

# Bradley Stoke Matters

April / May 2023

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## Dear Readers....

With the clocks due to change as I write this late March, I for one am looking forward to lighter evenings and more sunshine in the coming weeks. With the start of the school holidays and Easter just a few days away, we are pleased to be able to share information with you of many seasonal activities to get involved with over the coming weeks.

We are pleased to bring you an Easter message and details of services and events from the local churches. There are also several special Easter events taking place such as the Brightwell Easter Egg Trails and a 'Look for a Book' event - Bradley Stoke Matters is pleased to help sponsor both of these fabulous community events.

Our front cover this edition shows the unveiling of a bird mosaic in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Bradley Stoke Town Council, you can read more about this overleaf.

Saturday 6th May marks the Coronation of King Charles III, we are pleased to mark this with an article dedicated to His Majesty. Do let us know if you are planning any street events or parties in celebration of this historical event.

Every day I seem to see news of someone's dad/brother/friend going missing on social media. Please don't be that person. If you're a man who is struggling please read our article on Andy's Man Club inside. Talking really does help.

If you are a business looking to promote your services across the Stokes do get in touch - deadline for the next edition is 10th May.

Jaci x

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## ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Bradley Stoke Town Council  
THE JUBILEE CENTRE  
Savages Wood Road  
Bradley Stoke, BS32 8HL

[www.bradleystoke.gov.uk](http://www.bradleystoke.gov.uk)

**Wednesday 10th May 2023**  
**7.00pm**

### AGENDA

1. To appoint the Chair of the Town Meeting
2. Apologies for absence
3. To confirm the Minutes of the previous Town Meeting held on 11th May 2022
4. To receive the Reports of the following Committees:
  - 4.1 Council   4.2 Finance   4.3 Leisure, Youth & Amenities   4.4 Planning & Environment
5. To deal with questions from Local Government Electors of the Town



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## BSTC 30th Anniversary

On Saturday 25th February 2023, Bradley Stoke Town Council held a free Mosaic Bird Making Workshop for the local community to design a bird, with the aim of forming a mosaic mural to celebrate the Town Council's 30th anniversary in March.

Many different groups and individuals from across Bradley Stoke came and made a bird, representing both the individuality and collectivity of our community. They have now been grouped together to create a flock of birds that are flying across the wall of the main Town Council office building.

Bradley Stoke Matters was very pleased to pop along to the local history drop-in event held at the Jubilee Centre on Friday 10th March in celebration of the Town Council's 30th anniversary, where the mosaic was officially unveiled by Deputy Mayor Franklin Owusu-Antwi. The Council was also represented by Tom Aditya and Angela Morey during the unveiling. Former, long serving councillor and previous Mayor, Jon Williams, also spoke passionately about the origins of Bradley Stoke Town Council, and artist, Katie, who supported the 30 groups who took part in making the birds, also spoke about her involvement in producing the mural.

It was wonderful to hear so many local people relive early stories of moving into their new homes in Bradley Stoke and how many original families remain in the town to this day. The local history group offered a rich and interesting delve into materials from the archives, including the original brochures showcasing how the new homes would look, to original drawings and plans of the area revealing how things have changed through time. The Williams family also shared with visitors a comprehensive collection of scrap books filled with fascinating press clippings of newsworthy events and issues centred on the town over the years, a wonderful opportunity to reflect on local matters.



We were also delighted to receive a copy of 'Landscape of the Past: The Hidden Heritage of Bradley Stoke' a brilliant book by local historian Sharon Ubank with a series of charming photographs by Kim Baldock and illustrations by Susan Baker, a book which was generously financed by Bradley Stoke Town Council. Sharon continues to be remembered for her 'Stokes Standards' series of booklets about local history, and it is a testament to the spirit of the community that the late historian has a new road Sharon Ubank Close named after her in Little Stoke.

What a wonderful trip down memory lane! We have been involved in a couple of these events over the 18 years since starting Bradley Stoke Matters (including a back to the 80s event held at Bradley Stoke Library for Bradley Stoke's 21st birthday!) and have previously published articles on local history in past editions, including a lengthy interview with the first and former Town Clerk David Chandler who I recall telling me how he first set up office in his own home before the first premises were found. Look how we've all grown!



## *It matters where you live. It matters how you live. It's why community matters.*

I recently started leading City Church Bradley Stoke. I'm also involved in housing and a goal of mine is eliminating rough sleeping. I recently started leading the Bristol Homelessness Forum which gathers many across the city who are doing so much to help people in need.

### *It really matters where you live and how you live – community really matters.*

We all want life to be better – but preferably without cost and definitely without pain! But you don't need to have been homeless to know that life can be really tough. Things happen that don't make sense to us.

Easter is the centrepiece of the year for Christians. On the Friday Jesus was killed by the Romans – he was most definitely dead. It looked to those who had followed him that it was the end of the road – why has this happened? Yet 3 days later, on Sunday morning they were amazed to find that the tomb where Jesus' body had been placed was empty. Jesus had risen from the dead! He was alive again – he had overcome death. His death was not the end, rather it was the beginning!

Those who spent time with Jesus had gone through horror of hope fading only to find that the remarkable was possible. Suddenly it gave them a reason to live life differently – there was a new purpose and joy to be found in being a Jesus follower.

And the story of Jesus continues to be a remarkable message a couple of thousand years later. It means we have hope during pain and loss. Just think for a moment that 2000 years after Jesus lived on earth, millions of people worldwide choose to make Jesus the centre of their lives.

The community where we live can be different because God offers us hope. And this Easter there is hope that there is light after darkness, joy after despair and it can be found in the community of God's people. Come along to any of the following services to find out more.

By Simon Allen





## Good Friday Children's Craft Activities

Friday 7th April 10am-12noon  
at Holy Trinity Church (Broad Croft, BS32 0BD)

Arrive any time from 10am onwards to try out a range of activities, including making an **Easter garden**, designing your own **stained glass window**, and creating **chocolate egg nests**, to name a few!

There's no charge (but donations towards costs are welcome). Refreshments will be available. Children need to be accompanied by a responsible adult, please.

## Easter Services

**City Church** meets at Bradley Stoke Community School at 10am on Sundays. We have kids and youth work happening on Sundays at the same time. **On 8th April we are running an Easter Egg Hunt – starting at 1:30pm in Jubilee Park.**

Bring your kids along for a fun time and there will be plenty of chocolate available for everyone who goes Egg Hunting.



**Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church** meets at Baileys Court Road.

Good Friday Communion Service (10:00am) inc. provision for children and refreshments

Easter Sunday Celebration (10:30-11:30am) for all ages

Regular services are at 10:30 with provision for children of a primary school age.

**Holy Trinity** meets at Broad Croft, BS32 0BD and

**Christ the King** meets at Mautravers Close, BS32 8EE

Good Friday children's activities at Holy Trinity, 10am-12noon

Good Friday Hour by the Cross at Christ the King, 2-3pm

Easter Sunday Holy Communion, 9:30am at Christ the King, 10:30am at Holy Trinity

Regular Sunday services are: 9:30am at Christ the King & 10:30am at Holy Trinity 1st and 3rd Sundays of the month, 6:30pm at Christ the King



Ramadan is considered one of the holiest months of the year for Muslims. It is a month of worship, fasting, prayer, charity, community spirit and spiritual rejuvenation, when Muslims commemorate the revelation of the Qur'an, and fast from food and drink during the sunlit hours as a means of drawing closer to God and cultivating self-control, gratitude, and compassion for those less fortunate.

The Islamic calendar follows the phases of the moon, commonly known as the lunar cycle. This year Ramadan began on Wednesday 22nd March, following the sighting of the moon over Mecca. Lasting for 30 days, Ramadan will end on Friday 21 April, with the celebratory days of Eid al-Fitr starting on Saturday 22 April or Sunday 23 April.

## Seven Vale Flower Club

Our Spring Open meeting is on Monday evening 17th April. This will be held in the Olveston and Tockington Parish Hall.

Our demonstrator for the evening will be Andrew Lloyd. Andrew is no stranger to the club and is like a family to some. His last demonstration he did for us was arranged on tables, as there wasn't a stage. Andrew is amusing and an entertaining demonstrator.

Friends and visitors are welcome. Doors open at 6.30pm for 7.30pm. There will be the usual raffle and refreshments.

For tickets and more information, the numbers to call are 01453 811089 or 01454 885213.

## Arts Appreciation Group - An Artist at Work

Join us at Bradley Stoke Community School, 7pm for 7.30pm, on Thursday 20th April for a demonstration and talk by Paul Weaver.

Further details from Sally – 01454 778516

## Knit, Stitch and Natter



Join our friendly weekly textile group.  
No need to book – just turn up!

**Bradley Stoke Library**  
Thursdays at 10am

This group is for adults only

This is a self-led session. Bring a project to work on, learn from others and catch-up with friends in our warm and welcoming library.



## Arabellas Vintage Belly 'Teas' Party Sunday 12th February: Review by Anna

I don't think I have ever seen so many sequins shining in one venue as I did for "Arabella's Belly 'Teas' Party" on Sunday 12th February!

