

An accident waiting to happen?

Nearly three years ago, a number of residents asked TRESA to campaign to address the rat-run used by vehicles cutting through from the Bath Road to the Wells Road up Stanley Hill and onto Bathwell Road or Highgrove Street. The impact of a large number of cars, vans and sometimes lorries using the narrow, Victorian streets is very negative. One count by residents showed 540 cars using these streets in a 1 hour 40 minute period during rush hour; a constant stream of traffic on a steep residential street causing considerable disturbance and concerns for safety for local residents. Adding to concerns is the number of vans and lorries often jack-knifed or stuck on the corner of Stanley Hill and Bathwell Road due to the camber of the corner, and many residents have had wing mirrors taken off parked cars, holes in their garden walls, and even parked cars written off. Many residents fear that serious accidents are bound to happen.

TRESA worked with the council to secure S106 funding for a solution to be in place to improve this situation and deter motorists from taking this short cut (which also doesn't really save time). The council planning officer designed two different options - one to plug Stanley Hill and the other to close off the turning from Bath Road onto Angers Road, making it exit-only. TRESA consulted the local community and the majority of residents stated they preferred the latter option.

However, TRESA found out that the council, following their own investigations, no longer wishes to pursue this latter option. It seems the people in charge of the Three Lamps Junction and First Bus consider that the impact on traffic would be too significant! For its part, TRESA felt that a plug on Stanley Hill would

be unfair on the residents of Highgrove Street as it would push all the rat-run traffic on to their street. We are left in a situation where Angers Road, Stanley Hill, Highgrove Street and Bathwell Road have to remain part of the city's traffic plans - effectively acting as a pressure release on Bath Road traffic congestion.

Working with the planning officer and our local councillor, Jon Wellington, we have designed a new option which will use the S106 funding to make the turning off Bath Road onto Angers Road more of a right angle, thus forcing drivers to slow down much more in order to go round the corner onto Angers Road. We intend to then use landscaping options, e.g. flower beds etc, to signal to drivers that this is a residential area, and try to discourage them from using the rat-run.

The final complication in these plans is that planning has been requested - for the third time - for flats to be built on the derelict site at the top of Stanley Hill/Bathwell Road. Crossman Homes, the developer, has submitted proposals to build three storey flats on this site. TRESA has objected to this planning application because Crossman Homes has not allowed for any front garden or set-back from the street. This would mean people living in flats right up against the corner of this dangerous junction, one on which many lorries, vans and cars often get stuck or jack-knifed. We think this would be an accident waiting to happen for these residents, and adds a further problem to a road which still continues to be blighted by a stream of traffic every day.

If you would like to be involved or support us with this important piece of work to improve the quality of life on these streets, please contact tresacic@gmail.com

Rebecca Mear

Funding for projects to improve children's mental health

One in ten children aged between 5 and 16 years has a diagnosed mental health problem. Body image, school pressures, social media and mental illness within the family are just some of the factors causing



this problem. A new Emotional Wellbeing Fund offered by Community Access Support Service (CASS) and Bristol City Council aims to combat the issue of poor mental health through health and wellbeing activities for children.

The fund, available until July 2017, has already helped several community groups in Bristol to run successful activities.

"As a housing association, we see lots of young people in the community who have a limited connection with others," says United Communities, a fund recipient. "We organised a Christmas fest where young people made Christmas decorations with older people. They experienced sharing, connecting and giving to others. The group also held a discussion about diversity, loneliness and isolation. The activity allowed us to explore feelings about Christmas which is an emotional time for many."

The fund offers community groups up to £1000 towards their activity as long as it helps children to learn more about feelings and what to do when things get difficult.

There are three upcoming deadlines when applications will be considered:

- 10th March 2017
- 10th May 2017
- 10th July 2017

CASS is pleased to be working with Bristol City Council on this project, which sits alongside their work promoting positive mental health among local communities in Bristol.

