

IT'S BACK!!!

The BRISTOLIAN

"Smiter of the High and Mighty"

Volume 4 Number 1 • March 2013 • Est. 1827



Contents

CRAP COUNCIL SPECIAL!

MAYOR'S
ASSISTANT
HANDCUFFED
BY LAW? P2



NO PENSION
WOES FOR
EX-BCC BOSS
SIMS: P2



COUNCIL'S
NEW LEGAL
CHIEF IN
TROUBLE: P3



MUCKRAKING
THROUGH THE
AGES WITH 'THE
BRISTOLIAN': P3

GUSHOYT'S
CABINET
DIARY: P4



PLAYTIME IS CANCELLED! BY ORDER OF CITY COUNCIL

*Kids to lose out as council plan to privatise play services
and slash youth provision city-wide collapses in chaos*

Bristol City Council's plan to save money by outsourcing the Youth and Play Service to new provider Learning Partnership West has **COLLAPSED** just days before responsibility was supposed to be handed over.

The madcap plan to slash the service's budget by one-quarter had already caused concern when it emerged recently that this "transformation" of the service placed seven youth centres in the city's most deprived areas and most of the city's adventure playgrounds under **THREAT OF CLOSURE**.

The full transfer, originally scheduled to take place on 31 January, has yet to occur, though Windmill City Farm playground was **SHUTTERED** in early February with the loss of half its staff following transfer to LPW. The rest of Bristol's adventure playgrounds and its most vulnerable youth centres look set to close by July - shut in the face of kids just as summer holidays start.

The youth centres facing the most immediate threat are Southmead, Brentry Lodge, Docklands, Lawrence Weston, Oldbury Court, Hillfields and Hareclive, whilst the adventure playgrounds staring into the abyss are Felix Road, St Paul's, Southmead and the Lockleaze Youth and Play Space.

The reason for this shameful abandonment of services? The new private providers were only required to achieve a series of barely-defined "outcomes" rather than manage existing buildings and assets more efficiently.

However, the council's ballast-dumping rush to wash its hands of the Youth Service at any cost really started taking a turn for the worse late last year. It was then

that Rose Richards, senior manager in Bristol Youth Links and the council officer overseeing the sell-off of our youth and play services, decided to **EXCLUDE TRADE UNIONS** from all discussions. This included talks on 'TUPE' arrangements - the regulations that protect workers' pay, terms and conditions when staff are transferred out of the public sector and into the private sector. Now why would she want to do that?

Complaints from staff and unions were consistently **REJECTED OR IGNORED** by Richards and the council continued headlong into its youth service giveaway. But just before the TUPE transfer was due to occur at the end of January, it became clear that neither the council nor Learning Partnership West had any idea who or what was actually being transferred - or what their legal obligations were. Employees with years of service discovered their pensions and other benefits were under threat. Understandably outraged, they threatened to take the council to court. On top of this it has emerged that Learning Partnership West does not want any of the council's admin staff nor any of the youth centres and playgrounds.

Meanwhile, the council faces **LITIGATION** and closure of vital public facilities in Bristol's most deprived areas, with the whole sorry mess likely to cost us hundreds of thousands of pounds - completely undermining any savings that could have been made - in legal bills. All because one council officer wouldn't listen to reason and wanted to conduct the transfer behind closed doors and stiff her own staff. *What a bastard outrage.*

**BRISTOL PLAYGROUNDS
AND YOUTH CENTRES
TO CLOSE IN...**



FÜHRER FERGIE'S FASCIST MEMORIAL TRIBUTE SHOCKER!

Like all public school twits, Mayor George Ferguson likes nothing better than the sound of his own voice. So a keynote speech for a select, £25 a ticket, audience of his **UPPER MIDDLE CLASS GROUPIES** at the Architecture Centre last month was inevitable.

Modestly titled 'The Art of the Impossible', Ferguson used it to outline his JG Ballard-meets-George Monbiot 'vision' for Bristol: silent electric boats on the harbour,

buildings with photovoltaic skins, super-lite composite bikes, a centre marked out with tree-lined avenues and boulevards for the pleasure of his chai latte-quaffing architect pals from Redcliffe...

