

MINA MATTERS

BS2



The continuing saga of Mary Seacole Court

Hugh Holden wrote to us with this news:

The covenant restricting the use of the building to elderly care was removed about a year ago as a result of negotiations between the owners, who are C&C Group (Bristol Family Housing), and the City Council. The owners now intend to turn the existing building into 4 three-bedroom flats, 6 two-bedroom flats and 14 one-bedroom flats, all for sale. There will, however, only be 18 on-site parking places.

For further information – Lee Douglas (C&C Group) Tel. 0117 942 0100, or Simon Fletcher (Planning) Tel. 0117 922 2999.

St Werburghs Neighbourhood Association (SWNA) contributed this:

SWNA has written a complaint to Bristol City Council (BCC) Planning Services. The SWNA has received concerns from local residents that despite planning approval for change of use to hostel accommodation being twice refused, the premises are being covertly used for precisely this purpose. People masquerading as security guards are rumoured to be living there. It has been suggested that BCC Social Services are aware and complicit in this. MP Valerie Davey has been informed.

Continued on page 10



BAR OPEN

Slide show of Old St Werburghs by Harry McPhillimy
AND

St Werburghs Neighbourhood Association AGM –
new officers to be elected.

We would all love to see you there!

7pm, 25th January 2005 in the Community Centre

WRITE A CAPTION AND WIN A PRIZE!



Best captions received by 30 January printed next issue – prize to be announced.

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MM Editorial

MinaMatters enters 2005 stronger than ever – we hope! We've recently received funding for another two years (thanks to Neighbourhood Renewal for continued support) and try to improve the newspaper every issue.

We've gone back to colour this time because we had so many complaints about the last issue being black and white. "You know it's *MinaMatters* on the mat," one woman said, "and without the colour it could be anything." "It's different from all the others," was the general consensus, so we've bowed to popular opinion and will continue to splash some colour through your letterbox every two months.

We rely on your input and feedback to keep *MinaMatters* relevant and lively, so any and all ranting, raving, applause, celebration, challenge, rumour and considered argument is welcome. Thank you – and please keep it coming!

Avril

Editorial Team: Avril, Henry, Karla, Ruth and Bethan... and welcome to Rebecca and Lyssa

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Funding this issue:
Neighbourhood Renewal

Disclaimer
The editors would like to state that views and opinions expressed in articles are those of the contributors not necessarily those of the SWNA editorial team.

Next Issue Copy Deadline:
30 January 2004

For distribution: Mid February

Welcome to our new Community Beat Officer



Hello to all St Werburghs residents. I am PC Steve Wyatt and have now taken over from PC Lucy Humphries as the Community Beat Officer for your area. I will no doubt meet many of you on my patrols, but before that, a little about myself. I have worked at Trinity Road Police Station for about four years and during that time I covered various areas in Bristol. I aim to focus my time on community issues and any person wishing to contact me can do so via phone, email or even in person (see contact details below).

Targeting burglary

Now some local news! Since I have taken over from Lucy, we have had a police operation in St Werburghs which involved officers working in plain clothes. The operation targeted burglary suspects in the Mina Road and surrounding areas and resulted in several arrests.

Prostitution

On a separate note, I am aware of the problems of prostitution in certain areas. Some good work has been done by Lucy; I am keen to continue this work and welcome any feedback from yourselves.

Firework misuse

The end of 'bonfire' night usually results in a decline in firework misuse. However during this time and around New Year there can be problems. For example, in Mina Road Park police officers confiscated about 16 fireworks from children, that were being dangerously misused.

Regards

PC Steve Wyatt, Trinity Road Police Station Tel: 07919 538848

Email:
steve.wyatt@avonandsomerset.police.uk

DRAWING CLASSES

Suitable for beginners and anyone else who enjoys drawing.

Venue: St Werburghs Community Centre

Start: 10 January for 10 weeks

Time: 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Cost: £4.50 per session

MINA MATTERS Urgent Help Wanted

Any parent who could co-ordinate MM articles from St Werburghs Park Nursery and/or St Werburghs Primary Schools.

PLEASE CONTACT US – MANY THANKS!

St Werburghs Neighbourhood Association Meeting Dates

General Meeting
8.00pm Tuesday 1st March
Miners Arms, Mina Road

All welcome

TRANSLATIONS

If English is not your first language and you need a translation, we can get one for you.

URDU

اگر انگریزی آپ کی پہلی زبان نہیں ہے اور آپ کو ترجمہ کی ضرورت ہے تو ہم آپ کے لئے فراہم کر سکتے ہیں۔

PUNJABI

ਜੇਕਰ ਇੰਗਲਿਸ਼ ਤੁਹਾਡੀ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਭਾਸ਼ਾ ਨਹੀਂ ਅਤੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਦੁਬਾਰਾ ਦੀ ਜ਼ਰੂਰਤ ਹੈ ਤਾਂ ਤੁਹਾਡੇ ਲਈ ਅਸੀਂ ਇਸਦਾ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧ ਕਰ ਸਕਦੇ ਹਾਂ।

HINDI

यदि आंग्रेजी आप की पहली भाषा नहीं है और आप को अनुवाद की आवश्यकता है तो यह हम आप को प्रदान कर सकते हैं।

BENGALI

ইংরেজী আপনার মাতৃভাষা না হলে এবং আপনার কোন অনুবাদের প্রয়োজন হলে আমরা তা প্রদান করতে সক্ষম।

GUJARATI

જો તમારી પહેલી ભાષા અંગ્રેજી ન હોય અને તમને ભાષાંતરની જરૂર હોય તો અમે તમને તે આપી શકીએ છીએ.

