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March 2015

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Dear Residents....

Spring is in the air and we are definitely feeling joyful! As you can see from the front cover, 2015 will mark 10 years since the first issue of a Matters Magazine was delivered through doors in Bradley Stoke. By public demand, Little Stoke Gifford Matters was produced the following year. We feel this is quite a milestone! I am not sure where the years have gone, but we are pleased to have played our part in bringing people together across the five Stokes area, because we believe that Community really does Matter. We are also pleased to have been able to give back around £20,000 now to local community groups and individuals over this time. *Making a difference!*

A big project for Stoke Gifford is the building of a new community building - the Heart of the Community. I was pleased to visit site again in February and see how close the first stages of this fantastic building are to completion - see photos front cover - I think you'll agree it is looking fabulous! Parts of the building will be open for use from Easter, whilst fundraising continues to complete the rest of the fit-out works.

We have been very busy so far this year, and have been inundated with news to share with you - too much to list here you will have to turn the pages so grab a cuppa and enjoy the read!

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

Jaci x



Contact Us :

01454 300 900

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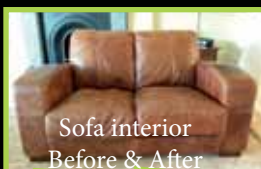
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Update from the Local Beat Team

by PC Steven Palmer



A new year has arrived and the beat welcomes back Kirsty McKillop who has been missing from the Neighbourhood Policing Team for some time. Kirsty is keen to get out and about and engaging with the community on her new beat. Kirsty has already conducted a couple of beat surgeries at the old school rooms at the Green, Stoke Gifford, and will be once again involved in assisting in supporting the local pubwatch scheme, which is now five and a half years old. We are fortunate to have both Kirsty and Jason on the beat as they are two of the most senior and experienced Community Support Officers for the area. Together Jason & Kirsty have already been out visiting local schools and interacting with students this year.

In February both Jason & Kirsty undertook a bike marking day at the Friends Life Offices for the staff. Local schools are welcome to request they attend at their schools too, if interested please contact the team to make enquiries.

As many of you will have noticed, the Filton Sector Police teams are now housed in a shiny new office building built for purpose on the A38 Gloucester Road, Patchway, known as the Patchway Police Centre. This houses the core shift teams, Neighbourhood Policing teams, a large Custody unit of 48 cells and many other departments. We are now fully staffed in the building and it's a massive improvement on our old station in Filton. We are now much closer to our beat for patrols.

The local Safer Stronger Community Group (S.S.C.G.) meetings raised issues at the end of last year, of Anti Social Behaviour at the small development at Cob Court & Great Swanmoor Close, and drugs concerns around Little Stoke Lane and the Kingsway. Through

closely working with the Housing Associations that own the Cob Court development, and Police patrols, the problem has greatly reduced. The drugs concerns have been a problem in this area for many years, and recent police operations have reduced the activity in this area. We will be continuing to work on this in the coming months with the Housing Associations.

Steven Palmer PC.1631. –
Stoke Gifford Neighbourhood Policing Team.
Patchway Police Centre, 90 Gloucester Road,
Patchway, Bristol. BS34 6PY.
T: 101 (Force Service Centre)
Airwave 1101631.

www.avonandsomerset.police.uk

- public general enquiries: 101
- Crimestoppers: 0800 555 111

The Stoke Gifford, Safer Stronger Community Group (SSCG) open meetings are held at Little Stoke Village Hall.
Next meeting date 1-3pm, 2nd March 2015.

Beat surgeries are held between 2pm and 3pm, at The Old School Rooms, St Michael's Church, Stoke Gifford.
Arranged Dates are- 11 March, 8 April, 13 May, 10 June, 15 July, 12 August, 16 September, 14 October, 11 November & 9 December.

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**The Stoke
 Gifford Branch
 is celebrating a
 branch record
 breaking
 fundraising year!**

For the 2014 - 2015 Poppy Appeal, which runs from 1st October 2014 to 30th September 2015, the branch has already raised over £41,000. This is already several thousand higher than its previous record, and there is still more fundraising to do !!

The money raised by the Poppy Appeal goes to the RBL Welfare Fund to provide help and support for current and ex service personnel and their families. The RBL spends £1.6 million **every week** on its welfare and support work.

The SGRBL's Chair of Welfare Terry Webber told us **"The need is as great as ever"**.

One donation of £800 came from DINGS Crusaders RFC see photo top right. Mike Sanigar of Dings Crusaders RFC bought and donated to Dings "Poppy" Shirts which were then bought by players and the remainder auctioned off. ALL the proceeds were given to the RBL Poppy Appeal.

In the Photo Mike Sanigar is presenting the Cheque to Terry Webber the SGRBL joint Poppy Appeal Organiser. Also in the Photo from Dings is Josh Lloyd, Club Captain and the SG RBL Deputy Standard Bearer Karen Falconer. Mike commented, **"We can never do enough for those who served."**

David Bell, the Branch's Press Officer, said: - **"We appreciate the great support that the public gives us in all our activities - and we would like to thank the public and all the businesses and other organisations for their support, they have all contributed to a fantastic Poppy Appeal total. Nationally the appeal spends £1.6 million every week on its welfare work. Our thanks includes the local media who are so good in helping us get our message across and thus ensuring the Poppy Appeal and its work are such a great success, so thank you to Jaci and all involved with your fabulous Matters Magazines for your continued support"**.

The RBL has recently opened a new Pop In Centre in 62 Union Street, Bristol, where people



Annual Fundraising Concert - Saturday 21st March 7.30pm Church Rooms, Stoke Gifford

The concert will feature the ever popular Westerley Showband, the Showband will play songs and tunes from the two World Wars.

Doors open from 7pm, Tickets are £6 and are available in advance or on the door.

**Advance tickets are available from Brian Hewitt
 on 01454 775632; John Moloney - 07802535591;
 and Terry Webber - 0117 9091486**

can call in for advice and information on the charity's support and community services.

If you or someone you know needs help from the Royal British Legion please contact the RBL national helpline - 0808 802 8080.

"Stoke Gifford Branch, of the Royal British Legion, is proud to present the Westerley Showband, under the leadership of Chris Harris. All these Musicians are once again entertaining us during our Annual Band Concert. We invite all our regular attendees and anyone else who enjoys a good night out to join us."

Your local Branch is very active and so far, in this new year, we have broken all records for our Poppy Appeal by already passing last year's full total of £35,003, with £41,642 banked since 22/10/14. Please come along to enjoy yourselves and at the same help donate to a worthy cause and help us set the 'new bar' above the current, tremendous increase of £6,639, we think Stoke Gifford people are wonderful".

Brian Hewitt, MBE, Royal British Legion, Stoke Gifford Branch President

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Celebrating 28 Years in Stoke Gifford

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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Nick Smart would love your support ...

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Looking After Our Local Woodlands

Two local woodland groups are working together, and with the UWE and others too, to develop and protect their woodlands.

The two woodlands, Splatts Abbey Wood, near the MoD, and Sims Hill, near the Bristol Business Park, are also keen to engage with and involve the wider local community.

The Splatts Abbey Wood group

has been going for many years and is responsible for the historic woodland sited between the MoD and the UWE. It can trace the woods' roots back centuries. The group seeks to conserve and enhance the biodiversity and environmental quality of the woodland and to provide good quality public access to the woodland at levels that are in balance with the conservation of its biodiversity. It seeks to build links with the local community and different local groups through the organisation of work parties and events. The group has close links to South Glos Council,



but is in the process of becoming a more independent organisation.

It's committee has members of the public from Stoke Gifford, Filton and Bradley Stoke on it, and also Susie Weaver the head teacher of the new Wallscourt Farm Academy School - the group really values its links with the school.

The Splatts group can be contacted via : - Chris.Giles@southglos.gov.uk

The Sims' Hill Community Woodland Committee

manages Sims' Hill Community Woodland and seeks to provide environmental and social benefits to local residents, businesses and visitors. The Sims Hill Woodland runs around the edge of the Bristol Business Park, (which sits opposite the UWE).

The Committee aims to provide improved access through the woodland, and to improve the biodiversity and environmental quality of the woodland. It also wants to build social links between different local groups through the organisation of working parties and other events.

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

Along with the UWE volunteering department the woodlands have recruited a team of student volunteers - who have formed a group called **UWE GreenSpace**. The woodlands and UWE GreenSpace have put together a work plan involving regular workdays at the woodlands including involvement from the wider local community too.

David Bell, Chairman of the Splatts Abbey Wood group said:- *"We are delighted to be working with our sister woodland Sims Hill and to be increasing our involvement with the wider community. 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."*

UWE Greenspace student project leaders said *"Collaboration with this work makes it possible to form an enthusiastic and knowledgeable group*

of students who can contribute to the protection, development and conservation of these sites. It's not a job done overnight but we are excited for the future of the relationship with UWE student volunteers."

