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## News

# Taxpayers to keep aero museum afloat

**By Alex Seabrook, LDRS reporter**

The cherished Aerospace Bristol museum in Filton is struggling financially as "visitors have less to spend" and a taxpayer loan has been extended. The museum on the former Filton Airfield is home to the Concorde and showcases the region's aerospace industry heritage.

When the museum opened in 2017, South Gloucestershire Council agreed a loan of £1 million. £789,000 of the loan is still owed to the council, which has just agreed to extend the payback period until 2029, given the museum's ongoing challenges with balancing the books.

Aerospace Bristol made a loss of £400,000 in 2024–25, but the loan extension could help the museum invest in new exhibits, attracting more visitors. The extension was approved by the council's cabinet on Monday, October 5, who praised the museum and its role in education. Liberal Democrat Councillor Chris Willmore, cabinet member for planning, regeneration and infrastructure, said: "The aerospace industry has been at the heart of our area for generations. It is why so many people came here to work, build their lives and raise their families.

"Many local people still remember the work buses travelling from Yate and communities across South Gloucestershire to Filton every morning. That history matters because it is deeply personal. Countless local families can visit the museum and see the story of what their parents, grandparents and neighbours helped to achieve.

"That is why investing in the museum, whether through this support or by helping to preserve the historic control tower, is so important. These are the places where our stories are kept alive."

A new chief operating officer was appointed early this year, who will drive a 10-year growth plan. However a cabinet report warned "cashflow will remain difficult" until 2029, when new visitor experiences could push up attendance and income.

Entrance for a family of four, with two adults and two children, costs £60 if booked online. A ticket for a single adult is £20, and a child is £13.50. Tickets to Aerospace Bristol include free, unlimited return visits for 12 months. As well as hosting the final Concorde to be built and fly, there are galleries showcasing Bristol's role in aviation.

In 2024–25 the museum made an income of £2.5 million, but spent £2.9 million, according to accounts filed with the Charity Commission. Visitor numbers were nearly 100,000 that year, but increased in the last year to rise over 100,000. The museum, which employs 35 people, with 12 trustees and 107 volunteers, made a smaller loss in 2022 and 2023, but broke even in 2024.

Sally Cordwell, chief executive of Aerospace Bristol, said: "Aerospace Bristol is the only museum dedicated to the area's extraordinary aerospace heritage, bringing the wonders of flight to life for people of all ages.

"Like many charities, we're balancing rising costs with visitors having less to spend. We're extremely grateful to South Gloucestershire Council for their continued support and recognition of the value we bring to local people, communities and the region."

The museum features learning spaces with specialist facilities for schools and youth groups. And the last Concorde to fly is available for visitors to see up close.


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News

# School's play facilities to get cash boost

Shield Road Primary School in Filton is set to receive a £20k cash injection from Filton Town Council to improve its outdoor play facilities. Image: Google Maps

**By Lucy Frost**

Filton Town councillors have unanimously agreed to award Sheild Road Primary School a one-off payment of £20,000 to support a wider play equipment improvement project.

The grant, proposed by Cllr Adam Monk, would significantly enhance outdoor play provision and promote physical activity, imaginative play and social development.

Cllr Monk said neighbouring schools, Charborough Road and Filton Hill Primary School, have recently benefitted from council support and argued that Shield Road should receive similar investment.

At the council meeting, deputy headteacher Hannah Hughes said: "Something like this will really help us.

"[The project is] something our children want desperately and it's something that our children deserve."

Members noted that approximately 38 per cent of pupils receive free school meals and that the school had actively explored sponsorship opportunities and alternative funding streams to support the project, which is costing almost £36k.

During the discussion, Ms Hughes also highlighted wider challenges facing the school, including falling pupil numbers. She noted that the school's reception class has just 13 pupils this academic year.

The investment comes as the school is also benefitting from wider improvements to the site.

Shield Road Primary is amongst a number of schools and council-owned buildings across the county to receive rooftop solar panels through a council-backed renewable energy programme, helping to reduce energy costs.

This substantial investment has more than doubled the council's rooftop solar generation capacity, significantly increasing renewable energy production across the property portfolio and improving the resilience and sustainability of the council's estate.

Councillor Louise Harris, cabinet member for the climate and nature emergency at South Gloucestershire Council, said: "When we started our council term, one of the top priorities was to look after our environment. Putting solar panels on the council buildings and schools was a real way we could make a difference. We're really pleased to see solar installed across the council's buildings.

"It is estimated that each school or public building that's had solar installed as part of this programme will save around

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# News

a third of its energy costs. It's a win for the environment and keeps costs down."

Helen Godwin, Mayor of the West of England, said: "Saving money through green energy today can help protect tomorrow, and thanks to more new funding, we will be able to help even more communities. It's great to see South Gloucestershire Council matching the investment provided by the Mayoral Renewables Fund, secured from Great British Energy."

**Have you got a story to share?**
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- Council chiefs have quietly waved the white flag on the ambition to make South Gloucestershire carbon neutral by 2030.

A new four-year nature and climate draft strategy has been approved, replacing the one agreed in 2020, and will instead focus on improving lives and health for residents and wildlife, with few specific targets.

A report to South Gloucestershire Council health and wellbeing board said both the council and the district as a whole were reducing harmful emissions but that the rate was not fast enough to reach net zero by the end of the decade.

It said that while renewable energy was growing, this was also not at the levels needed to achieve the original goal.

The new draft strategy has 10 aims by 2030 which still include a carbon neutral council, despite a pessimistic update in the report, while net zero for South Gloucestershire as a whole is replaced with the vague "Area wide emissions reductions".

The report said: "In July 2019, South Gloucestershire Council declared a climate emergency pledging to enable South Gloucestershire to become carbon neutral by 2030. We wrote the original public facing strategy in 2020 and the agenda has moved on considerably since then. The updated strategy is about being clear about where we will focus our efforts between now and 2030."


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## News

# Failures by authorities led to man's death

**By Adam Postans, LDRS reporter**

A disabled man whose 'personality and charisma touched many hearts' died after health and social care authorities failed to challenge multiple rejections for help from his brother, his main carer, an investigation found.

A safeguarding adults review (SAR) concluded that Aidan, 61, of South Gloucestershire, who had complex needs, passed away at Southmead Hospital from a ruptured windpipe and acute kidney disease following 'concerns for many years' about his care at home and 'barriers to his access to health and social care'.

The review found that 'his voice was not consistently sought or represented'.

A report said: "Aidan's brother [adult A] was deeply committed but increasingly isolated and resistant to professional involvement.

"Professionals respected the family's role but did not sufficiently challenge or assess the sustainability and safety of care.

"Aidan missed out on key wellbeing outcomes and missed medical interventions due to unchallenged refusals by Aidan's brother. Decisions were overly reliant on Aidan's brother's views, despite Aidan lacking capacity."

The report said Aidan loved watching tennis on his iPad and going on day trips to the pub to play snooker.

It said: "Another passion for Aidan was music. He enjoyed listening to music and playing his maracas.

"Aidan would also show his like of staff and other service users by patting them on the head or engaging with eye contact."

It praised staff at the hospital, day care centre and consultants but said better oversight between authorities was needed because of the resistance from Aidan's brother for help and the lack of challenge.

The report said adult A's role in making decisions for his brother was 'not explored or questioned' and that he had a 'rigid way of thinking'.

It said a younger brother, adult B, had moved away from home but played some part in caring for Aidan.

The report said: "The long telephone conversation the [SAR] reviewer had with the brothers provided an insight into the numerous challenging conversations health and social care staff had with them, which must have resulted in professional fatigue.

"It is recognised that they persisted and kept going back despite being turned away.

"Although the offer of a carer's assessment and other resources (eg, respite and community meals) was declined by adult A, this should have triggered concerns about the wellbeing of adult A as the main carer and the long-term sustainability of the increasingly fragile situation.

"Sirona and hospital staff had brief glimpses when the brothers were tired from caring for Aidan, but they changed their mind when support was offered to them.

"Both adult A and adult B made it clear to the reviewer that they did not trust professionals and their intervention was a hindrance.