POLISH

Jezeli angielski nie jest twoim podstawowym językiem i wymagasz interpretacji, skorzystaj z naszych usług.

VIETNAMESE

Nếu quý vị không thạo Anh văn và cần bản dịch, chúng tôi sẽ giúp quý vị một bạn.

CANTONESE

如果英文不是您的第一語言，而您需要翻譯的話，我們可以為您安排。

ITALIAN

Se l'inglese non è la vostra prima lingua e vi occorre una traduzione, ve la possiamo fare noi.

SOMALI

Haddii Ingiriisku aanu ahayn afkaaga kowaad oo aad u baahan tahay turjumaad, annagaa kuu samayn karra.

Also available in braille and audio.
* Contact details opposite.

Mina Road Park: looking good

Hugh Holden from the Park Group with news of future plans

The Park Group have nearly finalised the funding arrangements for a complete restoration of the stream. So far we have £25,000 (the maximum grant) from Living Spaces, £3,000 from Bristol City Council Parks Division, and an increased flow scheme paid for by the City Engineers. At the moment we are submitting an application for a Lottery Heritage grant of up to £50,000, with every chance of success. We hope the work will take place next year and are also trying to get an increase in the amount spent on maintenance, so it stays looking good.

During the last couple of years there's been a marked increase in the amount of anti-social and unpleasant behaviour in the Park. Under new government legislation, it's now much easier to obtain Anti-Social Behaviour Orders against individuals and Dispersal Orders against groups, provided this sort of behaviour is reported to the team set up by the Council (phone John Atkinson on Tel. 0117 915 5160 or Tel. 07795 600375)

For further information on any of the above or if you'd like to get involved in activities, phone Hugh Holden on Tel. 0117 955 5752.



Work for Web Designer

St Werburghs Web Site needs a web designer a.s.a.p. The web site has been running for the last year or so and we want to change it radically. Initially, we need to know whether there is any way to make the site and programme work better for us. If not, what can you offer us?

In general terms, we need a really undemanding site for the users to operate and also for us to administer. We have a list of things we like as well as a list of things we hate about websites!

Any interested parties please email isshenry@hotmail.com with your expression of interest, plus a linked list of sites you have produced.

Closing date for emails:
31 January 2005.

Interview: **February**
(date to be arranged)

This is a fixed fee contract and we are looking for a person with empathy, understanding, technical know-how and willingness to design to our requirements.

An AGM can be interesting and fun...

Narrowways Hill is a fantastic green and calm spot in the middle of our community. The Hill is managed, in a low-key way, by the Narrowways Millennium Green Trust (NMGT) to ensure that the wildlife, trees and flowers can thrive and enhance the area.

Come along to the AGM of the NMGT on Monday January 17th at 8.00pm in the Jack Brimble Hall (Scout Hut) on Lynmouth Road. Find out what's been happening on the Hill over the last year and what might happen in the future.

For more details contact Harry on Tel. 955 4043 or Mo on Tel. 378 9858



Why not come and help with conservation work on Narrowways Hill?

(pruning, clearing brambles, litter picking etc)

These are dates for 2005

March 18th

May 21st

August 20th

October 15th

Meet at 10.30 a.m. on the top of the hill by the seat then work outside for an hour or two

**phone Naomi: Tel. 0117 955 6890
or email: naomi.bristol@virgin.net**

My St Werburghs

This is a regular feature in *MinaMatters*, open to all of you who live, work, go to school, or spend leisure time here.

What does St Werburghs mean to you? Tell us about St Werburghs as it used to be; what you enjoy about it now; or maybe how you'd like it to change.

