

bishopstonvoice

November, 2026 Issue 166

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Top marks!

Filton Avenue Primary is celebrating after becoming one of the first schools in the area to receive an Exceptional grade from Ofsted for children's personal development and wellbeing. Report: Page 5

More 20mph limits planned

DOZENS more 20mph speed limits are being proposed in Bristol to try to reduce car accidents.

Among the roads under consideration are Kellaway Avenue, Wellington Hill West and Gloucester Road / Filton Road from the existing 20mph area to near the border with South Gloucestershire.

Green Councillor Ed Plowden, chair of the transport and connectivity committee, said the proposals had been amended following public

consultation. They were being considered by the committee after the Voice went to print and if agreed are likely to come in next year.

In England the default speed limit on street-lit roads is 30mph, which was set in 1934 after casualties from car accidents surged. Recently there has been a shift across the UK to 20mph speed limits, and Bristol rolled out these on many residential streets in 2010 and 2014.



Young dancers' UN mission

Youngsters from the north Bristol based disability dance charity Flamingo Chicks took an important message to the United Nations in New York. **PAGE 9**

Arts trail marks silver jubilee

The popular North Bristol Arts Trail celebrates its 25th anniversary this month with 110 artists and makers exhibiting at 56 venues. **PAGE 12**

'World's most costly bus lane'

A £23 million upgrade to the A4 Portway will make the route the "world's most expensive bus lane", a Bristol city councillor has claimed. **PAGE 29**

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December deadline

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NEWS

'Not all residents want parking controls'

RESIDENTS are split over proposals – now delayed – for parking restrictions in St Andrews.

The Voice reported last month on concerns from St Andrews Parking Action Group that the district had been moved down the priority list for a possible residents parking zone.

Its members said they were dismayed that controlled parking was now unlikely to be considered until 2029. They said unrestricted parking blighted the area and they wanted an explanation as to why a scheme promised in December 2025 had been delayed.

But a number of residents contacted the Voice to say that they were not in favour of a residents parking zone for St Andrews.

One said the action group did not represent a majority of people living in St Andrews.

The resident said: "The introduction of a RPZ in St Andrews would lead to further



Parking in St Andrews is a contentious subject

destruction of our precious front gardens by residents creating their own parking areas with the consequent loss of biodiverse habitat and an increase in water runoff into the streets.

"If the council believe that there is a problem associated with vans parked around St Andrews park, why don't they deal with this issue directly?"

"Why impose an unwanted and unnecessary parking scheme that penalises all vehicle-owning residents with a costly and

intrusive system of permits and clutters our Victorian streets with signs, lines and pay-and-display machines?"

This was backed by another resident who suggested that a 'no overnight camping' ban and some double yellow lines on the corners could deal with the issue around the park.

A third person commented: "There are some St Andrews residents who are frustrated with the delayed introduction to RPZ. That said, there are

also many St Andrews residents (including myself) who don't want RPZ introduced in our area and have campaigned against it for many years."

Councillor Ed Plowden, chair of the city's transport and connectivity committee, said in a blog on the council's website that residents' parking schemes could help people to park near their homes and encourage commuters to consider alternatives to single occupancy car use.

He stressed that getting parking charges and restrictions right was a balancing act and the council was continuing to have conversations with residents and businesses about the future of transport in Bristol.

The city already has a number of residents parking schemes and Cllr Plowden said the council was looking at bringing in more in south Bristol than areas in the north and east.

Any proposed RPS would be subject to public consultation.

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NEWS

Westbury Harriers stalwart honoured

GOOD wishes and congratulations have been ringing throughout Westbury Harriers Running Club, since club chair, Geraint Torrington, was recognised as an Unsung Hero of the Year at the England Athletics (EA) South West Region Volunteer Awards.

It was stated that: "Following the loss of his wife to cancer at the end of 2024, Geraint Torrington showed remarkable resilience by stepping into the role of Chair at Westbury Harriers in 2025. Bringing energy, humour and a positive outlook during a difficult personal period, he has helped drive the club forward while ensuring volunteers feel valued and supported. Geraint has served the club in numerous roles over the past 15 years, including Secretary, Development Coordinator and Men's Team Manager. Alongside chairing committee meetings and supporting club development, he organises the annual awards evening, supports cross-country teams, volunteers at club races and brings joy to younger members as Father Christmas and

the Easter Bunny."

Describing how he felt about the award, which was presented at a ceremony in Exeter, Geraint told the Voice: "It was an honour to be shortlisted and even better to receive the award. To be recognised for the work I do for the club is great, but it's something I enjoy and it's great to be able to see the results of the hard work of the committee be translated into success for the club. Success can be measured in many different ways and when we compete at cross country we have athletes aged 9 to 65+ taking part and mostly with smiles on their faces and that's great to see."

On their social media post, the club offered thanks to the EA South West team for organising the event, Olympian Jo Pavey for hosting and GB international Poppy Tank for sharing her thoughts on why volunteers make such a difference to the sport.

Geraint Torrington with Poppy Tank, left and Jo Pavey at the awards ceremony



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NEWS



Pupils arrive at Filton Avenue Primary School brimming with enthusiasm for the day ahead and breaktimes are joyful, Ofsted inspectors say

Exceptional! School celebrates rare top Ofsted grade

STAFF and pupils at Filton Avenue Primary School are celebrating after receiving a rare rating of 'exceptional' (the highest standard nationally) for children's personal development and wellbeing at its recent Ofsted inspection.

The large primary school in Lockleaze Road was also rated as 'strong' in four other inspection categories - standards of curriculum and teaching, early years, inclusion, and leadership and governance - and meeting expected standards in achievement, attendance and behaviour.

Inspectors praised the school's "transformational impact" on oracy, resulting in pupils who "are confident, articulate and have a sense of wonder about the world around them. Leaders have deliberately designed all aspects of school life to build pupils' character, resilience and sense of responsibility".

It was noted that children enjoy a broad range of enrichment opportunities, to enhance learning and aspirations, and "fulfil an array of purposeful leadership roles that enable them to contribute to the school community. These roles are highly

prized, and those who hold them are shining examples to others".

Highlighting an "ambitious and well-sequenced" curriculum, the report noted how well pupils are prepared for the next stage of learning, with staff showing "the expertise they need to adapt teaching effectively so that pupils with SEND can learn alongside their peers".

And as for the children themselves? "Pupils love attending this school and arrive brimming with enthusiasm for the day ahead. They have positive attitudes to learning. Breaktimes are joyful and harmonious, and pupils of all ages cooperate well with one another," the Ofsted report said.

Headteacher Dan Rodeck said the school was proud that the inspectors were able to recognise what makes Filton Avenue Primary so special, reflecting the dedication, care and commitment of all involved.

"We believe that everyone can learn, everyone can achieve and everyone belongs, and it is particularly pleasing to see inspectors recognise the impact this ethos has on the lives of our children," he said.

"Seeing our pupils arrive each day full of

enthusiasm, ready to learn and contribute to their community, is something we are immensely proud of.

"The outcomes are really important for the community and one of the best bits about it all, for me, is being able to repay the faith that parents and carers have shown us over the past decade or so. While we are proud of what has been achieved, we remain committed to continually improving and ensuring every child receives the very best education and opportunities possible."

Filton Avenue Primary School is part of Amplify Education multi academy trust.