"We talk to Bristol's community organisations, as well as faith and sport groups, about good mental health and how to access mental health support services when this is needed," says Anna Balcerek, CASS Networker for Central & East Bristol. "It's actually quite difficult to initiate a meaningful conversation about mental health, especially with people we don't know. I like talking about mental health and how it impacts every small aspect of our lives."

For more information about CASS and the Emotional Wellbeing Fund, visit www.cassbristol.org

***** CASS will also be a guest speaker at TRESA PUBLIC MEETING on 15th March 2017.**

OUTSTANDING!

Totterdown Children's Community Workshop certainly has something to shout about!



Back in August TCCW was awarded an OUTSTANDING Ofsted report. This is thanks to the hard work and commitment of the staff and management in making sure TCCW provide a safe, fun and stimulating environment for all the children that attend.

The Ofsted report highlighted that "children behave exceptionally well and thoroughly enjoy making friends as they join in play with children of different ages. Staff are exemplary examples in how to treat others, actively encouraging children's social skills and independence."

Founded in 1979, TCCW is a registered charity and is run by a voluntary management committee. It provides quality after school care for children of Hillcrest primary school and in the holidays for children living in the surrounding area.

"I have two children who have regularly used the holiday club for many years. I appreciate the fact that TCCW is a community "not for profit" organisation and the value that brings to care; particularly the more individual and personal approach to childcare. Together with the outstanding staff, I believe this is a major contributing factor to the recent report from Ofsted confirming the outstanding quality of the service" says local parent, Andrew Brown.

Both the after school care and holiday club are located in the Holy Nativity church next to School Road park which provides a fun and spacious environment with plenty of activities for all ages. When weather permits the club make full use of the local parks and as part of the holiday club the children are often whisked away on exciting day trips. Tommy Rigby aged 5, is a big fan of TCCW. "I love workshop's toys and books, there are so many! I love playing with my friends, it's so much fun!"

This year 130 families have registered with the club and there are 180 children using the after school and holiday clubs.

If you would like more information about TCCW and the amazing childcare provision it offers please email TCCW@hotmail.co.uk or call 07760 724893. *Emma Newton*



L to R – Megan Sutcliffe, Play Worker; Kevin Charlesworth, Play Leader; Mary Charlesworth, Play Worker and Liz Jordan, Co-ordinator.

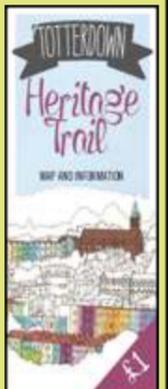
Totterdown needs YOU!

TRESAcic brings together residents in Totterdown with the aim of improving and protecting our local environment and to promote a vibrant cultural life.

Membership is for anyone aged 18 years or over, who lives within the TRESA boundary. Members have voting rights and influence the projects we undertake and join us in providing a strong voice in commenting on issues of local significance.

ALL REGISTERED MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A FREE COPY OF TOTTERDOWN HERITAGE TRAIL MAP!

The map highlights buildings and sites of historic interest in our area, as well as some of the quirkier elements of Totterdown (also available at £1 from TRESA website, and Totterdown Canteen). Membership fees also help towards printing costs of The Talk of Totterdown. To join or renew your membership (£3 per annum): www.tresa.org.uk to pay via paypal or complete this form and post with cash or cheque, (payable to TRESAcic), in one of our letterboxes at Patco, Craftisan or the Post Office (in Tesco).



Name	
Address	
Email	
Joining date:	



Many people will be happy to see the back of 2016 - a crazy, frustrating, confusing and sometimes depressing year - and some are wondering if 2017 will be any different! It can be difficult to make sense of some of the events on the world stage or get to grips with some of the local issues affecting us, particularly in the face of budget cuts. Squeezing a stress ball or venting on Facebook are options, but maybe a more positive and proactive approach is to consider joining with others in your community and taking action.

Recent campaigns close to us have involved a cycle route across Victoria Park, the potential closure (pending withdrawal of Council subsidy) of Jubilee Pool, a number of questionable planning proposals, and the seemingly perennial issue of finding a solution to the rat-run up Stanley Hill. TRESA was set up as a community group to bring some cohesion to reacting to challenges such as these and it remains committed to supporting the local community in raising such issues with the relevant authorities and finding sustainable solutions where possible.

