

henleaze & westbury voice

August, 2026 Issue 139

www.henleazeandwestburyvoice.co.uk

FREE EVERY MONTH IN HENLEAZE, WESTBURY-ON-TRYM & WESTBURY PARK

Heat sparks wildfire fears

WEEKS of extremely hot weather in Bristol have led to warnings of a high risk of wildfires.

Bristol City Council is advising that people should not have barbecues in parks nor open spaces. However locals have complained about people having barbecues anyway.

Sharon Smithen, a local resident, told a full council and member forum meeting last month: "I was quite appalled to see a whole load of barbecues, some on the ground. It was very dry and there was long grass immediately adjacent to it. And I thought this whole thing is going to go up in flames."

There is a byelaw banning barbecues on the Downs, although this is sometimes flouted.

Conservative Cllr Mark Weston added: "Our estates are like tinder boxes at the moment and an awful lot of people are having barbecues, and in Blaise, campfires in the woods."

Lib Dem Cllr Stephen Williams, chair of the public health and communities policy committee, said: "Nobody in their right mind should be lighting barbecues or fires in any of our public spaces, whether it's grassland or woods, at the moment."

The fire service is asking the public to take extra care when spending time outdoors, as the dry weather persists.

*By Alex Seabrook,
Local Democracy Reporter*



Making a splash ...

The successful swim relay team from Elmlea Junior School met former world champion swimmer Karen Pickering at a national contest in Sheffield. Report: Page 14



Village hall needs your help

Westbury Village Hall is calling on local people to sign up as supporters to help secure the future of the building as an asset to the community.

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Downs rules made clear

New signs on The Downs making clear the rules for use of the public open space have been welcomed by local campaigners.

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Concerns over risk to wildlife

People living near Grace Garden School in Westbury on Trym are concerned that proposals to improve access will be detrimental to wildlife.

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Despite our best efforts, we sometimes get things wrong. We always try to resolve issues informally at first but we also have a formal complaints procedure. If you have a complaint about anything in the Henleaze & Westbury 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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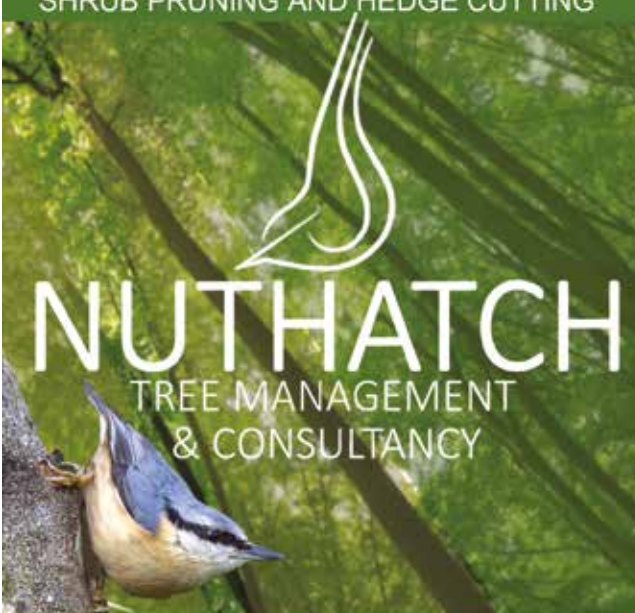
September deadline

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

Your views

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

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NEWS

Bristol set for ward boundaries shake-up

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

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

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

This was last increased from 68 to 70 elected members in a review in 1999/2000, when

the city had 292,200 registered voters.

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

Among the key changes are:

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

The area around Henleaze Lake will move from Southmead to Henleaze, and residents around Westbury Fields and Elmfield Road will transfer from Southmead to Westbury-on-Trym.

Sea Mills, Coombe Dingle and Sneyd Park, which are currently split between wards, will be incorporated as a whole into Stoke Bishop.

The Charlton Meads estate will transfer from Henbury & Brentry to Southmead.

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

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

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

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

"We have drawn up proposals for new wards and want to make sure they truly reflect local communities – but we need to hear from the people who know those communities best. Whether you agree with our proposals or think something should change, please let us know."

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

"These are draft recommendations and no changes will come into force until 2028. We are encouraging everyone in Bristol to get involved. Local knowledge is key and residents are best placed to explain how their communities fit together." The 10-week consultation closes on September 7, with the final recommendations expected in December ahead of the changes for the 2028 local elections.

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

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

*By Adam Postans,
Local Democracy Reporter*

Beat the Heat

This Summer

Long days, sunshine and social plans. Summer is made for enjoying, but the heat, busy schedules and changes in routine can take their toll on our bodies.

Here's our top tips to help you feel your best:



Protect yourself

SPF, shade and a hat go a long way in keeping you safe.



Move smart

Try to exercise in the cooler parts of the day and listen to your body.



Hydrate, Hydrate, Hydrate

Aim for water throughout the day, especially if you're outside or active.



Don't forget to rest

Quality sleep helps your body recover and regulate in the heat.



We were excited to be at the **Harbour Festival** this summer! It was amazing to meet everyone and to help people get the care they deserve. **We'd love to see you there next year!**

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COMMUNITY NEWS

CLIFTON & HOTWELLS IMPROVEMENT SOCIETY

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

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

A green plaque commemorating the discovery will be dedicated by Peaches Golding, Lord Lieutenant of Bristol.

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

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

WESTBURY ON TRYM SOCIETY

BACK in November 2025, the council consulted on proposals for charging in the 10 currently free to use car parks outside of central Bristol, each serving a local or district shopping centre. We understand that the results of the consultation which elicited 325 responses is finally under active consideration and we await the final outcome.

As I have reported previously, Westbury on Trym town centre has suffered a series of body blows over the last three years with the closure of three bank branches, the loss of long established shops and the tactical closure of most of the car park behind Carlton Court by the owners, who are intent on redeveloping it and some of the shops there.

Like nearby Crow Lane, Henbury and Shirehampton, Westbury on Trym faces competition from the Mall with its abundant free parking. We know that footfall has declined significantly in the last

few years and traders are reviewing their future here. There is likely to be a similar situation in the centres served by other district car parks, but it is perhaps more acute in north Bristol due to the massive attraction of the nearby Mall, with its thousands of free parking spaces.

Last year the council's Economy and Skills Committee, rightly concerned with the state of the High Streets in Bristol, set up a 'Task and Finish Group for High Streets' to see how the council can support them. We pointed out that charging for car parking would run completely counter to this objective and the most effective thing the council could do to help would be to drop the proposed parking charges.

We hope we will find out shortly that the council has listened to our arguments and business and community users will have confidence to keep their businesses and activities going in Westbury.

Whilst on the subject of car parking, Churchill Homes who are planning to build on most of the Carlton Court car park and adjoining shop units, were asked

to undertake parking surveys to demonstrate that their proposals would not adversely impact on Westbury. They declined saying that they were providing sufficient spaces in accordance with the council's standards. In light of this, the Society has undertaken its own survey of parking in the streets and car parks in Westbury and will be sending its findings to the council.

