

Hotwells & Cliftonwood Community Association

We are at a moment in the year's cycle that is marked in many traditional festivals around the UK as a hinge between the days of sun and harvest and the start of the 'darker' months of the year. From the Gaelic festivals of Samhain and Hop-tu-Naa, Calan Gaeaf and Allantide, to Hallowe'en and the Christian festivals of All Saints' Day and All Souls' Day, there is a long and deep cultural awareness of pausing and preparing for what winter will bring. But, surrounded by Autumnal beauty, and with so much going on in our neighbourhoods and across our city, there is no need for us to hibernate!

Please do read on for an update on the Community Climate Action project and details of events and opportunities in our immediate and wider area.



Local Climate & Nature News

Connected Actions, Sustainable Neighbourhoods- next steps for our community

Our community [Climate Action work](#) is supported by the [Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership](#)

We are declaring an Urban Nature Reserve!

Inspired by and in collaboration with our neighbours in BS3 we are combining with Greater Bedminster Urban Nature Reserve and declaring **Hotwells, Harbourside and Cliftonwood an Urban Nature Reserve**. The upside is that we don't need permission or money to do this. It's a community-led initiative aiming to:

- **Identify the wild creatures and plants of the neighbourhood-** anyone can do this using [iNaturalist](#), a simple app, or old fashioned lists and photos or even sketches.

- **Audit, map and improve wildlife habitats-** parks, gardens, streets, verges, schools grounds, the harbour, the river banks are all homes to wildlife. What can we do to improve their habitats?
- **Help animals to move about in search of food, shelter and mates; help pollinators move around the area-** the river and the harbour are large scale wildlife corridors, what can we do to improve them? How can we increase biodiversity and links to neighbouring areas?

If you or your neighbours are working to create space for wildlife, we'd love to hear about it! Please let us know at admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk. (You might also be interested in details of the Avon Wildlife Trust *Wildlife Champions* project - more details later in this newsletter.)

What's A Nature Reserve? Written by *My Wild Bedminster*

Most traditional nature reserves are 'somewhere else' with few human inhabitants. They are usually designated from above by international agencies or national and local governments. 'Urban' or 'Community' Nature Reserves are proclaimed from below by people wishing to protect local wildlife. The aim is not so much to protect rare species and more to prevent common species from becoming rare. 'At some point, will the only place that you will see a robin be on a Christmas card?' Unlike traditional nature reserves they cannot usually offer legal protections, but nor do they require a steady income stream to make them function. They rely upon local people caring enough and working together to make their neighbourhoods as wildlife friendly as possible.

The Greater Bedminster Urban Nature Reserve and Totterdown Urban Nature Reserve are early examples of this approach in Bristol. Eventually, we hope that all of Bristol and its hinterlands will be covered by community/urban nature reserves in collaboration with the few top-down official nature reserves supported from taxation.

Volunteers at the Cumberland Piazza

We continue to apply the aims of an **Urban Nature Reserve** to the community-led garden at the Cumberland Piazza. In September and October we welcomed groups from DEFRA and the Environment Agency to help with tidying up tired planters and adding to our rockery. We'd like to thank them and plan to welcome more volunteers to the Piazza in the Spring. We always welcome local involvement. You can find out about this community project in detail [here](#).



More Trees and Reed Beds

In other news, we understand that the council are keen to create more reedbeds and plant more trees around the harbour- We will ensure that we keep conversations open with our Hotwells and Harbourside Councillor to ensure that we are involved and consulted.

Friends of the Avon New Cut news

The Annual General Meeting of Friends of the Avon New Cut will be held on Sunday 23rd November 2025 at 2pm in the Education Room, [Underfall Yard](#), Cumberland Road Bristol, BS1 6XG. The AGM is an opportunity to review the past year and think about what the group may want to do in 2026. All are invited.

Their next litter picking session will be on Saturday 8th November. They'll meet at **Gaol Ferry Bridge (south side on Coronation Road) at 9.50am** and will finish by 11.45am, in time to head to a local café for a hot drink. If you have your own protective gloves (eg gardening gloves), please take them, but there are a few pairs to lend if necessary. Hi-Viz jackets, rubbish bags and pickers will be supplied. Any questions can be sent to contact@franc.org.uk.

Other H&CCA News

Baltic Wharf Caravan Park: End of an era, but the watch continues

The years-long fight to save Baltic Wharf Caravan Park, the last green space on Bristol's Harbour, has ended. On 13 October 2025, dozens of mature trees were destroyed as groundwork began on the controversial new residential development of 166 flats, which will take its place. The new development, which the developers are calling 'Baltic Wharf', will be built alongside and share a name with the existing Baltic Wharf development, part of the Harbour community for over four decades and home to over 200 residents.

