

Bradley Stoke Matters



April/May 2026 Telephone 01454 300 900

PRESENTS

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Friday 03 April - Sunday 19 April
The Willow Brook Centre
Bradley Stoke

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Dear Readers....

As I write this mid-March we have been blessed with some glorious sunshine. I for one am definitely ready for a change in the weather this Easter, it feels like it has been raining all winter!

In this issue we look forward to some spring time fun! Per our front page, we are pleased to support the Brightwell's annual Easter trail once again. Please do join in with this family friendly activity and help raise vital funds for the local centre in the process.

There is a family fun day planned at the Willow Brook Centre in April, and also notice of this year's Bradley Stoke Festival and the Sole Sister's annual 10k run, so get these dates in your diary for more family fun on your doorstep.

We share one local man's experience of the Andy's Man Club - it inspired him to write a poem in a bid to encourage others - read more on page 19 and definitely share this with anyone who you think might benefit. We hear news from the Three Brooks Parkrun of their own 14th March Super Saturday, where some amazing local milestones were celebrated - read more on pages 12-13. We also have a lovely update from the local girlguiding troops on pages 34-35 who are also looking for additional volunteers so that more girls can join in the fun. The local Scouting groups are also seeking your support, p19.

There are lots of other updates and diary dates within our pages this month, so do have a good look through to make sure you don't miss anything!

Thank you to all our advertisers who continue to support us, we couldn't produce this magazine without you. Please, if you get the opportunity, do let our advertisers know that you have seen them within our pages. If you are a business looking to promote your services across the local area in 2026, do get in touch and we will be happy to help.

Jaci

Deadline for the June edition is 8th May.

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Homegrown Leadership at Willow Brook

Willow Brook Shopping Centre is proud to announce the appointment of Ben Matthews as its new Centre Manager.

A familiar face to many and a true success story within the centre's own walls, Ben's journey is one rooted in dedication, hard work, and genuine care for the Willow Brook community. Having been part of the centre for nine years, he has quite literally worked his way up from the ground floor — starting as a housekeeper and going on to take on every single role available at the centre along the way. From facilities and operations to customer service and tenant support, Ben has built a deep understanding of every aspect of Willow Brook's day-to-day life.

His appointment marks a proud moment not just for Ben, but for the entire Willow Brook team. "It's an incredible honour to step into the role of Centre Manager," Ben said. "Willow Brook has been such a big part of my life for nearly a decade. I've grown with the centre, and I care deeply about the people here, our retailers, our team, our customers and most of all our community."

Ben's hands-on experience gives him a unique perspective. Having carried out each role himself, he understands the importance of teamwork, high standards, and creating a welcoming environment for everyone who walks through the doors.

A family man from Thornbury, Ben lives locally with his long-term partner Lauren and their two sons. His



strong ties to the area mean his commitment to Willow Brook extends beyond just the workplace.

"Being part of this community means everything to me," he added. "I want Willow Brook to continue being a place families enjoy visiting, somewhere friendly, safe and full of life."

Looking ahead, Ben is focused on building on the centre's strengths:

supporting retailers, enhancing the visitor experience, and continuing to strengthen Willow Brook's role at the heart of the community. With his energy, experience, and genuine passion for the centre, the future looks bright.

For Willow Brook Shopping Centre, this isn't just a new chapter — it's a homegrown success story.

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Small changes that can make a BIG difference to your dog



Paulina, a Bradley Stoke resident, qualified canine nutritionist and founder of Dog's Lounge, often heard the same concern from dog owners: they want to feed their pets fresh food but are unsure how to do it properly.

Fresh feeding can improve digestion, stool quality, skin and coat health, immune system, and appetite in dogs. However, many owners find it difficult to put it into practice. Online advice is inconsistent, recipes are often nutritionally incomplete and supplementation can be complex.

As a result, dog guardians return to commercial ultra-processed food despite their doubts. After seeing improvements in her own dog on a fresh diet, Paulina completed an Ofqual-certified diploma in canine nutrition and continued her professional training to better understand diet formulation. Through her work with clients and their dogs, she identified a clear need for greater structure around fresh feeding.

She went on to develop **Drooli**, a free app with complete cooked and raw recipes that calculates how much food a dog should eat based on their individual energy needs. With new recipes added

each month, owners have access to an expanding set of nutritionally balanced options.

Paulina also developed **Olli**, a whole-food topper designed to complete fresh meals in one step.

Instead of using multiple supplements, owners can prepare meals with everyday ingredients and add Olli to make them nutritionally complete. Olli is laboratory tested so owners can clearly see which nutrients fresh meals would lack without supplementation.

Together, Drooli and Olli are designed to reduce the practical barriers to fresh feeding. They offer a straightforward starting point for owners who want to move away from highly processed foods without taking on unnecessary complexity.

Drooli is free to download on Google Play and App Store. Olli can be purchased directly from the app or on www.dogslounge.co.uk.



Growing a Pound at Bailey's Court Primary School

Written by Lizzie and Anton - Year 6

At Bailey's Court Primary School, every year group hosts a fundraising event. This can vary each year from sponsored events, to stalls and sales, and, as Year 6 is the big final year, we host an event named "Grow a Pound". Each child is given a pound to, as the title suggests, grow!

The children can work as groups (or individuals) to raise as much money as possible. Over the years, there have been many different events that have taken place. This year, these events have ranged from selling sweet treats at the end of the school day to sponsored walks and cycles to car washes.

We have so far successfully made a whopping £5,000! We are immensely proud of our year group and look forward to using half of the money to plan our end of year events. As well as this, the other half of the money is donated to a charity of our choice. This year, we have chosen The Grand Appeal - Bristol Children's Hospital as our nominated charity.

We have loved raising money for a great cause in such a fun way!

Photos show a sponsored walk from Bailey's Court Primary School in Bradley Stoke to Ashton Gate Stadium in Bristol, and a sponsored hike climbing Pen Y Fan in Wales in the snow!



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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 13th May 2026, 7.00pm

AGENDA

1 To appoint the Chair of the Town Meeting	
2 Apologies for absence	4.1 Council
	4.2 Finance
	4.3 Leisure, Youth & Amenities
3 To confirm the Minutes of the previous Town Meeting held on 7th May 2025	4.4 Planning & Environment
	4.5 Staffing
4 To receive the Reports of the following Committees:	5 To deal with questions from Local Government Electors of the Town

Bradley Stoke Community Festival

Saturday 6th and Sunday 7th June 2026

Saturday -
Main Festival Day
Bradley Stoke Youth Football Club event

Sunday -
Sole Sisters 10K Run
Skatepark Competition

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www.bradleystoke.gov.uk/events/festival



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Small Steps for a Healthier, Happier Spring

As we move into March and April, the signs of spring are all around us – lighter mornings, longer evenings and a renewed sense of possibility. It's a natural time to refocus on our wellbeing, and the spring calendar offers a collection of meaningful events that encourage us to care for both body and mind in simple, achievable ways.



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gratitude and spending time with others are simple, evidence-based ways to boost our mood and strengthen our resilience.

