

cliftonvoice

August, 2026 Issue 36

www.cliftonvoice.co.uk

FREE EVERY MONTH IN CLIFTON AND SURROUNDING AREA

College takes pride in inclusive culture

CLIFTON College is celebrating "transformative progress" in its work on Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging (EDIB).

During the year, pupils engaged in events including Diwali workshops, Black History Month, Lunar New Year, Ramadan, International Women's Day, Neurodiversity Celebration Week, Pride, and Show Racism the Red Card Day.

The College's EDIB work has also received national recognition, reaching the final stages of two award programmes.



Clifton College's Pride parade

Salon owner honoured

Fergal Doyle, who owns salons in Clifton and Stoke Bishop, is a finalist in the leadership category of national hairdressing awards.



Council wards set for shake-up

Council wards in Clifton could change if proposed reforms to boundaries go ahead. The changes aim to address population shifts.

PAGE 3

Tribute to The Bristol Dinosaur

A plaque to be unveiled in Clifton next month commemorates The Bristol Dinosaur.

PAGE 11

'We'll bring site back to life'

SHIPPING containers, a fresh food market, a garden, an art centre, performance space – these are just some of the ideas put forward for the former WH Smith site in Clifton Village.

Scores of people have responded to an online plea from the developers Sweet Projects for thoughts on the future of the site that has lain empty for many years.

There's still time to have your say – search for Clifton Down Road development online to find the interactive map.

Sweet has now got planning permission for a temporary pop-up restaurant on the site, although

it still has to receive licensing approval before setting a start date.

It says its long-term plans are "expected to include a residential-led scheme with a mixture of ground floor commercial uses".

Sweet Projects intends to work with the community to understand what is needed for the community..

"We are committed to investing in this area and we're excited to explore Clifton's strong identity and culture.

"We want the site to be open and active again, not fenced off and forgotten," it says.



cliftonvoice

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September deadline

Our September deadline is August 12. To ensure your news or letter is included, please contact us by this date. Advertisers are also asked to contact us by the same date.

Your views

Letters for publication can be sent to the above email addresses or by post to Letters, Clifton Voice, 16 Ashmead Business Centre, Ashmead Road, Keynsham, BS31 1SX. The editor reserves the right to edit your letter.

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Despite our best efforts, we sometimes get things wrong. We always try to resolve issues informally at first but we also have a formal complaints procedure. If you have a complaint about anything in the Clifton Voice, contact the publisher using the details below. We aspire to follow the Code of Conduct of the NUJ (National Union of Journalists), which holds journalists to a high standard of behaviour.

Further details of the complaints process can be found on the Voice website here, or can be obtained by contacting the Publisher.



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NEWS

NHS trusts join forces

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

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

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

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

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

There are 10 clinical services across BFT already working together as single, joined-up teams to reduce duplication and streamline services.

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

Bristol NHS Foundation

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

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

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

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

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

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

NEWS

Bristol set for ward boundaries shake-up

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

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

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

This was last increased from 68 to 70 elected members in

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

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

Among the key changes are:

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

Clifton Down ward would be extended to include the area around the University of Bristol.

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

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

member ward.

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

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

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

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

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

fit together.

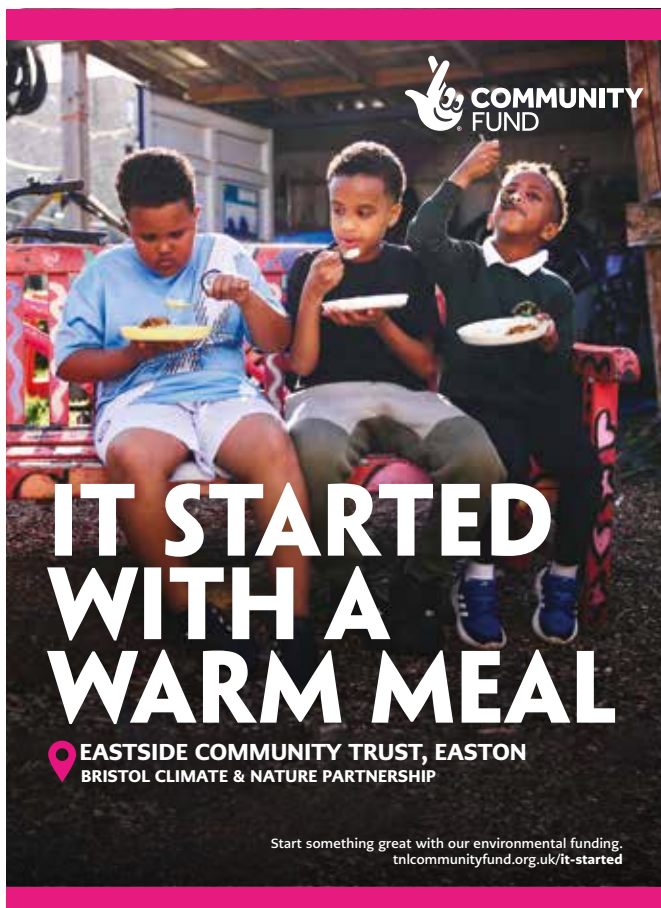
Share your views with the Boundary Commission about the places you identify with, how neighbourhoods connect, and whether the proposed wards reflect real community boundaries. Your input will help shape the final decision."

