

cliftonvoice

September, 2026 Issue 37

www.cliftonvoice.co.uk

FREE EVERY MONTH IN CLIFTON AND SURROUNDING AREA

The sky's the limit!

Balloons prepare for one of the five mass ascents of 2026
Photo: Paul Box



THE 2026 Bristol International Balloon Fiesta was one of the most successful in the event's history.

The 48th fiesta, in partnership with accounting and financial planning firm Albert Goodman, drew an estimated 300,000 spectators to Ashton Court Estate to experience five stunning mass ascents, almost 400 balloon flights, two Nightglows and three world record attempts.

More than 120 hot air balloons were registered

by teams from around the world, including 20 special shapes.

Ben Hardy, executive director, commented: "It has been an exceptional year for flying, for partnerships, for public support and for the stars of show the balloonists. The magic they bring to this field and carry across the city is hard to express."

This is Year 3 of a plan to safeguard the fiesta's long-term future. It remains free to attend.



A-levels success for city students

Students from schools and colleges are starting exciting university courses and apprenticeships after notching up A-level successes.

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New cafe plan for toilet block

A new scheme has been unveiled to turn a public toilet block at Sea Walls on the Downs into a cafe.

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Allotments site is flourishing

The Clifton Down Growing Space behind the car park has expanded, with 40 new planters and a water tank.

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October deadline

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

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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Complaints

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



The Royal Fort Gardens team: Simone Jacobs, Pete Henshaw, Owen Williams, Karen Rossall and Josh Perry. Image: University of Bristol

Green Flag success

The University of Bristol's Royal Fort Gardens, a much-loved green space in Clifton for students, staff and the wider Bristol community, has received a Green Flag Award for the 10th year running.

The accolade celebrates the dedication, expertise and year-round commitment of the university's gardens and grounds team, whose work supports biodiversity while creating a welcoming environment.

Kevin Stuckey, arboricultural and horticultural manager at the university, said: "We are delighted and very proud to have received a Green Flag award. This is the tenth consecutive year we've received the award for the Royal Fort Garden, which couldn't have been achieved without the dedicated and passionate hard work of the gardens team, the support from the University and the enthusiasm of our student volunteers."

"The Green Flag has been more than an award; it has contributed to the garden being better known to the wider Bristol community, allowing it to be enjoyed and appreciated by our students, staff and the public, to the great satisfaction of the garden team."

Designed by renowned landscape designer, Humphry Repton, Royal Fort Gardens feature several notable artworks and regularly host activities and cultural events, including Bristol Light Festival.

Medical pioneer

A COMMEMORATIVE plaque honouring David Easty (1933-2022) Professor of Ophthalmology at Bristol Medical School is to be dedicated later this month.

David came to Bristol in 1972 as a consultant in ophthalmology at Bristol Eye Hospital.

Ophthalmology was part of the University of Bristol's Department of Surgery. David was instrumental in establishing ophthalmology as a separate department and became the first Professor and Head of the new Department of Ophthalmology in 1982.

He built up a world-renowned research department and is particularly noted for his research into herpes infection in the eye and into corneal immunology and graft rejection.

David Easty encouraged trainee ophthalmologists to get involved in research and gave many basic scientists opportunities to pursue research projects. He also set up an MSc course in ophthalmology for overseas doctors.

A green plaque donated by Clifton and Hotwells Improvement Society will be dedicated by the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol, Peaches Golding at 42 Clifton Park Road on September 12 at 11am. It will be followed by talks about the importance of David Easty's career.

NEWS

New scheme for cafe at Downs toilet block

PLANS for a café at a toilet block on the Downs have taken a major step forward.

Bristol City Council has received an application for planning permission to convert the block on Circular Road by the Sea Walls, with two toilets left open for the public.

The Downs committee is hoping that a café operator would help pay to maintain the building once refurbishment is carried out.

Four years ago councillors voted to approve permission for a similar but larger proposal. This would have seen the block demolished and replaced with a café and new public toilets. However the Downs Act, a Victorian law protecting the parkland, prevented the scheme from going ahead.

In planning documents, architects said: "The proposals seek to bring a deteriorating building back into active public use through the sensitive reuse of the existing structure. The site occupies a prominent position overlooking the Avon Gorge and forms part of the wider Downs landscape. The building is currently in use but is in very poor condition.

"The site benefits from high levels of pedestrian activity, particularly during weekends and seasonal periods, making it an appropriate location for a small-scale café use serving visitors to the Downs. The



How the revamped block could look

existing public facilities use of the building is important and will be retained."

Another planning application was approved in 2019 for a café and public toilet building. But this faced delays due to the pandemic and obstacles from the Downs Act. Crucially, both previous applications would have extended the footprint of the building, but this latest one would not. However the building would be revamped and substantially tidied up.

