

# The Talk of Totterdown

The Newsletter of Totterdown Residents Environmental and Social Action Community Interest Company  
Issue No 54, Autumn 2019 [www.tresa.org.uk](http://www.tresa.org.uk)



## Celebrating Community...

There have been some fabulous projects and community events this summer - appealing to a wide range of folks and ranging from the **Great Get Together** in June incorporating **'The Three Streets'** local history project, **TRESA Garden Awards**, and a feast of food and music at an augural **'Fishstock'** up at Zone A in July.

From early Spring the Young Persons Collective have been collaborating creatively with the community on the intriguing **'5 small things that say a lot'** which will culminate in a free multimedia exhibition which will run from 20-22 September at Knowle Constitutional Club.

A magical **'Jazz at the Movies'** in early July saw 'Small Days' play jazz classics to a packed audience prior to a showing 'An American in Paris' at the Old Picture House, Winton Street. Their next event, on Friday 27 September will celebrate 'A Century of Jazz on Screen' featuring short pieces of classic historic, and often spectacular, jazz film footage, interspersed with live music and some commentary.

**Arnos Vale Community Garden** was also officially declared open. Volunteers have worked alongside the estates team at Arnos Vale to create a wonderful area where wildlife can thrive - and they are interested in hearing from local groups who would like to get involved (see editorial page 3).

No apologies, then, for making this very much an image focused celebration of Totterdown and our community. See who you can spot in the photos...

Looking ahead, the 19th FRONT ROOM Arts Trail takes place 15-17 November 2019; engineering is its theme. Are art and engineering at opposite ends of the spectrum or can the two complement each other? Sketch pads and wrench sets at the ready!

Engineer Brunel Quack is pulling together the nuts and bolts of the event and promises entertainment aplenty (giant Jenga anyone?) including live music throughout the weekend at The Oxford and The Shakey. Get an 'Early Duck Deal at a Steal' £30 artists entry for registrations received by 30 September.

Need a little creative assistance?? Local artist, and FRONT ROOM favourite, **Jane Vellender** has announced her latest 5 week course dates: 'Learn to Paint' starts Tuesday 17 September 7-9pm £80inc materials, 'Learn to Draw' starts Tuesday 5 November £70 inc materials. **Contact Jane 07791 631795 Jane@WhenArtMetCloth.com**

**"A genuine modern masterpiece"** – critic and broadcaster Mark Kermode



A new feature film goes on UK-wide release this summer after getting great reviews on the festival circuit and from top film critics, and there is a Bristol connection of which Totterdown film fans can be especially proud.

'BAIT', a drama shot in Cornwall on a 1970s Bolex camera with 35mm black-and-white film, is the debut feature production from Totterdown based Kate Byers and Linn Waite - the founders of Early Day Films.

The film is the story of Martin Ward (played by comedian Edward Rowe), a Cornish fisherman in a village becoming increasingly tense with class conflict as moneyed Londoners reshape the traditional setting into their holiday resort. Martin's brother has repurposed the family fishing boat to provide booze cruises; they've been forced to sell their cottage to second home buyers (Mary Woodvine & Simon Shepherd). Even the local pub now closes in the winter when the tourists' teenagers aren't around.

Although the setting is Cornwall, Kate says it links to here. "The film is about family, and a real sense of a connection to a place, and to me that's what Totterdown is about, too."

As part of an advance tour of the South West, there is a preview screening and Q&A with writer/director Mark Jenkin at Bristol's Watershed on August 22 before it enters the main programme at Watershed and other cinemas from August 30. Tickets for the Watershed preview are on sale now <https://www.watershed.co.uk/whatson/9867/preview-bait-qa-with-mark-jenkin/>

Linn is hoping local people will turn out to support the screenings. "So many of our friends and neighbours have been positive and supportive and I'm excited they're going to get to see it in Bristol at the amazing Watershed."

