

henleaze&westburyvoice

October, 2026 Issue 141

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

Happy days

E-ACT Badock's Wood primary has reopened after a multi-million-pound revamp that includes a new play area with equipment designed by pupils

Full story: Page 15



Muriel celebrates 106th birthday

A woman who served as a Royal Signals switchboard operator in the Second World War has celebrated her 106th birthday in Westbury.

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St Christopher's plans revised

Developers have changed their plans for the development of the former St Christopher's School site in Westbury Park in response to feedback.

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Car park fees on hold for now

Proposed parking fees in the Westbury Hill car park have been deferred by Bristol City Council while it considers residents' parking schemes.

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Hopes of longer ban on vans

CAMPAIGNERS have welcomed the news that the ban on vans parking on the Downs could be extended into 2028.

A court review last month of the injunction granted to Bristol City Council until May 2027 was told that it was working well.

The judge agreed that another review would take place in March 2027 to consider an extension for another year.

More than 100 vehicles were moved on from the Downs earlier this year and the council says the number of roadside vehicle dwellers across the city has dropped by more than a quarter.

The campaign group Protect the Downs is continuing to monitor the situation in the area closely.

The council has set up seven "meanwhile sites" offering 83 pitches so far, where van dwellers can go and intends to increase the number of pitches to 157.

But there are concerns that roadside vans have simply moved elsewhere. People living near St Andrews Park say they have seen an influx of vehicles.

One resident said: "It's definitely got worse since the council ordered van dwellers away from the Downs last year."

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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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November deadline

Our November edition deadline is October 14th. 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.

COMMUNITY NEWS



Party in the Park

FUN and games were once more the order of the day on September 12 as many came to enjoy the annual Party in the Park charity fundraiser which took place on the Golden Hill Sports playing fields.

Fortunately, the weather was warm and stayed dry right to the end which encouraged large numbers of people from the local community and beyond to turn up and enjoy something for all ages. Live music on the main stage, and a mix of demonstrations and dance groups entertained the crowds, along with rides, games and challenges for children and adults alike, while stalls selling a wide variety of goods as well as food and drink brought support for local businesses. The evening culminated in an impressive firework display to bring the event to a close.

The organisers would like to thank everyone who came along with family, friends and neighbours to support the event, the many volunteers who kept everything running from start to finish, all the local businesses that kindly donated raffle prizes and the main sponsors, CJ Hole, for their backing and considerable help on the day.

Sweet success for cyclists

BACK in July, the Southmead Development Trust, based at the Greenway Centre, was delighted to cheer home an incredible team from its corporate partner, construction company Sweet Projects, who took on a mammoth challenge to cycle 220 miles, coast-to-coast, in support of children and young people's community hub, The Ranch.

The team of eight cyclists, backed by a fantastic support crew, set off from Sheerness on the east coast and pedalled their way across the country to arrive in the middle of Southmead-on-Sea at the Southmead Festival. Cheered on by festivalgoers gathered at the community stage, they powered through the finish line ribbon which was proudly held high by Ranch children.

Having smashed the initial target of £10,000, to date, the Sweet Projects team have received donations and pledges

totalling £15,000, helping Southmead Development Trust to move closer to its goal of opening The Ranch for more days to support even more children and young people.

The Trust explained: "Sweet Projects are already valued supporters of our work; they are contributing to our children and young people's mental health and wellbeing service – The Ranch Link Forward – for the next three years. Through visits to our community hubs Greenway Centre and The Ranch, talking to our teams and to young people – they have witnessed first-hand the positive impact of our work.

We are incredibly grateful for the commitment, generosity and enthusiasm of Sweet Projects and we would like to say a huge thank you to every cyclist, support crew member, and donor who helped make this challenge such a massive success."

NEWS

War veteran celebrates 106th birthday



Muriel at Westbury Care Home with her card from the King and Queen and her cake

A WOMAN who served as Royal Signals switchboard operator during the Second World War has celebrated her 106th birthday.

Muriel Ricketts, was surrounded by family, friends and carers at Westbury Care Home for the milestone occasion, at which she received a birthday card from King Charles III and Queen Camilla.

Born in Halifax, West Yorkshire, in 1920, Muriel grew up in a large family and has many happy memories of her childhood, including working on the allotments with her father and singing with her family around the piano at Christmas.

After the outbreak of the Second World War, Muriel joined the Royal Signals and trained as a switchboard operator. She was stationed at locations across England before being posted to Egypt shortly before the end of the war.

Away from her wartime service, Muriel enjoyed going

on motorbike holidays with her lifelong friend, Trudy.

She married her husband, Wilfred Ricketts, in 1968, and the couple were married for 34 years. Muriel has a stepson, Ken, who is nearly 80, as well as two step-grandchildren and three step-great-grandchildren.

Reflecting on her 106th birthday, Muriel said: "I believe the secret to a long life is a happy family life and keeping fit. We never had a car, so we had to walk everywhere, which must have done us some good in the long run.

"I still make sure I can appreciate something new each day, whether through the activities, chatting to the friendly carers, or watching the birds and squirrels outside my window.

"It was lovely to celebrate my birthday with all those who are special to me, and I'm so grateful to the caring team here at Westbury Care Home for making the day so wonderful."



Muriel in her younger days

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NEWS

Developers unveil latest St Christopher's site plans

PLANS for development at the former St Christopher's School in Westbury Park have been scaled back.

Square Bay and Acorn Property Group said their scheme for the site next to the Downs had been revised in response to feedback from residents and community groups. They were due to put them on show at St Alban's Church on September 24, after the Voice went to print.

In their initial responses to the new plans, both St Christopher's Action Group (SCAN) and Westbury Park Community Association (WPCA) welcomed the changes but expressed concerns that they did not go far enough.

The developers said: "As you would expect, different people have different priorities. The proposals seek to respond to these different considerations while providing a viable future for the St Christopher's site, which has stood vacant since

2020. Redeveloping the site will inevitably involve some compromise to balance a range of considerations.

"We believe our refined proposal will return this historic site to its former glory, in a really sensitive way that respects the heritage buildings and grounds, bringing a once vacant site back in use."

Their proposals include:

- Reducing the number of new-build homes from 40 to 34; Adding downsizer houses to the mix;
- Reducing the heights of some of the proposed new buildings;
- Retaining all mature trees and planting more;
- Shifting some new homes further from neighbouring properties;
- Reducing the number of new homes proposed as an extension to The Glen and removing the vehicle through route from this access.

The scheme would see the

1960s Grade II Listed Grace House restored and converted into apartments and the five Victorian lodges restored.

In total, 55 homes would be provided on the site.

WPCA's planning experts welcomed the proposed open pedestrian access and the possibility that children from the nearby primary school could use the open green space. They were also pleased to see that the community's request for downsizer homes had been met, but they reserved the right to comment further on other detailed aspects.

In an email to supporters, SCAN said of the scheme: "There are a number of positives — like the retention of protected trees — but disappointingly, many of the claimed changes are limited, unclear or raise further questions."

It said traffic, access and road safety had been identified as the community's main concern, but

there was still no clear solution to the additional traffic, visitors/deliveries and congestion.

It was also unsure that the residents' worries about overflow parking on streets around the site had been addressed.

Plans from a previous developer to create a luxury retirement village at the site of the former special school, which closed in 2020, were thrown out in August 2023. The site was put on the market with an asking price of £10 million.

Campaigners would like to see some special needs provision remain on the site.

The latest plans can be viewed at <https://stchristophersredevelopment.co.uk>

Once the developers have assessed the views put forward on September 24, they are likely to finalise their scheme ready for submission to Bristol City Council for planning permission.

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■ WESTBURY ON TRYM SOCIETY



BRISTOL City Council has confirmed the report on Bristol Live that the proposals for charging in the free car parks serving local or district centres have been agreed, but that the planned fees for the Westbury Hill car park have been deferred. The council says that this is to 'allow the scheme to be introduced alongside planned Residents' Parking Schemes in the area'. This consultation is due to take place 'in the coming months'.

The council has set aside the objections that we made, not just in relation to Westbury, but to the impact on the other district centres served by the car parks. Charging will conflict with the council's Economy and Skills Committee's own

concerns about the state of the High Streets in Bristol. However, the deferral of charges in Westbury is welcome respite given the various current issues regarding parking and trade in the village arising from the regrettable closure of most of Carlton Court's car park.

Whilst a residents' parking scheme may work in some circumstances, the likelihood is that not only will visitors to Westbury have to pay for parking in the Westbury Hill car park, but they will also have to pay to park on the street, where this is permitted.

• The Society had a stall at the Westbury on Trym village show, with display boards showing some of the Society's work throughout

the year. Committee members were able to talk to a number of visitors to the show and encourage new members to join. The show seemed to be more popular than ever. We thank the organisers for the work put in to make it such a success.

