



The Talk of Totterdown

The Newsletter of Totterdown Residents Environmental and Social Action Community Interest Company
Issue No 63, Winter 2021 www.tresa.org.uk

Shining a light on Totterdown...

FRONT ROOM, Totterdown Arts Trail is returning for 2021!



Image: Oxo

After a year's break due to Coronavirus, the event is back this year with a fresh team bringing new energy and ideas to this wonderful celebration of creative endeavour. Over the weekend of 20-21 November, Totterdown plays host to a variety of pop up exhibitions and creative activities for everyone to enjoy. Artists, makers and creatives will be finding ways to showcase their works to our wider community. Enjoy art from all sorts of artists - ceramicists, photographers, painters, jewellers, illustrators and so much more. Grab a drink at the Shakespeare and enjoy live painting, or maybe a drink at The Oxford and listen to some live music! Check out art in Amba House and visit their Art Trail market upstairs. Wander up to ArtPark on the Wells Road for a gallery

experience, or have a glass of mulled cider somewhere along the way. Artists will also be exhibiting at Hillcrest School, Totterdown Baptist Church, Holy Nativity Church, Totterdown Methodist Church, Eat Your Greens, Star and Dove, and Hang It Picture Framing amongst others.

It certainly hasn't been easy trying to pull together the event, in circumstances which render planning the trail a creative endeavour in itself!

Bristol artist and illustrator Cai Burton has taken on the mammoth task of organising the trail this year alongside a team of local residents, and explains what FRONT ROOM means to him. Cai grew up in the community and has fond memories of attending the trail in his youth, as well as exhibiting as an artist in recent years.

"I've always loved the Totterdown Arts Trail, the place isn't the same without it! When we heard that there was a chance it wouldn't happen this year, we had to do something about it.

"I remember exploring the streets as a child, and being inspired by all the artwork. The Arts Trail was one of the first places that I began to sell my own work, and I'm looking forward to supporting other local artists to do the same. The artistic community has taken a big hit during the pandemic, yet for so many of us being creative was even more valuable and it inspired so many people to pick up their pens and paintbrushes!"

Cai, and his partner, Luciana, are enthusiastic at igniting the FRONT ROOM spark again, 'lighting up the streets' and inviting the community to come together and connect through creative events and outdoor activities. In addition to enjoying art in our public spaces a number of businesses are pulling together



Image: Adam Tayler



events for the weekend, subject to covid restrictions, and local residents are invited to share in the creativity and are being encouraged to decorate their windows and front gardens.

As Luci explains "This isn't just for artists - we want all sorts of folks to create something. And it will be great fun to see how many windows we can all spot on the trail!"

We can all be a part of the Totterdown Art Trail through the FRONT ROOM Window Decoration Competition... let's see what YOU can do!

Entries will be judged on:

- How beautiful it is
- How ambitious you are
- How much light can you make ...and much more...

To enter - send a picture of your front window or garden to:

luci@totterdownartstrail.org by 7pm on Saturday 20 November.

There will be plenty of prizes on offer including (but not limited to):

- A Sunday Roast for 2 at the Shakespeare
- A £30 voucher to spend with ANY of the arts trail artists
- Illustrations from Cai Burton (Front Room organiser)

Cai is passionate about his community and the importance of bringing FRONT ROOM back "The last year and a half has been something else. Yes, the arts trail is a bit of fun and a nice weekend. But it's also so much more. This is a chance for the community to come together, feel free walking the streets of the area we love, and to chat with other folks without worry. We're keen to make sure people feel safe when they visit the trail - we've got plenty of large, open community spaces to explore, and there are outside venues too! Plus, there will be plenty to see even if you don't go inside anywhere - from live street art to decorations in front windows.

"We will be producing a map which will help you plan and enjoy your visit. Do also keep an eye on the website, facebook and Instagram for all the latest updates on what's happening over the weekend.

"Above all, we're feeling hopeful. Which is why the theme this year is "Into the Light". If you want to help us celebrate, light up your little corner of Totterdown and share the hope with us. We'll see you on the trail. I know it'll be a good one."

