# Bradley Stoke Matters

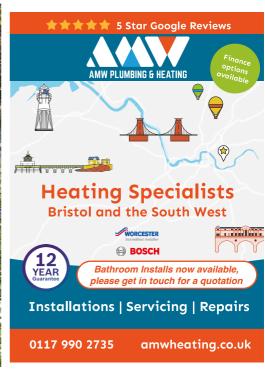
April/May 2025

Telephone

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Celebrating 20 Years in the Community 2005 - 2025









#### Dear Readers....

Doesn't a bit of sunshine and spring colour make all of the difference? As I write this I am enjoying the sunshine and daffodils out of my window and looking forward to the beautiful bluebells making a reappearance in our local woodlands this month.

In this edition we bring you news from Bradley Stoke Green Gym who have been working hard again in the Reserve for us all to enjoy. We also have feedback from the Community Orchard Planting that took place earlier this year and news from the Frome Valley Growing Project. Winterbourne Medieval Barn has a whole host of activities planned, including Easter arts and crafts for the family. Bradley Stoke library has free activities to help keep little-ones occupied. St Michael's Church, Stoke Gifford has shared their Easter services with us. We also have news from local schools, dates of local theatrical productions, party events and evening entertainment (including a Country & Western night) at our local hotels.

Bradley Stoke Festival is 7th and 8th June and the Sole Sisters are ready to accept your entry into the popular 10K race again this year.

Bradley Stoke Town Council will be lighting the Beacon in the Jubilee field at 9.30pm on 8th May to celebrate the 80th anniversary of VE Day, residents are welcome to attend.

\*\*READER COMPETITION\*\* Good Times Live has several shows taking place at the Ridings in Chipping Sodbury in May (see page 15 for full listing). We have a pair of tickets to a show of your choice to give away – simply answer – Which artist appearing at the Good Times Live initially found fame in a popular soap in the 1990s?

Email answers to **community@mattersmagazines.co.uk by 30th April**, winners drawn first week in May. Good luck!

If you are a business looking to promote your services across the local area, do get in touch and we will be happy to help. When you make contact with our advertisers, please do mention seeing them in the magazine, thank you. Enjoy the Read!

Deadline for the next edition is 9th May 2025.

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#### **Bradley Stoke Matters**

Celebrating 20 Years in the Community 2005 - 2025

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Matters Magazines Ltd, 130 Aztec West,
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Co Regn No: 8490434

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#### **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

#### **Bradley Stoke Town Council**



Council Office, The Jubilee Centre, Savages Wood Road Bradley Stoke, South Glos BS32 8HL www.bradleystoke.gov.uk

Held at the JUBILEE CENTRE Savages Wood Road, Bradley Stoke, BS32 8HL

Wednesday 7th May 2025, 7.00pm

#### **AGENDA**

- To appoint the Chair of the Town Meeting
- Apologies for absence
- To confirm the Minutes of the previous Town Meeting held on 1st May 2024
- To receive the Reports of the following Committees:

- 4.1 Council
- 4.2 Finance
- Leisure, Youth & Amenities
- Planning & Environment
- 4.5 Staffing
- To deal with questions from Local Government Electors of the Town





For further information, visit: www.bradleystoke.gov.uk/events/festival Or call Bradley Stoke Town Council 01454 205020













#### **Bradley Stoke Green Gym - Wassailing and other things**

Update from Sara Messenger, Green Gym Project leader



It seems ages ago that we and several unsuspecting members of the public went wassailing which has the purpose, if you're not familiar with this old English tradition, of waking the cider apple trees and scaring away evil spirits to ensure a good harvest of fruit in autumn. We just use it as an

excuse to have some fun, drink Kevin's best cider and to eat our body weight in baked apples!

We hope everyone had fun including young James who at the last minute stepped in as King, to Laura who gave us £10 for our tea fund and to all of the Green Gym members who came and helped out.

Three of us attended an apple grafting workshop put on by Tim of Orchard Revival. As part of the naming licence for our own apples, Bowsland Blush & Green Jim, we are required to propagate these trees. This is done by grafting, as growing from seed never produces exactly the same variety. We also managed to share our trees with others on the course and buy an additional 15 root stock, so we should have another 20+ this year and the same next year if they all take. It's not as easy to do as it looks on the TV and I did manage to badly slice one of my fingers, which was awkward as the lady behind told me she faints at the sight of blood. However, I managed to casually hide from her my dripping finger now wrapped in a very crimson tissue while continuing to chat to her about making apple pies!

The reserve is getting a bit of a tidy up, we helped BART (Bristol & Avon Rivers Trust) put some more 'berms' in Patchway Brook, these help

slow the water and hopefully catch silt before it reaches the lake, looking at the sorry state of the lake at the moment we can but hope it works.

As several trees had already been cut down to make the berms, we took the opportunity to remove a few more and huge swaths of bramble between the Tank Bridge off Ellicks Close and the wooden bridge off Ormonds Close. Not only does it look so much better, but it allows light onto the water which encourages plants to grow in the brook, which we hope will in turn encourage water voles to return to the reserve.



We've continued the water vole habitat improvement along other parts of Patchway Brook. Stoke Brook is too deep and too fast for 'Ratty' as despite their name they are rather poor swimmers. You can see near the lake several more trees have gone (apart from one trunk with ivy and an old rooks nest) and closer to the orchard again bramble and trees have been cleared. Grass seed we collected last autumn was sown and we have here created a rather splendid looking dead hedge, not only does it define the borders but it creates a more diverse habitat. Some birds like Dunnocks will only nest



in hedges, many small mammals will use them as safe corridors and reptiles such as frogs, toads and slow worms will take shelter in them while feasting on the insects that also call the hedge home. While our little hedge may not on its own hit the government's target of restoring 40% of the UK hedgerows by 2050, we think it's a good start!



Having taken down trees we decided to help plant a few new ones. We had hoped this year to put in another two orchards ourselves but SGC have yet to give us the planting licence they say we require, so, instead, we spent a couple of days helping out Bradley Stoke Town Council with the planting of their new orchard on Brook Way. Between myself saying every 5 minutes 'only dig square holes' and Dylan trying to count how many new blisters he had from the post rammer I think we can safely say we earned our tea and doughnuts.

We, well Picasso Paul, has given the picnic benches at the lake a much needed repaint, we hope to do the benches too but as they are SGC 'assets'. that task requires a different set of forms.



We were also disappointed by the e-bike company who, despite promising to 'escalate' the collection of their 2 bikes under the flyover, failed to do so for over a week. In the end we gave up and rescued them and took them up to Bradley Stoke Way although I was very tempted to padlock them and ask for a collection fee!

We have also had reports of a truck dumping liquid in the brook at Sherbourne Brake. Neither we or SGC are aware of anyone having a licence to do so, so if you see this happening we ask that you please report it immediately to The Environment Agency Incident Hotline on 0800 807060 and, if you feel safe to do so, please get a photograph.

Green Gym meet every Thursday from 10.00am – 1.00pm and our starting point is always behind the leisure centre. If you wish to join us it's free, I supply the tea and biscuits you just need to wear suitable clothing and be able to commiserate on Wagon Wheels being smaller than they use to be!

Our email is: greengym@three-brooks.info or you can leave a message on: 07497 006676.



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# **SUNDAY 8TH JUNE 2025**

A 10km course along tracks and footpaths through Bradley Stoke's Nature Reserve starting and finishing at the Jubilee Centre (BS32 8HL).