To provide some entertainment, and to challenge people's knowledge of the village, Tony Hoare and Alan Aburrow put together a series of thirty photographs for identification (see above). Most of the pictures were taken recently, although a few were from an earlier era, as evidenced by their being in black and white. Why not take a look around the village to see how many locations you can identify?

You can find a link to the

quiz on the Society's website at www.westburyontrysociety.org.uk

To assist you, five of the individual letters are part of shop names found on shop fascias and the 'T' is found in a changing world, but where?

• The Society's next talk in Westbury library will be on Tuesday 20h October at 7.45 and will be on 'Brunel in a changing world' and given by Iain McGregor. Places are limited, so to reserve a place please contact the Society by e-mail at westburyontrysociety@gmail.com or call Malcolm Neave on 0117 950 2825.

The next Westbury on Trym community forum is also in the library on Tuesday October 27.

Andy Renshaw, WoTSoc chair



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NEWS

Shining a spotlight on glowworms

IT'S difficult to imagine how a small corner of Bristol could be connected with a nature reserve all the way up in North Yorkshire, but local volunteers have played a vital role in the successful reintroduction of endangered glowworms at Nosterfield in Ripon, where 12 females have been spotted over the summer.

Having been absent from our countryside in recent decades due to intensive farming and 'tidying' of the necessary rough grassland, these shining, fairy-like creatures have been reintroduced by volunteer 'glow-getters' and independent Bristol-based ecologist, Pete Cooper. Pete collected a number of glowworms from a donor site established in the Westbury Wildlife Park Foundation (WWPF), bred them in captivity and reared hundreds of snail-eating larvae in his garden shed in Bristol.

The larvae were originally transferred to Nosterfield nature reserve in 2024, but as glowworms take two years to reach full adulthood (when the flightless female glows to attract weaker, beamless males), the success of the project only became evident this summer. However, it will take until 2030 to establish if the glowworms will be self-sustaining, once the offspring of the current adults reach maturity too.

Pete has spent six years - for free - learning the intricacies of breeding and



Larvae developed by the 'glow-getters'

releasing glowworms and is now developing formal standards and guidance, as well as appropriate habitat management, to provide suitable sites for glowworms to thrive in

future.

Fundraisers organised by Pete and his friends enabled the breeding facilities at the WWPF to be upgraded, making it easier to captive-breed, and garnering interest from other conservation groups involved in glowworm reintroduction.

Thanks to the continued dedication of volunteers of the WWPF, a further 1900 larvae have also been bred, which will be released in Nosterfield later in the year.

Adam Jefferies, ecological specialist at the WWPF, told the Voice: "Pete has been rearing glow-worms for around six years and when he moved his project to the park, he approached me for some support with feeding and checks. Once we had a routine in place, we put it to the wider group of volunteers, mostly local residents and conservation students looking to gain experience.

"We adopted the name 'glow-getters' and trained everyone in biosecurity, feeding methods, and maintenance.

"We're very proud to be a part of this project, and delighted that roughly 2000 new larvae will be travelling to Yorkshire for release very soon. This winter we'll be working with Pete to design a new, purpose-built facility for continuing the project, hopefully easier to work in than a shed!"



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WESTBURY ON TRYM VILLAGE SHOW

THE annual Westbury on Trym Village Show was held at the Village Hall on Saturday September 5. Hundreds of visitors made the most of the early autumn sunshine, meeting up with friends and family over delicious food. The music played enjoyed by the Marshfield Band added to the traditional show atmosphere. There was a wide variety of stalls, and a number of local organisations and small businesses were represented.

This year's theme was 'Branch Out With Trees', so it was fitting that the show was opened by Libby Boere, who is the Youth Representative for Friends of Badock's Wood. She made a short speech about the history of the wood and her family's long association with it. Further information about the work of the organisation was provided on one of the stalls.

The theme proved popular with exhibitors and visitors. Despite challenging growing conditions, the horticultural classes featured many impressive entries. The photography and children's flower-arranging classes attracted record numbers, while the cooking, flower arranging, art, needlework and handicrafts classes showcased a wide range of imaginative and skilful work from talented local people.

The show is primarily a community event, but funds raised are donated to the upkeep of the Village Hall. The organising committee is grateful to the many businesses and organisations in the community who supported the event by placing advertisements in the schedule or by donating prizes for the raffle, and to all the exhibitors, volunteers and visitors, who contributed to the success of the day.

Next year's show will be held on Saturday September 4, so please save the date!

Carole Thorpe, chair of the WOT Village Show Committee



Photographs
by Patrick
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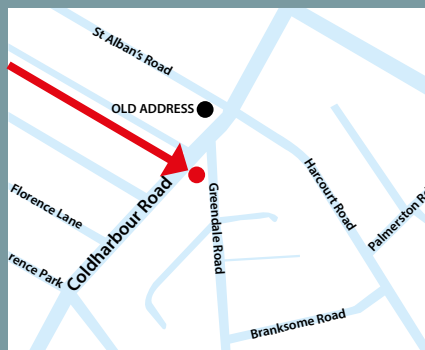
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■ FROM BRISTOL NORTH WEST'S MP

A busy time on the backbenches ...

PARLIAMENT is back in session after the summer recess, and while I'm no longer in the Cabinet, I'm as busy as ever as I work from the backbenches to proudly represent my constituents in Bristol North West.

There are advantages to not being a government minister. For one thing, I've had much more time over the summer to spend with my wife and kids. It also means I'm less tied to London, which is great, as I much prefer being in Bristol! And I'm no longer bound by 'collective responsibility', whereby the decisions made by the Cabinet are binding on all members of the government.

Collective responsibility had also prevented me from signing petitions calling for the government to change its policies – as a minister, I would have been petitioning myself otherwise!

This means I can now support more campaigns that matter to me and my constituents. Take,

for example, the campaign for a national screening of a film that highlights the climate crisis, called People's Emergency Briefing – an issue that many constituents have written to me about over the past few months.

I had the opportunity to watch the film for the first time with about 170 of my constituents at an event that I held in early September in Westbury Park. I thought the film was excellent – a factual account of the threats we face, but not in an alarmist way. So, I am happy to share that I have now signed the Parliamentary call for a national screening.

Films like this are important to inform the public, and the government does need the support of the public to keep our plan to reach Net Zero by 2050 on track. But on the world stage, I want to assure you that the government is already doing more to tackle climate change, with the Foreign Secretary, Ed Miliband, leading

the charge to persuade other countries to cut emissions faster.

In other local environment news, several constituents have been in touch about a proposed data centre in Avonmouth, raising concerns about its energy and water consumption. (Data centres are basically giant computers that get very hot, and so they need water for cooling.)

The good news is that this data centre has been designed to be powered by energy generated from burning waste that cannot be recycled. Furthermore, I've been told the data centre would use a 'closed loop system', which means the water inside the data centre would be reused, keeping its water needs low.

It's right that we develop these technologies in line with our climate commitments, which is a red line for me. On energy and water consumption, I think the developers for the data centre in Avonmouth are doing a good job



Darren Jones
writes for
the Voice

to strike this balance.

• 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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■ DRAMA

Elementary!

MARKING the 125th anniversary of the classic Holmes and Watson whodunnit, Bristol's newly established 'Inner Voice Theatre Company' is delighted to be part of Arnolfini's creative programme this autumn. 'The Hound of the Baskervilles' is a modern take on a British classic, with three young actors playing fourteen parts between them. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found dead in the garden of Baskerville Hall, his family estate on Dartmoor, with a look of terror carved on his face, and the paw prints of a gigantic hound beside the body, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson are called in to investigate.

It's on nightly from October 1-3 at 7.30pm with a matinee on October 3 at 2.30pm.

Virtue & Villainy ...

BRISTOL Amateur Operatic Society brings its new musical theatre revue, Virtue & Villainy, to Newman Hall from 14-17 October.

Through a varied selection of songs from across the world of musical theatre, the show delves into the choices, motivations and contradictions that shape the characters we encounter on stage. Audiences can expect an entertaining mix of light and darkness, comedy and drama, with numbers drawn from well-loved favourites alongside some lesser-known theatrical gems.

BAOS was formed in 1894 and is Bristol's oldest amateur theatre company. The society has a long-standing connection with Henleaze, regularly rehearsing and performing at Newman Hall, which is also home to its new musical theatre community choir, BAOS Singers.

The production is led by first-time BAOS director Daisy, supported by musical director James and a team of local choreographers.

As a registered charity, BAOS relies on ticket sales and community support to continue creating opportunities for local people to perform, develop new skills and enjoy live theatre.

For tickets, visit the BAOS website or search for BAOS Virtue & Villainy on TicketSource.



