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Matters

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issue 151, Oct 2021



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Dear Readers...

Putting this October edition together, it has felt, more than any other time in the last 18 months, that events are once again taking place, community groups are meeting again and activities are being planned for the future. There is a good sense of hope.

Party in the Park 2021 was fabulous!

The sun shone, family and friends came together to picnic and enjoy all of the live entertainment - so great to have it back!

As you can see from the front cover picture (thanks to Paul Bullivant) the Pantaloons theatre production in St Andrew's Park was a joyous, entertaining event.

There is much activity in our local park - catch up on all the latest developments that include a new mural, pond improvements and planting of a new Food Garden.

If like me, your spirits rose during this

summer's Olympics, especially watching so many determined young people medal, I hope you will enjoy sharing in the success of local school children, Arlo and Aëlie. The siblings achieved great things at the BMX British Championships, and got to meet their Olympic heroes in the process!

Scouting is an organisation close to my heart, providing the opportunity for so many fabulous adventures! In order to keep these positive, memory-making experiences available to our local young people, the 63rd Scouts are asking for some new volunteers to step forward and join in all the fun!

An exciting, new collaboration between Marie Curie on Gloucester Road and HMP Bristol has recently launched. Find out how you can support this great initiative inside.

All this and so much more!

Kerry x

Email: kerry@bishopstonmatters.co.uk • www.bishopstonmatters.co.uk  Bishopston Matters
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Brilliant BMXing!

This month it was great to catch-up with two local Brunel Field pupils – Arlo (7) and Aëlie (6) who shared the fantastic news that they had both achieved British No.4 placements, at the recent BMX championships held in Leicester.

How did your family get involved with BMXing?

We've always enjoyed getting out and about on our bikes as a family but have no particular cycling background. A friend had spotted Arlo on his bike and commented that he was pretty speedy so should try the BMX track.

What was it like to compete at the BMX championship and what was your favourite part?

As this was our first major competition we had no idea what to expect. When we arrived there were thousands of people and hundreds of bikes so it was a little overwhelming, especially for mummy and papa who were very nervous! They had to make sure we lined up in the right pens, on time for all our races and have all our kit on properly as accidents can easily happen. Aëlie's favourite part was the parade, as each region dressed up as a theme (ours was the jungle). There were lots of balloons/costumes/face paints and we ran around the track – which we're normally not allowed to do! Arlo enjoyed the semi finals as he posted his best time...just over 47 seconds!

It's fantastic you met Olympic gold medallist Beth Shreiver and silver medallist Kye Whyte. Did they give you some words to inspire you?

They were both so happy for us and Beth said to keep going and not to give up! The BMX community is very small so you get lots of opportunities to regularly meet some awesome riders from British Champs to World Champs, even Olympic coaches! Everyone has been very encouraging and has given great tips and advice to us.

Where is your BMX club and are they looking for new members?

We are part of Bristol BMX club which is located just off Conniston Road in Patchway, BS34 5JT.

Kye Whyte leading the race in pink

Meeting Beth Shreiver, Olympic gold medallist, World & British Champion



Arlo & Aëlie celebrating their British No.4 titles!



Meeting Kye Whyte, Olympic silver medallist & British champion

The track is open to all but training with our coaches Jai and Dan is every Tuesday, with race night on a Wednesday. They are always looking for new members. Aëlie would especially like more girls to take part!

Can all ages get involved with BMXing and why would you recommend people take up the sport?

Yes, we have riders young and old. You can even start on a balance bike. When we started mum and papa ran behind us just incase! They have bikes and equipment you can borrow/hire if you'd like to try it out. Arlo recommends it as it's a great way to keep fit and it's much better than cycling on the flat, as you can practise tricks like manuals and jumps. Aëlie isn't as competitive so it's been a great place to meet new friends from around the country. It's lovely for children and adults to have a place to meet up and ride on a regular basis.

What is the next big event in the sport that you are looking forward to?

On 13 November, the South West Championships will be coming to Bristol, so we are looking forward to smashing it on our home track! It's free to come along and spectate and as usual there will be a fantastic raffle with some top prizes, food and a chance to shop! So if you're interested in riding get in touch or come along!

You can contact Bristol BMX Club via text: 07926 788038 | bristolbmclub.business.site Facebook | Instagram @bristolbmclub

LOCAL AUTHOR DREAM-WEAVING WITH NEW BOOK!

Ashley Down resident Sue Weekes (Stewart is her fiction-writing name) has been a friend to *Bishopston Matters* for many years, keeping us up to date with her latest writing project and supporting many traders within the magazine. It was great to catch up with her and hear all about her forthcoming novel for young adults Rowan the Dreamweaver, set to be part of an exciting trilogy.

Sue is self-publishing the novel as she is keen to get the book out to people. Much of the novel was written in local cafes and parks and then typed up on the computers in Bishopston Library. The whole process has been a family affair with members assisting with proofreading, social media and granddaughter Paige even produced a first draft of the front cover. There has already been a good deal of positive feedback and an interest in the book.

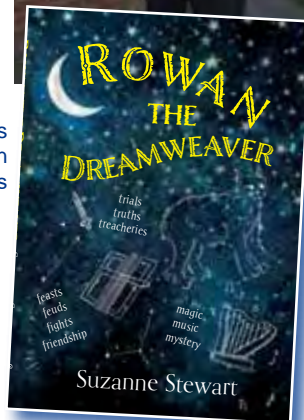
The novel is set 4000 years ago, but with modern twists; this is a story for anyone of 13 years and upwards who enjoys history, fantasy, adventure, romance, humour or music! The lead character is young woman called Rowan, who is caring and courageous from a complicated home background. She wants to prove herself as a weaver to people from all over Britain. As the Autumn Solstice festival week goes by, Rowan, supported by her lynx friend Kezzie, ends up finding out more about life, love – and who has really killed her father!

Sue told me the character Kezzie is a tribute to her dear cat Missy who is a great companion and friend.

Rowan the Dreamweaver will be available at £7.99 via Amazon, local bookshops or if you live locally, directly from Sue via the Facebook page below (with the bonus of a personal dedication). There are plans for a book launch in December at Bishopston Library; please visit the book's **Facebook page: rowanthedreamweaver** to be kept up to date with news on this.



Sue Weekes



LtoR: Fernando, Sarah, Rionna, Neil & Dawn

Second Chance Furniture launches!

A new and exciting collaboration between Marie Curie on Gloucester Road and HMP Bristol (previously known as Horfield Prison) has recently been launched.

The Second Chance Furniture scheme on Gloucester Road is a first for Marie Curie. Early signs indicate to Regional Manager, Neil, that this scheme is likely to be replicated in stores across the country. And with Marie Curie a familiar name to the residents, it enables them to give back directly to the community, while supporting a good cause.

Your small pieces of donated furniture that are a bit tatty or even broken are taken to HMP Bristol every couple of weeks to be transformed by the residents, participating on the Furniture Restoration Workshops, (an inclusive course open to all residents regardless

of age or experience) in to one-off unique pieces.

When the pieces are ready, they are displayed and sold at Marie Curie Gloucester Road, with all proceeds funding vital end of life care and support for dying people and their families in Bristol and beyond.

Sarah, HMP Workshop Leader said, "It provides an excellent outlet for the men, giving them a sense of purpose and achievement and of course life skills when they leave HMP – our residents have been judged, but in my workshop there is no judgement."

It seems to be a win-win – old furniture is recycled and given a new lease of life, residents learn a new skill, and the charity profits from the sale of each piece.

Marie Curie needs your donations, as the project is proving to be a hit, so if you have any small pieces of furniture to drop into their local shop, they would be very grateful. Please note regrettably they can't accept large pieces of furniture or anything with glass in it at this time.

For more information on the Second Chance Furniture project, pop into the Marie Curie shop and Community Hub, 105–107 Gloucester Rd, BS7 8AT or call Riona on 07876 748717.





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Update on Food Garden for St Andrew's Park

by Helen Jackson Brown and Penny Southgate

As part of the St Andrews Park food garden consultation, we spent a few hours in the park on Tuesday 24 August and Saturday 11 September, to explain the proposal to park users and gain their views. We're happy to say the response was overwhelmingly positive! Everyone loved the idea of growing food in St Andrew's Park – with fruit trees, fruit bushes/soft fruit and raised beds for salads, herbs and vegetables. The planting will attract pollinators and hopefully enable users of the park to enjoy growing and harvesting food, be in nature and connect with others.

Twenty-nine people completed the consultation forms sharing their views and ideas with some signing up to be involved. At least as many people stopped by and gave their support verbally, and both children and adults were keen to find out more and tell us what plants they wanted to see growing.

No one thought the proposal shouldn't go ahead.

A few quotes and comments –

'A lovely idea, I wish you every success.'

'Yes I would like to help, I know how to dig (child age 5)'

I love it, a great idea for the community.

Other ideas for the project –

'Community Harvest Day, picnics to come together, pick and eat together.'

'Herbs, sensory garden would be lovely for children to learn about.'

'I think that children seeing where food comes from is super important.'

We're now working towards actually getting something in the ground, finally! Helen has been busy sourcing trees and we hope to be planting them this November. We will let everyone know when this is happening, and will make a day of it in celebration, inviting the community to take part. At the same time we will be working with the council to get the materials for the raised beds. We have been working to raise money for the garden, and we are also going to create a crowdfunder.

We will keep everyone updated in the next issue of *Bishopston Matters*, but also more immediately in the [Food Garden for St. Andrew's Park](#) and [Friends of St Andrew's Park Facebook](#) groups.

A series of talented events in Bishopston Library

A brand-new project, launched by Friends of Bishopston Library is welcoming more young people into the library this autumn.

A series of talented events will explore how young people want to use the library beyond books and a study space. This project invites young people local to Bishopston, Ashley Down, Horfield and St Andrews to share ideas about how the space can be used in a more relevant and approachable way for people aged 17–23.

The library will host a series of workshops, events and activities based on ideas, interests and themes generated by young people that will lead up to a

celebration that showcases the young team's work in December. Ultimately the project aims to bring people together from the surrounding area in a gathering with food and music and experiment with different ways the library can be used by young people.

At this stage, the project is assembling a small volunteer team of ambassadors (aged 17–23) to be central to the planning and promotion of events in November and December and to drive the project forward. Only with young voices can the

project gather ideas and run a workshop series that truly is by and for young people.

