

UP OUR STREET

Spring 2026





**EASTSIDE
COMMUNITY
TRUST**

Welcome to Eastside Community Trust
We are an award winning community organisation working in Easton and Lawrence Hill. We run Easton Community Centre and Felix Road Adventure Playground. We are passionate about our community and putting local people in control so together we can build healthy and happy neighbourhoods.

GOT A STORY TO SHARE?

Up Our Street is a community magazine that speaks from many perspectives, sharing community life through positive stories from East Bristol. It aims to build a sense of pride and belonging, inspiring residents to get involved with activities in their neighbourhood.

We print 14,000 copies, four times a year, and hand-deliver to community hubs and households in Easton and Lawrence Hill.

Contact Marcus or Laura at comms@upourstreet.org.uk if you have story ideas, interesting local news, would like us to cover an event or community project you're part of, or to advertise.

**DISTRIBUTED BY
EASTON LEAFLET
DISTRIBUTION**
07716 352026
eastonleaflets@yahoo.co.uk

Printed by Whitehall Printing with vegetable-based inks on recycled paper.

CONTACT US

0117 954 1409

contact@upourstreet.org.uk
eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk

Drop in and see us:

Easton Community Centre,
Kilburn Street, Easton,
Bristol, BS5 6AW

STAY IN TOUCH

Join our Facebook group:
Up Our Street



Find us on Facebook
[@eastsidebristol](https://www.facebook.com/eastsidebristol)

Follow us on Instagram
[@eastside_bristol](https://www.instagram.com/eastside_bristol)



For local news, events and jobs every fortnight, sign up to our ebulletin (newsletter) on our website.

SPACE HIRE



Do you need a space for a meeting, conference, birthday or other event? We have you covered! Our spaces are fully accessible, flexible, fun, and affordable.



Broadcasting
LIVE 24/7
from Easton
Community Centre

LISTEN
93.2FM/DAB
BCfmradio.com
"Play BCfm Radio"

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDERS



WELCOME | BIENVENIDOS SOO DHAWOW | WITAMY | 欢迎 | دى دم آ شوخ | مكب لاه



Welcome to the Spring 2026 issue of Up Our Street

Welcome to the Spring edition 2026 of Up Our Street magazine from all of us at Eastside Community Trust.

With brighter days and longer evenings on the way, this edition celebrates the energy that spring brings to our community. Our sporty theme shines a light on the clubs, volunteers and local heroes who keep East Bristol active and connected.

We feature inspiring interviews with Easton Cowfolk Sports and Social Club, Bristol Athletic Football Club and the newly reopening St George Bowls and Social Club. We also share an update on the refurbishment of Easton Leisure Centre, an investment that will support health and wellbeing in our communities for years to come.

Beyond sport, this issue highlights the rich cultural life

of our area, including a question and answer with BCUC, a South African band performing locally soon. You will also hear from WECA Mayor Helen Godwin and Lawrence Hill local councillor Yassin Mohamud.

We hope this edition encourages you to get active, try something new and celebrate all that makes our community proud.

Eastside movers and shakers

At the start of this year we bid farewell to the fabulous **Emily Fifield**, who has moved on after 10 years at Eastside! Emily has been part of Eastside through times of change and transformation and most recently made a lasting impact as Community Climate Action lead.

We've also had some changes at Felix Road Adventure Playground. We wished Bon Voyage to our wonderful Adventure Play Manager **Ollie Fournier** who's taking a six month sabbatical until July. We're delighted that the brilliant **Shaniem Biggs** is stepping in to cover as Playground Coordinator. In addition, we said goodbye to our much-loved Senior Playworker **Kate Bilsborough**.

We've welcomed new wonderful volunteers to Eastside, Zoe and Bram, who have been helping out during our busy Saturdays at the community centre, and waved goodbye to two of our lovely Centre Assistants, Mel and Amaia. A huge thank you to our superb Trustee, **Zoe Sheriff**, who is stepping down after many years in her voluntary role on the board.

Finally, welcome to **Jose Barco**, who joins Eastside as our new Community Connector leading on Greening Eastside. Read on to find out more about Jose and this exciting new project!



Our front cover image is of a mural on Belle Vue Road in Easton by Artist **Sarah Dicks** - a queer artist based in Weston-super-Mare and proudly sporting a strong Bristolian accent - *If you would like your artwork or photography on the front cover, please do get in touch!*



greening EASTSIDE



Eastside Community Trust has been awarded £100,000 over two years as part of Bristol City Council's Nature and Cities programme.

Would you like to see more flowers blooming and bees buzzing in Easton and Lawrence Hill? Do you know of a bit of unloved land that could be better for bulbs, buds and bugs?

Over the next two years, Eastside is working with Bristol City Council and other partners on an exciting project to give residents more power to spruce up the area where they live.

At the start of this year we welcomed Easton Resident, Jose Barco, to the team. Some of you may know Jose from his years as a community organiser in the neighbourhood.

