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December 2025 Issue 170

filtonvoice

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Residents turn out in force to oppose new homes: [Pages 4&5](#)

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Filton's giant poppy to mark Remembrance
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Windows artwork lights up Filton streets:
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Valued services face budget axe

By Adam Postans, LDRS reporter
Meals on wheels, pest control and the much-loved HandyVan household repairs service face the axe under South Gloucestershire Council's budget plans.

The authority says that although they are highly valued by residents, council taxpayers are subsidising all three and the organisation is not legally required to provide them.

As part of the 2026/27 draft budget consultation, the council is asking for people's views as it considers options to either make the services cover their own costs or stop providing them completely.

The consultation said: "Through our budget-setting

Continued on page 9

New push to open 'bus gate with no buses'



[Pages 2&3](#)



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Contacts

Richard Coulter

Editor and publisher

0777 555 0607 | richard@filtonvoice.co.uk

Shane Gibson

Editorial

0770 674 1200 | shane@filtonvoice.co.uk

Ruth Drury

Advertising sales

0759 052 7664 | sales@southbristolvoice.co.uk

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Town council urges another look at 'bus gate with no buses'

Filton Town Council has reignited the debate over the Filton Avenue Bus Gate, unanimously passing a motion to seek its full suspension for a trial period beginning Spring/Summer 2026.

The proposed suspension would last until at least 30 June 2027, with ongoing feedback to be assessed by the full council.

Leading the initiative are Deputy Mayor Cllr Brian Mead and Chair of Finance Cllr Dan Harris, pictured right, who say the move reflects strong community support.

"Both Cllr Mead and I were approached by several constituents in Conygre Ward who questioned why the bus gate remains closed to general traffic during peak hours," said Cllr

Harris. "I ran a focus group on the News and Views Facebook page, and the sentiment was overwhelmingly in favour of opening it up fully. We're proud to represent the people's views and believe we can bring a compelling case to South Gloucestershire Council."

Currently, the bus gate restricts access to taxis, motorcycles and cyclists between 7-10am and 3-7pm Monday to Friday.

This part-time operation was made permanent in 2022 following an experimental traffic order.

At the time, council officers acknowledged that the bus lane did not appear to be strictly necessary, but emphasized its role in managing traffic flows and

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News



preserving priority access during peak hours.

During peak hours, drivers wishing to continue south on Filton Avenue need to turn left onto the ring road and return

to Filton Avenue at the the Brewers decorating shop via the Abbeywood roundabout.

"Whilst it is recognised that the Bus Lane does not appear to be currently needed," the 2022

report stated, "it provides an effective method of controlling traffic flows from Filton Avenue north to south while maintaining direct access for other priority vehicles during peak times.

Making its operation part time increases accessibility and convenience for local residents without risking increased congestion and incidents during peak hours."

Despite these arguments, Filton councillors believe the landscape has changed. With no active bus service on Filton Avenue North and growing frustration among residents, they argue that a new trial is warranted.

The motion calls for South Glos Highways to engage in dialogue and consider structured suspension, monitored closely by Filton Town Council.

"This isn't about disregarding safety or planning," said Cllr Mead. "It's about testing whether full access can work better for our community today. We're asking for a fair trial, not a permanent change."

As the town prepares to make its case, the proposal sets the stage for renewed collaboration between local and county councils—and a fresh look at how Filton's roads serve its residents.

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Plans to build 36 homes on the former Charborough Road school playing field remain highly contentious in Filton, following a public presentation and Q&A session hosted by Filton Town Council at Elm Park.

The meeting gave residents the chance to question South Gloucestershire Council and its development partner Aequus about the revised proposals. A final decision on the plans has not yet been made by South Glos Council. The application, which can be found at www.developments.southglos.gov.uk/online-applications, proposes:

- 36 homes: a mix of 1–2 bed apartments and 2–3 bed houses.
- 35% affordable housing: including social rent and shared ownership.
- 61 parking spaces: eight visitor bays and one disabled space.
- Sustainability features: air source heat pumps, solar PV panels, high-performance glazing.

- Retention of mature trees and new hedgerow planting.

Proposals to build on the site have been met with strong opposition from residents, particularly those in Charborough Road, Dunkeld Avenue and Clyde Grove, whose homes back onto the land.

Common themes include flood risk, traffic safety and parking, safeguarding, inadequate consultation and loss of green space.

The public meeting, attended by around 40 local people, heard concerns on a number of topics, including road safety, with the entrance to the proposed new development just yards from the gates of Charborough Rd Primary School.

One resident said it was 'an

accident waiting to happen while many commented on the parking issues which would arise if there were not enough spaces in the development.



Other people attending the meeting said the designs of the new homes were not in keeping with the rest of the area.

They also said there were worries that drainage issues could arise from rainwater running off from the scheme while others said the height of the apartment block would lead to a loss of privacy.

An architect on the scheme told the meeting that concerns that biodiversity, specifically badgers, would not be affected,

but this was strongly rejected by residents.

Council officers said the scheme meets policy requirements for urban infill and aims to deliver "net-zero ready" homes aligned with the Future Homes Standard (2026). They highlighted improved pedestrian and cycle access, shared surfaces to slow traffic, and buffer planting to protect school boundaries.

To address objections raised during statutory consultation, the council and Aequus cited:

Traffic and parking: Parking provision is compliant with Policy PSP16.

Safeguarding: Balconies on



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News

plots 15 and 16 will be redesigned to limit overlooking; buffer planting added.

Wildlife: Tree and hedgerow retention; bat boxes installed; badger surveys found no evidence of activity.

Flood risk: Site classified as Flood Zone 1 (low risk); drainage strategy submitted.

Despite these assurances, local objections remain fierce.

Comments as part of the planning process included:

- "The message we are getting is that South Glos seems to be able to do what it likes. Once gone, the school will never be able to expand."
- "The cul-de-sac design will funnel traffic into an already congested area near the school, putting children at risk."
- "We've already seen water pooling since the MUGA was installed. Adding more hard surfaces will make flooding worse."
- "Three-storey flats are completely out of character for this area."



The Olympus Trust, which runs Charborough Rd Primary School, raised safeguarding concerns, warning that balconies overlooking the school playground could compromise pupil safety.



In August 2024, Filton Voice reported strong opposition from local residents to the proposal.

At the time, the council defended the scheme, stating that it would deliver much-needed housing, but campaigners

vowed to continue pressing for changes.

● Above, an artist's impression of the scheme; opposite, the area proposed for the development; opposite below, residents at the meeting.

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News

'End of an era' as Filton bakery closes after 34 years

By Lucy Frost

A once-popular family-run bakery has been forced to close its shutters for good after 34 years in Filton.

Blighted by the uncertainty over the flats above, the shop in Church View closed at the end of October.

Last November, landlords Bromford Housing Association announced its proposals to regenerate the site "to provide alternative affordable housing".

Down's Bakery – founded 42 years ago in Gloucester Road – was given two years to leave the premises, but owner Diane and daughter Sam explained that a year later, only a handful of families remain in the flats – a situation which has had a detrimental impact on sales.

Diane said: "(The situation with the flats) has destroyed a business that has been running for 42 years."

She explained that when they first started trading, they had "a queue out the door".



However, Covid-19 also took its toll on the beloved bakery.

Sam said that after the pandemic hit, the business "fell from under their feet" as they heavily relied on sales from Airbus employees who were forced to work from home.

Other shops on Church View have also closed, with no new businesses taking over the empty

spaces. Despite the setback, Sam and Diane expressed their gratitude as they continue running their second bakery in Severn Beach.

However, the closure of their Filton shop has changed the way they operate.

One shop cannot sustain the whole family's wages, Diane explained.

Many locals have shared fond memories of the bakery on its Facebook page.

Regulars have marked "an end of an era", praising its signature bread pudding and the staff's amazing attitude.

The bakery was set up in Filton in 1981 by Diane and her late husband Christopher, after moving from Gloucester Road.

The family business bursts with a "mother's pride", Diane says, with trade being passed down through generations and expanded where they opened their second shop in Severn Beach.

Nowadays, Diane describes herself as a "silent partner" as her children continue the legacy.

The Down's Bakery shop at Severn Beach receives lots of business due to its busy location.

Unfortunately, they do not have the commercial space to bake bread, but they offer plenty of choux buns, tarts and other baked goods.

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News

Green aviation on show as transport secretary visits Filton

Filton MP Claire Hazelgrove says she is proud to have recently welcomed the Secretary of State for Transport to Airbus.