The icing on the cake, however, was Gorgeous George's proposal to build a town square on Castle Park named after a **FASCIST FELLOW TRAVELLER!**

Ex-Merchant Venturer Ferguson thinks it'd be a

spiffing idea to call it "Eve Balfour Square, named after the founder of the Soil Association" - overlooking the fact that horrifying right-wing Tory toff Balfour set up the Soil Association with pal Jorian Jenks, the notorious 'blood and soil' card-carrying British fascist.

Still, Eve Balfour Square pairs quite nicely with our slave trade celebration concert venue, the Colston Hall, doesn't it?

BRISTOLIAN BITES

Harvey creams off Bristol

Further confirmation that Bristol City Council managers are bunch of idle scroungers having a laugh at our expense arrives courtesy of Facilities Manager **TONY HARVEY**.

Struggling to get by on a mere £50k a year, Harvey appears to have come up with a very novel solution to saving money on the huge cost of parking in one of his own council's car parks.

Rather than forking out for Trenchard Street Car Park like anyone else and taking the short stroll to his Shitty Hall office, it seems he's awarded himself **FREE PARKING PERKS** by simply leaving his Volkswagen on the ramp at the front of the building - in a parking space meant for the disabled!

Who says it's one rule for them and another for us?

Fergie's finger in 'lady funnels'

Ever wondered how best to collect urine samples for medical screening purposes? Well, Bristol's Premier Citizen has - and he's quietly been putting his money where his not-inconsiderable mouth is...



Demonstrating an unwavering commitment to innovation and a willingness to roll up his sleeves and get stuck into issues of feminine hygiene, Mayor George Ferguson is a keen investor in Forte Medical, whose main product is the 'Peezy MSU'.

Formerly called the 'Female Freedom Funnel', the Peezy is a device to collect **WEE SAMPLES** from women without messy spills, and thanks to a pushy sales strategy it's already making lucrative in-roads into both NHS and private hospitals.

Whilst he's no stranger to taking the piss, George has kept this one on the Q.T. But is this because he doesn't like to blow his own trumpet as a champion of medical progress? Or doesn't he want to upset his core muesli belt supporters with the news he's in bed with a bunch of 'life sciences' venture capitalists?

After all, big business and biotech don't really go with George's treehugging image...

Geoff's usual load of codsgollop

At a recent committee meeting Labour's barely numerate Mark 'Small' Brain quizzed new Tory finance chief Geoffrey 'Cods' Gollop on his plan to fire Internal Auditors to save a few quid for His Royal Mayorness George.

'Small' rightly pointed out that saving IAs might be a stupid thing to do as they can save the council a fortune by detecting and stopping many of the frauds, rip-offs, serial incompetencies and outright thefts regularly committed under Gollop's watch.

"Nonsense!" boomed the Tory accountant, before explaining that his plan to introduce some new untried and untested financial software would make such frauds a thing of the past and therefore Internal Auditors **ENTIRELY EXPENDABLE**.

At this point former Lib Dem Leaderene Babs Janke herself interrupted Gollop's paean to the infallibility of computer software by quipping "I remember last year when I ran the finances and you were in opposition you asked me the very same question and didn't like that answer!"

It's not politics they're doing down at the Shitty Hall is it? It's musical fucking chairs.

Got a story? Send it to The Bristolian!
Full contact details are on page 3...

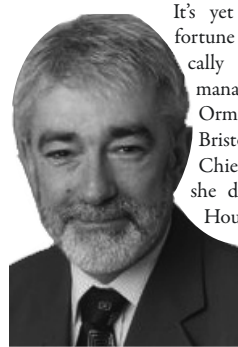
++ CRISIS TAKES HOLD

BUMBLING BUFFOON 'SIMPLE' SIMS PAID OFF IN TASTY PENSION SCAM

Council austerity not a problem for outgoing Chief Executive

One thing not threatened by any cuts is the fat cat pension of Bristol City Council's interim Chief Executive **GRAHAM 'SIMPLE' SIMS**.

So keen is incoming Mayor George Ferguson to be rid of the bumbling timeserver, he's agreed - despite Sims only having worked 36 years - to sign him off with the equivalent of forty years' service so he can get a **FULL GOLD-PLATED PENSION** when he takes retirement in March. Quite a nice little earner in the age of austerity for the £150k a year bureaucrat.