Panto plea

THE Bartholomites, a local, friendly, inclusive panto group, has been performing in the area for over 50 years, and is now looking for new members young or old.

You could be a main character, part of the ensemble, help with costumes, lighting, even stage managing. A great opportunity if you are looking for the skills/ volunteering part of your Duke of Edinburgh, or a fun activity for the cold winter months.

The group will perform its next show in the February half-term holiday, (tickets on sale from January) with rehearsals held at Horfield Methodist Church on Sunday afternoons/evenings. To find out more, or express an interest in a particular role, please send an email to thebartholomites@gmail.com



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EDUCATION

All hands on deck!

COTHAM Gardens Primary School has begun the new school year brightly with a positive Ofsted report and an improved outside area at its infant block.

Decking at the Elmgrove site was replaced over the summer after the original construction had proved inadequate.

Chris Seaton, chief executive of the academy trust that runs the school, said: "We are so delighted that the children can once again enjoy the full benefits of outside play at Elmgrove. The new decking lifts the whole site."

Cotham Gardens has become a one-form entry school this year. Just before the end of the last academic year, the school received a second monitoring inspection following its 2024 visit. The Ofsted monitoring report has just been published, and it makes encouraging remarks about all the main areas of the school.



CHILDREN at Elmlea Infant School in Westbury on Trym are enjoying a new outdoor learning environment.

The school's EYFS outside area has been designed to inspire curiosity, creativity and adventure, with dedicated areas including a mud kitchen, digging pit, performance stage, construction area and climbing equipment.

Mud pies, anyone?

The facilities provide the four and five-year-olds with opportunities to explore, collaborate and develop their physical skills through play.

Becca Hine, headteacher at the Russell Education Trust school, said: "We are delighted

with our new EYFS outdoor area.

"It provides our youngest learners with fantastic opportunities to develop confidence, creativity and independence while enjoying the many benefits of outdoor learning."

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For private patients experiencing persistent pain, diagnosis is often the first step towards finding the right treatment. Alongside diagnostics, the hospital now offers pain management options, including its new Shockwave Therapy treatment, which can help manage certain painful musculoskeletal conditions and support recovery.

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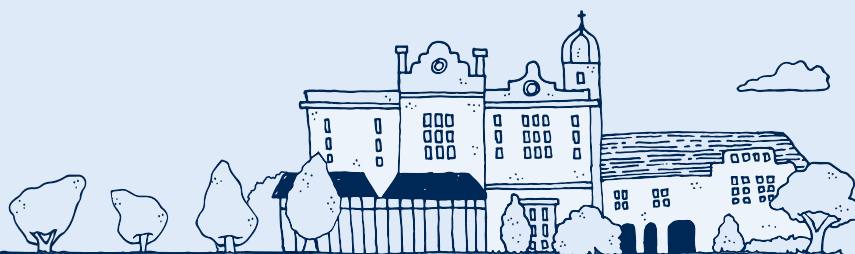


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Saturday 10 October

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Friday 16 October

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Friday 20 November



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- ✦ Friday 25th Sept, 1.45pm
- ✦ Monday 28th Sept, 1.30pm
- ✦ Wednesday 7th Oct, 9.10am
- ✦ Wednesday 7th Oct, 4.00pm
- ✦ Wednesday 21st Oct, 1.30pm
- ✦ Monday 9th Nov, 1.45pm
- ✦ Friday 13th Nov, 9.15am
- ✦ Thursday 19th Nov, 10.45am
- ✦ Monday 30th Nov, 1.45pm
- ✦ Thursday 10th Dec, 9.15am
- ✦ Wednesday 6th Jan, 9.10am



To book onto a tour email
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or call 0117 377 2605
www.westburyontrym.academy

EDUCATION

Revamp complete

A REFURBISHED primary school in Southmead is celebrating a multi-million-pound renovation.

E-ACT Badock's Wood Academy has refurbished one of the buildings on its site while giving up another to allow Elmfield School for Deaf Children to be based there.

The change came after Badock's Wood had spare space as a school, whilst Elmfield School was looking for a new permanent home.

The renovation of Badock's Wood was funded by Bristol City Council and the E-ACT multiacademy trust. It has provided the school with a new kitchen, a new nursery, new office areas, a new library with over 2000 new books, as well as a new reception class and nursery with a refurbished early years outdoor area.



MP Darren Jones cuts the ribbon at E-ACT Badock's Wood Academy

The nursery, which already has nearly 20 children enrolled, will be open to children ages three and up.

The rest of the school has also had a facelift, with all new furniture and flooring and every room repainted as well as acoustic panelling in each classroom to reduce noise.

Pupils at the school have been fully involved with the project, helping to design the

playground's new climbing frame as part of a project with Oxford University. The school's entryway has also been changed after feedback from pupils to allow for a wider entry area for children to socialise and be with their families.

Pupils were polled and surveyed throughout the renovation on what they'd like to see, with the new playground markings including sensory

circuits, phonics games and maths games after their feedback.

The completion of the renovation has also allowed the school to reopen its community hub, which offers courses for parents in a wide array of topics including cooking, parenting, and academic courses.

Elmfield School for Deaf Children will move into its new building next year after it is renovated.

The new look was marked with a day of activities including music, face painting, a full barbecue, football and craft activities.

Headteacher Gemma Hewson said: "Our pupils deserve the absolute best, and our new school building will allow us to deliver exactly that."

Elmfield headteacher Kate Persaud, said: "Elmfield are so pleased that the first part of the project is complete and that Badocks Wood can start to enjoy their new facilities. We look forward to joining them soon and further developing the relationship between the two schools."

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Tuesday 13th October 11:00-11:45

Thursday 22nd October 9:30-10:15

Thursday 17th November 1:30-2:15

Friday 4th December 11:00-11:45

Thursday 7th January 1:30-2:15

We are also offering a Stay and Play session for families who are new to our school community on **Thursday 12th November 9:45-10:30**.

Tours and play session are by appointment only. Get in touch to book.

www.henleaze-schools.org

office@henleaze-infantschool.org

0117 377 2442

EDUCATION



Triumphs at Trinity

TRINITY Academy celebrated its third set of GCSE results with extremely strong performances.

Seven students achieved all 8s and 9s. Among them were Megan H, Henry M and Lucy W.

Trinity has a diverse student body so is proud that 70% of students achieved a 4 or more in both English and Maths GCSE. The school is equally proud of all students who made strong progress.

Headteacher Eiron Bailey said: "I am absolutely delighted with these GCSE results. They are testament to the hard work of our wonderful students and staff. A particular joy is to see our students able to access their post 16 places of choice because of their exceptional outcomes here, with many staying with us in our new Sixth Form."

Redmaids on a High

REDMAIDS' High students saw 63% of GCSE grades awarded 9-8 (A*-A), significantly higher than the national average of 12.3%, with 82% at 9-7 and 98% of grades awarded 9-5.

The school celebrated strong results across a range of departments including English Language and Literature, maths, art, Latin and modern foreign languages.

Rebecca Armsby, Head of Year 11, said: "We are immensely proud of our Year 11 and all that they have achieved. It has been a real privilege to share this journey with them and to watch them grow into the remarkable young women they are today. It has been a joy to see all that they have accomplished, and we look forward to seeing where their talents and ambitions take them in the years ahead."

Jane Prescott, the school's interim head, said: "These extraordinary GCSE results are a reflection of the hard work and determination of our students, and the dedication of the staff who have supported them along the way."



REDMAIDS'
HIGH SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS • BRISTOL
GDST

We invite you this Autumn

Enquire
about our
Year 3 Learn
Without Limits
Grant

to our Junior School Open Events
Friday 16, 23 October and Saturday 7 November



BOOK HERE

EDUCATION

Badminton boost

BADMINTON School is celebrating a fantastic set of GCSE results, with over a third of Year 11 pupils achieving grades 9-7 in every subject. Overall, 73% of all grades awarded were at 9-7.

Headteacher Jessica Miles said: "This year's GCSE cohort have all demonstrated incredible determination, studiousness, and enthusiasm, and these results are a reflection of those qualities. I am immensely proud of how they have embraced the demands of their



schooling as well as co-curricular commitments with dedication and passion.

"Whether excelling in their classrooms and the exam hall, pushing themselves through sporting endeavours, or contributing to our local community, they have all set a wonderful example of what it means to be a part of the Badminton community.

"I know that the whole school will join me in congratulating them on their efforts, and of course in thanking the staff who have helped guide them through their journey."

Success at BFS

BRISTOL Free School is celebrating a superb set of GCSE and Level 2 Vocational results. The school says pupils demonstrated exceptional resilience, commitment and dedication.

This year, 82% of students achieved five GCSEs at grade 4 or above, including English and Mathematics. The proportion of students achieving this key benchmark exceeded the national average. An impressive 46% of all grades awarded were grades 9-7.

