

# Hotwells & Cliftonwood Community Association



**Spring has come back again. The Earth is  
like a child that's got poems by heart;  
so many poems, so many verses,  
patient toil winning her prizes at last.**

*Rainer Maria Rilke; translated by Stephen Cohn*

It has been a joy and a relief to see the evidence of the seasons turning once again and be reminded that we are part of something so much more than us. We live with

perspectives on many scales: tightly furled magnolia buds, slowly unfurling; nodding daffodils in twos and threes and then in crowds; clouds scudding across moody skies; planets aligning as a string of bright dots, though separated by mind-stretching distances.

We invite you to take a few minutes to focus on some of the new things happening in our neighbourhoods and hope that the information below adds to a sense of connection with place and people.

## Some dates for your diary!

- **Spike Island Green Futures Week** 2-6 March
- **Anatomy of Solidarity** 10 March - 12 April, at the Window on Bristol Gallery, M Shed (Free exhibition)
- **Hotwells Panto** Wednesday 11 to Saturday March in Hope Chapel
- **HCCA Committee Meeting** 23 March
- **HCCA AGM** 1 July

## Climate and Nature News

Thanks to everyone who attended our [presentation](#) at Spike Island Arts on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March as part of the **Spike Green Futures Week: Big Dreaming**. It was lovely to see the faces of so many local people and also great to have some key council officers attending and enthusiastic about the Community Climate Action Plan and the Harbour Community Nature Reserve. We'll be sharing more news soon about how you can get involved. The main action we want to encourage across our neighbourhood is for everyone to record the nature that is on our doorstep and one way we can do this is participating in the [City Nature Challenge UK 24th April - 10th May](#). All the information is available through this link and we'll be in touch about getting together during these dates.



Anna Haydock-Wilson has been working with Ben Barker of BS3 Wildlife Group and others as part of bringing into being the **Harbourside Community Nature Reserve** in central Bristol. In outline, this will be a network of community and voluntary groups covering the waterways of the Avon New Cut and Harbourside and neighbourhoods to their immediate north, collaborating to promote local wildlife, existing and potential. One exciting aspect of this project is the focus on linking across existing project areas. Initially, it will cover the area shown on the map, with the intention of

extending the 'linking up' approach even further. The existing area includes the floating wetland featured recently in [this article from Bristol24/7](#).



If you still can, please do come along to **WHAT COULD IT BE? ARTS AND ARCHITECTURE IN COMMUNITY CLIMATE ACTION**, with Birmingham City University MA Architecture students, Professor Rachel Sara and Anna Haydock-Wilson on Thursday afternoon 6th March 2.30-4.30pm. [Please book here](#) so we know how many people to expect. With a focus on 'conversation through collage', participants are invited to join a discussion and collaborative activity, creating shared visions for a climate adaptive future. We hope participants will leave feeling more hopeful about the climate, our earth and our futures. And while you're there, have look at the corridor exhibition by Spike artists curated by Ruby Taylor and reflecting our watery environment.

You can find the full programme for the week of events on the Spike Island website, including events still available, at <https://www.spikeisland.org.uk/programme/events/spike-green-futures-week-2026/>. You might also browse events from earlier in the week as a source of inspiration!

### Friends of the Avon New Cut

Laura, from FRANC, has let us know about their next litter picking session, on Saturday, 14<sup>th</sup> March:

This will be the last session of this season as we step back to let the birds nest in peace. But before we hang up our hi-viz jackets and tools for a few months, we'd like to take the opportunity to combine our regular litter picking with a bit of clearance of the vegetation that is swamping the historic railings alongside the New Cut in places. We've checked with the Council and they support this activity.

We'll meet at **Bedminster Bridge (south side on Coronation Road) at 9.50am** and will decide what areas to focus on, depending on numbers and where the worst spots are.

We will finish by 11.45am, in time to head to a local café for a hot drink.

If you have your own protective gloves (e.g. gardening gloves) and pruning equipment (hand tools only please), please bring them. Hi-viz jackets, rubbish bags and pickers will be supplied on the day; we'd welcome support from volunteers with distributing and collecting equipment before and after the event.

It's very rare that we have to cancel due to extreme bad weather, but if you want to check that we are going ahead, I will have my phone switched on from 8.30am onwards (07747 126816).

### Inspiration and an invitation from our friends downstream in the Shire...

We have heard from Cee, a volunteer with Shirehampton Action, who has kindly shared details of their Nature Detectives activities. Nature Detectives is a monthly family-friendly free activity to get together and see what's happening in the natural world. Cee brings bug pots, magnifying glasses and wildlife books, and at the end of the hour, everyone gets together and makes a list of the things that have been seen. Everyone is welcome.



**Come be a Nature Detective!**

Nature Detectives is a once-a-month chance to slow down and notice the natural world in Shirehampton. It's family-friendly, welcoming for all ages, no experience is needed and it's free.

With nature ID guides, bird call apps, binoculars, bug pots, and a bit of curiosity, we'll see what plants, birds, and creatures are here at this time of year. At the end, we'll gather and make a simple list of everything we've seen. It's relaxed, low-key, and open to everyone.

**New for 2026!**



**Everyone welcome Wszyscy mile widziani**

From January 2026, we'll meet at 3pm until 4pm on the last Sunday of each month.