Sims: "nice little earner"

It's yet another piece of good fortune for this chronically over-promoted middle manager Sims. When Jan Ormondroyd swanned into Bristol in 2008 to become Chief Executive, the first thing she did was get rid of Sims's Housing Department boss **IAN CRAWLEY**. His above average intellect and basic competence was considered an unacceptably dangerous threat in the court of the

BRADFORD SUN QUEEN. It was into this vacuum that the hopelessly lightweight yes-man Sims stepped, to Hoover up a £120k salary as well as promotion for fawning over Jan and her strategic leadership friends.

Fast forward two years to 2010 and Jan's sidekick and pathetic wannabe enforcer **JON HOUSE**, the former cop turned local authority Deputy Chief Executive, had to urgently enforce his own speedy exit to avoid an embarrassing scandal. And who should pop up to pick up the pieces, as well as a tasty pay rise? Yes - Graham Sims!

By mid-2012 Jan finally had to throw in the towel herself after four years of high spending and low achieving. But who should get the top job (solely on the basis of not being weird, provably bent or Finance boss **WILL GODFREY**)? Yes, it's our man Graham - once again on hand to collect a nice little salary bump, now boosting him up to £150k a year. Very handy indeed when you're only fit for retirement and on a final salary pension scheme.

Following this cast of horrors, we can only speculate on the calibre of candidate **GORGEOUS GEORGE** has in mind for the Chief Operating Officer position he plans to replace the Chief Executive with...

One thing is certain, though - someone will be (red) trousering a pretty penny. Here's to austerity!

GEORGE: 'JOBS FOR THE GIRLS'

Maverick hiring practices suggest Mayor Red Trousers fully intends to take firm grasp of matters in his office

The direct appointment of former Destination Bristol PR hackette **ZOE SEAR** as Mayor's Assistant on a generous £45k-a-year tack by kindly uncle figure and noted bachelor-around-town George Ferguson has raised a few eyebrows - not least for the absence of any competitive recruitment process for the post.



Zoe & George: "hard at it to put Bristol 1st"

MAYOR GORGEOUS batted any criticism aside, however, claiming he was entitled to directly appoint an assistant under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Elected Mayor and Mayor's Assistant) (England) Regulations 2002.

And he's absolutely correct. However, the same legislation - backed up by the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 - also makes it clear that the post is **POLITICALLY RESTRICTED**, meaning that Zoe should not take part in any party political activities.

So how come Zoe is listed with the Electoral Commission as the Nominating Officer for George's political party **VANITY PROJECT**, Bristol1st? Does she intend to continue as both Uncle George's personal media guru and his party functionary? And how will she manage to fit in her duties as the Mayor's £865-per-week bag carrier whilst still managing her own public relations and marketing consultancy Tonic?

With all this going on it seems likely that Zoe may let her directorial obligations at her quietly forebearing hubby's ad agency slide a little...

Especially as Mr Ferguson and Mrs Sear are bound together in some 'fresh' moves of their own by playing hard and loose with the law barely three months into Bristol's brave new world of municipal mayoralty...

++ CITY COUNCIL IN MELTDOWN ++

HARRY POTTER AND THE USELESS SOLICITOR

Little change at the City Council Legal Department as keen 'Bristolian' reader McNamara replaced by Nevin

Can we at *The Bristolian* be the first to welcome Bristol City Council's brand new, box-fresh boy wonder legal boss **LIAM 'MALFOY' NEVIN** to town?

The spooky fresh-faced former public schoolboy recently jumped ship as Town Clerk in Stratford-upon-Avon to take over from our old friend **STEPHEN 'LYCRA' MCNAMARA**, after the sweaty-crocheted baldy-head took early retirement to spend more time with his cycling accessories and Bristol Rovers plaque of honour ('for his outstanding contribution to local stadium planning in the south of the city').

It will be a hard act to follow, even though McNamara's 'retirement' takes him only 500 yards from his old office to a cushy CONSULTANCY at the gated complex of glossy law firm Veale Wasbrough Vizards - best known for representing Catholic private school St Benedict's during a paedophile scandal.