What ties all of these themes together is a focus on awareness, compassion and small, sustainable changes, improving our sleep, embracing differences, nourishing our bodies or seeking out moments of happiness. Each step contributes to a healthier whole.

March reminds us that wellbeing doesn't require a complete overhaul of our lives but grows from everyday choices. As spring unfolds, these gentle shifts can help us feel more energised, connected and ready to embrace the season ahead.

March begins with an often-overlooked pillar of health: sleep. World Sleep Day on 13 March is a timely reminder that good quality rest is not a luxury, but a necessity. Sleep plays a vital role in everything from mood and memory to immune function and hormone balance, yet still we struggle to get enough. Creating a calming bedtime routine, limiting evening screen time and keeping consistent sleep hours can all make a noticeable difference. As life gets busier, prioritising rest is one of the most powerful things we can do for our wellbeing.

Looking ahead, April continues the wellbeing momentum with a focus on awareness, prevention and positive daily habits. Stress Awareness Month encourages us to slow down and manage the pressures of modern life, while campaigns such as Bowel and Testicular Cancer Awareness highlight the importance of early detection and open conversations. World Autism Awareness Day (2 April) builds on March's inclusivity themes, and World Health Day (7 April) reminds us that health underpins everything.

Mid-March brings a particularly rich cluster of wellbeing themes, starting with Neurodiversity Celebration Week (16–20 March), encouraging greater understanding and appreciation of the natural differences in how people think, learn and experience the world. Conditions such as autism, ADHD and dyslexia are part of the rich spectrum of our human diversity. By fostering acceptance and inclusivity in schools, workplaces and our wider community, we can create environments where everyone feels valued and supported to thrive.

In truth, it doesn't take a special day in the calendar for us to reconnect with what we need; sometimes it is just time to reflect. If you need some support with this, use your preferred method to reach out and have a conversation via

www.linktr.ee/TiptheBalance

Let's get you refocused for 2026.

That same week is Nutrition and Hydration Week (16–22 March), highlighting the fundamental role that food and fluid play in maintaining health. Good nutrition isn't complicated or restrictive. Simple habits like eating regular meals, including a variety of colourful fruits and vegetables, and staying well hydrated can profoundly impact energy levels, digestion and vitality. As the weather warms up, it's also a great opportunity to refresh our tables with lighter, seasonal meals and plenty of water throughout the day.



On 20 March, we celebrate the International Day of Happiness, a moment to reflect on what truly supports our sense of joy and contentment. Happiness isn't about constant positivity, but balance, connection and purpose. Taking time to notice the small things; a sunny morning, a friendly chat, a walk in nature, can gently shift our mindset. Acts of kindness,

Milestone Madness at Three Brooks Parkrun

As a rugby fan, Saturday 14th March was recognised as 'Super Saturday' as the climax of the Six Nations. For Three Brooks parkrun, event number 84 was 'Milestone Madness' and also a very special Saturday. We started the day knowing we had a few big milestones, however they just kept coming and we had no less than 16 milestones to celebrate!



There were official milestones for two juniors completing 10 park runs each and we also had two more runners complete their 100th parkrun - Juliet Sithole and John Rivers. John is one of the most regular runners at Three Brooks.

Dave Sharratt Co-Event Director of Little Stoke Junior parkrun celebrated his 250th parkrun, this will earn him a milestone T Shirt. He brought his friends from the Bristol Vegan Runners with him to celebrate (photo above). Junior parkrun is for participants between the ages of 4 and 14 every Sunday morning at 9am and takes place at Little Stoke Park.

Saturday, being the second Saturday of the month, was also pacer week, where volunteers help other participants achieve a particular time (photo top right). One of the volunteers this week was Charlie Johnson, volunteering with us for the very first time.

We also had one of our Run Directors, Tegan, volunteering for the 100th time! Parkrun only happens through the support of volunteers like Charlie and Tegan. If you would like to give it a go drop us an email at Threebrooks@parkrun.com



The icing on the cake on Saturday was that we were revisited by the Cameron family from Basingstoke who had visited us in January. Brian Cameron, who is in his late seventies, suffered a hamstring injury and was feeling despondent until he was supported by one of our park walkers Katie to walk the course. He was so impressed by the support offered in January, he came back on Saturday and brought cake, which we all enjoyed! The family were impressed by our welcoming team of friendly volunteers of all ages.

In the UK the first parkrun started at Bushy Park, Teddington in October 2004. The Three Brooks parkrun started in July 2024. The event takes place every Saturday at 9am from the Duck pond, just register via <https://www.parkrun.org.uk/register/> before attending your first event. There is a first timers briefing for all new attendees and visitors at 8:45.

Since we started, over 9,356 have participated either running, walking or volunteering. Don't worry about being last - the tail walker is always the last to finish!

At Three Brooks we work closely with other community groups including North Bristol Running Group, Sole Sisters North Bristol, 1st Bradley Stoke Scouts and Bradley Stoke Benefice. We are supporting local children through Duke of Edinburgh volunteering (although we currently have a waiting list for this). We have recently recycled our old trainers rather than sending them to landfill and we also support vulnerable groups in our community.

WOMEN'S HEALTH EVENING

WEDNESDAY 8TH APRIL
7-9PM

Venue: St Michael's Centre The Green BS34 8PD
Consultant Gynaecologist - Miss Tracy-Louise Appleyard OBE
talks menopause and period problems
7.00 pm - 8.00 pm
8.00 pm - 8:30 pm Q&A
8:30 - 9.00 pm Polycystic ovary syndrome talk and Q&A

Many of our staff will be on hand during the evening to help answer your women's health questions

Spaces are limited. Please RSVP before 02-04-26
To book your place please visit:
<https://forms.office.com/e/EMxXUheJwU>
Or scan



Alan Wilcox (above left), Chair of North Bristol running group, has been participating in parkrun every weekend (other than a short intermission during Covid) since the first one started in Bristol at Ashton Court in 2011. On Saturday he achieved the official milestone of 700 park runs - incredible! Tom Elliot and Lizzie Clark, fellow North Bristol Runners, chose to join Alan by celebrating their 100th parkrun! As is parkrun tradition, Alan brought cake that was enjoyed by all the participants.

We were also joined by Paul Goodwin completing 200 park runs; and Jamie Walker, Angela Thorpe and Rose Dawson completing 300 park runs each and Deborah Williams completing her 400th parkrun!

Chris Ridgway
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The Brightwell's Charity Easter Egg Hunt Returns!

The Brightwell's much-loved Charity Easter Egg Hunt is back for its 4th year!

From Friday 3rd April to Sunday 19th April, families are invited to explore four fun trails across the Bradley Stoke area. Pick up a trail map, follow the routes, spot the egg posters along the way and jot down the letters you find to crack the Easter-themed words. Once completed, hand your trail map in at The Brightwell during the week to receive a prize and be entered into the Easter Trail Prize Draw.