Here, Jose tells us more about his plans and vision for Greening Eastside...

greening EASTSIDE

**SEED +
PLANT
SWAP**

**Sunday 22 March
11am to 4pm**

Meet at Easton Corner Garden
(next to Easton Community Centre by railway path)

Calling all Easton + Lawrence Hill residents!
Join us to kickstart Greening Eastside

11am to 1pm · Community garden session -
pot your own seedlings to take away

1pm to 4pm · Seed and plant swap + giveaway
shared food, music, community gardening,
food growing, knowledge sharing.

Bring seeds, seedlings, cuttings, plants, food, drink,
songs, poems and stories to share.
(no problem if you don't have anything to share.)

Refreshments provided.

Free - all welcome - drop in anytime



"Hi, I'm Jose Barco, your new Greening Eastside Community Connector. I live just around the corner from Easton Community Centre and care deeply about our vibrant, diverse community. With a background in permaculture, community organising and facilitation, and a love of growing green spaces and making music, I'm excited to green Eastside together."

If you would like to get involved or know a patch of land in Easton or Lawrence Hill you would be keen to make green, please get in touch: jose@upourstreet.org.uk or scan >>>





One of the things we are most proud of here at Eastside Community Trust, is how we bring people together to connect with their neighbours.

With so much division and negativity circulating online right now, coming together in real life to connect, share experiences, meet people from different backgrounds and finding out what we've got in common is the antidote to this.

This is why we're delighted to be launching our new programme of exciting events, activities and celebrations, to provide fun and joyful ways to come together. Keep an eye on our noticeboards, website, social media, and in our fortnightly ebulletin for the full programme of activities.

WHAT'S ON THIS SPRING

Saturday 26 March:
Women's Night - Eid celebration

Wednesday 8 April:
Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday 25 April:
Spring Fun Palace

**FIND OUT
What's On >**



**At Easton
Community
Centre**

Eastside's wellbeing programme has had a glow up! Our range of activities and services to help you thrive is growing, so why not try something new this Spring?

We have a schedule of classes including Balance and Stretch, Bollywood Dance, Buraanbur, Circuits, Chair Yoga, Family Yoga, Tai Chi and Wing Chung to help you get moving, no matter your age or ability.

If getting creative or connecting with others is more your thing, come along to Busy Minds, Collage Club, Cuppa to Connect, Eastside Repair Cafe, Everyone Makes It, Lego Club, SEND Family Club or Stay and Play.

Need advice? Our drop-in sessions from Citizens Advice, CSE Energy, St Paul's Advice Centre, Housing Matters and Shelter are here to help.



**Women's Night
Eid Party**

*Come and celebrate
Eid in style*

**Saturday 28 March
6:30pm - 9:30pm
Easton Community Centre**

Join us for an evening filled with joy, dance, and mouth-watering food. Bring your smiles, moves, and appetite for a night of laughter, celebration, and community.



**£10 entry
pay on the door**

abiir@upourstreet.org.uk



What's on at **FELIX ROAD** **ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND**

WAVEY NIGHTS regulars have been getting creative this year, taking part in a series of DJ workshops, as well as drama workshops, which will culminate in a performance at Bristol Old Vic! There's also a chess and board games club and homework club.



Egg-cellent Adventures!

Join us on **Sunday 5 April** for an Easter-themed day of fun, including an Easter Egg hunt, arts and crafts, food, and much more... Under 8s must be accompanied by an adult, over 8s can attend unaccompanied.

Check out our What's On pages for more events and activities:



EASTER HOLIDAYS AT FELIX ROAD ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND SUNDAY 5 TO SUNDAY 19 APRIL

Mondays:

Open access 12pm to 5:30pm

Tuesdays:

Chill Tuesdays SEN families
(booking only 11am-1pm)

Open access 1:30pm to 5:30pm

Wavey nights 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Wednesdays:

Open access 12pm to 5:30pm

Wavey nights 5:30pm to 7:30pm

Thursdays:

Open access 12pm to 5:30pm

Friday:

Girls Group 1:30pm to 5:30pm

Easter Sunday (5 April)

Easter Activities

Easter Monday (6 April)

Open access 1-5pm



**FREE PLAY,
SPORTS, BUILDING,
CRAFTS, FOOD
AND FUN!**



FOOD IS FUEL FOR PLAY! FREE KIDS MEAL ON OPEN ACCESS SESSIONS

Halal and vegetarian option available
Please note that food is on a first come first serve basis and on exceptionally busy days we may run out



Funded by:



**BRISTOL
LEGENDS
B24/7**

We're delighted that Felix Road Adventure Playground was short-listed for Bristol 24/7's Bristol Legends Awards. And congratulations to Eastside's very own playworker, Tyreke Morgan, who is a finalist (at the time of going to print) Whatever the outcome, you'll always be a winner in our eyes, Tyreke!



Spring is in the air – time for a street party!



With the days getting longer and the weather warming up, there's no better time to bring your neighbours together for a street party. Easton and Lawrence Hill have long been at the heart of Bristol's street party culture.

From summer BBQs to cultural celebrations like Eid or Diwali, street parties are a way to celebrate diversity, enjoy fresh air, and strengthen connections right on your doorstep.

