

The BRISTOLIAN

"Smiter of the High and Mighty"

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>> ANOTHER CARE HOME SCANDAL BREWS

BRISTOL'S NEW HORROR HOME

Holmewood House care home is like something out of the Munsters. Except it's really not funny

THE spotlight is firmly on private care home Holmewood House in Westbury on Trym after an elderly woman died twelve days after leaving their care, having inexplicably lost her swallowing reflex and one third of her body weight.

She died despite SIX safeguarding investigations by Bristol City Council - who placed the woman in the home - into the care the woman was receiving at Holmewood House during her last fifteen months there. The city council did a seventh safeguarding investigation following the woman's death.

We have seen the safeguarding reports and the material is SHOCKING. One report describes two potential assaults on

Joseph, who was later charged with one count of common assault for performing an enema on the woman without proper permissions. Ms Joseph escaped a conviction for this on appeal.

A second potential assault charge for performing a 'manual evacuation', a considerably more serious and degrading assault, never came to court. Although SEVEN staff have stated that Ms Joseph had clearly told them that she performed "a manual" on the woman. Staff say Ms Joseph also told them that she had performed the procedure on a male resident with learning difficulties and one member of staff witnessed this. Ms Joseph now works in another Bristol care home.

In a further shocking revelation, we can also confirm that a 'consultant' employed by Holmewood House who worked directly with the council on many

of their safeguarding investigations at the home was former nurse, Isla Meek. Ms Meek was struck off by the Nursing and Midwifery Council in 2012 after failing to report six deaths and keep proper drug records at a home in Whitchurch.

Why both the city council and Holmewood House owner Ghassan Al-Jibouri consider Ms Meek a suitable person to carry out investigations in to the safety of adults in care homes is unclear.

It also appears that Ms Meek was directly involved in patient care at the home too. She claimed to the final safeguarding investigation that on the morning the woman was moved from Holmewood, she was sat up in bed eating porridge. An account that is disputed by legitimate medical practitioners who say the woman had no swallowing reflex at all on arriving

Continued on page 2 →

YOU'RE FIRED!

IT'S Farewell then to council Workplace Programme Manager, GRAHAM SKINNER, the council's man arranging the big move to the £18m 100 Temple Street building.

A move that will apparently save us millions and make all our services more efficient by ensuring that all council staff use the same branded coffee cups while not having a desk to sit at.

But why has Skinner cleared his desk - a privilege to have these days - in a such a hurry? Well, it seems some office furniture he ordered for council Chief Exec, Nicola "Lady Gaga" Yates was late arriving and so she FIRED him!

They don't have much luck with these buildings managers do they? Peter Walker, Skinner's predecessor when the project was called 'NEW WAYS OF WORKING' was also fired. Although luckily (for him) he sued the council for a tasty six-figure sum.

Let's hope that doesn't happen again!



RED-FACED RED PANTS DOESN'T GET THE BIG PICTURE!

"YOU could hear him yelling with rage at the other end of the corridor," says our man on the third floor at Shitty Hall. And the reason for the RED-TROUSERED LOTHARIO's tantrum?

Well, it seems some wag put a copy of our last issue, BRISTOLIAN 4.8, on the nightmayor's desk with a friendly post-it note asking, "WOULD YOU LIKE A FRAMED COPY?"

The furious farce-meister was not amused -

and had to be calmed by bag-carriers, who persuaded him that sending the note for HANDWRITING ANALYSIS would make him look like even more of an idiot!

Elsewhere at Shitty Hall, one worker put in some quality overtime. Carefully copying our last issue, placing them in envelopes with lovingly printed address labels and posting them to council managers via internal mail!

And a shout out to our distro team too who popped in to the latest Audit Committee

meeting at Shitty Hall at 9.30am on Friday 8 November, just to hand a copy to every committee member so they were properly informed about the mess they're overseeing!

Obviously panicking council officers called the police! On arriving, and learning what this 'emergency' was, a police officer pointed out to the pant-wetting councillors and managers that going to a public meeting isn't yet a crime.

And as for the newspaper? "You don't have to read it," they explained.

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HORROR HOME

→ Continued from page 1

at her new care home a few hours later.

