



# THE CLIFTON CLUB MAGAZINE



**CELEBRATING 202 YEARS  
OF COMMUNITY IN  
CLIFTON VILLAGE**



**ON THE SOFA WITH...**  
Redefining Business  
Networking Events

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The Clifton Club's youngest  
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**MAKING MEMORIES**  
Memorable occasions where  
we are able to come together

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## AN INTRODUCTION FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Welcome to The Clifton Club's first-ever annual magazine. The following pages provide an insight into Club life and celebrate our community of Members in Clifton Village.

I am incredibly proud to be Chairman of one of Bristol's longest standing institutions, however upon taking the role in 2019, there was no way to predict my tenure would include one of the rare times that The Clifton Club has actually had to close its doors on the Mall due to Covid-19.

It is testimony to our community of Members that The Clifton Club has not just weathered the impact of this pandemic but has emerged stronger and more connected than ever before. The importance of community, social engagements and supporting local business has never been more prominent than it is today, and I am overwhelmed by the support that Clifton Club Members have for our Club and most importantly for each other.

Upon re-opening our doors, it was clear to see the importance The Club has in the lives of our Members. Whether it is meeting a friend for a drink, joining our successful monthly business events, getting involved in Club sporting tournaments, enjoying our variety of special events, fine dining with family or singing in the choir – the sum is even greater than its parts.

I would like to wish the very best to our neighbours in Clifton Village and I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to support your local businesses. I would also like to wish the very best to those 67 Clubs around the world with which The Clifton Club enjoys a reciprocal arrangement.

I hope you enjoy reading about the Club in these pages. I am truly optimistic that our community will continue to grow and flourish, so if you're not already a Member and would like to find out more please visit the website and I look forward to seeing you at the bar very soon.

Mike Beesley  
Chairman

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### ROYCE OF THE ROLLS

Real life, hard hitting crime stories, presented live with Sir John Royce.



### FINE DINING AT THE CLUB

A delectable marriage of traditional British and modern French cuisine

INSIDE:



# CELEBRATING COMMUNITY IN CLIFTON VILLAGE FOR 200 YEARS



Overlooking The Mall gardens in Clifton Village, The Clifton Club's magnificent, historic building radiates comfort, luxury and charm to a warm community of Members. Founded in 1818 to create a haven for social and professional relationships, special events, fine dining, games and literature, The Club's culture of friendship and community has continued for more than 200 years.

Originally The Hotel and Assembly Rooms, commissioned in 1807 by John Lewis Auriol, a senior merchant of The East India Company, this iconic Clifton building became home to The Clifton Club. Francis Howard Greenway was contracted to construct the building, however following disputes on this and other projects, Greenway was found guilty of forgery and was deported to

New South Wales where he blossomed, and is today known as 'the father of Australian architecture'. In 1918 the entire clubhouse was handed over to the fledgling Royal Air Force as accommodation for its trainee officers and during the Second World War, supported the Allied planning staff who were based in Clifton prior to the D-Day landings.

Clifton Club Members have also made their mark in history: Nicolas Roche rowed down the Avon in support of Isambard Kingdom Brunel as he surveyed the route for the Great Western Railway. The premise of The Clifton College was realised at The Club and W G Grace held members transfixed with tales of his cricketing prowess.

Today, The Clifton Club is proud to create a rich environment for Members to enjoy an array of activities, special

events and professional networking opportunities with the aim of bringing people together in a warm inclusive community. Whether you're catching up with an old friend over a drink in the Drawing Room Bar; enjoying one of Head Chef, Philip Clench's culinary delights; competing in one of our golf or snooker tournaments or benefiting from our business networking opportunities, The Club provides a welcoming and interesting environment like no other in Bristol.

Under magnificent grand chandeliers, Members can enjoy Head Chef Phil Clench's unique weekly menus, incorporating locally sourced and environmentally sustainable, fresh ingredients to create incredible cuisine. In addition to private tables, The Club's 'Club Table' accommodates individual Members wishing to dine with friends

and regularly hosts up to 16 Members embracing our community spirit.

The Club's exciting and varied social calendar comprises of regular themed and formal special events, which have recently featured as Black & White Tie occasions, Murder On The Orient Express, Shakespeare and Moulin Rouge, to name a few. The Club's special events transform the building into a wonder of decoration, design and occasion. 'Murders Most Extraordinary' are gripping tales of real crimes from one of the country's most illustrious high court judges, making this dinner occasion gripping and not for the faint hearted! Celebrity sports dinners and live interviews with some of Bristol's most powerful business minds inspire and excite, whilst bringing people together both socially and professionally.

