

Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association – Newsletter April 2021

Dear Friend

Welcome to the Bulletin for April 2021. Easter has come and gone and so have the depths of lockdown – now we have something to look forward to. Spring is here and at least we can meet up with a few people out of doors – for those of us living alone this is a huge relief. Hope too now for our local businesses – many of them will now be able to open their facilities and welcome customers back to their bars and restaurants.

May is the month of elections as everyone will be aware – details of meetings and Hustings in various forms can be found in the body of this newsletter.

Enjoy the Spring !.



Should you wish to raise any local issues/matters of interest, we can always be contacted at the following:
admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk

or leave a message on 01179 291 833

If there is anything you have written and would like to add to the next Bulletin – please send it to this email hccabulletin@gmail.com

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1. Reduction in height of Building D to 5 storeys and re-design of Building E to form two buildings of 3 – 5 storeys in height.
2. Loss of 20 dwellings to provide a total of 220 residential dwellings on the site.
3. Revisions to landscape design, car parking, ecological mitigation strategy and drainage strategy associated with the revised layout.”

The revised planning application can be found [here](#) and entering this number 20/01655/F. Revised documents are dated 30 March. We would encourage all to have a look and send in comments to help influence the final plans.

3. Traffic matters. Your chance to have a say in an improvement plan for Hotwell Road.

During the recent Zoom sessions organised with respondents to the HCCA questionnaire, there was enthusiasm during the traffic and transport group to take some action on improving Hotwell Road. Ideas such as 20mph, community speed-watch, traffic islands, crossings, lines on roads and more were discussed. There was also quite a bit of discussion along the same lines at a recent Liveable Neighbourhoods meeting.

Three of us at the former meeting have decided we will try and pull together a possible action plan for the Hotwell Road. We will be looking at the stretch from the Rose of Denmark to Jacob's Well roundabout. **We are inviting you to write in with any suggestions you may have to try and improve this stretch of road. All ideas will be considered. Please participate.** If you are interested in helping this group develop their ideas, then please get in contact. Your ideas will help us to formulate the draft plan. We will be coming back to consult with the community when we have pulled together this draft plan. Contact via admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk

4. Cumberland Basin/Western Harbour.

We understand that the process of engagement with the general public regarding these possible developments is unlikely to start before June. The Council intends to hire an outside contractor experienced in public engagement exercises. The brief for this job is still under preparation, so advertising and selection is likely to take most of the next two months anyway. We are hoping that once the job is out to tender, we will be able to share the brief with you so that we all have a better understanding of what is likely to happen and when.

Work has been going on to try and create a suitable Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) section – with answers of course! - on the Council website pages for Western Harbour. We hope these will go up during the course of this month. More news in the next bulletin.

Latest updates on the Western Harbour project can be found on the [council website](#) which includes the following statement on **Engagement moving forward**

“We have listened to your feedback, and we're developing a programme of engagement to ensure greater involvement from citizens and businesses. The focus will be to develop a shared vision for the area working collaboratively with citizens. The co-created vision will set out the aspirations of the community, council and city for the future of Western Harbour. The vision will then underpin the next design phase of the project and its future delivery. It's likely that this first phase will start in Summer 2021.”

5. Piazza News

Skate Spot update. Sadly, on March 4th I discovered that the DIY skate ramps had disappeared from the Hotwells Skate Spot. Happily, after posting the mystery on social media, many local people have generously offered support and donated time, materials, and money to build new ramps for our local young people and skaters. The old ramps were taken to the pump track, but we can't get them back so we're starting from scratch with professionally designed and built facilities. The expert fabricator will bring the ramps as 'flat packs' to the spot for us to assemble with teenagers, hopefully over the next couple of weeks. [Click here](#) to donate to fund facilities for our local young people and to find out more

6. Liveable Neighbourhoods comes to Hotwells & Harbourside

Thanks to everyone who came to the Liveable Neighbourhoods Meetings in March and to others who sent in their comments and ideas. We had some great conversations as you can see from these [meeting notes](#). Some key points were: 20mph for Hotwell Road, [there is a petition you can sign and share](#), an assessment of how much through traffic we still have in Hotwells, particularly large trucks- there should be a weight limit, convenient electric vehicle charging points, a cycle lane on Hotwell Road, a crossing point by the Pump House, revisit council promises over the past 10 years and check if there are any unfulfilled legal traffic and public transport obligations and crucially what is the area entitled to as a Clean Air Zone border area?