"There were continuing and increasing concerns with Aidan's weight, nutrition, eating and drinking, risks of aspiration and constipation, moving and handling, impact on posture and skin integrity from increased time spent in his wheelchair and bed, and risk of social isolation.

"There were missed opportunities of understanding what was really going on for Aidan and adult A and adult B at a much earlier point."

## News

# Council to appoint leisure centre operator

**By Lucy Frost**

Councillors are due to select an operator for Elm Park Leisure Centre, with the successful bidder managing the facility for the next 15 years.

At the time of print, the identities of the shortlisted providers were not publicly available.

Councillors were expected to make a final decision at the full council meeting on October 20 following an assessment process.

Regardless of who the long-term operator is, all leisure centre staff will be covered under Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) (TUPE) regulations.

This protects existing employees' rights when they transfer to a new employer.

The successful operator will be responsible for day-to-day management of the leisure centre and will be expected to run operations in a way the council describes as "safely, efficiently, inclusively, and to its maximum potential for the benefit of the Filton community".

**Councillors were due to appoint a new operator at the time Filtonvoice went to print**

Under the proposed arrangements, the provider will also maintain all buildings, plant fittings, and equipment at Elm Park Leisure Centre to a high standard.

The chosen operator must ensure compliance with legislation, maximise the lifespan of assets and provide a high-quality customer experience.

The council will pay the agent an annual management fee, which will increase in line with inflation from the second year of the contract and may be adjusted according to performance measures.

By appointing a long-term provider, the council hopes to provide stability for the centre while creating opportunities for investment and improvements over the life of the contract.

The successful bidder is expected to be announced following the next Full Council Meeting. Updates will be posted on the Filtonvoice website.

Additional documents regarding the tender specification and requirements are publicly available on the council's website.

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## Police News

# Shop thefts remain police priority in Filton

**By Lucy Frost**

Shop thefts at Shield Retail Park remain a policing priority in Filton, with neighbourhood beat officers continuing work with retailers and planned enforcement activity.

Officers have spent several months encouraging businesses to report shoplifting offences, however, some shops have not engaged in the initiative, community reports have revealed.

The priority has since extended to units in Abbeywood Retail Park.

Police announced plans for a shoplifting operation in April, however the initiative was later delayed because of staffing levels.

In June, officers stated that the operation had been rescheduled, although subsequent reports do not clarify whether it took place.

Despite various efforts, shop theft remained a policing priority in the September report.

Police have been encouraging retailers to report thefts

The monthly reports outline pushes to encourage retailers to report crimes and upload CCTV.

In March, there was an increase in thefts from 15 to 23, however, the report states that "this could be down to the encouragement of reporting".

By June, the police distributed QR codes to retailers "to improve and streamline the process of reporting thefts", and consequently officers reported a noticeable increase in theft reports.

According to neighbourhood policing reports, Matalan has made use of a reporting system introduced by officers, while police said they had received no feedback from SPAR.

The local beat team continues to hold regular "Talk to Us" sessions in the area. The remaining sessions this year will take place on October 29, November 10 and December 16.

**Crime statistics for September 2026**

Arson/criminal damage: 1
Burglary: 4
Drug offences: 1
Public order offences: 2
Robbery: 1
Sexual offences: 1
Theft: 15
Vehicle offences: 5
Violence against the person: 20
Crime against the society: 2
Weapons: 0

## Feature

# ‘Flats uncertainty has ruined my life’: Post Office

**By Lucy Frost**

At the centre of Church Road, along the paved street and beside the closed bakery, Raj at the Post Office intends to stay in his unit for as long as possible but wonders, “Can we get through it or not?”

Before residents began moving out due to plans to demolish the flats where the Post Office is based, Raj explains that the trade used to be around £1,000 a day but has since quartered to £250 a day.

“Now I’m worried that I’ve got stock that I can’t sell,” Raj continues, when previously £3,500 would be spent a week on tobacco alone.

Despite always paying his rent on time, Raj says he feels Bromford Housing Association (BHA), which owns The Views, has not provided the level of support he believes his business needs during the redevelopment process. He says the £10,000 compensation the business has been offered “isn’t going to sort my life out”, explaining that the Post Office counter cost £57,000 alone.

The Post Office and Gale's Meats are the only remaining businesses in Church View

Taking this sum of money into consideration, BHA's offer of temporary relocation was not a viable option: “The refit cost would be astronomical"

Additionally, Raj explains that regenerating the site could take “anything between two and seven years”, leaving him in “no man's land”.

Raj had hoped that 2026 would be his last year working full time, aiming to reduce his hours as he approaches retirement.

He states that he has been working for 38 years with only two breaks. “I was thinking I need to take a bit of a step back, but I can’t do that now,” he says.

Left with few sustainable options, he says whenever the tenancy runs out, “that’s the end of Filton Post Office, I’m afraid”.

Raj is hopeful to remain open for Christmas, as he wants to support residents through the festive season, but beyond that, “that’ll be me walking away forever”, he says.

As an established business and reliable tenant, Raj says, “To me, I feel like they have ruined my life.”

BHA says that their focus has been “supporting families to move into suitable new homes. Many have already relocated and we’re continuing to work closely with the remaining households to find them new homes that meet their needs”.

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## Feature

# owner's fears for future

The regeneration plans are progressing, and they are "in active discussions with the local authority and expect to submit a full planning application in 2026".

In addition to this, BHA states that it has "remained in regular contact with local businesses", guaranteeing they can remain on site until at least December 2026.

BHA acknowledged that some of the businesses have already left but they say they will be "proposing new retail units as part of the redevelopment".

Back on the high street, Stuart stands behind the butcher's counter and says, "They will never get the small units back in", as it looks unlikely the current business owners will return to The Views.

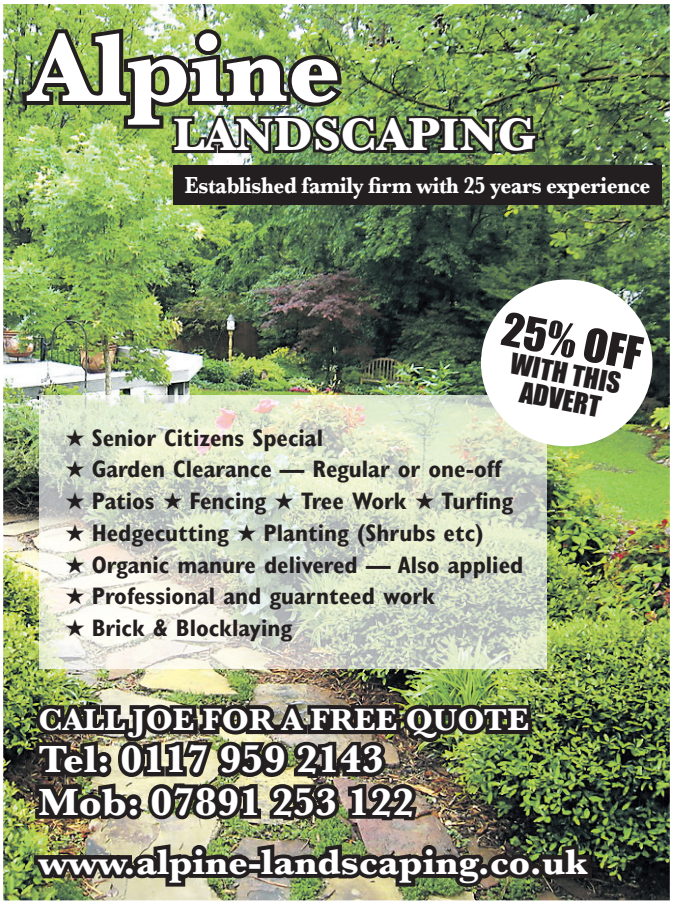
The area remains quiet, no distant chatter or the voices of children in a place where people used to raise families. For businesses that have traded here for decades, the uncertainty surrounding relocation and the future availability of suitable premises is becoming increasingly difficult to manage.

In the coming years, 'Legoland' — as The Views has been called — is likely to be stripped apart and demolished, brick by brick.

As the days pass and the shopkeepers are kept in limbo, the future of Church Road remains uncertain.

Raj locks up the post office for another day, beside the other shops with their shutters down, still unaware of when his final shift will be.