Race starts at 09:30am. Finishers receive a medal & t-shirt. Time limit of 1 hour 30 minutes. Entrants must be 16 years or over. Only bone conduction headphones permitted.

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## Wellbeing Matters!

#### **Moving from Winter into Spring**

As the morning breaks, I'm noticing the light breaking through the curtains. It feels like we're beginning to emerge from winter into spring. It's not easy is it, when met with grey and rainy days, to believe that brighter days are ahead, but I think they are!

As the length of the day stretches out and we wake to these brighter mornings, I've begun to look out of the kitchen window, waiting for the morning kettle, and noticed the old crocus in the garden, the wild primrose growing under the bench, the buds beginning to swell on the gnarly hazel tree outside the window. The world is coming back to life. As you emerge from your winter, the grey, gloomy days begin to pass, what new life can you feel emerging as you begin to enter a brighter, more hopeful time of year?

I love the spring. I love those new early signs of life. I love the first glimpses of colour in the garden, on paths and in hedgerows around us. As we enjoy our wellbeing walks or our adventure walks through the nearby woodlands, it's glorious to feel the sunshine on our faces and see new life bursting around us.

How does spring make you feel? Are you waking in the mornings embracing the lengthening days? Are you feeling more determined in your intentions than you were at New Year? Do you find it easier to do what you say you're going to do when you've literally got 'spring' in your step?!

It's well documented spending time outside helps us to top up our vitamin D levels. Vitamin D is important for strong bones, a healthy respiratory system and good mood and energy levels amongst other things. Just 20 minutes in the daylight, not even strong sunshine, is enough to help our bodies produce the necessary amounts of vitamin D. This in turn, along with the endorphins produced to help us feel good after moving our body, is at the heart of the green wellbeing I believe in so much. Spending time outside is







scientifically proven to improve mental health and the quality of our sleep, both of which have significant impacts on our personal wellbeing.

As the days lengthen, perhaps we also re-engage with our social circles. Whilst some of us enjoy winter nights tucked up in our houses with family and friends, this isn't the case for everyone, and winter can be a long and lonely season. Perhaps spring is a time to reconnect with the world outside. How much more likely are you to get out and about with people as the weather improves, the days get longer and life takes on a sunnier, brighter feel?

Now I do appreciate we live in the UK. There is absolutely no guarantee that spring is a permanently bright and sunny time! Let's face it we do live in the land of April showers! However, even the slightest moments of the sunshine peeping through, the snowdrops, the crocuses, even the bobbing heads of bursting daffodils cannot fail to bring a smile to most faces.

So as spring bursts I encourage you to look outside, get outside if you're able, and begin to feel the sunshine on your face.

For opportunities to find wellbeing support in your community, don't forget to click on our link and find out how you can get involved.

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



Our contact links can be found at www.linktr.ee/tipthebalance or call 07721 907780





#### **Willow Brook Tenant Talks:**

Ben Matthews, WB Operations Manager chats with this edition's selected tenant Alan Harmer, Manager of the Giant Cycle Shop

At Willow Brook are proud to home many prestigious tenants and one of them is certainly the "Giant" cycle store.

As with most successful businesses, they are only as good as those who operate within, and in this case, store manager Alan Harmer and his resolute team.

Alan has been managing the Giant Bristol store since it opened its doors in August 2009 and is one of a few tenants that have traded at Willow Brook since the early years. Very few have intricately witnessed Willow Brook's journey from conception to present. Alan is one of those people.

A stalwart Manager for Giant, Alan's presence during my tenure over the last 8 years has earned him the reputation of being a constant. Highs and lows, Alan has witnessed it all at Willow Brook, if the walls could talk, I can only imagine they would have Alan's voice.

I first met Alan in March 2017, he was very established within his role at that point as I was just beginning my Willow Brook journey. What struck me first was the store - organised, clean, and staff greeting you upon entry - it was evident that the unit was well managed. Over the years I have got to know Alan his passion and care for leading really stood out for me.

At the start of February, I sat down with Alan and discussed all things Giant and Willow Brook. He told me about the ventures that led to him managing the store. With no experience within the cycle industry, Alan's background was retail management, more specifically furniture. Alan was approached by Giant for his retail management expertise and jumped at an exciting new opportunity. Alan said, "It was a challenging initially with no prior extensive knowledge of bikes but that ultimately, when you put the differences aside it was my people management skills that eased the transition."

A skillset for which I can vouch.

When asked about the challenges the store faces in today's retail climate, Alan proudly told me that "Giant are competitive, with a range of cycles to suit all needs. The real challenge is competing with the online businesses who can operate with next to no overheads."



Photo shows Alan (left) and Ben (right)

Another challenge faced is that the store is located on the lower footfall side of the centre, we spoke on how the



centre has been collaborating with Giant and our other tenants to entice customers their way. Through initiatives that have helped increase dwell time, we have helped raise the awareness for customers who otherwise may not have ventured Giant's way. I asked about the main source of income for the shop. To my surprise, the workshop which conducts services and maintenance tends to be the far busier of the two services. Alan informed me that around 50% of the bikes they work on are not Giant or Liv branded, the exception being electric bikes where they only maintain Giant for software reasons.

Regarding electric bikes, I asked about the demand for them in the area. I was aware that Giant were front runners in their use and application of them, so I was keen to hear Alan's views. He informed me that they were first introduced to the shop as early as 2010, at which point they accounted for 6 - 8%of their total business. Present day it accounts for approximately 35-40%, and purchased for a variety of reasons. More customers are purchasing them for the 'fun factor'. We then spoke about the uses of Giant bikes in general, I asked if bikes were primarily purchased for domestic use, Alan told me that I would be surprised how many are used for racing. trails, and downhill courses. I asked Alan if he had dabbled in any of these purposes to which he laughed and said no. As I already knew. Alan is an avid golf fan and to be fair there are probably a few things to try between the two.

We then spoke about Willow Brook in general and the changes he would have seen over the years. We agree that the additions to the centre over the last

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couple of years have been instrumental in attracting new customers to the centre. With more asset, marketing and operational initiatives on the horizon, Alan was keen to see what is in store for Willow Brook over the next year or two.

As the conversation wound down, I asked Alan a series of quick-fire questions.

What do you do to relax? I took up Golf around 10 years ago. Prior to that I always enjoyed squash and cricket.

What is your favorite book or movie? Jimmy Greaves autobiography, film would be the Jungle book. I associate it with watching with my daughter. Another would be Escape to victory.

**Favorite holiday destination?** I have always visited Lanzarote and Spain, more recently I have had trips to Australia to visit friends.

**First job?** Woolworths as a trainee manager. They would not let me have Saturdays off to play football, so it did not work out.

Who inspires you? My Wife (this is the only right answer for the record!).



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#### Community Comes Together for Successful Orchard Tree Planting Event

The local community came together on Friday 21st February for a successful and inspiring Community Orchard Tree Planting Event in Bradley Stoke at the Brook Way Activity Centre. The day was filled with enthusiasm, teamwork, and a shared commitment to enhancing the local environment as part of the Town Council's work on the Local Nature Action Plan.

The event saw incredible support from a variety of local organisations and community members, including the Willow Brook Centre, Bradley Stoke Green Gym (photo right), local Councillors, Council Staff, members of the public, and even players from the Bristol Pitbulls Ice Hockey Team. With their combined efforts, participants worked tirelessly to dig holes and plant trees, ensuring the orchard's future growth.

