



# the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council

Autumn 2025



## Westbury Garden wall repairs on the horizon

In the past few months, lots of people have asked us about the crack in the wall at Westbury Garden and what's being done to fix it.

The crack has been caused by the big London plane tree that grows in the park.

Over the years, the tree has got so large that its trunk has started to put a lot of pressure on the wall, making it less stable over time.

The problem was made worse in the wake of the flooding caused by Storm Bert in November 2024, where the wall had to hold back a lot of water.

For safety reasons, we've put fencing around the wall, and this will stay up until the repairs are finished and the area is deemed to be safe.

You may have noticed the ivy being removed in August – this was so engineers could properly inspect the wall. We also ordered work on the tree to reduce its height and spread.

Inspectors found that the crack in the wall has increased in size and some extra work has been ordered to help protect the wall and ensure that the tree can continue to grow.

Engineers have said they won't know exactly how much damage there is until work starts.

At the moment, the plan is to lower the wall and strengthen the base of it below the garden ground level.

This will make it safer, give the tree more room to grow and help flood water drain back into the River Avon when levels are high.

The work is expected to cost about £25,000. At Full Council on Tuesday 8 July, councillors agreed to go ahead with the project.

## Court refresh big hit in town



The tennis courts at Culver Close opened in November last year. Since then (to the end of August) the courts have seen hundreds of members play nearly 2,300 hours of tennis. We are currently looking for keen players to support tennis in Bradford on Avon by becoming a trained Tennis Activator. If you'd like to help others to play, contact us to find out more. You'll receive training from the LTA – and be eligible for reduced court and membership fees.

Greenman Environmental Management – specialist contractors from Bath – will be completing the repairs.

The works require consent from the Environment Agency. Once this is in place, we'll be able to confirm a start date.

We're grateful to the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust – which is contributing £5,000 towards the repairs.

We'll have regular updates on this project on our website and on social media.

## Talk of the town: news in brief

• Councillors adopted a new Business Plan for the town council at the Full Council meeting in September. The plan details our aims and ambitions for the period 2025 to 2029.

• You might know that we already look after 2 former phone boxes in the town. Now, we've adopted 2

more phone boxes from BT – in Church Street and in Newtown. We'll be giving them some TLC soon, including a lick of that iconic red paint.

• Sadly, our e-bike, Ernie, was stolen from our office. This incident has been reported to Wiltshire Police. If you saw anything or have any

information, please call the police on 101 and quote crime reference number 54250114080.

• The Culver Close cricket nets are now open – and ready for people to practice. We're talking with the cricket club about an official opening.

• Over 400 people came to this year's Flower & Produce Show on Saturday 6 September, which was held in Holy Trinity Church.

• We've set a goal of being carbon neutral by 2030. To support this, we've commissioned a carbon footprint report to help guide actions to reduce our impact.

Keep up to date on what we're doing at [bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](http://bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

## Baum Challenge



Town Mayor Councillor Jack Vittles has planted the weeping for of a birch tree at Culver Close as part of the Baum Challenge, after being nominated by the Mayor of Trowbridge.

In turn, he nominated the Mayors of Melksham and Salisbury to continue the challenge.

The tradition, originally from Germany, has now come to Wiltshire through twinning towns. Bradford on Avon has proudly twinned with Norden for over 50 years.



## News each fortnight

Every quarter we publish this newsletter to keep residents updated on what's happening in Bradford on Avon. But we know a lot can happen between editions and not everyone uses social media.

That's why we launched BOA Snippets, a fortnightly email newsletter. Over 2,000 people subscribe to stay up to date with town council and community news.

If you're interested in signing up to the newsletter, please scan the QR code.



## BoA Youth launches new session

It's been a busy summer at the youth centre with over 120 children enjoying a variety of activities from circus skills, magic and dance to cookery, pottery and crafting.

Thanks to Wiltshire Council Area Board funding, we were able to keep prices low as well as offer places to kids eligible for free school meals. The Town Council's youth team were delighted to see faces new and familiar at the sessions.