Dom Driver, Chair, Sims Hill Community Woodland added - *"Many of us in the Sims Hill Community Woodland group happen to work for Forestry Commission England in their Bristol office. We all love trees so it is great to be walking the walk again and looking after a local wood, especially alongside Splatts Abbey Wood group and the students from UWE"*.

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Gardening Matters

Brought to you by Jeff Havvock

Things to do in the garden this month: flowers, trees and shrubs, lawns, ponds, structures, greenhouse, conservatory and houseplants

Taking Care of Your Lawn

Leaves and general debris should never be allowed to accumulate on the surface of the lawn during the winter as it can smother or weaken the grass causing it to go yellow.

In milder districts worms can become active by the end of February. Any casts should be swept away as soon as they appear to keep weeds down and prevent them being trodden into the lawn. Worms are a great help with drainage, so they should not be considered at pests.

If the weather is settled, treat moss-filled lawns with a proprietary moss killer, first raking up the worst patches with a lawn rake.

If you need to re-turf or sow bald patches, weed and fork them over first to break up the soil.

Scarify old lawns that have become thatchy, with a spring-tooth rake, to remove the dead or decaying vegetation at the base. Rake first in one direction and then at right angles.

In mild areas some lawns may need an occasional light mowing, to keep them neat and to prevent deterioration. However, the mower blades should be set to at least 4 cm (1.5 in) high, with the lawn just being 'topped' to keep it tidy and prevent the grass getting too long and matted.

Broken lawn edges can be repaired using a sharp spade or a half-moon edging-iron to cut the turf so that the broken edge can be turned into the lawn and a fresh, new edge left at the outside. Use sieved soil to fill up the hole where the turf was broken.

Spring arrives!

Spring usually arrives by mid-March and the frequent sunny days provide the opportunity for an increasing range of gardening tasks.

It's time to get busy preparing seed beds, sowing seed, cutting back winter shrubs and generally tidying up around the garden.



Top 10 jobs this month

1. Protect new spring shoots from slugs
2. Plant shallots, onion sets and early potatoes
3. Plant summer-flowering bulbs
4. Lift and divide overgrown clumps of perennials
5. Top dress containers with fresh compost
6. Mow the lawn on dry days (if needed)
7. Cut back Cornus (dogwood) and Salix (willow) grown for colourful winter stems
8. Weeds come back in to growth - deal with them before they get out of hand!
9. Start feeding fish and using the pond fountain; remove pond heaters
10. Open the greenhouse or conservatory doors and vents on warm days

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



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The perfect family garden

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Fully insured and licenced from South Glos Council, Barkey's can offer your pet a fabulous day, filled with fun and interaction with other like minded canine friends - he or she will thank you for it! Call Wendy on 0771 574 5854 or Gary 07814 833 045 for more information.

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Little Stoke Garden Society - Update by David Hutton

Members of Little Stoke Garden Society are looking forward to the longer days and the opportunity to get out in the garden and on the allotment.

Although we may not like the cold weather, lots of plants need a cold spell to help them develop properly. The heavy clay soil in the Stokes area also benefits from the frost. Ground dug over during the winter will break down to a fine tilth ready for seed sowing and planting out in the spring.

Snowdrops (Galanthus) are a good sign that spring is not far away and there are wonderful displays that can be seen locally at this time of year. The displays at Colesbourne Park near Cheltenham has a collection of 85 different varieties. The collection was started by Henry John Elwes (1846-1922) a traveller naturalist who in the course of an adventurous life introduced many plants to cultivation. Among these was Galanthus elwesii, which he found in western Turkey in 1874. After his death, the collection lay more or less undisturbed for 60 years until great grandson Henry Elwes and his wife Carolyn began to identify the plants and spread them out through regular division. The garden is well worth a visit and in addition to the snowdrops there are aconites, cyclamen, iris, daffodils and hellebores. Henry Elwes is on hand in the gardens to chat to. There is also an excellent tea room!

Other displays can be seen at the Rococo gardens at Painswick, Newark Park near Wotton under Edge and locally at Elberton.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the Society will be held on **Monday 16th March** in the Owl Room at Little Stoke Community Hall starting at 7pm. Why not come along and find out more about us?

Sunday 31st May - OPEN MORNING AT THE ALLOTMENTS from 11 - 1pm. Plants for sale and refreshments will be available to purchase and it is a great time to meet like-minded people.

THE **ANNUAL SHOW** will be held on **Saturday 29th August** at the Community Hall in Little Stoke. Entries are limited to Members, but the public are welcome to view the exhibits in the afternoon.

Membership of the Society is only £3 a year, so why not join and take advantage of our shop at the allotment at the back of Bush Avenue located via the lane between numbers 40 and 42.

The shop is open every Sunday from 10 till 12 noon, February to October, but closed during August. A variety of gardening bits and pieces are available at low prices and fertilisers can be bought by the 1lb.

Pop in for an application form or contact: postmaster@littlestokegardensociety.co.uk

The Society administers the allotments on behalf of Stoke Gifford Parish Council and plots do become available on a regular basis. Priority is given to residents who live in the Civil Parish of Stoke Gifford. So if you are interested in having an allotment plot, contact the postmaster and put your name down on the list. More information about Little Stoke Garden Society can be found on our web site: www.littlestokegardensociety.co.uk

We look forward to meeting you!



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Communicating Excellence in Local Education

We were pleased to have the opportunity to catch up with Dave Baker, Executive Headteacher at the Olympus Academy Trust (photo), which currently looks after both the Bradley Stoke and Abbeywood Community Schools.

We were keen to learn about the progress of the new primary phase at the Bradley Stoke Community School (BSCS), the building of which is now well underway and due for completion this summer, ready for the first Reception class to start in September 2015. Eager parents have already attended open events at BSCS to find out more about the new primary phase and make the decision whether it is the right choice for their preschooler to start school life.

Just as when the secondary school opened, the new primary phase will commence with just the one Reception class and grow an additional class per year until all 7 class years are completed. It is at the entry reception level where it is forecast that additional places are needed and so the primary will grow from the ground up and there will be no impact on existing classes in other local primary schools. Children who attend the primary phase will automatically have the

right to a place in the secondary phase when they reach year 7.

Dave admitted that it has been difficult to talk to parents about a potential school for their child when there has been no building, no teachers and no curriculum as such to show them. Dave told us that this is why the follow on tour has been so good - "if parents chose to send their child to this new primary phase, they are buying into an ethos and culture which is judged to be outstanding. Parents need to see the existing school for this to make sense. It is a very exciting time for us. The primary phase will certainly add a new dynamic to the school and we feel very excited about the prospect of us knowing each child for that longer period of time. Think how much more we will be able to help them at secondary level, when we will have known them and have been teaching them since they were just 4 years old." Dave recognises that the biggest challenge will be how to connect the youngest members with the older secondary stage, especially in the next few years



when there will be such a gap in age between the year groups.

How to bridge this age gap, and give the new reception children the opportunity to interact with children closer to their own ages, will be an area to be explored further with Meadowbrook Primary School, which is in very close proximity to the Bradley Stoke School. Both Meadowbrook Primary School and Charborough Road Primary School (in Filton) are now part of the Olympus Academy Trust. Many children from Meadowbrook move up to BSCS and similarly many from Charborough Road move up to Abbeywood, there is therefore great value in coming under the one umbrella of the Trust and benefitting from the excellent resources and experience already on offer. Dave told me "This can only be a win-win solution for all involved. If we can't improve the transition arrangements between KS2 and KS3 and make this a better experience for all pupils, then something would be fundamentally wrong!"

Whilst mentioning Abbeywood, Dave also informed me that the latest Ofsted report received before Christmas was "Good" in all aspects. This is fantastic news for everyone who has been involved in the school since it came under the Trust's umbrella 2 years ago. With the retirement of Associate Headteacher Judith Mee, David Howe has been appointed as her replacement. Ofsted was very positive about the school, commenting that it now has the capacity to push towards Outstanding, and this will now be in Mr Howe's remit moving forward! Dave Baker commented "We all feel so very pleased at the latest Ofsted report. It is a good feeling to know that Abbeywood Community School is now being viewed so positively and is also enjoying a positive vibe in the community. In September 2014 the school was oversubscribed for the first time and it looks like it is the same again for September 2015."

Huge thanks to Dave Baker for taking the time to talk with us. He is such an inspiration, filled with enthusiasm and passion and it is always such a pleasure to hear him speak about the schools in his care.



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A New Associate Head for Abbeywood

Following on from our conversation with Dave Baker, it was a pleasure to meet up with the new Associate Head David Howe when he kindly gave us the time this month to speak with him about his new post at Abbeywood Community School.

A month to the day he started, Dave said he has not been disappointed and his initial reaction when walking into the school has remained. He was *“struck by the positive and purposeful learning environment”* and talks fondly of the commitment to students that everyone shares. Dave felt sure on his first visit that this was the school he wanted to be a part of. Whilst walking through the corridors myself, it was clear that there is a great mutual respect between students and staff in a stunning state of the art setting with superb learning and recreational facilities.