Trail maps cost £5 and will go on sale from Thursday 26th March via our website at www.thebrightwell.org.uk/events with all proceeds going directly to The Brightwell to support therapy for people living with neurological conditions.

A huge thank you to our sponsors Bradley Stoke Matters and The Willow Brook Centre for supporting this fantastic fundraising event.

PRESENTS

Charity Easter Egg Trail

Friday 03 April - Sunday 19 April
The Willow Brook Centre
Bradley Stoke

Trail maps on sale Thursday 26 March
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Hope For All beyond Easter

Rev Tania Vaughan, Little Stoke Baptist Church

Easter may not be fully on your horizon yet, but every church has it booked in their schedule from the start of the year. Schools will be looking forward to the Easter holidays because they get a good long break, and children may be happier too as warmer, longer days will mean more freedom. Families and those in 9 to 5 jobs may be thinking about the long weekend break with Easter Monday ... and wondering about a day out or a visit to other friends and family. To many of us, Easter is a highlight because of time off, time out, or time with others. But looked at in this way, Easter is only one weekend of relief in a long calendar or schedule of everyday routine; and the times we are living in are tough.

For the church, and those who place their faith in the teachings of Jesus, the events of Easter hold the key to the great mystery of why we believe in God. On Good Friday, this year Friday 3 April, churches in Little Stoke and surrounding areas, will be holding services or happenings that remember the day Jesus died on the cross. Jesus was a real man (walking, eating, sleeping, crying, getting frustrated) who brought healing and hope to those around him.

Jesus was sent by God to show his love for all humans and yet when he died this seemed to be the end of all hope. But, the Bible says, **'God so loved the world that he gave his one and only son so that whoever believes in him shall not die, but have eternal life.'**

This is seen on the third day, Easter Sunday, as Mary encountered Jesus standing outside of the empty tomb risen from the dead, alive! She says, 'I have seen the Lord' and in that moment hope is restored.

This man, the risen Jesus spent the next 40 days with men and women that he loved, teaching, and instructing them to carry on his work and the message of good news about God's plan for the restoration of the whole world. Anyone can have a daily hope in the Easter story which was found in Jesus then and is still found in Jesus today.

Come and find out more in your local church this Easter:

- Good Friday Service 3rd April at 10.30am • Easter Sunday Celebration 5th April at 10.30am

'This is my surrender.'

Revd Canon Simon Jones, Vicar St Michael's Stoke Gifford

On the first warm morning of spring, I watched a man stand alone at the edge of the outdoor pool in Clevedon. He slipped off his shoes, rolled up his trousers, and stepped into the cold water. For a moment he hesitated, eyes closed, fists clenched. Then he took a breath, opened his hands, and let himself be immersed. When he came back up, gasping and laughing, there was something unmistakable on his face: release. Whatever he had been holding onto had finally been let go in the cold waters.

Easter tells a story like that, but on a far greater scale. At its heart is surrender — not weakness, but the bravest act of trust the world has ever seen. Jesus' journey to the cross was not forced upon him; it was chosen. In the garden of Gethsemane, facing betrayal, suffering, and death, he prayed words that echo through history: "Not my will, but yours be done." This is my surrender.

The cross is often misunderstood as a tragic accident or a grim necessity. But Christians believe it is the ultimate act of love. Jesus surrenders control, safety, and even life itself, placing everything into the hands of the Father for the sake of the world. Easter reminds us that surrender is not the end of the story. The tomb is empty. Death does not get the final word.

The resurrection reframes what surrender means for us. We often resist it because we equate surrender with loss — of identity, freedom, or strength. Easter says otherwise. When Jesus rises, the surrendered life is revealed as the victorious life. Power is redefined not as domination, but as sacrificial love. Hope is reborn not through self-preservation, but through self-giving.

"This is my surrender" becomes more than a phrase or a line in a song; it becomes a posture. It is the daily decision to lay down fear, pride, and self-reliance, trusting that God can bring life out of what feels finished. Easter speaks into a world weary from striving and control, offering a quieter, deeper invitation: let go.

Like the man in the pool, surrender may feel frightening at first. But Easter promises that on the other side of release is resurrection — new life, restored hope, and a love stronger than death itself.

Maundy Thursday 2 April
Maundy Thursday Meal (advance bookings)

Good Friday 3 April
10.30am Messy Easter- in the Centre
12pm Reflective Service - in the Lower Hall

Easter Sunday 5 April
Holy Communion - 8.45am in the Lower Hall
All-Age Communion -10.30am in the Centre
Evening Worship - 6.30pm in the Centre

Easter


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From my hands to yours –

Pupil to Therapist with Dawn Clode Lic MET Lic CR

Holistic therapist Dawn has featured within the pages of *Matters Magazines* for over a decade. She now shares her skills as an experienced therapist via her courses, held at her holistic treatment room in Little Stoke and online. The sessions are open to both people who would like to learn more to comfort their family and friends and to professional therapists looking to expand the treatments they are qualified to offer.

After reading about Dawn in *Matters Magazines*, local resident Ella picked up the phone and booked onto a Reiki course. In August 2024 she completed her Reiki 1 and 2 qualification. Ella shared, "I have always gravitated to being a healer and the Reiki course ignited my passion further." Ella is now delighted to be pursuing her career as a therapist. Dawn is so impressed with her student that she has opened up her holistic space for Ella to deliver treatments from.

Dawn said, "Ella is a lovely healer, who is intuitive with her work and has everything it takes to be a gentle, effective therapist, who I am pleased to support."

I have been treated by Dawn for many years, she helps put me back together after print deadline and is brilliant at what she does. This time when I

visited I was treated to some healing with Ella too and I left feeling restored.

As well as Reiki treatments, Ella is a qualified massage therapist, Sound healer, Crystal therapist and a Cacao ceremony facilitator – born out of link to her family heritage. If you would like to book in with Ella, email: eyaaligned@gmail.com, call 07899 930422 or see updates and offers on her Instagram: [@eyaaligned](https://www.instagram.com/eyaaligned).

Why not book on to a course? Hungry for learning, Ella will be taking part in Dawn's, **Introduction to Aromatherapy level 1** course later in April. There will then be **Reiki 1 & 2** courses in May and **Reflexology** in early summer. So, if reading this has inspired you to start your holistic journey, whether it be for your own or professional use, do get in touch with Dawn to book in or find out more

Dawn. **Call: 0795 1099 491 or visit:** www.life-and-soul-empowerment.co.uk



Andy's Man Club - It's OK to Talk

Andy's Man Club is a nationwide free support group for men, running every Monday from 7pm except bank holidays. In these groups, men can open up about the storms affecting their lives in a safe, judgement-free and non-clinical environment.

The aim of the club is to provide men with a safe space where they feel comfortable to talk and open up about their experiences in a room free of judgment. It is designed to be free of pressure, there is no obligation to speak, you can simply listen if preferred. The only rule at Andy's Man Club is "It's Okay To Talk".

Simply put, that's the whole point. It's a group where men don't have to battle to be heard or listened to, but where they can join the fight to reduce the rate of suicide in men. Whilst everyone is encouraged to have their chance to talk, privacy is respected, so these real stories are all anonymous.