Su King, headteacher, said: "I am absolutely delighted with this year's results, which are among the strongest in the school's history.

"These outstanding results have opened up a wealth of exciting opportunities for our young people. We are delighted to be welcoming a record number of students into our Sixth Form."

Fairfield celebrates

STUDENTS at **Fairfield High School** are celebrating strong GCSE results, reflecting their aspiration, talent and hard work.

Fairfield's focus on academic excellence has delivered strong results, with a remarkable 'no gap' between girls' and boys' attainment at grades 4+ and 7+ in English and maths. Overall attainment at grades 5+ and 7+ also improved on previous years.

Subjects across the sciences, humanities and arts sustained or improved attainment at grades 5+ and 7+.

Principal Edel Cronin said: "We are immensely proud of our Year 11 students and all that they have achieved. Their attitude, dedication and commitment have been second to none."

Looking for a Year 7 Place for September 2027?

CHOOSE



E-ACT Montpelier
High School

Open Evening

6pm - 8pm

Tuesday 22 September 2026

Open Morning Tours

9am

Wednesday 30 September 2026

Wednesday 7 October 2026

Wednesday 17 March 2027

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- MHS is in the top 2 secondaries in Bristol for progress
- Students from all backgrounds succeed
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tomorrow



Bristol
Grammar
School

Come and visit
Thursday 5 November



EDUCATION



STUDENTS at E-ACT Montpelier High School celebrated some strong GCSE results.

Head teacher Ben Spence said: "We are incredibly proud of our Year 11 students. Results day is about so much more than the grades on a piece of paper; it is about recognising the hard work, resilience and courage that sit behind them. Our students have worked incredibly hard, supported by staff and families who have believed in them and encouraged them every step of the way.

"We have high expectations for every young person at Montpelier High School, and it is wonderful to see so many students now able to take their next steps with confidence and ambition. Whatever their destination, we celebrate them, how far they have come and all that lies ahead."

New sixth-form centre

MONTPELIER High School sixth formers have started the academic year in their new HQ.

The former Dolphin School site, close to MHS, has been converted into a new centre following the primary's amalgamation with E-ACT Fairlawn Primary School on the Fairlawn site.



The centre is designed to support both study and independence. includes a purpose-built library, dedicated study rooms, a spacious common room and rooftop terraces.

The new provision remains fully co-educational and is now known as E-ACT Montpelier High Sixth Form, or MH6.

Head Ben Spence said: "The new name was chosen to celebrate our sixth form's connection with lower school and brings the whole school community together under a shared identity and commitment to achieving excellent outcomes for all of our students.

Looking for a Sixth Form Place for September 2027?

CHOOSE



E-ACT Montpelier
High School

Open Evening

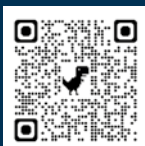
Tuesday 6 October 2026

5:45pm - 8pm

Welcome briefing from
Head of Sixth Form at
5:45pm and 6:20pm
No booking required

- We foster academic excellence within a supportive environment
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- Students from all backgrounds succeed

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Forum date

THE Henleaze Community Forum is an opportunity for residents, and those working in the Henleaze area (including the part of Westbury Park which is within the Westbury-on-Trym & Henleaze ward), to come together to exchange views on local issues and to discuss them with our Ward Councillors and Neighbourhood Police.

The next Henleaze Community Forum will be held in the Leonard Hall, Trinity-Henleaze URC, Waterford Road on Thursday 15 October at 7pm. The issues to be discussed will be determined by those attending the meeting.

There is no need to book places in advance. Feel free to come along to share your views. For details visit www.henleazesociety.co.uk/henleaze-forum/



REDLAND Green Choir has returned after the summer to begin preparing for its winter concert, which will feature the Charpentier Te Deum.

The choir was accompanied at its summer by the Long Ashton Orchestra and four professional soloists in a performance of Mozart's sublime Requiem.

St Alban's Church in Westbury Park was packed with an appreciative audience who also enjoyed the orchestra's rendering of Haydn's Clock symphony and several shorter unaccompanied pieces by the choir.

This was the latest in a collaboration between RGC and the LAO which goes back several years. The choir's musical director, Huw Morgan, and the choir are already looking forward to next summer's big concert, a performance of Mendelssohn's Elijah.

Redland Green is a non-auditioned choir which performs an eclectic mix of music from Broadway musicals to mediaeval plainchant to commissioning new works from local composers. If you are interested, please contact the membership secretary at membership-sec@redlandgreenchoir.org.uk or visit www.redlandgreenchoir.org.uk/



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SIXTH



SIXTH FORM
**OPEN
EVENING**
WEDNESDAY
14 OCTOBER

TIME TO
FIND YOUR FUTURE



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■ BOOK REVIEW

Pick a Colour

by Souvantham Thammavongsa

THIS novel is set in a nail salon in an unnamed city in an unnamed country. Our narrator is 41-year-old Ning, an Asian immigrant and the salon owner who lives in an apartment above the salon.

While Ning and her team are all Asian immigrants, the customers are mainly white natives. Every staff member has a name tag with Susan printed on it because Susan is easy to pronounce. Susan is always available. Susan is never fully booked. All the staff have black shoulder length hair and wear black T shirts with black trousers. The novel takes place over one working day. Ning fills us in with her backstory and those of her co-workers. Ning was once a boxer but retired after putting an opponent into a coma. Her trainer fixed her up with a job in a nail salon. After

12 years working for someone else, Ning opened her own salon. She has lived alone for five years, but has invented an imaginary partner called Bob as her customers like it when you have a man to complain about. She often brings him up to fill out a conversation. Every day she hears about babies, affairs and the ups and downs of married life.

Her customers come to talk as well as having their nails done. The salon offers 83 different nail colours. Every customer is met with the phrase Pick A Colour.

Her colleague Mai is confident, assured and lives with her ailing mother. Nok turned up on her first working day with her two kids as she had no place to drop them off with. She subsequently brought them with her for all her shifts.

We meet a fascinating array of customers. There is Marla who has suffered five miscarriages and who has a loud voice, hence her nickname Miss All-Caps. We also met Roger who always has a sport pedicure and always gives the salon a one star rating on Google. Ning and her team often chat to one another in their native language, ridiculing their demanding white customers.

This is a funny, tender and multi layered novel, chronicling the immigrant experience and the dignity



and despair of work with savvy witty dialogue between Ning and her co-workers. For this book and many more, drop in on your local library where you will be assured of a warm welcome

Review by Bob Deacon, from Bishopston Library

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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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Please visit [eteach.com](https://www.eteach.com) and search for job reference 1572970.

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<https://www.henleazeschools.org>

FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

Southmead: Kaz Self and Kye Dudd (Labour)

St Monica Trust update

St Monica Trust plans to extend the accommodation and enhance its facilities at the existing Westbury Fields retirement village. The proposals relate to the redevelopment of the former Department for Environment, Food, and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) site (located between the existing Westbury Fields and the Bristol Free School). The plans include new extra-care accommodation and associated communal facilities, along with parking and landscape enhancements.

The Trust is developing plans for a building that will become a focal point for residents of the retirement village and provide facilities that will be open to the public.

Details of the plans can be found on the St Monica Trust website under the Westbury Fields section. If you have feedback on this proposal you can contact Debbie Wills, Community Connections Manager:

Telephone: 07817 632 932

Email: feedback@stmonicastrust.org.uk

Tackling the cost of living

We are keen that the city does all it can to help its citizens with the cost of living. A motion on 'Energy Literacy' at September's Full Council received cross-party support; we were pleased to work collaboratively with other parties on this.



Councillor Kaz Self spoke in the meeting to support the motion. She mentioned the importance of initiatives like City Leap, which is helping to improve the insulation on thousands of council homes in the city. She also spoke out against those politicians who call net-zero initiatives 'ludicrous' – we need to go further and faster on things like renewable energy, insulating our homes and reducing our dependence on fossil fuels.

New Badock's Wood School opened

At the beginning of September Councillor Kaz Self joined Darren Jones MP, staff, parents, pupils and other dignitaries at the opening of the newly refurbished Badock's Wood Primary

School. It was wonderful to see the joy on people's faces as they viewed the fantastic new facilities, which includes play equipment designed by the pupils and a library stocked with new books. Work continues on the Doncaster Road site to build the new Elmfield Secondary School for the Deaf, which is scheduled to open in spring next year.

Part of a Schools Transformation programme in the city, Southmead is benefiting from capital investment in education. This will also include a planned new Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) facility, to open on the old Elmfield School site on Greystoke Avenue.

Fly tipping

Fly tipping is an ongoing issue in Southmead. There are some notable hot spots where people constantly dump rubbish - one of these was the clothing recycling bins outside Aldi on Greystoke Road. We are pleased that these have now been removed and hope that this will reduce the likelihood of fly tips in this space.

