

PAYNE'S GREY



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Life in the storied
community of Bristol

June 2025

EDITOR'S LETTER

How do you tell a story when the story is that there is no story?

That was the confusing, paradoxical and somewhat annoying question put to our returning writer, Thomas Groves, early on in the production of this issue.

(Writer is probably selling him short there, turning him one-dimensional, which everyone knows it doesn't pay to be nowadays. Writer/podcaster/commentator/documentarian/gameshow host/soon to be university graduate would be more appropriate a title, probably.)

Thomas was asked this question when given the unenviable task of telling the story of William Payne, the eponymous painter behind this issue's colour.

As you will no doubt go on to read, it's a sad story, a story of a fame that never was, a slow and gentle fade at the end of an influential life.

Without giving too much away, that story gives to us not just our colour for this issue, but our theme: fading into obscurity.

On this, our fourth issue, we've curated a selection of work from the young people of Bristol all around that theme.

Photographer Kione Dracott looks at the buildings and urban spaces left to live in obscurity in his photo essay 'Abandon.'

Always fascinated and drawn to the space left by urban decay, the collection is his first deep dive into that hidden world, but likely not his last.

Marley Rusling then focuses his lens on the historic Central Library, a beautiful, cherished public service building, a place which conveniently serves as synecdoche, an image representative of all libraries, a long-standing institution under constant threat.

Relentless author Kory Cook guest features with an introspective piece looking back at the ten years since Bristol City's promotion to the second-tier of the Entlish League.

Through a reminiscent prism, he asks the question: has that decade provided the joy and excitement anticipated in 2015 after a double winning season, or instead been a slow, dull slog through the purgatory of the Championship mid table?

Finally, Phoebe Clifford shines a light on Bristol's best loved and least known artist, educator and philanthropist, Anton Bantock, the founder of the wonderfully named University of Withywood.

In a similarly wistful manner, Phoebe celebrates his legacy on the ten year anniversary of his passing, and asks the reader in a not so rhetorical sense to make sure that Anton, unlike Payne, does not get forgotten. Our work here is just a fraction of what's being done to ensure that happens.

We are thankful to everyone involved in that effort, and to everyone who has helped us with this issue.

Rich Collins

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Payne's Grey: A Colourful Story

Thomas Groves paints a picture of murky obscurity in 18th century England

"The strange thing about Payne's gray is that, once you know its name, you start to see it everywhere."

How do you want to be remembered?

It's a question we all must face as we trudge towards our inevitable deaths, the answer no doubt morphing multiple times throughout the course of our brief existences. It's also a question that we ourselves will never answer. That intimate onus shall be handed to those who survive us, and all we can do is pray they do us justice.

Legacy is something I think we all to some level desperately desire. It's a distinctly human thing to want, and something we've been grappling with ever since our species grew beyond mere survival. Ever since our purpose became something more than just to ensure we weren't humanity's last offspring.

It's also a surprisingly hard subject to write on. Such a profound matter demands far too many words than this introduction to *Tellers Magazine* will allow. So it is fortunate we have ourselves a case study to indulge in. A word of warning however, this article is likely to induce an unwanted existential crisis if approached withuncertainty. I hope it's a consolation that I, too, will be joining you in that uncomfortable vortex.

William Payne is one of watercolour painting's most prominent men. His contribution? Giving his name to the colour that, as the quote at the top reads, you can find in almost any watercolour.

From the Tate to the Louvre, perhaps even in a small puddle on the pavement, this innocuous little shade of blue-grey sits innocently in every corner of the world. Such a man, you are likely thinking, must be lauded the painting world over.

How have I never heard of him before if his supposed legacy has bled almost accidentally into defining an entire style of art? Surely his memory is at least worth a question on *Who Wants to Be A Millionaire?*

If it's any consolation, I'd never heard of him either.

In fact, pretty much no one has.

In a bizarre and tragic twist, William Payne is very much a man known by only his name, and the colour that bears it. We don't know where or when he was born, where or at what age he died, or even how he found watercolour painting in the first place.

He is, for all intents and purposes, a ghost. The only reason we know he existed at all was a series of scarcely traceable records that give the vaguest of insights into his life. Really, Payne's seeming mastery of historical invisibility is enough to make Jack The Ripper proud.

To some that might be eerie, to end up as nothing more than an ominous name attached to a specific colour. To find themselves immortalised in a small part of a painting, and a method of mixing lost to time. Likewise, I don't think finding oneself the namesake of a 1990's prog-rock band from Germany helps all that much.

Returning to Payne, we do at least have some glimpse into the mysterious man's life. We do know, for example, that after he found painting he spent much of his time in London teaching on the subject.

We do know he managed to gain some level of fanfare during his life, exhibited a few works (though in keeping with trend, no idea where) and that he's rumoured to have been a civil engineer in Plymouth before taking up painting as a profession.

But just as I thought I might be getting somewhere to figure out William Payne's untold story, the trail went subzero. That brief paragraph is all we know. Perhaps someday new light will be shed, and Payne's story will emerge from its sarcophagus, buried not in sand but time. But it is very likely a modern Howard Carter will never step forward. Just like so many sarcophagi, Payne's true treasures will be held deep in some ancient tomb, guarded by the dark, murky veil of what we call history.

And so it brings us back to the beautiful little question wrapped in an existential crisis, with a twist: all this time I've been delving deep into idealism.

The truth is we have no say in the future interpretations of ourselves.



All we can do is plant the seeds that our successors will harvest. So really then, the question is, I think, something more direct. It's also potentially far more useful.

How will you be remembered?

Be honest. Whatever's popped into your head as you read this, I suggest you pay attention. Do you like your answer? Do you perhaps seek to change it? If so, please by all means do until the want and the will align.

There is one more idea that I am still yet to explore, and that's another matter entirely. A matter that might arrive with an obvious answer hanging off its coattails, but one which, when you take a proper peek behind it, reveals some new fascinations of human nature.

Why do we want to be remembered in the first place?

It's a natural instinct, I think, to want to matter. To feel like you have achieved something that no one else has. And it's what many artists, politicians and people have achieved. And deep down it's what we all are seeking.

I want to be remembered, as I imagine do you. Yet I still see the appeal of being forgotten. To exist for a mere moment in the great vastness of time itself, and to allow one's own name to truly rest. Because while no one will know you existed, you don't run the many risks of those remembered. You don't lose credibility like Edison, your failures won't define you as nearly happened to Nobel. In fact that's what caused him to create the famed prize: Alfred was falsely reported dead, and fearing his name be ruined for the dynamite he created, the Swede made a prize for the best of society. And what do you know, it actually worked! Until I just told you that story, I suppose…

And in some weird yet profoundly poetic way, this is the path William Payne took, whether intentionally or not. You don't have to go through the mental gymnastics of remembrance, and instead avoid all the pitfalls I've alluded to.

It'll probably make your life a bit easier, not having that enormous pressure to find your way into page one-hundred and fifty-three on a history book some three hundred years in the future.

Someday I'll probably be remembered for something I do. As for how long and by whom, I've no idea. Perhaps my immortalisation will come in the form of the words you're reading now, in your spaceship on Mars or something. If so, Hi. I hope things are going well for you guys and that the extended editions of T*he Lord of Rings* film trilogy are still in circulation.

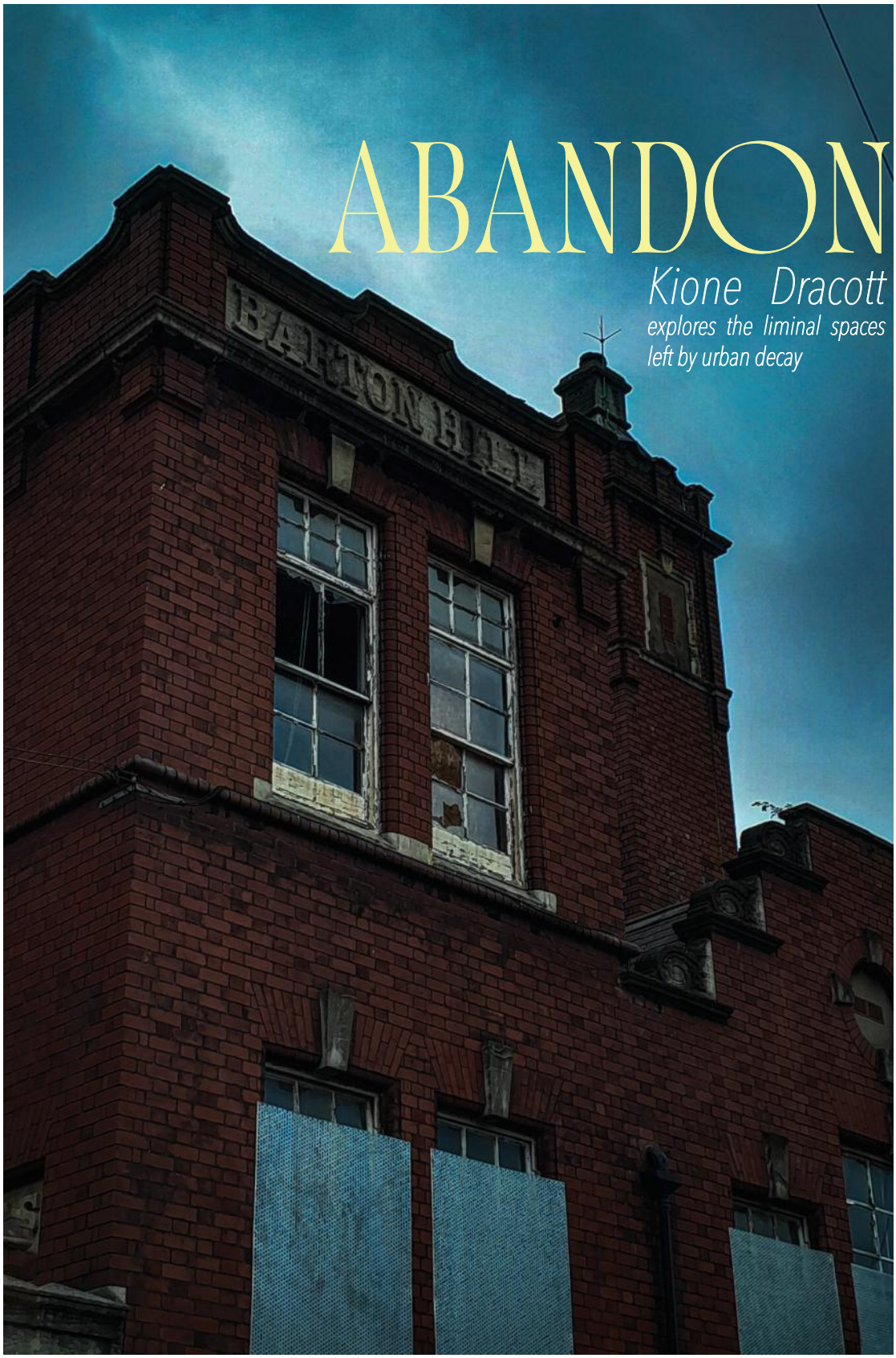
Because that's the definitive truth of Payne's Grey and the man behind it. Eventually we die, and become little more than thoughts lodged in the heads of others. We sort of appear to them through many different things as funny little ghosts.

