

The BRISTOLIAN

"Smiter of the High and Mighty"

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NEARLY £900K IN PAYOFFS TO CRAP COUNCIL LEADERS!

The BRISTOLIAN has learned that in the last year the city's council taxpayers have doled out an astonishing £875,000 to senior council leaders for leaving!

That's **OVER HALF A MILLION QUID** going to failed service directors, and **MORE THAN £300K** being forked out for just two former council bosses to put their feet up at home!

First up, Bristol's former Chief Executive the **BRADFORD SUN QUEEN** herself, Jan Ormondroyd. She mysteriously 'quit' in a bit of a hurry in July 2012 and was handed a **SECRET CASH HANDOUT** of around



SUN QUEEN: "What excessive payments..?"

£50k in pay for work she never did - a figure way beyond any redundancy entitlement for a post that wasn't redundant anyway.

The 57 year old was also given a whopping pension enhancement that saw Bristolians stumping up a further £135k or so.

That means the total bill to the council taxpayer for the Sun Queen to sit at home retired is not far short of £200k.

Former legal boss, **STEPHEN 'LYCRA' MCNAMARA** followed the Sun Queen out the back door last Christmas. Having liberally reinterpreted the law to suit the city's richest man Steve ("Tax is for the little people") Lansdown and landed Bristol with an expensive and **UNDEFENDABLE JUDICIAL REVIEW** into the Ashton Vale Town Green, Lycra was considered surplus to requirements - and allegedly made redundant. Although, strangely, the post of Chief Legal Officer and Monitoring Officer - Lycra's old job - still appears to exist and is not redundant at all.

To ease 55 year old Lycra on his way, he was "retired" and given a pension enhancement worth around £60k, three months pay worth around £14k per month, and a further £40k in "Compensation for Loss of Office".

Of course, Lycra thinks he's too good for B&Q, so he has a tasty post-retirement 'consultancy' with expensive law firm Veale Wasbrough Vizards - best known for (have



LYCRA: "Just a little part-time beer money job..."

we mentioned this before?) representing a Catholic private school facing a **PAEDO PRIEST** scandal.

The BRISTOLIAN can also reveal that another FIVE council managers, all on six figure salaries, last year shared "exit packages" worth £548K - that's almost £110k each!!! Obviously all these payments massively exceed pay outs available through the redundancy policy created by Ormondroyd herself to, erm, prevent "excessive pay outs to top managers".

Perhaps Ormondroyd's redundancy policy - like taxation, in the opinion of McNamara's chum Lansdown - only applies to **"THE LITTLE PEOPLE"**?

Welcome to austerity - Bristol style.

FAT CAT GAGA'S DOSH SENSATION

With the ink barely dry on her massive pay-off cheques - and gagging orders - to five of Bristol City Council's departing service directors (see above), we can reveal that Mayor Fergo's new City Director, Nicola 'Lady Gaga' Yates has brought her very own **TOWN HALL FAT CAT SCANDAL** with her...

She received her own secretive pay-off of £242,677 for what was described as

"compensation for loss of office" in 2012.

Tory supporter **LADY GAGA** departed from her post as Chief Exec of cash-strapped Hull Council soon after Labour started running the administration last year. However, the exact reasons for her departure are unknown because ... Wait for it ... Both parties have signed a **GAGGING ORDER** preventing them discussing her dismissal!!

The BRISTOLIAN also learns that the

appointment of Lady Gaga was considerably more controversial than Mayor Fergo has claimed.

Rather than being a "unanimous decision of the appointment panel" as claimed, we have been tipped off that in reality the independent recruitment panel members preferred Swindon Chief Exec Gavin Jones.

Presumably he would have come with considerably less baggage and personal wealth?

Visit **TheBRISTOLIAN.net** for the latest smitage!

BRISTOLIANBITES

NO EQUALITIES IN CABINET

The Equalities, Access and Inclusion team at Bristol City Council has been running various training courses for employees.

However, Mayor Fergo, his Cabinet and Deputy Mayor 'Mutton' Geoff Gollop have snootily said they "didn't need this training" and have **OPTED OUT** of it.

An interesting attitude from an all-white, 70 per cent male Cabinet made up entirely of people from Bristol's political establishment!

Presumably this is because they really do consider themselves torch-bearers for anti-racism, disabilities, anti-sexism etc – and think that BCC employees are the racists, sexists and the rest.

What will Hibaq Jama have to say about this after her recent 'chat' with Fergo?

HIRST: SIMILAR TO..?

News reaches us about long-term friend of *The BRISTOLLIAN*, the former Führer of Broadmead and now the city's tourism-and-business boss at Destination Bristol **JOHN HIRST**.