The empty road grows dark as it seems like the street is caught between what it used to be and what it will become.




## News

# Petition launched to save The Views' remaining businesses

Cllrs Alex Doyle (left) and Adam Monk outside the Post Office in Church View

**By Lucy Frost**

Councillors have launched a petition seeking guarantees over the future of Filton Post Office amid concerns that the redevelopment of the Church View flats could put local services at risk.

Ward members Adam Monk and Alex Doyle are campaigning for assurances that the Post Office and neighbouring Gale's Farm Meats butcher's shop will remain open for as long as possible.

The petition calls on South Gloucestershire Council, Bromford Housing Association (BHA) and Post Office Ltd to halt any plans to close the Post Office until a start date for the development is formalised and ensure that the Post Office and butchers are not closed until alternative locations have been secured in the local area.

BHA initially told the businesses that they would have until December 2026 to vacate their premises. However, Cllrs Monk and Doyle said they had received confirmation that Bromford "are willing to extend the current tenancy through to the middle of next year".

Launched on September 28, the petition has had 344 signatures from residents at the time of print. The councillors said: "The Post Office provides a crucial lifeline for those who are not online for services such as retail banking.

"In addition, the Post Office also gives access to key government services, such as passports, pensions and benefits to name a few. It's an important community asset.

"Local residents and the business had asked both Adam and I how they could show the local desire to maintain the Post Office/businesses."

BHA announced the plans to regenerate the Church View site in November 2024 after investigations identified what was described as significant issues relating to mould, structural concerns and energy efficiency.

Since then, the majority of residents have been rehoused.

Filton Post Office and Gale's Farm Meats are the only businesses still operating out of The Views. Both previously told Filtonvoice that trade had been greatly affected as the flats above were vacated.

The future of the businesses has remained uncertain since the regeneration plans were announced, with traders previously raising concerns about relocation options and the long-term viability of remaining in the area.

The petition was launched after residents raised concerns with the councillors about access to essential services, including pension payments.

Campaigners argue that alternative Post Offices are out of walking distance for many Filton residents and require a car or bus journey. The petition remains open until 1 December and can be accessed via the QR code.

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Last year The Window Hub was named Installation Company of the Year at the G-Awards, the fenestration industry's biggest night. It was one of three national awards the Bristol, Exeter and Cardiff firm took home in 2025.

This year the judges have called them back. The Window Hub has been shortlisted to defend Installation Company of the Year at the G26 Awards, and is also a finalist for the Business Excellence Award on the same night. Before that, at the National Fenestration Awards on 24th October, the company is up for Customer Care Company of the Year and its Managing Director, Daniel Robb, is a finalist for Managing Director of the Year.

Four national finals in one year is rare for any installer. For a local, independent company, it's almost unheard of.

Daniel, who has worked in the industry for over 30 years, says the credit belongs to the whole team. "Being asked to defend the title is a huge compliment, but the judges are really just confirming what our customers already tell us. Every installer, surveyor and office colleague we have is measured on one thing: would that homeowner recommend us to a neighbour? That's the award that matters."

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## News

# Kickboxing triumph at world champs

**By Shane Gibson**

A team of seven young kickboxers from across Filton and Bristol travelled to Jesolo in Italy to compete at the Wako Youth World Championships — held between September 18 and 27 — and came back with a fantastic haul of World Championship medals.

Great Britain coach Sharon Gill accompanied Team Bristol, from GB Fit, who brought home two gold medals, two silver and three bronzes.

Athlete Brandon Sun won the individual World Title and together with Kit Holliday, won gold in the team event.

More medals were won with Chloe Woods and Kit Holliday winning silvers and Zach Humby and Philippa Hutchins taking the bronze medals.

The standard and level of the tournament was of a world championship calibre and lasted for over a week, and according to the official report had over 3,600 entries taking part across the divisions.

Sharon Gill with Team Bristol at GB Fit in Horfield

Team Bristol trains at Merton Road, Horfield and is open to ages 4yrs+ for kickboxing sessions throughout the week.

You can get in touch with GB Fit on 0117 3251330 or enquires@iamgbfit.com

# Puzzles for all

## Sudoku

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.

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

## For younger readers

### Autumn Equinox Word Search

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| x | j | t | e | s | n | p | m | m | w | k | u | d | w | s | f |
| w | f | j | g | y | m | o | u | m | e | n | u | s | e | o | x |
| m | n | u | g | d | r | p | r | h | w | i | v | p | y | o | i |
| j | z | g | m | d | u | x | t | t | k | g | t | n | n | a | d |
| p | z | z | x | m | q | p | j | n | h | e | u | i | j | z | f |
| k | n | i | g | h | t | e | m | p | m | e | u | j | b | w | a |
| a | a | l | o | x | e | u | c | b | r | q | r | y | v | h | r |
| m | q | h | a | e | t | q | e | s | e | g | r | n | y | e | j |
| s | q | c | s | u | k | r | u | r | n | b | k | i | r | m | i |
| r | t | y | a | d | l | g | c | a | t | l | l | a | f | i | g |
| l | b | c | v | x | g | r | j | g | t | j | j | b | e | s | e |
| h | p | y | z | f | o | l | f | g | o | o | v | l | h | p | k |
| j | l | k | s | i | c | l | a | u | q | e | r | l | r | h | f |
| i | x | u | z | x | y | a | d | p | c | o | p | t | g | e | y |
| v | h | b | u | a | v | k | r | e | m | m | u | s | b | r | g |
| f | d | y | o | g | c | q | q | q | s | e | x | v | r | e | y |

autumn day equal equator

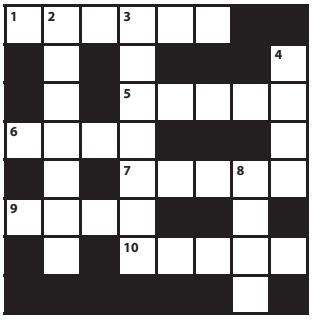
equinox fall hemisphere night

northern September summer sun

© www.ActivityVillage.co.uk

## Txtpert

**Theme: Countries**



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

**Across**

1 528842 (6)
5 86642 (5)
6 3454 (4)
7 26646 (5)
9 2822 (4)
10 63725 (5)

**Down**

2 2684482 (7)
3 8284226 (7)
4 3276 (4)
8 4826 (4)

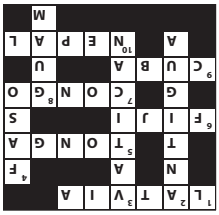
## Easier sudoku

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

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 6 | | |
| | | | 1 | 4 | |
| 6 | | | | 2 | |
| | | 3 | | | |
| 3 | | | | | |
| | | 4 | 5 | 1 | |

## Solutions

**Txtpert**




# Graham Cook

Gardener and handyman

Grass cutting, hedge and shrub trimming, weeding, planting, felling small trees, winter preparation, clearing, small painting jobs and other maintenance work.
**Please call for a no-obligation chat**

**Call 0117 377 0644 or 07415 658 205**

# The Filton Barbers

**Register & Book on-line @ Thefiltonbarbers.nearcut.com Or call 0117 2393288**

**Follow on all social media. @ thefiltonbarbers**

**3 Gloucester Road North, Filton Park, BS7 0SG**

## News

# New tech college welcomes apprentices

A new college to train the next generation of engineers, technicians and manufacturing professionals has opened its doors in Filton.

Nearly 800 apprentices have already begun training at Weston College's Advanced Manufacturing Technical Excellence College (AMTEC) based in Filton's Airbus site.

The £4 million transformation has created a specialist training centre featuring industry-standard workshops, modern teaching spaces and digital infrastructure designed to replicate real-world manufacturing environments.

AMTEC works closely with Airbus, Rolls-Royce, GKN Aerospace and Babcock to deliver training aligned with industry needs, helping apprentices develop the skills and expertise required for careers in aerospace, engineering and advanced manufacturing.

The campus is part of the wider national AMTEC partnership, alongside City of Wolverhampton College, Newcastle and Stafford Colleges Group and New College Durham.

Nearly 800 apprentices have already begun at Weston College's AMTEC in Filton

Pat Jones, principal and CEO of the Weston College Group, said: "After months of hard work, planning and collaboration, it is fantastic to finally welcome our first apprentices into this outstanding new facility.