So, in summary, all this is out of our control. We don't decide how, why, for what and by whom we are remembered. My final advice is this:

Just in case no one else does, make sure to remember yourself.







ABANDON

Kione Dracott explores the liminal spaces left by urban decay

Kione Dracott is a passionate photographer who enjoys capturing nature and its opposite: urban decay.

He first got into photography when it was introduced to him in school at the tender stage of year nine.

At school, it was by far his favourite subject and it inspired him to pursue it as a career.

That journey so far has seen him create his own zine. This is a project in which he knew he wanted to do something unique.

The idea of abandoned buildings came into his mind and he knew it was something interesting. But it wasn't a straightforward process. At the beginning, he struggled to find abandoned places that aligned with his vision.

How do you find a place that has been abandoned? How do you find a place no one goes?

With some help from experienced photographers, he found Rockaway park.

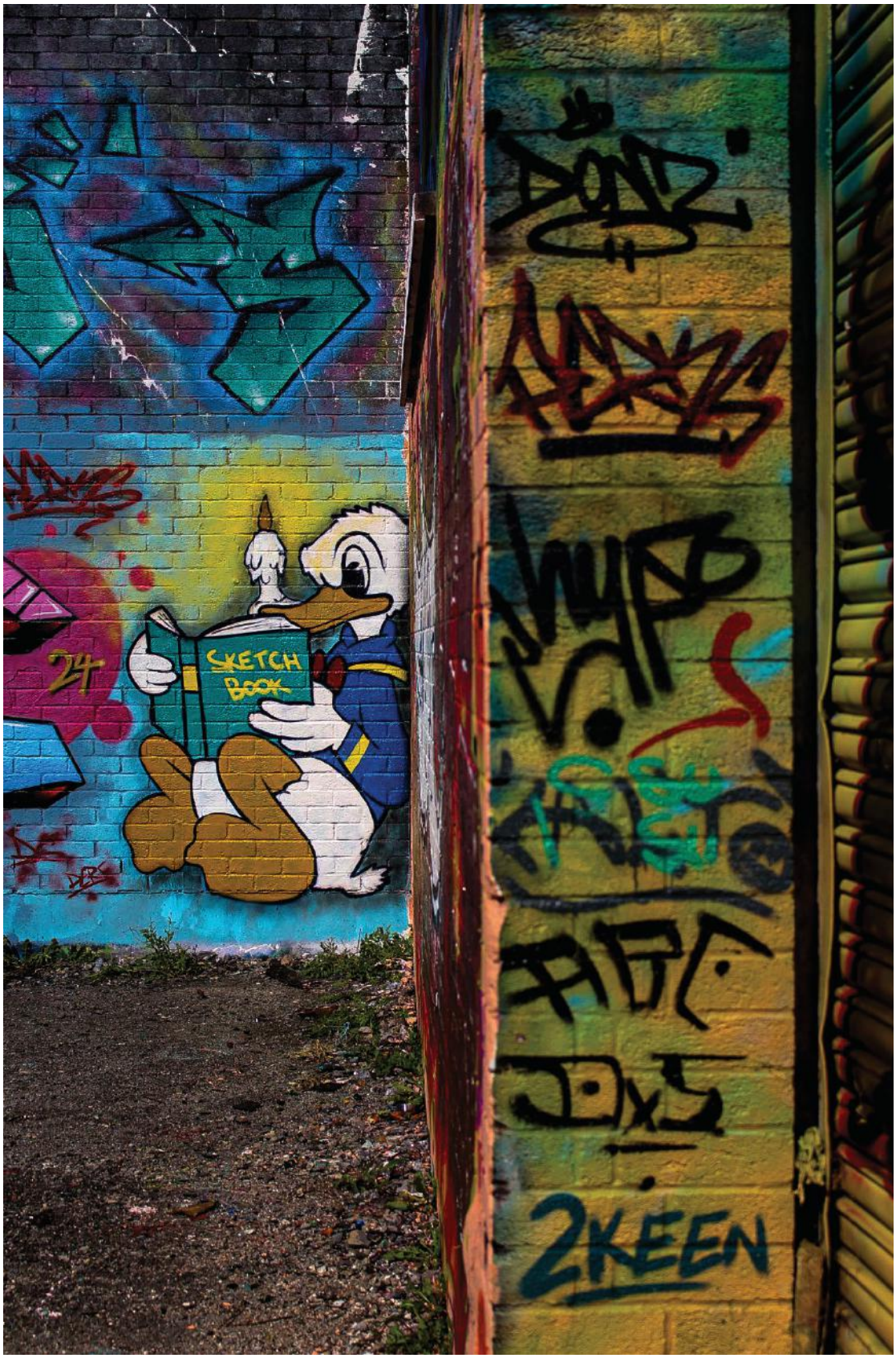
He found what he was looking for, and his journey took him to other places too.

The result is what you will see on the following pages.

Abandonment and urban decay is a strange kind of beauty.

It has an inherent sadness to it, but a magnetism too, as if you can't look away, even if you might want to.




SKETCH
BOOK
24
2KEEN


Push bar to open










A
O E
H L A
N T C O
H L A O T
N T O L A E
MIX

LIBRARY

Marley Rusling captures the fading light of a cherished public institution







For centuries, 'the library' has been an important cultural institution.

Since the days of the great library of Alexandria, all through the Roman empire and middles ages, there has been a place that serves as a home of books, but not really books, ideas.

After all, that's what a book is, the containing of an idea.

It seems that today, in a land where information is freely available everywhere but impossible to really find through the sponsored results and adverts and fake news and post-truth, the library, as a home of ideas, is more important than ever.

But not just as a home of ideas.

The trruth with libraries is that, even if they are most closely associated with books, books really take up a fraction of what they are.

They are warm, communal places, probably one of the last places remaining where anyone can enter, without being asked for a ticket, for ID, for money, without being asked to sign in and make a password and scan the QR code and so on.

In recent years, it"s been widely reported in Bristol that in the last few years library services have been shrinking. A zombie service. Reduced hours. Anti-social behaviour.

Look at The Bristol Cable, Bristol 24/7 or BBC if you want to see for yourself.

The places that once provided safety, warmth and access to information in today's land of no truth, are under existential threat.

It seems that there is less and less of a place for the library. It seems it is fading into obscurity.

Unless, if you look at history, is this just a period of transition?

Until as late as the 1800s, libraries were mostly reserved for monastics and academics and culturally elite people. They went through a period of change and became open to the public. When the computer was first invented, they had no place in libraries. But now they are common in libraries. They went through a period of change.

Now with computers everywhere, and smartphones and generally higher living standards, perhaps this is just another period of change.

What the future might hold for libraries remains unclear.

While libraries around Bristol might be dying against the light, Marley Rusling has turned his lens on the Central Library.

Built in 1906, and designed by Charles Holden, the building has been cited as an influence in the development of Edwardian Free Style architecture, a style recognisable through its grand, baroque features, dome like rooftops and ornate sculptures.

It's a beautiful building, its features captured here in monochrome.






Music
Plays
Drama
154
170
200


1906
THIS BUILDING WAS ERECTED BY MEANS OF MONIES
BEQUEATHED TO THE CITY OF BRISTOL BY
VINCENT STUCKEY LEAN ESQ A FORMER CITIZEN

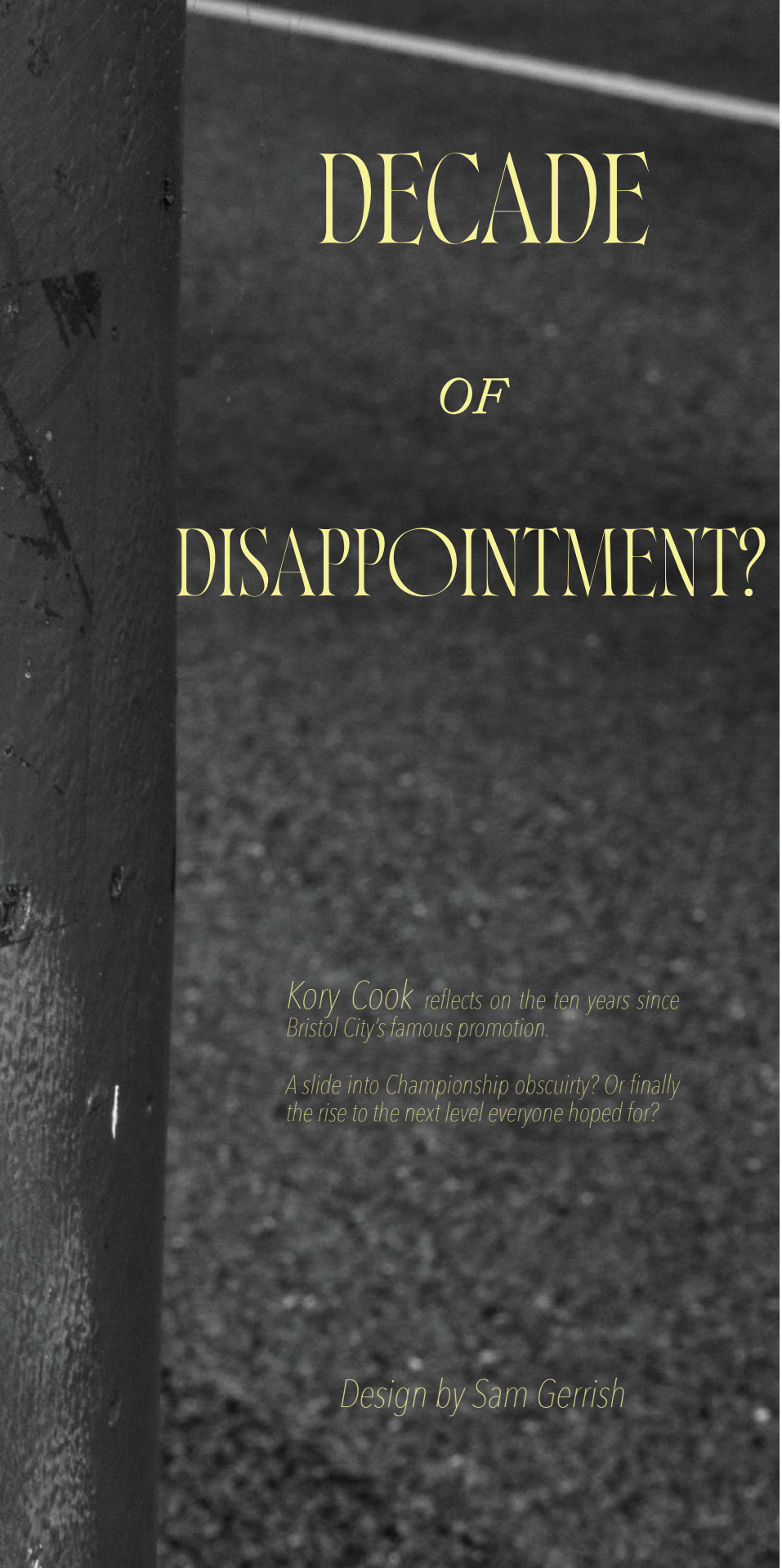









EST 1894
BRISTOL
CITY



DECADE

OF

DISAPPOINTMENT?