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

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

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

*By Adam Postans,
Local Democracy Reporter*



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CLIFTON BID

Clifton BID – supporting the businesses that make Clifton special

My name is Ruth Player, and I currently serve as Company Secretary for Clifton Village BID. I first became involved with the BID in 2021 when I joined KIBOU as the opening General Manager of our Clifton restaurant. KIBOU is an independent group of Japanese restaurants, and opening a new business in the heart of Clifton gave me a real appreciation for the unique character, community, and entrepreneurial spirit that make the village such a special place to work and visit.

Since then, my role within KIBOU has evolved, and I am now Head of People for the business, supporting our teams across the UK. Alongside this, I have continued my involvement with Clifton Village BID as a volunteer Board member. Having lived in Clifton for the past fifteen years, I have not only seen the village through the eyes of a business operator but also as a resident. This gives me a genuine understanding of how important a thriving local business community is to the wider area and the



people who call Clifton Village home.

One of the things I value most about Clifton BID is the way it brings businesses together and provides a collective voice. Whether it is improving communication between local businesses and Bristol City Council, representing the interests of traders on important issues, or helping navigate challenges facing the area, the BID plays an important role in ensuring businesses are heard and supported.

The BID is also instrumental in delivering projects and initiatives that benefit the whole village. From marketing campaigns and promotional activity that encourage people

to shop local, to events that bring residents, visitors, and businesses together, the BID works hard to create opportunities that help Clifton remain one of Bristol's most vibrant and attractive destinations.

Everything the BID achieves is driven by local businesses for local businesses. The Board is made up entirely of volunteers who are passionate about the future of Clifton and are willing to give their time, experience, and expertise to support the area. It is incredibly rewarding to be part of a group that genuinely wants to see Clifton continue to flourish.

If you are a business owner in Clifton, I would encourage you to get involved. Whether that means joining a working group, sharing ideas, supporting events, or even considering a future role on the Board, fresh perspectives are always welcome. The BID is strongest when it reflects the diverse range of businesses that make up our village, and together we can continue to shape a thriving future for Clifton.

NEWS

A MAJOR project designed to reduce the risk of flooding along the lower section of Whiteladies Road has at last been completed.

Work included fixing the uneven and narrow space on the pavements created by mature tree roots, to make it easier for people using wheelchairs or pushing buggies or prams to use the pavement.

A new cycle path, complete with new drainage and a repaved pavement, has been installed on both sides of the road.

Councillor Ed Plowden,

Whiteladies Road work completed

Chair of the Transport and Connectivity Committee, said: "I am pleased to see the improvement works along the lower section of Whiteladies Road completed. This stretch of road has experienced significant localised flooding over the years, particularly during periods of extreme weather; something that is unfortunately becoming more common because of the climate crisis.

"While the work has taken longer than expected, this section of one of Bristol's busiest roads is now better prepared for the future. I'm also glad that we've been able to retain the beautiful mature trees that line the street, while making it easier for cyclists and pedestrians to get around. I'd like to thank residents and road users for their patience throughout the works. I'd also like to thank the

local property owners.

"This project was designed to fit in with plans, which are not being taken forward, to improve Park Street and the Triangle but I hope we will be able to improve connectivity for active travel along these routes in the future"

This project was funded using the highways maintenance block allocation from the UK government's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement, secured by West of England Mayoral Combined Authority.