Neil Blundell, CEO of Amplify Education, added: "We are incredibly proud of everyone at Filton Avenue Primary School. This report captures what makes the school such a special place: high expectations, a deep commitment to inclusion and a relentless focus on helping every child flourish.

"The recognition of exceptional personal development and wellbeing is particularly significant. This achievement is a testament to the leadership of Dan Rodeck and his team, the dedication of staff and the support of families and the wider community."

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■ HORFIELD ORGANIC COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Trees bring new hope for a fruitful future

"If I knew the world would end tomorrow, I would still plant new apple trees today." I love this phrase. It's attributed to Martin Luther, the 15th century theologian who sparked the radical change to Christianity known as the Protestant Reformation. His life and times were at least as challenging as ours. Planting new fruit trees is always an act of faith in the future. It's also a direct action for local food, climate, and nature resilience.

Apple and pear trees do not grow true from seed. If you desire a particular variety it must be propagated by grafting or budding. An unusual combination of dexterity and strength is needed to prepare and bind together the tissues of two hardwood cuttings. It's even trickier when the living wood is only finger thick. Since 2023, orchard volunteers have risen to this challenge. I'm pleased to report no fingers have been lost!



Apple Tree Lady at work in the HOCO tree nursery

The grafts are prone to splitting apart until the living cells form a strong bond. Because the root volume is tiny, the baby trees are vulnerable to water stress. This

year's high temperatures, beating sunshine, and gusting winds tripled the distress. They often needed daily watering. Our excellent value HOCO grafted

Apple and Pear trees are now available for ordering for collection in November. The trees have been lovingly looked after and watered by orchard members for the whole of the growing season. Order quickly! We only have small numbers of each variety.

To help get your new trees off to a sure start, the Apple Tree Lady is offering short how-to sessions on the collection dates. Her tips and advice are informed by the predicted impact of the super El Niño on the 2027 growing season.

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

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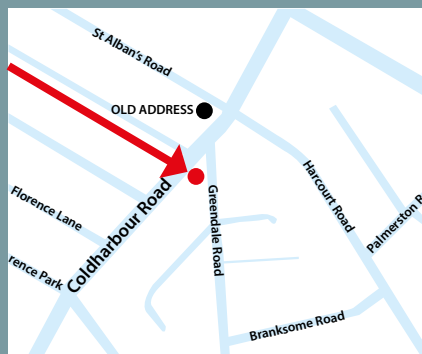
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■ ADVERTISING FEATURE

Navigating Christmas as a separated family - Katie Thomas looks at arrangements for children over the festive period

For children, Christmas is a time of joy, excitement and spending time with their loved ones. For separated parents, Christmas can be a complicated time as you try to navigate where the children should spend Christmas.

Both parents are likely to have their own wishes about Christmas and their own traditions.

Where should the children spend Christmas? There isn't a clear outline or guidance which answers exactly where or how a child should spend their time over Christmas. Ultimately, it is for the parents to work together to make an arrangement which works for everyone, especially the children.

Parents are encouraged to consider Christmas arrangements as soon as possible so they can manage the children's expectations regarding Christmas.

Commonly, parents will choose to alternate Christmas between them,

allowing both parents to spend Christmas with the child every two years. Some parents prefer to split the day, so the child can spend the morning with one parent and the afternoon with the other parent. There is no one right answer and it is all about finding what works best for you and your family.

What if the parents can't agree? If parents are not able to reach an agreement, there are a number of options available to them:-

Mediation - This involves a neutral mediator discussing the topic with parents to help them consider the options and each other's views. This can be a useful tool in helping parents to work together to reach an arrangement which not only suits them, but crucially considers the child's best interests;

Solicitor involvement - A solicitor can help you by providing you with advice and by drafting a letter to the other parent to set out your

proposals. A Solicitor can also advise on other options for resolving matters outside of Court;

Court proceedings - If you have tried the above options and still cannot reach an agreement, you can consider an application to the Court.

Tips

- Plan early- raise the subject with your ex-partner as early as possible to avoid potential disruption to the festive period;
- Try to establish a pattern. This will help to prepare the children and manage their expectations;
- Communicate clearly- Keep the other parent informed of your Christmas plans and ensure plans are clearly communicated to the children where appropriate;
- Don't involve the children in these discussions until a plan is finalised as this could make them uncomfortable or feel as though they have to pick a side.



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NEWS



Move over world leaders – Flamingo Chicks take to the UN stage

NINE young people from Bristol-based inclusive dance charity Flamingo Chicks took centre stage at the United Nations in New York, making a speech about breaking down barriers to inclusion and a fair future for all children.

Bringing together young people from the UK and the USA, the group shared different communication styles, spoke with confidence and supported one another beautifully.

Katie Sparkes MBE, founder and CEO of Flamingo Chicks, described what it meant to them: "It was so important to have these powerful voices heard."

"Our Agents of Change showed what can happen when young people are given the platform, support and opportunity to lead change, and what true inclusion can look like

when disabled and non-disabled children work together as equals."

After the speech, the group's global dance project was shown on the UN's big screens. Delegates from 53 countries watched it, sparking conversations about inclusion around the world.

While in New York, Flamingo Chicks also went on tour, visiting media outlets including NBC News, The Week Junior USA, PIX11 and UNICEF's Media Team, sharing Flamingo Chicks' inclusive interviewing guide and techniques. They also met New York City Ballet, American Ballet Theatre, Limón Dance Company and the Marionette Theatre to share the organisation's inclusive dance curriculum and exchange ideas.

On the final day in New York, they worked

with Unicef's disability team and, following the visit, sent a report with recommendations for making the UN Headquarters experience more accessible for disabled visitors.

Flamingo Chicks is now building on the connections made in New York, developing new partnerships and working to turn this remarkable moment into lasting change.

The charity has space for new young people to join the Agents of Change programme, so please get in touch to find out more (www.flamingochicks.org). Open to disabled and non disabled people aged 6-21, they meet monthly on Zoom plus special trips and experiences.

Watch the speech on Flamingo Chicks' YouTube Channel: <https://tinyurl.com/266csjbf>



The Agents of Change inside and outside the UN building

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NEWS



BDAA founder Tony Hall congratulated by chair William O'Neill, above
Left: Joe Sims with Collegiate School students

Dementia charity salutes hero carers and supporters

AN afternoon tea at the Aztec Hotel & Spa celebrated all those making a difference to the lives of people affected by dementia across the city, as Bristol Dementia Action Alliance held its awards ceremony for 2026.

Actor and BBC Radio Bristol presenter Joe Sims hosted the event for the third year running. He thanked everyone in the room for leaving the world a nicer place than they found it and shone a light on all the brilliant individuals, groups and organisations making a difference to the lives of those affected by dementia.

BDAA was delighted by the number of nominations received this year. The awards highlight the fantastic work taking place across the city to raise dementia awareness and support those impacted by dementia. The deciding panel included experts from organisations other than BDAA.

Acknowledging all the finalists, BDAA added: "Being recognised as a finalist is a fantastic achievement, and we are grateful to everyone who took the time to nominate and celebrate the amazing work happening across Bristol."

"A massive thank you to the Aztec Hotel & Spa for their wonderful hospitality, to all our sponsors for helping make the awards possible, and to our fantastic volunteers who worked so hard behind the scenes."