**Jack B Coll**

## Life on the verge

The recent mowing of the grass verge on St Luke's Road caused much upset, making both local and National news including the Jeremy Vine show on BBC Radio 2. As my house backs on to the verge, my neighbours and I had enjoyed seeing the mass of different coloured plants, grasses and the different types of butterflies and insects they attracted. We now look out on a dull yellow/brown deadzone supporting little diversity of life.

The deadzone reminds me of Totterdown in the 1970s & 80s, when the City Council regularly mowed the vast green spaces around Totterdown. Back then they would also spray them with chemicals to stop any 'weeds' including wild flowers from growing. Moving on to 2019 we now face the catastrophic decline in our bird and insect population. Surely if we want to stop this decline and protect all life on planet Earth we would be wise to start at a local level and encourage and nurture wildlife wherever we can? The simple equation being; no food for bees = no bees, no bees = no pollination for our crops = no food for us.

Bristol is growing rapidly, with more of the surrounding countryside about to be gobbled up by developers leading to a further decline in space for nature. In Totterdown we do have some open spaces that have scope for giving space to nature. Note we must keep an eye on our open spaces and prove we are using them. Some have been under threat in the past, such as Higham Green, and some are about to be developed, for instance the entire green bank along Bath Road.

**Proposal:** The verge along St Luke's Road provides invaluable space for nature. The idea is to leave the sloping section of the verge as a wildflower and grass meadow. The flatter section closer to the road can continue to be intensively mowed providing a border to the wildflower and grass section. This long grass and wildflower section of the verge will act as a sponge soaking up the pollution on St Luke's Road.

The community will also be applying for funding to erect some information panels along the verge so we can understand the different types of plants and insects we will be able to see. They will be similar to the ones along the Malago greenway in nearby Windmill Hill.

The Council tax saved on stopping the constant mowing of the verge can then be diverted to provide extra cash to other council services.

**Martyn, St Luke's Crescent**

## Further Consultation on University Campus

A Reserved Matters application (19/02952/M) for University of Bristol Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus (TQEC) is being considered by Bristol City Council. This application relates to the detailed design proposals for the 953 bed student accommodation, ground floor active uses and associated works as set out in the Outline Planning permission approved in July 2018 and as shown at public consultation events in May 2019. TRESA has formally commented, objecting to this application - see [www.tresa.org.uk](http://www.tresa.org.uk) for details.

The University is now embarking on a second round of consultation from 9-25 September. TRESA had strongly criticised May's consultation activities, as no effort had been made to organise an event in Totterdown which would better involve the local community and give residents an opportunity to express local concerns. TRESA has been pushing for a local event, and after a number of reminders, Bristol University has recognized that its stated commitment to consultation with affected communities means actually coming to talk to residents and community groups.

**A meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 18 September, 5-7pm at Hillcrest Primary School.** There will be a Q&A session, providing, we hope, a better opportunity for debate, and a chance to air with University representatives views and concerns about the potential impacts on residents of this £300 million development on Totterdown's doorstep.

TRESA Chair, Geoff Allan, comments: "TRESA welcomes the provision of student accommodation on site, which should relieve pressure for accommodation in the surrounding areas when the new campus opens. However, greater clarity is needed regarding the number of students to be accommodated and the proportion who are post-graduate or undergraduate. With 3,000 students to be accommodated, far more information is needed about the University's overall accommodation plan for the campus."

Geoff also suggests that more information is needed about whether staff will be accommodated on site, and how much supervision and support new students will be given. Given current issues with parking, transport is a further concern. What is the transport plan for the new campus? Are existing transport links sufficient? It is not good enough to simply declare that the site is 'car free' and push transport problems out to the surrounding areas.

This coming round of public consultation will seek views on the detailed design of the academic buildings and public spaces on the site of the former Cattle Market.