Many questions remain about the undervaluation of the land, the absence of a biodiversity restoration plan, and the impact on community, heritage, and flood risk. Campaigners are keeping a close eye on the developers' promise to deliver 40% affordable housing, after councillors voted in July 2025 to waive their legal obligation to do so. Although Goram Homes and Hills Residential say they will honour that pledge, it will be up to Bristol's councillors and the citizens they represent to make sure the loss of this valuable asset can lead to some benefit for Bristolians.

Baltic Wharf may have lost its trees, but the community's determination to seek accountability and fairness for the Harbour's future remains as strong as ever.

Bristol anti-racism statement

H&CCA is a signatory to the Bristol anti-racism statement reproduced below, with thanks to our friends at Playing Out. You can see the full list of signatories at <https://forms.gle/AyHa8Jx88xhk8Giz6> and the same form can be used to add new signatories.

As Bristol organisations, groups and representatives, we firmly support the [Black Southwest Network's](#) call *"to take a stand against racism in all its forms, overt and structural, and to act with courage in the face of hate"*.

In the past month, a [9-year-old girl](#) and a [3-year-old child](#) have been the target of violent and hate-fuelled racist attacks in our region's streets and public spaces. Far-right graffiti was sprayed [outside a primary school](#).

Due to incidents like these and the growing visibility of the far-right, many Black and Racially Minoritised people are now *"frightened to leave the house, fearful of prejudice and hostility from strangers, neighbours, and even members of their local communities - both offline and online"* (BSWN).

We stand together against racism in all its forms. Everyone, of all ages and backgrounds, should feel safe and welcome in their communities.

We urge all Bristolians to come together, find common ground, celebrate our city's diversity, reject hate and look out for each other.

As BSWN say, *"True unity comes not from denying difference, but from recognising our shared humanity and working together to dismantle the barriers that continue to hold so many back"*.

Hotwells Pantomime 2026 - An Invitation!

The Hotwells Pantomime returns in 2026 with 'Sleeping Beauty and the Time Machine' and the team are looking for both performers and backstage help.

A read-through of the script is being held on Sunday, January 4th 2026, at 19.30 in the Meeting Room, Holy Trinity Hotwells, Clifton Vale, BS8 4ST.

The first rehearsal, including the casting announcement, is on Tuesday, 6th January 2026, at 20.00 in Holy Trinity, with rehearsals every Tuesday until 10th March.

Absolutely no experience is needed, just a willingness to have fun and meet new people taking part in this magnificent community event, the 44th Hotwells Panto. The pantomime is performed to sell out audiences along with a marvellous eight-piece band. Written by members of the cast and bursting with invention, colour, laughter, and songs, this is a genuine community show.

Performance dates are Wednesday, 11th to Saturday, 14th March, in Hope Chapel.

Contact producer Amanda Webb if you want to help backstage at amandawebb149@gmail.com

The team are keen to attract more children and teens to their dedicated scenes, with rehearsals every Monday beginning Monday, January 12th January. Children rehearse from 15.30 at Hope Chapel and teens from 16.45 at Holy Trinity.

If anyone has questions, please contact Director Bryan J Mason at masonbryan01@gmail.com



Volunteers Needed! Help Keep Our Streets Clean

Back in 2021, H&CCA helped a group of local residents form a *Street Cleaning Team* to tackle graffiti in our neighbourhoods. Working alongside Bristol City Council, the team removes or paints over smaller graffiti tags found on street furniture — while Bristol Waste focuses on larger tags in public areas.

Team members receive full training from the City Council's Neighbourhood Services team on how to use cleaning equipment safely. Their efforts focus on cleaning street signs, parking meters, utility boxes, and lamp posts, as well as painting over tagging that can't be removed by chemicals.

New volunteers are now needed! If you'd like to help make our streets cleaner and brighter, join the team and make a visible difference in your community.

To find out more or get involved, please email us on admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk.

Local Walking Tours

We have had a message asking about guided walking tours of Hotwells, with particular interest in local architecture and history. We know that this idea has been raised before and would be delighted to hear from you if this is something you offer, would like to offer or would be interested in joining. Please do [let us know](#)!

Opportunities to support H&CCA

H&CCA does not exist without its community. If you would like to get involved, please check out information on some of the opportunities [here](#). These include the opportunity to be our newsletter editor and, indeed, to manage our website, so if you have ideas about how to make these even better, please get in touch!

