

Bradley Stoke Matters

July/August 2026 Telephone 01454 300 900



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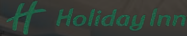
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Dear Readers....

The sun has got his hat on, hip-hip-hip hooray! Unfortunately, however, the sun failed to shine for the annual Bradley Stoke Festival and the early call was made to cancel most of Saturday's outdoor activities, moving indoors instead at the Jubilee Centre. Rain doesn't stop play for football though and the annual football festival carried on regardless. More on the festivities including the 10k and skate park competition on pages 24-29.

BSTC are holding a public consultation over the future of Bailey's Court Activity centre - have your say before the deadline of 17th July - see page 6. 24th July is the deadline to get your entry in for the Bradley Stoke Best Front Garden competition ran by Bradley Stoke in Bloom - do join in, more details over the page.

We are also pleased to share an update from the Bradley Stoke Green Gym on pages 8-10. It is great to hear about all the hard work these volunteers carry out on our behalf in order that we can all enjoy the local nature reserve, and local wildlife can be encouraged and cared for. New volunteers are always welcome!

There are lots of other updates from local clubs, organisations and businesses within our pages this month, so do enjoy the read and have a good look through!

As always, a huge 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, do get in touch and we will be happy to help.

Deadline for the next edition is 24th July.

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Wasps ... they're back!

This year is going to be a busy time for wasps ... we have had very little frosts and cold weather over the winter period to eliminate hibernating queens. If you have noticed an increase in wasp activity or spotted a nest call us to carry out a guaranteed wasp treatment.

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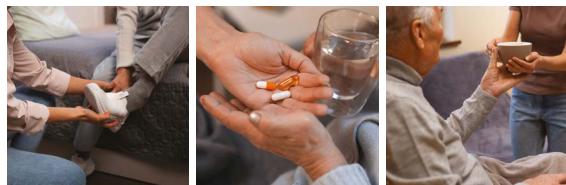
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Best Front Garden Competition

As we're now in our 14th year I think we can safely say that our annual best front garden competition is a firm fixture in our towns events, and I was delighted to be told one year by Mayor Michael Hill that our prize giving was the height of the Mayoral calendar and that he was greatly looking forward to it! Although Michael is no longer with us I am sure our current Mayor, Jenny James is up to the task.

The judging this year will be late July and the criteria are: Well kept frontage / Quality / quantity of plants / Outstanding character / Well-kept lawn, paths, driveway / Green Credentials, which can be anything from no slug pellets, water butts, water and food for wildlife to companion planting or tomatoes tucked in next to the tobacco plants.

We have two categories, large garden (Detached) and small garden (Terraced or Semi-detached) and you can enter your own garden, or you can nominate a friend or neighbour.

We also have a Facebook Favourite competition which goes to the garden with the most public likes. Last year we nearly lost this category as with a week to go our Facebook page just disappeared and FB didn't seem interested in saying why or reinstating the page, fortunately our brilliant 'Tec Support' (my daughter) came to the rescue and created us a new page.

The entry forms can be found on our Facebook page - Bradley Stoke in Bloom - and at the Town Council Office in Jubilee Green or email us and we can send you one.

The forms should be returned to either the BSTC office or emailed to bsib@hotmail.co.uk by noon Friday 24th July.

Last year our winners went home with a fabulous array of prizes, Almondsbury Garden Centre always provides very generous vouchers for all the top categories, The Hollow Tree gave a voucher for a meal for two with wine, the Aztec Hotel a voucher for Brunch for Two. BSIB also handed out engraved trophies, shields & for all, engraved medals & framed certificates, so the Mayors hopes for an early night were well and truly thwarted!

This year please do give it a go or nominate a neighbour, it's just a bit of fun and we're not too serious and with regards to whatever the weather Gods choose to throw at us this year we are all in the same storm. *(photos are some of last years entries).*





PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Help shape the future of Baileys Court.

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Bradley Stoke Town Council wants to hear from you.



We're consulting on plans to redevelop Baileys Court Activity Centre, modernising facilities, improving accessibility, and creating a community space fit for the future. Tell us what you think about the proposals, the costs, and what matters most to you.

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Deadline: 17th July 2026



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Bradley Stoke Green Gym

Update from Sara Messenger, Green Gym Project leader & Three Brooks Nature Conservation Group Committee

It's been a busy few months for me and the Green Gym and sometimes I do wonder why, for the past 20 years, each Thursday we all crawl out of a warm bed and haul ourselves out onto the reserve in spite of the sometimes cold and rather un hospitable weather. 'You must be mad' we're told and perhaps we are a little but, while we think we mostly turn up for ourselves, we are also warmed by the knowledge that our commitment to our Green Gym and to the reserve also benefits more than just us and that our efforts are appreciated. Like our lovely dog walkers we turn out come rain or shine to look after what we love. Although the lure of a free custard doughnut must not be discounted.



So what have we, in between tea breaks of course, been doing?

We used the coppiced hazel to repair the fence around the Bamford hay rake (above photo), returned lost dogs to their owners, replaced our dog water and stick library bowls, searched for a lost child, installed a new tool shed container and rebuilt the pallet bench. We cleared fallen trees on and off the reserve, often before SGC had even opened their emails. Our 3 largest bomb craters have had a spring clean, even if one has again turned into a pond and at the orchards



we have continued dead hedging and clearing out non fruit trees and pruning (the Saturday runners complained hanging apples got in their way).

To help our pollinators we also planted 2 strawberry trees, (*Arbutus unedo*) these unusually like to be planted not in winter but in spring. We wanted these as they carry two nectar compounds, Unedone and Tiliaside that help bees to cope with the burden of disease and I would like to thank The Bradley Stoke Lions for supporting our efforts by paying for one of the larger trees (photo right). We have been less successful with the pollinators area we planted with mints and lavenders as within a week or so the plants were either taken or trimmed down to the ground. We will replant and put up a sign asking people to leave them alone until they have established themselves.



We returned to the 'wetlands' an area close to the Braydon Gate and have dug out and eaten Three Cornered Leek, which is similar to a spring onion. If you go foraging do feel the flower stem, if it has 3 corners you have an edible leek not a pale bluebell. We also used your donated Christmas tree's to repair our bank erosion. We started this last year but were victims of our own success as the leaky dams that went in were working so well no silt was reaching the trees. This time we cut the branches off and packed them with mud from the pond we re-dug and this method seems to have worked much better. Last year was the first time we had tried this so it was a learning process,

one which I think we have now mastered.

We have helped BART install signage and 3 fixed photography points. The last one went in at the lake this week, the others are at the wetlands and in the woods by Patchway brook just past Ormonds Bridge. The idea of these is that you all can be citizen scientists and take photos at these points and upload them to Riverhub (there is a QR code on the post) which will help us with tracking the environmental and seasonal changes. We are one of just 3 sites in Bristol to have these and have more posts than the others so we're really keen that they are used by as many of you as possible.

We also added a scrape to the Skylark area, hoping that water will be an additional attraction for the birds. I have been surprised and just a little dismayed by the number of people who, having never walked this area before as it was covered in bramble and scrub and inaccessible, who have then online ventured the opinion that their right to roam has been curtailed. The Three Brooks is not an amenity park, it's a nature reserve and at 2.5 million square foot it's huge. Surely no one should begrudge 80 or so square foot to help reinstate lost habitat for a bird that is on the red list and whose numbers are down 50% from when I was a child?