Please report any fly tips you see using the online tool [FixMyStreet](https://www.fixmystreet.com).

Kye & Kaz

Contact us

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■ FROM YOUR COUNCILLORS

W-o-T & Henleaze: Stephen Williams, Caroline Gooch, Nicholas Coombes (Lib Dem)

Neighbourhood Fora booked

Your councillors are looking forward to speaking with residents and taking questions on our work at the forthcoming Neighbourhood Fora.

All local people are welcome at the meetings, to which the police are also invited, which have an independent chair.

The Henleaze Neighbourhood Forum is booked for Thursday 15 October from 7pm at the Trinity-Henleaze United Reformed Church on Waterford Road. The Westbury Neighbourhood Forum is booked for Tuesday 27 October from 7.30pm at Westbury Library on Falcondale Road.

Updated plans for St Christopher's school site

The developers of the former private special school on Westbury Park have presented revised plans following public engagement.

The number of new build homes proposed across the site has been reduced from 40 to 34, which includes more smaller dwellings, giving a broader mix of home sizes. The plans are online at stchristophersredevelopment.co.uk and a public information event was held on 24 September 2026. We were able to publicise this event ahead of time with our monthly email newsletter. To sign-up for more timely updates than we can give in The Voice, register at www.bristollibdems.org/enews

Wessex Water start surveys around Old Quarry Park

Wessex Water plan to install storm overflow interceptors in three Bristol parks, including Old Quarry Park on Henleaze Road and Canford Park. The underground tanks would capture sewage and release it back into the sewerage network once rainwater runoff has reduced. This will stop a huge amount of the foul water from reaching the river Trym.

As their installation will be disruptive, the Council has negotiated a million-pound compensation fund, recently approved by the Communities Committee chaired by Stephen Williams. Of this, £800,000 is for the council to spend in the three parks affected. Stephen's committee agreed to allocate £270,000 for Canford and £200,000 for Old Quarry. The money is most likely to be spent on better play equipment, but we are very much open to suggestions. The final £200,000 fund will be passed by Wessex to the Quartet Community Foundation to administer; local groups will then be able to



apply for environmental improvement grants from this fund. We will share the criteria for these grants in due course.

Earlier in the year, Wessex Water surveyed the ground around Canford Park; now they are looking at the area around Old Quarry Park in Henleaze. Between 21st September and 11th October they plan to dig trial holes and boreholes in the park and on Henleaze Road causing lane closures.

Your councillors are supportive of efforts to prevent sewage discharges, but we are working with Wessex Water to reduce the impact of these works on residents.

Car parking on Horfield Common

We are very disappointed to see that, following the painting of double yellow lines on Wellington Hill West, Kellaway Crescent and West Broadway, vehicles are being parked on Horfield Common itself on football match days. As local councillors, we have raised this problem with council staff and are investigating options for enforcement and barriers to prevent access. Recycling container changes

Bristol Waste will be providing new containers in the coming weeks to accommodate a slight change to their recycling collections. New larger and heavier duty blue bags are to be used for cardboard and paper. Large red bags will be provided for plastics and tins, replacing the green boxes which will be removed. The current black recycling boxes will be retained for glass only going forward. Broken or missing black

boxes and brown food waste containers will be resupplied.

Parking charges for Westbury Hill car park deferred

Following lobbying by your councillors, the implementation of parking charges at Westbury Hill car park has been deferred. The deferral will allow time for consultation on possible residents' parking zones in Westbury. The consultation will be later this year, we will share details when they are finalised. Nine other district car parks across Bristol will be chargeable from October, but Westbury Hill will remain free for now. The plan to charge for parking drew hundreds of objections from local people, concerned about harm to our local shopping centre and displaced parking. Nicholas Coombes, Liberal Democrat member of the Transport Committee voted against the charging proposals but was outvoted by Labour and Green councillors voting together. However, he did manage to secure an hour free parking as a concession and continues to negotiate for the charges to be scrapped entirely.

Fighting fuel poverty with energy advice

Bristol Liberal Democrats have passed a council motion to help council tenants get the best out of their heating systems. Bristol North West Food Bank report that a third of those accessing their services cited fuel poverty as the cause. The foodbank, and the Centre for Sustainable Energy, worked with Avonmouth and Lawrence Weston councillor Zoe Peat on a plan to help people learn how to use their heating more efficiently, so that they can live comfortably for less. The guides to using boilers, heat pumps and storage heaters will be targeted at council tenants but made available to everyone. Westbury & Henleaze councillor Caroline Gooch seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously. The motion is aimed at supplementing the council's retrofit program to improve insulation and heat retention in council homes.

Contact us

cllr.nicholas.coombes@bristol.gov.uk
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■ ADVERTISING FEATURE

Probate application fee increase – what this means for executors

AS of 13th July 2026, the court fee payable to the probate Registry when applying for a Grant of Probate or Letters of Administration in England and Wales has increased to £526 from £300 for Estates valued at over £5,000, which is an increase of 75%. The Ministry of Justice has said that this increase reflects inflation and the cost of maintaining and improving the probate service.

Whilst this cost can be reimbursed from Estate funds, it is often the case that banks are unable to release money until the Grant is obtained, meaning the Executor needs to cover the cost themselves in the first instance.

It is important to note that not all Estates require a Grant, but this is largely down to the type of assets held and their value. Executors

should therefore seek to establish if a Grant is needed as soon as possible.

Whilst the application fee has substantially increased, there has also been reduction in the cost of additional copies of the Grant if ordered at the same time as making the application. Previously copies cost £16 each, but this has reduced to £2 per copy. If an estate has many assets, each requiring an official copy, this can help to keep administrative costs down a little.

Executors have a great number of responsibilities and duties, which include valuing the estates assets and liabilities, considering whether the deceased made any gifts in the 7 years before they died and the value of any trusts in which they held an interest, settling

liabilities and any Inheritance Tax due to HMRC (if applicable) and distributing assets to beneficiaries. The estate administration process is lengthy, unexpected complexities can arise and costs are often incurred throughout, so it is important to understand likely costs involved at an early stage in order to avoid any sudden surprises or financial pressures that may arise.

If you have recently lost a loved one and have been appointed as an Executor under a Will or are entitled to act under an Intestacy and you require advice regarding your appointment, our Probate team is available to assist and we can ensure your legal duties are carried out efficiently and with confidence. Please contact us on **0117 962 1205**, by email to **info@amdsolicitors.com** or through our website **www.amdsolicitors.com**.



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FROM October 1, you can just come into Kellaway Pharmacy, roll up your sleeve and get your free NHS Flu and Covid jabs. Job done in five minutes!

YES, we offer both flu and Covid vaccines together in one visit; this is now standard clinical practice and much more convenient for people who are eligible for free vaccinations.

WHY? Studies on this "co-administration approach" show it is very safe to get a flu and Covid vaccine at the same visit, helping people get up to date in one visit without arranging a second appointment or forgetting to return for a delayed one!

NO - there are no side effects associated with this approach. You can, however, still choose to come back at separate times if you prefer. Remember: the earlier you get your jabs, the better, as it can take up to two weeks for your body to develop a strong immune response after vaccination.

YES, this explains why some people still contract the flu and Covid infections a few days after vaccination. You may have been infected before your vaccination or before the vaccine immune response could fully protect you.

NO, you cannot get the flu or Covid infection from the vaccines; it is impossible.

YES, even if you had a flu vaccination last year and have lost count of your Covid boosters. As we all know, vaccine protection (immunity) declines over time. Also, new virus variants will emerge, so new up-to-date vaccinations are offered to those who need them, who are at increased risk of getting seriously ill from flu or Covid. This may be due to your age, a health condition, or the work or role you have, such as looking after others who are more vulnerable.

NO, just because you rarely or never experience respiratory symptoms—even from a common

cold—does not mean you cannot catch or pass on flu or Covid-19. You can still unknowingly spread the infection to vulnerable people (not every infected person has symptoms), which is why you must get vaccinated. If you are eligible, vaccination remains an important way to protect yourself against serious illness and help protect others. Don't be a spreader!

YES, even though you never have any respiratory symptoms, not even a common cold, that only means you can still unknowingly be spreading the infection to the vulnerable (not every infected person has symptoms), hence why you must get vaccinated.

How to get your jab? Kellaway Pharmacy offers Walk-In appointments, so just turn up. You can book on the NHS website or via the NHS App.

Are you eligible? The free NHS Covid-19 vaccination is available this autumn to:

- aged 75 or over, including those



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

who will turn 75 by 31 January 2027;
• residents of care homes for older adults;
• people aged six months to 74 years who are immunosuppressed because of a health condition or treatment.

