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March 2026 Issue 173

# filtonvoice

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## New recycling bags for Filton residents

South Gloucestershire Council will begin introducing new recycling bags from mid-February to help residents adapt to three-weekly black bin collections.

Two types of recycling bag will be provided to all households in South Gloucestershire:

- A white reusable recycling bag for plastic cans and foil
- A pack of blue bags for soft plastics.

Plastic, cans and foil bags are being introduced to expand the capacity for these materials and make separating items easier for residents. The reusable bags chosen seal fully to help prevent litter, are weighted so they are less likely to blow away and are made of a durable material.

Soft plastics currently take up

Continued on page 2

## Police probe Fiat petrol station ram-raid - Page 7



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Further details of the complaints process can be found on the Voice website www.localvoicenetwork.co.uk, or can be obtained by contacting the publisher, below.

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**New recycling bags for Filton homes**

**From Page 1**

around 29 per cent of the average black bin by volume, so moving these items to the weekly recycling means that most people should be able to accommodate three-weekly black bin collections.

Residents that were part of the soft plastic trial will receive their reusable recycling bags first. Other residents will start to receive both types of bags at the same time. All households should receive the new bags by May and can start using them straight away. There will also be a leaflet delivered with the bags with more information.

Councillor Sean Rhodes, cabinet member responsible for recycling and waste at South Gloucestershire Council, said: "Following the success of our soft plastics trial, we are delighted to be rolling out this service to all households, and we've chosen durable and litter resistant materials for the new bags to help keep our communities clean and tidy." For more information, visit [www.southglos.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/waste-and-recycling)

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News

# Delight as school opens new £12m facilities

Abbeywood Community School in Stoke Gifford has unveiled its brand-new £12 million facilities, enabling it to welcome more students through its doors.

Funded by South Gloucestershire Council, the improvements include a new Olympus Building — a fully accessible, 10-classroom block with additional staff facilities — which opened on Friday, February 6.

The first phase of the project, completed in March last year, delivered a refurbished school kitchen, an extended dance studio, and upgraded changing rooms for PE classes.

To support the council's commitment to working towards net zero and reducing operating costs, the school has also installed photovoltaic (PV) solar panels and air-source heat pumps.

Interim CEO of Olympus Academy Trust, which runs the school, Claire Moloney-Banks,



Students and staff pictured at the Olympus Building's opening event on Friday, February 6

said: "Abbeywood Community School continues to grow at the heart of our community.

"Designed for 180 students per year group, we have expanded and now welcome 240 students annually.

To support this growth and uphold our high standards, significant investment in our facilities has been welcomed.

"I am delighted to announce the opening of the new Olympus Building, a modern

ten classroom block funded by South Gloucestershire Council. Alongside our enhanced catering, changing and drama spaces, this state-of-the-art building strengthens our provision and ensures we continue to offer a first-class learning experience.

"Together with our main school and the Engineering Centre, the Olympus Building positions us to serve our community with excellence for many years to come."

South Gloucestershire Council Cabinet Member for Schools, Councillor Ian Boulton, said: "I am thrilled that this project is now complete and these improvements to the school will be enjoyed by staff and pupils alike for years to come.

"We have invested almost £12 million in this project, and in other parts of the district we have been able to get projects that had stalled underway.

"We don't just want to talk about the future for our children in South Gloucestershire, we want to help build it. Better school buildings and catering for growing pupil numbers is a key part of that mission."

The project has been funded using a combination of the council's capital funding and Section 106 contributions, which are provided from housing developments in the area, to help pay for the infrastructure needed to support new homes.

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## News

# Conygre councillor standing in Patchway offers reassurance

**By Lucy Frost**

A Filton councillor, who is standing in an upcoming by-election in Patchway, has reassured residents that he is still committed to serving the Conygre ward.

This will be Patchway's third by-election in recent months, which happens when a vacant seat needs to be filled in between scheduled elections.

Labour councillor John Baverstock, who is standing for the Coniston ward in Patchway, says he hopes to "spread his knowledge" across both town councils, adding that his experience in Filton has

shown him he could take on the responsibilities of both wards.

Cllr Baverstock said: "I still feel like I have the capacity to sit on two councils and give my expertise without tiring myself out."

In response to concerns raised by some residents on Facebook about his decision and his ability to continue serving Filton if elected in Patchway, Cllr Baverstock says he "made a mistake by answering a hypothetical question" and wants to clarify his position.

One concerned resident wrote on the Filton News and Views community page: "I voted

*I won't have to stand down from any committees. I have the capacity to dedicate myself to both."*

**- John Baverstock**

for John in Filton and feel a bit annoyed that he is willing to throw the interests of Filton residents in the dustbin to run for a seat where he doesn't live."

The resident shared a screenshot of a comment on Facebook by Cllr Baverstock saying that he "will step down from any committee that gets in the way of me attending Patchway Town Council meetings."

But Cllr Baverstock told the Filtonvoice: "I won't have to stand down from any committees. I

have the capacity to dedicate myself to both."

If elected, Cllr Baverstock says the only clash between his Filton Town Council duties and Patchway's meeting schedule will be the Assets and Open Spaces committee, which he currently chairs.

Cllr Baverstock is hopeful that the meeting day will be moved in May, however any change requires agreement from all committee members.

He added: "Regardless of what happens in Patchway, I still want to serve Conygre."

Cllr Baverstock looks forward to the ongoing work happening in the Conygre ward, and wants to continue improving open spaces in the area.

He believes that the two areas could work closely together. He says he aims to share his experience both ways.

The by-election was due to be held on Tuesday, February 24 for Patchway Town Council, Coniston ward.

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## News

# 'Successful' advice centre set to continue



**By Lucy Frost**

Filton Town councillors unanimously agreed to continue funding a Citizen Advice drop-in service following its success since launching in September.

The service provides free and confidential advice with a trained advisor. Residents can attend a session without an appointment to discuss issues such as, but not limited to, benefits, debt, cost-of-living issues, domestic abuse and

employment issues.

The resource provided advice to a total of 77 Filton residents, helping them manage a total of 256 separate issues.

The multi-channel advice service can be accessed via face-to-face meetings, telephone, digital advice and web-chat. Between September and December, 35 residents accessed the service by attending the Filton drop-in at FACE.

The report shows that the earlier weeks of the scheme were quiet, but steadily increased throughout the period.

Before launching the Filton sessions, some residents may have had to travel to Yate for face-to-face advice from the charity.

Debt was highlighted as the most prominent issue being faced by Filton residents, making up 26 per cent of all enquiries. It was closely followed by benefit issues at 25 per cent.

The service has secured financial outcomes for local residents totalling £53,587, an average of £696 for each person they have helped.

It was revealed that 36 per cent of benefit enquiries relate to Personal Independence Payment (PIP), a benefit to help unwell and disabled people. The PIP application process is complex,

and many people are refused the benefit in the first instance. Citizen Advice's success rate at overturning unfair PIP decisions is high, where they acknowledge that without their support, many people may not challenge these benefit decisions.

The data shows that council tax arrears were the most common debt issue being faced by Filton residents throughout the period, followed by energy debts.

They also provide housing advice, where the majority of enquiries relate to problems within the private rental sector or housing association properties. Typically, issues related to these categories regard fitness for human habitation, as well as cases of disrepair including mould, damp and condensation.

The sessions take place at FACE, Elm Park every Wednesday from 10am to 12pm.

## Do you need advice? We can help

Citizens Advice South Gloucestershire is running free face-to-face advice sessions for Filton residents.

Our advisers can help in a wide range of areas including benefits, debt and housing. No appointment is necessary.

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News

# Police probe Fiat petrol station ram-raid



**By Lucy Frost**  
Police were called to the Tesco Esso Express garage in

Gloucester Road North at the end of January after a Fiat 500 ram raided the shop.

Tesco Esso Express in Gloucester Road North, which was ram raided

Officers are currently investigating the incident, which happened at around 10.40pm on January 24, and involved the small city car reversing into store. There were three suspects involved in the incident.

Two unknown suspects got out of the vehicle, leaving a third in the car.

The suspects proceeded to steal money from the tills.