From the traders bringing rhinestone costumes from Egypt to Almondsbury, to the Belly Dancers in full cabaret 2-piece costumes to the burlesque tassels, there was bling everywhere! It was only outshone by the smiles on everyone's faces! Sarah T said "I loved the show, lots of variety and great dancing. Very friendly and inviting atmosphere too."

### Act 1

Seren Dippity, our MC opened the first ever Belly dance and Burlesque show at Almondsbury Creative. Featuring women from classes held in the venue and in the local community. It was a chance for women to feel like stars, shine on stage and showcase the dances they learn in their weekly classes! The atmosphere was electric! Up first was a number from the 1950s Golden Era of Belly Dance in Cairo which totally mesmerized the audience with elegant, classy moves. This dance was taught by Arabella over a 5 week course on Monday nights at Almondsbury Creative, by breaking down the movements into bite size steps and combinations to practice to delicious music. The moves feel so juicy and good to do that by the end of the course dancers had grown so much in confidence and couldn't wait to show what they had learnt!

**If you feel inspired to try a new empowering form of exercise you can learn Belly Dance or Burlesque with arabelladances.com/shop at Almondsbury Creative on Monday nights or learn Burlesque Chair Dancing with www.kikikissesburlesque.com on Tuesdays and Thursdays in Patchway**



### Act 2

After a delicious Afternoon tea, served by Almondsbury Creative, it was time for the 'Teas' part of the show! Arabella Sparkles had people falling about laughing she was so funny with her Cowgirl act! The Sparkle Bellas wow'd with a naughty nautical theme bubble dance inspired by Sally Rand and performed to Beyond the sea. Then the Bristol Belles really took the roof off with Cher's 'Welcome to Burlesque'. Seren Dippity absolutely killed it with Dramatically Sensual and Kiki Kisses was just Lovely with her fan finale! We were all buzzing for days after the show! Denise F said, "That was my first burlesque show and I loved it, so thank you all ladies for a fab show, its' been so empowering...." and Sam H summed up the whole experience by saying "I enjoyed it so much and was so inspired that I've now signed up to a weekend chair dance masterclass with Kiki Kisses this weekend. Looking forward to trying out this new style of class!"

A huge thank you to Almondsbury Creative for having us! You made 70 women and their family and friends very happy! We can't wait to do it all again.

Tickets for the next show at Almondsbury Creative on Saturday May 20th are on sale now in aid of Mind Bristol. They are selling fast so book yours now! Available on Eventbrite - 'Burlesque Belles of Bristol'

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## New look, New name!

Established in 1981, the club has been a pillar to the local community, holding regular, weekly race meetings on Wednesday evenings from April through to September as well as monthly meetings through the winter. There are opportunities for all, from training and open gate practise sessions to specialist coaching and right at the heart, racing!

We are a welcoming, family orientated club and always look forward to new members joining, from those on their first pedal bike to those who ought to know better!

We have a new look for the 2023 season, with huge thanks to one of our riders, Adrian Ridley, who came up with the vision for our new race wear designs. The designs are inspired by Patchway's roots in the aviation industry. Visual cues are taken from some of the fastest, most ground-breaking aeroplanes in the world, which were developed right on our doorstep. The devil is in the details though, you'll need some beady eyes to spot the quirky little touches Adrian has put in!

To launch our new designs, the Bristol Aerospace Museum kindly offered to open its doors exclusively for our members on 23rd February. There, they were presented with their new kits by the club committee and one of our sponsors Crucial BMX.

Both young and old(er!) enjoyed looking around the concord and finding out about the history and links to the area. The team was photographed by our resident photographer Mick Wells (Micks pix BMX Photography), who was able to capture the team's portraits alongside the concord, which will be displayed in the club cabin.

The club is very proud of its achievements over the past year, securing a substantial grant to resurface the track and purchase a new club Gazebo. Additionally, several riders have qualified for the BMX World Championships in Glasgow. Arlo Steimetz, Kye Waterhouse, Sahbina Ashman, Sophie Elwood, Jaimee Elwood, Joe Penton-Voak, Adam Brazil, Tom Palmer, Matt Bourne, Jai Kemp, Sharon Watts and Graham Watts will all be riding for the Great British team, hoping to secure the world championship plate, whilst having fun at the event in August!

If you are interested in joining Bristol Jets or would simply like to know more about our club and what we can offer then please contact us via Facebook/Instagram – Bristol Jets BMX Email – [bristolbmx@gmail.com](mailto:bristolbmx@gmail.com)

Photo credits: Mick Wells, Micks Pix BMX Photography  
Image credits: Adrian Ridley, Graphic design and Direction



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### Bradley Stoke Library

#### Lego Club

Friday 14th & 28th April 4-5pm

FREE Children's Drop-in Event  
Lego™ Clubs are for primary school aged children. All children must bring a grown-up with them.

#### Special Saturday Rhyme Time

Saturday 22nd  
April 9:30-10:00am

Drop-in (no need to book)

We're calling all menfolk with young relatives (0-5 years) to join us for a sing-along

## ANDY'S MAN CLUB #IT'S OK TO TALK

Andy's Man Club was set up in Halifax in June 2016 following the tragic death of Andy Roberts, who died by suicide. Andy's mother Elaine and brother-in-law Luke Ambler decided to start a club to reduce the stigma around male mental health issues, and give men the opportunity to talk with their peers about whatever storms they're going through.

The group now has 117 clubs across the UK, as well as an online option for anyone who can't get to one. All meet at 7pm every Monday except Bank Holidays.

There are two Andy's Man Clubs in Bristol. Bristol North meets in the Jessop Suite at the Seat Unique Stadium aka the County Cricket Ground. Bristol South meets at the Knowle West Media Centre. The clubs are run by a team of volunteer facilitators, all of whom originally joined the club to get support for themselves.

Below we are honoured to share with you the experience of a local man, who found the support he needed from Andy's Man Club.



#ITSOKAYTOTALK



My Name is Andy,  
AKA Barts.

I'm 42 years old  
and I started  
attending Andy's  
Man Club at the  
beginning of  
June 2022. I can  
honestly say it has  
changed my life for  
the better in such a  
short time.

I have always been

the happy-go-lucky guy. I've spent most of my life brushing things under the carpet or saying "I'm fine" when I wasn't. This would lead to me having meltdowns or kicking off for no apparent reason.

I first walked through the door at the County Cricket Ground in Bristol for Andy's Man Club after the above had become apparent. My whole life I'd been living with anxiety, and then in June I was diagnosed with depression.

The anxiety was so strong that I didn't want to upset people, or I wouldn't speak up as I didn't want the confrontation – the only way to describe it is walking on eggshells my whole life!

Attending Andy's Man Club has made me less anxious by nature. Everyone listens and I get to talk and no judgement is passed. Also you realise you are not alone, others are going through a storm themselves.

No person is the same at Andy's Man Club. However we can all relate to each other, and that's because we all had a reason to walk through that door on our first evening. Even the facilitators!

In November 2022 I became a facilitator and have really enjoyed leading groups. It really is as simple as having a chat over a brew and a biscuit – all provided free of charge.

Andy's Man Club has given me that different outlook I needed. I now use the word "perspective" more than I ever have in my life. I recently did a radio interview on BBC Radio Bristol to talk about what made me join Andy's Man Club and also what Andy's Man Club has done for me!

I'm not here to sell Andy's Man Club to anyone. All I can say is it has changed me for the better, and if you are going through a storm yourself or know somebody who is, Andy's Man Club's doors are open 7-9pm every Monday and it might help lighten that load.

**ANDY'S MAN CLUB is a free-to-attend talking group that runs every Monday night at 7pm, excluding bank holidays.**

For over a year, the group has operated at a venue in Bishopston – the **Seat Unique Stadium, BS7 9EJ.**

There is now a **Bristol South** group that meet at the **Knowle West Media Centre, BS4 1NL.** Any man over the age of 18 is free to attend either of these groups, with no registration, referral or booking process.

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## 1st-16th April The Great Bradley Stoke Easter Egg Hunt:

Similar to last year, families can follow trails around the Bradley Stoke area to search for hidden letters displayed on decorated Easter eggs, that are being hosted by the community. There are lots of fun treats along the way too! Once all the letters have been found, children can try to spell out the Easter word or phrase.

Bradley Stoke Matters is very pleased to sponsor a trail this year - look out for us on the Pink Route!

On completion families bring their completed answer sheets to The Brightwell to receive an Easter \*prize for their children and enjoy a fun photo opportunity to remember this event (\*one Easter surprise per child per completed trail pack). There will also be the option to enter the Brightwell Easter raffle with some brilliant family-friendly prizes up for grabs! Just £5 per family trail pack, all proceeds go to The Brightwell, supporting those with Neurological Conditions.

### 19th April Spring Quiz Night

£5 per person. Teams of up to 6  
19.00-21.30 at The Brightwell, Wheatfield Drive, BS32 9DB  
Shake of the winter blues and bring on the sun, with our quiz night of trivia that's quite a bit of fun!

### 26th April Family MS Awareness Walk & Talk

£5 per person or £12 per family (up to 2 adults + 3 children). Tickets must be bought in advance  
15.30-17.00 starting at The Brightwell. Wear something yellow (anything) & walk, skip or roll with us to raise awareness! Find out more about our Therapy Centre supporting those affected by neurological conditions. After the walk enjoy pizza & drinks at Black Sheep Kitchen, our kind sponsor of this event.

