



A COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER FOR BRISLINGTON

FEATURING

FEEDER ROAD HERONS
SUMMER READS
LOCAL TALENTED YOUNG PEOPLE
GREATER BRISLINGTON TOGETHER
BRISLINGTON FOOTBALL CLUB: END OF SEASON REVIEW

FREE Please take away with you!



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Editorial

The BRIZ Editorial Team

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LECOME

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the Summer 2024 issue of BRIZ, a newsletter dedicated to the residents of Brislington.

Thank you so much for supporting our first three newsletters, we're excited to announce we have funding for one more issue this winter, so stay tuned.

In February, we hosted a free creative writing workshop that sparked some fantastic ideas for this newsletter, and we have a free zine workshop coming up in September. We would love for you to join us - to find out more email: briz@bricksbristol.org.

In this edition, you'll discover Brislington's community climate action plan, leading the way towards a greener, fairer future. We also have a heartfelt story from one of our volunteer writers about finding solace by the water. Plus, you'll find book recommendations, listings of local events, artwork from young creatives, interviews with Brislington groups, and a sports feature on the challenges and successes of the Brislington football community.

We would just like to say a huge thank you to our amazing volunteers, writers, and designers who contributed to making this fourth edition possible to celebrate Brislington.

The BRIZ Editorial team

Words by: Leah Richardson

Would you like to write for Briz?

We'd like to collaborate with writers who are keen to run articles and stories for local engagement topics happening in Brislington.

You do not need to be an amazing writer, you just need to live in Brislington and have a passion to get involved and practise your writing!

Please get in touch: briz@bricksbristol.org

BRIZLINGTON BRILLO PRDS

A nonfiction narrative about the spirit of the river.

Words by: Andy Hamilton theotherandyhamilton.com @theotherandyhamilton

Artwork by: Emma Farquhar farquharink.co.uk @farquharink



Have you ever been swept up by a wave, or stood under a waterfall and felt the power of the water? It can rejuvenate, enliven, shake you up and out of yourself.

If the feeling were a person, you'd describe them as vibrant and alive and you might seek out their company. I like to think about how the natural world in this way is like a series of personalities which makes me feel part of the natural world.

Here in Bristol I feel this, especially along the river that forms Brislington's northern boundary from Totterdown Bridge to Hanham Lock. If that picturesque bit of river could talk it would tell you stories of stoic resilience, restoration, and rejuvenation.

Brillo pads were made in Netham, which ironically was a dirty business and polluted the river. More heavy industry confounded the issue, which is reflected in the abundance of mustard plants that flank the river as they feed off the leftovers of heavy metals in the soil. Yet these days this stretch is a shining example of how the natural world is aching to fight back.

The once lifeless waters are teeming with fish and rods eager to nestle in on the edges of reed-beds. Deer, badger, vole, fox, and even the occasional otter print suggest that the animals are calling it home again too. Then there is the birdlife; an array of wood pigeons, ducks, moorhens, and cormorants all call the river home. If you are lucky, you might see a kingfisher darting along the banks. But none feel as majestic as the Grey heron, Ardea cinerea which stalks the shallows.

There are two herons along the banks of the Avon, one bigger and talkative, who flits from tree to tree and a silent, stoic smaller one who often sits motionless looking over the river.

They seem to get on, the stoic one allowing the chattering of the talkative one without offering much in return. He seems pleased with this interaction. I sometimes wonder if it is the personality of the river that comes out into one bird and the personality of the city in the other.

The river can calm for half an hour or more in its company, just sitting watching the ripples of the waves and I feel I'm like the smaller heron. I feel a better me reflected out on the water, untainted by the stresses and strains of the modern world. If there are personalities in everything, it makes sense then to surround yourself with the good ones. •

BS4 GOOD GARDENS IS BACK!

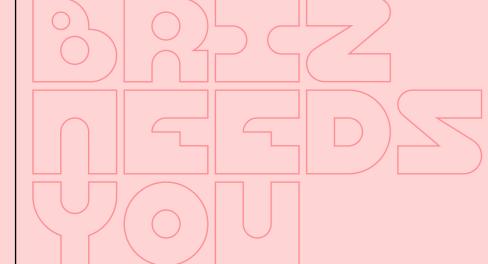
Keep an eye out for our volunteer judges, who will be canvasing the neighbourhood looking for beautiful gardens to award, anything from well thought out hanging baskets to mature planted shrubs and trees. Judging will take place between 1st and 30th June.

