

Jubilant Jubilee-athon



A flying start to the Jubilee-athon, as Alex Edwards, DSS-GB Champion, dives in!

During a non-stop 24 hour swimming relay, affectionately named the 'Jubilee-athon', 126 supporters of Knowle's Jubilee Pool completed 10,136 lengths (138.5 miles), netting £13,500 (so far) in sponsorship donations and ensuring that the community organisation which took over the pool's building last Autumn has now met the £30,000 fund-raising target it set for the end of January.

The event held over the weekend of 28 to 29 January was opened by Alex Edwards (DSS-GB champion) who demonstrated why she is a gold medal holder by storming two lengths, front crawl and butterfly. She is a powerhouse and was the perfect start to our Jubilee-athon.

Lots of families attended the daylight hours including the Hillcrest Posse consisting of three Mums and six kids. Iona Keen said "we had such a good time – despite the chaos of six mixed ability under 12s swimming in one lane!" They collectively swam 414 lengths and raised a whopping £512.



The witching hour (3am) had one swimmer, the mighty Emma Poppleton, who cruised over 100 lengths accompanied by all the bystanders singing Celine Dion's 'All By Myself' at top volume which we are sure helped her along.

1957 was the year that Jubilee-ver, Mervyn Lavender, last swam at the pool - he was 10 years old. 66 years later, and Mervyn decided to take up the challenge of the Jubileeathon. He rallied his mates down the pub, secured loads of sponsors and completed the hour's swim. Mervyn enjoyed the experience so much that he's now become a regular swimmer at the Jubilee Pool!



'Mauve Tiger' Tom who swam an astonishing 780 lengths for the Jubilee-athon.

Hero of the weekend was Tom Colebrook (AKA 'Mauve Tiger') who defected to us from Easton Pool and lives in St George. He loves our community spirit. Tom completed six slots over the 24 hours, racking up a mammoth 780 lengths. Tom stated "the support and praise for my achievement was humbling. Not one moment was a chore, I never felt up against it. I got my 'golden steam paddles' fired up and off I went. I am convinced the future is bright, in fact the future is JUBILICIOUS!"

We would like to thank all our Jubilee-ers who swam, volunteered and most of all threw money into the pot. We are continuing to fundraise towards our Winter Energy Appeal and are grateful for any donations <https://localgiving.org/charity/friends-of-jubilee-pool-bristol/> savejubileepool@hotmail.com HOW CAN YOU HELP? Support fundraising events, talk to your employer about fundraising or sponsorship contributions, volunteer for one of our work parties.

<https://savejubileepool.org/friends-of-jubilee-pool/>
Rachel Heaton, Friends of Jubilee Pool / Photo credit for Alex Edwards and Hillcrest Posse - Faye Hedges Photography



OBITUARY

Maggie Telfer
March 23, 1959 -
January 12, 2023

Maggie Telfer passed away at her home in Balmain Street on January 12 with her partner Richard Jones, children Caitlin and Mena and Caitlin's partner Alfie at her side. Maggie's passing was peaceful, dignified and loving. The best the family could have hoped for.

Maggie and Richard moved to Richmond Street in 1985 where they rented a room when Maggie was appointed Co-ordinator of the new Bristol Drugs Project, which launched in March 1986. Maggie remained at Bristol Drugs Project for 36 years and in 2007 was awarded an OBE for her work.

The couple moved to Cotswold Road, Windmill Hill where Caitlin was born in 1993, and returned to Totterdown in 1999... just 12 days before Mena was born in the bathroom at Balmain Street!

Maggie was a well-known local figure and much loved neighbour. Many will remember her for organising the Vale Street Easter Egg rolling for many years.

A public memorial for Maggie will be held at St George's Brandon Hill at 2.30pm on Friday, March 10. All welcome.

