



the NEWS

Bradford on Avon Town Council

Autumn 2026



Works help stabilise Westbury Garden wall

Over the last year, we've made important progress assessing and repairing the wall at Westbury Garden.

Beginning in spring, contractors carefully removed all the loose masonry from the wall following checks for nesting birds and bats.

We're working with engineers who are designing a scheme that will provide long-term stability for the wall.

We anticipate that further works will take place late autumn.

Why this work is necessary? The wall has deteriorated over time, partly due to pressure from the trunk of London plane tree, which has pushed against the structure of the wall.

The wall has also seen wear and tear from the elements – and was damaged during the November 2024 floods, adding to the need for repairs.

The work was planned by contractors on the advice of a hydrological engineer, and following approval by the Environment Agency.

Because of the works done in spring



■ contractors working on the wall this spring

to relieve the pressure, the wall is no longer at risk of collapsing into the river.

We'd like to thank the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust for donating a £5,000 grant, as well as Secret Garden

for their £2,000 contribution towards the cost of the works.

Their support is helping us protect and care for this important part of the town's heritage.

Free screening of the People's Emergency Briefing

St Margaret's Hall is hosting a free screening of the **People's Emergency Briefing** at 7pm on Wednesday 18 November 2026.

We're all facing a growing climate and nature emergency – but most of us have never been briefed on what that means for our future.

The People's Emergency Briefing is a 50-minute film that brings people together to hear the evidence of what's happening – and to create conversations at local and national levels about what we can do together.

The film sets out the serious threats

using scientific evidence – but also highlights the benefits of taking action and working together.

The film is currently being screened in communities nationwide with the aim of helping communities and decision makers to engage with the same evidence.

The film will be followed by chances to talk with other people at the screening – and will include a structured discussion led by a panel or facilitator.

The film is free to attend – however we're asking people to book their seats in advance to guarantee they're able to

watch the film.

You can book your place by heading over to our Ticket Tailor page or by scanning the nearby QR code: tickettailor.com/events/bradfordonavontowncouncil



You can also find out more about the film and its aims at: nebriefing.org/peb

Keep up to date on what we're doing at bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk



■ Christmas lights in Bradford on Avon

Our upcoming community events

Autumn is one of the busiest times of year for the town council, with some of our biggest and most exciting events taking place between September and December.

One of the highlights is our annual **BOA Fireworks Display**, returning to Poulton Park on Sunday 1 November.

The ever-popular free event will run from 4pm to 7pm, with the fireworks starting at 6pm.

Where possible, please help us keep the event accessible and reduce congestion by walking or using public transport.

If you do need to drive, please park responsibly, avoid blocking access and be considerate of nearby residents.

Then, on Friday 27 November, we'll be bringing back our much-loved **Christmas Lights Switch-On** for an evening of festive fun.

There'll be plenty to enjoy, including an indoor Christmas Gift Fayre in St Margaret's Hall, food and drink, fairground rides, choirs and, of course, a special visit from Santa in his grotto.

Once Mayor Councillor Sam Blackwell has switched on the Christmas lights, **The Enrichments** will take to the stage with their brilliant pop party anthems, bringing the evening to a festive finish.

Businesses in the town will also be open for late night shopping, check out their socials and support local business this Christmas.

And the Christmas fun doesn't stop there. On Wednesday 16 December, we'll be hosting a production of **Cinderella** at St Margaret's Hall from 6pm.

We've loved adding a panto to our Christmas programme, and you can get your tickets here: tickettailor.com/events/bradfordonavontowncouncil/2385637

Teaming building days in our spaces

Did you know we host corporate team building in our green spaces?

Recently, a housing insurance company joined our Nature Volunteers at the willow labyrinth in Barton Farm Country Park for a day of team building and community volunteering.

The team helped clear the labyrinth's paths, weave new willow tapestries and create archways, helping to maintain and improve this unique feature of the park.

They told us that community volunteering days are a great way to grow as a team and individually, while also providing a valuable opportunity to give something back to the local community.

If your organisation is interested in a team-building or community volunteering day in one of our green spaces, please get in touch at greenspaces@bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk.



■ the team from NHBC at the willow labyrinth

Experimental traffic scheme planned



Major changes to Silver Street are planned as Wiltshire Council prepares to live test new traffic and pedestrian measures as part of the wider traffic project.