In post, within a school recently titled *“Most improved in South Glos”* with record breaking exam results, Dave is excited about the challenges ahead and ensuring the school continues its momentum to move from Good to Outstanding with Ofsted.

He will be working with the whole school community to build on the many strengths and to date has held one to ones with staff, getting to understand them and their thoughts on continuing the improvements. Dave has also enjoyed interacting with students and getting in on lessons to see them striving for success; one of his biggest challenges is getting to know them all! The one constant he said *“is the buzz, energy and sense of pride in achievement that each and every one has”*. He looks forward to Abbeywood being the local school of choice for families and believes that within its walls *“every young person has the very best opportunities to become a life-long learner and positive citizen”*.

As a geographer, Dave has had a varied teaching career within Wiltshire, Kent, Cambridgeshire and Bristol. He has also taught in Cairo and Moscow. His previous post as Deputy Head was at The John Bentley School in Calne, Wiltshire, a stand alone academy. With the obvious difference in rural and urban locations, Dave feels that both his previous school and Abbeywood Community School are very similar being cohesive, proud and optimistic in strong communities to support the education of local children. He likes the fact that that Abbeywood sits under the umbrella of the Olympic Academy Trust, a move which has had a big impact on the recent progress of the school and is also pleased to be part of the Concorde Partnership, established in 2005 and now a flourishing and successful collaboration between the 3 local schools (Bradley Stoke, Abbeywood, Patchway) and SGS college that enables the provision of



the widest choice of subjects available to be studied in the area.

Blessed by visiting many schools (none in his own region) as an Ofsted Inspector, Dave has also had opportunities to take various best practices away with him. Important for any school, Dave will focus on continuing to adapt the curriculum to meet student needs *“ensuring the quality of teaching is the best it can be so that students fulfil their potential as happy, confident and responsible adults”*. Without wanting the school community to become complacent he has a big job ahead, but in his down time will still enjoy rugby, travelling and family time with his partner and two boys.

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Sunshine On Leith from the Northavon Youth Theatre Company

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

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

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

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

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Saturday Matinée: 2.30 pm


Children's School of Rock Opening Soon in Bradley Stoke

The Rock Project School of Rock & Pop is opening its doors very soon in Bradley Stoke.

Already established successfully in other parts of the UK, including every Saturday morning in Westbury-on-Trym, it gives opportunities for 7-18 year olds to learn how to play guitar, bass, drums or vocals and perform regularly as part of a band.

The Rock Project is run by Matt Albon, whose 30 years experience as a drummer has seen him perform on stage all over the world supporting bands such as Stereophonics, Skunk Anansie, Feeder and the Fun Lovin' Criminals. Matt grew up in Bristol and his family live locally in Bradley Stoke.

'For me, music was a massive part of my childhood and I'm so grateful to my parents for introducing me to drumming at a young age. Since my first gig when I was 13, I've worked with so many talented people and I've gained a lot of experience and hope that through the Rock Project I can pass some of that knowledge on. The Rock Project is a fantastic opportunity for young people to be taught by highly experienced, professional tutors and build their confidence by performing regularly each week as part of a rock and pop band. All of this while having a lot of fun, which is what learning and playing a musical instrument is all about!'

The Rock Project is run every week during school term and costs £20 per child, per session. The sessions include 'Plug & Play' jam sessions, professional tuition in small groups, the 'Music Master Quiz', song of the week and the opportunity for students to work towards Rockschoo! qualifications. The weekly sessions culminate in an end of year showcase concert where students perform on stage in a band in front of their family and friends and one junior and one senior receive the 'Student of the year' trophy.

Eamonn *"I was one of the first students to join the Bristol Rock Project and I can honestly say I never looked back, I developed so much as a player and a person since joining. Brilliant tutors and a great franchisee (Matt). Wish I could go back and do it again!"*

The sessions will be held every Wednesday during school term at Bradley Stoke Library, Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre.

Juniors (7-11s) 4.15pm – 6.00pm
Seniors (11-18s) 6.00pm – 8.00pm

For further information, please contact Matt:

E: matt@therockproject.com

T: 0800 04 07 390 / M: 07796 303810

W: www.therockproject.com



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

Update by David Hutton

After a busy autumn the members of 1st Little Stoke Scout Group are looking forward to lots of activities in 2015 as the weather improves.

Brunel District is holding a Jamboree over the Spring Bank Holiday weekend at Woodhouse Park and the Beavers, Cubs and Scouts will be attending. The theme of the Jamboree is World Scouting based on the countries who have hosted a World Jamboree. Each Scout Group attending has been allocated a country and we have been allocated Chile. By coincidence, one of our scouts, Craig Harrison, attended this Jamboree over the 1998/99 New Year. Lots of fun activities are in the pipeline and it should be a great time for all the youngsters.

The Cubs “B” Team came in 3rd place in the Brunel District draughts competition and they have held a “Creative Thinking” night! An evening based on International Scouting was held with contributions from Leaders and one of the Scouts going to the World Jamboree.

During summer camp on the Gower last year, the Scouts met up with a group of Scouts from Germany and this has inspired them to camp in Germany in 2015. A trip has been planned to go to Eichstatt and the Scouts have been fundraising with activities having a German theme. The Scouts are also supporting the two Scouts who have been selected to attend the World Jamboree in Japan in July by bag packing at TESCO.

Continuing on a German theme, the Scouts Annual Patrol Cooking Competition was held with each patrol cooking a German meal.

A presentation was made to Steve Talbot in recognition of 35 years’ service to the Group as a Scout Leader and latterly as our Quarter Master. Steve is standing down as our QM for a well-earned rest. Steve has been a fantastic Scout Leader and organised summer camps in the Brecon Beacons where the activities included canoeing, abseiling, hill walking, backwoods cooking and making and sleeping out in bivouacs



made from natural materials. Camp fires were always fun with Steve at the helm and he has performed on the stage of the Bristol Hippodrome in the Avon County Gang Shows. They were great camps, rain or shine. Steve also excels at the BBQ and cooks our sausages and burgers at Group events and plans to continue doing this. Well done and thanks Steve!

Group Vacancies

We currently have child spaces in our Beaver Colony and Scout Troop. They both meet on a Tuesday evening, Beavers 5.45pm-6.45pm and Scouts 7pm-9pm. We are also 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 Coralie Thompson on 01454 615604.

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

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This is a charity event with the aim of turning the money raised into Lego for the South West Children's Hospice.

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

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



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

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

Mrs Elvin (Charity Coordinator, St Michael's Primary School)



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The Importance of play!



My two daughters have reached a magical stage; they are finally playing together. At three and five years old, they have found something they both love; Toy Story! Their joint passion has fuelled many hours of active play that I am hopeful will solidify into lifelong closeness.

encouragement and after watching a few others have a go, we climbed up the giant inflatable airlog like caterpillars and when we got to the top, we shouted "We did it!!" We danced to the Gymbo dance like no one was watching.

And no one was, because everyone else was doing the same.

It was fantastic fun for her and truly amazing for me. I realised I had to be willing to let myself be silly, dance and sing and immerse myself in her truly fantastic world.

Because I am my child's most important play partner, I had to remember how to play.

It's not easy to do this when you are a proper grown up, with a career, a mortgage and grown-up worries; it was a big leap for me. But I did it. I played, I did it more and more and I fell in love with my daughters and I loved what play had given us.

Guess what, I am still a proper grown-up, I can have grown up conversations and make grown-up decisions. I still have a mortgage.

But I now have another skill; and I am a fabulous Bullseye the Horse from Toy Story.

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News from St Chad's C of E Primary

from Head Teacher Darren Brown

Term two ended with a bang and term three has just built on the success of the year so far.

Since our last news, we have had a host of exciting events here at St Chad's. Christmas seems a long time ago now, but it is worth mentioning the huge successes for school. Due to the size of KS1 currently, we held a number of different Christmas 'productions': one for Year 2, one for EYFS and Year One and one Carol Service in the Church (KS2). I have had many parents and family members congratulating the staff and the pupils on these events; it is lovely that the pupils get this positive feedback as they are superb and very much deserve it. The Christmas lunch for over 240 pupils, plus many visitors such as Governors, ex-Head teachers (2 out of the previous 3!) and other supporters of the school was both tasty and lots of fun. The Christmas Fair was very well attended and enjoyed by everyone (thank you Friends and staff for organising and running this), the Clifton Cathedral Carol Service was superb, and again, lots of praise came back to school from non-school members about the performance and behavior of St Chad's pupils, so well done! We were joined by Fiona from NSPCC in January, sharing with us the great work they do and the support they offer children from those in dire need, to those who just need a bit of anonymous advice. We undertook our first Readathon, seeing how many books pupils were able to read in a 48 hour period. We don't have the final count but we have raised in the region of £1500, which is amazing!