You can find a list of all of the streets that have been nominated this year at **bs4goodgardens.co.uk/nominations**

All garden favourites will be entered into a prize draw to win a visit to BS4's own Japanese Garden! Find out more here: www.facebook.com/japanesegardenbristol.

Many thanks to everyone who has donated time, money or a prize - we wouldn't be able to do it without you.





RECOMMENDED READS FROM THE **WEEKLY SHARED READING GROUP** ATTENDEES.

A lively, fun session where they chat to determine what the author is saying by being open to suggestions and exploring each individual's different views. You do not need to read out loud to join the discussions if you'd rather just listen and chat.

Wednesdays, Weekly, 10.30am - 12pm, at St Anne's House. Free to attend.

The Little Book of Bob: **Everyday Wisdom From Street Cat Bob**

By James Bowen

Review: Great fun! Proves the power of animals, it has also been turned into a film, and is great for the whole family to enjoy.

Murder Before Evensong

By The Reverend Richard Coles

Review: Keeps you on your toes and guessing! A perfect read for those who enjoy a whodunnit novel with a bit of comedy.

Any Robert E. Howard novels

Review: His pulp fiction books and poems are a mixture of gripping stories and larger than life characters.

HP Lovecraft

Review: A natural storyteller who draws you in.

The Word is Murder

By Anthony Horowitz

Review: I like the style, it's different and a great read!

Michael Connelly

Review: My absolute favourite author-I would definitely recommend him.

GREENER



We explored people's ambitions, asked what was missing and what we still needed to find out.

This plan was created by the community in Brislington. It serves as an inspiration for community action and advocating for change. The creation of the plan happened through many different conversations, over cups of tea, at local markets, community picnics, on the phone and over email. You can now read the plan, and explore the projects already up and running!

Part of Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership Community Climate Action Project helping put together this inclusive plan for the Brislington area.

If you have any questions about the project and plan, please get in touch with georgia@bricksbristol.org.

Read the plan - scan the groode or visit www.stanneshouse.org



Photo by: Evoke Pictures

Community Climate Action Let's make change in Bristol





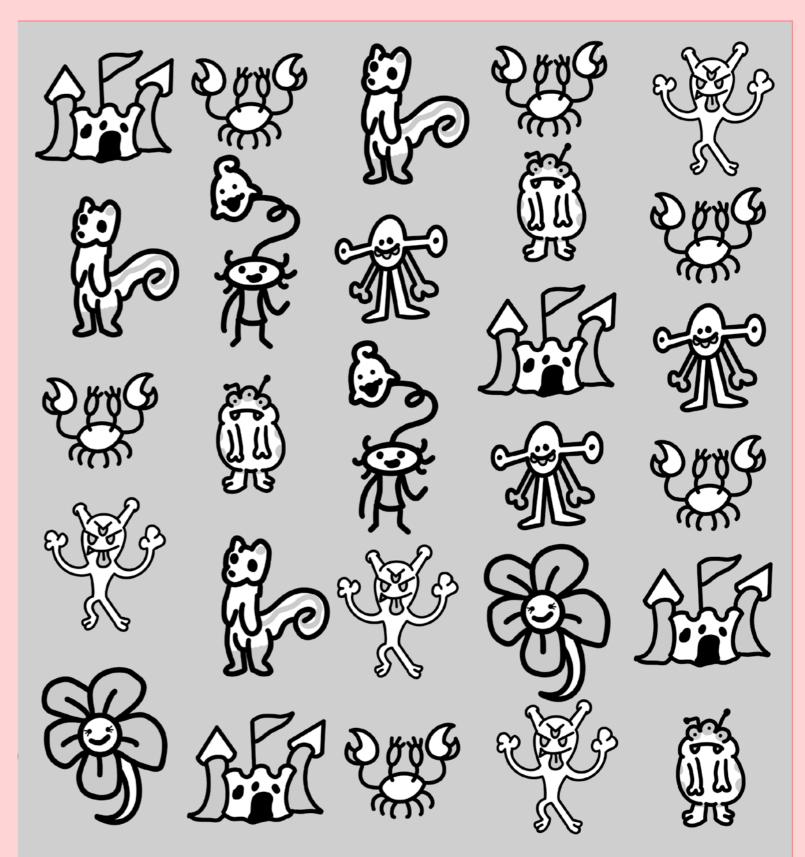


ST ANNE'S

Why not have a go colouring ightharpoonupin these magical creatures?