A special thank you goes to our generous sponsors who made this event possible: Hamberley Care Homes (Lovell Place), Willow Brook Centre, ARV Solutions, Explore Learning, One Planet Matters, The Tree Council, and Forest of Avon Trust. Their support has played a crucial role in making this project a reality.

In total, 40 fruit trees were planted (20 donated by One Planet Matters/ Forest of Avon and 20 through The Tree Council, Branching Out fund), marking a significant step toward creating a lasting green space that will benefit the community for years to come. This orchard will provide fresh fruit, improve biodiversity, and offer a welcoming environment for local residents to enjoy.

"We are incredibly grateful for the overwhelming support we received," said Councillor Natalie Field, Mayor of Bradley Stoke (pictured bottom right with fellow councillor Jon Williams), "This event was a fantastic demonstration of community spirit, and we look forward to watching these trees grow and flourish as a shared resource for all."

The Community Orchard Tree Planting Event is just one of many initiatives aimed at promoting environmental sustainability and community engagement. Residents are encouraged to visit the orchard, take care of the newly planted trees, and enjoy the benefits of this wonderful green space.

Going forward, Bradley Stoke Town Council will be funding and developing the orchard further by including a wellbeing space. For more information please visit: www.bradleystoke.gov.uk

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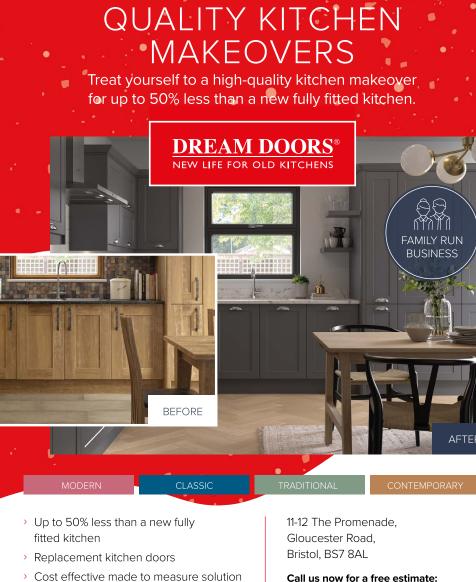
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# Bradley Stoke Matters was delighted to hear from a local young entrepreneur this month.

Victoria contacted us to introduce her business venture, VESNA Aromatherapy, and enquire about advertising with us. Victoria is just 15, lives in Bradley Stoke and is currently a year 11 pupil at the Winterbourne Academy.

We found her story so inspiring we felt it needed to be shared!

#### Here is Victoria's story in her own words ...

At just 12 years old, I took my first steps into entrepreneurship, driven by a simple frustration: I couldn't find any candles that were both beautiful and made with natural ingredients. I have felt passionate about the environment since I was just 7 years old and, as I started focusing on improving my wellbeing as well, I discovered the incredible power of aromatherapy. The problem I swiftly came across was that the candles available were filled with synthetic ingredients and mass produced; I wanted something better.

#### **Rebranding to VESNA Aromatherapy**

As my brand evolved, I knew I wanted a name that truly reflected my vision. That's how VESNA Aromatherapy was born. "Vesna" means Spring in Ukrainian, my mother tongue, symbolizing renewal, growth, and new beginnings. My goal was to create a brand that prioritizes natural, toxin-free ingredients while embodying the beauty of nature through handcrafted, luxury products.



#### **Expanding Beyond Candles**

While VESNA Aromatherapy started with candles, I quickly expanded to wax melts, offering an alternative way

to enjoy beautiful, natural scents at home. And I'm not stopping there—reed diffusers are currently in development, bringing a new, elegant way to fill spaces with long-lasting aromatherapy benefits.

"Starting my business at

12 taught me that age

isn't a limitation. With

passion, creativity, and determination, you can

create something truly

meaningful.

VESNA Aromatherapy is

more than a brand—it's

my story, my heritage,

and my belief that we can build a better, more

sustainable future."

Victoria

#### The Values Behind VESNA

Every VESNA product is made with sustainability in mind, using coconut wax and pure essential oils, nothing synthetic or harmful. The packaging is fully plastic free and either recyclable or compostable and all products are vegan certified. My mission is to help people experience the benefits of aromatherapy while staving true to eco-conscious principles.

#### Running a Business aged 15

Balancing a growing business with my studies is a challenge, but I make it work by planning my weeks every Sunday, ensuring everything aligns with my short- and long-term goals. I also attend markets, where I connect with customers face-to-face and share my passion. Of course, stress and chaos are part of the journey—especially during mock exam season! But even though it's just me running everything right now, I love the challenge and the opportunity to inspire and empower other young people.

VESNA Aromatherapy is offering a 20% discount to Bradley Stoke Matters' Readers.

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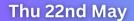
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The Hearoic Mobile Clinic has been calling in at the Brook Way Activity Centre, BS32 9DA since July 2023. You will find the mobile clinic at the far side of the car park in front of the building, on the second and fourth Monday of each month. Adjacent free parking is available.

Appointments are easily bookable by telephone and online. In addition, Lynne also offers regular, flexible no appointment required Hearoic 'Ear Drop-In's' where you will be able to access a free examination of your ears for wax, hearing aid cleaning and advice.

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S.Kelly, Downend



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#### News from Holy Trinity Primary School

'The more you read, the more things you will know, the more you learn, the more places you will go!'

This is one of our favourite quotes at Holy Trinity as we all love reading so much. Over the February half term holiday, we challenged our whole school community to 'get caught reading' and invited families to send in photos that we could share on social media. We were amazed by the many photographs we received and all the weird and wonderful places where that reading took place! Some children read on planes and trains, others read with Paddington Bear or while keeping goal, and even in the wardrobe! It doesn't matter where you are, you





All members of the school community joined in from children to teachers, support staff and the Governors - everyone wanted to get

involved. We had lots of fun seeing where everyone's reading took them over half term.

Where will your reading take you next?

#### **Exhibited Artists** at Holy Trinity **Primary**

can always enjoy a book.

'Colours of nature: embracing diversity' was the theme of this year's Methodist art competition. After a discussion about what the theme meant to us as individuals. everyone created their own interpretations of the theme and developed a final piece.



The children worked on their pieces through Mrs Silvester's art club at school and in their own time. Of course, we all thought they had all done a fantastic job and were blown away with the creativity and imagination on show. Once completed, the art was collected for display and judging!

Last Saturday a few of us visited Victoria Methodist Church to see the art on display. It was fantastic to see our children's work exhibited alongside those from other primary schools. The range of interpretation was huge and just showed what a lot of talent our children have.

Finally, it came to the prize giving and we were delighted to celebrate three of our pupils who had been awarded prizes. One was awarded joint first prize for the primary sector and two other pieces were awarded 'Highly Commended' for their work - what a great result for Holy Trinity!

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### **Zeniah's Family Story**

Zeniah was born in 2019 with serious health challenges. After an emergency C-section, she spent two weeks in the NICU and was diagnosed with a heart murmur. At 4 weeks old, she underwent an 8-hour surgery for a severe heart condition, with only a 50/50 chance of survival.

Though she recovered, more surgery was needed due to fluid in her heart. Later. Zeniah was diagnosed with Mowat-Wilson Syndrome, a rare genetic condition, and epilepsy.

Zeniah is described as a happy, social child with a strong sense of empathy. She loves interacting with others and is known for giving hugs and blowing kisses. Her family, living in Bristol, continued caring for her at home, but without sufficient support, they began to struggle.

