us, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

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

NEWS

Mitch set to take boots and kit from Bristol to Kenya

BRISTOL Rovers Community Trust (BRCT) has handed over a substantial donation of football kit and boots to Mitch Brunning, organiser of Kits for Kenya.

Adam Tutton, chief executive of BRCT, said: "This donation brings together the generosity of our community and the power of football to connect people. Everyone who has donated a pair of

boots over the past month has helped make it possible. Those boots, alongside our kit, can help more players take part, feel part of a team and enjoy the friendships, confidence and opportunities that football can bring. There is an environmental benefit too. Keeping usable equipment in circulation makes better use of resources and helps reduce waste.

"We are proud to support Mitch and Kits for Kenya, and to see something rooted in Bristol's football community reach players thousands of miles away."

Mitch, founder of Severn Beach Wanderers, is undertaking 12 fundraising challenges over 12 months, from August 2026 to July 2027. His appeal is raising money to support travel to

Kakamega, a town in western Kenyan and the provision of football kits, boots, balls and training equipment to local teams, working in connection with Isongo Green Commandos FC.

To support Mitch's fundraising challenges, visit the Kits for Kenya fundraiser, or follow SBW – Kits For Kenya on Facebook.

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 - 5 wines, aperitivo board.

Oct 8th & 22nd - Italian Islands Wines

Oct 21st & 24th - Tuscany Regional Tasting

Annual Special- Big Christmas Wine Tastings:

Nov 12th, 14th, 18th, 19th, 28th

Dec 3rd, 9th, 10th, 17th, 18th, 19th

Wine & Dine

5 courses paired with 6 wines

October 10th - Tuscany

November 20th & 21st - Christmas

December 11th & 12th - Christmas

Call for Corporate/Private bespoke bookings. Tickets at www.lascaladeli.com/tickets and in-store

October 17

■ **BRISTOL BACH CHOIR** Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS6 6SA. 7.30pm. The Glory and the Dream. Tickets: £21 (reserved), £15 (unreserved) Students & under 18s £1. www.bristolbach.org.uk. 0117 214 0721. The title piece by Richard Rodney Bennett will be joined by Vivaldi's much-loved Gloria, motets by Purcell and Dove in our autumn concert.

October 21st

■ **BRISTOL OPERA CLUB.**

Arabella Richard Strauss's charming and effervescent lyric comedy focuses on whether the aristocratic Arabella, performed by the radiant-voiced Renée Fleming, manages to find 'the right man' for whom she craves. All are welcome to The Apostle Room. Clifton Cathedral (Worcester Road Entrance) 6.30 for 7.00. Admission £8.00/ Students £1.00 - cash only please. Easy parking. Bar. Further details 01275 848526 borkmail100@gmail.com

November 14th

■ **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: "Jazz in the Garden" & Cafe on 10th October. 9.45am-2pm and our annual Winter Market & Cafe on 14th November 9.45am - 3pm.

REGULAR EVENTS

Various days

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

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

■ **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

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

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 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 elaine-fraser@tiscali.co.uk

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@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

WHAT'S ON IN OUR AREA

8-10pm. We are an active, social group with talks, craft, physical activities and outings. For more information visit <https://gloucesterroadwi.org> or email info@gloucesterdwi.org Visitors welcome (at a cost of £7.50).

■ **POETRY UNLIMITED** – poetry circle meet on the First Tuesday of every month 11am - 12 midday. Basement Room, Café Kino, 108 Stokes Croft, Bristol, BS1 3RU. £2.50 - £3.00 donation towards the cost of the room. Bring a couple of poems to share, other poets or your own. Contact Dee: wetwo@gentlyblown.co.uk Web: www.poetryunlimitedbristol.weebly.com

■ **COMPANION VOICES BRISTOL** We are a 'threshold choir' looking for new people to join us. We meet in Easton on the 3rd Tuesday of the month from 7 to 9 pm to learn songs by ear and build skills in sensitivity/compassion/loving presence to sing at the bedsides of people nearing the end of life. To join/support us in this work, contact Valerie on bristol@companionvoices.org. Visit www.facebook.com/CompanionVoicesBristol and www.companionvoices.org

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

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

Tuesday and Saturday

■ **BRISTOL HF RAMBLING CLUB** We are a friendly sociable club with a variety of walks. We have 2 Tuesday walks of either 8-9 miles or 5-6 miles. On Saturdays we have varying length walks including a hill walk eg Brecon Beacons once

a month. If you would like more information please visit our website.