We have for the last few months also been standing up for the pigeons that were trapped behind the new wiring on the underpass, it took SGC 6 days to release them and much longer to deign to reply to our emails. When we finally received a reply we were not reassured by it. The wiring on the path side is closed although a gap has been created on the stream side. Neither side had the bird droppings removed so the whole exercise would seem expensive and pointless. We were further dismayed when I learned that Serotine bats do not hibernate in trees but favour manmade structures and so could be



hibernating under the flyover. I asked if they would be able to escape through the wire and was told no. We immediately raised our concerns to SGC who claimed they would commission a bat survey, although delaying a survey long enough so that any bats that were under there will have died is a jade's trick.

We are also chasing updates regarding the closure of Ormonds bridge, another lesson in Sisyphean futility.

Nature and the reserve gave so much to so many during lockdown and beyond, a place of hope, healing, comfort and community so isn't it about time we gave the reserve some of that back?

There is also a short-sighted economic invisibility of the value of nature which needs to be addressed and unless we start conserving it and putting some financial resources back into it it's gradual degradation will one day become a catastrophic collapse. While the Oxford Junior Dictionary may be happy to lose acorn, fern, kingfisher, heron, minnow and weasel, we should all be doing all we can to ensure that the green heart that is at the centre of our town does not.

On a more positive note Paul Smith and myself ran a bat walk for 1st Bradley Stoke Brownies. /...



/cont ...

It may have been a little early for bats but we still had lots of fun and they came up with some good suggestions for names for our owl.

Rob and Robin ran 2 dawn choruses, I can only admire the fortitude of those that turned up at 5am and I hope they feel hearing 36 species was reward enough for the early start.

Two newt surveys produced great results, although the torchlight survey found only Palmate and Smooth newts, the bottle traps had a bumper catch of 25 Great Crested newts!

Two fairy doors have appeared in Savages Wood and a charming video would suggest we now have fairies too, another video shows a small dinosaur wandering the paths, no doubt looking for our mare's tail plant, our leucistic (white to you and me) squirrel has returned and we also have ducklings down at the lake, who always appreciate some porridge oats and peas.



And as Green GymTM started when an Oxford GP thought people were better off, physically and mentally, for getting outside in nature and doing something useful we of course took the opportunity to 'wear it green for mental health day' (main photo previous page).

Green Gym meets 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, we supply the tools, tea and biscuits you just need to wear suitable clothing and being able to commiserate on Wagon Wheels being smaller than they use to be!

Our email is: greengym@three-brooks.info

You're Not Imagining It:

Why the Weather Really Does Affect

How You Feel

There's a moment most of us recognise. You wake up, pull back the curtains... and it's grey again. Not dramatic, not stormy, just that familiar, sky. And somehow, your energy dips before the day has even begun. It's easy to dismiss this as a lack of motivation. Actually, your body is responding exactly as it's designed to.

The science behind the slump: Light is one of the most powerful regulators of our internal body clock. Exposure to daylight helps control our sleep-wake cycle, energy levels, and even mood. When natural light is limited, like during those lingering grey spells, we produce more melatonin (the sleep hormone) and less serotonin (which plays a key role in regulating mood). This is why some people experience more noticeable dips, sometimes diagnosed as SAD: Seasonal Affective Disorder. Even without a diagnosis, many of us feel a 'quieter' version of this; lower energy, reduced motivation, and a tendency to retreat indoors. So no, it's not "just you."

The South West Effect: Living here in the South West, we're no strangers to unpredictability. Spring and early summer can bring a mix of bright, uplifting days alongside long stretches of cloud, drizzle, and cool air. The challenge? We often wait for the "perfect" weather to feel good, be active, or get outside. And when it doesn't arrive, our habits slip. Walks get postponed. Fresh air becomes optional. Movement becomes negotiable. Over time, this creates a subtle but powerful pattern. The weather starts to dictate our wellbeing.

Shifting from Reaction to Rhythm: What if, instead of reacting to the weather, we worked with it? Research consistently shows that regular exposure to daylight, even on cloudy days, supports mood, sleep, and overall health. In fact, outdoor light levels on a grey day are still significantly higher than indoor lighting. This means that stepping outside, even briefly, can have a measurable impact. The key, therefore, is consistency, not the conditions.

3 Simple Ways to Weatherproof your Wellbeing:

- 1. Lower the bar for getting outside**
It doesn't have to be a long walk or a full workout. Ten minutes of fresh air between meetings, during the school run or after dinner is enough to signal to your body that it's daytime.
- 2. Dress for the day you have, not the one you want**
A light waterproof, an extra layer, or comfortable



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footwear can remove just enough friction to make getting outside feel easy rather than effortful.

- 3. Anchor your routine to time, not temperature**
Instead of deciding based on how it looks outside, build habits around your day. A morning step outside, a lunchtime walk, or an evening reset, regardless of the forecast.

We Need to Make Peace with the Grey

Those brighter, sunny days will come, and when they do, they'll feel even better for it. But waiting for them isn't a strategy for wellbeing. Let's face it, in a place like the UK, learning to embrace the weather isn't just helpful, it's essential.

If this resonates, it might be a helpful time to check in with your own approach to movement using our **Elemental Approach to Wellbeing** (<https://www.tipthebalance.life/elemental-approach-to-wellbeing/>). The Meaningful Movement element, and our Movement Wheel, are designed to help you build flexible, realistic habits that work with your life (and the British weather), rather than against it (<https://www.tipthebalance.life/elemental-approach-to-wellbeing/meaningful-movement/>).

If you're ready to feel more consistent, energised, and in control of your wellbeing, whatever the forecast, get in touch to explore how we can support you.



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Bradley Stoke Ladies FC Presentation Night

On Tuesday June 9th 2026 Bradley Stoke Ladies FC had their end of season Presentation Evening. The team has performed very well this season and secured 6th place in Div 3 of the Gloucestershire County Women's Football League and missed out on 4th position by just one point. The team throughout the season have battled hard and have had some great results. The squad has been built up over the season and the club had 36 players registered for the season. The club is based on a fun, friendly and secure environment and we foster the younger girls as they transition from youth football into adult football. The club has strong links to Bradley Stoke Youth FC to ensure a clear pathway for females playing football in the local area.

On the night all players received a trophy to recognise their effort over the season. The winners of the special awards were:

Managers Player of the Year 2026 : Morgan Spill (inset top)

Players Player of the Year 2026 : Harriette Razey (inset middle)

Club Person of the Year 2026 : Pamela Neves (inset bottom)

All pictured with team manager Martin Lee.

The club was formed in June 2005 and has been growing ever since.

If you are interested or want to know more then email mlee1@btopenworld.com for more info.



Japan is on More Travel Wish Lists Than Ever Before

Over the last year, one destination keeps coming up in conversations with my clients – Japan.

From the bright lights of Tokyo and the famous bullet trains to ancient temples, stunning scenery and world-famous cuisine, Japan has captured the imagination of travellers across the UK.

From the iconic Mount Fuji and historic Kyoto to the bustling streets of Tokyo and the incredible food scene found throughout the country, Japan offers a fascinating blend of tradition and innovation. It's no surprise that it has become one of the fastest-growing destinations on many travellers' wish lists.

The only challenge for many people is knowing where to start. Or maybe cruise?

When is the best time to visit?

How long should you go for?

Which places should you include?

And how easy is it to travel around Japan?

That's why I'm delighted to be hosting a special Japan Experience Evening.

This relaxed and informative event is perfect whether Japan is already on your bucket list or you're simply curious to find out what makes it such a special destination.