### 29th April Fancy Dress for MS - Open Water Swim

From £20 per person. 11.00-13.00 at the stunning West Country Water Park. Dig out your fave fancy dress & join us for an open water swim. Have FUN, raise awareness & vital funds for The Brightwell, your local neurological support Centre

Tickets for all events can be purchased from The Brightwell Reception or via their website

[www.thebrightwell.org.uk/events](http://www.thebrightwell.org.uk/events)



## Bradley Stoke Lions Easter Eggs

Look out for our 3 giant 1 kilo Easter Eggs which have been placed in Baileys Court Inn, the Riverside Leisure Centre and The Brightwell MS Centre.



Two of the eggs will be raffled to raise funds for SARAID, the Search and Rescue Assistance in Disasters which sent volunteers out to Turkey to help with the crisis there. They constantly need to replenish equipment, train dogs to sniff out life in the rubble and not least, train people in all different skills. And they are all volunteers!

The third Egg, which the Lions are donating to The Brightwell, will be raffled to raise money for their own charity.

We are always looking for volunteers to help us man our events, so if you would like to help your local Lions – do get in touch with me, Ailsa Young on 07737 106836 or e-mail ambyoung29@yahoo.com.

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## Easter Activity - 'Look for a Book'

Bradley Stoke Matters was also pleased to help sponsor this Easter fun event initiated by local resident and Usborne Books representative Michelle Flook.

Over the Easter holidays Michelle will 'hide' over 100 books across Bradley Stoke, Little Stoke, Stoke Gifford and Patchway. The books are from the Usborne reading library and are aimed at a variety of ages from preschool up to 10/12 years. Books include well known fairytales such as Jack and the Beanstalk, The Gingerbread Man and The Ugly Duckling. The older books include stories such as Macbeth and Romeo & Juliet.

The books will be hidden in different areas across the Stokes and beyond for the children to find and take home. They can then read them with their parents or by themselves then choose to either keep the book or rehide for others to find!

Link up with Michelle's facebook group **Macie's Magical Book World** to share pictures of the found books or perhaps even a clue as to where you have rehidden the book for others to find!



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## Challenging a Will if it does not reflect the Testator's True Intentions

Sarah Burgess, Solicitor at AMD Solicitors, discusses challenging a Will if it does not reflect the testator's true intentions.

In recent years, there has been a sharp rise in the number of Will disputes. Most cases are settled using mediation but around 180 cases are taken to the High Court each year. This number is expected to rise because:-

- People are living longer. More people are changing their Wills later in life perhaps as their family dynamics change.
- Adult children are facing greater financial struggles and they depend upon an inheritance to get by.
- High property prices means that people's estates are worth more and so it can be worthwhile to make a claim against an estate.
- During the Covid pandemic new measures were introduced to enable people to witness Wills by video. It is harder to assess whether someone has testamentary capacity remotely and this could result in more Will disputes.

If you find that a relatives' Will leaves their estate in an unexpected way, it may cause you to question whether they knew and approved the contents of their Will.

### **Example of where a Will failed for lack of knowledge and approval**

Mr Reeves was a successful businessman who created a £100 million fortune during his lifetime. When he passed away, he was 71 years old. He had four children; Mark, Bill, Lisa and Louise. Mr Reeves's last Will was made in 2014 and highly favoured his daughter Louise. She was left 80% of his residuary estate, the remaining 20% passed to Lisa. Their brother Bill opposed the application for the 2014 Will being admitted to probate. He argued that their father did not know and approve the contents of the Will and was unduly influenced. Bill asked the court to uphold an earlier Will made in 2012, which left the estate 26.67% to Bill, Lisa and Louise and the remaining 20% equally to Ryan and Ria (Mark's two children).



In deciding whether the 2014 Will was valid, the court considered the following:

- Its terms were a dramatic departure from 2012 Will with Bill, Ryan and Ria being almost entirely excluded as beneficiaries;
- Evidence whether the 2014 Will reflected Mr Reeves' true wishes;
- Evidence whether Mr Reeves was illiterate.

The Judge found the 2014 was invalid, despite being signed and witnessed correctly, because Louise had been unable to prove that her father had knowledge and approved the terms of distribution.

### **How do I challenge a Will?**

If you believe that a Will is invalid then you should seek legal advice immediately. It is better to investigate the validity of a Will before probate has been applied for. These cases can be very emotional and appointing a solicitor to represent your interests will help to minimise the stress and time involved in dealing with a dispute.

**For advice on contentious probate matters, please contact Sarah Burgess or another member of our team on 0117 923 5562, email [info@amdsolicitors.com](mailto:info@amdsolicitors.com) or call into one of our four Bristol offices.**

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# King Charles III

As Prince of Wales, Charles has been preparing for this moment for most of his life, under the tutelage and guidance of his late mother, Elizabeth II. He will be recorded in history as the longest ever heir apparent, and the oldest to ever accede to the British throne at the age of 73.

Charles Philip Arthur George was born on 14th November 1948, during the reign of his grandfather King George VI. After the death of the King in 1952, his mother Elizabeth became Queen and Charles became heir to the throne at just three years old.

Charles was educated at Cheam and Gordonstoun schools, in the footsteps of his father Philip. He was the first heir apparent to attend school rather than receive private tuition. His time at Gordonstoun was hard, he referred to it as "Colditz in kilts" but later reflected, "...it taught me to accept challenges and take the initiative." He left in 1967 with six O levels and two A levels in French and History.

Charles went on to read Archaeology and Anthropology, then switched to History at Trinity College, Cambridge. He gained a 2:2 Bachelor of Arts in 1970. As Prince of Wales, he also spent a term at the University College in Aberystwyth, in order to study the Welsh language and history. In 1975, Cambridge University awarded him a Master of Arts.

Charles joined the Royal Air Force and trained as a jet pilot, then the Royal Navy, where he qualified as a helicopter pilot. The Prince's Trust was founded in 1976 with the £7,500 severance pay from the Navy. Since then, Charles has established sixteen more charities which raise over £100 million annually.

In 1981, he married Lady Diana Spencer. They had two sons, William born in 1982 and Harry in 1984. The couple divorced in 1996, and Diana was tragically killed in a car accident a year later.

In 2005, Charles married Camilla Parker-Bowles. The official title of Princess of Wales was never publicly acknowledged, instead Camilla became known as the Duchess of Cornwall.

The Duchy of Cornwall Estate was established by Edward III in 1337 for the heir to the throne. As Duke of Cornwall, the 53,000 hectare estate provided Charles with a private income to fund public, charitable and private activities, effectively making him financially independent. The estate passed to Prince William when he became heir apparent.

On 8th September 2022, Queen Elizabeth passed away peacefully and King Charles III became the new monarch. Coronation plans have been laid out for many years, under the codename 'Operation Golden Orb'. It's thought that the service will be smaller than the last coronation in 1953, and include different faiths and communities to reflect the change in British society. The Church of England ceremony will be broadcast internationally, and requires an oath and anointment, delivery of the orb and enthronement.

**The coronation of King Charles III and Camilla takes place in Westminster Abbey on 6th May 2023.**

**Long live the King!**



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Dawn is offering a wide range of Holistic Learning Courses in North Bristol during 2023, and soon holistic holidays in East Charente, France. The courses will equip you with the knowledge to treat yourself, family and friends. Day courses start from £90. Select the holistic discipline you are interest in learning about from the list below.

**Dawn offers individual or small group courses in the following – Aromatherapy, Homeopathy, Massage, Mindfulness, Reflexology and all levels of Reiki.**

**Get in touch:** For more information and to book onto a course contact Dawn on, **0795 1099 491**

**www.life-and-soul-empowerment.co.uk**



Students Sarah & John practicing Reflexology

*Dawn is an amazing Reiki teacher and practitioner! She made me feel completely at ease from the first moment; outlining all the key principles succinctly and encouraged us to ask questions before getting stuck in. By guiding us through the hands on part we developed our own intuitive feel for the techniques and gained confidence quickly. I feel extremely lucky and grateful to have been taught by such a wonderful master. Thank you!*

**John Seaward**

*Dawn is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic teacher. I have studied several different topics with her including reflexology. She is able to present the information in a positive and accessible manner.*

**Student Sarah Cox**



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## Your Own Personal Holiday Operator - Here in Bradley Stoke!

Local resident Andy Cunningham has an amazing story to tell! He's been globe-trotting, having lived in several different countries including south and central America, the Caribbean, Papua New Guinea as well as the UK, but he's also spent years on long-haul flights around the world in several previous careers including furniture retail. Now Andy is the proud owner of a travel agency business right here in the Stokes!

At the start of last year Andy, who lives in Little Stoke, decided to set up his own travel shop and is now actively booking more than 50 holidays a month for local people from his base in the Willow Brook Centre, Bradley Stoke.

### Why book a holiday through Andy?

"I grew up in a world where the customer is key, as is attention to detail – and when you are arranging someone's holiday, this is what really counts." says Andy, who regularly receives five-star reviews on Trust Pilot (see a few snippets right).