Heidi Alexander visited Airbus's Filton site on October 30, alongside Ms Hazelgrove, to discuss the site's role in shaping the future of sustainable aviation.

It follows the government's recent introduction of the Sustainable Aviation Fuel (SAF) Bill, and its efforts to support growth and job creation in the UK aviation sector, while upholding commitments to clean energy.

Ms Hazelgrove, Labour MP for Filton and Bradley Stoke, said: "I was proud to welcome Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander to Airbus' fantastic site here in Filton.

"Airbus is – of course – a major local employer and a leader in aerospace design and sustainability.

"As we know locally, our heritage and future are steeped in shaping in the future of flight,



Transport Secretary Heidi Alexander, left, and local MP Claire Hazelgrove, centre, meeting apprentices as part of their visit to Airbus Filton. Image: Department for Transport

and it is excellent to have this recognition for our community from the highest levels of government."

During the visit, the two politicians met with Airbus engineers, apprentices, senior leadership and Unite union representatives.

Their visit included a tour

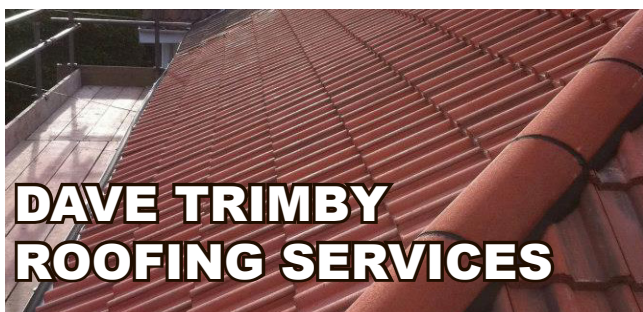
of the Aerospace Integrated Research and Test Centre (AIRTeC), a £40 million facility co-funded by Airbus and the Aerospace Technology Institute, which supports the development of next-generation aircraft technologies, including hydrogen propulsion and lightweight composite materials.

It also coincided with Airbus announcing a major order of 100 A321neo aircraft from Vietnamese carrier VietJet.

The A321neo can operate with up to 50 per cent SAF with plans to achieve full 100 per cent SAF capability by 2030.

Ms Alexander said: "It was fantastic to visit Airbus in Filton today, and to see some of their world-class innovation in the future of flight and meet talented workers at every career stage.

"I was glad to congratulate Airbus on their major investment from VietJet, which is a big vote of confidence in British aerospace and engineering, and will support jobs across the country to deliver our Plan for Change."



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News

Council blames Tories for 'black hole' in budget

By Adam Postans,
LDRS reporter

Opposition Conservatives have criticised South Gloucestershire Council's ruling Lib Dem/Labour coalition for "broken promises" in its budget plans.

But the administration has hit back, saying it has protected the authority's most vital services and that 14 years of Tory government austerity cuts had slashed funding, leaving the organisation with a financial black hole.

Conservative group leader Cllr Sam Bromiley, pictured, said: "These plans amount to a budget of broken promises and misplaced priorities. At a time when families are already struggling with the cost of living, it's outrageous that residents are being asked to pay more for services that are being cut."



Budget axe falls on valued services

Continued from page 1

process, we have looked at all possible options before cutting services.

"We are in a relatively financially stable position, but this has only been possible because we have taken difficult decisions early.

"Therefore, given the cost pressures and uncertainties around our future funding, we think we will need to continue this approach of planning ahead and make some cuts over coming months and years.

"Our community meals service is currently losing more than £125,000 per year – or approximately £2.20 for every meal we deliver.

"These losses have increased markedly in recent years when the price people pay for their meals has been frozen at a heavily discounted rate during a period when our main costs (food, energy and wages) have risen sharply.

"We cannot continue to use the money local people pay in council tax to subsidise meals.

"We therefore intend to increase the amount people to pay to help offset some of these losses."

The draft budget assumes an increase in Council Tax next year of 4.99 per cent. The Government assumes councils will raise their taxes by this amount each year, and each 1 per cent increase is expected to bring in around £1.9 million in extra funding.

The council said it would consider options to stop subsidising the HandyVan service, which provides plumbing, carpentry, flooring, bathroom and kitchen adaptations, painting and decorating, fencing, and even flat-pack furniture building, and offers discounted rates to over-60s and people with disabilities, as well as working in schools.

The consultation said: "Due to financial pressures, the council

needs to focus on services it is legally required to provide and those that support the most vulnerable people, such as children in difficult situations, older adults, and disabled people who need social care.

"While the HandyVan service is valued by customers, it does not meet these criteria and consistently does not cover its costs."

It added: "The council's pest control service has many happy customers. However, this is not a service which the council must provide and there are companies in the private sector who offer a good value alternative."

Other cost-cutting measures include cutting funding to town and parish councils for public toilets and parks. South Gloucestershire Council is also reviewing services it delivers to schools on a commercial basis.

The budget consultation: councilbudget2627.commonplace.is/

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News

Cultural funding to boost creativity on high street



Image: Google Maps

Filton high street is set to benefit from a special fund launched to bring cultural and creative activities to nine areas across South Gloucestershire.

Funded by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority's regional recovery fund, the Creative High Streets

Fund supports voluntary, community, and social enterprise organisations, as well as town and parish councils, to deliver engaging events and activities that celebrate local creativity and culture.

Grants of £1,000 to £5,000 are available to cover the revenue

costs of activities. Other high street areas due to receive the funding include Chipping Sodbury, Downend, Hanham, Kingswood, Patchway, Staple Hill, Thornbury, Yate (Station Road).

Applications are now open and must be submitted by Sunday, January 25, 2026.

Councillor Sean Rhodes, cabinet member for communities and local place at South Gloucestershire Council, said: "The Cultural Grants funded by the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority aim to make creativity and culture accessible to South Gloucestershire residents and help make our high streets vibrant places to spend time.

"Whether you're voluntary, community or social enterprise, or a town or parish council, we are encouraging organisations to apply for the grant so we can develop and nurture ideas that benefit the local community."

Helen Godwin, Mayor of the West of England, said:

"Bringing a broader mix of cultural activities and events can encourage people to spend more time in our town centres, ultimately helping local businesses to thrive.

"This regional funding, backed by the council, is a real opportunity for local communities in South Gloucestershire to come up with new ways to add even more character to some of the West's high streets.

"We're looking forward to seeing some inspiring ideas to help celebrate these areas."

Interested organisations are encouraged to visit the website for full details and application guidance www.southglos.gov.uk/creative-high-streets

For application enquiries, please contact highstreets@southglos.gov.uk

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News

Retail park welcomes new supersized charity store



By Lucy Frost

A new St Peter's Hospice charity superstore has opened in Abbeywood retail park

The supersized charity shop is the third to open in Bristol, and they're looking for volunteers.

The shop mostly stocks larger household items, following customer demand, as well as a smaller section for clothing and accessories.

The opening follows success from the first two superstores in Clifton and Portishead.

The charity also offers a free collection service, making it easier for residents to support the hospice's mission and get rid of their unwanted furniture in a sustainable manner.

St Peter's Hospice retail director John Broomhead believes that the superstore could provide "an invaluable service" to those people who are looking to furnish their homes, but are struggling with the ongoing cost of living crisis.

He hopes that the shop

will become an "asset to the community in Filton".

The shop has been trading since the end of October, and manager Nick Taynton, says that there has been an overwhelmingly positive local response. "Once word of mouth gets around, I'm convinced it's going to be even busier."

Nick says that they have had at least 40 volunteers sign up, but there are always things to do given the size of the shop.

Nick added: "The more the merrier. We always need people to help make more money for the hospice."

Amanda Cook, an interim supervisor at the Abbeywood store, previously worked as a volunteer for the hospice.

As she has progressed through the charity, she says she has learned new skills and grown in confidence.

She claims that when you work as a volunteer, "you get a lot of help and a lot of support."

Claire Hazelgrove, the MP for Filton and Bradley Stoke, was present for the grand opening of the store.

She noted that the hospice supported 329 people in the area last year, where the charity prides itself on making a meaningful difference to the community.

She commented: "I'm proud to welcome the shop and its dedicated team to Abbeywood."

The charity operates more than 40 shops in the wider Bristol area and was recently named the 2025 'Outstanding Charity Retailer'.

St Peter's Hospice cares for adults with life-limiting conditions in South Gloucestershire, Bristol and North Somerset. The funds that they raise through their retail outlets provide care to patients and their families during some of the most difficult times of their lives.