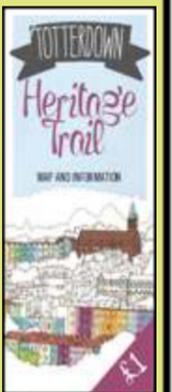
The exhibition runs from 9-25 September at Engine Shed, Station Approach, Temple Meads and Beacon House, The Triangle. Drop-in sessions: Wednesday 11 September, 6-7:30pm at Engine Shed / Thursday 12 September, 5-7pm at Barton Hill Settlement, Terrace Room / Saturday 21 September, 12-2pm at Windmill Hill City Farm, the Old Dairy. More details online: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/temple-quarter-campus/new-campus/public-consultations/>

## 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 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](http://www.tresa.org.uk) to pay via paypal or complete this form and post with cash or cheque, (payable to TRESAcic), in our letterboxes at the Post Office (in Tesco) or in Patco.



Name	
Address	
Email	
Joining date:	



## A dry spring and a wet June

Summary of the late spring and early summer (April to June) weather in Totterdown 2019

Provided by Barry Horton, Totterdown weather station  
www.bristolweather.org

Spring (March – May) in Bristol was warm and it was also drier than average. It was the eighth warmest spring in 129 years of data for the city and it was the 38th driest spring in Bristol in 138 years of data.

As always, averages hide some of the detail of the data that makes up the averages, so here is some of that detail. April was the third consecutive when the average temperature has been above the 30 year average by either 1.1°C or 1.3°C. The highest daily maximum temperature of 25.5°C on 21st April was the highest for an April since 26.2°C was also recorded on 21st April... in 2011. There were some low individual temperatures as well, so April had some interesting contrasts. Rainfall was 56% of the monthly 30 year average.

May was an average month with regard to the temperature but rainfall was only 33.4mm - only 51.1% of the 30 year average. It was the driest May since 2010 when only 32.4 mm was recorded. Another notable event for May was the high average pressure taken daily at 09:00 GMT. This was 1020 mb which is the highest for a May since 2001 when the average pressure was 1022 mb. The high pressure of 1039.4 mb at 09:00 on 13th May was the highest May recording since 1041.0 mb was recorded on 1st May 1994.

Compared with June of 2018, which was the hottest, exceptionally dry and also sunny, 2019 was a bit of a wash out as it was a dull month with below average temperatures and almost double the average rainfall. It was only with the high temperatures at the end of the month that it redeemed itself in any way. It was the equal coolest June, with an average temperature of 15.8°C, since 2013. The average temperature was -0.5°C below the 30 year average for Bristol. The rainfall of 111.8 mm was the wettest June since 181.0 mm was recorded in 2012; the wettest in 138 years of continuous data for the city. The maximum temperature of 32.8°C recorded on the 29th was the equal 2nd highest for June, with 1976, since records began in 1937.

As we enter into July the weather has largely dried up from the June soaking and I'm sure we are looking forward to a pleasant summer.

## The Three Streets Project

Over the weekend of the Great Get Together in June, the latest instalment of the Totterdown 'Road' project was revealed.



With the help of residents, Hillcrest Primary and the Knowle and Totterdown History Society, the streets of Firfield, Frederick and Parliament (just off the Wells Road) were converted into a temporary open-air museum.

The Three Streets Project explores the history of this interconnected road going back in time to its origins in the 1860s and from there, up to the present day. Photographs and texts were displayed on individual houses and information boards were located at various points down its rather steep incline.

Hillcrest students designed shop signs and blue plaques made from paper plates, and created 'wanted posters' describing all the criminals and scallywags arrested by Sgt Windmill in the 1800s (who were all thrown into Firfield Nick!).

John O'Connor, one of the organisers said: "The aim was to bring to life the past history of one slice of our neighbourhood, as a microcosm of the whole. We have now condensed every thing that we found about the ghosts, places and events of The Three Streets into an archive, which is currently available to view at 'Floriography', 154 Wells Road. We hope that you will be amused, informed, and possibly, even a little shocked by what we have uncovered".

So much has been happening in Totterdown this summer, and it's been great to see so many people out and about, meeting new people and joining in the party atmosphere. It's also really good to see Zone A coming into its own as a public space we can all enjoy... whatever the weather! Both Zone A and Zone N are important to TRESA as a local amenity and we are continuing our projects to make these spaces welcoming and useful.