You'll discover:

- The best times of year to visit
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- Most importantly, you'll have the opportunity to ask questions and gain insights from travel experts who know the destination well.

Interested in Japan?

Whether Japan is already on your bucket list or you're simply curious to learn more, we'd love to see you there.

Scan the QR code for event details and to reserve your place.



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Still Looking for a Summer Holiday?

If summer has crept up on you a little faster than expected, don't worry – there are still some fantastic holiday opportunities available.

Whether you're looking for a family beach holiday, a relaxing couples escape, a cruise or a last-minute sunshine break, there are still great options to be found. Availability is changing daily, but I'd be delighted to help you find the perfect getaway before the summer slips away.

Looking Ahead

Whether you're considering Japan, planning a Winter Sun escape, a festive getaway, a cruise, Lapland for the family, or a bucket-list adventure for 2026 and beyond, I'd be delighted to help.

Get in Touch

- Call / WhatsApp: 07863 802342
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In June, students from Bradley Stoke Community School produced a fantastic performance of A Scary Play to around 300 audience members. The production was hugely student-led, with a cast and crew of at least 40 students, and I have been blown away with their professionalism. They were totally self-reliant with just one staff member assisting in the tech box, even on the first performance!

As a drama department, we wanted to put on a thrilling play that would inspire and intrigue. Scary Play is from a collection of plays for children and young people by the National Theatre called Connections and is a story about a group of friends who embark on a dangerous and spinechilling adventure into an abandoned house. The friends battle their fear of the unknown, frightening nightmares and a sibling duo have the strength of their relationship tested by an un-nerving villain and their freakish pets. This story forces us to question whether or not we can have any empathy for a deeply troubled antagonist.

Fear and nightmares have been interesting topics to explore with students in today's ever changing world. We started rehearsals by sharing any fears we have that are actually quite funny, which was a really bonding experience, and hopefully made these things a bit less scary too.

In a world where the performing arts are increasingly at risk, Bradley Stoke Community School is proud to be giving these opportunities for students to thrive both on and backstage. We look forward to our 2027 production!

Audience Feedback:

'Funny, intriguing and captivating'

'10/10, I'm doing it next year'

'Excellent production, funny, scary in parts, great design'

'I've been to see lots of theatre productions, and this was as good as any professional show'

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Win Big While Making a Difference

Imagine the excitement of winning up to £10,000 while helping children and young people with life-limiting conditions receive the care and support they need. By joining the Children's Hospice South West Raise a Smile Lottery, every ticket purchased helps provide vital funding for local hospice services and gives players the chance to win fantastic weekly prizes.

There are 35 prizes to be won every week, including a £1,000 first prize, a £100 second prize, two £25 prizes, five £10 prizes and five £5 prizes, plus 20 Bonus Draw Entries for the following week's draw. A single play costs just £2 per week, making it an easy and affordable way to support an incredible cause while enjoying the thrill of taking part.

Players are also automatically entered into the Bonus Rollover draw, which starts at £200 and increases by £200 every week until it reaches an impressive £10,000 jackpot. The lottery draw usually takes place every Friday, with 14 guaranteed winners selected at random.

Last year alone, the lottery helped raise more than £10,000 every week for Children's Hospice South West. These funds can make a life-changing difference, helping to provide specialist equipment and facilities, such as accessible baths for babies, children and young people with life-limiting conditions at the hospices.

Playing is simple. Regular players can enter up to five times each week, with every play allocated a unique lottery number. One-off play tickets are also available from local CHSW charity shops.

As well as the chance to win cash prizes, every ticket sold helps Children's Hospice South West continue providing expert care, respite and support for families when they need it most.

To sign up, visit: <http://www.chsw.org.uk/lottery>



A growing team blossoming at Dawn Clode's holistic, garden treatment room

In the last issue, we introduced therapist Ella to Dawn's holistic treatment room based in Little Stoke. The pair met when Ella gained Reiki qualifications on a series of Dawn's popular courses. Ella is also a qualified massage therapist, Sound healer, Crystal therapist and a Cacao ceremony facilitator – born out of links to her family heritage. Sharing her treatment space with Ella has worked so well that Dawn is now pleased to welcome talented therapist, Eva to the friendly team.

Eva is a self-employed Massage Therapist with over four years of experience working across both sporting and clinical rehabilitation environments. With a background in Sports Rehabilitation Eva shares, "I take a holistic and client-centred approach to wellbeing, helping clients reduce pain, recover from injury, unwind from everyday stress and feel their best both physically and mentally." This is a working ethos very much aligned with Dawn, who has been practising Holistic treatments locally for nearly two decades!

Alongside sports and clinical massage, Eva is excited to continue growing within the wellness industry by developing her knowledge in Reflexology, Aromatherapy and Reiki.

Get in touch to book in with these holistic therapists. If you would like to start or extend your own holistic journey, why not book onto one of Dawn's courses?

Call: 0795 1099 491

Visit: www.life-and-soul-empowerment.co.uk



Left to right: therapists Eva, Dawn & Ella

Holistic Courses for beginners & professionals therapists

Reiki I & II, 18th, 25th July and 19th Sept. £125. This in-person, day course includes – workbook, certificate to practice, hot lunch, snacks and drinks. Max 6 students.

Introduction to Reflexology, 8th, 15th August and 26th Sept. £135. This in-person, day course includes – workbook, certificate of attendance (CPD hours for therapists), hot lunch, snacks and drinks. In person. Max 3 students.

Introduction to Aromatherapy – Level 1. Starts 20th July. £135. This online course includes – workbook and certificate of attendance (CPD hours for therapists).

7 x 2.5 hour sessions on Monday evenings, 7.15–9.45pm. Max 6 students.

More Courses to come include – Reiki Master and New online Mindfulness and NLP.

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M: 07525 929085

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Award-Winning Alpacas, Summer Births and New Café Treats at Wolfridge Alpaca Barn

Many local families will already know Wolfridge Alpaca Barn in Alveston as a favourite spot for alpaca experiences, homemade cakes and relaxed countryside visits — and this summer there's even more happening at the Barn.

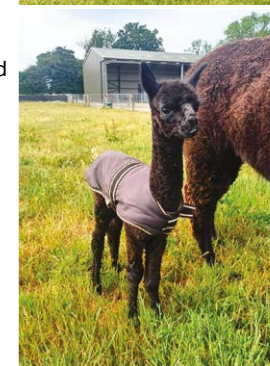
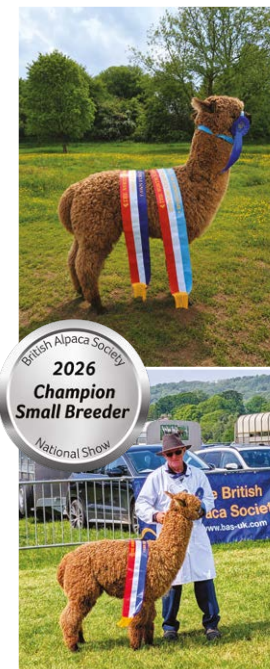
Owners Craig and Katriona Hyslop are celebrating recent success in the show ring, having been named Champion Small Breeder at the British Alpaca Society National Show 2026.

One of the Wolfridge stars, Fraser (FJ), took 2nd place in the Black Junior Huacaya Male class and is already a favourite with visitors. The team also claimed Huacaya Supreme Champion at the North Somerset Show with Wolfridge Fleur (seen pictured with handler Mick Dore).