Wednesday

■ **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 tania lake@yahoo.co.uk

Thursday

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

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

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

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

■ **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

■ **THE READER** : We meet to share experiences using stories and poems that we read aloud; no pressure to read or talk. 11.30am

to 1.00pm at Bishopston Library. Dee Derbyshire 07980364909 & Juliet Harvey

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

■ **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

■ **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

WHAT'S ON IN OUR AREA

and secular music. See website www.henburysingers.org contact secretary at secretary@henburysingers.org.

Friday

■ BRISTOL SPANISH CIRCLE

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

■ **COFFEES AND CRAFT** at Horfield Baptist Church, This community event is open to all who enjoy making and doing activities with their hands. Please bring your craft to work on and expect to have a relaxing and social time. When: 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

NEWS



Mud pies, anyone?

CHILDREN at Elmlea Infant School in Westbury on Trym are enjoying a new outdoor learning environment.

The school's EYFS outside area has been designed to inspire curiosity, creativity and adventure, with dedicated areas including a mud kitchen, digging pit, performance stage, construction area and climbing equipment.

The facilities provide the four and five-year-olds with opportunities to explore, collaborate and develop their physical skills through play.

Becca Hine, headteacher at the Russell Education Trust school, said: "We are delighted with our new EYFS outdoor area. It provides our youngest learners with fantastic opportunities to develop confidence, creativity and independence while enjoying the many benefits of outdoor learning."

INNER VOICE THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS

THE HOUND OF THE BASKERVILLES
A HILARIOUS HIGH-ENERGY COMEDY-THRILLER

At the Arnolfini, Narrow Quay, Bristol

DATES/TIMES: 1st, 2nd & 3rd October: 7.30pm
3rd October: 2.30pm (signed performance)

TICKETS: £22 Standard - £18 Under 30's - £14 Under 18's & Concessions
Available on Headfirst, or via Arnolfini website:
<https://arnolfini.org.uk/whatson/the-hound-of-the-baskervilles/>
AGE RECOMMENDATION: 8+

Script by Olivier Award Nominees Steven Canny and John Nicholson
'Bursts with imagination, intelligence and twinkling irreverence'
The Guardian

■ ADVERTISING FEATURE

Inner Voice Theatre Company presents The Hound of the Baskervilles

MARKING the 125th anniversary of the classic Holmes and Watson whodunnit, Bristol's newly established 'Inner Voice Theatre Company' is delighted to be part of Arnolfini's exciting creative programme this autumn.

The Hound of the Baskervilles' is a hilarious modern take on a great British classic, with three fantastic young actors playing fourteen parts between them. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead in the garden of Baskerville Hall, his family estate on Dartmoor, with a look of terror carved on his face, and the paw prints of a gigantic hound beside the body, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are called in to investigate.

This production played to packed houses back in April at Bristol's legendary 'Tobacco Factory Theatres'. 'Audiences loved the show' (Tobacco Factory). 'Brilliant, funny, with a great cast and hundreds of jokes' (Gareth Edwards, veteran TV comedy producer).



FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Redland: Martin Fodor and Fi Hance (Green Party)

Changes to recycling containers

New recycling containers are being delivered in a phased programme over the next few weeks. Larger capacity will include bigger blue bags for cardboard, newspaper and cartons plus new red recycling bags for plastic and metal containers. Both are designed to be easier to keep closed so more litter proof and to encourage more recycling and less waste.

The old green boxes will be taken away for recycling.

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

When the rollout reaches your street, the 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 bin could also be replaced if they are not presented or are damaged.

Black recycling boxes will remain the same to present glass containers for recycling.

There will be full instructions available by leaflet and online.

A collection service for plastic film (soft plastic bags) is still being developed and we're watching closely to see if processing capacity in the industry can be encouraged to support markets.

Redland Green needs tlc

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

We've been pursuing two matters. The zip line was closed due to deterioration of the timber and the risk this could be unsafe. Tests were carried out and professional examination to see

how serious the damage was, but the good news is that it can be fixed and this has been followed up to get it repaired.