As Deputy CEO of Eastside Community Trust Tom Williams says: *"Street parties are about more than fun... they build community, create memories, and give people a reason to come together safely and positively."*

Eastside can offer support to make your event happen, including guidance on road closures, safety, permissions, and even loaning bunting and road closure signs. Whether it's a Big Lunch, a seasonal BBQ, or a shared meal, we can help you plan an event that everyone in your street can enjoy.

If you're interested in hosting a street party in Easton or Lawrence Hill, want advice on getting started, or would like to borrow equipment, Eastside can help.

Find out more on our website: eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk/getinvolved

To book a street party kit, contact Easton Community Centre on **0117 954 1409** or email contact@upourstreet.org.uk.



Abiir's Corner

 abiir@upourstreet.org.uk

"As a Community Connector at Eastside, I help bring people together by sharing what's happening locally and supporting residents to get involved. Over the coming weeks, activities include CIL meetings, Buraanbur sessions, a Women's Night Eid celebration, and a book club, with cycling lessons coming soon. Get in touch to join in or share ideas."



Easton Leisure Centre Unveils Major Upgrades

SPORTS AND
FITNESS FOR **EVERYONE**



Cameron Bate, contract manager at Everyone Active, said: "We'd like to say a huge thank you to everyone who came along to our open day and helped to make it a wonderful success following our exciting refurbishment."

"It was wonderful moment for us to welcome the community to our new-look facility while offering a range of classes and activities following the investment with Bristol City Council. We hope this will continue to be an inclusive space where people of all ages and abilities can work toward their health and fitness goals."

Everyone Active is proud to be delivering physical activity outside our centres in our communities, including a very popular circuits class at Easton Community Centre on Monday evenings at 7:15pm.

They are always keen to run more sessions where there is demand and partnership opportunities. Contact **DanPalmer@everyoneactive.com**, if you would like to set one up.

To try the facilities at Easton Leisure Centre and enjoy a free activity on us, scan the QR code.



Easton Leisure Centre kicked off the new year in style, welcoming more than 2,000 residents to celebrate its impressive multimillion pound refurbishment during its Community Open Day back in January.

The newly updated facility, run by Everyone Active in partnership with Bristol City Council, now offers a host of new features designed to give the community more ways to get active.

Residents explored the new upgrades, which include a huge gym extension fitted with top of the range Life Fitness equipment, offering more opportunities for tailored workouts.

The centre has also introduced a brand new women only gym, providing a comfortable and welcoming environment for those who prefer to exercise in a dedicated safe space.

Families were thrilled by the addition of a modern soft play area, perfect for little ones to climb and burn off energy. The revamped reception, refurbished changing facilities and the fresh, modern café have also helped to create a brighter, more accessible leisure hub.

A special appearance from TV's Gladiators Harry Aikines Aryeetey

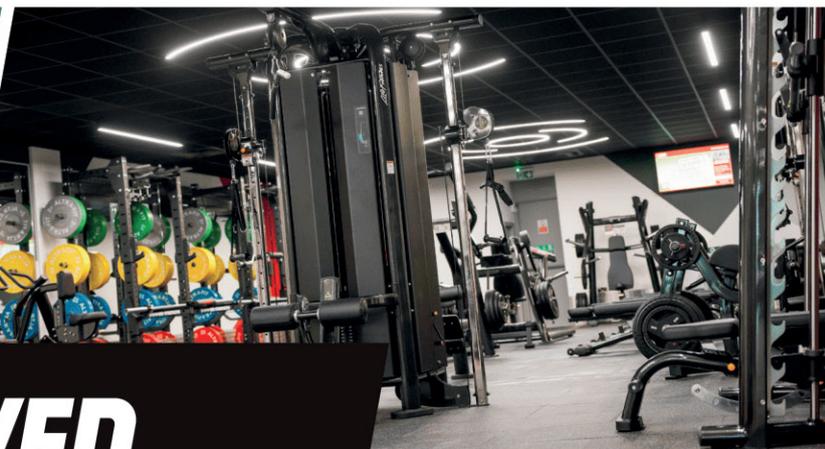
The leisure centre was buzzing with excitement thanks to a very special appearance from Team GB sprinter and TV personality Harry Aikines Aryeetey (photo above), who joined in a gym challenge and spent time meeting local families.

Children from Air Balloon Primary School enjoyed a memorable meet and greet with Harry following a colouring competition run to inspire young people to be more active.

ADVERTORIAL



Artist's impression



NEW & IMPROVED EASTON LEISURE CENTRE

OUR MULTI-MILLION POUND REFURBISHMENT INCLUDES:

- ✔ Impressive gym extension
- ✔ Dedicated women's-only gym
- ✔ Updated pool changing area
- ✔ Complete studio refurbishment
- ✔ Brand-new soft play facility

SCAN THE QR
CODE FOR MORE
INFORMATION



Thrissell Street, Easton BS5 0SW
0117 955 8840



everyone
ACTIVE

Bristol Athletic are back!



On a Saturday afternoon at Netham Park, boots thud against concrete, laughter cuts through the cold and old friendships spark back into life. From 2pm onwards, Bristol Athletic are playing again. But as they always have, they are offering far more than football.