Following such an **IMPRESSIVELY OAFISH** act, rosy-cheeked Malfoy, really has to pull out all the stops

in his drive to demonstrate he can be an even bigger tool of the law, while taking a very interesting approach to managing the huge cuts required in his fiefdom.

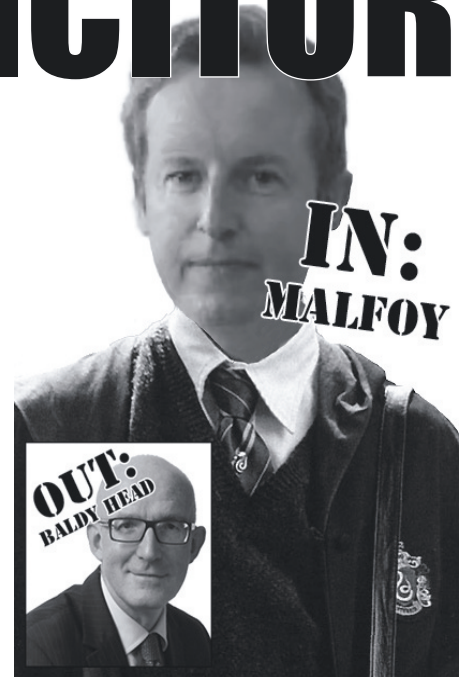
In mid-February, on discovering he runs a legal department that can no longer afford, err, lawyers, Malfoy thought it would be a terrific wheeze to send - instead of, y'know, a qualified solicitor or something - one of his secretaries down to the County Court to represent the council at a hearing.

Alas, the judge was less than impressed with this fine example of local authority "efficiency saving".

M'lud sent said secretary packing back to Shitty Hall to tell Malfoy that His Honour would hold him in **CONTEMPT OF COURT** if ever he dispatched an unqualified representative to his court again. Oops!

A contempt of court charge - that will definitely save Bristol's taxpayers lots of money!

Well done, Malfoy. You're going to be fun to have around aren't you?



Different face, same muppetry: new legal supremo

'THE BRISTOLIAN' – READY FOR ROUND 4

After a break of nearly 3 years it's time for more smiting...

Over the years, whenever the stench of corruption, lies and thievery from Bristol's wealthy and powerful became so sickening that something had to be done, a paper called *The Bristolian* has appeared to shine a light on the shadowy back room deals.

Once again, that time has come. Investigative journalism has almost disappeared from print in Bristol as newspaper cartels have bought up all the independent press. The *Evening Post* and *Western Daily Press* are a sad joke, now just tools for moulding public opinion in the interests of big business. We are left with internet conspiracy theorists who need to get out more, or kowtowing journalists who write stories off the web from posh cafés in Clifton. Meanwhile, the rich avoid paying tax, flaunt their stolen wealth and are laughing into their caviar as their political allies in the City Council slash public spending for the young, the old and the disabled.

It's a Bristol that James Acland himself would have recognised one hundred and eighty-six years ago. It was then, in 1827, that radical journalist Acland launched the West Country's first daily newspaper. He called it *The Bristolian*.

Undercutting the advertising rates of existing weekly papers, conducting a lively letter column and breaking the law by publishing at one and a half pence without paying the newspaper stamp tax, Acland's publication was a muck-raking popular radical paper for the working classes. The paper concentrated on exposing the abuses both of the unreformed Corporation which ran Bristol and of the Courts, and was spiced up with demands for an overhaul of the national political system. Acland was imprisoned in 1829 but not before he had fanned the flames of popular revolt. Two years later, in 1831, the

city exploded with the Reform Act riots which frightened the undemocratic wealthy elite targeted by the rioters and helped bring the vote to Britain.

Fast forward nearly two centuries, and bent, rich bastards were still running the show in Bristol. To counter this a 'new' *Bristolian* was launched in 2001 as a scandal sheet offering "independent news from Bristol that the other papers won't touch". Distributed for free in the bars and pubs of Bristol, it soon proved a vital conduit for whistleblowers across the city to spill the beans on corruption, mismanagement and stupidity, whether in the council, the private sector or the quangos. Readers were hungry for it, and circulation ratcheted up to more than 10,000 per week.

