

# Redland & Cotham Amenities Society



**Report from the Chair**  
**Open Gardens Programme**  
**Planning and Parks**  
**Student affairs**



Number 207 - May 2025

## Report from the Chair

Welcome. This edition includes the programme for the RCAS Open Gardens event this June. Thank you to everyone who is opening their garden up to visitors from the RCAS membership. Our members say that they do enjoy the opportunity to see local gardens or all shapes and sizes and with their own character. If you are visiting the gardens, we hope you have a great day; please do take care on your visit, particularly where there are changes of level and steps.

At the AGM, we discussed the difficulty of bringing forward projects where Bristol City Council are the landowners, other than in our parks. From previous newsletter articles, you will recall that Parks Maintenance, unlike social care or household waste collection, is not a statutory service. In Bristol and Bath, an organisation which can fundraise for parks and apply for grants has been set up. To find out more about how you can help them, contact Your Park (Your Park Bristol & Bath is the working name of the Bristol & Bath Parks Foundation, a registered charity in England and Wales No. 1182217).

The parks service raises about £13million a year from commercial activity, rents and charges, but this still leaves it about £2million short of what it costs for the annual upkeep of the council's 430 parks, which range from small urban green areas to large heritage estates. There is currently another plan to form a cross-party group of councillors, supported by Bristol City Council officers, to brainstorm money-spinning ideas, such as advertising and sponsorship, "exciting" paid-for activities and the expansion of the authority's Blaise Plant Nursery.

RCAS has funded many projects in the local parks and green spaces; you can read in this edition about the new pollinator bed which has been constructed in Cotham Gardens greenspace.

People at the AGM asked about RCAS funding improvements to eg pavements in the area and we discussed how difficult it is to get anything done where highways are involved because of the rules and regulations to do with Traffic Regulations and the pressure on the local Highways department, on top of the difficulty of communicating with the officers who need to approve and support any pavement works.

A case in point is a current project, which local residents in Cotham Vale and Trelawney Road have been working on at the top of Hampton Road. They have managed to get the disused phone box opposite the Family Practice Weston College building refurbished, including replacing the glazed panels and repainting the metalwork. In the phone box, they have set up a mini-library called the Cotham Book Swap. They approached RCAS to support them and to fund a bench which would be positioned next to the mini-library, which we were delighted to do.

In January, we approached the local councillors to ask them to support the project and put us in touch with the relevant officer, and, as we had not had a response, we attended the councillor surgery at Redland Library in March to ask for action. We eventually heard from the councillors, in late April, that the proposal would be accepted by the Highways dept, and a cost was given and accepted. We asked the councillors to tell the officer that we would like to go ahead and asked that the officer was requested to communicate directly with RCAS. On 9th May we heard from the officer that he was now in the process of getting quotes for the bench and would get back to us. We live in hope. After the quotation is accepted, there will have to be service searches to ensure that cables and pipes in the pavement are not damaged when the bench is installed, and a works team identified. You need to have a great deal of tenacity to get things done!

It is currently more difficult than ever to bring forward projects where Bristol CC owned assets are involved. We have had more success with supporting projects for other organisations and are still hoping that the Redland Church project to open up the churchyard as an area of quiet contemplation comes forward. We agreed to support this project in 2023 but the project has not yet advanced. We hope that they will pick it up again soon as the project would provide a very attractive and secluded seating area for our community.

Alison Bromilow

Photo on front cover of Jack in the Green and his followers on Lovers Walk on Saturday 3rd May

## Parks

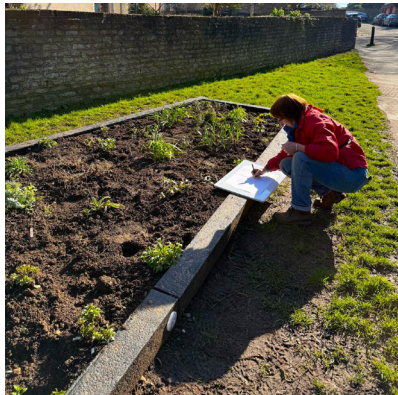
### Cotham Gardens flower bed

Over the past year, volunteers have been refurbishing the flower bed at the top of Cotham Gardens opposite the eponymous primary school.