Following a resolution passed at TRESA AGM in July, the organisation will now be making the move from a CIC (Community Interest Company) to a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). This will give us charitable status, enabling us to accept giftaid on membership fees and gives us a broader breadth of fundraising opportunities for community projects. Do let us know if you have any ideas on the sort of future projects or issues you feel we should be addressing.

In the meantime, enjoy our green and open spaces. I don't think I have ever seen as many bees and butterflies as I have this year in Totterdown - the FRONT GARDENS competition has resulted in additional areas where our wildlife can thrive, and I believe leaving our public areas a little bit wilder is also a key factor.  
Carolyn Jones, Editor Email talkoftotterdown@tresa.org.uk

## Crab apple trees

*Malus Sylvestris* or crab apple is a native tree and a significant ancestor of the domestic apple, with all its many varieties. A small rounded tree, producing clusters of pink tinged white flowers in the spring, it can be found growing wild in sparse woodlands, hedgerows and scrubland. Its small size, hardiness and pretty spring flowers have made it a popular choice for growing in gardens and for use in street planting. In Totterdown we have a couple planted along the Wells Road behind Highgrove bus stop; as crab apples will cross-pollinate with most apple varieties this helps the apple trees on the Zone A Community area opposite.

The fruit is rather sour but can be sweetened and made into crab apple jelly or the high pectin content improves setting if a little of the fruit is added to other jams. Crab apples were used to flavour ale, and a popular beverage known as 'lambswool' consisted of ale, nutmeg, sugar, toast and roasted crab apples.

Culpepper appears not to have been a fan of any apples and says 'in general they are cold and windy and the best are to be avoided before they are thoroughly ripe'. He also recommends apples should be roasted with a little spice and only eaten after or between meals. He classes apple trees as being 'under the dominion of Venus'. Indeed the Celts associated crab apples with love and marriage, it was an emblem of fertility and apple wood was burned during fertility rites and festivals.

Most apple harvests look promising for this Autumn so here is a recipe for 'Crab apple jelly', although I would not recommend gathering them from next to the busy Wells Road!

Recipe: Wash the apples, cover with water and simmer until the fruit is soft, pour the pulp into a muslin or jelly bag and leave to drain into a bowl overnight. Measure the juice and add sugar - 7 parts to 10 parts of juice - and add some lemon juice. Boil, skimming off the froth until setting point is reached, pour into warm sterilised jars and seal while warm. Good with cold meats – enjoy!  
Anne Silber

## GET BACK ON YOUR BIKE!

Bristol based charity Life Cycle UK maintains that cycling can improve individual lives, local communities and the environment. Life Cycle UK's 'Return to Cycling' rides could be the perfect opportunity to get back on your bike!

The rides, which are all free, will be running every first and third Tuesday from July-October. They are designed to be short and gentle, on traffic-free cycle paths with time to stop and enjoy some refreshments. All rides are led by a friendly ride leader and volunteers to support participants. Bikes and eBikes are available to borrow, and there is cycle skills training beforehand if you're feeling a bit rusty.

Anne, a previous returner to cycling says "I was expecting to be a lot more scared but ended up really enjoying it. The ride leader was very patient and helpful. I now have the confidence to start riding on my own".

Life Cycle UK is also looking for volunteers to support our inclusive rides. If you are enthusiastic about cycling, enjoy helping others and can spare a few hours a month, get in touch to find out more.

To find out more about 'Return to Cycling' rides or volunteering, contact Viv at bikeminded@lifecycleuk.org.uk, call Life Cycle on (0117) 353 4580 or online at www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/wellbeing.

## BEHIND THE DOOR...

The Bakehouse opened in May, and has been a very welcome addition to the growing roster of independent businesses in Totterdown. The bright and sunshine-filled shop is bustling and busy, especially once the smell of freshly baked pasties, pies and other artisan baked goods drifts out from the doorway.



