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Dear Residents....

As I sit and write this it appears as though we have turned a corner and Spring has finally sprung - the sun is shining and ... I'm about to go skiing!!! Wish me luck, at my grand old age it is my first time - I'm not getting any younger so decided to just do it! Trouble is I went straight out and broke my thumb on my first dry-ski-slope lesson. Excuse any typos therefore - I am doing the best I can!!

We have another bumper issue for you this edition with lots of community news and stories to share. Several people fundraising, from running the London marathon to having all their hair chopped off - read about Nick and Hannah-Jane inside. We are also happy to support and bring you the latest on the Hope for Morgan fundraising campaign.

Great reader offers inside for you - be sure to use your money saving vouchers this summer at Noah's Ark Zoo Farm. Shampers Hair Salon are also offering some great discounts with the voucher inside and I've been fine dining over the bridge in Chepstow at a really lovely pub- The New Inn - which has recently been refurbished - check out the 10% discount voucher inside.

We also bring you the preliminary schedule for the Bradley Stoke Festival which this year is 5-7th June, along with the entry information for the annual 10k run. It will be the third bed-push this year - do consider entering a team and challenging Team Hilton who have won both of the previous races - it always looks a lot of fun!

Prior to the Bradley Stoke Festival, for the first time the Fake Festival comes to Little Stoke on 2nd May. The fake line up looks great and there will be local bands playing as well. I'm definitely looking forward to it!

We seem to be busier than ever this year, and have been inundated with news to share with you - so grab a cuppa and enjoy the read!

Don't forget to get in touch if you would like to promote your business to 15,000 homes across the five Stokes area! We can also help you out across Winterbourne and the villages, Bishopston, Ashley Down, St Andrew's, Chepstow, and Corsham & Box in Wiltshire, all locally produced and edited independently by local residents - just like this one! Have a great Easter!

Jaci x



FREE Easter Event
Sunday 6th April
2-4pm
Jubilee Centre



Join Friends of Jubilee Green for
Easter Crafts and
an Easter Bonnet Parade
(weather permitting!)



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

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BLOW THE COBWEBS AWAY!

Now that it's time for spring cleaning, have you thought about dusting off your trumpet, clarinet, or trombone?



We are encouraging people to get that wind instrument out from the back of the cupboard and get playing! Westerly Showband has a place for you in our intermediate band and, once you're competent again there are some places available in our senior band.

The band has a proven track record of getting players returning to playing after a long gap. Not only does it boast a first class teacher but it uses special material, some of it written especially for the band, to achieve its ends.

Interested persons are encouraged to come along and visit the band before they make any commitments. If you like what you see you can join for a trial period before you elect to become a full member.

The band meets every Thursday at 7.30 pm in Kingwood Library, all you need to do is drop in; bringing your instrument is a good idea!

If you need more information go to www.westerlyshowband.com or ring 0117 9561950.

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Eastwood Park...



Nick Smart would love your support ...

We were really pleased to hear from local resident Mel Smart, who's husband Nick is running the London Marathon later this month to raise support and awareness for the local charity Brain Tumour Support (previously Hammer Out).

Having lived in Bradley Stoke for 18 years, Nick and his wife Mel are well known across the Stokes. Their two girls went to Wheatfield Primary and are now both at the Bradley Stoke Community School. His story is an inspiring one and we are very pleased to be able to share it with our readers...

On Christmas Day 2011, completely out of the blue, Nick suffered a seizure in front of the family. He later came away from hospital advised not to drive for a year. Two weeks later he was called in for an MRI scan and subsequently diagnosed with a type of Brain Tumour called a Meningioma.

This was a hugely traumatic time for the family with no idea what the outcome would be. Contact was made with the Thornbury-based charity Brain Tumour Support on the day the diagnosis was received - "They were fantastic" Melanie told me "we had a two hour conversation over the phone and they sent us out lots of information that day." Nick had to go on steroids for a period of time before having an operation to remove the tumour on 13 March 2012. "The charity was a lifeline to our family at this time, providing support to us all. They provided a counsellor - Kate - who was just fantastic. We still use some of her ideas today!"

Nick has always been a keen runner, having competed cross-country for England in his younger days. Melanie told us that on diagnosis Nick was less worried about dying than he was about being left unable to run after the operation! Fortunately Nick's operation was a success and, once he had regained his balance and confidence, he made steady progress.

In Nick's own words "Starting from the horizontal position, I worked through the phases from standing, shuffling, walking and finally, a gentle jog." Melanie told me Nick achieved this in just 6 weeks!

Nick and his family were invited to a coffee morning at the Brain Tumour Support group to meet with other survivors, which was a humbling experience.



"At this point, I decided to set my own personal physical challenge of completing the Marathon distance. I achieved this in Bournemouth in 2013 and luckily my time was good enough to gain me an automatic entry into the London Marathon in 2015."

Nick entered the Riverbank Rollick in Thornbury and came 3rd out of 500 entrants, he came 5th in the Sodbury Slog and 18 months after his surgery in October 2013 he completed the Bournemouth marathon.

Following the operation Nick was initially closely monitored, has now been put back on annual MRI scans, which is great news for him and his family.

His previous runs have been for himself and his personal recovery, but for the London Marathon he is aiming to fundraise as much as possible for Brain Tumour Support. "This time I want to give back to the charity who supported me and my family at a very stressful and upsetting time in our lives."

To fill the gap between Bournemouth and the London marathon this year Nick also successfully completed a Half Iron Man triathlon distance in 2014. He is aiming for a time of under 3 hours this April.

Thank you to Nick and Melanie for sharing their story with us. If you would like to support Nick in his fundraising please visit his justgiving page <http://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/NickSmart>



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Bradley Stoke Matters was pleased to hear from several year 11 students at BSCS who are all studying towards their GCSE in Citizenship this year.

GCSE Citizenship Studies helps students develop skills such as critical thinking, decision making and collaborative working. One of the criteria for the GCSE is to consider citizens rights and responsibilities and their balance, and also to consider the impact of the media and how it can be used to reflect, distort and create opinion. We are pleased to help by publishing their campaigns here.

We think they have come up with some great issues - see what you think ...

Child Soldiers

Dear Bradley Stoke Matters,

I am writing to ask you to publish an article on the use of child soldiers to help me raise awareness. My name is Aaron Mildren and I am in year 11 at Bradley Stoke Community School.

In my citizenship lessons we were told to choose a topic which goes against human rights and campaign against it. I chose to campaign against child soldiers. All over the world there are countries that use children in their armed forces. Child soldiers are used as fighters, cooks, suicide bombers, human shields, messengers, spies, or for sexual purposes. These soldiers are anyone who is under the age of 18. The child soldiers that are used violate many human rights, such as the right to freedom and the right to education, this is wrong for a person under the age of 18.

During the last 15 years child soldiers have been used in almost every region of the world and every armed conflict in the world. There are so many of these children serving in armed conflict that the exact number of them being used is impossible to define. Many of the young people being used are between 10 and 18 however some are younger than that, when they are forced to serve. Two-thirds of countries say that the enrolment of people under the age of 18 should be prohibited from entering the armed forces.

Please publish this as it is for a worthy cause.
Yours Faithfully, Aaron Mildren

How do you feel about our local nature reserves?

In Bradley Stoke, we are lucky to be surrounded by great nature areas and reserves. Unfortunately, in places such as Savages Wood and Bradley Brook there is often a lot of litter. As part of our Citizenship GCSE, we are campaigning for a cleaner Bradley Stoke. We would like to urge you to take care of what we have and enjoy the local nature reserves whilst taking care of them.

Our main focus is the small pond on The Common East. It was once a lovely place for parents to take their children in the summer as it was filled with frogspawn and other pond life. It was a nice, safe, interesting place to go and members of our groups have fond memories of doing so.

However, the pond is currently covered with overgrown plants and litter. It is no longer a nice place to go and many people aren't even aware of its existence because it is mostly covered. As a group, we would love to clear this area up and make it a nice family friendly place once again.

As well as focussing on this area we would love to tackle the bins, or lack thereof, along Bradley Brook and Stoke Brook. Whilst the Three Brooks Nature Conservation has done a wonderful job looking after and caring for Bradley Brook (commonly referred to as the Duck pond) there is often litter found on the footpaths that follow Stoke Brook due to the lack of bins. This litter, that people have dropped or that has fallen out of overflowing bins, often ends up in the Brook and is washed into the larger, 'duck pond' area. Therefore, we would like our local council to take notice and put in more bins along these footpaths and also empty the existing bins more often.



We would like to thank all of those who have written to us or supported our campaign with special thanks to Councillor Ben Walker who has tweeted us many times and has offered support and funding and Jaci from Bradley Stoke Matters who has allowed us to write this article.

We hope that now you will join our campaign by remembering how important these areas are and doing your part to look after them.

Tasha Okoye, Amna Hussain, Mawadah Odeh, Emily Porter, Mya Steer and Dan Harris.
Year 11 Students at Bradley Stoke Community School.
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Raise the Minimum Wage for 16-18

What is Our Campaign About?

We think that £3.79 is not enough money to boost a youth's life. For example if we wanted to go to university, we would have to work, and at the moment it is hard to find a job. It also isn't enough to pay for our aspirations. Many people are finding these difficulties and we think that it needs to change.

We have talked to MPs such as Ian Boulton and Jack Lopresti and they agree with our campaign. At the moment the minimum wage for 16-18 year olds is £3.79, we would like to increase it to £4.25.

The Statistics...

We have been researching the statistics into minimum wage for 16-18 year olds. It has come back very positive towards our campaign. 80% of students constantly worry about money. We believe that if we increase it this percentage will lower.

We also found out that the average student spends £10,000 a year while they're at university. If they do not earn enough money they will not be able to do this. They might not be able to apply for the university because of the fees. They also might not have enough money to survive to pay for food and other needed items.

People Who Agree...

Throughout our campaigning we found out that even adults (21+) agree that this is a problem. Some of them also had a job at the age of 16-18 and they wish they had the chance to earn more money. We have talked to MP's such as Ian Boulton and Jack Lopresti and they both have discussed this issue with us, and both agree with our campaign. We have also set up petitions and have got over 75 signatures. We also have given out questionnaires and over 90% of them have come back positive towards our campaign.

We would like to see a change in the minimum wage, and hopefully published in your magazine.

Yours Faithfully
Sam Thomas, Josh Rees, Kieran Pomery, Will Ho

How do you think they have done?

We will be happy to pass any feedback or responses to the issues raised back to the individual campaigners -

email us here at :
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Noah's Ark READER OFFER!

Spring is upon us at Noah's Ark Zoo Farm in Bristol, the perfect season to watch nature come alive with a host of impressive animals enjoying the brighter weather outside, including our African elephants, white rhinos and Big Cats.