Another facility that has just been lost in the village is the use of the payphones by the old Post Office. These were stripped of their phone equipment and BT advise they are available for purchase. However, the approval of the landowner, which is not BT, is necessary, and when we previously made enquiries about this, the owner was unsupportive. We shall be reviewing the situation.

There will be no talk in Westbury library in August, but the Society's talks season will resume on Tuesday September 8 with a talk about the book 'The Ladies Mile' by Victoria Hughes.

**Andy Renshaw, chair
Westbury on Trym Society**



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COMMUNITY NEWS

Creating a secure future for our hall

WESTBURY ON TRYM VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE

DOES everyone in Westbury on Trym realise how privileged we are to possess such a beautiful and unusual Village Hall – and one that is an almost unique example of the mid-Victorian Gothic revival in its local design? Furthermore, that it was created as a Concert Hall and Cultural centre for what was then in 1869, its foundation year, a comparatively modest rural community around a small village in Southern Gloucestershire?

What a far-sighted gift it was, from its wealthy benefactor - Henry St Vincent Ames - son of a banking family, a much-travelled explorer, photographer, musician and resident of the original Cote House on the Downs, which itself had been a centre of culture when built by the Wedgwood family in the later 18th century.

The Hall has been so special and significant to the life and identity of Westbury that we want to ensure



it can continue as an independent, autonomous institution, serving the people of our community; to be as much a part of 21st century history as it has been to our lives in the last 150 years; and to continue as the frame for so many events, fashions and local people's aspirations in creative arts as it has been in the past.

Westbury on Trym itself is

changing rapidly. It is incumbent on all of us to make sure that our most cherished institutions, like our Churches, our Library, our Park and lovely Village Hall remain as leaders of the traditional independence we have enjoyed for so many years.

So, the Hall's Management Committee, at present a team of seven, headed by Graham Plummer its Chairman and Jane Plummer,

Secretary and chief of booking arrangements, is presenting you with the opportunity to ensure that future. We are asking people to sign up as 'Village Hall Supporters'. It won't cost you anything, except your loyalty and interest in its continued existence! Of course, if you feel able to offer help now and then or would consider joining our organising committee, that too will be most welcome. Anyone on our list is guaranteed confidentiality and data protection for all personal contact details.

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

Hilary Long



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NEWS

Clear message to users of Downs

NEW signs on the Downs have been welcomed by local campaigners and residents as a significant milestone.

The Protect the Downs group says the signs installed last month will help protect one of the city's most treasured public open spaces.

The signs clearly explain the court injunction that applies to the Downs. They outline the rules designed to safeguard the area for the benefit of everyone who enjoys it and the enforcement powers available when restrictions are ignored.

The new signs make it unmistakably clear that:

- Living in vehicles or tents on the Downs is not permitted.
- A Court Injunction is in force.
- Both Bristol City Council and Avon and Somerset Police have enforcement powers.

The group says this clear messaging removes any suggestion that people may be unaware of the restrictions and strengthens the evidence available when breaches are reported.

Sharon Scott, chair of Protect The Downs, said: "The installation of these signs is a



One of the new signs on the Downs

landmark moment for everyone who cares about the future of the Downs. Since the court injunction was put in place, we have consistently urged Bristol City Council to install clear signage, and it's encouraging to see this important step finally taken.

"The signs leave no room for misunderstanding—they clearly explain that the Court Injunction is in place, that living in vehicles or tents is not permitted, and that both the Council and the police have

enforcement powers. We now look forward to seeing the injunction applied consistently so that the Downs can be protected for the benefit of residents, visitors and future generations."

She thanked everyone who has worked to bring about the important change.

"Protect the Downs is hopeful that this marks the beginning of consistent enforcement of the Court Injunction, helping to preserve the Downs as a safe, accessible and welcoming green space for everyone to enjoy," she said.

The court injunction runs until May 7, 2027. It prevents people from living in vehicles on the main roads around the Downs and from carrying out anti-social behaviour.

The injunction covers the grassed area of the Downs and Ladies Mile, and will now also include Parrys Lane, Roman Road, Stoke Road, Westbury Park Road, Saville Road, Clay Pitt Road, Rockleaze, Downleaze, Wills Lane and Circular Road.

The council's outreach team is working with the van dwellers to ensure their welfare.

It is developing "meanwhile sites" with facilities where people can live in vehicles.

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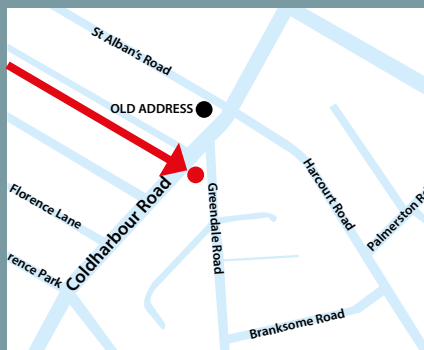
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■ FROM BRISTOL NORTH WEST'S MP

Giving kids their childhood back

BEFORE we delve into the main topic of this month's column, let me start by sharing with you some government initiatives to help make it more affordable to create fun family memories this summer.

Firstly, the West of England Mayor Helen Godwin's 'Kids Go Free' initiative for free bus travel over the holidays has been rolled out nationally by this government. And, at the end of June, the Chancellor announced her 'Great British Summer Savings' tax cut, with VAT reduced from 20% to 5% on admission tickets at attractions and kids' meals in restaurants.

Of course, aside from visiting attractions, there are many beautiful green spaces to enjoy across Bristol North West that don't cost a penny – that is, if you can drag your children away from their smartphones!

In addition to keeping children indoors instead of engaging with the real world, the advent of smartphones and social media

has had other adverse impacts on children, with bullies, for example, no longer left behind at the school gates. And then there's 'doomscrolling', in which children can be exposed to an excessive consumption of negative news, causing stress and anxiety.

That's why I'm pleased this government is banning social media channels for under-16s from spring 2027 – to give kids their childhoods back.

The ban will use the same model as Australia, whereby Snapchat, TikTok, YouTube, Instagram, Facebook and X are banned for under-16s. But the UK ban will go even further, blocking functions such as livestreaming and communicating with strangers for under-16s.

Messaging services, such as WhatsApp, won't be included in the ban, and children will still be able to go online safely to access educational content.

Overnight curfews (from midnight to 6am) will be switched

on by default for 16- and 17-year-olds on social media apps. And features that can keep users online for longer – such as video autoplay and having an endless amount of personalised content served up as you keep scrolling – will also be switched off by default for older teenagers.

Already, 1,070 constituents in Bristol North West have written to me in support of a social media ban for under-16s. But I want to dig deeper and hear what you think about this government's plans.