"And last, but definitely not least, a huge thank you to the brilliant Joe Sims, who once again hosted the awards with such warmth and enthusiasm. We are so grateful that he gave up his time to help make the afternoon so special. Congratulations to everyone involved. You should all be incredibly proud."

BDAA chairperson William O'Neill said: "These awards shine a spotlight on the extraordinary people and organisations helping to make Bristol a more dementia-aware city. The standard of nominations was exceptionally high and reflects the passion and commitment of those supporting people affected by dementia every day. We are proud to celebrate their achievements and the positive impact they have across our communities."

Any businesses, organisations or groups wanting to apply for the awards next year can contact BDAA on office@bdaa.org.uk to express their interest.

BDAA AWARDS 2026

Barbara Award: Collegiate School
Community Care Award: Home Instead Bristol North
Community Fundraiser Award: Teresa Grunshaw
Corporate Fundraiser Award: Briggs & Forrester Engineering
Place of Worship Award: Westbury Baptist Church
Volunteer of the Year Award: Mary Jones
Corporate Award: Wessex Water
Dementia Hero Award: Beverley Forrester
Dementia Friendly Space Award: Age UK Bristol
Innovation Award: Mini Concerts
Organisation Award: Co-op Avonmouth & Your Care South-West
VCSE Organisation Award: Alive Activities
Residential Care Award: Bristol Care Homes
Informal Carer Award: Teresa Grunshaw
Small Business Award: Sweet Silent Disco
Dementia Research Award: Brace Dementia Research
Special Recognition Award: Dr Julie Clayton



An enjoyable afternoon at the Bristol Dementia Awards event



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ADVERTORIAL

Left to right, works by Caroline Casswell, Nancy Chambers and Nika Nazarova-Evans

25 years of North Bristol Arts Trail

THE North Bristol Arts Trail returns on 28-29 November 2026, marking its 25th anniversary with 110 artists and makers exhibiting at 56 venues across six Bristol neighbourhoods.

Studios, homes and exhibition spaces in Redland, Bishopston, Henleaze, St Andrews, Ashley and Horfield will open to the public

from 10am to 5pm on both days.

Visitors can explore North Bristol through the eyes of its artists, discover original work, meet local creatives and buy directly from them. The free event will feature painting, printmaking, photography, ceramics, textiles, sculpture, jewellery and more, with pieces available across a wide

range of styles and budgets.

With 56 venues to discover, visitors can create their own route through the neighbourhoods, find unique Christmas gifts and support Bristol's independent creative economy.

The anniversary marks an important milestone for the volunteer-led event, which has grown through the commitment and enthusiasm of the city's creative community. This year's event will support Prodigal Arts, which helps ex-offenders reduce re-offending through positive creativity expression.

Caroline Casswell, co-chair of the volunteer committee,

said: "Over 25 years, the trail has become a much-loved part of North Bristol's creative life. It gives artists and makers a platform while bringing communities together to discover and support independent talent. We expect this anniversary trail to be our biggest and most exciting yet."

Entry is free, making the North Bristol Arts Trail an accessible and inspiring weekend for art lovers, families and anyone keen to explore the city's creative talent.

For the full list of artists and venues, the downloadable trail map and further information, visit northbristolartists.org.uk.



EVENT DETAILS

What: North Bristol Arts Trail - 25th Anniversary
When: Saturday 28 and Sunday 29 November 2026, 10am-5pm
Where: Redland, Bishopston, Henleaze, St Andrews, Ashley and Horfield
Who: 110 artists and makers at 56 venues
Entry: Free

28-29
November
2026

10am-5pm

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25th Anniversary

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NEWS

No to village green bid

COUNCILLORS have voted against protecting Turbo Island as a "town or village green", marking the end of a two-year battle.

The site in Stokes Croft has long been a focal point for the community, including the many homeless people in the wider area, who can often be seen sitting and chatting there. It is known as an icon in the countercultural and anything-goes neighbourhood.

Approving Turbo Island as a village green would have guaranteed the public's legal right of access.

The decision was taken by city councillors on the public rights of way and greens committee on October 1. They were informed by a thorough report from an independent barrister, known as an inspector.

The inspector, Douglas Edwards KC, suggested councillors should refuse the application. This was partly because of the high prevalence of people taking drugs and committing crimes there. Another problem the re-

port highlighted was that homeless people often drink heavily at Turbo Island.

Benoit Bennett, one of the applicants, told the committee "drinking to excess" was a popular pastime in the UK. He added the location was an important gathering place for homeless people, who shouldn't be discriminated against. While Mr Bennett is involved in the People's Republic of Stokes Croft, his application was not submitted by the community group.

In a written statement to the committee, the applicants said: "The drinking of White Cider should not be considered less favourably to the drinking of Pimm's or nice wine."

Two years ago Turbo Island was bought by Out of Hand, a Bristol-based advertising company whose name is visible on many billboards across the city, including on the site. Its commercial director Nigel Muntz, welcomed the decision and said the company had no plans to develop the site.

By Alex Seabrook, LDRS

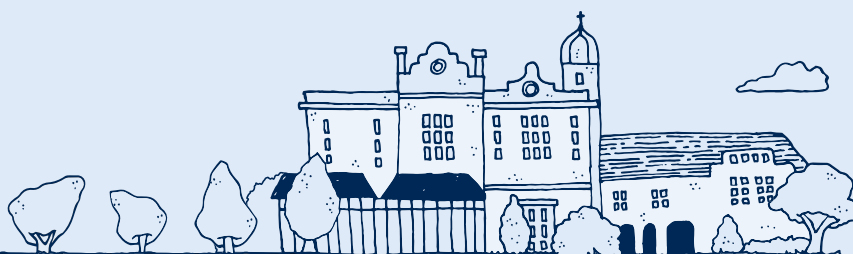


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EDUCATION

India link

CLIFTON College has announced an international partnership in India.

It is linking with Light-house Learning to launch PSG Clifton International School in Gurugram.

The former Pathways School Gurgaon is one of India's most prominent schools.

The three institutions will work together to explore new approaches to preparing young people for a rapidly changing world.

Dr Christopher Stevens, executive head of Clifton College Education Group, said: "This is a unique opportunity to collaborate with a leading education group and an outstanding school to enhance existing strengths and look towards an exciting future together. Our spirit and values are well aligned and we share a common commitment to helping young people flourish through the power of a child-centred education."

Judo champ inspires girls

REDMAIDS' High School welcomed British judo champion and Commonwealth Games medallist Lele Nairne for an assembly with junior pupils.

Fresh from securing a bronze medal for Team England in the women's -57kg category at the Glasgow Commonwealth Games this summer, Lele shared her inspiring sporting journey and the lessons she has learned through dedication and perseverance.

Having started judo at the age of eight, Lele spoke about discovering her passion for the sport and the determination that has driven her to compete at the highest level. She encouraged the girls to always believe in themselves, embrace challenges and never give up, even when faced with setbacks.

The assembly highlighted the many benefits judo has brought to her life, including increased confidence, courage, new skills and lasting friendships. Above all, she emphasised the importance of enjoying the journey and having fun along the way.

Lele's impressive sporting achievements include competing at the Birmingham Commonwealth Games in 2022, representing Team GB at the Paris Olympic Games in 2024, and most recently winning Commonwealth bronze this summer.

As Redmaids' High's lead judo coach, Lele is already proving to be an inspirational role model.