Kory Cook reflects on the ten years since Bristol City's famous promotion.

A slide into Championship obscuirty? Or finally the rise to the next level everyone hoped for?

Design by Sam Gerrish



‘We’ve waited 60 years for this. Bristol City are Sky Bet League One Champions!’

Those were the words used by Ashton Gate PA Announcer David Lloyd on the final day of the 2014/15 season as Bristol City rounded off clinching their first league title in six decades with an emphatic 8-2 demolition of Walsall in BS3; A result and performance which just about summed that squad up.

With 99 points, 96 goals, 29 wins, just five losses, and a JPT final win at Wembley to boot, Steve Cotterill’s Bristol City are hailed as one of the best third tier sides of all time. Fans were optimistic that they would go from strength to strength after promotion to the Championship, with a young, hungry and talented squad at their disposal. It wasn’t to be, however, and Cotterill was sacked before Christmas of the following season.

A decade on, City are heading into their eleventh consecutive season in the Second Tier of English football, and are onto their fifth manager since Cotterill left in 2015. Despite reaching the play-off’s last season, along with a couple of top six pushes and the odd threat of relegation, The Robins have been pretty steady since promotion, but the most frequent question asked still stands:

Have the club really progressed during their lengthy stint in the Championship?

Fans would’ve been forgiven for thinking the side that won League One at a canter would be comfortable in the Championship, with some even dreaming of back to back promotions similar to those achieved by Southampton and Ipswich over previous years.

It wasn’t to be though, as Cotterill had a nightmare transfer window, failing in huge bids for Dwight Gayle and Andre Gray of Crystal Palace and Brentford respectively.

Jonathan Kodjia was a highlight of that summer window, coming in as a relatively unknown quantity from Angers and going on to score 20 goals before moving on to Aston Villa just a year later for £15m. Cotterill was relieved of his duties in November with City sitting in the bottom three and looking in danger of an immediate return to League One, and owner Steve Lansdown was quick to bring in Barnsley Head Coach Lee Johnson, the son of former City manager Gary Johnson who had played for the club under his fathers stewardship.

It was perceived as a gamble to bring the 34-year-old in with the team in such a precarious position, but said gamble paid off as City comfortably survived. January signings Lee Tomlin and Peter Odemwingie were vital in the eventual survival of Johnson's side, but led to fans questioning why Cotterill did not receive such backing the summer previous.

Those questions were only enhanced as Johnson made a total of 14 signings, spending upwards of £10m in the process.

This included the permanent capture of Lee Tomlin, who was influential in City's survival the year before whilst on loan, for a club record fee of just under £3.5m.

Optimism for the season quickly turned to concern as City were in real threat of another relegation battle come Christmas, losing a record EIGHT games in a row as fans called for Johnson's head.

The January signing of striker Matty Taylor from bitter rivals Bristol Rovers snatched the headlines, as he struck up a good partnership with young Chelsea loanee Tammy Abraham and City ended the season on a high, eventually improving on the previous years position by a single place.

2017/18 proved to be one of the best seasons in City's modern history, but still ended in disappointment as fans were left dreaming of what could have been.





The Robins sat second on New Year's Day, fresh from beating Manchester United in the Carabao Cup quarter-final the week before. A defeat to top of the league Wolves, followed by a 5-0 demolition at the hands of Aston Villa derailed the season and City ended up finishing 11th, four points outside the playoffs. Many fans question the effect the United game, and the subsequent double-header against Manchester City, had on an already thin City squad.

The summer of 2018 was one of significant change for City's squad, with regulars Bobby Reid and Joe Bryan getting Premier League moves after impressing the season before, and Aden Flint joining fellow Championship outfit Middlesbrough in a £7m deal. Standout signings included Adam Webster, Andreas Weimann, Jay Dasilva and Tomas Kalas, all of whom settled in seamlessly as Johnson's side started the season strongly. A run of 15 games unbeaten either side of New Year saw City soar into contention for promotion, and they were fourth with six games remaining after the 3-2 win over fellow play-off hunting West Brom at Ashton Gate.

Back to back losses to Sheffield Wednesday and Derby County left The Robins' Premier League dream hanging by a thread, the latter of which saw Antoine Semenyo sent off and City hit the woodwork three times. Johnson's men went into the final day trip to Hull City with an outside chance of finishing in the top 6, and despite a respectable 1-1 draw



MAN CITY V BRISTOL CITY
9TH JANUARY 2018

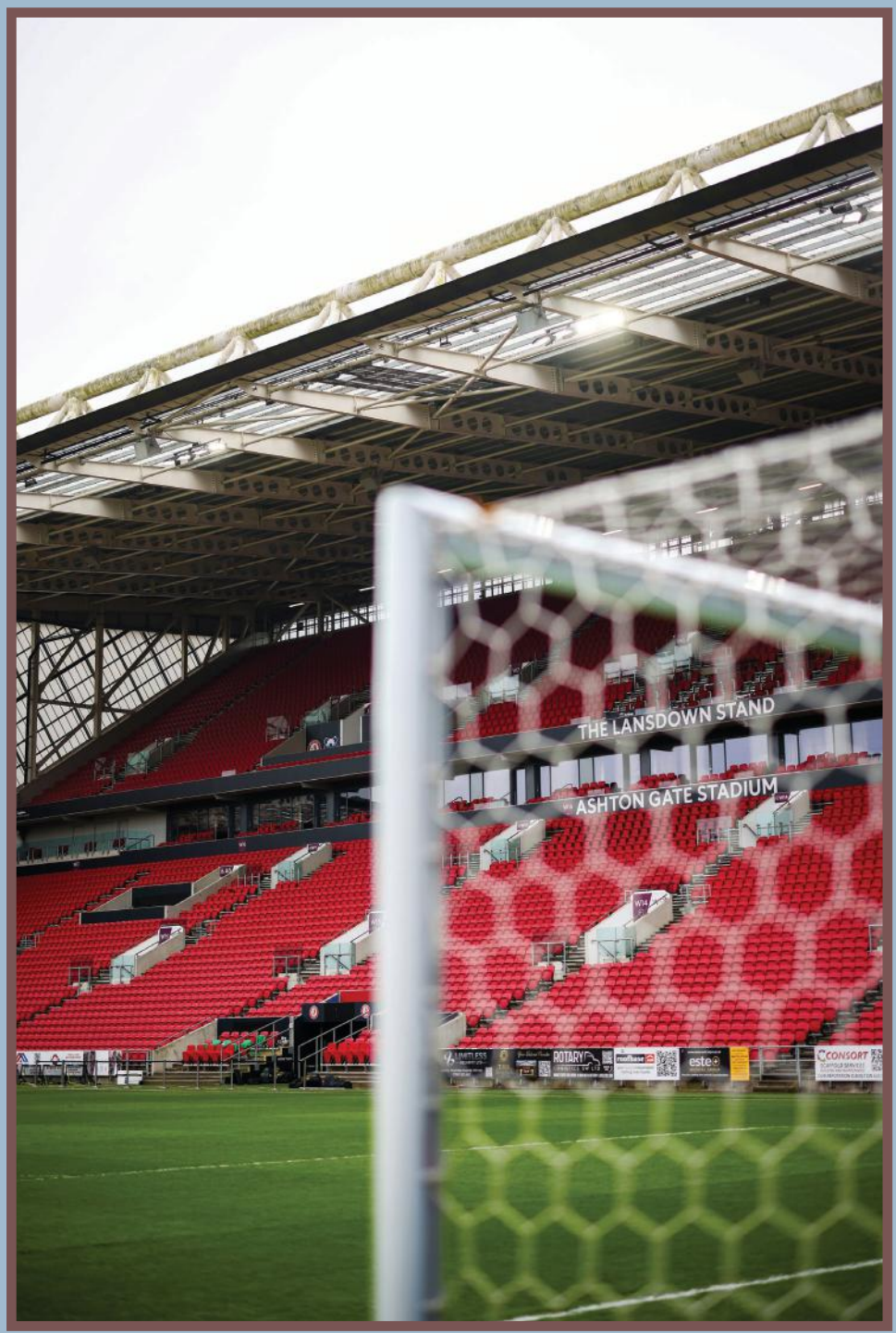
at the KCOM Stadium, Derby's win over West Brom saw The Rams over the line.

The season after started three seasons of regression for Bristol City really as mistakes were made with both outgoings and incomings and Lee Johnson lost his job amid a nation wide lockdown due to COVID19, which saw fans banished from stadiums for almost 18 months.

Johnson's Assistant Dean Holden was controversially given the job and started well, but injuries and poor recruitment saw him lose his job with City falling quickly down the table. Nigel Pearson was brought in and won his two first games, but the team was full of older players on too much money and it was quickly obvious that Pearson had a bigger job on his hands than just on the pitch.

City had two mediocre seasons under Pearson, albeit with a handful of good runs here and there, but the job he did behind the scenes was massively important. He turned the squad from an ageing one with a number of poor attitudes and players who didn't want to be here, to a young, hungry group of players, made from a core of academy products who knew the club inside out.

2022/23 was a year in which City made real progress under Pearson, with Antoine Semenyo and Alex Scott, along with the emergence of Sam Bell as a regular first team player, shining in a side full of talent.


THE LANSDOWN STAND
ASHTON GATE STADIUM
ROTARY
CONSORT

Semenyo was sold to Bournemouth for upwards of £9m in January and replaced by Wycombe starlet Anis Mehmeti, showing City's clear strategy of signing young, hungry footballers in order to be successful.

There was huge optimism heading into the 23/24 season, even after Scott headed to, you guessed it, Bournemouth for just over £20m.

New signings Jason Knight and Rob Dickie shone in particular as City started the season in strong fashion, but a poor run of results and an injury crisis led to a rather unpopular decision.