Please share your views in my survey at darren-jones.co.uk/social-survey I'm especially interested to hear from those aged 16 years and older who have grown up with technology, so please encourage your children and grandchildren to take part. I'll also be visiting schools in the autumn to hear from younger children – the ones directly impacted by the ban. And I'll be visiting again in spring/summer to hear reactions



Darren Jones
writes for
the Voice

after the ban has come into force.

Until then, I hope you all take some time to log-off this summer and relax. Enjoy!

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



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NEWS



Some of Badminton's swimming successes



Badminton swimmers at the national school championships in Sheffield

Girls are making waves

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

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

Individual swimmers continued to excel, with several pupils competing at

regional and national level.

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

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



Open events for prospective Year 7 2027 pupils

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NEWS

Fears for conservation area

A PLANNING application to Bristol City Council from a Westbury-on-Trym school is raising concern from neighbours, who fear it will cause environmental harm to the surrounding conservation area.

Grace Garden School in Canford Lane wants to make improvements to its site access at the Canford Lane junction and the school's driveway, as well as creating a vehicle drop-off and collection area in a field next to the school buildings.

Providing education to pupils aged 9-16 with Autism Spectrum Disorder, the school has a high demand for places and a strong focus on outdoor learning and activities. With access to the site impacted by a narrow entrance/exit and a blind corner, the proposed works include widening the Canford Lane entrance, replacing fences, some tree removal, and new traffic lights and sensors. The school says this would improve safety and convenience for parents,

staff and children as well as for neighbours.

Changes to the field next to the school would provide an area for vehicles to drop off and collect, with the creation of expanded entranceways, footpaths and below-ground drainage. Vehicle surfaces would be covered in grasscrete to maintain the green appearance. The expansion would ensure that vehicle traffic is sufficiently removed from the drop into the River Trym, while the new entrance would be set off the road, behind a wooden gate and fence.

However, the site is part of the Kingsweston and Trym Valley Conservation Area and the application has generated a list of objections from people living nearby who are concerned about its environmental impact on the river, wildlife and the benefits to all that green spaces provide.

One objector claimed that it "represents the wholesale hardening of a natural riverside

environment" and that once developed, the damage cannot be undone. Others cited the abundance and variety of wildlife along the river, urging: "These creatures depend on the tranquillity of this river corridor. Introducing increased traffic, disturbance and additional infrastructure into the heart of this habitat risks degrading one of the few places in Bristol where an abundance of nature still thrives."

The Bristol Tree Forum commented that the application does not note that the area is in a Site of Nature Conservation Interest, which does not permit harmful development, and highlights several preliminary issues that need to be resolved. Several other opponents pleaded that there must be alternatives to this proposal, such as dedicated or extended road parking along Canford Lane.

The proposal will go before city council planners later in the year.

Wraparound care praised

THE recent Ofsted inspection of Shine Wraparound Care, based at Elmlea Junior School, concluded that expected standards were met in all areas, noting positive relationships with children, and a warm welcome on arrival.

Shine offers supervised sports and creative activities for children aged 4-11 as an extension of the school day or as holiday-club sessions, based in a familiar school setting. Inspectors said leaders demonstrate a 'reflective approach' to behaviour, developing established routines and 'considering individual needs when supporting participation'.

It was highlighted that children feel 'comfortable and secure' during their time at the club, enjoying a 'varied programme of experiences' and feeling confident in approaching staff for support, conversation and encouragement.







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NEWS

Super swimmers

ELMLEA Junior School in Westbury on Trym now officially has some of the fastest swimmers in the country.

The school's relay swimming team - Reuben, Hamish, Lana and Harry - achieved a number of successes at the 30th Primary Teams Championships at the world-renowned Ponds Forge International Sports Centre in Sheffield in June.

Having qualified through the regional finals, the team proudly represented Elmlea against some of the strongest primary school swimmers from across the country. They rose to the occasion, achieving personal best times in both the 4 x 25m Freestyle Relay and the 4 x 25m Medley Relay.

Their outstanding freestyle performance earned them a place in the B Final of the 4 x 25m Freestyle Relay. Overall, the team finished as the 10th fastest primary school relay team in the country and the 3rd fastest state school—an exceptional achievement.

A particular highlight of the day was meeting Karen Pickering MBE, President of the English Schools' Swimming Association and a former World Champion swimmer, who took time to speak with the children about her experiences in the sport.

A spokesperson said: "We are incredibly proud of the swimmers for their commitment, teamwork and determination. They represented Elmlea brilliantly and should be immensely proud of their achievements."



Gemma Hewson
with E-ACT chief
executive Tom
Campbell

Head teacher's success

THE head teacher E-ACT Badock's Wood Academy has won a national award in her first year of headship.

Gemma Hewson was named E-ACT's Primary Headteacher of the Year at the trust's annual staff impact awards in Birmingham.

Gemma started her career at Badock's Wood less than nine years ago, becoming head of school in 2024 then headteacher a year later.

She said: "I feel incredibly proud to lead such a caring, dedicated and forward-thinking school community. This award isn't just for me - it reflects the dedication and commitment of our whole team and school community. The staff, children, families and ambassadors all play a part in making Badock's the special place it is."

"I am proud of the resilience, kindness and ambition shown by our children, families and staff every day."



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FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Southmead: Kaz Self and Kye Dudd (Labour)

Bristol Waste issues

There was a significant issue with missed bin collections in late June/early July. Bristol Waste understandably had to take the welfare of their workers into account in the very hot weather, leading to delayed collections. But due to staff shortages they then struggled to catch up, meaning some recycling waste was missed for several weeks. Bristol Waste prioritised the recycling waste over the garden waste collection, putting the latter on hold for two weeks (subscriptions will be extended). If you are having issues with waste collections, please contact us.

Parks licensing

In a meeting of the Public Health and Communities recently there was a dramatic intervention from a 'Bring Your Own Baby' choir, making a point about how park licensing fees are impacting them. All across Bristol, health and wellbeing groups now have to pay a licence fee to operate, thanks to the Green-Lib Dem led council. The Downs Committee have introduced a similar scheme despite the Clifton and Durdham Downs Act saying the Downs should have free and uninterrupted use for recreation purposes.

Post office closure latest

The Arnside Road Morrisons together with the Post Office branch inside closed on 1st August. We are in active discussions with other retailers to try and identify a new place for the Post



Office.

Ward boundary change proposal

The Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) has published draft proposals for ward boundaries in Bristol. It suggests 36 wards made up of three single-councillor, 26 two-councillor and seven three-councillor wards – with most boundaries changing. Any changes would come into effect in for the elections in 2028.

The proposal includes a potential change affecting Southmead, with the Lake Road vicinity moving into a new Henleaze ward and the Westbury Fields/west part of Greystoke area moving to W-o-T. Southmead would gain some of the area north of Charlton Rd from Henbury and Brentry ward.