<https://totterdownartstrail.org/> Insta: [totterdownarttrail](https://www.instagram.com/totterdownarttrail)



Image: Patricia Corrales

Art and more at ArtPark Gallery

ArtPark Gallery owner Adam Tayler has had a busy few months since opening.

In September ArtPark was granted it's alcohol licence for events, although disappointingly the refurbishment works on the premises have been delayed meaning that some events are postponed until work is completed, but there's still plenty going on in the run up to Christmas.

The first 'Flower Design' event was a great success, and following a Halloween themed autumn design class, comes a Christmas Wreath design lesson, which is being held at the end of November. Included in the £45 ticket prices is a glass of bubbles on arrival and everything you need (flowers, foliage and tools) to create a stunning flora design, which you take home with you (including the vase/wreath) at the end of the evening.

Games night is proving so popular that it is now a weekly event! Doors open at 5pm every Wednesday for those who want to pop in on their way home from work, and continue until 9pm for those who prefer to arrive a little bit later in the evening. The event is FREE and there is a bar if you want to purchase drinks (because of the licence, it is for over 18s only). A number of gamers are interested in arranging their own tournament nights, which Adam is happy to accommodate - see details on Instagram.

Something which Adam has been keen to arrange is a social event for local artists called 'Sketch Jam'. There will be fun creative things to do as well as a perfect chance to

mingle with other artists, gaining knowledge and insight and inspiration! The event will be FREE and the bar will be open - dates to be announced soon. To compliment this initiative ArtPark is also keen to offer the space to artists who wish to provide demos of different techniques. If you are interested, please contact Adam or pop in and have a chat.

Finally, wine tasting and rum tasting events are set to start in December. Likely to prove popular, these will be bookable in advance with dates advertised in the gallery and on Instagram as soon as they are finalised.

ArtPark will be part of the FRONT ROOM Art Trail this year, and Adam was finalising details as we went to press. "We are so very pleased to see that FRONT ROOM is back on this year, and we will have a brand new exhibition just in time (if our refurb is delayed again, you may have to climb over rubble with a hard hat on, but come hail or high water, we will be open and supporting the Art Trail!!!) The Art Trail exhibition will remain up to the end of this year."

"We are open every Friday from 1pm to 6pm and Saturday 10am to 4pm at 143 Wells Road, Totterdown. Please feel free to say hello if you pop in, Good luck everyone for the Art Trail! In the meantime there's lots on offer - so keep an eye on Instagram @artparkbristol for the details or email 'events@artpark.co.uk' to be put on the mailing list (we don't share your details, ever!)"

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:	

For many residents and businesses, FRONT ROOM Totterdown Arts Trail is a time to come together to celebrate all that is creative in our little corner of Bristol. It has been missed!!

I was delighted when it was announced that plans were being put in place to ensure the event would go ahead this year and wish the organisers, Cai and Luci, all the very best for a fantastic weekend celebrating art in all its forms. Our pubs, churches, cafes and public spaces will be buzzing with activity and plenty for Totterdown to enjoy.

In other news, TRESA has been responding to serious concerns regarding the proposed development at 122 Bath Road, continuing problems with rat-running in New Walls area, as well as issues with noise pollution and anti-social behaviour. On the plus side we also continue to receive positive comments regarding our work on creating a more sustainable and environmentally friendly neighbourhood for everyone to enjoy. Thank you to everyone who has been in touch with us, and do think about becoming a member. It only costs £3 a year and helps us to fund community projects such as tree planting and events, as well as helping pay for this newsletter to be printed.

Visit www.tresa.org.uk to keep in touch with what's going on. *Carolyn Jones, Editor*

Alternatives to 'housing as usual'

With COP26 around the corner and pressure on all industries to make radical changes in an effort to minimise climate breakdown, I'm asking what are the alternatives to 'housing as usual'? You may have heard of 'modern methods of construction'. 'MMC' covers a range of methods to help speed up housing production, drive supply-chain improvements, minimise/optimize resource use and waste, etc. It has been touted as one of the solutions to the now deep-rooted housing crisis. Over the last 18 months, Innovate UK, BRE and Bristol City Council have been supporting a live exploration into MMC housing solutions.