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New businesses at Shield Retail Centre

Seeing double! Specsavers relocates to larger store



Specsavers in Filton has officially welcomed customers to its new, larger premises at Shield Retail Park, following its move from Church View.

Significantly larger in size, the new store allows the locally owned and operated store to extend its optical and audiology services to meet the needs of the local community.

The new branch opened on November 6, following the closure of the previous site on November 1.

The new store features nine testing rooms, up from just two at the previous location. This includes three dedicated audiology rooms and six optical testing rooms, allowing the team to deliver a broader range of services and meet growing local demand.

Speaking ahead of the launch, store director Gaurav Patel said: "We're really excited to be in our new, much larger store. We had simply outgrown where we were, and our new premises enables us to expand our team and offer more appointments and services to our customers.

"Our aim is to enhance the customer experience, not just through increased capacity, but also with a fresh, modern layout and improved accessibility.

"We're looking forward to welcoming customers and celebrating the new store on Monday 10 November. We've invited local businesses to join us, and we can't wait to hear what they think!"

The store directors and team at Specsavers Filton are passionate about providing high-quality healthcare that supports the eyes and ears of the local community.

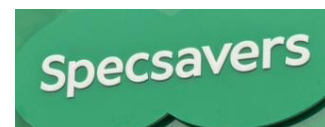
The relocation reflects their commitment to investing in both people and facilities.

For more information, visit www.specsavers.co.uk/stores/tilton, pop into store at Unit 13b, The Shield Retail Centre, Link Road, Filton, BS34 7BR, or call 0117 969 3513.

See advert Page 2



Smiles all round as staff at Specsavers in Filton relocate to a larger store at Shield Retail Centre



New businesses at Shield Retail Centre

Starbucks coffeehouse serves up a dozen new jobs



Twelve new jobs have been created in the area after coffee giant Starbucks opened its doors to a new cafe in Filton.

Located at the Shield Retail Centre, the coffeehouse is operated by Cobra Coffee, which is part of Southern Co-Op.

Roles created included a store



manager position, supervisors and baristas. It is Cobra Coffee's 83rd Starbucks location, with more sites planned before the end of the year.

To mark the launch at the start of October, 50 customers received complimentary reusable cups.

Visitors have praised the store's welcoming design and warm atmosphere.

Levis Wandera, store manager of the new store, said: "Opening this store has been a fantastic opportunity to build a great team and create new jobs in the Bristol area."

"We're looking forward to getting to know our customers and making the store a welcoming place for everyone."

Customers can enjoy the latest seasonal menu which features returning favourite, the pumpkin spice latte, alongside toffee apple muffin and pumpkin marble loaf cake. Dairy alternative options are also offered at no additional charge for customers. The new coffeehouse also supports sustainability initiatives.

Customers can purchase drinks via the Starbucks UK app to skip the queue, enjoy a 25p discount for bringing reusable cups, and access unsold food through the Too Good To Go app to help reduce food waste. Delivery will also be available soon via Uber Eats.

The store features indoor seating, free wifi, and opening hours are Monday to Friday 7am–6.30pm, Saturday 7.30am–7pm and Sunday 8am–5pm

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News

Nominate the community heroes making a difference

Filton residents are being encouraged to nominate an unsung hero who helps make their community special.

The annual South Gloucestershire Council Chair's Community Awards 2026 recognise and celebrate the contribution that local, unpaid volunteers and groups make to life in South Gloucestershire.

The next celebration of community work and volunteering takes place in January, and residents have until December 5 to nominate a local community hero.

Organisers are looking for individuals or groups of unpaid volunteers whose efforts reflect a vision of a fairer, greener future for South Gloucestershire.

The award categories include:

- Climate and Nature Champions

- Reducing Inequalities
- Supporting Children and Young People
- Wellbeing and Independence
- Building Better Communities

Chair of South Gloucestershire Council Cllr Katie Cooper said: "Do you know someone who gives their time freely to help others?"

"Someone who is making a real difference in South Gloucestershire with their selfless work and dedication?"

"Now is your chance to recognise their amazing contribution."

"These awards acknowledge the valuable contribution local volunteers make to life in South Gloucestershire."

"Our winners willingly give up their time to help others and bring our communities together – and they deserve to be



celebrated. Don't let their efforts go unrecognized – start thinking now about who you'd like to nominate!"

You can nominate your community hero at www.southglos.gov.uk/communityawards or email communityawards@southglos.gov.uk.

gov.uk. If you are unable to access the internet or have any questions, please call 01454 863019.

The deadline for nominations is Friday 5 December 2025. Award winners will be invited to a presentation awards ceremony in January 2026.





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The team spent a day painting the image on the field at Elm Park - which even attracted coverage from the BBC.

Funded by: **FILTON TOWN COUNCIL**



Filton Town Council

Filton planning applications in November

HM watch

Applications

17 Stanley Avenue Erection of bike and bin store to facilitate change of use from dwellinghouse (Class C3a) to a small dwellinghouse in multiple occupation (Class C4) for 3-6 people.

21 Charles Road The erection of a single storey rear extension, which would extend beyond the rear wall

of the original house by 6.00m, for which the maximum height would be 3.25m, and for which the height of the eaves would be 2.90m.

Decisions

883 Filton Avenue
Continued use as 6 person HMO (Class C4).
Approve Certificate of Lawfulness



881 Filton Avenue Continued use as 6 person HMO (Class C4).
Approve Certificate of Lawfulness



47 Third Avenue
Erection of a two storey side and single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation. **Approve with Conditions**

41 Third Avenue Erection of a

single storey rear extension and installation of 1no. rear dormer to facilitate change of use of dwelling (Class C3) to 1no. large 7no. bedroom House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) for up to 7 persons (Sui Generis) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended). **Approve with Conditions**



Police report shows fall in crime but concerns over anti-social behaviour

Filton's latest police update, presented to the full council meeting, reveals a mixed picture for October, with overall crime figures down compared to the previous month but persistent issues around anti-social behaviour (ASB) and electric bikes.

According to the report presented to the Community Engagement Forum, 62 crimes were recorded in Filton up to 22 October, a notable drop from 102 offences in September. However, police noted that crime levels remain higher than the same period last year. Anti-social behaviour remains a priority, particularly in and around Elm Park, where incidents linked to electric bikes continue. Officers report that riders often leave the area at speed when approached, and additional measures are being taken to identify those involved. ASB concerns around shops on Gloucester Road North in Northville are also

being monitored, with trading standards expected to provide an update.

Officers also delivered talks at Filton Hill School and Springfields supported living, and held a bike-marking event at SGS College alongside a discussion on hate crime.

The breakdown for October shows 31 offences of violence against the person, 12 cases of arson and criminal damage, and 8 theft offences.

Burglary figures fell to just two recorded incidents, and a suspect was recently arrested for theft in Filton and linked to other offences in neighbouring areas. Police continue to urge residents to report suspicious activity, particularly individuals trying car doors.

With arrests made for 10 offences in the past 28 days and ongoing community engagement, the Beat Team says it remains focused on tackling ASB and reducing crime across Filton.



Changes to the way we hold meetings

Filton Town Council now has a new committee structure for its meetings

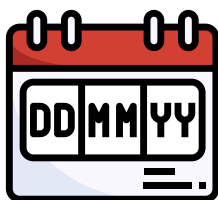
Full Council: (Last Tuesday Monthly)

Finance & Scrutiny: (Second Tuesday Monthly)

Open Spaces & Assets: (Third Tuesday monthly)

Planning & Climate Committee: (Tuesdays, recurring 21 days)

Staffing Committee: (First Tuesday bi-monthly)



November

25th, 7pm, Full Council

December

2nd, 7pm, Planning & Climate

9th, 7pm, Finance & Scrutiny

16th, 7pm, Open Spaces & Assets

All meetings held at council offices, Elm Park

Contact Filton Town Council

Town Clerk: Simon Davies

Visit

The Council Office is open to the public Monday to Friday 9am – 4pm, and is located at Elm Park, Filton, BS34 7PS.

Call

01454 803918

Email

Town Clerk - town.clerk@filtontowncouncil.gov.uk
General Enquiries – office@filtontowncouncil.gov.uk

Website

www.filtontowncouncil.gov.uk



Filton Town Council



Opportunity to support residents in Filton with energy advice



Filton Town Council recently heard from Retrofit West, an organisation committed to helping households improve energy efficiency and reduce carbon emissions.