"This is not only a significant milestone for Weston College Group, but also for the wider region as we help build the skilled workforce that will support the future growth and success of aerospace, engineering and advanced manufacturing."

Sue Partridge, Airbus Commercial Aircraft UK country manager, said: "The future of the aerospace industry relies on developing the next generation of talent who are crucial to keeping our industry ahead of the game. Apprenticeships are a key part of that so we're absolutely delighted to be hosting the AMTEC on our Filton site.

"Filton has a long and proud history within the UK's aviation story, and this collaboration reinforces our ongoing commitment to investing in local talent, creating high-value career pathways, and supporting the South West's thriving aerospace ecosystem."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Way A Head

Way A Head is a premier Hair Salon in the Filton area. Since 1980, we've offered a wide range of services and products to give you the elegant and fabulous look that you deserve.
Give us a phone call to book an appointment or enjoy our walk-in services. Our friendly team are looking forward to seeing you

**702a Filton Ave, Filton, Bristol BS34 7JX**
**0117 969 2701**
**www.wayaheadsalon.com**

# Filton Town Council

## Filton planning applications in October

HMO watch

### Applications

**The Rectory, Rectory Lane**
Erection of two storey rear extension to form additional living accommodation. Installation of rear Juliet balcony. Alterations and enlargement of existing porch. Installation of roof over patio area with glass balustrade. Erection of external covered seating/bbq area.

**21 Charlton Avenue**
Erection of hip to gable roof extension and installation of 1 rear dormer to facilitate loft conversion.

**5 Mortimer Road**
Erection of annexe ancillary to the main dwelling.

**28 Mackie Avenue**
Erection of two incidental outbuildings.

**28 Third Avenue**
Erection of a single storey rear extension and installation of 1 rear dormer to facilitate change of use of dwelling (Class C3) to small House in Multiple Occupancy (HMO) for 6 people (Class C4) as defined in the Town and Country Planning (use class order) 1987. Erection of 1 single storey outbuilding to form home gym.

### Decisions

**634 Southmead Road**
Erection of two storey side and first floor rear extensions to form additional living accommodation.
**Approve with Conditions**

**5 Fourth Avenue**
Conversion of existing garden room to 1 bedroom to facilitate increase from a 7 bed/ person House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) to a 8 bed/person HMO (sui generis).
**Approve with Conditions**

## Police 'talk to us' events

The Filton Beat Team is hosting a series of "Talk To Us" sessions at Elm Park Leisure Centre, giving residents an opportunity to meet local officers, discuss community issues and learn more about neighbourhood policing initiatives. The team also hopes to bring their community van and offer free bike marking at future events.

**The upcoming dates are:**

- **Thursday, 29th October 2026 - 5:30pm**
- **Tuesday, 10th November 2026 - 5:30pm**
- **Wednesday, 16th December 2026 - 10am**

ELM PARK LEISURE CENTRE

SWIMMING LESSONS AT

ELM PARK LEISURE CENTRE

Lessons for all ages available

Following the Swim England Learn to Swim Programme

Water Safety Partner of RLSS UK

Leisurecentre.com

# Filton Town Council

## Blenheim Drive tender final stages

Filton Town Council is in the final stages of the tender process for the regeneration of Blenheim Drive play area.

Following strong interest from prospective providers, applications are currently being assessed to determine the preferred contractor. A decision is expected to be made in time for a contract to commence on 1 December, with work on site anticipated to begin in January.

As part of the selection process, the council will work alongside the school council at Filton Hill Primary School to help assess the proposed designs. Officer and councillor evaluations will also form part of the final scoring process.

Once a contractor has been appointed, work can begin on delivering the upgraded play area.

## Filton Festival tender

The council expects the Filton Festival tender to go live soon, following discussions at September's Full Town Council meeting.

The community festival will be held on Sunday 4 July 2027.

Councillors agreed that a science-fiction theme would provide a strong foundation for the event, reflecting Filton's aerospace heritage and wider public interest in sci-fi themed events and activities. It was noted that organisers should be encouraged to include suitable tribute acts and family oriented entertainment within their proposals.

The proposed scope for delivery will build upon the success of recent years while continuing to promote Filton's heritage, local talent, community engagement and accessibility.

The contract is expected to run for three years, with an indicative annual budget of £28,000 and the potential option to secure a high profile, subject to future council approval.

## Budget setting

Filton Town Council will soon begin consultation for the next financial year.

Members of the public are encouraged to contact the council's office with their suggestions to help set a balanced and legally compliant budget. The current budget is available to view on the council's website.

Like other parish and town councils across England, Filton Town Council must plan its finances carefully to ensure that its spending is affordable, responsible and legally compliant.

The process generally begins with a review of the council's current spending and income. Councillors and officers consider the costs of services and facilities, contractual commitments and any anticipated changes in demand for local services.

The council then considers what it wants to achieve during the coming financial year and how much those priorities are likely to cost. This means balancing the services residents already rely on against new projects, improvements and other demands on limited resources.

Councillors must also ensure that the council has sufficient funds to meet its commitments and manage unexpected costs, while maintaining appropriate financial reserves.

**Where does the money come from?**
For most parish and town councils, a significant proportion of their funding comes through the precept.

The precept is the amount a council requests from its principal local authority to help fund its activities. The principal authority, South Gloucestershire, collects this money through council tax, incorporating the parish or town council's share into residents' council tax bills.

When setting the precept, councillors must consider how much income the council needs to deliver its planned services and meet its financial responsibilities. They must also consider the effect on local taxpayers.

## Contact Filton Town Council

**Town Clerk:**
Simon Davies

**Visit**
The Council office is open to the public 9am-5pm Monday to Thursday & 9am-4:30pm on Fridays only. Offices located within Elm Park Leisure Centre.

Address: Filton Town Council, 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

## November meetings

**Staffing Committee** – Re-scheduled from 3rd November to 17th December 2026

**Planning Committee** – (Subject to re-scheduling) Tuesday, 3rd & 17th November 2026

**Assets & Open Spaces Committee** – Tuesday, 10th November 2026

**Finance & Scrutiny Committee –** Tuesday, 17th November 2026

**Full Council** – Tuesday, 24th November 2026

All meetings commence at 7pm unless otherwise advertised and are held at Elm Park Leisure Centre on the 1st Floor.

# Filton Town Council

## Filton primary school awarded Modeshift accreditation

Filton has become the first town in South Gloucestershire to achieve Modeshift stars accreditation in all its primary schools.

Modeshift is a national awards scheme that helps organisations develop and evaluate sustainable travel plans, encouraging walking, cycling and other forms of active travel.

Filton Town Council supported Filton Hill Primary School to improve their active travel rates, helping the school achieve Modeshift accreditation.

Through the scheme, schools can progress to higher levels of accreditation over time. The council intends to continue supporting local schools in increasing active travel and achieving further awards.

## Partnership to promote water conservation

Filton Town Council has been working in partnership with Wessex Water through its Watermark Town initiative to encourage greater awareness of water conservation and environmental sustainability within the community.

As part of this work, representatives from Wessex Water recently attended the Council's Business Community Partnership Meeting, joining local businesses, community groups and charities to discuss opportunities for collaborative action. Wessex Water also hosted a community drop-in session at Elm Park Leisure Centre on the 14th October, providing residents with the opportunity to ask questions about water services, billing, water-saving measures and preventing sewer blockages.

The Council is pleased to be exploring further opportunities with the Watermark Town programme, including the potential development of a future community-focused event aimed at promoting water efficiency and environmental awareness across Filton.

## Local pupils enjoy Filton cycle speedway

Filton Foxes Cycle Speedway Club recently delivered coaching sessions for local primary schools. Pupils from Filton Hill, Charborough Road and Shield Road primary school took to the MUST (Multi-Use-Short-Track) at Elm Park, many experiencing the sport for the first time.

Find us on Facebook filtonfoxes@gmail.com

Lace up your trainers and join our family-friendly community run. Everyone is welcome to take part!