It seems that the ex-shopping centre supremo with anger management issues has taken up a new hobby to calm his nerves: **CHICKEN FARMING**.

Now, if only we could think of a well-known chicken farmer from history, then we could end on a cheap punchline...

NO RED TAPE, BY GEORGE!

Mayor George Ferguson's old friends and colleagues in the rich posh boys' club the **MERCHANT VENTURERS** seem to be doing all right out of his Shitty Hall administration...

STEPHEN PARSONS, in his role as chair of the governors of Bristol Cathedral School, looks set to take over two floors of the Bristol Central Library with few questions asked for his primary 'free school' project.

DAVID FREED, director of upmarket property developers Deeley Freed, has been handed a sizable chunk of Castle Park to concrete over. At least we now know what Mayor Redpants meant when he said he was going to get things done.

Meanwhile, Fergo's extensive and highly involved business interests in the city have attracted the attention of the council's official auditors, Grant Thornton. "[A] review of the Mayor's declarations of interest found a number of organisations with which the Council have had interaction which have not been included within the related parties transactions note," they say in their 'Audit Findings for Bristol City Council'.

Probably just a big misunderstanding that cash-strapped millionaire George will set straight when he's able to take time out of his busy schedule.

BRISTOL'S BROKEN DEMOCRACY?

What is the point of electing your councillor? Absolutely none - now King George has made them all redundant...

The timer on a ticking municipal timebomb has been started in Bristol – but only the most keen-eyed citizens are likely to have noticed it.

It comes with the recent (and not very sexy-sounding) 'council budget proposals for 2014-17', submitted by Finance Director **PETER ROBINSON** a week after he took a tasty exit package and disappeared off to Hereford.

It confirms *The BRISTOLLIAN*'s worst fears about a so-called 'zero budget', where the council's legal obligations are funded at a **MINIMUM LEVEL**.

So, you can kiss goodbye to your libraries, youth centres and adventure playgrounds - and say hello to rock-bottom, understaffed services with increased waiting times. Welcome to easyBristol!

Equally worrying will be the three panels set up to run the programme - staffed entirely by the council's unelected, Tory government-supporting Senior Leadership

Team (as shown in *The BRISTOLLIAN* #4.6) – through which the overpaid leeches can carve up our city, flog off the silverware and cut services without interference.

Once these **FAT CAT COUNCIL CAPOS** have made their decisions, they will communicate them to councillors at scrutiny meetings and HR committees – just once every six months – meaning our elected representatives will only be able to rubberstamp changes that have already happened!

So far not one of our Labour or Green councillors has emitted a single squeak about this **STRANGLING** of what little local democracy we have left.

Maybe they're happy because they don't think they'll be blamed when the local library closes or Ronald McDonald starts running the local school.

In the meantime though, where does this leave George's election manifesto pledge to devolve democracy to communities?

It's one big 'fuck you' to the whole of Bristol.

TOWN GREENS: LATEST

When is a NIMBY not a NIMBY? When a Bristol City Councillor decides it's politically useful - that's when...

Residents in Horfield fighting to save **WELLINGTON HILL PLAYING FIELDS** from development are increasingly bemused by the conduct of the landowners, Bristol City Council, who seem prepared to throw any amount of money around to prevent the land becoming a **TOWN GREEN** and preserved forever as open green space for the community.

"Our experience to date," locals tell us of the council's tactics, "is that as soon as one argument is demonstrated to be invalid, another is constructed..."

Green spaces are perhaps the one issue where grass roots groups of citizens can successfully take on the council. It's telling that the council responds by fighting expensively, aggressively and often unfairly against its own citizens rather than compromising with them or at least responding in a constructive and honest fashion.

But then **TWO-FACED**, lying councillors are happy to support Town Greens in their

own wards whilst simultaneously declaring those who support them elsewhere are not-in-my-back-yard 'NIMBY' types. They're also happy to approve spending on existing Town Greens – while claiming dubiously that new Town Green registrations will cause such payments to dry up.

In the **TOPSY-TURVY** world of local government, councillors know their decisions are unlikely to be judicially reviewed when they make a wrong decision.

Even if they are, those same councillors are among the first to criticise anyone applying for judicial review as 'NIMBYs'! And of course the councillors never have to pay for the cost to the taxpayer wasted by their **DODGY** politicking - while at the same time they will insist that those who dare to challenge them are 'wasting taxpayers' money'.

Because politicians are mostly a bunch of hypocrites, our council run on behalf of wealthy landowners rather than ordinary citizens.



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GARGAN GETS FEAR OVER INTERNET PROFILE PIC!