They also attempted to steal tobacco but were unsuccessful. They got back into the vehicle and fled the scene.

A man in his forties has been arrested in connection with this incident on suspicion of burglary, but has been released on conditional bail.

Enquiries into the incident are ongoing and Avon and Somerset police are appealing for anyone with information to call them on 101 and quote reference 5226021960.

## Drop reported in crime figures

**By Lucy Frost**  
Filton residents have been urged to remain vigilant following the latest neighbourhood policing update, despite police reporting a notable fall in crime.

Crime figures show 66 offences were recorded in Filton in the month leading up to January 21, showing a significant decrease from 119 the previous month.

While there has been a drop in violence against a person and criminal damage, there have been increases in burglary, theft and vehicle offences.

Many of these offences

have involved unlocked houses and cars, therefore Avon and Somerset Police is reminding residents to ensure their properties and vehicles are secure as a preventative measure.

Local officers will be conducting extra patrols in the area and ask residents to report any suspicious behaviour to the police via 101.

Officers are continuing their 'Talk to Us' events at Elm Park Leisure Centre, as well as remaining consistent with their community outreach by conducting talks at local schools.

The police's current priorities involve extra patrols in crime 'hotspot' areas and addressing the ongoing issue with anti-social behaviour in Elm Park regarding e-scooters.

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# Strap in for out-of-this-world activities at Aerospace Bristol

March is a bumper-packed month for Aerospace Bristol.

It's hosting the first Wales & West Spacefest on March 7, a day of expert talks for enthusiasts and some specifically tailored family talks.

There will also be interactive activities including a virtual reality (VR) experience and planetarium (extra cost of £5/£6), space-themed hands-on activities for children and society stands where you can meet space enthusiasts and discover new hobbies. The talks and children's activities are free with admission tickets.

The following week on March 14, it's all aboard Aerospace Bristol for their Model Railway Day!

Taking place under the Concorde, you can see live railway demonstrations in action and a variety of intricate modelling layouts, again, this day is included with admission.

Closing March the buses are back for another popular Vintage Bus Day where visitors can see vintage buses and even take a short trip around the local area – included with admission.

The Easter holidays will shortly follow with families invited to have a go on flight simulators and climb into the cockpits of real aircraft. Visitors can also book a planetarium experience in Mario's Dome Club Planetarium for a supersonic day out (April 13-19).

For more information, please head to [aerospacebristol.org/whats-on](http://aerospacebristol.org/whats-on) where imagination takes off!

## News

# Aviva Arena name

The new Aviva Arena name was announced at an event at Aerospace Bristol. Far right, a CGI of inside the arena at full capacity. Images: Lucy Frost/YTL



**By Lucy Frost**

A multi-million pound sponsorship deal has been struck, securing a new name for Filton's planned 20,000-capacity arena.

The landmark agreement between developers YTL and major insurer Aviva will now see the entertainment venue named Aviva Arena.

The partnership marks a

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**Easter Holidays (3 - 19 April)**

**News**

# agreed in new major multi-million deal



Arena will be one of the most exciting and sustainable live entertainment venues anywhere in the world, and we are incredibly proud to welcome Aviva as our naming partner. This long-term partnership brings together two organisations with shared values around innovation, sustainability and community impact.”

The partnership comes as the latest addition to Aviva’s portfolio of venues, joining their stadium in Dublin and studio in Manchester.

Dame Amanda Blanc, group

major milestone in the delivery of the 20,000-capacity venue, which is expected to open late 2028.

CEO of YTL Live, Andrew Billingham, said: “Aviva

CEO of Aviva said: “Bristol is an important city for Aviva, and we are proud to back this new world-class arena which will have such a positive community impact.”

An estimated 1.4 million people are expected to attend events at Aviva Arena each year. It has been approximated that the entertainment complex will contribute £1 billion to the local economy over its first decade of operation.

The project will create more than 2,000 jobs during construction and a further 500 permanent jobs once the arena is operational.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer, Rachel Reeves, said: “It’s good news for people across the West of England, creating thousands of jobs and putting the region firmly on the global map for live entertainment.”

The announcement was made a special event at Aerospace Bristol, which featured UK No 1 artist, Tom Grennan, who

delivering a six-song set beneath the Concorde. His performance set the tone for the live music, sport and entertainment that Aviva Arena expects to attract.

Aviva Arena will be fully electric and is targeting carbon-neutral operations, in support of Bristol’s environmental goals.

Work has already begun to transform the Brabazon Hangars, the former aircraft production site, into the music venue. Other development work is planned to build new schools, community facilities, parks and public squares.

In his speech, Colin Skellett, CEO of YTL UK Group, said: “We’re not building houses, we’re building communities.”

He elaborated on travel plans including a ‘Bristol Circle Line’ to connect the Brabazon site to wider areas in Bristol such as Parkway and Temple Meads.

Further updates will be available at the newly launched website AvivaArena.co.uk



## Get ready for **THREE-WEEKLY** black bin collections

From May 2026, your black bin will be collected once every three weeks.

Recycling and food waste will continue to be collected weekly.

Green bins (for garden waste subscribers) will be collected every two weeks.

A new hygiene and nappy waste collection will take place every two weeks (if registered).

**FIND OUT MORE**



[southglos.gov.uk/three-weekly](https://southglos.gov.uk/three-weekly)

News

# Filton's unsung heroes recognised for



Unsung heroes from Filton have been presented with a special award, celebrating the selfless and valuable contributions they make as volunteers.

The annual Chair's Community Awards, organised by South Gloucestershire Council, recognise local volunteers who willingly give up their time to help others.

Recipients from Filton included Frances Fahy, Lucy Hamid, John Cahill, and Caroline and Richard White, all of whom have shown exceptional commitment to their local community.

Chair of South Gloucestershire Council, councillor Katie Cooper, presented the awards at a special ceremony along with David Withey, the CEO and principal of South Gloucestershire and Stroud (SGS) College, which once again sponsored and hosted the event.

A diverse group of award

recipients were honoured, with contributions ranging from community wellbeing initiatives and youth support, to environmental projects and advocacy services.

Councillor Katie Cooper, chair of South Gloucestershire Council, said: "It is a privilege to recognise the remarkable people who contribute so much to our communities.

"Their kindness, energy and commitment bring genuine benefit to residents across South Gloucestershire, often without seeking any recognition in return.

"Their actions make a hugely positive and lasting difference to the lives of residents, and I want to thank each of them for their kindness and selfless contributions."

For further information on the Chair's Community Awards visit: [www.southglos.gov.uk/communityawards](http://www.southglos.gov.uk/communityawards)



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News

# dedication to their local community

Winners pictured with SGS CEO David Withey and Cllr Katie Cooper. From left page to right: Frances Fahy (top left), John Cahill (bottom left), Lucy Hamid, and Caroline and Richard White (far right)



## Filton winners

- **Caroline and Richard White:** "Caroline and Richard have both created a warm, welcoming environment at Open House in St Peter's Church by managing administration, greeting newcomers, and fostering

friendships that help combat loneliness."

- **John Cahill:** "John has dedicated 33 years to Scouting in Filton, transforming a dwindling group into a thriving community of over 110 young members and 26 volunteers through his exceptional leadership, commitment, and countless

hours of service."

- **Frances Fahy:** "Frances has devoted over 33 years to transforming young lives through Girlguiding and the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, creating life-changing opportunities that build confidence, resilience, and leadership."

- **Lucy Hamid:** "Lucy's extraordinary leadership saved Coniston Community Centre after the pandemic, transforming it into a thriving hub that supports over 300 weekly users, combats isolation, and delivers measurable health and wellbeing benefits to the community."

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## News

# Filton Festival to mark Concorde milestone

By Lucy Frost

To honour the 50th anniversary of the first commercial flight of the Concorde, planning company Deryncoch has begun outlining the agenda of this year's annual Filton festival.

Aeronautical-themed activities such as plane displays, aerial acrobats and air-themed fairground rides were all mentioned at a recent council meeting, as plans continue to take shape.

Creative workshops including paper plane making and costume workshops are also being considered.

This year organisers are proposing a mass participation event to break the world record for the most people simultaneously pretending to be an aeroplane.

