



The Talk of Totterdown

The Newsletter of Totterdown Residents Environmental and Social Action Community Interest Company
Issue No 62, Autumn 2021 www.tresa.org.uk

Sustainable steps forward

In celebration of the revitalised green space at Bushy Park, TRESA hosted a sustainable transport event at the end of July which was well attended by local people.



The intention is to create a 'mobility station' on the space and the event provided an ideal opportunity to get people's views on what they feel this should entail. TRESA's initial ideas for the mobility station on Bushy Park include: EV charge points; secure bicycle parking, possibly including a bicycle hangar for local residents; VOI electric scooter parking; a car club parking space; wayfinding signage, including directions and distances to bus stops and railway stations; information about transport options;

benches as resting places; drinking water fountain.

The event showed that Bushy Park green space is a great place for small events – and there is plenty of interest in sustainable transport in our area.

Avon and Somerset Police community support officers were busy security marking bicycles for several hours. Meanwhile the Travel West Roadshow team gave out travel maps and information, as well as providing information about different bicycles and cycle training opportunities. Unfortunately, Dr Bike was told he had to self-isolate – we hope he is well, and TRESA will certainly try to organise another opportunity for the free bicycle servicing and repairs.

TRESA will be sending out a short survey on the mobility station plans to registered TRESA members and friends. If you live in the area and would like to become a member please complete the form in this newsletter or on our website. Do also email any ideas or questions to us

hello@tresa.org.uk

Suzanne Audrey

HUGE THANKS also all those who joined us at Bushy Park for the community planting day in July. Tremendous effort from young and old... and those in between! TRESA has received lots of comments on how much better the area looks, it feels safer and happier and plenty of residents have been enjoying the space in the sunshine.

Concerns regarding 122 Bath Road development proposals

TRESA has submitted an objection to the development proposals being brought forward by PYL Bath Road Limited ("the applicant"):

"Redevelopment of the former car wash site at 122 Bath Road to provide 54 self-contained residential flats with associated car and cycle parking, landscape and access."

Development illustration: P Yates Bath Road Ltd



Following a pre-application presentation which TRESA attended in early July, Directors had a number of concerns regarding proposals and offered their views for consideration by the developers. The Bath Road area is undergoing considerable change at the moment, not all for the good, and TRESA also has serious concerns that local community groups and residents' views are not being fully taken into account by officers and elected representatives on Bristol City Council.

A planning application has now been registered and TRESA has submitted a formal response, full details of which can be viewed online at Bristol City Council planning portal. Residents and businesses are also able to submit comments at <https://pa.bristol.gov.uk/online-applications/> Search on reference 21/04096/F

TRESA strongly objects to the proposal which contravenes several planning documents, represents gross over-development of the site, will overshadow and threaten the privacy of local residents, includes poor design (e.g. single aspect units, no integration of children's play facilities) and undermines the local character and heritage of the area. TRESA would welcome and support a good quality design, no higher than 4-storeys, that contributes to people-friendly streets and spaces.

VIVA BRISTOLIA!

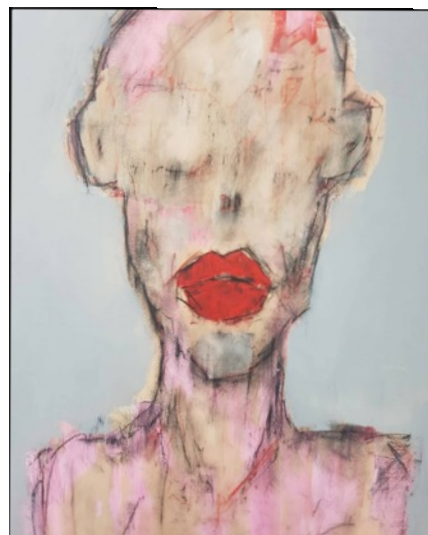
A wonderfully vibrant and thought provoking exhibition by Bristol artists which runs to 22 October is currently on display at ArtPark, Wells Road.