Are Avon & Somerset top cop **NICK 'HURDY-GURDY' GARGAN's** well-documented weekend trips to Glastonbury (to wear his love like heaven and mellow out on the Tor to ponder, like, the sheer enormity of it all, man) in some small way impeding his professional judgement?

Or did he **INGEST** something other than an extra strong herbal tea infusion during his last visit, at the peak of the magic mushroom season, to deepest Somerset's hippy haven?

Coming up with the kind of deranged paranoid nonsense that only takes shape at two in the morning over a bowl of dry Rice Krispies and the last of the custard creams, The Hurdy Gurdy Man issued urgent orders one Monday morning, straight after one of his Isle of Avalon trips, that the presenter of hit radio show **'FROM BRISTOL WITH LOVE'** Durston Fletcher remove his Twitter and Facebook avatar immediately as it "could be deemed to be **IMPERSONATING A POLICE OFFICER!**"

The avatar in question is a picture of *The Bill's* loveable idiot Reg Hollis and so far, unsurprisingly, nobody outside of Hurdy Gurdy Gargan and his elite team of top tie-dyed detectives has yet managed to confuse Durston with an actual copper.



'Elo, 'ello, 'ello - are you that Durston Fletcher bloke?

However, to help out our confused top cop and the rest of his disoriented crew of **ADDLED OLD BILL**, Durston has now installed a new special message on his avatar: 'I am not a copper' it helpfully explains.

Hopefully this will clear matters up enough for the Avon & Somerset to continue with their duties and for Hurdy Gurdy Gargan to concentrate on realigning his chakras.

INDYREDPANTS MAN AND THE ACCIDENTAL WORKFARE AFFAIR...

Tears, consternation and luvvie hissy fits seemed to be the main response from the chaotic and disorganised **BRISFEST** offices after accusations that some of the event's volunteers had been **FORCED** there on a not-so-voluntary workfare programme by the DWP and their shifty private 'employment and training services partner', Prospects.

When the matter came to light on the **BOYCOTT WELFARE** campaign website the evening before the local community festival was due to take place at Ashton Court in September, there were initially denials, condemnation and wails of 'how can people be so cruel?' from festival organisers.

They then issued a rambling statement on the Monday after the festival, again denying any involvement in workfare, which seemed to clear everything up; until Boycott

Workfare explained that workfare 'volunteers' had been on the site – and that BrisFest had simply not noticed!

BrisFest organisers - keen to claim that "many of us were unemployed when we first got involved" – had in fact unwisely advertised volunteer roles through Jobcentre Plus, which then led to Prospects forcing a number of its clients to apply for positions.

Whoops! Still, it seems that sensible heads now prevail, with BrisFest poised to sign up to the Boycott Workfare pledge – and already promising not to advertise volunteer positions through Jobcentre Plus again.

The festival's organisational and public relations shambles is perfectly explicable when you realise who the 'brains' of the operation is. Please step forward 'film producer' and self-proclaimed public relations guru **OLIVER MOCHIZUKI**.

Oliver, readers may recall, was the candidate for Horfield for the ridiculous, nothing-to-do-with-Fergo IndyRedpants Party at the last council elections, when he was prominent in announcing how we was going "to shake things up" at Shitty Hall.

Indeed. Forced labour and rambling pieces of self-justifying PR are certainly one way "to shake things up" in the balls of power!



Oliver uses a trusty old PR distraction technique...

VICTORY REPORTS

VALERIAN CLOSE VICTORY!

Good news reaches us about situation in Valerian Close, which we reported on in *The BRISTOLIAN* #4.6.

You may remember that some of the development's vulnerable residents had been trapped in their own homes – and their carers blocked from entry - thanks to the **CONTEMPTUOUS FAILURE** by Bristol City Council and Bovis Homes to properly surface roads and pathways.

Well, we hear that **MYSTERIOUSLY** some tarmac has now been found to do the job that couldn't for weeks previously.

It's almost as though someone wants to avoid a PR scandal...

ALLOTMENTS VICTORY!

Congratulations are in order to the allotment holders in Ashley ward's St. Werburgh's, whose vibrant community campaign has successfully secured the **LYNMOUTH ROAD** plots.

The land, near the bigger Ashley Vale allotments, had been due to be auctioned off with a guide price of £20,000 after the old landlords went under.



But then Fergo's Green sidekick and Cabinet member **SIR GUS HOYTY-TOYTY** put in a sealed bid – believed to be "considerably more" than that – on behalf of Bristol City Council, which liquidators Grant Thornton accepted.

The question now being asked is just how much of the council's parks budget did Ashley ward councillor Hoyty-Toyty spend?