The free NHS flu vaccination is available to a wider range of people, including: those aged 65 or over, including those who will turn 65 by 31 March 2027; those aged 18 or over and in a clinical risk group; people with diabetes, chronic respiratory ailment, heart disease, are immunocompromised, people experiencing homelessness and front-line workers in social care settings.

Questions / Unsure? Just come in and chat with us at Kellaway Pharmacy or call 0117 9246579

■ NEWS

Wear It Blue for SPH

St Peter's Hospice is calling on people across Bristol to turn the city blue this October as it launches a campaign encouraging communities to come together in support of the city's only adult hospice.

The charity is inviting schools, businesses, community groups, families and individuals to take part in Wear It Blue activities during Hospice Care Week from 5–11 October.

People can get involved by dressing in blue, hosting a fundraising event and helping raise awareness of the vital care St Peter's Hospice provides to local adults living with life-limiting illness and their families.

Whether it's a workplace dress-down day, a blue-themed bake sale, a school non-uniform day, afternoon tea, colour run or something unique, supporters are encouraged to choose a date during Hospice Care Week – or another date that suits them – and get creative.

As part of the campaign, St Peter's Hospice is also encouraging people to visit its charity shops,

where they can pick up affordable blue clothing, accessories and hidden treasures ready for the week. Every purchase helps raise additional funds, making it even easier to support the hospice while finding the perfect outfit.

Hayley Ali, events fundraising manager, said: "We're really excited to be launching our brand-new campaign, Wear It Blue. It's a simple and fun way for people of all ages and abilities to get involved and celebrate Hospice Care Week."

"We can't wait to see the creative things our community comes up with to support the campaign." Anyone taking part can download a free fundraising pack to help make their event a success.

St Peter's Hospice receives only 20% of its funding through the government, with the rest made up of funds from fundraising events, generous donations and its retail shops. It costs around £30,000 a day to run the hospice.

To sign up, download a fundraising pack or find out more, visit www.stpetershospice.org/wearitblue

**FROM 1ST OCTOBER, JUST COME IN
AND GET YOUR NHS FLU & COVID JAB!**

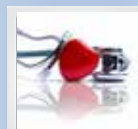
Walk-in, Book on NHS website or Call 119



Over 65 years



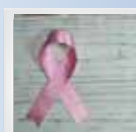
Asthmatic / COPD



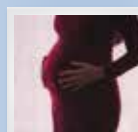
Heart Conditions



Diabetes



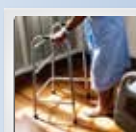
Cancer & their carer



Pregnant women



Immunocompromised



Parkinson's Disease
or Stroke



Kidney / Liver Disease

Contact us at:

Kellaway Pharmacy
18 Kellaway Avenue, Westbury Park BS6 7XR
☎ 0117 924 6579

WHAT'S ON

OCTOBER EVENTS

■ **LA SCALA DELI** - The Italian Hub of Henleaze Join us for one of our signature Wine Tastings led by our in-house sommelier - 5 wines, aperitivo board.

Oct 8th & 22nd - Italian Islands Wines

Oct 21st & 24th - Tuscany Regional Tasting

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

October 10th - Tuscany

November 20th & 21st - Christmas

December 11th & 12th - Christmas

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

October 1

■ **LEARN TO MEDITATE** Meditation is as natural to the spirit as breathing is to the body. A four week course begins on Thursday October 1st at 4:00 PM at The Well, 38 Church Rd, W-on-T, BS9 3EQ. More info from shelagh. layet@gmail.com or 0117 462 1117

October 4

■ **SARAH ALLEN** If you enjoy a lovely Mezzo-Soprano voice, you might like to hear Sarah Allen give a recital in aid of Haemochromatosis UK. Haemochromatosis is the most common genetic disorder in the UK, affecting nearly 400,000 people. Sarah will sing Gospel, Songs from the 1930's and 1940's, Classical and Contemporary works. She will be accompanied by Richard Jones. This is at Westbury Park Methodist Church on October 4th 3.00 to 4.00 pm. Tickets are £10. They are available on the door or through Eventbrite.

October 8

■ **SUSTAINABLE STYLE LAB - HENLEAZE** 6pm-8.30pm, Henleaze St Peter's Shop, Tickets: £5. A must-attend evening for anyone interested in making their style more sustainable. The Sustainable Style Lab will feature Becky Barnes, award-winning sustainable stylist; Rio Wild, sustainable textiles upcycling expert; and Lou Mackintosh, sustainable makeup artist. Guests will discover creative ideas for styling, upcycling and sustainable beauty, with a sustainable gift bag featuring upcycled products also available on the night.

cling expert; and Lou Mackintosh, sustainable makeup artist. Guests will discover creative ideas for styling, upcycling and sustainable beauty, with a sustainable gift bag featuring upcycled products also available on the night.

October 10

■ NEW BRISTOL SINFONIA

CONCERT, 7.30pm on Saturday 10th October at Clifton Cathedral. Soprano Elizabeth Watts joins us to sing Strauss' Four Last Songs. Also music by Brahms and Dvorak. Conducting is Andrea Quinn, former music director of the Royal Ballet at Covent Garden and New York City Ballet. Tickets and information from <https://www.newbristolsinfonia.org.uk/>.

October 10 & November 14

■ 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: "Jazz in the Garden" & Cafe on 10th October. 9.45am-2pm and our annual Winter Market & Cafe on 14th November 9.45am - 3pm.

17 October 2026

■ BRISTOL BACH CHOIR

Redland Park United Reformed Church, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS6 6SA. 7.30pm. The Glory and the Dream. Tickets: £21 (reserved), £15 (unreserved) Students & under 18s £1. www.bristolbach.org.uk. 0117 214 0721. The title piece by Richard Rodney Bennett will be joined by Vivaldi's much-loved Gloria, motets by Purcell and Dove in our autumn concert.

Wednesday 21st October

■ BRISTOL OPERA CLUB.

Arabella Richard Strauss's charming and effervescent lyric comedy focuses on whether the aristocratic Arabella, performed by the radiant-voiced Renée Fleming, manages to find 'the right man' for whom she craves. All are welcome to The 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

October 26

■ HENLEAZE SENIOR FILM CLUB

2pm. **The Ballad of Wallis Island (12)** An eccentric lottery winner who lives alone on a remote island, dreams of getting his favourite musicians back together to perform at his home. "A fresh big-hearted comedy" starring Carey Mulligan, Tim Key and Tom Basden. Carers welcome, easy access. St. Peter's Church Hall, The Drive, Henleaze BS9 4LD. For more information, please call 0117 435 0063

October 8

■ GRIEF IS HARD AND CAN IMPACT ALL OF LIFE

Westbury Baptist Church is holding a Bereavement Journey Course, starting on the 8th October, 2.30pm - 4.30pm, for 7 weeks. Topics include: attachment, separation and loss; pain and responses of grief; anger and guilt; coping with others reactions; delayed and suppressed grief; adjusting to change; moving forward healthily. The last session is optional (faith questions). To find out more email: office@westburybaptist.org.uk

October 24

■ BLOWN AWAY! AND WINDS OF CHANGE

(both members of the Bristol Concert Wind Band family of bands) will be doing a Concert By Candlelight at Trinity Henleaze URC, Waterford Road, BS9 4BT on Saturday 24 October at 7:30pm. www.bcw.b.co.uk for advance purchase. An enjoyable evening for all the family.

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 at wot-singers@gmail.com.

■ **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.

WHAT'S ON

■ 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_izy

■ 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

■ **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.

■ 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.

■ 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 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: maggiekirkup@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.org.uk

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 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 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.henleazechoral-society.org.uk/>

■ **OPEN CIRCLE** is a relaxed weekly gathering for anyone who enjoys good company, thoughtful conversation in small groups and a welcoming atmosphere! It takes place every Wednesday from 2pm to 3pm at River of Life Church, 26 Trym Road. To find out more visit www.riveroflife.co.uk/

open-circle'

■ **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 wellness. Call Louisa: 07725 091429. Email Louisa: chairaerobicslouisa@gmail.com

■ **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.

WHAT'S ON

■ **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

■ **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.

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

■ **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 Brookeridge, 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

■ **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.

■ **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

■ **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.** New and experienced members welcome, free tuition and a free shirt with annual membership. Coaches available. A 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. For more

info. www.henleazebowlsclub.org.uk

■ **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 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, 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 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

SEPTEMBER kept us busy at SusWoT. Litter-picking, river-cleaning, gardening and meal nights continued as normal and we also spent time at community events and working on the Trym with Bristol Avon Rivers Trust (BART).

It was great to speak to so many people at the Westbury-on-Trym Village Show. We were pleased to welcome new sign-ups for our regular activities.