The bakery is owned and run by sisters Anna and Boyanna, who are originally from Bulgaria but have been settled in Bristol for over 10 years. Their parents, were both chefs, but it is their mother in particular who has been a key inspiration behind their decision to set themselves up as a bakery. With, quite literally, hands-on support from their mother, 'Mamma made' was established, with the bread sold to a few select Bristol outlets.

Following a chance meeting with Banana Boat owner, Gerry Pace, the greengrocers began stocking the bread, and were delighted to let the sisters know when the neighbouring premises became vacant.

Anna is a very friendly welcoming face at the counter, and she credits her sister, Bo, as the main baking force. "Her hands are magic; she makes the most amazing bread. The sourdough is mum's secret recipe, but the rest of the breads are ones she has worked on and tweaked until they are perfected."

Alongside a wide selection of breads including sourdough, sunflower seed, white and wholemeal, there is an incredible range of delicious pastries and cakes, macarons and dolce. Croissants and pain au raisin sit next to the glorious and legendary custard tarts. Focaccia and pizzas, warm from the oven, are another popular choice - take your purchases home in a reusable produce bag produced by local artist Gael Allan.

Both women have an interest in design and a number of items in the shop and on the walls have been made by the talented duo, including the outside fascia. A small seating area outside with chairs and tables provides a relaxing place to stop



for delicious home baked goodies with a perfectly prepared Espresso coffee or green tea.

Taking a break from the heat of the oven, the sisters are happy to sit outside and chat to people. They praise the support they have received from other local businesses and local residents, "We were surprised at how friendly Totterdown is. The people are great."

The sisters are working incredibly hard and putting in long hours to make the business a success. Opening hours from Monday to Saturday from 6am-6pm, usually closing earlier on a Saturday around 4pm. Opening hours will be shorter in August with closing at 2pm other than Friday when the bakery is open until 6pm. Anna says the focus is on producing quality goods, artisan great service and above all enjoying the business, "We want to keep it small and family run so it stays fun!"



### The BAKEHOUSE

118 Oxford Street, Totterdown,  
Bristol BS3 4RL

## A new Community Garden for all

Exciting changes are underway near the Totterdown boundary of Arnos Vale Cemetery. The hardworking estates team and dedicated volunteers have been busy creating a new Community Garden. The garden sits on an area of land which was overgrown and unsightly for many years after a derelict building was removed. The Arnos Vale team decided to improve this neglected area and applied successfully for funding from Tesco 'Bags for Life'.

The estates team are now breathing new life into the area, by creating a wildlife-friendly garden, but the intention is that the garden will be cared for by voluntary community groups, Hillcrest School and individual members of the public. There is a wildlife pond and dipping platform, a small storage shed, several new fruit trees, a composting area, bird and bat boxes and plenty of flowering plants. The garden will be vibrant and sensory, welcoming people and wildlife; the success of the garden relies on the butterfly and bee-friendly plants that will be sown, as these creatures are vital to good garden health and biodiversity.



Clearing begins...

The garden was officially opened on 11th July, by the Lord Mayor, Jos Clarke, who is also a Brislington West ward Councillor. She spoke of her personal close attachment to the wonderful resource that is Arnos Vale and how much the garden will mean to those living locally. Janine Marriott, Public Engagement Manager at Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust, praised the volunteers who had helped to realise the project, the estates team and all those involved in creating the garden and supporting the official opening party.

The project was carefully planned to have as little impact on resources as possible. The garden uses lots of recycled and sustainably-produced material wherever possible. Even the pond is made from salvaged timbers from a nearby building site and filled with rainwater. The raised beds and



Lord Mayor, Jos Clarke, cuts the ivy ribbon!

shed are made of Welsh-grown European larch; a timber which is naturally resistant to decay and does not need chemical treatment. The shed roof has a living sedum bed which harvests rainwater which will be used to water the garden.