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NEWS

New era begins at Bristol Dockyards

ss Great Britain at Bristol Dockyards

Photo courtesy of Adam Gasson and ss Great Britain Trust



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

FROM BRISTOL CENTRAL'S MP

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Team Carla writes for the Voice

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

NEWS



Some of Badminton's swimming successes



Badminton swimmers at the national school championships in Sheffield

Girls are making waves

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

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

Individual swimmers continued to excel, with several pupils competing at

regional and national level.

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

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



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Casting light at Pump Room

WORK to transform a 19th century public bathhouse in Jacobs Wells into a multi-purpose community arts and heritage hub is making good progress.

Although restoration of the building is not expected to be completed until 2029 people living near the old Jacobs Wells Baths were last month invited to a preview of *Cast Light*, a new immersive installation by the internationally known artists Squid Soap.

It was presented by Trinity Community Arts as part of the Bristol Harbour Festival Fringe.

The preview gave visitors a chance to see the Pump Room which has been closed for many years.

"We're currently in the first phase of a long-term restoration programme to secure the future of Jacobs Wells Baths," said Emma Harvey, of Trinity Community Arts.

"Following removal of asbestos the main roof has been stripped back and assessed, with a glazed roof lantern planned as part of the rebuild," she said.

"This phase is on track to be completed by the end of September with scaffolding being removed later in the autumn."



The art installation at Jacobs Wells baths

Photo: Trinity Community Arts



BADMINTON
SCHOOL

Autumn Open Events



Sixth Form Open Evening
Friday 25 September

Whole School Open Morning (ages 3 – 18)
Saturday 10 October

Pre-Reception & Reception 'Stay and Play'
Friday 16 October



Scan to book your place

NEWS



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



Handing over the bags at Bristol Breast Care Centre

Scouts make bags for cancer patients

91st BRISTOL SCOUTS

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

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

The 91 bags were handed over to the team at the Breast Care x0Centre in June and the Group

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

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

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

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A view from the bridge

THE Clifton Suspension Bridge Trust has appointed a new Learning Officer to lead and expand its education and public engagement activities.

In her new role Hannah Heuston will manage the formal programme for schools and developing workshops for learners of all ages from early years to higher education.

Hannah will also play a key role in expanding the trust's family offer, building on experiences such as the popular visits to the bridge's underground vaults.

"The Clifton Suspension Bridge is such an amazing symbol of Bristol. What more iconic place to work? It's more than just a bridge; the stories behind it are incredible.

"I would encourage anyone visiting the suspension bridge to come to our museum, because it is free and you can discover the people, the history and engineering that brought it to life."

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FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

News from Green Party Clifton Down councillors George Calascione and Serena Ralston

Cool spaces needed

It's been punishingly hot this summer. Extreme heat is set to become a permanent feature of future summers too as climate change accelerates. So we desperately need spaces in the city where people can go and cool down. Do you have somewhere you'd like to nominate as a cool space? The council has worked with community members to put together a list of cool spaces such as churches and libraries but we could always do with more. We've been in touch with local spaces to explore this ourselves. Find out more on the council's heatwaves and cool spaces web page and/or email your ideas to sustainable.city@bristol.gov.uk

Apsley Road update

Apsley Road residents have had to put up with problems with traffic on their street for years. The road gets very busy with drivers using it as a rat run, including HGVs, and there have been instances of speeding up to 60 mph. Clearly, an effective traffic calming scheme is urgently needed.

Officers are now working on revised designs for a traffic calming scheme following feedback from residents during the consultation in the spring and from the subsequent public meeting in June. Serena and George will be meeting officers shortly to discuss the revised designs. We will arrange another site visit and discussion with residents before proposals for the scheme go to



Supporting our local pubs

We are always pleased to see businesses thriving in our area so we are delighted to see that The Victoria pub on Southleigh Road, next to the Lido, has reopened. New landlord Finn and his team opened their doors in early July and it's lovely to see this much loved local pub back on its feet. Serena dropped by on a very hot Sunday for a reviving cold lager and a chat with Finn. As well as a very nice bar, the pub also has an upstairs meeting room that community groups can use for free. Do pop in and say hello (just don't mention nuts- ask Finn to tell you the tale!). Let's support our local pubs!

formal statutory consultation. A big thank you to everyone who has contributed their ideas.

Fancy volunteering?

Then the Corner Club would love to hear from you. The club is a once-weekly day centre for frail and elderly residents of Clifton and surrounding

areas of Bristol. Members are offered companionship in a safe environment and a variety of activities including physical exercise, talks, games and outings. Morning coffee, lunch cooked on-site by an experienced chef, and afternoon tea are provided. The independent and non-denominational club meets on

Mondays from 10am to 3pm in The Apostle Room at Clifton Cathedral on Pembroke Road. It is run by an organiser assisted by volunteers. Volunteer drivers often provide transport for club members. If anyone would like to join the Club as a member or a volunteer, or as a volunteer driver then please contact Helen on Tel. 07717 405673.