**New for 2015* – enjoy our large warm play barns this season, now with full heating for all indoor play and eating areas!*

Bring the family along today to Bristol's award-winning 'all day, all weather' attraction. Enjoy 12 exciting adventure play areas, an indoor Animal Village and covered Animal Show Pens. We now offer over 25,000 square feet of heated areas around the 100 acre park to make your visit enjoyable whatever the weather.

Noah's Ark offers incredible up-close experiences with amazing animals, including seeing the lions and tigers being fed during the 'Big Cat Talk', meeting our giraffe family at the daily encounter and watching our Birds of Prey fly in the daily display.

Enjoy a jumbo experience with Noah's Ark's impressive new 'Elephant Eden' - Europe's largest elephant habitat. Families can get within a trunks length of nature's biggest land mammal, take part in the daily Elephant Presentation and learn about the importance of conservation.

Visiting as part of a group or school trip?

We offer great value group rates to make your day cheaper if you come together! Groups of 10 people or more are eligible for discounted entry, see our website for prices. Bring your birthday party and the birthday child goes free, the rest of your group enjoys our cheap birthday group rate.

Want a fun educational trip for your class or year group?

We host over 20,000 school children in organised trips each year, a popular choice of South West schools! Check out the Education section on our website to start planning your trip today.

Part of every great day out is a stopping for a relaxing snack or lunch, a chance to rest the legs and enjoy a tasty lunch or warm drink. With outstanding views from our popular café veranda, we offer an excellent lunch menu at great value with locally sourced food, handmade cakes and a range of hot and cold drinks. Along with our main café, Noah's Ark offers 3 further kiosks around site for drinks, snacks and ice creams perfect for family pit-stops whilst you walk around the park.

For a fantastic family day out, walk beside nature's giants at Noah's Ark this season!



Bradley Stoke Community Festival 5th-7th June 2015

Arts & Craft stalls • Bed Race • Children's Games & Activities
Climbing Wall & Bungee Trampoline • Displays and demonstrations
Mayors XI v BSCC Cricket Match • Dog Agility Display
Football Tournament • King Ramps Skate Pipe
Local Bands & Dance Groups • Rides & Inflatables • 10k Race
Skate Park competition

Friday 5th June

The Picnic in the Park starts at 10.30 a.m. until 14.00 at the Jubilee Centre, for Parents and Toddlers. Professor Panic presents his range of circus skills, juggling and entertainment in the Big Top, alongside local craft and community stalls and a bouncy castle. Refreshments will be served by the local WI during the morning with Face Painting available for the toddlers.

Saturday 6th June 11.30-18.00

The demonstration area in Jubilee Green features the King Ramps Skate Pipe and displays will be given by the pro's throughout the Festival with a street art demo and "have a go" sessions. This year's main show is dog agility displays by Gloucestershire Agility. Music is provided by local bands; The Bradley Stoke Community School band, Kimura, The Midnight Tides, Geckoblasters, Panache Steel Band, The Secrets alongside local dance groups including; Stagecoach, Danceworks, Baby Ballet, Footloose and Infinity and other clubs and associations. Fun rides for the children include trampolines, giant slides, football games, giant inflatables, a Helter Skelter and the Vertical Xtreme climbing wall alongside the local Scouts providing longbow archery and other activities. Sideshows, arts & crafts and community stalls will offer a wide range of local products and novelties. The Bradley Stoke Youth Football Club Football Tournament for Year 1 Boys and Girls starting at 10.30 am on the top soccer pitches.

Sunday 7th June

A 10K multi terrain race organised by the Sole Sisters starts at 09.30 am and finishes at the Jubilee Centre. At Baileys Court Activity Centre there will be a joint "Church in the Park" outdoor service from the Bradley Stoke Churches starting at 10.30 am followed by the third running of the Bradley Stoke Bed Race starting at 12.30 pm through until 1.30 pm. The Bradley Stoke Cricket Club will open their bar from 12.00 noon followed by the Mayor's XI v a BSCC XI starting at 2 pm finishing with a cricket tea and evening entertainment in the clubhouse. The Bradley Stoke Bowls club will provide roll up demonstrations throughout the afternoon. A Skate Board competition along with King Ramps will also be taking place at the Bradley Stoke skate park along with BBQ and refreshments from 10.30 am through to 4 pm and everyone is welcome to enter.

Taking part

If you would like to enter a team in the Sole Sister's 10k Run, the Bed Race, the Football Tournament, the Skate Board competition or book a stall, please go to the web site www.bradleystoke.gov.uk or contact BSTC on 01454 205020.

Information correct at time of printing, but could be subject to change



BRADLEY STOKE FESTIVAL 10K

Sunday 7th June 2015 - 9:30am

A 10k run, approx. 6 miles, course along tracks and footpaths through Bradley Stoke's Conservation Area. The course will start and finish at the Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke BS32 8HL
Run open to men and women over 16 years.

Parking, refreshments, showers and toilets available – technical t shirts for finishers.

Entry fees: Affiliated clubs £13.00 Unaffiliated £15.00

Entries on the day £15 (availability permitting) or can be obtained at the festival on Saturday 7th June if places remain.

By post to the address below or online applications through

<http://www.entrycentral.com/solesisters>.

Entry limited to 600 runners.

BRADLEY STOKE 10K RUN ENTRY FORM – NUMBERS AND CHIPS COLLECTED ON THE DAY

Surname: _____ Forename: _____

Address: _____

D.O.B _____ Gender M/F _____ UK Athletics permit no. applied for. _____

email address _____

UK Athletics affiliated club _____

Signature _____ Date _____

I agree to abide by UK Athletics rules & regulations and confirm I am fully fit to participate in this event. I am over 16 years old. Note; marshals will vacate their stations after 90 minutes.

Send completed entry form and payment to **Bradley Stoke 10k Run, c/o 98 Cooks Close, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 0BB. Cheques payable to Sole Sisters Running Club.**

The nominated charity for fundraising will be Paul's Place. Enhancing life for the physically disabled adults. Registered charity no. 1065033



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Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters was extremely excited to be invited over the bridge to sample a fine lunch at the New Inn, Pwllmeyric in Chepstow this month.

This early 18th Century Inn has appeared in many historical travels books as being the place to stop and revive, with one edition stating it as being precisely 136½ miles from Hyde Park Corner, London - fortunately it's only about a 20 minute drive from the Stokes!

The lovely Grade II listed property has recently been brought back to life by its new owner, whose vision is to put the New Inn back on the traveller's map - a place to enjoy fantastic hostelry, offering excellent, locally sourced food and fine wines and a revolving selection of real ales. Head chef Aidan Fisher has created a mouthwatering menu, having previously spent four years at the 3 AAA rosette restaurant, Terry M, at the Celtic Manor working alongside some of Wales' top chefs.

My family and I visited on a Saturday lunchtime, just two weeks after the official opening. From bar snacks, sharing platters, traditional pub food to a creative a la carte menu (not forgetting a children's menu!) there is plenty to choose from. We selected from the lunchtime menu, £16 for three courses. I chose the Pant ys gawn goats cheese, roasted beetroot walnut and pear salad (which was gorgeous) and Tim had the duck liver and cognac parfait with red onion marmalade and toasted brioche (delicious). For main course I selected the Salt Pollack fishcakes, braised lentils with chorizo, salsa verde (photo top left). If I'm honest, not a selection I would have chosen at home or eaten previously. However, my meal was amazing - a real taste sensation that I would definitely go back for! Tim chose the slow cooked blade of beef, celeriac, red wine and bone marrow (photo top right) - the meat was beautiful, simply falling apart.

On to the desserts and I had been particularly looking forward to the fabulous sounding 'melting chocolate pudding with malt ice cream and caramelised banana'. I wasn't disappointed, worth going back for on its own! Not a sweet tooth person, Tim chose the selection of local cheeses and was mightily impressed - with cheeses either made in-house or sourced locally. The crackers were amazing, again made in-house along with the chutney. The children selected from the children's menu. Hannah thoroughly enjoyed her fish, chips (triple cooked) and peas followed by chocolate brownie and ice cream and asked when we could come back again! Even my exceptionally fussy 8 year old son was accommodated, with something cooked especially for him.

With friendly and efficient staff, large comfy sofas in front of wood-burning fires, the pub is certainly very welcoming, offering quality food in a comfortable, casual dining environment.

We can certainly recommend this lovely pub, it has definitely been put on our travel map for a repeat visit! To entice you over the bridge, The New Inn is offering a fabulous 10% discount - why not give it a try!

Dining hours:

Tuesday to Saturday:

Lunch - 12 - 2:30pm,

Dinner 6 - 9:30pm

Bar Open all day: 12 - 11pm

Sunday:

Lunch - 12 - 4 pm.

Bar closes at 10:30pm

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Ethos at the New Inn:

"Our food should be good; we should know where it came from; it should be sourced locally wherever possible; and it should change according to the seasons."



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At Boardwalk, we are committed to raising awareness of green issues and doing more for the local environment in Bristol and the surrounding area. Founded by the directors of The Letting Game, we are a new, independent estate agent with experienced staff and, with our establishment running in conjunction with Bristol being awarded European Green Capital 2015, our aim is to become the most eco-friendly Bristol estate agent. In order to achieve this we are launching a new initiative in association with Trees for Cities. Running until July, Boardwalk will plant 15 trees in Bristol for every house we sell. By doing this we hope to offset the oversized carbon footprint in this busy industry, whilst also working with local people to make a greener urban environment.

As a Pledge Member of Bristol's Green City 2015 and a supporter of the Go Green Scheme, we will also be looking at other ways to help. We aim to go paper free where possible, emailing details to buyers prior to viewings and bringing iPads along for our reference as opposed to heaps of scrap paper and getting forms e-signed rather than sent out on paper. What paper we do use will be mostly recycled and we will recycle ourselves again. At our headquarters in Henleaze, we are supporting Bristol's 'Close the Door' campaign. We are also looking in to where else we can recycle such as recycled materials for our 'For Sale' and 'Sold' boards. In Refashioning Estate Agency in Bristol, we aim to do more to make Bristol greener. [Call us in 01179898222](tel:01179898222) to find out more.



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Gardening Matters

Brought to you by Jeff Havock

April Sunshine and showers

Spring is finally in evidence as daffodils and flowering trees start to bloom.

Expect the inevitable April showers this month but with sunny days too, when you can turn your attention to the lawn. It's an exciting month, with indoor-sown seeds well into growth, and it's also time to start sowing outdoors. Just watch out for frosts...

Top 10 jobs this month

- 1 Keep weeds under control
- 2 Protect fruit blossom from late frosts
- 3 Tie in climbing and rambling roses
- 4 Sow hardy annuals and herb seeds
- 5 Start to feed citrus plants
- 6 Increase the water given to houseplants
- 7 Feed hungry shrubs and roses
- 8 Sow new lawns or repair bare patches
- 9 Prune fig trees
- 10 Divide bamboos

Mow lawns when necessary - whenever the grass is growing - the aim is to maintain a constant height throughout the year.

Add the clippings to the compost heap in thin layers (too much grass all at once is likely to be very wet and poorly aerated, resulting in smelly slime rather than compost).