A new south-facing window is proposed for the café, providing views across the Downs. A new replacement roof would also be put on the building too, but the existing stone walls would be kept. The café would

open from 8am to 5pm, in winter and the rest of the year from 8am to 8pm.

The latest plan has already met objections from people concerned at the reduction in public toilet provision from male and female toilets plays urinals to just two toilets.

The Downs are jointly owned by Bristol City Council and the Society of Merchant Venturers, and are overseen by the Downs committee — made up of seven councillors and seven members of the business group. Back in 2023, the committee heard how plans for a larger café would need special permission from parliament. This would have cost a lot of money and would need to be debated by both the House of Commons and House of Lords. So the committee scrapped that plan, and came up with the current design for converting and refurbishing the existing building instead.

The toilet block dates back to the Second World War, when the Downs was used by the military with temporary buildings put up, including a latrine by the Sea Walls and a tank repair depot.

Public toilets across Bristol were closed by the council in 2018 and this block was handed over to the Downs committee.

By Alex Seabrook, Local Democracy Reporter

Defibrillator No100

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

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

The charity works with Great Western Air Ambulance Charity to install the life-saving devices.

Sam Polledri was 24 years old when he had a cardiac arrest on a night out in Millennium Square in 2022. There were no public access defibrillators at the time. GWAAC's crew attended Sam.

Sam's mum Louise said: "Through GWAAC, we are putting lifesaving equipment into public spaces, ensuring fewer families experience the heartbreak we know all too well."



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NEWS

NHS teams shortlisted

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

No curb to pub opening hours in spite of noise complaints

The Kingsdown Vaults



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

By Alex Seabrook, Local Democracy Reporter

Parking fees move to simple hourly rate

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

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

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

will then reduce by 20p each year until the standard rate applies. Drivers parking overnight will also be able to pre-pay parking for the following morning.

Maximum stay limits remain in place for all parking bays. The changes mean drivers will now pay £4.50 an hour between 8am and 6pm, seven days a week, in the 1-hour maximum stay bays and £3.50 an hour within the 2 and 4-hour maximum stay parking bays. Between 6pm and 10pm there will be no maximum stay limit. Blue Badge holders and motorcyclists will continue to be able to park free of charge in designated bays and pay and display spaces, with no time limit.

Further changes are set to be introduced

across Bristol in the coming months as part of work to make parking arrangements clearer and easier to use, while helping to support local businesses, including at nighttime.

Councillor Ed Plowden, chair of the transport and connectivity committee, said: "These changes will make parking charges simpler and more consistent across central Bristol, helping people understand what they need to pay, while helping to manage parking spaces more effectively. They balance the needs of residents, businesses and visitors, support our local economy during the day and night-time, and help ensure limited kerbside space is used efficiently."

More details on the council website.

NEWS

Allotment site is growing!

AN allotment site which was set up in a little used car park at Clifton Down has been extended.

A mains water dipping tank has been installed and connected thanks to a £17,000 grant from Bristol City Council.

The grant comes from the city council's Community Infrastructure levy which is charged on new developments. It is used to fund public facilities which support growth in the city.

Clifton Down Community Association

(CDCA) is behind the allotment project which is known as Clifton Down Growing Space. It is behind Clifton Down Shopping Centre

"Alongside the new water system, we've also installed more than 40 new planters besides the existing ones creating even more space for growing and making the site more welcoming for everyone. I can't believe how the site has blossomed in a such a short amount of time," said Merche Clarke, a member of the Growing Space team.



"With a growing interest in food cultivation and a significant demand for allotments in Bristol, this project presents an opportunity for people to develop their gardening skills" she said.

'The Doc' gets big Glos cricketing chance

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

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

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

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

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

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

"My current plan is to crack on with my



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

studies, and the balance is quite nice at the moment. I've had massive support from the University, the Medical School and the Performance Sport team.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Dramatic finish to schools' Cricketer Cup final

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

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

ing their nerve in the deciding super over.

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

This year's win carries particular significance. The Old

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

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

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

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■ CLIFTON BID



Clifton BID – supporting the businesses that make Clifton

My name is Irena, and I'm proud to serve as a committee member of the Clifton Village BID. I have been part of Clifton Village since 2015, when we opened New Moon Tapas. Two years ago, we evolved the restaurant into Fish Tales, creating a fresh concept while continuing our commitment to serving the Clifton community. Since 2015, I've also been fortunate to call Clifton Village my home. Being both a business owner and a resident has given me a genuine appreciation of what makes this community so unique and why supporting our independent businesses is so important.

The Clifton Village BID exists to help businesses thrive by increasing footfall, promoting the village, enhancing the local environment, organising exciting events, and creating opportunities for businesses to connect, collaborate and grow together.

