



## Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association – Newsletter December 2023

### Season's Greetings!

It's been a busy year locally and H&CCA Management Committee would like to thank all the people in the area who help to make it more lovely for everyone. Our volunteers include folk who clear steps and paths of slippery leaves, clean unsightly graffiti, tend the noticeboards, litter pick, garden, organise events and support all this with admin.

It's not just H&CCA that serve this community- Holy Trinity Church hold lunch clubs, history groups and social activities among other care for our more vulnerable neighbours. **Hotwells Panto** delights audiences and performers alike as we emerge from winter, **Hotfest** is becoming a regular Autumn fixture with music and literature and **West Bristol Art Trail** artists and organisers bring joy every October.

2024 marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of H&CCA and we're planning events and activities throughout the year. We have lots of ideas and we're keen to hear yours so keep an eye out for our next newsletter.

Please send us items for the next newsletter by 5th January to [admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk](mailto:admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk)

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## 1. THE HOTWELLS PANTO - Is it that time of year again? Oh yes, it is!

The Hotwells Panto will be back in 2024 with rehearsals starting in January and performances in March. The read through and casting will take place at **Holy Trinity Church, Clifton Vale on Tuesday 2 January at 8pm.**



We look forward to welcoming new and old members who would like to be in the show, as well as anyone interested in helping backstage. No experience is required, just enthusiasm and a willingness to have a lot of fun creating a fabulous show and making new friends.

**Rehearsals are weekly, from 9<sup>th</sup> January at 8pm up to 12<sup>th</sup> March.**

The show itself will run from Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at Hope Chapel. Everyone is welcome to join a cast ranging in age from eighteen to over eighty. Last year we played to packed houses every night and a fabulous time was had by all, as you can see in the photo above.

Oh, and what are we doing? ***Treasure Island***, with a typical Hotwells Panto twist, so expect the unexpected!

## 2. Two important Bristol City Council reviews currently under way

Firstly, there is the **Harbour Place Shaping Strategy consultation**, with a closing date of 17<sup>th</sup> December, and an exhibition at M Shed from 5<sup>th</sup> December until 17<sup>th</sup> December 2023. This gives local people an opportunity to tell the council what we would like the Harbour to be, and what we would not like it to be. You can register and click on <https://www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/harbour-place-shaping-strategy-have-your-say>

Secondly, the **Bristol Local Plan Review**, as approved by the Council for consultation in October, is now open for comments from the public. You can find the plan and how to comment [here](#)

The Local Plan will guide how the city is developed until 2040, so it is important for as many of us as possible to comment on it before the closing date of 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024. The Local Plan is a very long and complex document. It sets out the vision for the City to 2024 and has some information that affects the Hotwells and Cliftonwood area. Some of the policies such as the explanation for Western Harbour are very brief. See policy DS4 'Western Harbour' It is useful for everyone to comment on the Local Plan Review.

HCCA is also looking for local people with relevant skills to help us shape our formal response to the review: reflecting community views and identifying elements of the Local Plan that would benefit from more informed detail on vision, need and context. We would particularly like to hear from you if you have particular interest in specialised parts of the plan, for example, housing, greenspace, flood risk, climate change, transport, and overall city strategy. If you can help, please get in touch. We will be holding a public meeting in January (17<sup>th</sup> TBC) and will send out a special email inviting you all.

Your expertise or knowledge would be very much appreciated.

Contact [admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk](mailto:admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk) subject line 'Local planning'

### 3. Jacob's Wells Baths Update



*Big thanks to local artist Amy Hutchings*

There is new hope for Jacobs Wells Baths. This much-loved building has been given another chance. The council have put their faith in Trinity Community Arts. We are impressed with what Emma Harvey and her team have achieved. They have a proven track record as Trinity Community Arts moves from strength to strength. Jacobs Wells Baths is not so different from the former Trinity Church. The fabric of both buildings has needed much renovation. Trinity is now renovated - Jacobs Wells Baths is yet to be fully renovated. As 2023 draws to a close Jacobs Wells Baths is undergoing the Development Phase. With funding from Nisbet Trust emergency works have been undertaken to stop the water ingress to the building. Whilst physical works are being undertaken - funding options are being explored.

A [Fundersurfer appeal](#) has been launched.