The presentation outlined the benefits of retrofitting homes, from simple insulation measures to installing renewable technologies such as solar panels and heat pumps. These improvements can help residents cut energy bills while contributing to local and national net-zero targets.

Retrofit West have suggested that a community event could be arranged in the new year. The idea, still at an early stage, would involve setting up an advice stall at the Elm Park Leisure Centre café, offering residents practical guidance on home energy improvements.

There is the possibility of inviting other organisations, such as Bristol Energy Network and the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), to provide a broader range of expertise. Retrofit West highlighted similar initiatives already underway, including funding provided to Southmead Development Trust to train staff at the Greenway Centre to advise on energy efficiency.

At this stage, discussions are ongoing, and no date has been confirmed.

Filton Town Council is considering how best to promote any future event through local newsletters and Filton Voice to ensure strong community engagement.

With energy costs and sustainability high on the agenda, the council sees potential in working with Retrofit West and partners to help residents make informed choices about reducing energy use and improving comfort at home.

Elm Park Leisure Centre shows strong growth and community impact

Elm Park Leisure Centre has reported significant progress in its latest update, highlighting improved financial performance, increased memberships, and expanded community offerings since its relaunch earlier this year.

Financial turnaround

The centre's income has grown steadily from £1,593 in May to a forecasted £52,390 for September, despite initial exceptional costs for statutory compliance and remedial works. These included upgrades to plant room electricals and gas boilers, as well as enhanced marketing efforts.

Membership and lessons on the rise

Health and fitness memberships have increased by 127 active members in the past month, contributing to a total membership base of 600 and generating £19,168 in recurring income. Swimming lessons have also seen strong uptake, with 74 participants in September and a total swim school

enrollment of 413, adding £13,216 in recurring income.

Community engagement and programming

The centre has introduced new group exercise classes, including 19 virtual and 21 live sessions, alongside promotional campaigns such as "Join for £10" and free 3-day passes. These efforts have boosted engagement and usage across all facilities.

Additional income streams

The café and pay-and-play swimming options have seen notable growth, with combined income rising from £4,121 in June to £9,145 in September, marking a £5,024 increase.

Looking ahead

With a strengthened team, including a new operations manager and swim manager, Elm Park Leisure Centre is poised to continue its upward trajectory, offering diverse programs and improved facilities for Filton residents.

Local police 'surgeries'

Our Beat Team, led by PC Gareth Pretlove, will be holding drop-in surgeries for residents at the Elm Park Leisure Centre throughout 2025.

These are for people to come along, raise concerns or ask for advice on any matter which might be affecting them.

The dates are:

- Friday 28th November 17:30 hours
- Wednesday 17th December 10:00



News

Report reveals main causes for surge in fly-tipping

By Alex Seabrook, LDRS reporter

Five main areas have been identified as contributing to the prolonged rise of fly-tipping in South Gloucestershire.

This summer councillors sounded the alarm as piles of rubbish are being left across the district and called for an investigation into the root-causes of why people fly-tip.

Stoke Gifford was identified as one of the areas with the highest level of fly-tipping.

Councillors passed a motion in July, calling on the government to change the law so that money raised from prosecuting fly-tippers gets reinvested back into the area. The motion also led to a root-cause analysis, which the scrutiny commission was due to discuss on Wednesday, November 5.

A report to the scrutiny commission said: "Fly-tipping continues to pose a serious and escalating challenge in South Gloucestershire, with far-reaching environmental, financial, and social consequences. Fly-tipping incidents have shown a fluctuating but overall upward trend between 2019 and 2024, with notable hotspots in both urban fringes and rural lanes."

One contributing factor is access and affordability. The

An investigation into the causes of fly-tipping, which has plagued South Glos, has been carried out



four household waste recycling centres in the district — in Little Stoke, Mangotsfield, Thornbury and Yate — are only open from 8.30am to 4.30pm every day. People without cars cannot book a slot to visit a recycling centre, and anybody visiting on foot or by bicycle has to call or email the council to arrange a visit.

Another factor is a lack of awareness of legal disposal routes and potential penalties. Residents might not realise that arranging for a man in a van to take away their waste could result in that getting fly-tipped. Leaving unwanted items where they could be taken by others can also end up getting left on the side of the road for weeks.

Few people get prosecuted for fly-tipping in South Gloucestershire. While the council often talks about the

successful prosecutions of criminals caught dumping waste, government statistics show the majority of fly-tipping incidents go unpunished in the district. In 2023–24, 2,171 incidents were recorded. But there were only 18 prosecutions and 15 fixed penalty notices.

"Commercial waste mismanagement" was also identified. Rogue traders and unlicensed waste carriers operate in South Gloucestershire, cold calling and advertising on social media to take rubbish away. Lastly, the rising cost of living and expensive costs of legitimate waste disposal are contributing to the increase in fly-tipping. This affects both residents and commercial waste.

The 2,171 figure is a whopping increase of 72 per cent compared to a decade ago. Spikes were

seen during the pandemic and at the brunt of the cost of living crisis. Last year two thirds of incidents were household waste, with construction and demolition waste coming in second.

As well as looking at the causes of fly-tipping, the report also considered six challenges facing the council in tackling the issue. Hazardous waste, such as asbestos, is expensive for people to dispose of within the rules and also costly for the council to clear up if left on the side of the road. This also presents a risk to the public in the meantime.

The report said court sentences "don't recognise the seriousness of fly-tipping". A recent prosecution led to a £180 fine, £100 costs and £80 victim surcharge, which "in no way reflected the nature of the offending nor the resources involved in investigating the offence".

Enforcement is not a statutory service, unlike other services the council provides. Council staff are "largely reactive rather than focusing on preventative measures and education".

And lastly, organised crime is a challenge facing the council. Rogue waste carriers and criminal enterprises are "profiting from large-scale fly-tipping".

Homes hit as garden waste fees rocket by 19 per cent

By Adam Postans, LDRS reporter

Garden waste collection charges for South Gloucestershire residents are set to rocket by 19 per cent from April.

The council is proposing a hike from £63 to £75 "to continue to cover the costs of providing the service".

It comes despite fees doubling from £30 to £60 in 2024 which came with a pledge from South Gloucestershire Council leaders at the time that future increases would go up only by the rate of inflation, which currently stands at less than four per cent.

In its public consultation seeking people's views on a range of cuts and ways to increase income in its 2026/27 budget, the authority said: "Wherever possible, our focus is that those who are in a more fortunate position and can best afford it



should be making the largest contribution.

"However, we are limited by what we can do locally, and we await an update from Central Government on the financial

settlement for the year ahead, which will clarify our financial position.

"Historically, charges for services like green waste collections have been much lower

in South Gloucestershire than in other parts of the country – and far below the costs of delivering them.

"However, with more constrained council finances, it feels unfair to continue to subsidise services like these which the council is not required to provide, where there are alternative companies in the private sector providing a service.

"We have therefore changed our approach to set fees at a fair level, which helps cover our costs, so we can prioritise funding towards essential support like social care for the vulnerable.

"We are proposing to increase the annual fee for our green waste collections from £63 to £75."

The consultation is here: www.southglos.gov.uk/budget

News

Oh yes they are! BIPA returns to Filton with ever-popular Christmas pantomime

by Lucy Frost

Following last year's sell-out success, Bristol Institute of Performing Arts (BIPA) returns with their Christmas Panto, 'Enchanted' at The Olympus Theatre, SGS Campus.

The show is running 3-14 December, and with tickets to the 19-performance run already close to selling out, they're well on track for a busy festive season.

The production is completely student-led. From performance to wardrobe to tech, it's all hands on deck for the students across the college and university to put on one of their biggest shows of the year.

As an institute, BIPA take pride in every one of their performances, encouraging young people to experience theatre and make it as memorable as possible.

Jack Maurice, Artistic

Director and Head of BIPA, said, "Our annual pantomime is one of the most joyful and memorable moments in the BIPA year.

"It gives our students the thrill and discipline of a true pantomime run, and it allows us to welcome thousands of local children, many seeing live theatre for the very first time.

"That's why we do this.

Inspiring the next generation is what we do, and sharing the magic of performance will always be at the heart of BIPA".

This year's show takes on a steampunk twist, set in the whimsical town of Ever After, a place where fairy tales and legends come to life. Time begins to slip out of balance, and something isn't quite right.

A brave group of princesses need to restore order before it's too late.



