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Dear Residents....

Wow - December already and Christmas is nearly upon us! What a hectic 10th anniversary year 2015 has been. I'm glad to say we are busier than ever, out and about in our local community, gathering news and information for you. We are never short of things to include in your community magazine, that's for sure!



This month we have news updates from all the local primary schools, and learn that Abbeywood Community School is celebrating after receiving an award (see page 31). We have news of a large investment into the local Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre (page 9) and a new Youth Lead at the local Stokes Youth Centre (page 11). The Parish Council share their news with us on our centre pages. We have European Champion Baton Twirlers in our midst (see page 4) and talented artists (page 10), and plenty more news and updates too.

We have collated as many of the local church, carols and crib/christingle services that we can for you. These and other Christmas events and activities can be found on pages 12-16, 50-51.

We hope you have a fabulous Christmas and New Year and look forward to bringing you more community news and information in 2016.

If you belong to a club or local organisation that you would like featured - please do get in touch with us. As always, we must give a massive thank you to all our advertisers who, by supporting this community magazine, enable us to keep bringing you all this news and information. Please do support them and give them your business when you have a need. Alternatively if you have a business that you would like to see feature in our pages, again please do give me a call.

That's all I have room for, the deadline for our next edition will be slightly earlier this month - 7th December, do get in touch if you would like to be featured!

Jaci x

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European Champions 2015!

Wow! What a wonderful weekend 15 members of Creation Twirlers Baton Twirling team had in October when they travelled to Italy as part of the England Majorette team to take part in the European Majorette championships.

This talented group of young people with an average age of 14, who train in Patchway but live throughout the local area, were selected at the National Finals in July to represent England.



In Italy they competed against 10 other European countries in three team events, plus a number of solo and duo events. They wowed the judges and their fellow competitors by pulling off outstanding performances securing 1 Gold and 1 Silver in the team events and 1 Bronze, 2 x 4th places and 3 x 5th places in the individual categories.

The members' passion, determination and talent made bringing home Gold to Bristol an extra special achievement. The team are now keen to learn a new set of routines which they hope will qualify next year in order to defend and add to their current European titles when the competition comes to England in 2016.

Huge Congratulations to Creation Twirlers - we look forward to hearing more in 2016!

Community Matters: Local Police Team

Over the past year, your local neighbourhood policing team has gone through a number of staff changes. At the start of the year, Beat Manager Steve Palmer and PCSO Jason Green were joined by PCSO Kirsty McKillop who returned from maturity leave. Then around the start of May, Steve Palmer retired from the force after more than 20 years' service.

The team was then joined by PC Julie Claridge who had moved across from the response team at Patchway to become the new beat manager for Little Stoke and Stoke Gifford. Julie has been a beat manager previously working on the Easton beat in Bristol and is now enjoying getting to know the residents and the challenges of her new beat.

With Christmas just around the corner the teams wants to make sure that everyone stays safe and doesn't become a victim of crime, so here are a few little bits of advice that you might find helpful:

- Don't leave presents on view in the house or your vehicle;
- Don't leave empty boxes out for recycling showing everyone what you had for Christmas;
- With the darker night's drawing in, remember to leave lights / radio on to give the impression that someone is home;
- Don't leave your vehicle unattended whilst defrosting your windows – this is enough time for someone to take your vehicle;
- Remember to properly mark your items and where possible register all items on the free website www.immobilise.com

There is one more beat surgery this year on Wednesday 9th December between 2 and 3pm at St Michaels Church, North Road, Stoke Gifford. Please come along if you wish to speak with the beat team about any issues or concerns you may have. Or even if you just wish to say 'hi'.

If you would like to talk to a member of the team but cannot make this date then feel free to send an e-mail and they will arrange a time to see you.

Stay safe and Happy Holidays from your local beat team.



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| julie.claridge@avonandsomerset.police.uk | 07889 655741 |
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Cherish Childhood

Life can feel like a treadmill from the moment you take that massive decision that you want a baby. How long will it take to get pregnant? And when you are trying to get pregnant all you see are pregnant people around you and babies in buggies everywhere. I'm not one known for my patience. Each month that ticked past was another month lost, and the anxiety of when this baby (after 30 years of not wanting one) was going to be conceived was all consuming. It felt like an age but in the end it was only a few months!

It's typical of most Mums, desperate for their baby to reach the next milestone. We yearn for our baby to make their first smile and question, was it a real smile or was it wind? We're desperate for them to sit unaided because we feel this will free us ever so slightly from the demands for our new born baby. As the months go by we look enviously at those babies who can crawl, while our baby is frustrated by only being able to sit up. Some of us question how many years it will be until we get an uninterrupted night's sleep. In my case it took 6 years with 2 baby boys who were terrible sleepers! Then our baby crawls and we want him to walk. Our toddler starts to toddle and we want him to be able to run. We want our toddler's speech to develop so we can understand what's wrong when he cries so we can understand him better.

Then the pre-school years beckon and if we have been at home all this time with our child, we are desperate for a few hours each day to ourselves. Then we realise that these 3 precious hours vanish quicker than an ice-cream in the hand of a toddler, and we long for the school years so we get double the time to ourselves. Suddenly our baby is dressed in their school uniform and we are kissing them good bye at the classroom door and that's when it struck me. School routine for the next 14 years...

That's when I took the conscious decision to stop focusing on the next milestone and to enjoy the right here, right now. I don't beat myself up about wishing those years away, I found the first 4 years incredibly difficult and find myself a much happier Mum now. I do look back however and wish I'd not been so milestone focused, easier said than done when you are sleep deprived for years!

Now I tell my children, don't hurry to grow up and I tell myself enjoy every single minute. Right now

I wish time would stand still. They seem to be to be the perfect age, 4 yrs and 6 yrs. Young enough to still be totally dependent on me for emotional support and cuddles, yet old enough to sleep through the night, dress and feed themselves and play fairly independently. I asked my friend's 16 year old son what's the best thing about being a "child". His reply, "not having to pay bills".

Let's Cherish Childhood today because the reality of the real world will kick in soon enough. Let's hold onto childhood, at least for today.

Cath Hammond is Director of Gymboree Play & Music Bristol. To find out more about opportunities to play and cherish childhood with Gymboree, visit www.gymboree-uk.com/bristol





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Redland High School to grow seeds from space!

Pupils at Redland High School are preparing to become space biologists and embark on a voyage of discovery by growing seeds that have been into space.

In September, 2kg of rocket seeds were flown to the International Space Station (ISS) on Soyuz 44S where they will spend several months in microgravity before returning to Earth in March 2016. The seeds have been sent as part of Rocket Science, an educational project launched by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and the UK Space Agency.

Redland High School will be one of up to 10,000 schools to receive a packet of 100 seeds from space, which they will grow alongside seeds that haven't been to space and measure the differences over seven weeks. The pupils won't know which seed packet contains which seeds until all results have been collected by the RHS Campaign for School Gardening and analysed by professional biostatisticians. The out-of-this-world, science experiment will enable the pupils to think more about how we could preserve human life on another planet in the future, what astronauts need to survive long-term missions in space and the difficulties surrounding growing fresh food in challenging climates.



Mr Sloan, Science Teacher at Redland High School for Girls, says "We are delighted to be taking part in *Rocket Science*. It is an exciting way for our young scientists to contribute to a National experiment and share their learning with the whole school community. We hope that their experience with *Rocket Science* will inspire them to get involved with gardening and also motivate them to find out more about careers such as horticulture, plant science and the space industry as a whole."

Rocket Science is just one educational project from a programme developed by the UK Space Agency to celebrate British ESA astronaut Tim Peake's Principia mission to the ISS and inspire young people to look into careers in STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) subjects, including horticulture.

life

at Redland High

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Launch of Stoke Gifford Poppy Appeal 2016

Late October saw the launch at Parkway Railway Station of the Stoke Gifford Poppy Appeal for 2015/2016, with the goal of raising £50,000 by the end of the year. The local branch of the Royal British Legion was extremely privileged to welcome Chelsea Pensioner Brian A. Cumming, MBE, GCStG to the launch along with other guests including local MP Jack Lopresti, Cadets and Scouts.

Over the coming weeks the Branch will be selling Poppies in the local Sainsbury's and Asda whilst also attending other events in the local area. If you are interested in volunteering please contact John Moloney on 07802 535 591 or email him on ja_moloney@live.co.uk.

The above photo is of the fantastic Filton Community Garden Remembrance display at Elm Park Filton. The Stoke Gifford RBL is incredibly grateful to the Filton Community Garden for all their efforts in producing the display and for their Acts of Remembrance.

All money raised for the Poppy Appeal goes to the RBL's Welfare Fund, which is used to give help and support to current and ex service personnel and their families.



"I cannot give strong enough praise to the Stoke Gifford Branch, of the Royal British Legion, on their Record Breaking and Fantastic Effort raising over £48,000 over the past twelve months. On behalf of our Members, thank you very much to the generous local Public who have donated so generously to our Poppy Collection. We invite you to help again, during 2015/2016, we want to collect £50K!"

Branch President Brian C Hewitt, MBE

Green light for £3.6 million redevelopment of Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre

Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre will undergo a £3.6 million re-development enabling it to offer exciting new activities for all ages and meet a growing demand for its use.

South Gloucestershire Council Communities Committee which met on 4th November approved plans that will re-develop the site that will enable the centre to meet increased demand from planned new housing and offer improved facilities.

Plans include:

- A 17-adventure climbing experience
- Enhanced soft play facility and designated party rooms
- A major expansion of the fitness suite from 85 to 106 stations
- Bigger group and multi-purpose exercise studios
- A new 12-station toning suite

The redevelopment will also focus on improving customer experience and sustainability with other changes including:

- 130 additional parking spaces
- Refurbished changing areas
- A café extension

Councillor Heather Goddard, chair of the Communities Committee, said: *"The agreed re-development of Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre is very good news for existing and potential new users of the centre customers who will benefit from improved facilities and more choice of activities. It will allow the centre to meet new demand in the future and reflects our commitment to encouraging active lifestyles."*

"We are pleased to be able to make these improvements which will expand what the centre offers and 'grows' the business, rather than cuts back. We recognise there will be some inevitable disruption during the works and the loss of the squash courts in the new design. But we believe that the new-look centre will provide better choices across all age ranges and increase customer use."



"We will be working with the local squash players affected in the coming weeks to help them find alternative sites where they can continue to enjoy their sport."

