

# The BRISTOLIAN

"Smiter of the High and Mighty"

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Unlucky for some!

» YET ANOTHER BRISTOLIAN EXCLUSIVE!

## HOUSING HYPOCRITE!



Councillor Hoyt: cuddly teddy or bear cheek?

Another month, another foot-in-mouth fiasco from Mayor Fergo's right hand man, Ashley Councillor Augustus Hoyt.

You may have noticed Bristol's miscast housing supremo **SIR HOYTY-TOYTY** taking to the pages of the *Nazi Post* to lecture residents in Sea Mills about how he won't help them renovate their ex-council homes at the same time as BCC housing stock in the area is expensively perked up.

"The council must target our funding towards our own housing stock and those lost

to private ownership would not qualify for council investment," blusters the buffoon.

He then helpfully explains, "Our option is never to lose our housing stock to private ownership as we have a backlog of those trying to access council properties."

Really? So surely this can't be the same Sir Gus Hoyty-Toyty, a single man, who in 2012 **BOUGHT FOR CASH** a very competitively priced and well-appointed family-size home in chi-chi Montpelier for just £186,500 off the, er, council could it?

Why indeed it is! So let no-one say Sir Gus has no idea how to deal with the city's ongoing housing crisis. It's simple. Just buy yourself outright a nice family home in a fashionable area at a **KNOCKDOWN PRICE** off the council!

Obviously you'll need to conveniently 'forget' you're **CONTRADICTING** your own stated public policy and depriving someone else in need of a home.

*But, presumably, that's just - another - small price to pay?*

### INSIDE YOUR SUPER, SOARAWAY SMITER:

**P2: MORE HORSEWORLD  
MANAGEMENT MADNESS**

**P3: MARKETS SCANDAL  
CLAIMS ANOTHER SCALP**

**P4: WHY IS  
CHARLOTTE SO  
RED-FACED...?**



**PLUS: BRISTOLIAN  
BENEFIT GIG, SUNDAY 18TH  
MAY - SEE BACK PAGE FOR  
MORE DETAILS!**

## FERRY STRANGE...

More news coming in about our good friend the Hitler of the harbour, **CAP'N TONY 'AHAB' NICHOL**, the city's looney docks boss and rampant prize arse.

Days after our story in *The BRISTOLIAN* #4.12 exposed Ahab as a nasty little bully who seems to hate the public that pay him and the staff who work for him in equal measure, he's now found a new way to prop up his inadequate middle management ego - and a new target for his erratic behaviour: step forward Bristol Ferry Company.

Cap'n Ahab has unilaterally decided to **FORBID** the community-owned enterprise from running ferries along one of the city's major tourist routes, Temple Meads to the ss Great Britain. The reasoning for this decision is obscure if not non-existent; as one insider says "he has made it up and it is nonsensical".

Is this yet another example of Ahab's deranged state and an opportunity for him to throw his weight around because he can?

Meanwhile, City Council bosses and politicians have **DONE NOTHING** about his damaging decision and seem relaxed about having a madman in charge of the docks.

What other explanation is there for Ahab being allowed to disrupt the city's tourism industry, wreck a locally-owned business and **NOBBLE** one of the city's high profile sustainable transport operations?

Bristol Ferries is owned by 800 local people and Ahab's decision has already cost them a fortune as they've had to rewrite and reprint their summer timetable at the last minute after spending a year planning this route. They will also lose money as tourists **DESERT THE SERVICE** for one that actually travels where they want to go.

Still, Ahab's 'unique' management style no doubt impresses high-earning council bosses.

*They'll probably turn a blind eye to his latest piece of nonsense, hand him another pay rise, a pat on the back and vote of total confidence!*

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

## BRISTOLIANBITES

### MEANIE MEANS BUSINESS

Eyebrows are being raised among some of the city's social workers by the selection by the Labour Party of EILEEN 'MEANIE' MEANS as their candidate for Bishopston in the local elections.

Meanie used to run North Somerset Council's social services department where she was a notorious bully.