The following week we held a bring-and-share Harvest Supper. It was a relaxed, sociable evening with a good spread of delicious food, and a welcome opportunity to discuss our projects. We have been harvesting beans, tomatoes, courgettes, cucumbers, peppers, chillis and butternut squash from the community garden at the library.

Planning is starting now for next year's Westbury-on-Trym May Fair. SusWoT will be raising tomato and vegetable plants for



A day's harvest from the library garden

sale at the event.

Structural improvements are being carried out along the Trym to allow more light to reach the channel, improve flow diversity and provide better cover for invertebrates, fish and other wildlife. Bristol Avon Rivers Trust, with support from SusWoT volunteers, have been felling/coppicing some trees, creating dead hedges, installing large woody debris and constructing

berms (flow deflectors) in the river downstream of the Dingle. Hopefully this will be the first of a series of projects to enhance our river and make it more resilient, including making the key weirs more accessible for eiders and fish. During the work, kingfishers, trout and a heron were spotted – positive news given the hot summer.

October is a good time to think about insulating your home. For inspiration, take a look at the 'Retrofit Neighbours' section of the SusWoT website to learn from residents who have already undertaken projects, from draught-proofing to heat pumps. Retrofit West is offering discounts for home surveys to help you prioritise upgrades. The Bristol-based C.H.E.E.S.E. Project offers low-cost thermal imaging surveys. SusWoT can arrange for you to borrow a thermal imaging camera if you'd like to conduct an initial check of your home.

We are nearing completion

of our deep-clean of Henbury streets and green spaces. The challenge now is to find local volunteers to keep a street or a section of a green area clean. You can follow our progress on the Keep It Clean section of our website.

The new recycling bags should help to stop lightweight rubbish from blowing down the street. Note you no longer need to separate paper and cardboard, but the planned kerbside collection for soft plastics has been 'kicked to the kerb' – and is not expected before 2030. Please continue to take soft plastics to the drop-off points at local stores.

If there is a local environmental project you think SusWoT could support, or if you need a bit of help to get an idea off the ground, we'd like to hear from you.

To find out more or share an idea please email suswot2050@gmail.com or visit <https://suswot.org.uk>.



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Care fee planning & the bigger financial picture

When the need for care arises, the immediate priority is understandably finding the right care and making sure the costs can be met. But for those who are likely to fund their own care, the financial decisions made at this point can have implications far beyond the care fees themselves.

Care costs should be considered as part of your wider financial plan.

For example, you may need to think about how income, pensions, savings and investments could be used the most efficiently to meet costs. Decisions about which assets to use, and when, can affect how long your money lasts and the financial security you retain for the future. An Immediate Care Plan (ICP) which can limit the cost of care may also be a consideration and can only be organised via a specialist adviser.

Your property may also form part of the picture. For many people, the family home is their most valuable asset and there can be significant emotional as well as financial considerations when deciding what to do with it.

There are also wider plans to consider. Perhaps you want to leave an inheritance for your family, have existing estate planning arrangements in place, or are concerned about inheritance tax. Funding care may change the value or structure of your estate, so it is important to understand how different decisions could affect the plans you have already made.

If you have a Lasting Power of Attorney, there are additional factors. An attorney may need to make significant financial decisions on someone else's behalf and must act in accordance with their legal responsibilities and the person's best interests.

This is why care fee planning should not simply be about asking, 'How do I pay for care?' It should also consider 'How can I meet these costs while protecting my wider financial position and keeping my long-term plans on track?'

Seeking independent financial advice early can give you time to understand those options before decisions become urgent. A specialist adviser can look at your care needs alongside your income, assets, family circumstances and longer-term objectives, helping you make informed decisions rather than reactive ones.

At Harold Stephens, we specialise in later-life financial planning, including care fee planning for those who are likely to fund their own care. For a relaxed chat about your situation with a SOLLA Accredited adviser, contact us on **0117 3636 212** or email office@haroldstephens.co.uk.



If you would like a relaxed chat about how to manage your assets in later life, then we are on hand to deliver it the good old-fashioned way – face to face right here in your local community.

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COMMUNITY NEWS

Arts trail returns

WEST Bristol Arts Trail returns this month for its 19th year.

Over 120 artists will exhibit their work over 34 venues, often private homes and studios but also larger venues hosting multiple artists.

Each year we have seen new artists as well as returning artists exhibiting with us and there is a range of work to be seen: paintings, sculpture, prints, ceramics, jewellery, textiles, photography and mixed media.

Why come to the trail? It's a great day out, the art is affordable and there is a chance to talk to the artists. While there is no pressure to buy, the arts trail offers a unique chance to buy directly from the artists if you wish to do so.

The trail is one of the main events in Clifton each year, but also covers Cliftonwood and Hotwells.

We are delighted to welcome back established large venues—including Holy Trinity Church, the Scout Hut (Clifton Village) and The Chesterfield (Nuffield Hospital). We are also excited to introduce new locations this year: Bristol Grammar School, Future Leap (The Old Chapel) and St Paul's Church.

For more detailed information on the artists and venues please visit www.westbristolartstrail.co.uk

Children are most welcome at the Trail but must be supervised.



Come for a coffee!

EMMANUEL BISHOPSTON

ONCE a month, Emmanuel Bishopston hosts The Coffee Pot, a community café for people who are free on a Friday lunchtime.

Since it began in January 2025, The Coffee Pot has welcomed an array of guest speakers. It kicked off with Kate Evans, a local delecter who shared many hilarious and heart-breaking anecdotes, followed by Tabs Moynagh, a sleep consultant who works independently and for the NHS. More recently, they had a flower-arranging demonstration from Roz Evitt of Wild Zinnia and listened to interviews with a volunteer at the Bristol North West Food Bank and a director from Refugee Welcome Homes.

Team leader, Claire Walford, explains: "The Coffee Pot is designed to be a community café for people of any age and stage. We have had a real range of visitors - from people in their 20s on a random day off from work to 80 year olds! Each month, there has been a lovely buzz in the hall as people have enjoyed home-made tea and cake and the space to chat, make friends and hear an interview from

a member of the church. We would love anyone who is free on a Friday lunchtime to consider coming along."

Autumn schedule:

Friday September 25

Will Evans talks about SAT-7's surprising work in the Middle East and North Africa. PLUS our big cake sale in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

Friday October 23

From NHS to HMS and back - the journey of a Royal Navy medical officer

Friday November 27

Getting crafty - an opportunity to make something special with Rosie Gardner.

Friday December 11

Why is Handel's Messiah so wonderful? A talk and musical demonstration from Richard Powell.

The Coffee Pot takes place at Church of the Good Shepherd Hall, Bishop Road, BS7 8NA, from 1-2.30pm. It aims to meet on the last Friday of each month but some months, this date is moved because of school holidays. There is a voluntary contribution of £2 to go towards the cost of the refreshments. For details, email bishopston@emmanuelbristol.org.uk

Kits for Kenya

BRISTOL Rovers Community Trust (BRCT) has handed over a substantial donation of football kit and boots to Mitch Brunning, organiser of Kits for Kenya.

Adam Tutton, chief executive of BRCT, said: "This donation brings together the generosity of our community and the power of football to connect people. Everyone who has donated a pair of boots over the past month has helped make it possible. Those boots, alongside our kit, can help more players take part, feel part of a team and enjoy the friendships, confidence and opportunities that football can bring. There is an environmental benefit too. Keeping usable equipment in circulation makes better use of resources and helps reduce waste."

"We are proud to support Mitch and Kits for Kenya, and to see something rooted in Bristol's football community reach players thousands of miles away."

Mitch, founder of Severn Beach Wanderers, is undertaking 12 fundraising challenges over 12 months, from August 2026 to July 2027. His appeal is raising money to support travel to Kakamega, a town in western Kenyan and the provision of football kits, boots, balls and training equipment to local teams, working in connection with Isongo Green Commandos FC.

To support Mitch's fundraising challenges, visit the Kits for Kenya fundraiser, or follow SBW – Kits For Kenya on Facebook.

SEND US YOUR GROUP'S NEWS

news@henleazeandwestburyvoice.co.uk

MEET Billy – and discover a whole new way of seeing the world with him – in a second publishing success from local author, Geoff Stock.

Following on from his first children's book, published in 2023, Geoff now introduces us to 'Trampoline Boy', a beautifully written and illustrated story for 4-8 year olds, perfect for young dreamers and adventurers.

Whilst bouncing as high as he can on his trampoline, after a terrible day at school, Billy soars off into the cosmos, seeing Planet Earth from afar in all its beauty and

Another story

majesty. However, as he flies closer, borne on the wings of a magnificent bird, he sees the world changing – polluted, barren, dry, with families struggling to survive and creatures in danger. Billy returns home from his unforgettable adventure, determined to share what he has seen and heard, to encourage others to care for our planet and to make a difference.