The changes will be introduced through an Experimental Traffic Regulation Order (ETRO). Unlike a permanent road change, an ETRO allows a local authority to put a scheme into practice and assess how it works before deciding whether to make it permanent.

Over the next 18 months the trial scheme will be designed, developed and then implemented by Wiltshire Council.

An ETRO can remain in place for up to 18 months, giving time to gather evidence, monitor the impact and see how the scheme works in real time. There is also flexibility in that necessary adjustments based on this can also be made in real time.

Under the proposed ETRO, agreed by the town council on 1 September, uphill traffic on Silver Street would be restricted during the busiest times of day, for example from 7am to 7pm.

This would allow the current bus schedule to continue, while uphill traffic would remain permitted outside these hours.

Alongside the traffic restrictions, the scheme will also bring improvements for pedestrians, including wider pavements, courtesy crossings and an improved pedestrian route.

Wiltshire Council is starting with Silver Street because of the high rates of

pedestrian collisions. Wiltshire Council said the changes should reduce traffic on Silver Street and make the area better for pedestrians, residents and businesses.

Clear signage will be used to make sure motorists understand the changes, including when the restrictions apply.

Following approval by the town council, Wiltshire Council's traffic engineers will develop the detailed road and pedestrian improvements, confirm the costs and work to secure funding.

Before the trial can begin, an additional air quality study will also need to be completed. We've asked Wiltshire Council to carry this out as soon as possible.

This marks the next step in the Bradford on Avon traffic project, which started with the Future of Transport survey late 2021.

We also stressed that Wiltshire Council should look at ways to improve safety at the top of Market Street and consider measures to manage additional traffic on Mount Pleasant, Sladesbrook, New Road and Springfield during daytime hours. Town councillors also reiterated their support for a town-wide 20mph speed limit.

We'll continue to keep residents updated as the project progresses.

However, the pavement improvements in Market Street and Silver Street will be designed and implemented separately to the ETRO. For the latest information, including a map of the proposals, please keep an eye on our website and social media channels.

Summer time events in BOA



■ photo courtesy of ATBShop

This summer – yet again – we've been excited to organise and support a variety of events across the town.

In July, skateboarders, riders and BMXers of all ages took to the ramps at Poulton Park skatepark for another brilliant BOA Skate Jam.

The event featured competitions and activities for everyone, from experienced riders to those trying wheeled sports for the first time.

BOA Youth joined in with family activities too, including giant Jenga and a marble run.

Then at the start of September, over 500 people returned to St Margaret's Hall for this year's Flower & Produce Show.

It was a fantastic event, with a record number of entries across the much-loved competition categories.

If you've never been along, the Flower & Produce Show is a celebration of local talent, with residents showcasing everything from vegetables and flowers to homemade cakes, bread, preserves, crafts and photography – all hoping to take home one of the coveted cups and friendly bragging rights for the year.

You can read more about the events and upcoming events on our website.



Talk of the town: news in brief

■ Following on from this summer's **BOA Join In**, we're going to be launching a new quarterly email bulletin which will share news and updates about community groups and volunteering opportunities in in the town. Sign up to the BOA Join In email bulletin by visiting our website: bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/volunteer/

■ This summer, we welcomed Sean Fletcher from **South West in Bloom to BOA**. He was tasked with judging the town's entry for the horticulture competition, as well as all the In Your Neighbourhood entries.

■ Recently, the Town Wardens gave one of the town's old red phone boxes a refresh. The phone box on Church Street, next to the Catholic church, is now home to a selection of tourist information leaflets

– and a handy town map. In there you can also find useful information about climate action and leaflets from the BOA Museum.

■ We've teamed up with Dementia Action Alliance to bring back the **Wednesday Matinee Club**. The monthly, fully accessible and dementia-friendly film club is a chance to enjoy a film, meet new people and catch up with old friends. Tickets cost £6, with carers attending for free, and refreshments are available. The screenings are designed to be comfortable for people living with dementia, with the hall lights kept on, large subtitles and an intermission during the film.

■ The **West Wiltshire Business Expo** is coming on Thursday 8 October, offering local businesses a chance to learn, make new connections and hear from industry experts. The programme includes keynote speakers, talks and panel

discussions covering topics such as AI, finance, technology, cyber security, HR, sustainability and marketing, as well as networking opportunities with businesses from across Wiltshire. Tickets are free, so, why not book your place at: bit.ly/3UvBXxG

■ We're working towards becoming a Watermark Town – a network of towns working to save water, manage rainwater, reduce runoff and improve the local environment. As part of the project we're hosting a forum called **Taking Water for Granted** on Thursday 22 October, 6.30pm at St Margaret's Hall. With a summer of heat waves, drought and wildfires plus the ever-present threat of flooding, three expert speakers will help us understand the water supply in our town.