Early in January, our Dinner ladies received more training on playground games and minor conflict resolution, which has already shown itself in the increased engagement with games in the playground at lunch times and you know our lunchtime sports buddies (trained Y6) support all ages of children with using an array of equipment and play a range of games.

Years 4 and 5 undertook some Solar Energy training in week one of January, with outside visitors sharing their knowledge of renewable energies and pupils turning their hand to designing and making solar powered vehicles.

The year 6s have been to Lifeskills, which is a center set up with (very life-like) rooms where children are able to explore dangers they may come across such as how to respond to house fires, crossing at a railway crossing, telephoning the emergency services or navigating a dark alleyway. Lots of fun



and learning was had by all.

The two Y3 classes have been having some slightly different, but equally fun opportunities with Miss Thomas's class have been working hard for towards a dance production to be held at Abbeywood School on the evening of the 10th February and Mrs Hachani's class working with a talented musician to learn to be 'Stomp' musicians using percussion, movement, body and ordinary objects to create a performance. Pupils are loving it.

We were very lucky to be joined by volunteers from DWP who kindly gave their time to come and work with pupils of all ages in St Chad's to support in a wide range of ways across the school.

We held our annual RE week 2015. During our this week we like to spend a little more time than usual delving into themes that exploration of Religion sets in our minds. Often we call these the 'Big Questions', and this year, our theme was 'Prayer'.

As well as the usual maths, English and so on, we looked at Prayer through a variety of perspectives,



looking through major religions, at what prayer is and its functions. We compared and contrasted key features and also looked at how people who do not follow a religion choose to fulfil some of the end results of prayer (such as obtaining solutions, preparing for major decisions, to gain strength, etc). Leading on from this, we create personal and class prayers., which are now displayed in each class..

I must say I was blown away with the depth at which the children in St Chad's are able to reflect on some large issues. To pull all of this together, we created prayer spaces around school. These are places where pupils can go to pray, think about questions and reflect on life. From this we hope to provoke thought, wonder, prayer and reflection. The week was truly an oasis in the fullness of a modern primary school (and modern life) and many commented on how they enjoyed the chance for stillness, reflection and the chance to explore something less tangible.

All this, in so few weeks! Just wait until next term!



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Little Stoke Gifford Matters was pleased to be invited to spend a Friday morning at Babble Street, a community toddler group based in the Little Stoke Community Hall, to meet owner Emma Davis.

The baby and toddler group runs every Friday (including school holidays!) from 10am-12 noon. With an array of equipment, rockers, tunnels, tents and construction the children have plenty to keep them occupied and Emma likes to rotate the toys so that the group appears as new. Emma continues to add to the equipment and has recently purchased soft play bricks and ball pits. Sensory tents and boards are available and popular for those who require additional stimulation.

Interesting craft activities are set out weekly for carers to be creative with their little ones; usually themed for the time of year. Emma is very enthusiastic about her group and is also keen to work with and involve local businesses to the group. Workshops are also organised and guest speakers invited along to cover a range of subjects.

Emma was delighted to tell me that she has extended her business with a mobile soft play and creche

package
for any
occasion.

Equipment can be hired for parties and other functions and with her DBS checked and first aid trained staff, her team have the qualifications, experience and fun factor to entertain the children at occasions when the little ones may otherwise be bored and distract!

Following on from her Christmas event which Matters Magazines was pleased to help support, Emma has organised another event in the summer, planned for 28th June. Emma is keen to establish relationships and offer a community service and if you are interested in selling your goods or offering a service, please email her - hello@babbblestreet.co.uk.

More information on Babble Street can be found on the website www.BabbleStreet.co.uk or on FaceBook: www.facebook.com/bristolmobilesoftplay OR www.facebook.com/Babblest



by Head Teacher Scott Howes

In January this year Ofsted returned to Little Stoke Primary School after a two year period of change since the last inspection, in 2013, that had judged the school to be 'requiring improvement'.

We are pleased to report that the inspectors recognised the significant improvements brought about by the hard working team of teachers, support staff, office staff, Governors and leadership team. **Ofsted have now graded Little Stoke Primary School as a 'Good' school and has identified some excellent features.**

The inspectors spent two days meeting children, staff, governors and parents as well as observing lessons and playtime sessions and analysing achievement data and work in children's books. They commented on the strength of the new Governing Body and that all the areas for improvement from the previous inspection have been addressed successfully. We were particularly proud of the feedback that we received about the high level of care, safety, shared responsibility and learning ethos in the school.

'the school provides excellent opportunities for the development of pupils' spiritual, moral, social and cultural development. Pupils feel safe in the school and say that staff look after them well. The behaviour of pupils is good. They are proud of their school and show respect to staff and others. Their positive attitude to learning contributes to their good progress.' (Ofsted 2015)

Ofsted recognise the good quality of teaching within the school, and with clear areas of outstanding practice we plan to continue the momentum of change and keep standards high. Our exciting new curriculum structure gives pupils great opportunities to learn a wide variety of knowledge and practice new skills. New topics, such as 'Don't Press that Button!' and 'Solid as a Rock' keep the learning fun and engaging and have resulted in progress levels rising over the last two years.

'The variety of subjects taught in the school provide a rich and varied experience for pupils. There are opportunities for pupils to work in different ways and to develop their understanding of other subjects, as well as improving their skills in reading, writing and mathematics. Termly topics bring together aspects of many different subjects and are very effective in



"We are so pleased that families can feel a sense of pride that their children attend Little Stoke Primary School"



inspiring pupils' interests and curiosity.' (Ofsted 2015)

Our school has a diverse population of children from a variety of backgrounds and cultures. We work hard to promote an understanding of each other and a tolerance of difference. We feel a strong responsibility to produce pupils that move in to a modern, diverse society with a sense of tolerance and acceptance. Ofsted noted that disadvantaged pupils made good progress as do those who speak

English as an additional language, those with special educational needs and all pupils from different ethnic backgrounds. Our commitment to the individual needs of our pupils by a very able staff team, from the Early Years right up to Y6 ensures that children achieve well during their time in at Little Stoke Primary School.

We are now a community school that stands out in Little Stoke area. Parents have shown great support and understanding to the school during the many, sometimes difficult changes. We would like to thank parents for their commitment and we are so pleased that families can feel a sense of pride that their children attend Little Stoke Primary School. We

look forward to building on our strengths as we continue to offer your children high quality skills for lifelong learning. If you are interested in any aspect of our school come and meet us! Phone the friendly office staff to make an appointment. See you soon!

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PARISH COUNCIL



Christmas Lights at the Kingsway, Little Stoke

Thanks to the help and support of local traders within the area along with Hitachi Rail Europe, the Parish Council purchased and arranged installation of Christmas Lights at the Kingsway in Little Stoke, Ratcliffe Drive Shops (installation only) and the Village Green in Stoke Gifford. Any support or assistance from the local community for the next festive celebrations would be gratefully appreciated by the Parish Council.

New Lighting Approved by Parish Council for Meade Park

The Parish Council have committed to pursuing street lighting columns for the main path through Meade Park from Hatchet Road to Belmont Drive subject to consent by South Gloucestershire Council. It is hoped that the works will be undertaken by the Spring 2015.

Fun Fair Little Stoke Park

The Fun Fair will be back in Little Stoke Park from 11th-25th May. Correspondence will be distributed to local properties nearer to the event and will display operational days and times and contact information for local residents. Please note that parking will be limited throughout the event.

Little Stoke Park New 3G Pitch

Anyone wishing to obtain further information about the new 3G pitch in Little Stoke Park should contact the parish clerk on 01454 865202 or by email clerk@stokegifford.org.uk

Pitch hire £35 per hour between 5pm and 8pm weekdays and £30 per hour all other times.



Stoke Gifford Parish Council Meeting Dates 2014/15

(All meetings to take place at the Little Stoke Community Hall at 7pm unless stated)

Full Council

Tuesday 14th April 2015
Tuesday 12th May 2015 (Annual General Meeting)

Finance & General Purpose

Tuesday 17th March 2015
Tuesday 9th June 2015

Planning And Transportation Committee

Tuesday 24th March 2015
Tuesday 28th April 2015
Tuesday 26th May 2015

Recreation and Leisure

Tuesday 16th June 2015

ANNUAL PUBLIC MEETING

Tuesday 19th May 2015 (Venue TBC)

Indoor Table Top Sale – Saturday, 14th March 2015, 10:00

until 13:00 at The Stokes (Youth and Community Centre), Little Stoke Lane, Little Stoke, Bristol. Cost per table is £5.00. Numbers are limited, so book early to secure your table!

Curry/Quiz Night – Friday, 22nd May 2015

at BAWA, 589 Southmead Road, Filton, Bristol. Doors Open at 7:00pm, Quiz (teams of up to 8 people) starts at 8:00pm, Bar closes at 11:45pm. Tickets £6.00 per person and includes one curry dish and one strip of raffle tickets. Additional 50p per round per person will be payable on the night. Numbers may be limited, so the advice is buy your ticket(s) early to avoid disappointment and protect your 'hot' seat! You can of course just turn up on the night.