The exhibition features the work of:

- Aaron Lock (first time exhibitor)
- Dave Hall
- Emily Jones (first time exhibitor)
- Jordan Hall (first time exhibitor)
- Lee Ellis
- T.E.Yates

Adam Tayler of ArtPark says "For me, this is the best part of being a gallery owner; talking to and discovering new and exciting artists and their work. The exhibition has a broad spectrum of styles and subjects, which means most people should find something they like. For our next exhibition (Jan to March 2022) we are planning to do a photographic study of Bristol and it's surrounding counties. We will work with the photographers to finalise the theme, but something along the lines of 'hidden' or 'different point of view' are high on our list."

If you are interested in taking part in future exhibitions, please get in contact with Adam on 07828 285087 or via email adam@artpark.co.uk



'Section 28 - Aaron Lock

Green Eyed Lion - Jordan Hall



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.

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 our letterboxes at the Post Office (in Tesco) or in Patco.

Name	
Address (House number & postcode)	
Email	
Joining date:	

Shipshape & Oxford Fashion...



The premises known back in 1882 as the Oxford Hotel has undergone a number of changes over the years, and here we are now in 2021 with a stylish new exterior and a brand new sign. A positive sign in difficult days, but still a familiar warm welcome awaits you from Jon and Ang who recently celebrated their twelfth year in charge of Totterdown's popular hostelry.

As Jon says "We are pleased with the new facelift but assure you all that the feverish charm of the peeling wallpaper and chipped woodwork remain unchanged in the bar!"

Work on the premises was more extensive than originally planned when the scaffolding went up outside the Oxford in August and tradesmen descended on the pub en masse. Jon explained "After more repairs than a patchwork quilt, the main brief was a complete new roof. This had subsequently caused a whole heap of issues in the living quarters and as part of the restoration a complete refit of the upstairs living area was required. This was all completed in record time and the management would like to say a big thank you to the Rogers Group for a speedy and professional job. Here's to many more leak free years to come at the Oxford!"

With the pub now reopened Jon can get back to what he does best - bringing live music and entertainment to Totterdown, BBQs to see out the summer and the promise of hearty Sunday Roasts as we head into the chillier months.

We are slowly emerging from lockdown restrictions, many of us taking a cautious approach.

Now is as good a time as any to take stock of lessons learned during the pandemic to enable us to make better choices moving forward. Perhaps make a promise that we won't take things we have taken for granted in the same way as we have in the past:

- Appreciate our green spaces;
- Commend the wealth of goods and services offered by our local independents;
- Celebrate community and take better care of our neighbours and neighbourhood.

Certainly at our AGM in July a lot of the discussion was on how we can ensure TRESA can best support and work with the community to put sustainability at the heart of what we do.

We want to have more events, and direct conversations within the community on issues that matter. Where things go wrong we will endeavour to resolve matters - providing a strong response when residents have planning concerns and working with Avon and Somerset Police when problems arise with antisocial behaviour.

We want to ensure that Totterdown can be enjoyed by everyone - join us to help us make that happen! Details at: www.tresa.org.uk
Carolyn Jones, Editor

Retrofit: Renovation with the environment in mind



How can we reduce the carbon footprint of our home?

Construction of new housing remains high on the Government's agenda, yet building an average UK house takes around 50-80 tonnes of CO₂, equivalent to five new family cars. The carbon investment of retrofitting an older house is only a fraction of a new build and better still, offers significant fuel savings when it comes to replacing inefficient heating systems, stopping draughts and insulating period homes.

With a fabric first approach, the construction of the building is considered. Post 1930s homes should have cavity walls so you

can expect some level of insulation, Pre 1920s and it's generally solid wall construction. Many older homes are decorative, perhaps with limitations to what you can do to the outside. Most houses have a pitched roof - many still lack enough - or any - loft insulation. This last point should be the first step for any retrofit, with precaution taken against lack of ventilation in the roof void.