We are putting together a speaker programme for our bi-monthly public meetings. In March we have invited a representative of CASS to talk to us about good mental health and how to access mental health support services, and topics later in the year will include planning and air quality. If there is an issue you feel we need to address then do come along to our meetings and let us know!

Of course we also enjoy a party as much as the next person, so get involved in organising community events - BBQs in the community orchard, wassailing and our annual FRONT GARDEN competition - we are currently planning a summer celebration to mark our new community mosaic up at Zone A. Keep up to date with events via our website and Facebook.

So, 2017 is certainly shaping up to be a busy year - help us make it a positive one! You can find out more about TRESA, our projects and events, and how to join us and get involved via our website www.tresa.org.uk

Carolyn Jones, Editor

P.S. The newsletter is all about our community, and if you have a story or photo to share, then please do get in touch via email talkoftotterdown@tresa.org.uk

A warm autumn, again!

Summary of the autumn weather in Totterdown 2016
 Provided by Barry Horton of the Totterdown weather station
www.bristolweather.org

As if some are not getting the message about climate change, it was yet again another warm autumn. In 2016 it was the 18th warmest autumn since records began in 1891 for Bristol. This was despite a colder than average November.

In the last 30 years there have been 18 of the warmest autumns out of 126 years of data. The proof of the climate warming, at least on our small patch, is continuing to mount whatever the sceptics think and say. The rainfall, on the other hand, has been very close to the autumnal seasonal average. Another feature of the autumn has been the high pressure and several local records have been broken or nearly broken.

September was a warmer than average month but it was rather dull. The average temperature for the month was 1.8°C warmer than 30 year average for Bristol. It was the dullest September since solar radiation records began in 2005 with only 40.4% in 2016 of the maximum sunshine.

October 2016 was very dry with only a third of the monthly average rainfall for the month. With only 29.0 mm of rain recorded, it was the driest October since 1978. The average temperature of 11.8°C for the month, was very close to the 30 year average for Bristol. It was the sunniest October since 2011 and also the highest hourly solar radiation since October 2011 was recorded.

It was the coldest November since 2010, with an average temperature of 7.2°C (it was 6.5°C in 2010). Both the November daily average minimum and maximum temperatures were the lowest for the month since 2010. With 149.2% of the 30 year average rainfall, November 2016 was also the wettest month for some time with 138.9mm of rain since 176.6mm fell in August 2014.

BRISTOL Clean Streets Tidy up Totterdown!

Be part of Bristol Clean Streets

As part of the Mayor's Clean Streets campaign, Bristol Waste Company is looking to see how they can support Bristol residents to do their bit, and that includes how we can tidy up Totterdown.

Emma Williams, Community Engagement Officer for the South of Bristol, is interested to hear what residents are currently up to, what can be built on and what thoughts there are on improving the street scene together.

Bristol Waste recently ran a trial with TRESA on the practicalities of getting one of Totterdown's tricky, narrow streets deep cleansed. This included manually removing all weeds and machine sweeping the road, gutters and pavements. The trial needed the co-operation of car owning residents to move their vehicles on the designated clean-up day for access. Ongoing support from residents is needed, with litter prevention and keeping bins and boxes off streets where possible. Lessons were learned and Bristol Waste will now look at how this type of deep clean could be rolled out to the wider neighbourhood.

If we are to make Totterdown measurably cleaner by 2020, the ambition of the Clean Streets Campaign, then everyone needs to play their part. Schools, community groups and entire streets could come together to help the clean up.

If you want to organise a litter pick, whether that's you as an individual or as a collective, Bristol Waste can assist by providing litter picking kits for you to borrow and will collect the waste for free from a designated spot afterwards. To register your interest email hello@bristolwastecompany.co.uk with details of when and where your litter pick will take place.