Says a whistleblower: "We used to hide in the ladies when we knew she was coming. She was blatant. If your face didn't fit she'd quiz other staff to get the goods on you and then try and get you sacked."

Then suddenly she was paid off and cleared out. There was, of course, a gagging clause to stop anyone discussing what might have happened and she got a pay-off - thought to be around £50k.

Meanie then took off for London where there's further rumours of gardening leave and pay-offs. Our reader told the powers-that-be in Labour Bristol all about this and they did nothing and so they've quit the party.

*A case of 'Vote Labour, get arseholes'?*

### KIPPER PANIC IN SOUTH

Meanwhile, barely concealed panic is breaking out in sections of the Labour Party in South Bristol.

As the election approaches they realise that, yes, the working classes really are abandoning them and their useless Oxbridge nerd of a leader, 'Dead' Ed Miliband, for UKIP.

Whether UKIP can do enough to get a seat is unlikely but they might do enough to keep Labour out.

*What a shame.*

### FERGO PALS' LAND GRAB

The campaign to preserve Castle Park from an onslaught by greedy Merchant Venturer developers Deeley Freed and their mate Mayor Redpants continues.

While George and his developer pals have had to concede defeat in their efforts to grab a load of public parkland to the East of their St Mary-le-Port site, they're now eyeing up the public land that runs to the south of the proposed development down to the dockside, despite the area carrying a Local Historic Parks designation in maps published in 2012.

Conveniently, this designation simply disappeared from the council's 2014 maps to be replaced with the claim the land had been "separately identified as a key site for redevelopment" thus opening the door for the Venturers to grab the public land to make a PROFIT.

Campaigners are currently challenging the council, claiming the redesignation of the land is unlawful as it's been done without notice or explanation.

*Watch this space...*

## The BRISTOLIAN

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# HORSEWORLD:

# THE CARNAGE CONTINUES

## THOROUGHBRED WORKERS LET DOWN BY DONKEYS IN CHARGE

It's with sadness that we report that much-loved equine charity HorseWorld continues its nosedive, piloted by kamikaze managing director Mark 'Not That One' Owen.

Since we last reported on HorseWorld back in February, Owen and his management stooges on the board of trustees have ploughed on with their cunning plan to revive the troubled Whitchurch-based charity's fortunes by, erm, closing down the visitor centre and **LAYING OFF LOYAL STAFF MEMBERS!**

Yes, that's right - having previously claimed to Bath & North East Somerset Council that improving the visitor centre was integral to the very survival of HorseWorld, now Pinocchiowen has closed down the very facility which provides the charity's main source of income.

Of course, when he argued his case before BANES, it was in the hope of getting planning permission to knock down the visitor centre and sell the land off to luxury property developers, so perhaps Owen just really **DOESN'T LIKE THE FENG SHUI** of the building or something...

Either way, in January, 28 workers were warned that their jobs were at risk. Two of them, seeing the writing on the wall, resigned. Then in late March fourteen were made **REDUNDANT**, and at the end of April, yet more dedicated staff were dumped - including a well-respected groom who had **DEVOTED AROUND FIFTY YEARS OF HER LIFE** to supporting HorseWorld.

The haemorrhaging of human resources comes not long after the failure of a bid to secure a partnership with the RSPCA that would save vital animal welfare jobs - a deal that had been on the cards for months. The Society had been interested in sharing some of the facilities on the Whitchurch site as a means of both helping HorseWorld stay afloat, and easing the national shortage of places available for neglected and abandoned horses. One plan had been to lease the RSPCA the - now-unused - visitor centre as a holding yard for rescued horses.

However, it seems that Owen himself **SCUTTLED THE DEAL** by trying to charge the RSPCA a massive rent of £100,000 to use what have been described by one insider as "otherwise rotting stables". This "staggeringly crass piece of stupidity" then saw the RSPCA back out. As our source puts it, "RSPCA is run by people who, whilst passionate about animals, also understand how a balance sheet works." A second whistleblower notes that one rumour in the paddock is that "the RSPCA don't want to be involved with HW because of the bad reputation the charity now has."

