

cliftonvoice

November, 2026 Issue 39

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FREE EVERY MONTH IN CLIFTON AND SURROUNDING AREA

Book looks

Organisers of Clifton Litfest look forward to the event from November 13-15. It features more than 70 writers, artists and cultural figures.



Young dancers' UN mission

Youngsters from the north Bristol based disability dance charity Flamingo Chicks took an important message to the United Nations in New York.
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No to 126 more student bedsits

A bid to turn St Joseph's care home in Cotham Hill into 126 student flats has been voted down by councillors for a second time.

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Arts trail marks silver jubilee

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

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More 20mph limits planned

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

Among the roads under consideration are Clifton Down Road and Upper Belgrave Road.

Officers are also recommending that the whole of Falcondale Road and Westbury Road from the junction of Falcondale Walk to the Redland Hill roundabout be restricted to 20mph to make the Downs safer for pedestrians, particularly given the number of schools in the area.

Green Councillor Ed Plowden, chair of the

transport and connectivity committee, said the citywide proposals had been amended following public consultation. They were being considered by the committee after the Voice went to print and if agreed are likely to come in next year.

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



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December deadline

Our December deadline is November 18. 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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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

Getting set to light up the skies

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

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

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

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

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

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

Return of Refutrees

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

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

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

www.aidboxcommunity.co.uk/refutrees

More e-scooter parking planned

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

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

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

"Thanks to additional funding from the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority, we've been able to identify around 200 potential new parking bay locations across the city. Before these are finalised, we want to hear from people about any site-specific issues we may need to consider. By focusing this next phase on dedicated on-street parking bays, we can reduce pavement clutter and make it easier for people to ride and park responsibly."

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

NEWS

Student bedsits scheme turned down

CONTROVERSIAL plans to turn a former care home into 126 student bedsits have been refused at the second time of asking.

Bristol city councillors voted by 5-3 to reject the proposed redevelopment of St Joseph's in Cotham Hill because of a massive local concentration of student housing.

The planning committee rejected the proposals by the same margin in September.

But because that went against officers' recommendation to grant permission, it had to come back with possible reasons to withstand a costly appeal, or be approved.

Council planners' advice remained the same – to give the go-ahead – but members blocked the scheme again.

More than 170 residents objected to the proposals, and Cllr Guy Poultny (Green, Cotham) stood down temporarily as Bristol City Council planning committee vice-chairman for both meetings, saying the

decision to refuse planning consent was so obvious he could not make a decision with an open mind.

Speaking from the public gallery at the meeting on October 14, he said: "You have hundreds of people saying there is existing harm and that this will make it worse, and the council has no evidence to suggest that they're wrong."

"How is the officer's report still recommending approval?"

Former Lib Dem councillor Anthony Negus urged members to refuse permission or the community would be 'very damaged' by the transient student population.

Johnny Kidney, speaking for applicants Harringay Real Estate, said the scheme was not another house in multiple occupation (HMO) but a 'managed, secure, well-contained' purpose-built student accommodation (PBSA) with staff on site.

He told councillors: "Bristol has seen a record intake of

students this year but the provision of PBSA has not kept up with demand.

"We acknowledge the issues with the unmanaged HMOs but where else can students go if specialist accommodation is not provided for them?"

"There is not one single PBSA bedroom in Cotham ward despite its proximity to campus."

Cllr Ani Townsend (Green, Central) said: "There are some streets around here that are at least three-quarters student HMOs."

"The high proportion of student numbers in this area is already really damaging."

"All the reasons for this being rejected last time still stand and I haven't heard anything to convince me otherwise."

Cllr Izzy Russell (Green, Ashley) said: "Voting for this would just enable the unsustainable expansion of universities."

But Cllr Richard Eddy (Conservative, Bishopsworth) said: "We're not talking about

family homes being set aside for PBSA."

"We're talking about an institution which has to be invested in, otherwise it will fall to pieces and it would be a crime to do that to a historic building when we have such an acute housing crisis."

"I'm long enough in the tooth in this chamber to remember plenty of members who made courageous decisions."

"It would be appalling and disgusting to not do what we're elected to do, which is to assess planning applications according to policies. In planning terms, this application is perfectly adequate, as if it's refused it will go to appeal and most likely be overturned and costs awarded against us."