Insulation to walls can be an excellent solution, despite gaining a bit of a bad rep. On release of the Green Deal grants, the rush of uptake was not matched by a suitable skilled workforce leading to costly remedial work. Local organisation Green Register recognised the demand and has now launched Futureproof with the Centre for Sustainable Energy. The venture offers excellent local resources that have been developed in response to the urgent need to upgrade older housing stock and to connect retrofit clients with skilled builders.

External wall insulation has many advantages - no complicated internal detailing, no lost floor space, it holds on to the heat in the brick, block or stone like a tea-cosy. It does not suit all properties - or budgets. Internal wall insulation is cheaper per sqm, though it carries more risks, particularly with the potential for condensation to form behind the insulation. Here, natural products such as wood fibre board can cope with that moisture better than synthetic products. A ventilation system would accompany an internal insulation approach improving the material performance.

Whatever you do to improve a house - do it holistically. Building fabric, moisture movement, air tightness and indoor air quality are all interrelated and it's important to understand there can be unintended consequences.

Our top tip - Learn from others locally!

We would love to hear from those in the local area who have undertaken retrofit and other improvements to their properties. If you would like to share your project, get in touch with TRESA or email hello@materials.inmind.org.

- Centre for Sustainable Energy - Bristol based energy advice charity. Head to the CSE website www.cse.org.uk/resources and check out their fact sheets, tool kits and other publications about home improvements, grants etc.
- Future Proof - You can find out more about the energy saving measures, extensions and conversions, along with whole house refurbishment by visiting the CSE Futureproof website: www.futureproof.uk.net
- Bristol City Council created this guide: <https://www.energyservicebristol.co.uk/bristolians-guide-solid-wall-insulation/> which covers a lot of the detailing.
- Read the full article and explore our musings on a wide range of topics: www.materialsinmind.org

Jenny Ford FRSA

TRESA Director, Jenny, is Founder & Lead Design Consultant at Materials in Mind, a Sustainability Consultancy for the built environment sector www.materialsinmind.org



Summary of the late spring and early summer (April to June) weather in Totterdown 2021

Provided by Barry Horton of the Totterdown weather station
<http://www.bristolweather.org>

In complete contrast to last year the spring of 2021 was cooler than the recent 30 year average. With a mean temperature 9.7°C for the three months March to May it was -1.0°C cooler. Even with May's high rainfall the total spring rainfall placed the season only at 47th wettest out of 140 years of data for Bristol.

April 2021 was a cool and dry month with above average sunshine, high pressure and few strong winds. The rainfall of 18.8mm in 2021 was only 33.3% of the 30 year average for the month. For 15 consecutive days from the 12th there was no measurable rainfall. It was the coldest April with an average temperature of 8.7°C since 7.9°C was recorded in April 1989. 2021 was 4.0°C cooler than April's 2020 average temperature.

May 2021 was a cooler and much wetter than average month. Only in the last few days of the month did the temperatures rise and the rain ease off. The total rainfall for the month was 132.2mm which is 212% of the 30 year average for the month. It was the 6th wettest May since continuous records began in 1881. Temperatures were below the 30 year average in 2021. At 11.9°C average temperature this is -1.8°C lower than the 1991-2020 average of 13.7°C. It was the windiest May since 2015. The average air pressure of 1020 mb was the equal 3rd highest since this data started in 1994.

June 2021 was a quiet month with temperatures slightly above the 30 year average and rainfall below the 30 year average. Perhaps the most notable event was the lack of high winds throughout the month. The maximum daily wind speed of 6.8 mph on the 27th of June was the 2nd lowest of any month since this data started in 2005. The maximum wind gust of 23 mph was the joint lowest, of any month, with, August 2002, since this data started in 1995. The monthly rainfall of 38.7 mm was 63.3% of the 30 year average (1991-2020). The monthly mean temperature of 17.3°C was 0.7°C above the 30 year average of 16.6°C (1991-2020). The maximum daily temperature of 28.8°C on the 13th June was the lowest since 2016 when 26.9°C was recorded.