Use a half-moon edging iron or spade to create a 7.5cm (3in) 'gutter' around the lawn edge. This will prevent grass creeping from the lawn into borders.

Sowing new lawns or over-seeding dead patches can be carried out from mid-April to early May. If the soil is very wet or cold, germination will be poor, so delay until the



weather improves. Prepare the ground for sowing, by cultivating, levelling and lightly firming beforehand.

Do not walk over or mow newly sown grass until it has reached a height of 5-7.5cm (2-3in), and then only give it a light trim at the highest setting.

Apply a high nitrogen spring lawn fertiliser at the beginning of the month to encourage good, strong growth. If moss is a problem choose a combined fertiliser and mosskiller.

April is also the best month to apply lawn weedkiller.

If there is anything you need any help with in the garden this Spring, Jeff Havock would be pleased to hear from you ...



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The perfect family garden

Your garden is a great place for all the family to be together in; to achieve the perfect family garden, you will need to be creative in making a space that works for everyone.

Paved or decked areas, usually near the house need to be big enough for everyone to sit, but this space can also incorporate your cooking area in the form of a barbecue or fire-pit. If you add raised beds or low walls to the side of your terrace or decking, this creates a more intimate area but also allows guests to have somewhere to put their drinks or sit and relax.

For small children, include a safe play area; why not build a small sand pit next to a decked area, it is easily contained and will provide hours of fun; or put a trampoline at the bottom of the garden, dug into the garden, the top can be level with the ground and will give children the chance to burn off some excess energy, but it's discrete and will not be an imposing structure in your garden.

If you have the room you can always include a complete play system with slides, climbing frame and a house for them play in, or for the older children a small summerhouse is a good place for them to hang out with friends without disturbing the rest of the family.

And, what about a space that's just for you? A pergola tucked away in a secluded corner will offer a tranquil spot, which is relaxing and



private as well as giving shade; it's also a great way to add height and structure into the garden and can be used to support plants.

Water is another element that can enhance a garden. A pond will allow you to introduce different plants into the garden as well as bringing in wildlife. If you don't have the room for anything big, a water feature will add sound and movement and will also help to encourage wildlife too.

So, with a bit of careful planning you can create the perfect outside family space that will cater for everyone's needs, even in the smallest garden.

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Barkey's Doggie Day Care is a family run business, with Wendy and her husband Gary establishing Barkey's in 2009. Lucky enough to live on a small holding with 10 acres of land on the outskirts of Bradley Stoke, Barkey's has gone from strength to strength with a large canine following from the immediate locality as well as further afield from Clifton and Keynsham.

As the name suggests, Barkey's caters for your canine friends whilst you are away at work. You can drop them off enroute to work and collect them on your way home, safe in the knowledge that they will be well looked after and well exercised.

Barkey's is open from 7:30am until 6:30pm Monday to Friday and weekends by arrangement. (Times outside opening hours are also available.) If your canine friend attends the doggie daycare, they can also be accommodated while you are away on holiday.

Dogs can play and socialise in the fields which are fenced on all sides for safety, so if you have



one that you cannot let off the lead they will get really good exercise whilst at Barkey's. After their walks they will come back in to the 'play pen' for a rest or more play, which ever they choose. Whilst on overnight stays your canine friend will live in the house at night and play in the daycare during the day.

Barkey's can cater for all breeds from tiny terriers to large breeds - as long as your dog is social with others they are welcome to come and play.

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Bradley Stoke Rotary Club's 10th Annual Swimathon

Bradley Stoke Rotary Club have successfully hosted their 10th annual Swimathon, held locally at Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre.

A fantastic 19 teams took part in the event held on Saturday 14th March, with up to 7 swimming in relay for a 55 minute period.

1st Bradley Stoke Scouts entered 5 teams, Bradley Stoke Youth Rugby @ St Mary's Old Boys RFC entered 4 teams, 1st Wick Girl Guides & Marlin Swimming Club entered 2 teams each.

Others swam on behalf of Equipo (raising funds for an expedition to Nicaragua in 2016), Paul's Place (Coalpit Heath based charity for physically disabled adults), Novi Survat (a charity providing care and education in Goa, India) and David's Dolphins (Easter Compton Methodist Church). Rotarians also swam for their own charity causes and two lads swam in aid of the local Hope for Morgan appeal.

The total lengths swam on the night was 1704 equating to 42,600 metres. Ben Platt and Rhys Bridges, both school friends of Morgan Walker, swam an astonishing 142 lengths (the highest number of all teams on the night with the lowest team members of just two!).

It is yet to be announced how much money was raised; the various clubs and organisations will collect in their sponsorship and donate a minimum 40% to Rotary who will utilise it for their own charitable causes. Locally in Bradley Stoke, the Rotary Club sponsors Music Rules, Young Chef and this year are also supporting two local charities St Peter's Hospice and The Jessie May Trust. They have very kindly made the decision not to take 40% from the Hope for Morgan swimmers, meaning everything that the boys raise in sponsorship will go towards the local Hope for Morgan appeal, raising funds to send Morgan to the USA for his SDR operation as well as his rehabilitation afterwards.

If you'd like more information on the Bradley Stoke Rotary Club or how you can support them, please contact their Secretary, Peter Randall on 01454 6100777 or email peter.randall@rocketmail.com



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Meadowbrook Primary School – Forging Global Links

In October 2014, Meadowbrook Primary School was approached by a charity called ACTT (Affordable Computers and Technology for Tanzania) to help them install a computer lab in Africa.

Deborah Cutland, EAL Teaching Assistant at Meadowbrook Primary, met Hilary from ACTT and decided on ideas to raise the funds required. She came in and told pupils about life in Africa. Many charity events later, like cake sales, non-uniform days, belonging cards, poster and lab naming competitions (African Meadow), plays, donations from generous parents/carers etc. and the school has raised the £600 needed!

The lab is now installed and the African children have had their first try on the new computers. See their wonderful smiles. The Gezaulole School has never had a computer before. A lot of the children had no idea what one looked like. They also raised cash locally to install protection in the school against electrical surges which are common place in Africa and can damage the equipment. They have internet links some of the time, so pupils can skype each other. This education and link to the outside world will make a huge difference to that community and its inhabitant's aspirations in life.

Our children have sent video messages, letters and produced some fantastic posters to decorate the walls of the lab. We hope this is the start of an educational friendship across the seas for many years to come.

Meadowbrook joined the Olympus Academy Trust in January 2015, a family of schools led by Executive Headteacher, Dave Baker, that also includes Abbeywood, Bradley Stoke and Charborough Road schools.



Hair-raising - Fund-raising!

Hannah Jane Evans, who volunteers with Bradley Stoke Community Radio once a week, was a 14 year old with extremely long hair – roughly 2 feet long from the back of her neck!

To raise money for two special causes she decided to have a sponsored haircut. The charities she has chosen to support are Marie Curie Cancer Care and Comic Relief.

In addition to raising money in support of these two great causes, Hannah will also be donating her hair to the *Little Princess Trust*, who make wigs for young people who have suffered hair loss.

The grand hair cut took place on Friday 13 March. Carly Harris from Guy Fawkes Hairdressers, kindly donated her skills to perform the lethal chop and style Hannah's hair for the first time.

When Hannah's younger sister asked her if she was sad about cutting her hair, Hannah replied that she had been thinking of Jo from Little Women, who had all her hair cut off and sold it to, 'make father comfortable', and Anne of Green Gables, who had to have her hair cut off after accidentally dying it green!

Hannah's target was to raise £1,000 and she is delighted to have already exceeded it - she told us she has been amazed at the generosity people have shown.

At time of writing Hannah has raised a fantastic £1,214! We congratulate her on her efforts and encourage the good readers of Bradley Stoke Matters to support this inspirational young lady in her fundraising efforts for two fabulous causes, by donating what you can at the following sites -

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World Book Day 2015 – A week full of literacy treats!

World Book Day 2015 was celebrated throughout Bradley Stoke Community School with lots of different events to help everyone focus on the wonder of books and reading.

All Year 7 and 8 students were lucky enough to enjoy a Reading Motivator Session with the children's author, Joffre White. This was a fun packed interesting hour with an insight into Joffre's journey to becoming an author and his love of books and writing. Some students were then invited to a working lunch workshop with Joffre, a reward to those students who have really engaged themselves in reading over the last 6 months.

All the Year 9 students were treated to a performance by the spoken word artist, Rebecca Tanton. Rebecca uses lyrical language to paint imagery with sound. Her performance was a real inspiration! After performing to the Year 9s she also ran some sessions on creative writing and the spoken word.

For the sake of tradition, members of staff spent the day in book character fancy dress. There was a large variety, from Gangsta Granny, a hungry caterpillar and Cruella De'vil (along with 10 of the 101 Dalmatians)! Students were encouraged to complete a quiz based around these characters for a chocolate reward. On the Friday the whole school stopped to read during registration time, which also supported a wider South Gloucestershire initiative – Time 4 reading.



World Book Day at Bowsland Primary School

We were pleased to hear from Amy Lindsay, English Leader at Bowsland Green Primary School, letting Bradley Stoke Matters know about the school's World Book Day celebrations on 6th March.

The whole school celebrated by coming together and community reading at 11 am. Each class then performed an animal poem to the rest of the school.

Parents had been asked to send in photos of their children reading and throughout the day these were shared for everyone to look at.

Some Year 6 children even took to Bradley Stoke radio to tell them how the school celebrated World Book Day and how much they all enjoy reading!

Brilliant! So great to see everyone enjoying their books!



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1st Bradley Stoke Scouts

A lot has been happening at 1st Bradley Stoke Scouts over the last few months!

At the end of last year, open evenings and taster sessions were held for the young people still on the waiting list, along with their parents and potential volunteers to get an idea of what Scouting involves. This led to THREE new sections opening; two Beaver Colony's at Brook Way and a Cub Pack at Holy Trinity school, plus the addition of new adult leaders! Bradley Stoke Scout Group now has a total of FOUR Beaver colonies, THREE Cub packs, TWO Scout Troops and the Explorer Scout Unit ('Trident'), making it one of the biggest Scout groups in the country!

Youth Representative James Ford represented the County at an event involving young people from across the country in helping to shape the future of Scouting. He has now started a local version of this, asking each of the sections what they want from their local Scout group. Ideas so far include gliding, cooking and even water sports.

Finally the Beavers were lucky enough to welcome some very important visitors to their meetings – fresh from his movie premiere in London was none other than Shaun the Sheep (who also brought along one of his Aardman model makers, Jimmy Young).

Jimmy patiently handed out small blocks of Plasticine and then went on to create some Aardman magic that had soon helped the Beavers turn them into a whole flock of Shaun's! The Beavers learned about the importance of getting each quantity right and how to keep the black and white colours separate. Each Shaun had its own individual personality (much like the Beavers themselves!) and they proudly displayed them.