Since joining the committee, I've been inspired by the passion, commitment and vision of everyone involved. The BID continues to deliver an impressive range of initiatives and partnerships with organisations including Visit West, Clifton Rotary Club, Bristol City Council and the Bristol Film Festival. From the launch of Rosie's Trail to seasonal events that

bring thousands of visitors into the village, every project helps showcase the very best of Clifton. This year also marks the launch of the first-ever Clifton Village Awards, a project I'm especially proud to be helping organise.

What I enjoy most about being part of the BID is that we're doing far more than organising events. We're strengthening our business community, encouraging more people to discover Clifton Village, supporting our outstanding independent businesses, and creating reasons for visitors to return time and time again.

Every member of the BID committee is a volunteer, giving their time alongside running their own businesses because they genuinely care about Clifton Village and its future. Each member brings different experience, ideas and expertise, but we all share the same goal: to make Clifton Village an even better place to visit, shop, dine, work and live.

I'd also like to pay tribute to our BID Manager, Lucy, whose passion and dedication are at the heart of everything we achieve. Her vision for Clifton Village, combined with her creativity, enthusiasm and determination, transforms ideas into reality. She works tirelessly behind the scenes, building

partnerships, bringing people together and delivering projects that continue to raise the profile of our village while preserving the unique character that makes Clifton so special. We are incredibly fortunate to have someone with such commitment leading the BID.

I'm incredibly proud to be part of a committee that is passionate about supporting local businesses and helping Clifton Village continue to flourish. Together—with Lucy's leadership, the dedication of our volunteer committee, and the support of our wonderful business community—I truly believe we can build on everything that makes Clifton Village one of Bristol's most loved destinations.

As Lucy often says, "We're better together." I couldn't agree more. By working together, supporting one another and celebrating each other's successes, we can achieve far more than any of us could alone.

So, if there's a Clifton Village business, team or individual who has made a real difference, we'd love to hear from you. Please send us your nominations for the Clifton Village Awards and help us celebrate everything that makes Clifton Village extraordinary.

■ ADVERTISING FEATURE



Back pain? You're not alone

Pain is spreading through the backs, necks, and shoulders of the UK workforce. Bristol-based experts at Back In Action are here to explore this issue.

Why is it so common?

"To be frank, most furniture is bad for us. Desk work can be hard on the spine when people are sitting on furniture that doesn't create movement."

Why is back care so important to Back In Action?

"We've been there, and we want to help. One of our founders suffered a debilitating neck injury in 1982 and by 1987, had set up a company to help as many people as possible solve similar issues."

What can be done to fight back pain?

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

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

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

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

Any final thoughts on back care?

"You don't need big budgets to solve or improve back issues. Ultimately, everyone's journey is their own. We aim to help no matter what."

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EDUCATION

MHS girls celebrate

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

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

There is something special about celebrating students who joined Montpelier as Year 7 pupils. Among them are Rhianna Aderogba (A*, A*, A*), Ellie Lunt (A*, A*, A*), Mako Mohammed (AAA), Amenze Iyen (AAA), Ruzaynah Azad (AAA), Sophia Macey (A, Dist*, B), Rochir Stokes (A*, A, B), Mia Powles (A, A, B) and Bee Fenwick-Moore (Dist*, A, B), Edith Brand (ABB and B in EPQ).

Amenze has shown determination after being diagnosed with Long Covid, which affected her attendance. She has secured a place at Nottingham to study Environmental Engineering.

Rochir has secured a place in the Royal Navy to begin marine engineering.

Caroline McClean, vice principal and head of sixth form, said: "We're delighted to be celebrating the superb achievements of our students."

Hard work pays off for A-level students

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

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

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

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

"I also want to thank the teachers, support staff, parents,

carers and families who have been there for Bristol's young people throughout their studies.

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

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

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

The National Careers Service exam results webpages include advice for students and guidance for parents. Students can also phone the National Careers Service helpline on 0800 100 900. The helpline is open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Friday, and 10am to 5pm on Saturdays.



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Good day for NBP16

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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

Brilliant! Joy at Badminton



Badminton School students celebrate their A-level results

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

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

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

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

delivered on their ambition and promise with these results.

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

BGS students achieve record outcomes

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Harriet, who is heading off to Oxford to

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

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

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

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



**BADMINTON
SCHOOL**

Autumn Open Events



Whole School Open Morning (for ages 3 – 18)

Saturday 10 October

Pre-Reception & Reception 'Stay and Play'

Friday 16 October

Visiting Morning

Friday 20 November



Scan to book your place

EDUCATION

Future's bright for Redmaids' High girls

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

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

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

Clearly, recent world and geopolitical events have



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

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



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

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

Economics, History, Maths and Further Maths.

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

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

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



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HIGH-QUALITY
PRIMARY
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YOUR CHILD?**

- St. John's CofE School has a long-standing record of **Ofsted** excellence, with limited places available from Reception to Year 6.
- We are highly inclusive school for **all of Bristol**, welcoming children from all backgrounds, religions and those with learning differences.
- Our school is **easy to get to** by train or bus. We are minutes walk from Clifton Down train station.
- Our **dedicated, talented** and **caring staff** bring out the best in every child.