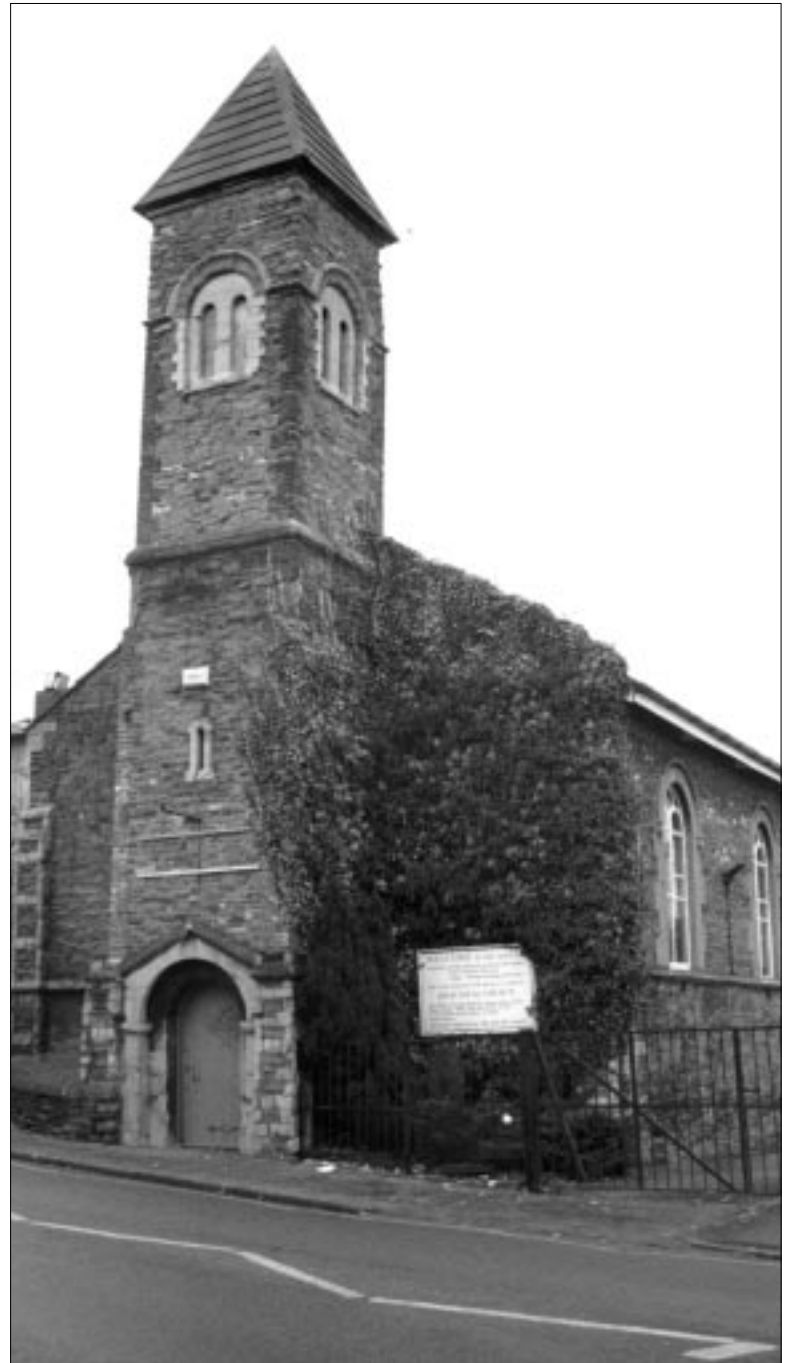
Perhaps there's something you do in St Werburghs that you can't do anywhere else, or an aspect of the area or the community which you think people may not know about or would be interested in. Why not share it in *MinaMatters*?

Write 200–500 words (we can scan your photos too) and watch this space – we look forward to hearing from you!

Amos Pike has lived in St. Werburghs for over 50 years. He gives a lively account of how he first came into contact with Ivy Church (featured below).

I first met Pastor William Knight in Torquay. He was staying with my pastor for a little break. On my spare time in the afternoon we would walk up to Babbacombe talking about Ivy Church. On his last day with us he said, "Amos, if you ever come to Bristol, make Ivy Church your B-line". That was in 1938. Two years later I was conscripted to Bristol.

So next day was my first meeting: bible study. The church was very tiny in those days, a third of what it is now. Every day a meeting. We had a good choir of 30 mixed age people. A good Sunday school every Sunday afternoon. The whole church walls were covered in ivy, hence the name. Our meetings were lively – plenty of church and hymn singing, and good preaching. It's still the same now. Just last week a gentleman came to us. He enjoyed the meeting and told me he felt at home. That is stated often. A real friendly get together. We used to sing 'Red and yellow, black and white, all are precious in his sight.' That's how we are today. Just come and see for yourselves and God will bless you.



It's older than you think

Lyssa Randolph has been reading Jenny Kay's history of Ivy Church

Ivy Church is older than you might think and has an interesting history. The foundation stone of the building was laid in 1791 by Rev. Joseph Small, vicar of St James. It was intended for use as a chapel for the Magdalen Hospital which had bought the nearby old Ashley Manor House (no longer standing), known as Hooke's Mill because a grist mill was close by, but the charity was unable to raise sufficient funds. The chapel building originally had a steeple but this had to be removed because it was unsafe. Hooke's Mill was acquired by a charity as an 'Asylum for Poor Orphan Girls', and the chapel was finally opened in 1795 when it began to be used as a place of worship.

At the Blue Maid's Orphanage, girls were educated and instructed in religion and morality, and that household work 'which may qualify them for acceptable servants in respectable families'. The establishment was funded entirely by voluntary subscriptions and was large enough for 50 girls. In the early nineteenth century, asylum was extended to girls from single parent households who could not provide 'proper maintenance and education' for their daughters. Their blue dresses gave rise to the local moniker of the 'Blue Maids' and the Blue Maids themselves took part in all the services held in the chapel.