With thousands of men using these sessions every week, and an army of volunteers on board, the movement is continuing to grow week-by-week. Andy's Man Club firmly believes in the power of talking and that **#ItsOkayToTalk**.

Bradley Stoke & Little Stoke Gifford Matters was delighted to hear from one of the local Andy's Man Clubs, of a poem written by one member following his experience and wanting to encourage others to understand what the club is all about. We are so pleased to share it here with our readers:

If you're going through a storm
And you don't know what to do
Andy's Man Club could be the place for you
Monday evenings from 7 to 9
Get something off your chest, relax and unwind
A brew and a chat, no judgement or shame
With others there to listen, not to blame
The first time's the hardest
Walking through the door
But you'll leave at the end
Feeling better than before
It started with one man, Andy is his name
His legacy is what Andy's Man Club became
Don't suffer in silence, there's no need to hide
It's ok to talk with stigmas cast to the side
We'd all love to meet you, turn up if you can
For the philosophy is Andy's Man Club, One Man.

Local Andy's Man Clubs, open every Monday from 7pm, just turn up, you will be very welcome:

- Bristol Patchway, Patchway Labour Club, The Parade, Coniston Road, Patchway, BS34 5LJ
- Bristol North, Gloucestershire Cricket Club, Seat Stadium, Nevil Rd, Bishopston, BS7 9EJ



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Become a Scout Team Member with 1st Bradley Stoke Scouts

Can you make it possible for young people aged 10 to 14 years old in Bradley Stoke to experience life changing adventure? Could you support them in making decisions, taking the lead and developing independence, confidence and skills?

If so then 1st Bradley Stoke Scout Group needs you!!

Please contact - gsl@bradley-stoke-scouts.org.uk

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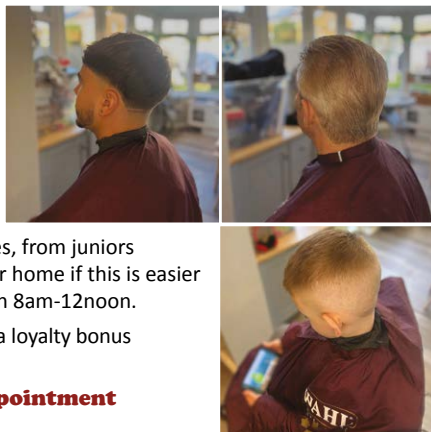
New for Men's Hair in Bradley Stoke!

We were delighted to hear from Harry Porter who has started his own Barber Studio from his home in The Willows, Bradley Stoke. Harry is 21 with 5 years experience of barbering for all ages, from juniors through to seniors. He is also willing to come and visit you in your home if this is easier for you. Appointments only, Mon-Fri 9am-6pm; Sat 8am-5pm; Sun 8am-12noon.

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You can also find him on FB: [harrysbarberstudio](#)



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Peak Season Momentum and Why Early Bookers Are Winning

Compliments of the season—and welcome to April!

I'm Andy Cunningham, a Personal Travel Consultant with Not Just Travel, based at the Village Hotel in Filton, Bristol. As January quickly gave way to February and then March, my colleague, Lisa, and I wanted to pause and reflect on what has been one of our busiest and most rewarding starts to a year in recent memory.

The volume of appointments booked, holidays secured, and client referrals received over the past few weeks has been genuinely overwhelming—in the very best way. After eight years of helping customers plan unforgettable trips, this spring has firmly reinforced a key industry truth: demand remains strong, and clients are booking earlier than ever.

Recent enquiries have spanned an impressive range of travel styles and destinations, including winter sun escapes to the Canary Islands, long-haul adventures to Thailand, Mexico, India and Japan, as well as river cruises and ocean voyages. One standout has been our Elvis & Nashville tour, which has seen exceptional interest and uptake—proof that experiential travel continues to resonate strongly with UK travellers.

Why Early Booking Still Matters

January and February remain at the heart of Peak Trading Season, when the majority of UK holidays are confirmed. Many customers don't fully appreciate how quickly availability tightens during this period. The most desirable flight times disappear first, family rooms and free child places are snapped up early, cruise cabins sell out, and prices inevitably rise as supply diminishes.

April 2026: A Strategic Sweet Spot

With Easter falling early in the month and summer pricing pressures yet to take hold, it offers excellent value across family, couples and cruise products.

Strong Sellers for Spring 2026

Among the standout options currently gaining traction:

- Easter Half Term in Lanzarote: Seven nights all-inclusive at HL Club Playa Blanca, ideal for families, with prices starting from £709pp. Flying from Bristol
- California Coast Cruise: A 10-night itinerary combining San Francisco with a full-board cruise aboard Ruby Princess, visiting Santa Barbara, Los Angeles, San Diego and Ensenada. Flying from Major UK Airports



- Luxury Lanzarote for Couples: Five-star relaxation at the Princess Yaiza Suite Hotel & Resort, perfect for a spring recharge. Flying from Bristol
- Portugal Spring Escape: A week in Albufeira at the Vila Galé Cerro, excellent value and mild spring sunshine. Flying from Bristol

The Power of Travel as a Gift

Travel continues to stand out as one of the most meaningful gifts clients can give—whether it's a romantic city break, a luxury escape, or simply something special to look forward to. Short-haul European breaks, such as Rome, are proving particularly popular at this time of year.

Make It Easy — Spread the Cost

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- Call / WhatsApp: 07863 802342
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the best value conference facilities in Bristol, including **free parking for up to 100 cars**.

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If you are planning an event or are a local group and would like to find out more, please get in touch with some details and we'll be pleased to help you.

Originally opened to provide sport and leisure activities for civil servants, the club is now available for all to enjoy subject to becoming a member. For the equivalent of less than 11p a day, you can **enjoy a pint of beer from under £4** in a friendly, pleasant environment.

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As the days grow longer and the air becomes a little warmer, the signs of spring are all around us. The children have been full of curiosity, eagerly exploring the changes in nature. From spotting bright yellow daffodils peeking through the grass to noticing the first blossoms appearing on the trees, their excitement has been truly wonderful to see. These small seasonal changes have sparked lots of conversations, questions, and opportunities for learning as we embrace the beauty of the new season together.

It has already been a busy and joyful start to the term. We had fantastic participation and creativity during our World Book Day celebrations, with children engaging in stories, dressing up, and sharing their love of books. Our toddlers had an amazing time on their trip to Puxton Park (photo right), enjoying new experiences and adventures, while our preschool children thoroughly enjoyed their visits to the museum and Chepstow Castle (top photo), bringing their learning to life beyond the classroom.



We also took time to celebrate the important people in our lives by hosting a lovely afternoon of activities dedicated to all our wonderful mums. It was a special opportunity to come together, create, and share meaningful moments (photo left).

This is just the beginning of what promises to be a fantastic and enriching term ahead, filled with exploration, celebration, and many more memorable experiences.

If you would like your child to join the fun in 2026, please call Roberta or Sarah to book a visit on **01454 615352**.