In a city packed with amateur teams, Bristol Athletic have never been just another club. As founder and chair Patrick Hart puts it, “Bristol Athletic’s not unique in the sense of being a football club... but what’s unique is that from the days it began in 1997, the idea was always to use football as a tool to support people, especially young people, and bring people together from different faiths and backgrounds.”

Back then, Bristol Athletic grew out of Bristol’s inner city neighbourhoods, drawing players from Easton, Lawrence Hill, St Pauls, Barton Hill, the Dings and beyond. The club quickly became known not just for winning games but for standing up for its values.

“We pioneered massively against racism when referees didn’t stand up for it.”

Long before diversity statements and equality policies were common, Bristol Athletic were challenging racism in local leagues and taking cases all the way to national FA tribunals - and winning.

At its height, the club ran five teams. Players came from African Caribbean, Somali, South Asian and White British backgrounds, alongside refugees and asylum seekers. But the support went well beyond the pitch.

“We helped with housing and with job applications. Some young people had been through the youth justice system, so we worked with probation.” Patrick explains.

When the club folded in 2014, after nearly two decades, the loss was deeply felt.

“Everywhere I went people would say to me, ‘I miss the BA days,’” Patrick recalls.

Life moved on. People got older, started families, moved away. But the need didn’t disappear. In fact, it grew.

Over time, Patrick began to notice something worrying. Many former players were struggling. "I'd see them and we'd end up having long conversations," he says. "Lockdown, identity, poverty, opportunity – it really affected the mental health of so many of those young men."

That experience reflects a wider reality. In the UK, suicide remains the leading cause of death for men under 50, and men are significantly less likely to seek help for mental health issues. Loneliness, financial pressure and the expectation to 'just get on with it' weigh heavily, particularly on working class men.

A casual kick about last year confirmed what Patrick already felt. "I was absolutely shocked by how many people turned up," he says. "Football was only an hour and a half, but afterwards over a cup of tea it was just as long. You could see people were crying out to keep in touch."

That was the moment Bristol Athletic came back.

"Men often don't talk to other men about their issues."

"When you're part of a close knit sports team, it's much easier to reach out or for someone else to reach in and say, 'I'm struggling a little bit.'"



The relaunch has been driven by former players who now bring new skills as coaches, physios and mentors. There are mental health first aiders within the squad. Training looks after bodies as well as minds. But the real strength is the culture.

"Men often don't talk to other men about their issues," Patrick says. "When you're part of a close knit sports team, it's much easier to reach out or for someone else to reach in and say, 'I'm struggling a little bit.'"

There are boundaries too. Respect matters. "Someone's nan can come and watch the game," Patrick smiles. "Every player knows to get her a chair, watch the language. Old school values. There's nothing wrong with that."

Those values are working. Bristol Athletic are currently top of the league and still competing in every cup. But success on the pitch is only part of the story. "Being good at what we do is important," Patrick says, "because it encourages excellence and gives people pride."

Players aged 16 and over are welcome, and the club is keen to connect with organisations, businesses and community groups who care about mental health, inclusion and opportunity.

More than a game. More than a club. Bristol Athletic are back and for many local men, that means they are not facing life alone.

www.bristolathletic.co.uk



Founder, Patrick Hart





Easton Cowfolk Sports & Social Club

From softball games to shared community meals, Easton Cowfolk has grown into a multi-sport, multi-generation club rooted in Easton. We spoke to Sue Mennear about how it all began, and why community matters just as much as sport.

Easton Cowfolk started in 1992 as a small, informal men's football club. Over time, it evolved into a volunteer-run sports and social organisation bringing together people of different ages, abilities and backgrounds. Today, the club supports a wide range of sports including cricket, netball, basketball, softball and children's activities, alongside inclusive football teams for female and female-identifying players, men, over-30s, over-50s, and walking football.

Sue became involved through friends at the club and quickly saw its potential to be more than just a place to socialise. When opportunities for women in sport were limited, she helped create welcoming training sessions that focused on confidence, learning and enjoyment. That spirit of openness continues to shape the Cowfolk's approach across all its activities.



One of the club's most valued initiatives is its Saturday community meal, hosted by different teams on a rotating basis. These meals bring together players, families, volunteers and supporters, including people who don't play sport at all. Crucially, they're held outside of pub settings, making them accessible to families, non-drinkers and people from different cultural backgrounds.

“It's not about results or trophies - its about checking in on each other”

“It's not about results or trophies,” Sue says. “It's about checking in on each other – who's struggling, who needs support, and how we can help.” Around 30 to 40 people attend each meal, including refugee and asylum-seeker players, young volunteers and long-standing members.

“There's a place for everyone here,” Sue says. “If someone has an idea, they're encouraged to make it happen.” And Easton? *“It's our heart – diverse, collaborative and full of people who want to build something together.”*

The Easton Cowfolk Softball team (pictured) are looking for new players. Whether you are just curious about Softball or are a seasoned pro, practice sessions will be starting in April in Eastville Park. To find out more email: softball@eastoncowfolk.org.uk



Bringing Life Back to the Green



For decades, the former Omnibus Bowls Club was a well-used social space in St George Park. When the club went into administration several years ago, the site fell silent, becoming what George Sandilands calls “a visible reminder of a lost community asset”.