In 1829 the Orphanage moved from Hooke's Mill, up Ashley Hill, to more suit-

able premises called Mount Hope. Hooke's Mill was then occupied by Henry Jones, the inventor of self-raising flour, in 1864, but later it was allowed to fall into ruin and was demolished in 1911. The Orphanage continued at Mount Hope until the 1930s with 60-80 Blue Maids aged between 14-20 years old. Early in the '30s the Blue Maids were given a large building away from Bristol so Mount Hope and the Chapel went up for sale.

From: 'The History of Ivy Church Building' by Jenny Kay, Ivy Church.

To be continued next issue.

St Werburghs' hidden treasure loses a diamond

Parkway parents say goodbye to Mary Hurlstone

Parkway Parent & Child Project has been a lifeline to parents and carers for generations. For almost as long as the project has existed, Mary Hurlstone has been the welcoming face to newcomers at the drop-in "Parent & Toddler Sessions". Sadly, after more than 25 years of hard work, she has decided to retire. During this time, Mary has been a part of many families' lives here in St Werburghs and in surrounding areas, and many people have fond memories of her.

Mo is a local mother, three of whose children went to Parkway. Even now the oldest two are at secondary school, when Mary meets them in the street, she still recognises them and is clearly happy to see how they have grown. A current Project user, Susie, remembers feeling nervous coming in for the first time with her child. Mary was there to welcome and help them find their feet. Mary always remembers every child's name and chats to them all during the session.

What people repeatedly mention is Mary's warmth, empathy and genuine caring for all those she meets. All those at Parkway, past and present would like to say a huge thank you to Mary for the great work she has done for the community.

The "Parent & Child" drop-in sessions continue to be held on Mondays & Wednesdays, 9.30am til noon, and Tuesdays & Thursdays, 1pm til 3pm. The sessions are a great space for children to explore, play and interact with each other; parents can enjoy a cuppa and get to know other parents/carers (cost £1/family).

The Project also offers:

Crèche for children aged 0-3, on Tuesday, Thursday and Friday mornings.

Twos Group for children aged 2-3, held on Friday mornings, (10am till 12noon plus 12 til 1pm lunch club), and Wednesday & Thursday afternoons (12.30pm til 2.30pm).

Playgroup for children aged 2½ to 5 years, on Monday to Thursday mornings 9.30am till 12noon, with a lunch club from 12 till 1.30pm.

In all these settings you can leave your child in a safe and stimulating environment, with experienced staff.

Parents also have the opportunity to take a number of courses including yoga, photography, costume making & "sports for dads". These have a small cost and free crèche.

Parkway aims to offer a fully inclusive service.

**The Project can be found at Parkway Methodist Church, Conduit Place, St Werburghs
Tel. 0117 935 0205.**



St Werburghs – Then and Now

Do you have any photos of St Werburghs that could be used for *Then and Now*? If so, please get in touch with Richard at minamatters@hotmail.com or *MinaMatters*, c/o St Werburghs Community Centre.



'Then' picture source: *Images of St Paul's and St Werburgh's* by Veronica Smith, who writes: "Many makeshift buildings, such as this one, appeared just after the war. This is the corner of Sevier Street and Magdelene Place. It was later used as an office and now stands empty."

'Now' picture taken October 2003 by Richard Toller.





Best Local Food Initiative

Liz Haughton on St Werburghs' prize-winning independent supermarket

'Winner' has been writ large on the windows of The Better Food Company's Organic Supermarket, to celebrate being winners of 'Best Local Food Initiative 2004' in the Soil Association's Organic Food Awards. It was a proud moment for Phil Haughton and his team when the letter came through. It is the result of constantly striving to improve the products for the shop and using as many local suppliers and growers as possible. The Better Food Company (BFC) really does do what it says it does: it is ethical, it does not have an empty marketing policy and it does offer real support for farmers, growers and producers. By keeping everything as local as possible, it also reduces food miles to the bare minimum. Many of the vegetables, salads and fruits you see in the shop come from the Walled Garden in Wrington, near Bristol, which BFC took on just over two years ago and which beautifully illustrates the company's commitment to organic growing and supplying of local produce.

No one stopped very long to rest on their laurels after winning this award, however, and life in the company is as frenetic as ever with the recent acquisition of the Garden Café, within the Walled Gardens. It was a decision that had to be made quickly, but felt so right, that there was little question in Phil's mind. It is already getting a reputation for really good, seasonal food, especially the Sunday lunches, many of which are cooked by Phil himself.

Doing your shopping in bright, well stocked surroundings, in the sure knowledge that everything you buy has been carefully and thoughtfully sourced, and that you need feel no doubt about your choice of chicken, apples, shampoo or pizza, is a feeling it's hard to put a price on these days. There are not many shops in the world, let alone in Bristol, that can give you this. The Better Food Company goes from strength to strength and is a business Bristol – and St Werburghs – can be very proud of.



For further information:
Tel: 0117 935 1725
Web: www.betterfood.co.uk &
www.walledgarden.co.uk

Gatton Road Gateway scheme almost ready to go

Avril Page spoke to Bristol City Council Project Manager, Jawahar de Sousa

There is now approval from the very top that we can proceed with the Gatton Road Gateway project. This project aims to cut the impact of heavy goods traffic from Gatton Road to Birds' Scrapyard, by building an extended sliproad and installing a sound-proof fence, plus improving the environment with new planting. The project steering group (comprising Gatton Road residents, SWNA representatives, plus a city council planner and a community worker) has been meeting for the past two years or more to consult with local residents and businesses, seek expert advice and apply for funding.

