

Redland & Cotham Amenities Society



Report from the Chair
Planning
Parks
Student affairs
Gardens



Number 202 - March 2024

Report from the Chair

This year, the bulbs planted around the trees along Lovers' Walk have been splendid. Thousands of crocuses and snowdrops were planted in Spring 2019 by ParkWork officer Joe McKenna and his team. ParkWork is an organisation supported by Bristol City Council and YourPark (and previously by Bristol Parks Forum) to provide training and skills development for people who need additional support. ParkWork supports maintenance of Bristol's Parks whilst giving added value by training low skilled people in difficult circumstances to create routes to employment. Parks groups can work with ParkWork to bring forward projects in their parks and Joe was the lead for the project to plant up wildflowers in Cotham Gardens with the primary school children.

In Cotham Gardens, the regular volunteers have continued to turn out each month and sweep the paths and play area and clear the gutters and gullies, whatever the weather. If you would like to get involved, even for half an hour, you will be welcome to join in on the first Saturday of each month from about 9.30am.

In February, we were also able to remove flyposting and tags (graffiti) which had appeared on the electricity cabinet and on benches in the park. I had taken the training with the Street Scene Group, so that I was allowed to use the Nordic chemicals which are effective but v safe to use and I have a supply of different strengths of water neutralised paint remover which works well.

You may have seen other volunteers from the SSG clearing up the street furniture around our area and in Kingsdown and Gloucester Road. Some of them have to get up early to get the work done before the traders raise their shutters; and are sometimes mistaken for taggers themselves. There are also a number of local people who litter pick to keep our streets and parks clean; some in organised groups like the Chandos Neighbourhood Association team, and some who have their own litter picker and look after their street or local area. It is wonderful how many people are happy to put in their time and effort to make the neighbourhood better for everyone. Thank you all for all you do.

Keeping on top of planning applications has been challenging; Bristol City Council is still dealing with an enormous backlog as you will see from the dates of some planning applications which still haven't been determined and there are a large number of planning enforcement cases still in progress. Thank you to everyone who alerts us to planning and development cases near them, and who makes comments on the Planning Online site to help us understand what local thoughts are about proposals. If you want to find out about a planning application, you can look at all the documents on the Bristol City Council website under Bristol.gov.uk/online-applications. Just put the address in the search box at the bottom of the page.

RCAS works with other groups in the city who are impacted by the large number of properties which are occupied as HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation) by students attending both the University of Bristol and UWE. In our area, most of the students go to UoB and we have been able to be involved in discussions with the University and other agencies including the police, Bristol Waste and Private-Housing BCC through the Bristol Student Community Partnership.

We are very grateful to Rob Harris for his work on this over the last nearly 10 years but is now stepping down from the committee. He has provided updates for the newsletter to keep us all abreast of the changing processes and attended meetings to represent RCAS residents as well as keeping an eye on the national picture of the impact of the increased commercialisation of universities and the resultant pressure on local authorities of a significant rise of temporary residents in cities who do not contribute to the cost of providing local services such as waste and recycling collections. We will miss his input and thank him for his hard work for our community.

RCAS works closely with Chandos Neighbourhood Association, which has the highest density of student properties in Bristol, and we are grateful to Derrick Collier from CNA and RCAS who is going to keep us abreast of updates but if there is anyone reading this who would be able to get involved in this aspect of R&C life, we would love to hear from you. We are particularly looking for someone who would be interested in working alongside the other groups to build an effective network of local residents groups which would work with the University and other agencies to improve the way that the University and students relate to and in our communities. Please get in touch if you would like to find out more.

Last but not least, many of you have contacted RCAS with your concerns about the very large Redland rail sign which has been erected on the corner of South Road and Redland Grove. It was as much of a surprise to us as anyone and we are trying to establish whether it should have had a planning application, or any other permissions given the historic significance of the location as part of the setting of the Redland Court estate. We are waiting for updates from councillors and BCC officers.

Please take a look at the invitation to our Spring Event, details are on the inside back page.

Alison Bromilow



Planning Report

Rented housing in Bristol

The council has adopted a new licensing scheme in Bristol in wards where there is a high proportion of Private Rented Properties. The government definition of a high proportion is 19% of all housing and in Cotham the figure is 55% (the other areas to be covered are Bishopston and Ashley Down, and Easton where the figures are 33% and 23%).

