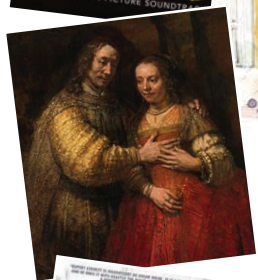


WHAT'S ON
September - January 2026

CLIFTON LIBRARY



Talks Activities
Singing **Films**
MUSIC WELLBEING
Book Club



Support and enjoy your library

Clifton Library, in the heart of Clifton Village, is a warm welcoming space free for everyone to use. It is the only council owned public building in Clifton and a vital community resource. The Friends of the Library group (FoCCaL) works hard to support the library and welcomes help with events and activities, new members and new ideas. We'd love to hear from you! Contact **hello@foccal.com** or leave a note in the library.

Address

Clifton Library, Princess Victoria Street,
Clifton, Bristol BS8 4BX

Phone: **0117 9038572**

Email: **clifton.library@bristol.gov.uk**

www.bristol.gov.uk/libraries

Opening times

MONDAY	10-2pm
TUESDAY	1-5pm
WEDNESDAY	CLOSED
THURSDAY	1-5pm
FRIDAY	10-2pm
SATURDAY	1-5pm
SUNDAY	CLOSED

Getting here

Bus No 8 & 505

Bike There are bike racks in the courtyard and nearby.

Library facilities

- **Books** - you can borrow books for free, order any book, e-book, audiobook, dvd, cd and music from 150 libraries in the South West and pick-up in Clifton with email notification when the item arrives. You can return books from other libraries at Clifton.
- **Magazines** are available to read in the library.
- **Free wifi** and **computer** use.
- **Photocopier** and **scanner** (charges apply).
- **Garden refuse sacks** (£2.50 each).
- **Accessible toilet** on the ground floor.

Join the library

Become a library member and you can use any library in Bristol. Join at Clifton library or any other library or online.



Library online resources

The library has a fantastic range of online resources, which you can use free of charge.

- Search your family history with **Ancestry**, stream classical music with **Naxos**, practise your **Driving Theory Test**, access to business resources and much more. If you're a library member, you can use most of these resources from home.
- There is also a range of online newspapers and magazines. Visit [bristol libraries website](http://bristol-libraries.gov.uk) or ask in the library.



REGULAR ACTIVITIES and GROUPS

Library and independent activities

Rhyme & Storytime **FREE**

Mondays & Fridays 10.30 - 11am

Suitable for 0-3 years.

No need to book just turn up.

Storytime Sessions **FREE**

Tuesdays 2.30 - 3pm

Suitable for 1-4 years.

No need to book just turn up.

Councillors' Surgery **FREE**

1st Wednesday every month 5 - 6pm

No need to book - just turn up.

Jerome Thomas & Paula O'Rourke are your councillors for Clifton ward. *'Come and see us if you have an issue you'd like to discuss in person or if you just want to meet us for a chat.'*

Singing led by Kate McNab **£5**

Saturdays 11 - 12 noon

Just turn up, no experience necessary.

All ages and abilities welcome. Good for breathing, good for mental health.

Friendly and fun.

Yoga Class

Thursdays 10am - 11.30pm

A gentle, mindful class. It's about tuning into yourself rather than knotting your knees behind your head. Contact Em Sawday on 07833 751235 if you feel interested and would like to know more.

Dance for Women with Wendy Buonaventura

FREE (donations welcomed)

Mondays 12.15pm

A 30 minute dance class for women of all ages who want to keep their body in tune.

FoCCaL regular events details page 14

Tai Chi with Don **FREE** (donations welcomed)

Tuesdays 10 - 10.45am

Our first block of sessions for autumn starts on

Tuesday 30th September.

Please check notice board and website.



Play Bridge **FREE** (donations welcomed)

Wednesdays

10.30am - 12.30pm

Drop-in.



Table Tennis **FREE** (donations welcomed)

Mondays

1.30 - 2.30pm

Wednesdays

11am - 1pm Drop-in.