One of the discussions taking place with TRESA currently is the development of a community toolkit that will allow residents to communicate with each other about waste issues that affect them. If you'd like to join Emma in a focus group around this or be involved in a wider conversation about how the community can actively play a part in tidying up Totterdown then email hello@bristolwastecompany.co.uk

Feel free to share your proactive work and inspirational thoughts on social via #bristolcleanstreets.

The wonder of herbs - Lemon Balm

At this time of year many of us will be suffering from colds, flu and other ailments but before visiting the chemist it is useful to look at what natural herbs we have growing locally which may help. 'Totterdown Sprouting' has planted a number of herbs in the raised beds in Totterdown Square, one of which is Lemon Balm or *Melissa Officinalis*.

Lemon Balm is a plant which produces medium height hairy branching stems with yellowish/green oval or diamond shaped toothed leaves and small white or creamy flowers between the months of June and October. It dies back in the winter but the perennial root stock will soon be producing new shoots.

The Latin name '*Melissa*' comes from a Greek word meaning 'honey bee' which cognates with words for honey such as Latin *mel* or French *miel* and indeed the flowers are much loved by bees. The name 'balm' would suggest that the plant has many healing qualities and the 'London Dispensary' published in 1696 recommends it as a cure for baldness and that the '*balm seeped in wine comforts the heart and drives away melancholy*'. 'The English Physician' produced in 1653 by Culpepper describes Balm as '*an inhabitant of almost every garden*' and notes it '*relieves weak stomachs and causes the heart and mind to become merry and reviveth the heart*'. Infusions of lemon balm leaves can be made by pouring boiling water onto the leaves [dried or fresh] and leaving them to infuse for 15 minutes. This is good for catarrh, colds and flu and aids fever by promoting perspiration. It can also be used to sooth colic or upset stomachs.

More recent tests on lemon balm have shown it to have strong anti-viral properties particularly against the herpes virus which causes cold sores. The main contributor to its antiviral activity is thought to be Rosmarinic acid and I can personally vouch for it being effective. For the treatment of cold sores some sources recommend using natural spring water to make the infusion which is then dabbed onto the sore when cold. Drinking lemon balm tea can also help to remove the virus from the body. **Anne Silber**

BEHIND THE DOOR...



Since opening The Eating Room in 2015, life has been a whirlwind of activity for owner Sian Titchener.

2016 saw a variety of events and pop-up supper clubs - invariably fully booked, with lively and enthusiastic foodies packed into the tiny cafe. Fortunately the opportunity arose to extend into the neighbouring shop, and The Eating Room began its transformation into a chic and relaxed eatery and a foodie destination south of the river.

From an original coffee and sandwich shop idea the business has grown to offering stunning Mediterranean inspired brunch, and daily changing lunch menus - small plates prepared

with quality produce from a range of local producers and importers. The vibe is relaxed and homely trattoria style and features dishes packed full of flavour. There is an excellent menu to suit both meat eaters and vegetarians, and the needs of vegan and gluten free customers are always considered. All dishes are freshly prepared each day making the best of what the season has to offer. There is also a wonderful selection of treats to take away including sausage rolls, pastries and cakes.

The evening menu brings additional tasty options alongside the small plates. In keeping with the seasonal theme, there is always a wide range of vegetable dishes such as braised Jerusalem artichokes with goats cheese, Brussel sprouts with gorgonzola as well as hearty dishes such as shin of beef pie or roast chicken. Meat is from grass fed animals and local farms, Spanish charcuterie and specialities from El Colmado on Gloucester Road, delicious Somerset cheeses from Somerset Cheese Co and The Bristol Cheesemonger. Sian also highly rates very local suppliers; fruit and vegetables from The Banana Boat, bread from Baked, meats from near neighbour The Little Butcher of Totterdown, milk comes from the Chew Valley and eggs from the Mendips.

Chef Thea Wakeling joined The Eating Room in July 2016 bringing with her four years experience working in the London kitchens of Lyles and Trullo. She spent three months in early 2016 eating and cooking in Rome, and her menus are clearly inspired by using the freshest and

best ingredients possible and ensuring those ingredients sing with a sound of the Mediterranean.