Attendees will also be encouraged to make costumes for

the event with the opportunity to win prizes.

Possible headliners for the festival include Brass Fusion, True Strays and The Sweet and Lowdown, accompanied by local music acts who will soundtrack the day.

The event is aimed at families, young people, aeronautical enthusiasts, nature lovers and anyone who is prepared to "take flight".

Primary schools are also expected to make costumes, and aeroplane designs in preparation for the festival.

Sponsorship opportunities will include a headline sponsor, Guinness World Record sponsor and a range of local partners to support the event.

Residents can look forward to the first-class event which is expected to take place at Elm Park in July.



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News

# Council tax hike given the green light

By Alex Seabrook

Council tax in South Gloucestershire will increase by 4.99 per cent in April after councillors formally approved budget plans. As pressure on local services continues to build up, South Gloucestershire Council is needing to spend £20 million of its reserves to balance the books.

Changes to how business rates, a local tax on companies, mean South Gloucestershire is £16 million worse off. Big cities like Bristol on the other hand have benefited from these changes, although they have also seen a drop in government grants for local councils.

Extra money will be spent on social care, equalities work, community cohesion, schools

and other services. The spending plans for the next financial year, from April until next March, were approved by the full council on

Wednesday, February 11.

Liberal Democrat Councillor Maggie Tyrrell (pictured, left), leader of the council, said: "Our costs are increasing faster than inflation, faster than government funding, and faster than

it's reasonable or sustainable to raise council tax. Although this is a very tight budget, we're pleased to invest in areas of great importance to us."

There is rising demand both across the country and in South Gloucestershire for councils to spend millions of pounds on caring for elderly and disabled people and supporting children with special educational needs

and disabilities. Inflating costs to maintain the roads is also creating a headache for finance chiefs at the council, while extreme weather is making potholes worse.

Labour Cllr Ian Boulton, co-leader of the council, added: "This budget will deliver for local people. We can't do everything we want to do right now, but we want to provide clarity and transparency, not empty words or hollow rhetoric. Where there are tough choices to make, we will make them, and we will talk and listen to our residents about them."

Tories tried to amend the budget plans, with extra money spent on potholes, cleaning streets and making roads safer outside schools. But they were criticised by Liberal Democrat

and Labour councillors, partly as this would have seen less money spent on community cohesion.

After the meeting, Cllr Liz Brennan (pictured, left), leader of the Conservative group, said: "Tonight, we tabled

an amendment calling for more money to be spent fixing potholes, cleaning the streets and improving road safety outside schools. Sadly, the Lib Dem-Labour coalition voted against it. Instead, they voted to raise council tax by the full amount, increase the garden waste collection fee by a staggering 19 per cent, increase car parking charges and cut vital flood defences. Our amendments sought to bring long term stability to South Gloucestershire. Their budget was about short term survival."



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# Puzzles for all

## The FIEND

Each row, column and square (9 spaces each) needs to be filled out with the numbers 1-9, without repeating any numbers within the row, column or square.

NOTE After feedback from readers, we have made The Fiend SLIGHTLY easier!

6	3							
		1				3	7	6
			3					
	9			4	1	5		
				1		6	8	
	5	2		4		8		
				8				
		6		5	2		1	7

## For younger readers

### Spring Sudoku

Every row, column and mini-grid must contain the letters S P R I N G.  
Don't guess - use logic



		P	I		
I					P
	P			R	
	I			G	
S					G
		R	N		

Solution Page 27

## Txtpert

Theme: Music

1				2		3
			4		5	
6	7					8
	9					
				10		

Use the phone keypad to decode the clues.  
For example: 2 could be A, B or C... and 5678 could be LOST

1 q.o	2 abc	3 def
4 ghi	5 jkl	6 mno
7 pqrs	8 tuv	9 wxyz

Across

- 1 6356342 (7)
- 4 6633 (4)
- 6 62636546 (8)
- 9 84363 (5)
- 10 843 (3)

Down

- 1 64646 (5)
- 2 386 (3)
- 3 283 (3)
- 4 633539 (6)
- 5 385238 (6)
- 7 2586 (4)
- 8 6683 (4)

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## Easier sudoku

Rules the same as the Fiend, but only four numbers in each box, row and column

3	4	2	
	3	4	

## Solutions

Txtpert

E	I	L	O	A		O
L	E	W	E	H	L	E
O	C	T	T			
N	I	T	O	D	N	V
E	D	S	W			N
C	I	D	O	T	E	M

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3 Gloucester Road North, Filton Park, BS7 0SG

## Filton Town Council seeks volunteers to launch Chatty Café at Elm Park Café



Elm Park Leisure Centre has joined The Chatty Café Scheme - a national initiative focused on reducing loneliness by encouraging simple conversation.

The scheme's mission is to "Paint the Town Yellow" by encouraging venues to host Chatter & Natter tables – designated spaces where anyone can sit if they are happy to chat to others. Founder Alex Hoskyn explains, the aim is to create opportunities for human interaction,

where a simple "hello" can make someone go from feeling invisible to visible.

A Chatter & Natter table is a regular, welcoming table within a café or community venue where people can come along for a chat. Anyone over 18 can join - some may attend weekly, others may drop in just once. The ultimate goal is for these tables to become a normal part of café culture, where people feel comfortable sitting if, in that moment, they would like company.

In partnership with Elm Park Leisure Centre we aim to offer a Chatter & Natter table for 1-2 hours per week, hosted at the same day

and time each week to provide consistency for attendees. The Chatty Café Scheme recommends a 12-week approach to establish a successful and sustainable table, with consistency being key.

The Leisure Centre is currently inviting volunteers to help host the sessions. Training is provided via Zoom and includes guidance on safeguarding and promoting the table. As highlighted in the Elm Park promotional material, the scheme is a national initiative to reduce loneliness by getting people chatting, and volunteers are asked whether they could spare 1-2 hours per week to host the table.

Filton Town Council recognises that loneliness can affect people of all ages - from new parents and carers to older residents and those new to the area. By joining the Chatty Café Scheme, Elm Park Leisure Centre can help provide a relaxed, welcoming space where residents can connect and build new friendships.

Further details, including confirmed days and times, will be shared locally.



Table Volunteer  
Application Form

**The café  
at Elm  
Park  
Leisure  
Centre**



## Council seeking funds to improve fitness facilities for people with learning difficulties

Filton Town Council, in partnership with leisure centre operator Parkwood, has submitted a bid for £19,000 from the Learning Difficulties Development Fund (LDDF). The funding would be used to purchase specialised fitness equipment designed to support residents with learning difficulties.

The LDDF, via South Glos Council, provides financial support for projects that help deliver the Valuing People Now strategy, focusing on areas such as personalisation, health and wellbeing, employment, education, housing, community safety, and transport. Funding is allocated annually by the Learning Difficulties Partnership Board, with £100,000 available for distribution to successful projects in the 2024/25 cycle. If awarded, the funding will enable Parkwood operated facilities to offer accessible, tailored fitness opportunities that promote improved health outcomes for people with learning difficulties.

## Filton Town Council considers investment in sports field marking 'robot' technology

Filton Town Council is exploring the potential purchase of a specialist automated robot line marking machine to improve the efficiency and accuracy of marking sports pitches at Elm Park.

The technology is designed to quickly and precisely mark out football, rugby, and other sports fields, significantly reducing the staff time currently required for manual marking. In addition to improved accuracy, the system would enable the Council to expand the variety of sports it can offer on its playing fields thanks to faster turnaround and consistently high quality pitch layouts. The Council has had a trial of the line marking robot which laid a 6 lane, 100 metre grass running track in Elm Park, right. The track is open to all, and no requirement to book.

## Council submits Green Flag application following improvements at Elm Park

Filton Town Council has formally submitted its Green Flag Award application after extensive work to prepare Elm Park for accreditation. The Green Flag Award is an internationally recognised benchmark for well managed parks and green spaces, and the submission marks a major milestone in the Council's commitment to enhancing local outdoor areas. Judges are expected to visit in the spring to review the park's facilities, maintenance standards, environmental management, and community involvement. Filton's Park Rangers are keen to build stronger links with other local parks to share ideas, best practices, and collaborative approaches to green space management. Looking ahead, plans are already in place for improved signage and for the laying of new hedges to further enhance biodiversity and habitat quality.