In North Bristol, the SNUG Homes team is building timber frame 3D modules, fitted out with breathable, healthy and low impact materials and renewables. The homes are finished to a watertight shell at their production space in Lockleaze, with the help of volunteers and trainees. The modules are transported to site and finished. SNUG Homes' 44sqm Forest Road project recently won 'affordable housing and place making' (William Sutton Prize 2021) and 'low energy home of the year' (STA, 2021).

Squatting neatly over several St George's Park parking spaces we find 'Hope Rise'. This ZED Pod development sits on a steel frame and is challenging our conceptions about land use. Hope Rise provides 11 sleek, affordable and low-carbon homes for young workers and vulnerable households. This award winning scheme was designed as a permanent installation.

South of the river in Knowle West, we have the long running and ambitious 'We Can Make'. While Neighbourhood Development plans exist elsewhere in the city - 'Ambition Lawrence Weston', 'Redcliffe Forum' - WCM are not just facilitating community input into the vision, they are opening up the making of modern pre-fabricated homes. New models such as TAM U-Build and the SNUG are being invited to be providers. They also engage in finding and acquiring suitable plots of land for small infill properties that radically helps to increase the diversity of housing stock.

On a different scale, just along Airport Road in Filwood, you might have noticed the new Boklok (Ikea) homes. Well established as a provider of affordable and high performing homes in Sweden, this is their first UK scheme, redesigned for our market. Interestingly, these timber framed homes appear to be clad in brick but it is actually a brick-effect cladding. This provides a low cost solution to making the new homes blend in with the existing housing - new developments can often cast a dreary shadow if not planned well.

Elsewhere, did you know that Goldsmith Street in Norwich (RIBA Stirling Prize winner 2019) is the largest Passivhaus scheme in the UK? It is an exemplar of the provision of modern, high performing and affordable social housing design. Exeter City Council's new development company have been building passive social housing as standard and that even extends to the new leisure centre!

So change is happening all around us. The examples given reflect live projects and the conversations they are provoking. These groups, creating alternative housing solutions for and with communities have been working hard to 'level up' from the ground up. You can read more about 'Who's Doing What?' in modern methods of construction at nhbcfoundation.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



COP26 and a little bit of weather data

Thoughts on the 2021 COP26 UN conference on climate change and brief weather details.

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

As I write this edition of the local weather we have experienced recently I am aware that it is less than one month before the UK hosts COP26 in Glasgow.

This is the 26th United Nations climate change conference.

Most of us lead busy lives and we spend most of our time dealing with events that impinge upon our personal lives. To be facing another global problem while we still have Covid to deal with is probably the last thing most of us would want with all its threats to our way of life.

There is no denying climate change is happening if you know even the basics of the science and keep a little abreast of global events. Even at our local weather station in Totterdown I have reported previously on the relentless rise in temperatures. In fact September 2021 was the joint 2nd warmest since records began for Bristol in 1891. The warmest was 2006. In my view these sorts of facts are no longer statistical coincidences but real global warming seen at the local level. July in Bristol was 1.2°C above the average for the month. August, whilst far from being exceptional, still contributed to this summer being the 17th warmest summer in 131 years of data for Bristol.

I know we don't want inconvenient truths thrust in our faces, I don't, but I do hold the view that to deny a problem or bury one's head in the sand will not make climate change and the adverse effects of it go away.

I wish all the COP26 attendees the directed energy to let go of their national resistances and vested interests and to tackle the problem in a meaningful and fully accountable way. May they finally have the collective will to take actions that can make a change to the present inadequate policies.

Can we stop rat-running in Totterdown?

TRESA is pleased to be working with Rob Bryher of the climate charity Possible. Rob is supporting groups and organisations to tackle car-dependency and dominance in Bristol. His campaigning work includes:

Parklets - finding ways to take back road space from cars to create green spaces and seating for community life to flourish

Traffic surveying - talking to residents where traffic filters have been introduced to stop through traffic using their streets

Traffic counting - engaging residents with a citizen science project to monitor traffic levels in their streets (using Telraam technology).