Junior headteacher, Mrs Newton said: "It was a privilege to welcome Lele to our Junior School and hear about her journey. Her message of resilience and self-belief resonated strongly with our pupils and reflects the values we encourage every girl to develop. We are thrilled to have Lele as part of our judo coaching team and look forward to seeing the positive impact she will have on our girls."



Henleaze Infant School

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



Cotham Gardens Primary School

Celebrating Diversity, Learning Together



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



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SCHOOL



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With twice-weekly swimming and dance lessons, outdoor learning and specialist teachers, our Pre-Reception and Reception classes are the perfect place to start your daughter's educational journey. Applications open for entry in September 2027.

Explore Pre-Reception and Reception at Badminton School Prep.

Pre-Reception & Reception 'Stay & Play' session

Friday 27 November

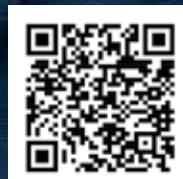
Visiting Morning (ages 3 – 18)

Friday 20 November



Inspired
today

Unstoppable
tomorrow



**Bristol
Grammar
School**

**Reception Open Morning
Tuesday 17 November**

■ PHARMACY COLUMN

Looking after your health and wellbeing



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

WINTER can be a beautiful time of year, but it can also be incredibly difficult. As the days grow shorter and temperatures fall, many of us face challenges that go far beyond coughs, colds and seasonal illnesses.

For some, winter brings loneliness. For others, it means worrying about heating bills, managing existing health conditions, or simply finding the energy to get through another day while caring for and supporting others.

If you are finding things difficult, please remember: you matter, your health matters, and you do not have to face everything alone.

Looking after our wellbeing means caring for both our physical and mental health. They are deeply connected. Getting enough rest, eating nourishing meals, staying active and maintaining contact with friends, family and neighbours can make a real difference. Even a short walk,

a conversation or a moment of kindness can help lift someone's day.

We will always make time for you at Kellaway Pharmacy but looking after ourselves also means knowing when to ask for help.

Kellaway Pharmacy is more than somewhere to collect medicines. It is a community health-hub: a place of care, compassion, reassurance and practical support.

Through the NHS Pharmacy First service in England, our pharmacists now assess and treat common conditions, providing effective treatments including antibiotics for infected sore throats, sinusitis, earache and urinary tract infections. You can receive the advice and treatment you need without waiting for a GP appointment.

Winter also brings increased risks from flu and Covid, particularly for older people and those with underlying health conditions. Vaccination remains

one of our most important protections. Remember that unpaid family members with caring responsibility are eligible for the free NHS flu vaccination.

We will help you understand your eligibility and access NHS flu and Covid-19 vaccinations where available. Our super affordable private flu and Covid vaccination offer is designed to make being protected easier.

And if improving your weight or managing your long-term health is a priority, we offer supportive, confidential conversations about healthy weight management, lifestyle changes and appropriate treatment options. Our affordable ethical weight-loss clinic is transforming the health and wellbeing of many people locally.

There should be no judgement, no embarrassment and no shame in asking for support.

Perhaps most importantly, let's look out for one another. Community is where the

treasure of life is. Check in on neighbours, call someone who lives alone. Notice when a friend seems withdrawn. Small acts of kindness can have an extraordinary impact. Volunteer if you can, our community most certainly needs you!

In our pharmacy, we see every day that healthcare is not simply about treating illness. It is about listening, understanding and helping people feel valued.

This winter, please don't wait until things become overwhelming. Come in and see us, have a conversation and please let us help. Call us on 0117 9246579

Because a healthier winter begins with compassion, connection – and the reassurance that nobody should be left behind.

**Need FREE NHS
regular or
emergency
contraception?**



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NO APPOINTMENT
REQUIRED

If you're already taking oral contraception (the pill), looking for your first supply, or need emergency contraception, you can arrange a confidential consultation at:

Kellaway Pharmacy
18 Kellaway Avenue

Tel: 0117 924 6579

■ NEWS

Church to mark 80 years

WESTBURY-on-TRYM Baptist Church will be commemorating its 80th anniversary in 2027. There will be an Anniversary Celebration Service on Sunday April 25 and a community day of celebration on Saturday June 19, 2027.

The buildings have grown from the original huts to the buildings that can be seen today on Reedley Road – buildings that have been used and continue to be used for so many things alongside the regular worship services.

The church is planning to put together a book of memories and would love to include as many as it can.

Maybe you have memories of your connection with the church through toddler groups, pre-school, uniformed organisations, youth club, young people's fellowship, women's fellowship, Senior Circle, Tuesday Together, Tuesday Lunch, Refresh Lunch Café, Refresh Saturday Café, dedication services, baptisms, weddings, School Bus Coffee Stop, film night, Table Talkers, and many more.

So many organisations have been able to use the church building for their activities and meetings over the decades and the church would be delighted to hear about these and any other memories you'd like to share.

And please do pass the message on to those who may have moved out of the area, but who would still have great stories to include.

For more information or to share a memory for the book, please email Annie at: eighty@westburybaptist.org.uk. They are looking forward to hearing from you.



SOMETHING TO SAY? WRITE TO US:
news@bishopstonvoice.co.uk

COMMUNITY NEWS

FRIENDS OF REDLAND LIBRARY

ON Thursday **November 12**, the Friends of Redland Library are hosting a talk on From Page to Screen, A Life in Stories given by Jayne Chard, the multi-award-winning film and TV producer and local author.

Jayne Chard will give a behind-the-scenes look at storytelling, using her experience in theatre, film, and TV and the creation of the crime novels *More Than a Murder* and *The Body That Floats*.

Discover where ideas come from, how characters take shape, why locations matter, and what it really takes to turn a spark of an idea into a finished book. Along the way, Jayne shares insights into the writing process, the challenges of bringing stories to life, and perhaps a few secrets of the trade.

Signed copies of Jayne's books will be on sale.

On Thursday **November 26**, Dr Shelley James will be giving a talk *Beyond illumination* - the science of light, darkness and human health.

Shelley is an international expert on lighting for health, TEDx speaker, author, member of the National Care Forum Consultancy Team, and visiting lecturer at the Royal College of Art and UCL Bartlett School of Architecture.

In this interactive talk, she will share the latest research and real-world results that reveal the central role of light in physical and mental health. Learn practical, affordable tips on making the best use of light and also on the surprising role of darkness.

Signed copies of Shelley's book, *Light! Your Essential Survival Guide*, will be on sale.

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

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

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

Finally, we need volunteers to help organise and publicise our events.

If you would like to volunteer, please email FriendsOfRedlandLibrary@gmail.com

WESTBURY ON TRYM VILLAGE HALL

MUCH is heard from government these days - both nationally and locally - on the need for volunteers. Many are now helping to maintain our parks and community gardens, running charity shops, and assisting in our schools, hospitals and libraries. Retired people continue to use their lifetime skills for the service of others and enjoy this as much, if not more, than when they were in full time paid work!

Westbury Village Hall is a shining example of what can be achieved by varying teams of volunteers who have looked after and improved it, believe it or not, for the last 55 years - since voluntary management took over in 1971. But new helpers are still needed to ensure its future in the uncertain world we occupy just now. So, have you signed up yet? Our campaign to assemble a list of supporters is still going - it began at the Village Show in September, when a large number of people joined us. No money is required, just your 'love and loyalty' - as is said!