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Update from the Year 6 Journalists at St Mary's Catholic Primary School

NSPCC

In our class in year 6 and across the school we learnt about the NSPCC.

The two friendly visitors who came in, taught us all about things that might make children feel sad and lonely. They explained that we could always speak to a trusted adult and that there was a number called Child Line that we could call.

Child line is a safe place to go when kids are feeling anxious scared or worried. If you don't trust an adult/parents 0800 1111 is the right number to call and trust. Childline is free and it is open 24/7. It comes in over 1200 languages and has games and breathing exercises to try.

TYPES OF BULLYING.

- Domestic Abuse
- Cyber Bullying
- Sexual Abuse
- Neglect

If a child is feeling scared or worried they can call in confidence or anonymously 24 hours a day:

0800 1111

We worked through some different scenarios and talked about what was happening to the children and how we could help.

We all got stickers as well and a leaflet to take home.



WORLD BOOK DAY

On the 5th of March, the whole school participated in World Book Day. Each class was doing a unique task related to books. Most of us also dressed up as a character from our favourite book or well-known story. Some popular characters were Harry Potter and Dork Diaries.

Ks2 could do a lunchtime library activity where they could try and figure out which book was which using the clues provided.

There were various competitions and each class needed to choose a book-related activity to complete during the day. Some classes made book covers and others focused on a particular author.



The day ended with the entire school in a sharing assembly where they had to guess which teacher was hiding behind the book. Most guesses were wrong and VERY surprising! It was lots of fun.

Some children took part in another competition where they made a mini room or house filled with BOOKS out of a cereal box. These are on display on our hall. All of them were amazingly pretty and all got a book as a prize.

Overall, World Book Day was a fun day full of surprises!

Written by Naty, Divine, Bella and Tanishka- Year 6 Journalists



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Bailey Bird Nursery is Set to Open its Doors in September 2026

Exciting things are taking flight at Bailey's Court Primary School as they prepare to welcome families to Bailey Bird Nursery, a brand-new, school-based nursery opening in September 2026.

Designed with young children and families at its heart, Bailey Bird Nursery will provide a warm, nurturing and inspiring environment where children aged 3-4 years can grow, explore and flourish.

Rooted in the school's ethos "Aim High – Prepare to Achieve!", Bailey Bird Nursery will offer high-quality early years education that supports the whole child. The nursery has been thoughtfully planned to give children the very best start to their learning journey, helping them to develop confidence, curiosity and a love of learning from the very beginning.

At the heart of Bailey Bird Nursery will be an expert, experienced staff team, led by a qualified teacher and supported by skilled Early Years practitioners. Together, they will deliver a rich EYFS curriculum that places play-based learning at the centre. Through purposeful play, children will develop key skills in communication, creativity, problem-solving and independence, while following their own interests and ideas in a safe and supportive environment.

The nursery will feature purposeful, enabling learning spaces, with seamless access between indoor and outdoor provision. These carefully designed environments will encourage exploration, imagination and active learning, allowing children to make choices, take risks and build independence at their own pace. Whether engaging in creative play, outdoor exploration or quiet moments of reflection, every child will be supported to feel secure and confident.

Strong partnerships with families are central to the ethos of Bailey Bird Nursery. The nursery will work closely with parents and carers, recognising them as children's first educators. Communication and collaboration will be supported through tools such as Tapestry, alongside regular stay and play sessions, workshops and opportunities for families to be actively involved in their child's learning journey.

As a school-based nursery, Bailey Bird offers a smooth and familiar transition into Reception. Close links with Bailey's Court Primary School will ensure continuity of care and learning, helping children to feel confident, settled and ready for the next stage of their education. This continuity provides reassurance for families and supports children's emotional wellbeing during this important transition.

Bailey Bird Nursery will also offer flexible session options to meet the needs of modern families. These include 15 and 30 funded hours, school-day and full-day options, as well as wraparound care. The nursery will operate term-time only, aligning with the school calendar and providing consistency for families with older children at the school.

Inclusivity sits at the heart of everything Bailey Bird Nursery aims to achieve. The nursery is committed to creating an inclusive, nurturing ethos where every child is valued, supported and encouraged to reach their full potential. Staff will work closely with families and professionals to ensure that individual needs are met and that every child feels a strong sense of belonging.

Bailey Bird Nursery is more than just a new provision – it is a welcoming community where little wings grow, big dreams take flight and every child aims high. Families interested in finding out more are encouraged to get in touch.

For further information, please contact nursery@baileyscourt.com, call 01454 838320, or visit www.baileyscourt.com



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Children Law update

Katie Andrews, Solicitor at AMD Solicitors considers the Governments recent proposals to further protect children from abusive parents.

Under the Children Act 1989, the Courts are required to place an emphasis on the 'presumption of parental involvement'. This presumption requires that the Court will assume that a parent's involvement within a child's life will always further the child's welfare, unless proven otherwise.

Due to this, the Courts have always placed a heavy weight on children needing a relationship and contact with both of their parents.

Towards the end of 2025, the Government unveiled plans to repeal the 'presumption of parental involvement'. This presumption led to concerns that always prioritising contact was leaving room for child abuse to continue in some cases.

In the recent review, it was found that in some cases, contact was being ordered even where there had been domestic abuse. Justice Minister, Baroness Levitt KC said in her findings "Being a parent is a privilege not a right: the only right which matters is a child's right to safety and this government is determined to ensure that that is at the heart of every decision made about each and every child."

Whilst there are already circumstances where the Court can consider it inappropriate for the child to have a relationship with a parent, this is a high bar and most commonly, the Court will want to see a relationship with both parents when applying the welfare checklist.

Moving forward, the Government are making it clear that the wellbeing and safety of children should be at the forefront of decision making for the Courts. More time will need to be spent considering if contact really is safe for the child and the Court should not order direct unsupervised contact if there are concerns about the child's safety with that parent.



Where the Court considers a parent to be a threat to the child's safety, they can restrict that parent's involvement within the child's life. They can make Orders for written communication only, supervised contact through a contact centre or in some circumstances, no contact at all.

Whilst the Government have not clarified when this change is likely to come in to place, this is likely to be a welcome change for parents who have concerns about their child's safety through contact with their other parent.

Once implemented, this change will not affect the need for the Court to consider the circumstances of the child's life under the welfare checklist such as their emotional needs, wishes and feelings, characteristics etc, all of which will need to be considered alongside the safety of the child.

If you would like to discuss matters regarding your children, one of our dedicated team would be well placed to assist you. Please contact us to discuss your matter further.

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Running for CHSW in memory of Daisy

In April, local mum, Emily Marsden will run the London Marathon for Children's Hospice South West (CHSW), carrying the memory of her daughter, Daisy, with her every step of the way.

Emily's daughter, Daisy, died in April 2024 at the age of 9. Daisy lived with Rett Syndrome, a rare neurological condition that caused severe disabilities, including loss of speech and hand control, recurrent chest infections and difficult to treat epilepsy. Despite her declining health and repeated infections, Daisy was known for her peaceful, loving nature and deep joy in music.