If you are aged 17–23, are excited by the potential of libraries, the possibilities for this project and want to volunteer, email [Alison Cryan \(Project Coordinator\)](mailto:alisonc.fobl@gmail.com) via alisonc.fobl@gmail.com by 12 noon on Monday 11 October. If you know someone else that might be interested, pass on the information and ask them to get in touch.

You can join the Friends and support the library at facebook.com/bishopstonlibrary and bishopstonlibrary.org.uk. The project is supported by the Bristol Libraries Innovation Fund.

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The City of Bristol Brass Band is celebrating it's 85th year!

This wonderful band has many local members including their chairman and principal cornet player John Ellis. The band has played at numerous community events over the years and are making plans for 2022.

The band is thriving and busy rehearsing for their big 85th birthday celebration at St George's Bristol on 17 October 2021.

John told me, "Back in 2019 the band successfully applied to be part of *Adopt a Composer* run by *Making Music* the national body for all amateur music groups. We were paired with young composer Laura Shipsey and she has written an

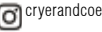
amazing work for both our senior and learner bands to perform. The piece will premiere with our 85th celebration at St George's".

The programme is full of a diverse range of pieces some with a theme around 'light' to reflect Laura's amazing composition 'Of far-flung Skies' but also includes Requiem by David Bedford, a composer of some renown, who lived in Bristol in the early 2000s.

Both the senior and Learner bands rehearse on Fridays at Parkway Methodist Church in St Werburghs and can be contacted via www.cobbb.co.uk or call Kate on 07957 619827.



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FOODSHOP

It's always wonderful to hear when a new, local business has been welcomed by the community and is thriving. Indie grocer Darren, had lots of news to share when I visited his Overton Road shop this month.

The first update, was that he was pleased to have expanded his fermented food range with an impressive selection of Kombucha, Kimchi, Kefir and Sauerkrauts.

The venue also has a new, fabulous wine list with 9 reds and 9 whites, from France, Italy and Somerset! There is good mix of vegan, organic, biodynamic and low-intervention wines.

The Deli now has bacon and black pudding from Trealy Farm in Wales, and you can pick up a freshly baked sour dough loaf on Friday or Saturday, thanks to Winterbourne-based Lockdown Loaves.

Darren has been delighted to extend his love of coffee from not just selling top quality beans but inviting a fellow business born out of lockdown – *Can't Dance Coffee*, to run their pop-up café in the adjoining courtyard. It was great to chat with owner Lucy (while enjoying a delicious latte), who told me they source their beans from Montpellier-based Triple Co. Roast – who have developed an exclusive blend for them. The coffee cart is open from 8:30am Tuesday to Saturday.

Also sharing the courtyard for pop-up events is Big Naths BBQ; do pick up a **Halloween special BBQ meal** (with locally sourced meats) to take-away for lunch or dinner on **Saturday 30 October**.

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Art Matters at Sefton Park

At the end of the last academic year Sefton Park Schools invited pupils to submit art work that could be transformed into a graffiti mural to brighten up a slightly dull area of the children's playground. Steve Fitzpatrick, of Graffarty.co.uk was invited to then transform the children's art work into a graffiti piece for the Key stage 2 playground.

Steve said, "The quality of the art work produced by the children was fantastic with some really high-level designs submitted." Steve described how he then successfully amalgamated the children's designs to pull together into the jungle cartoon theme.

Head teacher, Dan Simson added, "We are delighted that the children have a permanent piece of their artwork to brighten up one of our school playgrounds. It really has cheered up all

the pupils to know that their work is so valued. We were pleased that our pupil council led and ran the competition from start to finish and the end result is fantastic."

Included in the pictures are the pupils and their final art work plus Chair of Governors Sally Dore and a further representative from the Governors, Matt Slade, with artist Steve Fitzpatrick (far right).



Upcoming Open days at Sefton Park:

2 November 2021, 1.45 – 2.45 pm
4 November 2021, 9.30 – 10.30 am
10 November 2021, 9.30 – 10.30 am
16 November 2021, 5.30 – 6.30 pm
02 December 2021, 9.30 – 10.30 am
7 December 2021, 5.30 – 6.30 pm
5 January 2022, 5.15 – 6.15 pm

If you would like to book a place for a school visit or if you have any questions regarding school admissions please contact Sefton Park Schools at:

seftonpark@bristol-schools.uk
 or phone 0117 377 3290



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Joe's Bakery – Britain's Best Loaf WINNER!

There are many of us who already know Joe's Bakery produces Britain's best loaves but it's great they now have an award to make it official!

Joe's won both the Sourdough with other ingredients and White Loaf categories and were Highly commended in the Plain Sourdough section. The winning bread from each of the five categories then went on to be judged for overall champion – which Joe's deservedly won with their Prune and Cardamom Sourdough. This seasonal bread is officially Britain's Best Loaf 2021!

Joe's owners, Jane and Martin, are delighted to have received this fantastic accolade and see it

as a fitting tribute to all of the hard-work the whole team put in. They attribute much of the success to bakery manager Wayne and shop manageress Jenny, who were responsible for the bakery entering the competition. Partners Wayne and Jenny are the future of Joe's Bakery, who will be taking on the two local stores when Jane and Martin decide to retire. Our much-loved local bakeries are in safe hands.

Spooky Treats! It will soon be time to select your favourite, fun, gory confectionary! There are no tricks, just plenty of treats, including – monster cupcakes, ginger bread mummies, Frankenstein's monster, eyeball and cobweb donuts!

Joe's Bakery, 240–242 Gloucester Rd, BS7 8NZ, 0117 9071852 | Joe's Bakery at The Bread Store, 45 Gloucester Rd, BS7 8AD, 0117 3303798 | www.joesbakery.co.uk @Joe's Bakery Bristol

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Apple Day Fruit Tree and Produce Sale

Apple Day is normally the largest and liveliest public event at Horfield Organic Community Orchard (HOCO). The orchard relies on public events to raise essential funds. Cancelling two events earlier this year, January's Wassail and June's Summer Open Day, has hit funds hard.

High numbers of Covid cases in Bristol at the start of the school year raise doubts about larger gatherings as we head towards the winter months. HOCO members feel it isn't wise to organise a huge event for hundreds of people at this time. Instead, they are planning an

Apple Day Market on Sunday 17 October.

This will be similar to last year's market when orders were placed in advance and collected on the day. All fruit trees and plants have been raised locally. Small batches of homemade preserves are jam-packed with fruits from the orchard. Local honey and herbal body care products are available in limited quantities. Pre-ordering is strongly recommended. A selection of produce and products will also be for sale on the day, including one-off green woodworking made with fruitwood from the orchard.

Identifying mystery apples is another popular Apple Day activity. The Apple Tree Lady is offering to do this for a donation to HOCO of £5 for each variety. "It's not a science", says Orchard Learning co-ordinator, Shannon Smith. "I have seen hundreds of different kinds of apples over the years, and I love the challenge of solving the mystery. It's fruitful fun - and all in a good cause!" See the HOCO website for more information.

Details may change due to events beyond our control. Please contact HOCO c/o the website to make sure you get up-to-date information about the market.

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News from the green room

The Green Room was pleased to welcome stylist Karen back to the salon at the end of the summer, when she returned from maternity leave. Karen works 3 days a week – Monday 10–5.30, Thursday 10–8 and Friday 10–7.

Salon director Jo underwent a long-awaited hip replacement in September; she is doing well but will be away from the salon recouping until the end of October.

The Green Room is following all government guidelines to enable them to work in a professional, safe environment. Staff will continue to wear PPE and ask their clients to wear a face-mask please.

As you can see from the stunning results opposite, fresh stylist Zee enjoyed a balayage by owner Jo (top) and they are bringing back the fabulous Farrah Farcet look on stylist Adrienne (bottom) with the new Dyson air-wrap.



If you would like to enjoy a new look or refresh your current one this autumn, do book in with the Green Room soon so they can work their magic.



The Green Room, 15 The Promenade, Gloucester Road, BS7 8AL

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Keeping Autumn Fit

Keeping your summer motivation in autumn can be tricky, but with a new season brings new opportunities. For people who have health and fitness ingrained into their lifestyle it's business as usual in the colder months, but for some of us it's harder to keep motivated.

Be thankful for whatever you achieved during the sunnier months, be realistic and appreciate that the day-light will get shorter and the weather will take a turn. Keep this in mind and start setting yourself a new goal, keep things fresh and consider setting your sights on a spring event. A big positive is that sleep can be easier with the cooler nights, which is massively important to keep your energy levels high.

Be mindful of your diet in colder months, as it can be easier to comfort-eat. Consider what seasonal fruit and veg is out there to add into your diet with apples, butternut squash, cauliflower, blackberries, radishes, carrots, rhubarb all coming into season.

It might be colder, but autumn is still an amazing time of year to get outside. The range of activities you can still do without feeling uncomfortable is massive in Bristol – get on your bike or go for a hike. Outdoor classes in the autumn are also fantastic; join a small group training session and get involved



in some squad goals. Training in a group or even just a plus one is proven to keep you going longer and further.

The digital class revolution is booming at the moment. Everyone Active On Demand (and many other online suppliers) have everything you might need for relatively modest fees. If the weather takes a turn, use this as your plan B and get it on your TV, tablet or your phone and enjoy a workout at your fingertips, no excuses!

One last thing that will keep some of us going, is to style it out – go get some new gear. There's nothing quite like a fresh pair of trainers or some new clothes to keep you going, just don't forget the exercise bit after!

Cameron Bate | General Manager
Horfield Leisure Centre

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THE POWER OF REFORMER PILATES

How it can work for you and your body

The Pilates Reformer may have risen to mainstream fame thanks to celebrities swearing by its transformative powers, but Soul Pilates wants you to know that the practice really can be for everybody.

Put simply, it's Pilates performed on specialist equipment (the Reformer), which allows for a more dynamic, supported and targeted workout of every muscle in the body. We spoke with owner of Soul Pilates, Nic Lenny, to learn about their Pilates Reformer Method.

Tell us why Reformer Pilates is different?

The Reformer is an amazing piece of equipment. Far from just a workout for your core, it helps to elongate the spine, joints and muscles which then leads to greater flexibility, strength and a more balanced posture. It can sometimes be thought of as 'advanced Pilates', but actually it's a great place to start as a beginner because it helps your body to move efficiently in a more supported way compared to traditional mat Pilates and other movement practices.

Who can do Pilates Reformer?