The weekly sessions are for 13-16 year olds who live in the Brislington area and want to hang out, cook some food, meet new people, do activities, and be part of an exciting group.

This colouring-in sheet has been illustrated by one of the talented attendees, Reagan.



THINGS TO DO

IN BRISLINGTON

OLDER

SOCIAL SESSIONS FOR

First **Tuesday** of the month

75+ WITH REENGAGE

1pm - 3pm

BS4 4AB

Mondays,

1pm - 2pm

trips out.

BS43PG

St Cuthberts,

07709264201

St Anne's House,

SENIORS CLUB

An afternoon of bingo and

01179723066

BINGO

SANDY PARK TEA CLUB

Wednesdays, 2pm - 3pm

St Cuthberts, BS43PG

MOVEMENTS AND MEMORIES

7

Activity group for those affected by alzheimers

Fourth Wednesday of each month, 2-4pm 07544764929

St Luke's Church Hall BS44LS

HIGHLIGHTED FREE AND AFFORDABLE ACTIVITIES IN BRISLINGTON

ST ANNE'S

14 - 16 June

BS44AB

St Anne's House.

COMMUNITY

GARDENING

space at SAH.

11am - 2pm

BS4 4AB

Mondays,

Volunteer sessions to

improve the outside

Saturday 15 June,

St Anne's House,

NIGHTINGALE

VALLEY CHOIR

7.30pm - 9.15pm

07720390275

No experience needed

St Peter's Methodist

Church, BS4 4NZ

OPEN HOUSE

Studios, workshops.

exhibitions and food.

Across the weekend:

Contact the activity hosts for further information, price and to confirm attendance.

ALL AGES

BS4 ARTS TRAIL

Over 85 artists and 28 venues. Across the weekend: 15 - 16 June

bs4artstrail.co.uk

BRISLINGTON ART GROUP

Wednesdays,

1.30pm - 4pm 07745343390

The Scout Hut, BS44JS

THE GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK

The UK's biggest celebration of community action to tackle climate change. Across the week:

8 - 21 June

St Anne's House. BS44AB

REPAIR CAFÉ

Third **Saturday** of every month, 10am - 12pm

St Cuthberts. BS43PG

OUIZ X WINGS NIGHT

Every other **Thursday** 4-9pm

Hop Union Brewery, BS45QH

LOST AND GROUNDED PRESENTS: **JIMI NEEDLES B2B** X-RAY TED

Saturday 15 June,

1-11pm

Lost & Grounded Tap Room 91 Whitby Rd, BS44AR

BRISTOL A.R.C CHARITY QUIZ NIGHT

Friday 05 July 7-9.30pm

FOOD, DRINK + QUIZ

Lost & Grounded Tap Room 91 Whitby Rd, BS44AR

A FEAST FOR EVERYONE!

Thursday 08 August,

6pm-9pm

Beeses. BS44SX

Book a table: info@beeses.co.uk

FITNESS

LEGS, BUMS AND TUMS

Wednesdays,

6.15-7.05pm revivefitnessclasses.co.uk

Holymead Primary School, Wick Road, BS44HB

ZUMBA

Saturday,

9am - 10am

Mondays & Wednesdays, 5pm - 6pm

Thursday, 6pm - 7pm

St Cuthberts. BS4 3PG

LUNCHTIME YOGA

Wednesdays,

12.15pm - 1.15pm thelangtonbristol.co.uk

The Langton,

MARTIAL ARTS

Variety of weekly classes for a range of age groups.