Introduced to palliative care at the age of 7, Daisy continued to fight and share precious years at home. After an unexpected deterioration, she was transferred to Charlton Farm, one of CHSW's local hospices, where she died peacefully, surrounded by love and compassionate care.

"Daisy died at Charlton Farm in 2024," Emily says. "The care Daisy and our family received when she died, and following her death, was exceptional and made the pain of losing her that little bit more bearable. I am a firm believer that everyone should have access to good quality end of life care when that time comes. CHSW are a shining example of

how to provide the highest level of care at the most difficult of times."

Following Daisy's death, Emily faced an overwhelming sense of loss and emptiness after years devoted to Daisy's care. Meeting another bereaved mum through Charlton Farm, who ran the London Marathon in memory of her own daughter, planted a seed. Emily realised that a challenge like the marathon could offer focus, purpose and a way to move forward while still honouring Daisy. Training now fits around a busy life. Emily is juggling a new job, 2 young children and grief that still comes in waves.

Running for CHSW was an easy decision for Emily. "I am eternally grateful to CHSW for how wonderfully they cared for Daisy and our family," Emily says. "Children's hospices like Charlton Farm are special places and I am incredibly proud to be running for them." **If you would like to support Emily, please visit her Just Giving page at: <https://2026tcsLondonmarathon.enthouse.com/pf/emily-marsden>**



This year is the 21st edition of the Bradley Stoke 10Km hosted by local ladies only running club Sole Sisters.

The run starts at the Jubilee Centre with free parking at both the Jubilee Centre and the Willowbrook Centre (Big Tesco), the route is predominantly through the nature reserve. All finishers receive a T Shirt and medal.

For any ladies interested in joining Sole Sisters, we meet at various locations near Bradley Stoke every Monday. We have a walkers group, plus 4 groups running distances from 3- 6 miles. We also host several beginners groups each year for new runners or those retuning to running after a break. The next beginners group is in June. Our members regularly run parkrun, 10km, half marathons and marathons.

Email info@solesistersrc.co.uk for more info re meeting locations.

SUNDAY 7TH JUNE 2026

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 & technical t-shirt.
Time limit of 1 hour 30 minutes.
Entrants **must** be 15 years or over.
Only bone conduction headphones permitted.

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One Team to One in Ten Homes – The Window Hub’s Bristol Success Story

Every great local business starts somewhere. For The Window Hub, it began in Bristol with a single team, a simple belief in doing things properly, and a promise to treat every customer like the only customer. Fast forward to today, and that same family-run, independent business now completes one in every ten domestic window and door installations across the South West and South Wales – without ever losing sight of what made them successful in the first place.



2025 was a landmark year. The Window Hub was proudly crowned **UK Installation Company of the Year** at the prestigious national G-Awards, placing this Bristol-born business firmly on the national stage. As if that wasn't enough, two outstanding members of the team were also recognised with National Fenestration Awards, proving that behind every great company is an even greater team.

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Despite the national recognition, The Window Hub remains rooted in the local community. Being named finalists for Retailer of the Year at the Bristol Life Awards is a reminder that supporting local businesses really does matter. When you choose local, you're investing in local jobs, local families, and local success stories – and sometimes, those stories go on to achieve incredible things.

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Having worked in the NHS as an audiologist for nearly 30 years, Lynne established 'Hearoic' in 2022 in response to an increasing demand for ear care services that GP surgeries are struggling to provide. Via her brilliantly fitted out mobile clinic, Lynne is able to offer a range of services including: micro-suction ear wax removal (irrigation/syringing also available), standard and in-depth hearing tests, impartial advice on hearing aids as well as comprehensive ear care advice.

Lynne is passionate about acting as a hearing and ear care advocate and with her extensive NHS experience is able to further support clients by liaising with GP's and specialists as appropriate, as well as providing impartial advice on hearing aids and how to protect your hearing in loud environments.

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.

If you are having problems with your hearing Hearoic is your local go-to for Lynne's professional, friendly and supportive advice and treatment.



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 - Ear wax removal
-

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wards.uk.com

Girls are just having fun

Girlguiding Updates by Sara Messinger

As the song says 'Girls just want to have fun' and our local girls are so living up to those words. Girls from Rainbows to Rangers were given the opportunity to take part in a rugby activity day, although a last-minute hitch meant the morning's training session was moved to Lockleaze Sports Centre like the adaptable Guides they are, they took it in their stride.



Although we couldn't persuade Thornbury & Yate's MP Claire Young to kick off her shoes and run around a wet pitch being chased by lots of over excited girls (sensible woman) she was very happy to talk with the girls. The coaches however were not so lucky and they discovered just how fast a motivated Brownie can move and that what 'non-contact' rugby means needs to be explained more than once.

For no extra cost, for the afternoon we were invited over to Shaftsbury Park where the girls were given the opportunity to be flag bearers for the Bristol Bears vs Sale Sharks game, although the girls took this in their stride some of the parents were just a bit excited to see their girls on the pitch. The game was



awesome and inspirational in equal parts and we sent home that evening a lot of very tired but very happy girls.

Girlguiding is made up of Rainbows, Brownies, Guides and Rangers who generally meet weekly in school term time but this is only made possible by the dedicated army of unpaid volunteers that run units, help with finances and planning, fill their sheds and car boots with 'equipment' and generally muck in where needed. Most of our units have long waiting lists for the girls, so right now what we need are more Leaders to join our existing units, if you can laugh, be part of a team, eat Smores, draw smiley faces on plasters (preferably before putting them on), want to improve your CV and want the best for the next generation you may just have what it takes to join our ranks!

If this sounds like you and you want to join the fun for an hour or so a week we have a dedicated UK website <https://go.girlguiding.org.uk/join-us>

or if you want to contact your local Division our email is: Fromevalleydivision@girlguidingbsg.org.uk

The Launch of the Girlguiding Police Challenge



Just 30 local girls and a few Leaders were invited to the Wilfred Fuller Centre, in Clevedon for an exclusive launch of the new Police Challenge. This is a new resource and of course badge which Guide Leaders from Somerset, Somerset North and Bristol & South Gloucestershire have, along with Avon and Somerset Police, been working on for what seems like a very long time!

The weather was dismal, but we soon warmed up in one of the meeting rooms where the day started with a speech by Superintendent Roger Doxsey followed by an indoor demonstration of the work of drones within the Police. As well as learning that the smaller drones are often sent into a house before the officers go in we discovered that the operators are fuelled not by batteries but by Haribo sweets.

Regrettably the Police Dog demonstration was outside in the rain but that was soon forgotten as we watched the two spaniels showcase their excellent skills, we were asked not to share our video of the dogs working and what they have now been trained to search for but it was very interesting and they certainly earned the box of dog treats my Rainbows had bought with them.



For the next part of the day, we got to meet some of the forces mounted Police which were 3 beautiful grey horses (main photo above). It was good to note that as well as the officers having good observational skills the horses did too and they soon spotted the 2 large bags of carrots that we had bought along, which proved to be a bit of a distraction!