Whatever the precise reasons behind the collapse of the RSPCA deal, it's a massive blow for HorseWorld's staff, who seem unlikely to escape **YET MORE JOB SLASHING**. One member of staff told us that "it's very depressing at the moment... During the first individual consultation meetings with staff [Owen] refused to answer many questions" and couldn't say what the intended savings from the visitor centre would be, hiding behind an 'it's a Board decision' line "to avoid answering questions".

One theory behind what seems to be a series of nonsensical decisions is that it's a conscious asset-stripping strategy: "Perhaps they [the Board] want to sell the VC [visitor centre] land only to boost the bank balance, get rid of deficits, and sort the Trust out financially for the next few years," is how one well-placed commentator laid it out to **The BRISTOLIAN**.

Certainly it will be a lot cheaper to run a horse rescue charity without any pesky, erm, horses taking up valuable real estate, or costly grooms and other staff to nurture mistreated animals back to health.

On a positive note, there is one job which still appears to be safe from any budget trimming. Yes, you've guessed it - there's no sign that Pinocchiowen will be vacating his £80,000 hot seat any time soon, or turning in the keys to his £28,000 company car.

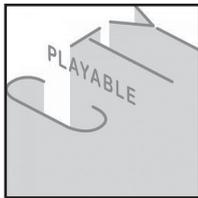
*Though at this rate there won't be anyone left at HorseWorld, so he'll have to wax it himself.*

Tweet us @BristolianNews

# WATERSHED: NOW OFFICIALLY BEYOND PARODY!

Entries are in for the second international Playable City Award hosted by the world's most pretentious cinema, Watershed.

It says here that "the competition invites artists, designers, architects, technologists and creative practitioners from all over the world to propose new ideas that will challenge the screen-based clichés of a smart city, and respond instead to cities as playable, open, and configurable space." Whut?!



Responding to this **POMPOUS HALF-WITTED JARGON** that's beyond satire, the entries themselves are no less nonsensical.

"Beneath our feet, the stars' where "the energy of your feet is captured by pressure pads and translated into beautiful poetry". 'Pipe Dream', which "reimagines cities' most utilitarian and intimidating elements as exuberant and inviting opportunities for interaction" (it's a pile of metal pipes). 'Shark in the Puddle', apparently "a collection of freely-distributed interventions in the city". 'WTC', where "existing cameras have been transformed by a splodge of exuberant art". And so it goes on... And on... And on...

The organiser of this high concept tosh is Watershed's Claire Reddington, who says: "The shortlisted ideas reflect the diversity of responses to our notion of cities as unresolved, configurable, idiosyncratic places." Don't they just!

*Is there any chance that the Watershed could run a competition to create a device that might remove Ms Reddington's head from her arse?*

## ++ MARKETS SCANDAL RUMBLES ON ++

# ANOTHER BOSS'S HEAD ROLLS IN BULLYING ROW

### *Discount king ditched due to 'ill health'*

The City Hall shake-out following the mysterious death of Bristol City Council's Facilities boss **TONY HARVEY** continues apace, with yet another of his subordinate bullies finally sent packing.

The latest BCC boss heading for the exit door is Markets Manager **STEVE 'GOD BOTHERER' MORRIS** who, we're told, "is off on long term sick and won't be coming back."

Morris enjoyed a remarkable run of luck at Bristol City Council. Brushing off - with a helping hand from Harvey, senior bosses and couldn't-care-less councillors - at least three solid **ACCUSATIONS OF BULLYING** in the last five years, he was also at the heart of the Markets Service missing money scandal. It was Morris who inexplicably 'forgot' to collect £165,000 of market rents in 2012 just before taking delivery of an internal audit report that, at best, showed he was a public money-squandering **INCOMPETENT** of the highest order.

Morris was notorious at St Nicholas Market for operating a highly individual approach to stall pricing.

While some traders had to pay full whack, others seemed to have private and personal arrangements with him and paid considerably less. In one case a trader was handed **DISCOUNTS** worth around £40,000 in the space of three years!