Monies raised from both these events will go towards the purchase of general equipment to support the facilities now available for hire to the Youth and local wider community. For more details please call the Parish Office on 01454 865202.

Removal of Road Narrowing / Installation of Pedestrian Crossing

After successful campaigning led by Cllr Keith Cranney, South Gloucestershire Council Highways have now agreed that the road narrowing currently outside Concorde Medical Centre will be removed early in March 2015 and a new Speed Table will be installed to allow the traffic to run freely in both directions.

Funding has been found for a pedestrian crossing to be installed on Braydon Avenue between the Savages Wood Road footpath and Braydon Avenue. These works will be programmed and commenced at a later stage. This scheme has been strongly supported by local residents and organisations in both Little Stoke and Bradley Stoke.

Fake Festival Little Stoke Park, Little Stoke

The Parish Council have agreed for a Fake Festival to take place in Little Stoke Park on Saturday 2nd May 2015 subject to South Gloucestershire Licensing consent. The festivals are extremely well managed and self-contained within a park or open space. The marquee is situated within a large fenced area for entertainment stands to keep young people and festival goers amused and will include food stands, a licensed bar and toilet facilities.



Saturdays
30th May 2015
27th June 2015
25th July 2015
25th August 2015

12.30 – 3.30 Open to Buyers**
(12.00 – 12.30 Sellers set up)*

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Buyer entry by donation
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*Sellers parking via Little Stoke Lane entrance
**Buyers parking entrance via Rossall Ave

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

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News from St Michael's

By Head Teacher Mark Freeman

We are halfway through the school year, so it's a good time to reflect on the changes we have made this year, and the impact these have made on the children's learning.

We have changed our curriculum – in line with the new National Curriculum – and introduced a number of new topics. All topics have 'wow' moments which create something memorable for the children to do with the topic, and these often lead to fantastic writing, drama or other topic work. We also have three themes which are woven throughout the curriculum:

- Spirituality – encouraging children to reflect on their learning
- Enterprise – giving children regular opportunities to plan and carry out practical (and sometimes money-making) enterprises
- Environment – ensuring that children build on their natural concern for the world in which they live, and look for ways to make their environment better

Reception - This term the topic has been 'People who help us'. We have had lots of visitors into our classes to talk about their jobs, including a policeman, nurse and an ambulance driver with their ambulance!

Year 1 - Our topics have been 'Toys and Dinosaurs'. We have been able to bring in toys, and also find out about toys in the past. We have made some fantastic music and some clay dinosaur pictures.

Year 2 - We have been learning about China. Our 'wow' moment was when we had a dance and music workshop where we learnt to do a dragon dance and performed dragon music.

Year 3 - Our topic was 'Funny Bones'. We have been learning all about the body, and doing lots of experiments and practical work, including making our own skeletons!

Year 4 - Our topic has been 'That's entertainment'. We have been learning all about the Harry Potter books and films. The highlight of our topic was going up to London to 'Harry Potter World'. It was amazing – the best trip ever!



Year 5 - Our topic was 'Space' – we have learnt all about the solar systems; written space stories and made plaster-of-paris models of aliens. Our wow moment was having the explorer dome in school where we crawled into a big indoor dome to look at the stars – brilliant!

Year 6 - Our topic has been North America. We have found out about the history of North America,

the American Indians, and built or own totem poles. We did some fantastic artwork and made videos in French!

For more information about the fantastic learning that goes on in the school please visit our NEW website: www.stmichaelsg.co.uk



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Clifton High School Ski Team Success

Five pupils aged between 11 and 16 from Clifton High School recently competed in the Independent School's Ski and Snowboard Championships in Les Deux Alpes, France. Over 180 competitors from eleven other schools took part in the inter-schools competition, with one of Clifton High's Year 11 pupils finishing in the Top Twenty.

The ski team's success is significant for Clifton High School as its ski club was only established in February 2014. Skiers attend weekly training sessions at the Mendip Outdoor Centre in Churchill and many took part in the School's ski trip to Prato Norvosio, Italy in 2013.

The team's rise to success is remarkable but is typical of the Clifton High School approach. Dr Alison Neill, Head of School says. *"We are a dynamic organisation, always looking for new opportunities to enhance the skills and experiences of our young people. The ski club was developed following feedback from our pupils and has been a huge success"*. Reinforcing the School's commitment to developing its ski talent it will be taking around seventy pupils on a ski trip to Sunday River, Maine, USA in 2016.

The performance of the skiers only adds to the school's reputation as having an excellent sporting provision. The school's sports department has changed markedly in recent years with the recruitment of a talented team of sports teachers who each bring with them a fresh approach and individual sporting success. The school has also been keen to introduce a broad range of sporting clubs including archery, taekwondo, trampolining, gymnastics and waterpolo.

To find out more about Clifton High School visit the website www.cliftonhigh.bristol.sch.uk, look at their Facebook page, or contact admissions registrar Mrs Melanie Johnson on 0117 933 9087 or email admissions@cliftonhigh.bristol.sch.uk.



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- 6 Excellent sports facilities including an indoor heated pool on-site
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- 8 Nursery school with fully-qualified and trained teaching staff
- 9 Outstanding teacher-pupil relationships based on trust and respect
- 10 Forward looking, embracing change and providing an education relevant for the 21st Century

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Celebrating 50 years of law!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Bradley Stoke Bowls Club Opens New Season

Message from the Club Chair, Steve Lee

"I invite all members and prospective members of the Bradley Stoke Bowls Club to come to the Spring Meeting to be held in the Orchard room at Baileys Court Activity Centre on the evening of Thursday the 26th March at 6.30 pm, when Fixture lists will be available and new members welcomed.



Now read why Captain George and Denise Eland give some reasons why you should consider this invitation...

"I joined Bradley Bowls club, five years ago, when I retired from my job at Airbus. It has been the perfect solution for me as to what I would do to fill some of my spare time.



I can honestly say that I have enjoyed myself, both in playing bowls and the wonderful family atmosphere found at the club, so much so that I took on the role as Club Captain for the season 2014. I have also been elected in that role for 2015.

Last season the Bowls club made great steps forward in winning the Bristol and District league, and the ladies section finishing runners up in their league, both teams winning promotion to the next level. 2015 promises to be a season to look forward to, with plenty of games to play, away days planned for Budleigh Salterton, and Reading.

Games are played in a friendly atmosphere at all levels, from beginners to more experienced players, with practice sessions for beginners on Tuesdays throughout the season.

If you are an interested beginner or a more experienced player then Bradley Stoke bowls is a great place to play, please do not hesitate to contact myself or any committee member.

PS Alongside me Denise is just as keen and active as I am.

George Eland 0117 979 0260
Club Website www.bsbc.webs.com



New Ladies Football Team!

Update of local girls football, by Martin Lee

Bradley Stoke Youth FC (BSYFC) and the development of girls football in the local area just keeps growing with over 90 girls currently playing football in the Bristol Girls League. The teams are all playing well and enjoying their football. The weather in January has been very poor with many matches being cancelled due to the pitch conditions.

Some of the age groups in the League have been split into 2 divisions to help with the development of the girl teams and trying to match teams in a division with equal abilities.

At present we find some of teams doing well in their division.

The U11 team is currently top of Div B
The U12 team is currently 4th in Div A
The U13 team is currently 7th in Div A
The U14 team is currently top of Div B
The U16 team is currently 10th in Div A

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

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

The club as also just started its 2015 School Link Program where BSYFC coaches go into 14 local



schools and coach all the Year 1 children at each school over the period of Feb to May. When completed the club will have coached over 800 children in football skills and techniques. The club coaches are all FA Qualified. The schools will then bring a Year 1 team to the Football Festival on Saturday June 6th where they can win massive cups, trophies, kits, equipment prizes and lots more!

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

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

Bohemians Cricket Club

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

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

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

Contact:
Steve Spurrell
07450434460
Pete O'Farrell (1st caps.)
07743927445
Jason Brown (2nd caps.)
07590122219

Home Ground:
Hill Straight Sports and Social Club,
Stoke Gifford BS34 6QW

Redland UWE Hockey Club Update

The 1st team have continued their lead at the top of the table after the Christmas break. They are 2 games in hand due to frozen pitches, and have some challenging games ahead. The 2nd team have had some unlucky losses but with a couple of draws under their belts are making their way up the table. The 3rd team were promoted this season, and are still finding their feet with this new level. They are playing well and it's great to see many of the young juniors now playing for the adults side.

If you would like more details about playing for Redland UWE Hockey Club, please go to our website <http://www.redlandladieshockey.co.uk/>

Hugh Vickers, D.O.

