

# **Hotwells & Cliftonwood Community Association**

## **Chair's Report for Year Ends 31 March 2023**

**Anna Haydock Wilson & Rachel McNally**

### **Snapshot of Our Year in 5 Figures**

- Newsletter Opened 2074 times
- Celebrating Sanctuary on Cumberland Piazza 60+ people
- 3 New Noticeboards
- Community Petition to Save Jacobs Wells Baths 1000+ signatures
- 1000 + Volunteer Hours

### **Events & Activities**

As a voluntary run organisation our events and activities reflect the capacity of our management committee and volunteers and we would like to thank all of them for their commitment and hard work.

This year our work focused on events and activities in Cumberland Piazza, support for local people in social housing, ongoing community signposting and information sharing, and representation to local government on city wide issues affecting our communities. We will be having updates on some of these issues after these reports, so this Chair's report will focus on the activity up to the end of March 2023.

#### Cumberland Piazza

We continue with our maintenance and gardening work and gradual improvements to Cumberland Piazza, including new artworks. We are welcoming new volunteers to our bi-monthly gardening sessions and we would like to thank them and everyone else who does litter picking on the Piazza.

Our main event was Celebrating Sanctuary in partnership with Bristol Refugee Festival in June 2022. Over 60 people attended and it was a welcoming event with food and arts activities.

Activity on the piazza is currently supported by the legacy left to HCCA by Ray Smith. However as we use these funds up, we will need to raise more to continue this work in the future.

### St Peter's House

We worked with residents to improve their communal garden, planting bulbs and removing ivy and overgrowth to make the area more attractive and usable.

### Local Communication

#### Noticeboards

We know that lots of people use these and we would like to thank Caroline Grazebrook and the team of local people who keep them up to date. In 2022 we added new noticeboards to the network:

Carrick House

Brandon House.

Other locations include:

Cliftonwood Road, The Lion Cliftonwood, Avon Crescent, Hotwell Rd, Hope Chapel Hill, Cumberland Piazza, Morrisons - Spike Island, Hensman Hill.

#### Newsletter

We continue to bring you the latest news to our neighbourhoods every month. Thank you to everyone who has submitted articles and a big thank you to Omair Khan who has edited our newsletter for the last few years.

### Steps and Paths and Graffiti Cleaning

We have a number of local people who regularly sweep up leaves along the many paths and steps that we have around our neighbourhoods and we would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who does this, including Lesley, Giles and David. We would also like to thank Caroline Grazebrook who, as well as looking after the noticeboards also heads up the graffiti cleaning group that manages the tagging in the area.

### Representation

During this period the Management Committee worked to ensure that community views on key issues were represented to Bristol City Council. This included:

Western Harbour -

Formal Response to Western Harbour Consultation in Summer 2022, follow up with Bristol Civic Society and the Council,

Formal Response to Historic England's Review of the Western Harbour Site regarding listed assets.

Jacob's Wells Baths -

In response to the withdrawal of Fusion from the Jacobs Wells Baths site and the campaign to save the Baths launched by Trinity in Old Market, we organised a community petition to save the Baths from redevelopment and for the community. The petition received over 1000 signatures and we would like to thank everyone who signed. As most of you will know, the campaign was a success and we have an update from Emma Harvey, CEO of Trinity who are leading on the work to redevelop the Baths for the community.

In February we also hosted Hustings for the Hotwells and Harbourside By-election, which were well attended and, as the Chair, I would like to thank everyone who attended, asked questions, and the candidates. Following the by-election we welcomed Patrick McAllister as the new councillor.

### HCCA Organisation

We continue to operate on an entirely voluntary basis, which is not sustainable in the long term as we rely too heavily on the goodwill of a few people. Over the year, with new management committee members, we have reviewed our working practices and our finances. We know we need to increase our income. Our overheads are small but outstrip our annual income. We would like to recruit some administrative support for HCCA. While we work to make this happen we do ask that if anyone is able to lend a few hours per month to HCCA as a management committee member, newsletter editor or general volunteer please let us know.

### Thank Yous

We couldn't do this work without the support of partners such as Trinity Hotwells, Hotwells Primary School and Trinity Old Market: thank you. As well as thanking all of our volunteers, I would also like to thank our Management Committee for their tireless work and I urge the meeting to join me in thanks to

Heather Anne

Carol Walton

Damian Rooney

Sandra Fryer

Anna Haydock Wilson

Sibusiso Tshalaba

James Smith

Brenda McLennan

& Julian Brown

I would particularly like to thank Brenda who has handed over the role of Treasurer to Julian after 20 years. Brenda has been instrumental in steering HCCA through some tricky times and for the moment she will continue as Company Secretary.

I would also like to thank both Sandra Fryer and Anna Haydock Wilson, my previous co-Chairs who continue to share their skills and experience for all our benefit.

And finally, I would like to remind everyone that in 2024 HCCA will be celebrating its 50th birthday!

October 2023