TRESA believes that Rob's work fits well with our concerns, and those of local residents, about rat running through Totterdown between Bath Road and Wells Road.

We hope to find residents who are willing to install a Telraam monitor in windows that overlook streets where rat-running is a problem. This will help us campaign for measures to reduce through-traffic on some roads.

For those who need their cars, we want to stress that the aim is for all homes to be accessible by motor vehicle - for residents, visitors, deliveries, traders and carers - but that roads should not simply be used as a short-cut for non-residents.

Look out for leaflets about the Telraam monitors, as well as meetings and events about ways to tackle car-dominance on Totterdown's narrow streets.

For more information, contact TRESA: hello@tresa.org.uk or contact Rob about his campaign work with Possible: rob.bryher@wearepossible.org

BEHIND THE DOOR...



Bank owner Dan O'Regan, with General Manager Paddy Cronin, has assembled an experienced team with specialist knowledge of some of the finest ingredients and techniques which go into making superb cocktails, inventive and tasty small plates, and excellent coffee.

Dan explained "Our mantra is that we should all be proud of whatever goes onto the table. And that aesthetic applies across the board from coffee and cake through to evening cocktails and all our seasonal food offerings. My priority was to build a quality team and deliver a quality product, whilst also ensuring that we create a comfortable and relaxed environment for people to enjoy a great time out."

A big coffee fan, and award winning Barista, Dan previously worked for a coffee roaster in London. He was keen to live in Bristol and establish an independent business celebrating speciality coffees and gourmet foods. Alongside the house espresso, there are various guest coffee options including guest filter coffee for a lighter more floral experience. Coffee comes from Origins who source through direct trade, enabling producers to earn a fair price based on the quality of their product. This ethical approach, and meeting producers direct, brings wonderful results. From Brazil to Burundi, across the coffee belt, this is exceptional coffee - sometimes challenging but worth exploring as a new Guest Coffee is introduced every 2-4 weeks. They also have a single origin hot chocolate option on the menu as a great partner to a tasty pastry (gluten free, vegan or lusciously dairy laden!)

The drinks menu likewise is well curated and regularly changed so you might find beers from Good Chemistry, Wild Beer and Lost and Grounded as well as wines from smaller producers, a great spirit shelf and fine tequilas and mescals. Head Bartender, Horace, created Mayahuel's Gift - competition winner of Hacha Bar's Britain's Best Tequila and Best Mezcal Cocktails 2021.

Both daytime and evening menus offer intriguing options, with imaginative and delicious flavour combinations - trusting to the expertise of the kitchen team clearly pays off. The evening menu in particular celebrates local regional produce alongside some quality imports - at any one time the small plates menu might feature Galician Octopus, Loch Duart Salmon, or Gnocchi Parisian.

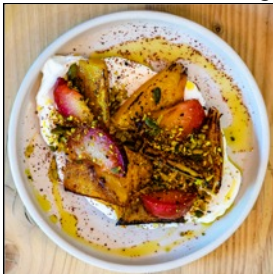
Bank is bright and airy, and unashamedly contemporary. Currently its white washed walls feature an exhibition of abstract paintings by Bath-based artist Rosa Roig-Fiol.

Since opening in July, Bank already has quite a following across the city, and more than a smattering of local people who appreciate a reviving pick-me-up coffee as they 'WFH' at one of the window seats. A monthly pop up - "Pecking Order", featuring chicken dishes often has a waiting list, and there are likely to be coffee tastings and spirit tastings in the future.

107 Wells Road, Totterdown, BS4 2BS

@bankbristol on Instagram / www.bankbristol.com
hello@bankbristol.com / tel 0117 452 7536

Open: Sun to Tues 9am-6pm / Weds to Sat 9am-11pm
Kitchen: Weds to Sat 9am-3pm & 5pm-9pm / Sun 9am-3pm



Bristol's city design group object to 122 Bath Road proposal

TRESA is pleased to see that Bristol City Council's own City Design Group have raised serious concerns about the planning application for 54 flats on the current car wash site at 122 Bath Road (Ref 21/04096/F). Although the principle of development of the site as residential with a higher density has been established, the City Design Group say the current scheme cannot be supported and advise that it be withdrawn. Many of the concerns raised are shared by TRESA and numerous residents who have objected to the proposal. These are summarised below.