See timetable: dragonclawmartialarts.com 07717872312

St Anne's Church Hall. BS44EL

VINYASA FLOW YOGA

Mondays,

6pm - 7pm

St Anne's House, BS44AB

CHAIR DANCE/ **PILATES**

Mondays, 2pm - 3pm

07539217177

Church, BS4 3LG

Brislington United Reform

BROWNIES/GUIDES

CHILDREN & PARENTS

KURLING

Tuesday,

0785125501

1pm - 2.30pm

(open to any age)

ZUMBA GOLD

Wednesdays,

07766467093

St Cuthberts,

BS43PG

12.45am - 1.30pm

Wick Road, BS4 4HB

Holymead Primary School,

MINI MILK

Breastfeeding support group. Mondays,

11am - 12pm 07709264201

St Anne's House. BS44AB

BABY BUILDING BLOCKS

Ages 0 - 12 months

Friday, 10am - 11.15am 0117 3773189

St Anne's Park Children Centre, BS44BJ

PREGNANCY YOGA

Tuesdays,

6.30pm - 7.45pm, £13 thelangtonbristol.co.uk

The Langton, BS4 4EG

7-14 years old Wednesdays, 6pm - 9pm

RAINBOWS 4-7 years old

Thursdays, 6pm - 7pm

Enquire about pricing: 0117 971 0523, girlguiding.org.uk

St Anne's Church Hall, BS4 4EL

POSTNATAL MUM & BABY PILATES

Tuesday,

11am - 12pm £37 pcm 07984 582228, bwellpilates.co.uk

Brislington United Reform Church, BS4 3LG

TEENS

ST ANNE'S

Social group for 13-16 yos Tuesdays, 5-7pm 07718106953

YOUTH CLUB ON WHEELS

6pm - 8pm General: 0117 929 2513 On the day: 07879987113

YOUNG PEOPLE

St Anne's House, BS44AB

Across different places call to find out where.

Mondays,

Outdoor and indoor summer activities for 11 - 16 yos across 4 days.

SUMMER SESSIONS

Tuesday 30 July -

Friday 02 August 10.30 - 2.30pm Free, must sign up

St Anne's House, BS44AB

(see Page 8)

This page has been created with help from Guy Wilkinson, a local Brislington resident who runs a free email 'what's on' newsletter for the area.

If you'd like regular updates on activities, groups, and news happening weekly, please sign up to the e-newsletter.

Scan the QR code:



BS4 4EG This is just a handful of activities and venues in the area. Each venue has more activities happening than listed, go check them out!

We aren't able to showcase all listings happening, if you'd like yours to be in the next issue get in touch: briz@bricksbristol.org

LOCAL CURIOSITY

Coming up for Young People at St Anne's House:

Summer sessions:

Tuesday 30 July - Friday 02 August, 10.30 - 2.30pm Film making, photography, campfires, hip-hop, & games in the woods! Lunch included.

Ages - 11 - 16, free to attend, please sign up through qr code.

Weekly sessions:

Every Tuesday, 5 - 7pm, open to all 13 - 16. Hangout, chat, take part in activities, cook food, & meet others! Dinner included.

Free to attend, get in touch to come along.

Find out more about upcoming youth activities happening at St Anne's House, and to sign up visit:

www.stanneshouse.org jack.young@bricksbristol.org 07719106953



LOCAL PROJECTS

DESCOVER

GREATER BRISLINGTON TOGETHER – AN EAST BRISTOL COMMUNITY GROUP PUTTING IN THE WORK TO HELP LOCAL PEOPLE AND LOCAL BUSINESSES.



BRIZ volunteers had the pleasure to chat with Penny & Dougal from GBT to run a feature for Brislington audiences to learn about what they do; take a look!

Formed in 2017 as a substitute for the Brislington Community Neighbourhood Partnership (which was dissolved when the council's funding for community groups was cut) GBT started out as a community engagement organisation. However, over the years, their impact has expanded.

Ultimately, GBT is a small, official organisation that aims to secure funding for local projects. They do this by bringing residents, businesses, and community groups together to create tangible change in the local area!



Values

Their main aims and values are support, dealing with multiple and diverse groups and interests, hosting events, engagement, and empowerment.

In short – they exist to help local people achieve their goals.

They focus on green spaces, supporting local high streets (they influenced the communication between businesses in Sandy Park) and community connections.

Have you ever started a project that got stuck in the mud? GBT's goal is to support you in those initial steps. This year, they are concentrating their efforts on engagement, transport, and safety.