Similarly, Ms Meek and Holmwood can provide no explanation as to how the woman lost such a large amount of weight. What there is of Holmwood's slapdash medical records - that have been heavily criticised by the CQC - seem to show the patient experienced no weight loss.

Her family are therefore left to believe their mother somehow lost a third of her body weight, her swallowing reflex and caught terminal pneumonia during a half hour ambulance journey to a new care home.

This latest scandal comes just three years after another family with a deceased relative at the home was told that his medical records had all been burned by the gardener. Although, miraculously, once a coroners inquest was complete, the records reappeared!

Family of the home's latest victim are consulting lawyers with a view to taking action for negligence against the home, the city council and the home's GP Dr Norman Douglas.

Good news then. This dump needs closing down immediately and the guilty and incompetent need to be identified and punished.

BRISTOLIAN bites

UNIFORMLY BAD

NEWS reaches us from Totterdown that a last bastion of individualism, Hillcrest Primary School, is considering trussing the kids up in starched school uniforms, Hitler Youth Style.

Sickened by the sight of five year olds skipping into school in rainbow coloured clothes, the school, restricted from using the slipper to knock every last bit of fun out of the lively things, is resorting to sticking them all in a crap uniform to kill their spirits instead. Apparently the only thing that stands between this mixed bag of kids and the meritocracy is some cheap nasty navy nylon.

In an attempt at divide and rule, the school has set the community against each other by proposing a parent vote for or against a uniform. As locals toil through the night on Facebook to get their voice heard, it's of little point as the management hasn't the slightest clue about communication and thinks digital media is wagging a finger at the secretary.

Maybe this is what parents want? Totterdown, once a bastion of boho and the working class, has been taken over by middle class, middle income families who reject old school liberal values in favour of the nonsense of corporate meritocracy.

The poor fucking kids. They'll be trussed up in starched uniforms and dragged from piano lesson to tag rugby training from the age of four if these fuckers have their way.

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL FINANCIAL CRISIS: "LARGE NUMBER OF FRAUDS AND NON-COMPLIANCE IDENTIFIED"

AUDIT LATEST

LIKE their buses, you wait for ages for a council internal audit report to come along and then two arrive at once! Just weeks after the car crash of their late arriving 'quarter one' report revealed in the last issue of the BRISTOLIAN comes a prompt multiple pile-up - the 'quarter 2' report.

And things appear to have got worse. Among many highlights is the fact that their own auditors are unable to offer an opinion on whether their new 'Agresso Business World Local Government Platform' finance software - purchased for a snip from outsourcing specialists Agilisys for a bargain £40m - actually works after six months in use!

Elsewhere, they're openly agreeing that their procurement processes are an absolute shambles. "The lower levels of procurement are still of concern as evidenced by THE NUMBER OF FRAUDS AND NON-COMPLIANCE identified in this area," they now breezily admit.

Meanwhile an investigation in to the 'material income misappropriation' in the cash-in-transit service EXCLUSIVELY revealed in our last issue drifts aimlessly in to a fourth month and may well have gone in to reverse. Last month we were told they were producing an 'action plan' to sort the mess out. Now it's just 'under investigation'.

If the Markets Service is anything to go by, this is

all on course, then, to be resolved by around, er ... Early 2015! (Excepting 'residual issues' of course).

The final punchline to these endless tales of bent managers and fucked finance systems comes with the revelation that only fifty per cent of the council's internal audit recommendations get implemented. This means half the council's middle managers caught in the act simply IGNORE instructions to sort finances out. On paper ignoring audit instructions is a sackable offence. In reality no one in charge gives a toss ...

WITCHCRAFT WATCH

BRISTOL City Council's former finance boss, Peter Robinson, who scarpereed to Hereford a month ago with a £50k payout and a gag to silence him forever, was an active freemason.

And, we're told, he wasn't averse to sidling up to clubbable city council suits of a certain age and inviting them to join him in getting their trouser legs up, their nipples out and an apron on.

Is it really surprising that procurement contracts on Robinson's watch are now being classified as dodgy? And how many council managers still remain who believe in the "supreme being" and love a noose around their neck in their spare time?

Town Greens

PUBLIC LAND, PRIVATE GAIN?