Reformer Pilates is literally for all bodies and all ages; the Reformer doesn't discriminate. It really is there to help us all achieve our own personal goals – be that 'running a marathon' or 'putting on my own socks post-hip replacement'.

In one day, I can be teaching a world number one sportsperson and an 84-year-old lady and everybody in-between! At Soul we keep all our 'Reformer: Align' classes open to all levels so that those new to Soul can feel welcome across our entire timetable. For me, being open to all is an important ethos at our studio.

What are the misconceptions you often hear about Pilates?

The point with Pilates is to help you move efficiently, so that you can go and enjoy life with strength and energy, but you often hear that you need to be 'in shape' or 'young' to do Reformer Pilates, which is absolutely not true.

The Soul Pilates philosophy is to help all bodies and all ages build a strong supported core and then progress outwards to build overall strength and stamina.



For someone looking to get into Reformer Pilates, how many classes do you suggest a week?

With most things wellbeing and health-related, consistency is key. We usually recommend starting with two classes a week or some 1:1 sessions, and building this up over a few months.

At the start of your Soul Pilates journey, you're going to be concentrating so much on different parts of your body that you'll be thinking "woah how do I move that bit" but in time, as you become more familiar with the Soul Pilates method, you'll be moving muscles you didn't even know you had. I often say "this is the brain part of the workout" because that connection between body and mind is something a lot of us lose, and at Soul we want to help you rebuild it so you feel strong and move without pain.

Is there another workout you suggest your members do on the side to supplement Pilates with?

Really, whatever makes you feel good! Pilates is here to complement your lifestyle, because what is the point of pumping weights if you can't move your hips or can't go for a run if you feel your joints aching in pain.

Some of our clients religiously come to class four times a week, others enjoy running, lifting weights and rock climbing outside of Pilates.

We need agility to live a healthy life and that's a fundamental benefit of Pilates.

Get 1 month of classes at Soul for £149 and access over 30 Reformer classes.

Unsure of where to start? Book a consultation call with the team to discuss your needs via the website www.soulpilates.co.uk or email on hello@soulpilates.co.uk.



The Maybe Southwest exhibition will be held at Room 212 | Stunning mosaic by Toni Burrows | Artist Huw Richards & Dr Sarah Pitt

Local artists invited to join exhibition to raise money for Mental Health Charity

Gloucester Road gallery Room 212 will be hosting an art exhibition and prize draw to raise funds for Maybe Southwest, a mental health charity based in Bristol, working with children, young people and adults. Artists are invited to submit original artworks to be displayed on a wall at Room 212 throughout November, leading up to the North Bristol Art Trail on the weekend of 26–28 November. This popular art trail will be celebrating its 20th year so its apt to use the occasion to highlight the enormous benefit of art therapy, especially for younger people. Members of the North Bristol Art Trail and Room 212 are invited to take part and other artists are asked to **submit artwork by the deadline of Monday 11 October 2021**.

A panel of artists, including Room 212 owner Sarah Thorp, artist Huw Richards Evans (pictured at his exhibition with Dr Sarah Pitt, Maybe Southwest) and textile artist Debby Bird, will select the artwork to be displayed in the exhibition. Other larger art pieces will be on display in the Room 212 Garden during the NBA trail weekend, including a large bronze sculpture of a ram's head by Maria Pitt, valued at £3000, and original paintings by Huw Richards Evans. All the artwork will be offered as prizes in a draw, with tickets available at Room 212, and online throughout November. The draw will take place at the end of the North Bristol Art Trail. This is a fantastic chance to win an original work of art at a snip of the usual price, while raising money for a really worthy cause.

Artists are invited to submit artwork including paintings, lino prints and mixed media pieces, measuring up to 20 x 25cm with or without a frame. Please send images to maybesouthwest@gmail.com. Artists who are selected at this stage will be asked to bring the original artwork along for a selection day. Everyone is welcome to

have a go! Organisers are working on other ways to raise funds from the most popular artwork chosen, perhaps sold as prints or cards.

Maybe Southwest is a self-funded charity offering Psychotherapy and Art Therapy to those who cannot receive appropriate or timely support from the NHS and who do not have the financial means to fund private services. Asking Bristol artists and art lovers to help raise funding through their artwork seems so appropriate and a great way to bring more artwork to life! More information on the charity can be found here www.maybe-southwest.co.uk

Meanwhile, North Bristol Artist Toni Burrows has recently completed a beautiful mosaic of a fox in front of Montpelier's favourite café, The Bristolian. Room 212 is delighted that Toni has agreed to display it in the window throughout October. Toni never sells her originals but they always amaze passers-by and prints are available through Room 212.

Up-to-date information and details of the Exhibition will be posted on the Room 212 events page www.room212.co.uk

NORTH BRISTOL ARTISTS

ART TRAIL

27-28 NOVEMBER 2021

www.northbristolartists.org.uk

20 YEARS

Celebrating 20 years of the North Bristol Art Trail!

North Bristol Artists celebrate their 20th trail this November. The North Bristol Art Trail has launched the career of many artists and is a hugely popular free community event. Some of the originators of the trail recently met to share their memories of how it all began (pictured below).

In 1999, Cath Read and Sarah Cowper, who were then strangers, realised that, by coincidence, they were independently holding exhibitions of their art in neighbouring houses in St Andrew's on the same weekend. The following year they decided to show together and invited 6 other artists to join them.

Many founding artists met each other by word of mouth, often while picking up their children in local school playgrounds. But in 2001 they placed an advertisement in a local community magazine, *Points North*, inviting other artists to consider showing together. Thus, the first North Bristol Art Trail was born, driven by a sense of community and a need for artists to join together to show their work to local residents.

28 artists took part on the first North Bristol Art Trail, showing their work in 7 homes plus a group show at Café Unlimited (used to be next to Bishopston Hardware) giving away free croissants and coffee. During a following trail people were offered horse and cart rides on the streets round St Andrew's Park! Early trails had queues snaking down the street waiting to visit exhibition venues and by the 3rd year there was a huge surge in the number of local artists wishing to take part. Nowadays more than 100 artists exhibit work in over 50 venues and thousands of visitors look forward to visiting the trail.

A successful application to the Bristol City Council Arts Festival Fund helped develop the trail to reach a wide demographic and artists collaborated to offer educational experiences and promote arts and artists within the community. Art projects were run



LtoR: Huw Richards, Cath Read, Sarah Cowper, Debby Bird & Isobel Golt Morris

on to hold an annual schools' art exhibition in St Andrew's Park. They also exhibited artwork from Horfield Prison, founded Lighting Up (now an independent



Cath Read's Bristol City Lights

charity run by artists working with people with dementia and their carers) and continue to run ongoing art exhibitions at Southmead Hospital and Westbury on Trym GP surgery.

Coldharbour Gallery in Westbury Park is now run by trail originator Sarah Cowper and shows work by many North Bristol Artists year-round, as does Fig and Room 212. This section of Gloucester Road (Glos Rd Central) is now seen as a permanent destination for local art. Meanwhile the North Bristol Artists website showcases all the artists and the wide range of artwork on offer – from paintings and prints – to jewellery, photography and ceramics.

It's wonderful that so many artists in our area can make a living through their art. The local community, businesses and magazines (thank you *Bishopston Matters* for your support!) have made this possible over all these years. Lockdown last year meant that artists were only able to display work outside. This year artists plan to open their homes and studios once again and welcome visitors to a safe and enjoyable trail. Many venues will hold a preview night on Friday evening or refreshments during the trail. You'll be able to pick up trail maps at a number of venues throughout Bristol – check our website for details – or just look at the online map and artist listings. Up-to-date information will also be offered via Facebook and Instagram.

The trail has always been the last weekend of November and trail supporters come whatever the weather – including blizzards and downpours! It's a fantastic way to pick up unusual Christmas gifts or something original for your home, while chatting to artists or bumping into friends and neighbours.

North Bristol Artists thank you for your support and look forward to seeing you on 27–28 November!

www.northbristolartists.org.uk

Introducing Harold Stephens – Your later life financial planning specialists

What do we mean by 'later life' planning?

Later life typically begins when you stop amassing funds and start spending them – the fun bit!

We can help you with everything from retirement onwards. From the planning retirement requires to investments, long-term care planning and estate planning, which includes everything from inheritance tax advice to probate and estate administration.

We know, that all sounds a bit stuffy. So what makes us different?

Apart from the fact that we pride ourselves on having an old-fashioned face-to-face service that you just don't tend to come across any more, we have created a bespoke offering, meaning you don't need to speak to multiple companies to organise your affairs.



Richard Higgs

You may be used to using a financial adviser for your finances and a solicitor for other work such as trusts or Wills. We can offer you a 'one-stop shop' for all of your later life planning needs.

And why is that important?

- It's much less stressful to have only one point of contact – for you – and also your loved ones, especially when you pass away.
- With an overview of everything, you benefit from real holistic planning. It's the joined-up thinking you just can't achieve by using different firms.
- We are dedicated to being specialists in later life financial and estate planning. All of our knowledge is built around providing the best service for you and your needs.

Our approach

We believe people benefit the most when financial advice is delivered in a personal and face-to-face manner. Call it old fashioned, but we want to get to know your story, your families, you – so we can offer bespoke financial advice tailored and suited to your needs. Just like it should be.

Usually, we kick things off with a relaxed chat about your situation over a cup of tea (and cake if you like!) and Richard will give an honest appraisal of how we can help you. If he thinks we're not the right firm for you, he's always happy to let you know who he would recommend to help.

Community spirit

When Richard founded the firm, he did so with a strong belief that it should have a positive impact on the local community. It's something the whole team is passionate about and we are proud to say it's a genuine commitment.



A relaxed, complimentary financial review with Chartered Independent Financial Adviser, Richard Higgs

Together as a team, we chose three local charities to support which are close to our hearts: St Peter's Hospice, BRACE (Alzheimer's Research) and Marmalade Trust. We fundraise through community events such as charity golf and bowls days and help to promote their work through our own networking and marketing.

We're also the first corporate sponsor of Sustainable Westbury on Trym (SusWoT), a group of local people looking at the issues of climate change and diminishing fossil fuel reserves. We regularly litter pick as a team and work to improve the local environment.

Being a later life specialist, we realise there's more to life than planning your finances and so we've recently decided to curate a series of monthly face-to-face community well-being events in Westbury on Trym, kicking off in September with talks about topics affecting people in later life and the opportunity to learn new skills.