"As a travel agent I have access to 60% more offers than people can access for themselves online - and with me you obviously get full ATOL and ABTA protection and a one-point contact. I look after every aspect of your holiday from travel advice, booking options and insurance, to checking in and issue of boarding passes. My focus is on a very personal service, with the goal of making my clients happy and helping them make the best memories."

*"Customers receive a completely different level of service when travelling with me. I make sure my customers get the absolute best value for every penny they spend. I regularly speak to and build relationships with the tour operators and suppliers to enable me to source the absolute best seats, rooms, flights and to build bespoke itineraries for everyone."*

*"Excellent service, saving me time, hassle & money!"*

*"I am so impressed with the dedication and service provided, I can't recommend him highly enough. Will always use Andy from now onwards. He knows he is now my favourite Travel guru."*

*"Fab Service, Trustworthy and Great Value"*

*Andy took the time to understand my needs and find packages that were perfect. He's meticulous in his planning and offers great value for money. Can't recommend Andy highly enough!"*

**Snippets of reviews see more at:**

<https://andycunningham.notjusttravel.com/testimonials>



**"I am looking to be your travel agent of choice for life and will endeavour to earn that right by giving you exceptional service."**

As part of travel giant Hays, Not Just Travel has access to 450 operators with all holidays fully protected by ABTA ensuring his customer's peace of mind. He also has access to exclusive deals with Not Just Travel's key trade partners and is a member of CLIA (Cruise Lines International Association), dealing with every cruise supplier direct.

Andy has so much passion and drive - he loves his job so much he considers it a hobby - and enjoys every minute that he spends creating memorable experiences for customers, tailor-making each holiday and providing round-the-clock personal support, if needed.

He has now expanded his team with Stokes resident Lisa Hanley and they are both looking forward to helping more local residents plan your holiday outings - whether it be a bespoke trip of a lifetime, your annual two weeks in the sun, or indeed the ski slopes!



**Find Andy at Not Just Travel**

Willow Brook Centre, Bradley Stoke BS32 8BS

Drop in to this super-friendly shop, for a chat and a hot drink and discuss your next holiday adventure with Andy and Lisa.



Or call on **0800 970 8715**  
E: [WillowbrookCentre@NotJustTravel.com](mailto:WillowbrookCentre@NotJustTravel.com)  
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Nursery is such an important part of a child's well-being offering so many benefits, such as helping to build vital social skills, giving them a routine and coming in to see their friends and just have fun!

At Ambourne House we love getting the children in our care out and about whatever the weather (taking relevant precautions of course!). We have our own minibus to transport us to regular forest and beach sessions, and have also introduced inter-generational visits to local care homes, which has included participating in singing and dance sessions with the likes of Jo Jingles.

Seeing how children change in our beautiful outdoor settings is such a wonderful sight and a joy to be a part of. Running free in the open air, feeling the sand beneath their feet encourages their confidence to grow, not to mention their language development. These different environments not only offer the children an opportunity to explore, it gives us the practitioners another insight into their development.

To this end we are thrilled to say that through our fundraising efforts we have been able to purchase a yearly community entrance pass so that the staff and children at Ambourne House can enjoy lots of trips to the brilliant Wildplace, as well as some additional resources for our own garden.

There is certainly never a dull moment at our nursery! If you would like your child to join in the fun, we do have limited spaces available, so please call Lorraine or Roberta to book in a visit.

**We truly believe we provide children with the best start in life!**

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## New Pre-School Opening September 2023 As existing 'Outstanding' Childcare Facility is expanded

Play House has been offering after-school care and holiday care for children since 2005. Recognised by Ofsted as an Outstanding Provider and located next to St Michael's School in Stoke Gifford, Play House offers a safe and stimulating environment, focusing on a play-based approach to encourage children to explore, create and thrive. Situated in a dedicated one storey building Play House has a wonderful dedicated play-space inside and out with a secure, custom built, large private garden.

**Play House is very excited to announce that from September 2023 it will be expanding its fabulous, outstanding childcare provision to also offer a preschool!** Initially places will be offered to children aged three and four. Sessions will be term time only, Monday to Friday 9am to 12pm and 12.30pm to 3pm, or all day from 9am to 3pm, with a number of funded places available. Children are supported to explore and develop in a safe, secure and nurturing environment with a team of staff that place children and play at the centre of everything they do.

**Employment Opportunity:** Play House Preschool is now looking for exceptional Early Years practitioners at all levels to join its dedicated, enthusiastic and creative team.

Term time 8am to 4pm, flexible working and part time roles available, good hourly rate, free uniform and other benefits.

If you would like more information or to enrol your child from September get in touch with the lovely team at Play House on 01179 314 154, email [info@playhouse.ltd](mailto:info@playhouse.ltd) or complete the form on the website [www.playhouse.ltd](http://www.playhouse.ltd).

*"Experienced and well qualified leaders, have exceptional knowledge of the early years foundation stage requirements and are excellent role models to well motivated staff."*  
Ofsted 2019



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# Tockington Manor School and Nursery

for boys & girls aged 2 - 13



## Reception 2023 places still available

*Find out how we could be the perfect fit for your family with a private tour today.*

Set on 28 acres of countryside just a few miles from Bradley Stoke, we offer small friendly classes, a family approach to education and wrap-around care for busy parents. We're more than a school. We're a family.

Call 01454 613229 or email [asymonds@tockingtonmanorschool.com](mailto:asymonds@tockingtonmanorschool.com)  
[www.tockingtonmanorschool.com](http://www.tockingtonmanorschool.com)

## ISI Stamp of Approval for Tockington Manor School

Tockington Manor School has successfully met the standards required by the Independent Schools Inspectorate following its recent Regulatory Compliance Inspection. The ISI visited the independent co-educational day school in South Gloucestershire in January 2023.

*"I am incredibly proud of the excellent team effort which resulted in our school meeting every applicable standard required," said Headmaster Stephen Symonds (pictured last summer with pupils from Reception). "Tockington prides itself on its high standards and this is a testament to our hard work."*

The ISI Inspectors report on the school's compliance with the Independent School Standards Regulations and, in TMS's case, the Early Years Foundation Stage. All schools are required to meet the standards applicable to them. Its findings give Tockington Manor School and Nursery the stamp of approval on the quality of education provided, the health, safety and welfare of pupils, and the quality of leadership and management of the school, among other criteria. *"The teaching enables pupils to make good progress, encompasses effective behaviour management and is supported by suitable resources,"* it said.

The team of inspectors spent two days observing lessons, talking to pupils and examining their work. They also held discussions with staff and governors, observed extra-curricular activities in the school's 28-acre grounds and attended assemblies. Questionnaires completed by staff, parents and pupils from both the school and nursery were also taken into consideration.

This latest report builds on the positive outcomes of a more comprehensive inspection at the school and nursery in 2018. The ISI's Educational Quality Inspection Report found that Tockington Manor School produces pupils who *"demonstrate self-confidence and self-awareness of the highest quality"*. It also commended the school on the personal development of pupils, which it said was excellent.

The full report can be found at: [www.tockingtonmanorschool.com/isi-inspection](http://www.tockingtonmanorschool.com/isi-inspection)



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## Bradley Stoke Surgery Introduces New Access System – Klinik

Bradley Stoke Surgery has introduced a new patient enquiry system that aims to improve access. The surgery, which has 18,350 patients on its books, is planning to launch the new Klinik online consultation system on 28th March 2023.

Klinik is a highly sophisticated online tool using Artificial Intelligence (AI) and allows patients to contact the surgery quickly and easily. It is one of the leading online consultation tools in the UK, already being used by over 500 health care centres and helping over 2.4 million patients. Over 87% of patients surveyed by Klinik would rate their experience as 'excellent' or 'good' (March 2022).

Appointments and queries about medical issues or requests can be made online through the surgery's website by clicking on the Klinik 'banner', and then by completing and submitting an online form. For those patients without internet access, they can still telephone the surgery, where a Patient Co-ordinator will complete the Klinik online form with them and then submit it for action. The surgery will then contact the patient via email, text message or telephone with the outcome of your request or enquiry.

The Klinik system's software or AI can clinically prioritise work for clinicians to ensure a timely response to all medical issues or queries. The surgery hopes that this new Access system will help to eliminate any frustration with its current phone system.

Dr Siddiqui, a GP Partner at the surgery, said: "We hope that this new system will help improve access at a time when the NHS is under immense pressure. The software is really simple to use and helps focus care on those who need it first."

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## Cameron's Smile

The race against silent darkness.

*A ticking time bomb in the corner of a room, but yet the countdown is hidden from sight. Anxiously waiting for it to explode at any given time.*

*Will it be today or even tomorrow? I spend everyday holding my breath, wondering if we will ever see that bomb explode, leaving all of the broken pieces to fall around us - never being able to place them back together again, just like the pieces of my broken heart that throbs so desperately inside my aching chest.*

*But yet this time bomb isn't part of a fictional story. Its my son's progressive hearing loss, slowly tick, ticking away, leading us closer each day to the immense risk of him slipping into an unimaginable world of silent darkness - isolated from those around him.*

Cameron was born in December 2012 and it wasn't until he was 8 weeks old that parents Carla and Adam realised that something was different about their baby boy. He was diagnosed as blind at first and then about 3 months later he was officially diagnosed, through genetic testing, as having Norrie Disease. Norrie disease is a very rare genetic condition, that predominantly affects males, where newborns are born without sight. People with Norrie Disease later develop a secondary symptom of progressive hearing loss, with the risk of slipping into a world of silent darkness.