Nigel Pearson was sacked and replaced by Oxford United boss Liam Manning. The club wanted a change in direction, and although Pearson had undoubtedly done a good job in terms of a change of atmosphere and environment, the hierarchy felt a young, hungry Head Coach was needed for this young, hungry group of players.

City made progress and a 1-1 draw away at West Ham in the FA Cup, followed by a 1-0 win at Ashton Gate in the replay, started a strong run for Manning's side.

The January signing of Scott Twine had fans dreaming of a promotion push, but it wasn't meant to be, as City fell away during the business period of the season. They did however end the season with a run of just one loss in their final ten games, which allowed for real optimism heading into Manning's first full season in charge.

At the time of writing, City have made real progress in recent times. They reached the Championship top six for the first time since the Wembley heartbreak of 2008, albeit going on to become statistically the worst play-off side in history, losing 6-0 on aggregate to Sheffield United.

It could have been a different story however, had Joe Williams' long-range effort nestled into the top corner rather than rattling the crossbar, or if Rob Dickie hadn't been hardly sent-off for the denial of a goalscoring opportunity at 0-0 during the first leg.

But that is the buzzword: progress. Have Bristol City made real progress over the last ten years since promotion?

The answer to that is yes, really. Football fans can be fickle at times, and it's easy to look at it on paper and think it's been ten years of mediocrity in the Championship.

But, the Championship is extremely hard to be consistently mediocre in.

How many times have we seen clubs gamble and spend huge sums of money, not get promoted and two years later end up in League Two and in deep financial trouble? Countless.

That progress is now tangible and can't really be disagreed with now the top six dream has been achieved, however Liam Manning's summer departure has thrown a spanner in the works for the Ashton Gate hierarchy.

Do fans want City to be more competitive? Of course.

But it has to be *how* we are competitive.



What Bristol City have now is a clear vision, a clear strategy and cohesion right through the club. Off the pitch, we have seen real progress over the past ten years.

The development of Ashton Gate and a brand new state-of-the-art training ground have put City in a brilliant position in terms of progression from the academy and also in terms of recruitment, as the club is now incredibly attractive to sign for.

Everyone trains at the HPC, right through from the U10's to the First Team, which is crucial for continuity and for that pathway from the youth setup to still be prevalent.

Some fans say they would rather be relegated to League One, and come back up again, just for an exciting season. To me, that is ridiculous.

For a start, it's not as easy as going down for a season and coming straight back up. Sunderland, a bigger club than Bristol City, were relegated six years ago and saw that as a way to reset.

They spent big, and four seasons and three managers later, finally won promotion back to the Championship.

Progress has to be bigger than what league you are in. There have been ups and downs but if you purely look at the club, the staff, the infrastructure and the players, Bristol City are undoubtedly in a better place than they were a decade ago.

Mistakes have been made along the way, both on the pitch and behind the scenes, but The Robins are heading in the right direction with a really likeable group of players.

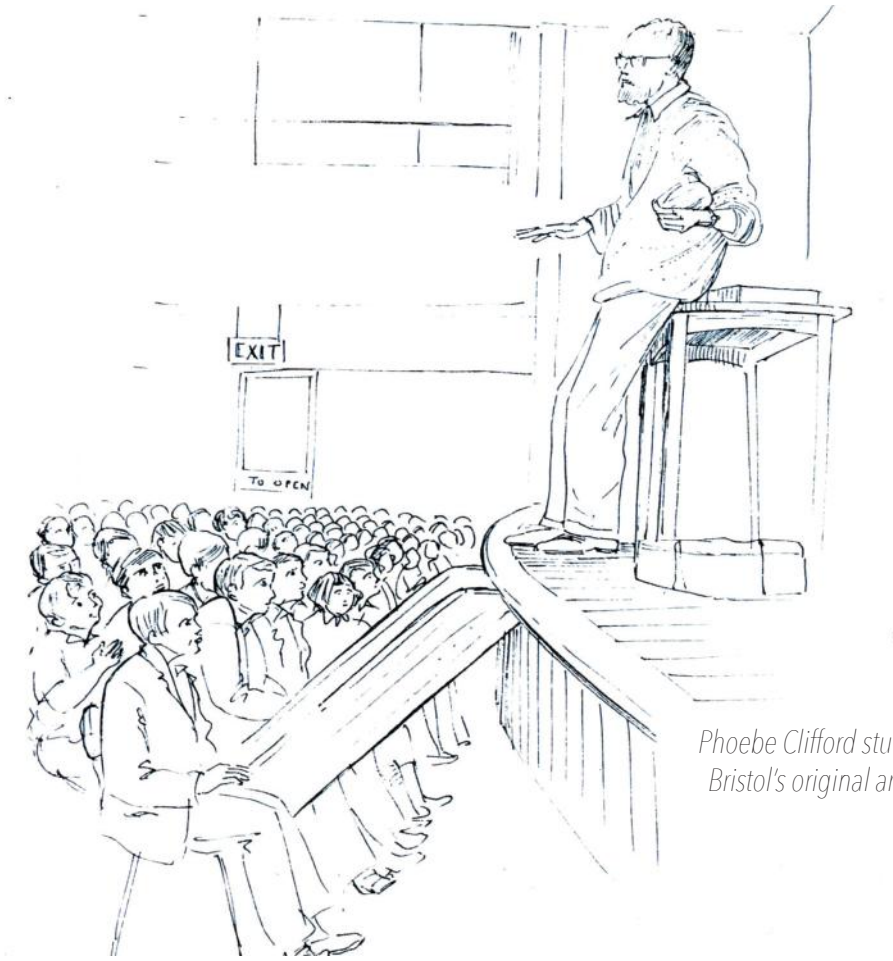
Manning's decision to depart for fellow Championship side Norwich City is of course a disappointing one, however the appointment of Gerhard Struber as Head Coach gives City a chance for a fresh start, with new ideas but a very similar, aligned identity to that of Manning, which the club has been growing for a few years now.

It's going to be difficult for Struber, as immediate progression will only really be achieved if he takes The Robins one step further than Manning did last year, which will mean at least a trip to Wembley.

But who knows, maybe he is the man to take Bristol City back to the topflight, the first manager to do so since the legendary Alan Dicks in 1976.

Only time will tell. Up the City!

the GENTLEMAN punk



Phoebe Clifford studies the legacy of Bristol's original artist, educator and philanthropist

“Anton lived 10 lives in one.”

Once a history teacher at Bedminster Down School, Anton Bantock had many passions.

Art, writing, history, these are just a few, but most of all he had a passion for helping people.

As his colleagues at Bedminster Down school can testify, Anton travelled extensively every summer, famously leaving as soon as the final school bell rang and returning five minutes before the new term. Over the years he enjoyed transformative spells across the globe, including the Middle East, Africa, Asia, and South America.

He would return to the school with stories of where he ended up, travelling around with different friends he made every time.

Whilst on these travels, he came across many children who were eager to learn and and live rich, full lives, but lacked the funds or facilities to do so.

Saddened by this but inspired, Anton decided to set up tuition centers in these areas and sponsor children himself.

These centres were located in India, Ghana and South America and helped so many people through education.

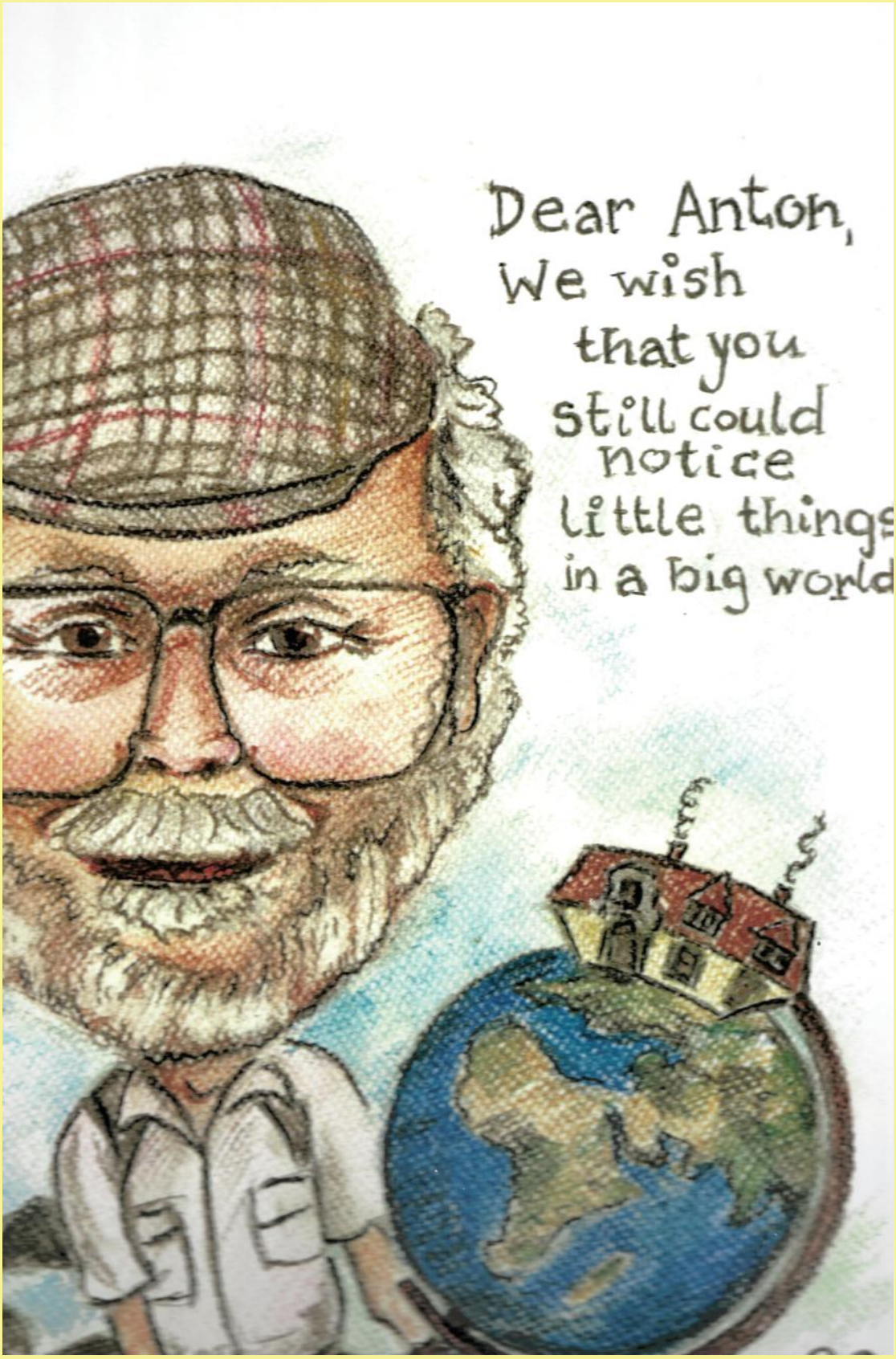
He named this enterprise ‘The University of Withywood’.