Over recent months, the world has seen

a huge change to 'the norm', which has not only had an effect upon The Clifton Club but our Members too. Throughout this time The Club has adapted to provide more support for our community of Members by introducing a groceries delivery service for those unable to source groceries and in need of assistance; a Member Directory to keep our Members connected throughout isolation; an Isolation Resource HUB to inform our Members of the most up to date changes of Government Guidance and digital content for our Members to enjoy from their homes during lockdown.

2020 will always be remembered at The Clifton Club as a time when our community of Members came together to support each other throughout the global pandemic and a time which heightened the importance of community, consideration and friendship.

## ON THE SOFA WITH.... REDEFINING BUSINESS NETWORKING

Upon becoming Chairman of The Clifton Club, Mike Beesley created a business networking event unlike any other, which has become an incredibly successful and popular feature of The Club's social calendar.

The Club's new Member Business Networking Club encompasses an "On The Sofa With..." interview, hosted by Mike, discussing professional and personal success stories with some of Bristol's most successful business personalities, who are also Members of The Clifton Club.

The evenings are designed to inspire and educate our Members, whatever stage of their professional career and the sell-out attendances of these events speak for themselves. The Club's relationships with Members in a variety of industries allow for sponsorship opportunities for these events, providing attendees with complimentary drinks, which have previously been hosted by Mimi Avery of Avery's of Bristol and buffet style nibbles created by The Clifton Club's Head Chef Philip Clench.

The Club has been privileged to have many successful and powerful business personalities speak at our events including Peaches Golding OBE, Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of The County and City of Bristol; Dr. John Manley, High Sheriff of the County of the City of Bristol; Andrew Billingham, Managing Director of YTL Arena Bristol and Chair of The Prince's Trust South West Development Committee; Mark Kelly, Managing Director for Ashton Gate Ltd and Bristol Sport Ltd; Stephanie Wheen, CEO and Founder of Gympanzees and Andrew Scott CEO and publisher of Business Leader Magazine and founder of Ascot Group and many more.

The Clifton Club's Member Business Networking Events have become one of Bristol's most prestigious professional networking events. The warm and luxurious environment at The Club provides the perfect environment to allow professional relationships to flourish following inspirational interviews with some of Bristol's most powerful and illustrious professionals.

If you would like to learn more about the business networking opportunities at The Clifton Club, please visit The Clifton Club's website at [www.thecliftonclub.co.uk](http://www.thecliftonclub.co.uk) to see the full array of those interviewed On The Sofa and to read their fascinating biographies.



## ROYCE OF THE ROLLS MURDERS MOST EXTRAORDINARY

The Clifton Club specialises in a variety of themed, topical and extravagant events. In late 2019, Clifton Club Member Sir John Royce, one of the UK's most illustrious retired High Court Judges, began hosting a series of talks over dinner and drinks, where he would discuss his most extraordinary cases. Sir John Royce has been involved in over 150 murder cases, first as a barrister, then as a Judge. He has also tried many other extraordinary cases, some sexual, some bizarre, some shocking and some tragic.

Murders Most Extraordinary, the first event in the series, saw a full Dining Room enjoy a three course freshly prepared dining experience by The Club's Head Chef, Phil Clench and a live presentation by Sir John Royce introducing some of the UK's most explicit murder cases. From a school boy and talented tennis player killing his parents; a man's miraculous survival of a neighbour's attempted murder involving tarantulas and pushing over a cliff; a contract killer taking the wrong turn off a roundabout and executing the wrong person; a French au pair in London who ended up on a barbecue and a horrific tale of a man and woman meeting online before a tragic ending to their real life meeting. This gripping evening held Members transfixed to the point that tickets to Sir John's second event, "Is The Female More Devious Than The Male?" sold out within minutes of release.

"Is The Female More Devious Than The Male?" enjoyed the same successful line up with a presentation including a woman poisoning her lover; a tragic Bristol tale involving an attempted murder which ended in euthanasia; a woman dismembering her husband and discarding the weapon, (and member itself), in a field and many others.

REAL LIFE, HARD HITTING CRIME  
STORIES, PRESENTED LIVE WITH  
SIR JOHN ROYCE.



The success of Sir John's series of thrilling crime tales has resulted in future events being organised including, "Laughter in Court? Surely Not!", where Sir John will discuss the humorous incidents which can take place in Court, even during the most serious of cases; "Shocking Sex", the tales of terrible and infamous British sex offences; "Villainy or Tragedy? Murder or Accident?" - cases such as that of a mother whose baby sadly died of SIDS, (cot death), but a year later she started to believe she must have smothered her child and handed herself in. Eventually she was tried for murder, but it was proved she suffered from false memory syndrome and was acquitted. Additionally, Sir John will discuss some bizarre cases on the topic of accidental murder during sex, before continuing with the incredibly popular "Murders Most Extraordinary Part 2" series.