To make a donation to Bristol Drugs Project and read more about Maggie's work, visit www.bdp.org.uk

Zone A Update

Plans for a 'Museum of Totterdown' have taken a positive step forward. A grant of £7,400 has been awarded for TACA to put a shipping container on the hardstanding on Zone A which will house Totterdown History Project's John O'Connor's extensive collection of historical documents and photographs. The intention is to open up the archive for specific events allowing people an opportunity to delve in to this fascinating heritage archive.



TACA invites you to join them for their 'Spring Forward' event on 26th March from 11am to 2pm. There will be wildflower seed sowing, acoustic sets from Bristol musicians, outdoor games with hot drinks and jacket potatoes on the fire. There will also be a chance to look at some old photos of Totterdown and Zone A, and find out more about plans for the area. For more info about this event or TACA group in general you can email taca4zonea@gmail.com.

TACA will also be applying for a grant from the West of England Combined Authority 'Pollinator Fund', which was created to support community-led ecology projects that enhance biodiversity and pollinator habitats across the West of England region. This would enable creation of a garden on the rise at the back of Zone A, in addition to an area in front of this which can be used for events. In the meantime work continues on cutting away at the brambles and shrubs to create 'paths' through the rest of the semi-wild area.

Wake up and smell the coffee!

Boona Boona Coffee Roasters is all set to show its public face in Totterdown!

Owner, Jon Fowler, set out roasting coffee initially from his garden shed in Totterdown using a Huky 500 home roaster. Some 3 years down the line and you'll find him behind a 10kg Roastmax coffee roaster in proper premises in Staple Hill.

Jon is keen to show people that speciality coffee doesn't have to be hard work, and to invite customers to taste coffees from around the world! Coffee can be fun, whilst also being the most sustainable option in the long-term, and it really is a drink to be savoured and enjoyed by everyone with a wide range of flavours and roast levels to suit a variety of tastes. The perfect opportunity arose to extend the reach of the coffee roastery, bringing artisan coffee to the High Street – or rather the Wells Road.

There has been some refurbishment and refitting of the 'Truffled of Totterdown' premises at 152 Wells Road to create a cozy community café feel and to accommodate a fabulous state of the art Espresso Machine. Whilst an expert coffee roaster, Jon has diligently spent time developing his coffee making expertise with help from an expert barista.

Scheduled to open in mid-March, the intention is that Boona Boona Coffee Roasters will open Wednesday to Saturday from 8am-3pm, allowing chef Tim Owen to continue his private dining/supper clubs and Sunday roasts as 'Truffled of Totterdown'. The artisan coffee will be the star of the show, but the menu will also feature cakes, pastries and sweet treats from Crumbs of Keynsham, alongside savoury light bites which Tim Owen will provide.

The packaging of Boona Boona coffee is bright, colourful and fun and Jon's intention is to bring that vibrancy to his café environment. "This will be the public face of Boona Boona Coffee Roasters with the focus 100% on providing delicious coffee. I want this to be a laidback friendly environment. We'll be celebrating the people and the places that coffee comes from, the plants and process of producing coffee with our 'Celebration of coffee' wall."

In addition Jon is keen to raise awareness of a charity he has supported since establishing the business. "It's important to me to give back. As coffee roasters, we depend on a healthy planet that enables farmers around the world to grow the coffee beans that we all love. We need to play our

part in promoting sustainability and tackling climate change.

We donate 10% of our profits to 'Avon Needs Trees', a South West based charity that buys land to re-plant and re-wild in the River Avon catchment area. The work of 'Avon Needs Trees' deserves promotion and so we have commissioned a mural which we hope will capture the fundamental nature of what they do, and be our way of promoting what the charity does."

Follow Boona Boona Coffee Roasters on Facebook www.facebook.com/boonaboonacoffee and Instagram

www.instagram.com/boona_boona_coffee_roasters and check out their website for updates on the latest coffees and offers available.

www.boonaboona.co.uk



Jon with the Roastmax

Finally it feels as if the dark days of winter are passing and spring is making its presence felt. Certainly there are small shoots of greenery in the beds in Oxford Street and there are buds and leaves starting to appear on the trees. The annual Wassail has taken place in the Community Orchard and there are signs of growth on our new cherry and plum trees recently planted. For some time, TRESA has been monitoring seasonal changes in trees throughout Totterdown - checking on our 'adopted' trees for leaf fall and when buds emerge. It's been fascinating, and also rather lovely to keep an eye on nature.