We want to provide a space for people to come together and share tips and advice to make the very best of later life. If you're interested in joining us, please email community@haroldstephens.co.uk for more information about the events we're hosting.

Get in touch

If you'd like to book a relaxed, complimentary financial review with Chartered Independent Financial Adviser, Richard Higgs, please

email richard@haroldstephens.co.uk or call 0117 3636 212.

We'd be delighted to welcome you.





Building Communities Where Difference is Celebrated

We are delighted that MENCAP have chosen us as one of the nine communities from across the UK as part

of their, 'My Communities' project. The project aims to make Bristol a better place for people with a learning disability to live. 'Step and Stone' – the bakery that makes handmade lavosh flatbread – and who are working to close the employment gap among people with learning disabilities, are also a key local partner for MENCAP. We are hoping to work with all our existing partners and to find more who share our aims in this exciting venture.

The 'Works' employment project has been progressing steadily. We have agreed in principle to work with City of Bristol College on the 'Aspiration Work' project aimed at a younger age group, which will include City of Bristol students in delivery. We have started a dialogue with the 'We Work For Everyone' team at Bristol City Council. They have now produced the process by which we can apply for funding to get the works project underway, which we will be getting on with now. We are building up a great list of partner organisations interested

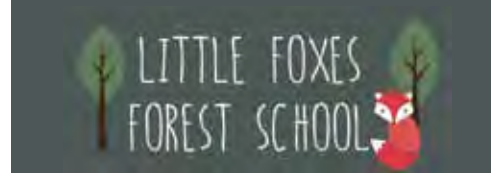
in helping provide work experience for young people with a learning disability, if you or your organisation is interested, please get in touch.

This summer our ongoing collaborations with The Golden Hill Community Garden, St Paul's Adventure Playground and Bristol Plays Music have provided opportunities for young people with a learning disability to take part in lots of fun activities.

SENDaWelcome was co-founded to put disability on the local agenda and ensure children with disabilities felt connected to and part of their community. We are in the process of becoming a Community Interest Company and are working on a development plan for how we move our work forward in the coming years.

For more information, please get in touch,
Email: sendawelcome@gmail.com
Visit: www.sendawelcome.co.uk
Facebook: [SENDaWelcomeBristol](https://www.facebook.com/SENDaWelcomeBristol)

SENDaWelcome
Local people building inclusive communities



Little Foxes Forest School is your local forest nursery, founded by and run by a team of highly qualified teachers and staff. We are proud to be caring for our 2.5 – 4 year olds in the beautiful surroundings of Stoke Park Estate in BS7.

We are excited for the return of our stay and play group too, for 0-5 year olds. This is now up and running at the Westbury Wildlife Park Foundation, BS9.

To find out more about our nursery, or to put your child on the waiting list visit www.littlefoxesforestschool.com or email info@littlefoxesforest.co.uk.

Wishing everyone good health and happiness from all of our team.



littlefoxesforestschool



In memory of Anna Louise Tenbroeke

11th January 1974 – 28th July 2021

It is with great sadness we share the news of the passing of Anna Tenbroeke, known well by many local residents and traders.

Anna opened the doors to The Flower Shop on Gloucester Road in 2004, and ran her well-supported florist on our high street for seventeen years. She was a well-liked member of our community who built up a successful business supplying flowers to residences, businesses, weddings and events across the city and beyond.

Sadly, Anna lost her battle to cancer on 28 July this year. She died peacefully at her family home in Redland with loved ones.

Editor's note: Anna supported Bishopston Matters from the very start and remained a loyal customer for the last 14 years. I enjoyed our chats when I popped copies of the magazines into the shop. We shared a love of animals and always asked after each other's spoil pets. She provided beautiful flowers for my wedding and for my father's funeral. Anna will be missed.

The Flower Shop will stay open under the management of Anna's dear friend – Lucy Manning, who worked with Anna frequently over the last 20 years. Lucy wishes to respectfully continue the local floristry business her friend worked hard to establish.

Circle Dance Evenings

At The Old Library on the last Tuesday evening of the month led by Susannah Temple.

Join them Tuesday 26 October, 7.30 – 9.30pm

They look forward to welcoming people back and new dancers are always welcome!

Enjoy music from different countries. Beginners are welcome and you don't need to have a partner. The dances vary a lot, from peaceful to lively. Join in as much or as little as you want! Susannah teaches as you go along, so you can pick it up gradually. Warm, informal community dance evenings for all abilities. Light refreshments provided. Cost: five pounds or so to cover costs and support The Old Library.

For more details, get in touch with Susannah:
0117 979 1519 | susannahtemple@googlemail.com



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Fairfield High School students show their worth

Fairfield High School students celebrated a strong set of GCSE results, demonstrating considerable resilience and flexibility, as their course changed multiple times across the year. Many students were awarded high grades based on their hard work and achievement over five years in the school, the last two of which have proved highly challenging.

Others reached standards well above those that might have been expected when they started at FHS. Fairfield has recently been rated Bristol's top non-selective school in *The Guardian's* Schools Guide, shining in particular in the areas of representation, disadvantaged pupils and progress. It prides itself on recognising the success of all students, including those with English as an additional language and young people in care.

FHS is committed to ensuring that the students who are leaving are able to follow suitable courses from September. The school will be keeping in close contact with these students and will be working with them to help them confirm their next steps. Some will go on to V6, the joint sixth form provision for Fairfield and Montpelier High School, while others will take up places at other colleges and sixth forms in the city.

Principal Nick Lewis said: "We are extremely proud of our Year 11s, whose time at Fairfield has been a rollercoaster during the past two years. The resilience they have shown due to the ever-changing picture of exams is commendable. As with the cohort who left us last year, we are determined that their future plans will not be derailed by the coronavirus crisis. Our staff have really gone the extra mile to support them.

"Well done to all the students who have achieved the grades they were hoping for. Perhaps more importantly, I want to congratulate all our young people who have shown ongoing maturity and resilience. I wish them all the best for the future."

Former Head Student and Bristol Youth Mayor Alice Towle echoed the Principal's comments. She said: "Last year our teachers were fantastic, checking up on us by phone and email. The post-16 transition co-ordinator knew where everyone was planning to go for sixth form in September and provided amazing support throughout the whole process."

Open Mornings (in school)

Tuesday 5 October, 9.30–10.30am

Friday 15 October, 9.30–10.30am

Open Morning (virtual)

Wednesday 6 October, 9.30–10.30am

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Web: stbons.uk

Phone: 0117 353 2830

News from St Bon's

Finding our new normal

There has been a buzz of excitement on the playground of St Bon's at the start of our new school year.

For the first time in 18 months our children have lined up together on the playground each morning and have joined together to share our morning prayer. Parents have also been invited onto the school playground at the end of each day to collect their children. Headteacher, Sarah Ballantine, reported, "The lockdown has helped us to truly appreciate the support of our school community. Not being able to physically come together over the past 18 months has been difficult for us all. We are delighted to be able to welcome parents back onto the playground in the afternoon."

This year, as we find our new normal, we are determined to ensure all of our pupils access at least one of our extra-curricular activities. This has been a challenge for PE leader, Kate McGrath, who has planned an extensive range of opportunities for our pupils, ranging from the ever-popular football and netball to the more unusual sports of archery and fencing. We are also offering non-competitive activities such as dance, debating, choir, and chess club to name a few. We believe that the extra-curricular provision at St Bon's is outstanding. Whatever interests our pupils have, there is something to suit every child.



Local & online tutor for children aged 6–11

Horfield resident Liz Romero

I trained as a primary school teacher in 2010, after volunteering at St Bonaventure's school, where my daughters both attended. Post qualification, I was a class teacher at Westbury Park, St Mary's Bradley Stoke, and St Bonaventure's. I am now a part-time class teacher at Our Lady of the Rosary, Lawrence Weston. The rest of the time I work as a supply teacher and a tutor.

I love working one to one with a child and watching them grow in confidence. I think it is helpful if I can liaise directly with their class teacher so that I can tailor my tutoring to their needs in school.

My teaching style is positive and warm but focused so that we make good progress during a session but it is still fun. I can tutor in any of the subjects in the Primary Curriculum and I can also prepare children for entrance exams to grammar school or private school. I am delighted to have assisted students to successfully secure places in their desired schools.

I live near Gloucester Road in Horfield and would like to tutor children in their homes within walking distance of my home, or online. I am fully DBS checked and can provide references on request. I won't be asking parents to commit to a series of sessions unless they want to. I am happy to work on an ad hoc basis, at a reasonable hourly rate, afternoons or weekends.

Please email me on eromerotutor@gmail.com

or call **07824 700 439** if you would like to discuss how I can help boost your child's confidence.

"My teaching style is positive and warm but focused so that we make good progress during a session but it is still fun."



Life Matters! Gloucester Road gets a new Automated External Defibrillator

Immediate CPR and quick access to an automated external defibrillator (AED) increase the chance of survival threefold – from 1 in 10, to 3 in 10. So, it's no wonder local Gloucester Road businesses agreed to fund a second AED on our High Street.

Simon Brookes, a former Community First Responder for South Western Ambulance Service Trust, approached Martin from Joe's Bakery and John from Conran Carpets to ask for their assistance in raising awareness and funds for an AED in their shopping area. Thanks to the generosity of local traders, the team were able to purchase and put in place a new AED, north of Pigsty Hill, by the Golden Lion pub, making the neighbourhood an even safer place to visit.

Simon Brookes is motivated by having seen first-hand the difference between life and death this equipment can provide. And to date he has facilitated the installation of 16 AEDs across Bristol.

"I was a community first responder for nine years and know that the immediate accessibility of these devices can mean the difference in outcome in the event of a cardiac arrest. Life expectancy drops 10% per minute without intervention and the brain starts to deteriorate after 3 minutes of being starved of oxygen." Simon Brookes

Hoping for a collaborative approach, and needing funding to get one set up, Simon was delighted to be met with such a positive response from the Gloucester Road business community, who were only too happy to donate towards the cost of an AED.

So it's with great gratitude we thank Simon and the local businesses involved: Bana Dessert, Boston Tea Party, Bristol Furniture Makers, Chimp House, Conran Carpets, David Giles Butchers, Designers Barber Shop, Evans Entwistle, Express keys, GR Fitness, Horders Electrical, Horfield Quakers – Friends Meeting House, Joe's Bakery, Lona Restaurant, M J Dalton Butchers, Marialina, Oddsox, Osna, Paper Plane, Pawson's Fruit & Veg, Pearce's Hardware, Room 212 and Xpress Signs.