Soon after, he converted his bungalow into an open house, a communal space for people to visit and stay for lectures and local events. It was even used as a library.

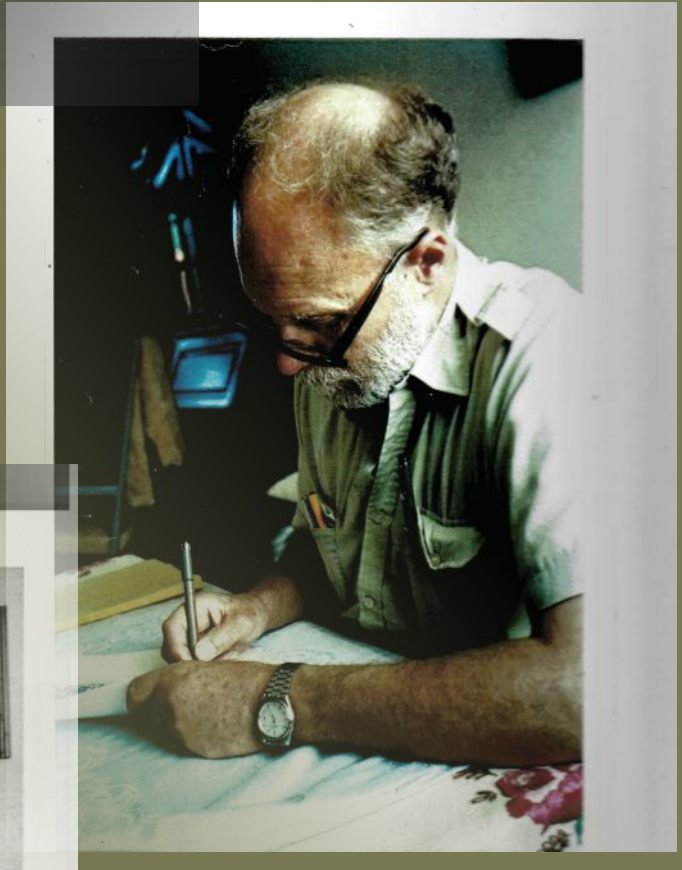
He had a small space in the attic which he stayed in to make the whole bungalow available for these events and meetings.

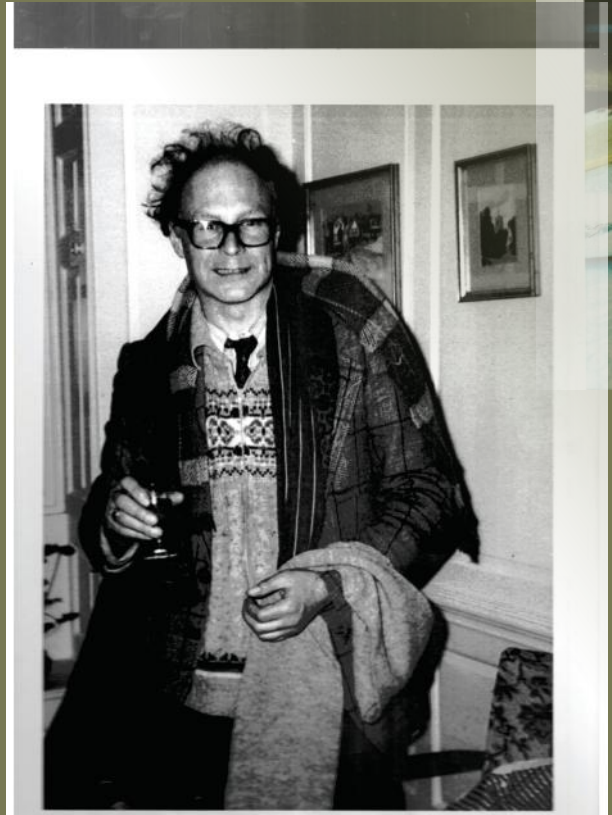
The evolution of this was admirable and the money raised went into the sponsorship fund.

Now, Anton’s noble legacy is carried on by those who knew him.


Dear Anton,
We wish
that you
still could
notice
little things
in a big world


HOT LIPS





We spoke to a former student of Bedminster Down school, Martin, who completed History in sixth form whilst Anton taught.

Martin described Anton as a kind of 'professor' type who was incredible and eccentric, (a word - ironically - Anton apparently hated).

Anton had his own style of teaching, keeping learning interesting whilst having a positive and caring impact on the children.

His practical teaching styles were enjoyed by everyone and remembered throughout their lives, like making models or colouring, combining his love for art and teaching.

Martin shared how Anton helped to propel his career with his caring and ambitious nature.

He had ambitions to be a journalist but was discouraged by career advisers who thought a more 'realistic' job would be the most achievable.

Even his parents wanted Martin to get a job instead of furthering his education due to the affordability of this step.

Anton, however, wanted every student to do what they dream of, and wanted to allow every student the opportunity, including Martin.

He noted Martin's talent and ability for further education and incredibly offered to fund this for him. He didn't need to pay in the end, the mere gesture convinced Martin's parents education was the right way to go, the right road to travel.

From this, Martin went to college and gained his journalism qualifications to become the journalist and writer that he is today.

Anton's kindness meant that students had the opportunity and support system to do things like college and university that they may not have been able to do if he wasn't there to help.

He gave belief to these students that may not have felt anyone believed in them before and gave them motivation to follow their dreams.

Later on, Martin became a trustee of the charity which would send money to students in Africa, Asia and many other places and he explained the differences this made for those children was huge and life changing. This money would help to set up things like sewing workshops, jobs for children.

Anton showed people how to give back to the world and his philosophy of life was noticed and admired by so many people.

He was humble in his work and his attitude towards helping these people, encouraging them to figure out what is right for themselves and what they may believe in.

He encouraged people to act on what they wanted to do, not to worry about the smaller things like exams and A-levels, but to go out into the world and live your life to the fullest.

This was a huge part of who Anton was and how he encouraged others to live.

Anton's influence might best be described and appreciated through this following anecdote:

When researching this story, our editor, Rich, went to meet with Kevin Underhill, a former student of Anton's.

They enjoyed a conversation and a look through the fascinating archival collection of newspaper clippings, sketches and stories from Anton's life.

On the bus home, Rich had the archival collection on his lap, and the stranger in the seat next to him, a young man in a shirt & tie, spotted it and tapped Rich on the arm.

The stranger asked Rich how he knew Anton. Rich explained that we were doing a story on him for a magazine. The stranger approved.

He went on to tell Rich how, though he never knew Anton personally, but he was familiar with the University of Withywood and the philanthropic work Anton left behind as his legacy.

The conversation then tangentially split into other areas: education, community, the state of modern work.

The point though is that, simply because of a picture of Anton's face, two strangers on a bus made a connection.

In the twenty-first century, this seems like a rare thing.

Today, ten years on from his passing, it's hoped that Anton's legacy and everything he stood is not forgotten, does not fade away into obscurity.

That there will be others like him who can carry on the dream.

We think now the best thing to do is to show that archive, and let it speak for itself.



Home study: The tiny University of Withywood at the 1930s bungalow of Anton Bantock

A little seat of learning

By Maurice Fells

SMILING, my host says: "Welcome to the smallest university in the world!" Experience warns me to be cautious of such claims, but in this case I think we can safely believe Anton Bantock.

His university campus has no spires, Gothic towers, ancient traditions or academic gowns. Even its name and location, in the heart of one of Bristol's most disadvantaged areas, might raise a snigger or two.

But this seat of learning, with its Latin motto, well-established curriculum, and many well-known lecturers, has seen hundreds of students through its portals, and this month is celebrating its 20th anniversary.

Anton opened the University of Withywood in his 1930s bungalow home at the foot of the Dundry Hills after taking early retirement from teaching. His career started at New College, Oxford, and apart from several other posts around the country, he was at Bedminster Down Secondary School, just down the road, for 27 years.

"This is small," he emphasises, as he gives me a guided tour of the university. Well, actually it's three rooms and a home-built theatre along two sides of the garden used by the university's performing arts group, which also takes its shows into elderly people's homes. One of the rooms has been taken over by shelving for maybe thousands of books.

"The library started when I bought a complete run of the Illustrated London News from a second-hand bookshop for £1," he says. "I'd bought them for the boys at Bedminster Down, but when I retired I brought them here. I had to extend the bungalow to accommodate everything."

Along another wall are dozens of boxes of local history and church books, reflecting two of the many hats he wears. He is an authority on the Smyth family of Ashton Court, following the publication of a series of books he wrote about them, while he has travelled around dozens of Somerset churches researching their history and drawing them. Although he was born near Birmingham, his quest for knowledge about the Bristol region is insatiable.

The living room doubles up as office and lecture space where there are more books, a photocopier, filing cabinets, wall charts and posters for a forthcoming exhibition, all heaped on costumes once used in a university drama production.

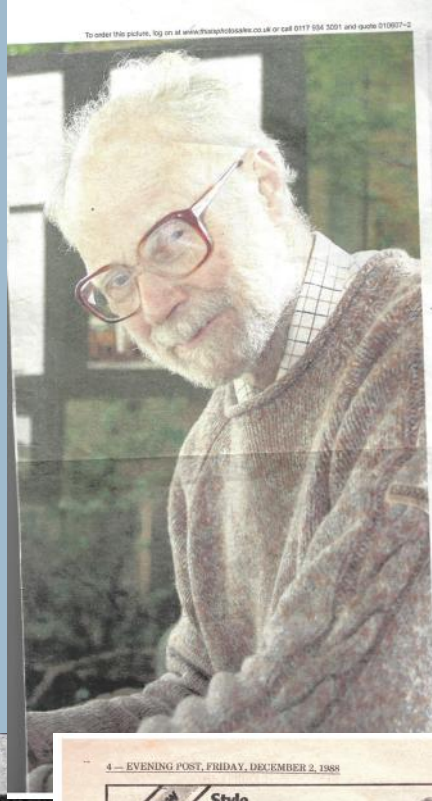
"All the furniture in here is third or fourth hand," says Anton. "It's not important to me. If I haven't got any spare paper, I'll draw a map on the wall. Tonight, the room will be used for a Spanish lecture, and people coming in will bring their own logs for the open fire. You can sit around an open fire and get something out of it.



lution: "Before retiring from school, I was always taking courses at the Workers' Educational Association and talking to organisations like Rotary. I thought that if people were keen to hear me, let them come here to the bungalow."

