



## **Bristol Cable directors**

*Elected by Bristol Cable members at the Annual General Meeting*

*5th March, 2015*

### **Description of Director Role**

(Note: The Board of Directors is titled the Admin Board to better reflect its function.)

Co-operatives are legally required to elect a board of directors. To ensure democratic accountability, the executive power of directors is limited, and we invited a broad range of people to put themselves forward to join the board. Those invited have been involved in The Cable in various ways, and as you will read, offer a wide set of skills and experience.

In brief, the role involves meeting quarterly to consult and advise The Bristol Cable on operations and vision, providing an added level of scrutiny within the co-operative. As is the case with all co-operatives, the general membership- namely you- retain the ultimate power, holding the capacity to elect and un-elect all officials within the co-op.

The Admin Board will be reviewed on a yearly basis at the AGM.

### **Election Process**

Attending co-op members at this first AGM were handed a sheet with the names of all director candidates along with a box with a yes or no vote for each. In total, 42 people voted, that was at the time 26% of the entire membership. 35 of those people voted for all 12 candidates to become directors. This means that the following people will all be directors for the coming year.

**Directors:** (In no particular order)

#### **1. Mike Jempson**

As a journalist, a lecturer in journalism at UWE, and one-time editor of a similar co-operative venture (the East End News) way back in the 1980s, I am an enthusiastic supporter of the Bristol Cable. I am also Director of the journalism ethics charity

MediaWise, and one of the longest serving members of the Campaign for Press & Broadcasting Freedom which argues for more diverse forms of media ownership and products.

I hope I can bring my experience as a community activist and someone who has been involved in promoting ethical and investigative journalism and press freedom in many different countries to The Bristol Cable, in the belief that radical alternative media can really make a difference to people's understanding of the city, how it functions and how it could be improved.

## **2. Cleo Lake**

Cleo Alberta Lake – Carnival Director for St Pauls Afrikan Caribbean Carnival. Transatlantic Researcher. Educator. Dance Artist. Dance Activist. Mother.

Cleo is a Bristolian of Afro Jamaican and Celtic roots who grew up in Easton and now lives in St Pauls. Cleo is an active citizen with a wide-ranging skill set. She delivers 'Get Up Stand Up' Reggae Revival dance exercise classes for over 50 elders a week and as a dance artist / activist Cleo works creatively primarily within dance of the Afrikan Diaspora and believes that dance has a significant power to empower, unite and shift realities for all people. Her current solo dance theatre project 2.4.80 is a reflection on the St Pauls riots of 1980.

Cleo worked at the Bristol Museum as a gallery assistant in 1999 for the exhibition 'A Respectable Trade? Bristol and the Transatlantic Slave Trade' and is currently part of a steering group for a proposed Transatlantic Slave Trade Memorial at Severn Beach. She has a passion for transatlantic research, culture, history and education.

Cleo has coordinated Voscur's BME Voice Knowledge and Share Programme; lectures part time for the City of Bristol College, and is the recently appointed Carnival Director for St Pauls Afrikan Caribbean Carnival.

Impressed by The Bristol Cable's outreach programme, skill building workshops and newspaper content, Cleo's reason put herself forward as a Director of the Bristol Cable to work with like-minded individuals in order to be the change that we want to see and to ensure that a diverse breadth of perspectives are exposed to an expanding readership.

## **3. Joanne Ball**

I've a range of experience in broadcast TV and have worked for broadcasters such as the BBC, Channel 4, ITV and Al Jazeera and for award winning independents. My own films have won awards and been screened at venues and festivals around the world. I have also worked on ground breaking participatory media and education web projects, trained community, campaign, activist groups and young people in video production. I am

passionate about social equality and justice and have volunteered with various groups and charities for most of my adult life. In the past I mentored a young asylum seeker from Afghanistan for 5 years, I was a management committee member of Dover Detainee Visitors Group (an organisation that provides welfare support to immigration detainees), I have made films for various charities, provided media and English language training, undertook formal training with the British Institute of Human Rights, volunteered with refugees in Nepal, am currently helping to set up an educational foundation in Afghanistan and developing interactive campaign projects.

