



The Talk of Totterdown

The Newsletter of Totterdown Residents Environmental and Social Association

Issue No 10, Summer 2008 www.tresa.org.uk

This issue is sponsored by the Extraordinary Travelling Thali Cafe

It's Festival Time!

June is Festival Time in Totterdown with the first *Totterdown Music Festival* on June 14-15 while the following Saturday (June 21) sees the return of the successful *Front Garden Festival*.

Totterdown Music Festival organiser, local musician Jim Tigwell, told the Talk of Totterdown: "We enjoyed the live music so much at last November's Front Room Art Trail that we decided to do it again when the weather is (hopefully) warmer."

Part of Henry Street, from the Shakespeare to Green Street will be closed to traffic for most of the Saturday and Sunday, leaving the area free and safe for a real street party feel.

Jim added: "We'd like to thank the residents of Henry Street for allowing us to use their road, and hope they're able to join the fun. The stage will be at the end of the road outside the Shakey, which, along with the New Found Out will be serving refreshments all day, and of course there's the Thali Cafe for great food."

Creative Kids

"We have a wealth of talent in Totterdown with bands and performers well known both across the city as well as further afield, and some of them have kindly given their services for this first fest'. They include The

Make a date for music and garden fun

Exhibition, Clumsy, The Hit Ups, Some People and Small Days. Other performers from a wider area include The Glitzy Bag Hags, Chris Scott's Bluesdevil, The Wild Gullotts, Go Dutch, Honey on my Grave and Bones at the Bottom of the Barrel. Plus DJ spots throughout both days."

There will also be plenty to do for younger visitors. Creative Kids Workshops will be presenting children's activities from 1 - 4pm on both Saturday and Sunday. Much fun to be had for children aged 5 - 11.

Children must be accompanied by an adult. Contact Mia 07791 319614 for further information.

If you'd like to know more about the festival in general, ring either Jim Tigwell on 07714 475585 or Warwick on 07980 270306.

Hope to see you there.



Garden Festival

Following the successful festival last year, TRESA^{CIC} is now planning the 2008 Front Garden Festival to take place on 21st June. So, get your gardening gloves on!

Awards will be given for the following categories:

- Creative use of your front garden for storage (bins, bikes, recycling boxes etc)
- Window boxes and hanging baskets
- Most spectacular single plant
- Creative hard landscaping

● Overall use of plants

A market will be held in Totterdown Square (the area around Oxford Street shops) from 11am - 3pm. Stalls will include plants, pots, bric-a-brac; arts and crafts; local information; refreshments and much more.

Guerrilla gardening and litter picking: Members of TRESA^{CIC} and community volunteers will be out and about improving gardening 'grot spots' litter picking and generally tidying up around Totterdown's green

spaces. Please get in touch with offers of help, or requests for information via our post boxes in Patco (by the window) or Tesco (by the post office counter). Email: webeditor@tresa.org.uk or go to www.tresa.org.uk

Picture from the 2007 Art Trail by Rebecca Faith Photography: Tel 9073884 www.rebeccafaithphoto.com

DIARY DATES: Totterdown Music Festival June 14-15, Garden Festival June 21.



Remember the good old days when petrol was 70 pence a litre? When you got change from a pound for a loaf of bread? When a Thali only cost £5.95?

Well now those days are back! Over the coming summer months, every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday the new Thali restaurant in Totterdown will be reverting to 2005 prices on all main meals.

North Indian Thalis will be £5.95 and South Indian Thalis will be a ridiculous £6.95!

Please bring this coupon with you to be eligible for this offer.

Tel: 933 2955
1 William Street, Totterdown

Organique off to good start

The new Organique shop on Wells Road next to the old Texaco Garage site has got off to a flying start. Owner Sarah Jasna Heubach said that business in the first few weeks had been better than she had hoped for.

It took Sarah two and a half years to find premises for Organique in Totterdown, emphasising how difficult it is for new businesses to regenerate the area. "I've lived in the area for more than six years," said Sarah "and I've always thought that Totterdown needs a shop like this - somewhere that provides local food for local people and sources all its products locally where possible."