Flytipping is rubbish

Annoyingly, we are still seeing flytipping at communal bin sites (mini recycling centres) on Oakfield Road, and Oakfield Grove (outside St Paul's Church). Dumping rubbish attracts rats and flies and is really unfair on local people. People who flytip can get:

- A fine of up to £50,000
 - Up to five years imprisonment.
- If your waste is flytipped by someone else on your behalf, you could get a £400 fixed penalty notice or an unlimited fine at court. If you have a bulky household item that needs collecting and you can't take it to the recycling centre, you can book a collection through the council for a modest fee. Some charities will also take items away for free. Find out more on the council's 'Bulky household item collection.'

If you see flytipping, please report it on [FixMyStreet](https://www.fixmystreet.com). We will continue to report flytipping ourselves and push for better solutions.

Contact us

Clr.george.calascione@bristol.gov.uk
Clr.serena.ralston@bristol.gov.uk

LETTER

Elected representatives must tackle local issues

I READ in the July Clifton Voice with a sinking heart reports published by our elected representatives regarding their activities on our supposed behalf.

In particular Councillor O'Rourke consistently crows about the success of the Princess Victoria Street £1,000,000 pedestrianisation scheme for residents living nearby. But for myself as a resident it has been a disaster regarding access and deliveries with cars, cycles and delivery drivers giving the finger to the resulting complex and unworkable resulting one way system. It has also been a disaster for shops in the area with 24 parking spaces immediately lost.

In contrast, nothing has been done by our councillors for over a year with the things we

pay our council tax for and which affect our day to day living most. The list is long:

- Replacing the bus shelter and signage near Christchurch. Most of the road markings in Clifton are worn out, are now dangerous and need replacing.
- The poor state of pavements and open spaces e.g Victoria Square.
- The road junction with the Promenade, Upper Belgrave Road and Fountains Hill is a nightmare to negotiate and needs a roundabout. The continuation of pedestrianised Boyces Avenue and pedestrianised Princess Victoria Street where it crosses Clifton Down Road needs to be upgraded to being pedestrian controlled; it's also a nightmare to negotiate either as a pedestrian or road user.

Half the rainwater street gullies are blocked in Clifton. I could go on, these are what our elected councillors should be concentrating on, not expensive big vanity projects.

Our Metro Mayor has a long diatribe about bus routes, non relevant to Clifton and always omits to mention she has no power whatsoever over bus routing and frequency within the area she was elected to represent.

Regarding Carla Denyer and her taking leave of absence from her duties as an MP citing burnout. No wonder, as Green Party spokesperson she holds multiple policy briefs for the party, including: Energy and Net Zero, Science, Innovation and Technology, Women and Equalities and Immigration, with past party and political roles as co-leader of the Green Party of England and Wales from October 2021, to September 2, 2025. I'm surprised that she has ever found time to act as our local MP.

She should step down or at the very least drop all her other roles in the green party and act solely as our constituency MP as many other MPs do.

Don Shapland, Clifton

FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

News from Clifton councillors Paula O'Rourke (Independent) and Jerome Thomas (Green)



Waste and recycling collections

The recent spell of hot weather has continued to disrupt waste and recycling collections across parts of Bristol.

You can check for delayed collections by searching your postcode on the Bristol Waste website, where the latest collection information is regularly updated. If your bin has been missed, please report it using the website's missed collection form.

Paula and Jerome are particularly concerned about the small number of streets experiencing repeated missed collections and have been raising these directly with Bristol Waste. We understand how frustrating this is for residents, particularly during the warmer weather, and are pleased to hear that Bristol Waste is recruiting additional HGV drivers to help

improve the reliability of the service.

Former WH Smith site

Like many residents, we are eagerly awaiting news of an opening date for the temporary use of the former WH Smith site in the heart of Clifton. After standing boarded up for far too long, it will be wonderful to see this prominent site brought back into use.