George is part of the local group working to revive the space through St George Bowls & Social Club CIC.

“For many local people, the space matters not just because of its sporting history,” he says, “but because it represents one of the few places locally that can support social connection, and community-led activity.”

The project began personally. *“My wife and I had our engagement party at the Omnibus bowls club,”* George explains. *“Not long after, it went out of use. We contacted Hilary, the former chair, and that really started the journey.”* Neighbours with similar ideas joined forces, forming the CIC.

“From the outset, the intention was to create something community-led, not-for-profit and accountable to local people,” George says. *“The CIC structure allows us to reinvest any surplus straight back into the community.”*

Over the past 18 months, the group has worked with residents, local organisations and Bristol City Council to turn the idea into a detailed plan. This has included surveys in St George Park, public feedback sessions at St George Community Centre, and partnerships with Friends of St George Park, and The Beehive Centre.

“We want to hear all views, this space is being shaped with the community.”

The first phase opens Spring 2026. *“The bowling green will return under a simple pay-to-play model,”* says George, *“making bowls accessible and easy for anyone to turn up and play.”* A hireable community space and café/bar will also open, with free membership initially.

In Autumn 2026, wellness facilities including saunas and cold plunge tubs will be added. *“Inclusivity and affordability are central to the model,”* George adds, highlighting low-income pricing, pay-it-forward options, and dedicated sessions such as women-only, LGBTQ+ and silent sessions.

Residents can get involved by sharing feedback, volunteering, or attending open events. For updates or to get in touch, email hello@stgeorgebsc.org



Turning Loss Into Positive Change

Recently, Eastside Community Trust hosted a special screening of *Postcodes*, a powerful documentary created by local young leader Serena Wiebe. The film explores knife crime and its impact on young people across different communities.

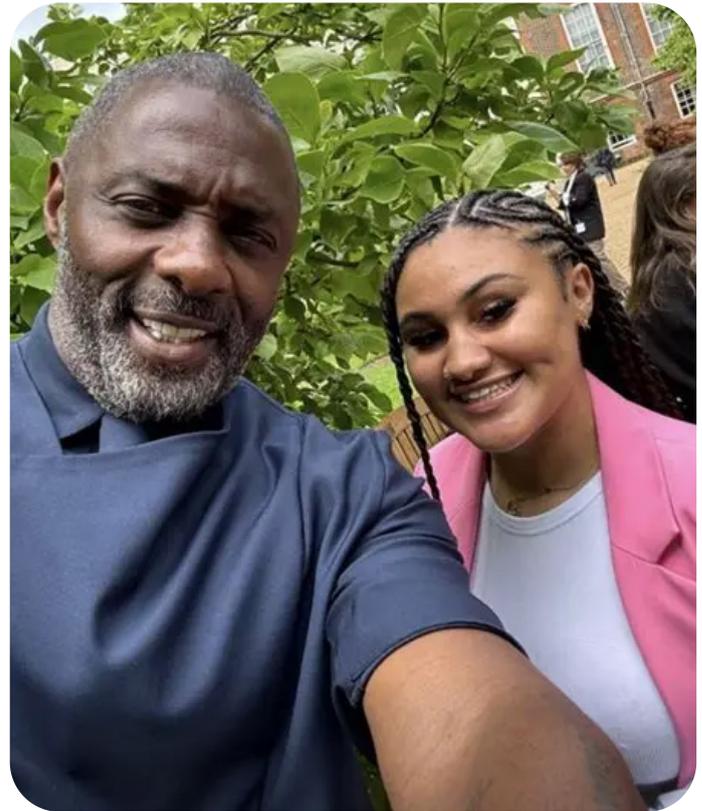
For Serena, the project is deeply personal. Having lost close friends to knife crime, she understands the fear and grief many young people live with. *“I’ve experienced losing people to knife crime, especially a close friend,”* she says. *“So it felt right to be part of something that could help others feel understood.”*

Making the documentary opened Serena’s eyes to how widespread the issue is. Speaking to young people from outside her area showed her that knife crime affects communities everywhere.

“Helping just one young person can change futures and lifestyles”

As a young person, grief often turned into anger, but losing her childhood friend Eddie became a turning point. *“Eddie was kind and always pushed people to do better,”* she explains. *“I wanted to honour that by helping create a safer community for young people.”*

Serena believes strongly that young people must be included in decisions that affect them. She also feels safe spaces and real opportunities like work experience can be life changing. *“Helping just one young person can change futures and lifestyles”* she says.



Serena with Idris Elba (Actor and Knife Crime Campaigner)

Her path into youth work began during a time of loss, while receiving bereavement counselling after her brother died by suicide. Asking for work experience led her to boxing charity Empire Fighting Chance, where she found support and a role that shaped her future.

Now a mentor herself, Serena is proud to support young people in the way she once needed. Recently recognised with a British Empire Medal (BEM) for services to young people, she hopes to continue telling important stories.