Sarah's commitment to organic and ethically sourced products goes all the way back to her childhood when she grew up on a self-sufficient smallholding in Ireland. That experience combined with her



Organique growing, but it took Sarah two and a half years to find premises.

time as a politics student in Bristol have shaped Sarah's critical views on the way the food retail system is run by multinational corporations and supermarkets.

Local goods

It's early days for Organique, but it's already clear that there's a real demand for its range of goods described by Sarah as "Food, body, mind, garden, family, space, style."

The Ecover range of refills are proving very popular and the other big sellers include Hobbs House bread, Jess's Ladies milk and fresh fruit and veg, while the Organique's veg box scheme has been a big success. "I've got no plans to expand from Totterdown," says Sarah. "I just want to provide a shop with a strong local ethos, so I'll be hoping to source more local food and other goods, as I become more established."

The Thunderbolt GARDEN NOW OPEN!

Children's play area

Bar-B-Q

Cycle parking

Perfect for all the family

**Big Back Garden
Opening Party, Saturday
June 7 from 4pm. Music,
food, children's activities**

www.thethunderbolt.net



Remember when...

The row of shops at the end of St Luke's Road are long gone. Some locals will remember the legendary free parties of the 1980s that were held behind the derelict buildings, older residents will recall the thriving community that lived around Victoria Park. Send your memories of Totterdown to us via the TRESA^{cic} post boxes or email webeditor@tresa.org.uk.

ToT Editorial

The arrival of Organique is to be welcomed, but it seems a familiar trend that it took more than two years for the business to find suitable premises in Totterdown. The owners of the Lounge bar tell a similar story. They'd almost given up on opening in Totterdown because it was taking so long to find premises. Most locals welcome community-based businesses regenerating the area, but it seems that Bristol City Council are doing little to encourage them. While more and more houses are being turned into flats with all the resulting parking and congestion problems, it seems that there is no vision for encouraging former shops to be kept as retail outlets. We need a clear vision of what Totterdowners want for the area. By joining TRESA^{cic} you can shape that vision. The application form is on page 4.

The response from Tesco to TRESA's campaign to reduce plastic bag use in Totterdown has been limited. 'Bags for Life' are available (recently seen in a heap on the floor) but don't seem to be actively promoted in the store. There are some notable exceptions, but most till-staff grab a plastic bag ready to fill before customers even reach the till; and it is usually necessary to remind them to give the extra 'point' for being environmentally friendly and using your own bag. Come on Tesco, you can do better than that.

Richard Jones

Brownie adventures

The Totterdown Brownies reformed again in February after a 10 year break. The girls wanted to explain what happens at Brownies: "The journey from Rainbows to Brownies is exciting and we are so happy to be older. As Brownies we need to do a good turn every day. We each make our promise because if we didn't we wouldn't become a Brownie. For our promise night our mums and dads, Brown Owl and District Commissioner came to watch. When we took our promise, we looked in the water, picked up a badge and said our promise.

"Brownies always go and do activities, they go on trips and as young Brownies we will soon be going on the brownie pack holiday.

"When we start and end our meetings we sing songs. We play lots of games and it is fun! The first time the brownies started we made Mother's Day cards and one week we made an origami rabbit with a pom pom tail. We once went on gold hunts and got squirted with water and then had to go and find pictures of animals on the wall and give them to a crocodile. We sometimes attend church parade and it is very exciting when you are picked to carry the flag.

"Every group has a Sixer and a Seconder. Our Sixes are Rabbits, Pixies, Hedgehogs, and Squirrel. We love Brownies!"

Compiled by the Rabbits, Pixies, Hedgehogs and Squirrels

New Thunderbolt garden

The Thunderbolt garden has been given a makeover and should be open by the time you read this. There's a Grand Garden Party and Bar-B-Q on Saturday, June 7, starting at 4pm. The garden will have a seating area, play equipment for children and cycle parking for the many people who use their bikes to travel to The Thunderbolt. The garden is the latest phase of the development of the old Turnpike into a community pub and live music venue.

Local publisher Tangent Books is hosting a Glastonbury Festival Warm-Up show at the Thunderbolt on June 12 (£8.30pm, free admission) for Big Issue seller and author Graham Walker. Graham, who is originally from Southmead, has been booked to play the Glastonbury poetry and spoken word area after one of the organisers read his remarkable life story, *Unsettled*. Local stand-up comedian Nick Law will be host for the night and more acts will be confirmed. Check details at www.thethunderbolt.net.