Audiences can expect laugh-out-loud comedy, dazzling dance numbers, heroic showdowns, and just the right amount of festive mischief.

Ben Winter, co-writer of the production, explains that this performance features a fully female cast.

"There's a big focus on female empowerment and coming together to defeat the evil villain", he said.

He added that the soundtrack mostly consists of female artists, including tracks from the likes of Charli XCX and Chappell Roan.

"There's probably not a song in there that people won't know," he said.

Buy tickets online through BIPA's website, use the code 'FILTON10' for 10% off your booking.

CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR BIN COLLECTIONS

Your recycling and waste collections will change over the festive period.

There will be no collections on **25 or 26 December, or 1 January.**

Our Sort It recycling centres will also be closed on these dates, and will shut at **2pm on Christmas Eve.**

My collection day should be...	My collection will take place on...
Thu 25 December	Sat 27 December
Fri 26 December	Mon 29 December
Mon 29 December	Tue 30 December
Tue 30 December	Wed 31 December
Wed 31 December	Fri 2 January
Thu 1 January	Sat 3 January
Fri 2 January	Mon 5 January
Mon 5 January	Tue 6 January
Tue 6 January	Wed 7 January
Wed 7 January	Thu 8 January
Thu 8 January	Fri 9 January
Fri 9 January	Sat 10 January
Collections return to normal from Mon 12 January.	

CHECK YOUR COLLECTION DATES

Online at: southglos.gov.uk/collectiondates On the app: southglos.gov.uk/app

South Gloucestershire
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News from our MP Claire Hazelgrove

Why community cohesion is so important

I hope you are enjoying the fantastic community events we have at this time of year. Thanks to everyone involved.

This month, my small team and I have worked on 704 new cases, supporting fellow residents. I held my advice surgery in Charlton Hayes and informal 'Coffee with Claire' in Stoke Park.

In a time when – unfortunately – some seek to divide, I believe that coming together, listening (whether we agree or not) and making positive change happen together matters. This will always be my approach as your MP.

Locally, I've been advocating for residents by meeting with FirstPort to raise concerns about leaseholders' issues.

I also met with members of our Hong Kong national (overseas) community to hear a range of experiences and have some raised concerns they shared with the Home Office.

I welcomed Transport Secretary



Heidi Alexander to Airbus in Filton, where she saw more of the important work here shaping the future of flight. It was useful to visit JobCentre Plus in Horfield, and I was pleased to welcome St Peter's Hospice Superstore to Filton.

Thank you to all who volunteered or gave to the Poppy Appeal. I attended powerful Remembrance events in Downend, Filton, Stoke Gifford, Patchway and at MOD Abbey Wood. I was

also proud to lay a cross on our community's behalf in Parliament. With family members who served, this has always felt such an important time of year.

UK Parliament Week saw schools and community groups explore how democracy works. It was super to visit Callicroft Primary Academy and SGS College Filton to hear and answer questions from young people.

It was a privilege to speak at a memorial unveiling at Aerospace Bristol, remembering those who died during test flights with the Bristol Aeroplane Company between 1910-1960.

Nationally, having played a key role on the Renters' Rights Bill Committee, I was pleased to see it receive Royal Assent. This new law will help ensure the 8,596 households renting locally have the same chance at a decent home in what has been a lottery. Ending 'no-fault' evictions and introducing the right to request a pet are among

the living standards boosts.

I'm always proud to champion our community in Parliament. I welcomed the UK-Türkiye Typhoon fighter jet deal, supporting jobs at Rolls-Royce in Filton and SMEs.

I hosted an event with GW4 in Parliament to showcase the impact of universities in our part of the world, and welcomed Tom El-Shawk from Future Space – a thriving hub for start-ups at UWE - to 11 Downing Street for an SMEs reception with the Chancellor.

Attending St Michael's PTFA fireworks night and Christmas events across our community has been a truly lovely end to the year. Thank you to everyone involved in these.

Thanks to you for reading, getting in touch, taking part in my events, and giving so much to our community in 2025.

I wish you a joyful Christmas, and all the best for 2026. As ever, please get in touch anytime: claire.hazelgrove.mp@parliament.uk

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FREE WEEKLY EVENTS

Knit, Stitch & Natter* (for adults)	Mondays 2-4pm
Rhymetime** (for children aged 0-5)	Wednesdays 10:30-11am
Councillor Surgery (for all Filton residents)	Saturdays 10-11am

*EXCEPT BANK HOLIDAYS **TERM TIME ONLY

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CONTACT US:

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www.southglos.gov.uk/libraries



PLEASE NOTE: the library will be open on Christmas Eve from 10-1pm

christmas eve sing-a-long



WEDNESDAY 24TH 10:30-11

Free drop in! Get out of the house on Christmas eve and come along to listen to a Christmas story and sing along with some classic kid's Christmas songs. Colouring & crafts available afterwards. Suitable for kids of any age.

Winter Wonderland MONDAY 29TH 10:30-11:30



Seasonal Crafts

Free drop in craft activity most suitable for primary school aged children. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Take-home bag will be available throughout the school holiday if you can't make it to the in-person event (while stocks last).

FREE MONTHLY EVENTS

U3a Writing Family History (for U3a Members)	Not in the library this month
Art Club Paper Snowflakes (for children aged 7-11)	Saturday 13 th 11-11:45am
Lego Club Themed building fun! (for children aged 4-11)	Saturday 20 th 11-11:45am

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Greenfingers... the Alan Titchmarsh column

He's a magnificent broadcaster, gifted gardener, brilliant author and all-round horticultural visionary. This month, Alan Titchmarsh talks about fine festivities in our gardens.

Christmas has a funny way of creeping into the garden. It starts with a string of subtle, seductive fairy lights over the porch and, before you know it, you've got a 12ft inflatable reindeer hanging from the rooftop!

Now, I'm all for a bit of sparkle, and if kids are present, there's arguably no sight more exciting than gazing out on the garden on Christmas Eve with the expectancy that Santa and his reindeer will soon be laying tracks across the lawn (they can't land on the roof because of that inflatable!).



However, where the outdoor festive feel is concerned, I think the garden deserves something subtle, classy, and in keeping with the season.

Last year, I took a wander down the path on Christmas Eve and realised that the holly bush by the gate was doing all the work on its own. A few scarlet berries, glinting in the frost, looked more authentic than anything I could plug into a socket. It made me think: why not let the plants take centre-stage?

A sprig of rosemary tucked into a wreath gives a waft of scent every time you pass the door. Ivy trails, woven around lanterns, bring an old-fashioned charm. Even crab apples left on bare branches can look like baubles against a wintry backdrop.

The trick is to decorate by using what the garden is already offering. One December, I trimmed a few twigs of dogwood and popped them in a jug on the windowsill. The red stems against a backdrop of white fairy lights felt so simple, but visitors thought I'd been terribly clever. Really, it was the dogwood doing all the heavy lifting.

Also, it doesn't have to solely be about natural elements. Some old blocks of wood painted to look like presents



can be a nice addition to a flowerbed. Consider as well placing red candles in terracotta plant pots for a warm festive glow.

Ultimately though, this Christmas, instead of filling every corner with tinsel, I'll let the garden do its quiet magic - a partnership of light, leaf, and a touch of imagination. After all, even in midwinter, nature knows how to throw a party.



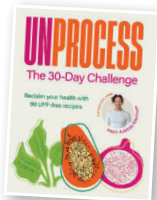
Books You'll Want To Gift

From wellness to weirdness, December has some excellent literary offerings.

Unprocess: The 30-Day Challenge

by **Jason Adetolla Mackson**

Say goodbye to processed foods and transform your health in just 30 days with *Unprocess*.



This practical cookbook delivers over 90 delicious wholefood recipes with meal plans that make clean eating effortless - no complicated rules or expensive ingredients, just real food that gives you real results.

Jason Mackson, the wellness expert behind The Electric Tribe's million-strong community, cuts through the noise with clever strategies, meal plans and weekly goals to help you remove Ultra Processed Foods (UPFs) from your diet.

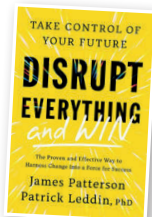
You'll discover exactly why wholefoods matter and how to stock your kitchen for success; plus what to do after the 30 days are up, and how to use the challenge as a blueprint for lasting change.

Published December 18th by Quarto Publishing.