In 2003, the success of *The Bristolian* paper led to the *Bristolian Party*, which stood in the local elections in an attempt to mobilise widespread discontent with Bristol City Council's policies. On election day a total of 2,560 people voted for the *Bristolian Party*, gaining an 8% share of the vote within the 12 wards it contested. In 2005 *The Bristolian* was runner-up for the Paul Foot Award for investigative journalism, though not long after it ceased publication, only to be relaunched in 2008-10.

So that's three separate versions of *The Bristolian* over the years, all with the same purpose.

Well, *The Bristolian* is fighting fit and ready for round four.

So rich bastards and corrupt politicians beware: because we are back and we smell your blood...

(Signed)
The Committee for Public Safety

The BRISTOLIAN NEEDS YOU!

Calling all...

Distributors • Whistleblowers • Reporters
• Researchers • Troublemakers • Designers

Putting together a paper that smites the high and mighty across Bristol can be hard work, and we are always keen to make sure we're smiting everyone that deserves a good smite.

But the only way that can happen is with YOUR help...

Whatever your skills, **The Bristolian** wants to hear from YOU!

Contact The BRISTOLIAN:

- Email BristolianNews@gmail.com
- Call or text **07936 427 731**
- Visit TheBristolian.net
- Write to **Box 'Gurt Shush', Hydra, 34 Old Market Street, Bristol BS2 0EZ**
- @BristolianNews
- [Facebook.com/TheBristolianNews](https://www.facebook.com/TheBristolianNews)

The BRISTOLIAN BACK PAGE

++ STOP PRESS ++ STOP PRESS ++

PAIDWELL APPOINTED

His Royal Mayorness George the First has announced that his new temporary Corporate Services Director **ANGIE 'PAIDWELL' RIDGWELL**, who only arrived in January, will take over from outgoing Chief Exec Graham Sims as the interim City Director.

Ms Paidwell has an intriguing past including a spell in 2008-10 as Chief Exec at Thurrock Council, where the Tory administration unceremoniously dumped her for a series of blunders - which included delivering late and incomplete accounts for the authority, and getting the council threatened with **COSTLY LEGAL ACTION** by big beast quango, the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation.

Picking up a secrecy-shrouded pay-off of £330k for her trouble at Thurrock, Ms Paidwell reemerged at the London Development Agency running corporate accountants KPMG's £1.8m project to restructure the accounts of the quango shortly before it was scrapped.

Two more years down the line and Ms Paidwell reemerges in Bristol in the top job with a council press release optimistically talking up her innovative relationship with 'Big Four' accountancy firm KPMG. Ms Paidwell, meanwhile, describes herself as "very effective in delivery transformation in challenging and heavily unionised environments."

In other words she's good at sacking people.

AND FINALLY: TOP COP GOES BANANAS AT ZOO!

Outgoing Avon & Somerset Police Chief Constable **COLIN 'DOUGHNUT KING' PORT** thumbed his nose at austerity-hit Bristolians in January by landing them with a tab of more than £4k for a private 'gourmet' nosh-up at Bristol Zoo in January.

Port, a former boss of the notoriously corrupt South East Regional Crime Squad (SERCS), left his post as Bristol & Bumpkinshire's top cop after being told to reapply for his job by new Police & Crime Commissioner **SUE 'PASTIE QUEEN' MOUNTSTEVEN** last November.

Obviously realising that presiding over three Stokes Croft riots in a single Summer in 2011 didn't help his chances of keeping his cushy position, the fleshy-faced flatfoot decided to jump before he was pushed - whilst threatening wrongful dismissal lawsuits all the way.

No stranger to getting others to cover his bill, Port ratcheted up nearly £15,000 in expenses over the years, including £437.40 on **WHITE TIES** for posh dinners and £56.81 on malaria tablets - obviously an essential requirement for policing Britain's tenth largest city.

Bristol's own Keystone Khief Konstable's next move is anyone's guess - though a plum 'consultancy' with IBM might be in order, given its involvement with A&S in the abortive privatisation venture 'SouthWest One'.