Graham Walker



Hillcrest in Africa

This picture by Natalie Corfield is of some Hillcrest Primary School children hard at work on their allotment on the School Road boundary of the playground. Last year the Hillcrest Allotments produced a bumper crop of vegetables and we're looking forward to seeing what's been grown this year at the Totterdown Garden Festival on June 21.

Hillcrest has a link with a school in Uganda and both schools have allotments which use the same method of planting and crop rotation. Also Hillcrest took the Totterdown Cookbook to Uganda whilst visiting and the Ugandan School are compiling their own cookbook. Hillcrest teachers are planning to go over to Uganda in September and take the new Totterdown Cookbook with them. Perhaps they will be able to bring the Ugandan book back with them.

Meanwhile, Creative Kids International raised £1,300 at

The Shakespeare's African curry, raffle and auction night and £880 at The Windmill Quiz, raffle and auction. There are plans for another quiz at Cosies in Portland Square on 18th June, Bingo Biddies on 7th July at The Star and Dove and a Fashion Show on 14th July at the Thali as well as a club night on 18th July.

Creative Kids International is a charitable organisation set up by local artists Mia Harris and Sian Lamprey. They are currently fundraising to deliver children's art workshops with children in Bristol and street children in Zambia. They are setting up a joint arts exchange project for the children to participate and exhibit their work in art galleries.

If you would like any further information about fundraising events, becoming a member, making a donation or getting involved please contact Sian or Mia on creativekids.int@hotmail.co.uk or 07791319614 or visit www.myspace.com/creativekidsinternational

Behind the Doors: On the Number 503 bus

The idea for this article came about while a merry band of TRESA volunteers were weeding the flower beds in Totterdown Square next to Tesco Express.

We noticed that a bus would pull up about every hour, wait for a few minutes and then disappear. It was the service 503, which travels between Totterdown, Bedminster and the Centre. (Service supported by Bristol City Council and provided under contract by Wessex Connect). I was immediately intrigued as it is notoriously

difficult to travel between Totterdown and Bedminster by public transport.

So, one sunny morning, your intrepid reporter set out armed only with a camera and his senior bus pass, to discover where the bus went. I met the bus outside Totterdown Tesco and soon we set off along Oxford Street and Richmond Street. The driver explained that his main problems were the narrow roads and parked cars (many parked illegally on street corners). We then travelled along St. John's Lane and



then into Windmill Hill and onto Bedminster rail station. I quickly realised that the main aim of the rather windy route was to

pick up people as close to their homes as possible.

We then wended our way into Bedminster's main shopping area. From here many people took advantage of the service into Broadmead. We then retraced our route back to Bedminster and Totterdown.

On the way I discovered that this bus is a life-line to many people who have mobility problems who find it difficult to reach the normal bus-stops. The driver, who was very helpful also had the time to help the elderly and frail onto the bus.

Many of the people in fact knew each other and it is a useful way to keep in contact with many of their friends.

It is clear that there is a need for this type of bus service, which is well used, although I feel more publicity could be given to it by the Council. A timetable can be found at the following rather long web address: <http://www.bristol.gov.uk/ccm/content/Transport-Streets/Public-Transport/bus-services.en>

Patrick Hulme

Our changing landscape



Local photographer Allan Keen is capturing the development of the former Texaco garage site on the Wells Road. In his second picture the scaffolding for the flats and retail development is rising above the Wells Road. *Photograph by Allan Keen (allankeen@blueyonder.co.uk)*

COMMENT

A local resident recently contacted TRESA^{CIC} to express concern that planning permission had been granted for the conversion of a small terraced house into two one-bedroom 'flats'. Her main concerns were the lack of public consultation and the potential for an increase in such developments to change the character of the area. We share her concerns.

Given the housing shortage and lack of affordable homes, it may be appropriate to convert some of Totterdown's larger houses into flats, or to build smaller flats on some of the 'brown-field' sites in the area. But TRESA^{CIC} objects to the loss of smaller family homes with the potential to upset the mix of the population. Furthermore, a glance at the plans for some of these conversions suggests that the motive is financial rather than any desire to provide decent accommodation for single people.