You can watch *Postcodes* with a Q&A on 24 March at Watershed. More showings coming soon to South Bristol throughout 2026.



Artists and Makers: Registration Opens May 2026 for BS5 Art Trail



After a hugely successful weekend in September, the BS5 Art Trail is already looking ahead to 2026. The next trail will take place on 5 and 6 September, and registration for artists and makers of all disciplines will open in early May 2026.

The 2025 trail brought streets and studios across BS5 to life, with visitors praising the welcoming atmosphere, wide range of talent, and strong sense of community. From hands on activities to affordable artwork, the event gave people the chance to meet local creatives and discover new spaces right on their doorstep.

Organisers also made accessibility a key focus, with clearer signage, accessible venue information, and more opportunities for tactile engagement and street facing displays.

Artists and makers interested in taking part next year are encouraged to look out for registration opening in early May 2026 at www.bs5arttrail.co.uk. It is a great chance to showcase work, meet fellow creatives, and be part of one of Bristol's most loved community art events.

Watching the news or scrolling social media, it's easy to think the UK is deeply divided. Voices spreading hate and division can seem loud.

But every day, millions of people show up for their neighbours and communities, such as litter picking, supporting food banks, coaching kids' teams, and working to keep streets safe. Acts of kindness and hope happen everywhere.

In May 2026, Eastside Community Trust and other community groups, faith organisations and charities will unite to celebrate A Million Acts of Hope across Britain. There is far more that connects us than divides us.

We hope you'll join us. Find out more and get involved on the A Million Acts of Hope website: www.amillionactsofhope.org.

A million
acts of
hope



Q&A: BCUC Return to the Jam Jar



Formed in South Africa over 20 years ago, the band's Afropsychedelic sound blends indigenous traditions, punk energy and hip-hop consciousness - Eastside speaks to frontman Jovi.

For readers discovering BCUC for the first time, how would you describe your sound?

"Our sound came out of necessity for surviving the depression caused by not having the budget to buy musical instruments and the urge to create music that will change the world."

How have your roots and early experiences shaped the band you are today?

"BCUC started 23 years ago in Soweto, when we decided to rebel against the digital music takeover."

We were aware of what was going on in South Africa as it was during the national transformation from post apartheid to the discovery of what is South African culture after apartheid. So from the onset we just wanted to be unique in our approach and use what we have on our disposal - our culture, our friendship, our belief that we can change our family's lives."

You've played Bristol many times over the years. What keeps bringing you back?

"Bristol is a very amazing place for us, we played our first sold out show in the UK in Bristol. There is a vibrant and dense punk culture here plus there's cacophony of diversity. We love this place and it is a joy for us because this place loves us."

Your shows are known for being intense, physical and emotional. What can people expect from the shows at The Jam Jar?

"Maybe don't have any expectations but be open to a myriad of experiences. Deep experiences between us and you, between you and everyone who will be there and most importantly be open to experiencing yourself with yourself. We know that Jam Jar is a vibe and they deserve a killer show especially because of our history with the place, we need to give the people an epic show."

BCUC's music speaks powerfully about inequality and unheard voices. How do you see that message connecting with different communities here in Bristol and across the world?

"We are living in the times where the 'middle class' is disappearing at an alarming rate, and yes it is by multinational corporation's design but also we are liable because of our appetite for material and status."

With our music we try to reconnect you to your primal simple self. We reignite your desires for contentment that can be attained by just being the best version of you... We will give you peace but you have to earn it through the turbulence that is Afropsychedelic."

BCUC return to The Jam Jar for two nights, 22-23 April, bringing their live show back to the city that has long embraced them.





Fish & Chips to fry for

On St Marks Road, a familiar local chippy is quietly making waves far beyond Bristol. Fish N Fry, owned by Aftab Mohammed, has been named one of the UK's 50 best fish and chip takeaways at the 2026 Fry Awards, and it is the only shop in Bristol to make the national list.

For Aftab, the recognition comes down to doing the basics properly. *"We focus on quality above everything,"* he says. *"The best cod we can buy, high standards of cleanliness and making sure customers are looked after."*

The Fry Awards are widely regarded as some of the toughest in the food industry. Over several months, mystery diners assess shops on food quality, cleanliness, service, value for money and consistency. This year the pass mark was a demanding 97 percent. Fish N Fry scored an impressive 99 percent.

But running a traditional chippy today is tougher than many people realise. *"Cod is the most expensive it has ever been,"* Aftab explains. *"Fish and chips isn't the cheap meal it once was."* To offer better value, Fish N Fry also serves alternative fish such as hake, and hoki from New Zealand, which Aftab laughs has become a hit with local Instagram influencers as well as regulars.



Family business: Aftab (left) and his father Riaz

"Fish and chips is a dying business in some ways... a lot of older owners have retired, and fewer young people want to take it on"

Despite rising costs, giving back remains important. The shop has provided free meals for people experiencing homelessness, delivered fish and chips to care home residents and staff, and handed out free chip cones at recent grand iftars. *"If you're part of a community, you should support it where you can,"* Aftab says.