Best ask Colin's wife - also known Sue Barnes of SWO.

COMING SOON FROM The BRISTOLIAN:

■ The £216,000 Manager:

How a lack of oversight by councillors and an inept management culture led to one man costing Bristolians nearly 1/4 MILLION POUNDS and DOZENS JOBLESS on a failed 'improvement'...

■ Gashead & Robin:

Our new football column for the whole of Bristol to get behind!

■ The Whistleblower:

A regular feature for insiders to blow the lid off the crap companies they work for!

■ From Beer To Eternity:

We investigate how Bristol's boozers are paying the cost of 'development'...

■ And much, much more...

Got a story? Get in touch!

Support your monthly super, soaraway

BRISTOLIAN!

GET YOUR BRISTOLIAN!

Your favourite newspaper is available in the following shops, cafes and boozers:

- Bell
- Bishop's Tavern
- Bloom And Curl
- Booty
- Canteen*
- Cat And Wheel
- Chelsea
- Colosseum
- Cornubia
- Cosies
- Croft
- Hatchet
- Hydra Books
- No.1 Harbourside*
- No51
- Old England
- Plough
- Red Lion
- Reckless Engineer
- Seamus O'Donnells
- Sportsman
- Stag And Hounds
- Swan With Two Necks
- Tobacco Factory*
- Whitehall Tavern

* Some distribution points might be without the proprietor's knowledge...

Many more to be added! We hope!



MONDAY: Long, long meetings with senior council officers all day today. One after another! With lots and lots of information! All the officers were very nice to me indeed and they all listened very politely and attentively to everything I had to say. So there's no doubt in my mind that they are very interested indeed in what I have to say and are on board the Bristol Green Express departing for a sustainable future!

Funnily enough, every officer had with them an extraordinarily long and detailed report for me to read later. Although we agreed, due to time constraints, it was best to discuss the contents right away because with our busy diaries we don't know when we might be able to meet again. *It's a crazy and hectic place, George's City Hall!*

TUESDAY: Finally managed to get in to chat to George today. I was waiting almost two hours for him to finish meeting Zoe in his office with the door locked - what a dedicated guy he is! Courteous as ever, George apologised loads and said that they had got sidetracked into a discussion about Uganda or something. I never realised our decisions reached that far! Sometimes it's a crazy, freewheeling open forum of diversity, George's City Hall!

WEDNESDAY: Met Mr Robinson, the chief council finance man today. Some of the figures were very confusing indeed but Mr Robinson kindly

explained that there were some "presentational issues" with the figures that he and his colleagues would iron out by, possibly, as soon as next year.

We both had to laugh - LOL! - at one point when Mr Robinson said he hadn't brought one set of figures because his dog ate them last night! *We're an animal loving bunch at George's City Hall!*

THURSDAY: Cabinet Meeting/Knowle West. Try as I might I couldn't find anywhere to buy a carob-coated quinoa bar or a soy latte before the meeting. Oh well, I struggled through it anyway... We're all up for a bit of personal sacrifice in George's City Hall!

FRIDAY: Bumped into my good chum and fellow Ashley councillor Dr Jon on Stokes Croft this morning as he was leaving Best In with his cans of special 'breakfast drink'. He looked a bit sad, so to cheer him up I invited him over to my new pad later on and said we could make a den with chairs and sheets in the lounge and pretend that we are astronauts on a moonbase. He seemed to like this idea because he called me a "space cadet" - awesome! *It's a proper hub of cross-party co-operation, George's City Hall!*

SATURDAY: Just noticed I've put my name to a press release announcing the closure of seven youth clubs in the poorest areas of the city. This is the Lib Dems' fault not mine and, anyway, it's no use crying over spilt milk! Now, I must stop writing my diary and get on with mine and George's plans to protect the vulnerable of the city. It's all about caring, George's City Hall!

SUNDAY: Left my homework to the last minute again - forgot to read all those important reports and check those budget cuts figures, oops! Oh well, I'm sure the nice council officers will help me get a better understanding of it all tomorrow, they're all really clever and nice. I love being a Cabinet Member, I feel I am really making a difference! *And what a great place to work: George's City Hall!*