I am interested to hear about plans for a 'Library of things' in South Bristol, as I am pretty certain that many households have "useful stuff" lurking in the back of cupboards and sheds that only comes out once in a blue moon. Rather than items lying dormant it seems a much better idea for them to be shared with others - a sensible and sustainable option. This is something which TRESA has often tried to pull together, but without suitable premises or volunteers to manage such a community resource it has been difficult to get off the ground. Having such a facility close by in Bedminster would be a huge bonus, so it's one to watch with interest, and hopefully something which we could contribute to. Here's hoping for bright days ahead!

Carolyn Jones, Editor

Totterdown's Heritage - Dame Clara Butt

A blue plaque at 3 Bellevue Road marks the house where Dame Clara Butt (1872-1936) lived as a child in the 1800s.



At over 6 feet tall, Clara was an imposing figure. The towering contralto began her singing career in Bristol and became a world-famous concert singer. She sang in churches and halls across the city before winning a scholarship to the Royal College of music and achieving international acclaim. Her appearances on radio paved the way for the international mass culture of today. Sir Edward Elgar wrote Sea Pictures especially for her. She became a favourite of Queen Victoria but did not forget her Bristol connections and turned down St Paul's Cathedral as the venue for a marriage in favour of Bristol Cathedral. She married the baritone, Kennerly Rumford in Bristol Cathedral on June 26th 1900. Workers across the city were given a half day holiday to celebrate.

The bride was presented with a diamond and ruby brooch, a gift from the people of Bristol, which formed the initials CB which stood for both Clara Butt and the City of Bristol. Today, the brooch is held at Bristol Museum and can be viewed by appointment. It remained one of her favourite pieces of jewellery and one she frequently wore at concerts.

Miranda Walker

If you have any interest in the history of Totterdown and would like to be involved in applying for Conservation Area status for Totterdown, then please contact Miranda at miranda@80smaterialgirl.co.uk

Time to share?

One of the city's best kept secrets can be found on Kingswood High Street - Share Bristol's 'Library of Things', which boasts over 500 different things to borrow from gardening equipment and DIY tools to camping stuff. This simple but clever idea contributes to the circular economy - encouraging people to donate the things they don't use, which are repaired and serviced by volunteers, and then borrowed and used over and over again.

The volunteer team behind Share Bristol are hoping to open a second site on East Street in Bedminster, but need local people to get involved.

Anna Perry, a volunteer director of Share Bristol, said: 'Many people have lots of things, which they seldom use, sitting around cluttering up their homes. By donating something to the library, you're getting it out of the house, but can still borrow it whenever you want.'

Items would be free to borrow by payment of an affordable annual membership, with a cheaper rate for those on low incomes. One of the team's guiding principles is that a 'library of things' should help people get their hands on the things they need, regardless of income.

And the plan is that the 'library' will also be spacious enough for people to gather and learn how to use the things on offer - from sewing machines to niche DIY tools.

Share Bristol is keen to make this happen and are inviting people in the local area to get in touch with them and offer to lend a hand. You can contact them on hello@sharebristol.org.uk or via www.sharebristol.org.uk.

Weather Report



2022 record heat

Annual summary with notes of the autumn and winter weather of 2022 to the end of January 2023.

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

The annual picture 2022

In 132 complete years of Bristol's average temperatures, 2022 was the warmest at 12.7°C. The previous warmest was in 2014 when the average temperature reached 12.5°C. 2022 was 1.1°C above the 30 year average (1991-2020)* of 11.6°C. August was the hottest month with an average temperature of 20.8°C.