ZONE A UPDATE

Zone A was given to the community of Totterdown in the 1980s as a reconciliatory gesture by Bristol City Council, following the demolition of the area around Angers Road in preparation for a road development that was subsequently abandoned.

Zone A is looked after and planted on by TRESA and the local community. It is used as a venue for community events, such as The Great Get Together and TRESA Garden Festival. The space also features a mosaic created by locals featuring elements of Totterdown's history and commemorating the community that was lost to make space for a road that never happened. Many local residents use it as a short cut or resting spot as they wend their way up the hill, and it well used by small groups of people as a 'picnic spot' in the city.

The land is owned under deed by Totterdown Area Community Association (the entity that existed before TRESA). TACA would like to ensure that the land continues to remain a community asset for future generations, and intends to hold a public meeting later this year to recruit volunteers and trustees, and anyone who has an interest in the future of Zone A is encouraged to attend.

If you would like to be kept in touch please email TACA Trustee Jeremy Welsh jezwelsh@hotmail.com

BEHIND THE DOOR...

ArtPark started in 2014 as a pop-up stall at various fetes, fairs and art trails including our own Front Room Art Trail. In April this year owner Adam Tayler took over the premises at 143 Wells Road and set about creating something a bit more permanent - a weekend pop-up art gallery showcasing affordable original art.



Adam explains "I've dabbled in art since I was at school, and started painting in my 20's, considering it more of a hobby than anything. When I moved to Totterdown, I thought about joining the Front Room Art Trail, but worried my work wasn't up to *that* standard. For two years I participated as a visitor before plucking up the courage to open my doors and display my work. That weekend I sold three paintings and a lot more in subsequent years. It gave me an amazing confidence boost and helped me learn about the commercial

aspects of the art world in a very safe environment. It has led to some brilliant experiences and adventures along the way, which has resulted in me having my own little gallery and events space. Front Room Art Trail is a very important part of the Totterdown art scene and critical for some of our artists; it gave me my break and confidence to call myself an artist and I hope that it returns very soon."

The ArtPark concept has a set of core values all aimed at supporting artists; original affordable art for all; support for art as a profession; encourage and coach the next generation of art professionals; fairness and respect by, amongst and for the artist community; protect the right to explore, create and express art; have fun and bring joy.

A general themed 'opening' exhibition took place in April to July, including some of Adam's work, and this led to further contacts with local artists and the inspiration for "Viva Bristolia" the second ArtPark exhibition which runs until 22 October.

The next exciting instalment for the gallery will be the start of events in September.

Adam is teaming up with a local expert florist to bring a number of hands-on flower design events, providing all the tools, stems and vase (to take

away!) to make a beautiful late summer display (30 Sept), Halloween arrangement (28 Oct) or Christmas Wreath (25 Nov)

Other events include:

Sketch Jam, a social networking event for people who like to sketch and doodle. People are encouraged to bring their pencil and sketch book, or they can meet other artists and swap advice about their experiences.

Gallery Geeks - Game Night: Get yer board-game face for a social gaming group, for meeples of all skills and experiences, newbies welcome. People can bring their favourite games to play and join others, to learn new games.

Themed wine tastings and rum tasting events

That core value of 'have fun and bring joy' is likely to keep Adam busy well into 2022!!

ArtPark

143 Wells Road, Totterdown BS4 2BU

Open: Friday 1pm - 6pm & Saturday 10am - 4pm

All news about exhibitions and events on Instagram: [@artparkbristol](https://www.instagram.com/artparkbristol)

ArtPark

Front Garden Awards 2021

TRESA directors were out and about in June delivering Front Garden Awards to those of you who have been brightening up the streets of Totterdown with your gardening ideas. Whether you have been planting in front gardens, pots and window boxes, or on the roofs of bicycle sheds and bin stores, you have helped to make our streets attractive for people and wildlife.