Fundraising is now its final stages to facilitate a third AED on our high street, to be positioned around the Prom area – so watch this space! Each unit costs around £1,800 including fitting. The first Gloucester Road AED is fitted at Apple Green petrol station.

If you know of an area that would benefit from having an AED installed and would like some



Left to right: Martin, John & Simon next to the new AED

support and advice on how to go about making this happen, Simon is happy for you to email him at: simonbrookes@ic24.net.

Defibrillators installed, and in use, in the local area

- Gloucester Road, Apple Green petrol station, BS7 8NL
- Gloucester Road, Prison building near Golden Lion, BS7 8NZ
- Beehive pub, Wellington Hill West, BS9 4QY
- Bristol Chiropractic, 2 Kellaway Avenue, BS6 7XR
- Bristol Property, 14 Chandos Road, BS6 6PE
- Horfield Common, outside of Ardagh, BS6 7YL
- Max Minerva's bookshop, North View, Westbury Park, BS6 7PY

What to do in case of cardiac arrest

- Call 999, put your phone on speaker and start to administer immediate CPR. Send someone to collect the AED.
- Give the 999 operator your AED location (on the lockable box). They will give you a code to unlock the 24/7 AED.
- On return to the patient, having applied the sticky pads as directed, follow the voice prompts which will tell you exactly what to do (no formal medical training is required).
- Wait for an ambulance.

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September saw the welcome return of the ever-popular Golden Hill Party in the Park. What a day! The weather was more than kind, with blue skies and sunshine. The grounds were buzzing with groups of families, friends and plenty of stalls of all varieties. Everyone was there to support this fantastic community event that was so sorely missed last year due to the pandemic.

Bishopston Matters was once again proud to sponsor the Horse Hoppers races and witness what fun they brought to the competitors! Then of course all the young bakers were delighted to have their creations judged in the Bake Off by no other than Briony May of the Great British Bake Off, aided by her trusty assistant Nora (pictured top left). Congratulations to all entries, and to Noah – winner of the Cake Category.

"I've been so impressed by the level of skill; I would have been proud to have produced any of these!" Briony May.



The day was filled with music including the sea swaying Storm Force 10 – who entertained with their sea shanties. There were impressive dance performances from Street Envy too.

Bishopston Matters really enjoyed browsing the stalls, the smell of candy floss floating through the air, the chatter of people and the best sound... laughter. We need more of this!

Finally, the evening went out with a colourful bang, closing with a magnificent fireworks display.



The 63rd Scouts NEED YOU!



The 63rd Scouts were marooned this summer in the heart of the Cotswolds, on their Treasure Island Camp, delighted to be back camping under canvas and having fun in Penn Wood, near Stroud. Over 60 Scouts were aboard to build shelters in the woods, create signal fires, build and race rafts round the campsite and go hunting for gold and all sorts of treasure throughout the Cotswold Hills! The Scouts loved preparing their own meals and cooking for themselves in their patrols. The end of camp culminated with a fantastic Pirate Party, which included an outdoor cinema among the trees!

The leadership team had as much fun as the Scouts on camp and are all looking forward to Scouting this autumn, when they have plans for more exciting and fun things for the Scouts, along with ambitious plans for future camps and the growth of the group.

"I started helping out with the 63rd Scouts when my son started Beavers in 2016, and have risen through the ranks with him to reach the heady heights of Assistant Scout Leader on Friday nights.

I love the opportunities to do things outside the urban norm that Scouting gives the kids. It's fire-lighting, structure-building, map-reading, team-working, marshmallow-toasting, stumbling into bed tired and happy after an awesome time at camp. It's about seeing them overcome challenges that they thought were beyond them. It's about them making new friends, having a go and it's about having fun.

Best of all, as a leader, I get to do it too! And it's all so well supported by the other amazing leaders and parents at the 63rd. A great team to be a part of!"

Caz, Assistant Scout Leader

However, the team need to recruit new leaders if they're going to realise their plans and to ensure that the Group remains viable in the future.

Volunteering is good for you!

At the 63rd Bristol Scouts there are many opportunities to get involved and to help the young people of the community build skills for the future, develop their sense of adventure and really find their thing! *Bishopston Matters* is a huge supporter of Scouting and knows what importance it holds to our young people – there are few places our children can embark on such wild adventures.

My late father was a Scout and then a leader. He made the best memories of his life during these happy years. If you still need some convincing, enjoy reading the featured quotes from current leaders. Go on, give it a go – you won't regret it!

Find out more about volunteering

email: Matt.j.lloyd@btinternet.com

Visit: www.63rdbristol.org

"I've been a leader now for 4 years, and I initially joined up as I wanted both my daughters to experience Scouting as I remember it being great fun when I was younger, and they both wanted me to help out and all be Scouts together. So I asked what I could do to help.

I'm so glad I did, I've met some really good friends, been welcomed into a wonderful community and the young people at the 63rd are great fun and brilliant company. Each week we are so impressed with their enthusiasm, resilience and willingness to challenge themselves. It really is inspirational stuff."

Matt Lloyd, Scouts Section Leader





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The benefits of digital legacy services in estate administration

Recently, both Apple and LinkedIn have announced significant developments to their digital legacy options. It's another box to tick on the to-do list, alongside writing a Will, however, setting up a digital nominee to manage your digital assets will save loved ones a huge amount of time and stress when you are no longer here.

What is a digital legacy?

A digital legacy is information that is available online about someone following their death. It can be something that person has left online such as social media profiles, photos uploaded to social media channels or photo storage websites, gaming profiles or blogs. It can also include interactions they have had online, such as Facebook messages or Tweets.

What are digital assets?

Digital assets are essentially 'possessions' that an individual accesses on a digital device such as a laptop, mobile phone, tablet or computer. They are usually accessed via an online account run by a third party provider such as Google or Facebook for example.

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How do I manage my digital legacy?

- Consider choosing an account nominee to take over control of certain aspects of your accounts.
- Specify in your Will that you have given your executors specific power and authority to deal with digital assets so that the executors can make more progress with the Internet Service Providers, which may be outside of the UK.

Are my digital assets passed on in my Will?

When you start using online services such as social media accounts or online banking apps, you are asked to agree to the terms and conditions. They are essentially a contract outlining how we can (and cannot) use and enjoy these services.

Put simply, when you pass away, the license for that content expires with you. However, by using digital legacy services, you can appoint a 'digital executor' to close down your accounts and organise your photos, videos etc.

Further information

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- Would you like to learn how to provide expert nursing care for animals and support for their owners?

If you answered yes to these questions then veterinary nursing may be for you.

Recent reports from various media sources have suggested that there are not enough veterinary nurses within the UK to meet public demand for veterinary treatment. Possible causes include the Covid pandemic and a rise in the number of pet owners in the UK.

Having been a veterinary nurse for over thirty years, a career I still find very rewarding on a daily basis, I am concerned by this news and would like to encourage anyone considering a career with animals to think about becoming a qualified nurse.

Veterinary nurses are a highly skilled part of the overall veterinary team. They are important in the supportive care of animals and play a significant role in educating pet owners. They are skilled in undertaking a range of diagnostic tests, giving

medical treatments and performing minor surgical procedures, under veterinary direction. Many nurses decide to work in small animal practice, caring for dogs, cats, and small mammals. However, opportunities to work in equine or farm animal practice, although limited, are available.

Training is conducted through colleges or universities that offer qualifications accredited by the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons. To start training you will need to meet minimum entry requirements which are set by the awarding organisation or higher educational institution that you are applying to. Training may take two to four years depending on the academic route taken.

Once qualified you will be eligible to join the Register of Veterinary Nurses and awarded a Certificate. Subsequently there are plenty of opportunities to develop your career by diversifying into more specialised areas of veterinary or related work, and gaining further qualifications.

Much of this information has been taken from the RCVS website. If you are interested in becoming a veterinary nurse please visit the website at www.rcvs.org.uk or contact the surgery for further details.

Rachel Cutler MSc. (CABC), CAAB, RVN



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Stunning new mural for St Andrew's Park!

A new mural will be painted on the toilet block in St Andrew's Park this October by Bristol's acclaimed street artist Alex Lucas, otherwise known as Lucas Antics. The work has been commissioned by the Friends of St Andrew's Park (FOSAP) following an anonymous donation to the group.

The beautiful design shows a humming bird pollinating a giant flower and has been painted in four versions each featuring different colours.

The final design will be chosen by a vote on FOSAP's Facebook page – from a selection of different colour schemes – where people will be able to cast their vote until midnight, 3 October 2021.

The announcement of the new artwork by Lucas Antics has already met with universal approval and delight – including online comments like 'love all her work, this is a beautiful scheme and design' and 'What a great choice of local artist'.

Alex will start the painting her new design sometime in October – shortly after the wall has been prepared with the help of Bristol City Council.

Once the design is completed it will be protected



with anti-graffiti paint. The previous design was painted by street artist Minto and lasted 7 years before it became too vandalised to maintain.

"We are really excited by this beautiful new artwork which Alex Lucas has offered to paint in the park – she has a brilliant and distinctive style which will blend in with the landscape of the park perfectly" says Martin Weitz from the FOSAP committee.

Above is one of the possible designs – the other colourways can be viewed on the Friends of St Andrew's Park Facebook page, where (if you are reading this before 4 October) you can vote for your favourite (or if after that time do check the page to see which version won)!

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A fond farewell!

This month we celebrate the outstanding contribution that St Andrew's residents Angela Morrison and Paul Bullivant have selflessly made to our community over the last 40 years – making it a brighter, more fun place to live. The much thought-after couple are moving to Wolvercote in north Oxford this December to be closer to their children, Naomi and Harry.

I had the pleasure of sitting in their beautiful garden, drinking coffee while the birds sang, and reminiscing over their time spent in the local area, one last time. I have been lucky enough to attend Christmas parties and event after-parties in their home and it is one filled with love and warmth (and lots of Paul's stunning photography!).

Both architects, the couple met when working together at Solon Housing Association. Angela went on to set up her own practice, Quattro Design Architects, which is still thriving today, and Paul enjoyed managing a housing association in Bristol.

During my fourteen years producing *Bishopston Matters*, Paul has featured in the pages regularly, and I have been lucky to support the many wonderful community events he has led, with the assistance of the Friends of St Andrew's Park –



St Bon's is pleased to welcome Priest Monsignor Bernard to their parish. Mgr Bernard has worked across many areas of Bristol; some of you may know him from his time at Sacred Heart's Parish in Westbury on Trym.