SCAN QR CODE TO REGISTER

DATE
SUNDAY 1ST NOVEMBER

SUNDAY MORNING
START AT
9AM

ELM PARK COMMUNITY RUN

1 lap= 1 mile
challenge yourself
1-5 laps

Meet outside Elm Park Cafe

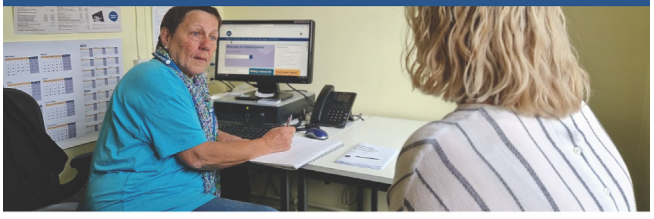
## Do you need advice? We can help

**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.

Come to: **FACE, Elm Park, Filton BS34 7PS**
(What3Words location - ///grain.racing.online)

**Every Wednesday, 10am to 12 noon - from 3rd Sept 2025 onwards.**



citizens advice South Gloucestershire www.southgloscab.org.uk

Funded by: Filton Town Council

## News

# Filton-built satellite marked 55 years on

A satellite designed and built in Filton has been celebrated at Aerospace Bristol, 55 years after it became the first British satellite launched by a British rocket.

Prospero was built by the British Aircraft Corporation (BAC) at Filton and launched into Earth's orbit from Woomera, South Australia, on October 28 1971, aboard a Black Arrow rocket.

The museum's full-size replica of Prospero sits above a real, unfuelled Waxwing rocket motor. To mark the anniversary, it is displayed in the museum's space section beside a replica of Beagle 2, the UK lander sent to search for life on Mars in 2003 in a mission led by Bristol-born Professor Colin Pillinger.

The museum's annual Space Week, which ran from October 3-10, included daily space spotlight talks in which experts shared the history and impact of Prospero, Beagle 2 and more.

The space theme continues into October half-term, with hands-on activities for families from October 24 to November 1.

Vintage buses are coming to Aerospace Bristol

Visitors can also build and launch their own rockets at a drop-in workshop, watch space-themed drone displays and take part in Models for Heroes, a workshop raising awareness of mental health among veterans and emergency services personnel.

In the Concorde Hangar, children can make constellation cubes under the wings of Concorde Alpha Foxtrot, the last Concorde ever to fly. Space dress-up for all ages and a draw-your-own-constellation colouring wall are available every day.

Bristol Vintage Bus Day also returns on Sunday October 25, bringing between 30 and 40 double-decker buses to the site, with visitors able to board a vintage bus for a short trip around the local area.

Sally Cordwell, chief executive at Aerospace Bristol, said: "We're passionate about sparking curiosity in young people, and this October we're inviting families to explore the UK's space story, from a satellite built in Filton to a lander sent to Mars."

"Whether it's building a rocket, flying a simulator or hearing from our experts, we hope every visit opens minds to the wonders of space and engineering, and shows children that the next big leap could be theirs."

Visitors can also experience 100 years of aerospace history and walk the aisle of Concorde Alpha Foxtrot.

Information and tickets are available at aerospacebristol.org

# Filton's Wonderful Window Arts Trail calls for more participants and sponsors

Homes and businesses across Filton are being encouraged to get creative as preparations gather pace for the return of the Wonderful Window Arts Trail this November.

The annual event will light up the streets from November 20-23, between 5.30pm and 8.30pm, with colourful window displays created by local residents and businesses. Refreshment stops along the trail will also help raise money for North Bristol and South Gloucestershire Foodbank.

Organised by a volunteer team of artistic local residents, with support from generous donors, local businesses and staff at FACE, the free event brings the community together through creativity while supporting a good cause.

Around 30 homes and businesses have already signed up, but organisers are keen to see many more take part.

Residents and businesses have until the end of October to register their windows to be included in the printed trail map. A live online map will also be available, helping visitors plan their route around the displays.

You don't need to be an experienced artist to get involved. Workshops are now being booked for October and November to help participants develop their ideas and create their displays. Details of the workshop dates and booking information are available via the event's accompanying QR code.

Those without a suitable window of their own can still play a part. Anyone who would like to create a display for an elderly resident or a local business to show in their window is invited to contact FACE, which can help connect people with opportunities to participate.

## Local businesses invited to sponsor the trail

**Organisers are also appealing to local businesses to support the event through sponsorship.**

**For £100, businesses can help fund the materials, workshops and printed maps that make the trail possible. This support helps keep the event free for everyone to enjoy and enables more money to be raised for the foodbank.**

**With more homes, businesses and sponsors taking part, this year's trail promises to bring even more colour and community spirit to Filton's streets.**

**To register a window, find out more about the workshops or enquire about sponsorship, follow FiltonWonderfulWindows on Facebook or contact FACE by emailing info@facecharity.org.uk or calling 0117 969 1938.**

**● For more information, see poster Page 25**

## News from our MP Claire Hazelgrove

# Changes for fireworks could be on the way

Fireworks season is on the horizon, and the Government has been consulting on reducing the noise level and tackling antisocial use.

With this in mind I held my latest 'Coffee with Claire' event in Stoke Gifford on this subject.

Thanks to all who attended, or completed my online survey.

I've shared local views with government ministers to make sure that our community has a say nationally.

In Parliament, I met with government minister Kate Dearden to discuss the Downend post office closure, due to the closure of Morrisons Daily branches nationally.

Thank you to everyone who completed my local survey, showing strong community support for a new branch opening in Downend. I've also written to Post Office leaders and will keep pressing for a solution.

I believe paternity leave should be longer, and I've written to the Prime Minister to make the case, which would have huge benefits for local families. I will continue pushing for this.

**Claire Hazelgrove met minister Kate Dearden to discuss the closure of Downend Post Office**

With defence high on the national agenda, I was pleased to welcome local graduates and interns from Boeing Defence UK to Parliament, so that they could see how the important work they and others do locally to support our national security is valued by decision-makers in Westminster.

At September's Labour Party Conference I joined panels to speak about our infrastructure boost opportunity if Brabazon is officially designated a 'New Town', accessible public transport for people with disabilities, and the importance of defence funding. I met with representatives from a wide range of important charities, including Dementia UK, UNICEF, Shelter and more.

Locally, I visited RAFAKidz nursery at MOD Abbey Wood, to discuss the needs of early years providers, of those who serve and their families. Thank you to the team for taking the time, and to all supporting local families.

On a personal note, readers may have seen last month's Voice story on the Assisted Dying Bill, where I spoke in Parliament, sharing publicly for the first time my mum's story and the impact of the harmful status quo on the end of her life.

I want to thank everyone who has been in touch since for your kindness. I'm not only proud to serve our community, but also proud to be part of it.

This month I held my regular advice surgery at Aerospace Bristol, and my small team and I worked on 487 cases to support fellow residents.

I also knocked on doors to listen to local priorities in Charlton Hayes and Downend. You can get in touch anytime at *claire.hazelgrove.mp@parliament.uk*

## News from your local councillors Alex Doyle & Adam Monk

# Fighting for Filton and the facilities our community deserves

**A couple of months ago, we wrote in the Voice about the importance of play and the work we have been doing to ensure community assets, such as playgrounds, are managed by the people who know their value best: the communities that use them.**

**This principle has guided us as your Labour councillors and recently led to the transfer of Blenheim Road Play Park to Filton Town Council, where refurbishment work is now under way.**

**But the work does not stop there.**

**We recently brought forward a proposal to help fund new play equipment at Shield Road School, securing £20,000 from Filton Town Council. We are also working with South Gloucestershire Council to secure additional funding and further improve the facility.**

**While £20,000 may sound like a significant investment, high-quality, durable play equipment comes at a substantial cost. We also secured funding for a new Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA) on Charborough Road following the sale of the land there.**

**As a result, all local primary schools in Filton now have access to good-quality play facilities.**

**For too long in South Gloucestershire, development has taken place without the infrastructure needed to support it. Growth is important, but it can often feel like an abstract concept to residents who experience the pressures it brings without seeing the benefits.**

**Addressing that imbalance has been one of our central priorities since forming part of the administration at South Gloucestershire Council. As a result, numerous play facilities, community spaces, schools and resource bases have been built, expanded or improved across the district.**