Just off the A38 near Thornbury, Wolfridge Alpaca Barn combines alpaca paddocks with a welcoming café serving breakfast and lunch, barista coffee, homemade cakes and afternoon tea, alongside a fully licensed bar offering guests the option to enjoy alcoholic drinks during their visit. The Barn has become a popular spot for celebrating special occasions, catch-ups and family gatherings, with café customers and pre-booked guests welcome to enjoy walks around the paddocks during their visit.

Gift vouchers are also available and are proving especially popular for birthdays, anniversaries and other celebrations. These include bespoke alpaca experiences and the ever-popular Alpaca Experience & Sparkling Afternoon Tea.

The recently updated menu now includes matcha drinks, pancakes, bagels, milkshakes (including vegan vanilla option) and an all-day breakfast — perfect for relaxed summer meet-ups and family days out.



Summer is shaping up to be especially exciting, with 24 cria (baby alpacas) expected, and up to half due to be born at the Barn itself. Last year, visitors were delighted when baby alpaca Felix made a surprise appearance for an alpaca experience in May half term.

Alongside alpaca experiences, the Barn will also run a summer programme of children's craft activities, plus bespoke workshops and open-booking needle felt sessions with Katriona, including:

26th June: Needle felt a 2D Bristol Balloon scene

10th July: Create 3D Dozing Owls

Families can also look out for the popular summer trails returning this year.

With free parking for café visitors and pre-booked guests, Wolfridge Alpaca Barn is easily accessible from Bradley Stoke and North Bristol.

Visitors can also sign up to the Wolfridge newsletter via the website for updates on baby alpaca arrivals, workshops, trails, seasonal events, exclusive offers and subscriber benefits.

Alpaca experiences, craft workshops and afternoon teas must be pre-booked online via the website.

Open Tuesday-Sunday 10-4 and upcoming Bank Holiday 25th May - meaning they will be open every day this May Half Term.







instagram.com/wolfridge_alpaca

facebook.com/WolfridgeAlpaca

IS YOUR CHILD STARTING PRIMARY SCHOOL SEPTEMBER 2027

Want to find out more about the process involved?

COME ALONG TO OUR ADMISSIONS INFORMATION EVENT EVERYONE WELCOME

Wednesday 30th September 2026

Starts at 5:00pm

Bring along your children and join us for a cup of tea and a biscuit. All parents and carers welcome not just those intending to apply to an Olympus Trust School. There will be an informative presentation at the start of the event so please arrive promptly, this will be followed by questions and a chance to chat with Primary Headteachers and Admissions Co-ordinator. This event will last about an hour.

Register your interest at:
olympustrust.co.uk/NewsandEvents

Event held at:
Bradley Stoke Community School,
Fiddlers Wood Lane,
Bradley Stoke, South Gloucestershire, BS32 9BS



PRIMARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS FOR COHORT 2027

Meadowbrook Primary School
Tuesday 6th October / 5:00pm
www.meadowbrookprimary.co.uk

Filton Hill Primary School
Wednesday 7th October / 5:00pm
www.filtonhillprimary.co.uk

Charborough Road Primary School
Thursday 8th October / 5:30pm
www.charboroughroadprimary.co.uk

Bradley Stoke Community School
Tuesday 13th October / 5:00pm
www.bradleystokeschool.co.uk

Callicroft Primary Academy
Wednesday 14th October / 5:00pm
www.callicroftprimary.co.uk

Stoke Lodge Primary School
Thursday 15th October / 5:30pm
www.stokelodgeprimary.co.uk

Book your place via the Olympus Academy website or individual school websites.



14 Schools, One Community

Willow Brook Launches Major Uniform Reuse Drive

Willow Brook Shopping Centre is launching a new School Uniform Recycling Scheme this summer, offering families a simple, sustainable and dignified way to access good-quality school clothing.

From the start of the summer holidays, local residents will be able to drop off outgrown or unused school uniform at Willow Brook, where it will be professionally laundered by Timpson before being made available to families who need it.

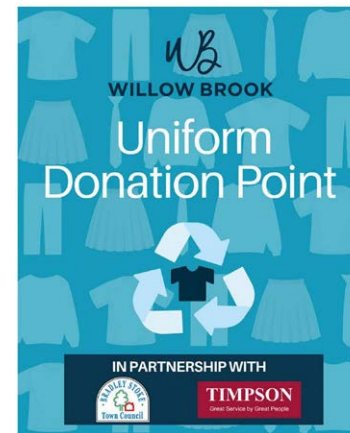
The recycled uniform will be displayed in a quiet, discreet area of the centre, allowing parents and carers to help themselves without any cost or formality.

The initiative is being delivered in partnership with Bradley Stoke Town Council, who are generously providing clothing rails and storage systems to support the project.

Donations can be placed in the dedicated uniform donation box located in the Town Square lobby. Willow Brook asks that all donated items are in a reusable condition.

The centre will be collecting uniform for 14 local schools, including:

- Bradley Stoke Community School and Primary Phase
- Wheatfield Primary School
- Bowsland Green Primary School
- Holy Trinity Primary School
- Meadowbrook Primary School
- St Mary's Catholic Primary School
- Baileys Court Primary School
- Stoke Lodge Primary School
- Little Stoke Primary School
- Charlton Wood Primary Academy
- St Chad's Patchway CE Primary School
- Patchway Community College
- Callicroft Primary Academy



Centre Manager Ben Matthews said: "Shopping centres are about more than just shops - they're community spaces, and this project is a great example of that. By bringing together local residents, schools and partners, we're creating a practical way to support families, reduce waste and make sure good-quality school uniform stays in use for as long as possible."

The success of the scheme relies on the generosity of local people donating items they no longer need, and we hope it will become a valuable resource for any family who could benefit from a little extra support."

The scheme aims to reduce waste, ease financial pressure on families and strengthen community support networks across Bradley Stoke and the surrounding area.

SECONDARY SCHOOL OPEN EVENTS FOR COHORT 2027

POST 16 OPEN EVENTS FOR SEPTEMBER 2027 ENTRY

Abbeywood Community School
Thursday 24th September / 5:00pm - 7:30pm
www.abbeywoodschool.co.uk

Bradley Stoke Community School
Tuesday 22nd September / 5:00pm - 7:00pm
www.bradleystokeschool.co.uk

Lyde Green Community School
Tuesday 29th September / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
www.lydegreenschool.co.uk

Patchway Community School
Thursday 17th September / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
www.patchwaycs.co.uk

Winterbourne Academy
Wednesday 16th September / 5:00pm - 7:30pm
www.winterbourneacademy.org.uk

Further information on booking talk times and attendance can be found on the Olympus Academy Trust website and also on individual school websites



Abbeywood Community School
Tuesday 3rd November / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
www.abbeywoodschool.co.uk

Bradley Stoke Community School
Wednesday 4th November / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
www.bradleystokeschool.co.uk

Winterbourne Academy
Thursday 5th November / 5:30pm - 7:30pm
www.winterbourneacademy.org.uk

Further information on booking talk times and attendance can be found on the Olympus Academy Trust website and also on individual school websites



Subject staff will have stalls on the night for students to talk through the different courses on offer. Information about courses can be found here: www.olympustrust.co.uk/post-16/





Sensory Garden and Butterfly Hide

On Friday 8th May, Bailey's Court Primary School proudly opened its newly revamped sensory garden and butterfly hide, alongside a special celebration marking the 100th birthday of David Attenborough.

