

Redland & Cotham Amenities Society



Report from the Chair
Planning
Parks
Student affairs
Community Partnership



Number 183 - March 2019



Front cover and this page:

Our single day of snow on the 1st of February brought everyone out to enjoy the wintry scene on Redland Green and try out their sledges.

Report from the Chair

In the current climate, it was a really positive experience to hear from so many groups about their achievements and projects at the recent Bishopston Cotham and Redland Community Partnership meeting in Redland Green Bowling Clubhouse. Bristol apparently has the greatest number of people engaged in volunteering of any city in the UK; something which gives one hope for our city.

Sometimes when involved in workgroups clearing litter or cutting back overhanging shrubs, we are asked why we are doing the council's job for them. It seems to me that we all need to do what we can, so that the increasingly reduced funds available can be directed to work that volunteers cannot do, like providing adult care. The council also needs to support communities to take over some of the appropriate tasks and, most importantly, in many cases, the council needs to work out how to 'get out of the way'.

One of the things that we can all do is report problems when we see them. The council and other organisations do not have the capacity to check up on areas to identify issues they need to deal with, so the community can be the eyes and ears of the council. The council has set up a number of web reporting forms for the community to report issues; many waste and recycling issues, including bins left on streets outside permitted times, can also be reported on the Bristol Waste Company website. Recently the council has also launched a website where highways and traffic issues can be reported; this is for the community to identify problems and potential projects such as zebra crossings or yellow lines to prevent inappropriate parking. Have a look www.bristol.gov.uk/improve-my-street

But that is not the climate that is currently uppermost in our minds, no doubt, as we enjoy the unseasonably mild weather and wonder where winter went. We had a day of snow, much enjoyed by the children on Redland Green where the newly laid hedge seems to have survived the impact of many plastic toboggans; we all look forward to seeing how the hedge springs again. The project was paid for by RCAS members through the Small Grants programme and brought forward by volunteers from RCAS and RFCG; thanks to RGCG for organising and coordinating the project and to Malcolm Dowling for his expertise and enthusiasm.

Everywhere, spring bulbs are in full flower, and we hope to be adding to them on Lovers' Walk where the Urban Buzz officer has suggested planting snowdrops round the lime trees to support the pollinator species early in the season. She has also offered to find some additional plants for the remaining flower bed by the top gate of the Cotham Gardens Playground area, which will reinforce the plants already flourishing there and add to the length of the flowering season, for both insects and local residents to enjoy. So if you have offered to help with the maintenance of that bed, expect an invitation to come and help with the planting next month!

Please do get in touch if there is anything you would like to help with, practically through actions to tidy streets for instance or to support the work of the society by helping with the committee organisation; many people responded to the survey a couple of years ago saying they could help, were you one of those? If so, we look forward to hearing from you again.

Alison Bromilow

Planning Report

NEW APPLICATIONS:

Land Adjacent To Kingsley House Kingsley Road, Cotham

Erection of a class C3 dwelling with associated car parking, cycle storage, private amenity space and refuse storage. RCAS objected on grounds of rear windows overlooking and potential use as HMO without sufficient waste and recycling storage. Application withdrawn.

Prospect House, 2 Brookfield Lane

Demolition of existing garden room and construction of a new single and two storey extension in existing courtyard, creation of roof terrace above single story element.

RCAS made no comment.

26 Cotham Grove Garage facing onto Fremantle Road

RCAS made no comment.

55 Springfield Road

Proposed excavation to existing site at the rear of 55 Springfield Road and erection of two proposed two -bedroom dwelling houses accessed via Sydenham Road.

RCAS regrets loss of mature trees. Few sites locally where the council can plant trees on its own land, so it is a loss of tree canopy. Concern whether bin stores are large enough and configured so the wheelie bin can be put into the narrow niche. RCAS will ask for a condition that bins are stored off the street. Cycle storage is accessible only by wheeling through house. RCAS raised a concern that cycles may be left on the pavement.

56 Hampton Park

Refurbishment of a lower ground floor flat and conversion of an existing basement to form a new dwelling. Basement conversion includes a rear single storey extension and terrace. Property to be changed from C3 to C1 premises.