You can have your say and see more detail through this web link:- <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/bristol> Closes 7 September 2026

Elmfield Secondary School for The Deaf

The construction of the new Elmfield Secondary School for the Deaf is well under way on the Badock's Wood Primary site. The new facility will bring secondary pupils together under one roof, end the current temporary arrangements, and give them a stable, high-quality setting in the local community when it opens in 2027.

The relocation is expected to cost £7,214,000, funded by a grant from the Department for Education. The current classrooms are small and no longer enough for the pupil numbers at Elmfield.

There are currently 29 students at the secondary, expected to rise to 48 this September. As well as Bristol, pupils also come from surrounding council areas where there are no specialist deaf schools.

The demand for mainstream school places is falling across Bristol in primary schools, as fewer children are being born in the city and families are driven away by high housing costs. However, the demand for specialist places is rising, with a range of specialist educational needs among some children.

Kye & Kaz

Contact us

cllr.kye.dudd@bristol.gov.uk

07795 509 531

cllr.kaz.self@bristol.gov.uk

07386 698 716

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FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

W-o-T & Henleaze: Stephen Williams, Caroline Gooch, Nicholas Coombes

Thousands of bins uncollected

Your local councillors have been remonstrating with Bristol Waste over the collapse of their service during the hot weather. To stay safe during the recent heatwave, refuse collection crews rightly started and finished their shifts earlier to avoid the worst heat. However, reduced hours resulted in missed collections through the week, caught up the next day. By Fridays, Bristol Waste were routinely so far behind that they simply did not collect from huge areas of Westbury Park, Henleaze and parts of Westbury on Trym.

We are sympathetic to occasional missed collections, but it is clear that Bristol Waste does not have the operational capacity to deal with unusual events, or the organisational ability to avoid making the same mistakes over and over. We are aware of streets missed for three consecutive Fridays, which we reported to Bristol Waste for prioritisation. The Leader of the Liberal Democrats on Bristol City Council recently made a statement to Council calling for an immediate recovery plan, followed by a workforce plan to address driver shortages and improve resilience. There should also be greater accountability with a review of Bristol Waste's contract performance and leadership oversight.

Neighbourhood Fora

In June and July, we were participated in both the Henleaze and the Westbury on Trym Neighbourhood Fora, alongside the newly appointed police officers for our area. In Henleaze, discussions included the future of the phone box on Waterford Road, which BT intends to decommission, and licencing standards for shops. In Westbury the main topic of conversation was the proposal by Wessex Water to install a storm overflow tank under Canford Park to intercept sewage from entering the Trym. Understandably, many residents raised concerns about the impact of construction which Cllr Stephen Williams collated and passed on to Wessex Water. Since the meeting Stephen has received some more information from Wessex. Canford Park has been chosen as the location for the new tank (as opposed to say Coombe Dingle sports ground or Stoke Lodge) due to the existing network of sewage pipes and the hydraulics of



water movement. The test boreholes in the park, surveying the geology and water table, will continue into the Autumn. Once the tests have been analysed and if Wessex decide to proceed they will have a public exhibition about the works and designs, in Spring or Summer 2027. Wessex see no need to close the playpark, tennis courts or bowling club. We will be keeping in close contact with Wessex and will feedback more news as we get it.

Road repairs and maintenance

After a winter of heavy rain, Bristol's roads are in a poor state – we regularly report defects for repair. Summer is road maintenance season, with many roads in our area being patched or re-surfaced. Thin surface dressing, the most common form of resurfacing, is preventative maintenance, designed to extend the life of the roads already in fair condition. The method, of dropping stones onto bitumen, is relatively quick and cheap, but the loose chippings are often a nuisance to residents and a hazard to some road users. As a member of the Transport Committee, Cllr Nicholas Coombes has challenged council managers about this strategy. Preventative maintenance is financially responsible, as it avoids a bigger bill for structural repairs later; Bristol is following national best-practice with this approach. The loose chippings generally bed down, or are swept up, after a few weeks.

Cycle parking stands

Thank you to readers of last month's column who suggested locations for new cycle racks.

Nicholas has put forward requests for locations on Henleaze Road, Canford Park, Westbury High Street, Coldharbour Road and North View.

Gloucester Road closure for resurfacing

Gloucester Road will be closed overnight for much-needed resurfacing in August. The road will be closed 8pm to 6am on weeknights between 17th and 29th August. The affected area is outside the Horfield Leisure Centre, including Dorian Road and Filton Road. The official diversion route is via Southmead Road and Wellington Hill West.

The future of Westbury and Henleaze ward

The Local Government Boundary Commission have published their proposals for Bristol. Every ten years they check that electoral wards have a fair population distribution, so that everybody's council election vote is worth the same. The wards boundaries do not affect levels of council tax or the services that residents are eligible for. Ten years ago, the Commission created our current ward of Westbury and Henleaze, represented by three councillors. Now they propose two separate wards with two councillors each. Westbury-on-Trym ward would expand from our current boundaries to include the areas west of Coombe Lane and east of Passage Road. Henleaze ward would include the roads around Henleaze Lake. You can look at the proposals and give your feedback at www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/bristol - we will be asking for the southern boundary to be changed so that the community of Westbury Park is included in one ward, rather than split in two as is currently the case. The deadline for feedback is 7 September, with changes in place for the 2028 local elections. Caroline, Stephen and Nicholas are privileged to represent the people of Westbury and Henleaze together to the city council. If the changes go ahead, we hope to be just as fortunate to represent Westbury-on-Trym and Henleaze separately.

Contact us

cllr.nicholas.coombes@bristol.gov.uk

07386 698 750

cllr.caroline.gooch@bristol.gov.uk 07386 698 669

cllr.stephen.williams@bristol.gov.uk 07386 698 772

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■ BOOK REVIEW

Land

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

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

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

One day the English redcoats visit the workhouse

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

He subsequently rescues her from a ship bound for Australia and they set up home on the peninsula with their children Liam, Enda, Rose & Eugene.

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

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

A bloating sickness comes to the fort, killing many people. The elders decide to make a sacrifice to appease the gods,

by Maggie O'Farrell

they kill Brith and her dog and bury them by the well.

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

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

fish, a huge dog, an unborn child and the land itself.

For this book and many more, please visit your local friendly library. *Review by Bob Deacon, from Bishopston Library*



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Monday	(2pm-7pm)
Tuesday	(11am-4pm)
Wednesday	(11am-4pm)
Thursday	(11am-4pm)
Friday	(11am-4pm)
Saturday	(11am-4pm)
Sunday	(closed)

OPENING HOURS: HENLEAZE

Monday	(11am-5pm)
Tuesday	(11am-5pm)
Wednesday	(1pm-7pm)
Thursday	(11am-5pm)
Friday	(1pm-7pm)
Saturday	(10am-5pm)
Sunday	(closed)



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PHARMACY COLUMN

Effective weight-loss support

HEALTHY weight loss is about more than appearance – it is about improving your health, wellbeing and quality of life.