When one long-suffering staff member

queried this peculiar arrangement in 2012 as Harvey started proposing cutting markets staff "to save money", it was explained by the bungling bosses (apparently with a straight face) that the dubious discount was due to an **"ONGOING PLUMBING PROBLEM"**! Were St Nicholas Market employing the most expensive plumber in the western hemisphere?

"Probably not," says a well-informed insider. He tells *The BRISTOLLIAN* that such discounts were "ridiculous" and that neither Morris, Harvey nor the council could have met their obligations under the **BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION ACT** if large sums of public money were being given away with no audit trail.

"There are also serious questions to be raised with the Internal Audit Department who audited these arrangements and apparently found nothing untoward," he says.

Documents seen by *The BRISTOLLIAN* reveal that Harvey personally **SPIKED** any proper internal audit investigation into Morris; helped Morris get rid of troublesome **WHISTLEBLOWERS** in his department and, apparently, covered Morris's arse for almost two years as he failed, in plain sight of senior bosses and councillors, to implement the most basic of anti-fraud practices in the Markets Service.

*What's the hell's been going on? And when will we see a proper investigation into it all?*

# OUT OF AUDIT: RUBBERSTAMPERS BLIND TO FRAUD?

The Audit Committee, the council's motley crew of councillors and "independents" meant to prevent our money from getting ripped off, has produced its annual report for rubberstamping by full Council.

Prepared by arse-covering City Hall finance bosses, it's been signed off by the committee's latest chair, Labour's Mark 'No' Brain. A mainly harmless oaf of limited intellect and little understanding of finance, just two years ago **NO BRAIN** didn't know the difference between the national debt and the deficit.

Despite producing the thing themselves, it's hardly a resounding vote of confidence in a committee that's seen substantial cash disappear from both the Markets and Security Services, plus the apparent suicide of the boss in charge of those departments.

With just three vague sentences covering their pathetic fraud prevention efforts over the last year, No Brains squeaks that anti-fraud arrangements "are generally in line with best practice with just a few areas iden-

tified for improvement". "Generally in line" and "a few areas identified for improvement" is hardly precision language for the world of finance, is it?

What exactly isn't in line with best practice and how many areas need improvement? Why aren't they telling us? And will any other councillors bother to ask?

This **SHAMBOLIC** Audit Committee is supposed to have a couple of members of the public on their committee to provide some "independent" oversight and views on the council's financial management.

The last two "independents" were appointed in 2009 for a fixed term of four years. However, when their term of office ran out last year, the committee **UNILATERALLY** decided to extend their term for one year.

With that extension now at an end, the committee has now decided - contrary to all good practice - to extend the terms by another three years, meaning they will have sat on this car crash of a committee for eight

years - or twice the originally agreed term.

Why is this committee so reluctant to recruit new members of the public to scrutinise what they're doing? Do they have **SOMETHING TO HIDE**?

The committee's two current 'independent' members are our old friend Brenda 'Wise Monkey' McClennan, the Indypants candidate who jettisoned from her finance job at the Arnolfini, and professional public sector committee member, and blind eye merchant Ken 'Fool' Guy.

*Quality clearly rises to the top!*

**COUNCIL CORRUPTION?**  
**THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!**



Got a story? Call **07936 427 731**

# A RUM AFFAIR: PAID-A-LOTTIE & HER MERCHANT VENTURER CASH STASH!

Famously scarlet-schnozzed Bristol North West MP **CHARLOTTE LESLIE** has lately been even more red-faced than normal.

The Tory gladiatrix was **FORCED TO APOLOGISE** for not properly disclosing a whopping £28k donation from a bunch of **MERCHANT VENTURERS** at the Bristol Port Company - who conveniently 'persuaded' her to argue against the Severn Barrage. Her excuse? That "dyslexia made it difficult to read paperwork".

While *The BRISTOLIAN* sympathises with anyone who has dyslexia, we can't help thinking that Paid-A-Lottie probably should have considered this prior to putting herself forward as an MP.

We have even written to her to ask if it ever occurred to her that becoming an MP might require her to read lots of documents, some being quite complex and very important to her constituents.