## Tree grant for Millennium Green

Filton Town Council have secured a grant, in partnership with the Forestry of Avon, to plant fifty new trees in Millennium Green.

Twelve of these trees will be planted in an orchard, while the remaining trees will extend the walkway in the middle of the field.

The project aims to boost biodiversity and create an ecologically rich space for residents and visitors, The council is hoping to complete the planting before April.

## Filton planning applications in February

## HM watch

### Applications

**41 Rannoch Road** Erection of single storey side extension to form additional living accommodation. Conversion of existing detached garage to form home office/gym.

**39 Blenheim Drive** Change of use from residential dwelling (Class C3) to 6-person HMO (Class C4) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (Use Classes) Order 1987 (as amended) with parking and associated works.

**91 Kenmore Crescent** Erection of hip to gable roof extension and installation of 1 rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

**91 Kenmore Crescent** Erection of single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation. Installation of raised terrace with glass balustrade and privacy screen.

**Land at 39 Bude Road** Erection of 1 dwellinghouse with parking and associated works (resubmission of P25/02315/F).

**125 Gloucester Road** Subdivision of 1 HMO into 2 flats (Class C3) with associated works.

### Decisions

**32 Rannoch Road** Erection of hip to gable roof extension and installation of 1 rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion.  
**Approve certificate of lawfulness**

**138 Station Road** Erection of a single storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation.  
**Approve with conditions**

**21 Rodney Crescent** Demolition of existing garage and erection of single storey rear extension.  
**Approve certificate of lawfulness**

**19 Ferndale Road** Continued use as 6 bed House of Multiple

Occupancy (Class C4).  
**Approve certificate of lawfulness**

**694 Southmead Road** Demolition of existing conservatory. Erection of single storey rear and a two story side extension to provide additional living accommodation. **Approve with conditions**

**Unit 5 The Shield Retail Centre** The display of 1 internally illuminated fascia sign. **Advert approve with conditions**

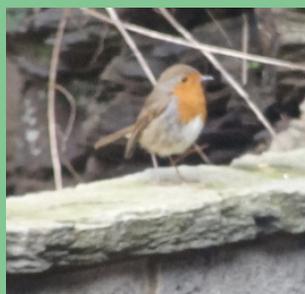
**82 Northville Road** Creation of new vehicular access onto classified highway (Class C) Creation of 2 parking spaces. **Approve with conditions**

**30 Warren Road** Erection of single storey rear extension to facilitate change of use of 7 bedroom HMO (Sui Generis) to an 8 bedroom large HMO (Sui Generis) for up to 8 people including vehicle parking,

bin storage and cycle parking. **Approve with conditions**

**Site off Golf Course Lane** Demolition of existing buildings and erection of 2 new buildings (Use Class E(g)) with car parking, landscaping and associated works. **Approve with conditions**

**Parcel C1A on land at Brabazon, former Filton Airfield, Gloucester Road North** Erection of a seven storey building accommodating a new food store and office space; a nine storey multi-storey car park; and associated infrastructure and landscaping with appearance, landscaping, layout, and scale to be determined (Approval of Reserved Matters to be read in conjunction with outline permission P22/02113/O). **Approve with conditions**



Filton Town Council has launched and completed the Filton Bio-Blitz 2026 – Winter project on iNaturalist, encouraging residents to explore local green spaces and help record wildlife throughout the colder months. A bio-blitz is a community event that aims to identify as many species as possible within a defined time and location, involving residents in hands-on biodiversity monitoring. As part of the project, participants are invited to photograph and upload observations of plants, animals, fungi, insects, and other naturally occurring species found across Filton. Bio-blitz events typically encourage participants to “take photos of naturally occurring plants and animals anywhere in nature”. Further projects are planned for Spring and Summer. Visit [www.inaturalist.org/projects/filton-bio-blitz-2026-winter](http://www.inaturalist.org/projects/filton-bio-blitz-2026-winter)

Increased attendance at Community Partnership Meeting signals growing local engagement

Filton Town Council is pleased to report a positive increase in attendance at the recent Filton Community Partnership meeting, where 15 local stakeholders came together to discuss key issues affecting the town.

The meeting brought together a cross section of community representatives, signalling strengthened collaboration and renewed interest in shared local priorities. With the Headteacher of Filton Hill Primary School among those in attendance, discussions also explored opportunities for deeper community-school links.

It is hoped that the Community Partnership meeting will now become a regular quarterly event, providing an ongoing forum for dialogue, problem solving, and joint initiatives.

Subject to confirmation, the next meeting may be hosted at Filton Hill Primary School, further supporting community accessibility and involvement.

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## Police and fire service meet Filton residents

A Community Safety Pop-Up event held at Elm Park Leisure Centre brought together the Filton & Patchway Neighbourhood Police Team and Avon Fire & Rescue Service for a joint community engagement morning.

Avon & Somerset Police hosted a crime prevention information stand and delivered a free bike marking session in partnership with Bike Register, helping residents take practical steps to protect their property and reduce cycle theft.

Firefighters from Patchway Fire Station attended with a fire appliance, providing advice on fire, road and water safety, as well as guidance on smoke alarms and home safety. The event gave residents and families the opportunity to speak directly with emergency service personnel and learn more about keeping themselves and their homes safe.

The morning was well received, with positive engagement from members of the community and valuable conversations taking place throughout.

Filton Town Council hopes this will be the first of many collaborative events at Elm Park and is keen to encourage further community service inclusion, with additional pop-up events being explored for the spring, summer and autumn months.

In addition, Filton Town Council is pleased to offer free hot drinks to all local emergency service personnel who are in uniform and/or present a valid ID, should they be passing through and wish to visit Elm Park Leisure Centre.

This is provided through services at Elm Park Leisure Centre as a small gesture of appreciation and to strengthen positive relationships between our emergency services and the local community. It also encourages informal engagement, helping residents and officers connect in a relaxed and welcoming environment.



### Men in Sheds partner with Filton Hill Primary School

Local community group Men in Sheds have teamed up with Filton Hill Primary School to support ongoing wildlife projects. Volunteers have been busy crafting hedgehog hotels and bat boxes, providing students the opportunity to learn how to protect local wildlife.

In addition to this, park rangers recently visited the school to identify a suitable spot for a wildflower patch, which will also boost biodiversity on the grounds. Work on this patch is expected to begin in mid-March.

### Bee squared project: wildflower hand-out

Filton Town Council will soon be handing out packets of wildflower seed as part of their Bee Squared initiative. Each packet contains enough seeds to cover one square metre of grass. Wildflowers provide a reliable source of nectar and pollen, helping to support bee populations and other insects.

## 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](mailto:town.clerk@filtontowncouncil.gov.uk)  
General Enquiries – [office@filtontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@filtontowncouncil.gov.uk)

**Website**  
[www.filtontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://www.filtontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Meeting dates

**March**  
3rd, 7pm, Staffing/  
Planning & Climate  
10th, 7pm, Finance &  
Scrutiny  
17th, 7pm, Assets & Open  
Spaces  
17th, 7pm, Planning &  
Climate  
31st, 7pm, Full Council  
All meetings held at  
council offices, Elm Park



## News from our MP Claire Hazelgrove

### Seeking views on social media restrictions for young people

Since my election, it has been super to see so many of you at my informal 'Coffee with Claire' events, focusing on priorities for our community. Having completed a place-based round of these reaching every ward, including in Filton, I'm holding thematic events focusing on these priorities, and where we can feed into key government consultations (like I did on SEND a few months ago).

This month's 'Coffee with Claire', in partnership with youth work charity FACE on Saturday 28th February at 11am, will focus on potential restrictions on social media for under 16s. The Government is consulting on options, and I want to make local views heard, sharing our feedback with Ministers.

The event will be in Patchway (venue following RSVP), open to all across our Filton and Bradley Stoke constituency. Young people are very welcome, with those aged 13-16 accompanied by a parent/



guardian. To RSVP, please visit: [clairehazelgrove.co.uk/cwc-social-media/](http://clairehazelgrove.co.uk/cwc-social-media/)

Last month, my team and I worked on 926 new cases supporting residents. I was out knocking on doors and listening to people's priorities in Little Stoke and Patchway and will keep doing this across our large constituency – stretching from Cribbs to Lyde Green.