The annual rainfall for 2022 of 798.4mm was 87.4% of the 30 year average* for the city of 913.8mm. The wettest month was November with 157.7mm, 157.0% above the 30 year average* of rainfall whilst the driest was July with only 17.5mm of rain. There was measurable rainfall during the year for 4.2% of the time (371 hours). The first 9 months of 2022 produced 407.6mm of rain, the remaining three months 390.8mm.

2022 was the least windy year since records began in 2005, with an average wind speed of 4.2 mph. The average for the whole period is 5.4 mph. Notable was the increase of 'calm' days in 2022 when the wind speed is less than 0.5 mph throughout the day. The average (2005-2022) is for 1.4% calm days but in 2022 this was 7.1%. There were 20 days of air frost. It was very close to the average for the percentage of maximum sunshine. In 2022 this was 40.7% when the annual average is 40.2%. The maximum daily temperature of 36.9°C on the 18th July was the highest recorded for Bristol. The lowest temperature of 2022 at -5.8°C recorded on 15th and 16th December was the lowest of any month since February 2012.

Autumn 2022

September – November was mild and wet. The mean temperature was 13.7°C which made 2022 the joint warmest autumn, with 2011, in 132 years. The 30 year average* for the season is 12.0°C. With a total rainfall of 328.9mm in the autumn of 2022 it was 24th wettest in 141 years of continuous data for the city. The 30 year average* for the season is 258.8mm so 2022 had an excess above average of 70.1mm.

October 2022

It was an exceptionally warm month, the warmest on record in Bristol since continuous records began in 1891, with an average temperature of 14.6°C. This is 2.6°C above the 30 year average* for Bristol of 12.0°C. Total rainfall was 110.7mm. It was a sunny month and the highest solar radiation for an October since this data began in 2005. The wind direction on 22 out of 31 days was predominately from the SW or WSW.

November 2022

Again temperatures were well above average for the time of year. With an average of 10.4°C, November 2022 was 2.0°C above the 30 year average* of 8.4°C. It was the third warmest November after 2011 (10.9°C) and 2015 (10.8°C) in 132 years of continuous data for Bristol. November's rainfall was 157.7mm which represents 156.9% of the 30 year average. It was the wettest month since October 2020 and the wettest November since 2012 when 169.7mm was recorded in Bristol.

December 2022:

A month of very distinct halves. The first part was dry, cold and calm and the second half of the month was wet, mild and windy. The average monthly temperature of 4.8°C was 1.3°C below the 30 year average* for the month. It was the coldest month of 2022, the coldest December since 2010 and the coldest month since February 2018. The rainfall of 122.4mm was 120.2% of the 30 year average* for the month. 118.3mm of that rainfall fell in the last 14 days of December. It was the least windy December since 2016. There were 12 consecutive days of air frost (147 hours) which is the longest recorded at this site in 6 years of data. The lowest daily minimum temperature of -5.8°C recorded on the 15th and 16th of December was the lowest since February 2018, and the lowest December temperature since -7.5°C was recorded in 2010.

January 2023

January 2023 was also very clearly split into two halves. From the 1st to the 15th the weather was very wet and mild, the second half was much dryer and colder. The consequence of this split was for the monthly average temperature of 6.3°C to come out at a very modest 0.6°C above the average for the month. Rainfall for the month, on the other hand, despite the dry last two weeks, was still high at 146.3mm (154.5% of the 30 year average*). It was the wettest January since 2014 and continues a slightly rising January rainfall over the historical period starting in 1853. There was no snowfall in January 2023 but there were 9 consecutive days when frost was recorded. It was the sunniest January since records began here in 2006. On January 11th 2023 there was a 24 hour rainfall of 43.2mm. This was the second highest for the month, the highest being 52.0mm in January 1926, with data starting in 1893.

*30 year average for Bristol 1991-2020.

BEHIND THE DOOR...