If you enjoy crime thrillers, The Clifton Club's Royce of The Rolls live events will have you on the edge of your seat as Sir John provides an incredible insight into some real life cases so unbelievable, you would have thought they were fiction. For more information or to find out how to become a Member of The Clifton Club, please get in touch today.



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This is a membership club that includes two dinners per year at the Clifton Club, a summer drinks event and other social occasions.

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# A CLUB ACROSS GENERATIONS

## WITH SIMON BROOKS & WILLIAM BOTSFORD

The Clifton Club is incredibly proud of its rich heritage and for having featured as a pillar of the community in Clifton Village for more than two hundred years. It is not only The Club's beautiful venue or providing a place for our Members to socialise, dine, play games or come together for celebrations which has ensured the prosperity of The Club for more than two centuries. The long standing relationships between The Club and Members are the true success story.

In 1949, the world was a very different place to what it is today. Winston Churchill was Time Magazines "Man of The Year", George Orwell published "1984", the Trans-Atlantic Treaty was signed as part of the formation of NATO, the famous "Hollywood" sign changed from it's original, "Hollywoodland" and The Bristol Type 167 Brabazon aircraft conducted its maiden flight from Filton Aerodrome.

On October 1st 1949, a gentleman named Simon Brooks became a Member of The Clifton Club at the tender age of eighteen. Simon has continued his Membership at The Clifton Club for 71 consecutive years, making him the longest standing Member in Clifton Club history. In 2020, at the age of 89, Simon introduced his grandson, William Botsford, to The Clifton Club thus ensuring that the long standing relationship between The Clifton Club and the Brooks family continues throughout generations. The world may be a very different place today to what

it was in 1949, however those reasons which led to Simon becoming a Member of The Clifton Club remain consistent with the value that William places on his Membership. This is testament to not only the values of community, friendship and social activities remaining ever present in society, but also to The Clifton Club for providing the local community with something so much more than just a Membership.

Simon remembers his reasons for joining The Clifton Club as, "The Club was a safe haven, where I could enjoy drinking and socialising with friends, play squash, develop my professional network and learn from the more experienced and older Members at The Club". Over 70 years later, William shares similar values in his Membership to The Club, expressing an interest in "developing a professional network, learning from

"THE CLUB WAS A SAFE HAVEN, WHERE I COULD ENJOY DRINKING AND SOCIALISING WITH FRIENDS, PLAY SQUASH, DEVELOP MY PROFESSIONAL NETWORK AND LEARN FROM THE MORE EXPERIENCED AND OLDER MEMBERS."



the more experienced professional Members and enjoying the fantastic food that The Club offers for lunch and dinner". Simon and William have attended several of The Club's Member Business Networking events, providing an opportunity to meet new friends, develop William's professional network and learn from the experiences of those successful Members participating in live audience interviews. Simon is also a regular attendee at The Club's "Club Table" for lunch, where he enjoys dining with fellow Members.

At the time that Simon began his Membership with the Clifton Club, he lived in digs, hosted by a Mrs. Haste, who provided him with breakfast and evening meals throughout his time as a student studying Chartered Accountancy. Simon worked at Curtis Jenkins Cornwall & Co. which were located at number 44 Corn Street, (now an Italian restaurant), and he remembers "a poky little office with a coal fire". Simon remembers life in Bristol during 1949 to be "celebratory in nature due to the war having ended, there were still

coupons issued for acquiring clothes and food and also construction with the redevelopment of many buildings in Bristol which were destroyed during the war". Simon only visited Clifton, (on his AJS 350 motorcycle), for the enhancement of his social activities and he also remembers needing to achieve 6 (six) signature endorsements on his membership application to The Clifton Club for maintaining the exclusivity of what was then, a gentlemen only private members Club. In 2006, The Club opened up its doors to women Members and Simon's wife Helen joined in 2008.

Today we see the largest number of Members there has ever been throughout The Club's 200 year history. The values of friendship, community and professional development have all contributed to The Clifton Club's longevity over the past 200 years, however it is the longstanding relationships that The Club has with Members and their families, on which The Club prides itself and this is one of the reasons why the Club will continue to prosper for many years to come.



# INTRODUCING JOSHUA MUDIE

THE CLIFTON CLUB'S YOUNGEST  
EVER DIRECTOR



**A**t the tender age of 25 Joshua Mudie became The Clifton Club's youngest ever director. The Clifton Club is effectively owned by Members, and a board of non-executive directors oversee committees and the management of The Club.