SUCCESSFUL CHILDREN

- achieving considerably higher than average in all subjects

HAPPY CHILDREN

- who enjoy school and love learning

CARING CHILDREN

- who look after others and their world.

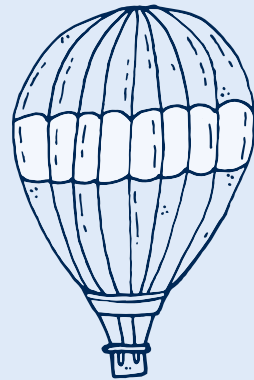


Find out more on www.stjohnsprimary.org.uk or give us a call to arrange a visit 0117 903 0251



BADMINTON
SCHOOL

Explore Sixth Form at Badminton



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

Sixth Form Open Evening

Friday 25 September

Sixth Form Taster Day

Tuesday 13 October



Scan to book your place

EDUCATION

Clifton High hails A-level triumphs

CLIFTON High School is celebrating exceptional A-level outcomes.

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

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

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

Art continued its tradition of excellence, with all students

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

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

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

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



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

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

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



REDMAIDS'
HIGH SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS · BRISTOL
GDST

We invite you this Autumn

to join us at our

Senior School Open Morning, Saturday 3 October



BOOK HERE

“

**Staff prioritise knowing each child well,
enabling pupils to feel a sense of belonging,
and link this directly to the school's aim of
nurturing individual talent.**

- ISI Report Summer 2026

”



OPEN MORNING

YEAR 5, 7 & 9 ENTRY

Saturday 19th September 2026
9.00am-1.00pm

Please scan the QR code to register your place



**Clifton
High
School**

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Education



CLIFTON
COLLEGE



cliftoncollege.com

An education that *inspires*

CO-EDUCATIONAL DAY AND BOARDING SCHOOL FOR 3-18 YEAR OLDS

Nestled in the heart of Bristol, Clifton College offers a modern education set amongst historic grounds with strong pastoral care and outstanding facilities. Join us at an Open Event to meet our fantastic staff, learn more about our outstanding pastoral care and take a tour around the school to see our broad range of facilities.

JOIN US AT AN OPEN EVENT

FRIDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER

PRESCHOOL - YEAR 6

FRIDAY 2ND OCTOBER

SIXTH FORM

SATURDAY 3RD OCTOBER

YEAR 7 - YEAR 11



EDUCATION

A day to remember

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

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



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

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

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

Halbie achieved double

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

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

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

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



QEH students earn excellent results

A SENSE of celebration and shared pride filled QEH as Year 13 students returned to collect their A level results.

In what has been a competitive year nationally for university places, a quarter of QEH students achieved straight A* or A grades across all their subjects.

Reflecting on the students' success, Head Rupert Heathcote said: "Results day is always one of my favourite days in the school calendar because it is about celebrating our students as individuals. Seeing the excitement, and genuine happiness on the students and parents' faces this morning has been wonderful.

"They have worked incredibly hard, supporting one another through a busy two years. While these grades open doors to fantastic university courses and exciting next steps, I am just as

proud of the kind, grounded, and thoughtful young adults they have become. Our dedicated teaching staff have been with them every step of the way, and I know they join me in wishing this group every happiness for the future."

Of the students who joined QEH into Year 12, 81% of grades awarded were A* to B grades, a testament to how quickly they embraced all the opportunities the school offers.

For those students that began their QEH journey in Year 3 of the Junior School, 83% of their grades awarded were A* to B.

Beyond the headlines, progress across the entire cohort has been exceptional. From boys who joined QEH in Year 3, to those girls and boys who came onboard for Sixth Form in Year 12, students across all academic profiles have consistently surpassed expectations.



Happy smiles from QEH families after results are handed out



FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

News from Clifton Down councillors George Calascione and Serena Ralston (Green)

Derelict building to be redeveloped at last

For several years we've pushed for the long-derelict 59-61 Whiteladies Road to be brought back into active use. So we're really pleased that redevelopment has now finally got planning permission.

Previously the 'Be in Bristol' venue, this is a large building in a prominent location on Whiteladies Road. We supported the planning application for redevelopment which will include a new bar on the ground floor and the upper floors converted into five flats. The plans are a good use of existing space, providing more homes, at the same time retaining an active hospitality use on the ground floor.

But the start of building works may be some time off and the building is still an eyesore, with graffiti, litter and fly posting. We've written to the developer, urging them to carry out a clean-up ahead of works.