Cameron is a happy and bubbly 10-year old child who despite his challenges, smiles through it all. He is a thrill-seeker who loves to experience life through his other vital senses, so please help us to save one of them.

We are raising desperate funds for the Norrie Disease Foundation (NDF) who are leading the research into saving the progressive hearing loss for individuals with Norrie Disease.

The challenge, named 'The Race Against Silent Darkness', is to get Cameron to the top of Ben Nevis on May 27th 2023 (the highest mountain in the UK at 1344m) and



Image shows Mum sat with Cam on the floor, whilst he smiles, listening to her voice through his hearing aid.

*There is still time and there is still hope. We will take on this race together. And we will win.*

*We will win the race against silent darkness.*

*for him to stand on the trig point. This would effectively, in that moment, make him the highest person on land in the UK.*

Cam will be carried up by dad Adam and 100-Strong founder Matt, and back down the mountain. Once the team reach the bottom of the mountain, team 100-Strong will then cycle the nearly 500 miles home to Bristol over 3 days. With the challenge ending as soon as they get home on May 30th 2023.

All funds raised go directly to the charity and thereafter directly into the research needed. Time is against us to find the answers before Cameron himself slips into a world of silent darkness. Please help us by donating to our cause but if you are not in a position to help then don't worry, you can still help! Sharing the cause and spreading awareness is imperative and we love each and every person who can take a few moments to share news of our cause.

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/one-hundred-strong-official>





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SOVEREIGN 



## Be part of something bigger at Cleve Wood

Nestled on the leafy outskirts of sought-after Thornbury, Cleve Wood offers a collection of thoughtfully designed 2, 3, 4 and 5 bedroom homes.

Thornbury has a unique character: a mix of historical charm, bustling shops, independent eateries, an active arts scene, excellent schools and an inclusive community spirit. Whilst being surrounded by glorious countryside, Thornbury also provides excellent connectivity with Bristol to the south and Gloucester to the north, plus easy access to the M4 and M5.

Nature and wildlife are intrinsically linked with Cleve Wood. The development's design includes an area for allotments – not only for home-grown produce but also to increase biodiversity. Natural footpaths and electric charging points mean you make positive contributions to your environment, whether you're home or away. And careful consideration has been given to preserving natural habitats – with traditional bird boxes, sparrow terraces and bat boxes woven into the green landscape of this flourishing new neighbourhood.

In fact, we are proud to have created a community you can picture yourself enjoying both now and in the future; a carefully crafted neighbourhood with homes that reflect you.

Come and see for yourself! Our show home is open 7 days a week and our sales team will guide you through the journey of choosing the home that's right for you and your lifestyle.

We have 14 property styles on offer - choose from spacious five-bedroom family homes to three-bedroom town houses, two-bedroom bungalows and plenty of other options in between.

**Who are we?** Sovereign is a leading Housing Association with a commitment to create beautiful new places.

We are a homebuilder with a difference, putting customers at the heart of everything we do. With over 20 years' experience matching people with properties, we provide homes our customers love to live in!

As a not-for-profit organisation, we take pride in delivering affordable homes and using the profit we make to invest in community projects that really make a difference to the lives of others. It is our mission to not only build high-quality, sustainable homes, but also to drive social purpose by continually reinvesting into the communities that we create. Purchasing a Sovereign home means you are not only investing in quality, but you are also investing in your local community.

**Interested in being a part of something bigger?** Find your dream home at Cleve Wood. For more info check out our website:

[clevewood.co.uk/](http://clevewood.co.uk/)

SOVEREIGN 



## Activities and a Warm Welcome at Little Stoke Baptist Church



### Thursday Creative at Little Stoke Baptist Church

Would you like to learn a new skill and make new friends. Once a month come and try a new creative activity; papercraft, silk painting, stained glass art, mosaics and more.

13th April, 11th May and 1st June.

The weeks that fall in school holidays will also include activities for the children booking is essential in school holidays check facebook and website for details.

This is part of our regular Thursday warm space event

which is held weekly 10am-2pm on a Thursday offering free drinks and a simple warm lunch among friendly people.



### Easter Holiday Activities

On Thursdays 6th and 13th April our doors will be flung wide to welcome adults and children space to stay, play, chat and eat.

There will be activities for adults and children, the garden will be open (weather permitting), there will be stalls offering second-hand toys, clothes and household items.

Free refreshments and lunch but booking is essential via our eventbrite page check Facebook or website [littlestokebaptist.org](http://littlestokebaptist.org) for details.

### Warm Space

Our regular warm spaces continue on Wednesday 2-4pm with free refreshments and space to relax and chat with friends, bring your hobby or play a game.

Thursday is our combined coffee morning and warm space 10am-2pm which also includes a free warm lunch. No need to book, just turn up.



## Spring at Winterbourne Medieval Barn

**The Barn is really springing into life, with something for everyone!**

Winterbourne Medieval Barn was built in 1342 for Thomas de Bradeston, and this nationally important raised-cruck structure survives as a magnificent example of the medieval builders' craft. **Take a Tour of the Barn and St Michael's Church** on the first Thursday afternoon of April or May, and find out how the Barn was built and why it is so important. See the superb medieval roof timbers and discover more about Thomas de Bradeston, an important local medieval figure. The Tour is followed by tea, coffee and biscuits in the Medieval Barn, with plenty of time to talk further and ask questions.

**Monday 3rd April – Easter Family Crafts** – We celebrate Easter with our youngest Barn visitors with an Easter Family Craft session and Egg hunt. Make bunny baskets, Easter party hats, fluffy lamb puppets and garden wind spinners. Then take part in an egg hunt around the Barn. Activities are aimed at families with children aged 6–11 but all ages are welcome. Book online.

**Sunday 23rd April – Early Birdsong Walk & Breakfast, 8am** – Later in the month we have a hands-on activity for adults and older children with an Early Birdsong Walk. Ed Drewitt guides a walk of approx 1.5 hours around the lanes and nature reserve, hoping to hear birds such as – Blackcap, Robin, Blackbird, Thrush and Chiffchaff, and learn their songs. The walk is followed by breakfast together back at the Barn with a chance to chat and ask questions.

**The Barn offers Monthly Talks** on a wide variety of topics. Talks start at 7pm and all tickets are £7.50. Talks are also live-streamed on Zoom. Coming up this spring we have:

**Thursday 27th April – Curious Follies of Bristol & South Glos** – Author and folly enthusiast, Jonathan Holt takes us on a local tour revealing the stories behind our region's many curious follies.

### Thursday 25th May – The Story of the Modern Matthew

The Matthew is now one of the most iconic symbols of Bristol's age of discovery, and of its trading and seafaring heritage. She is a faithful representation of the ship used by John Cabot when he discovered Newfoundland in 1497. What was it like to cross the North Atlantic in a tiny wooden ship? How was she designed and built? Clive Burlton tells her story and shows archive film footage.

### Workshop events at The Barn this spring

**Fused Glass Workshops, Friday 12th May** – make a decorative glass hanging or, a decorated summer lantern.

**Ian Redfearn is back with a Wine Tasting on Saturday 20th May** – sample a range of summery wines from South Africa. Over 18s only.

**The Pottery Shed opens on Saturday 17th June** – enjoy a Pottery Taster Session in aid of the Barn Trust. Book for a hand-build or wheel session.

**The Medieval Fayre is back on Sunday 11 June** – The living history group, The Company of Chivalry will re-enact daily life at the time the Barn was built in the 14th century. You can wander around the medieval encampment with authentic tents and fire pit, and watch a variety of different demonstrations and talks throughout the day. There will also be craft stalls, activities for children, and plenty of high quality food and drink available.

All events can be booked online on the Barn website or Ticketsource. There is a Box Office open at the Barn once a month on the first Thursday from 1.30 – 2.30pm. All events are run to raise money for the Trust, which is run entirely by volunteers. If you would like to join the team please make contact via the website or ring 0117 403 1536.

[www.winterbournebarn.org.uk](http://www.winterbournebarn.org.uk)

**Facebook @winterbournemedievalbarn**  
**Winterbourne Medieval Barn**  
**Church Lane, Winterbourne, BS36 1SE**





### Foodies Festival Bristol is coming to Little Stoke Park - 12th, 13th, 14th May 2023

The UK's most popular food and drink festival is coming to Little Stoke Park, Bristol! Expect a huge celebration of food, drink and live music! Get top tips from top chefs, find your new fave tippie in the drinks tastings and enjoy lots of family friendly attractions including fair rides and inflatables.

Visit the Foodies Festival website [foodiesfestival.com](http://foodiesfestival.com) for further details and to buy tickets.

### SKA Party Night Sat 13th May

The Navarones have appeared at Castell Roc - Chepstows Friendly Festival as a support band to both The Dualers and Si Cranstoun, and they always go down a storm!

