



## Remember when...

This picture from Kate Pollard's book *Totterdown Rising* shows the Wells Road tram junction. The building on the right is the old Lloyds Bank Building, now the Power Station Gym and Banco Lounge. (Pic: Evening Post)

## Lavender Bloom halts hawkers!



Unwanted letters and phone calls? Tut, tut!

Fellow residents, as you may have guessed, Mr Broom is not always as keen as I am to 'Tidy Up Totterdown' and 'Tactfully Uphold Taste'. However, after struggling under the increasing weight of the recycling box, he is fully behind my latest campaign to limit the amount of unwanted letters and leaflets delivered to Totterdown Mansions. It must be perfectly obvious to the poor postman that we are not the sort of people who are in need of a loan, or who would shop anywhere that sold jumbo packs of sausages for 99p. Furthermore, Mr Broom assures me that he did not request the unsavoury information he received last week. It has gone straight into the recycling bin, although I shredded it first in case anyone spotted it and drew erroneous conclusions.

We are also plagued by unnecessary telephone calls. We arrived home from 'Brush up your Italian' to a strange message informing us that we had won a trip to Disneyland. I need hardly say that we did not call back to claim our prize. If they had done their research properly, they would have realised that a couple who are about to tour the basilicas of Rome would not wish to be photographed wearing inappropriate shorts and eating burgers with Mickey Mouse.

After all this unsolicited attention, I have taken action. Unwanted telephone calls can be reduced by registering with the telephone preference service at [www.tpsonline.org.uk](http://www.tpsonline.org.uk) (or phone 0800 398 893). Similarly, registering with mail preference service at [www.mpsonline.org.uk](http://www.mpsonline.org.uk) can reduce unwanted post. Unaddressed letters and leaflets are also delivered by the Royal Mail although I find it hard to believe that Her Majesty approves. It is possible to 'opt out' by emailing [optout@royalmail.co.uk](mailto:optout@royalmail.co.uk) or writing to Royal Mail Door to Door Opt Out, Kingsmead House, Oxpens Road, Oxford, OX1 1RX. You may wish to follow my example. Until the next issue, Tut, tut!

Lavender Broom

# Totterdown Green latest plans

## Update on opposition to plans to create a 20-space car park outside the YMCA building...

An attempt was recently made to register the small park outside the YMCA building as a Town Green in order to protect the site from future development and help us to get (much needed) funding to improve the site.

Unfortunately, planning consultants and solicitors acting for the Power Station Gym objected to this. Disappointingly (and surprisingly), Bristol City Council also objected despite the fact that they had refused consent in January 2004 for "a car park with 20 parking spaces for use associated with the Power Station gymnasium" on the grounds that, "The proposed development would result in the loss of open space that is of amenity and townscape value in a densely built-up area, and is valued as such by the local community."

Most of the points made in the objections to the Town Green application could have been challenged. However, there was one issue that hadn't been anticipated.

It seems that the Green got bigger at some point since 1975 (our stated 'starting date') and that the strip of the Green nearest to the YMCA building is actually still designated as highway.

In view of this new information, TRESA withdrew the Town Green application and advised the council that a revised application is likely to be submitted in order to try to protect this vulnerable parkland.

Even so, it seems likely that the council will now consider leasing part of the Green as private parking spaces. TRESA thinks that, before agreeing to these valuable private parking spaces, it is reasonable and proper for our council to require that the majority of the Green is landscaped and that contributions are also made for other local improvements.

If you want to help to protect and enhance Totterdown Green, or if you're interested in local environmental and social issues, then please do not hesitate to contact TRESA, [webeditor@tresa.org.uk](mailto:webeditor@tresa.org.uk).



## Behind the door...

In the first of a regular series of visits to Totterdown places of interest Patrick Hulme goes behind the door at The Constitutional Club, Wells Road.

I was always intrigued on walking up Wells Road near the Holy Trinity Church, to find a building behind a privet hedge with a flagpole. There is an iron gateway of some years standing with the letters KCC embedded into the ironwork.

You enter through a small door, and inside is a club room where time has stood still. There

# Mast protest

## Three Lamps Residents Association opposes T-Mobile plans for base station on the Wells Road...

Members of the Three Lamps Residents Association are opposing plans by T-Mobile to erect a base station mast directly opposite the flats on Wells Road, by Tesco. They invited T-Mobile to the Three Lamps Residents meeting in January. They agreed, then declined. Eventually they wrote back showing how, on paper, they have met guidelines.

However, large questions remain about the health implications of having a mast so close to a residential area. T-Mobile are likely to submit an application for planning permission within the next few weeks. If you object to having the mast near the estate and would like to be kept up to date with the situation, contact [bridgeteverett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bridgeteverett@yahoo.co.uk).

If you live close by, come along to the next meeting of the Three Lamps Residents Association. The group meets regularly at the George pub on Wells Road.

Created less than 12 months ago, the Three Lamps Residents Association can now

boast more than 50 members. We aim to ensure that Three Lamps Estate remains a pleasant place to live and will work together to eradicate any anti-social behaviour. In its first year, the Association has:

- Set up a Neighbourhood Watch Scheme.
  - Challenged the Housing Association to keep us better informed regarding policy updates/increases in our rates.
  - Worked to improve the landscaping on the estate
- In the future we want to:
- Prevent commuter parking in the estate (which will only get worse if the arena is built).
  - Work to stop the estate being used as a rat run.
  - Review the finances of the Association to ensure all tenants are getting value for money.

We meet every two months at the George. Membership costs £2. If you live in Angers Road, County Street, New Walls, Highgrove Street or Kingstree Street, come along to the next meeting or contact the secretary, [bridgeteverett@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:bridgeteverett@yahoo.co.uk), for more information.

Bridget Everett

## Texaco redevelopment

Bristol City Council has received a planning application to redevelop the eyesore abandoned Texaco Garage site on the Wells Road.

The application is for 13 one-bedroom flats, 10 two-bedroom flats with parking spaces and a ground floor retail unit with associated highways improvements. There are rumours that the retail unit will be a Sainsburys Local, but details have not been announced. The plans can be viewed at Brunel House.

TRESA has asked local councillors Mark Bailey and Alf Havvock to see if it's possible to make a condition of planning consent that the School Road Park gets a new



fence to replace the rusty falling down one. TRESA has also suggested smaller retail units for independent shops rather than just one retail outlet and has asked to be consulted on any development of this site.

is an attractive bar, with very attractive drinks prices. What is this place? It is in fact the Knowle Constitutional Club and it was a pleasure to chat with the club secretary, Cathy Gibbs.

It started life in 1904 as a Conservative Club and it has a list of the club presidents on the wall. However, about eight years ago it disaffiliated from the Conservative Party and became the Constitutional Club.

The Constitutional boasts two snooker tables and a skittle alley at the rear. I was informed that Ray Reardon, John Spencer

and Eddie Charlton have all played at the club. Other games played are darts, crib, chess and table tennis. The Constitutional has regular quiz nights and cater for parties.

The club is currently looking for new members (these must be sponsored by an existing member) and costs only £25 a year. For further information, call 0117 977 3441.

Cathy also informed me that she organises the choir at the nearby Holy Trinity church, and she would welcome new members, including adults.