After a referral, the family first visited Children's Hospice South West (CHSW)'s Charlton Farm in Wraxall; Dana, Zeniah's mother, said it was as if they had been "scooped up and looked after".

Charlton Farm provided essential respite care, offering the family time to rest and recharge. The staff understood their struggles and helped organise a care package, offering support for the entire family.

Kirianna, Zeniah's 11-year-old sister, has also become an active fundraiser for CHSW. organising cake sales, a neighbourhood Easter trail, and a charity netball tournament at her school. She finds comfort in meeting other siblings of

children with similar health challenges, creating a shared understanding.

Dana reflects on how the support from CHSW has transformed their lives: "It's been transformational. We feel we have someone in our corner at all times."

The care and support at Charlton Farm have given the family the ability to breathe again and manage their challenges more easily. "Charlton Farm has been a real turning point for us," Dana says.

If you are involved in a community group and are interested in fundraising for a local charity. please reach out to Amanda Leonard at amanda. leonard@chsw.org.uk who would be happy to give a talk on the work CHSW does.





What an incredible term we have had at nursery! From exciting outings to festive celebrations, our little learners have been busy making wonderful memories.

We kicked off our term with Valentine's Day, spreading love and kindness throughout the nursery. All children have enjoyed making crafts and sharing special moments with their friends. Next, we celebrated World Book Day, where our little bookworms dressed up as their favourite characters and dived into magical stories, sparking their imagination.

In March, we marked St. Patrick Day with a sea of green, fun crafts and a bit of Irish dancing! Pancake Day was another highlight, our little chefs loved tasting delicious pancakes. And of course, we couldn't forget International Women's Day, where we celebrated the amazing women in our team who help make the nursery such a special place.

Beyond the celebration, we have had some fantastic adventures! Our trips to the Bristol Zoo Project and SS Great Britain were filled with discovery and excitement. A visit to the library encouraged a love of reading, while a local nature walk helped us appreciate the world around us. Babies also had a wonderful time exploring the Mama's Hub.

As we write this, we are excited to celebrate Mother's Day at the end of March, honouring all the incredible mums in our nursery community. And perhaps the most anticipated event of all, we are getting ready to welcome our preschool room's newest arrival- baby chicks! The children are eager to help prepare for them and learn about their life cycle.

With so much fun behind us and even more to come, we can't wait to see what the next term brings!

If you would like your child to join the fun, please call Roberta or Sarah to book a visit on 01454 615352.



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#### News from St Mary's Catholic Primary School

#### There are Frogs in our Pond!

A few weeks ago, when Year 6 were doing PE at St Joseph's Centre, they went out near the pond and suddenly noticed something moving in the water. It turned out to be several large, noisy frogs. On further inspection, Year 6 realised that the frogs were guarding piles of frogspawn! At that moment, Year 6's PE session was put on pause as everyone was admiring the life in the pond.

It had been years since we had seen such an abundance of life in the water and two of the children ran to Ms Dunt's office to inform her that there were frogs in the pond. Ms. Dunt couldn't believe it and had to come and see for herself. She was amazed, took photos and put them on the school website for everyone to see. For many days after, Year 6 continued to check up on the frogs and their frogspawn.



Written by Lara, Tiegan and Tanya.

#### World Book Day 2025

On the 6th of March we celebrated World Book Day. We dressed up as different characters from our favourite books. Our overall theme was Jungle Book as we will be enjoying a visit from a theatre company before Easter and they are performing this story.

Many people dressed up as characters from Harry Potter, David Walliams, Murder Most Unladylike and many more. Even the staff dressed up!



In year 6, we watched short clips of the

Jungle Book movie and discussed what we could see in the movie and their differences with the book .

The days was a great chance to discuss reading and books. This really encouraged everyone to read more books wherever they go! We now have a new display in the library to symbolise and help us remember this amazing day!

Written by Maria, Freya, Sophie and Alice Year 6.





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Based in Little Stoke











#### **Discover Gracie Barra Bradley Stoke:** A Jiu-Jitsu Hub for All Ages And Levels

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#### **Classes for Everyone**

At Gracie Barra Bradley Stoke, we pride ourselves on our inclusive and welcoming environment. Our schedule features classes for both kids and adults, available seven days a week. Whether you're stepping onto the mats for the first time or honing your skills as an experienced martial artist, our team of professional coaches is here to guide you on your journey.

#### Beyond Jiu-Jitsu: Fitness and Self-Defense

We understand that fitness and self-defense go hand in hand with Jiu-Jitsu. That's why we offer fitness and striking classes every Tuesday and Thursday from 8pm to 9pm. These classes are designed to improve your overall fitness, teach practical self-defense techniques, and help you build confidence.

#### **Community Involvement**

Being part of the Bradley Stoke community means giving back and supporting local initiatives. We've recently celebrated our 5-year anniversary and are proud to have worked alongside the Avon and Somerset police in running free women's self-defense classes. This collaboration reinforces our commitment to fostering a strong, united community both on and off the mats. We encourage our members to participate in community events and embody the values of respect, discipline, and sportsmanship that are at the core of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu.

#### Join Us Today!

Starting vour journey with Gracie Barra Bradley Stoke has never been easier. Whether you're interested in Jiu-Jitsu, fitness, or self-defense, our diverse range of classes ensures there's something for everyone.

Come and experience the benefits of Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu at Gracie Barra Bradley Stoke. Join our vibrant community, improve your fitness, and learn valuable self-defense skills—all while having fun and making new friends. We look forward to seeing you on the mats!

**Gracie Barra Bradley Stoke** Suite A2, First Floor, Bradley Pavilions, Pear Tree Road, Bradley Stoke BS32 0BQ

W: gbbradleystoke.com

E: hello@gbbradleystoke.com

T: 0117 403 0492

#### **Osteoporosis**

This is a condition in which the bones become fragile and brittle, leading to a higher risk of fractures than in normal bone. 1 in 3 women and 1in 2 men post-60 will suffer an osteoporotic fracture (Royal Osteoporosis Society stats). Government guidelines have now been updated to encourage everyone to move more, whereas previous thought processes re osteoporosis were to remain inactive. The main areas are the wrists, the hips and the spine.

#### How can Pilates help with this?

Specially trained Pilates teachers like myself can help with a specific set of exercises designed solely to help build your strength and increase your bone mass density (BMD). By practicing weight bearing exercises that help keep you strong, steady and straight, you will be able to improve your own BMD. Prevention is key and it is never too late to start building - you can still do a specialised selection of exercises even if you have already received a diagnosis of Osteoporosis. Do get in touch with me if you would like to know more (contact details opposite) and I will be pleased to help!

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All classes currently run at the St Michael's Centre in Stoke Gifford on a Wednesday and Friday.

Pilates does not discriminate and neither does Phoenix Pilates. All are welcome.

phoenixpilates02@gmail.com **(4)** 07526 409 292







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



#### An update from Clare Moody -

**Police & Crime Commissioner** 

I recently welcomed the latest report by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services into the effectiveness and efficiency of Avon and Somerset Police, published in February.

One of my main responsibilities as your Police and Crime Commissioner is the scrutiny and governance of the police service, which means monitoring and challenging the Chief Constable to ensure that Avon and Somerset Police is delivering an effective and efficient service to you and our communities.

The Police Efficiency Effectiveness and Legitimacy Inspection, or PEEL as it is known, provides important additional evidence to support me in my scrutiny role and guide the focus of that scrutiny alongside the main oversight delivered through my Police and Crime Plan.



I'm pleased that the report noted that Avon and Somerset Police were found to be Good in two areas: preventing crime and police powers and public treatment.