Please continue to send in your ideas and opinions to admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk (attention of Anna LN). We will create an updated community 'traffic strategy' over the next couple of months and campaign for a more liveable neighbourhood locally and city wide. <https://liveablebristol.org.uk>

7. Well-being festival summer 2021- Anna

In response to popular demand, and within Covid-19 restrictions, I'm thinking of organising a little festival this summer on the piazza. Activities could include exercise class tasters from professional fitness trainers, sports challenges, skate demos and launch of new facilities, stunt bike demos, basketball, arts activities, food, community singing and gardening. If you would like to help in any way, with ideas, organising or activities, please do get in touch anna@artwithinthecracks.org

8. Follow up from FAQs – March Bulletin

One of our readers, most helpfully sent in the following information on how to alert Bristol City Council to various problems you might encounter in the street.

These apps are a very efficient way of alerting the Council to what has happened/ what you have seen in the street. They automatically record where you are sending the message from and allocate a number to your query. This is a super-efficient way of dealing with local problems and thank you very much to Steve for sending in this information.

My Council. has the benefit of allowing you to use GPS to provide the location and adding pictures and short videos of the issues. It is much more convenient than the website as you can do it there and then. It also provides an acknowledgement and reference number for the incident to enable follow up if needs be.



MyLocalGov. This has similar reporting capacity but personally I don't think it is quite as good as My Council but provides an alternative option.



9. Clifton and Hotwells Jumble and Jaunt Sale

This message was received from several sources – so it sounds like it is going to be a very popular manageable event for those of us having things to recycle – or just missing the concept of browsing a market.

To register to take part in the event – just use the QR code on the poster-links – this will add your property to the trail-map. The finalised trail map will become live 9 days before the event.

**'Jumble Jaunt'
in Clifton and Hotwells
May 9th from 11am-3pm**

A trail around our local streets
for neighbours to sell or give away all those unwanted items that have been sorted during lockdown - we all have things waiting to be disposed of in an eco-friendly way!
Chat to neighbours that have not been seen for months.
Clear that clutter. Pick up a bargain!
Join us, put the date in your diary and tell your friends



Contact Kay for a registration form
jumblejaunt@hotmail.com or use the QR code



10. Goldney Garden- request for volunteers

Here is part of an email from Kasha Smal who is the co-ordinator for this development. Please contact her directly if you are interested in volunteering to be part of this exercise.

'Goldney House and Garden, owned by the University is located in the heart of Clifton and Hotwells and to many even locals remains a relative secret. I have been tasked with exploring the opportunity of opening up the garden more to the public, including the local community. I am currently undertaking some research and the hope is to have an open day and run some tours in the very near future. At the

moment we are still in the process of planning but I was wondering if your organisation has a way of contacting members so that a possible interested group could be put together for a visit the garden as a data gathering exercise?’

Katherine Smal BA (ITE)

Goldney Garden Commercial and Research Coordinator, External Estates Team

T +44 (0) 117 4282409

www.bristol.ac.uk/external-estate

11. Creative Corner part one - A CROC IN THE DOC- a nod to April 1st !

Many of you will know Bob Walton who is resident in Hotwells and holds many music/poetry evenings – currently online but hopefully before too long, in person. Keep an eye open for future events.

'The first was not written this year – but its publication is a result of a picture of a plastic ‘croc in the dock’ appearing in the local press on April 1st 2021!'



CROC IN THE DOCK

Beast of Bristol resurfaces with fourth snap of 'crocodile' The Guardian, 26.06.14

They laugh it off, my lurking shadow, shifting wakeless

just below the surface, my log-snout nuzzling into the flow.

*I'm a weary bus-driver's day-dream of Captain Hook,
a hyper-oxygenated jogger's hallucination. They study
the photo's pixelated print to coin a punning caption
and write me off: a hoax to hit the local headlines,
a column-filler that hikes the Likes on Huffington Post.
Is it my breath they avoid, the reek of flesh between
my teeth, the leeches at my gums? Or the minus signs
of my eyes, these slits in the skin of creation? Behind
the lock-gates, I wait, tight as a bullet in its chamber.
I can sense a footstep at a thousand metres, a raindrop
fleck a leaf in the canopy. As the water-level rises,
I'm ready to prowl the streets and put the record straight.*

© Robert Walton 'Sax Burglar Blues' (Seren Books, 2017)

12. Food Bank

It's more than a year since Jenny Hendy opened her garage on a Thursday morning 10-12 noon to collect food for needy people in our city. It is very easy to find – the open garage is at the end of the road into Pooles Wharf Court – in the left-hand corner. A van from North West Food Bank picks up the donations just before midday. Food Banks in Bristol have seen demand for food has more than doubled since the start of the Covid Pandemic.

Please help if you can. Full details are [here](#)



13. Ashton Court Mansion update

It looks like good news for Ashton Court Mansion. Last month Bristol City Council issued a statement to say they are collaborating with The Prince's Trust and the Prince's Foundation to look at the future of Ashton Court Mansion. Further details are [here](#)

14. Creative Corner – part 2

The second poem reflects the sombre yet hopeful moments when an Ash tree reveals its first growth of spring.