Mgr Bernard shares, "I'm delighted that I am coming to a well-established and vibrant parish community but I'm also pleased that I will be involved with the excellent St Bonaventure's Primary School which is my next-door neighbour.

My hobbies are golf (which I play badly but enjoy), watching Bristol Bears (I've got my season ticket) and I support Manchester United because I was born and brought up 6 miles from the ground so they were my local team.

Bishopston has a reputation for being a somewhat independent part of the city, but also reputation for being a very strong community as well. I'm looking forward to living and working in this vibrant area over the coming years."

For so long and in so many ways, Paul and Angela have been wonderful friends to our lovely Park. Paul has been an enthusiastic and passionate FoSAP member for many years, a former Secretary, and the driving force in organising many memorable Park events, not least the splendid Pantaloons performances.

Angela's wonderful work on transforming the perennial beds below the dog-free area has been admired by so many people, to such a degree that many of us now refer to them as 'Angela's beds'.

Their creativity and energy will be sorely missed, but we hope that others will come forward to help fill at least some of the gaps which their departure will have left in the active life of our Park. I and all of the Friends of St Andrew's Park wish them every happiness in their new life.

Steve Perry Chair, Friends of St Andrew's Park

how lucky they feel to have been able to travel the world so widely. Many of you will know Paul as a professional photographer and his travels are brilliantly captured and documented in a series of books and exhibitions.

A North Bristol Artist for over 20 years, when out on the trail I always look forward to visiting Paul and getting a photo of him with his latest work. Paul to date, has taken the portraits of 85 North Bristol Artists and he is set to make it to 100! He will be guest appearing in next year's trail, when he returns to exhibit this body of work – which is something to look forward to.

Paul was chair of Bristol's Addiction Recovery Agency for 10 years and Angela volunteers with the Home Library Service and as a Lay Assessor.

When I asked the couple what they will miss most when they leave? Their united response was, "The people – our friends, neighbours and the community. We have been incredibly lucky with our time here".

Well Wolvercote, look after this special couple, our loss is most certainly your gain, as the pair have every intention of throwing themselves into community life in their new home, Paul is already thinking about a Pantaloons production there. *Bishopston Matters*, like many local people I am sure, wish Paul and Angela all the very best with their next big, life adventure.

Paul was an artist on the North Bristol Arts Trail from the very first year, and we have been friends ever since. He has used his documentary photography skills in various ways, the extensive travels that he and Angela have taken but also sensitively recording Bristolians dealing with challenges, such as those on the upper Horfield Estate losing their homes which were deteriorating from concrete cancer. He has helped fellow artists keep photographic records of their work thus helping in their professional development. His humour and support will be sorely missed. I have really appreciated the flower borders in St Andrews Park, Angela's wonderful florific development adds a huge amount to our wonderful park.

Cath Read, co-founder of North Bristol Arts Trail

Ceilidhs, Baroque music evenings, Pantaloons theatre in St Andrew's Park and my personal favourite were the Arts in the Park spectaculars! Involving art installations, live music, poetry and just lots of creative family fun! Paul told me he has loved nurturing these projects.

A keen gardener, Angela not only tends to her local allotment and garden at home but three flower beds in St Andrew's park, which each summer burst into life with a riot of colour and texture.

Both Angela and Paul share a love for travel and they tell me



Angela, Paul & Seki



Paul and Naomi supporting BM's MS charity cake sale in 2011

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Bristol Youth Theatre – welcoming new members!

Bristol Youth Theatre Studio (BYTS) is starting rehearsals for a major production *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe* to be staged at the Redgrave Theatre next spring.

The group are looking for new young members between the ages of 12 to 19 years old. In addition to taking part in productions, BYTS offer tuition in Theatre craft which everybody enjoys very much.

The BYTS has a long history – running for more than sixty years – and is proud of the long roll of honour, of young people who have been admitted to Drama School, or directly into the professional Theatre straight from the studio. They hope that this will continue, so look forward to welcoming new members!

BYTS meet for rehearsal at Westbury on Trym C of E Academy, on Saturdays, 5–8pm. They do not hold formal auditions, but we have a session of studio work, which everyone joins in, instead. This is to avoid nerves for younger newcomers. All that a young person needs to join us is enthusiasm!

We hope to welcome new friends. If you would like further information Tel: 0117 9514432, or email: b_y_t_studio@blueyonder.co.uk.



Pantaloons Theatre back in St Andrew's

After a Covid hiatus, it was wonderful to see the Pantaloons back on full form entertaining theatre fans in St Andrew's Park. A slightly chilly evening posed no issue, as people sat wrapped cosy in their blankets, had picnics and tipples, ready for a unique performance of *Pride and Prejudice* and what would turn out to be a most engaging evening. Now remember, the Pantaloons are made up of only four actors, and yet somehow, they manage to portray all the characters, with swift costume changes, and of course alternating voices which are all done with a precision that ensures a most perfectly smooth show.

The improvisation is exceptional; the challenges of a live performance in a park can throw in the unexpected – like, skate boarders, barking dogs



and even a helicopter flying overhead – which all became comedic seamless parts of the play.

The Pantaloons would not be who they are too, without the hilarious audience participation. And when given: Location – Toilets, Animal – Zombie Bears, Activity – Paddle Boarding! You'd never have known this was not a part of the original Jane Austen story. It's yet another nod to their skill at combining the banal with the eighteenth century – done with wit of course.

Overall, it was a delightful evening spent. Thank you to the Pantaloons for bringing locals together, laughing and enjoying park life again.

This event was made possible by Friends of St Andrew's Park.

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Andrew told me, like all businesses it has been a challenging 19 months with the impact of Covid but they are delighted to once again be busy and taking bookings for the coming months. The business looked after its two professional carpet fitters Luke, who has been at Lee's for 25 years, and Mike who has been with them for 15 years, throughout the pandemic.

Andrew is pleased to welcome people to visit the showroom and discuss their flooring projects – but do call in advance to make an appointment – both to keep everyone safe at this time and so he can dedicate his time completely to you.

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Trees For An Urban Garden

Urban Bristol gardens can be large or small, depending on the location. Bristol is one of the warmest cities in the UK, and also one of the sunniest. Partially sheltered by the Mendip Hills, we are also exposed to the Severn Estuary and Bristol Channel, with our climate being Oceanic, and milder than other parts of the country.

At Secret Garden we love including trees in our garden designs. Trees play an important role in combating climate chaos by removing planet destroying emissions from the air. They absorb greenhouse gas carbon dioxide, as well as toxic pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide, ozone and harmful microscopic particles produced by diesel vehicles, cooking and wood burning. As well as moderating climate change, they play a significant role at reducing erosion, create shade and shelter and bio-diverse habitats for wildlife.

Trees reduce the amount of run-off that enters rivers during heavy periods of rainfall. The run-off carries sediment and possible pollutants. Tree roots stabilise river banks, reducing the rate of bank erosion and slow the flow of water, reducing flooding, which is essential during these current times.

The relationship between tree roots and fungi is symbiotic. Mycorrhizal networks are underground hyphal systems created by mycorrhizal fungi that connect plants together. Trees share water and nutrients through these networks, also using them to communicate. They send out distress signals about drought and disease and insect attacks. Other trees alter their behaviour when they receive these messages.

Despite their importance just 13% of the UK's total land area has tree cover, compared to the EU which has 35%. One of the best solutions to protect our environment is to double the amount of tree cover.

An extremely popular and diverse choice for smaller gardens is the Japanese Maple, which has many varieties under 10ft/3m. They can provide a striking



Newly created garden with Cornus Kousa var. Chinensis

focal point and come in a variety of leaf shapes and colours. Acer's are deciduous, shedding their leaves in the winter months, Acer palmatum is probably best known for its autumn colour, turning red, orange and yellow. Acer griseum, the paper-bark maple with its distinctive looking trunk, is also perfect in a smaller garden.

Of course there are many fruiting trees to choose from, with differing sized rootstocks. The canopy of a tree should be decided prior to planting to ensure it is the right size for a garden in terms of boundary lines and how roots affect house foundations.

There are interesting hybrids to choose from, such as Hawthorn 'Crimson Cloud'. A dense, spreading tree under 4 metres, it has small crimson flowers in May, lightly scented which attracts bees and butterflies. An unusual ornamental tree can be a talking point of your garden and can be tolerant of many conditions. The Chinese Dogwood, Cornus Kousa Var. Chinensis is a large, deciduous, free-flowering tree with beautiful creamy flowers in early summer. The leaves change to red and orange in the autumn. Opposed to deciduous trees you could choose evergreens which keep their leaves all year and provide winter habitats for birds and other wildlife.

We can discuss your tree requirements to find the perfect trees for your garden!

Ali

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News from the Goldenhill Community Garden

Hi folks

Equinox has passed and the days grow darker but we're still here in the garden as usual soaking up the sun when it decides to shine. Being able to invite new volunteers along and having new faces round the table has been great and we definitely need the help. If you fancy getting outside and meeting new folks and learning about vegetables then please come along! The garden is still productive and we don't stop for winter. This year we're really looking forward to the return of soup season – every Wednesday we'll make a big soup from veg from the garden for all the volunteers to slurp down on our lunch break. We've got parsnips, leeks, celeriac and squashes all ready to go! So, if we can't tempt you along with the promise of getting outside, meeting new nice folks and learning about gardening and growing food, then maybe the thought of delicious leek and potato soup will get you along. We are open 10-4 and you don't need to come every week or stay all day. On your first day please come at 12 or 2:30 so you can have a tour and a chat about what's involved. We always have a range of jobs so you don't need to be fit and we have plenty of space so can be distanced and safe. Please bring a mask to wear in the polytunnels and free feel to come along and just say hello and have a look around.

I am very grateful that we managed to keep the garden here and afloat during 2020-2021 and extremely grateful to the volunteers and generosity of the people that made that possible. Though after nearly 15 months when no new volunteers were able to come to boost numbers, we've had the quietest summer ever. Yet the weeds keep coming and our big space has never looked so wild. We couldn't do everything so keeping things 'Safe, accessible and productive' has been our motto and the volunteers have done excellent work to those ends but 'tidy' hasn't been a luxury we've had the time or person-power to achieve. So it was great to have a big work day on 25 September with The Good Gym and some of the fabulous allotment holders from the site to come and blast some of our most unkempt spots, reclaim lost paths and

48 build/fix things. It feels great to be heading



into the colder months with those big jobs done and dusted and now we can keep our focus on the heart of the project...and the soup!