This year we gave out 350 awards - some to people who obviously have experience and skills in gardening, and some to those who may be just starting out. Each award is to say "thank you" for cheering up our streets.

Everyone who received an award is a winner, but each year we also give three prizes. This year the prizes were for 'Best Mini-Garden', 'Wildlife Friendly' and 'Best Garden'.



We were delighted that Andy Dean, Director of BlueSky Landscape Design & Build, agreed to undertake the final judging. In 2017, Andy and his team helped on the second series of BBC's Garden Rescue - with Charlie Dimmock and the award-winning garden designers the Rich brothers. A number of gardens and spaces were commended: great use of small space, with some productive



gardening at 5 Park Street; nice use of tricky, hard landscaped space at 3 New Walls with pots on steps and an insect house on the landing; pots outside several homes at the far end of St Lukes Crescent; good use of the pavement to brighten up the street at 4 Dunmore Street; a green and lush basement at 76 Richmond Street; great screening, storage ideas and vertical gardening ideas at 33 Summer Hill; trees in pots, a timber bench, and use of colourful pots near the door at 45 Arnos Street; lovely hibiscus and nice planters at 38 Cambridge Street; an interesting cottage garden with a hardy tropical planting scheme at 44 Cambridge Street; a sweet cottage garden with some productive pots at 104 Oxford Street; pretty roses at 28 Stevens Crescent, and; a nice contemporary space at 7 Windsor Terrace.

An 'honourable mention' was given to 2 Oxford Street for very stylish use of the exterior space including upper windowsills, although the eucalyptus will need regular pruning!

...And now we come to the prize winners!

'Best Mini-Garden' goes to 93 Hawthorne Street (3) for a sweet space incorporating alpines in a gravel garden and a bin store with a green roof. 'Best Wildlife Garden' (2) goes to 25 Green Street with nice planting for wildlife and a special mention for the barley. 'Best Front Garden' goes to 96 New Walls (1) for lovely, full, low-maintenance planting which is also good for wildlife, and great use of space. **Suzanne Audrey**

Community Climate Action

Let's make change with Bristol Disability Equality Forum

Have you completed Bristol Disability Equality Forum's Climate Action survey?

If not, do it now so that your priorities and needs don't get overlooked as Bristol takes action to halt the climate crisis!

Bristol's Community Climate Action project is a partnership of 6 communities, working with

Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Centre for Sustainable Energy and the Council, to make sure communities the environmental movement has largely ignored do not get overlooked, yet again, as we face the need for urgent action to address the climate crisis.

Climate change is change to global temperatures, weather, sea levels, health, nature and food. In Bristol we are meeting this challenge by aiming to become carbon neutral by 2030. This means big changes to the way that we must live: to our transport, housing, food, energy and buying habits, all in under nine years.

Disabled people are among those in the UK who contribute least to the climate crisis yet they are likely to be some of those who are most affected by it. So we want to make sure that the inequalities Disabled people face are not continued or made even worse by Bristol's climate actions.

That's why the project will focus on making lives better at the same time as lowering our use of dirty energy by supporting Disabled people to co-produce Bristol's Community Climate Action Plan so we can ensure that inclusion is built-in to the Plan(s) from the very start. But we need you if we are to do that. Are you in?

Watch the video and complete the survey at: <https://bristoldef.org.uk/community-climate-action/>.

If you cannot access the internet, or it isn't accessible to you, contact: (0117) 914 0528, leaving a message that includes your name and contact address, as well as what format you need the info in. DEF will then send you a DVD copy of the video and a paper version of the survey. If you need any support to complete the survey you can email: cca.bristoldef@gmail.com or call (0117) 914 0528.

So, get those problem-solving skills fired up and join us now!

The view from the Chair...

The release last month of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's latest report - just as we were witnessing on our screens the devastating wildfires that were sweeping through the parched woodlands of southern Europe - left us in no doubt as to the urgency of action on the climate.