Some of the first funded projects by GBT resulted in:

- Two new community gardens
- 3 day art trail around the area (a Window Wonderland)
- 2 free window art workshops
- A community art project that encouraged feeling safe exploring the local streets after dark
- Sign posts around Arnos Vale and Nightingale Valley linking the walks into a circular route, amongst other projects that have contributed to the community spirit of Brislington.

More recently, you might have attended a Briz Day (Penny shares she's painted on average around 1000 faces at this event!), or wandered around Brislington Hill Market, rambled on a wildlife photography walk, or sat under a tree in Victory Park planted thanks to GBT efforts.

Most notably, however, their success lies in showing the extent of the impact Brislington volunteers and smaller groups of people from the community can have

Be Involved

Make use of GBT, Attend the events they put on and use the resources they offer!

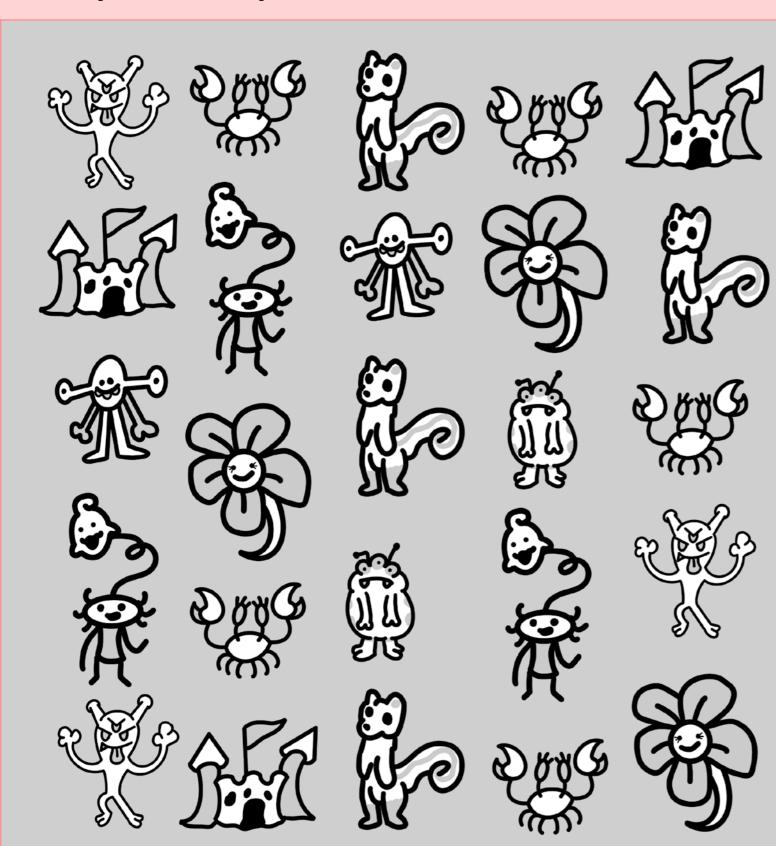
If you fancy supporting them yourself as a volunteer, get in touch: greaterbrislington.org

If you have an idea or project that GBT could help you with, reach out. They can provide you with advice, information about other projects and businesses in Brislington to link up with.

It can be easy to feel like there's so little you can change in your community, however your involvement makes a tangible difference to the world around you. The ripple effects of community connection can be felt far and wide. It's important to make the most of groups like GBT.

greaterbrislington.org / @greaterbrislington

Interview by: Nathan Davies Words and artwork by: George Cruse-Drew



SUPPORT

free support and advice.

THE

ARE ON THE UP!



→ We bet many readers didn't know that teetering on the edge of the boundary between Bristol City Council and BANES is the modest 2 stepped, ironclad, and covered north stand of The Brislington Stadium. The home of football in Brislington can be found on Ironmould Lane, a curious geographical anomaly of a way, with seemingly two severed entrances and two postcodes.

Formed in 1956 and now playing in the Western League One, Brislington 'Briz' F.C. have had complex period of success in recent years. This included voluntary relegation from the Premier in 2022 motivated by the FA restructuring of the Western league boundaries. A 364-mile round trip to Kellaway Park, home of Helston Athletic, demonstrating the demands placed on clubs in the Weston Premier Division.