The other matter has been the sighting of rats in the play area. The play team have liaised with Pest control and parks maintenance. Hedges are being cut back to discourage nesting rats but it does seem there are limits to what can be done in an extensive open area. If more advice is available from pest control to suggest more can be done then this will be looked at.

A Charter for the River Avon

We're delighted that the city council made an all-party decision in September to approve a charter of rights for the river Avon. We join all the other local councils in the Avon river basin who have agreed with campaigners for a cleaner river that these rights should be taken into account when future developments or management decisions are proposed that will affect the natural flow and health of the river. Martin worked with campaigners and colleagues to help give the river a voice of its own which could help initiatives to restore and protect it.

Summer on the Downs

Thankfully the dry weather has diminished now and the Downs are returning to their former lushness. Some residents have raised fears that the areas of long grass were a potential fire hazard but we have been reassured that such areas do in fact decrease the risk, as it keeps the earth cooler and damper, along with improving soil quality.

On a less positive note, we do seem to have received an increased

number of complaints about noise nuisance from the various events that took place this year. The income from these is sorely needed but Fi is looking into how we can monitor and record the impact on residents more consistently so that we can form a more accurate picture.

Trader prosecuted

Following reports of illegal vape sales the council has investigated and enforcement teams have acted. They secured the withdrawal of a licence to trade by a shop selling illegal vapes and cigarettes in another neighbourhood and if any evidence is available about local shops then they will take action.

Trees protected

Following concerns by residents a Tree Protection Order [TPO] has been served to protect the two cypresses at Redland Green School. Because of community concern about the copper beech, that tree was also included in TPO 1531 so we can better control what happens to it in the future. While this doesn't rule out felling or cutting back the order does mean an application has to be made and justified.

A similar process to increase protection is being assessed for the sycamore wood behind Gloucester Road shops and North Road in St Andrews.

Adult Social Care providers' consultation

A consultation relating to the five In-House Provider Services of adult social care is under way until Monday 16 November. You will find

the consultation on the Ask Bristol website.

It will provide opportunities for colleagues, people who draw on the care and support of the services, their families and carers, residents and other stakeholders to share their views. We know there's a lot of interest and concern about these services.

Once it closes in November, responses will be analysed and an outline business case will be developed, including recommendations relating to the future of the services. This may be decided in committee in March. If you have any questions, please contact ASC.Consultation@bristol.gov.uk.

Cut back hedges

It's near the time of year when hedges, trees and shrubs are most likely to be 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 or /cllrfi.hance

NEWS

MEET Billy – and discover a whole new way of seeing the world with him – in a second publishing success from local author, Geoff Stock.

Following on from his first children's book, published in 2023, Geoff now introduces us to 'Trampoline Boy', a beautifully written and illustrated story for 4-8 year olds, perfect for young dreamers and adventurers.

Whilst bouncing as high as he can on his trampoline, after a terrible day at school, Billy soars off into the cosmos, seeing Planet Earth from afar in all its beauty and

Another story

majesty. However, as he flies closer, borne on the wings of a magnificent bird, he sees the world changing – polluted, barren, dry, with families struggling to survive and creatures in danger. Billy returns home from his unforgettable adventure, determined to share what he has seen and heard, to encourage others to care for our planet and to make a difference.

A former teacher, Bristol-born Geoff

established the Horfield Young People's Club in 1975 to improve youth facilities in the area, running it as leader for 50 years, and in 2017, was awarded an MBE for his services to youth and the community.

Geoff explained of his second book, which was published earlier this year: "This is a story for young children, but it has an important message for everyone about climate change and its far-reaching consequences, and I wanted to present this very relevant issue in a different way."

Trampoline Boy is available online at www.thetrampolineboy.com

■ VINEYARD NEWS with INGRID BATES

Decision still in the balance

SEPTEMBER is always an interesting month in the vineyard. There is a sudden shift from summer into autumn that seems to happen remarkably quickly within the first few days of the month. The mornings become crisp, the light changes and there's a clarity to the air that wasn't there just a few weeks before in August. Even the smell in the air is different as the plant life begins to shift away from growing and move toward the senescence of winter.