However, the report highlighted that Avon and Somerset Police is only Adequate at developing a positive workplace and that their service Requires Improvement in five areas: responding to the public; investigating crime; protecting vulnerable people; managing offenders and leadership and force management. These are all key areas I have already identified for Avon and Somerset to focus on, and they are also within the five priorities of my Police and Crime Plan, which gives me confidence that my plan is focusing on the right things to deliver a more effective and efficient service for you.

I will continue to monitor closely the progress Avon and Somerset Police is making against all the Areas

For Improvement (AFIs) within this report, paying particular attention to the observation regarding the same areas that still require improvement since the last HMICFRS PEEL inspection.

I asked the Chief Constable questions around the report in a recent Police Question Time session, which was live streamed through Facebook, LinkedIn and added to YouTube. You can find out more and watch the session back on my website - search 'PQT' www. avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk

Please feel free to reach out to me and my office with any questions, concerns, or suggestions you may have at: www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk/contact



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#### Family Wins Battle to Secure the Right School for their Son

UK parents recently received their local authority's decision on school placements. While many are satisfied, some families now face the difficult decision of whether to challenge their child's allocation. One family's experience highlights how expert legal support can help secure the right educational setting for a child with special needs.

Their son, who has autism, was placed in a maintained special secondary school. However, his parents knew this wasn't the right fit, as he had previously struggled in a larger primary setting. His EHCP required crucial Speech and Language Therapy, which he wasn't receiving. Despite their concerns, the local authority insisted their chosen school could meet his needs, citing a £70,000 annual cost difference with the parents' preferred specialist ASD School.

With the help of specialist Education Lawyers here at HCB Solicitors, the family challenged the decision at the First-tier Tribunal. Independent reports confirmed the child needed a setting with class sizes no larger than five or six, on-site therapy, and a peer group with similar needs. Further investigation uncovered critical shortcomings in the local authority's school, leading them to concede before the hearing.

Three months after lodging the appeal, the family secured a placement at a small independent special school. The difference has been life-changing. Their son now has a one-to-one support worker, tailored teaching, and access to therapy. His progress has been remarkable—advancing in phonics and maths, thriving in a smaller classroom, and growing in confidence.

The family is overjoyed, describing the school's support as exceptional. They urge other parents facing similar battles to seek expert legal guidance, as specialist support can make all the difference in securing the right educational placement.

If you find yourself in a similar position, please do not hesitate to get in touch with one of our Education Law experts today. Every child deserves the opportunity to fulfil their potential and we will provide the expert guidance needed to ensure this is the case.

> Samantha Hale, Director, **Education Law Department** (Bristol)



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#### 'Coffee with Claire' event

Local MP for the Filton and Bradley Stoke constituency, Claire Hazelgrove, recently held another of her 'Coffee with Claire' events, this time at the Baileys Court Activity Centre in Bradley Stoke on Saturday 8th March.

The new MP, elected in July last year, committed to 'doing politics differently' and is already holding informal local events like this where residents can come together with their local MP, neighbours and councillors to look at how to make ours an even better place to live.

At the event in Bradley Stoke, armed with tea and coffee, residents joined tables to identify and discuss their priority issues here in the Bradley Stoke community. These included transport, anti-social behaviour and local infrastructure. Claire guided the groups through conversations with three key questions: What is the issue like currently, What would it be like if it were improved, and What will it take to get there and who is involved?

Many great ideas were suggested including how we transform grey-belt areas not in use into thriving community spaces, and the need for a sustainable and reliable public transport system that helps people join up across our community. All politics were left at the door during the discussions, and everyone came together in that shared purpose of improving the local area.

This event is the third that the local MP has held to date, having previously hosted the coffee mornings in Emersons Green and Stoke Gifford, and is planning the next in Frenchay on Saturday 5th April. The events are distinct from advice surgeries, which Claire also holds regularly, as residents join in broader discussions about improving the community.

At the event, one attendee remarked "I have lived in Bradley Stoke for over 30 years, and this is the first time I've been invited to an event like this".

Residents who would like to join a future event are encouraged to keep an eye on Claire's social media or to sign up via Claire's website to be notified when an event is happening near them.

https://www.facebook.com/ClaireRHazelgrove https://clairehazelgrove.co.uk/coffee-with-claire/





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#### **Baby Joy for Testicular Cancer Survivor**

A Bristol man who has survived testicular cancer says he owes the joys of fatherhood to the miracle of modern medical science which allowed him to freeze his sperm before he had even met the woman who would eventually become the mother of his baby.

When Simon and Sarah Dix met in 2019, Simon soon shared with her that the successful treatment he had received for testicular cancer a year earlier had been preceded by surgical extraction and freezing of his sperm to give him the opportunity to have a family later on, should he so wish.

Sarah Dix said: "I was 34 and Simon was 40 when we married in 2022 and we knew we wanted a family, and that we'd have to follow the IVF route, so we set the wheels in motion as soon as we could. Because of Simon's history we were eligible for NHS funding, and Simon's frozen sperm were being stored at Bristol Centre for Reproductive Medicine, so that was the obvious place for us to go for treatment. We were also encouraged because BCRM has one of the best success rates with IVF in the UK, and because we knew someone who had been successfully treated there.

"I'm delighted to say our confidence was justified because our very first round of treatment gave us the beautiful baby we were hoping for. I'd started taking the IVF medication after Christmas 2023 and had my egg collection at the end of January. with four eggs retrieved and two viable embryos resulting. I was really anxious about having the transfer back in, but everyone was so reassuring and comforting. We were absolutely thrilled when my pregnancy test was positive, and the memory of our seven-week scan will always stay with me. It was just amazing to see our baby - really guite overwhelming.



"Finley is nearly 18 months old now, and he brings Simon and me so much joy. He is such a happy, cheeky little chap. Simon's always joking with him and making him laugh. We're lucky to have family living within easy reach of our home in

Congresbury - both my mum and Simon's parents live quite close by, so we spend a lot of time with them and just enjoying simple activities like going on family walks.

"We know how lucky we are and have already said a big 'thank you' to BCRM. We're hoping our story will also help and be of benefit to

future parents and patients."

BCRM www.fertilitybristol.com is the longest established fertility clinic in Bristol, helping people from throughout the South West and Wales with fertility treatment for both private and NHS patients. The clinic is involved in innovative research and has one of the best success rates with IVF and other fertility treatments in the UK.



Winterbourne Musical Theatre is putting on the wonderful comedy Shrek the Musical this May, based on the Dreamworks Animation Motion Picture and the book by William Steig.

Shrek the Musical runs from Wednesday 14 May to Sunday 18 May, at WADCA Community Centre, Watlevs End Road, BS36 1QG, Tickets £15 are available from Ticketsource (booking fees apply), either online or by ringing 0333 666 3366.

More about Winterbourne Musical Theatre can be found at www.winterbournemusical.co.uk or

**Facebook: Winterbourne Musical Theatre** 



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#### **Frome Valley Growing Project**

#### Mazzy Fautley and Kate Macdonald

Our community gardening group is dedicated to sustainable food growing, soil health, biodiversity and letting people enjoy growing and the natural world. At our site just off Swan Lane in Winterbourne we welcome volunteers and new members to join us in a range of activities.

Last month we held two successful community tree-planting events on the warmest weekend of the year so far. We were delighted to have so many volunteers and members along to help with this. Together we planted over a hundred tiny trees, which were given to us by The Woodland Trust, and also carried out some maintenance and mulching on the hedgerow that we began establishing a few years ago. We hope that in the years to come the new trees will grow to provide shade, wildlife habitat and food for humans and other animals to forage for.