Disrupt Everything and Win

by **James Patterson and Patrick Leddin**

Disruption is everywhere. From



artificial intelligence to economic uncertainty to the pandemic's effect on the workplace, we've never seen anything like it in our lifetimes. Yet how can we use disruption to our advantage?

Enter world-renowned storyteller and entrepreneur James Patterson, and leadership expert Patrick Leddin, who both know disruption to be one of the most powerful and misunderstood forces in this fast-changing world. From their personal and professional experiences, advancement has always required abrupt, explosive change.

Now they show you how to turn disruption on its head too, using invaluable insights and practical tools to help you leverage this force for positive change.

Mastering disruption will have a revolutionary effect on your career, your relationships and your life.

Published December 4th by Cornerstone

Wes Anderson: A Retrospective by **Clarisse Loughrey**

Wes Anderson is a true icon of contemporary cinema. His films are consistent cult favourites, starring a cast of top actors and have made indie films popular again.



With his inimitable and idiosyncratic style, Anderson's cinematic universe includes *The Royal Tenenbaums*, *The Life Aquatic with Steve Zissou*, *The Darjeeling Limited* and *Fantastic Mr. Fox*.



Delivered in a quirky design which mirrors the aesthetic of an Anderson film, *Wes Anderson: A Retrospective* considers his entire oeuvre and reveals behind-the-scenes anecdotes, colour codes and where the visual Easter eggs are hidden.

Published December 4th by Gemini Books Group

Tailored Realities by **Brandon Sanderson**

Spanning the genres of fantasy and science fiction, this collection features stories from beyond the bounds of Brandon Sanderson's Cosmere universe.



Along with the never-before-seen novella *Moment Zero*, and other stories never before collected into one volume, this tome also includes a stunning black-and-white illustration for each story.

Published December 9th by Orion.



Paul Hollywood's Christmas Buns

Paul Hollywood's fruit rolls can be made ahead then heated up before adding a glossy glaze and citrus icing, making them the perfect morning treat for Christmas Day.

Method

1. Put the flour and 1tsp salt into a large bowl. Make a well in the centre and add the yeast. Meanwhile, warm the milk and butter in a pan until the butter melts and the mixture is lukewarm. Add the milk mixture and egg to the flour mixture and stir until the contents come together as a soft dough (add extra flour if you need to).
2. Tip the dough onto a well-floured surface. Knead for 5 mins, adding more flour if necessary, until the dough is smooth, elastic and no longer sticky.
3. Lightly oil a bowl with the vegetable oil. Place the dough in the bowl and turn until covered in oil. Cover the bowl with cling film and set aside in a warm place for 1 hr or until doubled in size. Lightly grease a baking sheet and set aside.
4. For the filling, knock the dough back to its original size and turn out onto a lightly floured surface. Roll it into a 1cm-thick rectangle. Brush all over with the melted butter, then sprinkle over the sugar, cinnamon and fruit.
5. Roll up the dough into a tight cylinder, cut into 9 x 4cm slices and position on the prepared baking sheet, leaving a little space between. Cover with a tea towel and set aside to rise for 30 mins.
6. Heat oven to 190°C/170°C fan/gas mark 5. Bake the buns for 20-25 mins or until risen and golden brown. Meanwhile, melt the glaze sugar with 4 tbsp water until syrupy.
7. Remove from oven and glaze. Set aside to cool on a wire rack. Once cool, mix the zest and icing sugar with about 2 tbsp water to drizzle over the buns. Serve.

Ingredients

Makes 9

- 500g strong white flour, plus extra for dusting
- 7g sachet fast-action dried yeast
- 300ml milk
- 40g unsalted butter, softened at room temperature
- 1 egg
- Vegetable oil, for greasing

For the filling

- 25g unsalted butter, melted
- 75g soft brown sugar
- 2tsp ground cinnamon
- 100g dried cranberries
- 100g chopped dried apricot

For the glaze

- 50g caster sugar

For the lemon icing

- Zest of a lemon
- 200g icing sugar

Filton Wonderful Windows Art Trail



Windows arts trail lights up the streets of Filton



GARDENING GET-TOGETHERS

Alternate Saturdays, 10am-12pm

Join the friendly volunteers and help keep the garden great for all to enjoy. No experience necessary, just turn up on the day.

December Saturday 6th
Saturday 20th

January Saturday 3rd
Saturday 17th
Saturday 31st

Special events

Christmas Singalong

Monday 22 December, 11am



Filton Community Garden,
Gloucester Road North, Filton BS34 7PF

Online updates at:

Facebook.com/filtoncommunitygarden

Email: communitygarden@filtontowncouncil.gov.uk



it's been another fabulous year for the Filton Wonderful Windows Arts Trail, with over 40 homes and businesses joining the event.

Sadly, the weather didn't play fair for the first night so the lantern parade was quite damp, but the rest of the weekend has been perfect for friends and neighbours to walk around Filton, seeing the artistic creations residents have made.

A huge thank you to Go to IT, Filton Voice, ASDA Filton, and The Filton Barbers who sponsored this year's trail. Several businesses and the town council even got involved with displays.

Thanks, too, to all residents and community groups who have taken part. The trail would not exist without you all.

This free community event is spreading joy and brightness in the town as well as raising funds for the North Bristol & South Glos foodbank through the refreshment stops.

We look forward to next years trail, which will be November 20th - 23rd 2026.

If you've been inspired to take part, you can register your window now here: <https://forms.gle/mQFxCtIsQozSc9jN9>

Debbie Teml





Filton Wonderful Windows Art Trail



THE SNOWMAN

SCREENING OF THE MUCH LOVED FILM WITH LIVE 25-PIECE BRASS BAND, PIANIST & VOCALIST

St Michael's Centre Stoke Gifford, North Bristol
Saturday 20th December 4.30pm

Book your tickets using this QR code or via [ticketsource](https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/filton-concert-brass)
<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/filton-concert-brass>
All Adults £12 ~ Children (4 -16) £8 ~ Under 4s Free






© Snowman Enterprises Limited 2022. THE SNOWMAN™ Snowman Enterprises Limited

What's on in Filton ... email shane@filtonvoice.co.uk

St Peter's Church

Services

Sunday 23 November 8.30am and 10am Eucharist

Sunday 30 November 8.30am and 10am Eucharist with 6pm Advent carol service

Sunday 7 December 10am Eucharist and 5pm Christingle

Sunday 14 December 8.30am and 10am Eucharists and 6pm Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday 21 December 8.30am and 10am Eucharists

Christmas Eve, Wednesday 24

December 5pm Children's Crib Service and 11pm Midnight Mass

Christmas Day, Thursday 25 December 10am Eucharist

Boxing Day, Friday 26 December 11am Eucharist for St Stephen's Day

Sunday 28 December 8.30am and 10am Eucharists

Midweek Said Eucharists are on **Wednesdays** at 7pm and **Thursdays** at 11am, but during not Christmas week. Please see above for our seasonal services.

On **Wednesdays** and **Thursdays** you can also join us for Morning Prayer at 9am and Evening Prayer at 6pm.

Community Coffee Shop

Our friendly community coffee shop is open **Mondays to Thursdays** from 10am to 1pm and all are welcome.

We have a selection of delicious homemade cakes and hot drinks available, all served by our friendly group of volunteers and we are also a designated warm space. On **Thursdays** we offer soup and bread for a small donation.

Please note, the Coffee Shop is currently closed on Fridays, and at the weekend.

Social and Church Groups

Our **Mothers' Union** meets on **2nd Thursday** at 2pm in the Coffee Shop. Full details on the website.

Brabazon Belles (a social group for women) meet on the **first Monday** of the

month at 7pm in the church hall.

Our **Open House** group meets every **Tuesday** in the church hall from 9.30 - 11am for tea, toast, and companionship.

Our **friendly choir** meets for rehearsals every **Friday** at 7pm in the church.

Time to Grieve. Grieving the loss of a loved one? Time to Grieve offers you a space to talk about your loved one with a retired bereavement counsellor and to meet others in a similar situation. 10.30 - 11am on the **first Wednesday** of every month in the Coffee Shop.

You can find more information at www.stpeterschurchilton.com

St Andrew's Methodist Church

Regular services

Sundays

Morning Service 10.30 am. Little Lights: For children whose parents/carers are attending worship.

All Age Worship on the **2nd Sunday** of the month.

Nativity Service: **Sunday 21 December** 10.30 am. Carol Service: **Sunday 21 December** 6.00 pm. Christmas Eve Communion: **Wednesday 24 December** 11.15 pm. Christmas Day Service: **Thursday 25 December** 10.00am.