Mark Crutchley, Chief Executive of Circadian Trust, said: *"We are delighted with the result from tonight's committee meeting. As a not-for-profit organisation our core aim is to improve sports and leisure provision across South Gloucestershire, whilst creating a fun and inspiring, active environment for all ages. The redevelopment will bring a wealth of new activities to the area that we believe will increase the numbers of people taking part in physical activity locally."*

"Work is planned to start in spring 2016 and we hope the public will join our excitement in anticipating a new look for Bradley Stoke"

Facts and Figures:

To date Circadian Trust has seen:

- 18% increase in customer uptake to 2.5 million customer visits per year since 2010
- Growth in turnover by 7.6% to £11million in the last financial year.
- Since 2006, Circadian has re-invested more than £7million into initiatives including new sports and leisure facilities and technology such as the 'MyWellness' cloud-based platform which allows users to track activity at home
- Investing in staff development they have achieved Investors in People Silver status, one of fewer than 600 organisations in the country.
- Investing in quality management systems has also seen them become ISO registered in 3 areas.

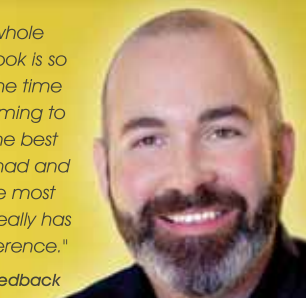
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Everything Came Up Roses for Local Artist

Congratulations to Roger Smith, regular member of the Stokes Art Group, for scooping up the Group's prestigious Jam Jar Prize (JJP) at its Annual Event, for his outstanding watercolour painting 'The William Rose'!! (pictured right) It is worth mentioning that 'The William Rose' also recently won a Hobbycraft Art Competition - it is that good !! Roger, was presented the coveted Jam Jar by Rosemary Day of Imaginations Fine Art Gallery & Framers, Patchway who, with her husband Mike Day GCF, selected this as their winning choice from over 40 other artworks displayed on the night.

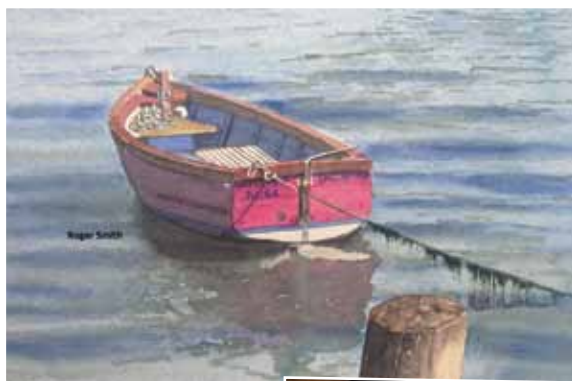
Open to all current SAG members, JJP artworks entered are tiered into seven individually judged subject categories resulting in a Best of Category winner for each, all receiving a Certificate. The shortlisted seven then go through to the final round of which the top three are chosen by an invited independent Judge. The top Prize is a humble jam jar - but to the artists who have won the award in past years it is local recognition of their work and earns pride of place in the 'Trophy Cabinet'! Of course all participants are in it to win it, but the ultimate joy is viewing the collective display of artworks created in a diverse range of subjects, styles and mediums right across all ability levels.

Steve Hatherall, who also won multiple Best of Category awards, was Placed 2nd for his version of David Bellamy's watercolour 'Muddy Meadows'; and Roger Smith was called up again for his watercolour 'Pink Rose' Placed 3rd. The full 2015 Jam Jar Prize collection is available to view in the JJP Catalogue of Entries uploaded to their Website, as well as many other Project Collections.

With past JJP events peaking at over 70 artworks, the Group is hoping that the 2016 event will be the biggest yet. Meeting at Christ The King Church in Bradley Stoke, the Stokes Art Group Thursday Morning group is Full, but there are still Places available on Tuesday Evenings: so if you are keen to get back into your art, or need to set aside time to practice skills learnt from classes you may be attending elsewhere - from just £2 per 3hr Studio Session the SAG may be just what you need.

Their Website has all the information about the Group, but to find out more, book a Taster Session, or Register to Join - simply email the Founder at the address below - and start painting your own entries for the 2016 Jam Jar Prize !!

www.stokesart0.wix.com/stokes-art-group
Email: Susan Hartry at stokesart@fsmail.net



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Stokes Youth and Community Centre

New Youth Lead at The Stokes Youth Club:

My name is Dylan Barker, and at the end of August I became the Youth Lead at 'The Stokes' youth club in Little Stoke. I've been working with young people for almost 10 years, mostly in Bristol but also a stint working in central London. I am really excited to be leading the dedicated team at The Stokes.

Youth work is about providing activities and experiences for young people to go beyond their, often self-imposed, boundaries and see themselves as something greater. I believe that young people should have access to services that will help them have more control over their own lives and have a listening adult alongside to encourage them and help make sense of life.

What's happening at The Stokes? The youth club is a great benefit to the community and has lots to offer. We have space, staff and facilities to do all sorts of activities. Ann oversees our art room; it's a space where young people can express themselves. From painting to sculpting, as well as all kinds of craft, we're well equipped to help young people's creative vision come to life. This term young people have been exploring how they might express and explore their feelings through art. Kieran is our resident music production genius; young people can book time in our music studio and show off their musical talents. There is a large sports hall we use for games, dance, and use of a full sized bouncy castle which wears everyone out.



Cooking is a personal passion of mine, and a firm favourite of the young people. We are currently trying our hand at cooking healthy alternatives to young people's favourites - our butternut squash and sweet potato chips certainly went down a storm, along with our home made dough pizzas!

Aside from the fun activities at our drop-ins, we also run projects that enable young people to work together to achieve something together.



Previously we have run a design workshop where the young people

were invited by Merlin Housing Association to design a logo for their Community Action Group. Most of the young people took part in creating a design, all eager to win the prize on offer. Merlin were so impressed with the young people's work that, not only did the creator of the winning design receive £50 in vouchers for The Mall, but the youth club was awarded with an iPad mini for use with the young people! See photos above and inset of the winning young person and impressive logo!

This term we are running a young people's enterprise group. In an 'Apprentice' style competition, we have two teams that are designing and producing Christmas items to sell at a Coniston Community Centre craft fair which was due to take place on 21st November, just after this issue went to print.

How you can help? Alongside our staff we have a dedicated team of volunteers who help us through. Volunteering can be a rewarding experience and we are always on the lookout for people who have something to offer.

Opening times of the club are:

Mondays 5-7:30 for ages 11-14
Thursday 6:30 – 9pm ages 14-18
Fridays 5-7:30 for ages 11-14

Why not come along and give it a go?

Knutty Knitters Casting on for Christmas

The Knutty Knitters will once again be displaying their life sized Knitvity at the Willow Brook Centre this December.

Last year, over £1,500 was collected in Bradley Stoke for St Peter's Hospice, the only adult hospice for the greater Bristol area. St Peter's provides a range of services for patients with life-limiting illnesses, including care at home, counselling, social support, a 24-hour helpline and bereavement support, as well as medical care for those reaching the end of their lives.

The Knitvity will be on display at the Willow Brook centre from 11-13 December and is well worth a visit. The figures will also be on view at the St Peter's Christmas Market, where the Knutty Knitters will be selling other creations, such as Christmas decorations and replica versions of the Knitvity at Bristol Grammar School on Saturday 28 November this year. To date the ladies have raised an amazing £80,000 for St Peter's from selling their knitted goods, Christmas cards, collections and talks to community groups.



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"Luke", Darth Vader wheezed, **"I know what you're getting for Christmas"**.

"Nooooo" cried the young skywalker.

"Luke", Vader continued, **"I still know what you're getting for Christmas!"**

"Never", bellowed the young jedi, **"how could this be possible?"**

"Luke" Vader persisted, **"I felt your presents!"**

**Christmas presents are good,
but maybe Christmas presence is even better?**

We live in an age of instant connection. Smart phones, Laptops, Emails, Social media, instant messages with the promise of immediate responses. And yet.... more of us are feeling lonelier than we've ever been.

In a recent survey the the Mental Health Foundation discovered that more than a third of young people between 18 and 34 worried about feeling lonely. **We need presence.** It's easy to get wrapped up in the yuletide festivities without giving a second thought to the **"reason for the season"**.

You know the story... Mary, Joseph, Angels, shepherds, wise men, stable, manger, gifts, baby Jesus. A famous Christmas carol sums it up like this, *"We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell, O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel"*. Jesus came as a present to the world to bring "Presence". God wanted to be present with people, so He became a person. That is what the Bible calls the incarnation. No flashy entrance to let the whole world know He's there. He comes in the

middle of the night in a stable in Bethlehem. The God who identifies himself with people like you and me. The God who says, *"I know what it's like to be you."*

So this Christmas-time may you encounter the presence of God. The God who grew as a boy, worked as a carpenter and identified with ordinary people. The God who lived life, loved life, lost His life and lives again. And may we also be "present" for others. In an age of increasing loneliness, we need each other.

That's the reality of Christmas. God came to us, God sends us to others. It's this God that we'll be celebrating at 'Carols on the Green' 6pm on 12th December and our Carol services 4pm & 6-30pm on 20th December.

Hope you can come along and join in? May we all be able to say, **"I felt Your presence"**.

**Revd Simon Jones,
Team Rector, St Michael's Stoke Gifford & Area
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Community Carol Service

at the Willow Brook Centre
Wednesday 16th December
from 6pm

(organised by local Churches)
Come and Celebrate Christmas,

Wrap up warm and enjoy local school choirs, a festive brass band, traditional readings and carols, refreshments and plenty of Christmas spirit

- All For FREE!

Brass Band and refreshments from 6pm with Carol Service to follow.

CAROLS ON THE GREEN



Village Green,
Stoke Gifford
Saturday 12th Dec
at 6.00pm

Join us in some
Festive Cheer!
Refreshments, a brass band and all the
favourite carols

A collection will be taken for
local charities

Bring a
Torch!

Brass Band Family Christmas Concert

**Saturday 5th December, St Michael's
Church Centre, Stoke Gifford, 7pm**

Get into the festive spirit at the City of Bristol Brass Band's Christmas Concert (a varied programme including some carols) at St Michael's Church Centre, New Road, Stoke Gifford, from 7 – 9 pm including refreshment break.

Tickets Adult £5, U16 £2.50, available from the church office (0117 969 2486), the Band (Ian Butcher, 0117 923 6976), or on the door.

The Concert is being put on by the City of Bristol Brass Band (www.cobbb.co.uk Charity Number 1152249) and St Michaels Church Heart of the Community (www.stmichaelsbristol.org/heart, Charity Number 1134709).

Carols Around the Christmas Tree

Saturday 5th December
10am-12noon

St Mary Centre, Thornbury



Christmas is coming, so we make no apology for revisiting Carols Around the Christmas Tree for the eighth year in succession, now a firm favourite in the Christmas calendar. What better way for local people to get into the festive mood than to come and have a jolly good sing!

There will be a warm welcome to everyone who comes along and joins in with youngsters from local primary schools, teenagers, the U3A Recorder Group, Community Choirs and students of the Northavon School of Drama.

There will be a collection in aid of Thornbury and District Community Association and, as usual, this event takes place by the large Christmas tree, in the middle of St Mary Centre, Thornbury, with Kate Phillipson-Masters on the keyboard, so do come and join us!