Committee chairman Cllr Don Alexander (Labour, Avonmouth & Lawrence Weston) said: "I'm not at all frightened to admit I would agree with you."

By Adam Postans, Local Democracy Reporting Service
Councillors' column: Page 8

Plaque commemorates Martin Parr

DOCUMENTARY photographer and photo-journalist Martin Parr, who died last year aged 73, is to be commemorated by a plaque to be fixed to the exterior of his home in Clifton.

He was best known for his satirical and intimate depictions of modern life. He had been working on a camera shoot in Italy two days before his death at his home.

A green plaque donated by the Clifton and Hotwells Society (CHIS) will be dedicated at his home in The Polygon by Peaches Golding, Lord Lieutenant of Bristol, on November 21 at 11 a.m.

During his lifetime Martin Parr was recognised by many institutions including the University of Wales where he was Professor of photography.

In 2015 the Martin Parr Foundation, a charity based in Bristol, was set up. It houses his personal archive, and his collection of photographs alongside the work of other photographers.

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NEWS



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On the final day in New York, they worked

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

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

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

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



The Agents of Change inside and outside the UN building

Famous village Christmas tree is on its way

TONY Miles, known as Smiley Miley, will be making sure that Clifton Village gets all lit-up later this month for the twentieth Christmas running.

The Events Organiser not only decorates the Norwegian Spruce Christmas Tree with 5,000 LED lights but also sources it and arranges for it to be lifted by crane on to its traditional spot in The Mall Gardens. He also organises a well-known personality to switch the lights on.

Tony Miles found the tree at a forestry in Worcestershire. Besides the lights the tree

will be decorated with 100 baubles, tinsel and Christmas crackers.

"This is very much a community event. We start with festive singing at six o'clock. Half an hour later the vicar of nearby Christ Church, The Reverend Matt Southcombe, will bless the tree. He arrived at Christ Church earlier this year so this is his first Christmas in Clifton.

"After the Vicar's Blessing a well-known personality will switch on the lights. We're not divulging the name of the personality until nearer the event" said Tony Miles.

"This has become the most significant community event in Clifton Village each year. People from all around Bristol and beyond pack the streets around The Mall Gardens.

The tree and Christmas decorations are paid for by local traders through Clifton Improvement District (CID). The tree lighting ceremony starts at 6pm on November 26.

Tony Miles got his nickname of 'Smiley' while working on the BBC's legendary Radio One Roadshow which started in 1973 and ran for nearly three decades.

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NEWS



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

Dementia charity salutes hero carers and supporters

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

BDAA AWARDS 2026

Barbara Award: Collegiate School

Community Care Award:

Home Instead Bristol North

Community Fundraiser Award:

Teresa Grunshaw

Corporate Fundraiser Award:

Briggs & Forrester Engineering

Place of Worship Award:

Westbury Baptist Church

Volunteer of the Year Award:

Mary Jones

Corporate Award: Wessex Water

Dementia Hero Award:

Beverley Forrester

Dementia Friendly Space Award:

Age UK Bristol

Innovation Award: Mini Concerts

Organisation Award: Co-op Avonmouth

& Your Care South-West

VCSE Organisation Award:

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Bristol Care Homes

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An enjoyable afternoon at the Bristol Dementia Awards event



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CLIFTON BID

A new initiative from Clifton Village BID is bringing local businesses, schools and the community together to inspire the next generation of young culinary talent.

Clifton Village BID is cooking up something exciting with I CAN COOK, a competition for people aged 11–17.

Taking place on Saturday 31st October at Clifton High School, the event is organised in partnership with Clifton Rotary Club, Clifton High School and Fish Tales, giving youngsters the chance to discover their culinary talents, build confidence and experience the joy of cooking.

More than a cooking competition

With two categories, 11–14 and 15–17, chefs will be challenged to prepare and present their own three-course menus within two and a half hours. The judging will go beyond how delicious the food tastes. Creativity, presentation, organisation and teamwork will all play a part.

And while there will certainly be winners, the real ambition

I CAN COOK!

Clifton Village serves up something special for young chefs

is for every participant to take something valuable away from the experience — whether that is greater confidence, new friendships, practical life skills or perhaps the first spark of a future career in hospitality.

Our winners will have the chance to progress to the Rotary District Young Chef Competition, with the possibility of competing at national level.