HIS first course there was "Sex, Murder and Mystery – a Popular History of England". "It took 12

To order this picture, log on at www.thisisyourbristol.co.uk or call 0117 934 3091 and quote 010607-2



Helping to build

One of the main aspects of the work of the University of Withywood is to raise money to sponsor education for young people in the developing countries.

"We're supporting about 40 youngsters in eight different countries at the moment, mostly in Africa, including Ghana, Nigeria and the Cameroons, but also in south India," says Anton Bantock.

"We're giving support to a tuition centre in India which has about 200 to 300 in the class. They can't get anything out of that, so we pay for extra tuition after hours in smaller groups.

"The university's sponsorship fund is boosted by the sale of books, lecturing by Anton at outside organisations, book and video royalties, raffles, open days at the university and donations.

Each year, between £15 and £22,000 is raised which goes overseas. In 2000, the university's millennium project was the



How the uni

The University of Withywood was found in 1987 by retired teacher Anton Bantock.

He turned his bungalow into the univ firmly believing that a university was "a universal place in which can anyone co attend to gather education without ent qualifications".

Translated, its motto Ad Altiora Per Collegium Withywoodiense means "to higher things through Withywood".

Since 1995, it has been a registered charity. Its trustees include Cllr Royst Griffey, currently Lord Mayor of Bristol lives nearby in the 300-year-old



14

seven education

Back to school

Smiling, my host announces "welcome to the smallest university in the world!"

Experience warns me to be cautious of those who lay claim to anything they believe to be the smallest or largest on the planet, for there is always someone around the corner ready to prove them wrong. But in this case, I don't think we need worry about Anton Bantock's claim.

His university campus has no spires, Gothic towers, college chapels, ancient traditions or even academic hoods and gowns.

Even its name and location (in the heart of one of Bristol's most disadvantaged areas) might raise a snigger or two.

But this seat of learning, with its Latin motto, well-established curriculum, and many well-known lecturers, has seen hundreds of students through its portals, and this month is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its foundation.

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"This is small," emphasises Anton, as he gives me a guided tour of the university. Well, actually it's three rooms and a home-built theatre along two sides of the garden used by the university's performing arts group, which also takes its shows into elderly peoples homes.

You may think that Bristol has two universities, but in fact there are three. **Maurice Fells** visits the compact University of Withywood

at Bedminster Down, but when I retired I brought them here. I had to extend the bungalow to accommodate everything."

Along another wall are dozens of boxes of local history and church books, reflecting two of the many hats that Anton wears.

He is a recognised authority on the Smyth family of Ashton Court, following the publication of a series of books he wrote about them. Not so long ago, he travelled around dozens of Somerset churches researching their history and drawing them.

Although he was born near Birmingham, his quest for knowledge about the Bristol region is insatiable.

Anton, by the way, is his middle name because of his father's admiration of the composer Anton Chekov. His first one is David, again chosen by his father, who happened to be

remembers. "It took 12 years to get the the people of Withywood what the univ was about. Then, one by one, they rea was for them.

"Now it's all people from Hartcliffe an Withywood who come.

"My idea is to throw people together them a structure in which their potentia blossom. It needs a structure or programme, then anything can happen. Things can progress.

"It's been gratifying to see the number of people involved. There have been hundreds. Sometimes the rooms are packed.

"I stretch them as much as possible. I don't spare them, nor do the visiting lecturers.

"Somebody in Clifton said this university was 50 per cent a joke and 100 per cent serious," he laughs.

He stresses that Withywood University is "just like any other, with three terms each academic year and a curriculum which includes discussions, talks, visits to places of interest and walks on local history trails as well as drama, music and language skills.

Anton says: "Some of the language courses, like French conversation, for example, go on at number 14 down the road.

"You could say we've expanded, as so many activities happen under the embrace of the university. Some of our students now host sessions in their own homes.

"There is also a cottage at Harlech in North Wales in which I have a part share, and we take groups there for walks.

"It's healthy and keeps you fit, which is better than sitting in front of the television. People

4 — EVENING POST, FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1988

TOMORROW

Style

A-HA: FROM SCRUMPTIOUS SCANDS TO TEENY-BOP DISCARDS; PLUS: FIVE COPIES OF GEORGE MICHAEL'S FAITH VIDEO TO BE WON



Wom

SWAS WITH FOR T MUSK



Bristol's first police station, built on Brandon Hill in 1836



History

Teacher who put colour back into Bristol's history



'but, then again' meet the peeps

Vice Chancellor of the University of Withywood

The University of Withywood does not have quite the same history as other universities. Nor does it have the same status in today's educational system.
But what it lacks in medieval history or Baker-induced competitiveness it makes up for in the enthusiasm of its creator and sustainer, Anton Bantock.
Anton taught history for 27 years, at Bedminster Down School. Three years ago when he was head of history there he took early retirement. Instead of pott - ering around the garden, tut-tutting at the decline of youth or trying to understand the story-line of television soaps, he decided to open his modest bungalow to all comers as a university.
Since the opening of the Univ- ersity an impressive list of courses have taken place. These have included 'Afro-Asian Studies', Developments in the Communist World', 'Getting ready for 1992' and Anton's favorite course entitled 'Sex Murder and Mayhem'. In his long teaching career Anton says he learnt that people are not really interested in the broad sweeps of political his- tory. What they are interested far more in the number of mistresses that particular kings had and the way that people were put to death in bygone days. And that is ex- actly these details that he teaches on his course!

Anton is an unusual man. His idea of putting the fun back into education is also unusual. But underlying this approach is a very serious philosophy.



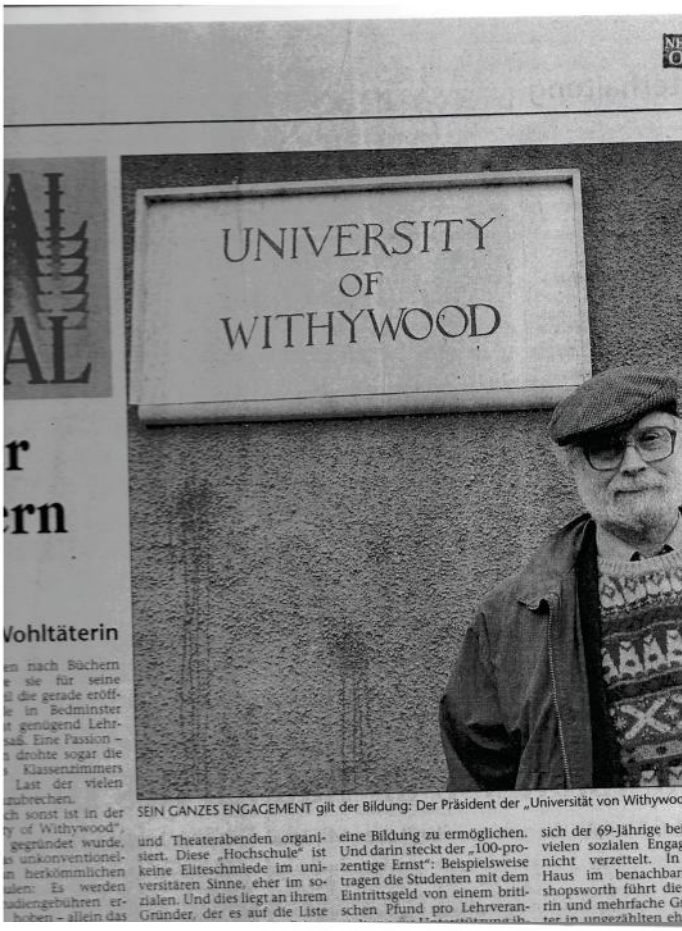
anton bantock

Anton belives that he has been privileged himself in his education and in that he has travelled extensively. He be- lives he has "almost a moral obligation" to share the fruits of these privileges with other people.

He is also a fierce cha
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Bristol - the Withyfol
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Anton belives the univ
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Because of his extensi
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Anton Bantock is perha
eccentric but underlyi
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gether.
He has one of the most
enhancing philosophies
come across for many a
May the University of
continue to flourish.
If you are interested
part in the University
as a teacher or a stud
call in at 131 Queens
ring Anton Bantock on

AD ALTIORA PER COLLEGIVM WITHYWODIENSE



SEIN GANZES ENGAGEMENT gilt der Bildung: Der Präsident der „Universität von Withywood

Wohltäterin

und Theaterabenden organi- siert. Diese „Hochschule" ist keine Eliteschmiede im uni- versitären Sinne, eher im so- zialen. Und dies liegt an ihrem Gründer, der es auf die Liste

eine Bildung zu ermöglichen. Und darin steckt der „100-pro- zentige Ernst": Beispielsweise tragen die Studenten mit dem Eintrittsgeld von einem briti- schen Pfund pro Lehrveran-

sich der 69-Jährige be vielen sozialen Engag nicht verzettelt. In Haus im benachbar shopsworth führt die rin und mehrfache G ter in ungezählten eh

EXTRA

Lord Mayor presents awards

Thanks for making a difference

THOSE who have made outstanding contributions to the city were recognised for their efforts with a special award.

by Tom Hodson
t.hodson@bepp.co.uk

They were presented with their honour by the Lord Mayor Peter Abraham at the Council House.

Each of the winners stood to receive their awards while Mr Abraham paid tribute to their achievements.

And the proud winners spoke about their achievements in improving life for people in their communities after the ceremony.

Winners of the One Person Can Make A Difference awards, included teacher and volunteer Anton Bantock, and Princess Campbell, a leading figure in Bristol's black community.

Mr Bantock, who formed the Malago Society, was a founder member of Group and established the University of Withywood, an education charity.

He said: "It's a great honour, and I would like the message to reach as many people as possible, especially those who think they could make a difference too.

"These days people want to do things for themselves, but in a sense, we all benefit if they give something back to the community."

Ms Campbell said: "Whatever I do voluntarily comes from my own pas- sion for humanity and what I want to do to make my community better.

"I'm pleased to know that some- body has recognised what I have done, and that's all I can ask for."



Winners: Lord Mayor Peter Abraham with Allan Burnett, Guy Reid-Bailey, Leotta Goo Anton Bantock, Andrew Scully, Princess Campbell, Stephanie Siu, Rosa Hui and the R

In retirement, she has become a local campaigner on rights for the black community, working voluntar- ily on local projects.

Another winner was the Reverend Dawnecia Palmer, who has worked as a minister for more than 30 years, and tries to make her community safer and healthier by helping tackle vi- olent crime and drugs through pa-

operate, we have seen a change for the better and so it's a privilege to know our work has been successful enough to be recognised."

Mr Abraham said: "Individuals make moral choices, and when they act on them they demonstrate they have acted against prejudice. Their example shows that they can turn good ideas into actions."