Christmas Services Across The Stokes



Amberley Road Baptist Church

Friday 11 December

7.30pm Live and Electric Youth Carol
Service Ages 14 - 25 (doors open at
7.00)

Sunday 20 December

11.00am 'We've lost Jesus'. Service taken by our
children and young people

7.00pm Carol Service (doors open at 6.30)

Christmas Day

10.30 Yeah Lord we greet Thee

Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church

Sunday 20th December

10.00am All Age Christmas Celebration

Christmas Eve

6.00pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Day

10.30m Christmas Morning All Age Celebration

Christ the King, Maltravers Close, Bradley Stoke

Sunday 20th December

6.30pm Carols, Candles & Christingles

Christmas Eve

4pm Crib Service - in a change to our usual
format, all youngsters are encouraged to come
dressed to take part!

Christmas Day

10am Family Christmas Celebration with
Communion

Edge Church

Saturday 19th December

6pm Carol Concert followed by food and family
fun everyone welcome

Sunday 20th December

6pm Carol Concert followed by food and family
fun everyone welcome

Christmas Day

10-11am Family Christmas Day Service

Holy Family Catholic Church

Christmas Eve

6.00pm Christmas Family Mass

11.15pm Hymns and Readings to
welcome Christmas

Christmas Day

12.00am Christmas Mass at Midnight

9.30am Christmas Mass

11.00am Christmas Mass

www.holyfamilyrcchurchpatchway.co.uk

Holy Trinity Church, Bradley Stoke

Sunday 20th December

10am Nativity Service

6.30pm Carols by Candlelight

Christmas Eve

5.00pm Christingle Service

11.15pm Midnight Communion Service at Christ
the King

Christmas Day

10am Christmas Morning Service

Little Stoke Baptist Church

Sunday 20th December

10.30am Sunday Morning Service

5pm Christmas Tea

6pm Carols by Candlelight

St. Michael's Church, The Green, Stoke Gifford

Sunday 13th December

10.30 am Children's Christmas Presentation
St Michael's Centre

Sunday 20th December

4pm and 6.30pm Carol Service St Michael's
Church, with refreshments in St Michael's Centre

Christmas Eve

3pm Crib Service in St Michael's Centre - Fun
celebration for young children and their families.

Christmas Eve

11.15pm Midnight Communion
in St Michael's Church

Christmas Day

10am All Congregational Service
in St Michael's Centre

The Christmas Story Through Art

Thursday 10th December, 7pm

Richard Box, the internationally renowned speaker, will tell The Christmas Story through Medieval, Renaissance and Baroque Paintings of The Nativity to the South Glos Decorative & Fine Arts Society on Thursday 10th December, 7 for 7.30 pm at Bradley Stoke Community School.

Richard Box is a Freelance Artist (drawing, painting and embroidery) and also a lecturer, teacher and author. He trained at Goldsmiths' School of Art and went on to be Senior Lecturer and finally Head of Art at Avery Hill College of Education. In 1985 he resigned from the position to develop his own work. He runs courses in drawing and painting and textile art. He exhibits regularly at galleries throughout the country. Richard's lecture, early in the Advent season, explains the difference and progression from one artistic period to another and also how to 'read' and interpret seemingly curious images as significant to the 'cognoscenti' at the time, but might be entirely strange to a modern day observer..... All will be revealed!

Meeting at Bradley Stoke Community School, the South Glos Decorative & Fine Arts Society is a friendly group which is always pleased to welcome Guests and new Members. Refreshments from 7.00 pm, welcome and slide illustrated lecture at 7.30 pm. Good parking and easy access.

To join us please call Sally Kitching on 01454 774401 sallykitching@googlemail.com <http://sgdfas.org.uk>. No artistic ability required – just an enquiring mind and an interest in the Arts!



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Local Woodland Groups Look Forward To Exciting Future

At the start of a new academic year the two local woodland groups Sims Hill and Splatts Abbey Wood have developed a great partnership with the UWE GreenSpace, (a group of very enthusiastic, hardworking, UWE Students), to develop and protect the woodlands. More very successful workdays have been held this term and more are planned!

Both groups seek to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and environmental quality of the woodland. They also seek to build links with the local community and different local groups through the organisation of work parties and events.

The Splatts Abbey Wood Conservation Group has been going for many years. Recently the group has become more independent of the council, and is looking forward to carrying on with its work in preserving and maintaining this historic woodland which is sited between the MoD and the UWE. It can trace the wood's roots back centuries.

It's committee has members of the public from around the area, and also Susie Weaver the head teacher of the Wallscourt Farm Academy School, the group really values its links with the school.

David Bell, Chairman of the Splatts Abbey Wood Conservation Group said: *"The Splatts Abbey Wood Group is very excited with the progress that it has made in recent times and looks forward to the future with great optimism. The UWE GreenSpace project has been quite inspirational, with dedicated, hardworking students helping to contribute to their local environment and community. When I first raised doing this with the UWE Volunteering Department last year I had no idea it would blossom into such a great project."*

The Sims Hill Community Woodland Committee manages Sims Hill Community Woodland and seeks to provide environmental and social



'Students really enjoy getting out into the fresh air and getting stuck into conservation volunteering. It's also a great way to learn new skills and meet new people.' UWE Greenspace Project Leader

'GreenSpace has taught me so much about what it's like to put conservation into practice. I love doing my part for the environment amongst the rapid urban growth of the city.' UWE GreenSpace Volunteer

benefits to local residents, businesses and visitors. The woodland runs around the edge of the Bristol Business Park (which sits opposite the UWE).

The Sims Hill group has now officially taken over the management of the Sims Hill Woodland and has continued to make great progress in its work at the woodland.

Dom Driver, Chairman of Sims Hill Community Woodland said - *"It's great to have the UWE students back working in Sims Hill wood and we can see the results already with more light coming through the trees and a new path opened up."*

The two woodlands are very keen to engage with and involve the wider local community and to see further public participation and access to the

woodlands, in an area that is experiencing much new development. If you are interested in helping or joining the groups please contact them at the emails given below.

The Splatts group can be contacted via : - splattsabw@gmail.com

The Sims Hill Woodland Committee can be contacted at: - simshillcw@gmail.com

There are young people across the country facing a Christmas on their own.

If you have room in your life to foster, call **0800 022 4012**.

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finding room to foster



0800 022 4012
fosterwithfca.co.uk



Take time this festive season to consider changing a young person's life, and yours

At this time of year thoughts often turn to family and friends, however for dozens of children awaiting foster placements in Bristol it can be a time of loneliness and uncertainty.

With a shortage of foster carers across the region Foster Care Associates (FCA) wants to hear from potential carers who can find room in their lives to provide a safe, stable and happy home to children and young people.

In the UK there are almost 55,000 foster families. With more than 12 per cent of the workforce retiring or leaving every year, and record numbers of children in care, it is estimated that fostering services across the UK need to recruit at least a further 8370 foster families during 2015.

There are all kinds of families and individuals who can begin the hugely rewarding journey into foster care, but what all carers have in common is the energy and commitment to make a difference to the lives of those in their care.

Sherree Cole, registered manager for FCA Western, said: *"We've been working with children and young people for 21 years and our experience shows that one-to-one support in a family setting is the best way to help these children overcome their issues and deal with their past. Our team of social care professionals work closely with our foster*



carers to deliver intensive, holistic support tailored to the individual needs of each young person and carer.

"We have some fabulous foster carers across Bristol and hope our 'Finding Room to Foster' campaign will encourage more people in the region to make room in their life and seriously consider becoming a foster carer."

Foster carers with FCA receive frequent visits and contact from a dedicated and qualified social worker. Support is also provided through an education officer, support workers and therapist to help carers meet the individual needs a child or young person.

Ongoing training, a financial allowance, access to carer support groups and organised family activities are all contributing factors as to why FCA placements are 22% more stable than the national average.

For more information on becoming a foster carer with FCA call 0800 022 4012 and speak to the FCA Recruitment Team, or enquire online at www.thefca.co.uk.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters - Facebook/BSMatters

Christmas Concert at St Chad's with Stokes Singers

Stokes Singers is a local choir, originally based in Little Stoke/Bradley Stoke but now relocated to Coniston Community Centre, Patchway where they rehearse every Thursday evening at 7.30pm. The choir holds two main concerts each year: a Summer Concert, usually in June, and a Christmas Concert in December.

For the first time this year the Christmas Concert will be held at St Chad's Church, Rodway Road, Patchway on Friday 11th December at 7.30pm. The programme will include carols and Christmas songs and a chance for the audience to join in for some well-loved traditional carols. Tickets are available on the door or can be ordered in advance from choir members.

In addition Stokes Singers are pleased to support the local community and would be happy to entertain at local events, Care Homes etc. No fee is required but a donation to the choir's nominated charity is very welcome. For information please contact via stokessingers@outlook.com

Although there is a waiting list at the moment for Sopranos, Stoke Singers have vacancies in the Alto, Tenor and Bass sections where new members will be very welcome. There is no audition and the only requirement is the ability to sing in tune. Anyone interested in joining the choir should call the Membership Secretary, Liz Gazzard, on 01454 614148, make contact via www.stokessingers.org.uk or just come along to a rehearsal – the first two weeks are free, membership is only £2.75 per week.



Looking to run your own business? Tumble Tots could be the answer!

Tumble Tots sessions provides fun, challenging and structured physical activities for children aged 6months-7years. It has been designed to develop children's motor skills of agility, balance and co-ordination with action songs and rhymes also contributing to language development.

Tumble Tots has been operating a successful Franchise Network since 1979. If you're interested in becoming your own boss and helping children develop and have fun, then this business opportunity could be for you!

Our franchisees have benefited from our established company model and have discovered not only the financial rewards but the personal satisfaction of loving the work that they do with children. We operate a mobile business in which franchisees provide the Tumble Tots programme at various centres within their agreed territory each week. Tumble Tots is a registered trademark and franchisees generate their income through the weekly session fees.

Franchisee Quote "I joined Tumble Tots in 1998 when my daughter had just started school and my son was 2. I had always wanted to run my own business, although I never knew what area I wanted to cover. After I had my own children I decided I could see myself working with children (something I had never previously considered), and when we saw an advert about Tumble Tots franchises we jumped at the chance. I have never doubted my decision to take on a Tumble Tots franchise. I have the best of both worlds - my own business, with the back-up of a large organisation. The job is very fulfilling, different every single day, and fits brilliantly round the rest of my life. Watching the children benefit from the classes and develop is the best feeling. It's very hard work, but totally worth it!"



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Wednesday 24th August - Beauty Master class with the Spa Team
Wednesday 26th October - Halloween-themed lunch with Head Chef Mike Riordan
Wednesday 30th November - Festive Cooking with Head Chef Mike

To make a booking please call Lauren Manning our
Events Manager on 01454 201090.