In these wards, there are a significant number of those properties that are in poor condition and adversely affecting the health and safety of the occupants; 'Poor Property Conditions' is one of the criteria for bringing in a selective licensing system.

By introducing a licensing scheme, Bristol CC will be able to require landlords buy a licence which will fund the inspection of properties so that the poor-quality premises can be identified, and remedial actions undertaken. There are already these systems in place in other areas in Bristol such as Stapleton Road and this has resulted in a high level of improvements in these properties.

There is opposition from landlords about the cost of the licence, which will be set to cover the costs of running the scheme and will be significant. Interesting statistics that emerged from the consultation revealed that 32.74% of landlords own only one HMO but 1% own more than 100 and fewer landlords let HMOs than those that let non-HMO properties. There were reports of noise, ASB and rubbish/waste at private rented properties from 28-38% of the owner-occupier respondents.

There is obviously concern that making it less commercially attractive to privately rent out properties will reduce the amount of accommodation available which, in the current housing crisis, is a problem.

Licensing does not apply to Airbnb lets which means that some landlords may decide to move to a short-term letting system for their properties. This will remove more properties from the traditional rental market.

The government carried out a consultation on bringing in greater legislation for Airbnb properties last summer and this is still being analysed. Proposals included making Airbnb a specific 'Use Class' under planning legislation and removing 'permitted development' rights.

This would require a planning application to be made for any property/ part of property which would be used as an Airbnb. The proliferation of Airbnb renting is an international concern and some cities in Europe have restrictions in place. In London, a limit on the number of days that a property can be rented annually as an Airbnb has been adopted.

There have been few planning applications in our area (except for applications for works to trees) since the last report but a few decisions have been made. NB. The BCC application website is not currently providing up-to-date information so decisions may have been made but not yet recorded:

Planning application decisions:

Garages SW of Cossins Road. 6 dwellings. Application refused on the grounds of visual impact on Redland Green and possible impact on the mature trees on the bank next to the proposed units from future owners requesting canopy reduction or tree felling.

49 Salisbury Road. Extension of existing off-street parking space. April 2023. RCAS objected. Refused.

1 Eastfield Road. Appeal against refusal of first application in progress.
New application May 2022. Second application approved against officer recommendation. RCAS supported both applications.

30 Waverley Road. Reversion of property to single dwelling, with loft conversion. Dec 2022. Refused on grounds of visual impact on the street/area.

65 Lower Redland Road. Appeal against refusal of certificate of existing use as large HMO allowed.

Rear of 52 Hampton Park. Replacement of garage with garage + dwelling unit at first floor level. Dec 2022 RCAS objected. Withdrawn

7 Clyde Park. Roof extension with dormer window. RCAS objected. Dec 2022. Refused on grounds of inappropriate design and adverse impact on Conservation Area.

87 Redland Road. Change of use (COU) from 2 maisonettes to 2 large HMOs. April 2022. RCAS objected. Refused on grounds of 'sandwiching' property between HMO use properties, lack of cycle storage and impact on parking, and poor-quality accommodation.

Awaiting Decision:

25 Brighton Road. Application for retention of change of use from residential to HMO. RCAS objected. Feb 2023.

38 Chandos Road. Demolition of 6 garages and construction of 2-storey residential unit. March 2023.

63 Salisbury Road. Retrospective application for creation of off-street parking space. April 2023. RCAS objected.

Greendale Road (rear of 116 Coldharbour Road) 2-bedroom, 4-person dwelling. June 2023. RCAS objected.

19 Brighton Road. Application to retain 2nd floor extension withdrawn – retrospective application so work has already been done without permission. Enforcement case still open.

Muller House and the Lodge. 7 Cotham Park. COU from HMO to 6 residential units and addition of 5 new units. July 2023. RCAS commented.

Alison Bromilow and Simon Birch

Redland Club community centre - Community Interest Company

We are currently seeking people to become involved in actively running the Redland Club – a small community building in the heart of Redland. The focus is on health and well-being with regular activities including yoga, table tennis, tai chi and art sessions. The building is also hired out for local meetings, children's parties etc.