In Parliament, I was proud to

vote to remove the two-child limit, seeing around 1,640 local children lifted out of poverty, putting the country on course for the biggest reduction in child poverty in a single Parliament. Children do not choose the circumstances they are born into, and it is right that we are in their corner as a society.

I was glad to speak in a debate on animal welfare where I thanked local campaigners for our Government's new Animal Welfare Strategy.

I also fully support our Government's announcement tackling rising vet fees. We will see clearer pricing, greater transparency and consistent access to care, rather than a postcode lottery.

Our Government also announced strong plans tackling 'fleecehold' practices. Ground rents will be capped at £250 and new leasehold flats banned.

Since being elected, I've supported local leaseholders

directly, met with management agencies and spoken to the Housing Minister.

I'm pleased that this has contributed to long-overdue action.

I've met with Government Ministers on important issues, who are now considering next steps.

Given issues receiving 2nd Class letters in some parts of our community, I met with Business Minister Blair McDougall to raise challenges local postal workers and residents have experienced.

Locally, I was pleased to visit Abbeywood Community School for the opening of their Olympus Building.

Across the constituency, I met with Green Valleys Health about the prolonged closure of Emersons Green Medical Centre. They are now awaiting a response on funding from the NHS locally.

As always, please get in touch anytime: [claire.hazelgrove.mp@parliament.uk](mailto:claire.hazelgrove.mp@parliament.uk)

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A workshop by Akulah Agbami of Sheba Soul Ensemble. Places are limited. Book your free ticket at [sglibraries.eventbrite.com](https://sglibraries.eventbrite.com).



National Year of Reading 2026

### IF YOU'RE INTO IT, READ INTO IT

The National Year of Reading is reconnecting reading with the things that already inspire us – from playlists and football matches to films, food and family time. It's reading that fits how we live, not the other way around.

## FREE MONTHLY EVENTS

U3a Writing Family History (for U3a Members)	Thursday 5 <sup>th</sup> 10.15-12
Art Club Pop-up Cards (for children aged 7-11)	Saturday 14 <sup>th</sup> 11-11:45am
Lego Club Themed building fun! (for children aged 4-11)	Saturday 21 <sup>st</sup> 11-11:45am



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## ■ ADVERTORIAL

# One Team to One in Ten Homes – The Window Hub's Success Story

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2025 has been a landmark year. The Window Hub was proudly crowned UK Installation Company of the Year at the prestigious national G-Awards, placing this Bristol-born business firmly on the national stage. As if that wasn't enough, two outstanding members of the team were also recognised with National



Fenestration Awards, proving that behind every great company is an even greater team.

Despite the national recognition,

The Window Hub remains rooted in the local community. Being named finalists for Retailer of the Year at the Bristol Life Awards is

a reminder that supporting local businesses really does matter. When you choose local, you're investing in local jobs, local families, and local success stories – and sometimes, those stories go on to achieve incredible things.

Whether you're upgrading your home, improving energy efficiency, or simply looking for honest advice from people who care, The Window Hub delivers award-winning quality with a personal touch.

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Chris, Bristol

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## News

# Steady growth as Elm Park reviews VAT rules

By Lucy Frost

Elm Park leisure centre reported another steady increase in income as they review the final quarter of the year. They continue to report steady income growth, strong membership numbers and a continued investment in community initiatives.

Key staffing positions have been filled as a set structure is now in place. It was reported that 80 per cent of employees are now contracted as either full-time or part-time.

Maintenance work also took place including fixing shower floor tiling, servicing the gym equipment and adding another power rack to meet demand.

In addition to this ongoing success, the council is considering a new opportunity regarding the leisure centre due to a new national legal ruling. Courts have ruled that councils provide leisure centres in a different way

to private gyms, therefore HMRC have now accepted that council-run leisure centre services can be treated as non-business.

This means that no VAT will be charged on income, and councils can recover VAT on their costs.

Under the proposed model, the council is the owner and provider of the leisure service, but a specialist operator, such as Parkwood, runs the day-to-day services as the council's agent.

The operator does not keep the customer income, but they charge a management fee for their work.

A robust model must be carefully designed to comply with the ruling, where the council's name must be on receipts, signage and websites. These recent legal changes create real financial opportunities for councils, but any proposed transitions require careful contract work, operational changes and clear public communication.

## Pub to reopen after major refurb



The Air Balloon pub in Filton is set to reopen this spring following a significant refurbishment by owner Greene King.

The popular Flaming Grill venue, located in Gloucester Road North, was due to close from February 23 while the work is carried out, with the revamped pub expected to welcome customers again in March.

The investment will upgrade the pub's food, drink and entertainment offer, with plans for new decor, updated furniture and enhanced sports facilities. Additions include an interactive target dartboard and a state-of-the-art media wall to screen live fixtures on Sky Sports and TNT Sports.

The exterior of the pub is also being improved to create a more welcoming outdoor space for dining and drinking.

The Air Balloon is currently recruiting new staff as part of the relaunch. Further details, including booking information, are available on the pub's website.

Bristol  
Gilbert & Sullivan  
Operatic Society

# The Yeomen of the Guard

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## Advertorial

# Gilbert and Sullivan's dark masterpiece finally staged

In 2020, Bristol Gilbert and Sullivan Operatic Society (BGSOS) were just two weeks from opening *The Yeomen of the Guard* when the pandemic brought everything to a halt.

Six years on, the company finally brings this long-planned production to the stage.

*The Yeomen of the Guard* is widely regarded as the darkest of the Gilbert and Sullivan operas, and this production leans into the bloodthirstiness and grit of Tudor London while still delivering all the fun and humour you would expect from a Gilbert and Sullivan show.

A full professional orchestra will bring to life

what is widely regarded as Sullivan's finest work, allowing the richness and dramatic weight of the music to be fully realised.

With Sarah Nash returning as director and John Pitts as musical director, the production finds a new home for the society at the Olympus Theatre. Grisly, dramatic, and musically ambitious, *The Yeomen of the Guard* offers a powerful reminder that Gilbert and Sullivan can be every bit as serious and compelling as they are comic.

BGSOS will be performing *The Yeomen of the Guard* from the 19th - 21st March at the Olympus Theatre, Filton.

Tickets available at [www.ticketsource.co.uk/bgsos](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/bgsos)



# Michel Roux Jr's Chocolate Cookies

Delight your mama this Mother's Day with these delectable cookies which remind the former Master Chef judge of his own childhood.

## Method

1. Using fingers, mix the butter, egg yolk, sugar, honey and salt in a bowl until smooth.
2. Then gradually add the sifted flour, cacao powder and baking powder. Do not overwork.
3. Quickly add the chocolate nibs.
4. Roll the mixture into cylinders about 3cm in diameter, then refrigerate.
5. When the cylinders are set, cut into 5mm slices and put on a non-stick baking sheet.
6. Cook in a pre-heated oven at 180°C/Gas 4 for 15 minutes. Cool before eating.

## Ingredients

*Makes 30*

- 125g butter at room temperature
- 1 egg yolk
- 60g soft brown sugar
- 1 tbsp honey
- Pinch of salt
- 130g flour, sifted
- 3 tbsp pure cacao powder
- Pinch of baking powder
- 100g white chocolate, cut into chips or nibs



# Greenfingers...

## The Alan Titchmarsh Column



**He's a magnificent broadcaster, gifted gardener, brilliant author and all-round horticultural visionary. This month, Alan Titchmarsh Ian Titchmarsh has a vision for veg this spring.**

March is always an exciting month in the garden. The first hints of spring are appearing, the soil is waking from winter slumber, and there's a sense of possibility in every furrow. And, most importantly, for vegetable gardeners, it's the moment to start planting for the season ahead.

We all know the usual suspects: peas, broad beans, lettuce, and carrots etc. Yet if you're looking for something a little

different this year, March is the perfect time to experiment with vegetables you may not have considered before.