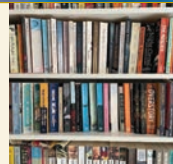


Book Group

FREE (donations welcomed)

Last Tuesday of the month

10.30 - 12 noon Drop-in.

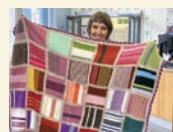


Clifton Crafters

FREE (donations welcomed)

Wednesdays 10.30 - 12.30pm

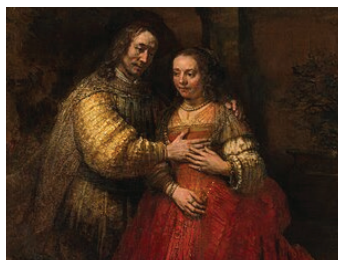
Drop-in session.



Dance for Women

Book on www.foccal.com or on the door if tickets are still available on the night

OCTOBER



Jonathan Camp - Art History Talk

Thursday 9th October Talk 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

Jonathan Camp, a local art historian who lectures all around Bristol and has led many tours in Europe, including to Amsterdam, Paris, Venice and Vienna, returns to Clifton Library this autumn. Jonathan will discuss the composition and style of Rembrandt's mesmeric the Jewish Bride (c1665), before going on to interpret the painting in the context of the world of its creation, and suggest reasons for the work's relevance today.



Telling Tales: An evening of short stories

Tuesday 14th October

Event 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

Here's your chance to hear three local authors share their writing and experiences. Ali Bacon, Claire Jaggard and Hilary Smith have won competitions, awards and plaudits for their fiction. Come along and prepare to be amazed, moved and entertained by a medley of short stories, flash fiction and tantalising extracts from work in progress.

David Parker: 'Season of Mists...' The Countryside in Autumn

Tuesday 21st October Talk 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**



Autumn is a time of change in the countryside, for its wildlife and for the people who work that countryside. David Parker has spent many years filming some of these almost ritual changes, from gathering in the product of the land and harvest, the festivals, fetes and celebrations that take place at this time of year. Come to an evening and be inspired by Laurie Lee and Dorothy Hartley's reflections on autumn, be charmed by the films of the gathering the fruits of the land, be surprised

by the way in which traditions that we thought had died, persist and be entertained by the cavorting of the folk from East Brent at their harvest home.

NOVEMBER



David Parker: First part of Quiz So you think you know the West Country!

Friday 7th November

Talk 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

Can you tell your Exe from your Wye?
Can you separate Weymouth from
Lynmouth? Can you tell the difference
between a dialect from rural Somerset and
one from rural Gloucestershire? And what on

earth is the Wap at Roundwick? Just some of the questions in this Friday evening quiz with a difference. With a glass of wine in hand, and team members to help out, test your knowledge of the West Country: its history, geography, culture, music and character in the convivial surroundings of Clifton Library.

Clifton LitFest

14th, 15th, 16th November

VARIOUS PRICES

A weekend full of talks, poetry and music at Clifton Library, Clifton Club, Christ Church and Clifton High School.

See website for full details. Brochures will be available at the library and at various points around the village.

Guest speakers include:



Lucy McGrath

Martin Parr



Elliot Caunce Photography

Peter Frankopan



David Hartley

Amy Jeffs



Caroline Lucas

Deborah Moggach



Urszula Soltys

Rory Carroll



David Bolton: 'War Stories' The Experiences of Women in the Second World War



27th November Talk 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

David Bolton talked to over 50 women, most of them from Bristol, about their experiences in the Second World War. These recorded conversations, together with diaries and memoirs, then became the material for a book: War Stories. All the women tell their very personal stories with an amazing memory for detail and great honesty - perhaps because this was their last chance to record what it was really like to be a girl or young woman in these extraordinary times. In his talk David Bolton recounts many of these quirky, terrifying, humorous and sometimes heroic war stories.

DECEMBER



David Parker: Second part of Quiz

So you think you know the West Country!

Friday 5th December

Talk 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

Another chance to test your local knowledge!
(See 21st October for details)



Variety Show

Saturday 13th and Sunday 14th December £5

Saturday 7.30 Bar from 7pm

Sunday 6pm Bar from 5.30pm

A chance to watch another entertaining show performed by your neighbours - lots of laughs and fun.