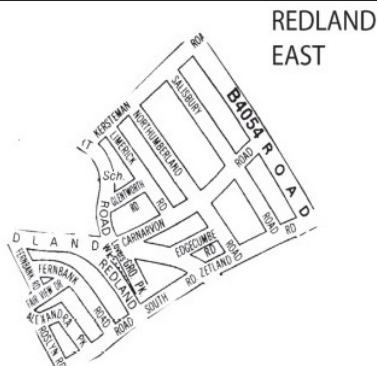
There are a wide range of responsibilities and tasks associated with running the building: managing the building eg. internal maintenance/health and safety; liaison with suppliers and contractors; caretaking and cleaning; liaison with regular and new hirers; updating the website, social media, administration and finance. We would welcome any help - either as a management committee member/director or volunteer.

The lease was taken on by the current directors in 2009 (5 yearly) and is due for renewal this year, so input is also potentially needed on negotiating the terms of the new lease.

We are seeking to make this a flourishing and sustainable community centre for the benefit of local residents and the wider community for years to come, so please feel free to enquire even if you are only interested in a specific aspect or can only spare a little time!

To find out more - please contact Michele Tedder – theredlandclub@gmail.com
07981 756965
www.redlandclub.co.uk

RCAS Open Gardens Sunday 23rd June 2024



Sunday 23rd June is the date for Open gardens, please save the date in your diary now!

This year it's gardens in Redland East, the area shown in the map. We last visited in 2019, note: Redland and Cotham is divided into 4 areas and visited in a 4 year rotation. For those who have not participated in the past, this is a lovely community event, a great opportunity for a pleasant stroll, to meet the locals, and perhaps to get some gardening tips or inspiration!

At this time we are looking for people in Redland East to open their gardens, please let the open gardens team know if you would like to open your garden, on
rcasopengardens@gmail.com

A variety of different gardens are needed: lots of plants, a great outdoor living space, fantastic play area, biodiversity haven or ?? There will be a special tour on the Saturday for garden openers, so you won't miss out seeing the other open gardens on the day itself.

If you aren't sure, get in touch to discuss, we can visit and discuss without obligation/commitment.

This is a community event and all gardens are welcome, access permitting. There is no charge for visitors, however contributions to the garden openers nominated charity, who are offering refreshments, is of course welcome.

The programme for Open Gardens will be in the May issue of this newsletter, so you can take it around with you on the day to show you are an RCAS member.

Parks

Cotham Gardens

Friends of Cotham Gardens

The enthusiasm of our volunteers to keep the area and specifically the children's play area tidy continues unabated between 09.30 to 12'ish on the first Saturday each month. We have reviewed our goals for the year and also reflected on bringing a bit more community social activity to the park.

This was prompted by the success of the evening of Christmas songs in early December, which about 100 people attended, sponsored by RCAS and Elmgrove City Church. The donated mulled wine, hot chocolate and canapes were a big hit, if rather over-subscribed! We plan to repeat this annually and there is a suggestion of holding a small summer evening fayre of some description in June – August timeframe – more to follow.



A large crowd enjoyed Carol singing at Cotham Gardens



Redland Green

As I write this in mid February the scene in Redland Green is not much different from the photo to the right which was taken on a very wet Sunday morning in early December when an intrepid group of volunteers planted a variety of bulbs outside the church, the vicarage and church hall. It seems to have rained continuously since then preventing any efforts at maintenance activities. Once the sun comes out for longer than a few hours and the good weather returns we will be wishing for rain - such is life in the UK!

The Singing of Christmas songs went ahead on a relatively balmy evening on Saturday 16th December where 50 voices had enthusiastic accordion accompaniment from Dr Jazz a.k.a. Paul Goddard. Hot chocolate was served by Adie Butcher courtesy of Redland (Tennis) Club during the event and it was delicious! Thank you all.

The RGCG AGM was held on Tuesday 6th February 2024 in the Bowling Club and 16 people braved the rainstorm to attend. All the officers agreed to keep their posts for another year with thanks to Julie Parker for her hard work on the keeping the website up to date. John Tarlton the Treasurer proposed that we sponsored a copper beech tree and RCAS agreed to sponsor a red maple tree to complete the current tree planting plan. This was carried unanimously along with the proposal to plant some hellebores under the yew trees by Redland Church.