Local illustrator and digital developer, Louis Durrant studied Graphic Design at UWE. Creative as a child, he had always had an interest in drawing and playing games and so as his final University project he worked

on developing a game which combined his love of drawing with his interest in Buddhism and the concept of other realms. The result was 'Kingdom Ka', a self-published game; an abstract world built from pattern and collage, filled with wonderful characters from other realms who all have a tale to tell.

Louis' love of nature has proved a rich source of inspiration in creating his latest game 'The Garden Path'. He started developing the game in early 2018 and continued work on the project alongside his freelance work as a graphic designer. A Kickstarter campaign in summer 2021 was successful with 1000 backers, some of whom are providing valuable feedback on the game.

The game owes a lot to his close observation of nature and the changing seasons, the life cycle of trees and plants throughout the year, and his interest in finding out more about the different species. This is a beautifully hand-illustrated world which sets it apart from the usual 3D or pixel approach; the world grows around you in real-time to allow your garden to flourish even when you

are away from the game. 'The Garden Path' is a life sim that introduces elements of appreciating and learning more about nature. A host of intriguing characters inhabit the garden, who will show you around and teach you how to fish, garden and more, and there are also annotations with more detail on the various plants which characters come across.

This fascinating world is a learning environment in which the gamer can roam at will – a 'sandbox' in which minimal character limitations are placed on the gamer and a garden which will grow to reflect both the passing of time and your own design. There is a sense of community in the game, a peaceful, cozy and relaxing space in which to meander and explore nature and the interesting characters and events you encounter along the way.

'The Garden Path' is slated for release in Spring 2023, and will be available on PC/Mac (via Steam) and on Nintendo Switch. You can follow The Garden Path via @fromcarrotcake on Twitter, Instagram and YouTube.'

Totterdown, naturally ... Spring



If the natural world was a living human being it would have a wardrobe the size of Paris. I mean as soon as the weather warms, she starts to put on all of her clothes, and she's got a lot of them! Yes it's spring time and that means that everything from tree blossom, flowering plants, herbs, weeds, to birds and mammals are all growing, and multiplying, in abundance. The long sleep is over.

The most audible is that of the male songbirds. They are starting to shout about what's theirs and warning other birds

away from their territory, and at the same time trying to attract a mate. Arnos Vale Cemetery often organise morning chorus walks and they are well worth booking. I wonder if there is an equivalent for the birds, do they flock down King Street on a Saturday night to listen to groups of our Bristolian males trying to attract a mate – perhaps to the birds it's a beautiful display of audible iridescence!

Speaking of beauty, it's also a time of year for the nettles to look their best (to foragers). But take note as there are a few native butterflies, including the most eye catching Peacock, that lay their eggs on the leaves of the nettle. To avoid decimating the population, and eating something yucky, just have a quick look on the underside of the nettle before picking. This year I've been turning my nettles into pesto. Swap out the basil or rocket for nettle and you'll be rewarded with an earthy, nutritious pesto that'll give your iron reserves a boost.

We should also start seeing more of our long-awaited guests the bats. In a few weeks they will be coming out of their hibernation spots beneath the roof tiles and over the next few months, at dusk, they'll dart around eating moths, gnats and hopefully a whole load of mosquitos. In fact they can eat up to 3000 in a night. However, we've not seen many in the last few years. I think because of the neighbour's bright security light and the solar powered light we have dangling from our walnut tree. Most bats are light adverse which is why the solar light has now been shifted to dangle downwards from beneath the canopy of the top branch, and why we've been making an effigy of the neighbours ☺. Despite doing our bit for nature, there are always adjustments to be made...

AH

Andy Hamilton is a bestselling author, brewer, forager, broadcaster and lover of all things natural. Find books, recipes and so much more on his website <https://www.theotherandyhamilton.com/>

Tree leaf dates

A group of TRESA members has been practising the science of phenology. This is the study of nature's calendar and in particular dates for first leaves to emerge in spring and the last leaves to come off the trees in the autumn. It is an ancient art and some UK data goes back to the 18th century while the Japanese have 8th Century data on cherry blossom flowering. Small rises in temperature can result in tree leaves appearing earlier in spring and staying on the tree longer in autumn. Records on first oak leaves going back more than 100 years now show an average advance of 8 days on when the leaves first emerge.