The day finished with refreshments and a special cake, and my Rainbows were very excited to be the first in the county to receive their badges, not from me, but from the Super Superintendent who generously put to one side his tea and cake to formally present them (photo right).



The badge is now available to all units in the region, some of the challenges are Equality, is it fair? CSI and forensics, animals in policing, playing your part and Community Policing, and we would like to apologise now to the neighbours as when the Police visit it usually takes the girls just 4 minutes to find the siren button!

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Monthly Update

Claire Hazelgrove MP

Hi all, I hope you're well and looking forward to spring.

As always, I've been working hard for you across our entire constituency, with my team and working on 793 new cases. I held my regular advice surgery, this time in Filton, and knocked on doors to listen in Patchway.

Doing politics differently, I held a 'Pub Politics' event in Bradley Stoke and my latest 'Coffee with Claire' event on crime and anti-social behaviour with Clare Moody, our Police and Crime Commissioner, in Emersons Green.

Knowing how broken the SEND support system is, I have collated views from local parents and schools, including through a specific 'Coffee with Claire' event and online survey, and shared these with the Education Secretary. I was pleased to receive a letter from her recognising our community's influence in shaping new significant proposals for improving SEND support.

These involve a complete overhaul of the system - unrecognisable from the failed one where parents have to battle for support for their child - with expert support as a new standard in mainstream schools, backed by £3.7 billion investment to expand specialist support.

In the House of Commons, I asked the Education Secretary how local parents and others could help further shape these proposals. She confirmed she wants to hear your thoughts as the next step, and I will organise another local event shortly.

I was also proud to raise the experience of Stoke Gifford mum Christine Lote in the House of Commons, whose incurable stage 4 cancer diagnosis could not be considered when allocating her daughter's primary school place. The Schools Minister confirmed that a new school admissions consultation will look at this.

I also spoke in a debate on health systems in Gaza, calling for our Government to continue to do everything possible to help vulnerable children.

I believe politics and Parliament should belong to everyone, so was pleased to welcome students from UWE, Coniston Primary and those who are home-educated to Parliament.

Locally, I met with South Gloucestershire Council's Cabinet Member for Communities and Local Place, Cllr Sean Rhodes, to discuss real progress on Hambrook



Claire Hazelgrove, MP for the Filton and Bradley Stoke constituency (middle), alongside 25 third-year economic students from University of West of England (UWE) during their visit.

Junction as part of our joined up work. Since 2019, two consecutive years of legally safe air quality data has been required for restrictions to end, but not met before now.

I've contacted Government Ministers to make sure the Council have the information they need on next steps if this is now - as we all hope - confirmed shortly. As the first woman in history to serve our community in Parliament, I joined an International Women's Day panel, chaired by Cllr Natalie Field, on women's experiences in typically male dominated sectors. With 40% of MPs women, but still more abuse and higher barriers, there's some real progress but more to do.

It was great to visit Abbeywood Community School to hear students' priorities and see their robotics engineering workshop in action, and Winterbourne Academy for a wide-ranging Q&A session with students.

As ever, please get in touch anytime:
claire.hazelgrove.mp@parliament.uk.



Attendees at Claire Hazelgrove MP's 'Coffee with Claire' at Brabazon's Spitfire Hangar on Social Media Access for Under-16s

Why This New VAWG Strategy Matters - And Why I Have Hope

Clare Moody, Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Avon and Somerset

Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) is one of the most persistent injustices in our society. It is unacceptable that, despite years of strategies, commitments and initiatives, too many women and girls still live with fear, control, and abuse.

When the first cross-government VAWG strategy was published in 2010, it set out priorities that have remained broadly consistent ever since: prevention, support, and pursuing perpetrators. Yet the rate of offences has barely shifted. The criminal justice system still too often harms more than it helps. And specialist support services continue to struggle to meet rising demand.

So it would be entirely reasonable to look at another strategy, the Government's Freedom from Violence and Abuse plan, and ask: "Another strategy? So what?"

Why this moment is different

I understand people's frustrations, but I have hope, and that hope comes from how this strategy was built.

This was not written in isolation by policymakers. It was shaped with lived experience experts, frontline practitioners, specialist organisations, academics, commissioners and advocates in the room together. And these are formidable women. Anyone who knows them will know the strength, belief and determination they bring.

There were CEOs of charities who keep their organisations running through sheer force of will, often campaigning on subjects many would prefer not to look at. There were political leaders who have had to match our male counterparts achievements but "backwards and in heels". It was a room full of expertise, grit and absolute refusal to accept the status quo.

For me this was an opportunity to draw on what the women and girls of Avon and Somerset they tell me every day and what I see as the commissioner of specialist support services and as the national APCC lead for victims and prevention.

That breadth of experience mattered. It meant the conversations were honest about what is not working, pragmatic about what must change, and ambitious about what the whole system can do differently.

A genuinely whole-system approach

What sets this strategy apart is the shift from isolated actions to a genuinely whole-system approach. It recognises that VAWG is not a "women's issue"; it is an issue for everyone.

Importantly, this means working directly with men and boys, supporting them to understand healthy relationships, challenge misogyny, and play an active role in ending violence. Lasting change will only come when the responsibility for preventing harm is shared by all of us.

Being honest about the current reality

For all the ambition, we must be clear-eyed about the scale of the challenge. Demand is rising. Trust in policing remains too low. Court delays continue to re-traumatise victims. And support services, especially those working with the most marginalised women, remain under intense pressure.

But this strategy acknowledges those problems openly, and it commits to tackling them with long-term, practical action: stronger perpetrator management, improved police training and oversight, whole-school approaches to relationships education, and sustained investment in specialist services. It is a step towards a more coherent and accountable system.

A moment for determination and hope

I am grateful to every survivor who shared their experience, every practitioner who shows up day after day, and every organisation fighting to ensure women and girls can live safely and freely.

We have more to do. But for the first time in a long time, I believe that this strategy gives us a real opportunity to make meaningful, lasting change.

And I will continue to press for that change locally and nationally, until every woman and girl in Avon and Somerset, and across the country, can live a life free from violence and abuse.





Bradley Stoke Lions

Do you enjoy volunteering?
Do you like being part of a team?
Then you might like to join our Lions!

Ordinary people who, on their own can do little, but, in a team, we can do amazing things.
Our Motto is "We Serve" and we are proud to do so.

We are having a Pudding Evening on our usual meeting night in May 2026 for a quick meeting and then we each bring a pudding and share!

So if anyone is interested in joining the local Lions and would like to join us for this social night they are welcome to contact me for more details. It is a great chance to meet us and make friends.

For more information contact Ailsa Young on 07737 106836 or email - ambyoung29@yahoo.com.

Bradley Stoke Lions are a branch club of Bristol Brunel Lions and we meet every 2nd Monday of each month in the 1st floor Conference Room of the Willowbrook Centre at 7.30pm.

Learn more about us at www.lionsinternational.org or www.lionsdistrict105CW.org or contact Ailsa Young per the above.