Just imagine — a young chef starting their journey right here in Clifton Village and making it all the way to the national stage! Thanks to the generosity of Clifton High School, the competition will take place in its excellent kitchen facilities.

Why working with young people matters

Young people are the future of our community, and sometimes all they need is a little encouragement and an opportunity to discover what they are capable of.

Cooking builds confidence,

creativity, independence and teamwork - valuable skills for life. For Clifton Village BID, initiatives like I CAN COOK are also about bringing generations together, sharing knowledge and inspiring the next generation of chefs, entrepreneurs and business owners. After all, investing in young people today is investing in the future of our community tomorrow.

From Clifton to the national stage

As part of the Rotary Young Chef competition pathway, participants have the chance to progress to the Rotary District competition. Prizes include vouchers, cooking-related gifts, certificates and special aprons to celebrate the achievements of our young chefs.

An overwhelming response!

We knew that I CAN COOK was a lovely idea, but we certainly didn't expect quite such an incredible response!

The competition was fully booked almost immediately, and the level

of interest genuinely took us by surprise. It has been wonderful to see so many young people eager to get involved.

The enthusiasm has been so encouraging that we are already working with our partners to arrange additional competition dates in 2027, giving even more young people the opportunity to take part.

What started as an idea is already showing the potential to become a much-loved annual Clifton event, and we couldn't be more delighted!

Looking to the future

We hope this is just the beginning of something that will grow year after year.

After all, the future of our community starts with the opportunities we create today.

A heartfelt thank you to Clifton High School, Clifton Rotary Club, Fish Tales and everyone who has helped make this possible.

*Clifton Village BID
Discover Clifton*



NEWS

Artist Wendy on her mettle

MORE than 120 artists from printmakers to oil painters and from photographers to ceramicists displayed their work at the 19th annual West Bristol Arts Trail.

The two-day event was spread over 34 venues in Clifton, Clifton Wood and Hotwells. Some of the artists opened their homes and studios to visitors while others displayed their exhibits in churches, schools and offices.

Some of the artists return year after year with new work to display. One of them is Wendy Gyles who describes herself as a Scrap Metal Artist. "I make creative sculptures for the home and garden" she said.

One of her items that caught the eye of visitors to St. Paul's Church in St. Paul's Road, Clifton, was a crocodile which was made from parts of an old motor-cycle that had been scrapped.

"I enjoy using different metals as they add colour and texture to my pieces of work. I am always looking for discarded metal while walking my dog around the streets of Bristol," said Wendy.

The West Bristol Arts Trail started after three mothers met outside the school gates at Hotwells and talked about starting the event.



'Metal Wendy' with her crocodile

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FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

St Josephs development refused

We are pleased to report that a planning application to convert the former St Joseph's care home on Cotham Hill into student accommodation was refused at planning committee last month.

If the St Joseph's scheme had received permission, it would have meant an extra 126 students in our area. This would have contributed to an already harmful concentration of student accommodation and led to an imbalance in the community.

Clifton Down residents have always warmly welcomed students and we want this tradition to continue. But the sheer number of students is growing each year and many people feel it's becoming overwhelming. Our community is not a campus.

Many of you have said how your sleep is frequently interrupted by student noise at night. You told us that you sometimes couldn't work the next day because of lack of sleep. Babies and children are being kept awake. Elderly people are feeling intimidated.

Already this term we've seen streets overwhelmed by large



groups of rowdy students, even on week nights. Following a particularly raucous Wednesday night recently, we put in a complaint to the University of Bristol and are awaiting a full response.

Serena, George and our neighbouring Green ward councillors for Cotham, Cllrs Poultney and Makawi, objected to the application. Serena, as a ward councillor for the site, referred the application to go to planning committee for consideration. All four councillors spoke against the application at the committee meeting.

A huge amount of work was done by community members too. Thank you to all of you who put in

objections, prepared statements, and attended and spoke at committee. It just goes to show what can be achieved when a community stands up, speaks out and pulls together.

None of us are anti-development. We would like St Joseph's to be reused. Hopefully, it can be turned into a more appropriate use.

20mph is plenty - watch this space

As we write, the council's Transport & Connectivity Committee is due to consider recommendations to reduce the speed limit to 20mph on around 90 roads in the city. These account for one quarter of the deaths and serious injuries on Bristol's highways.