**We will continue to fight for Filton and the community facilities that local people need and deserve.**

**If you would like to discuss this issue, or any other local matter, please come and speak to us at our councillor surgery at Filton Library. We are available every Saturday from 10.00am to 11.00am and would be pleased to hear from you.**

• Read full story about Shield Road Primary School on pages 4-5

# FREE EVENTS AT FILTON LIBRARY IN NOVEMBER

## LIBRARY OPENING TIMES

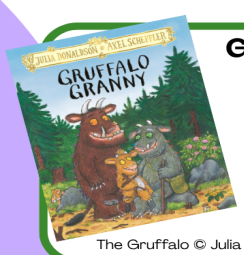
| | |
|---|---|
| Monday | 10am-5pm |
| Tuesday | OPEN ACCESS |
| Wednesday | 10am-5pm |
| Thursday | 10am-5pm |
| Friday | OPEN ACCESS |
| Saturday | 10am-1pm |
| Sunday | OPEN ACCESS |

**WANT TO ACCESS THE LIBRARY 7 DAYS A WEEK? FIND OUT MORE HERE: SOUTHGLOS.GOV.UK/OPENACCESS**

## FREE WEEKLY EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| Mini Builders* (for preschoolers) | Mondays 11-11:30am |
| 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




## GRUFFALO STORYTIME!

**MONDAY 16TH 10:30-11AM**

In celebration of the release of *Gruffalo Granny*, join us for a special Gruffalo-themed storytime - featuring stories & songs & activities all about the Gruffalo & Friends! You are also welcome to join us for our stay-and-play Minibuilders session directly afterwards.

The Gruffalo © Julia Donaldson and Axel Scheffler 1999 – 2026 – Macmillan's Children's Books

## NHS TALKING THERAPIES DROP-IN

**MONDAY 23RD 1:30-3:30PM**

Drop in and find out more about the NHS Talking Therapies service

Joining the library is free and easy! Come along and sign up today!

## FREE MONTHLY EVENTS

| | |
|---|---|
| U3a Writing Family History (for U3a Members) | Thursday 5th 10:15-12 |
| Family Board Games (for families) | Saturday 7th 11-11:45am |
| Art Club (for children aged 7-11) | Saturday 14th 11-11:45am |
| Lego Club (for children aged 4-11) | Saturday 21st 11-11:45am |

**WHERE WE ARE:**
Shield Retail Park, Link Rd, Bristol, BS34 7BR

**CONTACT US:**
Email filton.library@southglos.gov.uk or call 01454 868006

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Showing in Bristol this Christmas on the big screen with live brass band

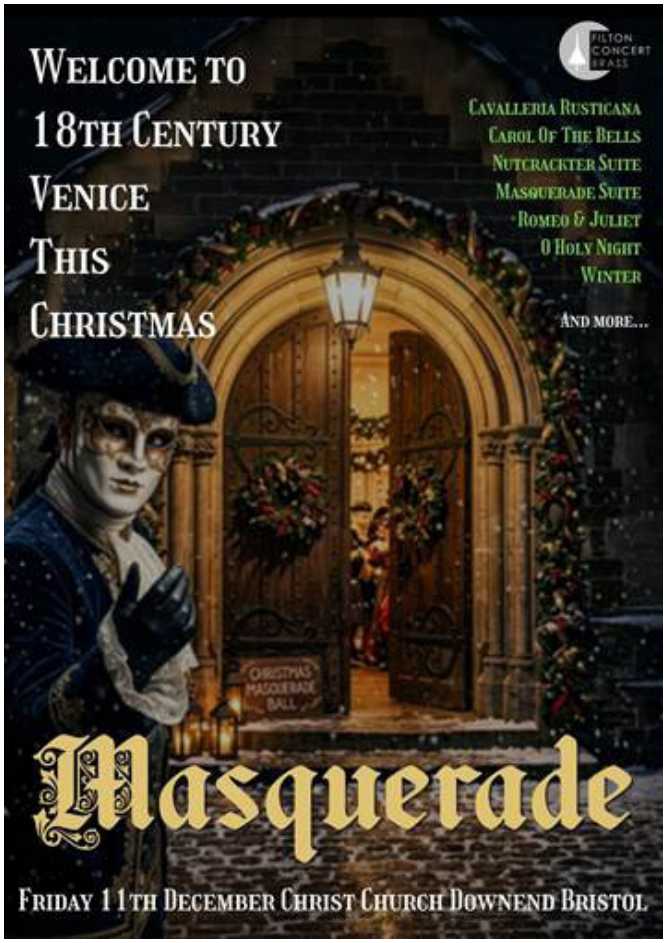
# The Snowman LIVE

## Saturday 19th December

Ticket link:
https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/filton-concert-brass

TicketSource

Show Time 4pm St Michael's Centre
Stoke Gifford Bristol BS34 8PD



# Greenfingers... the Alan Titchmarsh Column

**He's a magnificent broadcaster, gifted gardener, brilliant author and all-round horticultural visionary. This month, Alan Titchmarsh explains why November is one of the most revealing months in the gardening calendar, certainly where trimming back and pruning is concerned!**

I've always rather liked November. It isn't the showiest month in the gardening calendar, but the garden certainly begins to exhale. Leaves drift gently to the ground, herbaceous plants retreat below the soil and, almost without noticing, you start to see the framework that has been hidden all summer.

It's when a gardener stops looking at flowers and starts paying attention to structure. That is why it's such a satisfying time to reach for the secateurs. Not, I should add, with wild enthusiasm.

One thing gardening teaches rather effectively is that there are very few problems improved by rushing at them, and pruning is certainly one of them.

I've met plenty of gardeners who are nervous about making the first cut, worried they'll somehow ruin years of careful growth. Experience has taught me almost the opposite. Most trees and shrubs are wonderfully resilient. They've survived storms, harsh winters and the occasional enthusiastic amateur armed with rather blunt secateurs. They usually recover remarkably well.

The trick isn't to cut more; it's to cut with purpose. Before I prune anything, I like to spend a few minutes simply walking around it, looking. After all, every branch tells a little story - some are growing inwards, cluttering the centre of the plant; while others have become weak or damaged. Occasionally there's a stem heading off in entirely the wrong direction, as though it has mistaken the neighbour's garden for its own.

Those are the branches I begin with. Dead, diseased and damaged wood should almost always be removed, and November is an excellent time to spot it now that so much foliage has disappeared. It is also the season for gently tidying climbing roses, cutting back spent perennials once frosts have blackened them and beginning to think ahead to the dormant months, when many deciduous trees and shrubs can be shaped more thoroughly.

Perhaps what I enjoy about November is the fact it's a quieter month. The garden asks less of us physically but rather more of us observationally. We spend less time watering, weeding and mowing, and more time thinking, planning and imagining how everything might look next spring.

The finest gardens aren't created by people who work the hardest - they're created by people who notice the most. And November, more than any other month, rewards those who simply stop, stand back, and look.

# Nathan Outlaw's Cod And Parsley Stuffed Jackets Potatoes

Credit: BBC Food

**Fish pie meets jacket potato in this easy family lunch recipe. Creamy, carby, and comforting.**

## Method

**Step One**
Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6. Wash the potatoes well, dry them and prick several times with a fork. Pour some olive oil into your hands and rub over the potatoes. Place on a baking tray and bake for 50–60 minutes, or until crispy and cooked.

**Step Two**
Meanwhile, for the filling, put the milk, garlic and bay in a saucepan, season and bring to a simmer. Add the cod and cook gently for 4 minutes, then remove from the heat. Lift out the cod using a slotted spoon and place on a plate. Pour the milk mixture into a jug.

**Step Three**
Let the potatoes cool slightly, then cut them in half lengthways. Scoop out the flesh and put it in a bowl. Flake the cod and add it to the potato. Mix in the parsley. Add 150ml/5fl oz of the milk and mash. Add a little more milk if the mixture is too stiff, but don't let it become sloppy.

**Step Four**
Spoon the flesh back into the potato skins and scatter the cheese on top. Place on a baking tray and bake for 25 minutes, or until piping hot and golden.