RCAS objected, raising concerns about poor quality of accommodation and poor lighting for the new flat and additional accommodation.

38 Kersteman Road

A two storey side extension and a single storey rear extension to create additional linked accommodation in the rear garden. RCAS made no comments.

Blackboy Hill public conveniences

Proposed addition of two lockable metal doors, fixed into the ground and not attached to the building. It is good news that they are protecting it from further vandalism.

UPDATES:

Retrospective application, 17 Cotham Road South

Windows (new and replacement) and outdoor terrace area (in addition to works approved under 14/02505/F) RCAS objected on grounds of overlooking. Pending decision.

10 Zetland Road

Fixed awning in front of the restaurant

Refused on grounds of scale, bulk, form, massing, overall design and projection beyond the principal elevation of the building at a prominent corner location. Would result in an overly prominent and incongruous permanent commercial feature within the streetscene, resulting in unacceptable harm to the character and appearance of the host property, streetscene and surrounding area.

RCAS made no comment.

91 Hampton Road

Application to widen the access gates - which front to Auburn Road. Withdrawn.

**Alison Bromilow
Simon Birch**

The Mystery is Solved!

Members will recall that the last newsletter contained images of two paintings from the mid 19th century showing Cotham House and we were set the challenge of identifying the building. Thanks to Abigail Shepherd for sorting this out.

The building remains intact and is part of the University of Bristol estates occupied by the Homoeopathic Hospital and other buildings.



The painting shown here was taken from a position now occupied by the main Homoeopathic Hospital and so you can't see the same view. You can, however, still see the building (now housing the University Philosophy Department) if you walk through the entrance at the top of Cotham Hill. Fortunately modern technology helps us to understand the layout and,

courtesy of Google Earth, the image below shows a three dimensional view from above. The rear of the Homoeopathic Hospital is at the bottom right and the pink building in the centre is Cotham House. The little temple on the right has gone.

Thanks Abigail!

Peter Wilde



Image from Google Earth

From your newsletter Editor

It is amazing to relate that I took on the task of producing our quarterly RCAS newsletter at the beginning of 2005. Little did I realise what I was taking on at the time; this edition is my 57th newsletter - yes, how time flies!

There have been many changes in the content and style over the years. Early on I changed the desktop publishing software to InDesign, a trusted industry standard which has continued to work well. Not long afterwards I changed the layout to the current double column format with the RCAS side banner. Most people find this easier to read.

Since then we have had more photographs, including the introduction of colour on the covers, and more recently on many of the inside pages.

The use of email and the internet has made the task much easier. At the start I was often scanning in photos and in some cases transcribing handwritten reports.

Much has remained the same. There is always a report from the Chair, a planning report, and reports on parks and local community matters. The newsletter has served as a popular means of communication about forthcoming events and local matters of importance. I have always enjoyed including the interesting specialist articles about history, local features or interesting people.

How does each newsletter come into being? Well, much depends as ever, on our loyal and hardworking committee who reliably come up with reports covering their areas of responsibility by the relevant 'copy date'. In addition I frequently have material submitted by others, usually members of RCAS.

The first task is to put everything (text, photographs etc.) roughly into order on a blank template. At this stage it doesn't matter where it all goes but I do have to carefully edit and format all the text. It's important to have grammatically well constructed text and it needs to conform to a consistent style.

Then I count up how many pages I have. A folded format requires pages in multiples of 4. It's amazing how often, for example, the first draft ends up with 26 pages which needs to be 24 or 28. I then have to decide whether to cut or add - this is the mysterious skill (perhaps the art?) of the editor.

Once I see what I have, I do have to make decisions about photographs. This is a particularly enjoyable part of the task but sometimes I find I have to rush out at the last minute to grab a shot of something to illustrate a point in the text. It's amazing that I can do so much on my iPhone which is always in my pocket and produces really high quality images.

After shuffling everything round a few times I get a computer version of the newsletter which I am happy with. I try, as much as time permits, to get someone else to proof read but sometimes that's not possible and I just check it very carefully myself. There is no time to send proofs back to contributors for checking - they have to put their trust in me and so far they have done!