Success on the pitch soon followed with Brislington being crowned champions in 22-23 but unable to take their place in the Premier due to the conditions of their relegation the previous season. 'The Foxes' needed all their cunning to repeat last year's heroics and write their names into the club's history. The 24-25 season saw a very competitive top of the table battle being played out throughout by the three 'Towns': Radstock, Wincanton & Portishead.

Under the glow of the floodlights and before the eagerly anticipated 'Bath Rd' Derby and penultimate league match of the season against Keynsham Town, Foxes fans Ken Borg & Jonathan Kelham caught pitch side, with Assistant Manager Rich Ford:

Q: "How do you think the season has gone considering the squad has changed a lot from last season?"

Ford: "At the start of the season we were having to bringing in maybe 3 Under 18's each game due to injuries and this impacted our ability to change games. However it has to be said, the Under 18's have been an absolutely brilliant addition, we have a good setup and some great talent coming through from Briz Juniors. This year has certainly been a season of upheaval but if you look at the

club on a whole I think we are moving in the right direction, in a sustainable way."

Q: "Promotion would result in a return to the Western

Premier Division, what challenges could this bring?"

Ford: "The further you go up the further you have to pay out for players. The current league setup is unsustainable with distances too great for budgets at this level (Step 6). When teams from Cornwall play here ticket sales suffer as they only bring a few away fans with them. Contrast that with Oldland or Portishead, they could turn up with 100 supporters, that's a big difference. It allows us to pay the officials, the bar staff and invest in the ground maintenance and the club long term.

Q: "How ambitious is the club going forward?"
Ford: "The ambition is definitely there. The plan is to get the club sustainable, step-by-step, with youngsters coming through, with clear pathways, hopefully more people watching on the stands, and more people wanting to volunteer to help run the club."

CLUB INFO
Established: 1956
Nickname: The Foxes
Home colours: Red & Black
Current Division:
Western League Division One
Stadium: Ironmould Lane, Bristol, BS4 4TZ
Capacity: 3000 / 150 seated

The Final Rush

Player retirement, losing top players to the lure of Bristol Manor Farm F.C. and a frequently waterlogged pitch, scuppered Briz's ability to gather momentum, eventually finishing the regular season in 7th. However this kept the dream alive for the champions turned underdogs, as they faced second place Radstock Town in the playoff semifinals, a team who had beaten them 2-1 only a week earlier. Briz used all their youthful tenacity to produce a brilliant result beating Radstock 1-0 at their own place and set up a play-off final away to Wincanton which didn't start in the best of ways. The Foxes quickly fell behind by two goals in just 25 minutes. A miraculous comeback in the second half saw Briz confirm their die-hard spirit securing promotion to the Toolstation Western League Premier Division!

After the turmoil of relegation two years ago, the tide seems to be turning. With some of the Cornwall teams now out of the Premier Division traveling will be less of an issue next year, and the promising stream of young talent from the under 18s will help bolster the squad. You can sense there is a positive feeling about the club and the recent success will hopefully help capture the imagination of more local football fans from the BS4 area. The future looks bright at Brislington F.C.!

Do you like grassroots football?

Brislington FC play on Tuesdays at 7.30pm and Saturdays at 3pm. Tickets are £6 at the turnstile, and the stadium has a fully equipped bar with refreshments and warm snacks, with a friendly atmosphere both on pitch side and in the club house. Come along and support your local team! More info at **brislingtonfc.net**

WE ARE BRISTOL HELPLINE

Free helpline to get information and advice about the cost of living crisis.

Monday to Friday 8.30am - 5pm

0800 694 0184

→ EAST BRISTOL FOOD BANK

Emergency food parcels are available for those in need (agency referral voucher needed). Deliveries on Fridays to Brislington or visit: St Barnabas Church, Daventry Road BS4 1DQ Wednesdays 12.30pm - 2pm

0808 208 2138

www.eastbristolfoodbank.org.uk/ get-help

BRISTOL LAW CENTRE

Free legal phone advice, and casework. Specialists in housing & homelessness, benefits, mental health, employment and discrimination.