Planning permission has now been granted for the revised temporary scheme, which includes a more robust and enclosed marquee to better manage noise. In the current climate, where hospitality businesses face significant challenges, establishing a restaurant with only a two-year operating window is not easy. Paula and Jerome have been working with both the developers and the council to help resolve outstanding issues, and we hope this exciting project can now move forward. Residents may also have noticed that the developers have launched a public consultation on the site's long-term future. Initial proposals include residential development

above an active ground-floor space. We've found the range of comments submitted so far fascinating, and we'd encourage anyone with an interest in the future of Clifton Village to have their say by searching online for "Clifton Down Road development".

Bristol NHS trusts merger

On 1 July, the region's hospital trusts merged to form a single organisation serving the Bristol area.

Jerome, who sits on the Council's Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee, reviewed the proposals with Hospital Director Stuart Walker before the merger was approved.

Southmead Hospital, the Bristol Royal Infirmary, Bristol Royal Hospital for Children and Weston General Hospital are now all part of the same NHS Trust. The aim is to provide better joined-up care, reduce variation in services and improve patients' experience across the region. We believe this is a positive step for local healthcare and one that should help strengthen NHS

services across Bristol and the surrounding area.

Bristol Zoo Gardens update

Ownership of the former Bristol Zoo Gardens site has still not transferred to Acorn Property Group, the proposed developer, although preparatory work continues.

The planning permission includes a large number of conditions, and these are being closely monitored as work progresses. The Zoo's Chief Executive has advised that the transfer of ownership is expected to take place later this year.

Contact us

Jerome and Paula continue to jointly hold surgeries at Clifton Library on the first Wednesday of every month at 5pm. Do pop in if you have an issue you want us to help with

cllr.jerome.thomas@bristol.gov.uk
cllr.paula.orourke@bristol.gov.uk



Hannah the Mermaid
Plaster Creative Communications

Children's LitFest makes a splash!

The first-ever Children's LitFest, supported by Friends of Clifton Library and Centre (FoCCaL), Waterstones and the Clifton BID, proved to be a wonderful success.

With glorious sunshine throughout the day, Hannah the Mermaid was able to make quite a splash, delighting hundreds of children who were completely captivated by her tales. She appeared to have swum all the way up the Avon especially for the occasion, and there were plenty of smiles, splashes and "shelfies" with Clifton's very own Bristol mermaid.

It was certainly a fantastic day, and many young visitors were hooked on books before they headed home!

Other highlights included author talks and live illustrations from Mikey Please, Yasmeen Ishmail and Jordan Collver (among many), while the Pokémon card exchange proved hugely popular with older children.

The festival was completely free to attend and was only possible thanks to proceeds from previous Clifton LitFest events. It's a wonderful example of how the festival gives back to our community by encouraging a lifelong love of reading. And while we're talking about books, here's a reminder to put in your diary that the seventh Clifton LitFest will take place from 13-15 November. There will be something for everyone, so don't let this one drift by—we hope to welcome you aboard! (*That's enough fishy puns, Ed*).

NEWS

Official tribute to the Bristol Dinosaur

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

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

A green plaque commemorating the discovery

will be dedicated by Peaches Golding, Lord Lieutenant of Bristol.

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

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



The plaque is ready

■ FRIENDS OF REDLAND LIBRARY

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

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

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

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

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

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



■ BOOK REVIEW

Country People by Daniel Mason

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

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth Moss, Heron Books, Regent Street, Clifton

■ BOOK REVIEW

Land

by Maggie O'Farrell

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

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

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

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

He subsequently rescues her from a ship bound for Australia and they set up home on the

peninsula with their children Liam, Enda, Rose & Eugene.

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

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

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

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

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

For this book and many more, please visit your local friendly library.

Review by Bob Deacon, from Bishopston Library



Clifton Library opening hours

Monday 10am-2pm

Tuesday 1pm-5pm

Thursday 1pm-5pm

Friday 10am-2pm

Saturday 1pm-5pm

■ NEWS

Hospice charity hails volunteers

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

Russell Cowan, head of volunteer resources at SPH, said the hospice would not be able to run as it does without volunteers.

Russell said: "Their compassion, hard work and dedication means we can be there for everyone who needs us. From handing out medals at our fundraising events, to welcoming families into the hospice at reception or photographing items for our eBay shop - every role they do makes a huge difference.

"We rely heavily on funds raised by the public and on help given by the community. Without volunteers we wouldn't be able to continue running our charity shops across the city, which contribute so much to funding

care for life-limited patients both at home and at the hospice.

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

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

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

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

Fergal gets ahead



SALON owner Fergal Doyle has reached the finals of a professional hairdressing awards programme.