Why on Earth is a part-time corporate property developer allowed to call the shots at Wellington Hill Playing Fields?

ONLY a mere six months after being asked by residents in Horfield, Bristol City Council council lawyers have finally figured out who's in charge of their failing and costly anti-Town Green policy of lies, deception and delay for the Wellington Hill Playing Fields and others.

Please step forward Robert "Spunkface" Orrett, who has the long-winded job title of 'Service Director - Strategic Property, Bristol City Council'.

Although it appears Spunkface also has another job - as 'Consultant BNP Paribas Real Estate'.

Yes, you did read that last sentence correctly. The man in charge of all the council's land and property; the man trying to prevent Wellington Hill Playing Fields becoming a Town Green so the council can flog it to property developers is, er ... Also a corporate property developer!

Despite Orrett being in post for over a year now, it seems the combined intellects of George and his compadres on the third floor of Shitty Hall

are yet to spot this massive conflict interest. Or maybe they have and they just don't care!

We're also told that it's Spunkface who has been personally negotiating in secret with the Bristol Cathedral School since January to hand them two floors of our Grade 1 listed Central Library to use as a 'free' primary school ...

Surely it would be more sensible for the council to employ a property boss who works for us and the city rather than for private business interests?



Spot the difference: world cup winner and executive home

MARKET FARGES

Cash gone missing, whistleblowers 'disappeared', finances 'of concern': council's most useless department still in total chaos after 18 months ...

THIS latest audit report reveals that the council's crisis hit MARKET SERVICE - where £165k disappeared last year without any coherent explanation - remains 'of concern'. This is how it's been for eighteen months now. Will it ever end?

The BRISTOLIAN can also reveal that, so far, the main action taken by Facilities boss Tony "THE TOERAG" Harvey and his gormless gopher Markets boss Steve "god botherer" Morris to sort out their financial disaster area was to redeploy two whistleblowers out of the department under the guise of a departmental reorganisation!

One of the whistleblowers was even subsequently awarded thousands in an OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT after it turned out the recruitment process they used to get rid of them was er, bent!

Having disposed of their troublesome staff late last year, Harvey and Morris then immediately forked out on pricey agency staff because their new staff structure didn't comply with the

council's financial regulations! And, we're told, the idiots squandered a further £5k on a consultant to try and sort out their ongoing financial mess.

This obviously failed because here we are a year later with a department whose finances remain - and we quote - "of concern". So just how much more money are council taxpayers expected to fork out so that these two can piss £165k of public money up the wall and cover it up?

It's certainly mighty convenient for the two men in charge that whistleblowers have been 'disappeared'; £165k remains totally unaccounted for and no one can get to the bottom of the financial circumstances in the Markets Service don't you think?

Meanwhile, there's no sign of the investigation promised by the service's political boss Sir Gus Hoyty-Toyty after he revealed last summer that cash had been stolen from the Markets Office safe. It's obviously bent middle managers calling all the shots on Hoyty-Toyty's watch then.

BEAUTIFUL GAME ON UGLY PITCHES

By our football correspondent, Hose Moanrhino

OUR chief scout on the touchline every Saturday morning with the Avon Youth League is taking issue with the suits at the FA who have claimed - for the umpteenth time - that the reason the England team is rubbish and we can't compete internationally is because of the poor grassroots coaching of young people.

"Nonsense," says our man in the Umbro anorak and bobble hat. "The standard of our youth football is high. It's pass and run football. There's no one hoofing it around at all.

"In fact, the biggest problem actually facing our young footballers is the number and quality of decent pitches to play this kind of football on."

Is it time, then, for the suits of the FA to get out of the posh executive boxes of Wembley, Old Trafford and the Emirates and go and have a proper look at the grassroots youth game?

As should our self-aggrandising local suits at the Counts Louse who pay lip service to the beautiful game if it means spending £50m hosting a few world cup games to make themselves look good.

However, for just a fraction of that figure, they could actually help us win the World Cup by preserving, protecting and maintaining football pitches to a high standard in the city and stop them from being sold off by their staff for the development of crappy executive homes. Fat chance.