According to Project Manager, Jawahar de Sousa, all the finance is now in place, planning permission has been granted, building regulation is being processed and legal agreements are being drawn up. Demolition contractors to demolish the east block



(derelict flats at the end of Mina Road) are being appointed, tender documents are almost ready for sending out and nearly all systems are go.

"We envisage commencement of demolition work early in 2005 and expect com-

mencement of the road and landscape scheme in late summer, with completion early in 2006," said Jawahar.

The steering group will be resuming meetings to manage the project in the new year. FFI contact Mina Matters.

The Working Communities Team

The Working Communities Team is a new team that has been created by Jobcentre Plus, in partnership with the Black Development Agency, Employment Links, CEED (Centre for Employment and Enterprise Development) and Bridging the Gap.

The aim of the team is to work within the local area of Ashley, Easton, Lawrence Hill, South Bristol, the Northern Arc, Twerton (Bath) and Bournville (Weston Super Mare) to engage with unemployed people directly in their own communities. The team will offer advice on benefits, training, finding a job, as well as help with costs when returning to work, i.e. clothing, tools or equipment, etc.

To date, the team have engaged with over 400 people within community centres, foyers of flats and at local events including the Islamic Festival, St Marks Street Party, Job Fairs and Housing Offices.

The team brings together an extremely wide range of skills and abilities from its partner organisations. These skills includes an in-depth working knowledge of benefits and jobcentre services, plus the ability to speak eight different languages, including Urdu, Somali, Arabic and Punjabi. They have a detailed knowledge of local organisations and services available in the area.

Each team member can access internet sites, the jobcentreplus Job Bank (which



has over 400,000 current vacancies and is the most visited job site in the UK) plus details of other local services.

For further information or dates that are at a location near you, please contact Tandy Bowyer, Deputy Project Manager on Tel. 0117 945 6778.



FREE Internet training in your own front room?

Ali Grant at CSV can make it happen

CSV Media in Bristol has just received funding to give free internet training to small groups of people with little or no experience. If you're interested in what the internet has to offer, but are unsure where to start, we'll come and visit you and help you on your way. Wherever your group happens to meet, we can come and see you there. It may be the community centre, in a church hall, a pub (if it's OK with the landlord/landlady!), or even in your living room! We'll bring our lap-top computers and our expertise to you.

We can show you how to fill in government forms online, like Tax Returns or Child Tax Credit applications. Fed up with the weekly trek to the supermarket? We can show you how to stock up without the hassle of long queues at the till and lugging all your shopping bags home afterwards. We can set you up with your own e-mail account that you can log onto at any computer, so you don't need to have your own at home. Or perhaps you'd just like to find out what all this fuss about the internet is about.

If you'd like more information give me a call. My name's Ali, and you can phone me on Tel. (0117) 377 2625.



Sustainable Careers – money for training

Stacy Yelland from conservation charity BTCV has the details

We have been working with the European Social Fund and have money available to provide training for people to improve their prospects in the labour market. The scheme is called Sustainable Careers and there is around £500-700 per person available to people who fit the criteria (see below). There is no paperwork involved, as we do that. We provide a mentor, who helps work out what training people would like to do, to gain the skills they want. The training can be anything, not just conservation. It could be English, IT or languages, for example, or can be on-the-job style work experience, or volunteering. It is a great scheme and I am really enthusiastic in trying to get people using this money for their benefit.

The criteria are that you must be unemployed or working less than 16 hours and not a student. You must not already be on New Deal or Pathways to Work schemes and you must live in either Ashley, Easton, Lawrence Hill, Filwood or Windmill Hill wards. The money can go towards courses, expenses for courses (e.g. equipment), travel, and also child care. It does not matter if a husband/wife or partner is working, the scheme is based only on the individual.

If you are interested and could benefit from this PLEASE contact me on Tel. 0117 929 1624. I look forward to hearing from you.

**Stacy Yelland, BTCV Avon Office Administrator
CREATE Environment Centre, Smeaton Road,
Bristol BS1 6XN.
Tel: 0117 929 1624 Fax: 0117 929 7283
National Web Site: www.btcv.org
Local Web Site: www.btcv.org/avon**

Inspiring People and Improving Places

BTCV is the UK's largest practical conservation charity and aims to support individuals and communities in taking voluntary action to improve their local environment

Derelict eyesore or unpolished gem? The Office Block has a chance

AVAG claims it has the vision for development and the means to achieve it

Four years ago the Ashley Vale Action Group (AVAG) planned to convert the old SGB Scaffolding Office Block into low-cost office and workshop space for local businesses, yet it remains a derelict eyesore. Substantial works to the block's infrastructure have been undertaken but the building is unfit by modern standards for rental and the cost of renovating it to legal standards for fire safety and energy efficiency alone is significantly higher than anticipated. If the work were undertaken the space would not be commercially viable, even if it charged full commercial prices and many of the original potential leasers can no longer afford to rent space and have ceased to be involved, leaving the job of steering the development entirely to the AVAG management committee.