As local residents, we all want to do what we can to address this, but we can't do it on our own. We need to see our government working urgently with the City Council on the solutions, including ending fossil fuel as a power source for vehicles, and switching domestic heating away from gas. Time is not on our side.

There's a lot more that could and should be being done. We're seeing a lot of new building - some describe it as a 'building epidemic' - in our area. The council has the power and the responsibility to see that all new buildings meet the highest energy efficiency standards, yet this is not always the priority it should be.

Besides the huge amounts of energy used in construction, buildings constructed with insufficient attention to energy use and conservation generate decades of unnecessary greenhouse gases.

According to the Green Building Council, 40% of all UK carbon emissions originate from the built environment. So eliminating energy waste not just by us as residents, but in the construction industry is critical to meeting the UK government's 78% carbon reduction targets by 2035.

How can we do things better? Last year, 26 major cities in Europe including Helsinki, Oslo, Prague and Florence signed the European Circular Cities Declaration. Cities that sign up commit to creating resource-efficient, low-carbon and socially responsible societies. The Declaration offers a common vision of a 'circular city', one that does not focus on a conventional post-Coronavirus recovery to business-as-usual, but which regards the economic downturn as a chance to transition to different, more resilient and sustainable economic strategies. A circular city makes mobility, waste management, and urban planning more sustainable.

Many of us are keen to work as individuals and communities to secure a safer greener world for our children. We need our leaders to draw on every idea and resource to make this happen. If becoming a circular city can help, let's go for it.

In July this year, Wolverhampton became the first English city to sign up to the Declaration. Now let's see Bristol follow suit.

Geoff Allan



Totterdown Sprouting is an off-shoot of TRESA and was started in about 2008 inspired by cities across the world that were growing food plants in public spaces.

The first project was the brick beds in Oxford Street, and a group of enthusiasts experimented with planting rhubarb, beans, spinach and other such vegetables.

Efforts were made to improve the soil with the delivery of a lorry load of manure which was ceremonially dumped in the road and shovelled by hand into the beds! The objective of growing vegetables on this site proved very ambitious and the difficulty of keeping tender plants watered was too great even with considerable support and a watering can from the Banana Boat. Following these efforts a Gardening Group was established which continues to meet on the second Monday afternoon of the month and the project moved on to plant more drought tolerant plants. The mediterranean herbs and spring tulip bulbs, which originate from the arid mountains of Turkey, have proved more successful but the morello cherry tree in the centre of one bed, planted by local residents, continues to produce a good crop of fruit. New volunteers to join the gardening group are always welcome.

Totterdown Sprouting's next aim was to establish a local orchard. Three apple trees had been planted on Zone A by the Wells Road and a number of blackthorn along the hedge, but this land was not suitable for further planting. Land was identified at the bottom of Park Street (BS4) which local residents had been clearing and planting up since 2005. Some of the land was covered in Himalayan Balsam, an obnoxious weed, and with considerable effort this, the brambles and rubbish were cleared and a number of fruit trees and bushes planted. The area was subsequently extended to include the disused playground below, with more tree planting and raspberries were established along the border. This area has become a well-used community space and the use of planters has enabled planting of herbs, a fig tree (donated), and flowers. Allowing native plants such as nettles and comfrey to thrive has not only prevented the Himalayan Balsam from re-growing but has also helped to make the area an important wildlife haven, with a wildlife corridor connecting it to Arnos Vale through the steep land behind the houses on the Bath Road.



The street planters grew out of a project to identify the area to incoming traffic as residential and to potentially act as traffic calming measures. However we were not allowed to place them in the road and again keeping them watered in dry weather proved a problem. There are still three planters on the streets of Stanley Hill, Angers Road and Firfield Street. Volunteers keep the planters on Stanley Hill and Angers Road watered and maintained but there is a vacancy for a volunteer to water the planter on Firfield Street.