Fergal, who runs salons in Clifton and Stoke Bishop, is one of six finalists in the Leadership category at the Creative HEAD Most Wanted Awards 2026.

Fergal said: "I'm incredibly proud to be recognised in the Leadership category. Building a successful salon has never just been about creating beautiful hair—it's about creating opportunities for people, developing talent and building a culture where both the team and our clients can thrive.

"To be recognised alongside some of the best salon leaders in the UK and Ireland is a huge honour and a testament to the incredible team we have here in Bristol."

The winners will be announced at the finals in London in October.

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■ MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Lessons in crime prevention

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

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

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

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

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

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

anti-social behaviour, online safety and responsible citizenship.

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

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

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

Importantly, introducing this

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

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

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

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

It is a programme, I believe,



With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody

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

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

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

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■ NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

A once-in-a-generation opportunity

WHAT a summer we've been having!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

I hope you all enjoy what is left of the



Metro Mayor Helen Godwin
writes for the Voice

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

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



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WHAT'S ON

Various days and dates

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

Various days and dates

■ **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 £14. <https://ruthspencelanguages.co.uk/> Email: ruthspence@live.co.uk

Various dates

■ **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

Various days

■ **WEST OF ENGLAND BRIDGE CLUB** based at RAFA Club, 38 Eastfield, Henleaze. Five sessions every week, catering for different standards. Thursday afternoon is Improvers. Monday and Friday afternoon is for more capable players; this is an EBU recognised session. You may come alone to any afternoon session; a partner will be found. The evening sessions are on Wednesdays and Fridays, and are open to pairs. www.woebridgeclub.co.uk or contact Secretary, Chris Frew, on 0117 962 5281.

Monday

■ **WESTBURY AND CLIFTON AREA DISCUSSION GROUP** meet at Westbury on

Various dates

LA SCALA DELI HENLEAZE
Join us for one of our signature Wine Tastings led by our in-house sommelier:

Join us for one of our signature Wine Tastings led by our in-house sommelier:

Aug 6th & 14th - Meridiana - A producer exclusive
Aug 13th & 15th - Portuguese Tasting
Sept 3rd & 16th Italian Islands Wines
Sept 5th & 17th - Tuscany Regional Tasting
Oct 8th & 22nd Italian Islands Wines
Oct 21st & 24th Tuscany Regional Tasting

SPECIAL EVENTS - Wine & Dine Dinner Party Tasting
Menu - 5 courses, 6 paired wines:
August 8th - Emilia Romagna
September 19th - Tuscany
October 10th - Tuscany

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

Trym Baptist Church every Monday 9.45am to challenge ourselves with topical debate on what's happening in the world. If you would like to help to solve some of today's challenging issues with good company, tea and biscuits - contact James Ball 01454 415165 or Ian Viney 0117 9501628.

■ THE CORNER CLUB. Banish Loneliness!

We offer a warm welcome to Seniors looking for fun and friendship. Morning coffee and biscuits, a freshly cooked 2 course lunch, varied afternoon entertainment and tea and cake await you. All for £6. Managed by a non-denominational Charity we meet from 10am to 2.30pm in the Apostle Room at Clifton Cathedral BS8 3BX. Contact Helen on 07717405673. Transport Available. New Volunteers and Volunteer Drivers would be most welcome. We'd love to meet you.

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

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

■ **WESTBURY ON TRYM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** meets on the third Monday of the month in the Westbury Village Hall, Eastfield Road, BS9 4AG, from 2-4 pm. Interesting speakers, crafts, lunch club, skittles and outings. Our lively, friendly and inclusive group welcomes visitors. Call Sascha on 07961619806.

Tuesday

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

■ **COMPANION VOICES BRISTOL** is recruiting new members. We are a 'threshold choir' actively 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 soothing and uplifting 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 or support us in this work, contact Valerie on bristol@companionvoices.org. Visit www.facebook.com/CompanionVoicesBristol and www.companionvoices.org

■ **BRISTOL BRANCH OF THE KNITTING AND CROCHET GUILD** meet on the third Tuesday of the month, 10am-12pm, usually in the function room at the Boston Tea Party on Whiteladies Road. Free to attend, all welcome (members and non-members). We cater for beginners through to experienced makers. Email BristolKCG@gmail.com for more info.

Wednesday

■ **HENLEAZE CHORAL SOCIETY** We are a thriving, non-audition choir performing mainly

classical repertoire. Rehearsals take place at Henleaze Bowling Club, Grange Court Road on Wednesdays 7.30-9.00pm. New members welcome. Go to www.henleazechoralsociety.org.uk.