Thanks to a generous grant from Tesco, they were able to transform their butterfly hide and surrounding area into a vibrant, accessible sensory space. Improvements included the removal of an old walkway, the installation of new ramps and the addition of secure fencing and gates. The space was further enhanced with new planters and a variety of plants, creating a rich and engaging environment for all of the children.

The day began with an opening ceremony, where Sharon (Community Champion) and Sam (Team Manager) from Tesco came along to cut the ribbon! (photo right).

The pupils played a central role in the celebrations as each child decorated their own personalised pebble, which now forms part of a unique display around the garden.

Following the ceremony, classes were invited to explore and enjoy the new space.

At the end of the day, the Friends of School hosted a seed-planting activity, giving children the opportunity to take home their own plants, alongside a well-supported cake sale for families.

Bailey's Court Primary School would like to extend their heartfelt thanks to both the Friends and Tesco, who were instrumental in helping bring this project to life. This new sensory garden will provide a lasting space for learning, exploration and connection with nature for years to come.

We loved hearing some of the children's thoughts on the new garden:

"I really like that we have done this for David Attenborough, because he is so inspiring."

"When I am feeling sad or cross, I'm going to come here and find my pebble and hold it."

"I love this garden, I planted this one with the hearts on it and that's my decoration in the tree."

"The garden looks like a home for fairies."

"My pebble is green with a rainbow and a bug and a flower on it. David Attenborough's favourite colour is green because it's the colour of all the trees and the plants."

"I'm going to come back when I am 100 and play here with my children"



As we reach the end of another busy and exciting term, we are reflecting on all the wonderful experiences our children have enjoyed.

This term, the children have been learning about healthy food choices, exploring the important role of our emergency services, and discovering different countries as the excitement of the World Cup begins. They have also loved developing their football skills, keeping active, and learning the importance of teamwork.

Our preschool children have had great fun in the STEM Centre, creating beautiful wooden keepsakes to celebrate their wonderful dads. They are now eagerly preparing for their special Graduation Party as they get ready for their next big adventure.

Our Toddlers had a fantastic visit to the Wild Place Zoo Project, where they enjoyed learning about animals and their habitats through hands-on exploration.

Our Babies have been busy developing their confidence and independence by practising their walking and climbing skills every day. They also had a blast visiting Build-A-Bear, where they designed their very own bear, Betzy, who will be joining them on their summer holiday adventures! The babies have also loved getting out into the community, exploring nature on a variety of walks, and discovering the world around them.

This is just a small glimpse into all the fun, learning, and memorable experiences we've shared this term. We are incredibly proud of all our children and are looking forward to even more exciting adventures together in the months ahead. We wish all our families a wonderful summer!

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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Reception



Year 1



Football Festival

Report from Martin Lee, BSYFC

On Saturday June 6th 2026 at the Jubilee Centre, the annual free Bradley Stoke Youth FC Football Festival was held, even though due to the poor weather most of the outdoor activities of the Bradley Stoke Community Festival had to be cancelled. But rain and wind never stops football!

This year we had a good mixture of age groups at the event. In the morning we had the Reception children, Year 1, Year 2 and Year 4 children playing their fun based matches.

The Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 children had a penalty shootout with the Minion in goals. I think the Minion is improving because it was hard to score against it.

Then in the afternoon we had the U14 girls and the Ladies playing their matches. The number of children and ladies playing at the event was 102. They all received a medal and a cup with the Reception children also receiving a goody bag.

The Mayor (Jenny James) and Deputy Mayor (Jon Williams) from Bradley Stoke Town Council did a fast and efficient job of handing out the medals and cups to the excited children. We also had the pleasure of having Matt Wheaton from the Luke Wheaton Legacy Trust to present the annual Luke Wheaton Memorial Cup to the Year 2 children for all of their effort on the day. We also had Caroline Jones attending to present the annual Terry Jones Memorial Cup to the Ladies winners.



Martin Lee, Cllr Jon Williams (Deputy Mayor),
Cllr Jenny James (Mayor)

Year 2



Year 4

U14 Girls



Ladies team

The club would like to thank Bradley Stoke Town Council for their ongoing support with the Football Festival. The football pitches again looked very good and the medals supplied by the Town Council were fantastic.

The club would also like to thank the Luke Wheaton Legacy Trust and McDonalds for their ongoing support for this event and other funding they provide to the community.

The club would like to thank all the helpers on the day as without them there would be no Football Festival. Their hard work and dedication is always much appreciated.

The weather was wet and the children and helpers did get soaked especially in the morning matches but we all still had smiles on our faces.

If you want to find out more about Bradley Stoke Youth FC just visit our website at www.bsyfc.co.uk

Editors Note: Also a huge thank you to the fabulous Martin Lee who stepped forward once again to organise another fantastic football festival for all the children to enjoy - for the 21st year of doing so!

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Bradley Stoke Town Council Community Festival 2026

In the Festival's 21st birthday, the rain and wind reared its head once more and yet, through the dedication of the council team and youth workers, an excellent time was still had within the Jubilee Centre and across the sport fields.

Saturday 6th June 2026 – Main Festival Day Report by Grace Crompton

Despite the announcement of the festival changes the night before, Bradley Stoke Town Council Community Festival still saw a joyful day. In the morning the reception and year 1 football tournaments took place with the young sportspeople persevering brilliantly through the mud. The afternoon then saw the under 14s and senior ladies likewise playing bravely in the adverse weather conditions.

Inside the Jubilee Centre it was much warmer and drier with a plethora of activities for children and families alike. With the incredible team of youth workers, children were able to craft their own selfie frames, make bracelets, or create artwork on canvases. Additionally at the tuck shop, snacks and sweet bags were available with boardgames set up ready to be played. Every year the Town Council's Youth Work team provide superb activities and, this year especially, the overwhelming friendliness and glee from the team provided a great escape from the miserable weather.

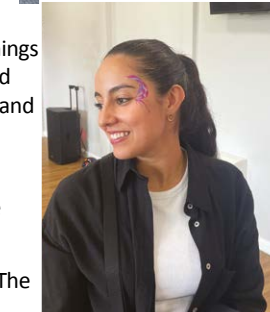
Also inside the centre was local caricature artist Chris Pavlick whose work was both mesmerising and amusing to watch in action. Equally popular was Jamboree, the glitter and airbrush tattoo artists who ensured everyone was sparkling throughout the day. Both activities were run with efficiency and kindness, making sure all ages were able to have a go. Running from 12-4pm, the Jubilee Centre hosted many families and locals streaming in throughout the day, making it a fun and enjoyable time for the community.

Deputy mayor Jon Williams said that despite "feeling very damp" earlier in the day, "it has been great fun talking to people around the hall and seeing how much they're enjoying what they're involved with. After a disappointing start, the day seems to be getting much more exciting".

In an adjoining room inside the Jubilee Centre, people were able to book appointments prior in the week to get their bikes repaired for free! The two bike fixers worked seamlessly and smoothly repairing bikes of all shapes and sizes for the local community, many of which were able to cycle happily home. This had been provided by South Gloucestershire Council who were also there talking all things cycle safety in and around the Bradley Stoke area, promoting usage of the new and efficient cycle lanes. Outside the centre, there were opportunities to grab coffees and hot food too.

All in all, despite the festival being forced to downsize, the feeling of joy that it provides was still felt just as strongly this year. Let's hope at next year's festival the sun will shine down on us once more.

All donations will go this year to Mayor Jenny James' 3 charities – Mamas Bristol, The Brightwell Centre, and Bristol Samaritans.



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Bradley Stoke Skatepark Competition

Report by BSTC

The Bradley Stoke Skatepark Competition on Sunday 7th June was a brilliant day out for riders and spectators alike.