We are pleased to be resuming our Open Days on the first Sunday of the month. These will be taking place on 6 April, 4 May and 1 June from 11.30 am - 2.30pm.

Anyone is welcome to join us for these to come and see our site and find out what we do. We always have a range of different activities available for anyone who would like to get stuck in and help out. These might include seed-sowing,

barrowing mulch, planting out vegetables or turning our compost heaps. There's plenty of choice, depending upon your interests and abilities.

Our regular Wednesday volunteer sessions continue to run throughout the year 10.30 am - 2.30 pm. If you would like to stay up to date with these and other events please follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/ FromeValleyGrowingProject

On Wednesday 16th April from from 10.30am - 12.30pm we will be hosting a spring family Stay and Play as well as a volunteer session. The event will be £10 per family, half price for members, but if you can't afford this you can pay less, no questions asked. Come and join us as we hear stories about Ostara, make pots and sow sunflowers and do an Easter Treasure Hunt. Aimed at children aged 4-11 years but all welcome. Please visit our Facebook page to find out how to book a space.

If you would like to know more about what we do then please take a look at our webpage, which has details of where to find us and how to access our site: winterbourne-environmental.uk/frome-valley-growing-project/.

You can email thegrowingproject123@gmail.com, contact us on Facebook or come along and chat to us in person at one of open days or volunteer sessions. Here's to another season of growing together!

#### **ARTS APPRECIATION GROUP**

**Thursday 17th April** – Justine Hopkins on 'Maggi Hambling - a remarkable artist'

Thursday 15th May - Roslyn Mayne-Caudwell on 'My Love of Pottery'

> Thursday 19th June – Richard Box on 'Impressionism and Beyond'

Please join us! Meetings take place at 2pm at, The Greenfield Centre, Winterbourne, BS36 1NJ

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#### Fancy winning a week in France?

Local holistic therapist Dawn Clode, is offering an opportunity for readers to win a fabulous holiday to France! We asked Dawn to tell us more.

Why are you offering these holidays as prizes? I currently teach healing courses in my Garden Clinic of Holistic Health here in Little Stoke, soon I will be offering Holistic Learning Retreats in France as well. I am close to finishing the French location but some final funds need raising, so this spring I will be launching a crowd funding raffle.

Please tell us more about France? I have a lovely old rustic house, which is over 200 years old, in Charente, France, set in the beautiful village of Suris, a ten minute drive from stunning lakes with their beaches and the Vienne river. See more at - holistic-retreats-france.com

When does your crowdfunder launch and what is the full list of prizes? The crowdfunder will launch at the end of March and be active for five weeks, so do keep an eve on my website and socials for links to the raffle.

There are three first prizes of one week, all inclusive, for two people at the finished house in summer 2026 (worth over £1,900). The prize includes buffet style breakfast, lunch at the house or picnic to go out with and dinner (beer and wine with lunch and dinner). Also included are towels, bathrobe and bed linen and a holistic treatment of your choice.

There are five second prizes of a holistic course of your choice, (worth over £120) in Little Stoke. And finally there are ten runner up prizes of a Reiki or Reflexology treatment (worth £60). Please do support me and give yourself a chance of winning some fantastic prizes!



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*Iceland* – Land of the Vikings, geysers, glaciers, Blue Lagoon, Northern lights and Ragnor.

Santa Lapland - Santa, Elves, Magical Forests, Husky rides, Sleigh rides and so much more.

*Tunisia* – Explore awe-inspiring Roman ruins. Enjoy shimmering blue waters and golden sands with dramatic desert landscapes.

*France Disney* – The home of Mickey and Goofy. Ultimate family fun and memory making.

Bulgaria - Rated ski resort, stunning views and fantastically priced ski packages and short flight.

#### Lona Haul

USA - New York, Route 66, New Orleans & Nashville, Disney

Canada - Toronto, Niagara Falls, Vancouver, Calgary, Rocky Mountaineer Train, Quebec and Nova Scotia

Thailand - Bangkok, Ko Samui, Phuket, Krabi, (Temples and Elephants) Phi Phi Islands (The Man the Golden

Maldives - Tropical Island, languid, sensual bliss.

Japan – Tokyo, Mount Fuji, bullet train, Kyoto, Osaka. Japan is country that most piques adventurous customers interest.

Caribbean - Calypso, reggae, roti and jerk beef, steel bands, rum, beaches and Island kissed by the Gods. I



lived there 5 years, so I am very biased. Again, perfect for Island hopping.

Mauritius - Where hinterland meets the beach. A picture-perfect Island and one of my top destinations when I suggest and book weddings.

Australia - I visit regularly. Ayres Rock, Fraser Island, Cairnes & Barrier Reef, Sydney, Bondi, Blue Mountains, Hunter Valley, Brisbane, Gold and Sunshine Coast. I love it all, off there again in May.

Bali - Surfer and bohemian hangout. Stunning, exotic, provocative.

Cruise holidaying is the largest and fastest growing sector. As a specialist Cruise Travel Agent I will advise on the correct cruise ship, cruise type an cabin selection and find your perfect correct cruise type and size of ship for your specific requirements and tastes.

Ocean Cruises - from the Mediterranean, Norway and Fjords, the Caribbean to Spain and Portugal and the Aegean Sea.

River Cruises - Rhine and Danube, Portugal Douro River of Gold, the Seine River in France or further afield how about the Mekong River – Vietnam!

Contact me for more information on my Zero Interest Monthly Payment Plan - WhatsApp or call on 07863 802342

Book a Video call appointment with me - just message or call me to arrange!

Prefer face to face? No problem. If you're local to Bristol area we can meet up in my office and chat over a coffee!

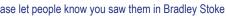
Just contact me to arrange!

andy.cunningham@notjusttravel.com

Let's make this year your best travel year yet!

Andy and the Not Just Travel Team







Winterbourne Medieval Barn has a wide range of community events and activities taking place this spring – hopefully, something for everyone to enjoy!

#### **Music and Drama**

#### Sisters of Swing – Friday 4th April, 7.30pm

We are delighted to welcome back Sisters of Swing (pictured top right) to the Barn for another fantastic evening of live music with their 20+ piece all-female swing band! Their varied up-tempo repertoire includes vocal and instrumental big band and swing classics with a sprinkling of more modern songs and tunes. Bar from 7pm. Seating is unreserved. Free parking at the Barn.

#### Madame Butterfly - Friday 9th May, 7pm

Tessitoura presents this emotional show with beautiful music by Puccini, in the atmospheric Barn, proving that opera is for everybody, and not an elite art form! Free parking at the Barn.

#### Talk

## Architecture of Houses in South Glos, Medieval to 1600s – Monday 7th April, 7pm

Architectural Historian Linda Hall looks at the building styles and materials of old houses (and a barn!) in the local area, from medieval times to the 17th century, in both town and country.

#### **Food and Drink Workshops**

Foraging Walk with Steve England, 10am – 2.30pm (for age 18+)



Walk in a small group and be guided by Steve's expertise on what to pick.. and what not to pick! Back at the Barn you will turn your pickings into a sociable snack to enjoy together.

#### Wine Tasting – Saturday 10th May, 7pm (for age 18+)

An enjoyable, informative, and sociable evening trying out wines from Argentina and Chile.