The fun continues now into term time with the addition of a new free drop-in session on Monday afternoons where young people aged 11+ can enjoy free snacks and drinks, Wi-Fi, art, gaming, sports and more! In the coming weeks they'll also be offering some themed activities, so check out the BoA Youth Facebook page to find out what's on: [facebook.com/boayouth](https://facebook.com/boayouth)

BoA Youth sessions:

- Monday 3pm to 6pm – drop-in (11+)
- Tuesday 5pm to 7pm – free play youth club (8+)
- Thursday 3pm to 4pm – drop-in at Christ Church
- Thursday 3pm to 8.30pm – drop-in (11+).

All sessions are free, although donations are welcome. Ages are recommendations only.



Scan the QR code to keep up to date with BoA Youth on social media.

## Flood Forum brings together commun



The Flood Forum in Holy Trinity Church

## We're refreshing the Residents' Panel

Since it was set up in 2022, the Residents' Panel has helped shape Town Council projects and our day-to-day work.

Panellists completed eight short surveys on topics including the Community Fridge, the newsletter, tree planting, the town market, Town Council priorities – and more.

Their feedback has helped bring initiatives like BOA Snippets, tree planting and the Town Vision to life. The previous panel included 100 people over the age of 16, broadly reflecting the town's demographics, who shared their views on different parts of our work.

With a new administration, we're looking

to refresh the panel and broaden its membership even further.

That's why we're asking everyone reading this newsletter to consider signing up.

We plan to publish the first survey in November, so now is the perfect time to join. The Residents' Panel is a chance to make a difference – for you and your BoA neighbours.

If you'd like to be part of the panel, please contact our office at [office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk) or visit our website.

Spotted a problem? Give us a call on 01225 864240

# What's happening this season?

We love bringing the community together with big events – and our autumn/winter season is about to begin! First up is the town's **Fireworks Display**, sponsored by The Kingston Group at Poulton Park on Sunday 2 November. Gates open at 4pm, with the dazzling display starting at 6pm. Then it's on to our **Christmas Lights Switch-On** in Westbury Garden on Friday 28 November – with stalls, music and Santa's grotto. And don't miss our **Peter Pan** pantomime at St Laurence School on Wednesday 17 December. Early bird tickets are available at a reduced price until the end of October. Find all the details and booking info on our website.



# Town Wardens work in record hot summer



Town Warden, Simon watering planters in Westbury Garden

According to the Met Office, this summer was one of the hottest and driest on record. And through the wilting heat our Town Warden team continued to put in the graft to keep BoA beautiful. Our Town Wardens cut the meadows in late summer, after the flowers had seeded. Since we took on the green spaces in early 2022, we've been able to create more wildflower meadows on our land. This means we will be able to enjoy a fresh burst of wildflowers next spring! If you're out and about during the day, you might bump into our Town Wardens in their eye-catching blue and yellow uniforms. Come heat, rain or snow the Town Wardens are out keeping the town clean, caring for public buildings and green spaces, watering plants, supporting events and more. If you see them, they're sure to offer a cheery welcome to visitors and residents.



# Community to ask important questions

Following last year's flooding, residents and businesses have raised questions about flood defences and the town's future resilience. In December, we took part in a meeting led by Dr Brian Mathew MP, alongside senior representatives from the Environment Agency, Wiltshire Council and Wessex Water. This resulted in the Town Council facilitating July's Flood Forum, which gave people the chance for these agencies to respond to residents' concerns about flood defences, past proposals, future

plans and how we can build resilience. We were pleased to host an event that gave residents the opportunity to ask questions and share their concerns about flooding with key organisations. Over 350 people attended throughout the afternoon and the event received strong coverage in local media. With winter fast approaching, it's worth remembering that we have published some flooding and safety advice on our website: [bit.ly/4m6mBrO](http://bit.ly/4m6mBrO)

# Update on St Margaret's Hall

The works stripping out the ground floor of St Margaret's Hall were completed in August.