Congratulations to all of our monthly winners in the H&CCA Community Lottery! We draw winning numbers for two prizes of £30 each month as well as our annual draw for £150 at the AGM. For more details and to sign up, please visit the Community Lottery page on our website: https://www.hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk/hcca_community_lottery_overview.

Local Events & News

New Landlords for The Lion

In September, The Lion in Cliftonwood opened its doors again with Flick (Richard) and the team behind the Hope & Anchor responsible for making it roar again. In between all the busy duties of getting the pub up and running again, Flick gave us some time to answer a few questions.

How did you get started running pubs?

I first got into hospitality when I was a teenager. Doing glass collection, then just starting working my way up to eventually opening a restaurant called 99 queens then having the Hope and Anchor and now the Lion, (my whole adult career has been hospitality).

You took on The Lion a few months ago, what attracted you to the pub?

Myself and Adrian want to start building our portfolio of pubs and we saw The Lion was up on full term tenants. So we came checked it out, both fell in love with its uniqueness and thought we could deffo try and make this pub good again, especially as its got such a good rep from previous years.

You've been researching the history of The Lion, what's been the most interesting thing you have discovered so far?

The pub was built in the late 1700's, first publican registered was 1862 Samual Simms. There was a cider bar in front of us that they used to have "moments" in the street as this was an ale house. Things like that make me love pubs and buildings more. (I am still trying to find out more).

From your point of view, what makes a great community pub?

Working with the locals, keeping everyone updated and listening. Obviously we can't do everything that pleases everyone, we are a business that has to make money too. So it's just being open and transparent and I think that's what makes a good community pub work.

What's happening right now?

We are working on the website as the kitchen is being refurbished. The Wednesday night quiz continues, booking advised, and you can find our opening hours on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/the_lion_clifton/ and on Facebook - search for The Lion Clifton

Thanks Flick!

Events at Holy Trinity Hotwells

Below are details of up-coming events at Holy Trinity, Hotwells, beginning this week with their Forget-Me-Not service.

COMMUNITY EVENTS AT HOLY TRINITY, HOTWELLS

	Thurs 6 Nov	Forget-Me-Not Service 2pm start
	SAT 6 Dec	Wreath making 10am-2pm
	SUN 7 Dec	Christmas concert with Clifton Singers 3pm start
	SAT 13 Dec	Christingle 4pm start
	SUN 21 Dec	Community Carols 7pm start
	WED 24 Dec	Nativity 4pm start
	FRI 30 Jan	Barn Dance 7pm-10pm
	Term Time WED	Trinity Tots 10am - 11:30am
	WEEKLY THURS	Trinity Lunch Club 10am - 3pm

For more details and updates about these events, please visit our website or follow us on social media www.bristolharboursidechurches.org



Become a Wildlife Champion!

Irene Correia, Wildlife Champions Project Manager at Avon Wildlife Trust, has been in touch to share information of their new **Wildlife Champions Programme (2025–2028)**, with thanks to funding from the National Lottery Community Fund. Irene says:

Over the past couple of years, we have been supporting residents across 12 postcodes in creating their vision for nature where they live, including setting up and running community gardens, nature festivals, community nature reserves, litter picks, guided walks, foraging and cooking events, and many other initiatives. You can find out more about these residents and the inspiring things they've been doing here [Wildlife Champions | Avon Wildlife Trust](#).

We're now seeking residents to support during year 2 of the programme, from June 2026 to May 2027, living in BS8. The great work you're doing for nature inspires us, and we would love to hear if you or any of your community members would be interested in becoming a Wildlife Champion.

An outline of the Wildlife Champions offering is shown below. There is a taster session on January 17th 2026 and one more on April 11th and Irene recommends keeping an eye on the [webpage](#) for the booking link, closer to the date. Alternatively, you can call at 07719085466 / 07421226079. For a taster, here is a link to a film from the last cohort of Champions: [Watch the Wildlife Champions Programme 2024 Film](#). We would love to hear from you, too, if you get involved.



An update on Jacob's Wells Baths

Jude Hutchen, Heritage Project Manager at Trinity Community Arts, kindly spoke at our AGM in July and has now been in touch with an invitation to join a community consultation for the next phase of work at Jacob's Wells Baths. We are sharing the information here in case you have not heard about it already.

Jude says:

We have reached a crucial stage in the development of this multi-purpose community, arts and heritage hub in Hotwells – and would like to involve you in imagining its future.

Jacob's Wells Baths has a rich history, from 19th-century public baths to community dance centre from mid 1980s until 2016, when, due to extensive disrepair, the building was closed. In 2023 local residents, dance community and civic activists succeeded in securing a Community Asset Transfer under Trinity's guardianship. So far Trinity has raised over £2.5 million to repair the building and continues to generate more. The ambition, dependent on funding, is for the centre to be re-opened at the end of 2028.