These roads include the 30mph Upper Belgrave Road. Many residents on this road, which faces onto The Downs, asked us to help get the speed limit reduced to 20mph, following several nasty collisions and speeding incidents. We have spoken previously at the committee on this issue and put in representations to the recent public consultation.

20mph speed limits are well

proven to bring significant safety benefits to everyone who uses the roads.

Serena is on the Transport & Connectivity Committee and George is intending to speak at the meeting at the end of October as a ward councillor. We'll report back in the next column.

Our drop-in event

It was great to see so many of you at our drop-in event at Clifton Down Shopping Centre last month. We really appreciated people stopping by for a chat about local issues. A big thank you to Richard Ryan, the shopping centre's manager, for kindly hosting us. We are planning our next drop-in event for after the New Year.

Ward surgeries

We'll be resuming these this month at Redland Library starting on Friday 6th November from 12 to 1.30pm.

Get in contact

Serena Ralston cllr.serena.ralston@bristol.gov.uk

George Calascione cllr.george.calascione@bristol.gov.uk

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ADVERTORIAL

Arts trail marks silver jubilee

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

Studios, homes and exhibition spaces in Redland, Bishopston, Henleaze, St Andrews, Ashley and Horfield will open to the public from 10am to 5pm on both days.

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

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

The anniversary marks an important milestone for the

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

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

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

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

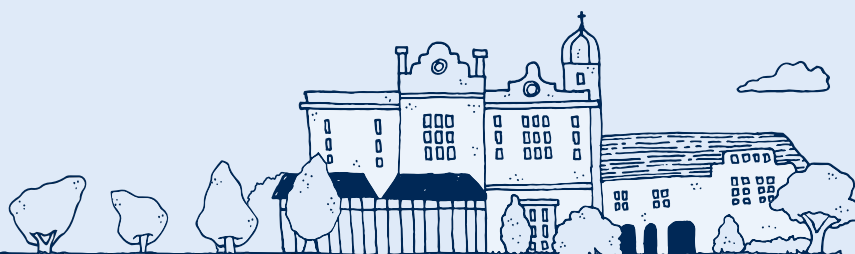


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Friday 27 November

Friday 12 March 2027



Scan to book your place

FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

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

Draft library strategy

Bristol's new draft library strategy presents an opportunity to rethink how we deliver one of our most valuable public services. We welcome its ambition to extend opening hours, improve library spaces and make libraries more accessible to our communities.

The challenge is familiar. Residents want more from their libraries, but the Council has to work within a tight budget. We cannot simply wish away these financial pressures. We must find practical ways to make the best use of the resources we have.

One proposal is to move away from routinely having two trained members of staff on every shift, towards a model in which one trained member of staff works alongside a volunteer. We believe this deserves serious support.

Our professional library staff are indispensable. Their knowledge, expertise and ability to support people with more complex needs must be protected. But not every task requires two trained staff



members. Welcoming visitors, helping with straightforward enquiries and supporting activities are all areas where properly trained volunteers can make a real difference.

The key words, however, are properly trained and managed. A successful volunteer programme cannot be improvised. It needs effective recruitment, training, clear responsibilities, reliable rotas and ongoing support from the library service. Volunteers must know when to refer a query to a professional, and staff must never be left carrying an unreasonable burden.

Done well, this approach could allow Bristol to use its existing professional workforce more effectively, extend opening hours and bring more people into our

libraries. That would be a genuine improvement for residents, particularly those whose working hours or caring responsibilities make current opening times difficult.

Bristol recorded one million library visits in 2025/26, so these are clearly valued public spaces, and we should be ambitious about their future.

The answer is neither to resist every change nor to rely on goodwill alone. It is to combine professional expertise with community involvement, backed by proper organisation and safeguards. If we get that balance right, our libraries can remain welcoming, accessible and sustainable for generations to come.

Friends of Clifton Centre and Library (FoCCaL)

Since 2015, Friends of Clifton Centre and Library (FoCCaL) has worked with volunteers to bring Clifton Library to life, making sure its doors are open and its spaces are enjoyed even when they might otherwise be unused.

Alongside organising Clifton LitFest, FoCCaL curates two programmes of events each year, featuring talks, films and a wide variety of social activities for the local community. Their new autumn/winter programme is now available on the website, www.foccal.com with printed copies also available at Clifton Library and at locations throughout the Village. Do pick one up and see what's on offer!