That said it is not simple. Many trees need a period of cold weather before they will respond to warmer temperatures so a mild winter may affect leaf out dates as much as a warm spring. The signal for trees to put out their leaves is complex and not fully understood, but it is known to be a combination of temperature and day length. Some trees like ash are more influenced by day length while others such as oak rely more on temperature.

Our group has been following a cherry, a London plane, a Himalayan birch, an apple, a lime and an ash. We have been collecting data since 2019... which from our data seems to have been a particularly early spring. Year by year the trees are remarkably consistent with themselves so the cherry is always the first out and the plane, birch, apple and lime are all out within a week of each other about a week later. The ash, which was chosen as it is less temperature dependant has been inconsistent and is almost certainly infected with ash die back. In 2022 it didn't seem to be coming out at all but eventually produced a good crop of leaves from early May. In previous years it has lost its leaves very early but last year held onto its leaves later than the other trees going into December. I have heard that the very hot weather last summer may have impeded the fungus which causes ash dieback so will be interested to see how it fares this summer.



The group also collects data on when all the leaves, with the exception of a few stragglers, are off the tree. Again the trees are very consistent with themselves. The lime is first to lose its leaves closely followed by the cherry while the birch and plane are often more than a week later and the apple is the last to defoliate holding its leaves into the first or second week of December. Location makes a difference. Our plane is on the Wells Road and I have noted the planes in a more exposed location at the end of Lilymead Avenue lose their leaves earlier. Of course these trees are regularly lopped, bizarrely sometimes when they have just put their new leaves out!

The Autumn of 2021 was mild and all our trees were late losing their leaves. This may not be an advantage and there was a severe storm that year at the end of November which mostly hit the North of England where a lot of trees were damaged. I was walking in a forest in Cheshire the day before that storm and wondered about the extent of leaf cover still on the trees which may have made them more susceptible to the wind.

Like much citizen science our data is rough but by each of us following a particular tree we are able to offer consistency in how we view our tree. Similar data is being collected more systematically by the Woodland Trust and other such organisations and of course our trees are all city trees not based in a wood or rural area. However it is an interesting experiment and if you want to join in then email tresa@gmail.com. The important thing is to choose one particular tree which you see very often so you can notice small changes. It is a fun thing to do as well as having more serious implications related to climate change and it is always nice to watch the seasons.

Anne Silber

View from the Chair...

TRESA objected strongly to the tower block development at Totterdown Bridge – on the grounds of height, density, quality of life for those living in the development, and safety - but we failed to persuade the planning committee to reject the application. Since then, we have continued to take an interest in activities on the site.

The development is currently intended to provide 152 flats, of which 112 will be in a shared ownership scheme, and 40 will be offered for 'affordable rent' through the council's HomeChoice housing waiting list scheme, with Clarion Housing as the landlords.

You may have noticed that work stopped abruptly in July 2022 when construction company, Mid Group, went into administration. Since then, apart from some movement of the cranes, there has been no sign of activity on site. (This movement is likely to be weathervaning or "free slewing" which allows a crane to rotate with the natural direction of the wind, preventing excessive pressure on the structure from the force of the wind.)

A new contractor has been identified, Hill Group. We understand that the initial work of the new contractor is to make a detailed assessment of what needs to be done to complete the buildings, which may account for why construction has not resumed yet.



In the meantime, TRESA highlighted the fact that the riverbank under the site appeared to be collapsing – a story picked up by both local and national press. In response, Clarion Group issued a statement: "We are completely aware of the issue at Totterdown Bridge near to our Boatyard development and want to reassure local people and future residents. Our qualified structural engineer,

who is familiar with our project and site, confirmed that the riverbank's recent movement has no effect on our building. The council's own building and structural checks have confirmed the same. Ongoing construction work on the project is not affected, and we will continue to monitor the site as a precaution and update local residents and stakeholders as required."