Previously, RCAS had asked BCC parks to make a wildflower planting area in this location. Many of you will remember the very successful and colourful display. The grass re-established itself over the winter and a second BBC wildflower planting was commissioned, however this was less successful and the range of flowers was less attractive and borage overwhelmed the less vigorous plants. The volunteer group of RCAS/ Friends of Cotham Gardens members spent that year and the following year seeding and weeding the patch but it was decided that, if this were to be a long term project, it was necessary to come up with a more strategic plan for the bed.

The aim was to create a permanent flower bed which would comprise a selection of flowering plants which would be attractive to insects throughout the year. It was decided that, in order to protect the bed from accidental damage it would be advisable to enclose the planting area and a variety of materials were considered. Roping off the enclosure was used as a temporary solution for a year but it became clear that a more durable and robust surround was necessary.

The material chosen is a recycled plastic product which uses plastic films from Tesco and M&S supermarket recycling collections across the UK eg crisp packets and plastic bags which are processed in a factory in Wales. The resulting product is weather and rot resistant, will not



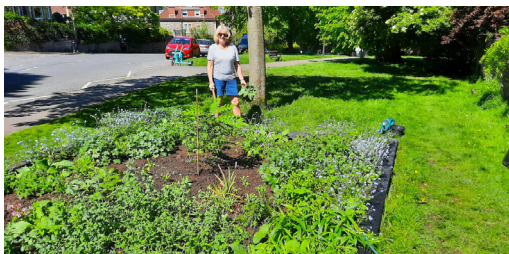


split or splinter and is maintenance free. It is inert and, unlike treated wood products, does not leach chemical products into the soil. Recycling these plastic items also reduces landfill and air pollution from burying/burning off waste and it is carbon neutral in manufacture.

The plants that were perennials were lifted and stored and the edging installed, and topsoil was added to raise the level of the planting bed, which would reduce the incursion of the grass. The perennials were replanted and additional plants were added; some of these were purchased and some donated by residents.

The plants have been chosen for their attractiveness to insects and include bulbs and perennials which will flower throughout the year pleasing insects and local residents too, we hope. The Borage, which continues to emerge is very vigorous and is liable to swamp the bed so we have kept some of the plants and relocated some to the area of grass nearer to the top gate into the play area which was planted by the school with wildflowers some years ago. (In this patch of grass is also the Yew Tree which was planted by RCAS as part of the Yews for the Millennium project; it was propagated from the 3000 year old Alltmawr Yew in Powys.)

The plants have been mapped and a plan is kept to avoid us digging up things inadvertently; always a problem with a bed maintained by a number of different people!



We would like to thank all the people who have offered and donated plants, and to the many people who have told us how much they appreciate seeing the flowers as they pass by. Many new FoCG members have signed up to help keep the park looking good using the QR code on the poster on the lamppost next to the planting bed. Anyone is welcome to join the group on the first Saturday each month when we clear paths and the sandpit, cut back hedges, shrubs and epicormic growth round the lime trees, and maintain the planting beds and newly planted trees. We also carry out projects such as adding nesting boxes in the trees and a small group of volunteers from the BCR Streetscene group remove graffiti in the park as well as the surrounding streets.

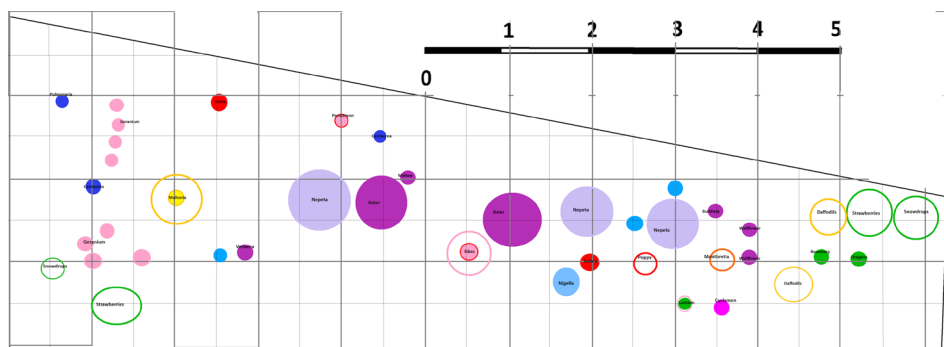
Plant list:

Winter flowering: Snowdrops, Celandines, Mahonia, Hellebore.