Originally from Bexley, South London, Joshua Mudie moved to Bristol in 2012 to attend the University of Bristol to study Civil Engineering and has recently completed his PhD in Timber Concrete Composites. Joshua has been a Member of The Club since 2016 and now plays an integral role in the continued growth of The Club and Club activities.

Joshua currently chairs the Advisory Board (an initiative he originally proposed) which strives to provide Member suggestions for continuous improvement and engagement. He also sits on the Events Committee, who are the geniuses behind creating spectacular events, transforming The Club into a wonder of decoration and design for each themed occasion. Joshua suggests his favourite event at The Clifton Club was The Club's spectacular Bicentenary Members Party, a one of a kind event to celebrate The Clifton Club's 200th Birthday. He also favours Sir John Royce's Royce of The Rolls events and The Club's Christmas Cocktail Evenings. With open fires, chandeliers, candles, the best view of Clifton Village's Christmas Tree, Christmas at The Clifton Club really is a time of warmth, wonder and community.

Joshua is a frequent attendee of The Clifton Club's Member Business Networking Club events, he regularly participates in Member organised bike rides around Bristol and enjoys dining in The Club several times each month. Joshua's favourite dish created by Head Chef, Philip Clench is the Jerusalem Artichoke Velouté or Pork Belly.

*"The Club has an atmosphere and incredible food offering which you cannot find anywhere else in Bristol. It is so great for young professionals due to the business networking opportunities and events, meeting new friends and such a diverse demographic of Members. As soon as you recognise two or three faces, you are introduced to everyone, it is such a warm community."*

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## FINE DINING AT THE CLIFTON CLUB

Under grand chandeliers in The Dining Room of the 202-year-old Clifton Club, Members enjoy an exclusive dining experience like no other in Bristol. A buzzing atmosphere, beautiful decoration, unrivalled customer service and exceptional cuisine have been hallmarks of The Clifton Club dining experience for over two centuries and perhaps now more than ever, dining at The Clifton Club is the best it has ever been.

Head Chef Philip Clench describes his seductive creations as “a delectable marriage of traditional British and modern French cuisine”. With each new week, Phil designs a new unique menu to compose seasonal favourites and offer something different to those Members who keep coming back for more. Phil meticulously sources his ingredients from UK-based specialist suppliers to ensure they are the freshest and highest quality available. The Clifton Club is passionate about sourcing sustainable and organic ingredients locally, to both support our local businesses and to ensure an exceptional standard of cuisine. From fresh warm bread rolls, sorbets and ice creams, to extravagant courses, Phil and Sous Chef Yordan Yordanoff create everything fresh and in-house amplifying the authenticity and skill of their cuisine.

Not only are Members able to enjoy Phil’s creations for lunch and dinner service throughout the week, but when The Clifton Club hosts special events and weddings, Phil’s dishes become specially tailored to suit the occasion and always exceed expectations. From a Mad Hatters Tea Party, a 1930’s dining experience fit for The Orient Express, Shakespearian feasts and many more themed special events which have been hosted at The Club, Phil’s menus always steal the show. Traditional classics are celebrated throughout the year, such as Haggis for Burn’s Night celebrations and St. George’s, St. David’s day, Easter and Christmas each have their own carefully designed menu. Family Sunday Lunches are regularly hosted at The Club offering the best Sunday Roast in the South West. Phil’s food is fit for royalty and in 2018 The Clifton Club was honoured to host His Royal Highness Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex, for lunch to celebrate The Club’s bicentennial birthday.

The Clifton Club’s fine dining competes with some of the best restaurants in the UK and if you are passionate about food you will want to experience this for yourself. For more information about how to become a Member of The Club, please get in touch with a member of our team today.



# MAKING MEMORIES



We are now, perhaps more than ever, grateful for those memorable occasions where we are able to come together with friends, family and our community to celebrate special occasions and traditional events. The Clifton Club maximises every opportunity to do just this, often transforming The Club building into a new world of decoration and design to match each theme or occasion, ensuring that those who celebrate with us take away some wonderful memories.

The Club's comprehensive social calendar comprises of a multitude of special events and activities for Members to enjoy and come together. Traditional events are certainly celebrated at the Club including New Year's Eve, Burns' Night, St. David's Day, Easter, St. George's Day, Halloween and Christmas. Furthermore, The Club hosts a Summer Garden Party during August and, the biggest celebration of the year, Founders' Day on October 3rd. The Club's Events Committee is responsible for designing such spectacular occasions with Head Chef Phil Clench and the team at The Clifton Club bringing those ideas to life.