#### **Craft Workshops for All Ages**

#### Craft and Cuppa - Saturday 5th April, 1 - 3pm

Spend a couple of relaxing hours making a set of four decoupage ceramic coasters. For adults or teens (ages 12+).

## Easter Family Crafts – Tuesday 8th April, 10am – 12pm

A relaxed and inclusive session of family-friendly Spring and Easter inspired crafts and fun, including an Easter Trail with a treat on completion! Aimed at 5–11 yr olds (with an adult).

#### Easter Mug Painting – Tuesday 8th April, 10am – 12pm

For ages 10+. Paint a ceramic mug and coaster in an Easter or Spring theme.

# Glass Mosaics Workshops – Tuesday 15th April, 10am or 11.30am

For ages 8+. A one hour

workshops to create a mosaic style fused glass square or Easter egg shaped sun-catcher, with brilliant colours that will last forever!

#### **Spring Open Afternoon**

#### Sunday 27th April, 1 – 4pm

Have a look inside the Barn for free and learn about the amazing history of this building!

#### www.winterbournebarn.org.uk Facebook @winterbournemedievalbarn

Winterbourne Medieval Barn, Church Lane, Winterbourne, BS36 1SE



# COUNTRYANDWESTERN

# EVENING

#### Friday 16th May from 7.30pm

Join us for a fun filled evening of country hits, including upbeat foot tapping tunes. Show off your best line dancing skills or just relax and enjoy swaying to the music. Includes a drink on arrival, two course dinner, disco, dj and entertainment.

#### £39 per person

To book or for more information contact the Events Team on 01454 201090 or email events@aztechotelbristol.co.uk

aztechotelbristol.co.uk | danielthwaites.co.uk



# Little Stoke and District Ladies Club

We meet on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of each month at Little Stoke Baptist Church and have a variety of events.

One of our recent meetings, we were lucky enough to have some sea shanty singers called 'Storm Force Shanty' who sang out some excellent ditties. They were very entertaining and we all joined



in with the ones we recognised, which was a lot of fun.

Our next meeting was an auction where our members brought along unwanted gifts and other members bidded for them. It was a very social occasion with a lot of banter!

We were then treated to a visit by The Fire Service who discussed fire safety in the home and gave us all something to think about and we are all going to make sure we don't leave electrical appliances on and running when not at home, as well as not overloading extension cables!

The visit was cut short when they and to leave to answer a call!

In March, we had the Red Dress on display for International Womens Day (photo above). Jenny James and Bradley Stoke Mayor, Natalie Field were in attendance and Jenny gave us an informative talk about empowering women.

As I write this our next meeting is the AGM with a light supper later in March.

New members are always very welcome - we would love you to join us. If you are interested in coming along to one of our meetings, please contact Julie on 0117 9315 007 or see our facebook page.





#### **Family Court Reporting Changes**

Katie Andrews, Trainee Solicitor at AMD Solicitors considers the recent changes to reporting provisions in family cases.

Traditionally, family hearings have been held in private in the interests of protecting the parties and any children involved. This means the public were unable to attend hearings unless permitted to do so by the Judge. Furthermore, Orders within the family court include confidentiality clauses and must not be shown to anyone who is not a party without direction from the court.

Journalists have been allowed to attend private family hearings since 2009, however previously had no right to report on cases. In 2023, a pilot scheme known as the "Transparency Pilot" was launched in Carlisle, Cardiff and Leeds permitting accredited journalists to report on cases within the family court. In 2024, this scheme was further rolled out to an additional 13 courts across England and Wales.

As of 27 January 2025, the new provisions regarding reporting on family cases apply to all family courts in England and Wales. Journalists are able to report on family cases, provided the details of the families involved remain anonymous. There is a presumption that there is a transparency Order in cases unless there is a legitimate reason otherwise.

Sir Andrew McFarlane, President of the Family Division, expressed his understanding of resistance to the new approach, however noted that "improving public understanding and confidence in the family court is of fundamental importance" and explained that the pilot scheme has been significant in including coverage of "issues affecting some of the most vulnerable people in our society".

Under the new rules, journalists are able to talk to the families about their case if the family choose. However, they must follow the rules of the scheme and ensure that the details of each party remain entirely confidential. Judges still have discretion to decide that some cases cannot be reported on.

Whilst some are concerned this will make families more reluctant to share confidential information within the family court, there were no known



breaches of anonymity in reporting during the pilot scheme and it is noted that keeping the parties confidential is a key element to the scheme's success. Lucy Reed KC, chair of the Transparency Project, was positive about the rollout of the scheme and noted that "transparency is core to the work of the family court".

The further transparency in the law could lead to clarity in areas of reform, and public attention in the interests of improving the family courts, provided the confidentiality of the parties and the children concerned remains protected.

It is considered that an increase in transparency within the Family Courts will allow individuals to make a more informed decision when deciding whether to pursue their matter through the Family Court. This aligns with the recent push from the family courts to encourage individuals to pursue Non-Court Dispute Resolution ahead of bringing a matter to Court. Non-Court Dispute Resolution is encouraged to save time and costs compared to those when a matter goes to Court.

If you would like assistance from AMD's Family Department, please book an initial consultation by calling us on 0117 962 1205, by email to info@amdsolicitors.com or via our website.



Telephone us on **(0117) 962 1205** or visit our website www.amdsolicitors.com













#### Bristol-based The Window Hub progresses on green goals



The Window Hub, is aiming to plant 3,000 trees over the next three years as part of its commitment to being a climate conscious business.

The trees will be planted at Boyd Valley Lake, which is located in Bitton. This is in addition to continuing its policy of recycling all old frames so they don't end up in landfill.

The window installation company was launched during lockdown in 2020 by seasoned industry professional Danny, who wanted to create a business that was "built on quality rather than greed". From humble beginnings, The Window Hub now operates from a head office and showroom in Staple Hill (BS16 5HN) in Bristol with offices, showrooms and installation depots across the South West.

In fact, a new showroom is scheduled to open this month. Danny launched The Window Hub because he wanted to be much more than just a double glazing company. "We know that choosing new windows and inviting someone into your home can be stressful, so we have introduced as many initiatives as possible to be fair and reasonable in our approach to give our customers the best experience possible," he said. "Sales begin and end with treating customers properly. And you know what? It is so easy to be amazing if you don't cut corners."

And the Window Hub has the customer reviews to prove it -90% of reviews for The Window Hub on Trustpilot are for five stars, with customers celebrating the company's professionalism, friendliness, tidiness, and attention to detail.

The hard work of Danny and his company was also recently recognised and commended, with The Window Hub being named the 'Best in the South West' at the G24 Awards last year.

In 2025, The Window Hub will grow to cover domestic homes between Cheltenham in Gloucestershire and Lands End in Cornwall.

For more information, please visit **TheWindowHub.co.uk**.