Repairs and renovations are continuing, as money raised from hirings becomes available. The Hall, being a Grade II listed building, requires many and more complicated jobs than the average and often special planning permission, before work can proceed. We are very fortunate to have a retired, professional construction manager in our team, to give advice and guidance and approach responsible firms as appropriate for what is required. Experience in accountancy, publicity and secretarial work and book keeping, are offered by others. A team of volunteers has just completed a garden make over - restoring the lawn at the side of the Hall after the sad but necessary removal of the historic Chestnut Tree.

So you can join our 'Supporters Team' anytime by looking for the relevant page on our website. (any contact details given by you will be kept by the Trustees according to strict data protection rules). If you would like to have more detail about the newly modernized Constitution, hear the Annual report and Accounts for 2025-26, join us for the Annual General Meeting at the Hall on November 16th at 8pm, and sign up as a supporter of the hall (at no cost). - refreshments at the end.)

Hilary Long for the Chairman and Trustees



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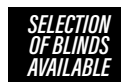
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■ FROM BRISTOL CENTRAL'S MP

My joy as council bans ads for fossil fuels

IT'S always a pleasure to be out and about in Bristol as the autumn weather draws in - dousing the city in a healthy glow of orange leaves (and the occasional welcome rainstorm!). And in the last few weeks, I've had plenty of opportunities.

Recently, I joined an event at Watershed to hear about the incredible work Common Ambition Bristol is doing to reduce stigma around HIV and encourage more people to get tested. I visited the new University of Bristol Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus, which they hope will create more opportunities for Bristol's young people (I travelled there by train from Redland, which also meant I got to try out Temple Meads' new eastern entrance for the first time!). And I met teachers and headteachers from across the city who are working hard to create more SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) school places - much needed. Some new facilities have already opened, and others are in progress.

In Parliament too I've been busy. After the Prime Minister signalled

his support for a closer relationship with the EU, I challenged him to go further. Bristol Central is the constituency with the highest support for rejoining the EU in the country, so I am determined to make that case for all of us. The Green Party has always said we hope to see the UK rejoin the EU once there is a settled majority in favour of doing so. That moment has been reached.

I've been re-elected as Vice Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Climate and started planning our work for the next year, including questioning the minister ahead of the COP31 climate conference. And I met constituents who had travelled to Parliament to talk about tackling the cost-of-living crisis.

While I continue to push for changes in national legislation on your behalf in Westminster, I want to make you aware of an opportunity for you to make a difference closer to home. Our council is working on a review of 'In-House Provider Services' for Adult Social Care. They want to hear residents' views on the Reablement Service that supports people to get their independence

and confidence back after illness or a hospital stay. insights and This consultation can be accessed at www.bristol.gov.uk/ask and is called the 'Reablement Consultation'. On this page you can also find other council consultations you can feed back on. At a time when many things can feel difficult and outside our control, it can be helpful to remind ourselves that there are meaningful ways to make your voice heard, and the council really wants your input.

Lastly, I want to celebrate a win for Bristol that was announced this September. The council has banned adverts for highly polluting products and services like fossil fuels, flights and fast fashion from all council-owned bus shelters, digital screens and billboards across the city. This builds on its earlier ban of tobacco and junk food ads. Our Green-led council is making huge strides on Bristol's climate and sustainability goals - working on public transport, infrastructure, home heating and community energy. So it makes sense to stop hosting adverts that undermine those efforts and run counter to our community values.



Carla Denyer
writes for
the Voice

This is a campaign I worked on and supported for almost a decade, so I am really chuffed to see it come to fruition.

• 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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Drop in and see how we can help

wards.uk.com

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Portishead | Staple Hill | Thornbury | Weston-super-Mare | Worle | Yate

Got news? Email: news@bishopstonvoice.co.uk

FROM BRISTOL NORTH WEST'S MP

The state of the water industry

OVER the past few months my inbox has been flooded with emails from constituents concerned about the state of the water industry.

Many of you have called for water companies to come back under public ownership. But nationalising the water industry would mean the government would have to spend money like water, with an estimated cost of £100 billion.

Instead, the government has focussed its efforts since coming into office on tackling the core problems with the water industry.

The upcoming Clean Water Bill, for example, will deliver major reforms to the water system – improving water quality and tackling pollution at its source.

There are strong measures in the Bill, including the creation of a single, powerful water regulator that has teeth to act where the current regulator has not – something that often frustrated me during evidence sessions as Chair of the former Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy Committee in

Parliament. The Bill also stipulates new MOT-style checks on water company assets and 'no notice' inspections – exactly what we need to rebuild public trust in our water industry.

And, at the end of September, it was announced that the Bill will also remove the limit on government ownership of shares in water and sewerage companies in England, which is currently capped at 1% to 3%.

Now, this isn't the first step to nationalisation of water companies – private sector investment will continue to play an important role. Frankly, it must. But the announcement gives the government flexibility to consider a wide range of possible future interventions and ownership models.

One ownership model that I'm particularly supportive of is the idea of mutually owned water networks for new towns – accountable to residents, not shareholders.

The Clean Water Bill builds on

the reforms that have already been introduced in the government's Water (Special Measures) Act 2025, which came into force in February 2025. This Act introduced measures to increase the ability of the Environment Agency to bring criminal charges against water bosses who break the law – with executives facing possible imprisonment if companies fail to cooperate or obstruct investigations.

The Act also pulled the plug on bonuses being paid to water bosses who fail to meet high standards to protect the environment, their consumers, and their company's finances. In 2025, six water companies were banned from paying bonuses totalling more than £4 million thanks to this Act, including Wessex Water – the company responsible for sewerage services in Bristol. (To its credit, though, Wessex Water is now spending £8.5 million a month over the next five years on storm overflow improvement schemes.)

The biggest win is that the



Darren Jones
writes for
the Voice

Environment Agency has published data showing a 35% fall in sewage spills in 2025 compared with 2024.

Change is possible – and it has already begun!

• 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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The background of the advertisement features several autumn leaves in shades of red, orange, and yellow. A large, semi-transparent orange circle is centered in the upper half of the image, serving as a backdrop for the main text.

the place for you...

If you're making a move this autumn, let us take care of everything – and look after you every step of the way.



oceanhome.co.uk



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instant valuation
for your property.



ocean
estate agents

■ ADVERTORIAL

Britain's Installation Company of the Year is on your doorstep – and in the running to keep the title

Last year The Window Hub was named Installation Company of the Year at the G-Awards, the fenestration industry's biggest night. It was one of three national awards the Bristol, Exeter and Cardiff firm took home in 2025.

This year the judges have called them back. The Window Hub has been shortlisted to defend Installation Company of the Year at the G26 Awards, and is also a finalist for the Business Excellence Award on the same night. Before that, at the National Fenestration Awards on 24th October, the company is up for Customer Care Company of the Year and its Managing Director, Daniel Robb, is a finalist for Managing Director of the Year.

Four national finals in one year is rare for any installer. For a local,

independent company, it's almost unheard of.

Daniel, who has worked in the industry for over 30 years, says the credit belongs to the whole team. "Being asked to defend the title is a huge compliment, but the judges are really just confirming what our customers already tell us. Every installer, surveyor and office colleague we have is measured on one thing: would that homeowner recommend us to a neighbour? That's the award that matters."