The AVAG management committee says that 'it neither has the will nor the expertise' to develop and manage a commercial workshop letting business 'that would be a financial liability which would not even serve the local community'. AVAG wants to support a community resource, not a community drain. But where is the enthusiasm to drive the project forward, AVAG asks, where is the passion and commitment necessary from those who would potentially use or benefit from it?

AVAG acknowledges that the Office Block project is not going to succeed and that it is time for a re-think. Bearing in mind AVAG's original aims, the neighbourhood consultation, and their experience of what would not work, the directors realised that the original plan did not incorporate any community space and that the building is big enough to accommodate domestic, business, and community space. Selling part of the Office Block would enable AVAG to finance its own initiatives instead of relying on public funding and charitable grants. But will the AVAG directors receive payment for their work? No, the directors are not paid, and they plan to sell only enough to finance what the community want. The self-builders have earned a small amount of revenue for AVAG by charging for tours and talks about the houses. There is a real demand for information about sustainable, ecological, community-led building, mainly from the media, students, researchers and policy-makers.

AVAG proposes that that Office Block could serve as a public space/community



room, used for leisure facilities, social clubs, private hire, meetings; a space for classes and activities available to the wider community. It could also provide for a resource or 'Home Solutions Centre' to share the home-building experience and facilitate an enthusiastic exploration into innovative and practical home-creating solutions. It could be a centre for interested parties to meet and study, a base for tours (and tourists!) and may also incorporate a bar, café or other social facility, thus meeting AVAG's objective to 'raise awareness, within St Werburghs and the surrounding area, of the potential for self-build housing and other community managed initiatives', and 'promote ecological, innovative and sustainable design and building solutions'. AVAG's plan may incorporate a few workshop spaces to be rented or bought if residents, both existing and potential flat-dwellers, wanted them.

Yet there needs to be clarity about what the Office Block is, who it's for, how it's run, and what it costs. It has to be set up practically with realistic finances, and a functionally determined business plan. AVAG wants a space that is realistic for a voluntary committee to manage, paid for, sustainable, and of real benefit to local people. AVAG directors hope to produce a revised financial and physical plan for the Office Block with the assistance of a consultant and the support of membership, to be circulated to members and residents for consultation.

AVAG realise that it is in a unique position; having both a vision for the development of the St Werburghs community, and the means to achieve it.

In the meantime, AVAG has been liaising with Redland Housing Association (HA) with regard to the Redland plot and are continuing discussions regarding its purchase. Unfortunately, the HA has decided that the plot is not viable for it to develop, yet the directors regard the purchase of the plot (at a reasonable sum) as instrumental in raising funds for the community, and ensuring that any profit made stays within the immediate area. AVAG accept that there should be open discussion about the way forward and plot allocation, and should explain the benefits to the community.

AVAG would like to thank those who attended the AGM and ask those interested to join or renew their annual membership by posting a note, including their name and address and £2 membership fee, to Bethan at the Office Block. The neighbourhood contact is Mike Harvey at Mill Cottage (Tel. 0117 944 6047)

For more information on AVAG, Homezone plans and the self-build houses visit:
www.ashleyvale.demon.co.uk



St Werburgh's City Farm

What's new down on the farm?

Next year's Summer Fair – new theme

After celebrating 'The Living Land', next year's Summer Fair theme is based around sustainable transport, people-powered transport and streets that are safer for people.

Community fair meeting – Monday 17th January, at 7.30pm – at the farm

Whether you love the community fair and just want to tell us, or you have some ideas to improve it, or you have a gripe to express, do come along to the community open meeting and have your say.

Community events at Boiling Wells

Sadly, the site is still undergoing building/landscaping works, so we won't be able to hold a Wassail this year. We are hoping to have a community tree-planting event towards the end of February – added incentives to be announced!

Thank yous

A big thank you to everyone who dug deep at The Farm pub's fantastic fire-works display – all funds raised went towards our running costs.

The path and seating area along the bottom of the farm's new allotment paddocks is complete. Thank you to D.A.Z. Ltd and the Council allotments dept. that worked so hard to finish it. Look out for the spring bulbs coming up soon.

Things for sale

Goat milk will soon be on sale again, look out for signs after December 15th.

Wormeries are the perfect, environmentally friendly place to put those kitchen scraps, and make great presents for green-fingered friends and relatives. They're available from the farm, stocked with wrigglers and ready to go, for the very reasonable price of £30!

There are also two rabbits for sale to the right owners. You must be able to provide them with a good home (for life, not just for Christmas)!

Café

We expect that the café will be reopening in January/February – hooray!! (Provided that the potential licensee accepts the offer.)



New Fairfield School Playing Fields

Hugh Holden with an update

The latest proposals, presented to Cabinet on December 7th, are a compromise by the LEA, to provide on-site facilities, while minimising the impact on Purdown.

The suggested plans consist of converting the existing St Thomas More field to an artificial surface (28,320 square metres), and making three small grass

pitches (14,800 square metres) on Purdown. Two of these pitches would be on the field between the allotments and the existing Hawthorn Hedge, and the other on the smaller top field next to Muller Road. The fences around the pitches would be only 1.2 metres high, although 2.5 metres high next to the allotments.