Parking and traffic congestion are barely taken into consideration when planning decisions are made about converting properties in

Totterdown because the Council is encouraging us to walk or cycle these days. So if you wish to object to an application, the lack of appropriate cycle storage is a stronger argument – some applications have been refused on these grounds.

The proliferation of assorted bins on our pavements may have prompted the planning department to worry more about our rubbish than the living space of unfortunate occupants, so it is worth checking that an application includes adequate bin storage. But if the front garden is likely to be dominated by bins, it may be possible to argue that a conversion will have a 'detrimental effect on the visual amenities of the area'.

Other grounds to object include lack of privacy to adjoining properties if new windows are proposed; or loss of light if an extension is proposed. The conversion should also be visually in keeping with surrounding properties.

Poor planning decisions have had a devastating effect on Totterdown in the past and so TRESA^{CIC} is determined to

monitor, and object to, poor quality applications or those that may have an adverse effect on our community. You can do the same by going to the Bristol City Council website; type 'weekly list' into the search space; click on 'weekly list of planning applications'; then 'new planning applications'. Applications affecting us are at the end of the weekly list, under 'Windmill Hill'.

It is important to object to anything you have concerns about. Even if you live close to the property you may not be consulted about a planning application, so please be proactive. Together we can make our concerns felt.

TRESA Community Interest Company: TRESA has completed the process of becoming a Community Interest Company and is now officially TRESA^{CIC}. We have the same aims and interests but, as a community interest company, the liability of individual directors will be limited. We are grateful to Stuart Griffin of Social Enterprise Works for his friendly and efficient guidance throughout the process.

Blue plaque Totterdown: Tricky

With Massive Attack curating this year's Meltdown Festival at the Southbank Centre and Portishead plugging their third album, trip-hop suddenly seems to be fashionable again. Naturally, it's all down to Totterdown's influence.

Oh, all right, that's a gross exaggeration. It's actually got a lot more to do with citywide cross-cultural collisions largely centred on St Pauls, but it is said that Tricky once lived on Oxford Street. *The Talk of Totterdown's* usual exhaustive research (asked a bloke down the Oxford as a change from asking someone down the Shakespeare) has failed to confirm the story reliably, but it's plausible enough for us to print the legend. Brought up in Knowle West, Tricky was a part-time member of the Wild Bunch, the

legendary sound system outfit that also gave the world Nellee Hooper. When the Wild Bunch morphed into Massive Attack, Tricky stuck around, performing on the albums *Blue Lines* and *Protection*. His first solo album, *Maxinquaye*, named for his late mother who committed suicide, established Tricky as a solo star. Experimental yet accessible, it fused wildly diverse music and was named as the 36th Greatest British Album Ever by Q Magazine in 2000.

All of which leaves us with some tantalisingly intriguing questions. Could the sometimes surreal vistas of Totterdown have influenced Tricky's music? Did he buy spuds in the Banana Boat? Did he get annoyed at people parking on corners? If you know, do let us know. Tricky's new album, *Knowle West Boy*, is out in July.

News in brief...

Totterstock?

The Star & Dove team are hoping to organise a music festival in Victoria Park this summer and want your help. For further information or offers of help please speak to Nick or another member of staff behind the bar.

Improved trains

You may be surprised to learn that the Severn Beach line from Temple Meads is rated by Thomas Cook as one of the most scenic railways in Europe. Setting off from Bristol Temple Meads and calling at nine stops along the way, it passes through the Avon Gorge and the mile-long tunnel under Clifton Down to meander down the Avon Valley to the Severn Estuary at Severn Beach. The frequency of trains has been increased with a new timetable and the journey is faster and cheaper than you'd think, making it an alternative day out for Totterdowners. More details at <http://www.firstgreatwestern.co.uk/Content.aspx?id=86>

Book group

The TRESA^{CIC} Book Group continues to plunge intrepidly through the literary landscape. In May we discussed Peter Ackroyd's *Hawksmoor*, a novel that was unfavourably dissected and generally dismissed by pretty much everyone present! Hopefully, more enjoyment will be gleaned from next month's choice, *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, which we'll be looking at on June 15th. Anyone interested should contact Stuart at stuart.e.turner@hotmail.co.uk.