Most of The Window Hub's work is replacing tired windows and doors in homes people already love, so the team is used to working carefully around family life and leaving every room clean and tidy. Installations are FENSA registered, and every job comes with an insurance-backed



guarantee from InstallSure, included in the price rather than sold as an extra. Quotes are clear, fixed and free, with no pressure and no gimmicks.

If your home is due an upgrade before winter, why not choose the company the industry itself rates

as the best installer in Britain?

Call The Window Hub free on **08000 219319**, or visit your nearest showroom in Bristol, Exeter or Cardiff for a free, no obligation quote.

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FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Redland: Martin Fodor and Fi Hance (Green Party)

Allotment rents

Council allotment rents are being raised by 3.1% (the inflation rate) for new tenants and for existing tenants after a year's notice in September 2027. Work is under way with allotment representatives to look at long term solutions to fix allotment funding which is still in dire straits, partly due to the council's financial situation and partly because rents remained stagnant for ten years under the previous administration. There should be a consultation on any proposals later this year – we will keep you posted.

Roll out of recycling containers

New recycling containers have been appearing across the ward to provide more capacity for recycling. This includes bigger blue bags for cardboard, paper and cartons together, plus new red recycling bags for plastic and metal containers. These are designed to seal better to be more litter proof. The old green boxes for packaging are being taken away and collected for recycling.

If you order replacement recycling containers before the rollout reaches your area, a delivery charge still applies].

The crew will remove your old blue bag and green recycling box and replace with new blue and red bags. Your brown food waste bin could also be replaced if they are not presented or are damaged.

Black recycling boxes will stay for glass container recycling.

There will be full instructions available by leaflet and online.

A collection service for plastic film (soft plastic bags) is under consideration [though most supermarkets do offer a take back bin] and we're watching to see if processing capacity in the industry grows to support markets. At this point the government has said the service will not be obligatory for councils until 2030.

New library strategy

Following a recent engagement programme and feedback from across the city a new draft Libraries strategy is due to be considered by the council in October, with a view to a final strategy being agreed in committee in January.

The draft proposals propose ways to make libraries more accessible and easier to use; working more with volunteers and local groups to support trained professional staff; and expanding what's offered with digital services and facilities for extended opening hours. There are no plans to close any libraries or reduce the library budget.

New E-scooter and bike parking

Since 2020 WECA, the regional authority, have managed a government trial for e-scooters and e-bikes. They are also providing the funding for more new parking bays to keep them stored off pavements and onto road space which the council is currently consulting on. This has always been an aim of the trial.

The key goal is to move as much of the parking as possible onto the road to keep pavements clearer,

and increase capacity and coverage of the parking network. The council has worked closely with Dott to work out priority areas and to try to site the bays as far away from the front doors and windows of houses as possible - wherever possible converting double yellow lines or redundant Car Club bays to minimise parking loss. Residents can share their views on the proposals by emailing citywide.initiatives@bristol.gov.uk before 11pm on 31 October. An online map showing the parking bay locations is also available for those wanting a more detailed view of the proposed sites. Feel free to copy us in if you wish to share your views.

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.

Redland Green gets 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 was that it has been reopened.

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 were cut back to discourage nesting rats but more needs be done to reduce their presence in the area. Fi sought further advice from pest control and they are continuing to lay concealed bait traps to deter them.

Adult Social Care providers' consultation

A consultation relating to the five In-House Provider Services of adult social care is now 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.

Contact us

Fi: Cllr.fi.hance@bristol.gov.uk
0117 3534720

Martin: Cllr.martin.fodor@bristol.gov.uk
0788 4736101

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[/cllrfi.hance](https://www.facebook.com/cllrfi.hance)

NEWS

Return of Refutrees

REFUTREES, Aid Box Community's annual Christmas tree fundraiser, is back for 2026. Each year, around 1,500 Nordmann Fir trees are sold, raising more than £30,000 to support refugees and people seeking asylum in the city.

The trees, from 3ft to 10ft, are grown in Frenchay and are available through online ordering (for home delivery only) and at the seasonal Refutrees Christmas tree shop. Delivery is £10, with all profits helping fund Aid Box Community's work, including emergency support, essential items and community activities.

Online ordering opens Wednesday November 11 for deliveries from Friday November 27. The shop opens on Thursday November 26 at St Bart's Church, Maurice Road, St Andrews, BS6 5BZ, and will be open every day until we sell out.

www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk/refutrees



We're a local roofing company providing all aspects of roofing.

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Contact Kieran

T: 07764 457408

E: Holbrookroofingbristol@outlook.com

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.

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
November 20th & 21st - Christmas
December 11th & 12th - Christmas

Looking for the perfect gift for a wine lover? - Gift a voucher for an upcoming tasting to round off 2026 or chose from **2027 specials** - Winter Classics - Venice -British Wines - Greek Wines

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

November 6 and 27

■ **COFFEE AND CRAFT** at Horfield Baptist Church BS7 8NT. 10.30am - 12.15. Bring your craft related project and enjoy good conversation. Tea or coffee and a biscuit or two. For further information please contact the Church Office. Tel 0117 924 3608 or office@horfieldbaptist.net

November 19

■ **BRISTOL OPERA CLUB** Verdi: - Rare and Medium Rare. Verdi's operas, both his masterpieces and less performed operas, are typically distinguished by their stirring, highly melodic music and compelling dramas. Andrew Borkowski will explore the superb music of some of his lesser known works, including I Lombardi, Giovanna d'Arco, I Due Foscari, Attila, and Luisa Miller. 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 Wednesday and Saturday 10-2. Interesting walled kitchen garden, free entry, new volunteers welcomed. Plants always available. Cash & cards accepted. Events: "Our annual Winter Market & Cafe on 14th November 9.45am - 3pm, and further cafe celebrating The Gwent League Races in Blaise on 5th December 9.45am-3pm

December 16

■ **CAROLS IN THE COURTYARD** At Horfield Baptist Church, 160A Gloucester Road, BS7 8NT, 5 to 6 pm. Please dress according to the weather and you may find a torch useful. Light refreshments will be served afterwards. For further details please contact the Church office. Tel: 0117 924 3608 or office@horfieldbaptist.net

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

■ WOMEN OF BRISTOL!

Our Nordic walking and indoor Women's Strength classes (free trial) are run by friendly, professional, experienced instructors. Nordic walking beginners are held on Clifton Down and Women's Strength classes in Henleaze & BS5. Visit www.bristolnordicwalking.co.uk & www.womensstrength.co.uk or call Ros 07886 885213.

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

■ ITALIAN CLASSES

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

■ BRISTOL HOME LIBRARY

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

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

Monday

■ **SHARED READING AT ST PAUL'S LIBRARY.** Meet and connect with others Mondays 2pm - 3.30pm. St Paul's Learning Centre, 94 Grosvenor Road, Bristol BS2 8XJ. Email: support@thereader.org.uk

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

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

■ WESTBURY ON TRYM WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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

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

WHAT'S ON IN OUR AREA

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

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

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

■ 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 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 rgs or whatever you would love to resurrect or mend! Every Wednesday in October at Clifton Library 10.30-12.30pm.

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

Thursday

■ Highbury Badminton

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

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

■ 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

■ MINDFULNESS YOGA.