Jimmy had also brought along some more of the sheep that usually appear alongside Shaun, as well as the main villain from the new



film – Trumper. The Beavers particularly liked Trumper's red pants that were showing through his trousers after he begins to meet his demise! The short-sighted farmer and his ever-faithful dog, Bitzer, also popped along. Shaun the Sheep has gone global, but his real home is right here just up the road in Aztec West where filming is currently taking place to make a fifth series of the successful television programme that usually airs on CBBC.

So if you fancy having a go and want to join as a Beaver, Cub, Scout or particularly as an adult volunteer (we can never have too many!) then take a look at <http://bradley-stoke-scouts.org.uk/>

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Last year I was lucky enough to be lent a KS2 pupil. He came to me one afternoon a week on the understanding he earned 10 Lego bricks for his behaviour in class. This 'deal' was brilliant for him, as it helped him remain focused in class and worked for me too, as my class loved his visits; reading to him and developing their construction models. During a family day trip to 'Beyond the Brick', (a Lego exhibition in Newport); I came across a man called Chief Fairy. He runs an organisation called Fairy Bricks. He has created a charity that turns money raised into Lego Bricks for many Children's Charities throughout the UK and now into Africa. His vision is to 'brighten the lives of sick children through Lego.' Over a chance conversation he gave me his business card and has since agreed to wave his Lego wand over the Stoke Gifford Area!

This event is already looking to be very exciting; we have professional builders from the Brickish



Association, artwork from Jon the Brickladd, a Fairy Bricks raffle and Awesome Engineers running short taster sessions throughout the weekend and, of course, refreshments.

To find out more information look on our school website <http://www.stmichaelsg.co.uk>; if you click on the text next to the Lego face this will take you to the Exhibition webpage. Tickets are now available, just click on the 'click here to buy your tickets'.

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Teachers get on the Bike for Red Nose Day

On the Monday morning prior to this year's red nose day on Friday 13th March, Mr Richard Clark, Headteacher at Stoke Lodge Primary School, had the idea of cycling the distance of London to Paris in 24 hours in aid of the charity. He enlisted the support of 32 staff and borrowed a static bike from Bradley Stoke leisure centre for the "trip".

Bradley Stoke Matters was delighted to be invited to see the start of the ride at 2pm on Thursday 12th March, where children from 'America' class counted down for the first cyclist to commence. In hourly stints, staff then cycled through the night and the following day until 2pm Friday 13th March.

We went back to see Mr Holbrook cycle the last minutes in a special assembly where the children, dressed in red, again counted down and gave an almighty cheer as the last teacher finally stopped pedalling. Richard Clark said "I wouldn't have suggested the idea if I didn't have the confidence in the backing of my staff" and was overwhelmed with how many had participated including the office staff, teaching assistants, two caretakers and a Director. Many returned to school in the night to take their turn before slipping into sleeping bags prior to teaching the next day.

On calculating the distance cycled, it was announced to the school that not only had staff made it to Paris - but back again too, totalling 800kms!

Children waited in anticipation as their Head then uncovered a board displaying the amount raised; £1,502.58 in donations received, which will be doubled by the Government to give a sum of £3,005.15 to Comic Relief. Fantastic!!

To be invited to be a part of the celebration assembly in the school and hence experience the children's excitement first hand was an honour; the children were truly proud of their teachers for their fantastic achievement and displayed an understanding of how the money was to help others too.

Since 1988, Red Nose Day has become something of a British Institution. Every two years, people across the land get together to do something to raise money for others, either at home, school or work. Bradley Stoke Matters is sure that most of the staff took to their sofas last Friday night to watch the comedy and entertainment on the BBC, inspiring more of us to give generously.



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St Mary's Newhounds ...

Introduction

We have had a very busy term with many exciting events at St. Mary's. We have already taken part in 'Life Skills' to learn important skills for the future. There have been other events including visits to the Anglican Cathedral and Patchway Baptist Church as part of other faiths week; we have visited our own parish church, Holy Family in Patchway. Some classes have been on trips - to Chepstow Castle, @ Bristol and the choir have performed at a joint Catholic Schools concert at St Bede's College. In the next few weeks, there are more exciting things planned including the Easter Production.

Easter Production

As week's zoom past, Easter is rapidly coming closer. Yr4 and 3 are going to be producing a show and will be practising for around three weeks. With a collection of songs and characters, the Easter production will be a colourful performance and the whole of St. Marys is waiting for this massive event. Good luck to the actors and let's hope that nerves don't effect what is anticipated as a great performance.

Life Skills

The year 6 class had been on a trip to Life Skills at the Create Centre in Bristol. They learnt life saving techniques to help them through the rest of their lives. They took part in many activities such as how to make emergency phone calls, road safety, first aid and much more - the year 6 class now know how to make themselves and the people around them safe.

M.A.D Stunt Show

On Monday 2nd of March the whole of KS 2 (year 3, 4, 5 and 6) were lucky enough to see a stunt show in our very own hall!

This is Daisy's (year 6) review on the show: "This Monday St Mary's Catholic Primary School had an incredibly talented stunt bike rider visit our school. The number one highlight was when the phenomenal school record was broken. 39 inches was jumped, by the rider, on a bike. The school was also taught about the importance of wearing the correct clothes and checking your bike. All in all it was a stellar performance."

We would like to thank our Bike it crew and Mrs Deliot for organising this great performance.



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Little Stoke Hefalumps!

Y1 have been planning and working together in the woods this week to create much needed Hefalump traps! They will be keeping an eye out for the hefalumps and checking the traps regularly to see what they catch.

Y1 are the latest class at Little Stoke Primary School to benefit from the newly structured Forest School programme run by Steve Callow (Director of Conquer the Woods) and Jenny Ratcliffe (Little Stoke Teacher). Both are fully trained Level 3 Forest School Leaders who are now working together to provide a much improved experience for all year groups across the school. The weekly sessions take class groups to the large, on-site woodland to work on projects that challenge thinking, develop curriculum knowledge and skills, develop social skills, improve environmental awareness and ensure the children have fun in the outdoors!

Y6 have been improving the paths in the woodland with Mr Middleton (the school caretaker) by laying wood chippings throughout the Forest School area. They have also been learning bush skills such as how to light a small fire to boil water for a hot drink. Y6 have been developing the group skills to work together effectively. This will lead to the pupils taking joint responsibility for planning the activities in the forest during their final term at the school. Improving leadership in young people and considering the needs of others in their group is a key aspect of some of the Forest School activities.

The extensive Forest School site at Little Stoke has been recognised by the Local Authority as a high quality provision for the pupils at Little Stoke. Other schools in the local area are also now able to offer their own pupils Forest School sessions on the Little Stoke site with fully trained staff. Little Stoke Primary School is developing bespoke packages for pupils with social and emotional needs, behaviour challenges, pre-school groups, parent and child sessions as well as TA training. Community groups and local schools can contact the school on 01454 866 522 to discuss their needs.



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Sunshine On Leith from the Northavon Youth Theatre Company

This year fifty Students of the Northavon School of Drama, who perform as the Northavon Youth Theatre Company, invite you to join them as they travel North of the Border, to Scotland and in particular Leith, a suburb of Edinburgh and home of twins Craig and Charlie Reid, otherwise known as The Proclaimers! Stephen Greenhorn has woven 18 of their songs into an amazing musical, so we are proud to present the area première of Sunshine On Leith, from 01 to 04 April, 2015, at Thornbury's Armstrong Hall, at 7.30 pm on Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, with a 2.30 pm Matinée on Easter Saturday.

It's 2009 and we meet two young Soldiers: Ally and Davy, who are on patrol in Afghanistan, but they encounter an enemy ambush and not long after decide to leave the Army and return home to sunny Leith! They attempt to rebuild their lives, but things never run smoothly, and this jubilant and heartfelt story of a close-knit family, plus the three couples bound to it, illustrates the joys and heartache that punctuate all relationships. Each couple finds a different solution to their particular problem, but we see how the power of love overrides everything, even if it sometimes means letting go.

Interwoven throughout the story, we hear such catchy tunes as Over and Done With and Throw The 'R' Away, plus surprisingly beautiful Celtic ballads like Misty Blue and Make My Heart Fly, with the poignant Oh Jean, Letter From America and Sunshine On Leith, but it wouldn't be the same without the memorable show-stopper: I'm Gonna Be (500 Miles)!

Having received TWO nominations in the Rose Bowl Awards for Anything Goes, enthusiasm reigns supreme and we can promise you won't be disappointed if you join us for the début of this uplifting musical, which has been described by the critics as "exuberantly funny and achingly tender", "a soaring, big-hearted delight" and "this year's Mamma Mia!". You'll laugh and you'll cry, but you won't want to miss it, so ring our Box Office number: 07980543691, send a postal booking with SAE to BONDS of Thornbury, 14 The Plain, Thornbury, BS352BD, or call into Wildings, in Thornbury High Street from 16 March. Bring your friends and get a discount for ten or more seats and Family Tickets are available for the Saturday Matinée!

Scotland The Brave!



Northavon Youth Theatre Company
Presents

SUNSHINE ON LEITH

1 ~ 4 April 2015
Weds ~ Sat: 7.30 pm
Saturday Matinée: 2.30 pm

Featuring the songs of *The Proclaimers*

Armstrong Hall, Thornbury
Telephone & Advance Bookings: 07980543691
Box Office: Wildings, Thornbury High St [from 16 March]

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Featuring the songs of *The Proclaimers*
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First performed at Dundee Region 18th of April 2007
This amateur production is presented by arrangement with JOSEF WEINBERGER

www.nytc.org.uk



Bradley Stoke Matters was pleased to hear about two new local community groups that have recently been set up in the Stokes...

The **Bradley Stoke Writer's Group** meets every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month, from 6.30 to 8pm, in the Library at the Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre.

They would like to welcome new members to join in reading their own material, or just to listen and get a feel for how the group works. Current members consist of unpublished and published writers, novelists, poets, children's authors and episode scribblers. If writing interests you, why not go along and meet up!

'Helpful.' 'Encouraging.' 'Give constructive feedback.' 'They've made great suggestions.'

The **Stokes Crafters** is a fun, informal group for people who enjoy craft - share your knowledge, learn new skills or just come along for the company and carry on with your own chosen craft.

Thursday evenings at the Old School Rooms in Stoke Gifford, 7.30pm-9.30pm. You are welcome to just turn up or if you would like to speak to someone beforehand, give Kim a call on 01454 772187.

Come join us....

If you write stories, compose poetry or have ideas for a novel

Bradley Stoke Writers' Group

could be the place to test out your style, ideas and chapters.

Bradley Stoke Library, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 6.30 - 8pm

NEXT MEETINGS
Tuesdays

14 April, 28 April, 12 May, 26 May

write, scrub-out, startagain! write, research, startagain, edit, typeitup, senditoff!!



The Stokes Crafters

Share your passion or learn a new skill, all are welcome

Looking to make new friends in the local area? Come and join our new friendly group for craft-minded people in Stoke Gifford.