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Report from the Bradley Stoke Bowls Club

by Arthur Allan



The AGM of the Bradley Stoke Bowls Club was held at the Baileys Court Activity Centre on Thursday 22nd October. Some sixty members were welcomed by Chair Steve Lee

Prior to events members stood in silence to respect memory of Beryl Parsons.

The Captain George Eland then presented a cheque for £750.00 to Isobel Gelder, the representative from the charity BRACE, who addressed the meeting with a brief outline of what BRACE does and its hopes and aspirations.



Isobel Gelder receiving the cheque for £750 from George Eland

Mike Mundy, from the Bradley Stoke Cricket Club, then addressed the members regarding the 25th anniversary of the Cricket Club next year.

The secretary Sue Arnold reported, inter alia, that the committee had worked well together and had brought the club forward. Meeting monthly had ensured that all areas were looked at and issues resolved quickly, smoothly and efficiently. The club had a superb Captain's charity day, thanks to all those who organised and ensured everything ran smoothly, yet again through the members generosity a large sum was raised for Brace. The website has photographs of that day and of the final weekend. Sue then expressed a big thank you to Mark Arnold for maintaining the website. The club hosted another City & County game which had gone very well and had received very good feedback about the excellent state of the green. Reports were received from

all other office-bearers, including the treasurer reporting on a generally satisfactory year. The playing record in friendlies and leagues had been satisfactory. Particularly encouraging had been the involvement of new members, 17 of whom took part in a new Novices Cup competition

This year several key positions became vacant: viz Chair Steve Lee, Vice Chair Mark Arnold, Captain George Eland, Competitions Secretary Denise Eland, Secretary Sue Arnold and raffle organizer Pat Wilkins all retiring after staunch service to the Club. The Club President Bill Plank thanked them warmly on behalf of the Club, stimulating prolonged applause from the many members present.

New occupants were voted in to most of these positions and some new ones created.

In addition to away days to Bridport and Sydmouth, a short tour to Torquay is planned for 12th to 16th September 2016.

The next formal meeting of Club members is scheduled for the 17th March, at the usual venue commencing at 6 pm, probably with a short EGM.

For more detailed information refer to the Club website <http://www.bradleystokebc.co.nr/>



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STOKE GIFFORD CRICKET CLUB:

New players required

Following a successful promotion season last year, the first team will play next season in Division 5 of the new league structure.

This will be a good challenge with the restructuring of the leagues and means the club is now seeking new players to help continue recent progress.

Are you a player looking for a chance to play at the next level or not getting that first team chance you deserve?

Alternatively if you are looking for a relaxed enjoyable game with a great team spirit then our second team would also welcome you!

Either way, come and join a real community club on their own ground with modern clubhouse facilities. Indoor winter nets will start in spring 2016 so come and join the fun.

Contact Mark Stephens on 07816 962 503.

Local Lions help keep the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity helicopter flying

Bradley Stoke Lions visited the Great Western Air Ambulance base in November to see the helicopter, its crew and to hear about the fantastic life-saving work that GWAAC carry out.

The visit was very enjoyable and the Lions were very impressed by the modest medical team and pilot. Lions President Ailsa Young took pleasure in presenting a cheque for £500 to help this essential work continue.

It costs £2.3million a year to keep GWAAC operational, and they receive no day to day funding from the Government or National Lottery. Therefore the support of groups like the Bradley Stoke Lions is vital to ensure that this life saving service can continue.

Community fundraising coordinator Ella Mayne said: "We're so grateful to the Bradley Stoke Lions for their generosity and support. We rely on the people we serve to help us stay operational. The money raised will help us to provide critical care to those who need it the most – saving more lives."

GWAAC has been providing an air ambulance service for 2.1 million people across the counties of Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire, North Somerset and parts of Wiltshire for 7 years. Find out more at www.gwaac.com.

Lions raise money through a variety of fundraising events each year in order to help in the local community. They felt that the GWAAC was an excellent use of this money donated by local people. Lions enjoy helping others and but also get together for social events and evenings, ie a Pudding Night, (starter and main courses are avoided to get straight to the puddings).

Interested in helping? Call 0845 8336745 ... no obligation - just call for a chat.

Bradley Stoke Lions will be doing a charity collection at Morrisons, Cribbs Causeway on Saturday 12 December to fund local causes.

Bradley Stoke Lions meet at the Hilton Hotel on 2nd Wed of each month at 7.30pm.

**Ailsa Young, 07737 106836
ambyoung29@yahoo.com**



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New Nail Bar at Shampers Hair Salon

Little Stoke Gifford Matters was delighted to be invited back to Shampers Hair Salon in Stoke Gifford, this time to experience the services of their new Nail Bar.

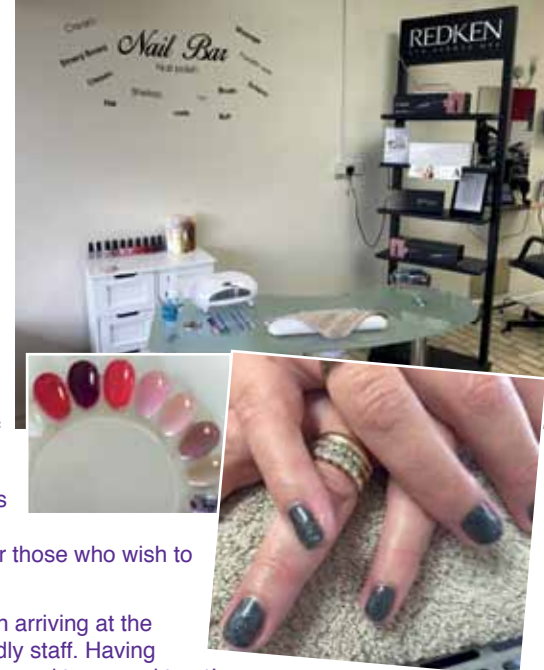
Since launching on 1st October, manicures and gellux nails are offered at affordable prices. With cuticle work, shaping and a massage to the elbow, the starting price of £25 is competitive. A mask and scrub is included in the luxury manicure for just £5 extra. With a variety of colours to choose from and the choice of sparkle too, the OPI polishes finish off a manicure.

Gellux nails, at just £20, offer a minimum two weeks chip free polish look and allow the natural nails to grow underneath, a benefit to nail biters out there or those who wish to harden their nail plate.

As per my last visit, I was given a warm welcome on arriving at the salon and was immediately put at ease by the friendly staff. Having my nails done was something I had been looking forward to - a real treat! Whilst I decided on the selection of colours on offer, my cuticles were tidied and my nails shaped before various coats of polish were applied. Using an LED lamp as opposed to UV light meant the treatment was slightly quicker with less time required for each nail to bond (making appointments more attractive for busy ladies who have limited time for such treatments). Working in a clean and tidy manner with meticulous attention, I felt confident that I was in the hands of a professional and delighted with the finished sparkly look (see photo). Even better, as my nails were absolutely dry I didn't have to worry about chipping on the way home!

Based at the front of the salon, the new Nail Bar means that clients can choose to utilise the time spent waiting for their hair colour to develop to also perfect the look of their hands. Others have their nails done whilst their children have their hair cut. Both Shelby and Caroline are keen to let everyone know about this new service that they are now offering alongside their usual hairdressing skills.

The salon is offering a £5 discount on your first Manicure or Gellux appointment on presentation of this advert - give them a call today and have lovely nails this Christmas!



SHAMPERS HAIR SALON

£5 voucher

towards your first Manicure or Gellux appointment at the Nail Bar

(offer closes 9th January 2016)

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



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Ange was motivated to locate and open the salon as an opportunity for her daughter Emily, who found herself redundant when Virgin closed their Tranquility Spa in Stoke Gifford. Jo and Emily both previously worked at the Excellence Spa within the Willow Brook Centre, and Ivana having been made redundant following the closure of Dr Swede in Thornbury. With a unisex hair offering for adults, children and teenagers (prices depend on age under 16years) the salon prides itself on using quality Joico hair products. Senior citizens can book in on a Monday or Tuesday to gain discounted prices, with a cut and blow dry or set costing just £15.50. Students and NHS employees also benefit from a discount. Bridal packages are bookable (with Prosecco included!) and the stylists love to show off their creative flair for special occasions too.

Beauty rooms are decorated to an exceedingly high standard with fantastic finishing touches. Product ranges include Dermalogica Skin Care, Result Time and St Tropez. They will be launching Elemis in December. Clients can book in with Emily, level 3 NVQ beauty therapist for facials, waxing, massage, specialised lycon hot wax, shellac nails and spray tans. Ear piercing is also available and the increasingly popular LVL lashes. On listing treatments, Ange said **"we'll listen to our clients and if there is a service or treatment they'd like we'll try to accommodate"**.

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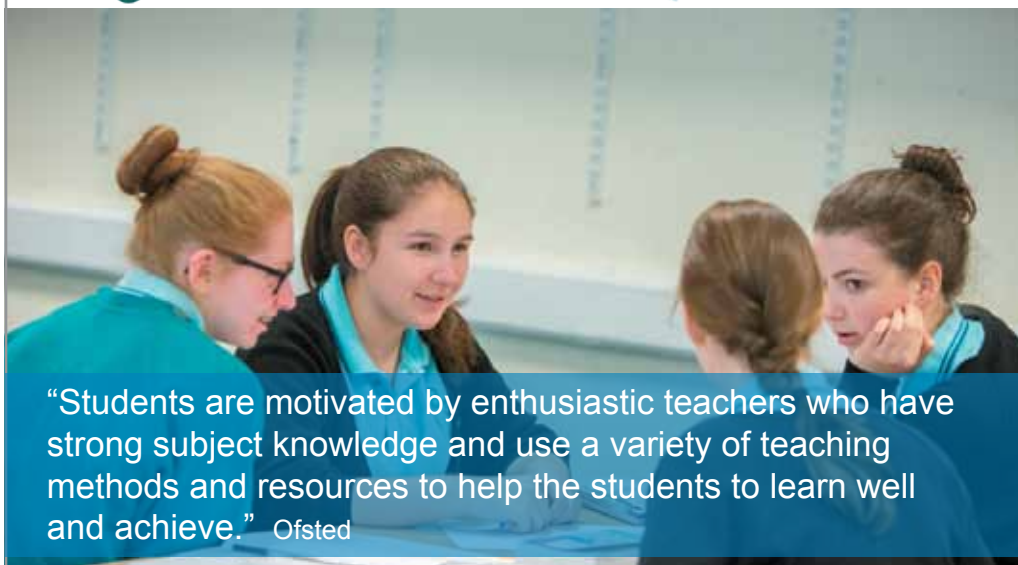


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"Students are motivated by enthusiastic teachers who have strong subject knowledge and use a variety of teaching methods and resources to help the students to learn well and achieve." Ofsted

Abbeywood Community School is STEM school of the year!