Aftab also worries about the future of the trade. *"Fish and chips is a dying business in some ways,"* he says. *"A lot of older owners have retired, and fewer young people want to take it on. If people want good fish and chips, they need to support local independents."*

At Fish N Fry, that support is already making a real difference, proving that when a local business is run with care, pride and community at its heart, it can still thrive and stand proudly among the best in the country.

OPENING TIMES
MON: 12 - 9pm
TUE: Closed
WED to THU: 12 - 9pm
FRI to SAT: 12 - 10pm
SUN: 12 - 10pm



Free English Lessons at The Beacon Centre



At City Academy Bristol, the Beacon Centre is helping local parents and residents build confidence, independence and new opportunities through its ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) programme.

Led by the centre's Family Support and ESOL Manager, and Eastside Trustee, Azmina Mitha (pictured), the programme supports adults who want to improve their English in order to better support their families and fully take part in community life.

"When adults arrive in the UK with their children, it's really important they can communicate with schools," she explains. "But it's also about independence, finding work, and feeling confident in everyday life."

Classes run during school hours, making them accessible for parents around the school run, and the centre is easy to reach without long bus journeys. The environment is welcoming and inclusive, with facilities such as a prayer room and a strong understanding of family and cultural commitments.



**For more information,
contact Azmina on
0117 954 2806**

Since introducing clearer structures and higher expectations, attendance rates have become some of the highest in the city, and exam rates have risen to an impressive 96%.

"If students attend, they pass," the manager says. "We want to prepare them not just for exams, but for work and further education."

There are many inspiring success stories. One mother completed multiple ESOL levels after maternity leave and has since opened her own local salon. Another student, new to Bristol, found friendship and a sense of belonging through the classes. Several students have gone on to secure jobs, move into further education, or train as teaching assistants.





WECA Mayor Update – Helen Godwin



I'm Helen Godwin, Mayor of the West of England, and I'm delighted to be writing for Up Our Street for the first time. My job is to help bring our region together and secure funding to improve everyday life.

Late last year, I had the real joy of visiting the team at Eastside Community Trust, spending time at Easton Community Centre and Felix Road Adventure Playground. It was inspiring to see the way people are supporting each other. During my visit I saw the fantastic work that the community centre and playground do, from nurturing young minds at the Raised in Bristol nurseries to hosting events and activities that bring people together.

I left feeling uplifted, and so grateful for the remarkable people who make this work possible, making communities stronger, more welcoming, and full of life.

Since becoming Mayor in May, I've been determined to do things differently and to ensure that the progress we make is felt by people who live here.

One of the highlights has been Kids Go Free. Over the summer and Christmas school holidays, around 1.1 million free bus journeys were made by children and young people across our region, putting over £1 million back into the pockets of families and helping many people access what our part of the world has to offer.

We've secured major investment for the West of England already. So far, we've brought in close to £1 billion to help improve transport and support communities. This includes £752 million for better buses, more trains, and mass transit plans, alongside work to invest in both new and existing train stations, including a new lift for Lawrence Hill.

We know there is much more to do - especially when it comes to tackling one of the deepest challenges facing our region: child poverty. The West is often seen as an affluent, progressive place, but for too many families that is not the reality.

"In Bristol, 35% of children are growing up in poverty. In some communities, it is closer to 50%."

That's why we recently launched the West of England Child Poverty Action Plan, setting out how we can use local powers and funding to support families and give every child the best possible start in life.

But we know that real change happens only when we all work together – regional authorities, charities, community groups like Eastside Community Trust, and residents themselves.

I'm excited about what we can do next. Together, I know that we can shape a future that is brighter for everyone in the West of England. Find out more at:
www.westofengland-ca.gov.uk



Councillor Update – Yassin Mohamud

Your local councillors are lobbying about the unacceptable levels of waste on the streets of Lawrence Hill and anti-social behaviour. Fly-tipping and overflowing rubbish is also common on Stapleton Road and Old Market. Not only does this look unpleasant and block pavements for wheelchairs and buggies, it also encourages pests like rats and pigeons.

Resident concerns is our top priority. Our community deserves better, and we are committed to changing this culture, both individually and through the Love Stapleton Road group, which encourages a wider approach as well as a regular Saturday community litter pick.



We encourage residents to report any issues to bristol.gov.uk/report-a-street-issue. If this does not resolve the problem, or if new hotspots appear, please contact me or other Lawrence Hill councillor Shona Jemphrey, so we can help and address the matter with relevant authorities and speed up the process for you.

We are already trying to tackle the hotspots that we know about. For example, Stapleton Road now has more daily waste collection resource than any other part of the city. We also recently secured Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding for two mobile CCTV cameras to be deployed around Stapleton Road, which will help tackle fly-tipping and other anti-social behaviour. We can apply for more funding this year, so please let us know if your area has a hotspot that needs looking at.

Email: Cllr.Yassin.Mohamud@bristol.gov.uk

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds local improvements in Easton and Lawrence Hill, from safer crossings to greener spaces.