•Parameters

The site is small, with a potential for infill development in a consolidated neighbourhood with a distinctive city townscape. It is not comparable with larger sites on the opposite side of Bath Road at Totterdown Bridge and Paintworks which are in the Temple Quarter Enterprise Zone.

•Height, density and massing

The prevailing building height along the relevant stretch of Bath Road is 3-storeys. The proposed building is 5-storeys rising to 9-storeys and the impact is negative in several aspects.

Any proposal should take the opportunity to improve the setting of the Grade II Listed Building of the Thunderbolt pub, but the 5-storey element close to the 2-storey listed building is inconsiderate and does not comply with Bristol's DM26 and DM31 design policies.

The wider urban setting including views of the colourful houses running up the hill, the layering effect of its compact formation and distinctive roofscape of such houses, and the greenery of the escarpments, are important aspects of the cityscape. The excessive scale, height and form of the proposed tall building at the bottom of the slope would mask the topography. The result of this is a lack of visual connection with the hill behind and an unacceptable loss of the sequence of views along this main movement corridor from town.

•Public realm

Due to the orientation, form and excessive height of the proposed building, the public realm along Bath Road will be overshadowed all year round. The public realm design should bring a more green, generous, characterful, and sympathetic street but the shallow brick wall planters and louvers at street level do not provide such result.

•Liveability

In terms of private outdoor spaces, no play facilities are offered. The Child Yield Calculator shows that a minimum of 110sqm should be provided, or suitable offsite provision/enhancement where appropriate. In terms of individual homes, 52% of the flats are single aspect; north facing flats will not receive direct sun light into main habitable rooms; there is no integrated solar shading to exposed glazing on south facing elevations.

•Summary of City Design Group concerns

The current proposal has 'maximised' rather than 'optimised' the development approach in this infill development site. It has negatively impacted the goals of successful placemaking, relating to context and liveability, representing an over-intense development. It is advised that the applicant withdraw the current application. Otherwise, the proposal should be refused as it is contrary to BSC21, BCS22, DM26, DM27, DM29, and DM31 and against the Urban Living supplementary planning document.

•What happens next?

The objections to this application (Ref 21/04096/F) do not mean that it will be withdrawn, and so it is important that local people continue to submit objections: by email to development.management@bristol.gov.uk; in writing to Development Management, City Hall, Bristol City Council, PO Box 3399, Bristol BS1 9NE; or online at <https://pa.bristol.gov.uk/online-applications/> and search on planning reference 21/04096/F

Suzanne Audrey



The view from the Chair...

Plenty of things go on in local communities that are perhaps unnoticed by many of us, but are worth celebrating.

So well done to Hillcrest Primary School! Last year, despite the pandemic, the school still managed to raise £129 for the Poppy Appeal. And this autumn, they've been keeping busy as part of their harvest festival supporting the Matthew Tree Project, a project dedicated to helping people in crisis rebuild their lives.

This October Hillcrest has also won the Rainbow Flag Award scheme's Outstanding Skilled Teacher award. The scheme is designed to encourage inclusion, helping schools and colleges to develop strategies to effectively challenge and combat LGBT-phobic and other bullying.

Something not so welcome to many is the planned block of 54 flats next to the Thunderbolt pub. There's still time to have your say on the Bristol City Council planning portal quoting ref. 21/04096/F.

TRESA shares the frustration of many people affected by traffic using the streets between Bath Road and Wells Road as a rat-run. We are working with the charity Possible on setting up a pilot scheme to monitor levels of traffic cutting through the affected streets. Whilst that in itself is not the answer, we hope it may pave the way towards working with the council to find a solution.

We are warned that our CO2 emissions globally must be cut by 45% by 2030. That's just 8 years. A climate emergency has been declared, yet you wouldn't know it going about your everyday life. Where's the plan to explain to us what needs to be done, and how and when it will be done? Where's the Minister for Carbon Reduction? Where are the wartime-style posters? Where are the Covid-style ministerial announcements? Where's the high-profile PR and social media campaign to get us all on board and actively involved now, urgently – businesses, households, communities - with carbon reduction?