Held at Bradley Stoke Skatepark on Fiddlers Wood Lane, the event ran from 12.00pm to 4.00pm and welcomed skaters, scooter riders, BMX riders and roller skaters of all abilities in a friendly, buzzing atmosphere.

Kids and adults alike had an amazing time, with festival tattoos and a fantastic DJ keeping the energy high throughout the afternoon. Competitors across the Scooter, BMX, Skateboard and Roller Skate (quad and inline) categories showed off some seriously impressive skills, with prizes, medals and certificates awarded to the top three in each category.

A King Ramps halfpipe in the car park added an extra dimension to the day, drawing plenty of crowds and giving riders the chance to show what they could do. From first-timers to seasoned riders, everyone was made to feel welcome, and the smiles said it all.



21st Bradley Stoke 10k

The Bradley Stoke 10K, organised by Sole Sisters, returned for its 21st year on 7th June, delivering another successful community event and attracting an impressive 542 finishers aged between 15 and 80 years old. A standout performance came from first finisher Jamie (photo right), who crossed the line in an outstanding time of 32 minutes and 25 seconds. The event once again demonstrated its strong local roots, with the many of competitors coming from Bradley Stoke and the surrounding areas. Participants were greeted by enthusiastic support throughout the course, with residents, families and friends lining the route to cheer runners on from start to finish.

The success of the event was also made possible by the incredible efforts of local volunteers and supporters. Water stations were well staffed, jelly babies kept runners fuelled, and marshals ensured the event ran safely and smoothly. Their dedication helped create the welcoming atmosphere for which the Bradley Stoke 10K has become known.

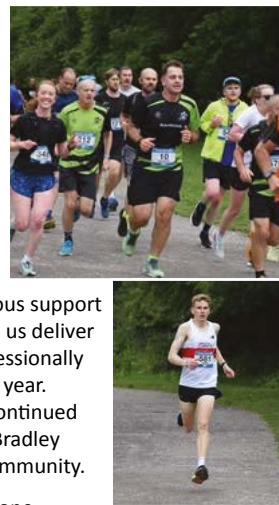
As the event celebrates its 21st year, it continues to showcase the strength of the local running community, bringing together runners, volunteers,

spectators and supporters for a memorable day of achievement and community spirit.

The Sole Sisters team would also like to extend its sincere thanks to all of our sponsors. Their generous support plays a vital role in helping us deliver a safe, enjoyable and professionally organised event year after year. We are grateful for their continued commitment to both the Bradley Stoke 10K and the local community.

A huge thank you to everyone who took part, volunteered, marshalled, supplied refreshments, sponsored the event or came along to support the runners. Your enthusiasm and generosity helped make the 21st Bradley Stoke 10K another tremendous success.

If you would like to join Sole Sisters we meet on a Monday evening at various locations. Our next beginners group starts in September email info@solesistersrc.co.uk



Wheatfield Primary School is celebrating the successful completion of its recent Ofsted visit, recognising the dedication of its staff, the enthusiasm of its pupils and the support of its wider school community.



Mrs Carver (Headteacher) with pupils from years 4, 5 and 6



Reception Tours- September 2027

We would love for you to visit our school and see everything we have to offer at one of our open days on:

- Tuesday 29th September @ 9.45am or 5.00pm
- Monday 12th October @ 2.15pm
- Monday 9th November @ 9.15am or 5.30pm
- Friday 11th December @ 9.45am
- Wednesday 6th January @ 9.15am

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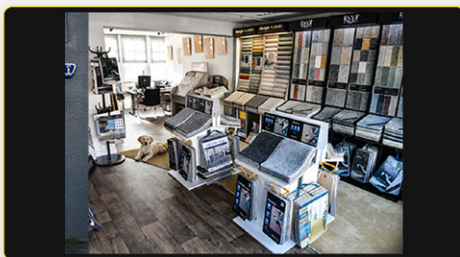
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Standstill Agreement

As you may recall from our article of 16th October 2024, certain individuals, including spouses, civil partners, former spouses or civil partners, cohabiting partners, children, and other dependants who were financially supported by the deceased, may bring a claim under the Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependents) Act 1975 („the 1975 Act“) where they have been excluded from the Will or where the provision made for them is not reasonable.

A claim under the 1975 Act must be brought within six months of the date on which the Grant of Probate is issued. This is a strict statutory time limit.

In many cases, parties will wish to seek further information and explore settlement before commencing proceedings. Litigation is usually treated as a last resort in order to minimise costs. The six-month limitation period, however, is often too short to allow for meaningful negotiations and the exchange of relevant information.

In such circumstances, parties may enter into a standstill agreement. This is a contract by which the parties agree to suspend the running of the limitation period, giving them additional time to negotiate and gather information without the immediate pressure of issuing court proceedings.

A standard standstill agreement typically provides that the parties will not rely on any defence based on limitation, time bar, laches, delay, or similar arguments for a defined period. Time is effectively paused from the date of the agreement until one of the following occurs:

1. the expiry of a notice period (for example, 28 days' written notice to terminate the standstill); or
2. the issue of court proceedings; or
3. a longstop date.

Standstill agreements can also be varied or extended, provided that all parties agree.

Standstill agreements offer several advantages. They encourage sensible pre-action dialogue, reduce the risk of rushed and expensive litigation, and allow parties to explore settlement in a less adversarial atmosphere. They are particularly useful in 1975 Act claims, which often involve emotional family issues and complex financial information that cannot be gathered quickly.

Nevertheless, there are risks. A standstill agreement is a private contract and does not bind the court. If the agreement is poorly drafted or one party later challenges it, the claimant may still face difficulties.

For this reason, it is essential to take legal advice when negotiating and drafting a standstill agreement.

Its terms must be carefully drafted to reflect the specific circumstances and intentions of the parties. Importantly, the agreement must be entered into before the expiry of the six-month limitation period.

The Court of Appeal in *Cowan v Foreman* [2019] EWCA Civ 1336 confirmed that, even where a standstill agreement is in place, a claimant may still require the court's permission to bring a claim out of time.

In summary, a well-drafted standstill agreement remains a valuable tool in 1975 Act claims when used carefully. It can help parties avoid unnecessary litigation, but it should never be treated as a complete safety net.

Advice Making a Difference



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Stoke Gifford WI

President, Jo Janes, welcomed members and visitors to our meeting on Wednesday 3rd June 2026.

Unfortunately our previously booked Speaker, John Caldicott, was unable to attend our meeting this evening due to unforeseen family problems. We have re-booked him for another meeting later in the year.

One of our own WI members, Alison Finn and her colleague Mike Guatieri, kindly stepped in to talk about and demonstrate "how to fall safely" with their programme called "Finding your Feet".

Alison and Mike are both Judo Instructors; Alison is from Patchway Judo Club and Mike is from Yate Star Judo. Spongy mats were placed on the floor to enable them to demonstrate how, if we should be unfortunate enough to fall, we might be able to save ourselves from a more serious injury like broken bones. Four of our members were brave enough to take part in some of this demonstration and did very well!

Our meeting on the 1st July will be our 60th birthday meeting and we will be having an American Supper, which is always very popular. We will also be having a social time called "Getting to know you". This enables our members, new and old, to introduce themselves on a more personal level telling each other about their working life, their family and personal pursuits. Each Committee Member will also be providing a photograph of themselves as a baby and the other members will be asked to guess who is who.