Learn a new craft, share your knowledge with others or simply bring your chosen project and craft away with like-minded people.

We meet on Thursday evenings, 7:30pm to 9:30pm at The Old School Rooms, The Green, Stoke Gifford BS34 8PD

Contact Kim on 01454 772187 or just turn up on the night.

There is a nominal charge of £5 towards the cost of hiring the hall, tea, coffee and biscuits are included. You do not have to commit to turning up every week, this is an informal, fun club which you can attend as often as you wish.

For more information, join in the conversation at www.streetlife.com or see our Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/TheStokesCrafters>





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Bradley Stoke Matters was pleased to hear about the newly formed Year 6 Writing Club at Baileys Court Primary School and delighted to share two of their first articles with our lovely readers



Aliens Invade Bailey's Court School!

On the week commencing the 9th of February, the pupils of Bailey's Court Primary School took part in a very intriguing event: 'Alien Invasion Week'!



Every year group was assigned a 'top secret' mission – we had to investigate the scenes of the invasion and then use our writing skills to report back. The youngest children wrote reports about the alien's planet, some children wrote letters to the aliens, one year group made spaceships and wrote instructions to explain how they worked and the oldest children discussed whether they should be allowed to stay and others wrote newspaper articles about the event! We were all very busy!

It all began when our deputy head-teacher, Mr Telfer, called the whole school to an assembly. During this unexpected meeting, he explained that a concerned neighbour of the school (the chicken carer, Mr Withers) had seen a strange sight. When looking out of his bedroom window, he noticed flashing lights in the distance. He immediately rushed to the school grounds to check on his beloved chickens, who were luckily cooped up safely in their pen. When he turned round, he saw two shadowy alien figures, who seemed to be perfectly harmless. The next day, he informed our alarmed head-teachers, who decided to call an assembly. After investigating, we discovered that the 'aliens' had been careful to leave no trace. This led many sceptics to speculate that there hadn't been any aliens, though many others are still unsure.

In the end, it turned out that the sceptics were right; the mischievous teachers had fabricated the whole event to make us do some fun and exciting work.

By Jessica Andrews and Reiya Lin
(two sceptical year 6 pupils)!

Bailey's Court Year 6 Talent Show

On Wednesday 11th February, the Year 6 pupils of Bailey's Court Primary School took part in an amazing night of entertainment. The show, which was called Leavers Live, was so popular that it sold out of tickets!

The show, which lasted 2 ½ hours, showcased everyone such as the acts, presenters and helpers. Acts included: singing and dancing; magnificent card tricks and interesting presentations. Even the audience were involved on the night; there was a spaghetti & marshmallow competition in the interval. The structure which was the tallest won a scrumptious cake made by one of the parents. In case you're wondering, the children planned the talent show themselves to raise money for their Year Books!

The children really enjoyed the experience of being the stars of the night!

By Sophia Randall & Sophie Worsfold

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Fake Festivals is Back with a Rocking Line-Up and a New Date At Little Stoke

Tributes to Oasis, U2 and The Red Hot Chilli Peppers come to Little Stoke

After a successful sold out tour last year, with the added double whammy of a hugely popular three day festival, Fake Festivals is coming to Little Stoke on Saturday 2nd May at Little Stoke Park with a rocking line-up.

The UK's only touring tribute festival will be kicking the season off as Little Stoke Fake Festival plays host to an amazing line-up of local support bands and headlining tribute bands. Tributes to Oasis, U2 and The Red Hot Chilli Peppers will be smashing up the main stage, bringing the festival spirit with their uncanny likeness and voices.

"Little Stoke is a new addition to the Fake Festivals tour," says Pete Marsh, license holder for Little Stoke Fake Festival. "I already run Keynsham and Weston Super Mare Fake Festivals which are taking place once again this year. After the success of these two festivals, I wanted to bring one to Little Stoke. I put gigs on as a hobby, and we are pleased to be bringing



an amazing family festival to the local community. We've been working tirelessly all year to scout and confirm five super talented local bands to support our debuting tributes & we're pretty sure you'll all be blown away with the quality of music we'll be showcasing."

Early bird tickets are on sale already until 2nd April, and are priced as:

- Adult £16.50
- Young Person (10-17years) £9.00
- Family (2 x adult 2 x Young Person) £42.00
- Children 0-9 years FREE

"We always look at trying to offer more to our loyal followers, and again this year when you buy your Little Stoke Fake Festival ticket, it will give you free entry and camping to our three day Big Fake Festival, so you get four days of live music for the price of one," continues Pete.

The South West will play host to its own mini Fake Festivals tour, with two other dates confirmed. Thanks to Pete and the success of Fake Festivals in the region, there will be festivals in Keynsham and Weston Super Mare again, as well as Little Stoke.

"We had a fantastic summer in 2014, we're genuinely overwhelmed at how popular the events have become here in the South West, and we're thrilled to announce we'll be continuing our Fake Festivals adventure this year," says Pete. "The whole essence of a Fake Festival is to bring an incredible festival vibe to the heart of thriving communities while at the same time supporting other local businesses and traders. Our plan is to make the experience accessible to everyone in the South West by having annual festivals in safe and easy to get to areas."

Tickets can be purchased directly through the Fake Festivals website at www.fakefestivals.co.uk. Don't forget to register for your free ticket to The Big Fake Festival in September after your purchase.

"This festival is very popular, so I would urge people to buy tickets early," continues Pete. "Not only will this guarantee you entry, but it will also save you some pennies if you buy at the early bird price."

For more information and ticket sales, please visit www.fakefestivals.co.uk.

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A new bar at the Aztec

Bradley Stoke Matters was pleased to pop down to the Aztec Hotel recently to see the results of the latest refurbishments, with the bar and lounge area having been given a brand new look and feel! The £100k makeover has given the bar a much more 'pubby' feel with comfortable sofas and cosy corners, mixed with high tables and bar seating too.

The bar is open throughout the day with a great range of cask and craft ales on offer, plus a large wine by the glass selection. Non-residents are most welcome to pop in for a drink or a bite to eat and to take advantage of the free superfast wi-fi too!



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Celebrating 50 years of law!

Unbelievably, John Todd of AMD Solicitors has now been working in law for over 50 years!

John began work as an "articled clerk" on 27 November 1964 and so celebrated his golden anniversary of legal work at the end of 2014. Matters have improved somewhat since John's first employment contract which was both unpaid and somewhat less stimulating than his work in later years!

In the course of his career John has worked in divorce, family disputes, criminal law (including murder trials!) and civil litigation. For the last 40 years he has practised in Bristol, including sitting as a Deputy District Judge at local courts for over 10 years.

John started his legal career working largely in conveyancing and debt-collection, which was not the work of his legal dreams. While John grew up his father worked initially as a barrister, and latterly as a High Court judge in Kenya, so John knew very well that a more exciting legal world existed beyond the walls of his office and at the first opportunity he left conveyancing behind and started work in litigation. This was clearly the right move for him.

The aspect of legal life John has most enjoyed throughout his career is presenting cases at court. Nerve-racking while preparing certainly, but full of challenge and adrenalin on the day, and a great sense of achievement afterwards.

Being a glass-full person John can't remember many low points to his career. However he did think that being 'on call' for long periods over the weekend as a duty solicitor (in criminal law) was not always a lifestyle choice. John recalls answering a call late at night and hearing a perhaps worse-for-wear client shouting "*I am an innocent man*" repeatedly down the phone. Being a duty solicitor was clearly not the recipe for a good night's sleep.

Working in family law inevitably exposes you to some of the worst aspects of family life. John recalls advising a client whose family home had been stripped by his wife whilst he unsuspectingly continued his day at work.

Practising as a Deputy District Judge enabled John to see litigation from the 'other side', the judge's perspective. He feels this experience was invaluable in helping him to approach Court proceedings in a balanced and reasonable way, in the light of his understanding of the judge's likely point of view.

Despite his work commitments, John enjoys a busy social life, including singing in two local choirs. Clearly the work-life balance is another lesson John has learned over the course of his long career.

John is based at AMD Solicitors' Henleaze Road office, and is a much-valued member of the team of specialist litigation solicitors who provide advice and assistance in civil, family and commercial disputes.

You can contact John and the AMD litigation team on 0117 962 1205, email info@amdsolicitors.com or call into one of our Bristol offices.

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Season Update from BSTFC by Ian Drew

Two of Bradley Stoke Town FC's teams are going 'great guns' at the moment.

The Reserves, as sponsored by Bradley Stoke Matters, are presently third in the Bristol & District League Division 4. As we went to print on this edition, the Reserves had five games left of the season which may not have been enough to win the division but a second place is hoped for.

The First team are also impressive this season, presently lying second, 2 points behind Mendip United but with a game in hand. Good luck to them also.

Plenty of goals have been scored throughout the teams, top of the scorers list is Sam Peplow, with Chris Hughes and Sam Adams not far behind. Top of the assists list is stalwart Brad Clark with 18 assists, the chasing pack will have to go some to catch him.

The Vets team continue to play well, they presently lie fourth in the Glos Vets League, with some impressive wins which includes 9-1, 6-1 and 5-1 wins.

The newly formed U21s continue to play, although with a few bad results at the start of the season things have not quite gone their way in recent games with some hard fought and close results / defeats.

If you are between the ages of 18 and 60, wish to start or return to football, check out our website at - www.bstfc.co.uk.



BSTFC remaining home fixtures for 2015 / 2015 season.

Saturday 4th April -
A Team home v Stoke Lane

Saturday 11th April -
1sts home v Chipping Sodbury Reserves

Saturday 18th April -
1sts home v Bendix

Saturday 25th April -
1sts home v Totterdown

All supporters welcome!

New Ladies Football Team!

Bradley Stoke Youth FC (BSYFC) and the development of girls football in the local area just keeps growing with over 90 girls currently playing football in the Bristol Girls League. The teams are all playing well and enjoying their football.

Due to the success of the girls football there is now a new Womens Team called Bradley Stoke Ladies starting up. So any female aged 16 years or older (there is no upper age limit) who is interested in playing football can join up! They will also accept 15 year olds to come and train with the team, however they cannot play in League matches until they are 16 years old.

The Club will be built on the ethos of the girl teams where fun and friendship are the top goals. So if you are interested in developing your football skills, improving your skill set, want to improve your fitness levels or just want to come and give it a try then please contact **Martin Lee** at mlee1@btpopenworld.com or mobile **07785 384618**.

The Club is also mid-way through its 2015 School Link Program whereby BSYFC coaches (all FA Qualified) go into 14 local schools and coach all the Year 1 children over the Feb to May period. When completed the Club will have coached over 800 children in football skills and techniques! The schools will then bring a Year 1 team to the Football Festival as part of the Bradley Stoke Festival on Saturday 6th June where they can win massive cups, trophies, kits, equipment, prizes and lots more!

The Festival and School Link Program has now been running since 2006. Bradley Stoke Youth FC is a FA Charter Standard Community Club and has been nominated for the FA Community Club of the Year 2015.