The laying of the maple hedge alongside the Metford Road allotments will have to wait another year due to the weather conditions but an activity session cutting back side growth will be organised soon. The grassy strip next to the hedge around the play area and bordering the access road to the farm and allotments is still a muddy mess from the large wheels of the vehicles used by the council to trim the hedge at the end of the summer (see photo lower right opposite page). This type of damage is occurring more frequently in the Green as the council uses larger vehicles to perform maintenance tasks in the hopes of it taking less time but it seems to be coming at a cost. We will be discussing this issue with council officers and our local councillors.

Thank you to all those who contributed comments to the Cossins Road garage development. Planning was refused on the application as it stood.

Redland Church are proposing a Community Fun event based on the Church Hall, including serving teas in **the afternoon of Monday 6th May 2024**. There will be music and contributions from other community organisations such as the Redland Green Allotment Association (rhubarb and plants for sale). The Bowling Club and Tennis Club may well join in with taster sessions provided there is no clash with matches already booked.



The crocuses are out waiting for the sun and the daffodils are preparing to burst into flower, so roll on spring and let us hope that there will be a really good showing of spring flowers for this year's early Easter. Don't forget to keep an eye on the bird boxes for new occupants!

Lois Goddard
Chair of Redland Green Community Group



Bird boxes at Redland Green

The extremely wet winter has made it difficult to survey our bird boxes this winter: availability and dry weather have not often coincided.

We now have 21 bird boxes, a donor who prefers to remain anonymous having paid for a new bird box in the spring of last year to add to the 20 funded by RCAS in 2019/20 and 2022. Many of the bird boxes are very high up in trees (an expedient to prevent both vandalism and cat predation) and on slopes which are rather slippery in the wet.

However, we have surveyed and cleaned seven of the most accessible boxes. Two of the newest four boxes (funded by RCAS in 2022) were placed in trees just inside Metford Road allotments, to keep a good spread of boxes around the Green. These are both visible from the path through the Green:

one is on a sycamore tree to the left of the gate into the allotments by the Dell; the other is in a tree (also a sycamore) near to the base of the steps. In fact, this box had to be relocated to the next door tree (an ash) as this sycamore is dying and due to be felled.

The good news is that both boxes had had occupants (a great tit pair in the sycamore tree by the gate and blue tits in the box near to the base of the steps) and it seems that the chicks fledged successfully.

Box 11, which has been used every year, and which is located in the young oak tree by the main shared path, and near to the Metford Road allotments gate, had also been used, but contained four unhatched eggs. Likewise, box 15, which has previously been successfully used each year by great tits, had also been used, but contained four skeletons. It's impossible to know whether these unsuccessful nests were the pairs' first or second broods.

Box 16 (2nd tree from the main entrance to the playground) contained an empty nest.

The two remaining inspected boxes were unused: the new starling box (20, opposite the entrance to the bowling green) and box 10, a well hidden open-fronted box in a veteran ash on the boundary between the Green and houses on St Oswald's Road.

None of our (4) open-fronted boxes have yet been used, despite being well hidden by vegetation, and so we have started to experiment with relocating them. One has already been moved behind the St Oswald's Road hedgerow, and being much lower down than tree-mounted boxes, may well attract a wren or robin this year. Despite being low, it is still difficult for predators to approach, and quite well hidden.

We are hoping for a dry period soon so we can safely survey those boxes not yet inspected.

Julie Parker



Blue tits at Box 18
and
Great tits at box 19



Tree Management

There have been a good number of applications to the council for works on trees in our area over this winter period, but fortunately very few applications were to fell trees.

We need our trees and one of the biggest benefits they give is to let the continual rainfall we have been having soak through into the ground, assisted by the root system, and help alleviate flooding.

In a garden location it is often necessary to engage the services of a tree surgeon to do the work to maintain trees in proportion with their surroundings. The cost of a tree surgeon is good value when you consider the training and equipment required, and the physical challenges involved in the work, often at height, in a built-up environment. A good tree surgeon will be able to advise on the best way to manage a tree and there are many approaches to manage the size and shape to suit the surroundings.