OSNABRÜCKER ZEITUNG
Redaktion
Feuilleton



d" und Weltenbummler Anton Bantock.

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en Bi- nicht nur einst den Unterrich
Lyrike- für seine Schüler anschaul
ßmut- cher gestaltet, mittlerweile b
enamt- ziehen viele Schulen seine A

Saturday, January 28, 2006



dridge, Tracy Edwards-Brown,
Reverend Dawnecia Palmer

Bristol Race Forum and Bristol
ial Equality Council; lobbyist
a Hui, who founded the Bristol and
n Chinese Women's group;
Reid-Bailey of the United Hous-
Association; Cub Scout leader
rew Scully; Stephanie Siu of the
bian, Gay and Bisexual Forum;
nteer Allan Burnett; and Tracy
ards-Brown, of the Hartcliffe

BRISTO

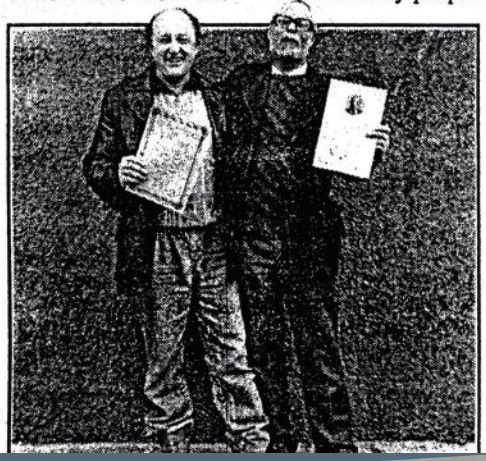
Award for Russian from Withywood University

A degree of success

FAMOUS Russian artist Sasha Shuritz was awarded an honorary degree this week ... at a tiny bungalow on on a Bristol council estate.

Report by Giles Milton

Eccentric academic Anton Bantock invited Siberian Sasha to the 'University of Withywood' - which Anton runs from his home in Queens Road - to receive the certificate.



And so many people turned up to watch the solemn ceremony that it had to be held outside.

"I got everyone in the garden and announced a few minutes of formality," Anton told the Journal.

"I got everyone to stand while the music faculty played the Soviet National Anthem."

Proud

Sasha said through an interpreter that he was proud to receive the certificate, and intends to frame it and put it up in his house.

Anton was then presented with a copy of the Order of Lenin with the inscri[illegible]

congratulations."

Anton said the only disappointment was the fact that an exhibition of Sasha's paintings had to be cancelled because they were confiscated by Soviet customs.

"The Soviet authorities said they belonged to the state and couldn't be brought to the West," Anton told us.

Sasha is staying in England for another week before returning to native Siberia.

"He finds Withywood shops an Aladdin's cave," said Anton

He lived with hope and joy



HUNDREDS of people turned out to celebrate – not mourn – the life of one of Bristol's most well-loved and eccentric teachers.

Surrounded by family and friends from across the world, the funeral of Anton Bantock MBE, founder of the University of Withywood, took place in St Mary's Redcliffe Church.

Adorned with white lilies of the valley and roses, Anton's coffin was carried through the grand and sun-lit church by four bearers.

The service was led by Canon Judith Carpenter and focused on the 82-year-old's generosity of spirit and love for meeting people.

Ms Carpenter said: "He lived with hope and he lived each day joyfully and generously."

Born David Delius Anton Bantock in Barnt Green, near Birmingham, he [illegible] in 1960 to teach at the newly built Bedminster Down comprehensive school.

In 1987 he set up a "university" in his bungalow in Queen's Road to provide community activities, fun and charity fundraising events, which were attended by hundreds of people. As well as offering events for locals to take part in, including musical shows, walks, debates and entertainment, the university raised money to sponsor education projects in developing countries.

The heart of his community, Anton's bungalow would often be crowded to capacity for summer shows in the garden, where a stage was created, or debates by a log fire on winter nights.

In 1995, his university became a charity and over the next 20 years raised almost £260,000 for the education of young people in third world countries.



The funeral of Anton Bantock, pictured above, was held at St Mary Redcliffe Church

LIBRE

09.02.2003

Le regard de deux artistes sur l'histoire des hommes

L'Hôtel de Ville accueille jusqu'au 10 mai les œuvres de Mary Louise Gallaway et Anton Bantock, à l'heure du thé.

Traquant les expériences que chacun éprouve devant les événements de la vie quotidienne, Mary Louise Gallaway fait traverser la mémoire du monde dans toutes ses œuvres.

En présence de ses sculptures, bronzes, pastels et gaufrages, le spectateur parcourt le temps et l'espace, du Texas au Japon, en passant par le Moyen Orient, pour finir dans le bassin méditerranéen.

Sous forme de colonnes et de strates en grès, elle fait jaillir du sol l'histoire collective des hommes.

• *Mes colonnes sont comme des prélèvements géologiques, des carottes qui posent la question de l'origine de nos racines. Quand on regarde de plus près, on y voit des figues, du maïs et du riz qui représentent mes origines texanes* •, explique Mary Louise Gallaway.



Mary Louise Gallaway partage sa mémoire texane.

Elle continue de nourrir la terre de sa création par des fontaines disque, sphère et pyramide, inspirer par l'aridité des pays du Moyen Orient et porte à nos yeux ce message d'espoir de l'évolution humaine.

Les balades d'Anton

En quête permanente de • croquer • ses proches et ceux qui croisent son chemin, Anton Bantock ne quitte jamais son carnet de croquis.

Professeur d'histoire et grand voyageur, il dessine sans cesse la famille des hommes et leurs lieux de vie.

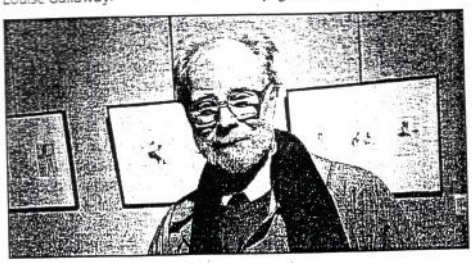
Il présente aujourd'hui une nouvelle série d'aquarelles réalisées dans le centre et l'ouest de la France.

• *Ce n'est pas du grand travail* •, explique t-il avec un large sourire et son accent britannique.

• *C'est pour le plaisir de mes amis et m'amuser* •.

Derrière cette légèreté se cache un objectif bien plus vaste, celui de vendre ses aquarelles au profit d'une fondation afin de financer des étudiants du tiers-monde.

Ses œuvres réalisées avec une grande habileté, digne d'un grand dessinateur, nous font pa re d'i l'h



D

OUR SAY

Tributes Sad to hear of deat

ON behalf of the Kenyans beneficiaries, from Anton Bantock's charity scheme, let me pass our deepest condolences on the recent passing of the Principal of the University of Withywood.

To say Anton was a larger than life character would be an understatement. He will always be remembered as a great life transformer – verified by the success of all the beneficiaries of his initiative.

His hard work and skills were only surpassed by his incredible positive influence and zest to lives of unfortunate families.

As the days and weeks pass, and as you return to life's routine, may you continue to feel comforted by the love and support of family and friends. May your hearts soon be filled with wonderful memories of joyful times together as you celebrate a life well lived.

I pray that the many happy memories of Anton's life with all of you will, with time, overcome the sadness and pain that have accompanied you all as you journeyed these later years with Anton.

Anton did a lot for the Withywood community and the entire world including Kenya, but I particularly remember his dedication to visit and getting experience of the unfortunate families.

As a comrade he worked tirelessly and was a good friend to all. I will always remember our happy times from his visits to Kenya.

Please accept my sincerest condolences on the loss of your dear legend. I have so many happy memories of spending time with him here in Kenya. We were very lucky to share a lot with him. dreams. God at this time For Anton friends – g hard, but memories h I'm really hear of An He was an ary man many in th who will his passin life of ser sion and May h remainin hold fon carry on ted.



Anton Bantock's funeral at St Mary Redcliffe Church

Pic: Jon Kent BRUK20150429D-003

Bon voyage Hundreds celebrat the life of inspirational teache



"EXTRAORDINARY" ACCOMPLISHMENTS

• Among his many accomplishments Anton was awarded an MBE for services to the community, especially education in south Bristol in October 2003.

Seven years later he was given an honorary degree by Bristol University, which described his activities as "extraordinary".

Anton's name also featured on the Daily Mail's top 100 eccentrics in British poll.

City councillor Richard Eddy, a former pupil of Anton's at Bedminster Down School, where he taught for 27 years, said: "In his 82 years, Anton packed in more than most people during their lives and made a huge contribution to humanity.

"To generations of Bedminster Down Comprehensive pupils, he ignited their passion for history and reaffirmed a pride in their community."

"He lived with hope and he lived each day joyfully and generously."

student. I now use the same expression when someone asks me why I am visiting some place and it always makes people laugh and fills them with joy, and Anton will always be alive in these words when we say them.

"Although his last journey was to Jordan, I can imagine that he will go on travelling forever. All we can say is bon voyage, Anton."

Two of the pensioner's nephews – Merwyn and Ronald Torkian – shared their memories of their uncle's "experimental cooking", fleeting holidays in his Welsh cottage and his mischievous sense of humour.

Merwyn said: "My favourite memory of Anton's cooking is the way he served Angel Delight. He would take it to a balcony on the first floor and pour it from a great height, often missing our bowls."

Ronald added: "Wherever he went, a jokes-and-educated people lay behind on his legacy. Anton's first words to child were that he believed that all world's problems could be solved by and talking."

The heart of his community. Anto galow would often be crowded to cap summer shows in the garden, where was created, or debates by a log fire o nights.

In 1998, his university become a ch over the next 10 years raised almost the construction of young people world countries.

The charity closed last year as a Anton's poor health but continues ship fund. It had many successe ing the funding of a tuition and centre in India, a medical clinic in a school in Cameroon.

He also helped to fund the ed hundreds of individuals who ha architects, doctors, teachers and n cyclists.

FRIDAY, JULY 4, 1986

Globetrotte Anton can't wait fo that be

POST PEOPLE

with Tina Moran

WHEN the school bell sounds on July 23 it will not only herald the end of another term at Bedminster Down comprehensive school but the start of an epic journey by the history master.

As the pupils skip joyously through the school gates for the start of the summer hols Anton Bantock, the head of history, will gather up his bags and head for Bristol Airport on the first leg of his six-week trip around the world.

For the past 23 years bachelor Anton has spent the entire summer holidays journeying to remote corners of the globe armed with his sketch pad and pencils to record the sights.

This year, just hours after term finishes, he will be flying to West Germany. From there he will be go to Shikoku Island in Japan, where his brother Gavin lives in a paper pagoda.

After a brief stay Anton will be off again, this time to Hong Kong and then Australia, where he will begin island-hopping, taking in Brunei, Bali, Java and Sumatra.