Perhaps by the time you read this, after the COP26 meeting is over, we will all be able to sit back and relax, knowing that our planet's future is in safe hands. I really hope so.

Geoff Allan

Problems with noise from Motion?

Many people in Totterdown enjoy music and are tolerant of the occasional loud party or outdoor event. But unfortunately, numerous residents have been upset by prolonged and excessive noise from Motion – to the extent that they have been unable to sit in their back gardens, have had to keep windows closed even in warm weather, or have gone out for the day rather than endure up to 10 hours of thudding music.

Our local councillor, Ed Plowden, has been looking into the issue and is in touch with Bristol City Council's enforcement team who said they would be visiting Motion over the weekend of 16/17 October to address the issue of noise with them and check their noise log. The enforcement team have also requested a full licence meeting with Motion's management team concerning the Nuisance objective of their licence.

Complainants have been given access to a noise app to help them provide the evidence required for formal action. If you don't have the app and would like it, please contact the neighbourhood enforcement team by email:

neighbourhood.enforcement@bristol.gov.uk

Beavering Away

Beavers are engrained in British history; hunted to extinction around 500 years ago, they are now they are making their way back into British waterways. They have a profound effect on the environment, creating invaluable wetland habitats, increasing the biodiversity and are natural engineers with their dams solving many problems we are facing such as flooding, drought and pollution.

Their dams prevent flooding by reducing the flow of water downstream by alleviating some of the pressure; their approach can be extremely significant when implemented on the upper catchment of rivers. A single five-acre enclosure in Cornwall has reduced the flow of water by 50% to the neighbouring village downstream. They create stores of water by withholding water upstream, and farmers can use this to irrigate the land during droughts.

Holding back silt and promoting new plant growth, their dams act as a fantastic carbon sink. The dams also filter out sediment and pollutants used by farmers. This is extremely important in our rural communities, but of course, has a wider effect on our water quality.

The way in which the trees are gnawed to create dams can boost plant biodiversity by as much as a third. By coppicing the trees they encourage new, light-seeking plants in the undergrowth. Occasionally beavers require direct management to help mitigate any human-nature conflict, for example undesirable localised flooding or tree felling. There are many ways in which localised problems can be overcome by simple actions such as overflow piping and electric fencing.

DEFRA is undertaking a nationwide consultation about the reintroduction of beavers, to have your say go to being <https://consult.defra.gov.uk/natural-environment-policy/beaver-reintroduction-and-management/> **Liv Kelly**
Liv is currently studying for an MSc in Sustainable Development in Practice.

Tree Champions!

Put simply, a Tree Champion is someone who wants to see Bristol's trees protected and new ones planted.

For many of Bristol's volunteer tree champions this enthusiasm, rather than experience, is what they bring to the role. Being a tree champion is a learning and fulfilling experience and tree champions usually focus on the trees in their local ward. Windmill Hill is a large area for one person to cover so the role is shared between myself and Kerry Chester.

As well as finding new sites for tree planting, Kerry and I like to regularly stroll around the area to check how our local trees are doing. We may also get involved in checking planning applications to defend existing trees or get involved in other projects. The Bristol Tree Forum offers some training on these aspects of the role.

More information about the role of tree champions can be found on the Bristol Tree Forum site <https://bristoltreeforum.org/guidance-for-tree-champions/> You can also contact us at hello@tresa.org.uk

Anne Silber

Seasonal activities at Amba House

There is a variety of events scheduled for the coming months.



Image: Peski Studio

Throughout Front Room weekend the café will be open as usual from 9am to 4pm, and there will art in abundance, including a market upstairs featuring local makers. Creatives exhibiting include Romilly Gibbs with ROM POM POM, Sky Procter's striking artwork with a central focus on wildlife, Peski Studio with colourful illustrated prints and products, Mary Macdonald Jewellery, Amy Vans vibrant abstract paintings and Dina Locker who loves exploring the endless possibilities of form and structure in folded paper.