See website for more details nearer the time.

JANUARY 2026



Jonathan Camp: Art History Talk

Thursday 15th January

Talk 7pm Bar from 6.30pm **£5**

Jonathan Camp, a local art historian who lectures all around Bristol and has led many tours in Europe, including to Amsterdam, Paris, Venice and Vienna, returns to Clifton Library

this New Year. Jonathan will discuss the composition and style of Picasso's astonishing *Guernica* (1937), before going on to interpret the painting in the context of the world of its creation, and suggest reasons for the work's relevance today.



Brian Price: Poisons in Fact and Fiction

Tuesday 20th January Talk 7pm Bar opens at 6.30 **£5**

Cyanide, arsenic, strychnine - familiar words to crime readers! But what is the allure of poisons to the writer and also the murderer? Crime writer and scientist Brian Price will describe what makes something poisonous and briefly discuss how various poisons work, from natural substances such as digitalis and ricin to synthetic chemicals such as Novichok.

He will look at famous poisoners in history, such as Toffana, the Borgias and Dr Crippen and then discuss how poisons are used in fiction, from Chaucer, Shakespeare and the golden age mysteries of Agatha Christie, and her contemporaries, to modern writers such as M.W.Craven. He will describe how fiction writers get things right and where authors often make mistakes with poisons. He will explain why there is no truly undetectable poison and comment on some difficulties in determining whether someone has been poisoned.



Stephen Williams: Tracing family histories

Tuesday 27th January Talk 7pm Bar opens at 6.30 **£5**

Curious about your family tree? Ever wondered who lived in your home before you? Bristol Libraries can help you uncover your roots! Join us for a talk by genealogist, former MP, and city councillor Stephen Williams, who brings 40 years of experience tracing family histories. Stephen will share tips, tools, and sources to help you explore your ancestry - whether you're just starting out or looking to fill in the gaps. Come along and get inspired!

All screenings start at 7pm Bar opens at 6.30pm

The Ballad of Wallis Island **Rated 15**

Friday 26th September

Old tensions resurface when former bandmates who were former lovers reunite for a private show at the island home of an eccentric millionaire.



Sinners **Rated R**

Friday 31st October

“Sinners” is a 2025 American period action horror film directed by Ryan Coogler, set in the Mississippi Delta in 1932. The story follows twin brothers who return to their hometown hoping to start anew, but find themselves facing a supernatural evil intertwined with the Ku Klux Klan.

The film stars Michael B. Jordan in dual roles as the brothers, with Hailee Steinfeld and Miles Caton in supporting roles. “Sinners” is described as a “rich and riveting saga of the South and the supernatural” with elements of horror, thriller, and even romance.

Dark Waters Rated 12A

Friday 28th November

"Dark Waters" is a 2019 legal thriller based on a true story. It follows corporate defense attorney Rob Bilott (Mark Ruffalo) as he investigates the poisoning of a West Virginia community by the chemical company DuPont. Despite initially defending chemical companies, Bilott takes on the case, risking his career and family to expose DuPont's decades-long cover-up of toxic waste dumping.



The Blue Caftan Rated 12A

Friday 30th January

"The Blue Caftan" tells the story of Halim and Mina, a couple who run a traditional caftan store in Morocco. Their lives are disrupted by Mina's illness and the arrival of a young apprentice named Youssef, which forces them to confront their hidden emotions and the complexities of their relationship, including Halim's homosexuality. The film explores themes of love, acceptance, and the delicate balance between tradition and modernity.

If you have suggestions for films you would like included in our next programme starting in February 2026 please contact us on: hello@focal.com

Also please check website www.focal.com for updates and any last minute changes.

Thanks to a generous donation we are able to continue showing our fortnightly matinees. There is no charge for these events and there will be free tea and coffee available but you are welcome to contribute.