Abbeywood Community School was recently announced as the STEM (Science Technology Engineering & Mathematics) school of the year for the Bristol, Bath and Somerset region by Graphic Science.

Beating over 100 schools across the region, this coveted award reflects the commitment at Abbeywood to ensure all students have the highest quality enrichment opportunities to expose them to learning in the widest sense. At the celebration evening at Bristol Zoo, Abbeywood Community School stood out above the rest due to the sheer volume of activities that were available for their students over the last year.

Graphic Science and STEM Ambassadors - the organisations overseeing the provision of STEM activities and ambassadors in schools - recognised the hard work and dedication of both staff and students. *"Abbeywood is an enthusiastic and passionate partner of STEM for us"* said Liz Lister, Senior STEM manager for Graphic Science. She went on to praise the organisation of the countless activities at the celebration evening, *"Staff have developed a Co-ordinated approach to their STEM activities"*

Geographically, Abbeywood Community School is located in a hot-bed of industry; Rolls Royce, the ministry of Defence and Adkins are all within a short distance of the school, not to mention the countless engineering and technology institutions, such as UWE and the City of Bristol College, nearby. Sam Kent, Assistant Headteacher in charge of STEM, recognises the location of Abbeywood School to be of paramount importance in further promoting the STEM subjects in school; *"Our next aim is to plug our students into the network of industries that we have on our doorstep for work experience and beyond. This starts by making links for our students with engineering employees early on in Key Stage 3"*.

Students have had opportunities to attend "tea with a Scientist", work on model aeroplanes and be involved in the highlight of the school's collapsed timetable days, "STEM wars". This vertical age group session marks the centenary of the First World War and challenges students



to build dens and catapults, make a camp fire and work on programming tasks to get the co-ordinates in order to successfully navigate the mine-field grid, all with limited resources and an emphasis on teamwork.

Outside of school, students have attended Teen Tech West, a local engineering show with hands-on workshops, visited the University of Bristol and Cardiff and even managed to send 2 experiments up to space on the MARS balloon.

To top all of this, all year 8 students from last year have gained their Crest Bronze award for taking part in the "squashed tomato challenge" – another hands-on, problem solving activity.

The work has been spearheaded by faculty leaders in Product Design, Science and Maths. Greg Seal, Head of Science and a member of the Association for Science Education, has been instrumental in promoting STEM within both Science and across the school since his arrival at the school in 2014. His passion for giving students the opportunity to develop their understanding of engineering has been clear for all to see. In addition, Greg has not only looked to give students learning opportunities, but has also enlisted the support of the Institute of Physics who have led training sessions for staff.

Abbeywood Community School will look to build on this success and already has plans ahead for more STEM ambassador visits and trips, as well as a STEM fair towards the end of the spring term.

Years 7 & 8 recently enjoyed a show from the RAF in the first week of November, further raising the aspiration of the young engineers at Abbeywood Community School.



FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters - Facebook/BSMatters

F.A.B work Beating Bullying at Stoke Lodge Primary School

The children and staff at Stoke lodge Primary School have always been committed to taking a proactive approach to preventing bullying. However we have taken this up a gear in response to the concerns staff and pupils had about what they were hearing on the news and seeing around them. Bullying, whether, that be racist, homophobic or online bullying is unacceptable and the children and staff at Stoke Lodge Primary School have been working hard to help ensure our school is a 'Bully Free Zone'.



The school now has a new slogan, F.A.B. 'Friends against Bullying' and a dedicated bully free display and information centre in our main corridor. This is changed every term and includes stories that children can read about friendship, social skills advice and displays of children's work; we currently have Year Five bully free raps and Year One friendship stories.

We also have a nominations box that children are able to use to nominate each other for positive behaviour. At the end of each term the top three children that have been nominated receive a certificate and prize in our celebration assembly. We also have a box that children can put their name in if they feel they are being bullied. This is emptied and any names are then given to the class teacher or school mentor who will sit down and talk to the children and help them.

Playtime Buddies have been set up at lunchtimes in our Key Stage Two (Junior) playground. Children in Years Five and Six are invited to give up one of their lunchtimes to play with others and help ensure that everyone is happy. The playtime buddies receive training at the start of the year and wear a high-vis jacket so that they can be clearly seen. A Buddy Bench that is clearly marked in the playground helps ensure that anyone who needs a friend can go there and a buddy will help.

October 5th was World Bully Prevention Day and all of the children and staff wore blue to school with the children learning about bullying and how to be a good friend during their P.S.H.E. lessons. (Personal, Social and Health Education). We regularly send out a newsletter to all parents explaining the different types of bullying, how to deal with bullying, useful websites for both parents and children and photos of displays.

Our latest newsletter has photos from World Bully Prevention Day.

We also run a termly design a poster competition with the winning poster being displayed around the school and the winner receiving a prize. We have a dedicated, bully free, web page on the school website which is updated regularly. This has links to useful websites such as CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection) with games and useful information for all ages.

November is Anti-Bullying month and 16th – 20th is Anti-Bullying week. In our Key Stage One (Infant) hall we have a bully free display, this year we are using Minions! The children will all be given a link to make a bully free chain and they will be asked to write or draw something to promote a bully free environment. When the chain has been put together it will start at our bully free information centre and continue on into the Key Stage Two hall for all to see. During Bully Free week the children will be learning more about bullying in their P.S.H.E. lessons and will all be given a bully free zone bookmark.



Finally we have recently ran a flag design competition. We wanted a bully free flag to fly next to our school flag and we had lots of designs to choose from with the final decision being given to our Chair of Directors. The winner was Millie in Year Five who designed a flag with doves and the wording 'Friendship and kindness beats bullying'. Millie's design has been sent to the printers and we are hoping to receive the flag back in time for Anti-Bullying week.

*Written by Mrs. Claire Bruford –
FAB Coordinator (Stoke Lodge Primary School)*





CHRISTMAS GIFT FAIR

Sunday 6th December: 12:00pm - 3:00pm
 Gift stalls
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 Food and entertainment



CHRISTMAS CAROL SERVICE

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News from St Michael's School by Head Teacher Mark Freeman

We have enjoyed an excellent start to the new school year, with all of our 90 new children settling into school really quickly.

As usual, the new year brings quite a few changes. We have several new teachers, bringing with them new ideas and different talents; we have various improvements around the school, including new play equipment; new menus to make lunches even better; and we have two new school pets – a rabbit and a guinea pig!

Our Curriculum

At St Michael's we are passionate about developing a curriculum which is highly motivating and highly enjoyable. Creativity is at the heart of everything we do – creativity in writing, art, music, DT: and in order to be creative, children need great learning experiences. We have three theme weeks during the course of the year which provide some of those great learning experiences, as well as lots of trips, two school camps, theatre visits to school, and regular visitors to assemblies.

Theme Weeks

Within our new curriculum we have embedded regular 'theme weeks', where we come together as a school to celebrate an aspect of 'the Arts' – whether music, art, dance, drama, DT – or a bit of all of these. In November we began Term 2 with a week celebrating the world around us. Each class chose a different country to research, and every year group had a different musical experience:

Reception: Carnival

Year 1: Musical instruments from China

Year 2: African drumming

Year 3/4: Indian drumming and instruments

Year 5/6: Samba

As you can imagine, the school was a lively – and noisy – place to be!

We also had a two-day whole-school project just before half term celebrating food and healthy eating. All pupils tasted a variety of foods and



did some artwork based on the theme, as well as producing a leaflet or poster promoting a healthy diet. It is so important that children learn at a young age about these really important issues.

Other enrichment activities during the year

All classes during the year go on a variety of trips and visits to give their topics a 'wow' aspect. These include: Caerleon (Romans); Oxford Castle (Crime and Punishment); Harry Potter Studios (Entertainment); Bristol Museum (Egypt); Westonbirt Arboretum; Blaise Castle; Bristol Zoo; and many more. We also make good use of the local area, and are regular visitors to 40 Acres, St Michael's Church and local sports centres. We also run two camps: Y6 have an outdoor activity week at a PGL Centre, whilst Year 5 have a water-themed camp in the Forest of Dean.

We have regular visitors into school, including talks on science; road safety; how airplanes fly; and the human body. All children also take part in regular performances for parents involving singing, dance and acting. These are really helpful in developing children's self-confidence: and children love them!

As you can tell, St Michael's is a thriving and lively place to be: there is always something happening!

To find out more, please visit our website: www.stmichaelssg.co.uk. Visits are now being scheduled for parents with children due to start in September 2016.



Happy Days Continues Expansion In Bristol With New Nursery At Cheswick Village

Happy Days Nurseries have opened their second Bristol based nursery at Long Down Avenue, Cheswick Village, North Bristol, following the opening of their Bradley Stoke nursery earlier this year. This brings the total to 16 day nurseries in the South West, all of which are rated as either "outstanding" or "good" by the industry's governing body, Ofsted. These ratings reflect Happy Day's strong management team and well-developed infrastructure.

Since its formation in 1991, Happy Days has developed into a cutting edge provider of nursery care, delivering high quality care whilst focusing on maximising children's learning potential for their future education.

Interest in the new nursery at Cheswick Village has been extremely high, with parents appreciating the high quality of nursery care that Happy Days provides. The nursery was over 25% full by the end of its first month, with a high number of bookings for parent showarounds scheduled throughout October with a target of 50% occupancy by January 2016.

The team of eight nursery nurses, a cook and an administrator are led by Operations Manager, Lisa Rowland and Nursery Manager, Katrina McLeer. Lisa is delighted by the very positive parent reaction to the new nursery and said "We are delighted to have made such an encouraging start and look forward to serving the Cheswick Village community with the very best nursery care". Katrina is very pleased with the team and confident that they can deliver to the high standards that are Happy Days' norm.



(photo shows l to r) Charlotte Miller, Deputy Nursery Manager; Katrina McLeer, Nursery Manager; Leanne Martin, Nursery Nurse



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Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters - Facebook/BSMatters



STOKE GIFFORD

PARISH COUNCIL

Parish Council to receive significant Section 106 Funding

The Parish Council have been successful with a funding application to South Gloucestershire Council relating to Section 106 Charlton Hayes funding for the provision of outdoors sports across the Parish of Stoke Gifford. Both Little Stoke Park and the Stoke Gifford Trust Ground will benefit from this funding.



Little Stoke Community Hall



Stoke Gifford Trust Recreation Ground

South Gloucestershire Council Communities Committee supported recommendations by Officers of the Council to allocate £579,500 for capital and revenue costs, to include sports pitch enhancements, new cricket netting, tennis court upgrades and changing room improvements at the two identified sites.

The Parish Council were also successful in obtaining £100,000 from South Gloucestershire Council New Homes Bonus, which will be allocated to enhancing the existing Little Stoke Community Hall.

The works will be subject to design and planning, which will commence in the near future.

The Parish Council will be working closely with representatives of South Gloucestershire Council Open Spaces Team to complete the associated works.

