

Words — Clemmie Millbank Photography — Tom Ham

Spotlight on Windmill Hill

Known for its pastel houses, views across the city and sprawling Victoria Park, this Bohemian south Bristol quarter is a bustling pocket of community and creativity



Stuffed Victoria Park

Boasting over 50 acres of green space, including a tennis court, bowling green, water maze and play areas, Victoria Park is a dreamy destination to explore and take in some of the best views of the city. Incredibly, a children's play park has existed on this historic site since 1887. Pop along to today's swings and slide situated on the Nutgrove Avenue side of the park and you'll also be greeted by the cheery orange Stuffed van, run by sisters Jodie and Kylie, and serving coffee, cakes and hearty toasties. "Victoria Park is a hub for the Windmill Hill community and we love being part of it," says Kylie. "It's the people that make the park such a vibrant and welcoming environment, and we're immensely grateful for their ongoing support." → facebook.com/yourstuffed

circusjournal.com

@circusjournal

65



Windmill Hill City Farm

The Bristol Loaf 96 Bedminster Parade

Opening at the height of a pandemic (in September 2020) has done nothing to dent the popularity of this fine establishment, with brunch queues often spilling out around the block. With branches in Redfield and the Bristol Beacon, the Loaf excels in top-notch bakes. Extract coffees and a diverse menu. "We use traditional preserving methods like fermenting, salting and pickling to help extend nature's glut," explains managing director Gary Derham. In the same building, you can pick up a bottle of wine from Native Vine, cheese from Two Belly, or fruit and veg at Hugo's Greengrocer Deli. "We wanted to create a European-style food hall feel," says Gary. "I love the hustle and bustle of a working bakery, grocer, cheesemonger and wine merchant all sharing the space and complementing each other." thebristolloaf.co.uk



circusjournal.com

@circusjournal

67



Piglets Vintage

Piglets Vintage 2 St John's Lane

The jolly lemon yellow exterior of Piglets Vintage, featuring artwork by local artist Gage Graphics, is certainly noticeable. "We wanted it to reflect the building's pub history, offer an idea of what kind of shop we are and include a few local sights too," says owner Jayne Brady. "I'll let you spot the references." Piglets is a family affair inspired by Jayne's grandfather's secondhand business, with her father, Kevin, sourcing most of the stock. Take a look around and be transported back in time via long-forgotten heirlooms, including delicate vintage birdcages, analogue camera equipment and antique leather clown shoes (yes, really). "I love finding out the history of our items: how they were made and how they were used," explains Jayne. "It can be my downfall. Sometimes I get so caught up in researching one particular item, I end up spending days on it!" → piglets-vintage.co.uk

circusjournal.com

@circusjournal

Bristol Distilling Co Malago Vale Trading Estate

Take a short walk along the Malago Greenway and you'll come across the unlikely site for Bristol's coolest cocktail bar. Set in the redbrick trading estate, Bristol Distilling Co serves up burgers and hotdogs from the Chomp kitchen, their own Gin 77 and tonic on draft, and the best espresso martini in town. "Everyone loves it. It's made with our 77 Black Cold Brew Coffee & Vanilla Liqueur," says head of operations, Emily Astley-Cooper. But why such an unusual location? "Well, there aren't many places in Bristol where you can sip cocktails while looking out at a 500-litre still," Emily laughs. "Plus, Windmill Hill is an amazing part of Bristol. It's so close to Bedminster station and the city centre, but with its own great community and feel. We love being a bit of a local for all the people living around us." → bristoldistilling.com



Bristol Distilling Co