Please be aware that any tree works carried out in Conservation Areas need a planning application to be made to Bristol City Council (BCC). You can check whether your property is in a Conservation Area using Know Your Place (on BCC website) and clicking Conservation Areas on the Information Layers tab (the vast majority of Redland and Cotham are covered by a Conservation area).

RCAS produced a tree guide in 2006 which has guidance on how to engage a good tree surgeon and an overview of the options available. There are still some copies available, contact info@rcas.org.uk if you would like a copy.

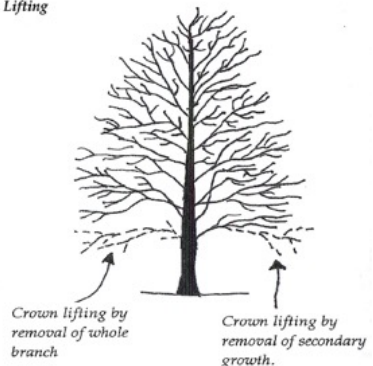
It's fairly easy nowadays for anyone to buy a chainsaw and high viz clothing and offer to do tree work, but there can be irrecoverable damage to your tree and even damage your garden or house, if they are not appropriately trained and skilled.

Extracted from the RCAS publication 'Our garden trees – Conservation and new planting' is an overview of some of the options for managing trees.

Crown Lifting

Crown Lifting

If the issue is excessive shading in the garden, this approach can bring in a surprising amount of light.

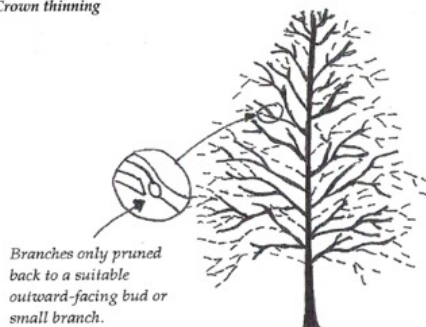


Crown Thinning

This approach reduces the overall volume of the tree and reduces the shade cast by the tree. This is a very skilled job to leave a healthy well balanced crown that looks 'natural'.

Both crown lifting and thinning operations can be done at the same time, but for tree health reasons, a maximum of 30% canopy should be removed during any one year.

Crown thinning



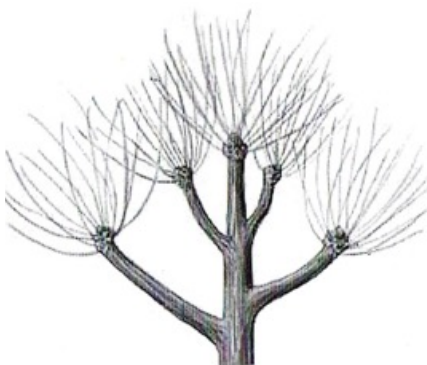
Branches only pruned back to a suitable outward-facing bud or small branch.

Pollarding

Another technique is 'Pollarding' where all small branches are removed back to a large branch junction. It is only suitable for some tree species.

The tree must be pollarded when fairly young, and then a regular cycle of pollarding is needed every 1 to 3 years. This was originally a technique for supplying thin pliable poles for construction, weaving and fencing, whilst keeping them out of reach of grazing animals.

You may recognise from the picture the shape of many of our street trees, often the London plane, that are managed in this way.



This is a very brief overview of tree management, and every situation and tree is different. It's best to get quotes and advice from more than one tree surgeon before proceeding.

Dave Jones

The dread of Honey Fungus

Just when you think everything in the garden is rosy and your plants are thriving, not just surviving, a prize specimen has a sudden demise. Honey fungus strikes again.

Honey fungus (*Armillaria* sp.) is prevalent in our area of Bristol, though it could be argued, it's everywhere. It affects only woody plants, i.e. trees and shrubs, and doesn't affect herbaceous perennials, annuals or bulbs. Whilst it can be seen as nature's way of having a tidy up and dealing with plants on their last legs, honey fungus also attacks perfectly healthy plants.

One of the tell-tale signs is a plant over-performing in its penultimate year, though one only realises this in hindsight. A cherry tree, for example, will have an abundance of blossom followed by fruit in equal measure, only to wither and die the following year. By the time you realise your tree or shrub is afflicted with honey fungus, it's too late. Death can be in stages or total in what seems an instant. A branch or two may hang on in defiance, bearing leaves when the rest have fallen (and it's not even autumn).