Plastic bags

Many thanks to all of you who purchased a CLIC Sargent cotton bag as part of our dual campaign to reduce plastic bag use and raise money for children affected by cancer. The bags are still on sale, priced £3, at Fig.1, The Banana Boat and Jack & Jill. Thanks also to the intrepid litter pickers who spent several hours in the rain collecting plastic waste and other litter around the area. In the picture (left to right)

are some of the volunteers: Patrick, Alexandra, Margaret, Suzanne, Claire and Ella. David Whittaker took the photo.

Art Trail dates

Plans for the ever popular Totterdown Art Trail are well underway, with FRONT ROOM 2008 dates confirmed as Friday 14 to Sunday 16 November. Artists, musicians, poets, film makers and volunteers wanting to get involved in FRONT ROOM 2008 should register on the website – www.frontroom.org.uk – for regular updates and details of future meetings.

Totterdown Ted

With this issue of the Talk of Totterdown we have distributed Totterdown Ted. We hope you will cut him out, colour him in or dress him up, and take him out for an adventure. Perhaps you could take him on holiday, to work, school, a gig, the park or a host of other places. The Adventures of Totterdown Ted will be featured in the Talk of Totterdown and at this year's Front Room Art Trail. Whatever your age, gender or ethnicity we hope you will contribute a story or picture. You can return Totterdown Ted to one of TRESA^{CIC}'s post boxes.

Art Space

The Star and Dove launched its new art space (the old skittle alley) on Thursday 1st May with an exhibition entitled 'Starter for 6'. Free oysters and bubbly in the revamped garden helped to ensure the success of the evening. The gallery is committed to the showing and promotion of contemporary art. For more information, pop in or call 0117 300 3712.

Summer workshops

The Grant Bradley Gallery in Bedminster is arranging workshops for children to take place on Wednesdays 1pm–3pm during the school summer holidays. Workshops will be based on the two exhibitions in the gallery over the Summer 'The Urban Art Show' and 'Earth & Sky' an exhibition of sand paintings. For more information parents should call Rebecca on 01179 637673.



Lavender Broom: Tut, tut!



Fellow residents, I apologise if I have seemed disgruntled of late. I am still cross with that cheeky young man who told me he was a 'housing support worker'. It was most embarrassing when I introduced him at the Totterdown Ladies coffee morning as our guest speaker on housing issues before he presented a set of slides entitled 'My ten best scaffolding jobs' and started touting for trade. It has resulted in external improvements to several houses that were in need of a facelift, but that is hardly the point.

However, I have decided to turn my displeasure to more positive effect and remind you all that summer is the time to consider exterior decorating.

Some of you may remember that in 2007 Totterdown's colourful houses came third in a BBC poll to highlight alternative landmarks of Bristol. Apparently Banksy's Mild, Mild West came first, which does rather detract from our achievement, but I think we can take some pride in the fact that our homes were described as 'one of the most memorable views in Bristol'.

Just between us, I might add: "It depends what you mean by memorable." Since Mr Broom and I returned from Tuscany, I have been trying to encourage residents to adopt softer hues

and subtle shades in support of my campaign to Tidy Up Totterdown and Tactfully Uphold Taste. So I cannot imagine what possessed the young couple at the end of the road to choose that peculiar colour. Quite frankly, they could benefit from a spell in Belgravia where anything other than white or cream walls with a black door is likely to result in a visit from the local authority.

Do remember, the exterior of your home is a statement to the outside world. It is worth pausing to think about the message you are trying to convey. Smart and dignified are the words that spring to mind as one approaches Totterdown Mansions and, I have to admit, there is a certain satisfaction in knowing that one's home is admired by the neighbours.

Exterior decoration is not just about slapping on paint. With careful preparation and a professional finish your house will be protected against the weather and increase in value. I will be sending Mr Broom out to check the downpipes and gables soon. I hope some of you will be inspired to spruce up your exteriors. Tut, tut!

Lavender Broom

● If you would like to get in touch with Lavender or invite her to take up a campaign on your behalf, write to her care of the TRESA^{cic} letterboxes or email webeditor@tresa.org.uk

Shakespeare curry night



This lucky lady successfully bid for the wig at the African Curry night at the Shakespeare. Find out how much was raised on page 2.

