



Edited by
Andrew Brown

Natalie joins the team

Local resident **Natalie Jester** has joined the Focus Team. Natalie, who has lived in Totterdown all her life, is currently a PhD student at the University of Bristol, focusing on British Identity.

Natalie says:

"I've helped former councillors Mark Bailey and Alf Havvock in the past, as well as Andrew - but I now feel it's time to get more involved, to help make a difference, and work to make our communities even better places to live.

"Having lived here all my life, I know the things that make this a great place to live as well as the challenges we face, whether it be the danger of Arena parking problems, access to library services, or street cleaning and fly-tipping.

"One of my favourite parts of doing my studies is talking to people outside of university, for example when I have run workshops with local schools. I'm looking forward to meeting more of my fellow residents and discussing what matters to them!"



Natalie Jester and Andrew Brown in Perrett's Park



Let's improve access to our parks for all

Natalie at the Marksbury Road Green Space

Following the last edition of Focus, one of our readers got in touch about access to our parks and green spaces. They were concerned that the metal frames at the entrances to our various parks, like the one above, make access difficult for those using mobility scooters.

Natalie has written to the council to ask if anything can be done to make the Marksbury Road Green Space and other parks more accessible.

She said "Our parks are important in ensuring a good quality of life for local residents. We need to make sure that everyone can benefit and that people in mobility scooters or wheelchairs can enjoy them as easily as everyone else."

We await the council's response and will consider next steps once this has been received.

Do you have a campaign idea or an issue you would like us to follow up? If so, drop us a line using the form overleaf.

ARENA: consultation closes but petitions remain open

Over 100 people attended the council's Arena consultation event in Totterdown, including Andrew and Lib Dem Council Group Leader Gary Hopkins. It was disappointing that neither of our current Councillors attended but residents made their voices heard.

The "pre-planning" consultation has now closed, with the next stage of the process being the submission of a formal planning application towards the end of November. This will then open up another chance for residents to comment on plans - we wait to see if the consultation will have prompted any changes to the proposals.

Meanwhile our petitions on Residents' Parking Zones and the Three Lamps Junction are still open for signatures at:

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

Library opening hours

Following the reversal of plans to close Marksbury Road Library, proposed by the Mayor and the Green Party Assistant Mayor, the council has conducted a consultation into library opening hours across the city.

Andrew said "I look forward to proposals that will ensure that Marksbury Road Library continues to offer a service to people in our community - particularly families and the elderly."



Andrew at Marksbury Road Library with Dr Kay Barnard and Natalie

Working hard all year round - not just election time

Introducing Dr Kay Barnard

Lib Dems name research scientist as candidate for Mayor



The City of Bristol Liberal Democrats have named **Dr Kay Barnard** as their candidate in next years election for Mayor of Bristol. Born and raised in the city, Kay is an experienced business-woman as well as having been a Councillor in Somerset.

In her professional life, Kay has won international recognition as a research scientist at Bristol University. She now works with African farmers helping them to find new markets for their produce and reduce their need for international aid.

Her wide ranging experiences have included being a non-executive director of an NHS Trust, being a member of the governing body of the University of Bristol and establishing a large conservation area in Somerset. In addition, she is a Board member of two Bristol charities .

Commenting, Kay said “Bristol is a great city but it is being held back. The city and its people suffer badly from traffic congestion and poor public transport whilst housing is expensive - especially for those who rent. There have to be imaginative alternatives and working with local people will be the key to unlocking the solutions and making the City better for everyone. These problems cannot be solved by a top-down approach.”

Kay backs CHOICE FOR BRISTOL

One of Dr Kay Barnard’s first commitments as candidate for Mayor was to back the Bristol Lib Dem campaign for Bristol citizens to have the same say over the way it is governed as other cities.

Speaking about the campaign, Kay said: “I am proud that local Lib Dem councillors have fought to give our residents the same rights as every other city with a mayor. If elected, I will work to deliver a referendum on whether or not we keep the mayoral system in place, if it is clear that that is what people in Bristol want.”

Lib Dems are working to get the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to agree to give Bristol the same rights as other places with mayors.

Sign the petition to the Secretary of State here:

www.choiceforbristol.com

Andrew defends Human Rights



At the recent Lib Dem Conference, which attracted a record number of members, Andrew spoke out in a debate on the importance of defending Human Rights.

You can read what he had to say here:

<http://tinyurl.com/HumanRightsSpeech>

Get in touch with the team

We are happy to hear from you with ideas for campaigns, offers of help or queries.

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Community email relaunch

Andrew and Natalie are re-launching the popular Community Newsletter that former Councillors Mark Bailey and Alf Havvock operated for many years.

Just send an email entitled “**WH Subscribe**” to Andrew at andrewcbrownuk@gmail.com in order to join the list.

30 second survey: we want your feedback!

1. Did you find this edition of Focus informative? Yes No

2. Are there any local issues you think we should have mentioned? (Elaborate in comment box) Yes No

3. Focus can only be produced and delivered with the help of volunteers.

Could you spare an hour every couple of months or so to help distribute it? Yes No

4. Which party/parties are you most likely to support in next year’s local elections?

- Liberal Democrats Labour
 Green Party Conservative
 Other None

Name:

Address:

Email:

Telephone:

Comment Box - let us know what’s on your mind.

Return to: Windmill Hill Liberal Democrats, Freepost RSKZ-STLK-BUYU, Bristol BS7 8ND - No Stamp Required