I have taken the lead for Totterdown Sprouting for TRESA for quite a number of years but am now looking for someone to share the director role in Totterdown Sprouting. I have enjoyed the opportunity it has given me to meet and share with like-minded people who care about their local environment, but my husband is making plans for retirement and we hope to travel more. If you are interested in this role or in being involved in any of these projects please contact me via TRESA email hello@tresa.org.uk

Anne Silber

30 SEPT - 16 OCT 2021 BRISTOL

CIRCUS CITY

The Circus is coming to town!

The Circus City festival is returning to Bristol from 30 September and will kick off with a series of free evening events involving local kids, circus theatre performances and fire sculptures in Redcatch Park.

Organisers will be keeping track of the current Covid-19 situation and will be applying the appropriate precautions at the time, to keep everyone safe and happy.

Some events in the city are already open for booking via the website at www.bristolcircuscity.com but the free shows in Redcatch will be released at a later date as organisers are keen that the audience for them is local.

Keep an eye on the BS4/ Totterdown Facebook pages and TRESA's social media accounts for updates and the latest information.



Lavender Broom: Tut, tut!

Fellow residents

I am pleased to announce that Mr Broom and I have both been 'double-jabbed' (that is not a term I would normally use about receiving a vaccination, but I appreciate the need to communicate with a wider audience). Having received two vaccinations, we are now able to get out and about with family and friends and take part in hobbies and interests outside of the home.

But, despite the success of the vaccination programme, Covid-19 must still be taken seriously. People who are fully vaccinated can still catch the virus and pass it on to others. As a responsible member of the community, and Chair of Totterdown Improvement Group, I have been asked to promote the message "Let's meet outside to blow the virus away".

It is true to say that some of my promotion activities have encountered difficulties. I assumed the "Let's meet outside" poster I designed for the window at Totterdown Mansions was obviously about the coronavirus pandemic. Unfortunately, it was necessary to take it down when a delivery driver kept winking at me and implied there might be an alternative interpretation.

To continue my public health mission, I asked Mr Broom to set up our new gazebo in the park, where he could accompany me as I handed out leaflets and explained to passers-by that fresh air disperses Covid-19 droplets and helps prevent the spread of the disease.

All was going well until we were struck by an unexpectedly strong gust of wind. We did our best to hang on to the gazebo, but it was a less than dignified end to the day as we were dragged around the park and narrowly avoided crashing into a group of Nordic walkers. Meanwhile the leaflets were blown far and wide. Given my leading role in the campaign to Tidy Up Totterdown and Tactfully Uphold Taste (*Tut, tut!*), we could not go home until all the leaflets had been retrieved.

And so, dear readers, I have agreed with the editor that the best way to spread the message about the importance of fresh air in combatting the spread of Covid-19 is through my regular column in the *Talk of Totterdown*. As we head towards winter, it is still safer to meet people outside when we can. I have ensured that my winter wardrobe includes stylish jumpers and several pashmina shawls, so that Mr Broom and I can enjoy ourselves *al fresco*.

The gazebo was remarkably undamaged following its adventure in the park and is now securely set up in the back garden ready to receive outdoor guests. It proved to be a hit last week for the Totterdown Ladies Circle wine and cheese evening, despite my husband's silly sense of humour. When the Ladies said how much they were enjoying themselves and told Mr Broom they were beginning to feel positive about the future, he said he has been doing some research and discovered it was a gazebo effect. *Tut, tut!*

Post-Pingdemic Delta Blues

Well, here we are, Autumn 2021 –

Are we all having fun?

Are we still masking up, maintaining social distance?

Hands, face, space, arse – does it make any difference?!

Covid is here to stay, hooray, great news!

I got the post-pingdemic Delta blues.

Been WFH so long I dress like a slob,

At least, thank God, I have a job.

But when each day begins I can't help but feel

Like a desperate hamster on its tiny little wheel.

I'm becoming increasingly reliant on the booze –

I got the post-pingdemic Delta blues.

Haven't seen my family for so very long

But it doesn't bother me which feels so wrong.