Around two-thirds of adults in the UK are living with overweight or obesity. Achieving and maintaining a healthier weight can reduce the risk of serious health conditions such as type 2 diabetes, high blood pressure, heart disease, stroke and sleep apnoea.

Healthy eating, physical activity and sustainable lifestyle changes remain the foundation of successful weight management. However, for some people, additional support may be beneficial.

A new era of weight management treatments

Recent advances in medicines have transformed weight management options for suitable patients.

Injectable treatments such as **Wegovy®** (semaglutide) and

Mounjaro® (tirzepatide) work by helping to regulate appetite, reduce hunger and control cravings. When combined with lifestyle changes, they can help patients achieve significant and sustained weight loss.

Clinical studies have demonstrated impressive results:

- **Wegovy®** achieved average weight reductions of around **15%.**

- **Mounjaro®** achieved average weight reductions of **20%** or more in some studies.

Both medicines are approved by in the UK for weight management in appropriate patients.

Introducing the new needle-free option – Wegovy tablets

A major recent development is the approval of **Wegovy tablets**, the first GLP-1 weight-loss tablet licensed in the UK.

Containing the same active ingredient as the Wegovy injection, this once-daily tablet offers an effective alternative for

people who would prefer not to use injections. It provides greater choice and flexibility while helping to regulate appetite and support healthier eating habits.

The arrival of Wegovy tablets means treatment can be tailored more closely to individual preferences, lifestyles and clinical needs. We can now also offer this treatment at Kellaway Pharmacy.

Treatment is only part of the journey

Whilst these medicines can be highly effective, long-term success comes from combining treatment with:

- Healthier eating habits
- Increased physical activity
- Behavioural and lifestyle support
- Realistic goal setting
- Ongoing monitoring and encouragement

At **Kellaway Pharmacy**, we believe every weight-loss journey is unique. We take time to understand your health,



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18 Kellaway Avenue,
Westbury Park, BS6 7XR

goals and circumstances before recommending any treatment.

Patient safety remains our highest priority, and all recommendations are based on a comprehensive clinical assessment.

How we can help

Our private weight management consultations provide an opportunity to explore safe, effective and personalised options, including Wegovy injections, Wegovy tablets and Mounjaro.

Whether you are just starting your journey or looking for additional support after years of trying, we are here to help.

Call Kellaway Pharmacy today on **0117 9246579** to book your private weight management consultation.

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WHAT'S ON

AUGUST EVENTS

■ **LA SCALA DELI**- The Italian Hub of Henleaze. Join us for one of our signature Wine Tastings led by our in-house sommelier:

Aug 6th & 14th - Meridiana - A producer exclusive

Aug 13th & 15th - Portuguese Tasting

Sept 3rd & 16th Italian Islands Wines

Sept 5th & 17th - Tuscany Regional Tasting

Oct 8th & 22nd Italian Islands Wines

Oct 21st & 24th Tuscany Regional Tasting

SPECIAL EVENTS - Wine & Dine Dinner Party Tasting Menu - 5 courses, 6 paired wines:

August 8th - Emilia Romagna

September 19th - Tuscany

October 10th - Tuscany

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

August 8 & September 12

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

August 24

■ **HENLEAZE SENIOR FILM CLUB** 2pm. **Film Club Summer Party** with entertainment from composer, singer/songwriter Nickie Hart, who will be performing a variety of well-known songs as well as some of her own compositions. Nickie draws her influences from classical music and French popular songs. This will be followed by a cream tea. Booking is required - please call 0117 435 0063. £4.00 Carers welcome, easy access. St. Peter's Church Hall, The Drive, Henleaze BS9 4LD

REGULAR EVENTS

Various days

■ **WESTBURY WILDLIFE PARK** The park's peaceful setting, with children's play area and cafe, is open for you to enjoy with your friends and family from Fridays to Sundays from 10am to 4pm. Refer to the website [wwpf.uk](http://www.wwpf.uk) for events, activities and volunteering opportunities.

■ **WEST OF ENGLAND BRIDGE CLUB** meet at the RAFA Club, 38 Eastfield, Henleaze. Thursday afternoon is for improvers, and Monday and Friday afternoons, are for more capable players. These are EBU recognised sessions. You may come alone to any afternoon session or Wednesday evening when a partner will be found. The two evening sessions are Wednesdays and Fridays. For more information go to our website at www.woebridgeclub.co.uk or contact our Secretary Alan on 0117 4526947.

Monday

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

■ **TEATIME CHURCH** - Children and families are welcome to join us once a month at the back of Holy Trinity Church in Westbury-on-Trym for crafts, games, stories and songs, followed by supper for all the children. There is also a baby/toddler area and a monthly Lego challenge. This is a very informal service, where children/adults can learn a little about God and the church in a fun and friendly environment. All are very welcome! Please visit our website for further information and monthly dates <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/teatime-church/>

■ **HENLEAZE SOCIAL GROUP 3 (U3A)** is a friendly and active group who arrange regular visits to coffeehouses, restaurants, pubs, and exhibitions. We also organise walks, treasure trails, and trips to places of interest, meeting every 3rd Monday at 11:00am in the coffee bar at Trinity Henleaze URC. New like minded members very welcome. Contact Jane Stott 07788 418078.

■ **CANFORD BOWLING CLUB** season has started again, and new members of any age or experience would be very welcome. Free coaching is available. If interested please email canfordbowlingclub@gmail.com or ring 07504254499. Come and give it a go.

■ BRISTOL HOME LIBRARY SERVICE

- We are a free service for any adult who lives in Bristol and who can't get to their library but still wants books or audio books. Volunteers call monthly. Contact us if you would like to volunteer or know someone who needs us. BHLSVisits@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk or 07714 898558

■ **WESTBURY SINGERS** - If you love singing and a varied repertoire, do try our friendly, non-auditioned, 4-part choir. We're especially keen to attract Tenors and Basses. We sing on Monday term-time evenings from 7:30pm - 9:30pm at Carey Hall, Westbury Baptist Church (far left entrance off the car park). Reading music is helpful but by no means essential. Simply come along one Monday evening (three free taster sessions available) and/or see www.westburysingers.org for more info and recordings, or email us on wotsingers@gmail.com.

■ ASSASSIN FITNESS CLASS

- Mondays 6:15pm, St Peter's Church Hall Henleaze. 45min Class £6. ASSASSIN is a Brand New Choreographed Combat style fitness class that allows you to let go of stress, whilst realising your inner SASS! It combines many elements of fitness including conditioning, cardio and plyometrics for a complete workout! Are you ready to become an Assassin? Aim, Shoot and Fire! Special September Offer - Your First Class is FREE!!! For more info and bookings please contact me: instructor.izzyy@gmail.com or on Instagram @assassin_izzyy

■ **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 further details.