Kohlrabi, for example, is a wonderfully versatile brassica. It looks a little alien with its swollen stem, but its taste is mild, sweet, and crunchy. That makes it excellent raw in salads, or gently steamed. Then there's the humble celeriac, which is a bit of a forgotten gem. Richly flavoured, it stores well and adds a subtle, earthy note to soups and stews.

For those who enjoy a bit of culinary adventure, try sowing some scorzonera or salsify. Often called 'black root' or 'oyster plant,' these long, slender roots have a delicate, nutty flavour. They're hardy, relatively low-maintenance, and a real talking point when you serve them at the table. Even a few clumps tucked into a border of early flowers can brighten the plot and give something unexpected to harvest.

Spinach and Swiss chard can also go in now under cover, giving you a head start on the salad season. And don't overlook early varieties of beetroot - their tender leaves can be used in salads long before the roots are ready to

harvest. Radishes, too, are worth a try: quick to sprout and perfect for those first flushes of spring, they give a satisfying crunch and colour to any dish.

Finally, while it may seem like 'all systems go' in the garden, remember that March is a month for planning as well as planting. Consider where your crops will go, how you rotate them each year, and which companion plants will help deter pests. You might also prepare your compost and tidy cold frames, ensuring everything is ready for seedlings and delicate young plants.

Essentially, don't rush, because a little thought now will reward you with a productive, delicious vegetable patch later in the year.

What is clear though, and will be made all the more apparent when the clocks go forward, is that we've made it through winter's chill, and the brighter days are on their way!



# Loving Life

**Presenter Rylan Clark on reinvention, resilience, and why he still feels like the same lad from Essex who once worried nobody would take him seriously.**

Rylan Clark arrives with the energy of someone who genuinely enjoys life. "Honestly, I wake up each morning and think, 'What madness awaits today?'" he laughs. "If it's not my mum telling me my hair's too high, it's a producer asking if I'll wear a sparkly suit. It's all part of the fun."

Rylan, now 37, has come a long way from the nervous contestant who first appeared on *The X Factor*. "I look back and just want to give that lad a hug," he says. "He wanted to entertain people - that was it. I never thought I'd end up doing half the stuff I've done."

His presenting portfolio is vast: *Strictly: It Takes Two*, *This Morning*, radio work, prime-time game shows. In the swathe of activity, Rylan has become one of Britain's most recognisable faces. "TV's my playground," he grins. "I love live stuff. Anything can happen. Sometimes it does."

This past year has also been about personal growth for the affable broadcaster. He's spoken openly about mental health, heartbreak and rebuilding. "I reached a point

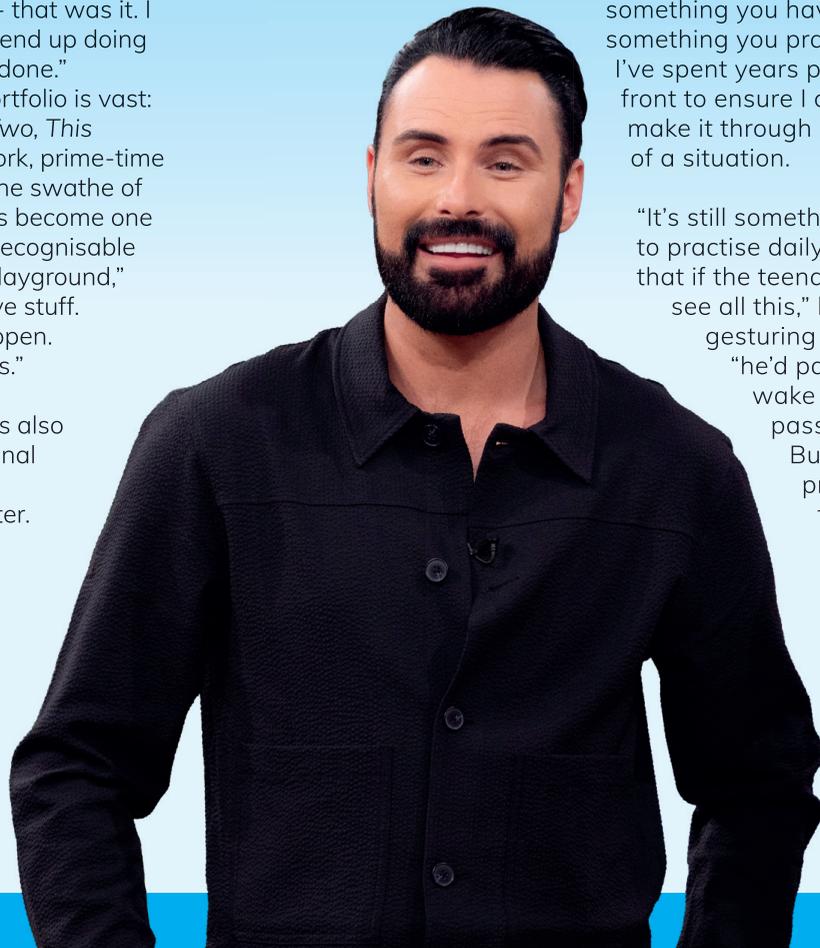
where I had to stop pretending everything was fine," he says, tone softening. "Once you admit you're struggling, life gets lighter. I want people to know it's okay to fall apart a bit."

Now in a steadier chapter, he's excited about future projects. "There's talk of a documentary, maybe a new entertainment series. I can't say much, but 2026's looking busy. I'm happiest when I've got ten plates spinning... as long as none of them are breakable!"

Rylan remains devoted to Essex, where he still lives. "People think I'd move to LA or London full-time," he says, "but Essex is home. You can't beat the vibe there - it's big characters, big hearts, big opinions, big hair, big laughs. I fit right in."

Yet despite his flamboyant public persona, this is someone who is naturally shy. "People think I stride into every room like I own it," he says, "but the truth is, I still get nervous. Confidence isn't something you have - it's something you practise, and I've spent years putting on a front to ensure I can get in, make it through and get out of a situation.

"It's still something I need to practise daily, but I know that if the teenage me could see all this," he says, gesturing around, "he'd pass out, wake up, then pass out again. But he'd be proud. And that's what matters, isn't it?"

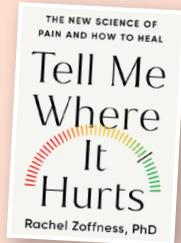


# March Books To Go Mad For

Sprint into spring with a little science, a dash of history, and some thrilling fiction.

## **Tell Me Where It Hurts: The Science of Pain and How to Heal** by Rachel Zoffness

Leading expert Rachel Zoffness bridges the gap between medicine and psychology to get to the heart of treating pain.



Drawing on cutting-edge neuroscience and patient stories, Rachel Zoffness completely upends the myths we've been told - finally reconnecting physical and emotional pain, and providing a roadmap for healing. The fact is that chronic pain is treatable, but to do that, we must target the whole person, not just a body part.

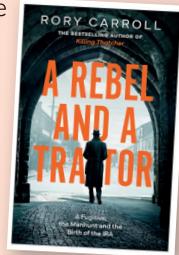
Whether you live with chronic pain or know someone who does, this book offers more than insight - it offers an empowering way forward. Published March 24th by Penguin Books.

## **A Rebel and a Traitor: A Fugitive, the Manhunt and the Birth of the IRA** by Rory Carroll

From the master storyteller behind 2023's critically acclaimed *Killing Thatcher*, this is the story of a rogue imperial consul who sought to forge a new nation in

the middle of a war... and the mercurial spy chief who sought to destroy him by any means.

The rogue consul was Sir Roger Casement, a decorated diplomat who turned his back on the British empire, instead joined the rising Irish cause at the turn of the 20th century.



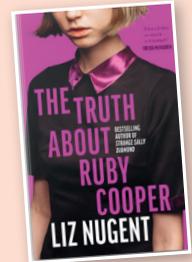
At the book's centre is the manhunt for Casement led by intelligence officer Reginald 'Blinker' Hall, the legendary British spy chief who pioneered codebreaking, early mass surveillance and media manipulation. Proof that the truth can be stranger than fiction.

Published March 26th by HarperCollins.