They will not be playing Castell Roc - Chepstows Friendly Festival 2023, much to the disappointment of many, so we thought, for one night only we would bring a little bit of 'Castell Roc magic' to the Drill Hall, just a stones throw away from Chepstow Castle!

So grab your tickets while you can guys for the one and only .....

**'THE NAVARONES' !!!!!!!**

Tickets are limited to 200 in this little, unique and intimate gem of a venue, so grab yours while you can!

[www.castellroc.co.uk](http://www.castellroc.co.uk)



10th To be confirmed

11th **WELSH LEGENDS** (STEREOSONICS, BENIDORM TOM (JONES) + MORE)

12th **MASSIVE WAGONS + GUN + SCARLET REBELS + ATACK**

13th **ABSOLUTE BOWIE + BOOTLEG BLONDIE** (2 shows for one)

17th **BACK INTO HELL** tribute to Meat Loaf & Jim Steinman (plus Believe—Cher)

18th **MIDGE URE** performing a very special one off show 'under the stars'

19th **JASON DONOVAN** performing his biggest hits live!

20th **THE BARRICADE BOYS** direct from Londons West End & Broadway

24th **CARDINAL BLACK + Kira Mac + Warner E Hodges + The Philo Beddoe Band**

25th **MONSTERS OF ROC** (Hells Bells, Dizzy Lizzy & Dressed to Kill's tribute to Kiss)

26th **EMILIO SANTORO AS ELVIS with the Graceland Band** (Euro & World Champ)

27th Welsh Tiktok sensation **BRONWEN LEWIS** including The Valley Rock Voices

28th **HAWKWIND plus Phil Campbell And The Bastard Sons**

*"Take one absolutely stunning Welsh Castle. Add a big stage, a great sound system and quality theatre lighting to the Arena. Squeeze in a superb bar selling local ales, ciders, quality wines and spirits. Mix in locally sourced food outlets. Finally sprinkle with an array of amazing stars of the stage. "hey presto", you have a taste of the fabulous, family friendly festival **CASTELL ROC**"*

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## Meet your PCC – Mark Shelford

*Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC),  
Mark Shelford was elected as Conservative PCC in 2021.*



Last month, the National Police Chief's Council and the College of Policing published their 'Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)' report. I very much welcome this first national assessment of the policing response to VAWG, particularly as the key area of focus is the national VAWG framework in responding robustly to allegations of police-perpetrated abuse, sexism, and misogyny within policing services.

As PCC, I want to make it clear that misogyny is unacceptable in any sphere, especially within policing. When public confidence in the police is low, Avon and Somerset Police must continue to demonstrate that misconduct will not be tolerated. This national report is important in ensuring transparency and accountability in police performance in tackling VAWG.

Chief Constable Sarah Crew and I agree that officers and staff who think misogyny, sexism and misconduct are acceptable, and ultimately, betray the force's values, will be dealt with swiftly and dynamically.

I will continue to seek assurances from the Chief Constable regarding what is being done to prevent and tackle any misconduct within the force and, where it's found, ensure officers and staff are held accountable.

In our most recent Performance and Accountability Board (PAB), the Chief Constable discussed the importance of increasing the number of women within policing to help restore women's confidence and be part of this much-needed cultural shift.

I want to thank Chief Constable Sarah Crew and Acting Chief Officer for People and Organisational Development, Louise Hutchison, for joining me for my PAB. I hope those who watched the session found the Chief Constable's answers helpful and might even consider joining the police service to help make a difference.

If you missed this month's meeting, you can now watch it back via the link on the Avon and

Somerset PCC's Facebook page (@AandSPCC) or on our website. The next PAB will take place on 12 April at 4pm and be streamed live on our Facebook page.

Moving on, I know that dog theft is a wide concern for the people of Avon and Somerset. To mark National Dog Theft Awareness Day, my team and I spoke to Avon and Somerset Police's Animal Welfare Legislation Officer PC Natalie Cosgrove.

She told us that the force recorded 16 cases of dog theft in 2021 and only five in 2022. While a reduction and, I'm sure reassuring to many, that is still five cases too many. If you are a dog owner, there are specific security precautions you can take to make dog theft harder, including camera doorbells, keeping doors locked and sensor lighting outside your house.

I would also like to remind those who have a dog to not leave it unattended in your car, in your garden, or tied up outside of shops. Remember, microchipping is not only a legal requirement; it means your dog will be much easier to track down if it is stolen. I also urge dog owners to consider DNA tracking to help identify their dog if it is stolen and then recovered by the police.

More information on DNA tracking can be found on the 'DNA Protected' website. If your dog has been stolen, you should immediately contact the police and report the crime as theft. This way, we can ensure preventative work is carried out to keep our pets safe.

**If you would be interested in meeting me when I am in your local area, please do get in contact via my website below.**

**www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk**

**T: 01278 646188**

**Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, A&S Police HQ, Bristol BS20 8JJ**



Please let people know you saw them in Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters!





## View from St Mary's -

### Senior Men's and Women's Teams Enjoy Success

Both our Senior Men's and Senior Women's team have been on winning runs – given both were promoted last season this is no mean feat. The Men's team have had a good first season in Gloucestershire Counties 2 South, finishing 5th and enjoying great wins including turning over local rivals Frampton Cotterell, leading teams from the Forest of Dean Bream, Berry Hill and Lydney as well as Bristol Combination clubs including Whitehall and Bristol Saracens. They now are looking at the Combination Vase where they are in a pool with St Bernadette's, Ashley Down OB and Whitehall, after winning the Combination Bowl last season.

On April the 22nd we are celebrating the 20th Anniversary of our 1st XV appearance in the Final of the Powergen Cup at Twickenham with a lunch for the team and supporters. The team was then coached by former Bristol players Pete Polledri, Dave Pike and Dave Palmer. We have tracked down all the former players and some are coming from as far afield as New Zealand and Finland for the occasion. It promises to be a great reunion.



**Spencer Barrowman on the charge supported by Tom Moore v Bream (49-29 Win)**

Our ladies team have registered two significant victories after a tough start to their season. They now play in Championship 2 South West which is Level 3 in the women's game – only 2 off the Premiership that Bristol Bears play in – and of course we are a pathway club for the Bears. Given that, we are still very much looking to grow and develop our squad for next season

and new players are very welcome to come and join us training on a Tuesday evening now, before the current season ends, at Trench Lane 7-8:30pm.

In particular any girls who have been playing U18 rugby looking to progress to senior rugby – we are coached by Ru Deane who is a fantastic Level 3 coach and we will be fully committed to developing your technical, mental and playing skills. Come Join Us – you can see from the team photo we have loads of fun!



**SMOB Ladies after their National Champ 2 31-22 win over Swindon Supermarine**

### St Mary's Mourn Mike Purnell

Mike has been a member of SMOB since his son Jacob joined the minis at the age of 4. Mike could be heard for miles and when not on the pitch often found behind the bar helping out pulling pints.

Unfortunately, Mike lost his battle to bowel cancer in January this year. Mike has left a massive hole in the lives of many people, especially his wife Marie and 3 boys Martin, Joshua and Jacob. Mike could be heard before he was seen, either of the football pitches of Stoke Lane or Almondsbury watching Joshua play football or at St Mary's rugby club watching Jacob. Jacob continues to play for our U14s, alongside his cousin Paisley Clark. Mike also has a connection with Clevedon Rugby where he played his own rugby and where his other nephew Mason Purnell now plays.

We have organised a special match to be played for the Mike Purnell Cup between Clevedon and St Mary's U14s on Sunday 26th March

## Your Local Community Rugby Club

at Trench Lane in Mike's honour. The match and associated raffle will be a fundraiser for St Peters Hospice who supported Mike and his family through their very difficult time.

### Minis and Juniors Recruiting

We still have space in our Minis and Junior squads for new players. We can guarantee you game time – our commitment is all players will get at least a half of playing time and free hotdogs – so if you are fed up standing on the touchline or even not playing as many games as you would like – talk to us about joining our team.



**St Mary's U14s with their Head Coach and 1st XV Player Callum Beresford**

### The Touch Union at St Mary's



On Monday nights we run our hugely popular Touch Union sessions which are Fast. Fun. Any Age. Any Skill Level. Any Gender. Come along at 7pm Monday's and you will find a welcoming and inclusive community that plays non-contact rugby. Join us and try something new.

### GAA at St Mary's



We welcome the return of GAA Sports to Trench Lane with the start of the Gaelic Football Season. The two Bristol GAA Clubs, Western Gaels and St

**Minis having fun with their Coach ahead of the game**



Nicks GAA have merged during the close season and created Bristol Harps GAA. Both Clubs have enjoyed success in the GAA League and Cup competitions whilst playing at St Mary's and we are delighted to welcome the newly formed Harps to Trench Lane. To remember the proud history of both clubs, the Harps crest incorporates the main features of the former clubs. The Gaels suspension bridge motif and St Nicholas the spire of St Nicholas's church. GAA will be running throughout the summer at St Mary's.