LEGAL NEWS

MORE heat than light is being generated on the subject of the judicial review into SAINSBURYS AT THE MEM as Tory MP "Sugar Ray" Charlotte Leslie, Nazi Post editor Fuhrer Norton and Rovers Chairman Nick Higgs collectively continue to burst a gasket over the forthcoming legal challenge.

Strangely, while they rant endlessly and inanely on the subject at every opportunity, they're rather coy about what the legal challenge is all about. Could that be because they know Bristol City Council has ROYALLY SCREWED UP another stadium project?

There's three grounds to the judicial review. But it's ground two that really catches the eye. As it seems that Bristol City Council planning officers may have INTENTIONALLY MISREPRESENTED to the planning committee the report by the council's retail consultants, GVA, into the impact the supermarket would have on the Gloucester Road. The council planners basically claimed that GVA had said the impact would be minimal.

When GVA got wind of this they wrote a letter to the planning committee explaining their actual position and making clear their views were being misrepresented. And what did council planners do with this vital letter? They WITHELD it from the committee!

Since the impact of the Sainsburys on the Gloucester Road shops was a critical material consideration in the determination of the planning application, it looks like the council could be in trouble here ...

BRISTOLIAN bites

THIEVES IN THE TEMPLE

WHILE we may have said farewell to Graham Skinner, the man behind the council's move to 100 Temple Street, the lunatic levels of spending on the project continue.

Skinner had been raising eyebrows for some time with his wild spending ways. Particularly when he started employing a series of expensive private sector consultants to sort out the move to the new offices.

We're told the going rate for arranging the office furniture and ordering in the pot plants at Temple Street is between £600 AND £1,000 A DAY!!!

Even more crazy when you consider council staff trained and qualified to do this work are sat right now twiddling their thumbs in the Counts Louse.

Is this an example of the private sector financial discipline Skinner's boss Robert 'Spunkface' Orrett was brought in to implement?

BEDROOM TAX LATEST

LOOKS like Mayor Fer-godssake-go and his sidekick Hoyty-Toyty have bought wholesale in to their Tory boy housing managers' views. Their short-lived 'no evictions' policy for the bedroom tax is now effectively scrapped.

Although the pair haven't bothered to agree the change at cabinet or formerly announce any policy change, the outlook for tenants stuck with the stupid Tory tax looks bleak.

Latest news suggests that of the 2,920 Bristol households affected by the bedroom tax, 1,990 are now behind with their rent. While 250 have already received a 'NOTICE OF SEEKING POSSESSION' from the council.

That's the prelude to court proceedings and then eviction for tenants. In some cases this could happen before Christmas. The rest will get similar treatment in the new year when they inevitably reach the trigger point of eight weeks' rent arrears.

HOYTYS GOURMET JOY

MEANWHILE, more news emerges about the level of involvement of the increasingly erratic Hoyty-Toyty in the sordid business.

It was Hoyty-Toyty who, having previously told anyone who'd listen there'd be "no evictions on my watch", did a 180 degree U-turn and produced a report - on the advice of council managers, of course - proposing that council tenants who ran up Bedroom Tax arrears should be, er ... evicted!

However, on the day he was meant to deliver the good news to a full meeting of the council, the CABINET COWARD scarpereed on a Euro-junket to the URBACT sustainable food project in Oslo. In his words: "The food we were served was exceptional and ranged from home grown to foraged to gourmet."

So that's all right then. Gourmet food for Cabinet members and homeless on the streets at Christmas for council tenants on benefits.

Welcome to Gus and George's "thriving" city

Is City of Bristol College

BROKE?

City's largest supplier of skills and training to youngsters is on the brink

STUDENTS and staff are paying the price as FINANCIAL CHAOS engulfs City of Bristol College (CoBC) while what remains of the bungling management is forced to pay back £5.4m to the government after "over estimating" how many students would be attending the college.

Meanwhile huge sums of money have already headed out the door after the incompetent managers who caused the problem were "let go" with "packages" amounting to £2.46M between them!

It appears inevitable that inspectors from regulator Ofsted will return early next year, when the college should be put into special measures and its hopeless governors fired.

However, a source has told *The BRISTOLIAN*. "CoBC has been graded UNSATISFACTORY by Ofsted, who are coming back in February, but it wouldn't surprise me if it were graded 3 - 'requires improvement' - even though the college is now a worse place for students than it was a year ago - as the new management know how to play the game."