To be honest, we are not aware of any direct attempts to keep local residents updated, but TRESA will continue to monitor the situation and provide information when we can. We will be watching that space!

Suzanne Audrey



JOIN TRESA

Together we can make a difference...

TRESAcic brings together residents in Totterdown with the aim of improving and protecting our local environment and to promote a vibrant and engaged community. Members influence the projects we undertake and join us in providing a strong voice in commenting on issues of local significance.

- ❖ Membership is for anyone aged 18 years or over, who lives within the TRESA boundary.
- ❖ Membership fees help fund community projects and also help towards printing costs of The Talk of Totterdown.

To join or renew your membership (£3 per annum): visit our website www.tresa.org.uk to pay via paypal or complete details below and post with cash or cheque, (payable to TRESAcic), in our letterbox at the Post Office (in Tesco).

Name: _____ House number and postcode: _____

Email: _____ Date: _____



**Warmer homes
with C.H.E.E.S.E.**

"C.H.E.E.S.E.? What does that have to do with saving energy?"

"C.H.E.E.S.E. is a Community Interest Company (CIC), a not-for-profit which works with communities to tackle fuel poverty and energy waste. Set up to provide innovative thermal imaging surveys for residential properties in and around Bristol, hence: Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts – or C.H.E.E.S.E. for short!

C.H.E.E.S.E. Project Manager, Iris Partridge, tells us more...

"Excitingly, we have now also launched our franchise network www.first-thermal.co.uk to bring our surveys to other places!

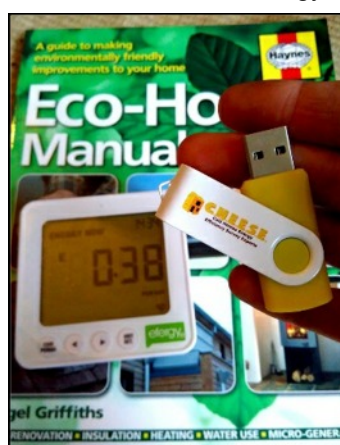
"Our surveys help householders identify where their homes are losing heat, by making visible, cold spots and draughts within the fabric of the building. Our customers tell us that understanding how their home works, in terms of energy efficiency, and learning how they can make their home more energy efficient with simple, cost effective draught proofing measures is a great way to reduce their bills and carbon footprint as well as assist with negotiating with contractors when considering more

costly retrofitting options.

Survey prices start at £135, though we offer a limited number of free surveys to customers in fuel poverty, subject to funding.

If you want to know more, visit the website www.thecheeseproject.co.uk or contact Iris on iris.partridge@first-thermal.co.uk.

IP, C.H.E.E.S.E.



Lavender Broom: Tut, tut!



Fellow Residents

I hope you will not think I am being unduly harsh when I say that those who feed pigeons in our public spaces are undermining my campaign to Tidy Up Totterdown and Tactfully Uphold Taste (Tut, Tut!)

I am afraid that Julie Andrews, with her rendition of 'Feed The Birds' as Mary Poppins, has a lot to answer for. The lyrics make no mention of pigeon droppings that can block drains and make pavements slippery.

Those who feed pigeons may be concerned that the birds will go hungry. But pigeons are wild birds and are not dependant on us to feed them. When I told Mr Broom I was preparing a presentation about the 'pigeon problem' for the next meeting of Totterdown Ladies Circle, he muttered something about pigeons

seeming to be quite well off, since they have no problem putting a deposit on a car. (He was a little annoyed about having to remove pigeon excrement from our vehicle yet again.)

Far from being kind, excessive feeding can harm wild pigeons as it can cause overcrowding at feeding sites and spread disease among birds. Piles of pigeon droppings in an area can also put our health at risk and, to add insult to injury, food put out for pigeons can attract vermin such as rats. Poor Edna, Secretary of the Ladies Circle, certainly had a scare last week when a rat scurried past her as it headed towards a favourite pigeon feeding spot in Totterdown Square.