With Thea on board, The Eating Room has been able to open its doors on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings, and as well as its twice monthly Supper Clubs, caters for a variety of private events on the premises in addition to outside catering. Keep an eye on the website and Facebook for regular events updates and menu options. The venue is currently BYO, although they hope to get their alcohol license in the near future

After two hectic years, Sian is fully immersed in her foodie adventure "I want to encourage people in to try something a little different. Interaction with our customers is so important, explaining the menu, the provenance of the food, the delicious interplay of quality ingredients. Our plans for the future include making more of our outside spaces, especially at the back where we want to grow herbs and create a peaceful garden haven."

156 Wells Road, BS4 2AG
07397 790433 / info@theeatingroom.co.uk
www.theeatingroom.co.uk
Open: Mon&Tues 9-2pm, Friday&Sat 10-2pm
Thurs to Sat from 6pm (kitchen closes at 9pm)



The people and the park

Talk of Totterdown readers may be aware of the fiercely contested planning application, submitted by Bristol City Council, for a cycle route through Victoria Park. When the design of the route was publicised hundreds of people submitted objections to the online planning portal. TRESA objected; others included Victoria Park Action Group (VPAG), the Governors of St Mary Redcliffe Primary School, Bristol Parks Forum, the Northern Slopes Initiative, and Windmill Hill and Malago community planning group (WHAM).

Victoria Park is valued as a traditional local park. In 1871, 17 working men wrote an open letter to city councillors stating: "What we want is a place near at hand, where we can feel the grass under our feet, or sit with our wives on a summer's eve and watch our children play." Nearly 150 years later, the park is valued by local people of all ages who walk, cycle, jog, socialise, sunbathe, play games, walk the dog, watch birds or squirrels, and so much more.

At more than 15 feet wide, there were concerns the proposed route would increase cycle speeds, adversely affect the safety of pedestrians and other park users, dominate the area used for picnics and games, and damage the wildlife corridor along the railway line. Furthermore, removing barriers at either end would enable motorbikes to enter the park, a problem that had been resolved by installing the barriers.

Nevertheless, the Cycling Ambition Fund team at Bristol City Council seemed determined to press ahead with the proposal. Sustrans emailed their membership asking for support because there was 'some local opposition', and Bristol Cycling Campaign accused local people of nimbyism. This led to a flurry of support for the proposal but it soon became clear that it was predominantly from people living outside of the area - including the Isle of Wight and North Wales! Meanwhile, Karin Smyth MP and Cllr Jon Wellington argued that the views of local people should take priority.

As the formal consultation drew to a close, Bristol City Council issued a press release indicating: "Cllr Mark Bradshaw, Cabinet Member for Transport at Bristol City Council, has requested officers withdraw the planning application so the council can work more closely with members of the Victoria Park Action Group (VPAG), local residents and others with an interest in the project."

A group, representing local people and organisations, has now been formed and will be meeting with representatives of Bristol City Council to consider a more appropriate cycling route. We will keep you informed of progress through our website and the Talk of Totterdown.

TRESA is committed to improving and protecting our local environment. There may be times when, as individuals, we feel there is no point in speaking out. But the story of this planning application offers some hope that if we stand together our voices can be heard and we can make a difference.

Suzanne Audrey

Gaines Food Market

Debbie Kleiner-Gaines' idea for a local market was inspired by a street party she had organised, and this vision of bringing the community together whilst also enabling people to bring their incredible creativity to their local community was the concept which led to the development of the BS4 Market.

"It grew super-fast and before I knew it, I was applying to the council to close the street in order to fit all the stalls in! The rain proved to be a barrier to some stallholders with no gazebo, and whilst we were able to borrow umbrellas from St Nicholas market we still had to find someone to collect, erect them and deliver them back safe to the market. The cost of collecting etc. also proved too much which is why we invested in our own large gazebo providing enough cover to run a smaller market."

"I must say that the community of stallholders we created was brilliant. There were so many supportive smiling faces! Some stallholders made lots of money, especially the food stalls, although we turned away many hot food sellers as we were keen to encourage visitors to try the local eateries open on the day. Some stalls also struggled when the weather was bad."