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

■ **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 area. Call 0117 435 0063.

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

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

■ **CLIFTON WOMENS INSTITUTE** We are a friendly bunch who meet on the last Wednesday of the month at Alma Church, Alma Road, Clifton BS8 2HG, from 7.30pm. Visitors welcome (£5). Visit our blog cliftonwi.blogspot.com for forthcoming events. For info about us contact thecliftonwi@gmail.com

■ **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

■ **SPIRITUAL HEALING** 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

■ **HENLEAZE BOWLING CLUB.** New and experienced members are always most welcome, free tuition and a free shirt with annual membership. Coaches available. A very friendly club with good facilities and social events throughout the year. Whist on a Wednesday morning all year round open to anyone and short mat on Thursday afternoons out of season. Check out our website for more information and our contact details. www.henleazebowlsclub.org.uk

Thursday

■ **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

WHAT'S ON

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.

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

HEALING FOR WELLBEING - NEW TIME 5.00 PM TO 6.15 PM

Feel more relaxed, peaceful, calmer. Drop in sessions (no need to book) with trained practitioners. Venue: Redland Meeting House, 126 Hampton Road, BS6 6JE. All welcome - donation basis. For more information, visit <http://www.facebook.com/BristolHealingGroup> or <https://www.thehealingtrust.org.uk/healing/healing-centre> or phone Selina 0117 9466434.

HENLEAZE LADIES' CHOIR

Come and 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. No auditions, and ability to read music

not necessary. Contact Jeanette on 9685409 or Jane on 07752 332278.

Friday

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. Situated in 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 details.

BRISTOL SPANISH CIRCLE.

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/>.

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 Sat (except August).

Send details of your events and activities:

**WHAT IT IS
WHERE IT IS
WHEN IT IS**
in no more than 40 words

email us at:
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COMMUNITY NEWS

WESTBURY ON TRYM VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

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

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

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

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

Hilary Long



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SPORT

Clifton freshen up for new season

THE first opportunity for supporters to see the Clifton 2026-27 squad in action will be on Saturday August 22 from 13.30 when London Welsh RFC will join us for preseason fixtures against both the 1st and Wanderers teams.

Once one of the most famous clubs across world rugby, they produced many players for the Welsh team and British & Irish Lions. A great atmosphere is expected with travelling supporters perhaps even bringing some traditional Welsh choral backing for their team!

Throughout the afternoon bar and catering facilities will be in operation with a chance to sample the welcoming and unique Clifton atmosphere and meet club officers.

Director of rugby Paul Fincken reports: "We have had a very good numbers at preseason training with more players still to join and a number of exciting prospects as we strengthen and rebuild the squad for the new season."

Many players are seeking sponsors for the approaching season at £450 plus VAT for the season. Local businesses, employers supporters, friends and families are invited to



Brad Talbot is one of many Clifton favourites returning for the new season

discuss possibilities for this option and other ways to back the club with a conversation with commercial manager Alison Harvey alisonharvey@cliftonrugby.co.uk

The league season kicks off in earnest with a trip to old Westcountry rivals Cinderford on September 5 with the first home fixture on September 12 being a local derby with Old Redcliffians.

That, strangely, is the only home fixture in September. However, on the 19th Clifton take the short trip to the Hornets in Weston.

Throughout the coming months many

traditional old rivalries and friendships will be revived with opponents including Redruth, Taunton, Exeter University, and Barnstaple.

A very high proportion of players across the club's three teams have been retained and an enthusiastic Fincken states "preseason has kicked off well and despite the heat the boys are working hard on conditioning and gameplay structure with a view to hitting the ground running by the time the first league games come around".

Among crowd favourites again pulling on the famous lavender and black shirt will be key playmaker and scrum half Mitch Spencer, powerful back row forward Brad Talbot, outstanding goal kicker and attack launcher Tom Quinlan at fly half, uncompromising hooker Tom Anderson, speedster and try scorer winger Zak Hamid and formidable lock forward Toby Hutchinson.

At all playing levels including the free try scoring Misfits XV new players are welcome.

Roger Opie

NATURE WATCH

with Dawn Lawrence

The story of a bird cherry tree's resilience

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

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



A ghostly bird cherry on Horfield Common in 2025

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



The caterpillars and their web
Photos by Dawn Lawrence

tree's resilience – all was not lost.