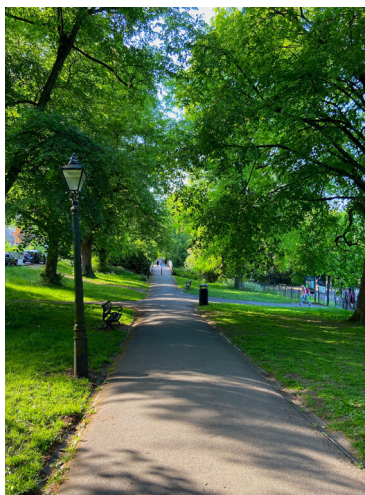
Spring flowering: Cyclamen, Lungwort (Pulmonaria), Forget-me-not, Daffodil, Ribes Sanguineum (Flowering currant), Alpine strawberry, Rosemary, Oregano.

Summer flowering: Perennial Geranium, Verbena Bonariensis, Centaurea Montana (greater knapweed), English Marigold (Calendula), Nepeta Six Hills Giant (catmint), Salvia 'Hot lips', Perennial Wallflower (Erysium), Buddleia, Nigella, Mallow, Poppy, Cornflower, Borage, Lamium Maculatum, Nigella.

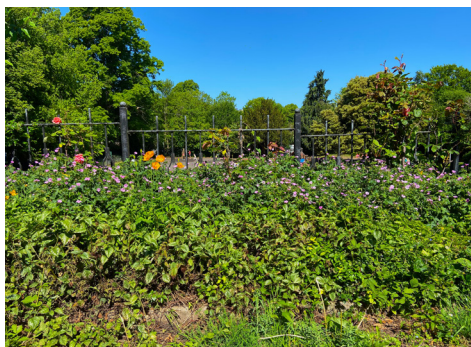
Autumn flowering: Penstemon, Aster (Michaelmas daisy), Montbretia.



Photos show the volunteers in action and the planting plan above.



After a hugely popular and successful Spring Party at  
Cotham Gardens everyone is invited to  
the Summer Party  
hosted again by RCAS and Roam Wild Coffee.  
Music, drinks and more.....  
Friday 4th July 4pm-8pm





## Planning Report

24/02382/F Garden Flat 52 Hampton Park Bristol BS6 6LJ: Relocate shed, replace with 1-1/2 storey garage with studio accommodation above.

RCAS objected to the new proposal on the grounds of design and poor-quality accommodation for future residents; also potential impact on existing tree. APPROVED incl permission to fell tree.

25/10660/F | Proposed installation of 1no. new BT Street Hub, incorporating 2no. digital 75" LCD advert screens, and associated BT Phone Kiosk removals. | Land Adjacent To Clifton Down Shopping Centre Whiteladies Road Bristol BS8 2NN REFUSED – RCAS objected

25/10659/A | 2 digital 75" LCD display screens, one on each side of the Street Hub unit. | Pavement Outside Of 161 Whiteladies Road Bristol BS8 2RF REFUSED- RCAS objected

25/10113/LA | Proposed replacement of the properties boundary walls. | Flat 1 Knightstone Lodge 6 - 8 Archfield Road Bristol BS6 6BE APPROVED at committee

25/10910/X | Application for Removal or Variation of Condition No's 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 12 following a grant of planning permission 07/00953/F - Demolition and conversion of existing property and erection of a mixed use scheme comprising 20 no. one and two bed apartments and 500 sqm. of Use Class B1 floorspace at ground floor, associated basement parking (21 spaces) and associated bin and cycle storage. | 58 - 62 Hampton Road Bristol BS6 6JA The previous application was approved and some work was done to start the development so remains approved (this is something that the government is considering clamping down on as it only needs a small part of building or demolition to preserve the approval.) The new application is to bring the standards of accommodation up to current national space standards for residential development, which reduces the number of units proposed. The principle of development is already approved so objections to the proposed number of units or the type of development will not be successful. The proposal to move the access to the (approved) basement car parking away from 9 Waverley Road, to make the office unit more viable, appears to be an improvement as it moves the possible noise from vehicles using the car lift away from the boundary with the existing house. RCAS will not be objecting.



25/10166/F | Proposed floodlighting to grass Tennis Courts. Proposed fencing. | Bristol Lawn Tennis And Squash Centre Redland Green Road Bristol BS6 7HF – not commenting

## HMO properties

These applications are retrospective for properties that have been used as Houses in Multiple Occupation ie a house shared by 3 or more non related occupants. In order to be granted a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use the applicants have to produce evidence that the use has continued without a break for 10 years. If this cannot be proved, a planning application is required.