A former teacher, Bristol-born Geoff

established the Horfield Young People's Club in 1975 to improve youth facilities in the area, running it as leader for 50 years, and in 2017, was awarded an MBE for his services to youth and the community.

Geoff explained of his second book, which was published earlier this year: "This is a story for young children, but it has an important message for everyone about climate change and its far-reaching consequences, and I wanted to present this very relevant issue in a different way."

Trampoline Boy is available online at www.thetrampolineboy.com

Autumn eyes: when the seasons change

ANOTHER month passes, and Autumn, albeit a mild one so far, is definitely in full swing. It's not often I hear us Brits welcoming the rain, but it's made more than just a few folk I know smile - broadly!

For me, I'm re-visiting my back catalogue of glasses. I have a set made with a rain deflector. Now before you start imagining me walking round with some weird and wonderful contraption on my nose, don't worry, it's just a lens I was trying out a few years ago that the rain drops off more easily than most. They do work, although for various reasons they never really took off.

As seasons change our eyes have to adapt too. If you've noticed a change in how your eyes feel then you are not alone. Our dry and watery eye specialist Optometrist has noticed an increase in clinic bookings again this month. Marta commented that although the warm summer notably helped people, they are now reporting concerns again.

If your eyes are just not right, then most likely we have a solution for you. Please get in touch and we'll be happy to see how we can help.

It's not only how our eyes feel that can change at this time of year either.

The days are getting shorter, the light levels lower and, before we know it, many of us will be driving to and from work in the dark. I often find patients who have been perfectly happy with their vision throughout the brighter summer months suddenly notice that things don't seem quite so effortless.

Headlights become more distracting, road signs aren't quite as crisp, reading in the evening becomes a little more tiring or you find yourself reaching for brighter lighting.

Sometimes there is a very straightforward reason. Your glasses may simply need updating. At other times dry eye, early cataract or another change in the

eyes can reduce the quality of vision, particularly as the available light falls.

And sometimes, of course, you just need to clean your glasses. As an Optometrist (my excuse is the cycling) even I occasionally discover the miraculous improvement in vision achieved with a clean lens cloth! If you feel it's time for a new cloth you are welcome to pop in to either practice and pick one up, with our compliments.

Seeing clearly is important, but so too is seeing comfortably. You shouldn't have to squint, strain or simply put up with eyes that feel tired, gritty or watery because you've assumed that's just what happens to our eyes over time.

Whether it's dry eye treatment, a change to your prescription, clearer lenses for driving, or simply reassurance that everything is healthy, the starting point is finding out why something has changed.

So, as we dig out the coats,

umbrellas and, in my case, rain-deflecting glasses, perhaps take a moment to think about your eyes too.

If your vision or eye comfort isn't quite what it was during the summer, we'd be delighted to help at Turners Opticians in Henleaze or Downend.

See you soon, hopefully slightly drier!

To find out more or to book an appointment, visit our website or contact our friendly team by calling our Henleaze practice on **0117 9622 474** or our Downend practice on **0117 965 4434**.

Peter

Peter Turner is an Independent Prescribing Senior Optometrist at Turners Opticians in Bristol. He also works as a Senior Medical Optometrist at Bristol Eye Hospital and has a specialist interest in visual development and performance.

Autumn eyes?

As the seasons change, so can your eyes.

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NEWS

Market's in seventh heaven

SHIREHAMPTON residents and local independent traders came together last month to celebrate seven years of community trading at the Shirehampton High Street Market, in an event which also welcomed the new Lord Mayor to mark the occasion.

Initially launched in September 2019 at the Tithe Barn, the market relocated this year to the Shirehampton Methodist Church Hub and has survived several challenges affecting many such operations, including Covid and increasing costs of living.

Alongside local traders and food producers, the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Yassin Mohamud, cut the official anniversary cake and met all those who help to run the market and make it a success.

As well as the regular artisan food stalls (including local cheeses, preserves and baked goods), this first market of September showcased three new food vendors – Food by Sophie, The Gourmet Warriors and The Topsy Waffle.

If delicious food weren't enough, Bristol author, Tim Kindberg, was on hand to sign copies of his latest book, *Future Song*, while local musician, Sarah Warren, entertained with live acoustic music.

Community support was available in the form of guidance on health and winter fuel assistance, along with details of local initiatives such as interactive craft workshops.

The Shirehampton Market is run by a management team, headed up by Ash, Katherine



and Kathryn.

Reflecting on the past seven years and the desire of local residents to support independent traders, Kathryn told the Voice: "Our markets are for the four villages and beyond, and we like to make people feel welcome no matter what part of Bristol you live in. We believe in keeping strong community ties, co-operation and helping each other out, as well as providing a good shopping and community atmosphere, which is also a safe and welcoming space."

Shirehampton High Street Market is held on the first Thursday of every month (March to December) from 9am to 2pm at the Shirehampton Methodist Church Hub.

Forum meets

THE next Westbury Forum will take place in the library on the evening of Tuesday October 27.

Doors will open at 7.30pm and the meeting will begin at 7.45pm. Use the side entrance, and ask if you need help with the steps.

The evening is an opportunity to raise issues, share information and engage in discussion with local councillors and police. We aim to finish by 9.30 pm.

Topics are likely to include:

- The deferment of parking charges at Westbury Hill car park;
- The possible introduction of Residential Parking Zones;
- The proposed development of Westbury Court Road car park by Churchill Living
- The use of part of Canford Park by Wessex Water for Storm Overflow tanks.

If you have any questions, please contact Malcolm Neave on 0117 9502825 or by email at westburyforum@gmail.com

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■ HORFIELD ORGANIC COMMUNITY ORCHARD

Climate Emergency Apple Day will celebrate resilience

THE return of rain is refreshing. It's too late for our fruit. The whiplash weather events of 2026 are forecast to become more extreme during 2027. Farmers and gardeners around the world are wondering how to prepare for another challenging year. We all need to eat. What can we do to ensure a fruitful harvest next year, and in future decades?

Horfield Organic Community Orchard (HOCO) is organising a Climate Emergency Apple Day on Sunday 18 October. It's a do-it-yourself festival of community resilience that features positive, practical action for food, nature, and climate. Action, education, celebration, and joy are powerful antidotes to doom and gloom.

Our inspirational programme includes our friends Pigsty Morris. Julian Gregg returns for Art in the Orchard. Meet Street Goat volunteers (and goats - if it's not raining). Ry from Moyse's Mushrooms needs helping hands to inoculate orchard apple wood logs. The Apple Tree Lady shares ways to nurture and protect trees and fruit. There's a mix of drop-in and book-in-advance activities, and something for all ages.

Apple Day is our most popular event, and it's an essential fundraiser for the orchard. We are selling tickets (by donation) in advance, and



Pigsty Morris at last year's HOCO Apple Day

limiting the number of tickets available at the gate on the day. Please book in advance! There will be homemade cake for sale. We hope to have juice, or other refreshments, and preserves for sale. Payment is cash only.

Our excellent value HOCO grafted Apple and Pear trees will be listed for sale in October. Please order them in advance for collection

from the orchard in November.
Information and advance booking: <https://community-orchard.org.uk/>

Words by Shannon Smith aka The Apple Tree Lady

Photographs by Jamie Carstairs



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FRIENDS OF REDLAND LIBRARY

On Thursday October 8, the Friends of Redland Library are hosting a talk on "W.A.S. BENSON: an influential pioneer of the Arts and Crafts movement" given by Professor Ian Hamerton of the University of Bristol.

William Arthur Smith Benson (1854-1924) was both an architect and designer renowned for his imaginative and practical metal work designs. A close friend of both William Morris and Edward Burne-Jones, Benson was a founder member of the Art Workers Guild and was instrumental in establishing both the Home Arts and Industries Association and the highly influential Arts and Crafts Exhibition Society. Benson is best known for his daring

and innovative work in the sphere of electrical lighting; examples of his work have always been admired (even during his own lifetime) and are becoming increasingly rare and desirable.

Professor Hamerton is editor of the 2005 book W.A.S. Benson: Arts and Crafts Luminary and Pioneer of Modern Design.

On Tuesday October 20 we are celebrating the world's longest-running radio drama series The Archers which has aired over 20,000 episodes since its first broadcast in 1951. In Ambridge Lives: The Archers, we are joined by guest speakers John Telfer and Caroline Harrington.

John Telfer has appeared as the Reverend

Alan Franks in over 300 episodes of The Archers since 2003. He is also fondly remembered as Willy Pettit from the BBC crime drama Bergerac.

Caroline Harrington has written 470 episodes of The Archers from 2008 to 2023.

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

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

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

Finally, we need volunteers to help organise and publicise our events. If you would like to help, email FriendsOfRedlandLibrary@gmail.com

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