Thursdays 5.30 - 6.30pm. Deepen your yoga practice & awareness, through a meditative & loving-kindness approach. Classes adaptable for beginners and intermediates. By donation. See

www.bristol-buddhist-centre.org/yoga/ for more details. Or email info@bristol-buddhist-centre.org

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

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

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

■ 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 <http://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

WHAT'S ON IN OUR AREA

Road, Bishopston BS7 8NT. Everyone welcome, no audition necessary. Contact us on bishoproadchoir@gmail.com

LOCAL CHOIR ACTIVELY

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

Friday

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

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

Getting set to light up the skies

FOLLOWING record ticket sales in 2025, Bristol Round Table and The Rotary Club of Clifton will again hold their firework display at Canford Park in Westbury-on-Trym on Saturday November 7.

The display raises thousands of pounds for charity, with the main beneficiaries being the Lord Mayor of Bristol's Children Appeal, which helps less fortunate families at Christmas, and both Bristol Round Table's and The Rotary Club of Clifton's charities, along with other good causes.

The pyrotechnics start at 7pm, with Skyburst providing a fabulous display of fireworks wizardry, all choreographed to a selection of pop music hits.

Popular family entertainment provider, Party Peeps, will keep the crowds entertained on the run-up to the display, with a Foam Party to end the night once the pyrotechnics have finished.

A range of outlets will provide hot and cold food and drink throughout the evening, along with the usual 'Glowsticks' stand and mobile sellers within the park, offering a variety of light-up goodies for the little (and big!) kids alike.

Tickets can only be purchased in advance of the event from the Fiesta's website - <https://bristolfireworksfiesta.co.uk> - priced at £12 per person with children aged three and under admitted free. Gates open for admittance at 5.30pm.

Organising an event? List it on our What's On pages

Tell us: **WHAT IT IS, WHERE IT IS, WHEN IT IS**
No more than 40 words please – email news@bishopstonvoice.co.uk

BOOK REVIEW

The Inseparables

by Simone de Beauvoir

SIMONE de Beauvoir wrote *The Inseparables* in 1954 but it was not published until 2020.

The novel chronicles her friendship with Elisabeth Lacoïn who died in 1929 at the age of 21. In the book Simone becomes Sylvie and Elisabeth is called Andree. They meet at a private Catholic school, where nine year old Sylvie is enraptured by Andree's forthright manner, her confidence, her cartwheels, her talent for literature and her mimicking of their teachers. Andree dramatically informs Sylvie that whilst cooking potatoes on a campfire, her dress caught fire and her right thigh was grilled to the bone.

The teachers refer to Sylvie and Andree as *The Inseparables* and they lose themselves for hours in discussions on property, justice and equality. They continue talking for twelve years, which was revolutionary at a time when girls and women were encouraged to keep their thoughts to themselves.

Andree has a controlling and conservative mother, Madame Gallard whose message to her daughter is join a convent or get a husband, remaining unmarried is not an option.

When Andree is bedridden for a year,

following the campfire accident, she is visited every day by her friend Bernard. As soon as Andree is better, she is ordered by her mother to end the friendship as his parents are outside their social circle and the mother has an outlandish lifestyle.

We follow Sylvie and Andree through their teenage years as they both pass the baccalaureate and enter The Sorbonne with Sylvie studying philosophy and Andree choosing literature. Andree begins a romance with a fellow student Pascal, much to the disappointment of Madame Gallard who is determined to marry off her daughter to someone befitting their social standing.

This is a compelling and engaging novel, skilfully translated by Lauren Elkin in pared down prose. Above all, it is a story about friendship between girls as they develop into young women. Witnessing how her best friend was crushed by society was clearly influential in developing the feminist work of Simone de Beauvoir.

For this book and many more please come and visit Bishopston Library 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

FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

Match Day road closures on Filton Avenue

Residents living near the Memorial Stadium will be aware that traffic management arrangements continue to be reviewed on Bristol Rovers match days. The council has been considering measures to improve safety for pedestrians and manage traffic around Filton Avenue during busy fixtures, after feedback from residents. We know road closures can affect local residents, so we would really value your feedback on how the arrangements are working in practice, or think something could be improved, please get in touch with us, and we can feed back to the club and the transport team.

Residents' Parking Zones update

We know many residents remain interested in the future of Residents' Parking Zones (RPZs) across north Bristol, and concerns have been raised to the timeline of this. The council continues to review parking pressures and consider how best to respond to concerns around commuter parking, displacement from surrounding schemes and growing demand for on-street parking. A lot of work is going on looking at how to implement these, and the order in which they will be implemented. We are asking for updates often, but we are hoping to get a more concrete timeline soon, and we thank residents for their patience about this, as we know how much of a concern it is to people in the area.

Recycling bags roll-out continues

We are delighted that the new recycling containers continue to be rolled out and many households will recently have received, or will shortly receive, new recycling bags. The new

bags are designed to make recycling collections easier and improve recycling rates across the city. The bags are larger than the old boxes, weighted to stop them blowing away, and easier to store.

If you've received your bags, please take a look at the information provided about what can and can't be recycled in them. If you have any feedback on the new bags, or have any questions, please contact Bristol Waste via their website, or let us know.

Lighting petition presented to committee

Thank you to everyone who signed the recent petition regarding street lighting concerns in our area. We were pleased to formally present the petition to the Transport and Connectivity Committee in September.

Good street lighting plays an important role in helping people feel safe when walking, wheeling and cycling, and getting lighting on this route remains a priority for us. We will now work with officers to find the best way forward for getting these new lights installed.

Major gas main replacement works on Muller Road

Wales & West Utilities is carrying out essential gas main replacement works along Muller Road, from Ralph Road to Eastgate Road, with additional works on Glenfrome Road and Stapleton Road. The programme is expected to run from October 2026 to June 2027, with a planned break over Christmas. Temporary signals and some road closures will be needed, so residents should expect disruption. We'll share further updates as later phases are confirmed.

Have your say on Bristol's Budget

Bristol residents are being invited to comment on proposals that will help shape the council's budget for 2027 to 2028. The council is facing a forecast budget gap of £26 million next year, rising to £67.5 million over the five-year financial planning period.

The consultation asks for views on a proposed 3 per cent increase in core Council Tax and a 2 per cent Social Care Precept to support adult social care. It also covers five proposed savings relating to community support, accommodation for people with mental health needs, supported housing for young care leavers, yellow box junctions and the Crisis Payment Scheme. The consultation closes at midnight on Wednesday 25 November. We would encourage residents to read the proposals and share their views, as the feedback will help inform the final budget considered by councillors early next year. You can fill in the consultation here: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/ask/find-consultation-engagement/consultation-engagement>

Keeping in touch

As always, if there are issues in the ward you'd like to raise, please don't hesitate to get in touch. We value hearing from residents and helping where we can.

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

More e-scooter parking planned

RESIDENTS are being asked for their views on the locations of up to 200 new marked e-scooter and e-bike parking bays in Bristol.

The proposed roll-out follows the introduction of 55 bays earlier this year. Around a third of the proposed locations will replace existing virtual parking, with the rest being completely new parking places. A substantial number of the bays planned will also be placed on the road rather than on pavements and footpaths, helping to keep walking routes clear and accessible for pedestrians.

Ed Plowden, chair of the city council's transport and connectivity committee, said: "E-scooters and e-bikes provide a convenient, affordable and low-carbon option for travelling in and around Bristol. As demand for these services continues to grow, it's important we have the infrastructure in place to support them.

"Thanks to additional funding from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, we've been able to identify around 200 potential new parking bay locations across the city. Before these are finalised, we want to hear from people about any site-specific issues we may need to consider.