Visitors will always find a warm welcome at our WI Group which is held on the 1st Wednesday of the month in the Trust Hall, Stoke Gifford so please come along and join us.



Bristol Care Homes appoints Hills Waste Solutions

Leading care home provider Bristol Care Homes has appointed Hills Waste Solutions as its recycling and waste management partner, on an initial two-year contract. Bristol Care Homes' sites at Almondsbury, Thornbury, Horfield and Fishponds will be serviced from Hills' Avonmouth depot.

Enock Ebbah, Bristol Care Homes Sustainability Manager said: "Our partnership with Hills Waste Solutions is a pivotal step toward achieving our long-term Net Zero goals. By leveraging real-time waste data and a waste-hierarchy-led approach, we are significantly enhancing our recycling efficiency."

Caroline Wilde, Divisional Director - Commercial & Industrial at Hills Waste Solutions said: "Bristol Care Homes' decision to partner with Hills demonstrates their strong commitment to progressing towards net zero. We are proud to welcome them alongside the growing number of care home operators who trust us to support their sustainability goals. Our team will work closely with theirs to ensure full compliance, drive continuous improvements in recycling performance, optimise waste management efficiencies and help reduce carbon impacts across their operations."

Tula Welsh, Sales Manager at Hills Waste Solutions commented: "The management team at Bristol Care Homes



Pictured left to right: Alex Chew, Business Development Manager and Tula Welsh, Sales Manager (both Hills Waste Solutions). Enock Ebbah, Sustainability Manager; Rich Crocker, CEO & Alexandra Grozea, Marketing Manager (all Bristol Care Homes) at Bristol Care Homes' Glebe House site in Almondsbury.

can utilise Hills' customer portal, which gives them real time data about their bin weights, sustainability metrics, and real-time collection updates, helping them to track progress and make informed decisions."

Rich Crocker, CEO, Bristol Care Homes summarised: "Working with Hills Waste Solutions fully aligns with our short and long term aims of our waste management processes, reducing waste wherever possible, increasing our recycling opportunities and considering the impact we have on the environment through carbon footprint reductions."

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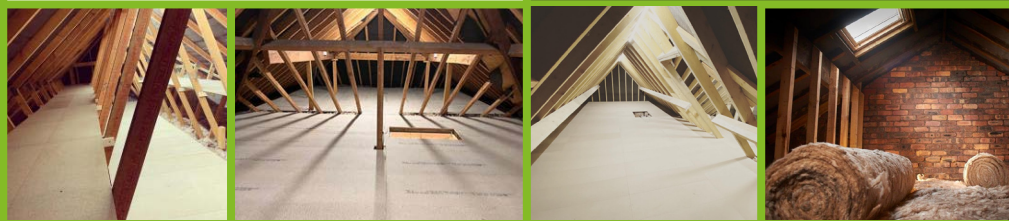
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Making Local Voices Heard Nationally

Monthly update from Claire Hazelgrove MP

Hi all, I hope you're well and enjoying the sunshine (between the showers!)

Last month, my team and I worked on 549 new cases for residents – including collaborating with the council, a housing association and the police to secure priority housing for a local family who urgently needed it.

I held my advice surgery in Emersons Green, hosted my 'Coffee with Claire' in Bradley Stoke on experiences of mental health services, and brought people together for 'Pub Politics' at Frenchay's fantastic White Lion. I believe in doing politics differently and these events have been invaluable for hearing directly from fellow residents.

Great news for local commuters: GWR will enter public ownership on 13th December, following the government's action to set up Great British Railways to improve services and passenger experience.

In Parliament, I welcomed the government's 'Great British Summer Savings' for local families, cutting VAT on days out from 20% to 5% and making buses free for every child aged 5–15 this summer. In a debate, I raised the importance of community pharmacies with Health Minister Stephen Kinnock MP following his visit to Concord Pharmacy in Little Stoke.

I also spoke in the Commons on the Milburn Report on the 1 in 8 young people not earning or learning, pushing policy recommendations to also focus on prevention. Opportunities should be open to all ages, and I was delighted to see SGS and UWE among the first institutions approved to offer flexible, bite-sized courses through our Government's new 'Lifelong Learning Entitlement'.

Continuing my push for improved SEND support, I met with the Schools Minister again to share local feedback following my recent 'Coffee with Claire' event on this, and to ask local parents' questions. I also sat down with the Technology Secretary and Online Safety Minister to share local views on social media access for under-16s, ahead of the policy announcement, following my event and online survey on this. Thank you again to all who shared your views.

I was honoured to attend the King's Speech, where His Majesty set out 37 bills for our second parliamentary session, including on energy independence to protect families from volatile global impacts, landmark NHS reform to cut waiting times, and a National



Police Service to tackle serious crime. Locally, South Gloucestershire Armed Forces Day was a powerful celebration of service. Thank you to all involved. Coming from an RAF family, I'm proud our Armed Forces Bill will give those who serve a legal entitlement to the housing, healthcare and education they deserve.

Among insightful local visits and meetings this month, I was pleased to join one of Bristol City FC's Robins Foundation's Pan Disability football sessions at Bradley Stoke Community School, and visit Bristol Dental School to discuss how we can continue to boost NHS dentistry – a priority I'm pushing on for us. I was also glad to cheer all runners on taking part in the Bradley Stoke 10K – congratulations to you all!

Please get in touch anytime:
claire.hazelgrove.mp@parliament.uk

Bristol North Combined Armed Forces and Veterans Breakfast Club

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The Toby Carvery
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Bristol BS32 4QB

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Contact:
Tony Griffiths on 07771 615953
or Keith Street on 08875 511792

The Window Hub: Bristol's Award-Winning Rise to the Top

When a Bristol-born company sets out to shake up an entire industry, you'd be forgiven for raising an eyebrow. But The Window Hub has done exactly that — and the trophy cabinet is starting to feel a little crowded!

In late 2025, The Window Hub was crowned the UK's Number One Installer at the prestigious G Awards, the fenestration industry's most coveted accolade. Going up against the country's biggest names, this Bristol team proved that genuine craftsmanship, honest pricing and an unwavering commitment to customers can outshine companies many times their size.

And the recognition hasn't stopped there. The Window Hub has just been announced as a finalist in not one, but two categories at the National Fenestration Awards: **Customer Care Company of the Year** and **Managing Director of the Year**. It's a remarkable double-nomination that speaks volumes about the culture and leadership behind the brand — a company that doesn't just fit windows, but treats every home as if it were their own.

What makes this story so compelling isn't simply the silverware. It's what those awards represent: thousands of happy homeowners across the South West who've experienced a refreshing alternative to the high-pressure sales tactics that have plagued our industry for decades. Transparent quotes. Premium products. A team that turns up when they say they will.

If you've been thinking about new windows, doors or a conservatory, there's never been a better time to talk to the company everyone in the industry is talking about.

Call The Window Hub today for your free, no-obligation quote — or visit our website to discover for yourself why we're officially Britain's number one installer.

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Enjoy all the benefits of your local Bristol Civil Service Sports Club

Rooms for work, play and community available – The club has several rooms that can be hired for meetings, conferences and parties. Our main function room is licensed for nearly 200 people. With a wide range of **catering options, including BBQs at affordable prices**, we are sure we can help you with any event you may wish to organise. We've already got **wedding parties** booked for 2027! Dare we mention Christmas? We're taking bookings for both family and work **Christmas parties!** Why not find out what we can do for you?