25/11508/CE | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an existing use as a C4 small dwellinghouse in multiple occupation. | Ground Floor Flat 112 Redland Road Bristol BS6 6QT

25/11464/CE | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing C4 use of a 9 bedroom HMO. | 10 Archfield Road Bristol BS6 6BE

25/11197/CE | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity - Site in use as a C4 HMO | 25 Brighton Road Bristol BS6 6NU

25/11619/CE | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity - Use as a C4 small dwellinghouse in multiple occupation. | First Floor Flat 112 Redland Road Bristol BS6 6QT

25/11620/CE | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity - Use as a large dwellinghouse in multiple occupation. | 49 Trelawney Road Bristol BS6 6DY

25/11883/CE | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity Use as a 7-person HMO (sui generis) | 23 Southfield Road Cotham Bristol BS6 6AX

Existing planning applications: not decided/ updates

23/02830/LA | Demolition of potting sheds, outbuildings and garaging, and altered access off Hartfield Avenue. Change of use of Muller House from a large HMO into 6no. Use Class C3 dwellings and construction of 5no. dwellings (Use Class C3) with associated car parking. Alterations to listed building and curtilage listed buildings. Works to trees and re-landscaping. Major | Muller House & The Lodge 7 Cotham Park Bristol BS6 6DA, awaiting decision

23/02025/H | Retrospective application for demolition of front boundary wall and creation of driveway. | 63 Salisbury Road Redland Bristol BS6 7AS RCAS objected.

24/02736/P Land At Home Gardens Redland Hill Bristol BS6 6UR; Application for outline planning permission with some matters reserved - Redevelopment of the site comprising demolition of existing buildings and the erection of two new buildings to provide up to 60 residential units (Class C3) and up to 209 sq.m. (GIA) of flexible office space (Class E) to Whiteladies Road ground floor frontage, and associated works (Access, Scale and Layout to be determined now with Appearance and Landscaping reserved for future consideration).

The previous application for this site was refused by Bristol LPA and at appeal on the grounds of adverse impact on the adjacent properties at 7 and 9 St Vincents Hill. The revised design has moved the building further from these properties and reduced the height closest to them, and increased the green buffer. Many objections made. Awaiting decision.

24/02738/F | Roof extension works to create additional floor for a new dwelling. | 22 Chandos Road Bristol BS6 6PF Chandos Neighbourhood Association objected.

25/10735/LA | Change of use from store & premises to a one-bedroom C3 residential basement flat, including restoration works throughout. | 6 Woodland Terrace Bristol BS6 6LR

### **Solar panels in the conservation area**

It is a requirement that houses in conservation areas apply for planning consent to install solar panels on highway facing walls.

However, planning consent is apparently not required for solar panels on roofs, including in conservation areas, as long as they do not protrude from the roof more than 0.20m (20cm). We have been directed by Bristol City Council to Government guidance “Permitted development rights for householders: technical guidance”

Link: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/permitted-development-rights-for-householders-technical-guidance/permitted-development-rights-for-householders-technical-guidance#class-c-other-alterations-to-the-roof>

which states

(ii) the installation, alteration or replacement of solar photovoltaics or solar thermal equipment

Although solar photovoltaics and solar thermal equipment (i.e. solar panels) are not permitted development under Class C, they may not require an application for planning permission if they meet the requirements set out under Part 14 of the rules on permitted development in Schedule 2 to the Order.

It is very difficult to interpret the words ‘may not require’ in this context!

The BCC planners confirm that it is possible to apply for a Lawful Development Certificate rather than making a planning application. This is cheaper than a full planning application but it is still necessary to submit full details and drawings showing the proposed installation.

Alison Bromilow and Simon Birch

**FREE** membership of RCAS for 2 years for new members.

Let your neighbours and friends know about us and get them to  
sign up online at  
<https://rcas.org.uk/contact/join/>

## 53rd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The RCAS AGM will take place  
on Wednesday 5th November 2025

at

The Redland Club Community Centre  
Burlington Road  
Bristol  
BS6 6TN

Doors Open at 6.45pm

Meeting starts at 7pm

Light Refreshments provided

All members welcome.

Martin Dohrn will give a talk about his work with Wild Bees.



Thanks to Trevor Parry Jones who saw  
these frogs busy in his garden....