Secrets and Lies

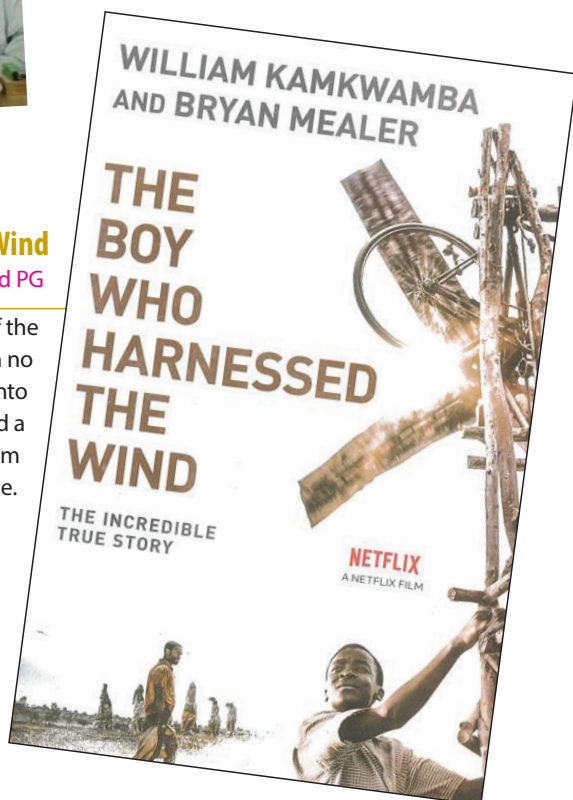
Wednesday 8th October Rated 15

The film follows Hortense, a young black woman searching for her birth mother, who discovers her mother is Cynthia, a white, working-class woman with a troubled family life. The story explores themes of identity, family secrets, and the impact of hidden truths on relationships, culminating in a powerful scene where these secrets are revealed.

The Boy who Harnessed the Wind

Wednesday 22nd October Rated PG

A 13-year-old boy is thrown out of the school he loves when his family can no longer afford the fees. He sneaks into the library and learns how to build a windmill to save his village from a famine.



FREE FREE

FREE FREE FREE



CINEMA
FOR
ALL

The Keeper Rated 15
Wednesday 5th November

The Keeper is the semi-fictionalised true story of Bert Trautmann, German POW turned Manchester City goalkeeping legend.

Love me or Leave me Rated PG
Wednesday 19th November

During the 1920s, a small-time Chicago criminal, Martin Snyder (James Cagney), discovers a beautiful dancer, Ruth Etting (Doris Day), after she's fired from her job at a nightclub. Under Martin's management, Ruth works her way to the top of the entertainment industry, eventually becoming a famous jazz singer and Broadway actress. But as Ruth's popularity grows, Martin's obsessive and controlling behavior begins to threaten her success and happiness.





The Happy Prince Rated 15

Wednesday 3rd December

The untold story of the last days in the tragic times of Oscar Wilde, a person who observes his own failure with ironic distance and regards the difficulties that beset his life with detachment and humour.

Dream Horse Rated PG

Wednesday 17th December

Dream Horse tells the inspiring true story of Jan Vokes, a Welsh woman who rallies her community to breed and race a champion thoroughbred named Dream Alliance. Despite their lack of experience and financial resources, they overcome significant odds, uniting to pursue their unlikely dream of competing against the racing elite.





Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid Rated PG Wednesday 7th January

The 1969 western paired Paul Newman and Robert Redford to magical effect and remains one of the most undeniably entertaining westerns to date.

A Real Pain Rated 15 Wednesday 21st January

Mismatched cousins David (Jesse Eisenberg) and Benji (Kieran Culkin) reunite for a tour through Poland to honour their beloved grandmother. The adventure takes a turn when the odd-couple's old tensions resurface against the backdrop of their family history.



Book Club Last Tuesday of each month 10.30 - 12.00pm**FREE (donations welcomed)**

Join our friendly, informal book group. We will read and discuss a book each month over tea and coffee. Books are suggested and chosen by the group, covering a wide range of subjects and genres. There is no need to buy the chosen book whenever possible copies will be reserved by the library.

Check website for book choices each month.