I'm happy to be a Director of the Bristol Cable primarily because I'm an ardent supporter of the Cable, in agreement with the ethos behind it; I wish to support its continuation and growth in whatever way possible. I've sat on the board of a charity before and so have experience of what is expected of Directors and the formal responsibilities of a board. I believe my experience in volunteering, activism and media gives me both a solid understanding and an overview of what this type of project could and should be doing. I'm looking forward to contributing to the direction and vision of the Cable.

#### **4. Adam Cantwell-Corn**

As a co-founder of the project I have been intensely involved throughout. From the early days of turning up unannounced to community groups and individuals with nothing but an idea and an A4 piece of paper, to now having the involvement of many people. The Bristol Cable has the potential to grow and continue connecting with people across the city and beyond - touching on local, national and international ideas and issues. I want to see it through!

Drawing on a wide experience of campaigns, human rights legal work, youth work and general employment I hope to continue throwing all what I have into this project. And we are learning quick! A large part of the process so far has been talking to a range of people, the cut and thrust of organising, and a heavy dose of determination and a sense of perspective. That along with the all consuming tasks of project development, admin and the constant challenge of increasing participation and financial sustainability. As a director and an organising member I hope to continue to see my role as deep in this day to day of strategy and implementation - from the bigger picture to the agonising detail.

#### **5. Delroy Hibbert**

I am a Project Manager for a St Pauls-based charity Full Circle which provides projects for young people and families in the community. A born and raised Bristolian I have worked for and written occasionally for Venue magazine and the website Guide2Bristol.com in the past as well as presenting my own radio show for two years on BURST Radio while at university.

The Bristol Cable has been unique in its early commitment to giving voice to all sections of our city and providing importantly the training as well as the vehicle to get their stories heard. This is something I support and will work to ensure it continues.

## **6. Elizabeth Mizon**

I am currently a significant member, and organiser, of two local media co-operatives – The Cube and the Bristol Radical Film Festival. I am co-director of the Bristol Radical Film Festival (BRFF), of which I am very proud, having been appointed just a few months after joining the founding team a year into their project. I have now been running the BRFF's yearly festival alongside my two other co-directors, and monthly screenings single-handedly for two years. I have been a volunteer at the Cube for just over five years, and over that time I have gradually increased my responsibilities on the staff to become a core organiser of projects and keyholder of the building. This puts the safety of the public and the security of the building in my hands whenever I'm on site, and gives me the shared responsibility of keeping the Cube and its team functioning, the programme interesting and our audience's content. I know my strengths, and I'm going to put my badass organisational skills, sharp judgement and radical media experience to good use on the Cable's behalf.

I am particularly excited to be a co-director of the Bristol Cable since the democratisation of media and devolution of media power is of huge interest to me already: I have written about media consolidation, power and politics; my PhD application is titled 'the democratisation of media'; and I am currently in the process of finishing my first feature documentary concerning the corruption of media power with specific regard to news media. It was research for this that brought me to the Bristol Cable, of which I am now a member, a fan, and a neighbour!

## **7. Alon Aviram**

As a co-founder, I've been involved in setting up The Bristol Cable from day one. I'm committed to helping realise the growing potential of this media co-operative. Alongside others, I spend most of my time working on The Cable, from planning and producing content, building relationships with people across the city, working on finance, to organising events and workshops for people in the city. This has definitely been a steep learning curve and one I wish to continue!

I've worked as a youth worker, in kitchens and been involved in a number of community campaigns. I've freelanced as a journalist for Vice Magazine, Channel 4 News, The New Internationalist, and 972mag.com. This combination of community work and journalism experience has grounded my desire to be a part of an organisation that can actually speak to a broad range of people while holding those in power to account. We need to do this by continuing to provide a platform for co-learning, being fixed in the grassroots, and being relentlessly investigative.

## **8. Amirah Cole**

I came across The Bristol Cable early on, and want to add my experience to this exciting initiative. I have lived in Bristol all my life and have lived mostly in the Ashley Ward. The majority of my paid and voluntary work has been based in the community and has also been in the Ashley Ward.