## NEW HOLIDAY CLUB!!

RUNNING AT ST MARY'S OLD BOYS RFC

Providing your children with fun, exercise, art sessions and more; every child is catered for and their individual interests nurtured. Say goodbye to glorified babysitting; hello to quality holiday activities!

For more info & to book, visit: [www.squirrelsbootcamp.co.uk](http://www.squirrelsbootcamp.co.uk)



## Bradley Stoke Town Football Club - End of Season Update

The Bradley Stoke Town football teams are now just a few matches away from the end of the 22-23 season, finishing with mixed fortunes. With 5 Saturday adult teams, a Sunday team, and a Vets team the growth of the club is significant.

On the field, 1st Manager Jon Welsh and his assistant Steve Kerton have been pleased with the team's first season in the Bristol Combination Premier Division. In all games they have been competitive, and a mid-table finish is a good foundation to build on for next season.

**Bradley Stoke Matters** is proud to continue to sponsor the first team's playing kit and has been a sponsor of the Club for many years.

George Haskins has stepped down managing the reserves, with Chris Evans moving up from the A Team as manager. George is now overseeing the coaching of the 1st and reserve teams and runs the new Sunday league team. The reserves will probably need a couple more wins to pull away from the relegation zone in the Bristol & District Senior Division and Chris and his team are confident this can be achieved in the remaining matches.

Andy Turner's A team have a good chance of achieving promotion from Division 2 of the Bristol & District league and a busy end to the season will hopefully see them achieve this goal.

Keiron Jone's B team sit bottom of Division 3 of the Bristol & District. With some positive results in their remaining games, they have a good chance of escaping the drop.

The C team has seen Liam Vincent and Joe Thwaites step up into managerial roles and although bottom of Bristol & Suburban Division 4 they have developed a good team spirit and the team is beginning to evolve.

The new Sunday league side under the stewardship of George Haskins have had a fair start to the season in Division 1 of the Bristol Premier Sunday League. A mid table finish is probably a realistic expectation for this new side which play on the 3G at Winterbourne School.

The Vets team is currently bottom of the Gloucester FA Veterans League South and with



only a few games remaining a strong finish will hopefully be something they can build on next season.

**Many thanks to all the local companies that support all the teams it really gives opportunities for adults to participate in sport in the town.**

On Saturdays the teams play at the Jubilee Centre or Patchway School and 3G. If you are interested in playing for any of the teams then please contact the club via the website or via social media. The club runs a bar after games at the Jubilee Centre and all support is welcome. Likewise, if you are interested in sponsoring any of the teams then please contact Tom Mason via the club's website.

<http://www.bstfc.co.uk>

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## Bradley Stoke Bowls Club

If you are thinking of opening up your life with a safe, open-air activity among friends, then Green Bowling could be the answer!

Bradley Stoke Bowls Club will be resuming play in April and welcomes new members. All you need is yourself and a pair of flat shoes. The Club will provide gear to give you a taster session under friendly guidance.

**No harm in coming along and giving it a go!**

Bowling is great fun with your choice of how much time you spend. The Club plays on afternoons and early evening, but members may opt for morning "roll-ups:" with friends.

You may settle for relaxing happy games or aspire to intensely competitive League contests.

We can be contacted by email [bsbc.infoyou@gmail.com](mailto:bsbc.infoyou@gmail.com) or visit [www.bradleystokebowls.com](http://www.bradleystokebowls.com)



*Picture shows a lovely original watercolour painting by long standing member Arthur Allan*

## Eastersaurus!

Fun dino themed crafts!  
**Bradley Stoke Library**

**Tuesday 11th April**  
**10:30 - 11:30am or 14:30-15:30**  
**Age 4 - 11 years**

Ask at the library to book or email:  
[bradleystoke.library@southglos.gov.uk](mailto:bradleystoke.library@southglos.gov.uk)

*For those who can't make it we have free craft bags to pick-up and take home during our opening hours in the first week of the school holidays – be quick or they may all go!*



## Local Schools

### PRIMARY SCHOOLS

**Baileys Court Primary School**, Breaches Gate BStoke, 01454 838320

**Bradley Stoke Community School Primary Phase**, Fiddlers Wood Lane BStoke BS32 9BS 01454 868840

**Bowland Green Primary School**, Ellicks Close BStoke, 01454 866766, [bowlandgreen.org.uk](http://bowlandgreen.org.uk)

**Holy Family R.C. Primary School**, Amberley Road Patchway, 01454 866786

**Holy Trinity Primary School**, Broad Croft BStoke, 01454 866735, [www.holytrinitypri.com](http://www.holytrinitypri.com)

**Little Stoke Primary School**, Little Stoke, 01454 866522, <http://www.littlestokeps.co.uk>

**Meadowbrook Primary School**, Three Brooks Lane BStoke BS32 8TA, 01454 868630, [meadowbrookprimary.co.uk](http://meadowbrookprimary.co.uk)

**Stoke Lodge Primary School**, School Close, Bourton Avenue, Stoke Lodge, Patchway BS34 6DW 01454 866772

**St Chad's Patchway C of E Primary School**, Cranham Drive, Stoke Lodge, Patchway 01454 866523

**St. Mary's R.C. Primary School**, Webbs Wood Lane BStoke, 01454 866390,

**St Michael's Primary School**, Ratcliffe Drive, Stoke Gifford 01454 866781. [www.stmichaelsg.co.uk](http://www.stmichaelsg.co.uk)

**Wheatfield Primary School**, Wheatfield Drive BStoke, 01454 868610

### SECONDARY SCHOOLS

**Abbeywood Community School**, New Road Stoke Gifford BS34 8QT, 0117 307 5660, [abbeywoodschool.com](http://abbeywoodschool.com)

**Bradley Stoke Community School**, Fiddlers Wood Lane Bradley Stoke BS32 9BS, 01454 868840, [bradleystokecs.org.uk](http://bradleystokecs.org.uk)

**Patchway Community College**, Hempton Lane Almondsbury BS32 4AJ, 01454 862020, [patchwaycc.com](http://patchwaycc.com)



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

### BABY AND TODDLER GROUPS

**Beehive Baby and Toddler Group**, The Old School Rooms, Stoke Gifford. Thursdays 10-11.30, term time only. Church office 0117 9692486.

**Busy Bees Toddler Group** Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church Tuesdays from 10 till 11.30 during school term time phone 0117 931 4716

**First Steps Toddler Group** - Christ the King Church, Bradley Stoke Thursdays 10.00 am-11.30 am term times. Phone 0117 9312304

**Trinity Tots** - Mondays 9:30 - 11:30 during term time. Contact Holy Trinity Church Office on 01454 620975

### LOCAL CLUBS AND ORGANISATIONS

**1st Bradley Stoke Scouts** - Beavers, Cubs, Scouts and our marching band meet at Brook Way Activity Centre and Whetfield Primary School. Please have a look on our website for further information for both young people and adult volunteers at [www.bradley-stoke-scouts.org.uk/join](http://www.bradley-stoke-scouts.org.uk/join)

**1st Little Stoke Scouts** - 1st Little Stoke Scout Group, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. To enquire about your child joining or to volunteer call Tony Edmonds (Group Scout Leader) 07957880503, or email [tonyedmonds108@yahoo.com](mailto:tonyedmonds108@yahoo.com)

**Arts Appreciation Group** - Join us on third Thursday of month at Bradley Stoke Community School, 7 for 7.30pm, for illustrated talks on all aspects of the Arts. More details from Sally - 01454 774401

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

**Bradley Stoke Lions** meet every 2nd Monday in the Willowbrook Centre, 1st floor conference room at 7.30 pm Ailsa Young, 07737 106836 [ambyoung29@yahoo.com](mailto:ambyoung29@yahoo.com)

**Bradley Stoke Radio** - The Activity Centre Brook Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 9DS, 01454 616055 [bradleystokeradio.org.uk](http://bradleystokeradio.org.uk)

**Bradley Stoke Rotary Club** Meets on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of the month at the Doubletree Hilton hotel in Bradley Stoke. Contact Secretary Karen on 07540 458119

**Bradley Stoke Sew and So's** - New members welcome! Patchwork and Quilting Group, 3rd Monday in the month 1.30-3.30pm at the Jubilee Centre, [bradleystokesewandsos.weebly.com](http://bradleystokesewandsos.weebly.com)

**Gifford Ensemble** - A small and friendly group looking to grow to a full orchestra. We rehearse Sunday evenings from 7.15 to 8.45pm at The Trust Hall, Stoke Gifford during Term Time. We are particularly looking for string players at grade 6 or above standard. For more information find us on our Facebook page: Gifford Ensemble or e-mail [secretary@giffordensemble.uk](mailto:secretary@giffordensemble.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

**Girl Guides, Brownies & Rainbows** - [admingirlguidingbsg.org.uk](http://admingirlguidingbsg.org.uk), [girlguidingbsg.org.uk](http://girlguidingbsg.org.uk)

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

**Knit, Stitch & Natter** Bradley Stoke Library Thursdays 10am, bring your own project, just turn up and join our friendly group. Adults only.