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

■ BRISTOL GOOD AFTERNOON

CHOIR rehearses at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church (BS9 3AA) 2-4pm (term time only). We are a fun

and friendly, non-audition, community choir for both male and female voices - one of 32 Good Afternoon Choirs who 'sing in the afternoon' around the South West and further afield. New members are always welcome and, whether you come alone or with a friend, we will be very pleased to meet you! For further details please visit our website - www.goodafternoonchoir.org - or contact us on 01761 472468 or via e-mail at gac@grenvillemusic.co.uk

Tuesday

■ **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

■ PICKLEBALL AT WESTBURY PARK TENNIS CLUB,

Russell Grove. Pay and play Tuesday evenings 7-9pm. Details and booking on our website events page www.clubsparc.lta.org.uk/WestburyParkTennisClub Coaching also available.

■ **COMMUNITY SIGHT LOSS HUB,** First Tuesday of each month, 11am-1pm at Trinity Church, Henleaze. Join our coffee morning for blind and partially sighted people to socialise with others and receive advice and guidance from our experienced advisors. Tailored support also available by appointment by calling Sight Support West on 0117 322 4885.

■ **WESTBURY ON TRYM WOMEN'S INSTITUTE** is now meeting in the Atrium Oatly Hall, St Monicas Village, Cote Lane, BS9 3UN. At 2.00pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month. For more information, please contact Sue - M - 07971556859

■ **WOTS TOTS - NOW ON TUESDAYS!** Starting on Tuesday September 15th 2026, 9:30am - 11:30am. Do you have a pre-school child or children? Our fortnightly Tuesday community toddler group @ Westbury Baptist Church: Reedley Rd. BS9 3TE. Crafts, toys, singing and stories for families & carers. Cost is £2.50 per family including refreshments. For more info. please visit our www.westburybaptistchurch.org.uk

■ **CARERS' SUPPORT GROUP** run by Bristol Dementia Action Alliance, held

WHAT'S ON

on the first Tuesday of each month, St Peter's Church, Henleaze, BS9 4LD, 2pm-4pm. A chance for carers to share stories and gain support from each other. For further information, contact Tony Hall, office@bdaa.org.uk

■ SCOTTISH DANCING TO KEEP FIT AND HAVE FUN.

Bristol Westbury Scottish Country Dance Club. Beginners taster package (phone Tina 07568 537154): £25 for 5 wks starting 29 Sept.. For new-to-us dancers, first night free, then £6pw. (Email: maggiiekirkup@gmail.com). All classes are at St.Peter's Church Hall, Henleaze, Tuesdays 7.30 - 9.30 pm. Details at www.westburyscottish.org.uk. SC dancing also possible with RSCDS Bristol: see Thursday columns.

■ **WOMEN'S FELLOWSHIP** meet on Tuesday mornings at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church, 10.30am-noon. An interesting programme of speakers; come along to make friends. For more details, ring Kate 07905 064720.

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

■ **WESTBURY FOLK/COUNTRY DANCING** - come along to have some fun folk dancing on Tuesdays 1.30 - 3.30pm at Westbury College in College Road. All dances are called and refreshments are available. FFI contact Christine on 07775 628524 or codonnell100@btinternet.com.

■ **COMPANION VOICES BRISTOL** is recruiting new members. 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 bedside 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 A CAPPELLA:** Tuesdays 7.30pm, Victoria Methodist Church. Bristol A Cappella is an award-winning mixed barbershop chorus of around 30 members who love to sing close harmony a cappella. Our songs are

mainly from pop music, with a bit of rock and some musicals. www.bristolacappella.co.uk/ Contact: membership@bristolacappella.co.uk

Tuesday and Saturday

■ BRISTOL HF RAMBLING CLUB

We are a friendly sociable club with a variety of walks. We have 2 Tuesday walks of either 8-9 miles or 5-6 miles. On Saturdays we have varying length walks including a hill walk eg Brecon Beacons once a month. If you would like more information please visit our website.

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday

■ **FRIENDLY BRIDGE SW** is a Bridge Club operating on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday mornings from 10am to 1pm at Stoke Bishop Village Hall. We also offer online bridge and face to face tuition. New faces are always welcome. Please email friendlybridgesw@gmail.com or call Gareth on 07921-788605 for further information.

Wednesday

■ HENLEAZE CHORAL SOCIETY

meets at Henleaze Bowling Club, Grange Court Road, Wednesdays 7.30 to 9pm. A small, unauditioned choir singing varied music. New members welcome. For info, contact Kathy, 0117 949362 <http://www.henleazechoralsociety.org.uk/>

■ **GOLDEN HILL WI** Meets the first Wednesday of every month. 1-3pm. Golden Hill Sports Ground, Wimbledon Road, BS6 7YA. A vibrant, lively, afternoon WI in BS6. We have a varied programme to offer members. Visitors and new members will be given a warm welcome. For more information contact Pam Scull at goldenhillwi@gmail.com.

■ A CLASS FOR EVERYBODY!

KEEP FIT, St Peter's Church, Henleaze, Wednesdays, 10-11am, £8. Improve your health and wellbeing with this low-impact exercise class. With music from the 60s to today's pop to enjoy a supple strength workout. Call Louisa: 07725 091429. Email Louisa: chairaerobicslouisa@gmail.com

■ TEA AND TOTS - GROUP FOR UNDER 5s.

Wednesdays during term time, 10-11:30am, Newman Hall building, W-o-T, BS9 4DR. Free onsite parking. Toys for all ages, sensory play, and craft. £2 suggested donation includes refreshments. Email toddlergroup.sacredheart@cliftondiocese.com Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61579193183721>

■ A GENTLE WAY TO KEEP FIT & HAVE FUN! CHAIR AEROBICS,

St Peter's Church, Henleaze, Wednesdays, 11.15am-12.15pm, £8. Maintain and progress your strength, stability and balance at our seated and gentle standing exercise class. Songs from every era to enjoy and complement a workout for mind and body wellness. Call Louisa: 07725 091429. Email Louisa: chairaerobicslouisa@gmail.com or louisa.comwellness@gmail.com. Call Louisa: 07725 091429. Email Louisa: chairaerobicslouisa@gmail.com

■ **COME AND ENJOY** free tea and cake in a friendly atmosphere at Holy Trinity Church, Church Rd, Westbury-on-Trym every Wednesday 10.30-12. Call 0117 9508644 (mornings) for more information

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

■ WELCOME WEDNESDAY

Friendly and free coffee afternoon on the last Wednesday of the month, 2-3.30pm at The Beehive Pub, Wellington Hill West, BS9 4QY. Meet new people, have fun, and find out what's happening in your local area. Call 0117 435 0063 for more information.

■ **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

■ 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

■ SWIFTS INCLUSIVE SPORTS

swimming sessions are for adults 18+ with any type of disability (hoist available) 7-8pm. £5 per session at Henbury Leisure Centre. Contact Karen Lloyd at 07734 335 878.