**PLEASE
DO NOT FEED
PIGEONS**

Problems associated with pigeon feeding have led Bristol City Council enforcement team to prosecute people for anti-social behaviour. In 2018 one man's bird-feeding habit attracted up to 150 pigeons at a time to his tower-block flat, with droppings and flies creating a health risk for him and his neighbours. He was served with an anti-social behaviour injunction but continued to breach the order and was eventually given a 5-week prison sentence. In 2019, the enforcement team took action after a woman in Westbury-on-Trym regularly created what neighbours described as "a scene from Alfred Hitchcock's The Birds". Closer to home, in 2021 a man was given a fixed penalty for littering, as well as a community protection warning, after repeatedly feeding pigeons in the car park of Aldi on North Street.

While I have been trying to find suitable images for my presentation (I fear that too many photographs of pigeon droppings are not pleasing to the eye) Mr Broom has been out on reconnaissance in Totterdown Square. He has just returned home to Totterdown Mansions and says that the pigeon situation is so bad he fears that there may be an attempted coo. *Tut, tut!*

News from your local councillors

Fair Share

Bristol City Council is preparing for a budget, where the amount of money being offered by the government cannot pay for the services Bristol needs to make it work. This is a fact as we face up to yet more difficult cuts to already squeezed Council Budgets.

Everywhere is being squeezed; as inflation and interest rates rise, people are having to go out on strike to redress the effects of losing wages.

Yet, there is a British-Dutch company which could help with the situation, as they report annual record profits. Shell Oil made a staggering £32.2 billion, thanks to profits from the war in Ukraine and even though this government did create an energy profits levy, or windfall tax recently, Shell will not be paying their fair share of tax, they will however be investing in more fossil fuels. Shell will be giving their shareholders more money than they will be using to develop renewable energy!

So, we have an extraction company which is making huge sums of money, whilst people are being hurt and killed in an unjust war conducted in Ukraine, and at the same time here in Bristol people are finding it difficult to make ends meet, as they are plummeted into fuel poverty feeding these profits.

We believe that this government is too weak to stand up for what is right, to demand for the rightful taxes companies such as Shell should be paying and more. This money could be properly distributed across the nation so that necessary services desperately needed are paid for, as well as increasing wages for paramedics, teachers, firefighters and millions of other hard-pressed public servants. Big oil companies should be made to pay their fair share but because this government is so weak, and in bed with big business, it is simply not happening.

So, instead here in the West of England the Metro Mayor is having to cut dozens of supported bus routes, including Totterdown's 512, and replace them with experimental "Demand Responsive Services". This is a big gamble, forced on us by unnecessary austerity, which is only going to force more people into isolation or into their cars, ironically once more lining the pockets of the big oil companies.

We need a change of system, and we need it right now!

Councillor Ed Plowden Cllr.Ed.Plowden@bristol.gov.uk

Councillor Lisa Stone Cllr.Lisa.Stone@bristol.gov.uk



Advertisements and notices....

Corrections and clarifications:

In the Winter 2022 issue of the Talk of Totterdown, news from your local councillors referred to the planning application for tower blocks on the old Bart Spices site: "At the Planning committee the expert planning and transport officers were recommending that the 11-storey application be refused, but councillors from the Labour and Conservative parties voted them through." It is important to note that one Green councillor also voted for the development, and a statement from the Green councillors for Southville was in favour of the development going ahead.

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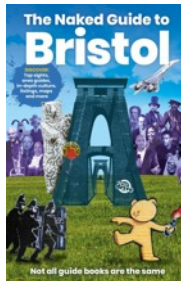
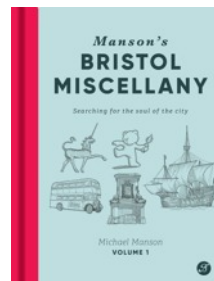
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