The garden includes 12 raised beds for groups and individuals to plant up, two of which will be accessible for wheelchair users. The groups caring for the beds will plant native bulbs, herbs, annual and perennial flowers and shrubs making it a lovely space to work and relax in. This beautiful garden will be a wonderful resource for local groups, and is another fabulous addition to our green spaces which are proving a real haven for wildlife. Do pop in to see the garden progress throughout the seasons.

AVCT is now inviting groups to get involved, so if you are interested, please contact: [nick.bull@arnsovale.org.uk](mailto:nick.bull@arnsovale.org.uk)



Young visitors explore the pond area

## A piece of rough...

The wildflower beds in Totterdown are looking fantastic along with the conservation mowing regime in Victoria Park and Arnos Court. The long "rough" grass and wildflowers make a huge difference for wildlife and to the way we get to see it. I was walking through the long grass in Arnos Court park the other day, and the diversity of butterflies and the number of them was amazing. There were lots of other insects as well, such as beetles and grasshoppers.

Have you seen the new community garden in Arnos Vale Cemetery yet? It's great, and the team worked extremely hard to create it. The garden is planted up with a good mix alongside nettles and willow herbs. The garden also has a pond. This will make a massive difference to the area and will attract dragonflies, amphibians and even some reptiles. I am sure the bats will make good use of it as well for catching all the insects it will attract. It's going to be great keeping an eye on it and building up the biological records over the years to come.



Leave it long and wild for wildlife

On the subject of long grass, I know a fair few people don't like it. Here in Britain we do like to keep things neat and tidy, such as trimmed hedgerows, well cut lawns and manicured flowerbeds. This is all very well, and it does look amazing and neat... BUT it's just not good for a lot of wildlife. I was thinking about this recently. We have lizards in the UK, but we rarely

see them, why? Over in some European countries, they are easy to see on the walls and paths. I know it's a bit hotter, but still. I think it's to do with our obsession of keeping things neat. This neat and tidy habit we have does not allow for some animals to establish or travel, so what happens is, the animals, say lizards, all end up in certain areas that are not constantly disturbed by maintenance. This in turn is not good for the genetics of a population as inbreeding will occur after time and it seems this is the case with the adder in many areas of the UK.

I know people don't want to see large parks with long grass, but I think we should leave more areas to grow long and wild. After all, we are in the era of extinction rebellion! So be a rebel and leave that grass alone. **Have a great summer, Dan**

## The view from the Chair...

### Reasons to be cheerful!

With so much gloom and worry about, let's see if we can find a few things around the area to cheer us up.

It was great to see the opening this July of the new community garden area at the Cemetery Road end of Arnos Vale Cemetery. It's often the way that we take for granted what's on our doorstep. We're so lucky to be able to turn off the busy Bath or Wells Road and step into this wonderful Arcadian world of birdsong, wildflowers, trees and contemplation.

If you walk down School Road and past the playground of Hillcrest School, don't miss the veggie beds, the scarecrow, and best of all the chickens! The children there are getting stuck in and learning about the natural world in and outside the city at an early age. Well done Hillcrest.

And just across the road is the ever wonderful School Road playground. With its sandpit, it's the closest thing you'll find in Totterdown to Bondi Beach. Almost makes you want to get your bucket and spade and join in.

And let's cheer ourselves by appreciating the dizzying variety of shops we have - from glass cutters to upholsterers, greengroceries, to bakeries, pharmacies to eateries, and typographers to florigraphers.

Not a lot of people know that Totterdown also boasts its own community orchard, at the bottom of Park Street. Depending on the season, there's wassailing, BBQing, apple pressing, and fruit picking. Rumour has it that you can even find mud wrestlers in action if you time it right.

And then there are the hills. If you like a hill, Totterdown's your place. We've got them in all shapes and sizes. And like a lot of things in life, you may have to struggle to get to the top, but just think how cheerful you'll feel when you've got there.

**Geoff Allan, Chair of TRESA**



## TRESA Garden Awards 2019

It was a record year for handing out awards to our glorious small plots in Totterdown. Congratulations to everyone who won an award, and double congratulations to the following category winners...