Ash

*The watching starts at this time
of year when the first buds appear,
black jewels clustered on every
branch of its platinum February crown.*

*I'm keeping an eye on the bark
for lesions in its leathery olive skin,
for tell-tale scars of purple rust
where spores would be bedding in,*

*brought on a sharp east wind
when the south-westerly relents.
Unscathed for now, its lithe branches
swaying, stretching towards the sun,*

*my Yggdrasil stands deep-rooted
at the centre of the world. Always last
to leaf, it only takes a few
bright days in May for its flowers*

*to burst into a sphere of green fire.
Its leaves can conjure lovers to a lover's
dreams and in its glinting canopy
the blackbird sings all summer.*

© Robert Walton, 'Sax Burglar Blues' (Seren Books, 2017)

Note: in Norse cosmology, the Yggdrasil is a giant sacred ash tree that connects the heavens, the earth and the underworld.

15. Bringing in the Ships

An amazing short film about the Tug pilots who used to guide large ships from the open sea to Bristol docks – in the days before the docks became a place for tourists and leisure craft.

You can listen to Ray Buck, river helmsman and Peter Hodge, the last City Docks pilot recording their memories of bringing the ships along the Avon and right into the docks.

Prepare for strong opinions on all things 'modern' (including the preservation of the Great Britain') and some very colourful language! Film shared courtesy of Bristol Civic Society.

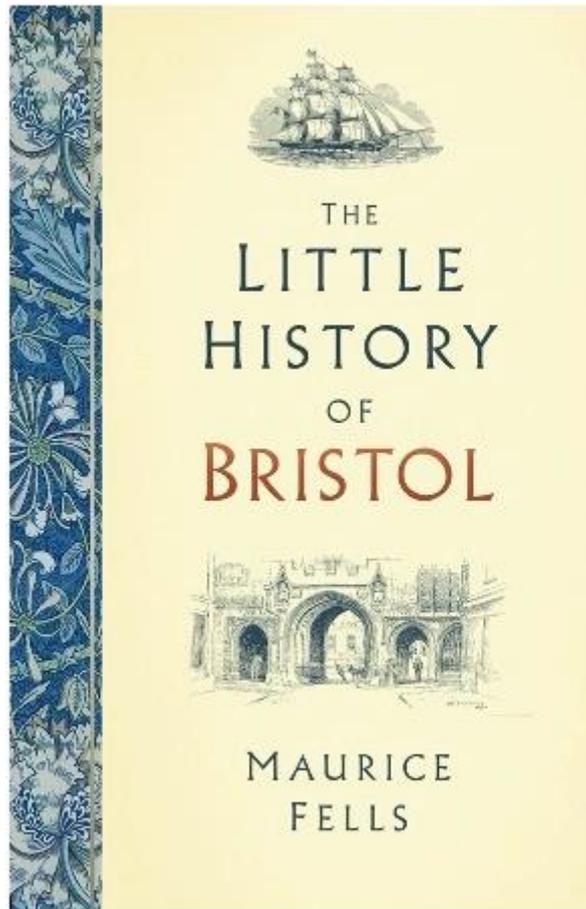
To watch click [here](#)

16. Book by local author Maurice Fells – The Little History of Bristol

“My book looks at how Bristol evolved from the time that Iron Age man set up an encampment in Clifton right up to the present day” said Maurice who lives on the borderline between the old parish boundary between Hotwells and Clifton.

“I could not leave Hotwells out of the book especially as so much has happened here down the centuries. The Spa played such an important part in local and city-wide history. I was particularly fascinated by the names of some of the visitors who included people from all walks of life including royalty. I was surprised to find that bottles of Spa water were being sold in London and elsewhere.

“The history of Hope Chapel from its foundation to the present time is one of the buildings in Hotwells that deserved inclusion in my book. I wonder how many people know that it was founded by a lady from Scotland who visited the Spa. Although she left funds for building Hope Chapel this lady died before it was built. What a pity there isn't a plaque outside to honour the founder”



“I walk around the area most days and it seems that almost every street has an important story to tell about Bristol’s past. The buildings from churches to pubs all have backgrounds that are worth recording for history. Some intriguing characters, who became nationally known, also lived here. Surely this must be an ideal area for guided walks for newcomers, schools and visitors to the city?”