Of course there are often inserts to do as well (Open Gardens programme, pull-out information section).

Then I send it by the magic of the internet to our wonderful printers Sebright. I have used them for several years and they have been excellent, producing good quality quickly

and efficiently. The printing is usually done in three or four days and delivered back to my home. This is always the moment of anxiety where I check for undiscovered errors and omissions. Then they are divided up for our trusty distribution team.

So that's how it's done - simple!

How long does it take me? Well, for each edition there are a few days of collecting material (and occasionally chasing up) and then one pretty full weekend putting it all together. In between times it's just a matter of remembering to take a photo of something interesting or asking appropriate people to contribute interesting articles.

This has been a really enjoyable and fulfilling experience and I'm really glad to have had the chance to do this work. Having said that, I feel that a change is needed. Fifteen years in any job is enough and I'm sure the

newsletter would be enhanced by a change in editorship. I know we have a vibrant and talented local community, so I have informed the committee that I will continue as editor until the end of 2019 but a new editor (or editors) will be needed for the new decade!

I have put a small insert below, explaining what is needed. If you are interested, or know someone who might enjoy the challenge, I would be delighted to explain more about what is involved. I would also be happy to pass on what I have learned and do an 'overlap' for a while.

Give it some thought - it is a fun challenge and I wouldn't have done it for 15 years if I hadn't enjoyed it!

Peter Wilde

Would you like to edit the RCAS newsletter?

We are looking for one (or more than one) person to take on the role of newsletter editor from 2020. The main skills needed are

- (i) confidence in editing English grammar and text
- (ii) reasonable computer skills with knowledge of (or ability to learn) desktop publishing
- (iii) reasonable understanding of photography and digital editing of photographs

Why would you want to take this on?

You are confident and competent in the appropriate skills

You get to hear all about what's happening in the area

It's a creative task - there are opportunities to express your own ideas

You would be (automatically) a committee member but you could just stick to the newsletter role if you preferred

You can do everything at home in your own time

For more information please contact

Peter Wilde (peter.wilde@doctors.org.uk) or Alison Bromilow (alison@rcas.org.uk)

Bishopston Cotham and Redland Community Partnership

Bishopston Cotham and Redland Community Partnership (BCR CP) forum held on February 11th in the Redland Green Bowls Club saw a good turnout of people to hear reports from police, councillors and many voluntary groups from the area. RCAS was one of the groups represented. The CP is helping the community engage with the new structure for the allocation of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding from local developments by the Area Committee (AC) of councillors for our area.

The next meeting is on **Thursday April 11th at Bishopston Library, 100A Gloucester Road 7pm to 9pm** and at this meeting councillors are expected to present project proposals submitted to them for funding allocation.

The meeting will then talk about how councillors could prioritise the decision making given the funding available. The local element of CIL (15% of the total

developer contribution) is allocated at the formal meeting in September, but at this stage councillors will nominate projects which will then be worked up in more detail over the next few months before they are taken to the appropriate AC meeting. CIL funding accumulates over the year according to what building has taken place in the area and there is currently around £40k but there is expected to be around £80k for AC2 area by September. AC2 area covers Bishopston, Cotham, Redland, Henbury, Brentry, Southmead and Horfield.

Applications for CIL funding can be made through the BCC website on the **www.bristol.gov.uk/people-communities/funding-local-projects** page. You can also discuss your ideas with your ward councillor before making the application.

It was great to hear from so many groups with positive ideas for the area. If you want to be kept in touch about future meetings, sign up at **bcrcp.org.uk**

Alison Bromilow

RCAS Small Grant Scheme

RCAS has been invited to contribute funding to the creation of a mural on Redland Station which Severnside Community Rail Project and Cotham Gardens primary school are proposing to sponsor, to cover over the graffiti painted on the stonework under the bridges of Lovers' Walk and Redland Grove.

We are discussing with the chair of governors how this project can be taken forward. We think it will contribute positively to the local amenity and will also be a good learning experience for the children at the school.