- 25th January: Yellow Brick Road (opposite Lamplighters Pub)
- 22nd February: Daisy Field (opposite the train station)
- 29th March: Kings Weston (near the cafe)
- 26th April: Yellow Brick Road
- 31st May: Daisy Field
- 28th June: Kings Weston (near the cafe)
- 26th July: Yellow Brick Road
- 30th August: Daisy Field
- 27th September: Kings Weston (near the cafe)
- 25th October: Yellow Brick Road
- 29th November: Daisy Field
- 27th December: Kings Weston (near the cafe)

For more information, check out [shirehamptonaction.org.uk/detectives](https://shirehamptonaction.org.uk/detectives).  
Email [ceemacdo@gmail.com](mailto:ceemacdo@gmail.com) if you have any questions about accessibility.

**Tutti benvenuti**      **الجميع مرحب بهم**

Todos são bem-vindos

Ku soo d'hawaada dhammaan

سب خوش آمدید بین

Toatã lumea este binevenită

We would love to follow the lead of Shirehampton Action! Would you be interested in

getting a nature detectives activity started in Hotwells and Cliftonwood? Please do [contact us](#) to start a conversation.

## Getting in touch with HCCA

We have a new phone number 07351 426910. Please note messages and voicemails are checked once a week.

## Set the agenda

Our next management meeting is on 23rd March and we would love to hear from you about any proposals you would like us to discuss. Please email Rachel at [chair@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk](mailto:chair@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk) so that we can put it on the agenda.

## Volunteer with us

We welcome new volunteers to join our team. We are still looking for volunteers to help us clean graffiti throughout the neighbourhood and help with keeping the Cumberland Piazza tidy and green. For more information, please get in touch with us at [admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk](mailto:admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk)

## Events Calendar

Did you know that we list local community events and activities in our online calendar? If you know of an event or a regular activity please get in touch with Rachel on [chair@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk](mailto:chair@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk)

You can see the calendar here <https://www.hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk/events>

## Local News

### Trinity Lunch Club – New Members Welcome!

Trinity Lunch Club would love to welcome new members to their friendly and supportive get-togethers. Open to anyone over 60, the club runs every Thursday from 10am–3pm at Holy Trinity Church.

They offer a freshly cooked three-course lunch, hot drinks throughout the day, and a varied programme of activities including musical entertainment, armchair exercises, quizzes, bingo and crafts. The cost for the full day is just £8, and your first visit is completely free. Return minibus transport may also be available for an additional £7, subject to seat availability.

Norman said, *“The staff and volunteers run it extremely well, which makes me feel pleased and proud.”* Sheila added, *“The entertainment is very good and the youngsters who visit from Hotwells School are always great.”*

You’ll receive a very warm welcome — go along and enjoy some company.

For more information, call Julia on 07458 300 210 or email [tcs@holytrinityhotwells.org](mailto:tcs@holytrinityhotwells.org)

## Cliftonwood Spring Fair & Charity Art Raffle

21st March 10am-3pm The Lion 19 Church Lane, Cliftonwood.

Local artists are coming together to showcase their latest work at the pub. They have also kindly donated original and limited edition works to raise funds for Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association. Further details on available here:

[https://www.hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk/cliftonwood\\_spring\\_fair](https://www.hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk/cliftonwood_spring_fair)

## Cliftonwood Town Green



The town green is looked after for and by the community with oversight from the Town Green Management Group of local residents. The group oversees gardening activities, organises annual events (Christmas tree and carols, Easter egg hunt etc) and ensures that the garden and its boundaries are respected and cared for. Current members are:

Chris Ford  
 Claudia McConnell  
 Rachel McNally  
 Emma Peddie  
 Julia Thomas  
 Philip Miles  
 Pippa Gibb  
 Sas Bonser  
 Jayne Harrill  
 Adrian Robson  
 Liz Freeman  
 Blair Wallace  
 Jo Eades

The town green management group meets quarterly (usually in the Lion put) to plan events, review progress with projects and repairs, and allocate tasks for organising publicity to encourage more members of the community to get involved. The group is also responsible for ensuring that the integrity and upkeep of the garden is

maintained for the enjoyment of the whole community. If you would like further information please visit their webpage:

[https://www.hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk/the\\_town\\_green](https://www.hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk/the_town_green)

### **Clifton and Hotwells Open Gardens: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> June 2026**

This annual event has now been running for over 10 years and is a firm local favourite. Visitors will have access to 18 communal gardens and squares, including formal gardens and woodland. Come and see the stunning architecture and gardens which lay hidden behind the grand terraces. Enjoy tea and cakes, a glass of prosecco or Pimms whilst listening to local and visiting musicians including Arnos Vocale, Gurt Lush Choir, Rising Voices and Tobacco Factory Singers. There will also be various stalls, talks, conducted tours, a tree trail and plenty of space for the kids to play. The entry fee includes a beautiful programme full of interesting information about the history of the terraces and gardens. For more detailed information please visit the Green Squares and Secret Gardens website: <https://gssg-bristol.com/>



Clifton &  
Hotwells  
**OPEN  
GARDENS**

Sat 6 & Sun 7 June  
10:30am–5pm

Visit the fascinating communal gardens hidden behind the elegant terraces of Clifton and Hotwells.

**TICKETS**  
Tickets are £7. They cover both days and are available in advance from Eventbrite and on the day from 10:30am under the archway on Boyce's Avenue in Clifton Village and from selected gardens listed on our website.

**GREEN  
SQUARES  
& secret  
GARDENS**

**gssg-bristol.com**  
Image © Tony Phelps / naturepl.com

## City-wide News

We know many of our neighbours are involved with Bristol Choral Society so we wanted to share that their next concert is Bach's St John's Passion at Bristol Beacon on Saturday 28th March. Details can be found here:

<https://www.bristolchoral.co.uk/StJohnPassion>

Thank you for reading!

Hotwells & Cliftonwood Community Association

<https://www.hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk/>

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