

Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association – Newsletter May 2021

Dear Friend

Welcome to the Bulletin for May 2021. For the first time since I took over the production of this Bulletin in February 2020 – there is a note of optimism in the air. Added to that the sun is definitely shining. Hopefully all our hospitality businesses will be able to open at some point in this month – let's hope they get the support they need.

This is also the month of elections – a meaningful time in many ways...



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. Volunteer/s required to work as editor of HCCA monthly bulletin

This is an exciting opportunity for an aspiring journalist or for anyone wanting to be at the centre of local information and news.

We are in need of one or more volunteers to take on this interesting task, individually or jointly, which involves creating our monthly bulletin which currently goes to more than 380 email addresses in the community.

A training document has been produced and Norma, our current editor has agreed to oversee and help with the next edition. Norma will remain available to answer questions as needed.

Basically, most content is forwarded from the HCCA mailbox – and is pasted into a Word document – before being uploaded into our Nation Builder site. Other articles are either produced by the editor, members of the committee or by others living or working in the area. Pictures are optional!

If you would like to volunteer for this, or indeed explore further what it might mean for you, please get in contact and we will answer any questions you may have.

Please express your interest by emailing admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk

2. Cumberland Basin/Western Harbour

Bristol City Council have published their brief for hiring consultants to lead, commission and deliver a programme of local and city-wide inclusive engagement with Bristol citizens and stakeholders. This engagement exercise is expected to begin early June and go on till November. We must take this as real evidence that the Council have taken a step back from the failed engagement of 2019 on the road network. This will be everyone's opportunity to contribute to the ideas for this area.

The Community Association and the Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group will do everything they can to try and ensure that everyone who has an interest in this idea for "Western Harbour" will have a chance to have their voice heard and to contribute into the discussions that will come. You can find a link to the brief [here](#). We hope we might have more news of who has been appointed by the time of our June bulletin.

The City Council has also published their answers to Frequently asked Questions about Western Harbour and these can be found [here](#).

If there are questions you want to ask then please lodge them with the Council [here](#). We would also find it helpful if you could send your question to HCCA so we are aware of the things that are concerning people.

3. Baltic Wharf - Goram Homes development on the Caravan site

The planning application number for this development is 21/01331/F which you will need to find out more about the proposed development. To register comments and to look at the application, you need to go to the BCC planning applications page which you can find [here](#).

Comments must be made before 18th May. Many of you will have seen earlier plans. It is clear that many people, whilst they may accept the need and opportunity that this site gives for housing, express concern about the height of the build in particular. There are a lot of documents to look at but we would urge readers to take a look at the plans and comment as you see fit. Some ideas re the height of the buildings proposed can be found in the Townscape and visual assessment parts 4 and 5 document.

This is a very important first development within the “Western Harbour” boundary. This is in the planning system and will not be part of any engagement discussion that should start in June. So as many people as possible should comment as this obviously helps the planners in their deliberations.

4. Good News on Traffic and Transport

Many residents of Hotwells and Cliftonwood have raised concerns about the volume of traffic in our neighbourhood, and the high levels of pollution and noise. Good news could be on its way with possible solutions to some of these issues.

The HCCA Management Committee invited representatives from Moving Bristol Forward to present their proposals for improving public transport and making Bristol a more accessible city. We liked what they were saying, and we had the opportunity to express some of our concerns about the amount of traffic using Hotwell Road. Additionally, we were able to share with them some of the problems identified in our recent community survey.

Moving Bristol Forward (a collaboration of Zero West and Transport for Greater Bristol) have produced a manifesto which summarises their proposals for sustainable transport solutions and thus creating a cleaner, quicker and more accessible city.

Moving Bristol Forward lays out a strategy for Bristol where trams, buses and trains are integrated to provide a seamless yet affordable travel experience. Cycle and walking routes will be expanded to encourage active travel. Air quality will be improved and climate change tackled by aiming for zero carbon emissions from transport. Disadvantaged communities will have equal travel opportunities.

HCCA participated in the Moving Bristol Forward campaign and have endorsed their Manifesto, together with contacting Mayoral candidates to ask them to back the Manifesto ahead of Bristol’s Mayoral elections.

Hopefully our next Mayor will take up the challenge so watch this space!

Here is a copy of [the manifesto](#)

5. Traffic Matters. Your chance to have a say for an improvement plan for Hotwell Rd.

Work is underway to look for improvements to Hotwell Road. If you have ideas for improvements, please submit them into admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk We think the City will be ready for suggestions for improvements and so we plan to take this opportunity to bring forward ideas. We look forward to hearing from you.