Little Stoke Park Car Park Bank Holiday Closures

Please note that the Little Stoke Car Park will be closed on the following dates during the Christmas and New Year period:-

- Friday 25th Dec 2015
- Saturday 26th Dec 2015
- Monday 28th Dec 2015
- Friday 1st Jan 2016

Stoke Gifford Remembrance Parade

A service of Remembrance took place in Stoke Gifford on Sunday 8th November 2015 which was well attended by the local community. Following the service Revd Simon Jones kindly dedicated a new World War 2 Memorial Bench placed near to the Cenotaph by the Parish Council.

Those in attendance were advised that the necessary repairs to the Cenotaph, identified during a recent site inspection by the War Memorial Team, would be undertaken by the Parish Council at the earliest opportunity.

For future information the Stoke Gifford Remembrance Parade takes place at the earlier time of 10.20am. The Parish Council publicises information relating to the Parade on the website, noticeboards and in meetings correspondence prior to the annual event itself.

Little Stoke Park 3G Pitch

Anyone wishing to obtain further information about the Little Stoke Park 3G Pitch should contact the Parish Office on 01454 865202 or by email clerk@stokegifford.org.uk

Parish Council Office Public Access Times

Please contact the office if you wish to arrange an appointment outside of the public access times.

MONDAY : 9am – 12 noon & 2pm - 4pm

TUESDAY - FRIDAY : 9am – 12 noon

Telephone: 01454 865202, or Email: clerk@stokegifford.org.uk

Website: www.stokegifford.org.uk



Revd Simon Jones
dedicates the WW2 Memorial Bench

Changes to Safer Stronger Community Groups

In reviewing arrangements for Safer Stronger Community Groups South Gloucestershire Council and the Police have agreed that a continued coverage needs to be maintained across South Gloucestershire.

Boundaries are to be based around natural communities rather than Police Beats. It is intended that individual groups should as much as possible contain areas where issues are likely to be similar in nature (for example rural or urban and not mixed). It is hoped that wherever possible Parishes should only be covered by one SSCG. The cost of operating these groups is to be reduced in line with the available budget. It has been agreed that SSCGs are to meet no more than 3 times per year. The individual webpages for SSCGs will need to be replaced with direct links to webpages run by the Police.

It has been agreed that the current Stoke Gifford Safer Stronger Community Group will be enlarged to include areas such as the UWE, Cheswick and Stoke Park.

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UPCOMING STOKE GIFFORD PARISH COUNCIL MEETING DATES 2015/16

(All meetings to take place at Little Stoke Community Hall at 7pm unless stated. This may be subject to change, so please refer to noticeboards and the Parish Council Website)

FULL COUNCIL (2nd Tuesday of Month)

Tuesday, 12th January 2016

Tuesday, 9th February 2016

FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSE (2nd Tuesday of Month)

Tuesday, 8th December 2015

RECREATION & LEISURE (3rd Tuesday of Month)

Tuesday, 15th December 2015

PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE (4th Tuesday of Month)

Tuesday, 26th January 2016

Tuesday, 23rd February 2016

YOUTH COMMITTEE

9.30am Thursday, 18th February 2016 (Stokes Youth and Community Centre)

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday, 17th May 2016 (Venue TBC)



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Please contact Stoke Gifford Parish Council on 01554 865202 for more details.



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An Update from Little Stoke Primary School



Children at Little Stoke Primary School were thrilled to appear on national television last month when a feature of 'back to nature' was filmed in our Forest School area. The feature about recognising the most common trees in the country (oak, birch, beech, horse chestnut and ash) was shown on BBC Points West and national CBBC Newsround programmes and involved children in our Years 1 & 2 classes. Our children were filmed taking part in a treasure hunt in which they searched for leaves and linked them to the names of trees. Other activities that the children also undertake in their Forest School lessons include rope challenges, mud kitchen, using tools, making catapults, whittling sticks and picking apples & blackberries and making cake with them on a wood fire.

Our school has just been awarded a grant of £1,844 by the Ernest Cook Trust to help them develop their Forest School activities even further. The Ernest Cook Trust is one of the UK's leading educational charities distributing around £1.8m in educational grants each year. It gives these grants to registered charities, state schools and not-for profit organisations to encourage young people's interest in the countryside and the environment, the arts, and to improve literacy and numeracy.

Christmas Event at Little Stoke

Carols by Candlelight is such a popular Christmas event at the school that this year we have extended the show to take place over two evenings, on Tuesday 15th and Wednesday 16th December. We have a 60 strong choir and they

will be performing musical pieces to parents and the local community in the atmospheric setting of candlelight in the large hall and be served mulled wine and mince pies.

Growth at Little Stoke

Scott Howes, Headteacher of Little Stoke Primary, says "Our school is expanding and we are developing the resources we use for the benefit of our pupils. We are particularly pleased to have been awarded this funding and are very grateful to the Trust. The money will be used to purchase equipment, waterproof clothing and other items for our Forest School. We find that using the outdoor facilities of our Forest School helps the children to develop their learning and skills and to co-operate with each other effectively".

Pupil numbers at Little Stoke continue to increase following a very successful Ofsted inspection earlier this year. The school has expanded by almost 20% over the last few years as parents recognize the high quality education and support that children receive when they join our friendly school. Improvements to the building have started as numbers expand and preparations are in place for the school to take in two Reception classes in the Autumn of 2016. A newly designed library will be installed during the October half term to ensure that all the pupils have access to high quality books in a unique and interesting reading environment.

Rachel Hazell, the Chair of Governors says, "We are determined to provide a community school with high quality resources, high expectations and a space for children to be excited about their learning. Our school is a great place for pupils to be and a stimulating place to work alongside a dedicated team of school staff"

If you are still considering a place for your child to start school next September and would like to visit the school, please do not hesitate to contact us on 01454 866522 prior to the application closing date of 15th January 2016.





SPORTING SUCCESS AT HOLY FAMILY

Sports Leaders at Holy Family are celebrating this term as the school has succeeded in achieving the Bronze Sports Games Mark sponsored by Sainsbury's.

The Sports Games Mark is a government led awards scheme which began in 2012. The scheme rewards schools for their commitment towards developing competition across their school and into the community.

In order to gain the award, teachers at Holy Family have ensured that children have a wealth of sporting opportunities. In addition to a jam-packed PE curriculum, children are regularly coached by a sporting Superstar and have access to a wide range of after-school sports clubs. At present these include football, netball, gymnastics, dance, tag rugby and tennis.

Equally important in achieving the Bronze Sports Games Mark was the opportunity for children to compete against other children within the community. Pupils regularly take part in matches with other schools in the local area and are regular competitors in the Patchway Schools' Area Sports. In order to achieve the award PE co-ordinators, Steph Crane and Sian Lloyd, needed to create further opportunities for children to compete.

Successful events included a day of archery at Bristol Grammar School, a kwik cricket tournament and a cross-country run organised by Holy Family.

So now that Bronze has been achieved the school is busy preparing for the next challenge – Silver. In order to achieve this next level, children from

Holy Family will be trained as Sports Leaders and become involved in coaching and refereeing. The school is also hoping to develop further existing links with local sporting clubs. We will be working closely with Hambrook Cricket Club by participating in the Chance to Shine project and working alongside the Aretians to develop rugby skills. All of this should ensure that the sporting opportunities for all pupils at Holy Family remain the best they can be!

READ ALL ABOUT IT!



The builders have been busy once again at Holy Family Primary School. A stunning new learning space has been created, transforming a draughty courtyard into a spectacular new library.

With the help of the Year 6 librarians and teaching assistants, the existing stock of books has been audited and new titles bought to incorporate topics from the new national curriculum, such as the Stone Age and Ancient Civilisations. The librarians have lovingly labelled every book and re-categorised them according to the Dewey decimal system, ready for eager researchers. The existing fiction collection has also been supplemented to include both modern titles alongside classic children's authors. Every title of the top hundred books for children can now be found upon the shelves! Pupils in every class can now access a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction.

English co-ordinator, Caroline Carter, is particularly pleased with the timing of this development. "As a school community we are taking part in the South Gloucestershire Time4Reading campaign

and the opening of our new library has kicked off the project with style." Time4Reading involves pupils, parents and teachers working together to develop a lifelong love of literature. Participants are challenged to extend their range of reading materials by reading as many of the top hundred books for adults or children as possible.

Pupils from every class at Holy Family just love the new facility and classes are clamouring to curl up on the library sofa with a new book. Librarian Hannah Orrow is keen to make full use of the area. "We are going to be setting up a lunchtime library club and hopefully a reading group later this year. The books are all so exciting – there is something to interest everyone."

CHRISTMAS IS COMING

The second half of the Autumn Term is now underway and thoughts are already turning towards the celebration of Christmas. The Friends of Holy Family School will be holding their annual Christmas Fair on Saturday the 28th of November from 10am until 12pm. The Christmas Fair is always well supported by parents and the local community. People will be enjoying the chance to experience a wide selection of stalls and games, whilst listening to the school choir singing carols and munching on a warm mince pie. Children can take the opportunity to visit the 'Secret Room' where they can surreptitiously buy and wrap a top-secret gift for mum or dad. Alternatively, those who have been good may want to pay a visit to Father Christmas himself as he will be making a special visit.

Monday the 30th of November is the date of our first Advent reflection. Each Monday during Advent, parents are invited to participate in a short



service in the school hall. Readings and hymns are shared as we reflect upon the importance of the preparation for Christmas. Our end of term Mass will also be shared with parents on Thursday the 17th December at 11am.

Classes across both Key Stages are busily preparing for their annual Christmas productions. Traditionally the infant and junior performances reflect different aspects of Christmas entertainment. Our Key Stage One classes work together to re-enact the story of the nativity, whereas Key Stage Two amuse their audiences with a lively pantomime. This year the nativity will be in the form of the musical production, Baubles, in which a school caretaker helps to remind children of the true meaning of Christmas. The pantomime, Red Riding in the Hood, promises to be humorous, as street-wise Red outsmarts the Big Bad Wolf.

Headteacher, Mrs Breeze, is eagerly anticipating this busy term, "Christmas is a very special time at Holy Family Primary School and we are really looking forward to sharing so many events with our pupils and parents."

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Call Debbie on 01454 612740 or 07887 763147 for details

Latest News from St Chad's by Head Teacher Darren Brown

Each term is special, but there is something extra special about term one in a Primary School. New year groups, new teachers and for some a new school. We all hope it'll be sunny for a few more weeks... Still, there's something nice about a big jumper! In school children have the jolt from summer holidays back into school routines, nerves of all that is new and then almost without us noticing, everything slowly settles. The old familiar things such as Harvest Festival to route us in and this year has had so many things to be proud of already. Well done all pupils in St Chad's for a superb start to this new year.