Your wheely good ideas

Thank you to everyone who got in touch with your ideas for cycling improvements in our area. These ideas include:

- Cycle racks on Highland Square – you pointed out that there isn't anywhere on the square to lock up your bike before enjoying a pint at



the lovely Coach & Horses pub

- Making Westbourne Place two-way for cycles only through a 'no entry exemption' – this one-way street runs between Queens and St Pauls Roads. You told us that the no entry exemption for bicycles would save time and energy going up the hill in the wrong direction just to go back down again.

The council's transport team will sift and review suggestions and then get designs done for ideas to be taken forward. These will then be shared with us as ward councillors for comment before consulting the public on any changes.

Hedging about

After much chasing by ourselves and the council teams, we're glad to see that the overgrown hedge on the corner of Upper Belgrave Road and Wesley Place has finally been cut back. This hedge was obscuring the pavement, making access difficult for pedestrians, and blocking e-scooter and bicycle parking. Thanks very much to the local residents who raised this and for your patience while we pushed to get the job done.

Grants: Setting up a business on Whiteladies Road?

If you're a start-up or looking to grow your business on a Bristol high street, including Whiteladies Road, there are Vacant Commercial Property Grants from £2,500 up to £10,000 available to help you.

The Vacant Commercial Property Grant can support you with everything from fitting out your space to getting the equipment you need to open.

Most organisation types can apply, so whether you're a sole trader, charity, creative, or small business, funding is available for long or short term use. To be eligible, your business or organisation must be looking to lease or rent a currently vacant commercial premises in the city

centre or on one of Bristol's 46 high streets.

But you'll need to be quick. These look set to be the last round of grants available through this scheme. While the deadline for applications is Monday 30 November, the programme may close earlier if all available funding has been allocated.

You can find all the details on the council's Vacant Commercial Property Grant webpage.

Come and say hello

Instead of our usual October surgery, we'll be holding a drop-in session at Clifton Down Shopping Centre in mid-October. Why not come and say hello, whether you have lived here a while or are new to our community? If you'd like to have a chat about any local issues or just want to meet us then we'd be delighted to see you. To find out about the date and time of this event, email us and we will confirm the details. A big thank you to Richard Ryan, the shopping centre's manager, for offering to host us!

Contact us

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

NEWS

Uni anniversary

BRISTOL University is to mark exactly 150 years next month since its first lecture.

More than 30 different activities will be staged across the university's Clifton campus and its new Enterprise campus behind Temple Meads railway station on October 10. They will include interactive exhibits, guided tours, performances and talks with academics.

Most events will be free and unticketed.

Professor Evelyn Welch, vice-chancellor and president of Bristol University said:

"We are proud of our deep roots in Bristol and of the positive impact our students, staff, alumni and partners continue to make locally and globally."

The university, which gained its Royal Charter in 1909, has 31,000 students and more than 9,000 staff. It has its roots in University College founded in Georgian premises long demolished on Park Row. Thirty male students and 69 women were registered for the first term.

Big plans for Village Day

ONE of the most historic buildings in Clifton will be playing a prominent part in the Clifton Village Day later this month for the first time.

The doors of Christ Church in Clifton Down Road will be open to welcome visitors to take part in guided tours of the Victorian church.

Rev Matt Southcombe, the Vicar of Christ Church, said: "We are thrilled to be involved this year but it is much more than simply opening the church building. It's an opportunity to meet people, discover the story of Christ Church, find out more about the life of the church and its place in the local community."

He added: This year's Clifton Village Day is particularly significant because Christ Church is entering a new season of engagement with the local area. We want to be a church that is deeply connected to the life of Clifton – a place of welcome, friendship, service, and hope for the whole community. Whether you're a long-time

resident, new to Clifton, or simply visiting the village, you'll be very welcome."

Free guided tours of Christ Church will take place every half hour from 11m to 2pm on September

The Village Day event on September 12 is organised by BID (Business Improvement District) Clifton aimed at getting people from all over Bristol to visit the area and discover what is on offer at the many independent shops, restaurants and bars.

Shoppers and their families will be treated to everything from face painting for children to vintage-style musical performances.

The events confirmed so far include vintage bus rides running all day from outside the Rodney Hotel, Clifton Down Road and Clifton Rotary Club are setting up a Speakers Corner in Princess Victoria Street inviting young people to address the shoppers from a specially-built platform. The Somerset Pub House will be providing live music.

FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

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



Clifton Ward Boundary Review

Every four years, the Electoral Commission reviews parliamentary and ward boundaries across the country, and this is taking place this year. For now, Bristol's parliamentary boundaries will remain unchanged, but there are proposals for changes to local ward boundaries for council elections.

The aim is to ensure that wards represent 'natural' communities and that there are similar numbers of electors in each ward. In deciding what constitutes a natural community, the Commission considers community facilities, geographical boundaries such as roads and rivers, and the local topography.