We are also very pleased that the BCR Street Scene group has been able to pick up their work again on tackling graffiti and litter in our area. RCAS has contributed £500 towards the costs of buying the paint, remover and equipment. The group tries to keep on top of the tagging in our area by painting over it or cleaning it off as quickly as possible. It is much appreciated by local residents, who do not have the capacity to do it for themselves, and it is heartening that many have contributed towards the costs. Tags smaller than 1 m square can be

continued opposite

Save the date!

Redland Green Fete

27th April 2019 2pm - 4.30pm

Wonderful news! Although the May fair will not be taking place this year, Redland Green Community Group are organising a Fete on the Green a week earlier

Our aim is to bring the community together in a simpler and easily repeatable event. The day will have more of a village fete feel to it with Splat The Rat, a coconut shy, face painting and plenty more silly games. There will also be games at the tennis courts, music, kids entertainment sessions at the Bowling Green, rhubarb for sale fresh from the allotments, goodies from the Women's Institute and plenty of lovely refreshments.

For the children (or young at heart) there will be a "Vegimal Competition" where children will be asked to create an animal out of fruit or vegetables and bring it along before the fete to be judged. Prizes for the best ones in each category. We are looking for volunteers - even if you can just lend a hand for half an hour on the day that would be great. We are also looking for sponsors for our programme. If you would like to get involved please e-mail chair@rgcg.org.uk

To find out the latest news check out our website rgcg.org.uk or find us on Facebook (search for Redland Green Community Group) or Twitter (@RedlandGreenCG)

We hope to see you there
Emily Smithson
Chair of Redland Green Community Group

RCAS Small Grant Scheme (continued)

removed by Bristol Waste Company free of charge; those over 1 sqm may be charged, as are tags on brickwork and paintwork which need pressure washing to remove them.

The 'Action Hour' s will be restarting in March on the 4th weekend of each month, and help is invited from local residents. Find out more on the BCR CP website.

Remember too to help keep our area looking good by REPORTING issues on the Bristol City Council website, including waste issues, pavement obstructions and front gardens which are full of rubbish.

Alison Bromilow

Parks

RCAS is a member of the Bristol Parks Forum (BPF), the network of parks groups across the city. BPF has quarterly meetings to discuss, with officers and councillors, how parks can be protected and improved.

At the Forum meeting on February 16th, the planning policy officer presented an early look at how the emerging Local Plan will affect parks in the city. Under national planning policy, greenspace now can be designated Local Green Space, which gives it equivalent protection as Green Belt designation, or Reserved Open Space, which gives it less protection but still assumes that, unless there is a particularly strong reason, the space will be protected. Our two parks, Redland Green and Cotham Gardens, and the Lovers' Walk/ Redland Grove greenspace are expected to be designated as Local Green Space.

When the Local Plan is consulted on, in March to May 2019, it will be important to look at the designation for our green spaces, and also to check the wording of the policies for Green Space to ensure that our local parks are protected from inappropriate development.

The Bristol and Bath Parks Foundation steering group continues to work on how parks can be maintained in the future, and the project is due to be launched in June 2019 at the Festival of Nature. The foundation is to be a Charitable Incorporated Organisation and will be able to access funding streams that are not open to local authorities.

As expected, the current City Council budget for parks 2019/20 proposes a further cut of £778k from the level of this year's budget. Income generating activities and options continue to be trialled, with some raising

more than expected and some less. Bristol is also bidding for Future Parks Accelerator funding, from the Heritage Lottery Fund and National Trust. Lack of government and council funding for parks is a countrywide problem, not just a local one.

Cotham Gardens play equipment was tagged again and has been cleaned off but the horse and cart need some new paint so volunteers will be addressing that when the weather is warmer. We are also in the process of talking to Avon Wildlife Trust officer about doing some planting to increase insect and wildlife diversity in the park. This could be spring bulbs or some more plants for the flower bed. The officer is also talking to Redland Green Community Group volunteers about doing similar work in the green.

Concessions were approved for Cotham Gardens and Redland Green by the licensing committees and tenders are now to be invited from organisations or businesses who would like to take up the licence. The pitches will be provided with an accessible electricity supply so that diesel engines will not be needed to keep ice-cream cool or make coffee hot. We hope that a suitable contractor comes forward for Cotham Gardens where many people have been asking for a café serving the park. All tenders will be assessed for suitability, which will be important in Cotham Gardens and Redland Green, which are both used heavily by school students in the day and on their journeys to and from school.