Paid-A-Lottie bravely keeps her spirits up

We also asked her if she only has problems with donations, and checked that she is getting support so that she can claim all her expenses. (Although *The BRISTOLIAN* is happy to report that Paid-A-Lottie seems to be doing fine here: according to figures on MPs' expenses provided by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, she received £48,627.10 for the year 2012/13. Phew! No sign of dyslexia there!)

We also note that when recently interviewed by the BBC, she was still enjoying Christmas - with her tree on her desk - and apparently ploughing through a monster bottle of **BACARDI RUM!** On expenses, by any chance?

*The BRISTOLIAN* has sought assurances from Charlotte Bacardi that she will not be seeking the position of Secretary of State for Defence. We would hate it if she made a mistake when offered a free lunch and launched an intercontinental ballistic missile attack on Europe whilst **BOFFED OFF HER BOX.**

Finally, as you can read below, people are losing benefits because of their inability to use the job seekers computer programme due to their dyslexia - so we have asked Ms Bacardi for help. Sadly though, she is yet to get back to us - or offer us a go on her Bacardi.

*Surely she can't drink it all herself? Or maybe it helps her count all those donations?*

## FROM THE TRENCHES OF UNEMPLOYMENT:

*Writes The BRISTOLIAN's Jobcentre Plus Correspondent* - Not everything is as bad as it might seem, at least the unemployment numbers are falling.

Is this an increase in economic activity? Is this a massive upsurge in new jobs, now that most providing our public servants have been made redundant? No, don't be daft.

The coalition government is fiddling the figures, by throwing people off the dole, by making life impossible for them. If you have lost your job after working for years, and paying your stamp, don't expect sympathy or support from Jobcentre Plus. They will insist that you use a website called 'Universal Job Match'. This is a **COMPLETE RIP-OFF.**

It is full of jobs that are out of date, or run by scammers who steal your details, and money, offer below the Minimum Wage, or don't fucking exist. You are supposed to log on and spend up to 8 hours a day looking for work on this site, whilst avoiding being scammed. If you don't apply for enough jobs, then they will 'sanction' you, and you could lose your benefits for between a fortnight and three months.

*The BRISTOLIAN* has been contacted by numerous advice workers, who are enraged by the inequalities their clients face. One bloke, with two young kids applied for ten jobs out of twelve - because the other two were out of date. Because he used common sense, he then lost his benefits for 13 weeks,

nearly lost his home, and had to rely on food banks to feed his family.

Other examples include people with dyslexia being penalised for not being able to read or write very well, and a woman who lost all her benefits because she attended her mother's funeral. She had been told it would be okay - but then they **CHANGED THEIR MINDS**, took her dole - and the benefits of her dependent children.

Meanwhile, people without computers are being sent to libraries, but seeing as the bean-counters in charge are laying off librarians and shutting libraries, where does that leave you? If someone else gets there first, your kids will be dependent on food banks, and you will not be able to pay for the electricity.

You could apply for an emergency council payment, but they are overrun, with a scoring system that **FAILS MANY FAMILIES.**

Or perhaps you could appeal - but most hearings are in Plymouth. How can people without any money get to Plymouth?

This is not a third world country, this is not from your history books describing Victorian Britain. This is Bristol, one of the UK's biggest and most prosperous cities, today!

Children will go hungry tonight, because bankers **WRECKED THE ECONOMY**, and the government want you all to believe the economy is recovering. This is a barbaric way to treat human beings.

*Don't swallow their shit - eat the rich.*

Many thanks to the organisers of and the bands appearing at the upcoming **BRISTOLIAN** benefit night at the Red Lion on Whitehall Road in BS5!

Loads of great music for only a fiver - from hip hop to punk to ska with lots of cidery goodness - all to help fund Bristol's smiteiest newspaper!

**The BRISTOLIAN**  
"Smiteer of the High and Mighty"



Sun May 18th  
7pm-11.30pm

**SURFIN' TURNIPS**



Benefit gig for The  
Bristolian free mag..

The Red Lion, Bristol BS5 9BP

£5 entry, all to fund The Bristolian