I love working for my community and to date have chaired St. Paul's Carnival (2000 – 2004) and more recently the Malcolm X Community Centre and have volunteered for the following organisations:

- Bristol Somali Youth Network (2014 to date)
- St. Pauls Adventure Playground (2013 to date)
- Malcolm X Community Centre
- Chair (November 2012 – July 2014), Volunteer (2006)
- John Lynch Afrikan Education Programme (December 2013)
- St. Barnabas Primary School
- Vice Chair (Sept 2011 – Sept 2013)
- Parent Governor (July 2010 – Sept 2011)
- Jamafrique Social Club, (April 2006 – July 2014)
- Sefton Park Youth Project (September – November 2006)
- Afrikan Young People's Talent Show (1999)
- Jamaica Age Care (1999)
- Barnardos (1997)

## **9. Drew Rose**

I started out in the direct action movement. From blockading a nuclear weapons base in Scotland in 1994, through anti-roads protests in London, Reclaim the Streets actions, occupying Welsh opencast mines, climbing cranes on Icelandic aluminium plants, from anti-GM to anti-G8. In 2003, I helped set-up the Cowley Club, a co-operative social centre in Brighton. I took a central role in running the centre for seven years, mainly running its radical bookshop.

I've been in Bristol over 3 years now and love it. Having written for various alternative publications and completing a Masters in literature at the University of Bristol, I was looking for a way to combine my writing and activism. That is when I stumbled upon The Bristol Cable and got involved in April of last year. The Cable is a fantastic blend of co-operative organising, investigative journalism and community action which I look forward to being part of for years to come. I have also just organised the Real Media gathering in Manchester, which brought together independent journalists and publications from around the UK to discuss developing public interest media.

## **10. Alec Saelens**

I have been involved with the Bristol Cable since early on, and taken part in shaping the way it has developed to this day. This entailed creating a vision for its editorial tone and activities, taking on more operational tasks such as organising events, community outreach, coordinating the production of the publication and membership scheme, and sorting out the finances. I am personally interested in the processes behind developing this media outlet, from its cooperative principles and daily operational tasks, to being a content contributor and editor.

Whilst gaining community organising skills through my involvement in various social justice campaigns, and leading youth work projects, I have also built journalistic experience through blogging, freelancing, and interning with an international press agency whilst being abroad. The Bristol Cable presents the most exciting prospect for placing a challenging media in the hands of those whose voices are underrepresented otherwise by generating a proactive and broad based engagement platform for people across the city. The achievements and support attained so far speak for the necessity to have a collective of people determined to carry on developing the project in this direction.

## **11. Vincent Baidoo**

My name is Vincent Baidoo-Lowe and I am the owner of South-Blessed (you may have seen us in st pauls on Wilder Street). I started my first company when I was 15 years old which was a social enterprise to engage and empower the community through media and have been doing so ever since. Though I work independently my work in the community has been recognized by Universities, Law Enforcement and Mainstream media alike gaining a strong brand and good reputation for creatively expressing truth.

Because of the position I am in not only do I have a lot of Transmedial experience (Transmedia is where narratives expand across media eg Films, Music, comics, games & animations) and also I am in a position to be able to get questions answered by Universities, Law Enforcement and possibly Mainstream media as mentioned before. The Bristol Cable is a very unique opportunity to publicly pull the foundational debates to an

archivable and professional environment, and with that I'm looking forward to put my contacts and the efforts of the young people I work with towards making it grow.

## **12. Bryony Ball**

I've been living in Bristol for the last 5 years and working as a Freelance Photographer and Graphic Designer. I have a lot of experience working in Marketing and in Event Managing. I also volunteer with a lot of Bristol organisations and charities (currently The Big Issue Foundation, St Mungos and Womankind)

My interests are in social issues, human rights and people. I am actively involved in discussions and events happening around current issues in Bristol. I also have a passion for film and music and often my work is involved within these scenes in Bristol too. I'm looking forward to contributing my skills to The Cable as I believe it is currently one of the most important media platforms in Bristol and I want to be part of helping it grow.