The Gifford Ensemble



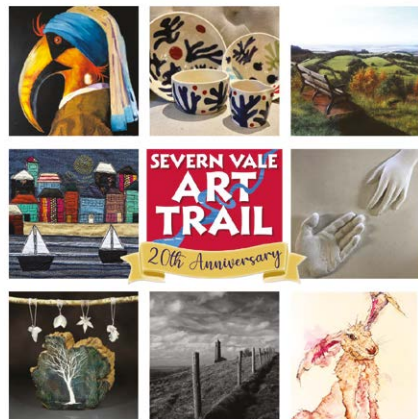
We are a small and friendly classical music group looking to grow to a full orchestra.

We are currently looking for new players. If you are a Violinist grade 6+ or a Clarinetist grade 7+ please email us to find out more!

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, our website www.giffordensemble.uk or e-mail giffordensemble@gmail.com.



Severn Vale Art Trail set to be 'Biggest and Best ever'

The Severn Vale Art Trail, which celebrates its 20th anniversary this year, is set to be the biggest and best one ever, with more than 80 artists and makers across more than 35 venues.

Taking place over the Mayday bank holiday weekend (Thursday 30th April to Monday 4th May), the trail has come a long way since its humble beginnings in 2006.

The first year had just 20 participants and included some high profile artists including painters Jane Lampard and Christine Russell and sculptor John Higgins. They ranged from Olveston in the south to Coaley in the north and all displayed in their own homes/studios.

The trail steadily grew. From 20 artists in 2006, to 31 in 2007, 40 in 2009 and eventually to more than 80 today. As well as artists and makers opening up their own homes and studios, many also showcase their work in shared venues, such as village halls and churches in the region. The trail has also broadened its appeal, with ceramicists, woodturners and even upholsterers joining the line up.

This is your chance to support local artists and purchase unique paintings, photography, ceramics, textiles, jewellery, upholstery, woodturning and much more. Or simply have an inspiring day out - as well as buying beautiful pieces, you will also have the opportunity to watch many of the artists and makers at work. Many of the venues have refreshments available or are located close to local coffee shops, and include some interesting churches, working studios and community buildings.

For details of all the artists and venues (including accessibility, direction and opening hours) and to view the trail map, please visit www.severnvalertrail.org or pick up one of the printed trail guides from local shops and cafes.

Follow the Severn Vale Art Trail on Instagram and Facebook (@severnvalertrail) for all the latest updates.



Bradley Stoke Library



Staffed Opening Hours

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

Check online or in library for Bank Holidays

FREE Children's Drop-in Events

(Term Time Only)

Rhyme Time
Mondays 10:45-11:15

Stories & Play
Fridays 11:00-12:00

Treasure Hunters Easter Holiday Craft Event

Monday 13th April, 10:30-11:30am

Age 4-11 years. For those who can't make it we have free craft bags to pick-up and take home during our opening hours in the school holidays, while stocks last. FREE Children's Drop-in Event



Digi Local - 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! 4-4.45pm Age 6-11 years

Tuesdays, 21st April, 19th May, 16th June

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



Knit Stitch & Natter

Tuesdays at 1pm and Thursdays at 10am

Join our friendly weekly adults-only 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.



LEGO Club

LEGO CLUB 3.45-4.30pm
Tuesday 28th April, 12th May, 9th & 23rd June

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



Chatterbooks 4-4:45pm

Tuesdays, 7th April, 5th May, 2nd June

Our book club for children aged 6-12 has spaces available! * Spaces are limited, so it's first come first served. *Subject to change.



Open Access Hours (Unstaffed)

Use the library when staff aren't there with Open Access.

To find out about this and other more about any of the above, or to find out about more local library activities, visit

www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries



Bradley Stoke Bowls Club

Are you looking for a friendly, sociable, outdoor activity? Bowls could be the game for you!

Bradley Stoke Bowls Club welcomes new members, with or without bowling experience. We have a full calendar of recreational and competitive bowls. As a mixed club the majority of our fixtures are friendly mixed games, however we also have two men's and one ladies league team.

We also run a number of social events during the autumn / winter period.

For more information please visit our website: www.bradleystokebowls.com or contact us via www.bradleystokebowls.com/contact-us

Octopus Drama Group Presents -

MURDER AT THE MARGATE MAJESTICA

Wednesday 10th to Saturday 13th June

The box office for Octopus Drama Group's forthcoming original new murder mystery comedy 'Murder at the Margate Majestica', written by Paul Harrod, will open at Rosie & Rex gift shop at the top of Thornbury High Street on Saturday 2nd May.

Performances will take place at Christ the King Church Hall in Castle Street, Thornbury. The cast of 13 are already in rehearsals and having a lot of fun in doing so!

Join us for an evening of fast-paced, playful intrigue - packed with physical comedy, visual gags and sparkling dialogue.

For more information look at our social postings and our website

www.octopus-thornbury.co.uk



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

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 information on the local churches. If your details have changed, please let us know at community@mattersmagazines.co.uk and we will update them for you!

BABY AND TODDLER GROUPS

Beehive Baby and Toddler Group, St Michaels Church, 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.

Beaufort Model Flying Club Radio control model aircraft flying outdoors year-round plus indoors in winter. For more info visit <https://beaufort.bmf.a.club>

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 classical music 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. www.giffordensemble.uk or e-mail giffordensemble@gmail.com.

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 1st Tuesday of every month 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

Sevenside Ramblers - walks most Sundays and alternate Fridays. Check out our website for details <https://sevensideramblers.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 <http://www.britisshlegion.org.uk>

U3A - Bristol U3A - For retired or semi-retired. Meet new friends and enjoy an amazing range of interests and activities. See us at <https://bristol.u3asite.uk/> Our "Stokes" Social Group welcomes new members. Email Andy: andy.clarke@bristol.u3a.org.uk

Willowbrook Townswomen's Guild - Jubilee Centre – 7:30 – 9:30pm the 2nd Tuesday of every month. Call Jannice on 01454 615040 or email Ros - rosalingd@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 7.30pm 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.

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 Bradley Stoke Community School, contact: blackandblues_netball@outlook.com.

Bradley Stoke Bowls Club - Baileys Court Activity Centre www.bradleystokebowls.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 (term time) U12's - 5pm - 6.15pm - U14 & U16's - 5.45pm -7.15pm bsncjuniors@yahoo.co.uk <http://bradleystokenetballjuniors.org.uk/>

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, mentoring, in-school coaching and football festival. Visit web site www.bsyfc.co.uk or contact mlee1@btopenworld.com

Bradley Stoke Ladies (BSLFC) - FA Charter Standard Community Club, play matches in the Gloucestershire County Women's Football League, females 16 year old and over welcome, mentoring program. 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

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. Register with parkrun first 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@googlegmail.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 website <https://stokelaneafc.co.uk/>

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

Equippers Church 1160 Park Avenue, Aztec West Business Park, BS32 4TL. Tel 01454 837990. <https://equippers.co.uk>

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

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