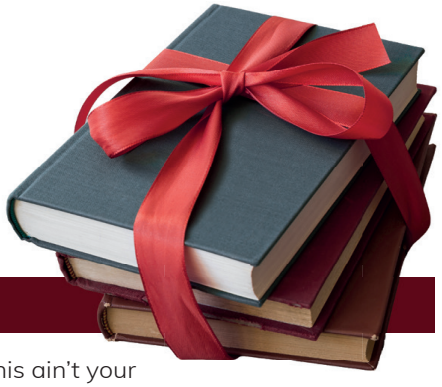
**Step Five**
Serve immediately, drizzled with a little extra virgin olive oil, with lemon wedges and watercress.

## Ingredients

**Serves 4**

- 4 large baking potatoes (roughly 225g/8oz each)
- olive oil
- 1 litre/1¾ pint whole milk (or lactose-free/dairy-free milk if necessary)
- 2 garlic cloves, crushed
- 1 bay leaf
- 300g/10½oz cod fillet, skin removed, boneless
- 3 tbsp roughly chopped fresh parsley
- 55g/2oz cheddar, grated
- extra virgin olive oil, for drizzling
- salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 1 lemon, cut into wedges, to serve
- handful watercress, leaves picked, to serve

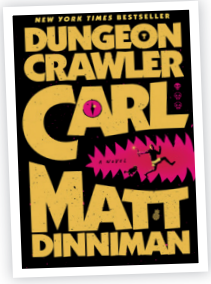
# Nice Reads In November



What to look out for as we approach the end of the year.

***Cardinal Rule***
**by Liz Tomforde**
The new spicy yet heartfelt romance from the phenomenal bestselling author of the TikTok sensation, the Windy City series.

The first in a four-part series comes from the pen of Liz Tomforde, the *New York Times* bestselling author of sports romance novels that depict realistic and healthy relationships. Her books offer a mix of witty banter, undeniable chemistry, a healthy dash of spice and swoon-worthy men who look good in a uniform.
*Published November 3rd by Hodder.*

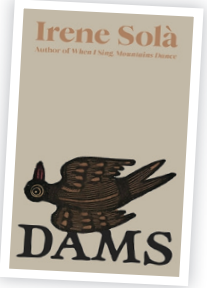



***Dungeon Crawler***
**by Matt Dinniman**
The opening book in Dinniman's addictive Dungeon Crawler Carl series finds the titular coast guard vet and his ex-girlfriend's cat trying to survive an alien invasion and the end of the world in a fantasy-fuelled thrill-ride of a story.

The prize-winning moggy is more a hindrance than a help, in what maps out to be a video game-like, trap-filled fantasy dungeon. That's because where they find themselves is actually the set of a reality television show with countless viewers across the galaxy.

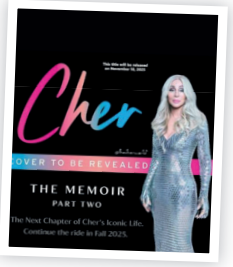
Exploding goblins, magical potions, plus deadly, drug-dealing llamas. This ain't your ordinary game show.
*Published November 1st by Penguin Books*

***Dams* by Irene Solà**
Irene Solà's latest novel is a brilliant and heady ode to life in community, impossible and enduring love, and the wellspring of the imagination that fills everything it touches with magic.



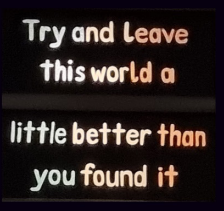

This talented creative, both through words and as a visual artist, has previously published *When I Sing, Mountains Dance* and *I Gave You Eyes and You Looked Towards Darkness*, plus the poetry collection *Beast*, and is much talked about in literature circles.
*Published November 5th by Granta Books*

***Cher: The Memoir: Part Two***
**by Cher**
This new memoir continues the story of one of the most extraordinary careers in entertainment. After breaking from Sonny, Cher steps fully into her own power, forging chart-topping music success across decades and redefining herself again and again.

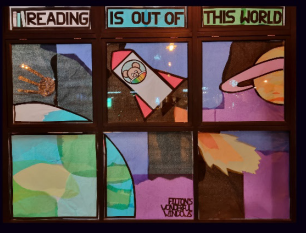



She becomes an acclaimed actor, winning an Academy Award and starring in landmark films, while later chart comebacks and globe-spanning tours cement her status as a pop culture force, while juggling single parenthood.

Alongside her artistic highs, this latest instalment also covers Cher's charitable work and unshakeable resilience, revealing how she became the enduring icon we all know and love.
*Published November 17th by Harper Collins*




# Filton Wonderful Windows Art Trail



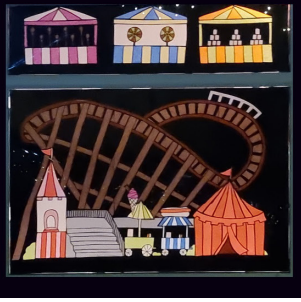

## Friday 20th to Monday 23rd November 2026

## 5:30 to 8:30pm

Decorate your windows to help brighten up Filton

For more information or to sign up to have your window included on the trail, visit Facebook:
Filton Wonderful Windows
Phone FACE on (0117) 9691938

sign up here!



FRIENDS OF SHIELD ROAD

# Christmas

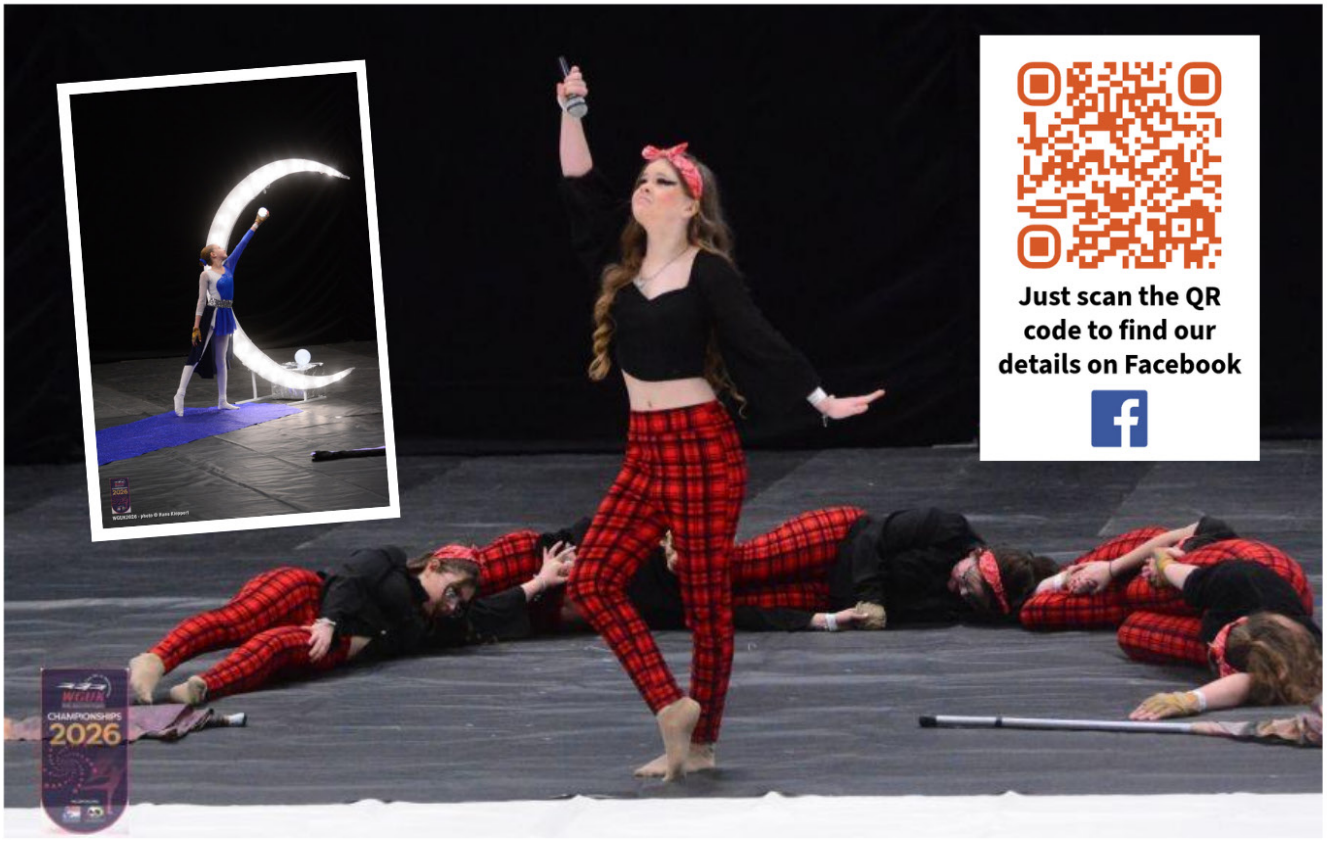
# FESTIVE FAYRE 2026

**FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER, 3.30PM-6PM**

ENTRY BY DONATION

VARIOUS CHRISTMAS GIFTS AND SELLERS
PLUS GAMES, RAFFLE & TOMBOLAS.
HOT & COLD FESTIVE REFRESHMENTS,
SANTA'S GROTTO AND 'SECRET SANTA'
GIFTING SERVICE