REGISTERED OSTEOPATH

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

BRADLEY STOKE LADIES F.C

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

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

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

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

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

All coaches are FA Qualified and members of the FA Licensed Coaches Association

Bristol Rugby player receives Oxygen Treatment at local centre after concussion

Bristol Flanker Olly Robinson was injured during their game against the Cornish Pirates on 1st February. Suffering a head injury, Olly attended the West of England MS Therapy Centre in Bradley Stoke for Oxygen Treatment to speed up the healing process. Concussion is a prevalent injury in Rugby at all levels, most recently affecting Welsh international George North during his side's defeat to England in The Six Nations.

Oxygen Treatment involves sitting in a pressurised chamber where patients breathe in 100% pure oxygen through a mask. The benefits of the treatment vary from person to person, however it can improve cognitive function, eyesight, pain and inflammation and a variety of other symptoms. Members of the Centre believe that Oxygen Treatment makes their neurological conditions more manageable, which leads to fewer visits to GPs and hospitals thus alleviating pressure on the NHS.

Oxygen Treatment has been in the press recently with injured paratrooper Ben Parkinson who lost both his legs and suffered extensive damage to his spine, skull, pelvis, arms and brain. Parkinson was an Olympic torch bearer in 2012, and is currently undergoing Oxygen Treatment in Castle Craig Hospital south of Edinburgh.

Olly told us "My granddad had Multiple Sclerosis (MS), he's passed away now, but it would have been a great facility for him to have used. I think it's fascinating to have seen what happens at

the Centre. I've never heard of it before I came here, however the service is amazing. When I started on Tuesday I was getting headaches and now I'm glad to say they have stopped. When I came out of the oxygen chamber I felt really invigorated".

The Centre also provides treatment, therapies, services and support for those living with MS and other neurological conditions in a warm and friendly environment. It exists to alleviate some of the distressing symptoms and encourage clients to remain fit, active and mobile for as long as possible..

The Centre runs on donations for its services and can provide Physiotherapy; Counselling; Peer and Carer support; MS Clinic; Spasticity Clinic; Chiropody; Reflexology/Aromatherapy; Continence Advisory Clinic; Citizen Advice Bureau; Acupuncture; Yoga; Oxygen treatment; as well as a Beautician. Do make contact with them, or drop in, if you think you might benefit from what they have to offer.



The West of England Therapy Centre, Bradbury House Clinic, Wheatfield Drive, Bradley Stoke, BS32 9DB | Tel: 01454 201 686 | email info@mstherapybristol.org.uk | web: www.mstherapybristol.org.uk



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BRADLEY STOKE FESTIVAL 10K

Sunday 7th June 2015 - 9:30am

A 10k run, approx. 6 miles, course along tracks and footpaths through Bradley Stoke's Conservation Area. The course will start and finish at the Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke BS32 8HL
Run open to men and women over 16 years.
Parking, refreshments, showers and toilets available – technical t shirts for finishers.

Entry fees: Affiliated clubs £13.00 Unaffiliated £15.00
Entries on the day £15 (availability permitting) or can be obtained at the festival on Saturday 7th June if places remain.

By post to the address below or online applications through
<http://www.entrycentral.com/solesisters>.
Entry limited to 600 runners.

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

Surname: _____ Forename: _____

Address: _____

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

email address _____

UK Athletics affiliated club _____

Signature _____ Date _____

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

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

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



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TRIBUTE NIGHTS

Swing into Summer with Frank Sinatra

Friday 5th June 2015

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

Elton John tribute night

Friday 10th July 2015

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

Freddie Mercury tribute night

Friday 28th August 2015

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

Michael Buble tribute night

Friday 9th October 2015

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

Michael Buble and the Ratpack

Friday 4th December 2015

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



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- Saturday 21st November



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Help give Hope to Morgan

The face of local resident Morgan Walker has rapidly become a familiar one across the Stokes, appearing in local publications, on television, T-shirts and flyers. His hand print is the logo of the 'Hope for Morgan' appeal, created in his favourite colours of black and red.

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

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

Having endured 19 operations and procedures in his eleven years, taking medication daily and sleeping with an oxygen heart monitor, Morgan suffers from additional complications as well as the daily effects of cerebral palsy. His mum, Zoe, states "His determination to succeed in life in everything he does is a testament to him and his will to be just like his peers".

Morgan has been offered the opportunity to undergo surgery in the USA. Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy aims to improve mobility and increase independence through neurosurgical procedure. It is a chance to significantly improve his quality of life and reduce the pain Morgan constantly endures.

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



Morgan was born 8 weeks premature, weighing just 3lb 10oz



A picture of Morgan's brain scan, the bright areas indicate the damaged areas of the brain.

The Walker family have set out to raise £70k (the amount calculated by the Tree of Hope Charity to cover the cost of the operations, acquiring the equipment that will help Morgan with his rehabilitation and his intensive physiotherapy to ensure he gets the best results).

The appeal kicked off with great momentum and "Over-whelming support" from



family, friends, colleagues, local residents and businesses. Wrist bands have been sold through local schools, clubs and companies. At time of writing £21,424.18 has been raised so far.

Donations, bag packing and a sponsored walk have equated to 30% of the target with more events planned (see box below).

You can make a difference; every penny counts!
Whether a business or individual, please contribute to a local, life changing cause by donating, purchasing wrist bands, T-shirts or supporting any of the events, detailed on the Hope For Morgan Face book page. Thank you for your help.

www.justgiving.com/hopeformorgan

Text HFMW99 + AMOUNT to 70070

Please support the following events

- **7 March** - Charity Boxing Night; tickets £20 (standing), £50 (VIP table incl meal & wine), Thornbury Leisure Centre, 7pm.
- **13 March** - Psychic night!
- **28 March** - BCFC Mascot Day.
- **12 April** - Local Derby: Almondsbury U13 vs Bradley Stoke Utd U13.
- **17 April** - Dinner, dance & charity auction @ Aztec Hotel.
- **3 May** - Family Fun Day @ Stokers Pub incl live music, hog roast, minion & Olaf mascots, face painting, horse & cart rides. 11am-11pm.
- **30 May** - Old Trafford - Ashton Gate bike ride.
- **Coming soon** - The Ben Walker annual charity football match will this year be raising funds for Morgan • Night with the sports stars.

Check the Facebook page for updates.



Middle ear infections in children:

What can you do, and when is it best to seek medical help?

What is a middle ear infection?

When germs (such as viruses or bacteria) enter the small space behind the ear drum (the middle ear) during a cold, a middle ear infection can develop. This is common in children.

What are the symptoms?

Older children usually complain of earache, while younger kids often pull or rub their ears. Other common symptoms include a runny nose, a raised body temperature (fever), being irritable, crying, sleep problems, cough and poor feeding. Sometimes a hole may form in the ear drum and cause infected thick fluid (pus) to run out of the ear. This usually relieves the pain as it reduces the pressure on the ear drum.

Dr Knut Schroeder is a GP at the Concord Medical Centre in Little Stoke (www.concordmedicalcentre.co.uk), the quality award-winning surgery for patients in Little Stoke, Bradley Stoke, Patchway, Stoke Gifford and Filton. He is also author of 'Diagnosing Your Health Symptoms For Dummies' and Founder of Expert Self Care (www.expertselfcare.com), a small social enterprise creating a health app for students. To find out more visit www.concordmedicalcentre.co.uk and follow him on facebook and twitter.

What can I expect to happen?

Symptoms of middle ear infection tend to develop quickly and usually last an average of four days. Most ear infections are not serious and get better by themselves.

What can I do?

- Give painkillers: You can give either paracetamol or ibuprofen if your child unwell or appears distressed (make sure you check the label for the right dose).
- Keep your child cool: Avoid over- or under-dressing your feverish child. Keep your central heating down. Tepid sponging is no longer recommended.
- Fluids: Offer your child regular fluids. If you're a breastfeeding mother, offer as many feeds as she/he will take. Avoid dummies and feeding while lying flat.
- Body checks: Check your child at night for signs of serious illness.

Does my child need antibiotics?

Most children with a mild middle ear infection will not benefit from antibiotics. Antibiotics can be useful in children younger than 2 years who have infections in both ears, or who have an infection together with a leaking ear.

When should I seek medical help?

Contact your GP surgery for urgent advice if you notice one or more of the following:

- **High fever:** A body temperature over 38°C in children age 0-3 months or over 39°C in children age 3-6 months.
- **Not improving:** Your child is generally unwell or doesn't start to improve after four days.
- **Fluid:** Fluid leaks out of the ear, suggesting a burst ear drum.
- **Other symptoms:** Your child shows additional symptoms, such as being sick repeatedly, feeling dizzy, a stiff neck, a rash, slurred speech, confusion, seizures (fits), and/or being sensitive to light.

Where can I find out more?

Visit NHS Choices (<http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/otitis-media/Pages/Introduction.aspx>) for more information. Remember that your pharmacist can also assist you in assessing your child's symptoms.