Fix My Street reporting

'Fix My Street' is national software to which many local councils,

including Bristol City Council, subscribe (Google Fix My Street to access it). It enables street-based issues to be identified, tracked, and their resolution monitored. We encourage local residents to use this system for reporting potholes, flytipping, graffiti and other street based issues where Council action is required.

Missed waste collections should be reported separately on the Bristol Waste Missed Collections web page. Jerome is concerned that there have been a number of incidents recently where residents' reports (recorded as 'cases') have had the 'case' closed where the issue has not been resolved. Please can you contact Jerome directly cllr.jerome.thomas@bristol.gov.uk if you are concerned that your issue is not being systematically addressed or the case has been incorrectly closed.

Sad news on copper beech tree in Victoria Square

The much loved large copper beech tree in Victoria Square has sadly become unsafe and now needs to be felled. When concerns were raised in 2020 about the safety of the tree, Paula and Jerome questioned the severity of the reported issues and following some expensive expert stress tests the tree was given a cautious all clear. However in recent months sprouting fungus in the root base of the tree, indicates that the tree is rotting at its base and is now at significant risk of falling.

Contact us

cllr.jerome.thomas@bristol.gov.uk

cllr.paula.orourke@bristol.gov.uk



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Bristol Waste new recycling containers rollout

New recycling containers have been distributed in Clifton and across the city. The changes seem to have gone fairly smoothly with a minor change that paper and cardboard now need to be placed together in the blue recycling bag. Bristol Waste representatives Shane and Abigail were recently doing a Bristol Waste roadshow on Princess Victoria Street talking residents through the proposed changes.





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

Explore Pre-Reception and Reception at Badminton School Prep.

Pre-Reception & Reception 'Stay & Play' session

Friday 27 November

Visiting Morning (ages 3 – 18)

Friday 20 November



EDUCATION

India link

CLIFTON College has announced an international partnership in India.

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

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

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

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

Judo champ inspires girls

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

NATURE WATCH

with Dawn Lawrence

Tuning into city's wondrous soundscape

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

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



One magpie, but no doubt another is nearby

Photo by Pete Birkinshaw

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

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

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

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

© Dawn Lawrence

■ BOOK REVIEW

The Inseparables

by Simone de Beauvoir

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

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

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

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

When Andree is bedridden for a year, following the campfire accident, she is visited

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

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

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

For this book and many more please come and visit your local library where you will be assured of a warm welcome

Review by Bob Deacon, from Bishopston Library



Clifton Library opening hours

Monday 10am-2pm

Tuesday 1pm-5pm

Thursday 1pm-5pm

Friday 10am-2pm

Saturday 1pm-5pm

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■ ADVERTORIAL

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

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

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

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

independent company, it's almost unheard of.

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

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



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

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

as the best installer in Britain?

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

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■ MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Court changes will help victims

EVERY victim deserves to be treated with dignity, supported when they need help and to be able to access justice without unnecessary barriers.

As Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon & Somerset, one of my responsibilities is funding services that help victims cope with and recover from the impact of crime.

Through these organisations, I hear directly about the challenges victims face, from the trauma of abuse itself to navigating a criminal justice system that can sometimes feel overwhelming.

Those experiences also inform my national role as the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners' joint lead for victims, where I work with colleagues across the country to advocate for changes that improve outcomes for victims

and survivors.

That is why I recently welcomed two significant national developments, which have the potential to make a real difference.

The first is the rollout of specialist rape and sexual offences courts across England and Wales.

For survivors, this is about far more than court administration.

These courts will prioritise rape and serious sexual offence cases, helping to reduce delays that can leave victims waiting months or even years for their case to be heard.

They will also provide more trauma-informed facilities, including private waiting areas and entrances, improved facilities for pre-recorded evidence and options for victims to observe sentencing remotely.

The aim is simple: to reduce

the additional trauma too many survivors experience while pursuing justice, and to create a system that better understands their needs.

The second development is the introduction of a new requirement for courts to formally record when domestic abuse was a factor in offending.

While it may sound like a technical change, it could have a significant impact on victim safety.

Until now, domestic abuse was not consistently recorded when offenders were convicted of other crimes linked to abusive behaviour.

The new arrangements will make it easier for police, prisons and probation services to identify perpetrators, understand patterns of offending and better protect victims.