Picture Natalie Corfield

Community police news

The PACT (Police And Communities Together) meeting on 21st April at the Star and Dove established the following police priorities:

1. Rat Runs: Check / stop cars disobeying the one-way systems and speeding.
2. Drug dealing: High visibility patrols and stop checks in Pylle Hill Crescent, Richmond Street (top of steps), St Luke's Road, and St Luke's Crescent where drug dealing is taking place.
3. Drug dealing, fighting, intimidation: High visibility patrols and stop checks in Oxford Street.

PCSO Sarah Wareing has set up lamp post signs warning drivers who misuse the "No Entry" zones at Cambridge Street, Hillside Street and

Summerhill, that action will be taken against them. So far hundreds of drivers have been stopped for contravening these traffic signs and warnings have been issued.

Operation Blister: On Monday 19 May officers from across Bristol were involved in a number of drugs warrants across South Bristol including Richmond Street, St Lukes Road and St Johns Lane.

Graffiti: The Totterdown area is being targeted with graffiti by "qbert" and "riskar". If anyone recognises their tag or knows who they are, please contact the police on 0845 4567000.

Next police public meeting 14 July 2008 at 7:30pm at the Bowling Club in Victoria Park. All welcome.

And finally

Hey Totterdown, how are yer? Welcome to TRESA Chatter, a piee that's just a bit of fun about Totterdown. Last Talk of Totterdown, I wrote a piece about the potential of TRESA Street Stalls for speed-dating, but it didn't quite work, it seems, as a list of events was printed in its place. Not one to be put off by a minor creative setback, I am back for another go!

Fellow Totterdowner, sooner or later you are going to run into TRESA. Typically you'll find them picking up litter, running a street stall or meeting up in the pub after these exploits. I first encountered TRESA myself on a trippet to Tesco Express to buy my Bristol Evening Post Cutting Corners coupons. That week's offer was a free facial massage worth £10, which was handy as I had both dosh probs, and facial tension. On my way down the street, I nearly tripped over a mattress outside a house. 'What Totterdown needs is a cheery clear up', I thought to myself. Shortly, I passed a chap in garden gloves next to a green wheelie bin brimming with rubbish, saying to his nearby chums 'you would not believe what is under this bush' as he produced a bike wheel like a rabbit out of a hat. It was a great relief to see them all, dripping with rain, grins on their faces, as it meant I didn't need to do anything after all.

But just when I thought the coast was clear, I bumped into a Totterdown-improving TRESA stall. My motto? Don't Let Totterdown Go To Pot! So yeah, I signed up to TRESA, meanwhile noticing the attractive locals out of the corner of my eye. And TRESA promised me I don't have to do anything if I don't want to

Margaret Davies

Ads and announcements

DESK SPACE AT PAINTWORKS

Tangent Books has desk space for rent at Paintworks. Would best suit someone involved with journalism or publishing.

Call Richard Jones on 0117 972 0645 or email richard@tangentbooks.co.uk

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G.M FOOD SURVEY

Your Opinions wanted on this subject for my Masters Project. All responses entered into draw for £20 Tesco voucher. Contact Lloyd for details: lvj7@yahoo.co.uk 07828672167

Get in touch

To contact the Talk of Totterdown with a story, please email webeditor@tresa.org.uk. The Talk of Totterdown is also available as a pdf document on the TRESA^{cic} website at www.tresa.org.uk. The Talk of Totterdown is edited by Richard Jones and Jonathan Wright. Views expressed are not necessarily those of TRESA^{cic}. Printed by Doveton Press Ltd: www.dovetonpress.co.uk, 0117 966 0078.



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CHEAP RATES

NEXT ISSUE

The deadline for the next issue of The Talk of Totterdown is August 20th. It will be delivered to 2,000 homes and businesses in Totterdown from the week beginning September 8th.

JOIN TRESA

TRESA^{cic} is a not-for-profit association for Totterdown residents to preserve, protect and improve the environment and to encourage, support and promote social events and activity within Totterdown. Membership costs just £2 per year per person. Please enclose cash or a cheque payable to TRESA and return this form to TRESA c/o Patco Community Store, Wells Road, (green letterbox behind till next to front window) or pop it in the TRESA letterbox at the Post Office counter in Tesco or in Fig.1.

Name
Address
Email
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