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WHAT'S ON

Thursday

■ **TRINITY HENLEAZE GUILD** meet fortnightly on Thursdays at 2pm in the Leonard Hall Trinity Henleaze URC Waterford Road. We have an interesting and varied programme of speakers and new members and visitors will have a warm welcome. For more information contact Jenny on 01179620108

Thursday

■ **TODDLERS TOGETHER** is a parent and toddler group for the community. It takes place every Thursday during term time from 10-11.15am at Westbury-on-Trym Methodist Church Hall, BS9 3AA. There are toddler toys, a baby area, a weekly craft activity, singing, drinks and biscuits and a final prayer to end the session. We ask for a £2 voluntary donation per family on the door. You can just turn up - no need to pre-book. To find out more about this group, visit <https://www.westbury-parish-church.org.uk/toddler-group/>

■ **EMMANUEL WESTBURY TODDLER GROUP.** A play group for children aged 0-4, their Parents & Grandparents. Every Thursday in term time, 10:15-11:45. Northcote Scout Hall, Great Bickeridge, BS9 3TY. £3 per family, payable on door. Includes homemade cakes, hot & cold drinks and all activities. Come along or look us up at <https://emmanuelbristol.org.uk/events/emmanuel-westbury-toddlers/> or enquire by email to avbradley@outlook.com

■ **FRIENDS TOGETHER DEMENTIA FRIENDLY CAFÉ** A Dementia accessible café for all on the first Thursday of every month, 10am-12pm; The Randall Room at All Saints Church, Pembroke Rd, Clifton. Support, guidance, information and friendship with complimentary tea, coffee and homemade cake. No need to book - just come along and be a part of our community! For more information contact All Saints Parish Office: 0117 974 1355

■ **LEARN TO MEDITATE.** Four weekly sessions starting September 11th. Thursdays 4-5 p.m. at The Well Centre for Spirituality, 38 Church Road, W-on-T, BS9 3EQ. Learn to change yourself and so change the world - opening our hearts to the inner source of our being. For more info or to register shelagh.layet@gmail.com or 07983 594182.

■ **FRIENDLY CLUB** meets every Thursday from 2 - 4pm in the Methodist Church Hall, W-O-T. We are a lively group of older people who

meet to chat, play Scrabble or cards. Trips out and entertainments are arranged, plus we have tea and biscuits. Do come and make some new friends.

■ ARCHITECTURE & BUILDINGS

GROUP U3A meets at Henleaze United Reformed Church Meeting Room, Waterford Road, 2-4pm on the fourth Thursday of the month except July, August & December. We are a small shared interest group. No previous knowledge required. Contact Rod for further information. Email: rodathey@gmail.com or call 07792 200949.

■ SCOTTISH COUNTRY DANCING

Join us for fun, fitness and friendship (singles welcome). First evening free! RSCDS Bristol. New/Inexperienced dancers 7-8.30pm (£4). Intermediate/Advanced dancers 7.30-10pm, (£6). St.Monica Trust, Oatley House Main Hall, BS9 3TN. www.rscdsbristol.info. Contact Ruth 0117 968 3057. SC dancing is also possible on Tuesdays with (Bristol) Westbury SCDC: see Tuesday columns.

■ **WEST BRISTOL ORCHESTRA** is a small, friendly amateur group that enjoys music-making without public performances. It meets on Thursday nights in term time at St. Peter's Church, Henleaze at 7.15-9.15pm. We would especially welcome more string players. Please visit our website for further details at maths.bris.ac.uk

■ HENLEAZE BOWLING CLUB

Thursday afternoon short mat bowls, 13.30, all welcome £3.00, tea and coffee provided. Located in Grange Court Road next to Newman Hall. Please see our website for information and all social events. <https://henleazebowlingclub.org.uk/social-events/>

■ HEALING FOR WELLBEING -

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■ **HENLEAZE FLOWER CLUB** welcomes new members. Annual

membership £52. Demonstration meetings on 2nd Thursday of the month, 2pm, Bradbury Hall Waterford Rd. Henleaze. Plus optional Practice Classes on 4th Thursday. We meet every month except December and August. Please contact Jenny York, Club Chair yorkjenny2@yahoo or phone/text 07880 700270

■ **SINGING TO REMEMBER** We meet on 1st, 3rd and 5th Thursday from 2 - 3.45 pm in The Bradbury Hall, Waterford Road, Henleaze. It is a friendly, supportive group for people with dementia and their carers. Anyone interested can phone me 0117 9426095 to book a place or discuss.

■ **BRISTOL BACH CHOIR** are now recruiting new members. We are a friendly auditioned choir of between 30 and 40 singers. All voice parts are welcome. We rehearse on a Thursday evening at Bristol Grammar School from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. If interested please contact Julie at membership@bristolbach.org.uk

■ HENLEAZE FLOWER CLUB

Visitors are very welcome at any meeting £8 . No need to book just come to The Bradbury Hall BS9 4BT on the second or fourth Thursday in the month , except August and December. Demonstrations on the second Thursday start at 2pm . Practice class on the fourth Thursday starts at 1.30pm.Contact Jenny York 07880 700 270

■ **HENLEAZE LADIES' CHOIR** Come and join us at St Peter's Church Hall. We are a friendly choir and meet on Thursday afternoons in term time from 1.45 to 3.45. There are no auditions, and the ability to read music is not necessary. Contact Jeanette on 9685409 or Jane on 07752 332278.

■ HIGHBURY BADMINTON CLUB:

Pete Stables 0117 950 1524 or www.pete4458.wixsite.com/highburybadminton Thurs 7:45pm mid September to End April, Westbury-on-Trym Village Hall

■ **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 and listen. Call 0117 959 0834

Friday

■ **BRISTOL SPANISH CIRCLE** - Come and meet a group of friendly people and enjoy talks in Spanish, musical events and social evenings.

We meet every month from September to June, usually on the last Friday of the month, at St Peter's Church Hall in Henleaze. For info, see <https://www.spanishcirclebristol.com/>.

■ WESTBURY ON TRYM COUNTRY

MARKET 10:00 - 11:30 every Friday in the Westbury on Trym Methodist Church Hall. A cooperative of local producers selling seasonal items including baked goods, preserves, local honey, eggs, cheese, ham, plants, flowers and hand made craft. It's free to come in and view. New producers, particularly cooks, are especially welcome. More information www.avoncountrymarket.co.uk, mail@avoncountrymarket.co.uk or call 0117 950 3897.

■ **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 and listen. 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). Voluntary service run by experienced repairers. Donations welcome. FFI see Facebook @ [seamillsrepaircafe](https://www.facebook.com/seamillsrepaircafe) or email: repair-cafe.seamills@gmail.com

■ **FAMILY ART WORKSHOPS** at Goldfinch Create and Play, Canford Lane in Westbury-on-Trym. These take place on the first Saturday of every month from 10am - 11am and are designed for the whole family to enjoy together in a relaxed environment. Seasonal nature based crafts for older and younger attendees and fun, sensory trays for toddlers. Please visit <https://www.goldfinchcreateandplay.co.uk> to book your spot and view our other offerings for toddlers, children, teens and adults.