Welcome to our new staff members

Since the last newsletter, we've had a turnover of town council team members. Roz Surtees is our new Business Support Officer, looking after our front desk and front-facing enquiries.

Alex Hayward has joined us as our new Venues & Facilities Officer. If you've booked an event at the hall recently, you

may have already met him!

Alex will be supported by Ali Jewers, who has joined the team as a Town Warden and Venues Officer.

Joining our BOA Youth team are Bev Churcher, our new Deputy Co-ordinator, and Olha Koptieva, who has joined as a new team member.

Tourist Information Centre finds new home in St Margaret's Hall

The town's Tourist Information Centre, or TIC, has moved into St Margaret's Hall. It officially reopened in late September with Mayor, Councillor Sam Blackwell cutting the ribbon alongside the volunteers.

The move happened during August and September – and the volunteers who run the TIC have been getting used to their new surroundings.

The entrance to the TIC is to the side of St Margaret's Hall – by McKeever Bridge – not through the double doors into the main hall.

Tourism & Events Officer, Katie Ponsford said: "It's very exciting to be in St Margaret's Hall – and we're looking forward to welcoming lots of visitors to the town and letting them know about all the things there are to see and do in Bradford on Avon.

"And if you live in the town, you might be surprised at what's in the TIC for residents.

"There's so much information about Bradford on Avon and the surrounding areas.

"Our team of volunteers have so much passion and knowledge, you might discover things and places you never knew," she added.

The TIC also stocks a range of unique, bespoke and very local gifts, from limited edition water bottles to tea towels and prints.

The volunteers are expecting a busy Christmas in their new home, when we stock Christmas cards for a range of charities and good causes.

If you have a passion for the town and

you have the time, we'd love to hear from you about becoming part of the TIC team. New volunteers are supported and trained and as a volunteer, you'll also be able to visit plenty of amazing places in and around Wiltshire.

The volunteers are not unused to travels, and in the last year they've visited the Kettlesmith Brewery, Ilford Manor, the American Museum & Gardens, Quoins Organic Vineyard, Corsham Court, Westwood Manor, Bath Holburne Museum and Bowood. There was also trips out on the Barbara McLellan canal boat, as well as a walking tour around Bradford on Avon.

These socials help the volunteers keep up with the local attractions, and give the opportunity to socialise with other volunteers.

This has also been taken a step further with a couple of joint trips with Corsham TIC volunteers to The Hall in Bradford on Avon and Bath Abbey (pictured).

If you'd like sign up as a TIC volunteer, please visit: bradfordonavontowncouncil.gov.uk/your-community/volunteer/tourist-information-centre-volunteers/



Our committee meetings

Town council meetings at 7pm in St Margaret's Hall

- Environment & Green Spaces
Tuesday 14 October
- Community & Wellbeing
Tuesday 27 October
- Full Council
Tuesday 10 November
- Sustainable Development & Travel
Tuesday 24 November
- Resources
Tuesday 1 December
- Environment & Green Spaces
Tuesday 8 December
- Full Council
Tuesday 5 January 2027

Hidden Corners photo trail

Together with the town's photography group and the Preservation Trust, we've created a photo trail that will challenge and encourage you to discover the hidden corners of the town.

The new photo trail is a spiritual successor to Jonathan Hewat's photo challenge book, originally published in 2000. Jonathan's book tasked readers with finding the hidden nooks and crannies of Bradford on Avon – interesting things and places they might otherwise have missed in the town.

Our new trail does something similar. Working with local photographers and the Preservation Trust, we've put together a trail of 16 photos revealing the hidden heritage of Bradford on Avon – encouraging you to explore the town and look at things (and see things) differently.

The trail is free to take – and available from the Tourist Information Centre and in local shops.



■ Deputy Mayor Kevin Elliott presented with a painting of Norden and local landmarks.

■ In July, Bradford on Avon welcomed 53 visitors from our German twin town of Norden. The group enjoyed local trips and a civic reception. Next year, the German Twinning Association will be visiting Norden. If you're interested in finding out more about our twinning, you can email boanorden@gmail.com

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