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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

LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SPORTS CLUBS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CHURCH CONTACTS AND COFFEE MORNINGS

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

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

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

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

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

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

Little Stoke Baptist Church, Kingsway, 0117 969 6060

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

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

PRIMARY SCHOOLS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

SECONDARY SCHOOLS

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

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

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



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Community Noticeboard

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

Thornbury Orchestra Open Rehearsal Wednesday 11th March 2015 7.45pm – 9.45pm

A FREE invitation to young musicians and music-lovers of all ages to come and watch an open rehearsal. Come and hear a top local orchestra rehearse, meet and talk to players. Experience the sounds of a symphony orchestra at full blast playing some wonderful music. (Children should be accompanied by an adult, as Thornbury Orchestra is not able to provide any supervision for the evening.)

United Reformed Church, Chapel Street,
Thornbury, BS35 2BA

www.thornburyorchestra.org.uk

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Sat 14th March – 9.00-1.00pm
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Contact: anniehawksley@blueyonder.co.uk



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March at Bradley Stoke Library

Rhymetime: Rhymes and songs for
parents and babies/toddlers to enjoy
together every Monday morning
10:30am – 11:00am

Pre School Storytime: Thursday mornings
term time only 11:00am – 11:30am

Our Chatterbooks Group for young people
in years 5 and 6 will meet on
Saturday 21st March 14:30pm –
15:30pm

Join us for our Easter Eggstravaganza
holiday activity and crafts on
Monday 30th March 10:30am –
12:00pm. Suitable for children aged 4 -10
and their parents/carers.

World Book Day is on Thursday 5th
March. Join us for a special Storytime with
a famous literary friend! You'd be barking
to miss it! For more information about
World Book Day visit
www.worldbookday.com

ACCESSIBLE COACH TRIPS

Lin's Leisure Trips is a not for profit Community
Interest Company which offers leisure outings for
both able bodied and disabled people. A wheelchair
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pick people up from central locations in or around
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**For details of any of the listed trips please contact
us on 0117 9372 364 or e-mail Linb777@outlook.com.**
If you are interested in going to a destination
that is not listed, please ask.

SAT 28 FEB - CLARKS VILLAGE – leave 9 am
return 3 pm - £18 (£14 Conc) Age 17 or under £9.

**TUES 3 MARCH - FARMS SHOP,
FARRINGTON GUERNEY** – leave 9 am return 2 pm
- £18 (£16 Conc) Age 17 or under £12.

SAT 7 MARCH - SLIMBRIDGE – leave 9 am return 3
pm - £27 (£24 Conc) Age 17 or under £17,
price includes entrance fee.

TUES 10 MARCH - OAKHAM TREASURES –
leave 9 am return 3 pm - £20 (£18 Conc)
Age 17 or under £14

THURS 12 MARCH - NOAH'S ARK ZOO FARM –
leave 9 am return 3 pm - £28 (£25 Conc) Age 17 or
under £18, price includes entrance fee.

SAT 21 MARCH - BURNHAM-ON-SEA – leave 9 am
return 3 pm - £17 (£14 Conc) Age 17 or under £9.

FRI 27 MARCH - RADSTOCK MUSEUM –
18 (£15 Conc) Age 17 or under £10,
price includes entrance fee.

** If you cancel once a coach or minibus has been booked
your money can only be returned if your seat reservation is
resold. Coach may be cancelled if less than half full.*

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Sunday 29th March - 10am-4pm
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£2.00 entry (under 16s free)

Note: Car Park access to Mansion House
via Kennel Lodge Entrance on A369

Discover 2015 South Gloucestershire's biggest festival 10 September – 30 October 2015

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

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

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

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

Little Pickles NEARLY NEW SALE Saturday 28th March 2015 10.30am - Noon Abbeywood Community School, New Road, Stoke Gifford

A family market with nearly new tables for hire to sell baby/
children's items. Prams, maternity items, clothes, shoes, toys,
books, highchairs and so much more.. Come and see what
bargains you can find! Join our facebook event for more details.

£1 entry per Adult, Little Pickles free

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

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

Why not join 2152 (Downend) Air Cadets?

This month we were pleased to be contacted by 2152 Air Cadets, who have shared information about their organisation in the piece below, along with an invite to their March Open Evening.

Join as a cadet

Are you ready to take the first step towards all the opportunities and benefits that the air cadets can offer you?

It's important to know that we are not a recruiting organisation for the Services (but it's great if you decide you want to join later on). We are only interested in you and your potential, and will help you get the most from your experience as a cadet.

Worried about fitting in? Equality is a central part of the Air Cadets' ethic. The cadet experience is open to everyone, so whatever your nationality, background or ability, whether you're male or female, if you're between 12 and 17 years old you can join us. The minimum age is now year 8, anyone in year 8 or higher at school can join.

What's in it for you?

Aside from flying, sports, target shooting, adventure training and great fun? You'll soon find that being an air cadet is its own reward - you constantly see the benefits of your own efforts, building on your achievements and earning BTECs and DoE Awards. You'll be expected to take part in as many of the activities we run as possible, but with what's on offer you won't need much persuading!

We have high standards to maintain as we are a 'military' youth organisation and you'll naturally take pride in your uniform (that we supply) and appearance. You'll be well mannered and self-disciplined. You'll be joining an organisation of which you'll be very proud.

Join as a volunteer

Over 20? Seeking a new challenge? Would you like to develop skills, leadership qualities and gain qualifications too?

As the backbone of our organisation we're always on the lookout for high-calibre individuals to become volunteers, helping to run the activities that play such an important role in the lives of our young members.

All kinds of people make up our volunteer staff, coming from a range of backgrounds and interests. Obviously if you have direct experience of working with young people, or any relevant skills such as flying or gliding, you would be particularly welcome. These are not essential though, as we will train and support you at every stage.

That said, some personal qualities are essential, such as patience, maturity and responsibility along with an understanding of young people and their needs. You needn't be an athlete, but a good level of physical fitness also helps to ensure you can keep up with the cadets!

What are you waiting for!

Our next open evening is on Wednesday 11 March 2015 at St James's Church Hall, Richmond Road, Mangotsfield, BS16 9HA from 20:00 – 21:30.

For more information please email - 2152df@aircadets.org



Try the bus in 2015!

Living locally in the Stokes means you can take advantage of frequent bus services to key destinations. For example, approximately every 10 minutes you can get a bus to Bristol in one direction or The Mall at Cribbs Causeway in the other.

1 in 4 people now regularly catch the bus*, especially at busy times, when parking is limited or expensive, when there's a major event or if you just want a carefree day letting others do the driving for you.

You can get real time information direct to your smartphone using the free **buschecker** app to help you know exactly when to leave the house and avoid waiting around at the bus stop.

To find out more about Buschecker or for help planning your journey visit www.travelwest.info

*Data from research undertaken in South Gloucestershire in 2014



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Avonmouth Sea Cadets

The Sea Cadets of TS Enterprise are celebrating after a very busy and successful 2014.

Despite being one of the smaller Sea Cadet units in Bristol, the cadets have travelled all over the country gaining many qualifications and taking part in high profile events.

Supported by the Royal Navy, the natural activity for Sea Cadets is being on the water in various craft. The cadets can be found kayaking, canoeing, rowing and powerboating in the Cumberland Basin and have gained various BCU and RYA nationally recognised qualifications over the past year. Cadets have also attended courses at the Sea Cadet Training Centre in Weymouth and have sailed on the offshore yachts around Ireland and Scotland.

The cadets have been equally busy on land gaining qualifications in seamanship, first aid and catering. With opportunities to specialise in marine engineering, communications and information systems, meteorology, hill walking, climbing and mountain biking amongst others, the cadets are looking forward to expanding their skills over the coming year. There are also cadets working towards the Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The Remembrance period saw the cadets attending 4 local parades and they were also privileged to help plant poppies at the Tower of London (see photo top right) and continue the long tradition of the Piling of the Drums Ceremony during the Festival of Remembrance at Colston Hall.

The cadets have also been lucky enough to spend time with the Royal Navy, invited to Yeovil Air Show and paying a visit to their affiliated ship HMS Enterprise before she deployed.

2015 is already off to a flying start with the Drill Team achieving 3rd place in the Avon District competition in early February. **If you're aged between 10 and 18 and want to join the adventure, come and visit the unit and see what we do.** Or, if you're aged over 18 and want a new challenge, join as an adult volunteer.

There are opportunities to become a uniformed instructor, civilian instructor, or unit assistant helping with maintenance, PR or admin depending on your skills, interests and time available.

Located on Station Road in Shirehampton next to the Lamplighters and Shirehampton Sailing Club, we parade on Mondays and Thursdays between 1845 and 2115.

More information is available on our webpages: <https://www.facebook.com/avonmouthseacadets>, <http://www.sea-cadets.org/avonmouth/home.aspx> or contact us on 0117 982 3938 and avonmouthseacadets@gmail.com.