Sunday

■ BRISTOL ORCHESTRAL PLAYERS

are a friendly orchestra meeting monthly for workshop-style rehearsals. We enjoy exploring varied classical repertoire, from well-known symphonies to lesser-played orchestral works. Musical Director Nicola Ashton started with us in November. Join us on Sundays 6:30-9:00 in St Peter's Church Hall Henleaze. New members very welcome, particularly string and horn players. Contact joannamellors34@gmail.com or check our website <https://www.bristolorchestralplayers.co.uk/> for further information

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NEWS FROM SusWoT

Litter: Deep cleans and regular maintenance

Sustainable Westbury-on-Trym (SusWoT) has finally completed its deep-clean of Southmead, which began in October last year. A huge thank you to everyone who helped clear every street and green space. Volunteers collected around 40 sacks of rubbish each week alongside a huge amount of historic fly-tipping.

The challenge now is to keep the area clean. We have already recruited nearly 30 volunteers who are looking after their own street or part of a green space. They are doing a fabulous job, and we are looking for more people so that the whole of Southmead is covered. All equipment is provided. We are now focussing on Henbury.

Regular activities

Our regular working parties take place every Friday and Sunday morning, covering litter picking, river cleaning and Himalayan balsam removal. The precise location is finalised the day before the activity – we decide where to go based on the work that needs to be done and the volunteers who are available to help. We enjoy supporting our local businesses and eat out twice a month in the village, alternating between restaurants and pubs. Our next monthly meeting is on Thursday 27th August at 7:30pm. The village hall is closed, so please check our website for the August venue.



Rubbish collected in two hours

Himalayan balsam

Himalayan Balsam is in flower right now and needs to be destroyed so that it does not take hold again in the Trym and Hazel Brook catchment. The most effective method is to pull it up by the roots – easier than it sounds – and crush the stem, particularly below the first node. Once pulled and crushed, simply leave it out to dry. If you spot any balsam that you cannot deal with yourself, please contact us so we can arrange to clear it.

Retrofit Neighbours

We are pleased to report that our Retrofit Neighbours scheme is up and running, with visits taking place. Retrofit Neighbours connects people who are considering improving the energy efficiency of their home with local residents who've already carried out the work such as installing an air source heat pump.

Village show

We look forward to seeing you at the Westbury-on-Trym Village Show on 5th September. SusWoT sponsors classes 92-94 and will have a stall outside. Come and find out more about our existing projects and share your ideas for what other initiatives we might pursue. Find out more about the village show at www.wotvs.co.uk.

Harvest supper

SusWoT is hosting a bring-and-share Harvest Supper on Sunday 13th September. More details to follow.

Get involved

To volunteer, check meeting locations, or learn more about our projects, activities and events visit suswot.org.uk, email suswot2050@gmail.com, or follow our updates on Facebook at [suswot](https://www.facebook.com/suswot).

Liz Viggers



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Managing money under an LPA

When someone loses the capacity to manage their own finances, a Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) allows an attorney to step in and make decisions on their behalf. However, it is important to remember that the money still belongs to the person who created the LPA, not the attorney. Every decision must be made in their best interests, based on their wishes, circumstances and financial objectives.

Making gifts under an LPA

The law allows attorneys to make only limited, modest gifts on customary occasions, such as birthdays, anniversaries or Christmas. Larger gifts usually require an application to the Court of Protection.

Before considering any significant gift, it is essential to understand the wider financial implications. Would the gift create a tax liability? Could it affect future care funding? Is the person likely to need their assets in the future?

This is where professional financial planning

can be invaluable. A clear understanding of the person's finances, objectives and intentions can help support any Court of Protection application.

The role of a Letter of Wishes

A Letter of Wishes is a separate document that can provide valuable guidance to attorneys and the Court of Protection. It should be signed, dated, kept securely alongside legal and financial documents, and reviewed regularly.

If a gifting application is made, the Letter of Wishes may be submitted as part of the evidence, so it should be clear, factual and focused. It can explain the person's gifting history, their intentions, who they would like to support and why, and any relevant circumstances, such as a property sale creating available funds or wider inheritance tax planning objectives.

A well-prepared financial plan and Letter of Wishes can help demonstrate the person's

values, priorities and reasons behind financial decisions.

Supporting attorneys with financial decisions

An attorney's role includes understanding the donor's attitude towards money, investment preferences, future needs and personal goals.

Regular financial planning reviews can help attorneys make informed decisions, whether that involves funding care, protecting assets, supporting family members, or planning efficiently for inheritance tax.

The right financial planning support helps ensure decisions remain focused on one thing: making sure the person's money continues to support the life they want, both now and in the future.

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PUZZLE PAGE

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	6			9				
		3			1	2	4	
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5				3				4
	8							2
2		9	1		5			
8			3					5
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NATURE WATCH

with Dawn Lawrence

The story of a bird cherry tree's resilience

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

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



A ghostly bird cherry on Horfield Common in 2025

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



The caterpillars and their web
Photos by Dawn Lawrence

tree's resilience – all was not lost.

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

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

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

© Dawn Lawrence

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COMMUNITY NEWS

FRIENDS OF REDLAND LIBRARY

THE Friends of Redland Library are hosting an event to coincide with the Council of British Archaeology's 2026 Festival of Archaeology.

On Tuesday July 21, in Books That Made Me An Archaeologist, a panel of archaeologists will talk about the books that have influenced their life journey. The panel includes Dr Lorena Becerra-Valdivia (Lecturer, Department of Anthropology & Archaeology, University of Bristol), Dr Jenni Butterworth (Archaeologist and former member of Time Team) and Dr. Aisling Tierney (Archaeologist and Lecturer, Bristol Institute for Learning and Teaching, University of Bristol). The event starts at 7pm and doors open at 6.45pm. Admission is £3 (pay at the door - cash only).

The Festival of Archaeology (Saturday July 18 to Sunday August 2) is the biggest archaeological celebration in the UK. Bristol Museum and the National Trust are organising events in and around Bristol.

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

FRIENDS OF REDLAND LIBRARY

WESTBURY-on-Trym Forum on July 7 at the Library on Falcondale Road was attended by about 35 residents, together with our three councillors and three members of our neighbourhood police team - PCSO Azeem Wazir, PC Neil Newman and Sergeant Jo Tafota.

Some of the topics covered are reported elsewhere in the Voice by WoTSoc, Protect the Downs and the councillors.

Other matters discussed included continuing problems with parking outside schools, particularly on white zigzags; pavement parking and illegal e-scooters. The officers encouraged residents to continue reporting concerns about anti-social behaviour or other incidents where police assistance may be needed.

Thanks to everyone who attended the forum and contributed to the discussions. Our next meeting will be in late October. If you would like to join our waiting list, please email westburyforum@gmail.com

Malcolm Neave

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