If interested in being part of the club visit their website at www.bsyfc.co.uk

Hugh Vickers, D.O. REGISTERED OSTEOPATH

at Bradley Stoke Physio
Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre
Tel: (01454) 618525



BRADLEY STOKE LADIES F.C

We are a new Women's Football Team just starting up and are looking for players of all abilities.

The club is based on fun and friendship geared towards players who want to further their development and improve their skills.

All players need to be 16 years old and over to play in the League. However, we will coach 15 year olds as well but you cannot sign for the League until your 16th birthday. We have no upper age limit so all are welcome.

So are you fed up watching the males have all the fun, well come along and show them how good female football can be.

Interested in knowing more? Contact Martin Lee on email at mlee1@btpopenworld.com Or call 07785 384618

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Bohemians Cricket Club

Bristol & District Division 2 CHAMPIONS 2014
Bristol & District Division 10 CHAMPIONS 2014
Bristol & Somerset Indoor CHAMPIONS Spring 2014

We are launching a new Saturday 3rd XI for 2015, and play friendly games on Sundays and in midweek throughout the summer. New players of any standard or age are very welcome to join!

WINTER NETS:
Colston's School (BS16 1BJ),
6-7pm every Sunday
Feb 1st until 12th April

Contact:
Steve Spurrell
07800404460
Pete O'Farrell (1st cap.)
07743927445
Jason Bowen (2nd cap.)
07850122219

Home Ground:
Mile Straight Sports and Social Club,
Stoke Gifford BS34 6DW



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

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Help give Hope to Morgan

The face of local resident Morgan Walker has rapidly become a familiar one across the Stokes. His hand print is the logo of the 'Hope for Morgan' appeal, created in his favourite colours of black and red. The fundraising is now well under way with over £30k raised so far towards the target of the £70k needed to cover an SDR operation in the USA, as well as rehabilitation for Morgan afterwards.

Morgan was born 8 weeks premature, weighing just 3lb 10oz and spent the first traumatic month of his life in the neo-nato unit. At two months old he returned to hospital (on his due date) for an MRI brain scan. The results of this scan were devastating for the family, who were advised Morgan had cerebral palsy and it was unlikely he would ever walk or talk.

Thankfully Morgan proved everyone wrong and walked at 17 months and can talk, he even attends a mainstream school - Wheatfield Primary.

Having endured 19 operations and procedures in his eleven years, taking medication daily and sleeping with an oxygen heart monitor, Morgan suffers from additional complications as well as the daily effects of cerebral palsy. His mum, Zoe, states "His



determination to succeed in life in everything he does is a testament to him and his will to be just like his peers".

Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy aims to improve mobility and increase independence through a neurosurgical procedure. As for other local children Toby and Abigail before him, (Help Toby Walk and Footsteps for Abigail), this surgery is a chance to significantly improve Morgan's quality of life and reduce the pain he constantly endures.

"There is no cure for Morgan, but there is hope and, like any parent, we would do anything for our child. Our aim is to give him the best possible chance in life".

Bradley Stoke Matters was pleased to speak to Scott Wright of the Darren Wright Foundation who has

now stepped in to assist with Morgan's appeal. Scott set up this local Bristol-based charity having been inspired by his big brother Darren, who has struggled in life since being diagnosed with severe Cerebral Palsy at 12 weeks old. Scott's aim is to assist other families in a similar situation to his own by providing grants and advice to families of children with disabilities and life-limiting illnesses.



"My brother has the heart of a lion and the bravery of a thousand warriors. This charity is something I have promised to dedicate my life to. Darren is not only my brother but he is also my hero and my inspiration." Darren, now in his 40s, is relatively settled and no money from the charity goes towards him or his care. Every penny counts, thank you for your help!

Darren Wright Foundation

www.darrenwrightfound.org.uk

www.facebook.com/pages/Darren-Wright-Foundation/

Hope for Morgan

www.facebook.com/hopeformorganwalker

www.justgiving.com/hopeformorgan

Text HFMW99 + AMOUNT to 70070

Anyone can get involved, through fundraising for the charity (links below) or by supporting the upcoming events for Morgan:

4th April: cake sale @ SpecSavers in the Willow Brook Centre

12th April: Local football derby - see separate advert

17th April: Dinner, dance & charity auction @ Aztec Hotel

26th April: The lovely Russell Howard is coming to the Theatre Royal Bath for one night only for Hope for Morgan (BSM has booked tickets already!!)

2nd May: Evening with Lee Sharpe & Neil Ruddock, hosted by Glenn Catley

3rd May: Family Fun day @ Stokers Pub, Little Stoke, including live music, hog roast, Minion and Olaf mascots, face painting, horse and cart rides 11am-11pm

9th May: Scott Wright fight

30th May: Old Trafford - Ashton gate bike ride

15/6th August: Bungee Jump @ M-Shed, Bristol

Additional events will include the local Ben Walker charity football match, Bristol City vs Rovers football match & a Zero to Hero fight.

Clash of Clans Give Hope for Morgan –

Sunday 12th April 2015, 10.30 kick-off


Almondsbury U13(Sports) take on Bradley Stoke United U13 in an Avon Youth League Division 3 encounter at Almondsbury Sports and Social Club.

This competitive league match is being used to raise funds and promote awareness to the "Hope for Morgan" charity which aims to secure £70,000 for a life changing operation for ex-Almondsbury player and Bradley Stoke schoolboy, Morgan Walker.

In an event akin to Premier League pre-match charity promotion events, players and officials will be sporting the official charity T-shirts during the warm-up and posing for formal photos, some will even sign autographs! Charity collections will ensue during the match which will be followed by fundraising in the social club.

Why not pop along, get some Sunday morning fresh air, support both local youth football and a fantastic, life changing cause?

Bad weather ?....Keep an eye on the Almondsbury Sports and Social Club Facebook page and web-site in case of adverse weather causing match postponement!



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TRIBUTE NIGHTS

Swing into Summer with Frank Sinatra

Friday 5th June 2015

Jack Valentine brings Frank Sinatra to life with his tribute performance. Includes three-course meal. £35 per person.

Elton John tribute night

Friday 10th July 2015

Marcus has been performing as Elton John for 10 years up and down the country as well as abroad. Includes three-course meal. £35 per person.

Freddie Mercury tribute night

Friday 28th August 2015

An incredible solo tribute to the sounds of Freddie Mercury and Queen. Includes three-course meal. £35 per person.

Michael Buble tribute night

Friday 9th October 2015

Welsh singer Rickie Arthur earned recognition as the No. 1 Buble tribute act in the UK last year. Includes three-course meal. £37.50 per person.

Michael Buble and the Ratpack

Friday 4th December 2015

Rickie Arthur returns with the Ratpack tribute act to bring you another night of music. Includes three-course meal. £40 per person.



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Dursley Male Voice Choir has a busy few months ahead!

The well-regarded Annual Concerts at the Chantry Centre (Lister Hall) in Dursley on 15 and 16 May 2015 will appeal to audiences new and old. Supporting the choir will be Mandy Starr, a charismatic singer with a wealth of experience. She trained as an operatic/classical singer, but decided to make her career in the world of light entertainment. As such she has sung the Welsh national anthem at the Millennium Stadium, and supported such stars as Freddie and the Dreamers, and The American Drifters. The choir are proud and honoured that she is to join them.

On 12 September, at the Colston Hall, the choir will be joined by choristers from 6 other local choirs in a concert to raise funds for The Prince's Trust. On this occasion the star soloist will be the incomparable Wynne Evans, who will bring fine singing and much laughter to the

Hall. Wynne, an international tenor and TV star (remember Gino Compagno?), has twice previously performed with the choir, at Cheltenham Town Hall and the Victoria Rooms Bristol, when he helped to raise a total of some £18,000 for charity.

Then DMVC are heading off to Southern Ireland for a week long tour later in September 2015. Several concerts have been arranged and the choir will this time be joined by Mark Llewellyn Evans, an internationally renowned baritone (and, incidentally, Wynne's brother). If previous trips are anything to go by, the tour promises to be enjoyable for both the choristers and their audiences. Indeed some fine singing is expected in pubs throughout the area!

Finally the much-anticipated Christmas Concerts will be held

at the Chantry Centre Dursley on 18 and 19 December. As many locals have said, "you really know Christmas has arrived when the choir have performed". Last year's soloist, soprano Gillian Wells proved such a hit with singers and audience alike that she has been asked back. All concerned are looking forward to seeing and singing with her again.

All in all a hectic time for choristers and the music team alike, but we hope that our efforts will bring enjoyment to many, whilst raising much needed funds for charity.

If you want tickets for one or more of the events mentioned, please contact any chorister, or visit our website at www.dursleymalechoir.org.uk. Alternatively you can ring Steve Downton on 07703 131356

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Celebrating 28 Years in Stoke Gifford

Little Stoke Gifford Community Matters was pleased to hear from Barbara Quinn this month, owner of the Shampers Hair Salon on Ratcliffe Drive.

The Salon is celebrating in 2015 as, amazingly, this April will mark 28 years since it first opened its doors in Stoke Gifford. "There has been many changes in the area since 1987." Barbara recalls, "Back then you could still cows in the Friends Life field, the mile straight only had the Filton High School, Bradley Stoke was still fields and St Michael's School was just being planned!"

Shampers has grown as the area has grown and Barbara feels very fortunate to have so many lovely clients; many of whom she has known since opening day! Others have since moved out of the area but still choose to travel back for their hair appointments.

The salon offers a great team of Hairdressers who perform top quality hair cutting and are fully trained in all aspects of hair colouring, looking after the condition of hair and listening to clients in the all-important consultation, which remains a complementary service for new and existing clients. All stylists are committed to working from start to finish, offering a consistent service to their clients.

Sheryl, who has worked at the salon for 15 years, describes it as "friendly and very personable" and emphasises the fact that staff are trained well enough to be able to be honest with their clients and give the very best advice. Working 7 years at Shampers, Caroline says the salon offers "a warm welcome to all the family" and enjoys her mix of clients, styling children, men and ladies hair.

Barbara concludes "Having a great hairdressing team past and present and very loyal clients has made Shampers a great success for the last 28 years and I would like to say a big thank you to all our clientele."

To celebrate the anniversary Shampers are running a couple of offers for both new and existing clients - be sure to take advantage of them!



SHAMPERS HAIR SALON

NEW CLIENTS: Shampers would like to offer you a **HALF PRICE (!) cut & style** on your first visit PLUS a £5 voucher to spend on your second cut & style visit.

EXISTING CLIENTS: Shampers would like to offer you a **£5 voucher** towards your cut & style appointment PLUS 10% off of any Redken retail product.

offers valid until 31.05.15

TIME TO TALK !

Come in and talk to us about your hair in a non obligation consultation.