•Yoga classes return:

Tuesdays: 6.30-7.30pm, Yoga with Nicki, follow @nickilobsang on Instagram for details, £10 a class.

Wednesdays: 9.30-10.45am, yoga with Katy, Facebook @yogawithkaty and on Instagram @katy_lou_fox, starting 10 November.

•Kinship club and plop pottery, 25 November 7-9.30pm: Pottery workshop with seasonal hot drinks and snacks. Instagram @kinship_club @ploppottery

•Sundial session, 27 November featuring live music from Jacob de Berke and DJs. Doors 7.30pm, tickets via eventbrite/ headfirst/ The Sundial Kitchen. Food and bar.

•Mindfulcraft workshop, 2 December 7-9pm: Making Christmas decorations, crackers, macrame, using recycled and reusable materials.

•10 December former Witness frontman and ex Blue Aeroplanes guitarist, Gerard Starkie, performing as half of The Jesus Bolt as well as a solo set.

Further details can be found on Facebook and www.ambahousebristol.co.uk

Organise your own event! Christmas party bookings are now being taken: Any night of the week, minimum 12 people, from £20.00 per head for 2 courses. Bar, music and dancing, festive fun. Email chloe@thesundialkitchen.co.uk or call 07772 988127 to discuss.

Lavender Broom: Tut, tut!



Fellow Residents

I hope you are keeping well and looking after yourselves as we head towards the winter months. You may remember that I have been promoting outdoor entertainment as a way of reducing the spread of coronavirus. Here at Totterdown Mansions we have had several enjoyable *soirées* in the garden, where I offered a range of *hors oeuvres* while Mr Broom served drinks from our functional yet stylish garden bar, accompanied by gentle background music. This mode of considerate socialising is in keeping with the 'good taste' aspect of my ongoing campaign to Tidy Up Totterdown, and Tactfully Uphold Taste (*Tut, tut!*).

It was at one of our *soirées* that we became aware of the distress caused to some Totterdown residents by less considerate forms of outdoor entertainment. Poor Edna and Philip described being unable to sit in their garden because of loud thudding music throughout the afternoon and evening. Given my standing in the community, I am used to people asking for my help and so I agreed to investigate.

A 'desktop' search revealed that, in 2016, the nearby Motion dance and nightclub was voted the 19th best club in the world by DJ Mag readers and it has continued to provide the southwest with "unbeatable parties featuring the best in electronic music". During the summer Motion announced it was providing "a new era of open-air clubbing in Bristol".

Having decided the new era of open-air clubbing might be the source of the problem for some Totterdown residents, I persuaded Mr Broom to accompany me on an undercover fact-finding mission to Motion. The dress code stated: "Wear whatever you wish. However, items of fancy dress may be confiscated if they are deemed to be dangerous, no Hen and Stag attire". Fortunately, we do not possess dangerous items of fancy dress or any hen and stag attire.

Because we were on a fact-finding mission and did not want to look too conspicuous, we set off to St Peter's Hospice charity shop where we purchased jeans and a hoody for Mr Broom, and a casual jumpsuit for me.

We need not have worried about being conspicuously mature. We seemed to be invisible to most people, and those who spoke to us were very friendly despite our inability to contribute anything to a conversation about electronic music.

But I have to confess, we did not stay long. Motion's clientele are informed "there will be high sound levels during shows and patrons may be subject to continuous sound levels that may cause potential damage to hearing. Earplugs are available on the bar should they be required." They were required. Having taken advantage of the earplug offer, Mr Broom and I attempted a mixture of lip reading and sign language to communicate with each other but to no avail.

It seemed likely that we had achieved our mission in establishing the source of our neighbour's concerns, and so we left the premises to the smiles and waves of some friendly clubbers. What to do about the noise problem is another issue but we did, of course, comply with the instruction: "When leaving the venue please make as little noise as possible." *Tut, tut!*

Introducing Councillor Ed Plowden

Thank you for electing Lisa Stone and me to serve as your City Councillors for Windmill Hill Ward, in May. We are honoured to be trusted with this responsibility and promise to work hard to repay the trust you have placed in us.