These reforms are important



With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody

steps forward, but they must go hand in hand with continued investment in the specialist support services that victims rely on every day.

Whether supporting victims locally through commissioned services or advocating for change nationally, my priority remains the same: ensuring victims are heard, supported and given the best possible chance to rebuild their lives after crime.

MATTHEW KING CRAFTSMEN IN STONE

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WHAT'S ON

Various days and dates

BLAISE COMMUNITY GARDEN, behind Blaise Museum, BS10 7QS. Open Wednesday and Saturday 10-2. Interesting walled kitchen garden, free entry, new volunteers welcomed. Plants always available. Cash & cards accepted. Events: "Our annual Winter Market & Cafe on 14th November 9.45am - 3pm, and further cafe celebrating The Gwent League Races in Blaise on 5th December 9.45am-3pm

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.

Various dates

LA SCALA DELI HENLEAZE

Join us for one of our signature Wine Tastings led by our in-house sommelier - 5 wines, aperitivo board.

Annual Special- Big Christmas Wine Tastings:
Nov 12th, 14th, 18th, 19th, 28th
Dec 3rd, 9th, 10th, 17th, 18th, 19th
Wine & Dine
5 courses paired with 6 wines
November 20th & 21st - Christmas
December 11th & 12th - Christmas
Looking for the perfect gift for a wine lover? - Gift a voucher for an upcoming tasting to round off 2026 or chose from 2027 specials - Winter Classics - Venice - British Wines - Greek Wines
Call for Corporate/Private bespoke bookings
Tickets at www.lascaladeli.com/ tickets and in-store

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

■ WOMEN OF BRISTOL!

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

November 19

■ BRISTOL OPERA CLUB

Verdi: - Rare and Medium Rare. Verdi's operas, both his masterpieces and less performed operas, are typically distinguished by their stirring, highly melodic music and compelling dramas. Andrew Borkowski will explore the superb music of some of his lesser known works, including I Lombardi, Giovanna d'Arco, I Due Foscari, Attila, and Luisa Miller. Apostle Room. Clifton Cathedral (Worcester Road Entrance) 6.30 for 7.00 Admission £8.00/ Students £1.00 - cash only please. Easy parking, Bar Further details 01275 848526 borkmail100@gmail.com

Monday

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

■ **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.

■ **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.

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, Wimbledon Rd, BS6 7YA. A vibrant, lively new afternoon WI in BS6. For more information contact Pam Scull at goldenhillwi@gmail.com.

■ **CLIFTON WOMEN'S 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

WHAT'S ON

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 informat 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

■ **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

NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

Building careers, as well as homes

AS the days turn colder and shorter I'm sure many of you, like me, are glad when you get back to the comfort of home of an evening.

Good homes build communities, and that's why I'm incredibly excited by our new Future Places Fund.

It's the combined authority's biggest single investment so far, at £130 million, and will help build thousands of new homes while tackling the housing crisis.

This fund is huge news for the West of England, as it's anticipated to grow our economy by up to £1 billion, creating and supporting 1,200 jobs a year in construction.

It will also open up opportunities for more investment into our cities, towns and villages.

With all this exciting development happening – including in places like Bristol Temple Quarter and Brabazon & the West Innovation Arc – we need even more skilled workers to help us put plans into action.

So, over the next three years we will also be injecting £11.5m to boost technical training, with a focus on much-needed construction skills.

Thousands of new places at colleges in our region will see on-site placements for students, alongside masterclasses from qualified trade

professionals.

With tens of thousands of new homes needed in our region, we have to take this chance to help people build careers, as well as homes.

As we face colder winters and hotter summers, it's important that our infrastructure is prepared too.

Now the West of England has been promoted to the top tier of regions, we are unlocking new funding and opportunities through devolution.

This includes the regional delivery of the Warm Homes Plan. This is great news as it will ultimately mean more comfortable homes for residents, cheaper bills, and more job opportunities in retrofitting houses with insulation and green technology.

As Christmas and the colder months approach, I particularly want to highlight our work with charities and partners to tackle rough sleeping.

The government has allocated £12.3m for the West of England for the next three years to help get people off the streets.

This new funding will help provide safe, warm places for those most vulnerable as we head into the winter.