I'm not even thinking of Christmas yet, but I am,

I just hope I can get to see me Mam.

Seems that whatever I do, I stand to lose,

I got the post-pingdemic Delta blues.

Does anyone think that the government, the NHS, can cope?

What with Covid and Brexit, we're at the end of the rope.

I try not to blame, not to hate, I try to be kind,

But those sunlit uplands? They're far, far behind.

I'm not interested in ignorant anti-vax views,

I got the post-pingdemic Delta blues.

So as R.E.M. sang, it's the end of the world as we know it –

We all keep calm and try not to show it.

Is there anything at all to look forward to?

Well, a new Saint Etienne album, and Doctor Who –

Mere frivolities, distractions, this is true –

But antidotes to these post-pingdemic Delta blues.

For 165 million years, dinosaurs ruled the planet,

We've only been here 200,000 and a bit;

The universe is infinite in time and space,

So think on that, and know your place.

Relax, chill out, sleep well, hit snooze,

Banish the post-pingdemic Delta blues.

Nick Walters

Let's meet Councillor Lisa Stone



Recently we saw a huge wave of Bristolians clearly asking for a different approach to politics and their leaders! They voted in 24 green councillors across Bristol, clearly stating that policy will need to have a green agenda and Totterdown was amongst them. Ed Plowden (who will be writing in the next edition) and I are now honoured to represent the local area. Thank you and well done!

I am your new Green Councillor. A South Bristol lass, who walked to Hillcrest school at the tender age of 5, back in

1975 when it was called Knowle Juniors or School Road. I went on to Merrywood Girls school in Knowle and then St Marks Road technical college which is now the Oasis Academy - I have a "herstory" interest in the area, although currently I live just outside the ward.

I have been a Green activist since I learnt how to talk. Joining Greenpeace at polytechnic, I questioned the capitalist existentialist crisis at every turn, only to be told by my mentors and peers, to "grow up".

As I matured into a fully thinking member of the community, I noticed that it was policy, which was required to change, and that policy would need to be delivered by the community; a bottom-up approach to politics that the Green Party advocates through their introduction of citizens' assemblies. Surely this approach would clean up the mess from many years of industry incompetence, the profit before people brigade.

From this I have developed a very simple attitude towards the crisis that is breathing down our necks - I mean the climate crisis, with its extreme weather conditions, floods, pandemics - and that is that through collective action from the community we will overcome it. With decisive leadership and a definite direction there will be a brighter future for all, and it starts with the small things:

Homes, these need to be a place of sanctuary, safety and sustainable, regardless of costs. Not 11 storeys from the ground with no outdoor space. Not attracting a transient community who has no regard for the area they live in. If we want to tackle the social housing shortfall in the city, we need to build good quality social housing!

Travel, and believing in active travel for those who can participate is key to a sustainable environment and a stronger NHS. A community travel interchange at Bushy Park would benefit the whole community and Bristol.

The environment, the 1-mile rule - make the environment within a 1 mile from your door peaceful, safe, and inviting. Create action groups to litter pick and clean unwelcome graffiti, introduce a liveable neighbourhood, slow down the traffic and make the area a lovely place to live and breathe.

Education, we should not be scared to have the conversation. We need to ask the question concerning cars, and how we tackle the need for them and yet the required realisations that we are too reliant on them. We need to manage the people driving cars on our streets, and maybe by introducing a Residents' Parking Scheme that complements a liveable neighbourhood this would help to answer some of those questions, as well as help to improve the quality of the air we all breathe.

I want to see Totterdown thrive and be the best that it can be, and I am proud of my relationship with this little oasis in such a proactive green city. **Councillor Lisa Stone**

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Your local
councillors

Councillor Ed Plowden

Cllr.Ed.Plowden@bristol.gov.uk

Councillor Lisa Stone

Cllr.Lisa.Stone@bristol.gov.uk

Correspondence address:
c/o Green Group Office
City Hall
PO Box 3399
Bristol BS1 9NE

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