

HCCA AGM 2021

Chairman's Report

Hello and thank you for coming. I am very happy that this is in person this year and we fervently hope that your attendance here has no adverse consequences.

As usual my report covers the period from the last AGM in November 2020, while our financial report covers the year from April 2020 to April 2021.

This has been another strange year with the pandemic having an influence or effect upon us all. Notwithstanding that we completed a major community survey last Autumn, and you will have seen details of the results – I hope – on our website and from our bulletin. Important and early benefits have been additional members on the committee – welcome Damian, Hazel and more recently Paul - and also, a good number of volunteers who are helping keep our area clean and tidy. You will hear more of this in a moment. Also, a welcome to Omair, who took on the editorship of the bulletin in June. This, as the result of walking past one of our noticeboards where the role was advertised. It seemed like a miracle, but then we know that great things happen in this neighbourhood!

As I think you will all know this is my last year on the committee and my 15th as Chairman. It is therefore important for me to extend my thanks not only to all those who have helped HCCA this last year, but also back beyond this and express my gratitude for the support help and encouragement I have received from so many in the community over the years. Also, to all those who have helped further our efforts to improve things for all in the area. Fellow committee members, volunteers who have assisted with projects and campaigns, Councillors and many others. I cannot name you all but thank you. That's a thank you from me personally but also a thank you on behalf of this community because you all have helped to contribute to making it better place.

I am going to take the liberty now of looking back over the last 15 years and picking out what I think are some of the highlights from this time. I should hasten to add that everything that I mention in this had very little to do with me but was accomplished by others for our community and I thank them for that. At the same time, I make no excuse for saying that I am proud that these things have happened under my watch.

- 2007 - New play equipment in Argyle Place Play Park part funded by HCCA.
- 2008 - Launch of the West Bristol Arts Trail. Thanks in particular to Anna for giving birth to this now regular well supported event.
- 2009 - HCCA Traffic Strategy launched and later “adopted” by Bristol City Council. Cliftonwood Town Green was legally secured as such.
- 2010 - The Samuel Plimsoll bust rescued and secured for Hotwells and placed in its current location on the harbourside.
- 2011 - First festival on the Piazza site – Art under the Flyover is born.
- 2012 - First masterplan for the Piazza produced following consultations. First Hustings held for the Bristol Mayor elections
- 2013 - Detailed consultations on a new design for Charles Place Play Park after money secured with the help of one of our then Clifton Councillors.

- 2014 - Planting of the trees in the middle of the Piazza with the help of £21,000 secured at the Neighbourhood Partnership.
- 2015 - Planters erected, filled and planted up on the Piazza. HCCA's first e-bulletin sent out.
- 2016 - Support given to the first Peaceful Portway event. Huge efforts made and massive support evidenced to prepare for the possibility of Avonquay House becoming a new Community Centre.
- 2017 - Argyle Place Play Park upgraded after £50,000 secured at City Council. 29 new trees planted in and around the area after bids to the Council
- 2018 - Successful Somali cultural evening held at Holy Trinity. Cumberland Basin Stakeholder Group formed following Mayor's announcements re "Western Harbour"
- 2019 - A series of visits initiated to Underfall Yard, The Tannery and Puppet Place and a film night at Holy Trinity
- 2020 - Community Survey undertaken despite the Pandemic
- 2021 - Volunteers recruited for Step and Path clearing and for Graffiti removal. Piazza summer festival

A big thank you to all who have played a part in these and many other achievements over the last 15 years.

It has really been a pleasure and a privilege to try and maintain and develop your Community Association. Thank you for your support.

I finished last year with 2 pleas. I have two rolled into one this year. To ask that you give the HCCA your continued support and that you always remain on the lookout for new volunteers who will help take this great Community Association on to new and exciting things.

I am pleased to report that my second plea last year was answered, and I found out that the HCCA was formed in March 1974. So, there's a big celebration to work towards and I hope that you, and many others, will all be part of it.

My good wishes go to the committee for next year. As I have said to the present committee, I will still have a phone number and an email address, and I remain a resident of the area.

Good Luck and Thank You.