**Little Stoke Ladies Club** - meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7.30pm at Little Stoke Baptist Church, Kingsway. T: Julie 0117 931 5007

**Sevenside Ramblers** - 'Friday Ambles' start in the Aldi car park on alternate Fridays at 10am. Weekend & evening walks -start in the Aztec West blue zone car park. Check site for details.[www.sevenside-ramblers.org.uk](http://www.sevenside-ramblers.org.uk)

**Silverwinds Flute Choir** - meet once a month on a Thursday evening 19:00 - 21:00 at Christ the King Church. For more details please visit [www.silverwindsflutechoir.co.uk](http://www.silverwindsflutechoir.co.uk) or email [silverwinds@michellekrawiec.co.uk](mailto:silverwinds@michellekrawiec.co.uk).

**Stoke Gifford Community Choir** We are a friendly mixed choir singing a wide range of music. No auditions. You do not need to know how to read music. We rehearse at Stoke Gifford Retirement Village Hall, BS16 1YG, on Tuesdays, 7.00-8.30 pm. For further details, email [natasheya.archer@extracare.org.uk](mailto:natasheya.archer@extracare.org.uk).

**Stoke Gifford Royal British Legion** Looking for members and volunteers. We meet 3rd Mon of each month 7:30pm Little Stoke Park Hall. Contact Ray: [sgbinfo@gmail.com](mailto:sgbinfo@gmail.com) See us on Facebook . or <http://www.britishlegion.org>

**U3A - Bristol U3A** - For retired or semi-retired. Meet new friends and enjoy an amazing range of interests and activities. See us at <https://www.u3asites.org.uk/bristol/welcome> . Our "Stokes" Social Group welcomes new members. Email Andy: [andyclarke2@pm.me](mailto:andyclarke2@pm.me)

**Willowbrook Townswomen's Guild** - Jubilee Centre – 7:30 – 9:30pm the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Call Jannice on 01454 615040 or email Ros - [rosalindg@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:rosalindg@tiscali.co.uk)

**Winterbourne Wind Band** - Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm at Greenfield Centre, Park Avenue, Winterbourne BS36 1NJ. Brass, woodwind, percussion, bass players wanted. Loan Instruments available. Contact Dan 01172 395210.

**Women's Institute (WI)** - Bradley Stoke: Jubilee Centre 2nd Wednesday of the month at 2pm contact Janet 07845 744351.

**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 BS34 8PF contact Sue Grimsted 07887 373924

**Young At Heart Club** meets at the Christ the King Church, Bradley Stoke every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month from 2pm - 4pm. Set up 20 years ago and aimed at people over the age of 50 who would like to make new friends, enjoy games, speakers, outings.

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 your details have changed, please let us know at [community@mattersmagazines.co.uk](mailto:community@mattersmagazines.co.uk) and we will update it for you!

### SPORTS CLUBS

**Almondsbury and Bradley Stoke Tennis Club** - Opportunities for all levels, inc pay and play lessons for all on Saturday mornings, no booking needed. [almondsburytennis.org.uk](http://almondsburytennis.org.uk)

**Aretians Rugby Club for Cubs, Juniors and Seniors** Station Road, Little Stoke [www.aretiansrfc.co.uk](http://www.aretiansrfc.co.uk)

**Black and Blues Netball** - Non-League Social Netball Wednesdays 7.30-9pm BSCS, contact: [blackandblues\\_netball@outlook.com](mailto:blackandblues_netball@outlook.com).

**Bradley Stoke Bowls Club** - Baileys Court Activity Centre [www.bradleystokebowls.com](http://www.bradleystokebowls.com).

**Bradley Stoke Cricket Club** - throughout the cricket season, we run 6 adult teams and five youth teams. All contacts are on our website at [bradleystokecc.play-cricket.com](http://bradleystokecc.play-cricket.com)

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

**Bradley Stoke Junior Netball Club** - Meet at the Jubilee Centre every Wednesday U12's - 5.15pm - 6.15pm - U14 & U16's - 5.45pm -7.15pm [bsncjuniors@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bsncjuniors@yahoo.co.uk) <http://bradleystokenetballjuniors.org.uk/>

**Bradley Stoke Judo** - Various days and times, Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre, [www.bradleystokejudoclub.com](http://www.bradleystokejudoclub.com)

**Bradley Stoke Town Football Club** - FA Charter Standard Community Club, Adult training, Tuesdays at Patchway Sports Centre. For more info visit [www.bstfc.co.uk](http://www.bstfc.co.uk) or contact [bstfc2005@gmail.com](mailto:bstfc2005@gmail.com)

**Bradley Stoke United Football Club** - Football from U7's to U16's see website [bsufc.co.uk](http://bsufc.co.uk)

**Bradley Stoke Youth FC (BSYFC)** – FA Charter Standard Community Club, U7s to U18s, disability football, mentoring, in-school coaching and football festival. Visit web site [www.bsyfc.co.uk](http://www.bsyfc.co.uk) or contact [mlee1@btpenworld.com](mailto:mlee1@btpenworld.com)

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

**Bristol Extreme Allstar Cheerleaders** - Wednesdays 7-9pm Little Stoke Primary School, [bristolxtreme@gmail.com](mailto:bristolxtreme@gmail.com)

**North Bristol Rugby Club**, Rugby teams from 4+ [www.pitchero.com/clubs/northbristoljuniorsrfc/](http://www.pitchero.com/clubs/northbristoljuniorsrfc/) .

**North Bristol Running Group** friendly group, 3 evenings per week, Tues, Weds, Thurs, in the Bradley Stoke area. Tuesday evening is aimed at Beginners whilst all levels are welcome on any of the evenings. Alan 0789 0182387. Find us on FB.

**North Bristol Triathlon Club**: Swim, Bike and Run sessions throughout the week around North Bristol/South Gloucestershire. Suitable for all levels. Find us on Facebook or email [membership@northbristoltri.co.uk](mailto:membership@northbristoltri.co.uk).

**Sole Sisters** - ladies only running group, meets Monday evenings in various locations Bradley Stoke & North Bristol, [www.solesistersrc.co.uk](http://www.solesistersrc.co.uk)

**South Glos Hockey Club** Trains Tuesday evenings at Bradley Stoke Community School 8pm-9.30pm with league games played on Saturdays and mixed on Sundays. <http://www.sghc.org.uk>, **Facebook** - **South Gloucestershire Hockey Club**

**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](http://www.stokescyclingclub.org.uk) [stokescyclingclub@googlemail.com](mailto:stokescyclingclub@googlemail.com)

**Stoke Gifford Cricket Club** – All ages and abilities welcome at a real community club. Contact Mark Stephens on 07816 962503.

**Stoke Gifford Short Mat Bowls Club** - Monday, Tuesday and Friday afternoons. For more information please contact 0117 330 5487.

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

**Stoke Lane Athletic Football Club** -- FA Charter Standard Community Club, u6 to u16 ; U18 Colts and two senior men's teams; FA accredited coaches; contact via [www.stokelane.co.uk](http://www.stokelane.co.uk) or email Club Sect 'steve' [pspayne@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:pspayne@blueyonder.co.uk) or Club Mobile 07972 039413

### CHURCHES / COFFEE MORNINGS

**Amberley Road Baptist / Cafe Church**, Patchway, 01454 610808

**Bradley Stoke Evangelical Church** Baileys Court Road 0117 9314716 [www.bsec.org.uk](http://www.bsec.org.uk)

**Christ the King Church** Mautraviers Close, Bradley Stoke 0117 931 2304. Coffee mornings with bacon butties Fridays at 9-11am. [www.ctkchurch.org.uk](http://www.ctkchurch.org.uk)

**City Church** Bradley Stoke Community School, 0117 924 3322 [www.citychurch/visit/bradley-stoke-site](http://www.citychurch/visit/bradley-stoke-site)

**Edge Church International**. 1160 Park Avenue, Aztec West Business Park, BS32 4TL. Tel 01454 837990. [www.edgechurch.co.uk](http://www.edgechurch.co.uk)

**Holy Family Catholic Church** Southsea Road, Patchway 0117 9081247 [www.holyfamilyrcchurchpatchway.co.uk](http://www.holyfamilyrcchurchpatchway.co.uk)

**Holy Trinity Church** Broadcroft, Bradley Stoke 01454 620975 [www.htcbradleystoke.co.uk](http://www.htcbradleystoke.co.uk)

**Little Stoke Baptist Church**, Kingsway, 0117 969 6060. Coffee & Cakes Thursday mornings 9am-noon. All Welcome.

**St.Michaels Church**, The Green, Stoke Gifford 0117 9692486 [welcome@stmichaelsbristol.org](http://welcome@stmichaelsbristol.org). Coffee shop open Mon to Fri 10am until 4pm.

**Stoke Gifford Baptist Church** 1, Rock Lane, 01454 610808

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HOTEL & SPA

# motown Disco Night

Friday 19th May 7.15pm - 12.00pm

An evening of fantastic Motown nostalgia!

Includes a drink on arrival and a delicious two course dinner.  
(Tea and coffee will be charged separately)

**£42 per person**

To book or for more information contact the Events Team  
on 01454 201090 or email [events@aztechotelbristol.co.uk](mailto:events@aztechotelbristol.co.uk)

**Aztec Hotel & Spa**

Aztec West, Almondsbury, Bristol BS32 4TS  
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