On Tuesday 8th Sep, we had a Science presentation from 'Mad Science', with floating basketballs and working hoverboards! On Tuesday 15th Sep we had had a 'Bling your ride' where children made their bike look impressive, to support sustainable / green travel to school. 81 bikes and scooters were 'blinged' and compared to an average of 40 bikes / scooters in the shelter usually, we had 101 bikes and scooters so a successful day! We had the internationally renowned Mountain Bike stunt team (MAD) perform to the school too. One of the most talented riders in the UK, if not the world, performed stunts such as standing high jumps, aerial acrobatics and even jumping over the Headteacher!

Our Rugby World Cup Launch day (don't mention the rugby!) where the Director of Rugby at North Bristol RFC, Steve Bold, along with a team of coaches from the club attended school all day and each child had a chance for some professional coaching. In the afternoon Lucas and Auguy Slowik, Bristol Rugby players, kindly came for a meet & greet and signed autographs for both parents and children. They took a St Chad's Shirt back to the team to get it signed by the entire first team squad and it will soon be framed ready to be displayed in pride of place in school.



The police visited Years 5 and 6 and discussed their roles, answered questions, allowed some pupils to try on some of their kit and even brought a mobile Police Station for the pupils to have a look in.

Languages day on Fri 25th September had a record 251 people come to the legendary breakfast. It's quite some feat to feed so many and well done to all who made it happen. From those of you who

gave feedback it seems it was a great morning and enjoyed by everyone who came. Language workshops in a range of Languages such as German, Italian, Spanish, Mandarin and Arabic were delivered by Language Specialists from The University of the West of England (U.W.E).

Later on in the same afternoon Y5s and 6s had a smoothie bike ride – making smoothies on a person powered blender, linked to the sustainable travel / healthy lifestyles as per the 'bling your ride' and fun.

We have developed our clubs provision this year to involve a termly changing cycle of clubs delivered. This term we have 21 clubs currently available, ranging through sports to arts and crafts and a whole host more; at least two clubs for each year group from Reception to Year 6.

Harvest Festival was another great success and looked at global farming while trying out some new songs as well as old classics. Again, we were honoured to pass on all of the thanks and congratulations to the children; the overwhelming consensus was that they are a talented bunch who performed with flair and a sense of pride and we agree your children are indeed talented!




Thank you all for the great level of donations of food going to the North Bristol Foodbank charity.

Over the summer we had our playground dug up and re-surfaced (we calculated that it is about as old as the school!) and on top of the immaculate new tarmac we have put down some superb marking; from snakes and ladders to a road complete with a crossing and traffic lights, a multi-purpose pitch to some impressive adventure trails and more! Joined to the gym equipment we installed last year, the outside environment is certainly well on the way to the transformation we have planned for it.

There is always more to say than we can fit in here. Just to say that a lot of information can be found on our website, including items discussed here and much more, for example our entrance TV display can now be found on our website too, under <http://www.stchadsprimaryschool.co.uk/key-information/>.

We look forwards to the exciting Christmas events and before we know it, 2016!



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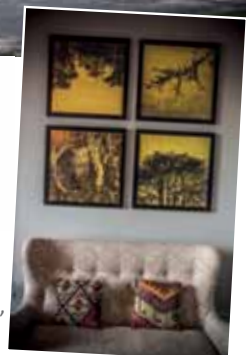
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UPCOMING EVENTS

Murder Mystery nights Wednesday 9th December

Cluedoneit entertain us with a night filled with intrigue and betrayal! Follow the interactive story and enjoy a delicious three-course meal! £35 per person.

Michael Buble and the Ratpack Friday 4th December 2015

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

DATES FILLING FAST FOR THIS YEAR'S HOLLYWOOD NIGHTS CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS AT THE GRANGE!

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Commercial Property - Entering in Haste

Tony Moore Specialist Commercial Property Solicitor with AMD Solicitors examines the pros and cons of taking or giving occupation of a commercial property, before a lease is finalised.

Vacant properties are expensive for Landlords. Whilst empty they earn money for neither the Landlord nor a Tenant Business. It is not surprising therefore for one party or the other to be 'champing at the bit' to have a property occupied.

To complete the legal formalities of granting or assigning a lease will often take weeks, perhaps much longer. Understandably both the landlord and the tenant may become frustrated at the uncertain timescale. So why not just hand over the keys and let the formalities follow?

There are substantial risks for both Landlord and Tenant in allowing occupation before appropriate documents have been signed. For a landlord, there is the danger that the tenant may start on making alterations to the premises and then simply change his mind and walk away, leaving behind an unlettable and expensive mess.

For the Tenant, he may invest large sums in fitting out premises for his business, only for the Landlord to change his mind and refuse to grant the lease, leaving the tenant without premises and out of pocket.

Where a current Tenant wants to assign a lease, he must not allow a new tenant in before the Landlord has consented. Otherwise there will be a breach of the terms of the lease. This might result in the unhappy outcome of the lease being forfeited ie the Landlord taking back the lease and allowing neither the old nor new tenant to have the premises.

Without a written agreement it will not be clear who will be responsible for repairs and outgoing at the property, who is to insure both the building and its contents and how long the lease will last. A Landlord may also unwittingly allow an occupier to obtain full rights of security of tenure under the Landlord and Tenant Act 1954.

Having said this, the commercial reality is that people do want to move in before completion of the paperwork. So what are the options?

It is possible to enter into a written agreement which will provide certainty and a degree of protection for both Landlord and Tenant for the interim period before the final Lease is ready to be completed. This can be by either what is called a 'tenancy at will' or a short term licence to occupy. Both a tenancy at will and a licence come with a 'health warning' as neither presents a complete solution and carry their own significant risks. As a solicitor, I would usually advise both parties to wait for completion of the legal formalities, and not give possession or enter into occupation of commercial premises without proper advice.

Tony is a member of the Commercial Property Team at AMD Solicitors. The team will be pleased to advise or answer queries. Telephone 0117 9621205 or e-mail tonymoore@amdsolicitors.com or janineharris@amdsolicitors.com.

AMD have offices at Henleaze, Clifton, and Shirehampton.

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FIND US ON FACEBOOK:

Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters - Facebook/BSMatters

Update from Little Stoke Garden Society

by Maureen Harris

It's been a strange year weather-wise, which has had an impact on our gardens and allotments, but that's all part of the fun of gardening!

Now that Autumn is well under way, with Winter not far behind, the main growing season is now over. There are a few things that can overwinter with some protection, spring cabbages, onion sets and broad beans for example; winter pansies and cyclamen bring some much appreciated colour to our gardens. Our main jobs now are tidying up and making sure everything is safe from the weather, and prepared for the Spring.

If you are interested in taking on an allotment, the waiting list is quite short at present, having just handed out a few plots which had recently been given up.

The shop is now closed until the first Sunday in February, when rents and membership dues will be collected on the first 3 Sundays.

Dates for the diary 2016:

- 14th March: The Garden Society AGM in Little Stoke Community Centre
5th June: The Allotment Open Day will be held on the allotment site off of Bush Avenue
3rd September: The Garden Society Annual Show will be held in the Community Centre



Tidy up, put to bed & plan!

Now the nights have drawn in and the leaves have fallen from the trees, it's time to tidy up your garden and put it to bed for the winter.

Make sure you rake up all the leaves from your lawn; if you leave them, they will not only become slippery as they rot away, but will also leave your lawn with bare patches that will need to be repaired. Why not keep all your leaves in a pile in the corner of your garden and as they compost down, they will make perfect leaf mulch for next year.

Now is the time to clear away the beds, cut back all your plants so that their foliage doesn't rot over winter and take up any corms like Dahlias to overwinter in the shed. It's also time to move any less hardy plants to a more sheltered spot out of harm's way until spring. Why not look at adding some winter colour to your empty beds by planting a Hellebore; there are lots of different varieties available, or a winter jasmine to brighten up a trellis or wall.

Once the garden is cleared and tidied, it's a good time to look at your hard landscaping. Make sure all your patios and decks are in good repair. You can then consider if you need any new additions, like a path to the washing line, any raised beds for the coming year to grow some vegetables in or a new seating area with a pergola to add a bit of shade on a really hot day.

At Secret Garden Landscaping, we try and design gardens so you can get the most out of it for each season. One way we have done this is to create and



plant hedges. In the Autumn, hedges can really stand out in the garden. With less daylight, leaves turn to beautiful fiery colours, giving a garden a colourful background. Also in the Autumn, many hedge plants produce fruits and nuts. These are good in the kitchen, as well as providing a feast

for wildlife. It's great to see the different types of birds attracted to the nuts and berries. Native hedge plants, such as hazel and hawthorn, are good, as more local wildlife use these plants.

This time of year is definitely a good time to start planning any changes, however large or small, so that everything is ready and done in time for the start of spring, when we will all be out enjoying our outdoor space again.

If you need any advice or would like a free quotation, please get in touch with us and we will be happy to help.

Ali

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Community Noticeboard

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Free Festive Family Fun Day

Free Festive Family Fun Day
Saturday 12th December
10am - 4pm

At Filton Library



Festive songs with
Pocodrom
For 0-5 year olds
10.30 am

Festive craft making
10-11.30am
For ages 14+
Please sign up at reception



Chatterbooks reading group
For 8-12 year olds
2.30-3.30pm
Speak to staff about joining

Plus giant games, prize raffle, treasure hunt & festive refreshments

Stokes Singers Christmas Concert

'Silver, White and Candlelight'

7.30pm

Friday 11th December 2015

at St Chads Church, Rodway Road,
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Adults £5.00 Children £2.00 (5 – 16 years)
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The Stokes Crafters

Share your passion or
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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 Poplar Rooms, Stoke
Gifford, 8.00pm-10.00pm. There is a small charge
of £3 to cover costs of tea, biscuits and hire of the
hall.

The group is open to male, female, and disabled
as we are all on one level with easy access for
wheelchairs, so it would be lovely to welcome into
our group new members who could be sure of a
warm friendly welcome.

You are welcome to just turn up or if you would
like to speak to someone beforehand, give Kim a
call on **01454 772187**.

Find us on Facebook:

[www.facebook.com/groups/
TheStokesCrafters/?fref=ts](http://www.facebook.com/groups/TheStokesCrafters/?fref=ts)

Christmas Crafts



Patchway Library
Tuesday 22nd December
10.00-11.30am



Suitable for school aged children
accompanied by an adult



December events at the Libraries:

Bradley Stoke Library

Chatterbooks group for young people in Years
5 and 6 meeting on **Saturday 5th December at**
14:30pm – 15:30pm. Please speak to a member of
staff if you would like to join!

BIGGERbooks for young people in Years 7 – 9 will
be meeting on **Friday 18th December 18:00pm**
– 19:00pm. There is still time to sign up – please
speak to a member of staff if you would like to join!

Yule have fun (Christmas Crafts) For children aged
4-11 on **Monday 21 December 10:30am-12pm**.
Parental supervision is required as there will be
crafts.

Volunteer drop in session **Thursday 3rd December**
2-4pm for any enquiries about volunteering.