If you would like to buy this book – you can do so directly from the author as described below:

The Little History of Bristol is a hard-cover illustrated book published by the History Press at £12. Copies will be available in bookshops when they can re-open and are also available from the author at mauricefells@yahoo.co.uk

17. Show of Strength Theatre announces its return to business!

Award winning walking performances are returning to the streets of Bristol. Based in Clifton you can walk along with ‘Crime and Crinolines’ (Wednesdays 6pm and Sundays 4 pm) from April 14th. ‘Blood and Butchery in Bedminster’ walks for the very brave are on Thursdays at 6pm from April 15th. If you think it is time to go out and play – you can find full details on their website below:

<https://showofstrength.org.uk/>

18. Hotwells Festival advance notice from the Nova Scotia !

It looks like the Nova Scotia is hoping to start the winter season with a bang! **We now have a date and a venue! After careful consideration, a mid - October weekend was chosen: The Hotwells Festival is going to take place on the 15th till 17th of October 2021! A festival tent will be erected on the quay side in front of the popular Nova Scotia pub overlooking the old docks of the Bristol harbour!

** Writers, performers, musicians, dancer or just people who would like to get involved: Keep coming forward with your ideas!!!

Look on their [FB page](#) for more details!

19. Creative Corner 3- 'April' by N. Frances

April

Who said you could come-

Jerking me out of my warm nest?

Forcing me to bare white arms,

Exposing myself to the teasing air.

Even the bare trees- my understanding friends of

Past, dark, weary months

Are showing interest in life again.

Patches of brown, uninviting ground

Turn a decadent green....offering themselves for pleasure..

Is there no decency?

Must comforting winter withdrawal

Be thrown away

At the first chill promise of an April sun?

20. Bristol City Council latest Coronavirus updates

Read the latest updates on facts and figures/advice in Bristol [here](#)

'Our current case rate in Bristol is 52 cases per 100,000. This is lower than the England average which is 55 per 100,000, however, this is slightly higher than the previous week (50 per 100,000). We are currently seeing a small percentage daily increase which we are monitoring closely.'

21. Underfall Yard outdoor catering open again

Great news for those who love to walk round the harbour – you no longer have to divert onto Cumberland Rd and Avon Crescent, but can walk through the Underfall area. You can also purchase coffee, cakes and various baps/sandwiches to carry along with you. The Yard emphasises that all food is take-away only for the moment and people are advised to keep moving through the yard and not to try and sit down. Of course, their indoor facilities are not yet open.

<http://www.underfallyard.co.uk/>

22. Local Business Digest

PUBS and FOOD PROVIDERS

Many of our local businesses can open up this month – but not all and many have to open in a very limited way. We need local business to thrive and we wish them all the best for the spring and summer season. Below is a list of what to hope for in various venues. I have endeavoured to give you as up to date information as possible – of course, things may change at any time – so please check.

The Pump House: The deli will continue to sell a wide range of local cheese/veg/and baked goods. From April 12th they will also be serving their wonderful meals. To find out exactly how to book a table – check their [Facebook page](#)

Merchant's Arms: As they have no outdoor space – it is unlikely this local neighbourhood pub will be able to open on the 12th. Please check their [Facebook page](#) for details of any change

Rose of Denmark: This pub has reinvented itself as a local shop – selling bread, vegetables and groceries as well as the customary booze to take away. They are also doing take-away Sunday roasts (please put in your order before Wednesday to be sure to get your Yorkshire pudding plated roast – gravy on the side) Their orders

have rocketed recently. Check their [Facebook page](#) for current information about what they are providing on other evenings.

Lion Pub: is still offering [take-away menu](#). The Lion opens Wednesday/Thursday/Friday and Sunday. It has some legendary food options.

Bear Pub: Unfortunately, won't be in a position to open until May – but hoping to open with a revamped menu and new look ! Keep an eye on their [Facebook page](#)

Cottage Pub: Good news – they are opening again on April 21st for outside seating. (Tables Can take up to six people. Full details [here](#))



The Cottage

The Orchard: Good news for this Spike Island pub. They are opening again for their take-away service on April 16th and plan to open (with Covid safe restrictions) on May 17th . Keep an eye on their [Facebook](#) below.

Take-Away / Restaurant food

Hotwells Fish Bar: This business providing delicious freshly cooked fish has a great website showing the wide variety of food available to order- including veggie and vegan options. Food can be collected at the door or ordered via the usual delivery services. They are aiming to simplify their ordering procedure so there will be as much distancing as possible. Here's their message to customers

<https://www.hotwellsfishbar.co.uk/> or [contact via](#)

Hotwells Hideout Café: This new café – situated between The Fish Bar and the Mardyke is keeping open for home-made take-out food of all kinds. Please check their [Facebook page](#)

Raj Bari: Hotwell Road. Please check their Facebook page for full details of what they will be offering in the current situation. They have a new web site [here](#) – so you can order directly.

Chai Shai: bottom of Jacob Wells Rd. This restaurant is now open for take-away as well as offering a delivery service. Please see their full details here <https://chaishaikitchen.co.uk/>

Rassassy: Hotwell Rd opposite Dowry Square. They are taking orders 6 days a week 5pm-10pm. <https://www.indianrassasy.com/>

Local Thai: this restaurant is only open for take-away orders [via Deliveroo](#)



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