- Best Garden: 52 Sydenham Road, sponsored by Greenwoods Window on Totterdown: 28 Stanley Hill, sponsored by Fig1
- Family Friendly: 10 Bathwell Road, sponsored by Totterdown Canteen
- Wildlife Friendly: 16 Green Street, sponsored by Banco Lounge



Small and wild

## Clean air update

Bristol's much delayed Clean Air Plan is what the council proposes - under the obligation imposed on it by the government in seeking to meet UK's duty under the EU's 2008 Air Quality Directive - to clean up its air "as soon as possible."

Whilst it is good to see recognition of the serious action that is needed, given the tug of war that is local authority politics, the plan will not achieve a significant reduction in exposure to air pollution across Bristol. It is about delivering minimum compliance as soon as possible.

What is needed is a general reduction in single-user vehicles so that our narrow city centre roads can meet the travel demand whilst minimising air and noise pollution.

Worryingly, especially given fresh scientific evidence of the billions of nano-particulates that are absorbed deep into human tissue, with unknown consequences, the Clean Air Plan does not address particulate pollution. On Clean Air Day the Mayor announced in his speech that this will be addressed, and that is to be welcomed.

The main objection to the two options set out in the Council's public consultation is that they do not restrict private cars. There are more cars than other vehicles and they therefore contribute more to air pollution.

The plans to ban HGV's from certain city centre streets is welcome, but residents of Totterdown (which is not within the zone covered by the current Plan) would be better served by a ban on heavy lorries especially where air pollution is known to be routinely above permitted levels, such as around the Three Lamps junction.

Simpler measures could also be included, such as enforcing speed restrictions on the Bath Road outbound from Temple Meads, and a driver-friendly campaign to encourage switching off of engines when idling, for example downhill on the Wells Road during rush hour. These and other obvious traffic-calming steps could surely achieve immediate reductions in air pollution at minimal cost. **Geoff Allan**



For Clean Air Day 2019, TRESA was pleased to work with Cabot Tyres to install a no idling sign at their premises. The sign is to remind people to switch off their engines while they are waiting to have their new tyres fitted. Thank you, Cabot Tyres - we think it is already making a difference.

**What is the problem?** An idling engine produces up to twice as many exhaust emissions as an engine in motion. Exhaust emissions contain air pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide and particulate matter. These can affect air quality in the surrounding area and the air we breathe.

**Is idling illegal?** Vehicle idling is an offence against the Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002. **The law states it is an offence to idle your engine unnecessarily when stationary.** This covers all vehicles on public roads including buses, taxis and private cars. It does not apply to: vehicles moving slowly due to road works or congestion; vehicles stopped at traffic lights; vehicles under test or repair, or; defrosting a windscreen.

**What can you do?** Please switch off the engine if you are waiting for more than a minute. By turning off your engine you can improve air quality, reduce your fuel costs and comply with the law. Reducing air pollutants can help cut heart disease, reduce lung cancer and prevent asthma attacks.

# Lavender Broom: Tut, tut!

Fellow Residents



I apologise if you overheard me exclaiming, in the manner of Brenda from Bristol, "not another one" as Mr Broom and I were enjoying a glass of elderflower champagne in the garden here at Totterdown Mansions. I had just learned that Bristol Waste are proposing yet another container for household waste and recycling. As well as our wheelie bins, black box, green box and brown caddy, a blue reusable bag is being considered. How, I wonder, will this affect my campaign to Tidy Up Totterdown and Tactfully Uphold Taste (*Tut, tut!*).

The blue bag is being tested by households in Stockwood who have been asked to use it, instead of the green box, for cardboard and brown paper. Cardboard should be flattened and cut it into smaller pieces if necessary, so that it will fit into the bag (which is 45cm square). Cardboard not broken down in this way will not be collected as it will not fit into the compartment of the recycling vehicle.