To donate and receive Amy's beautiful artwork as a giclee print click [here](#):

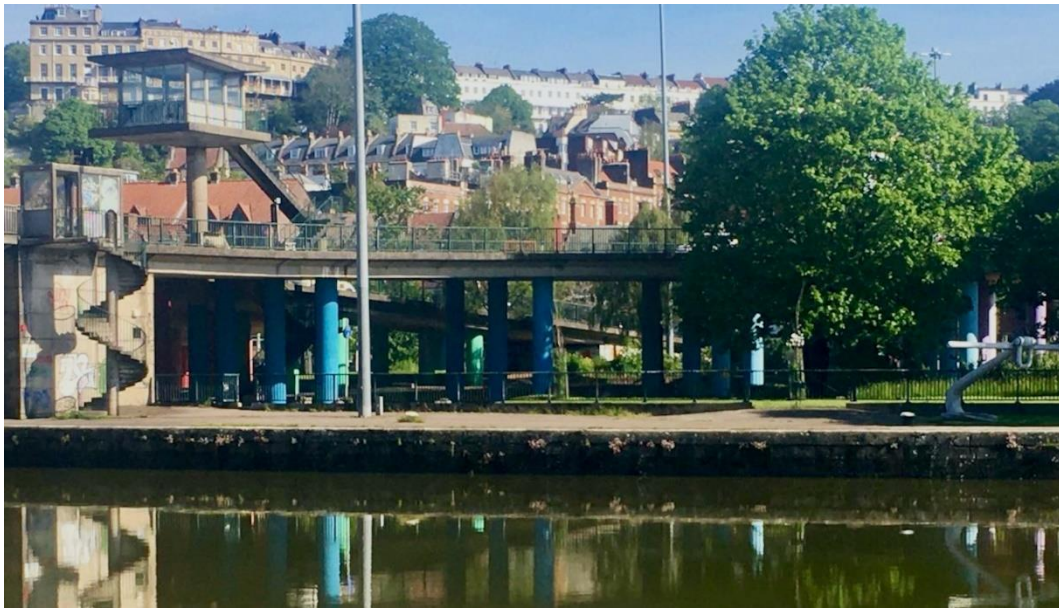


#### 4. Cumberland Piazza Update

In 2023 we had over 40 volunteers helping keep the piazza maintained. We've had new murals, planters and established regular gardening sessions. In the new year we're welcoming two Duke of Edinburgh Volunteers and at least one Fine Art student to gain work experience with us and help us add vibrancy. Next June we plan to have a community festival. Our gardening dates are 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month beginning on January 7<sup>th</sup> 2-4pm. Follow this [link](#) for all the dates and a little more info. Everyone is welcome, just show up with or without tools, bring something to drink as there's no access to water and we provide cake and tasks. You can socialise or simply garden. Contact Anna [admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk](mailto:admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk)



## 5. Hotwells Gateway



We have been lucky to have some talented and experienced MA Architecture students working with us to draw together past consultations and plans and carry out new community consultations. They attended our AGM, went to Trinity lunch club, stood on the street and the Piazza and had locally guided walkabouts in the freezing winter weather. They've also been researching past schemes and uncovering new traffic stats. In January they will visit Hotwells Primary to do some co-design with some of the older pupils. In January they will produce report to help HCCA and initiatives such as Hotwells Corner to apply for funding, contribute to neighbourhood planning and Bristol Harbour planning. So far, they are designing ideas around traffic calming and realising the potential of the Cumberland Piazza and Hotwell Road to create a welcoming pedestrian friendly 'gateway' to the city. We will share their plans next month but in the meantime do contact us at [admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk](mailto:admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk) with any ideas you may have. Forget 'Western Harbour' for the moment- as we wait for the council to engage with us, we thought we'd make a start!

## 6. Hotwells Primary School December update



Hotwells Primary School have certainly embraced the Christmas Spirit over the last term. Our wonderful PTA launched December with our Festive Fayre and the selling of Christmas Trees to the local community. Many thanks to all those who have supported the school by buying Christmas trees and raffle tickets and coming along to our Festive Fayre. All the money raised by the PTA goes to support the children's activities and the kindness of the community is really appreciated.

We've also used the run-up to Christmas as a chance to perform! Audiences were treated to a heart-warming performance of *The Night Before Christmas* led by children from Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 and it was wonderful to see our young stars perform with such gusto and confidence. More recently, children from Year 3 - Year 6 filled Holy Trinity Church, Hotwells, with beautiful music as part of their Key Stage 2 Carol Concert. Again, we were blown away by the talent on show and it left the congregation feeling full of Christmas Cheer. To finish the term, our Key Stage 2 children also took part in a Bristol Beacon Carol Service at the Cathedral with schools from across Bristol.