6. Piazza Matters

An update from Anna Haydock-Wilson on what has been happening in and around the Piazza.

Piazza News

Bees n things n flowers

Everything is starting to bloom and look lovely. Big thanks to Hazel, Iris, Istavan, Bory, Viv, Lesley, Kean, Jo, Steve, Amelia and Naomi who responded to the (last minute) call for gardening help we were able to weed the sedum beds, water the planters and plant some seedlings and paint pots. We also have offers of help from more art students and their friends as well as our six lovely Duke of Edinburgh volunteers. But the more the merrier, so let us know if you'd like to do anything.

Skate ramps story

Thanks so much to all the people who have donated. We have raised £700 to buy materials for more ramps. The designer has been ambitious and has drawn a wonderful ramp which can go in the space next to the skate spot as well as smaller ramps. We will need to raise some more funds to realise all these ambitions so if you'd like to donate [here's the link](#)

We are also taking donations of ply-wood (9mm, 18mm & 24mm) if you have any that needs re-using.

We are taking measures to ensure that the new ramps are as quiet as possible, and we hope to get the smaller ones on site within the next 2 weeks.

7. Update from Hotwells Primary School

Here is an important message from the Governors of Hotwells Primary School:

Hotwells School has been at the heart of the community since 1890 and the HCCA was started by the community teacher working in the school in 1974. The school community link has continued ever since through activities such as the Hotwells panto and Music Workshop.

Hotwells was a local authority primary school until 2014 when the then governors were encouraged by government to accept the offer to become an independent (stand-alone) academy. At the time this was a reasonable and popular choice for many Bristol schools. The reality of being self-sufficient and self-supporting is in fact much more challenging. Many stand-alone academies have now joined together in groups for mutual support and for the last few years the staff and Governors of Hotwells have been looking for ways of joining with likeminded schools to fulfil all the collective responsibilities and requirements of running a school while retaining a good level of academic achievement and independence. Hotwells has always been proud of its own style which we wouldn't want to lose.

After much mutual discussion and examination of all the details involved, we are happy to announce that from July 1st 2021, Hotwells is to become part of the Cathedral Schools Trust (CST) CST is a group of five Primary and three Secondary schools who have a shared vision and set of values. The schools operate independently with their own staff and governors but share many of the "business" aspects of running a school. Importantly, they also support each other in areas such as curriculum planning, staff development, subject expertise and new initiatives.

Governors and staff of Hotwells are greatly looking forward to being part of the Trust. We still have control over our own admissions and are always happy to show prospective parents and children around our lovely school. We have recently made some very attractive improvements to our outside learning spaces - come and see us! To visit the school, telephone 0117 9030044

8. Bristol Walk Fest – Get Walking!

This Bulletin is a little late for the start of this month-long festival, but it lasts for the whole month, so you still have time to sign up for something that interests you. Click on their website to find out more information.

The month-long Bristol Walk Fest returns this May with a 'one stop shop' [website](#) of walking in Bristol featuring an impressive variety of walking routes, groups, information and competitions.

With nearly 100 walks showcasing the Best of Bristol for everyone to enjoy on their own or with others, there is something for all ages, interests and abilities across the city.

Bristol City Council is also marking the occasion with the launch of more than 60 curated Bristol walks on the [Go Jauntly](#) app. The council's new partnership with the app will allow Bristolians to uncover walks and enjoy the outdoors from their doorstep, using a variety of routes that can be downloaded and previewed. Based on your location, simple photo guides lead you around urban areas and surrounding wildlife, from green spaces to historical sites to community gardens.

9. 'Women who walk'

Organised by Age-UK Bristol and supported by many other groups – this is an opportunity to join a webinar on the topic of women who walk. This is a part of the Bristol Walk Fest – the cost is free, and the date is Tuesday May 18th 19.30-20.30. This particular event includes those who walk for transport, connecting with nature, for sister-hood or for creativity. Free tickets are available via the [following link](#)

10. Local 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. This is such a worthy cause work. Read more [here](#)

11. Cyber Security Advice from 'Avon and Somerset Watch'

Here is very important advice on how to keep Cyber safe in an age where sophisticated criminals are finding more and more subtle ways to get hold of our money! This link tells you what to look out for if you receive a suspicious call/text or email – especially if the caller is suggesting you are in some kind of jeopardy! Well worth a read! [Click here](#)

12. Hotfest – plans for a Festival in Hotwells!

It is so refreshing to see plans for social activities coming together for the autumn. Let's hope they can all go ahead!