Meanwhile, closer to home, the decidedly un-flattened packaging from that enormous television screen in the house opposite was on the pavement for weeks. Just quite what they thought the binmen were supposed to do with it, is beyond me. I eventually sent Mr Broom across at night to sort it out. He did his best, jumping up and down on it in the dark, but when he set off their car alarm, he was forced to make a hasty retreat. They haven't spoken to us since.

Mr Broom is now refusing to tackle any further cardboard problems in the street but has agreed to help me with my presentation '10 exciting ways to re-use cardboard packaging' which I am planning for the Totterdown Ladies Circle AGM.

Some of his ideas have been better than others. After searching the internet, he was convinced he could fold a cardboard box into a 'nifty stool' and insisted we demonstrate his achievement at the Great Get Together picnic. While other people were relaxing on perfectly respectable fold-up chairs, Mr Broom and I gradually sank to the ground and spent most of the afternoon sitting awkwardly on crushed cardboard. Fortunately, I was wearing slacks.

Although I am fond of Edna, she clearly enjoyed suggesting a better use for the cardboard might be garden compost. Apparently, the Royal Horticultural Society recommend up to 50% soft green material (grass clippings, annual weeds, vegetable waste) and the rest woody brown material (twigs, dead leaves and cardboard). So, it was with some delight that I tore what remained of the 'nifty stools' into small pieces and put them into our compost bin.

I subsequently instructed Mr Broom to be less ambitious with his ideas for the Ladies Circle and he is making an interesting list of things to do with cardboard egg boxes: storing Christmas decorations, organising buttons or starting seedlings (when they sprout, the egg compartments can be separated and planted straight into the ground). I am now feeling much more optimistic that I will be able to inspire others to re-use cardboard packaging or recycle it properly if blue bags arrive in Totterdown. *Tut, tut!*

# News from our local councillor

Last month I, along with several local people and members of TRESA, attended the meeting of the council's Development Control Committee, (otherwise known as the planning committee), to express my opposition to the application for a tower block of flats on Totterdown Bridge on Bath Road.

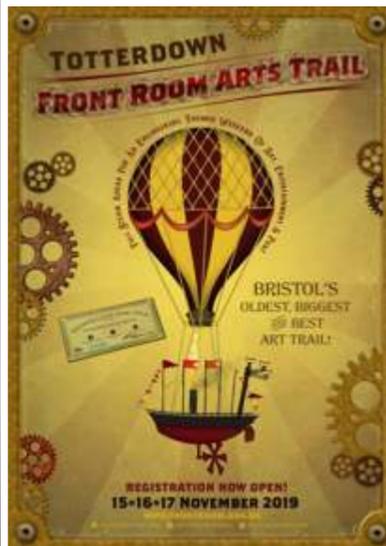


Ultimately, the committee decided to approve the application for a 17 storey tower block, a decision I was hugely disappointed with. There are some good things about the application. The number of affordable homes may go as high as 50%, which are badly needed in the city and in the area. It is in a sustainable location with public transport links and proximity to the city centre. However, the scale, height and density of the new development are just not right for the area and it will have a negative effect on many aspects of life in Totterdown. The application was recommended by officers for approval, which made it very difficult for members of the planning committee to reject it.

In the papers the officers admit that this application does not meet the recently adopted Urban Living policy on density of housing per hectare for the area, which is categorised as 'Inner Urban Area' with a limit of 120 units per hectare. This application proposes 270 units per hectare, which contravenes the guideline by a significant margin. I accept these are not prescriptive and that there will always be wriggle room in something of this nature for a good development that complements the existing area. However, this proposal is for over twice the recommended density, with a central tower that is fourteen storeys higher than any of the local buildings, and comes with significant opposition from the local community due to the poor design and impact on the local environment.

In the coming year or so we can expect plans for more high density, high rise housing on the Bath Road between Totterdown Bridge and the Three Lamps. I will be meeting with developers and council officials regularly to ensure that residents views are heard, so please get in touch with me if you have an opinion on any of this.

**Councillor Jon Wellington**



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