Winterbourne Library

Jewellery Making Workshop suitable for age
9+ **Saturday 12 December 2.30 – 4.30pm**. Join
staff and make some unique pieces of jewellery to
adorn your favourite Christmas outfit or as personal

stocking fillers. Items will cost between £1.50 and £3
to make. Places are limited so book early to avoid
disappointment.

Stories Round the Christmas Tree: seasonal
stories, songs and a craft activity on **Wednesday**
23 December 10.00 – 11.00am Suitable for young
children and their families

The Book Group for Parents will be meeting on
Friday 11 December 2.00 – 3.00pm New members
are very welcome – please speak to a member
of staff or contact the group's facilitator Liz on
07825510079

The Craft Group is meeting on **Saturdays 5**
and 19 December 10.00am – 12.00noon. New
members are always very welcome

Christmas Singalong Friday 4 December
2.00-3.00pm join library staff and friends to sing a
selection of well-known carols and Christmas songs.
Suitable for 50+ age group, singing will be followed
by free refreshments. To book your place please
speak to 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!

News From 1st Stoke Gifford Scout Troop

Since the last news the troop have been as busy as ever with visits to Patchway Police Station and Patchway Fire Station, camps at Botany Bay, Glennywoods and expedition out at Thornbury plus lots of fun activities such as Caving under the Mendips, Sailing out at Oldbury-On-Severn, Power boating at Watchet, Archery, Shooting, Orienteering, canoeing, cooking, first aid and pioneering.

We have managed to complete several Activity and Challenge badges before the new system was introduced in September and have worked with The Forestry Commission, The South West Meccano Club, Bloodhound and Sainsbury's (Filton).

Eleven scouts have achieved their Gold Chief Scouts Award this year and as a troop entering most County and District events even winning the draughts and sections of the shooting and archery. Several of our leadership have received between 10 – 20 year long service awards and one being awarded The Meritorious Conduct Medal from Bear Grills at Windsor Castle. This being said we are always on the look out for new members to the team and any one interested in joining this busy and friendly troop can go to 1st Stoke Gifford website and make enquires.

In the coming term we are hoping to work with The Julian Trust raising awareness of Homelessness, raising money and collecting blankets, clothes and food for them and the Filton Food Bank. We are going to experience sleeping out rough for a night. Also making contacts with a troop in America so that we can complete their Geology Merit badge, visit a quarry near Bristol and find some fossils at Aust. The 40 Acres Conservation Group are organising us with several projects and the scouts are looking forward to getting stuck in and helping out.

Next year is the Groups 20th Anniversary and a joint camp is being planned so that every section can get involved details will follow in the next report I'm sure.



1st Little Stoke Scout Group – Offering Scouting in the “Stokes” since 1952

Update from David Hutton

The Group held its AGM in September and it was good to see that several of our adult members were presented with awards by Jenny Turner, our Deputy District Commissioner. They were:

- Helen Whitfield and Samantha Ashford - 5 years' service
- Sally Alford, Brian Bird and Bob Smyth - 25 years' service
- Coralie Thompson - Chief Scout's Award for Good Service and a Wood Badge

We congratulate them and all our Leaders and Helpers for all the work they put in to give our young people super Scouting.

During the summer holidays most of the Beavers followed the Shaun in the City trail around Bristol to raise funds for The Grand Appeal and Bristol Children's Hospital. Since then the Beavers and their families have been making pompom sheep and selling them to friends and family and at school. They are still collecting money and hope to raise lots more with a Christmas decoration range.

The Beavers toured the Tesco Store in Bradley Stoke. They saw the machinery in the bakery department and experienced the temperature in the freezers and met the fishmonger who demonstrated how to dissect a fish. The tour ended with lots of food tasting before being awarded their Farm to Fork badges. Later they also had an exciting evening at Patchway Fire Station.

The Cubs have done a variety of exciting things including shooting, carrying out experiments as part of the Scientist Activity Badge and taking part in the Jamboree on the Internet (JOTI). They were able to contact Scouts in Germany, the Middle East and others closer to home. They also put in a guest appearance on JOTI Radio, an internet radio station just for Scouts!

The dark evenings enabled the Cubs to play games in the dark including Frisbee! Yes, they used a light up Frisbee and glow sticks – you can only do that at Cubs!

The Scouts trip to Germany was a great success and they came home with many memories that are being put together as part of the Group history.

The Group attended the Remembrance Parade and Service at Bradley Stoke and are getting ready for their Annual Carol Service in December.



Can you help? We are always looking for additional Leaders and Helpers to support our Group. There is no minimum amount of time required to commit and we can always work around work and other commitments. Volunteer today and join our friendly enthusiastic team. For more information or to book a place please contact Tony Edmonds, Group Scout Leader, on 01454 772005 or email him at tonyedmonds108@yahoo.com

You can also follow us on twitter @1stlittlestoke or at www.1stlittlestokescouts.org.uk

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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

Tuesday Tots 10-1130am with safe outdoor play area at Little Stoke Baptist Church. All welcome. Contact Barbi Britton 0117 9695249

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

Afternoon Social Club 55+, every Wednesday from 2pm – 3pm at the Jubilee Centre, Bradley Stoke.

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 Lions meet at the Hilton Hotel on 2nd Wed of each month at 7.30pm. Ailsa Young, 07737 106836 ambyoung29@yahoo.com

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

Bradley Stoke Sew and So's - Patchwork and Quilting Group, 3rd Monday in the month 1.30-3.30pm at the Jubilee Centre, Bradleystokesesewandsos.weebly.com

Bradley Stoke Small Business Forum - meets 2nd Monday of the **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

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

Goldies - a light hearted weekly fun sing along session for those who enjoy the songs from the 50s, 60s and 70s. We're not a choir but a group of local people who enjoy getting together and having fun. We meet every Tuesday 2-3pm The Old School Rooms, Stoke Gifford. £2 per session. All welcome.

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.

1st Bradley Stoke Scouts - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts & Explorers meet at Brook Way Activity Centre. If interested please have a look at our website which has details of days and times and contact Clive Mason, Group Scout Leader. gsl@bradley-stoke-scouts.org.uk. www.bradley-stoke-scouts.org.uk

1st Little Stoke Scouts - contact tony Edmonds, Group Scout Leader 01454 772005 email: Tony@azimuthprint.co.uk

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

Stokes Crafters - every Thursday evening between 8pm to 10pm at the Poplar Rooms, North Road, Stoke Gifford BS34 8PE with a small charge of just £3.00

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 Barbara - 0117 9470340.

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

SPORTS CLUBS

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

Black and Blues Netball - Non-League Social Netball Wednesdays 7.30-9pm BSCS, Laura Blumire – 01454 851075

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

Bradley Stoke Cricket Club - throughout the cricket season, we run 6 adult teams and five youth teams. All contacts are on our website at http://bradleystokecc.co.uk

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 website at bstfc.co.uk

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

Bradley Stoke Youth FC (BSYFC) – FA Charter Standard Community Club, U7s to U18s, disability football, mentoring, in-school

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!

coaching and football festival. Visit web site www.bsyfc.co.uk or contact mlee1@btopenworld.com

Bradley Stoke Youth Rugby at St Marys Old Boys Rugby Club for Minis, Juniors and Seniors - Trench Lane, Almondsbury website: www.smobrugby.com, 01454 250489 email: clubhouse@smobrugby.co.uk

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/northbristoljuniorsrhc/

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.

Sevenside Ramblers - www.sevenside-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.solesistersrc.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 Gifford Cricket Club – We 2 Saturday league teams, occasional Sunday friendlies and club days. All ages and abilities welcome at a real community club. Winter nets start spring 2016. Contact Mark Stephens on 07816962503.

Stoke Gifford Short Mat Bowls Club -Tuesday mornings and Friday afternoons. For more information please contact George Lord on 0117 3523 or email beryl.smith@talktalk.net

Stoke Gifford Tennis Club - Tennis for Adults, Teenagers and Juniors all year round! Club night is on Monday's from 19:30. For further information about membership and coaching visit our website http://www.stokegiffordtennisclub.co.uk

Stoke Striders Running Club - A free recreational running group, Mondays 6-7pm Little Stoke Park, https://www.facebook.com/stokesstriders

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. Coffee & Cakes Thursday mornings 10-12pm All Welcome.

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

Bowsland Green Primary School, Head Teacher: Faye Kitchen, Ellicks Close Bradley Stoke, 01454 866766, bowslandgreen.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: Scott Howes, Little Stoke, 01454 866522, http://www.littlestokeys.co.uk

Meadowbrook Primary School, Headteacher: 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: 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), Exec Head: Dave Baker, Assoc Head: Dave Howe, New Road Stoke Gifford BS34 8QT, 0117 307 5660, abbeywoodschool.com

Bradley Stoke Community School, Exec Head: Mr Dave Baker, Assoc Head: Steve Muir 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

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Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters - Facebook/BSMatters

Gold Medal for Talented Local Gymnast

Acrobatic Gymnastics is a spectacular and dynamic sport, which combines agility, tumbling and acrobatic skills along with artistry and dance in a choreographed routine. Gymnasts work in partnerships of women's pairs, men's pairs, mixed pairs, women's trio and men's four.

Ellie Field, age 12 from Stoke Gifford started gymnastics when she was just 6 years old. She is a member at the Harriers Acrobatic Gymnastics Club based in Hempton Lane, Patchway as well as at Little Stoke School. At the age of 8 Ellie competed in her first women's pairs competition as a 'top' and was totally hooked on the sport. Ellie soon progressed on to compete at Regional and National level and trains over 12 hours a week.

Ellie has had several partnerships over the last few years being part of women's pair and women's trio, but in September 2014 she became a base and has forged a strong partnership with her 'top', Caitlyn Anning age 9 from Patchway.

In July this year Ellie and Caitlyn competed at the international competition in Turin Italy, gaining yet another gold medal. Ellie and Caitlyn have won three Gold medals now this year – West Street in Swansea, South West Championships Taunton, and Turin Acrobatics in July in Italy – Pictured above, centre right on the podium.

I spoke to Ellie's mum, Nicky and she said "It was a nail biting time while the girls were in Turin at the championships as I stayed at home awaiting news as to how they got on, this was Ellie and Caitlyn's first International competition where they were competing against 23 other women's pairs, with only the first 12 going through to the finals. Ellie and Caitlyn flew through the first round in first place which was absolutely amazing in itself, but to then go on and win their class and another gold medal was unbelievable, I am so proud of them they train three nights a week and a Saturday morning at the Harriers club in Patchway, giving over 12 hours a week to perfect their routines, and are very dedicated to their sport."

A huge congratulations from Little Stoke Gifford Matters – here's to exciting times ahead for these girls!

Harriers Gymnastic club always welcomes new members, if you would like to go along for a free trial session do get in touch on: 07817 244778 or 07988786464.



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