#### **Staffed Opening Hours**

Monday: 10:00 - 17:00 Tuesday: 10:00 - 17:00 Wednesday: CLOSED Thursday: 10:00 - 17:00 10:00 - 17:00 Friday: Saturday: 09:30 - 12:30 Sunday: CLOSED

Check online or in library for Bank Holidays

## **Bradley Stoke Library** What's-on April 2024

A warm welcome awaits you at Bradley Stoke library where you can read the newspaper, relax, do a crossword, use a PC, use the free WiFi, have a chat, study, or read a book. Full details of all our FREE children's events can be found here:



#### **Every Saturday Morning**

Our great project guides help your child learn about coding, develop their problem-solving skills and build resilience. Your child must have a registered place before attending. For more

details see: https://digilocal.org.uk/digilocal-online/

**Junior Art Club!** Tuesdays 22nd April, 20th May 17th June, 22nd July 3.45-4.45pm Age 7-11 years

Like getting creative? Come join the

Bradley Stoke Library Junior Art Club, where the only limit is your imagination! FREE Children's Drop-in Event



MONDAY 7TH & TUESDAY 15TH APRIL. 10:30-111:30AM

Free drop in craft activity most suitable for primary school aged children.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Active

www.southglos.gov.uk/holiday-activities

#### FREE Children's Drop-in Events (Term Time Only)

**Rhyme Time** Mondays 10:45-11:15

Stories & Play Fridays 11:00-12:00

Talking Books

Lego™Club

Knit, Stitch and Natter

**Every Tuesday 10:30am** If you love reading and would like to meet new

people, come and have a natter at Bradley Stoke Library. Chat about what

you're reading, get ideas for what to read next and convince others to read the books you love! No need to book – just turn up!



FREE Children's Drop-in Event. Lego™ Clubs are for primary school aged children.

All children must bring a grown-up with them.

#### **Every Thursday at 10am**

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

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.

#### **Open Access Hours (Unstaffed)**

Use the library when staff aren't there with Open Access. Library members can complete a quick one-off Open Access induction session to register to use Open Access. You can then let yourself in during Open Access hours when staff are not working.

Find out more by asking a staff member or visiting www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries

#### Octopus Drama Group - Comedy Play 'The Village Hall'

Octopus Drama Group's forthcoming production is the comedy play 'The Village Hall', which will be performed in Christ the King Church Hall in Castle Street, Thornbury from 11th to 14th June 2025 at 7.30pm. Written by Ashley Burgovne and directed by Sue Smith, 'The Village Hall' promises chuckles a plenty, a real tonic! The cast are already in rehearsals cooking up a treat of a play for your pleasure and having a lot of fun doing so!



Derek, Chairman of the Parish Committee, is determined to win back the coveted 'Village Games' crown for Upper Kingham, which they lost for the first time in a decade to their local rivals, Lower Kingham. Laura's determined to get her own play produced, so she starts an Amateur Theatre Group. Between the Village Games and the Theatre Group there's a constant hive of activity but there's also a dark undercurrent. Something unpleasant is attempting to disrupt the daily events that exist in The Village Hall. Will Derek win the village games trophy, will Laura get her play staged, can Tom deal with the advances of Sarah, will Marjorie be able to cope with her various physical ailments, will Giuseppe reveal what happened in Magaluf to harm Tyler's reputation with Tia and can Daisy curb Giuseppe's jealousy?

'The Village Hall' is Ashley Burgoyne's first full length play. Such is the appeal of this comedy, a northern group who performed it in 2022 were Winners of the National Operatic and Dramatic Association (NODA) award for the Best Drama in 2023 for its district. If you'd like to experience the ingenious writing of this lesser known playright secure your seats soon, especially as there are limited seats available at each performance.

Tickets costing £8 go on sale on Saturday 3rd May at Rosie & Rex gift shop at 30 High Street, Thornbury which is open between 9 am - 5 pm Monday to Saturday, although they will be closed Bank Holiday Monday 5th May.

As there is seating for only 75 people in this charming 15th century building, tickets are usually in demand, so do try and get your tickets soon to avoid disappointment. There is plenty of parking nearby and, to further enhance your evening, there are bar facilities on site.

www.octopus-thornbury.co.uk



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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 - 11:00 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 Whetafield 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

1st Little Stoke Scouts - 1st Little Stoke Scout Group, Beavers, Cubs and Scouts. E: littlestokescoutgroup@outlook.com
W: 1stlittlestokescouts.co.uk

**Arts Appreciation Group** - Join us as the Greenfield Centre, Park Avenue, Winterbourne on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm from October to June.

**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 07725 890120

**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

**Bradley Stoke Radio** - The Activity Centre Brook Way, Bradley Stoke, Bristol BS32 9DS, 01454 616055 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

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. For more information find us on our Facebook page: Gifford Ensemble or e-mail 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, 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, just a get together to have some fun. We meet every Tuesday 2-3pm The Old School Rooms, Stoke Gifford. £3 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 & District Ladies Club - meets the 1st & 3rd Tuesdays 7.30pm at Little Stoke Baptist Church, Kingsway. T: Julie 0117 931 5007

Severnside Ramblers - walks most Sundays and alternate Fridays. Check out our website for details https://severnsideramblers.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 or email silverwinds@michellekrawiec.co.uk.

St. John Ambulance - 100s of volunteer roles available for 18+. Your local unit meets in Bradley Stoke on a Thursday evening. More information at www.SJA.org.uk or e-mail the New Volunteers Team at BAS-NVTeam@sja.org.uk

Stoke Gifford Community Choir We are a friendly mixed choir singing a wide range of music. No auditions. 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.

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 See us on Facebook . or htp://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

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

Winterbourne Wind Band- Thursdays 7.30-9.30pm at Holy Trinity church Bradley Stoke. 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 bradleystokewi@ gmail.com; FB: Bradley Stoke WI; https://bradleystokewi.org

Women's Institute (WI) - Stoke Gifford WI meet on the 1st Wednesday of the month at 7.30.pm 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 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

**Aretians Rugby Club for Cubs, Juniors and Seniors** Station Road, Little Stoke www.aretiansrfc.co.uk

**Black and Blues Netball** - Non-League Social Netball Wednesdays 7.30-9pm Abbeywood Community School, contact: blackandblues\_netball@outlook.com.

**Bradley Stoke Bowls Club** - Baileys Court Activity Centre 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

**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 - Meet at the Jubilee Centre every Wednesday U12's - 5.15pm - 6.15pm -U14 & U16's - 5.45pm -7.15pm bsncjuniors@yahoo.co.uk http://bradleystokenetballjuniors.org.uk/

**Bradley Stoke Judo** - Various days and times, Bradley Stoke Leisure Centre, 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 or contact bstfc2005@gmail.com

**Bradley Stoke United Football Club** - Football from U7's to U16's see website 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 or contact mlee1@btopenworld.com

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

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

**North Bristol Rugby Club**, Rugby teams from 4+ 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.

**Parkrun** is a weekly 5km event where you can walk or run that takes place in the Three Brooks nature reserve every Saturday at 9.00. You just need to register with parkrun to take part

**Sole Sisters** - ladies only running group, meets Monday evenings in various locations Bradley Stoke & North Bristol, 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 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 or email Club Sect 'steve' 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 www.bsec.org.uk

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

City Church Bradley Stoke Community School, 0117 924 3322 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

**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. The Place community coffee & lunch Thursday mornings 10am-2pm. All Welcome.

**St.Michaels Church,** The Green, Stoke Gifford 0117 9692486 welcome@stmichaelsbristol.org. Coffee shop open Monday - Friday 8.30am-4pm. Saturdays 10am-1pm

Stoke Gifford Baptist Church 1, Rock Lane, 01454 610808

#### **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

Bowsland Green Primary School, Ellicks Close BStoke, 01454 866766, bowslandgreen.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

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

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.stmichaelssg.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

Bradley Stoke Community School, Fiddlers Wood Lane Bradley Stoke BS32 9BS, 01454 868840, bradleystokecs. org.uk

Patchway Community College, Hempton Lane Almondsbury BS32 4AJ, 01454 862020, patchwaycc.com





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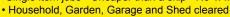
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