This year, almost £3m will be allocated to



Metro Mayor Helen Godwin
writes for the Voice

local councils, who are working alongside the brilliant charities and community groups across our region as we look to offer accommodation to everyone sleeping rough by Christmas - in line with a pledge made by the Prime Minister.

This is not just about helping people off the streets but giving them the support they need to move forward. Working together will help us to develop local solutions in our region as we work to end rough sleeping for good.

On housing, and so much more besides, there is plenty to be hopeful about and to look forward to in the West of England.

SPORT

Strength in depth pays off for Clifton

CLIFTON'S October league visit to Bournville saw them deliver a spectacular performance by running in ten tries. The game was played in ideal conditions which were made for a Clifton line up full of pace.

Team captain Zak Hamid set an outstanding example from the outset as five minutes into the game a well taken line out led to a rapid cross field move with him crossing the line. Later in the game his power and speed led to two more tries to complete his hat trick.

Centre and Clifton Sausage man of the match Dylan Power touched down twice in a clinical period in the second half when five tries were added to Clifton's total within a ten-minute blitz. With fly half Tom Quinlan converting nine of his team's tries in an eighteen point haul the final total became sixty-eight.

The Bournville chocolate men's resistance did melt at times, but they played their part as the game moved into its exhibition phase. The five points from this game cemented the lavender and blacks in a small cluster of teams at the



Zak Hamid crosses for Clifton



Battling Brad Talbot in action

top of the table with five wins out of six and chasing undefeated Redruth in first place.

Clifton's only reversal had come in a reversal at Luctonians in Herefordshire. This was a strange encounter in which they dominated field position for long periods but were unable to penetrate a stubborn defence. On the day Clifton were the better rugby team but their opponents broke away to score two crucial tries.

A home victory over

Loughborough Students came in a closely fought spirited match with the energetic students in contention until late in the game. Outstanding in defence and attack for Clifton was flanker Brad Talbot with two tries. One came from a thirty-metre powerful run to the line shrugging off defenders on his way.

During November Clifton will face some stern tests culminating in an away trip to old rivals Taunton on the 14th and a home match the following Saturday when current

table toppers Redruth will be the visitors. Over the decades these two long established traditional clubs share a deep mutual respect.

Much of the club's current run of form is due to the strength in depth of players. The club's second team the Wanderers and the thirds known as the Misfits have started the season well and remain undefeated as October evolves. Their high try scoring games speak volumes for the type of fast open rugby the coaches encourage.

Roger Opie

VINEYARD NEWS with INGRID BATES

Grape harvest is gathered in

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Noggins are here!

Photo: Stable Design

E: hello@dunleavyvineyards.co.uk

W: www.dunleavyvineyards.co.uk

TikTok & Instagram: @dunleavyvineyards

Facebook: @DYvineyards

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LEESE & GORDON

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Sneyd Park

Guide Price £1,425,000

Spacious 5-bedroom detached family home set in secluded, one third of an acre plot, in coveted Mariners Drive location. Sympathetically extended and improved over the years and provides excellent and adaptable family orientated living spaces over two floors. Circa 2,848 sq.ft. (Including Garage). No Onward Chain. EPC D.



Henleaze

Guide Price £1,425,000

A superb 5-bedroom detached family home, ideally positioned in the heart of Henleaze. Offering generous and versatile living accommodation with impressive property features. Extensive off-street parking, garage, a delightful family garden and the added luxury of an outdoor swimming pool. No onward Chain. EPC C.



Stoke Bishop

Guide Price £735,000

A distinguished 3-bedroom semi-detached house set in a generous plot with level c.90 ft. south-westerly facing rear garden in a prominent Stoke Bishop location. Spacious accommodation over 1500 sq.ft. Offered for sale with no onward chain. EPC D



Stoke Bishop

Guide Price £450,000

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

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Clifton, Bristol | Guide Price £1,495,000

An exceptional Grade II Listed first floor three-bedroom apartment of superb proportions, beautifully refurbished to the highest standard throughout; with off-street parking, terrace and communal gardens.