And managers "playing the game" means lots of staff losing their jobs - maybe up to a hundred. This is despite the fact that according to the Association of Colleges, CoBC lecturers already have the highest contact hours (stood in front of a class) and the lowest wages out of the 170 further

education establishments in England and Wales.

The college is addressing all this by firing staff at an alarming rate. They are also reducing contact hours and increasing wages but are piling on more responsibilities. For example, duties like curriculum development are now expected to be carried out by lecturers. This was traditionally done by Programme Coordinators who were teaching for far fewer hours and were paid much more than lecturers.

Further savings are being made by agency staff replacing staff on permanent contracts. This means staff turnover is high and no connection is made with learners and the experience for students is poor. There is also nothing for students to do during break times as many facilities have simply been sold off.

And as the college now has no money, management has been cramming in as many students into classes as possible to grab government grant funding, even if facilities aren't there to accommodate them. *The BRISTOLIAN* has heard reports of groups of 16 year olds being put into workshops with adult learners because there isn't enough staff to teach them separately. Alarmingly, we have also heard that young females have been harassed by adult males.

Yet again in Bristol, managers bungle and get big money - while everyone else pays the price.

BRISTOLIAN bites

THINK OF THE CHILDREN!

WE learn it all got a bit heated over the fennel and coriander crusted sea bass at this year's Lord Mayor Of Bristol's Children's Appeal Dinner at the Mercure Hotel.

It seems that some tired and emotional Labour Party folk who spent the early evening at a gala dinner in Bradley Stoke with Ed "The Dead" Miliband then "gatecrashed" the Lord Mayor's glamorous event in Redcliffe later in the evening.

It then kicked off a few hours and drinks after their arrival. Details are sketchy but we're told in the Red (Labour) corner were Hibaq "To Basics" Jama and former Bristol Labour Chair, Darren "Charmschool" Lewis and in the Red (Trouser) corner were Zoe "List Tick" Sear and Leighton "Buzzard" De Burca.

So heated did things get that the event organisers and hotel staff had to intervene to separate the parties!

PRIMARY FAIL

THE city's most entertaining politically non-political political party does it again!

"This will be a significant democratic event in Bristol, offering the public the opportunity to engage in local politics in a new way," announced our friends at the Bristol Indyredpants Party.

And the cause of this latest piece of guff? Their so-called 'Redland Primary', pencilled in for Saturday 1 December, when you - the voter - could select their candidate for Redland.

Alas, just three days before this significant democratic event, a message appeared on Twitter - "The IFB Redland primary will not take place on Saturday."

Oh dear. What went wrong? Presumably nothing to do with Stella Hender/Perrett featured in *BRISTOLIAN 4.8* being the only candidate?

JUNKET GEORGE UPDATE

At last! The big one. Only a month after our environmentalist mayor's last long-haul flight, he's off gallivanting at our expense again. This time to China. To Bristol's twin city Guangzhou and then on to Beijing for a chinwag at the hottest (if least comprehensible) ticket in town - the 2013 EU-China Urbanization Partnership Forum.

The purpose of the trip is a little unclear although, apparently, the plan is to drum up trade and investment for Bristol. What's he planning to sell them then? "Ark at 'ee' t-shirts? Although, in fairness to George, he did get together with Guangzhou senior communist bureaucrat, Mayor Chen Jianhua in Beijing and sign something called a 'an urbanization partnership agreement'.

We don't know what it is either but the Chinese Communist Party say it will "build a broad partnership in urbanization, and collaborative projects in education, employment, sustainable development and smart city on the basis of the Guangzhou International Innovation City."

How exciting. Here at *the BRISTOLIAN* we're eagerly looking forward to collaborating with the Chinese Communist Party, especially on employment matters. No doubt they've a lot to teach us about forced labour, work camps and how to physically prevent your miserably depressed workforce from killing themselves.

It's not yet clear whether these partnership arrangements will also include skill-sharing around other Chinese Communist Party specialities such as land theft, high-level corruption, imprisonment without trial, punishment beatings and torture.

We can only wait with bated breath ...

The BRISTOLIAN

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