"So, we have decided to keep running a Food Market, but on a smaller scale. After all, Gaines The Grocer is a food business! Every second Sunday of the month we will have a smaller market outside Gaines - we are looking for foodie people to join us but ideally not 'eat on the day food' as we want the local eateries to benefit from the market. The Little Butcher, The Duchess of Totterdown, The Eating Room, Totterdown Canteen and Floriography have been very supportive of the market and are very much part of it and will also usually be open on market Sundays."

New Year screamer!

Happy new year to all! 2017 is here and it's been a bit of a turbulent one regarding politics, and lots of people screaming their opinions.

I have been hearing some loud screaming at the back of my house, it sounded like someone was being attacked, and if I didn't know what it was, I may have retreated under the bed covers! But the screams I could hear were not from a monster attacking anyone, but from a fox. Why was it screaming? Maybe frightened of something? Maybe asserting itself, or maybe some mating ritual? I remember as a young lad being in the woods at night and hearing my first fox scream, of course I had no idea what it was, but I knew I could have given the flash a run for his money on that night!

Whilst we are on the subject of being young and playing in the woods, BS4 has now got its own nature academy, a forest school for young ones, run by BS4's very own sausage man (Sausagenius)! If you search for it on Facebook you are sure to find the details. My kids will be going to the taster sessions to give him a hard time!

I was very surprised to see a lot of fuss going on around the recent consultation on the cycle path in Victoria Park. I don't know what the outcomes are for the works, but a lot of people seem to not like it. Someone asked me if I was worried about the bats that use the park. I have faith they will be looked after, as professional surveys have been conducted (not by me) and advice given. I know that the nature team at BCC are very bat aware and will do what they can to protect them. Why can't we all share the park?!

When you go out for a nature walk or just go out to be in nature, what is your level of detail? Do you look at things and say "ah yes, lovely and green" or do you separate some of the plants? It's amazing how different our levels of detail are. My 4 year old daughter can now tell you how to identify a broad buckler fern, it's just a small detail to look for on the plants scales, but without knowing that detail, it's just another fern. I guess it's about what we want to learn, but the amount of effort people put into social media to sprout second hand news, I feel that effort and detail could be spent on more greener things.

So stop your screaming, pick a grass, identify that grass, and see how different it is to the other 200 plus species of grass we have, you won't look at a field the same way again.

Take it easy, *Dan Flew*

The view from the Chair...

What is TRESA for? what does it do? Isn't it just busy bodies and do-gooders?

I have been involved with TRESA for over six years and I usually find the best response to these questions is: "Be the change you want to see in the world".

Most know Mahatma Ghandi's famous line and this sentiment is close to the heart of many in TRESA. We want to live in a green, healthy environment where people are positive, engaged and caring. Therefore we recognise that we need to play our part in making that happen.

With this in mind, TRESA undertakes many things to promote community interaction. For example, the "Big Lunch" street party in June is a way for people to meet, have a good time, and feel a shared sense of purpose. Similarly, TRESA supports the "Playing Out" initiative on Stanley Hill where local people recognise their street as more than just a dormitory of houses and a rat-run for cars. The area is their home, they are proud of it, and want the area to be one of friendly neighbours talking to each other.

We want to live in an area of high quality homes, that are well designed, and create pleasant places to be in. Therefore we keep an eye on planning applications that could compromise the current sense of place.

We also want to live in an area of informed, knowledgeable people. Therefore we invite guest speakers to our meetings to talk about their area of expertise - especially when these are things that affect Totterdown. Previous speakers included: Bristol Waste, experts on sustainable transport, the project team behind the proposed Bristol Arena, Bristol Pound, 2015 Green Capital and a full mayoral hustings!

We try hard to represent Totterdown, and our directors range from long term locals through to more recent incomers. We are also spread across all of Totterdown so believe we fairly represent Totterdown, but we are always open to new opinions so if you feel we are missing something then come join us and help.