Initial expressions of interest are due by 23 March to your local councillor.

Eastside's Community Connector Abiir can help with applications:

 abiir@upourstreet.org.uk



Working together across Stapleton Road and surrounding areas for a safer, cleaner and inclusive future.

A collaboration between Avon & Somerset Police, Bristol City Council and local communities.



Scan the QR code to find out more, or visit bristol.gov.uk/lovestapletonroad





Fairfield High School

Achieving Excellence



“ Children at Fairfield do things because they want to do them, rather than they have to. Fairfield **encourages intrinsic motivation**, which comes from within. It’s a **delight to see.**”

Parent

www.fairfield.excalibur.org.uk



If you would like to advertise in the next Summer edition of Up Our Street magazine, contact the team at Comms@UpOurStreet.org.uk

I have information about a crime.
I am worried someone is going to get hurt.

Tell us **WHAT YOU KNOW**

100% anonymously at Fearless.org



I know someone who is carrying a knife.
I am worried someone will get hurt.

Tell us **WHAT YOU KNOW**

100% anonymously at Fearless.org



MARIANNE SWIFT
HYPNOTHERAPY &
PSYCHOTHERAPY

Award-winning solution-focused hypnotherapy with Marianne: An empowering and transformational approach

- Increase your confidence
- Feel less stressed, reactive, low or anxious
- Have better relationships
- Change old, unhelpful thinking & behaviour patterns

07769 006 711

marianneswifttherapies@gmail.com
www.marianneswifttherapies.com



Easter at St Anne's

Palm Sunday Procession and Service 10am
Maundy Thursday Taize Service and Vigil 8pm
Good Friday Service 2pm
Easter Day Sunrise Service 5.30am
Eucharist at 10am

Live the Easter Experience with us
St Anne's Church, St Leonard's Road, BS5 6JN

Easter Holiday Pop up Cafe

St Anne's Church Hall and Garden

12 to 3pm 8th April

Curry lunches, cakes and snacks

raising funds to make the building accessible

EASTSIDE FILM NIGHT: COMING SOON EASTON COMMUNITY CENTRE

18



APRIL - Sinners



MAY - Rave On Avon

FIND OUT MORE: eastsidecommunitytrust.org.uk

Youth sessions at Felix Road Adventure Playground

WAVEY NIGHTS

FELIX ROAD
ADVENTURE
PLAYGROUND

TUESDAYS
+
WEDNESDAYS
5.30 TO 7.30PM

This is a group for girls and boys aged 11 to 16 years old. Offering children and young people a relaxed, safe, and supported space to hang out.



For more info contact: shaniem@upourstreet.org.uk

COMMUNITY EVENTS

at The Trinity Centre

REGULAR CLASSES

Gentle dance – Dance class for over 50s
Every Monday, 12pm – 2pm

Bristol Samba – Samba drumming
Every Monday, 6pm – 10pm

Aidbox – Community women's group
Every Monday, 10am – 1pm

Black Creatives * – A place to build, listen, and create
Fourth Monday of every month, 6pm – 9pm

Ecstatic Prance – Fun sober dancing
Fortnightly Tuesdays, 7pm – 9pm

Ilu Axe – Samba drumming
Every Wednesday, 7pm – 10pm

Hype Dance – Urban dance group for young people
Every Wednesday, 6pm – 8pm

Gardening sessions * – Volunteering in Trinity's garden
Fortnightly 10am – 2pm

Next Gen * – Free music sessions for young people,
Every Thursday 4pm – 6pm

Rhythm of the Night – Accessible club night for adults
with learning difficulties
Last Thursday of every month 7pm – 10pm

Gerry's Attic – Dance class for over 50s
Fridays 12pm – 2pm

Stay & Play – A drop in session for children & their
families/carers
Fridays during term time 10am – 11:30am

ONE OFF EVENTS

07 Mar
Women Who Make and Do
Free market celebrating craft makers for
International Women's Day

09 Mar
NHS Blood Donations
Join the NHS and give blood to save lives

12 Mar
FRUITEA
Bristol ballroom community OTA Kiki Ball

14 Mar
Fight Klub
High-intensity fun workout that makes getting
in shape an addiction

15 Mar
W.E Irish St Patricks Day Event

23 Mar
Phylum: Artist Talks

28 Mar
The Community Day
Join Trans Pride Bristol for their Community Day
at Trinity, a joyful celebration of community,
creativity, and pride.

*FREE to attend

** FREE for Universal Credit & those with refugee
status

For more information about any of
these events, to sign up or book
tickets, call 0117 935 1200 or head to our
website.



ABABO'S CUISINE



**AUTHENTIC ETHIOPIAN FOOD
EASTON COMMUNITY CENTRE**



**Full Children's Menu
Halal, Vegan, Gluten-free, Nut-free options
Hot and Cold Drinks
Delicious Cakes and Light Snacks
Private Catering options for your next event**

**OPENING TIMES:
Tuesday to Friday 9am-5pm
Saturday 10am-4pm
Monday and Sunday CLOSED**

hello.ababos.cuisine@gmail.com

**Instagram
@ababoscuisine**