Mon - Fri 9.30am - 4.30pm

0117 924 8662

mail@bristollawcentre.org.uk

CITIZENS ADVICE BRISTOL

Specialist advice on Housing, Disability, Money Advice, Welfare Benefits, Legal Rota, Employment

0808 278 7957

www.bristolcab.org.uk

HOUSING MATTERS BRISTOL

A housing advice service and can provide free, independent, and specialist advice on housing-related matters to anyone in need, in Bristol and the surrounding area.

0117 935 1260

advice@housingmatters.org.uk www.housingmatters.org.uk

SHELTER

For urgent housing advice call Shelter's emergency helpline on:

0808 800 4444

www.england.shelter.org.uk

→ THE SAMARITANS

Whatever you're going through, you can call Samaritans any time, from any phone for free. Open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

116 123

www.samaritans.org

→ NHS MENTAL HEALTH TALKING THERAPIES

Free and confidential service, for anyone aged 16 or over, to help people overcome negative feelings and get more from their lives.

0333 200 1893

bit.ly/TalkingTherapiesBNSSG

OFF THE RECORD BRISTOL

A mental health social movement by and for young people aged 11-25

0808 808 9120 (Enquiry only) Mon - Fri 2pm - 5pm

hello@otrbristol.org.uk www.otrbristol.org.uk

→ AGE UK BRISTOL

Providing a number of services for older adults, including advice, social and community groups, befriending, and practical support. Advice is also available for carers and family.

0117 929 7537

www.ageuk.org.uk/bristol

→ CARERS SUPPORT CENTRE BRISTOL

Provides support, information and advice to carers of any age living in the Bristol and South Gloucestershire.

0117 965 2200

www.carerssupportcentre.org.uk

→ WECIL

WECIL is a user led organisation supporting Disabled people to live the life they choose through support and advice.

11

0117 947 9911

wecil.org.uk

→ SWITCHBOARD

Switchboard provide information, support and a referral service for LGBT+ people – and anyone considering issues around their sexuality and/or gender identity. Helpline open 10:00-22:00 every day

0800 0119 100

hello@switchboard.lgbt switchboard.lgbt/

DESCRIPTION LOCAL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Jos Clark

cllr.jos.clark@bristol.gov.ul 07584 370 429

Councillor Andrew Varney

(Liberal Democrat) cllr.Andrew.Varney@bristol.gov.u 07584183381

Councillor Katja Hornchen

Labour)

cllr.katja.hornchen@bristol.gov.ul 07584 186524

Councillor Tim Rippington

(Labou

cllr.tim.rippington@bristol.gov.i 07825 523239

This June we are excited to be swinging the doors wide open to St Anne's House for our annual weekender!



The three days will be an opportunity to visit artist studios, including Bristol-based painters, printmakers, photographers, makers, community groups, and thinkers.

Open to all and free to attend.

Visit www.stanneshouse.org for the full programme.

bricksbristol.org / @bricksbristol bs4artstrail.co.uk / @BS4artstrail

Opening night:

Friday 14 June, 6pm - 11pm

Running event:

Saturday 15 June & Sunday 16 June, 11am - 4pm

Join us as we celebrate and host the BS4 Arts Trail on Saturday and Sunday for an exciting chance to browse stalls and chat to local creatives. The art trail will be happening across different venues, so make sure to check out their full BS4 programme.

Drop in anytime during opening hours.

Do you need to travel from the centre?

We've teamed up with Bristol Ferries for you to take a leisurely cruise down the canal to Netham Lock from the fountains in the centre over the weekend.

Scan the qr code to purchase your tickets!







St Anne's House BS4 4AB Bristol stannes@bricksbristol.org 07709 264 201 @bricksbristol stanneshouse.org bricksbristol.org

SUPPORT BRIZ

We hope you enjoyed this edition of BRIZ. You can find newsletters at local shops and hubs to share around.

Digital issues are available at stanneshouse.org/projects/briz

Could you help support us to continue BRIZ?

Text BRIZ followed by your donation amount for a one off payment to 70580. Example: "BRIZ 10" to donate £10.

Texts will cost the donation amount + one standard network rate message, and will opt you in to hear updates from us. If you would like to donate but don't want to opt in to future updates, please text "BRIZNOINFO 10" to donate £10.

Donations will go towards future issues. If future issues do not continue, they will go into community projects. Thank you!