I have lived in Bristol for 37 years and in the local area since 1994, where I raised my family. I have always been active for the local community, as I love the area, and am so pleased to serve it as a councillor.



Councillors Ed Plowden and Lisa Stone (centre) on a recent fact finding visit to Victoria Park

I was Chair of Governors for Hillcrest School (as an elected parent governor) helping to achieve a "good" OFSTED inspection. For several years I was Chair of Priority Youth Housing Association (now the homelessness charity 1625IP) when it was based at Wells Road YMCA). In the 1980s, as a student, I campaigned successfully for the Uni to start recycling schemes and started a Sustainable Careers Fair.

Until recently I was Head of Local and Sustainable Transport at the Council; during my time we had the strongest growth in bus patronage in Britain and doubled cycling from an already high base. Before that, as Crime Reduction Manager for the Council, my community based team halved the difference in the crime rate between the most deprived wards and the City average. I now work part-time for Sustrans as Director of the National Cycle Network.

With a good knowledge of how the Council works, this is helping me get things done on your behalf. It's fascinating to learn about how to be effective from the "other side" of the Council.

With 24 Green councillors in place, I am able to prioritise my time on local issues; meeting people and organisations, and taking on casework to improve our area and help individual residents. I am also thinking globally as part of the Green Party. It is exciting to have Carla Denyer, one of our councillors, as the National co-leader, and I can see the difference that having Greens sharing power in Scotland and Germany is making.

I've joined a Planning Committee, so cannot express opinions on applications until they come to committee. So I work closely with Lisa to make sure that local voices are heard - we recently leafleted the households most affected by development proposals for 122 Bath Road to encourage people to respond to the formal consultation. We are also encouraging people to help save Jubilee Pool by responding to the current consultation or volunteering.

I also joined the scrutiny committee for the Metro-Mayor, as this is where so many regional decisions about skills, transport and housing are made.

Lisa and I promise to work hard on the things that matter to you. We know that it will not be easy, we hear so many varying opinions and concerns on your doorsteps, and so many of the issues we face locally and globally are tough and complex to tackle. My first speech at Full Council was about how to balance providing much needed housing with protecting local wildlife-rich green spaces. Lisa's was to improve building regulations to cut carbon. Most importantly of all we promise to keep listening and working with the local community to make a positive difference.

Shopping in a Winter Wonderland...

The excellent Christmas pop-up shop WonderLand returns to the Wells Road this year offering a top-notch selection of gifts, most of them local and handmade. WonderLand will be at Knowle Constitutional Club, 162 Wells Road, from Saturday 18 to Tuesday 21 December (Sat noon-7pm and then from 11am-7pm Sun-Tues).

This year's WonderLand selection includes: Brigitta Liegis paintings and cards, Tangent books and cards, Sarah Jordan and Juliet Fleming Pottery, Margaret May Soaps, Sandra Moore Cards, Juliet Hammonds Furniture, Stokes Croft China, Beast Socks, Bob's Books, Bristol Books, Quint's Candles, Easy Action Vinyl, Bristol Archive Records, Manda Lana Eco-Wear, Fanny Tingle Chutneys, S&M Pickles and more...

Christmas books from Tangent

Totterdown-based publisher Tangent Books has a wide selection of titles for bookish Christmas gifts with Manson's Bristol Miscellany the main offering.

Bristol's early days, power and politics, business and trade, markets and fairs, transatlantic slave trade, law and order, public protest, Bristol's mines plagues and public health and much more... The *Bristol Miscellany* is Michael Manson's search for the soul of the city. The book is a joint publication with Bristol Books.

Tangent has recently added several titles to its fiction list including a real gem in the shape of *Only The Dance*, a thriller set against a backdrop of high-end cocaine dealing in Bristol and gang violence in the East End of London. It is the thirteenth novel by the celebrated author and playwright ACH Smith.

By far the most popular Christmas book from the Tangent collection is *A Dictionary Of Bristle*, the perfect gift for those well versed in Bristol as well as newcomers wondering what's going on.

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