The latest proposals would move some of the area around Hotwells

Primary School into Hotwells & Harbourside Ward. Paula and Jerome have opposed this proposal because they believe this area is an important part of the Hotwells & Cliftonwood community, which currently sits together within Clifton Ward.

We will keep you updated as the review progresses and the final proposals are published.

Greville Smyth Park community tennis club

Although Greville Smyth Park is outside Clifton Ward, many local residents enjoy its community tennis club, where courts are available at very low cost.

There are concerns that the council may choose to take over the running of the tennis courts. Jerome has met with local residents who are members of the club to hear their concerns and to work towards ensuring that the courts continue to be run affordably and in the long-term interests of local residents.

West of England Combined Authority

There have been a number of announcements about the future responsibilities of Combined

Authorities, including proposals for £2 local bus fares and for Combined Authorities to receive a share of local income tax.

Jerome, in his role as Chair of the West of England Combined Authority Scrutiny Committee, is working to ensure that proper arrangements are in place to manage these additional responsibilities.

In the short term, this includes North Somerset joining the authority. In the longer term, the Combined Authority may expand further to include Gloucestershire.

Summer fun – But Clifton residents feel the pressure

Both Paula and Jerome have taken holidays in recent weeks, which was lovely. However, we returned to email inboxes fuller than usual with residents writing about the number of events requiring road closures and the knock-on effect this has on people simply trying to get around and manage their daily lives.

Occasionally there are informal events without the usual licensing or permissions, but these are rare. Most events have to apply to the

Safety Advisory Group for Events (SAGE), a multi-agency panel involving the police, highways, noise pollution, ambulance services and others. They carefully scrutinise each event's management plan, including proposed road closures.

Residents have asked whether the Council considers the cumulative effect of events taking place over the summer. The answer is yes. We believe that congestion in Clifton has been particularly bad this summer, partly because of an unusual number of incidents on the M5, resulting in closures and traffic being diverted through Clifton.

It is frustrating, particularly when residents are unaware of why roads are closed or that events such as the Great Bristol Run will result in the Portway being closed for much of a Sunday.

However, perhaps more attention does need to be paid to the clustering of events which have a knock-on effect on Clifton's roads. We will ask SAGE to consider this when planning for next year.

We have also received complaints about cars parking on the grass for the Balloon Fiesta and the solar eclipse. Fortunately,

because the ground was so hard, there appears to have been little damage. We understand the frustration, but the solar eclipse was a genuinely exceptional event and we would not want to prevent families bringing their children to the Downs to enjoy it.

The Balloon Fiesta organisers have already told us they are keen to look at ways of managing parking on the Clifton side of the Bridge next year.

Bins, Bins, Bins...

As we write, we are in the fifth heatwave and everyone is flagging. It is nevertheless encouraging to see how services have adapted. During the first heatwave, many streets were missing waste collections, but this has improved considerably.

There is still room for improvement, however, and we are pressing Bristol Waste to be more dynamic and to continue recruiting additional drivers.

Paula returns to a policy role

Bristol is governed by a Committee System, with eight policy committees making decisions about how the city is run. When Paula became an Independent councillor, she lost her committee allocation.

She argued that, under a committee system, Independent councillors must be able to participate in policy-making if they are to fulfil their democratic responsibilities.

She is now pleased to have joined the Strategy and Resources Committee, where she is particularly interested in democratic engagement and culture.

We hope you all welcome September and that cooler weather will energise everyone. September always feels like a fresh start, with lots to look forward to. Remember, you can always pop into our monthly councillors' surgery at Clifton Library, held on the first Wednesday of every month at 5pm.

Contact us

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

LETTERS

All we want is two buses an hour

I READ with interest the letters in the Voice about the Clifton buses.

If you lived in Cotham, as I do, you get one bus an hour, which is unreliable and gets cancelled without warning. I too wrote to the West of England Mayor, and received an identical reply three months later.

My suggestion for solving our problem was to take one bus an hour from the 8 route so that we can have two buses an hour. When a 72 fails to turn up, we have an hour to wait for the next one. When waiting for my delayed bus on College Green, it is not unusual to see three or four Number 8s go past. When waiting on Triangle West, there is also the 505 and 5.

All we want is two buses an hour, while Clifton is regaled with half a dozen or more. Your stops also have electronic signs telling you when your next bus is due. Most of our stops do not. This inequality is a frequent topic of conversation at bus stops.

Dee, Cotham

Support North Bristol's foodbank

WE are appealing for donations of 11 specific items, after a year in which local need held steady while donations fell behind it, leaving stock low this summer.

The following items are what our warehouse needs first, in order of urgency:

1. Tinned fruit
2. Desserts (not chilled)
3. Fruit juices and squashes
4. Cereals
5. UHT milk
6. Tinned tomatoes and cooking sauces
7. Laundry detergent (small boxes)
8. Washing-up liquid
9. Hair care (shampoo and conditioner)
10. Baby food (not formula)
11. Tinned halal meat

You can help in three ways: dropping items at a collection point at a local supermarket or at the food bank's office - locations are listed at tinyurl.com/3zkpef8h - order directly from an online shop that delivers to the warehouse or donate money.