"Poor parking has understandably been a source of frustration for many residents, especially on our pavements. By focusing this next phase on dedicated on-street parking bays, we can reduce pavement clutter and make it easier for people to ride and park responsibly.

Residents can share their views by emailing citywide.initiatives@bristol.gov.uk before 11pm on October 31. An online map showing the parking bay locations can be found at tinyurl.com/yckb76uj

Flu vaccine drive in schools

THE flu vaccine is being offered to all school-aged children across Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) to help protect them against the virus.

The immunisation helps to protect children, their families, friends and the wider community against flu and serious complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia.

Sirona care & health's team is visiting more than 360 schools over the next few months to give the vaccine to pupils from reception to year 11. The team vaccinated more than 74,500 young people in 2025.

Children who are home educated or do not attend school can book an appointment at a community clinic. Anyone who misses the school session can also be vaccinated in our community clinics.

The vaccine is normally given as a quick nasal spray. Sirona offers an injectable vaccine for children who cannot have the spray due to the porcine gelatine content, or if the spray is unsuitable or not recommended due to other health conditions.

Schools will email consent forms to parents and carers who are encouraged to fill them in as soon as possible to ensure their children are protected against the virus this winter. Only those young people with a valid consent will be vaccinated.

To book an appointment for a community clinic, contact the office via email on sirona.sch-immms@nhs.net or by calling 0300 124 5515.

The flu vaccination is also available for adults at higher risk. This includes people aged 65 and over, people 18-65 with certain long-term conditions, people who are pregnant and more.

■ VINEYARD NEWS with INGRID BATES

Grape harvest is gathered in

THE beautifully crisp, clear autumnal days and relatively dry weather we've been experiencing have made this year's grape harvest particularly enjoyable. Picking grapes is always much more pleasant when you're not battling the rain and it certainly makes getting vehicles on and off the vineyard much easier as well.

After suffering some frost damage during the first week of May, we were not expecting a particularly large harvest from our Wrington vineyard. We'd arranged for a small group of volunteers to help with the picking, but as we got started, we realised we had slightly underestimated how many grapes were actually there! The frost had wiped out the larger bunches, leaving lots of smaller ones instead. Visually, the vines didn't look particularly laden with fruit, but once we started picking, the grapes just kept coming. Our little team of volunteers ended up working much harder than anticipated, but by mid afternoon we got there and the van was loaded and ready to go to the winery.

This year we've done something different with our harvest. Rather than making our usual still wines, we've taken the grapes to our friend James Forbes, who runs Little Pomona

Cider in Herefordshire. James normally makes wonderful sparkling ciders, but this year he's turning our grapes into a pink, naturally sparkling pét-nat wine. We're all rather excited to see how it turns out, and hopefully it will be ready to enjoy next spring.

Last month, I mentioned our collaboration with the world-renowned Muchelney Pottery in Somerset, part of the celebrated Leach family of potters. We've created a small number of handmade, wood-fired stoneware wine-drinking vessels called noggins, which can be chilled in the fridge before use as a cup. They're now available through our website in various ways including a lovely (dare I say it) Christmas gift set!

For me, the end of harvest always little like New Year. The growing season is finished, the grapes are safely gathered in, and our thoughts are already turning to pruning and preparations for next year as a fresh blank slate. I'm particularly looking forward to getting our new vineyard site at Kelston ready to welcome visitors.

We'll soon start work tidying up and making it somewhere special that people can come and enjoy.



Noggins are here!

Photo: Stable Design

E: hello@dunleavyvineyards.co.uk

W: www.dunleavyvineyards.co.uk

TikTok & Instagram: @dunleavyvineyards

Facebook: @DYvineyards

Phone: 07779 085420

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■ NATURE WATCH

with Dawn Lawrence

Tuning into city's wondrous soundscape

WALKING back from Redland to Bishopston, with autumn well under way, my attention was attracted by the cheerful twitter of goldfinches flying over the lime-lined street. I looked up and barely saw the last one disappearing. I decided to listen all the way home, interested to know what other natural sounds I might hear. Next was the immediate clatter of a wood pigeon's wings against the browning leaves of one of those limes as it left the tree on urgent business. Around the corner the magnificent copper beech on Hampton Road was shifting in the breeze and making the very noise that the word "rustle" was invented for. The tops of tall trees are rarely still, even when it is calm at human height, and it must be an age old instinct to find the gentle sound soothing. The calls of great tits (probably) rang across the next street. In our family it is a rule that if you have to ask what bird made that funny noise the answer must be "great tit", they have such a huge vocabulary.

I stopped under a birch tree, it was almost silent but not quite, not catching as much breeze in its delicate leaves as the beech. In one of Thomas Hardy's novels (it seems likely to be *The Woodlanders* but I can't be sure) some of the characters know where they are in



One magpie, but no doubt another is nearby

Photo by Pete Birkinshaw

the woods just from the unique sound of each stand of trees – imagine! A magpie called suddenly from within the almost perfect leaf-globe of a hornbeam – chuck-chuck creeeek. One for sorrow... I waited and sure enough another chucked and swooped across the gardens, disappearing into the same tree – two for joy! They rarely leave you in sorrow,

as the originators of the ancient rhyme must have known. Being alert to these sounds, even if you don't know what is making them, will often reveal the beast to you if you just watch and wait.

Further on the sycamores stopped me in my tracks with their loud shushing, the loudest trees yet. Standing here I caught the busy buzz of a honey bee gathering yellow pollen from ivy flowers whilst a drone fly (a type of hoverfly with aquatic larvae) sipped the nectar in silence. Ivy's nondescript green umbels are a banquet to late insects, especially bumblebee queens preparing for their winter sleep. A robin suddenly threw a phrase from high in a sycamore, silver-sweet and distinctive.

I had scarcely noticed the sounds of the city on my walk but on Gloucester Road a scatter of pigeons appeared circling above the rooftops, their wingbeats drowned by the traffic. This pigeon panic can be a sign of a peregrine or sparrowhawk nearby but there was none to be seen. Nearly home, I thought I might finish with a herring gull cackling from a rooftop, or perhaps one of those strange bird-like scolds of a grey squirrel, but no, I had had my lot. And I was satisfied.

© Dawn Lawrence

■ NEWS

'Portway: world's most expensive bus lane' claim

A MAJOR road in Bristol will become the 'world's most expensive bus lane', a councillor claims.

More than £23 million has been committed to upgrade the A4 Portway, with works ongoing.

This includes 24-hour bus lanes, cutting speed limits, better junctions, road resurfacing and improved shared paths for pedestrians and cyclists.

A report to Bristol City Council audit committee said it was in the top 10 of the

authority's largest projects in terms of money to be spent, at number nine.

Cllr Jonathan Hucker (Conservative, Stockwood) told the meeting: "The Portway is costing a colossal amount of money. When it opened 100 years ago in 1926, the Portway was the world's most expensive road. It cost £800,000 to construct – £42m in today's money. So I would be interested to see how that compares with the Portway project today. When it was the world's most expensive road then, I suspect it will have the

world's most expensive bus lanes when the project is finished," he told the meeting on September 29.

Councillors on the transport and connectivity committee agreed to increase the scheme's budget by £1.35million from £21.7million to £23.1million in February because of rising costs.

The money comes from the government and is distributed by the West of England Combined Authority (Wecca).

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporter

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