There has also been the feeling this year that after the initial crisis of the pandemic fades, all the fiddly problems that were there before haven't magically gone away and loom back into focus. For us that was the slow crumbling of the plaster off the back of our beautiful and beloved Balehouse. We rely on this building so we can run the afterschool clubs, toddler groups and volunteer sessions all through the winter. The risk was the strawbales underneath could have been getting wet and started to rot inside the wall and out of sight and that the problem would get worse and worse without us noticing, and more and more expensive to fix. So I'm really, really chuffed that in September the good folk from Hawkland Ecological Construction have been in. They stripped away all the weak plaster in just a morning. They assessed the state of the bales and they were not as bad as we feared so they replaced the weak spots and then replastered the building. I'm sure there's a helpful metaphor for life in there somewhere but mostly I'm just really, really happy that we have a warm, cosy safe place in the garden for the foreseeable future.

Other news is with our **children's adventure days in the October half term**. Our family day for children with SEN and their siblings will be on Thursday 28 Oct 11-3 – check our website for booking info. Thanks to the Quartet foundation it's £5 (£2 for siblings) and that includes a tasty lunch. No one turned away due to lack of funds. There'll be pizza making, crumble baking, crafting, making, climbing, pond dipping, sensory play and MORE.

AND our date for **Wreath making is currently Saturday 27 Nov** – it's a bit earlier than is ideal this year as my brother is insisting on getting married on 4 Dec! :)

See you in the garden, *Lucy*

www.thegoldenhillcommunitygarden.com
We put frequent updates on our Facebook page:
TheGoldenHillCommunityGarden

Celebrating life with a new pond project in St Andrew's Park



In 2020 a young student at Southampton University, K.T. sadly died. As a child he spent a lot of time in St Andrew's Park and he

had a special interest in the pond frogs. His family and friends wanted to celebrate his life and honour his love of nature so they organised fundraising for conservation work for the pond. The legacy (£2,500) has enabled a park pond restoration project that will be managed by ParkWork and BCC Estates.

The restoration work will include:

- Replacing the rotten fence main uprights; the current fence panels which are in good condition and have been recently painted by Duke of Edinburgh volunteers will be put back.
- The path of small pavers that were laid years ago, have sunk, in relation to the pond itself, and now the pond readily overflows along this margin. A major section of the length of the 30+ pavers will be re-laid on a new higher foundation.
- Renovating the wooden walkway; seepage and flooding from the area behind the pond has caused a slump in pond edge by the seating on the walkway. The plan is to protect the pond from further mud slides. In some places the wooden walkway has rotted due to the flood water; it may be possible to protect the wooden planks from further deterioration.
- In some areas there is a build-up of land, consolidated by Iris, Marsh Marigold, grasses and sedges. Some of this new 'land' that has developed will be removed.

The pond plays an important role in the wildlife diversity of the park; it is a peaceful haven for contemplation and the enjoyment of visitors of all ages, of whom there have been so many more during Covid times.

The Friends of St Andrew's Park wildlife group is extremely grateful to the family and friends who have made this project possible; they have been invited to some of the work sessions to see how the work is progressing. There will be a plaque acknowledging their support.

The pond area attracts a great deal of wildlife and we thank Simon Randolph for allowing us to print these stunning examples captured in his photos.

Visit: www.friendsofstandrewspark.ning.com
Facebook: **Friends of St Andrews Park Bristol**



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Community Events, Groups & Activities

We are delighted to be able to finally open the new café and community hub space for use!

By the time you read this, we hope to be well on the way to moving indoors for the winter, and being able to recommence a wide range of activities that have been paused throughout the pandemic.

These include the **table top sale planned for 6 November** and a wide range of other events and activities. **The 11'O'Clock Club** (working title!) a new, informal group which will be starting to run a couple of times a week – for people to come along and make friends, get to know others living locally, play board games, have a go at activities and generally have a chance to connect with other people – of all ages. If you would like to come along, or know someone else you think would enjoy the chance to meet new people in the local

News from Ardagh Community Trust

area – please do get in touch for more information. Sessions will take place at the Café three days a week – and we'll be testing out different times and days (hence the working title!) to see what works best. Please do see the website for more information.

The Horfield Common Repair Café is now planning for reopening. Our new lead volunteer, Ian, is working with existing local volunteers, and our friends running Repair Cafés across the city to plan for this to reopen safely. It's been very much missed so we can't wait to see this back later in the year.

Our popular **Tai-Chi classes** are growing from one day per week, to two. From October, the Tai-Chi sessions will run on a Tuesday and Friday morning – and continue to be delivered by fantastic volunteer, Mel, who originally trained through Age UK to support increased activity and the reduction of social isolation for older people living locally. The sessions are now run independently by Mel with support from Age UK Bristol and ACT. Get in touch, or pop along in person for more information.

We are working with Southmead Development Trust and Ramblers UK to **recruit new, volunteer walk-leaders who will lead health walks from the Ardagh weekly**. Ramblers UK will train volunteers and SDT will work with ACT to support ongoing development of the programme of walks. It is recommended that volunteers work in groups of 3 to lead health walks. If you would like to volunteer, either with 2 already existing friends, or you would like to volunteer to join a group to start leading walks – please get in touch and we'll sign volunteers up for the training as dates enable.

We are also working with a wide range of local people to support community-led activities getting up and running again. If you have an idea for a group that you would like to get going – do get in touch if you'd like to chat through any help and support we can provide?

Play

Opportunities for children's play at the Ardagh have been developing throughout the year. Many of you will

have seen (and/or enjoyed) the **new mud kitchen** which is located in the old café yard and has been well-used throughout the summer. It has been wonderful to see children (some dressed in Chef's whites!) running across the common to come and enjoy playing with it. Emily, who is leading our play work has put together a short survey asking for



feedback from local families and parents to help develop this, and our wider play work further. Please do take 5 minutes to respond at www.theardagh.com to help inform the development of this.

Ongoing regeneration of the sports courts and wider Ardagh site

We continue to wait for confirmation from BCC re: how the areas of the Ardagh site which are outside ACT's existing lease will be sustainably managed (and improved to meet necessary legislation etc.) ongoing. The future of these areas has been uncertain for more than two decades – and led to the previous position where the site was going to be sold for development as a whole because it was 'providing no value to the local community'. Until this is clarified, it is difficult for ACT to secure further external grant funding because those funders need to understand exactly who is benefitting from charitable funding (the local authority, for example or a private members' club are not eligible for support). ACT is not directly involved in making these decisions, but we do very much want to see this resolved definitively so that we can progress with our work to improve the site for the benefit of all who live and work locally – in line with our charitable

aims. We are committed to supporting all existing activities at the site to continue – and also to increasing use of the site and its improving facilities by the widest range of user groups possible. We are continuing to work collaboratively with BCC and other groups to develop the work that we are able to do while this ongoing internal process works through.

We very much look forward to being able to continue to develop our work including much-awaited improvements to the sports courts and to access and egress at the site (specifically in respect of improving access for people with disabilities/reduced mobility) as soon as this is possible – and will keep BM readers updated as soon as we have any news!

www.theardagh.com [@TheArdagh](https://www.facebook.com/TheArdagh)



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Archie Walters – boy hero

BHA local history research – Andy Buchan ©.

On Wednesday 28 October 1874, an inquest was held at the Royal Oak Inn, Horfield into the events that led to the death of one small boy and, thanks to his sacrifice, the survival of another even younger boy.

This is the tale of the adventures of Archie John Hamilton Walters and Ernest Price on Friday 23 October 1874; Archie was just 6 years old, and his young companion was 3 years and 2 months old.

Archie lived in Ellesmere Terrace on City Road, and Ernest lived in the same area. The story of what happened that day, was told to the inquest by various people including, Edward Price (Ernest's father) based in part on what Ernest had told him, Ernest himself, Matilda Handley Walters (Archie's widowed mother) and the people involved in the discovery of the boys.

Archie's mother said that Archie had left home at a 9.15am to go to school, which was close by, and he should have come home at 12.30pm, and then gone to school again in the afternoon. She later learnt that he had not gone to school that day. She said that she and others had gone searching for Archie when he had not come home, and she had reported him missing to Bridewell police station. On the Saturday she had heard that two boys had been found in Horfield; she sent her daughter, aged 7 up to Horfield and her daughter learnt that her brother was dead.

The story of how the boys came to be in Horfield so far from home was told to the inquest by Edward Price and Ernest himself. Ernest said that he had been playing with his hoop, when Archie took it and

ran away, Ernest followed him and eventually they reached the railway line, it is not known

why but the two boys continued to walk up the railway line and as reported by another witness, Archie was later seen holding the hoop in one hand and the younger boy's hand in his other hand. At some point Ernest lost a shoe near the line.

Towards 6.00pm in the evening they were seen by a farm labourer John York who lived in one of the farms at Horfield Downend. He spoke to the boys, he said that the older boy would not give his name and said that he knew how to get home. He said that he planned to stay out all night and sleep in the fields. He said that the younger boy was crying and when he asked him why he said because he had lost a shoe. John York said that he assumed they were from Horfield village and told them to go home, he said that if he had known they were not local he would have taken them in. The boys carried on walking up the lane, probably where Dovercourt Road is today.

At some point, probably close to where Chedworth Road joins Dovercourt Road the two boys laid down in the furrows of a potato field, belonging to Berry Lane Farm, to sleep. The younger boy was cold, so Archie took off most of his clothes, keeping his shirt, boots and socks.

The next morning John Rosling from Berry Lane farm and his brothers discovered the two boys – Ernest was found very cold but conscious, wearing/sitting on Archie's clothes. Archie was sadly unconscious. They were taken back to the farm, where attempts were made to warm Archie and bring him round. The police were summoned, and a surgeon, Dr Lacy from Cotham was called. They tried to warm the boy using blankets and other means and then tried restoratives but all to no avail and tragically Archie died.

At the end of the inquest the coroner declared that Archie had died from exposure due to the cold.

The parishioners of Horfield raised money for a memorial for Archie in Horfield parish church (now Holy Trinity) and he was given a hero's funeral before being buried in Arnos Vale cemetery.