Since then, tenders for the next part of the project have been reviewed with the loss adjuster and our insurance company – and we expect to confirm a start date for the reinstatement works soon.

The reality of what happened last November is that it can be very difficult to protect buildings from flooding. As such, we've been thinking

about flood resilience and recoverability measures. Our insurance claim is essentially on a like-for-like basis – however we are expecting to be able to include flood resilience:

- new floor and wall coverings
- raising electrical sockets
- stainless steel units and surfaces in the kitchen.



Backstage in St Margaret's Hall with the water-damaged floor removed

Email us at [office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk](mailto:office@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk)

# Becky Addy Wood plan approved

At the Full Council meeting in September, councillors approved a new woodland management plan for Becky Addy Wood.

The plan was independently produced by Johns Associates and Duramen Consulting for the Town Council.

Now formally adopted, the plan sets out a positive way forward for the conservation and management of this ancient woodland. The document replaces the original management plan from November 2021. We're now working on a detailed first-year action plan for the woodland.

The woodland has been divided into sections, which will guide how it's managed over the next five years.

The plan confirms that a number of the trees in the woodland are dying from ash dieback disease, making regeneration a key focus of



Becky Addy Wood

management. We are also seeking funding to help deliver the aims of the plan during its five-year lifetime.

The plan is available to read on our website.

# Town market thriving three years on

Bradford on Avon has a long history as a market town. In fact, the Domesday Book of 1086 records a market here that was already bringing in taxes at the time. Since then, the market has been run by different groups – from the Lord of the Manor to local councils.

Since it was managed by West Wiltshire District Council in the 80s the market has been based in the Bridge Street car park, by the library. In 2009, after the district councils were reorganised, management passed to Wiltshire Council.

In April 2022, we took on the market as part of the asset transfer. At the time, we feared for its future – as there were only a few stalls and little support. Today, with local care and management, the market has grown into a lively community hub with a variety of regular traders and a waiting list of keen businesses. Most Thursdays you'll find everything from

fresh bread, meat, fish and cheese to flowers, plants, books, candles, pies, coffee and even Indian street food.

You can follow the market on social media at @boatownmarket on Facebook and @boaweeklymarket on Instagram.

If you'd like to join the trader waiting list, please complete the form on our website: [bit.ly/465JOnQ](https://bit.ly/465JOnQ)



BoA weekly market traders

## Our meetings, events & more

### Town council meetings at 7pm in the United Church

#### Town Development

Tuesday 14 October

#### Community & Wellbeing

Tuesday 21 October

#### Full Council

Tuesday 4 November

#### Environment & Green Spaces

Tuesday 25 November

#### Resources

Tuesday 2 December

#### Sustainable Travel

Tuesday 9 December

#### Full Council

Tuesday 6 January 2026

### Events

**BOA Fireworks**, Poulton Park, Sunday 2 November 4pm to 7pm

**Christmas Lights Switch On**, Westbury Garden, Friday 28 November 4pm to 8pm

**Peter Pan**, Trinity Hall, St Laurence School, Wednesday 17 December 5pm to 6pm

## New BOA Snug

There's an exciting new Community Snug at 11 Silver Street, bringing people together through coffee mornings, craft sessions, clothes upcycling and creative groups.

The Snug will have a focus on reuse and repair – and aims to raise funds for local causes.

Supported by the Town Council, the Snug is looking for volunteers, organisers, makers and anyone keen to share their skills and make new friends.

Get involved by emailing [madeinbradfordonavon@gmail.com](mailto:madeinbradfordonavon@gmail.com)

Printed in Wiltshire on sustainably sourced paper. 100% recyclable at home.



Photo of local veterans and Deputy Mayor, Councillor Kate Bessant

Local veterans, residents and the Deputy Mayor came together to mark the 80th anniversary of VJ Day, honouring those who served and sacrificed. The ceremony, organised by the Royal British Legion, was centred around local WWII veteran Roy Booth, 99, a former Royal Navy serviceman (pictured centre).