Tuesdays Wesley Guild - meets alternate Tuesdays at 2.15pm. All welcome.

In December there is one meeting only, "Anthology for Christmas", on **9 December**. First meeting after Christmas break is **6 January**.

Thursdays

Rainbows (term-time) 5.15pm

Sip 'n' Chat Coffee morning: October 9th 10.00 am - 12.00 noon. Enjoy a cuppa, a cake and a chat - all welcome.

Fridays

St Andrews Baby and Toddler Group, term-time, 10.00 am - 11.45 am, £2 per family, includes refreshments. Play, crafts, chat, and singing time.

Messy Church: Meets on the 2nd Saturday of the month, 3.30 pm - 5.15pm. **Saturday 13 December.**

OUR POPULAR QUIZ! More details to come in January! Save the date! 6.00 pm Saturday 24 January. Prizes, raffle, refreshments!

Hire of Church: Outside groups also regularly hire our newly refurbished multi-use church. For bookings email: standrewsfilton@gmail.com. For all other enquiries, please visit our website, standrewsfilton.org.uk

FACE

Mondays

12.30-1.30pm Tai Chi, £3 entry

7-9pm The Hangout youth club for young people aged 13-25, with social or learning disabilities, £2 entry

9:30-10:30 am The Original Spinners yoga session, £3 per session

This class is for everyone, regardless of

Tom's Slimming World group will be held at Greenway Centre, Southmead, BS10 5PY every Tuesday at 5:30pm & 7:00pm from Tuesday 11th June 2024. For more information or to join Tom's group call him on 07920779270.



experience or flexibility. We adapt the session to include everyone.

Wear comfortable clothing that won't restrict your movement and bring a blanket too.

Tuesdays

10am-12pm Coffee Club (tea & coffee morning for ever 60s), donations welcomed

Filton Juniors

3.30pm - 5pm Yr 6 + 7 £2 entry

5.30pm-6.30pm Yr 3, 4 + 5 £2 entry

Wednesdays

7-9pm Outbreak youth club for School Years 7-13, £2 entry

10am - 12noon Citizens Advice drop in session Free entry

Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire face-to-face advice session. No appointment needed. Funded by Filton Town Council

Thursdays

10am-12noon Tech & Talk - IT or mobile phone support and more, whilst enjoying a cuppa and a natter, £3 entry

1.30-2.30pm Low Impact Fitness session, £3 entry

7-9pm Illuminators social club for adults aged 20+ with social or learning disabilities, £2 entry

Fridays

10am-12pm "Coffee & Chat" coffee morning for anyone who would like to come for refreshments, conversations and join in crafts and games together. Donations welcomed.

6-8pm, monthly Social Club for 8-13s with social or learning disabilities, **3rd Friday of each month.**

Contact: **FACE, Youth Centre, Elm Park, Filton, BS34 7PS. 0117 9691938 / info@facecharity.org.uk**

FACE Christmas Fayre

FACE would like to invite you, your family and friends to come along to our Christmas Fayre. The event will be a great opportunity to spend a lovely afternoon with us and the community all in support of FACE charity. **Saturday 29th November, 12pm - 3pm at FACE youth & community centre, Elm Park, Filton, BS34 7PS**

Girl Guiding

Rainbows - age 4 - 7 years - **Tuesday**

16:45-17:45 & Thursday 17:15 - 18:15 Brownies - age 7 - 10 years - **Tuesday 17:45-19:15**

Guides - age 10 - 14 years - **Tuesday 19:30 - 21:00**

Rangers - age 14 - 18 years - **Tuesday 19:30 - 21:00**

To register your daughter, go to Girlguiding UK website and follow the link 'Register my daughter'

1st Filton Scouts

Beavers age 6-8

Tuesday 6:00-7:00pm & **Wednesday** 5:45-6:45pm

Cubs age 8-10

Monday 6:30-7:45pm & **Thursday** 6:00-7:15pm

Scouts age 10-14

Tuesday 7:30-9:00pm & **Thursday** 7:30-9:00pm

Kraken Explorer Scout Unit

Ages 14-18

Wednesday 7:30-9:00pm

The group is based in Scout HQ, Nutfield Grove, Filton, BS34 7LJ. All young people welcome, no previous Scouting experience necessary.

Email: joining@1stfiltonscouts.co.uk

Email: dave_buchan@hotmail.com

(Kraken Explorers)

Website: 1stfiltonscouts.co.uk

Men In Sheds Filton

The DIY group, which aims to tackle loneliness and isolation among men aged over 50, operates from the Scout hut in Nutfield Grove, providing a space to socialise, build, share skills and drink tea. The group runs every **Wednesday**, from 9.30am-12.30pm. Call John Cahill 07986053005

SHE7

Wednesday

Over 50s lunch, Cooked lunch, pudding and tea/coffee for just £4. Please ring 0117 969 5130 to book and arrive by 12.15pm.

Wednesday

Bristol Taiko - Japanese Drumming 7.00pm - 8.30pm, £5 per session

International Plastic Modellers Society Avon

Meetings are held on the **3rd Wednesday** in the month from 7:30pm for 8:00pm at: BAWA Healthcare & Leisure, 589 Southmead Rd, Filton, Bristol BS34 7RG. Contact: ipmsavon@gmail.com

Ukulele Filton

We are an enthusiastic group of ukulele players, who love to strum and sing every **Monday evening** in Filton. We meet at St Andrew's Methodist Church, Elm Park, from 7.30 to 9.00pm. We are always pleased to welcome new members. We have spare ukuleles for you to try, and plenty of help to get you started. We now also have members who come along just to sing! For further details, phone Sue on: 07504561831.

OVER 30s DANCE PARTY at the superb BAWA Club, Filton

on the FIRST Friday of every MONTH (NO dance in August or January) It's the ideal night out for the 30-60 age range. Come dance and socialise amongst a friendly, lively crowd. Dancing Thru' the Decades includes Motown, Soul, Club Classics... Music you can relate to. Club times are 9 'til 1. Last entry 11pm - very smart casual. No t-shirts or trainers and gents required to wear collared shirts. Entry: £8. www.mingles.co.uk. Facebook: @Luv2mingle

What's on in Filton ... email shane@filtonvoice.co.uk

Bristol Scrabble Club

Bristol Scrabble Club meets every **Wednesday** evening from 7pm until 10pm at the Filton Community Centre, Elm Park Filton BS347PS. New members are welcome and first visit is free so come along and give us a try. For more information ring Sheila Hinett 01179570792 or 07435316458. Or email shinett@blueyonder.co.uk.

Bristol Sugarcraft Guild

We are a small friendly group who meet every third Saturday of the month 2pm to 4pm at St Andrews Church, Elm Park, Filton. If you would like to learn to make sugar flowers and models we hold demonstrations and also workshops with instruction. Beginners are very welcome. Please call Jean Kingston on 01454 314178 or Carole Hyams on 0117 956 8037 for more information.

Community Garden

Alternate Saturdays, 10am-12pm. No experience necessary, just turn up on the day. Tools and guidance provided.

November: Saturday 22nd

December: Saturday 6th, Saturday 20th, Monday 22 December, 11am: Christmas singalong

Filtones Choir

Our long-established mixed voice choir is looking to recruit new members in 2025. Adults of all ages, and all voice ranges are welcome from soprano to bass. We meet every **Wednesday** afternoon from 1.45-3.45 p.m. at the St Teresa's Community Rooms, (behind the church) at 71 Gloucester Rd North BS34 7PL. Come along and try us out for four weeks free, with no audition and no commitment. For further info. contact 07870 984760 or visit www.thefiltones.co.uk

Concord Wind Band

We are a friendly, mixed ability band, playing music for fun. We rehearse at the Beechwood Club, Beechwood Rd, Fishponds, Bristol. BS16 3T **every Friday 7.30pm to 9.30pm**, with a tea break. We welcome new members. Contact Jayne on 07880724948

Filton Bookworms

Come along to the Bookworms monthly reading group at Filton Library! **1st Friday of each month** at 2pm. If you are interested in joining, please as inside the library. Phone: 01454 868006 or Email: Filton.library@southglos.gov.uk

North Avon Speakers Club

We usually meet every first and third Thursday of the month at BAWA Filton, 7:15pm to 9:30pm. We have prepared speeches, but also Table Topics, which are a fun way to help members and guests

practice impromptu speaking. After our meetings some members and guests usually also go to the nearby lounge/bar at BAWA. Please email northavontm@gmail.com for more information.