The tree surgeon will confirm your diagnosis when they tell you there was a strong smell of mushrooms when they were sawing into the trunk.

The actual mushrooms, the fruiting bodies of honey fungus, are only to be seen in September. Beautiful they are too, paradoxically, honey coloured and edible (though do be certain before you try and always cook them first). They cluster around the base of the infected plant and above the dying roots. The mushrooms can be seen growing in a line above the roots deep underground that radiate from the infected plant. At other times of the year, honey fungus is underground and under the bark of the tree or shrub in the form of black "shoe lace" strands (rhizomorphs) and fluffy white mycelia, rather like the down on common edible mushrooms. If you should remove a piece of bark and see that these are present, the damage has been done and no cure exists. The honey fungus has probably left the crime scene and is en route to the next victim.

In former times, there was a chemical treatment available called Armillartox, but it has long since been removed from the retail market. The only organic treatment known to work is the chain saw. Be careful not to add infected material to the compost heap.

The best solution is the gardener's frame of mind. You haven't done anything wrong nor been a bad gardener. Whilst it can be upsetting, if not devastating, to lose a much loved plant, see it as an opportunity to grow something new. Gardens aren't static and plants come and go anyway. You could choose a new tree or shrub from a list of plants less susceptible to honey fungus (see the RHS website). Or fill the area with herbaceous perennials, annuals and bulbs. Or simply plant a new tree or shrub and enjoy it for the time it lasts. Accept the fact that some aspects of nature are beyond our control and enjoy your garden.

Charmaine Hawkins



Honey fungus fruiting bodies which are only seen in September

Student Liaison

Face to face meeting with the University of Bristol (UoB)

A successful and enjoyable well attended meeting with UoB was held at the end of November. It was much easier for attendees to make their point to UoB staff than at a Zoom meeting. UoB was persuaded to go back to the former policy on student poor waste management, which was a good outcome for residents.

Cllr Guy Poultney was very effective at the meeting.

Bristol City Council Website Pin Point Map - HMO Contact Details

There was disappointing news from BCC regarding their Pin Point Map which now no longer shows any information or contact details (or the names of) Landlords and Agents of HMOs. This has happened quite recently.

Apparently, this is due to GDPR related legal advice and a glitch on their software system. BCC say they have had to remove all details relating to any HMOs. No more information has been given as to why and, as yet the BCC website has not been updated.

The recent former use of the pin point map by anyone interested in contacting a landlord or letting agent was very valuable and easily accessed. It is much harder to get HMO information without it. We wait to see if BCC will reconsider this move.

In order to find HMO contact details now you have to search the BCC Website for 'Register of licensed properties' and contact private.housing@bristol.gov.uk for up to 3 HMO addresses' information and contact details.

A full copy of the HMO Register for Bristol, with all its details, can be purchased for the princely sum of £94.97 plus postage!

BANES has a similar system as BCC pinpoint which does show landlord contacts and HMO information!

New UoB community liaison initiative. 'Vice Chancellors working group'

The concept of a small group of residents and staff working together to tackle some of the challenges with student/community liaison has been proposed by UoB. This group would essentially be very similar to the make-up of the recently abandoned community liaison meetings. The difference being that the Resident Associations, RAs, would be represented by only 4 people and a substantial number of UoB staff would attend. On some occasions this may include the VC and also students. Hopefully this is a positive move and an opportunity for RAs to discuss issues directly with UoB. It is good to know that the VC may be in attendance occasionally.

Joint RA meetings are being set up by Fiona McVey of Chandos Neighbourhood Association, CNA. Meeting every 2 months or so.

The idea of these meetings is to discuss amongst RAs what issues need to be presented to UoB at any future BSCP or general meetings. Hopefully this will reduce the overall number of meetings we have to have!

Operation Beech

UoB works with the Avon and Somerset police to provide a response to noise disturbances believed to be caused by UoB students. Extra police patrols are added to some student areas on specific days of the week.

If you are disturbed by a house party or street noise caused by UoB students between 8 pm and 2 am on a Wednesday, Friday or Saturday, text the street name and house number to +44 (0)7773 816 248. Police patrols will respond on a priority basis.