**SHIELD ROAD PRIMARY SCHOOL**
**SHIELDS AVENUE, BS7 0RR**




# Love performing?

- We welcome all children aged 7-15
- Compete across the UK at exciting events and competitions
- No experience needed – training provided for all abilities
- Rehearsals every Saturday from 10.30am, starting 5th September
- Based at Dings Rugby Club Sports Centre, Shaftesbury Park, Frenchay, BS16 1LG
- Led by a team of experienced instructors

**Call or text/WhatsApp Bridget on 07889 409012 to find out more**

North Bristol **Independent**

NBI

Colour Guard

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

## St Peter's Church

**Sunday 25 October** 8.30am and 10am Eucharist

**Sunday 1 November** 10am Eucharist and 6pm All Souls Requiem Mass

**Sunday 8 November** 8.30 and 10am Eucharist with church parade for Remembrance Sunday

**Wednesday 11 November** 10.45am Act of Remembrance with 2-minute silence at the war memorial for Armistice Day

**Sunday 15 November** 8.30am and 10am Eucharist

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

**Sunday 29 November** 8.30am Eucharist and 6pm Evening service to mark Advent Sunday

Midweek Said Services are on **Wednesdays** at 7pm and Thursdays at 11am. Do be sure to check Facebook to see if there has been a change to regular services while we are in vacancy.

Do be sure to check Facebook to see if there has been a change to regular services while we are in vacancy.

## 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.***

## 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.

**Tabletop Sale**

**Saturday 7th November** 10am to 2pm. Refreshments available.

Money raised will go towards ongoing work at St Peters.

To book a table contact Sue on 07966534664.

£20 per table. Stall holders set up is from 9am

You can find more information at www.stpeterschurchfilton.com

## St Andrew's Methodist Church

**Regular services**

**Sundays**

Morning Service 10.30am. Little Lights: For children whose parents/carers are attending worship. All Age Worship or Cafe Worship usually once a month.

**Tuesdays**

Wesley Guild: meets **alternate Tuesdays** at 2.15 pm. All welcome. November meetings are 3rd & 17th.

**Thursdays**

Rainbows (term-time) 5.15pm.

**Fridays**

St Andrews Baby and Toddler Group, term-time, 10am-11.45am, £2 per family, includes refreshments. Play, crafts, chat, and singing time.

Messy Church: Meets the **2nd Saturday** of the month, 3.30pm-5.15pm. Crafts, fun and food for all the family. Children must be accompanied by a responsible adult at all times. This event is free. The next meeting is **November 14th**

Sip 'n' Chat Coffee morning: 10am-12 noon, **2nd Thursday** of every month. Enjoy a cuppa, a cake and a chat - all welcome.

**Christmas Fair**

Our Christmas Fair is on **Saturday November 21st**, 11.00 am - 2.00 pm. Stalls, Games, Refreshments and of course, Father Chrismas in his grotto! We look forward to seeing you there!

**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**

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 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 forover 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**.

**Prize Bingo Session – Fun For All Ages**

Looking for a fun, friendly way to spend your time while supporting a great cause? Whether you're a seasoned bingo pro or trying it for the first time, everyone is welcome – bring your friends, family or come along and meet new people!

Prizes to be won. Join us on the last Friday of the month 1pm-3pm at FACE, Youth Centre. 1.00-3.00pm. £4 entry

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
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.

## 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.

## 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

## 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.
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

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

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.

## Filton 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.

**October**
Saturday 24th

**November**
Saturday 7th
Saturday 21st

**Special Events**

Remembrance Day Ceremony: **Wednesday 11 November** 10:45 – 11:15

Lantern Parade: **Friday 20 November** 5pm

## 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 pm. 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.

## 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/

## 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

## Filton Ladies Social Club

We are a small group and meet at St Andrews Church, Elm Park Filton, BS34 7PS, on the **second Wednesday** between 2-4pm each month. We enjoy a range of activities including speakers, a Christmas lunch and in house entertainments.
For more details, please contact the chairperson Hilary Gardener on 07979 453508.

## 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,** 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

## 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

## 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 scottyartois@hotmail.com

## 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.
Meetings are held every **third Wednesday** of the month 9.30 am to 12.30pm at Men in Sheds (Filton Group), The Scout Hout, Nutfield Grove. Please Telephone Brian Adams on 07590099564 for more details.

## Chatty Table

Provides an opportunity for people on their own to meet with others over a cup of tea or coffee for a chat. The event takes place every **Thursday**, 11am-1pm in the cafe at Elm Park Leisure Centre. Stay for as long or little as you wish. Look out for tables marked with Chatty Table and a fully trained volunteer with a yellow lanyard.

## RCTS Railway Society

**Friday 6 November** 7.30pm at St Teresa's Church Hall, 71 Gloucester Rd North, BS34 7PL
Geoff Plumb will present 'That Was The Year That Was1967', a nostalgic look back at 1967, the last full year of steam trains on British Railways.
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@rcts.org.uk

## Filton Historical Group

**Programme of talks – autumn 2026 to spring 2027**
Held in St Andrew's Church, Elm Park, Filton. All talks will start at 2pm.
Free parking available in the adjacent Church car park. The cost of membership covering all six talks will be £15 person.
Guests (or those who wish only to come to selected talks) will be asked to pay £5 per session. We welcome all-comers, especially new members.
**e-mail: alansnook@blueyonder.co.uk**

**Tuesday 24 November,** 2pm
'The History of the Commonwealth War Graves and their work today'
- Kate Groves

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

# The link between menopause and your mouth

October was Menopause Awareness Month, and I've been busy speaking at events about a connection that deserves far more attention: the relationship between our hormones and our oral health.

Research shows that around 60 per cent of women experiencing general symptoms of perimenopause and menopause also experience oral symptoms. These can include dry mouth, burning sensations, sensitive teeth, changes to the gums and a sudden need for more dental treatment.

Yet, how often do we hear about this? Many women are left wondering why their mouth feels different, whether their symptoms are connected to menopause, or whether they just have to put up with them.

It's been wonderful meeting so many women at these events and helping them understand what might be happening in their mouths and what they can do to feel more comfortable and protect their oral health.

As part of my work, I've created a Menopause Mouth Check to help women recognise possible oral symptoms and understand when they may need further support.

I'd love to share it with you, too. You can download your free copy using the QR code below.

Because changes in your mouth are real, they deserve attention, and you don't have to navigate them alone.

Sarah Joy Lendon

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

## Filton Community Garden

### GARDENING GET-TOGETHERS

Join the friendly volunteers and help keep the garden great for all to enjoy. No experience necessary, just turn up on the day. Tools and guidance provided. Alternate Saturdays, 10am-12pm.

November Saturday 7th
Saturday 21st

**Special events**

**Remembrance Day Ceremony**
Wednesday 11 November, 10.45am-11.15am

**Lantern Parade**
Friday 20 November, 5pm

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

Online updates at:

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

## ST ANDREW'S METHODIST CHURCH, ELM PARK, FILTON

Messy CHURCH

**SATURDAY**
**14th NOV 2026**

**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 **

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