Hotwells Festival 2021

15th – 17th October

At this very moment, a group of Hotwellians are busy organising the first ever Hotwells Festival, a celebration of the written, sung, rapped, painted and spoken word. The festival will pop and sizzle with a varied programme of live arts, including music, poetry, comedy, sea shanties, community song, dance, creative writing sessions, talks and author interviews, drawn in an inclusive and diverse way from Bristol's thriving live arts scene.

Based in and around Hotwells' historic docklands, pubs, shared outdoor spaces and community hubs (including The Rose of Denmark, The Merchants Arms, The Nova Scotia, Pickle Café and the Hope Chapel), there will be a series of afternoon and evening performance slots, both inside and outside-under-cover over this long weekend in October.

SHOUT OUT! To make this festival a successful happening and to help plan it as an annual event for the future, we need your help!

If you would like to be involved as a volunteer steward, join the organising committee or put yourself forward as a performer please contact Carola carola.hengstenberg@gmail.com or Ben ben.padfield@yahoo.co.uk

Further down the line we will have a Facebook page, website and set up a Crowdfunder and bank account.

Keep your eyes open for further developments!

13. Message from the Greater Bedminster Team

Our neighbours in Bedminster have been updating their website – [here is a link.](#)

Currently it has some interesting articles about developments in Bedminster – plus a really important reference to the role that Wilko is currently playing in recycling of re-usable masks. The shop has special bins near the door where you can deposit your masks – they will be used in the production of furniture! Certainly, the Wilko in Queens Road has a collecting point just inside the door.



14. Civic Society

This wonderful organisation has provided us with the opportunity to see many films from their archives during lockdown – they have been freely offered via YouTube and have ranged from tales of the pilots bringing in boats from Pill to the Harbour, to a wonderful old clip of Tony Benn. Recently they have held meetings online – ranging from Underfall Yard to BOB (Brunel’s Other Bridge) Soon they will be planning walks (yes – with people and not behind screens!) The first ones will be focusing on West Clifton, Hotwells and then East Clifton. There is a charge for members of £3 each The Civic Society is obviously focussed on this area of Bristol and its historic value – and the protection it will need if plans for the ‘Western Harbour’ are sprung upon us.

Bristol Civic Society is an independent, voluntary organisation that exists to improve Bristol’s built environment and celebrate its heritage. We have existed as a society for over 100 years.

Joining is easy - <https://www.bristolcivicsociety.org.uk/get-involved/>

Main web site with a lot of other interesting clips/films/updates

<https://www.bristolcivicsociety.org.uk/>

15. BCC Coronavirus update

The latest information (May 4th) on Covid and some advice about precautions to take before voting in polling booths. There is also good advice about how to vote by emergency proxy should you find yourself unable to get to the polling booth on May 6th. Full details [here](#)

16. Business Digest

Since March 2020 when Lockdown began, I have endeavoured to keep tabs on what is happening in local businesses, in particular those in the hospitality industry. I have visited, rung and contacted via email to see how they were doing and if they had any new plans which I could mention in the HCCA Bulletin. I have shared their comments/adverts/news on the HCCA Facebook page and I hope this has all helped them in some way. As it happens the opening up of Businesses coincides with my last edition of the Bulletin. I do wish you all well and hope that you will all continue to flourish.

Here is a current list of local pubs/restaurants which are either open or due to open during May. Web site are included to enable you to check – or to book. Enjoy !

17. 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: should be able to open later in May. 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. For more information [check here](#)

Bear Pub: Won't be in a position to open until later in 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 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 here](#).

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/>

Grain Barge: currently open for food and drink on the open deck. Will be able to offer more once lockdown restrictions have relaxed. <https://grainbarge.com/>

Lockside: this little gem is already serving food and drink on its open-air terrace from breakfast till 4 p.m. They also serve take-away food and drink
<http://www.lockside.net/index.php>

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 <https://www.hotwellsfishbar.co.uk/>

Hotwells Hideout Café: This new cafe– 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 to check when they are open fully. <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 was only open for take-away orders via [Deliveroo](#). For any changes - check their main website <https://www.localthaibristol.com/home>



The scouring of the Cumberland Basin - sludge galore!