As the deadline approaches for prospective Reception parents to choose a school in January, there is still an opportunity to visit Hotwells Primary and have a look around. Please call 0117 9030044 or email [admin@hotwellsprimaryschool.org](mailto:admin@hotwellsprimaryschool.org) to arrange a tour.



## 7. Little Libraries Exciting new community-wellbeing project



Back in 2019, Luise Holder seized the opportunity to apply for a Bristol City Council wellbeing fund. Her idea was to get a grant to bring a sharing library to our local community. She won the bid and hatched plans to start work on this new little library initiative. In the meantime Covid happened and her initial idea was shelved....get it! due to the logistics of the project. This year Luise has redesigned the project and is now going to launch several little libraries across our community. All you have to do is fill in [this form](#)

**So what does the project plan to deliver?** Luise is having several miniature cabinets built (not dissimilar to the picture above) which can be mounted on your boundary for people to come and book swap/share. You may have seen some across the city already? Installation will involve either a post, drilling holes in brickwork, or mounting with fittings to metal fences. Each property will be treated individually. The project is linked to the wider Bristol Little Libraries Network and an interactive map will guide you to other venues for book sharing. If several applications are made in the same road, the library will be distributed on a first come first served basis. \*You must live within the [boundary of Hotwells and Cliftonwood community association](#) to be eligible for a little library.

**Your little library:** The cabinets have been built from marine ply, to give a superior look and finish. They can be painted and decorated by you, or you can opt to have it varnished for a natural look finish. The dimensions are approximately 350x250x400mm. It will come with a felt roof finish.

Childrens lending libraries will be allocated at all local playgrounds and possibly at primary school locations as well.

Happy book swapping!

## 8. Church Lane/Mardyke Steps update

As announced recently, the Church Lane/Mardyke steps have reopened thanks to Sue Lewis and her hard work in making this happen. The Steps remain on Bristol City Council's list of works to be programmed, unfortunately due to other commitments and risk-based strategic priorities, the priority remains low. The Steps will, however, continue to be inspected and monitored on a regular basis by BCC. This will include General Inspections to ensure the Steps remain safe and partially open, surveying for signs of deterioration and Highway Inspection for signage, build up of rubbish or blocked drainage. A new community group has formed to partner with Sue to continue efforts to help ensure the Steps remain open and fit for use. If you would like to join the group, please contact [chair@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk](mailto:chair@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk)

Experience/knowledge of local government finance, and/or land management would be especially helpful.

## 9. Merry Christmas from Holy Trinity Church

We wish everyone in our neighbourhood a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. If you would like to join us for any of our family friendly services over the festive season there's a Christingle at 4pm on Sat 16<sup>th</sup> Dec, Nativity at 4pm on Christmas Eve and a Family Holy Communion at 10:30am on Christmas Day. We would love to see you.

### **Thank-you from Trinity Lunch Club**

Thanks to everyone who has joined us for our Local History Talks in recent months, they will be back in the New Year. Thanks also for the kind donations received recently in particular to Mike and everyone at The Merchants Arms for their fundraising and to everyone who has bought one of their t-shirts for Christmas! If you shop at any Co-op we would love you to choose us as your 'cause'

<https://www.coop.co.uk/local-causes>

We're cause 78837

Donations can also be made to our Winter Appeal.

<https://donate.giveasyoulive.com/campaign/trinity-lunch-club-winter-2023>

Thank-you.

## 10. Caring in Bristol is recruiting volunteers to help young people avoid homelessness- can you help?

The Z House will be an overnight accommodation for young people (18-25) at risk of or experiencing homelessness. The project aims to provide stable overnight accommodation for young people as they work towards a move-on goal. The project will work with the young people staying there to help them build skills necessary for maintaining independence beyond the project. The project is set to open March 2024 and will be located in St Pauls. Caring in Bristol would like to begin recruiting, interviewing and training volunteers as soon as possible, ready for the opening date. Follow [this link for further info](#) or email [nightshelter@caringinbristol.org.uk](mailto:nightshelter@caringinbristol.org.uk)

## **11. Bristol City Council consultation on budget 2024-25**

Deadline is 21<sup>st</sup> December

<https://www.ask.bristol.gov.uk/budget-2024-25>