Shampers Hair Salon, 8 Ratcliffe Drive, Stoke Gifford. Tel: **01179 799 154**



Local Clubs and Groups in and around Bradley Stoke, Little Stoke and Stoke Gifford

BABY AND TODDLER GROUPS

Bouncing Babies - Tuesdays 1-3pm at Jubilee Centre for babies under 1. Cheryl Godsell 01454 868570 CGDsll@aol.com

Bradley Stoke 0-5's - Mondays 10am to 12 noon during term time. Jean Higgins on 07999 866188 or Holy Trinity Church office 01454 620975.

First Steps Toddler Group - Mondays and Thursdays 10-11.30am term time Christ the King Church, Bradley Stoke tel : 07590 369 935

Little Hedgehogs (0-5's) - Friday mornings 10am-12noon, Edge Church International 1160 Park Avenue, Aztec West Business Park, BS32 4TL. Tel 01454 837990.

NCT meet Fridays 10.30am SOHO Coffee in Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre. Joanna Critchley-Peacock joanna.peacock@hotmail.co.uk

Pre-School Rhyme time and Story time Bradley Stoke Library Mondays 10.30-11am and Thursdays 11-11.30am 01454 868006 bradleystoke.library@southglos.gov.uk

Puddle Ducks - Mondays 10am to 12 noon during term time Brook Way Activity Centre. puddleduckstoddlers@hotmail.co.uk

North Bristol Twins Group - Fridays 10-12am Evangelical Church in Bradley Stoke, northbristoltwinsgroup@googlemail.com

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Bradley Stoke Book Club 'Bookaholics' meet at Starbucks, Aztec West on the 2nd Wed of each month at 7:30pm. Geoff Stobbart 07714101354 geoffrey.stobbart@btopenworld.com

Bradley Stoke Community Singers - Tuesdays term time only at Bradley Stoke Community School 7.15-8.30pm. Free and open to all info@bscsingers.co.uk or call 07743 333837 / 07599 252176

Bradley Stoke Radio - The Activity Centre Brook Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 9DS, 01454 616055 bradleystokeradio.org.uk

Bradley Stoke Small Business Forum - meets 2nd Monday of the month, Aztec Hotel 6.30pm-8.30pm

FOJG - Friends of Jubilee Green enquire.friendsofjubileegreen@hotmail.co.uk

Gifted drama group Saturday 10-11.30am. Term time at Holy Trinity church. Ages 8-12 years. Contact Hayley Thomas via church office 01454 620975 Spaces available!

Girl Guides, Brownies & Rainbows - admingirlguidingbsg.org.uk, girlguidingbsg.org.uk

Plug In - weekly 7.30-9.30 at Coniston Community Centre, Coniston Road, Patchway. Free, live music entertainment where people can relax, chill out, drink coffee, listen to music, chat and meet other folk their own age. Building Community for 18-30's.

Sew and So's - Patchwork and Quilting Group, 3rd Monday in the month 1.30-3.30pm at the Jubilee Centre, Gill on 0117 279 7185 or Barbara on 01454 615514

Scouts, Cubs and Beavers - Clive Mason, Group Scout Leader – tel 0844 3181907 or email clivemason@blueyonder.co.uk

Stokes Art Group - Tuesday evening and Thursday morning at Christ the King. Everyone welcome. www.stokesartists.co.uk

Stokes Singers - Thursdays in term time at Coniston Community Centre, Coniston Road, Patchway 7.30-9.30pm. We are a mixed choir and do not hold auditions. Contact Liz Gazzard on 01454 614148 for further details.

Willowbrook Townswomen's Guild - Jubilee Centre – 7:30 – 9:30 the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Janine Smith 01454-617645

Women's Institute (WI) - Bradley Stoke: Jubilee Centre 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm contact Maureen Mackenzie. Tel: 0117 9046099

Women's Institute (WI) - Stoke Gifford WI meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm at Trust Hall, North Road, Stoke Gifford, Bristol BS34 8PF contact Sue Grimsted 01454 613016.

Woodcraft Folk - children's 6+ activity group Wednesdays 6-7pm Jenny on 0117 9093969

Your Call Theatre Group Fridays 5.30 at URC Hall, Thornbury, Jill Dimond 01454 413850 yourcalltheatregroup@live.co.uk

SPORTS CLUBS

Aretians Rugby Club for Cubs, Juniors and Seniors Station Road, Little Stoke www.pitchero.com/clubs/aretiansrffc

Black and Blues Netball - Non-League Social Netball Wednesdays 7.30-9pm BSCS, Helen Green on 07928 604646 or helengreen67@hotmail.com.

Bradley Stoke Bowls Club - Baileys Court Activity Centre www.bradleysstokebc.com. Val Nicholls 0117 9311203

Bradley Stoke Jiu Jitsu Club - Chris Harris, maru.jiujitsu@gmail.com We train at Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre Tues & Fri evenings, classes for children and adults

Bradley Stoke Junior Netball Club - The Jubilee Centre Every Wednesday 5.30-7.00pm. Siân Briddon on 07920 745965 (after 6pm) or email bsncjuniors@yahoo.co.uk

Bradley Stoke Judo - Various days and times, Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre, www.bradleystokejudoclub.com

Bradley Stoke Town Football Club - Adult training Tuesdays at Bradley Stoke Community School, For more info see web site at bstfc.co.uk

Bradley Stoke United Football Club - Football from U7's to U16's Various contacts, dependent on age, please see web site bsufc.co.uk

Bradley Stoke Youth FC (BSYFC) – FA Charter Standard Community Club providing football for U7s to U18s, disability football, mentoring of young coaches, in-school coaching and football festival. Visit web site www.bsyfc.co.uk or contact mlee1@btopenworld.com

On these pages we have tried to collate many of the non-profit making groups, clubs and organisations that regularly meet across the Five Stokes area, along with Church and School information. If we have got your details wrong, or missed out your club completely, please let us know **community@mattersmagazines.co.uk** and we will do my best to put it right for you!

Bradley Stoke Youth Rugby at St Marys Old Boys Rugby Club for Minis, Juniors and Seniors - Trench Lane, Almondsbury www.pitchero.com/clubs/stmarysoldboysrffc

Bristol Extreme Allstar Cheerleaders - Wednesdays 7-9pm Little Stoke Primary School, bristolextreme@gmail.com

Little Stoke Park Run - Every Saturday at 9am, a 5k run in the park, littlestokehelpers@parkrun.com

North Bristol Rugby Club, Rugby teams from 4+ www.pitchero.com/clubs/northbristoljuniorsrffc/ .

North Bristol Running Group friendly group of recreational runners, 3 evenings per week, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, in the Bradley Stoke area. Tuesday evening is aimed at Beginners whilst all levels are welcome on any of the evenings. For further information please see our Face Book page or text Alan Wilcox on 0789 0182387.

Severnside Ramblers - www.severnside-ramblers.org.uk All walks meet at Aldi car park, Bradley Stoke

Sole Sisters - ladies only running group, meets Monday evenings in various locations Bradley Stoke & North Bristol, www.solesistersrffc.co.uk

Stokes Cycling Club - Cycling club in and around Bradley Stoke area as well as long distance rides, for adults and families - www.stokescyclingclub.org.uk stokescyclingclub@googlemail.com

Stoke Striders Running Club - A free recreational running group, Mondays 6-7pm Little Stoke Park, David Skeet 07545 160692 daveskeet@icloud.com

TAGB Tae Kwon Do - Thursdays and Sundays Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre, Russ Martin Russ@Tkdbristol.com 07778 421875 www.tkdbristol.com

CHURCH CONTACTS AND COFFEE MORNINGS

Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church Baileys Court Road 0117 9314716 www.bsec.org.uk

Bridge Community Church Bradley Stoke Community School 0117 2303330. Community Coffee Morning Brook Way Activity Centre Thursdays 10-12 www.bridgecommunitychurch.org

Christ the King Church Mautravers Close, Bradley Stoke 0117 931 2304. Coffee mornings with bacon butties Fridays at 9-11am. www.ctkchurch.org.uk

Edge Church International. 1160 Park Avenue, Aztec West Business Park, BS32 4TL. Tel 01454 837990. www.edgechurch.co.uk

Holy Family Catholic Church Southsea Road, Patchway 0117 9081247 www.holyfamilyrcchurchpatchway.co.uk

Holy Trinity Church Broadcroft, Bradley Stoke 01454 620975 www.htcbradleystoke.co.uk

Little Stoke Baptist Church, Kingsway, 0117 969 6060

St.Michaels Church, The Green, Stoke Gifford 0117 9692486 welcome@stmichaelsbristol.org. Coffee shop open Mon to Fri 9.30 until 4pm, and Saturdays 10-12.

Trinity Network -www.trinitynetwork.org
Amberley Road Baptist Church, Patchway, 01454 610808
Stoke Gifford Baptist Church 1, Rock Lane, 01454 610808

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

Baileys Court Primary School, Head Teacher: Andrew Lynham, Breaches Gate Bradley Stoke, 01454 866666

Bowland Green Primary School, Head Teacher: Clare Whitaker, Ellicks Close Bradley Stoke, 01454 866766, bowlandgreen.org.uk

Holy Family R.C. Primary School, Head Teacher: Dawn Breeze, Amberley Road Patchway, 01454 866786

Holy Trinity Primary School, Headteacher: Jane Johns, Broad Croft Bradley Stoke, 01454 866735, holytrinity-pri.s-gloucs.sch.uk

Little Stoke Primary School, Headteacher: Mr Scott Howes, Little Stoke, 01454 866522, http://www.littlestokeps.co.uk

Meadowbrook Primary School, Headteacher: Mr Jon Barr, Three Brooks Lane Bradley Stoke BS32 8TA, 01454 868630, meadowbrookprimary.co.uk

Stoke Lodge Primary School, Headteacher: Richard Clark, School Close Bourton Avenue, stoke Lodge, 01454 866772

St Chad's Patchway C of E Primary School, Head Teacher Darren Brown, Cranham Drive, Stoke Lodge, 01454 866523

St. Marys R.C. Primary School, Head Teacher: Mrs Paula Marsh, Webbs Wood Lane Bradley Stoke, 01454 866390,

St Michael's Primary School, Head Teacher Mark Freeman, Ratcliffe Drive, Stoke Gifford 01454 866781. www.stmichaelsg.co.uk

Wheatfield Primary School, Headteacher: Christine Dursley, Wheatfield Drive Bradley Stoke, 01454 868610

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

Abbeywood Community School, (Formerly Filton High School), Executive Headteacher: Dave Baker, Associate Headteacher Mrs Judith Mee, New Road Stoke Gifford BS34 8QT, 0117 307 5660, abbeywoodschool.com

Bradley Stoke Community School, Executive Headteacher: Mr Dave Baker, Associate Headteacher Mrs Jenny Kirby Fiddlers Wood Lane Bradley Stoke BS32 9BS, 01454 868840, bradleystokecs.org.uk

Patchway Community College, Headteacher: Mrs J Millicent, Hempton Lane Almondsbury BS32 4AJ, 01454 862020, patchwaycc.com



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters - Facebook/BSMatters

Community Noticeboard

to promote your event for
FREE contact
Jaci@mattersmagazines.co.uk



Friends of Abbeywood
Community School

Connecting The Olympus Academy Trust through Friends

Saturday 18th April

09:30am to 12:30pm



Abbeywood Community School

New Road, Stoke Gifford, BS34 8SF

Admission:

Sellers: Access is given from 08:30am for set up, with no need to book.