You can find out more at nbsg.foodbank.org.uk

Ellen Wood
N Bristol & South Glos foodbank

BOOKS

Simon's secret history

IT'S often said that everyone has a book in them waiting to be written.

For his literary debut Simon Weisz of Clifton decided on a family memoir.

But this was no ordinary memoir as for the first eighteen years of his life Simon's parents were at pains to keep their past concealed from him. All he knew for certain was that they had grown up in Hungary and had arrived in Britain after the Second World War.

It was only after Simon had reached manhood that they began to confide their secrets to him: that they were Jews and his mother had experienced the horrors of Nazi persecution.

Simon eventually learnt that his mother was deported first to Auschwitz and then to Ravensbruck, to the death march she withstood from the ruins of Berlin in 1945.

In Himmler's Curtains published by Hutchinson Heinemann, Simon Weisz examines the ways in which his mother's wartime experience



Simon Weisz

affected his earliest development, his evolving sense of self as a gay child growing up in the 1960s and his subsequent relationships in later adult life.

Following the death of his mother in 2017 at the age of 91, Simon Weisz gained a Diploma in Humanistic and Integrative Counselling and now pursues a career as a psychotherapeutic counsellor in the West Country.

Simon Weisz will be giving a talk about his book at the Regent Street, Clifton, branch of Waterstones on September 25 starting at 6.30pm.

REVIEW

Egrets, While War by Tishani Doshi

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

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

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

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

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

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

Elizabeth Moss, Heron Books, Regent Street, Clifton

BOOK REVIEW

Universality

by Natasha Brown

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Review by Bob Deacon, Library Service



Clifton Library opening hours

Monday 10am-2pm

Tuesday 1pm-5pm

Thursday 1pm-5pm

Friday 10am-2pm

Saturday 1pm-5pm

■ FROM BRISTOL CENTRAL'S MP

We need bold climate leadership to keep us safe

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

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

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

That's why Green Party

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

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

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

Prime Minister Andy Burnham had to take notice.

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

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



Team Carla writes for the Voice

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

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NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

A devolution revolution is coming

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

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

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

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

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

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

We also discussed a visit to Ashton Gate in

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Metro Mayor Helen Godwin

writes for the Voice

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

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

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

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

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■ MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Making our roads safer

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

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

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

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

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

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

Motorcyclists are among

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody

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

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

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

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



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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 Café 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

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

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 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

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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:
news@cliftonvoice.co.uk

FRIENDS OF REDLAND LIBRARY

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

book *Bayeux Tapestry – The Epic Poem*. Signed copies will be on sale.

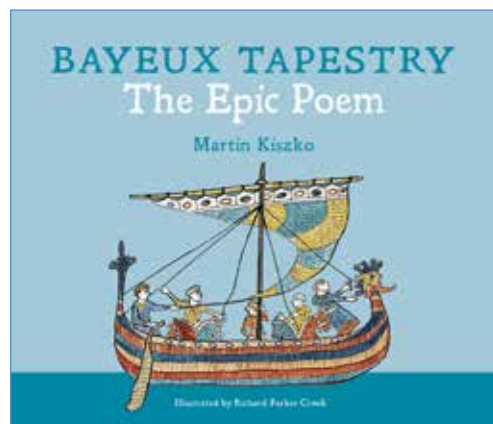
On Thursday September 24, Jane Duffus will be giving a talk on her new book *The Women Who Built Bath*. Jane is known to many as the author of the popular *The Women Who Built Bristol* series. Her new book, which is being published this month, explores the previously untold stories of 200 incredible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

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

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

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

Finally, we need volunteers to help organise and publicise our events; and also, to help water our library garden. If you would like to volunteer, please email us at the address above.



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SPORT

Clifton well prepared for 26-27 season

CLIFTON'S preseason fixtures were based around inclusion within a group of clubs including themselves, Aberavon, London Welsh, and the Rams from Reading.

The only home match for supporters to check out on the squad has been with the London Welsh team from West London. Trips westwards along the M4 to Aberavon and eastwards to Reading proved to be of benefit to the coaches in looking at new recruits and testing playing formations.

Both the Welsh and Aberavon have, over many years produced countless internationals and key players for the British & Irish Lions. The opening game at Aberavon in the shadow of the Port Talbot Steelworks produced an exciting 43-40 scoreline with plenty of open rugby on a very firm surface after



Shay Sainsbury

the dry months

Director of Rugby Paul Fincken commented on the game: "Pleased with initial hit out for the club.