BLACKLISTING VICTORY!

More details continue to emerge about the blacklisting activities of **KIER GROUP** – the company which bought up May Gurney and now runs Bristol's rubbish and recycling collection routes.

It seems that Kier paid a whopping **£30,620** to industry-backed spy firm The Consulting Association for access to files on 229 workers.

After the recent council vote to ban blacklisters from BCC contracts (see *The BRISTOLIAN* #4.6), there's not much else that can go wrong for Kier.

Except be named by the Information Commissioner as the mystery construction company under investigation for direct involvement in illegal snooping practices like 'blagging', perhaps?

The BRISTOLIAN

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LABOUR'S NON-MAYOR: REES-KING RIDICULE?



Marvin: talked shit and lost to a red trousered arse

Belly-flopping Labour Mayoral candidate **MARVIN 'ME, MYSELF, I' REES** appears to have held on to the same high opinions of himself that failed to get him elected ahead of a certain dodgy millionaire architect in red trousers.

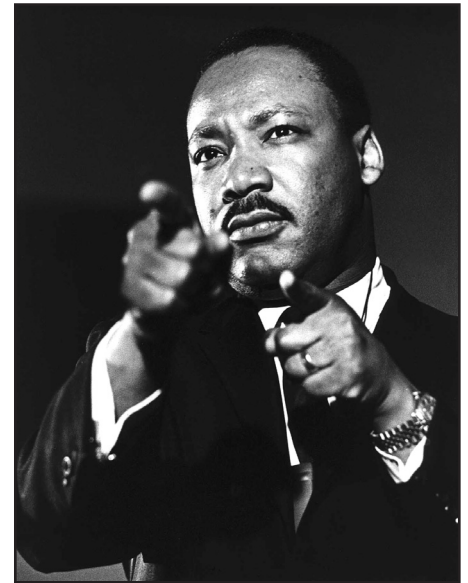
Rees, whose grand election strategy was spouting **MANAGEMENT JARGON** whilst cruising around in a chauffeur-driven car and letting a tedious Labour goon in Swindon run his Twitter account, has lately been trying to reinvent himself as a kind of elder statesman of Bristolian politics.

Judging by a recent tweet - from an account he now appears to be updating himself - he's not quite got the hang of it:

"At City Rd Baptist Church service about to read "I Have A Dream" speech (the whole thing). No pressure!!"

Seems **MARVIN 'LUTHER' REES** has finally given up on the 'Obama Strategy' and opted instead for the 'Dr King Plan'.

And it looks like it will go about as well as the whole Mayor thing..



Martin: preached peace and inspired millions

TOP TIPS TO BEAT THE BEDROOM TAX!

Here at *The BRISTOLIAN* we have been consulting our team of top lawyers on ways to beat the **HATED BEDROOM TAX**.

So if you have had a Housing Benefit cap applied, or been threatened with the tax, then....

■ Apply for a 'discretionary housing payment'; if they won't give you an award, or if it's not enough, ask for a review of the decision.

Be warned: if you request a review because your award is too low, they might suspend payment whilst they review it. If you are still not happy with the decision on review seek a lawyer.

■ Appeal the decision to reduce your

Housing Benefit award. You should request that your appeal is heard by an 'independent tribunal'.

Look out for the 'benefits decision notice' letter - this is the decision you need to appeal.

■ When reviewing or appealing decisions read the letters carefully as there is likely to be a four week deadline for requesting an appeal or review.

■ Get out on the streets with your family, friends, neighbours and colleagues and let all the politician scum know what you think of this sick policy!

*Know of more ways to avoid this evil Tory nonsense? Then let **The BRISTOLIAN** know - contact details on page 3.*

HAVE A KITCAT? BREAK A STRIKE

It's 'hit the big time' for *The BRISTOLIAN*'s second most-featured Green councillor, **ROB 'WANNABE' TELFORD**, who has just been announced as his party's National Spokesman on Parliamentary Reform.

Whilst some jokers have suggested that the massive slate of middle class eco-rentagobs put up by the Green Party of England and Wales means they must have a one-member-one-spokesperson rule in force, we are gracious enough to congratulate young Wannabe on his triumph.

Of course, it will give him the chance to quiz fellow panellist, Brighton's council leader **JASON KITCAT** (Local Government), about why he's been slashing the pay-packets of refuse collectors, strike-breaking and using scab labour.

And Bristol's own binmen should beware - Kitcat was seen cosyng up to Mayor Fergo at a **RECENT JUNKET** for local authority bosses in Nantes.

Swapping tips for stealing food from the mouths of babes, were they?