Dance Moves Keep Fit

Tuesday, 2-3pm at St Peter's Church Filton. Have fun whilst improving your general wellbeing. Suitable for all ages. For further information, contact Eileen Scott, Tel. 07969929733/ email scottytartois@hotmail.com

Short Mat Bowls

We are a friendly group that meets **Thursdays 1:45pm to 4pm** at the Filton Community centre, Elm Park Filton, BS34 7PS. New members are welcome, and the first visit is free, then each session £3. Contact Alan Riley on 07957295287 or email alanriley73@gmail.com

RAF Association – Bristol Branch

Every 2nd Wednesday of the month we run Veterans lunch at our club. The lunch is for veterans of all services and widows of Service men. **Open from 12pm, lunch is at 1pm until 3pm.**

The price is £7 for two courses. Address 38 Eastfield, Westbury On Trym, BS9 4BE. Please ring 0117 9470775 to book.

Filton Pétanque Club

Come and try a game of Pétanque - the French game of boules. No equipment needed initially, just wear flat, trainer-type shoes, and dress for the weather. **Wednesday evenings at 7.00pm. Sunday mornings at 10.30am.**

Venue: the boule piste, Elm Park, next to the community garden. Call 07925 913180 for more details. filtonpetanqueclub.my-free.website

Northavon Singers

Do you love to sing? Why not join our choir at St Peter's church hall, Filton. We meet every **Wednesday 7.30-9.30pm** and sing anything from Porter to Pop. Adults of all age and voice range welcome! northavon.singers@outlook.com or phone 0117 9699206

Functional Skills Maths Course

Free maths course for over 19s who do not hold a level 2 maths qualification. **Mondays 9:30-11:30am** at FACE. Contact Louise Gillett on 07720143 891 or louise.gillett@southglos.gov.uk

Horfield Townswomen's Guild

We are a small group meeting on the 2nd **Wednesday in the month** at St Andrews Church, Elm Park, Filton between 2-4pm.

We welcome new members and further details can be obtained from the Vice Chairperson, Edna Church on 07884 204621.

Probus

A members luncheon club for retired people. Held the **third Wednesday** at the BAWA Club in Filton at 12pm. Each meal is followed by a talk. Partners can attend four times per year. For more information contact the secretary on 07551503955 or email rogerbonner@gmail.com

Frenchay Folk Dance Club

We meet alternate Wednesdays for English and American Folk Dancing 7:45pm to 10:15pm at Frenchay Village Hall. Make new friends, have fun and dance to live music. New dancers are always welcome. See www.frenchayfdc.co.uk or email FFDCSecretary@gmail.com

Walking football

A new Walking Football Club, in association with WFA and UWE, is a safe and inclusive activity for those who have limited activity abilities.

Mondays 10:30-11:30 followed by Tea & Coffee 11:30 – 12:00

£4 per session plus a £5 registration fee. Held at Centre for Sport, Frenchay, Bristol. You will only need a pair of trainers and the enthusiasm to join in. Carers & Partners welcome! For more information email: info.walkingfootball@uwe.ac.uk

Filton Concert Brass

Open rehearsals every 2nd Monday of the month

Join Bristol's leading championship section band for a fantastic opportunity. Young brass players of Grade 5 ability and up are encouraged to rehearse with us. Time: 7.45pm. Location: St Andrews Methodist Church, Elm Park, Filton BS34 7PS. Contact: Julie Cowell - 07876 135341 Email: filtonconcertbrass@gmail.com

Filton Historical Group

PROGRAMME OF TALKS AUTUMN 2025

These talks will be held on Wednesday evenings in St Andrews Church, Elm Park, Filton. All talks will start at 7.30pm. There is free parking available in the adjacent church car park. The cost of membership covering all six talks will be £20 person. Guests will be asked to pay £5 per session). Yearly membership fees will be collected at the September meeting (or later if you cannot come to this one).

Wednesday 26 November 2025, 7.30pm 'Medical Care in Bristol before the NHS' with Dr Michael Whitfield

Bristol Marquetry Group

Marquetry is an ancient Art form. A craft which has been around for many years dating back to Egyptians. It is the use of wood veneer's and placing them into a background forming a picture or design to enhance a piece of furniture or just creating a picture of your own be it from a photograph or from your own imagination. It is a safe, inexpensive hobby which can be carried out in the comfort of your own home. We can help you in producing a simple design for coasters to start you off with materials supplied, or you can create some unique attractive coasters of your own for your table.

Please come along and join in. Meetings to be held monthly at 2 pm. St Andrews Church, Filton. BS34 7PS

The next meeting will be **Wednesday 17th November**

Please telephone Brian Adams on 07590099564 for more details.

A CHRISTMAS CONCERT FEATURING BYRON JONES B.E.M.

Saturday 6th December

Admission £10 – Refreshments Included. Doors open at 2pm. Concert commences at 2:30pm.

St. Andrews Methodist Church, Elm Park, Filton, BS34 7PS

For further information contact Byron Jones on 07788 442071 or Carol Miles on 07773 636042



ST ANDREW'S METHODIST CHURCH, ELM PARK, FILTON
SATURDAY 13th DEC 2023

3.30 – 5.15pm

Crafts, fun and food for all the family

Come and join us ... entry is FREE!

Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times

With NHS dentists hard to find, local people are rightly concerned about their mouth health. But there might be an alternative. In her regular series of columns, Sarah-Joy London, the Filton-based 'Virtual Hygienist', offers tips on how you can take steps yourself to reduce your need to visit the dentist

Let your inner smile shine this Christmas



Christmas is often a time of joy, celebration, and delicious treats, but it can also take its toll on both our mouths and our minds.

Between late nights, sugary indulgences, and added stress, it's easy to lose touch with our healthiest, happiest selves.

As an oral health coach, I encourage people to care for their smiles through brushing, flossing, and mindful choices. But as a life coach, I'm equally

passionate about what I call our inner smile — that quiet sense of peace, self-kindness, and contentment that shines from within.

This December, why not care for both? Keep up with your oral care routine, but also nurture yourself in small, gentle ways: step outside for fresh air, say no when you need to, or take five quiet minutes just for you. A truly radiant smile reflects not only healthy teeth but also a heart at ease.

So, this Christmas, give yourself permission to protect both your outer and inner smile.

And if you'd like a little support in reconnecting with that inner joy, why not join me for my free **12 Days to a Christmas that Feels Like Home**.

You can find all the details here:



Filton Community Garden & FACE invite you to a

CHRISTMAS SINGALONG

**MONDAY, 22 DECEMBER, 11AM
FILTON COMMUNITY GARDEN**

Celebrate the season with us at our festive singalong, featuring Christmas classics and carols. Afterwards, enjoy delicious mince pies, mini rolls, and a cup of hot chocolate!



Filton Community Garden, Gloucester Road North,
Filton BS34 7PF
Online updates at:

Facebook.com/filtoncommunitygarden
Email:communitygarden@filtontowncouncil.gov.uk



**A CHRISTMAS
CONCERT**

FEATURING

BYRON JONES B.E.M.
PLAYING WERSI ORGAN/PIANO AND CHURCH ORGAN

**ST. ANDREW'S METHODIST CHURCH
ELM PARK, FILTON
BRISTOL BS34 7PS**

SATURDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2025
ADMISSION £10 REFRESHMENTS INCLUDED
DOORS OPEN 2PM.
CONCERT COMMENCES 2.30 PM CONCLUDES
AT 5PM

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT
BYRON JONES 07788 442071
CAROL MILES 07773 636042

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St. Peter's
F I L T O N

Our Advent & **CHRISTMAS** Services

Sunday 7th December **Christingle Service**

at 5.00pm

*A Service for children and the young at heart
celebrating the Light of the World.*



Tuesday 9th - Friday 12th December **Christmas Tree Festival**

*Church open from 11.00am to 6.00pm each day
(8.00pm on Friday)*

*Carol singing each evening during the last hour
with hot chocolate.*

Remember someone with a prayer bauble.

Sunday 14th December **Nine Lessons and Carols** at 6.00pm

*A Service of readings and carols
for the festive season
followed by mince pies,
coffee and mulled wine.*

Christmas Eve **Family Crib Service** at 5.00pm

The story of Christmas for children of all ages.

Midnight Mass at 11.00pm

Christmas Morning **Family Eucharist** 10.00am



We look forward to seeing you!