"While the start was not quite as well defended as we would have hoped, we grew into the games and were much more competitive in the 2nd and 3rd sections. Lots of positives to take from the game

along with some work to be done as we head into September.

"The club saw a number of new faces making debuts and with more to come as we exit the holiday season, I feel we are in a good position to be competitive in the league and play some exciting fast paced rugby."

Over the years Clifton is proud of its record in developing young players, many of whom are products of its mini and junior sections, as they climb the ladder, into Premiership and international ranks.

The club extends its very best wishes to Shay Sainsbury and Jay Evans who move to Reading Rams [Division One] and Hartpury [Championship]. Both forwards have made outstanding contributions in recent campaigns as their play has flourished in the coaching set up at Clifton. Shay,

originally from Clifton College, was honoured with an appearance for the Barbarians in 2025. Jay was voted the Player's Player of the 2025-26 season.

The real league business commences on September 5 with a trip to the Forest of Dean to face the always tough Cinderford team. All home fixtures for the 2026-27 season kick off at 3pm at Cribbs Causeway where a warm welcome on and off the pitch awaits supporters.

HOME FIXTURES

September 12: Old Redcliffians

October 3: Loughborough Students

October 17: Devonport Services

November 7: Exeter University

November 21: Redruth

December 12: Hinckley

Roger Opie

NATURE WATCH with Dawn Lawrence

The wild and wonderful world of wasps

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

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



The stunning ruby-tailed wasp

Photo by gailhampshire

them away gently is usually sufficient.

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

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

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

© Dawn Lawrence

Share your group's activities: Email us on news@cliftonvoice.co.uk

To advertise, contact Emma on 0117 9082121 or 07715 770448 or email emma@cliftonvoice.co.uk



Leigh Woods, Bristol | Guide Price £1,775,000

A beautifully presented and comprehensively refurbished four-bedroom detached house in the sought-after village of Leigh Woods; with gated off-street parking, a double garage and landscaped front & rear gardens.

Stunning light-filled circa 2450 sq ft family home over three floors with versatile accommodation | Full-width family kitchen & dining room | Full width sitting room with a south facing balcony | Family room / snug & a separate study | Generous utility and boot room | Bedroom one with en-suite bathroom, dressing room and mezzanine home office | Three further double bedrooms and two further bath / shower rooms | Fabulous south-facing garden with a fully equipped outdoor kitchen | Landscaped front garden with pedestrian access to Bridge Road | Gated off-street parking and circa 440 sq. ft double garage with EV charge point | EPC: D

In all circa 2875.90sq.ft (267.20 sq.m)

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Stoke Bishop

Guide Price £1,050,000

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



Clifton

Guide Price £325,000

Full of character and charm this 1 double bedroom first floor apartment has well-proportioned rooms and large south-facing windows that fill the accommodation with natural light. Approx. 675 sq ft. Attractive communal gardens to the front and rear and an allocated parking space. EPC D



Stoke Bishop

Guide Price £325,000

Fantastic first-floor apartment in the highly sought-after and leafy Sneyd Park area of BS9, offering 2 double bedrooms, a separate study, spacious living accommodation, communal gardens and a garage. EPC D



Stoke Bishop

Guide Price £500,000

4 bedroom, mid-century modern terraced house offered with no onward chain. Of striking design, this property offers excellent potential to make it your own, front and rear gardens, a garage, and access to a range of additional resident facilities. EPC E

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■ VINEYARD NEWS with INGRID BATES

Cool! Old idea helps us chill ...

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

Photo: Stable Design

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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.

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

For younger readers



Back to School Crossword



1								

Across

4. Do you need to sharpen yours?
5. Write or draw on this.
8. You write on this with chalk.
10. Please _____ your name on your work.

Down

1. Draw straight lines with this.
2. It has a keyboard and a screen.
3. Where you go to play at break (recess)
6. Read these at home or school.
7. They help you learn new things.
9. The teacher sits here.

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Txtpert

Theme: Sports

1		2		3			4
5					6		
9			10				
12							

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

Across

- 1 228 (3)
- 3 7868 (4)
- 5 52276773 (8)
- 7 879 (3)
- 9 24368 (5)
- 11 824 (3)
- 12 32787 (5)



Down

- 1 24554273 (8)
- 2 822553 (6)
- 3 776 (3)
- 4 833 (3)
- 6 738 (3)
- 8 9642 (4)
- 10 638 (3)

Easier sudoku

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

	5		2	6	
			1		3
4					
				5	2
	6		4		

Solutions

Txtpert

V		S	T	R	V	D
G	A	T	E			R
O			N	E	G	A
Y	R	T		L		I
				K		L
E	S	S	O	C	A	S
E				A		I
T	N	U	D	T		B

Back to school crossword

Across: 4 pencil, 5 paper, 8 blackboard, 10 write. Down: 1 ruler, 2 computer, 3 playground, 6 books, 7 teacher, 9 desk

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