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INDEX OF LOCAL ADVERTISERS

Accountancy/Book-keeping		DVD - Memories on Video	48	Organic - Powells of Olveston	48
LAC Accounting	4	Electrician		Painter & Decorator	
Activities & Events	10,26,47,52-55,71	Aquasafe	60	GJS Painting & Decorating	63
Architect -		Bradley Stoke Electrical	64	Keith Usher Painter & Decorator	65
Alexandra Cork Home Designs	65	Dave Betts Electrical Services	58	Inside & Out	66
Bathrooms		Gary Smart Electrical	66	M Hodges Painter & Decorator	58
All Works Bathrooms Installations	64	Employment Opportunities		Parish Council	36-37
Inspired Bathroom Design	64	Allianz Insurance	3	Pets/Pet Care	
Rob Oakley Bathrooms	59	Education People	24	Barkey's Doggie Day Care	20
Bicycles - Bike Fix	32	Tumble Tots	29	Companions Haven (Pet Cemetery)	30
Builders / Building		Estate Agents - Edwards	1	Trekking Tails	30
Ashford Building Contractors	60	Boardwalk Property Company	3	Will-B-Walking	25
BluePrint Construction	66	Financial Planning -		Plasterer	
Cox Builders	64	Flooring - Lanes Carpets & Flooring	65	CPH Plastering	61
Fascia Lift	62	Garden Design/Landscaping/		Jon Drake	63
SPC Plumbing & Building	64	Maintenance		Plumber	
Vizard and Son	62	Almondsbury Landscaping	14	All Works Plumbing & Heating	67
Butcher - Powells of Olveston	48	Alpine Landscapes	15	Home Care Plumbing & Heating	62
Cakes - Medway Designs	48	Ellinghurst Fencing & Gardening	21	K J Barton Plumbing & Heating	61
Car Maintenance / Sales		JDS Garden Services	15	R H Plumbing	60
Ashley Thouless Mechanic	61	Jeff Havvock Ltd	17	SPC Plumbing & Building	64
Autumnbrooke Garage	60	Secret Garden	19	Police -	5
Brookfield Garage Sales/Service	6	Garden Machiney -		Property Management -	
BS Auto Maintenance	58	AvonGarden Machinery	18	Freeman Residential	68
Care / Elderly		Hair & Beauty		On the Move	8
Age UK	59	Avon Rep - Elizabeth	51	Repairs	
Bristol Care Homes	40	Fusion Hair & Beauty	18	D-CR Domestic Appliance Repairs	66
Retirement Homes, Filton	2	In Good Hands - Massage & Beauty	51	Bike Fix	32
Carpentry		Shampers	9	Complete Furniture Solutions	4
Clive Bradford	58	Handyman / Home Services		Restaurants—see Hotel & Restaurants	
J G Carpentry	65	Alan's Handyman Services	64	Roofing - Ridge Roofing	58
Stowell's Carpentry	61	Health, Diet & Fitness		Rooftech	61
Carpets/Flooring		Aztec Spa	72	Rooms/Facilities for Hire	
Lanes Carpets	65	Bohemians Cricket Club	42	Abbeywood Community School	23
Central Heating		Cambridge Diet - Fil	16	Bradley Stoke Community School	24
All Works Plumbing & Heating	67	Taekwondo	35	Brook Way Activity Centre	33
Gregor Heating	63	House / Home		North Bristol RFC	48
Richard Taylor	63	Bedlam Beds	66	Schooling/Training/Tuition	
Child Care/ Preschools		Bright Conservatories Ltd	20	Clifton High School	39
Ambourne House Day Nursery	22	Churchill Persimmon Homes	2	Network Counselling	54
Bright Sparks Nursery/Preschool	34	Complete Furniture Solutions	4	Security	
Like My Mum	33	Thornbury Stairlifts	67	BS1 Security	64
Mama Bear's Nursery	30	Hotels/Restaurants/Pubs/Bars/Cafes		Technisys	58
Children/Children's Activities		Aztec Hotel	10,72	Sewing / Alterations - Medway Des	48
Babble Street	34	Eastwood Park	40	Solicitors - AMD Solicitors	41
Baby Moves	34	Holiday Inn Filton	71	Taxi's/Transport	
Bradley Stoke Gymnastics	33	Mercure Grange	47	Avanti Cars	48
First Steps Soccer	28	The New Inn, Pwllmeyric	12-13	South Glos.Sustainable Transport	56,57
Gymboree	1, 31	Jewellers/Pawnbrokers - Kemps	46	Tiling -	
Taekwondo	35	Locksmith		Paul Bartley Ceramic Wall & Flr Tiling	62
The Rock Project	27	Dale Clements Locksmiths	60	Tree Surgeon -	
Cleaning & Domestic Services		Lock Stuck & Barrell	65	Collins Tree Services	15
Bonne Fresh Clean Ltd (Carpets)	59	Medical / Therapist		TV & Aerials	
OvenClean	66	Bradley Stoke Physio	57	A1 Aerials	63
Oven Wizard	59	Hugh Vickers Osteopath	43	Aerial Man - Dan Grace	65
Computers		In Good Hands - Massage	51	D J Kell Digital Aerial & TV Repairs	63
AJS Computer Solutions	4	Smart Hypnotherapy	51	M D Aerials	58
Wicked Imp	18	Willow Brook Clinic	50	Weddings	10,47,71
Counselling Services		MP Surgeries	54	Wills - Jane Holzgrawe Wills	44
Sue Alcock	30	Music/Music Lessons -		Windows -	
Days Out / Events	26,54,55	Hilary Music Lessons	38	1st Aztec Windows	67
Driveways / Patios - D R Hodson	18	Opticians		Bright Conservatories Ltd	20
Driving Schools		Mike Harbord Optician	50	Workwear - Workwear on line	4
Almondsbury Driving School	5	Specsavers	16		



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Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters - Facebook/BSMatters

Bradley Stoke Woodcraft Folk

**Stuck on the waiting list for Beavers, Cubs, Rainbows or Brownies?
Come and give Woodcraft Folk a try.**

Not heard of Woodcraft Folk? It's not a woodwork club! Read on to find out more....

This year is an exciting one for the Woodcraft Folk as we are celebrating our 90th birthday. Unsurprisingly the Bradley Stoke group doesn't have quite such a long history, having started up in 2009, but in our six years we've managed to cram a lot in.

Our family have been lucky enough to be involved with the group from the start so here are some of our highlights.

Our first group camp was at Biblins Youth Campsite in the Wye Valley where we stayed in the unique Burrow, which is a bit like a wooden tent with a retractable roof. We made lanterns from tin cans, whittled sticks to cook marshmallows and toffee apples on the camp fire, found a geocache and explored a cave.

The annual Merrymoot is a get together with the other Bristol groups where each group performs a song or sketch to entertain the others, followed by games, a ploughman's supper and dancing the evening away at the ceilidh.

The Bristol District Spring Camp which has become a fixture each May, is a bigger camp with the other Bristol groups. We've done lots of fun things at camp including wide games, bushcraft, craft activities, trail laying, night walks, bat walks and everyone works together to make meals and do all the other essential chores.

The South West Area fun day in the autumn is a gathering with other groups from the south west area with more games and activities. It has even included the infamous swamp walk!

At the end of the day there's the option to build a bivvy in the woods and sleep out under the stars with a camp fire to cook on. We've also camped

out in the woods using hammocks and tarps. Of course we aren't outside at every meeting. A group night usually starts with some fun running around games, followed by a break for drinks and the chance for everyone to talk about anything interesting they did recently. We then move on to a craft activity. The children have made juggling balls, kites and leather pouches for phones or camera's for example. We also do some bushcraft activities - in the summer term our pioneer group (10-12 year olds) completed their bushcraft badges. The last group night of each term is always reserved for an outside activity so we go and play games in the woods or local parks or have a camp fire. We have also done treasure hunts and trail laying, orienteering and geocaching in the dark.

This year we have lots to look forward to, planning is already under way for the May district camp, a summer regional camp, the Merrymoot, a bushcraft day and a bivvy at a local camp site for our group which will give the children a chance to build a tarp shelter and spend the night out in the woods.

If your children would enjoy making new friends, the chance to enjoy some outdoor activities, craft projects, fun and games, get in touch! We currently have places available for girls and boys aged between 6 and 12, and are running an introductory offer - book 5 sessions for just £5!

We meet on Wednesday at Stoke Lodge School from 6 - 7.30 pm. Please contact Jenny or Daniel on 0117 909 3969 or email info@southwestwoodcraftfolk.org.uk

You can also follow what we've been up to recently on our blog - bradleystokewoodcraft.blogspot.co.uk



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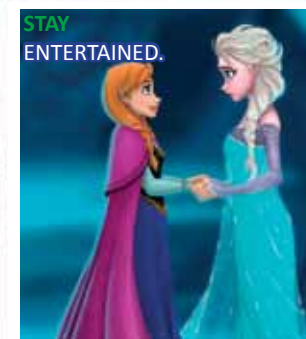


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