It's on to Malaysia after that and then to Singapore from where he plans to fly home, reaching Bristol just in time for the start of the new term.

After he returns each year Anton is always in big demand to talk about his travels to local groups, including Rotary clubs and WIs.

"The most popular talks I give seem to be about travelling round Australia and sailing up the Nile on a paddle steamer," he said.

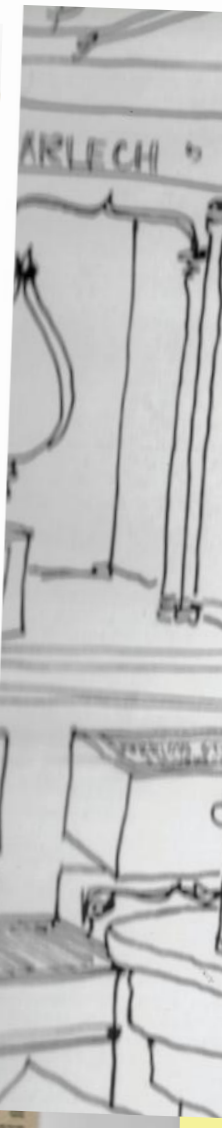
with people, a to do."

Over the yea has made many around the w many of the return visits home in Bristol.

Late

He keeps the his travelling d staying wit worldwide co although the his mammoth holidays has risen considerably since the time 20 years ago when he travelled from Bristol to Calcutta and back by bus and

Tension



h of legend Anton

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extraordin-
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rice, love, compas-
xcellence.
e rest in peace – For us
g behind, may we always
d memories of his life and
with the good work he star-

Robert Kigadi
Kenya



IT was so sad to hear my guar
and sponsor Anton Bantock –
called "father" – had passed
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minds of all wh
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Anton Bantock
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est man and a good fri
family who brought me to
study and I stayed with him
ood for two to three years.
As a Christian I pray for
rest in perfect peace.

Mr
Easton (originally fr

This certificate is in recognition of

Anton Bantock

as a nominee for the

"One Person *Can* Make a Difference" Award

Presented at the Holocaust Memorial Day 2006 ceremony

of Bristol City Council by

Barbara Janke

Councillor Barbara Janke, Leader

Peter Abraham

Councillor Peter Abraham, Lord Mayor



theguardian
Winner of the Pulitzer prize

Anton Bantock obituary



Anton Bantock's charitable foundation raised thousands of pounds to help educational schemes abroad

Bedminster Down school, Bristol, Anton Bantock was head of history and my
the world every summer holiday, leaving when the bell went
the new term. His travels were to benefit people
fundraising schemes.

After national service he went
in history and started teachin
school, Leicester.

In 1960 he moved to the Wes
built Bedminster Down comp
becoming known for his insp

He travelled worldwide by b
Africa and parts of Asia. A sk
visited. His drawings and ill
funds to support the educat

Following retirement in 19
turned his home into the U
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projects in developing cou

In 1995 the University of W
raised almost £260,000, cl
charity's successes include
medical clinic in Ghana an
education of hundreds of
teachers and medical spec

In October 2003 Anton

Bristol Ti

Inspira
the Un

Anton Bantock

BT was very saddened to h
recent news of the death o
Bantock, local historian, insp
al school teacher and all-rou
Bristolian.

Anton was widely known
the city for his books, talks
walks, for his wonderful d
and a mild eccentricity which
create a larger than life ch
and one who greatly enric
those who came into conta
him.

After retiring as a teacher
ously founded the Unive
Withywood in 1987. This was
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which was built by his form
minster Down pupils.

Despite its jokey name, t
versity" became an importa
of learning and culture in so
tol, with an extensive library
and courses being taught i
range of subjects.

The university also morp
an educational project to h
dren in poorer countri
www.universityofwithywood

This grew out of Bantock
travel, not as a bog-standar
but as someone who was g
interested in the people
lands. He had many friend
the world.

He was awarded the MB
for services to the communi
honorary doctorate by Bri
versity in 2010. You can rea
citation, which has several
stories about his experie
skills as a secondary schoo
at http://tinyurl.com/anton

We could go on for pages
about the wit and wisdom
who did so much to help
people, and whose fascina
the history of south Bristol
so much to our knowledge.

If nothing else, there are
of Bristolians who will

'His many random acts of kindness were legendary'

We asked BT readers to send in their memories of Anton Bantock, who died recently. Here are a few:

AS MOST readers will know by now, well-known Bristol teacher, traveller, artist and charity worker Anton Bantock MBE died recently while holidaying in Jordan.

Since then we have had a number of letters and emails from people who remember him fondly, both from his times at Bedminster Down school and as founder of the famed University of Withywood.

He was born David Delius Anton Bantock in Barnt Green, near Birmingham, in 1933. His grand father was the composer Sir Gran ville Bantock, who was a friend of Frederick Delius. Until he started school he was known as David, but there were another six Davids in the class, so he was called Anton from then on.

He did his National Service with the Royal Horse Artillery before gaining a history degree at Oxford. He joined the staff of the new Bedminster Down Secondary School in 1960 after a couple of teaching jobs elsewhere.

Here he worked for 27 years, and was well liked by the pupils, partly on account of his eccentricities. One of the routines he established was issuing a daily "password", giving rise to the phrase "What's the password today, Bill?"

In the 1970s he formed an after school local history club which eventually became the Malago Society.

It was for the University for which he was best remembered. This began life as an extension to his home to house his books and was built for him by former Bedminster pupils.

It turned into a social and educational organisation for the community but, as a result of his inveterate travelling around the world (always by bicycle or public transport, the better to get to know people) it also branched into a charity which in its time raised over a quarter of a million pounds for educational projects for youngsters in developing countries. There was a tuition and tailoring centre in Indra, a medical clinic in Ghana and a school in Cameroon.

He also helped pay for the education of hundreds of individuals who have become architects, doctors, teachers and medical specialists.

As one tribute puts it, "His many random acts of kindness were legendary and repaid by his 'trust in providence' ... a belief that needs will always be met if you do the right thing."

Anton Bantock's funeral is a Mary Redcliffe Church, Bri BS1 6RA, on Wednesday, April at 2.30pm. After the service s close friends and relations proceed to the crematorium. everyone else will be welcome The Withywood Centre, Quee Road, BS13 8QA (opposite Anto house) from 4pm for refres ments.

Here are a few of the memories readers have sent us:

MY HUSBAND and I taught at Bedminster Down School soon after it opened. The staff were talented and enthusiastic and included a World War 2 navigator who had been in Bomber

some distance away. He was shocked yet thrilled to get them but unfortunately a major problem arose.

The floor of his room was not considered strong enough to take the weight of all the books which had to remain parked outside the main entrance under a tarpaulin

AS ONE of Anton's pupils when he first went to Bedminster Down School, I have fond memories of his history teaching as he saw me through 'O' level GCE and 'A' level history I can still picture the history room lined with Illustrated London News.

Chris Sledge, Bedminster Down School 1956-1963



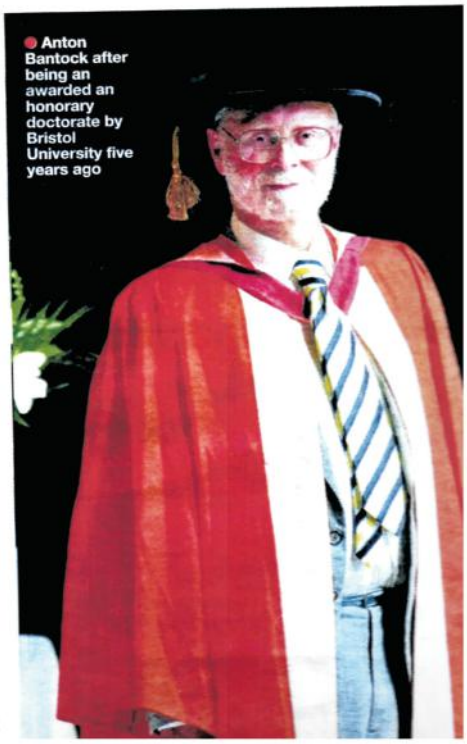
addition to the school fete if, with a few scientists, we created "the smell of 18th century Bristol" with its tanneries and industry in a bottle.

The idea was that it would be a particularly pungent smell and kids would pay 10p to sniff it. The smell was powerful ... we raised only 10p as one uncorking of the



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iversity of Withywo



Anton Bantock after being an awarded an honorary doctorate by Bristol University five years ago

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Legendary acts of kindness by popular teacher



Anton Bantock

Teacher, world traveller, artist and tireless charity worker Anton Bantock MBE has died at the age of 82.

His home was in Queen's Road, Withywood, Bristol, where he set up the University of Withywood in his bungalow.

He did so to provide community activities, fun and charity fund-raising events, which were attended by hundreds of people.

Born David Delius Anton Bantock in Barnt Green, near Birmingham in 1933, his grandfather, the composer Sir Granville Bantock was a friend of the English composer Frederick Delius.

Until he started school, Mr Bantock was known as David, but there were another six Davids in the class, so he was called Anton from then on.

He was the second child of six of Raymond and Margaret Bantock and grew up in Barnt Green, Worcestershire.

After National Service with the Royal Horse Artillery he went to New College, Oxford, stranded him in Australia in early September and phoned the school to inform them.

And on the day teachers and children went back into their classrooms, he was enjoying a swim in an isolated billabong.

Another time he arrived back with his head shaved after being questioned by the KGB in Russia.

Mr Bantock was a skilled artist and took a sketch book everywhere.

His drawings and illustrations have been used for a wide variety of published books and have formed the basis of many exhibitions in UK, Germany and France.

Added to which, some of his sketches and travel letters about his adventures abroad were turned into books to raise charity funds.

During the 1970s he formed an after-school local history club.

This developed into the Malago Society in 1978, and it is still going strong, capturing for posterity the history of South Bristol, holding weekly events and publishing a twice-yearly magazine, now with more than 70 editions.

Mr Bantock devoted to take early retirement from Bottom-ner Down School in 1987 and became a prolific painter and





Want to get involved?



ACID YELLOW

Are you, dear reader, looking at this right now, per chance a budding writer, or maybe a photographer, or maybe even a graphic designer?

Or are you in fact all of the above?

Or are you perhaps none of the above but someone looking to challenge themselves and gain experience and contacts by getting involved in magazine production?

Out next issue, out in October 2025, is Acid Yellow, with a theme of 'subversion'.

If you have any ideas for a piece, or don't have ideas but want to push yourself and have the chance to see your work in print, let us know.

You can send an email to Rich, the editor: richard@boomsatsuma.com.

Or come find him at Portland Square.

Thanks!

BOOMSATSUMA