Last month I wrote about trying to decide whether we would pick the grapes at our Wrington vineyard at all this year. Frost earlier in the season had left us with grapes at quite different stages of development which made it hard to decide.

Since then, we've had quite a lot of rain. The berries have swelled and it now looks as though there is a decent amount of fruit to pick after all.

So the question is 'what we're going to do with it?'

We've decided not to make any still rosé this year, so we're considering using the grapes to experiment with something a

little different. At the moment though, that decision quite literally hangs in the balance. We're watching the sugar and acidity levels and letting the grapes tell us what they want to be!

If the acidity drops too far or the sugar climbs too high, they may find themselves heading towards a rather more spirited destiny. If we can retain good acidity while the sugar levels remain stable we might have the makings of something red and fizzy.

By the time I write next month, all of these decisions will have been made and harvest will be behind us. For now, it's a case of testing, tasting, watching the weather and waiting to see exactly what this rather unpredictable vintage wants to become.

And for anyone wondering about the pottery wine noggins I mentioned in the summer, they are coming! I'm hoping to have them available through the Dunleavy Vineyards website within the next month or so. Do get in touch about wine for your Christmas work events because we are



working with another local supplier to create a range of options for everyone.

E: hello@dunleavyvineyards.co.uk

W: www.dunleavyvineyards.co.uk

TikTok & Instagram: @dunleavyvineyards

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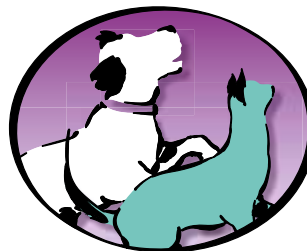
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NATURE WATCH with Dawn Lawrence

How the railways helped spread 'fireweed'

AUTUMN is here, offering the last sun-baked blackberries warm and jammy on the tongue (eat them quick – they become cursed after Hallowe'en). Meanwhile, all the birds of the year pass through our garden as they fatten up, or head south, for winter, the last butterflies suck the juices from fallen fruit and sweet, smoky bonfires blur the allotments. It is mellow and fruitful, as the poet says, softer and less sudden than spring but with that same feeling of changing course as we sail round from one main season to the next.

The fiery blossoms in the picture are now almost spent and their delicate seeds are flying away on silky feathers, catching the breeze and playing with the autumn light. This beautiful plant, growing up to two metres tall, is called rosebay willowherb and it is good enough for any garden (though it needs a firm hand to curb its enthusiasm). 'Rosebay' for its similarity to the Mediterranean flower of similar colouring which is more commonly known as oleander, and 'willowherb' for its slender leaves that recall those of our native willows. Also called fireweed, it is native right around the northern hemisphere and it has an unusual history in Britain.

Generally unremarked in the lowlands, it was a mainly northern plant that was found



As stunning in close up as it is en masse, this is rosebay willowherb.

Photo copyright Anne Burgess.

only occasionally in its favoured habitats of streambanks and tumbled rocks. But in the mid 18th Century it began to appear throughout Britain and its sudden spread was puzzled over – perhaps a more vigorous variety had accidentally been introduced or maybe a natural mutation had occurred. But the explanation appears to be much simpler: its increase coincides with the development of the railways. The airborne seeds followed the

slipstream of trains and the ballast used for the railbed formed a suitable nursery for this undemanding plant.

Fireweed thrives on disturbance, originally following erosion by rivers and rock falls. But mankind's own propensity towards creating disturbance provided it with an opportunity and it grasped it with its strong roots. The name fireweed comes from its ability to colonise areas razed by flame and after the bombings of World War II it colonised London bombsites on such a large scale that it became known as bombweed.

Once a scarce plant, rosebay willowherb (fireweed, bombweed, take your pick) is now easily found in verges, broken walls and rough lots all over Bristol (and indeed Britain). A similarly opportunistic species is Oxford ragwort. This cheerful little plant, related to our own blazing yellow common ragwort, was discovered on the slopes of Mount Etna and carried back in triumph to Oxford where it grew politely in the Botanic Gardens for decades. However, the railways lent it an escape route and it is now one of the commonest plants of our pavements and gutters. The adaptability of plants is a constant source of wonder.

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