## **The Truth About Ruby Cooper** by Liz Nugent

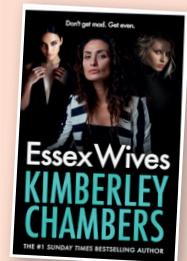
Ruby Cooper and her sister, Erin, live an idyllic life in their close-knit church community in Boston. But when Ruby is 16, she is involved in an incident that causes her family's world to implode. Across decades, the fallout leaves a wake of destruction behind Ruby in Dublin, and Erin in Boston. Eventually, and ultimately, Ruby must face the past in this gripping tale of long-buried secrets.

Published March 12th by Penguin Books.



## **Essex Wives** by Kimberley Chambers

A gripping new thriller from the No.1 bestselling Queen of Gangland



Crime set

in 1999, Essex. Sharon, Jolene and Evie have one thing in common - they've all been burned by one of the Bond boys.

Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned, and as the turn of the millennium rounds the corner, this is one year that will go out with a bang.

Published March 12th by HarperCollins



## NEWS FROM THE METRO MAYOR

# A transport network you can trust

NOBODY wants to sit stuck in traffic or hang around waiting for a bus that never turns up.

We all know that the West is best - but too often, our transport hasn't kept up.

As the country's fastest-growing region, we've been stuck in the slow lane for too long.

It's time to tackle congestion, potholes, and unreliable journeys, and build a transport network people can trust.

This isn't just about getting from A to B - it's about quality of life. It's about giving people their time back: to be home sooner, get out into nature more, or visit the many attractions that make our part of the world so special.

Transport is a big part of our Growth Strategy because it affects everyday life.

If we want more people across the West to be able to find work, access training, and take up new opportunities, we need a network that helps them get where they need to go.

Better transport also helps businesses grow and create more jobs locally.

That's why we've set out a clear vision for a better-connected West of England, focused on five priorities:

- Better buses: reliable, affordable services with one ticket and one timetable.
- More trains: new stations, more frequent services, and low-emission trains.

- Mass transit: a high-capacity system linking key places across our region.

- Active travel: safer walking and cycling routes, with e-bikes and e-scooters for short trips.

- Improved streets: smoother roads and pavements, more electric vehicle chargers, and better Park & Ride and travel hubs.

Wherever you're travelling, we need to invest so you can rely on how you get there. And we need a system that makes it easier to switch between different types of transport, with simple tap-on, tap-off travel so you never pay more than you should.

We've already secured record transport investment from government. With over 250 new green buses due by the end of 2026 and more stations being built, we can look ahead with genuine optimism.

One of the biggest opportunities ahead is mass transit. Right now, the West of England is the biggest city-region in the country without it. High-frequency services along dedicated routes would be a real game-changer, whether that's a tram, light rail, guided bus, or something else. It won't happen overnight, but council leaders and I are determined to do the work needed to start building within four or five years.

Alongside this, there is another important moment for our region: the consultation on North Somerset joining the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority is now open.



**Metro Mayor Helen Godwin**

writes for the Voice

This is about bringing more communities into the decisions and funding that can improve everyday life.

If North Somerset joins, it could unlock an additional £15 million in the short term, with the potential for more investment in future, helping us deliver better transport, housing, and opportunities across a wider area.

I'd really encourage residents, community groups and businesses to take part. This is your chance to have a say on the future of our region.

Find out more on our website, [westofengland-ca.gov.uk](http://westofengland-ca.gov.uk), or through paper forms at local libraries, community centres, and GP surgeries.

## MESSAGE FROM POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

# Volunteers protect rights and dignity

The TV documentary *24 Hours in Police Custody* shapes many people's views of custody.

Dramatic moments often take centre stage, but the reality is more complex.

Custody is a highly pressured environment, where people are at their most vulnerable, and where decisions are made that have real consequences for individuals and for public confidence in policing.

What happens in custody matters. It is not a place the public typically sees, yet it is an area where human rights, dignity and safety must be protected without exception.

People arrive in custody in many different circumstances: some accused of serious

offences, some experiencing mental ill health, and some under the influence of substances.

Whatever the situation, they are entitled to fairness and appropriate care.

That is why public scrutiny is so important and is provided by independent custody visitors (ICVs). They are volunteers from our communities, who help my wider work in scrutinising the police and holding them to account, on behalf of you.

The volunteers who are recruited, trained and supported by my team are empowered to make unannounced visits to police custody suites.

Crucially, they operate independently of the police and

their role is to check the welfare of detainees, ensuring rights and entitlements are upheld.

During visits, ICVs are escorted to the custody area and may speak to detainees in private, out of hearing of officers.

They look at conditions in the suite, access to food, water and hygiene, and assess if people understand their rights.

After each visit, they produce a report which is shared with me and with the police. These reports enable issues to be identified quickly, improvements to be made, and trends to be monitored over time.

Throughout January, we trained a new cohort of ICV volunteers to bolster those already in post.



**With Police and Crime Commissioner Clare Moody**

They all bring a breadth of life experience and perspectives that will strengthen scrutiny.

Their willingness to give their time, often at unsocial hours, is deeply appreciated.

Transparency is at the heart of public confidence in policing, and custody is no exception.

I remain committed to supporting the volunteers whose independent oversight ensures that fairness, accountability and dignity remain at the core of policing.

# Spring Fair

**Saturday 21st March**  
10.00 am – 12.30 pm

**St Andrew's Church**  
Elm Park, Filton BS34 7PS

Come Along For  
**Shopping Stalls · Tombola · Raffle**  
**Refreshments · and more!**

Entry by Donation



www.alzheimers-brace.org

0117 414 4831

Registered Charity: 297965



## Legion seeking poppy volunteers

The Royal British Legion are seeking a volunteer to become Poppy Appeal Organiser (PAO) in Asda Patchway, to take the lead and help facilitate the Poppy Appeal, ensuring it reaches as many people as possible in this area.

They are also looking for volunteers to join PAO's teams, across Bristol and South Gloucestershire, as Poppy Appeal collectors and also delivery drivers.

All volunteers will be fully trained by their local relationship manager, and the role can help people develop skills, build confidence, and will allow you to make new friends, and be part of a national appeal, which is giving back to the many people in the armed forces who have served and sacrificed.

The money raised from the Poppy Appeal can make a vital difference to people in the Armed Forces community, and the Royal British Legion supports the community in various ways, from mental health support, help with recovery, advice on gaining employment, housing help and managing the cost of living.

Anyone interested in finding out more about being a volunteer can contact the Royal British Legion on a dedicated helpline 0345 845 1945, or online at [rbl.org.uk/popyappealvolunteer](http://rbl.org.uk/popyappealvolunteer).

AUCTIONEERS, DEVIZES

# FREE VALUATION DAY

WITH THE OPTION TO CONSIGN YOUR ITEMS TO AUCTION

JOIN HEAD OF VALUATIONS  
**PAUL MARTIN**

SATURDAY 11 APRIL

ST ANDREWS METHODIST CHURCH  
FILTON  
BRISTOL, BS34 7PS

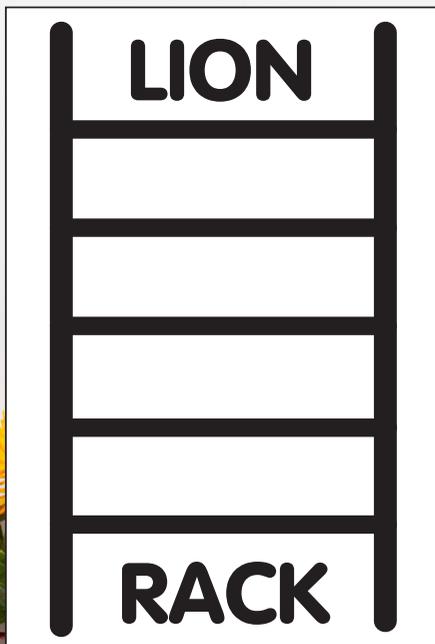
10AM - 3PM

Henry Aldridge & Son Ltd | Auctioneers & Valuers  
Unit 1 Bath Road Business Centre | Bath Road | Devizes Wiltshire  
| SN10 1XA | @henryaldridgeauctioneers  
T: 01380792192 | E: office@henryaldridge.com

\* Refreshments Available!