LETTERS

Cut the cat c**p campaign?

Having just read your editorial and the contribution on the letters page in issue 15 regarding dog poo, it brought to mind when I was a child and we had a dog who came and went as he pleased, roaming street and park at his will without a mention of clearing up his 'business' from anywhere. Then came the campaign to pressure owners to take a responsible attitude toward their dogs' doings and clear up after them. Quite right too, say I. It's utterly unreasonable to expect anyone to have to avoid other people's mess from whatever quarter.

To get to my point, I was wondering if there were any other people out there who feel we should have a similar campaign about

cat owners? I am so fed up with having to check around the garden before my two young children and their playmates go out to get some fresh air. As I understand it, cat owners train their cats to 'go' in a litter tray and then the litter tray is moved from indoors to outdoors and then further and further away from the house. Thereby actually training cats to poo in neighbours' gardens!

Whilst I recognise that few cat owners take their cats for a walk on a lead and it's therefore not so easy to clear up their mess after them, is it too much to ask for the owners to keep the c**p in their own territory? All it would take is to forego the last two stages of litter training. The dis-

eases to be caught from cat poo can be particularly nasty and the vulnerable are the young, elderly and unborn babies.

So come on cat owners, take a leaf from the dog owners' manual and start thinking of the consequences of your pets' actions. After all, I don't expect you to clear up my baby's nappies, so why should I have to clear up yours? If we all mention this to those who are buying new kittens, we could have a revolution on our hands. Let's start the Cut the Cat C**p campaign now.

Name & address provided

Continued from page 1

Previously local residents have fought against a hostel approach because of the itinerant nature of the hostel. Ideally, they want permanent residents willing to put down roots and contribute to their community.

And we also received a Press Release (edited) from Connolly & Callaghan Ltd dated 26 November

Local home-builders, Connolly and Callaghan, are seeking local residents' support for their plans to improve Mary Seacole Court, St. Werburghs, as part of a conversion into flats. Connolly and Callaghan bought it to convert into flats for young families and first-time buyers. The plans are for a mix of one, two and three-bedroom flats.

Managing Director, Martin Connolly, explained: "Everybody who has visited our recent development at the corner of Ashley and Dalrymple Roads has commented on how it improves the area. We aim to develop Mary Seacole Court in a similar way, to benefit St. Werburghs. The exterior of the building will be re-modelled so as to resemble a row of terraced houses. This will enhance the street scene and blend in with the neighbouring houses."

Connolly and Callaghan are also known for providing social housing in and around Bristol. However, Mr. Connolly confirmed that there is no intention of using any of Mary Seacole for social housing. He stated: "Our discussions with the local Councillors have convinced us that we must encourage families into St. Werburghs, to strengthen the local community. There will be no element of social or affordable housing in the scheme."

Local residents who support the rebuilding of Mary Seacole Court can help by writing to the Planning Department of Bristol City Council in support of the scheme.



FURTHER FUNDRAISING ACTION

Good news from Director of St Werburghs Community Centre, Linda Bell

Planning consent agreed for new Community Centre

Consent was given at a meeting of the Bristol City Council Planning Control Committee on 27th October. The consent does have some conditions attached, but we are now in a position to take some further action on fundraising for this project.

The Community Association has been successful in a bid to the Ufi/Big Lottery Fund UK Online Joint Project Funding. The Community Centre Computer Suite will be upgraded, two public access computers provided, and a Development Worker employed. This project will receive £24,000 to be spent by July 2005 and will enable us to expand the range of computer and internet activities offered.

Please contact Linda Bell, Centre Director on Tel. 0117 955 1351 or linda@stwerburghs.org.uk if you would like any further information about these issues. We are always pleased to talk to people if they have any ideas about the Community Centre or want to run activities.

Fab quote

"If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one."

Mother Theresa

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity, and I'm not sure about the former."

Albert Einstein



St Werburghs Community Centre

Current Centre Timetable – January/February 2005

Mondays:

- 10:30 – 14:00 Khaas (Term time only) with crèche
- 18:00 – 21:15 Yoga of the Heart (Term time only) – need to book
- 18:30 – 21:30 Astanga Yoga
- 18:30 – 20:30 Bristol LGB Forum (monthly meetings)
- 19:00 – 21:00 Art for beginners – please contact us on the number below if you are interested

Tuesdays:

- 09:30 – 12:00 ESOL English Entry Level 2 (Term time only)
- 10:00 – 12:00 Parkway Parent and Child Project – Yoga class with crèche
- 13:00 – 15:00 Basic Computer skills (CLAIT) with crèche – WOMEN ONLY
- 16:00 – 17:30 Theatre + Arts afterschool workshop for 7 – 11 year olds from 11th Jan 05 (Soap Soup Theatre of Transformation)
- 18:30 – 19:30 Hip Hop Dance class for 8–12 year olds
- 19:30 – 20:30 Hip Hop Dance class for 13 yrs – adults
- 19:30 – 21:00 Narcotics Anonymous

Wednesdays:

- 09:30 – 12:00 ESOL reading, writing and computer skills, English Entry Level 1 (Term time only)
- 10:00 – 15:00 Khaas sewing class (Term time only) with crèche
- 12:00 – 13:30 Narcotics Anonymous
- 17:45 – 19:15 Brownies (Term time only)
- 18:30 – 20:00 Essential Tai Chi
- 19:30 – 21:30 Red Notes (Socialist Choir)
- 19:30 – 21:30 Voices Choir (Term time only)
- 20:15 – 21:45 Astanga Yoga

Thursdays:

- 09:30 – 12:30 Cookery for Absolute beginners (Community Education – term time only)
- 10:30 – 12:00 UK Islamic Mission
- 16:00 – 18:00 Care & Repair
- 18:00 – 20:00 Salsa Workshop
- 18:30 – 21:45 Arabic Drum Classes
- 19:00 – 20:30 Guitar for beginners (need to book)

Fridays:

- 09:30 – 12:30 Celebration Cookery (Community Education – term time only)
- 10:00 – 12:30 Refugee Support Project (Term time only) with crèche
- 10:30 – 12:30 Art & Power
- 19:00 – 21:00 Federation of Holistic Therapists (meetings every 3 months)
- 20:00 – 21:30 Essential Tai Chi

Saturdays:

- 10:00 – 13:00 Refugee Support Project IT class + crèche
- 13:00 – 15:30 Khaas (term time only)
- 19:30 – 21:00 Bristol West Indian Parents & Friends Association (monthly meetings)
- 19:30 – 21:00 Barbados & Caribbean Friends Association (monthly meetings)

Sundays:

- 11:00 – 13:00 SGI UK monthly meetings

***** COMING SOON *****

Build Your Own Computer Course

Beginners Art Course

Contact us if you are interested

Horley Road, St Werburghs, Bristol BS2 9TJ
Tel 0117 955 1351 Fax 0117 904 0049

office@stwerburghs.org.uk

www.stwerburghs.org

Youth Matters

Heritage Lottery Fund – Young Roots grant scheme

Sharon Adams can help with funding to explore your heritage



This programme is aimed at getting young people aged between 13 and 20 years (25 years for young people with special needs) involved in exploring and celebrating their history and heritage. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) Young Roots grant scheme has already funded 21 projects across the South West region to date, providing £425,000 of resources and the good news is that there is still plenty of funding available!

You can apply to HLF for amounts of funding between £5,000 and £25,000. There is no need for any matched funding, but we do ask you to make a contribution to the project either with cash, or in-kind support (e.g. loan of equipment, volunteer time, meeting space etc). The project must be

delivered in partnership between a youth organisation and heritage partner (for example a museum, local history society etc) and young people must also have been involved in planning the project.



Sharon Adams is the Young Roots Co-ordinator for the South West and is able to offer support and advice with the application process and also assist in finding partners for your project. Decisions are usually announced within 12 weeks. It is also worth talking through your ideas with Sharon first, to get initial help and advice about what makes a successful application.

For further information, please contact Tel. (01392) 223950 or send an e-mail to sharona@hlf.org.uk

St Werburghs Changed! :)

About a year ago in St Werburghs, when at night I went to pick up my sister from gym, I would see at least one prostitute on the corner. It really upset me. But now I've noticed there aren't any at all, which is good. I also recently saw one of those big billboards cut down, which I personally think is great! Because 1: they are ugly, 2: why does St Werburghs have to put up with them, when in somewhere like Clifton they don't have any at all?! There have been quite a lot of good changes in the last year, let's hope there are more of them! :)

Leela Carr-Bond
12 yrs



Congratulations to **Leela** who will be receiving £15 from *MinaMatters*



After school arts & theatre from Soap Soup Theatre

Starting on Tuesday the 11th of January, Soap Soup Theatre is setting up a new after school kids club! Based at St Werburghs Community Centre, it is for children from 7 to 11 years old and will be an arts and theatre based weekly workshop. Running for six weeks, and longer if there is demand, Soap Soup Theatre will be working with young people to explore the visual arts in a performance context. We will look at puppetry, mask work, improvisation and other related forms, encouraging the kids to work as a team, as well as individually. The emphasis will be on imagination and exploration, sometimes using unusual materials to achieve surprising results!

Every Tuesday afternoon from 4.00pm till 5.30pm, the club is £20 for the 6 week term, which includes materials and tuition.

To book contact Tomasin at: tomasincuthbert@hotmail.com, phone her on Tel. 07970 492089, or contact the Community Centre.

Bristol in the UK Youth Parliament (UKYP)

The United Kingdom Youth Parliament is an independent national charity with over 400 elected members of the Youth Parliament (MYP) in the United Kingdom.

The Bristol Youth Election for the UK Youth Parliament will take place between 17-28 Jan 2005. Voting is open to all young people between the ages of 11 and 18.

Nomination forms and more information about the UK Youth Parliament and the Bristol Youth Election is available from schools, colleges and youth projects and also from:

Bristol Youth Election Office
Tel. 0117 903 1330

email:
paul_matthews@bristol-city.gov.uk

UKYP websites:
www.ukyouthparliament.org.uk or
www.manifesto.ukyp.org.uk