Alison Bromilow



Tree works on Lovers' Walk this week, removing dead wood from the lime avenue
(photo Alison Bromilow)

Student Liaison

Report on Student Liaison meeting with University of Bristol. December 2018.

The annual 'Bristol Big Give'.

This campaign is a collaboration between the British Heart Foundation (BHF), University of Bristol (UoB), University of Bristol Students' Union, University of the West of England (UWE), UWE Students' Union and Bristol Waste Company.

It is a part of the 'Love Where You Live Campaign', which is thought to help with the relationship between the students and the community, as well as recycling many items, raising money for BHF and helping with sustainability in the city.

Each year a campaign is run to remind students of their responsibilities when moving out of their accommodation to encourage them to have a good attitude towards giving and recycling and to donate unwanted but reusable items to charity. 205 tonnes were collected this year, including unwanted food. £358,960 (approx £180 per tonne) was raised for the life-saving work done by the BHF and other local charities.

The campaign ran from 20 April until 26/27 July. Twenty temporary clothing banks were placed in publicly accessible locations as well as on UoB and UWE sites. Bristol Waste Company monitors fly tipping on a weekly basis and is grateful for information from the public regarding any problems. All year round donations are accepted.

More can be found at <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/green/doing/our-achievements/big-give/>

Recent Media interest in the activities of students.

Several articles focusing on student

behaviour and the University of Bristol's disciplinary approach have appeared in the Times, Guardian, Evening Post, Radio Bristol, Points West, and elsewhere. It was said by UoB that the article in the Guardian was fair. This interest by the media is probably as a result of the profile raised by the 'Noise Pages': a local blog carried out by Andrew Waller about anti-social behaviour and noisy student parties in Redland.

UoB report on complaints from the community.

UoB reported that the number of complaints that they had received from the public so far this year (to December 2018) regarding students was 128 (in 2018), these being mainly about noise. 63% of the complaints concerned 2nd year students and 35% concerned 3rd year students. There are very low levels of complaint about 1st year students and post graduates. North village halls (Stoke Bishop) make up a high percentage of the problem students (80%). Interestingly, as reported by UoB, 50% of this hall intake is from public schools.

Report by Andrew Waller of the 'Noise Pages'.

This blog was started in March 2018 as a reaction to increasing late night noise around Hampton Road and Chandos village areas. Whether or not people are affected by big parties and noise depends on exactly where they live. The biggest problem may well be people shouting on their way home; this is the hardest to deal with and to take action against. Lack of action by Bristol City Council against poor landlords does not encourage good management by students. The 'Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime

and Policing Act 2014' gives powers to the Police and to Local Authorities to take action against reported anti-social behaviour, but both seem to be reluctant use this power against the noisy parties. It must be borne in mind that the Chief Constable has said that he is concerned as to the safety of participants at these big parties, something the University and all of us should also be concerned about.

UoB and the Noise Pages.

UoB community liaison has reported that the 'Noise Pages' has caused a significant impact on their work this term and that some of their students reported as being involved in noisy parties identify as victims and as having been harassed.

The university needs to be careful about the way it deals with the current effect on their students of the public information on the 'Noise Pages'. It must be right that those affected by sleepless nights on a recurring basis, caused by noisy anti-social behaviour, should be able to report their concerns and

ask for some remedy. The 'Noise Pages' has acted as a portal for these people. Andrew has now removed all house numbers from the blog, so it is no longer possible to identify the party house by simply reading the blog.

Who really is the victim here?

Anti-Social Behaviour Impact Awareness sessions.

This is a new scheme being used by UoB for students who have had serious complaints made against them. It is co-produced with Victim Support, who deliver the sessions, and aims to encourage students to see ongoing noise disturbance or house party disruption from their neighbour's perspective. The students have to pay £50 to attend. Apparently results are positive and students said they would think again about having another party. The person running the course made it clear that the students were not told off.

Rob Harris

Nice to see our lovely police horses and mounted officers on patrol and providing reassurance and security for the neighbourhood.