We look for the best in Totterdown and believe that everyone else is also trying to make a positive difference. In 2017 we want to use our skills and experience to amplify other local action so if you have an idea for something that would make Totterdown better, then let us know and hopefully we can work with you to make it happen. This could be providing help to apply for funding, providing an umbrella body for managing finances, publicity, or simply connecting with people who would be interested.

In summary, we try hard to make Totterdown a better place and we welcome people to join us or simply to use us to get ideas and projects started. You own it and run it, we just offer whatever support we can. Our website shows all our projects and how you can take part. Please join us in "Being the change".

Simon Hobeck, Chair of TRESA

Air quality in Totterdown

In November 2016, as part of a Friends of the Earth campaign examining air pollution, I fixed an air monitoring tube on the railings under the railway bridge at St Lukes Road. In January, I received an email which stated: "The result was 96.7 µg/m³ (micrograms per cubic metre) of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂). This is above the level at which the annual legal limit is set. The European Union has set the legal limit for NO₂ pollution at an annual mean of 40µg/m³. Which means that during the time your air monitoring tube was up, NO₂ pollution levels were above the level at which the annual legal limit is set."

TRESA is concerned about air pollution in our area and we have invited an expert from UWE to discuss air quality at our next public meeting in July. All are welcome to join the debate.

Suzanne Audrey



A-Z services directory

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Lavender Broom: Tut, tut!



Fellow residents
I would like to quash the rumour that Mr Broom has taken up smoking without my permission and has resorted to scouring the streets for cigarette ends. It is true that you may have seen him picking up discarded cigarette ends but that was because he was collecting evidence. My Ladies Wax Cotton Cloche Hat with ruched crown (acknowledged to be both stylish and suitable for damp weather) was ruined on the way home from Evensong by a careless individual who flicked a lighted cigarette end out of an upstairs window. I was far too distressed to do anything at the time but sent Mr Broom to investigate in the morning. He found several cigarette ends at the scene of the crime which he collected using the rubber gloves and plastic bag I provided to avoid contaminating any fingerprints. However, our sleuthing efforts were in vain as the police community support officer advised us that a conviction was unlikely to be secured.

I have decided not to be dispirited but to put my heightened awareness of cigarette ends to good use in my campaign to Tidy Up Totterdown and Tactfully Uphold Taste (*Tut, Tut!*). A consequence of the ban on smoking in enclosed public places is that more people smoke outside and throw cigarette ends in the street. The good people of Keep Britain Tidy are encouraging local councils to take the matter seriously and dispense £80 Fixed Penalty Notices to anyone dropping smoking related litter. Given the problem with Bristol's finances, and the Mayor's Clean Streets Campaign, Bristol City Council might wish to emulate Wirral Council's litter patrol team who raised £94,000 in a single month by fining smokers who dropped cigarette ends. Cheshire Council has been similarly enthusiastic and created a Street Cleaning High Impact Team. They experienced an unfortunate setback when they realised SCHIT was not being taken seriously, but I understand a change of name has boosted morale and the team are back on track.

I raised my concerns with Totterdown Ladies Circle and we have developed an action plan. I am taking a coordinating role. Hilda has agreed to provide local businesses with a dustpan and brush and will urge them to take responsibility for tidying the pavement and gutter around their premises. Gladys has composed a polite notice for homes where cigarette ends are accumulating on the pavement. Joyce, who insists on trying to be more progressive than the rest of us, attached posters to bins in Totterdown stating "Place your butts here". This led to a plethora of inappropriate photographs on social media and so I have advised her to remove the posters and come up with something less open to abuse. In the meantime, I hope you will all play your part in reducing cigarette litter on our streets (even if it is not your own). *Tut, tut!*

News in brief

Saying it with flowers...

Floriography is a flower shop like no other. Not only does its fragranced magic seem to spread across Totterdown, it often seems that a world of wonders is contained within its compact and bijoux interior! A recent edition to the flowery treats are terrariums in handmade macrame hanging strings (locally made) – available complete or as a kit so you can make your own... and did you know that Vera and the Floriography bunch also run regular flowery workshops and activities in the shop?