**Clifton Crafters** Wednesdays 10.30 - 12.30pm**FREE (donations welcomed)**

Bring along that 'UFO' (Un-finished Object). We all have craft ideas we have started and now they are lurking in a drawer unloved – dig them out and come and share a morning of Knitting, Crochet, Tapestry, Cross Stitch, Rag Rugs or whatever you would love to resurrect or mend!

No skill needed we will all be at different levels and will encourage each other to try new skills and help with problems - *if we can!*

**Tai Chi Qigong Shibashi with Don****Tuesdays** 10 - 10.45am **FREE (donations welcomed)**

A friendly, drop in session. Tai Chi Qigong Shibashi for health and well-being, a gentle flowing exercise routine. Deeply relaxing, improves balance, breathing and flexibility, suitable for all ages, and mobility, it can be performed seated.

Table Tennis**Mondays** 1.30 - 2.30pm and **Wednesdays** 11.00 - 1.00pm **FREE (donations welcomed)**

A mixed ability, informal table tennis group. Drop in for a game, or come along to learn how to play, or refresh past skills. Table tennis bats available but bring your own if you have one.

Play Bridge**Wednesdays** 10.30am - 12.30pm **FREE (donations welcomed)**

FoCCaL have successfully run a beginner and an intermediate bridge class for the past two years and those two groups will continue on Wednesday mornings at 10.30. We welcome new members who already have a grounding in 5 card major/high no trump bridge to join in too.

MAKE THE MOST OF YOUR LIBRARY



Volunteering

The library offers volunteering opportunities to assist the work of paid library staff.

If you are interested please contact libraries.

volunteering@bristol.gov.uk.

We have several possible roles, but would particularly be interested in anyone wanting to support people with IT skills, start a chess club or a coding club.

Help with events ! Get in touch ! Join us !

email: hello@foccal.com

www.foccal.com or leave a note in the library

Check our noticeboard for updates.

Thank you for supporting Clifton Library!

Hire the library

The ground floor space of the library is available to hire when the library is closed. The bookshelves are on wheels and can be easily moved to create a large space. Large screen and AV equipment available.

Meeting room on the 1st floor - light and airy with lift access.

Contact: Library staff.



Libraries are available as normal this year if you need a warm space

DIARY OF EVENTS

BAR FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR ALL EVENING EVENTS

Visit our website for details and booking: www.foccal.com **Booking not required for free events.**

SEPTEMBER			
26th Sept	7pm	Friday Film - The Ballad of Wallis Island	£5
OCTOBER			
8th Oct	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - Secrets and Lies	FREE
9th Oct	7pm	Jonathan Camp - Art History Talk (Rembrandt's 'Jewish Bride')	£5
14th Oct	7pm	Telling Tales - An evening of short stories	£5
21st Oct	7pm	David Parker - Season of Mists	£5
22nd Oct	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - The Boy who Harnessed the Wind	FREE
31st Oct	7pm	Friday Film - Sinners	£5
NOVEMBER			
5th Nov	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - The Keeper	FREE
7th Nov	7pm	David Parker - First part of Quiz	£5
14th - 16th Nov		CLIFTON LITFEST	Various
19th Nov	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - Love me or Leave me	FREE
27th Nov	7pm	David Bolton - War Stories	£5
28th Nov	7pm	Friday Film - Dark Waters	£5
DECEMBER			
3rd Dec	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - The Happy Prince	FREE
5th Dec	7pm	David Parker - Second part of Quiz	£5
13th Dec	7.30pm	Variety Show	£5
14th Dec	6pm	Variety Show	£5
17th Dec	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - Dream Horse	FREE
JANUARY 2026			
7th Jan	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid	FREE
15th Jan	7pm	Jonathan Camp - Art History Talk (Picasso's 'Guernica')	£5
20th Jan	7pm	Brian Price - Poisons in Fact and Fiction	£5
21st Jan	2pm	Wednesday Matinee - A Real Pain	FREE
27th Jan	7pm	Stephen Williams - Tracing family histories	£5
30th Jan	7pm	Friday Film - The Blue Caftan	£5