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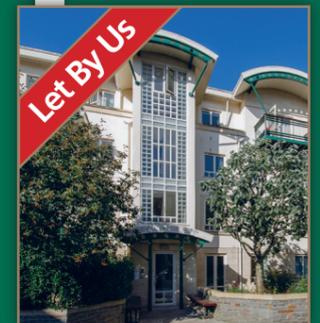
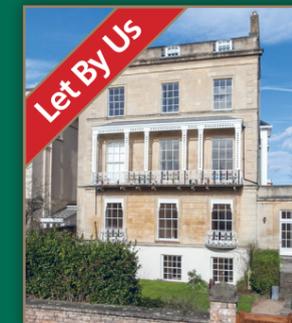


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The annual Summer Garden Party takes place in the sunshine on The Mall Gardens where Members enjoy a drinks reception with freshly prepared canapes and BBQ treats before returning to The Drawing Room to continue the party into the evening with live jazz.

The Club's Founders' Day celebration is an extravaganza with an annually changing theme. Most recently, Murder On The Orient Express was the theme of choice and The Club was transformed into the world of Agatha Christie's 1930s novel. Steam filled the entrance to The Club with the sounds of trains and a conductor, before a drinks reception in the Drawing Room Bar which had become a Turkish Train Station for the occasion.

An Orient Express themed menu was designed and executed perfectly by Phil Clench which Members and guests enjoyed on tables suitably decorated for the occasion. Founders' celebrations have also taken the form of an Alice in Wonderland and Mad Hatters Tea Party, Shakespeare, a Black & White Ball and Moulin Rouge.

The Clifton Club community certainly knows how to bring the festive spirit when celebrating Christmas. The Club hosts an array of community Christmas celebrations

including a Christmas Fair, Christmas Cocktail Party, Christmas Lunches, Dinners and much more. Each year The Club's annual Christmas Cocktail Party sees over 120 Members and their guests come together to celebrate the festive season. Next to a crackling fireplace and The Club's stunning Christmas tree in The Drawing Room Bar, The Bristol Old Vic Theatre School Choir traditionally provide a rousing performance of some Christmas carol classics whilst Members enjoy an array of cocktails and nibbles.

Annual Christmas Lunches are incredibly popular events, with festivities beginning with a live performance from The Clifton Club's Choir singing some classic Christmas carols before Members enjoy bespoke Christmas lunches and dinners.

Within the walls of The Club's 200 year old building, The Club is frequently transformed into a world of wonder for many special occasions with the aim of bringing friends, families and our community together to celebrate and to most importantly, make wonderful memories.

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# BENEFITS BEYOND MEMBERSHIP

**M**embership to The Clifton Club provides Members with many additional benefits beyond the walls of our beautiful Club building within our local community and around the world. Due to the relationship The Clifton Club has with our neighbours in Clifton Village, Club Members receive exclusive preferential rates with some of Clifton Villages wonderful local businesses.

Membership to The Clifton Club provides Members with many additional benefits beyond the walls of our beautiful Club building, within our local community and around the world. Club Members receive exclusive preferential rates with some of Clifton Villages wonderful local businesses for those everyday lifestyle necessities and luxuries. Lisa Elliot Floral Design, Geeve's Dry Cleaners, The Clifton Cobbler, Clifton College Sports Centre and Clifton Suits are some of Clifton's finest local businesses and The Clifton Club is privileged to provide our Members with exclusive preferential rates for their exceptional services.

Membership to The Clifton Club extends even further, whereby Members can enjoy The Club's reciprocal affiliations with over 65 private members clubs throughout the UK and around the world. Whether Members are visiting London, India, Australia, China, Africa, the USA or Spain, there is a private members club of an exceptional standard ready to welcome Clifton Club Members. Many of The Clifton Club's reciprocal Clubs have accommodation, dining facilities and a comfortable environment to relax and enjoy when travelling and all of them are ready to welcome The Clifton Club's Members as their own.

In addition, The Clifton Club is incredibly proud to be part of the International Associate Clubs, a global network that provides access to almost 250 of the most illustrious private membership clubs worldwide. Clifton Club Members are able to visit the IAC Clubs through their Clifton Club Membership, providing access to many golf clubs, spas and private members clubs with accommodation from all corners of the world.

For further information regarding Member benefits or those Club's with which The Clifton Club enjoys a reciprocal arrangement, please visit our website [thecliftonclub.co.uk](http://thecliftonclub.co.uk) or, get in touch with a member of our team today who would be more than happy to discuss these with you personally.



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