We can now offer an exciting opportunity to share your vision for how the building will be used in the future. We invite you to attend a consultation sessions led by Ph3 Architects and Placed creative engagement organisation. The sessions will be held at Jacobs Wells Baths, will last 2.5 hours (with a tour of the building beforehand) and include plenty of refreshments.

As this is a live building site with uneven floors and non ramped entrances, we are unfortunately unable to provide wheelchair access at this stage. If we can accommodate you in another way please get in touch.

Please click the link to book your place.

[Thursday 20th November 13:00-16:00](#)

[Thursday 20th November 18:00 –21:00](#)

[Friday 21st November 09:30 – 12:30](#)

Please respond to esther@trinitybristol.org.uk with any questions or if you have any dietary requirements or access needs.

We have also created a short survey to understand how the centre could meet the needs of local community, young people as well as support the arts and cultural scene of Bristol. We would be really grateful if you could spare a couple of minutes to complete [this survey](#).

Transition Hotwells, Cliftonwood and Clifton

Thanks to the on-going work of the Transition Hotwells, Cliftonwood and Clifton, we have been alerted to the announcement of a planned new law to ban fracking, permanently. A blog post in which Ellen Gibson reflects on key lessons from the long fight to ban fracking in the UK can be accessed [here](#).

In addition, the Transition team has shared some information from Bristol-based Thrive Renewables about growing renewable energy production:

'Net zero is facing some of its fiercest attacks in decades. We're being bombarded with misinformation about the cost of net zero and political calls to "scrap" decarbonisation efforts.

However, without new renewables UK will continue to import billions of pounds worth of gas to meet the rising demand for electricity, priced on volatile international markets, leaving consumers exposed to unnecessarily high prices, while renewables provide homegrown, low cost energy source. Wind and solar already supply more than half of the UK's electricity needs, with wind generating around 30% of total.

Gas resources will not be sufficient to meet rapidly increasing electricity demand. In the coming decade, without new renewables, UK would need to more than double gas imports. There is no credible way the UK could source this through additional North Sea extraction. Even if every potential North Sea discovery was brought into production, the estimate is that this would only be sufficient to meet [between 5% and 10% of the country's electricity demand](#) by the early 2030s.'

Bristol Harbour Activated

Bristol Harbour Authority have been in touch to raise awareness of opportunities to lease waterfront premises around Bristol Harbour, whether starting something new or expanding an existing business. A prospectus is available at [their web site](#) and questions should be directed to bristolharbouractivated@bristol.gov.uk.

Fair notice

As surely as day follows night, December will be here next month and, for those who like to plan ahead, below are details of a craft fair of Bristol artisans and traders that will be running between 10am and 3.30pm on Sunday 23rd November, at Ashton Court Mansion.



City Wide News

Keeping out the damp

Retrofit West CIC, a charity created by the Centre for Sustainable Energy, aims to support people and organisations across the UK to tackle the climate emergency and end the suffering caused by cold homes. Beth Searle, their Community Engagement Officer, has shared an invitation to their new webinar series. The first webinar, 'Home Truths: It must have been mould but it's over now', will cover how to prevent damp and mould in the home, along with practical advice to help save energy. It will be held on 12th November at 6:30pm and is free to join. Details can be found at <https://homeowners.retrofitwest.co.uk/events/>.

Bristol Co-Living Supplementary Planning Document - Public Consultation

The Planning Services team at Bristol City Council are asking for your views on new draft planning guidance relating to Co-Living. The draft Bristol Co-living Supplementary Planning Document provides further guidance on the implementation of a range of existing and new local plan policies that are relevant to the development of co-living accommodation.

The document in question is addressing aims to achieve mixed, balanced and inclusive communities that provide a range of good quality accommodation with high living standards, accessibility and amenity for future residents. It will be used alongside relevant local plan policies to determine all applications for purpose-built co-living accommodation (including conversions of existing buildings). The document will become an important material consideration in the planning decision-making process.

How to respond: The Planning Services team invite you to share your views on the Bristol Co-living SPD by completing this [survey](#). The consultation will close on Monday 17th November 2025.

Thanks for reading!

We are continuing with our current cycle of bi-monthly Community Newsletters. Please send items for the January newsletter to admin@hotwellscliftonwood.org.uk by 30th December. A short paragraph would be great, and pictures are welcome, (landscape format is preferred).

Please do get in touch if you would like to be involved in producing these newsletters or have any useful feedback for us.

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