## Word Ladder

Make your way from LION to RACK by changing one letter on each step to make a new word!



(LION, LOON, LOOK, LOCK, ROCK, RACK)

## Spring Sudoku

Solution

G	S	P	I	N	R
I	R	N	G	S	P
N	P	G	S	R	I
R	I	S	P	G	N
S	N	I	R	P	G
P	G	R	N	I	S

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

### St Peter's Church

**Sunday 1 March** 10am Eucharist

**Sunday 8 March** 8.30am and 10am Eucharist

**Sunday 15 March** 8.30am and 10am Eucharist for Mothering Sunday

**Sunday 22 March** 8.30am and 10am Eucharist

**Sunday 29 March** 8.30am and 10am Eucharist with Church Parade to mark Palm Sunday

We also have special Lenten midweek services as follows:

**Saturday 14 March** 3pm Service of Thanksgiving for the women who have shaped our lives. Come and view our gallery of pictures portraying people's role models and enjoy refreshments afterwards. If you would like to provide a portrait please hand it in at the Coffee Shop by 9th March. All submissions welcome!

**Monday 30 March** 7pm Stations of the Cross

**Tuesday 31 March** 7pm Lenten Taizé

**Thursday 2 April** 7pm Foot washing and Eucharist to celebrate Maundy Thursday

**Good Friday 3 April** 2pm Eucharist

**Easter Eve Saturday 4 April** 8pm Vigil

**Easter Day Sunday 5 April** 8.30am and 10am Eucharist

Midweek Said Eucharists are on Wednesdays at 7pm and Thursdays at 11am.

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.

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

### 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 shirts required to wear collared shirts.

Entry: £8. [www.mingles.co.uk](http://www.mingles.co.uk). Facebook: @Luv2mingle

### 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.stpeterschurchfilton.com](http://www.stpeterschurchfilton.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 **3rd Sunday** of the month.

**Tuesdays** Wesley Guild — meets alternate Tuesdays at 2.15pm. All welcome. March meetings are **3 and 17 March**

#### Thursdays

Rainbows (term-time) 5.15pm

**Sip 'n' Chat Coffee morning:** 10am-12 noon. 2nd Thursday of every month. 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. Next meeting **14 March**. Crafts, fun and food for all the family. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. This event is free.

Future event: Beetle Drive, **Saturday 25 April**, 2pm.

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

### FACE

#### Mondays

9:30 - 10:30 am The Original Spinners yoga session £3.00 per session

This class is for everyone, regardless of experience or flexibility. We adapt the session to include everyone.

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

**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.



because you're amazing

blanket too.

12.30-1.30pm Tai Chi, £4 entry

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

#### Tuesdays

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

#### Filton Juniors

3.30pm -5pm Yr 6 + 7 £2 entry

5.30pm-6.30pm Yr 3, 4 + 5 £2 entry

#### Wednesdays

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

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

#### 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**

### 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](mailto:joining@1stfiltonscouts.co.uk) Email: [dave\\_buchan@hotmail.com](mailto:dave_buchan@hotmail.com) (Kraken Explorers) Website: [1stfiltonscouts.co.uk](http://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](mailto: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.

### 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.

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

For more information please contact Julia Mackay on 07563 628513

### 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 Kington on 01454 314178 or Carole Hyams on 0117 956 8037 for more information.

### Community Garden

**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.  
**February: Saturday 28th**  
**March: Saturday 14th, Saturday 28th**  
**(Easter egg hunt — see advert on P30 for more information)**

### Filtones Choir

Our long-established mixed voice choir is looking to recruit new members. 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](http://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](mailto:Filton.library@southglos.gov.uk)

### North Avon Speakers Club

We usually meet every first and third Thursday of the month at BAWA Filton,

### Family fun swim with music

A fun hour session with toys, music and swim-related actions to nursery rhymes to build water confidence and have fun in the water.

**Wednesday mornings, 9.30-10.30pm, £8.50 per adult and child at Elm Park Leisure Centre**  
More info, visit: [www.leisurecentre.com/elm-park-leisure-centre/](http://www.leisurecentre.com/elm-park-leisure-centre/)

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](mailto:northavontm@gmail.com) for more information.

### 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.frenchayfdc.co.uk) or email [FFDCSecretary@gmail.com](mailto: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 09:30 – 10:30**, excluding bank holidays  
£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](mailto: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](mailto:filtonconcertbrass@gmail.com)

### RCTS Railway Society

**Friday 6 March 7.30pm** at St Teresa's Church Hall, 71 Gloucester Rd. North, BS34 7PL. Branch Treasurer Stewart Jolly will present an evening of pictures of locomotive hauled passenger trains and freight in the midlands during the 1980s British Rail Blue Era. A large selection of new and second hand books will be on sale, worth a visit just for the bookstall. For further information email: [bristol@rts.org.uk](mailto:bristol@rts.org.uk)

### Keep Fit Class

Want to stay active, improve your mobility and feel good? Why not try

your local exercise class at St Teresa's Community Centre in Filton,  
**Mondays, 7.15pm-8.15pm.** Friendly class where you can work at your own level. All abilities welcome. The class is held by a registered Keep Fit Association Teacher. Come along and give it a go!

### Dance Moves Keep Fit

**Tuesday 2-3pm** at St Peter's Church Filton. Have fun whilst improving your general wellbeing. Suitable for all ages. Try the first session free. For further information, contact Eileen Scott: Tel. 07969929733 or email [scottytartois@hotmail.com](mailto:scottytartois@hotmail.com)

### Filton Historical Group Programme of talks

**Wednesday 25 February – 7.30 pm**  
'Ada Lovelace 1815 – 1852: Daughter of Lord Byron' with John Stennard  
**Wednesday 25 March – 7.30 pm**  
'Filton in Space 1960 - 2000' with Terry Ransome  
**Wednesday 29 April – 7.30 pm**  
'Woodchester Mansion – An Unfinished Masterpiece' with Liz Davenport

These talks will be held on Wednesday evenings in St Andrews Church, Elm Park, Filton, BS34 7PS. All talks will start at 7.30pm. Free parking available in the adjacent Church car park. Membership cost covering all six talks is £20pp. Guests (or those who wish only to come to selected talks) 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). For more information: 01179424378 or [alansnook@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:alansnook@blueyonder.co.uk)

### 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 veneers 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. Meetings to be held on the **third Wednesday of each month**, 1pm – 3pm at St Andrews Church, Filton. Please Telephone Brian Adams on 07590099564 for more details.

### Free valuation day with Paul Martin

On Saturday April 11 join head auctioneer Paul Martin form the famous Devides Auction House at St Andrews Methodist Church. Refreshments will be available and there will be an option to consign your items to auction! Join in the fun from 10am-3pm.

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 Lendon, the Filton-based 'Virtual Hygienist', offers tips on how you can take steps yourself to reduce your need to visit the dentist

## Nurturing our smiles this springtime



As March arrives and the signs of spring begin to appear, many of us feel drawn to care for ourselves more intentionally. When we think about our smile, we often focus on what we see in the mirror — but our outer smile is closely connected to what's happening within us.

One important, and often overlooked, part of our health is balanced blood sugar.

Frequent sugary foods and drinks can cause blood sugar levels to rise and fall quickly, affecting energy, mood, and overall wellbeing — our inner smile. At the

same time, sugar feeds harmful bacteria in the mouth, increasing the risk of tooth decay, gum inflammation, and other oral health problems, impacting our outer smile.

Caring for both involves simple daily choices, such as eating balanced meals, reducing frequent sugary snacks, drinking plenty of water, and maintaining good oral hygiene.

Change can feel challenging alone, which is why support can make such a difference. Being part of a supportive community helps us stay motivated, build healthier habits, and care for ourselves with greater kindness. As we move through March, consider what small step you could take to nurture both your inner wellbeing and your healthy smile, and if you'd like support, I'd love to welcome you into The Virtual Hygienist free Facebook group:

**Sarah-Joy Lendon**  
The Virtual Hygienist and  
Compassionate Coach



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**\*\* Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times \*\***

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EGG HUNT**

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Online updates at:  
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Email:communitygarden@filtontowncouncil.gov.uk

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