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

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

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

© Dawn Lawrence

LEESE & GORDON

INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENTS



Stoke Bishop

Guide Price £1,100,000

A beautifully extended and thoughtfully updated 4 bedroom detached family home, offering spacious and versatile accommodation throughout. Impressive open-plan kitchen, living and dining space. Off street parking for multiple cars, beautiful rear garden. No onward chain. EPC C



Henleaze

Guide Price £1,400,000

Beautifully crafted, tastefully presented this detached house has over 3500 sq/ft. of adaptable accommodation, with 6 bedrooms, 4 baths/en-suites, 3 reception rooms. Wonderfully presented for modern family life, including multi-generational living if required. EPC C



Westbury on Trym

Guide Price £765,000

Fantastic 3-bedroom semi-detached family home with off-street parking, a beautiful rear garden, and a detached garage. EPC C



Westbury on Trym

Guide Price £525,000

Victorian 3 bedroom semi detached cottage. South West facing garden, garage and off street parking. Ideally suited to smaller families, couples or downsizers. No onward chain. EPC D

LEESE & GORDON

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Clifton, Bristol | Guide Price £2,350,000

An exceptional stucco-fronted Grade II Listed family house on a quiet residential road, with a triple car garage, private rear and front gardens and beautifully presented throughout.

Superb Grade II Listed family house of circa 3200 sq. ft | Separate 30' x 16' detached garage | Beautifully presented throughout | Open Plan full depth kitchen and dining room | Stunning hall floor through-reception rooms | Five double bedrooms | Two bath / shower rooms and a separate cloakroom | Utility room | Useful vaulted cellar storage | Enclosed rear courtyard garden and a deep front courtyard garden

In all circa 3200sq.ft (297.3 sq.m)

@rupertoliverproperty

■ PROPERTY OF THE MONTH

Abbots Leigh: Guide Price - £2,500,000



An exceptional architect designed family home in a little under 6 acres of gardens and grounds; with 6 double bedrooms, 4 bathrooms, a suite of versatile reception rooms and abundance of parking. Stunning 4100 sq. ft architect designed family home Fabulous natural light and easy flow from inside out into the gardens Light-filled double-height atrium with a climbing wall and open reception space Superb living accommodation with wrap-around sitting room, dining room and family kitchen, Study, separate games room and a gym. Six double bedrooms, four bathrooms (two en-suite) and two cloakrooms. Fitted boot room and a separate utility & plant room. Landscaped gardens, grounds and an adjoining field in all circa 6 acres. Private drive and expanse of parking. Ground mounted solar panels helping towards the annual electricity costs. EPC: D



**14 Waterloo Street, Clifton,
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■ VINEYARD NEWS with INGRID BATES

Use your noggin – enjoy our wines!

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

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

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

One exciting project I've been working on

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

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

E: hello@dunleavyvineyards.co.uk

W: www.dunleavyvineyards.co.uk

TikTok & Instagram: @dunleavyvineyards

Facebook: @DYvineyards

Phone: 07779 085420



Some of our glorious vines

PUZZLE PAGE

Sudoku

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

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

For younger readers



Camping Wordsearch

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

awning

campfire

campsite

rucksack

sleeping bag

stove

tent

torch



www.ActivityVillage.co.uk - Keeping Kids Busy

Txtpert

Theme: Music

1		2		3		4
				5		
6						
					7	
8			9			
					10	
11						

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

Across

- 1 24647 (5)
5 247 (3)
6 724 (3)
7 767 (3)
8 766282 (6)
10 729 (3)
11 747273 (6)

Down

- 2 67426 (5)
3 729 (3)
4 8746 (4)
6 7378 (4)
7 72873 (5)
9 2742 (4)



Easier sudoku

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

			3	6	
	4		2		
6				1	
				4	
1	3				

Solutions

		E	S	V	R	H	d ₁₁
X	V	S ₀₁	I				
		N	R			L	
		V	L	V ₆	N	O	S ₈
d	O	d _L		V		E	
	I		A	G	V	R ₉	
	R	I	V ₅	R			
	L	R	E	I	O ₂	H	C ₁

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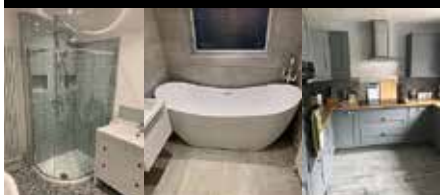
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YEAR 7 - YEAR 11