Buyers: Strictly no admittance to buyers until 09:00am

Sellers entry £6 per car and £8 per van

Buyers entry by donation (due to licensing laws)

Organisers reserve the right to cancel due to adverse weather conditions.
For further information email focs.abbeywood@gmail.com

Other car boot dates: Saturday 16th May, Saturday 13th June & Saturday 11th July 2015

Please note that the school is a no smoking site, and that no animals are allowed on the school premises.

Light refreshments & toilets available on site



Please check our website for other events: www.abbeywoodschool.com/Parents/Friends/Friends%20of%20Abbeywood

Bradley Stoke Library

World Book Night: Look out for the World Book Night books being given out in Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre on Thursday 23rd April
For more information about World Book Night visit www.worldbooknight.org

Join us for our Beside the Seaside May half term activity on Saturday 30th May 10:00am -11:30am. Suitable for children aged 4 -10 and their parents/carers.

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Wednesday 8th April

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All are welcome



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www.bristol-cathedral.co.uk

Explore Learning Horrid Henry Workshop at

Winterbourne Library

Wednesday 8 April 11.30am – 12.30pm

This is a free workshop but spaces are limited so please sign up with a member of library staff or contact Explore Learning on
01454 626764
suitable for 7 – 9 year olds

Almondsbury Charity

(REGISTERED CHARITY No 202263)

The Annual Meeting of Almondsbury Charity will be held on **Wednesday April 15th at 7.30 p.m.** at the Coniston Community Centre, The Parade, Coniston Road, Patchway, BS34 5JP

All members of the public are invited to attend.
Full details of the Charity can be found on the website:
www.almondsburycharity.org.uk
Peter Orford (Secretary)

Discover 2015

**South Gloucestershire's biggest
festival**

10 September – 30 October 2015

Do you want to showcase your group or organisation, attract new members or promote a special activity? Then join us for Discover 2015.

Now in its fourth year, the Discover Festival is an exciting and diverse programme of events, organised by South Gloucestershire Council, local residents, community groups and businesses. We want to show why South Gloucestershire is a great place to live and work. We welcome events from the arts, heritage including Heritage Open Days, nature, local food, health & wellbeing, sports, family events or events for those aged 50+.

We are inviting community groups and organisations to run new young adult, adult and family events as part of Discover or to promote special events you have already planned. This is a great opportunity to showcase your work and encourage new members to join. Whilst we can't include regular sessions and activities, there are plenty of ways to create a special event. Could your group organise an open day, a taster session or a workshop? Are you holding a talk, a walk, a performance or an exhibition? Whatever your event, there's a place for you.

If you would like to hold an event at your local library, please drop in to register your interest or call us on 01454 868006. Alternatively, if you want to promote an event at your venue, please email us at discover@southglos.gov.uk if you would like us to send you a reminder when registration opens. **On-line registration opens on 16 March and closes on 11 May.** Details can be found on-line at www.southglos.gov.uk/discover.

Winterbourne Library Silver Singalong

Join library staff and friends on Friday 24 April 2.00 – 3.00pm to sing World War II songs, songs from the shows and songs you might have learnt at school. Suitable for 50+ please reserve your place with a member of staff.

email: jaci@mattersmagazines.co.uk to list your event for FREE

Check out www.bradleystokematters.co.uk for MORE community events!

Severnside Ramblers

Join Severnside Ramblers on a ramble for some fresh air and exercise, you will also enjoy some great views and hopefully see some wild life.

Non-members are always very welcome.

For more information about walks in April 2015, log on to www.severnside-ramblers.org.uk, or pick up a programme at your local library.

A contact name and telephone number is given for each walk. The group meets for Saturday and Sunday walks at Aztec West, Blue Zone Parking area, near the Management Centre, at the times shown for each walk, and share lifts to the start of the walk. For Friday Walks, the meeting point is ALDI Car Park Bradley Stoke.

Please bring packed lunch and plenty of fluids.

If you want to go directly to the start of the walk, please contact the walk leader.

Fri 3 April

Iron Acton. 2.5 hrs. Fields, meadows, river paths on part of Frome Valley Walkway. Several stiles. Optional drink at end. Meet 9.30 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Jean 01454 419274

Sun 5 April

Wotton, Tresham & Ozleworth. 8 Miles. Scenic walk through valleys & woodland. Few steep climbs. Meet 9.00 Aztec West. Contact Jill 07868 727971

Sun 12 April

Bruton/Alfreds Tower. 12 miles. Bruton Dovecote, Leland trail, Alfreds Tower (NT cards) and return via South Brewham. Meet 8.30 Aztec West. Contact Ann 01179 798628.

Fri 17 April

Tytherington/Milbury Heath. 2 hrs. Lanes, fields & tracks – hopefully with glimpses of seasonal flora. Meet 9.30 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Jean 01179 761445.

Sun 19 April

Cam & Dursley. 11 miles. Across fields & tracks to Peaked Down, Uley Bury and Coaley Peak. Meet 8.30 Aztec West. Contact Ken 01179 315108

Sun 26 April

Local walk - Bradley Stoke Bluebells. 5 miles. Meet 10.00 Aztec West. Contact Heather 01454 632134

Fri 1 May

Berkeley Deer Park. 2 hrs. Beautiful ridge walk with superb views east & west. One easy climb. Look for deer. Could be muddy in places if wet. Meet 9.30 Aldi Car Park Bradley Stoke. Contact Andy & Chris 01454 416321

Sun 3 May

Beacon Ash. 11 miles. Follow Gloucestershire Way through narrow wooded valleys and grazing fields with views over Severn. Meet 9.00 Aztec West. Contact Andy 01454 411305



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Local families to benefit from a Big Lottery Grant.

Volunteers needed!

Local charity Home-Start Bristol is looking forward to helping even more families in the Bristol area as it has been awarded £145,000 by the Big Lottery to support families with young children. This 5 year grant will fund a new project called 'Families on the Edge' focussing on the areas bordering Bristol and South Gloucestershire. The charity, which trains volunteers to provide this vital service, sees the new grant as a great endorsement of their existing work. A previous grant from Big Lottery already funds work in the City of Bristol.

Home-Start's work has been a lifeline for many. As many studies suggest, the early years of a child's life are crucially important which is why Home-Start Bristol focuses on working with young children and their families in these formative years. The charity's network of volunteer parents and grandparents give 2-3 hours a week to support and offer friendship to families so that children have a much better chance of reaching their potential in later life.

One of the fathers helped by a Home-Start Bristol volunteer said: 'Having our volunteer come into our home was very important. Although it was only for a short period of time, it was perfect timing. When I was physically strained, emotionally drained – you guys were there! When my wife is fully recovered I hope someday I can do the same and give something back. Thank you so much!'

Another parent said, 'The support came when I needed it most and it did help a lot...our volunteer was an amazing person, very friendly and helpful. It was a cordial relationship. She was approachable and easy going, not a stranger.'

Home-Start Bristol is now recruiting new volunteers to enable them to begin the new project in April 2015 and continue to help families in all parts of Bristol.

There are great rewards to be reaped from volunteering – training, the chance to meet new people and, above all, the satisfaction of knowing that you have made a difference. As one volunteer said, 'Volunteering makes me feel valued.'

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Bradley Stoke Youth Rugby @St Mary's Old Boys

Bradley Stoke Youth Rugby @ St Mary's Old Boys RFC coach players from 5yrs - 12yrs, many of whom have never played rugby before. Girls and boys train Wednesday evenings at the Club grounds in Trench Lane and Sundays 10-12pm (when we often play friendly games or are away for matches and festivals).

The u9s have been getting better every week and their head coach states "levels of rugby they are playing is always going up. In fact we've recently had an impressive victory over Bristol. There was some excellent rugby played by both teams but we are starting to realise our potential and displayed some super skills allowing us to subdue a very game Bristol side. But the best thing about the game by far was the camaraderie from both teams. This was on show before kick off when both teams impeccably observed a minutes silence for our club president Bob Irving who recently passed away. Transferring into the match, there was a competitive spirit with both teams striving for victory but overshadowed by the smiles on all of the players faces and the laughter at the end when both teams formed a tunnel for each other and gave the traditional 3 cheers. This is after all what rugby is all about. Play a hard match and then shake hands"

St Mary's Old Boys RFC have not always been very good transferring the success and numbers of the hugely successfully Bradley Stoke Youth sections into senior playing numbers but that has all changed this season!



u13s winning the Keynsham Super 8's plate, March 15th 2015

Our u13s comprises of 14 players at Bradley Stoke Secondary School and 17 out of the 22 in total live in Bradley Stoke. In the last few weeks they have qualified for the Gloucester plate Final, won the Keynsham Super 8's plate and have 14 players entering the Bristol Rugby development programme. Over the years the team have forged strong links with the Bradley Stoke



u9s winning the vase at Chippenham Festival, March 15th 2015

community and are proud to be part of creating a rugby legacy that can be seen to reflect the local interest in a sporting curriculum with a chance for all to participate.



For the first time in many years St Mary's RFC are running a u18s Colts team and it's been a roaring success culminating in them winning the East Division of the Gloucestershire u18s development league after beating Clifton in their final league game of the season 51-0. Over sixteen of the Colts squad also represent St Mary's Old Boys RFC in the senior teams who themselves have also seen a turnaround in their fortunes. The Colts now move onto the play off section of the season where they will meet the teams who finished top in the Gloucester division of the league.

Anyone who fancies a game of rugby or just wants to get fit can turn up at the Trench Lane ground. Senior training is 7pm Tuesday and Thursday with the Colts also training on a Thursday evening. For the younger players, training takes place Wednesday evenings from 6.30pm and Sunday mornings 10-12pm. Contact details on our website: www.smobrugby.co.uk or look us up on Facebook/BradleyStokeYouthRugby

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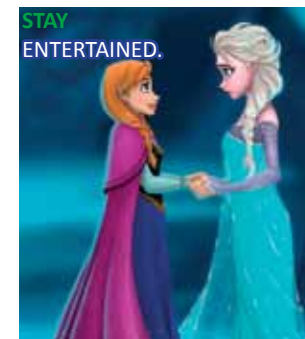
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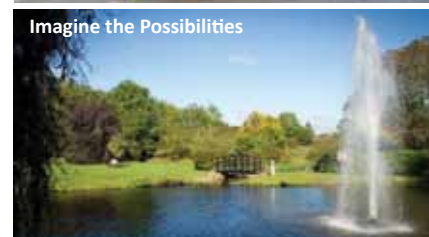
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