Our meeting and conference facilities include **audio and visual equipment**. Our refreshments and catering packages make our location one of, if not the best value conference facilities in Bristol, including free parking for up to 100 cars. We also have a self-contained pavilion building that is available for short or long-term hire. This is ideal for running classes or even as a base for a small business.

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.

Sport and games facilities/viewing – With two full size snooker tables, a pool table, two dartboards, two skittle alleys and the largest table tennis club in the southwest of England, there's plenty on offer inside the club, not to mention the outdoor sports as well. Sky Sports and TNT Sports are also shown on our many large screens – perfect for all the **World Cup action!**

If you would like to find out more, do pop in and say hello, from 7pm weekdays and 11am at weekends; **email: office@bristolcsc.co.uk** or call: **0117 951 4259**.



Learn Watercolour Painting at Coniston Community Centre

Looking for a calm and creative space to relax each week?

The Watercolourists Group at Coniston Community Centre meets every Tuesday from 2pm to 4pm. For only £5 per session, it is open to everyone aged 16+. With more 20 years' experience, the sessions are led by artist and tutor Roma Widger. Both beginners and experienced painters are welcome to join in.

Each week, you will explore different watercolour techniques and subjects, including landscapes, nature, buildings and still life. The focus is on enjoying the creative process, building confidence and taking time for yourself. Everyone is encouraged to learn at a pace that suits them. Refreshments are included, and there is plenty of time to share ideas and enjoy the company of others.

Many people leave the sessions feeling relaxed, refreshed and inspired. The group offers a welcome break from the stresses of everyday life. It will help you to unwind, boost your confidence and enjoy a sense of achievement through Watercolour painting.

Patchway resident, Carmen, joined the Watercolourists Group in 2012. She says:

"After moving to Patchway, my therapist suggested I do something creative. I started looking for an affordable art group and a neighbour recommended the Watercolourists Group at Coniston Community Centre. I gave it a go and have been going ever since! I was creative at school and now I have a chance to explore that part of me again. I feel I've improved over the years, and Roma is always kind and encouraging."

If you would like to get involved, there is no need to book, and new members are always welcomed.

The weekly sessions are:

- Every Tuesday, 2-4pm
- Suitable for beginners and all abilities
- Your first session is free
- £5 per session after that

To discover more about the Watercolourists Group and other activities at Coniston Community Centre, please visit **www.conistoncommunitycentre.org.uk**

Whether you want to try something creative, improve your wellbeing or simply spend time with others, the Watercolourists Group is a welcoming place to start.

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THORNBURY Art Club



There will be no Studio Groups in July or August. Next ones will recommence in September. Enquiries for Tuesdays Tel. 01454 414433, for Thursdays Tel. 07776271010. There will be no Club Night in July or August. Next one will be 22nd September.

Thornbury Art Club - 61st Annual Summer Exhibition

This is your chance to see what a wonderful variety of artworks our Club has recently produced. With an expanding membership, we have more artists keen to share their work and creativity, depicted in a wide range of subjects and materials. Many are for sale, some for as little as £10. There's nothing like having some original art to compliment your home or office. Come and chat with some of the artists, stock up on greeting cards.

More Art Related Activities at the Exhibition, Everyone welcome, no charge.
For all activities meet at The Exhibition

- **Sketching events** - Sat. 25th July 11- 12.30pm, Tues 28th July 14.00 – 15.30pm, Thurs 30th July 11- 12.30pm.
- **Guided Walks around Thornbury**
Weds 10.30am The Wayfinders guided walk around the town centre's 'Arty spots and shops'
Fri 10.30am The Wayfinders guided walk around art in our local churches and chapels
- **Book Fair** - Sat. 1st August 10am – 4pm. Upstairs above The Exhibition

Exhibition dates:- 25th July - 2nd August. Monday to Sat 10 am – 6 pm. Sunday 1 pm - 4 pm
Opening Day July 25th 10am – 9pm. Opening Introduction at 7pm by Thornbury Mayor Helen Ball. Late night opening until 9pm on Sat 25th and Fri 31st July

Thornbury Methodist Church Hall, door off Castle Court. BS35 2AQ. Free entry. Everyone is welcome, Wheelchair accessible. For more information contact: www.thornburyartclub.co.uk
www.facebook.com/ThornburyArtClub
or email exhibitiontac@gmail.com



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Bradley Stoke Library



Normal Opening Hours:
Mon, Tues, Thurs, Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 9.30am-12.30pm

Free Drop in Events Term Time Only -

- **Rhymetime** – Every Monday, 10.45-11.15am
- **Stories & Play** – Every Friday, 11am-12noon

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
Tuesday 21st July, 18th August, 15th Sept

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 3.45-4.30pm

14th July, 8th & 22nd Sept

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

Lego™ Club



Chatterbooks 4-4:45pm

7th July, 4th August, 1st Sept

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



Free Computer Courses

Want to improve your computer skills and connect with others? Join our FREE digital skills courses at your local library! Learn in a relaxed and friendly environment with supportive tutors who will guide you every step of the way.
When & Where: Tuesdays • Downend Library
Wednesdays • Bradley Stoke Library
Thursdays • Winterbourne Library
The courses begin in mid-September. However, as each week covers a different subject, it's still possible to join later, subject to availability

Open Access Hours (Unstaffed)

This is our system that lets you into the library when we are not open with staff between 8am – 7.30pm, 7 days a week using your library card. Library members complete a quick one-off Open Access induction session to register to use Open Access. You then can use our WiFi, computers, printing, collect reservations, issue and return books.

Find out more on this or any of the above by asking a staff member or visiting: www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries



Join the Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat FREE at your local library and earn stickers and rewards!

Every child aged 4 and above is invited to take part! Children read any books they enjoy and take part in fun activities over the summer holiday to collect stickers and rewards including a medal and certificate.

Join the Summer Reading Challenge 2026: Read to the Beat at a South Gloucestershire library during staffed hours from Saturday 4th July finishing by Saturday 12th September, and pick up your FREE activity bag.

See the difference the Summer Reading Challenge makes to your child's reading:

"I am a foster carer to 2 boys, so it was lovely to widen the range of books available to them. Also, it was great to see their motivation and sense of achievement at completing the challenge."

"My 10 year old is dyslexic and not a keen reader, has loved the dyslexia section and has really enjoyed the books she's chosen and has been really keen to come back to the dedicated section to choose another book."

Children love taking part and there are lots of fabulous FREE holiday activities: West African Drumming Workshops with Batch Gueye, Crafts, Junk Modelling Workshops and Lego™ Challenges.

The Summer Reading Challenge is delivered by The Reading Agency in partnership with public libraries and powered by Universal Music Group UK.

Find out more at www.southglos.gov.uk/summerreadingchallenge or follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/sgloslibraries for the latest updates.





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

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 at the Greenfield Centre, Park Avenue, Winterbourne on the third Thurs of the month at 2pm, Oct to June. More info from Sally - 07946 508316

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

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@bristolu3a.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 - 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 7.30pm at Trust Hall, North Road, Stoke Gifford BS34 8PF contact Sue Grimsted 07887 373924

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

On these pages we have tried to collate many of the non-profit making groups, clubs and organisations that regularly meet across the Five Stokes area, along with 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!

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@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 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

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

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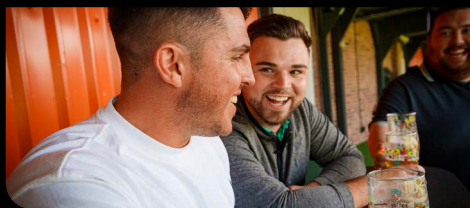
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