What a difference!



Above; The same panorama of Redland Green on 1st February and the 24th February.

Below; In late February we are having a particularly lovely show of bulbs



Hedge Laying

Redland Green Community Group is thrilled to have laid, in January, the field maple hedge that runs alongside the boundary of the green with the Metford Road allotments, thanks to funding provided by Redland and Cotham Amenities Society.

This follows the successful laying of the green's mixed species hedge on the opposite side of the green last November, also generously funded by RCAS. Both events were supported by Bristol City Council, who provided safety fencing and personal protective equipment for participants.

Our hedge layer and trainer for both hedge layings was 79 year old Malcolm Dowling of Lower Claverham. Malcolm started hedge laying upon retirement at the age of 60, and is now a prize winning hedge layer.

The hedge laid in November, rich in traditional hedgerow species, was a great hedge for absolute beginners – which most who took part were – as it had never been trimmed or managed in any way since planting about 8 years ago. Its natural growth made it relatively easy to neaten (cutting off the lower side growth), ready for laying, before making a steep cut with a billhook into the base of the trunk. After this cut, and further gentle splitting to the base, the trunk will then lay. The prospect of putting a billhook through a young tree's trunk without completely severing it is daunting, and, to help us acquire the knack, Malcolm had us practicing first on small branches he'd prepared in advance.

By contrast, the 30 year old field maple trees in the allotment boundary hedge have been



The beginning of the work. You can barely see the metal fence boundary of the allotments.

mechanically cut back every few years by the council, resulting in thick main branches and much dense spindly side growth. This meant a more protracted job to clear the growth below about 1.5 metres of height, and also meant a chain saw, rather than the traditional bill hook and axe, had to be used to cut into the thick trunks prior to laying. As novices, the first hedge offered us the perfect opportunity to learn traditional hedge-laying methods; the second hedge built on this and offered us experience likely to be useful for hedge laying in the countryside, where, sadly, most hedges are flail cut rather than traditionally laid.

It seems nothing short of incredible that almost severing a tree's connection to its roots does not result in the tree's death, but instead encourages it to regenerate. In spring, the trees will produce new growth

which will shoot upwards. While a newly laid hedge looks dramatic – brutal even – the trees are reinvigorated, and they become much better habitat for wildlife: amphibians, small mammals, birds and invertebrates all benefit from hedges being laid.

We are very excited to have laid the two hedges, and really looking forward to watching the new growth emerge this spring. Thank you, RCAS, for funding us!

Further details and photos of the two hedge layings are available under “Recent Events” at:

<https://sites.google.com/site/redlandgreencommunity/home>

Julie Parker



This page; Various approaches to partially severing the trunks.





Above; The amazing appearance of an almost severed trunk, laid over and ready to shoot in the spring.

Below; Now you can see the metal fence!



FRIENDS and NEIGHBOURS may want to join RCAS

The annual subscription is £10 per household.
The postal subscription for those living outside the RCAS area is also £10.

We prefer to collect subscriptions by Standing Order in order to reduce work for our distributors. We will supply a Standing Order mandate form on request. For those who do not wish to use Standing Order, subscriptions will be collected by distributors in May

Those wishing to join should contact the Membership Secretary

Kathryn Armitstead
52 Redland Court Road
Redland
Bristol
BS6 7EH
Email: membership@rcas.org.uk

Please give a full contact address and telephone number. Please include your e-mail address if available.

Alternatively, please complete a new member form which can be found on our website, rcas.org.uk under the 'contact us' page

Please make the following declaration if you are a taxpayer - and sign and date it. This means that the Society can claim Gift Aid.

'I want the Redland & Cotham Amenities Society to treat all donations I make from the date of this declaration until I notify you otherwise, as Gift Aid. I know that I must pay an amount of income/capital gains tax at least equal to the tax the charity reclaims on my donations in the tax year'

Do mention if you are able to help with any RCAS activities.



Above; The tranquil night time scene in Lower Redland Road (photo Alison Bromilow)

Below; The following day the snow was melting fast

Back cover; Redland Chapel looking very elegant in the snow