Stunning Grade II Listed period apartment | Beautifully refurbished with underfloor heating throughout | Circa 1800 sq. ft. internal floor space | Numerous retained period features with additional bespoke cabinetry | Fabulous sitting room with a west facing balcony | Handmade kitchen / dining room with a private terrace | Master bedroom with en-suite shower room and walk-in wardrobe | Study | Guest double bedroom | Third double bedroom / crafts room | Superb guest bath & shower room with utility space | Exceptional loft storage & additional storage throughout | Direct access to beautifully kept communal gardens | Two off-street parking spaces | EPC: C

In all circa 1826.7 sq.ft (169.70 sq.m)

📷 @rupertoliverproperty

PROPERTY OF THE MONTH

Guide Price - £1,850,000, Clifton



A stunning and beautifully refurbished Clifton townhouse on the edge of The Downs; with six bedrooms, six bathrooms, a south facing garden, annex and versatile living accommodation.

Superb family house of circa 4000 sq. ft * Elegant sitting room * 36' open plan family room, dining room and kitchen * Fully enclosed landscaped rear garden * Sumptuous master bedroom suite * Five further double bedrooms and five bath / shower rooms * Self-contained studio annex * Gym / cinema room and excellent storage * Close to Clifton College * EPC: D



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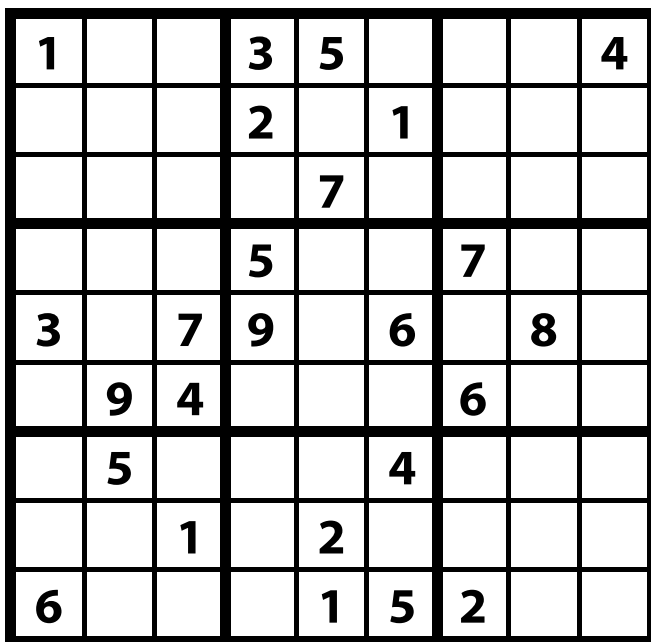


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PUZZLE PAGE

Sudoku

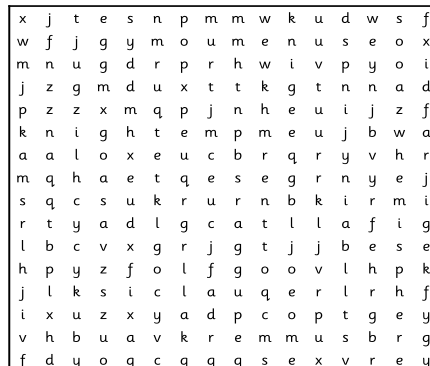
Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.



For younger readers



Autumn Equinox Word Search



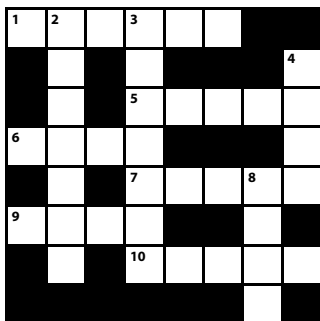
autumn day equal equator
equinox fall hemisphere night
northern September summer sun

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Txtpert

Theme: Countries



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

Across

1 528842 (6)
5 86642 (5)
6 3454 (4)
7 26646 (5)
9 2822 (4)
10 63725 (5)

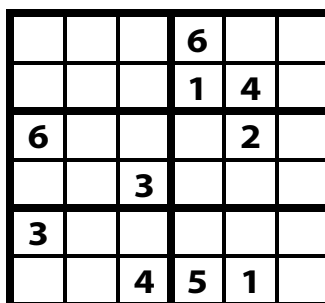


Down

2 2684482 (7)
3 8284226 (7)
4 3276 (4)
8 4826 (4)

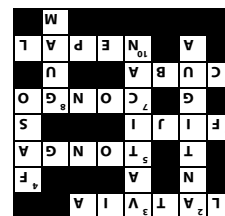
Easier sudoku

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



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