The designated area includes all roads within the border of Chandos Road, Hampton Road, Redland Grove and Trelawney Road, with the addition of:

- Ashgrove Road
- Manor Park
- Highbury Villas
- Eaton Crescent
- Arlington Villas.
-

Beech is now regularly used by the public regarding noisy late night parties. It is proving to be a great asset in times of need. Depending on how busy they are the Police often visit a party house within 30 minutes and the effect their visit has is surprisingly good. The Police then report the incident to the UoB community Liaison, so it's on the record and does highlight the value of Beech.

On days when Beech is not running, you can report noise and anti-social behaviour directly to the police by phoning 101 or see the alternative rapid response detailed on the next page.

A very helpful link relating to the student/community relationship can be found on the UoB website link below -

<https://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/community/complaints.html>

Rob Harris

What to do when Operation Beech is not operational – an alternative rapid response

If you are disturbed by a house party or street noise caused by suspected University of Bristol students between 8 pm and 2 am on a Wednesday, Friday or Saturday, text the street name and house number to +44 (0)7773 816 248. Police patrols will respond on a priority basis.

On occasion, Operation Beech days may change in anticipation of busier periods (e.g., Halloween). The Residents' Associations will be notified of such a change well in advance and information will be updated to the relevant webpage

On days when Operation Beech is not running (including during August), you can report noise and anti-social behaviour directly to the police by phoning 101. If a crime is in progress, there is a danger to life, or if violence is used or threatened, phone 999.

The Police have powers to close large parties down and take further action under Anti-Social Behaviour legislation. There is an escalation process the Police follow as standard.

The mural at Cotham Hill (seen below) is a marked improvement to the wall there before



Council Changes 2024

In January 2024, the council approved a new constitution that would apply from May 2024. At that time, the new committee-based council structure will start, replacing the current mayoral system.

From May 2024, there will be nine Area Committees. As well as continuing to distribute CIL and S.106 funds (contributions made by developers to mitigate the effects of development on the city and the local area), they are being given a wider remit to be consulted on and to refer matters raised about local services such as road safety, parks and waste management. They will be required to hold two meetings a year in local venues, and potentially a further two meetings online, which will be open to public participation.

Unfortunately, in the new structure our RCAS area will no longer be in the same area committee. Bishopston & Ashley Down and Redland wards will join with Stoke Bishop and Westbury on Trym & Henleaze wards. Cotham ward will join with Clifton, Clifton Down and Hotwells & Harbourside wards. RCAS area includes parts of Clifton Down, Cotham, Redland and Henleaze and Westbury on Trym wards.

RCAS was represented on the previous Bishopston (& Ashley Down), Cotham and Redland Neighbourhood Partnership and continued to support the BCR Community Partnership (BCRCP), which was set up after the Mayoral administration withdrew funding and delegated decision-making powers for the Neighbourhood Partnerships. It was intended that this CP would be able to continue with enabling those communities to be engaged with local decision-making opportunities. Unfortunately, now the decision has been made to split our geographical area across two committees, the relevance of the BCRCP has been removed.

The current CP committee of people from Redland, Cotham and Westbury Park, including Alison, have therefore decided to step down from the committee and are currently consulting with the partnership groups previously involved with the CP to see if anyone else wishes to take on the organisation in the future.

In due course, local councillors (following the elections in May 2024) will, we assume, look for ways to reach out to their communities to enable them to make local decisions based on community priorities. Whether this will involve setting up a new NP structure which involves local community representatives remains to be seen.

Alison Bromilow

**We look forward to welcoming members
and their guests
to our Spring Meeting on**

**Wednesday April 17th 2024 at the
Redland Club, Burlington Road, BS6 6TN
Meeting starts 7.00pm
(doors open 6.45pm)**

**A member of Bristol Waste Company's
team will be giving a talk on
Waste and Recycling in Redland and
Cotham**

**This is also a chance to meet the
committee**

Drinks and snacks will be available

**Please also save the date for the AGM
on
Wednesday 6th November (tbc)
at the
Redland Club**

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.

Front Cover : Cheerful daffodils outside Alderman's Park
Back Cover : 3 cornered leeks on Redland Green