EVENING WORKSHOPS 7-9.15pm: Tuesday 14th March 'SPRING HAND-TIED POSY', Tuesday 2nd May 'WANDS, STAFFS AND CROWNS', Tuesday 20th June 'CIRCLES OF HOPE.' Find out more about creating these decorative pieces for you and your home at the website: floriographybyvera.co.uk

What's happening Southside?

Southside Bar & Kitchen are celebrating the arrival of Spring with extended food and cocktail menus.

Responding to customer demand for their growing list of small plates, new additions include salt baked beetroot with lentil and pickle salad, Tiger prawns with lemon and chilli and roasted and spiced cauliflower with saffron and pistachios and plenty more new plates to try! And if you needed any more encouragement to try the new small plates, on Thursday evening you can get a cocktail and small plate of your choice for just £10.

Experimenting with their mixology, the Southside team have added some amazing new cocktails to the list including a Beetroot and Thyme Daquiri and Gingerbread Martini, and summer will even see an Avocado Daquiri smoothie on the menu.

The Wednesday Burger & Beer deal is continuing into 2017, with a handmade burger of your choice, hand cut chips and slaw with a pint of draught or glass of wine for just £10. In addition the burger menu and sides are now available to take away.

With regular offers and evenings coming up, follow them on facebook or twitter @Southsidebar1 for regular updates. You can phone in orders on 0117 9713850.

Alwaha reopens

Newly refurbished, Alwaha is once again open for business serving delicious fast food from its busy cafe at 147 Wells Road. The menu includes a variety of tasty dishes to eat in or takeaway including barbequed chicken, lamb, falafels and wraps. Open Mon, Thurs and Friday noon-8.30pm and Tues and Weds noon-5.30pm.

News from our local councillor

In the past few months by far the most correspondence I have received from people in Totterdown has concerned the proposal for a segregated cycling path in Victoria Park as part of the Filwood Quietway route. I received hundreds of emails from people who had an opinion on the proposals, and the vast majority were opposed to the plan as presented. Many people also stopped me in the streets, shops and pubs and expressed very clearly their views on the plan. At the end of the consultation period, the council's planning website showed 583 individual objections, the vast majority from people living in the ward. 67 people in the ward indicated their support for it.

We support provision for cyclists in Victoria Park, and are keen to retain the grant funding from the Department of Transport which will bring much needed investment to the park. However, it was clear that residents of Totterdown and Windmill Hill felt that the plan would adversely affect the park and its environment. Given the local opposition, shortly after the application was submitted I asked that the application be referred to the council's planning committee, citing the many and varied concerns that people had. At the end of the consultation period, we indicated that we would support local objections and called for the plan to go back to the drawing board.

As a result of this and the huge local opposition, the Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr Mark Bradshaw, withdrew the application and he has asked officers to develop a new plan, working much more closely with local people, members of Tresa and other local groups. This is where we would like to hear from you again. Most people who contacted us told us that they were in favour of a cycle route and cycling infrastructure, but opposed this particular plan. We'd like to know your thoughts on what an alternative proposal should look like, and we will ensure that they are included. You can contact us via email, telephone, post or visit us at our monthly advice surgery. **Councillor Jon Wellington**



JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT PUBLIC MEETING
Wednesday 15 March, 7.30-9.30pm
Star and Dove, St Lukes Road, Totterdown
More details at: www.tresa.org.uk

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Our Multicultural Totterdown
TRESA is delighted to have been given some additional funding by Aviva for our book about people with different cultural backgrounds living in Totterdown. Whether you are Welsh, African, Indian or other places in between we would love to hear from you.
How did you end up living in Totterdown? Is there something from your heritage that is still important to you?
If you would like more information about the book, please contact: Suzanne.audrey@btinternet.com

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Advice surgery - First Friday of each month 6.30pm – 8.00pm at Victoria Park Baptist Church, Sylvia Avenue
Cllr Jon Wellington
07392 108804 / cldr.jon.wellington@bristol.gov.uk
Cllr Lucy Whittle
07392 108805 / cldr.lucy.whittle@bristol.gov.uk
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