A memorial for Archie was held in Holy Trinity Church, Horfield where the plaque above resides

Sharing memories of St Andrew's Park

August bank holiday Monday was a special day; at last, members of the Friends of St Andrew's Park could mark the 125th Anniversary of the park with a display of people's memories of the park alongside its history.

Many people came to view the display which triggered wonderful conversations about people's experience of this special green space.

After lunch the park was treated to a visit from retired, P.C. Paul Wheatcroft, who arrived on his 1949 police bike and with his cape, which he allowed visitors to try on and have their photo taken alongside his bike. Paul was the local bobby in the 1970s and 80s.

Below are a few of the memories that people jotted down on the day:

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'Bumping into uncle Bob of the pillar box club and Mrs Bennett (they lived in Wathen Road). Stopping for chats and meeting up with the French exchange students after evening song at St Michael's, then all sitting on the swings talking.'

Organisers would like to thank everyone for coming to see the display and also to everyone who shared their memories.



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News from Ashley, Bishopston & Ashley Down & Redland Councillors



L to R: Tim, Jude & Amirah

Ashley ward

We have been busy since the election. It seems like longer than 4 months ago! Tim and Amirah, as new councillors have had to go to lots of training and induction to understand the role and the workings of the council.

There has also been a lot of case work to catch up on which we have been working hard on, with some success. A lot of these are around housing and we have had some good outcomes with individual cases with the council's Private Housing team. We have also been working with Planning Enforcement on a few local issues.

Regarding case work we are also starting up our surgeries where you can meet your Ashley councillors. We will be using different venues but for September we aim to be at St Paul's Learning Centre on the third Friday of the month from 12–2pm. Please look out for dates and venues.

Traffic and pollution continue to be big issues and we are starting to have discussions with council officers about plans to set up 'liveable neighbourhoods'. People are particularly interested in Montpelier after the consultation on closing Picton Street was inconclusive. But we have also had approaches from other areas such as St Andrew's.

Talking of St Andrew's, we are having ongoing discussions around issues in St Andrew's Park. A walk around with park officers and ongoing meetings with officers from all departments and the police have taken place and we are pushing for a solution that allows free access but respects residents. Amirah, Tim and Jude also recently met with the new Police Commissioner to talk through some of the issues and the importance of good local community policing.

Covid is also a priority as the pandemic has clearly not yet ended. The council is putting a lot of effort into testing and there are various dates

and times to do this. The vaccination programme, while having generally great uptake is still something we need to promote. In particular, we would remind anyone working in care that they will now shortly be required to be vaccinated.

Thank you again for voting for us.

Amirah Cole, Labour Party

Cllr.Amirah.Cole@bristol.gov.uk

Jude English, Green Party

Cllr.Jude.English@bristol.gov.uk

Tim Wye, Green Party

Cllr.Tim.Wye@bristol.gov.uk

Bishopston & Ashley Down ward

After a busy summer we are settling into the challenges of our first autumn as councillors. Our surgeries, meeting with residents and email exchanges have prompted us into action over some of the more challenging issues for the ward. We know that parking is a big topic, and at Members Forum during the first week of September, Emma asked the Mayor about the possibilities of getting Residents' Parking Zones extended into Bishopston. While the Mayor said he didn't agree with them, Emma is continuing to press him on this matter to help find solutions to stop the area from being used by 'park and ride' motorists. With the introduction of the Clean Air Zone, and the new Ashley Down Station in 2022, we know a solution must be found. If you want to give us your views on this, then do get in touch.

Now the children are going back to school, the issues of idling, and poor school drop-off practices have been brought to our attention. Parents have got in touch with concern that idling outside of schools is very damaging to the health of children, as well as contributing to air pollution in the area. We are working with local parent groups and schools to find ways to stop this practice and raise awareness of the issue. We also want to encourage parents, wherever possible, to use active travel



Emma and Lily at the train station

methods to get their children to school. If you would like to be involved in this campaign, then please get in touch.

We are also working with councillors in other wards to find ways to bring liveable 'low traffic' neighbourhoods to the area, which would have the combined effects of curbing rat running in residential streets, tackling bad parking, and hopefully making the area greener and more attractive. We would love to hear your views on this!

We are still holding our surgery every 1st Friday of the month at The Ardagh; so do come along and say hello. We are also starting litter picks soon, so watch this Space!

Cllr Emma Edwards, Green party

cllr.emma.edwards@bristol.gov.uk

Councillor Lily Fitzgibbon, Green party

Cllr.Lily.Fitzgibbon@bristol.gov.uk

Redland Ward

We've been very busy since the new 24-strong Green Group was formed after the local elections. In the first council meeting since the election Greens scored two major successes through cross-party working. First, by working with the Conservative group we passed a motion calling on the Mayor to adopt stronger planning policies to protect Bristol's vital green spaces. Labour members abstained but it passed with the support of Conservative and Lib Dem councillors. Next, a Green motion we had worked on with the Labour group, setting zero carbon energy standards for new buildings to help Bristol reduce carbon emissions and tackle climate change was passed unanimously. Both of these motions will help Bristol to adopt better planning policies by 2023.

Tackling the ecological emergency

Among our other roles, Martin is now chair of the Council's Communities Scrutiny Commission. This cross-party committee reviews the work of the council and seeks to provide early input to improve council policies and services.

In August we examined a draft of the council's Ecological Emergency Action Plan, which sets out the council's work in response to the ecological emergency declared in 2019. We highlighted the work needed to ensure the council reduces mowing to allow more wildflowers and pollinators without affecting recreation or safety in parks – as well as saving money this can be a lifeline for insect and animal life. How the council communicates this and related work to the public and its own contractors is very important.

Councillors Fi Hance and Martin Fodor campaigning for a safe road crossing on Cranbrook Road



We also called for action to meet an old pledge to reduce the use of harmful herbicides sprayed on our streets and paths – we know there are lots of concerns about this. And we're planning more work to explore problems around tree protection, management, replanting, and the commitment to double the tree canopy of the city. We want the action plan to show that the ecological emergency is being taken seriously, but so far almost all the actions proposed are preparatory steps inside the council.

Cranbrook Road crossing delay

There's painfully slow progress with work on this crossing, originally funded in November 2019 after a long residents' campaign to create a safe route to school across this dangerous crossing by Cairns Rd. While officers have been preparing designs to consult with residents, we don't yet know the option being drawn up, despite chasing up progress recently. But to help prevent further delays, we're delighted to say that the local Area Committee of councillors (which allocates budget from developers' funds to the community) has provided an additional £10,000 leeway over the budget. This will hopefully prevent any problems if the final designs come in above the £40,000 already allocated.

Surface dressing of roads causes problems

We have passed on many complaints to the council about the treatment of many local roads in May with chippings and tar. It took until late July for most markings to be restored and for the resulting parking chaos to end. Not all the loose chippings have been removed, and this can be a problem, especially for cyclists. In answer to a question from Martin we have now been assured by the Mayor that there will be more effort to manage contractors better in future. We don't think a full risk assessment was carried out or adequate measures to stop rogue parking. At the time of writing we're still trying to get some missing road markings restored.

Continued on next page ►

► Weed spraying on streets

Martin and Fi have been contacted by a few residents who had heard that they could opt out of having pesticides sprayed on their streets. Fi checked with Bristol waste and while this is currently not the case, she was told that they are looking into it. We'll keep you posted.

Better drainage of Redland Green

We're glad to say work has now started on a 'soakaway' area on Redland Green by the gate to the children's playground – the outcome of maintenance plans we discussed with parks officers in March. The gravel will be protected from trampling across the corner by a planter with wild flowers. This area was extremely muddy in winter and we hope the feature will reduce problems from mud – and the planter should help attract bees too.

St Christopher's development

Martin and Fi recently visited the old St Christopher's School site on the Westbury Park boundary of the ward which has been purchased with a view to providing assisted living for older people. The new owners are very keen to involve local people so do keep an eye out for opportunities

to have your say on how local people may be able to get the most out of this large development. They have set up a new website to keep people informed which you can find at www.stchristophersbristol.com.

Incoming students

It's incoming student season! Our valiant local street scene group are working hard to welcome new students into our neighbourhoods to nip any potential problems in the bud, but if you have new neighbours it's well worth dropping by to say hello and also to explain how the refuse collections work in the city. This can be a source of confusion for those new to Bristol but in the past a friendly word has often proved effective in avoiding bin chaos later on. If you'd like to get involved with helping the street scene group with flyposting, litter picking or painting over tagging then do get in touch.

Fi Hance, Green Party

cllr.fi.hance@bristol.gov.uk / 0117 3534720

Martin Fodor, Green Party

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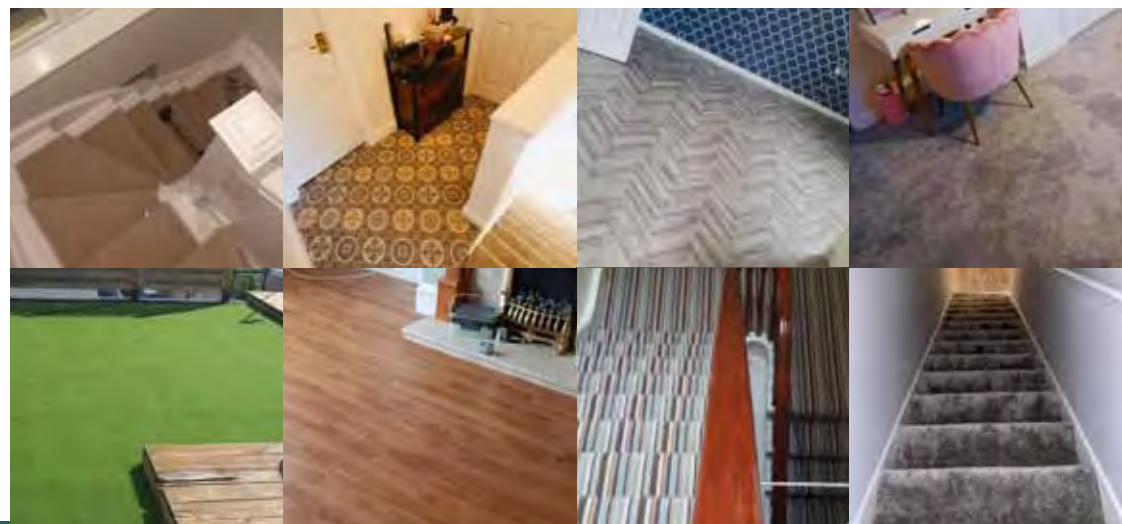


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