## So you want wild bees in your garden?

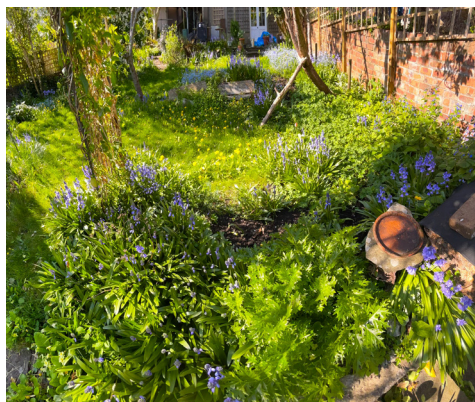
I first became aware of wild bees in my own garden about 20 years ago. Just one bee actually. It was a species of nomad bee – a kleptoparasite of other wild bees. Which of course meant I had a few other bees. The nomad bee was the only one I saw.

A couple of years later, I noticed a bee fly. Another kind of kleptoparasite of wild bees, in particular mining bees. Only then did I begin to see the host bees.

The more I looked, the more I could see. 12 years ago, there was a spectacular irruption of mining bees – around 500 nests of a species called the ashy mining bee. Over the next few years the numbers of ashy mining bee declined to 'normal' levels, but other species were appearing.

From that point on, I was hooked. I began photographing them so I could learn the differences between them, and eventually set myself the task of counting the number of species present. I haven't completed that task (and probably never will), but my count so far has got to around 60 species. As the years passed, the number kept increasing – although there are some species that I haven't seen for a few years. All this in a garden of just 10x30 metres – of which a third is quite cool and shady.

About ten years ago I drilled some holes in a few bits of wood in case they were useful for bees, spiders or other insects. That very year, I saw two species of bee actually fighting over one of the holes. So I made some more. I also noticed that some tiny bees were using the 1mm diameter woodworm holes in an old fence post.



Five years ago, I was sufficiently confident that I could actually make a film about the bees, My Garden of a Thousand Bees which has now been shown in many countries around the world. However, my bee learning curve is still steep. Despite all the time and research I have put into bees, I am by no means an expert. Almost everything I know is from the experience of this one little garden.

Ultimately, there has been a massive increase in both the number and diversity of bees along with many other insects since I moved into this house. I would guess there is a similar number of species in the hoverfly family.

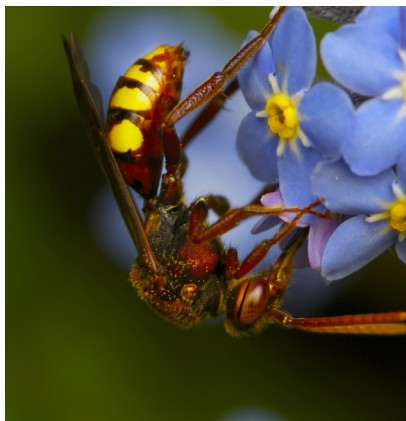
The big question is: why?

The answer is of course more complex than I really have the space to describe here – to the extent that I know the answer at all. But as a general principle, I did less to get more.

As a naturalist my tendency is to nurture wild plants and to ignore plants that are of no use to insects...which quickly brings me to the subject of what some people call weeds. These are often the plants that sustain many species of wild bee. If bees use them, I tend to let them grow. If not, they may be removed to make space. But it's not a free for all. I cut back a lot of the dead vegetation every winter. These plants include primrose, hawks beards, ragwort, bramble, wild rocket, ivy leaved toadflax, purple toadflax, forget-me-nots, common bugle, lesser celandine, ivy, hedge woundwort, Michaelmas daisy, white deadnettle, green alkanet. There are plenty more that would grow here, I just haven't got around to making space among the ever-spreading Spanish bluebells (which are used a bit by a few species of bee but are otherwise a bit of a pest).

Trees can be very important for spring bees: any prunus, pear, apple, hawthorn, field maple, probably Sorbus. (Possibly sycamore and lime.)





Of course, there are other, spectacular domesticated plants that are wild bee favourites. Flowering sage, Serbian campanula, perennial sweet pea, various domesticated scabious, lamb's ear, Corsican hellebore, lavender, Cotoneaster, Centaurea, purple cranesbill, rosemary, tuberous comfrey, peony (single petal version), various Ailium.

Beware when buying anything from a garden centre. Especially if it says 'bee friendly'. It may not be. Many domesticated plants have varieties which offer bees nothing in the way of pollen or nectar, and so are never visited. Bee friendly may also refer only to honey bees – which as domesticated animals don't need our help.

There are some other plants that wild bees are known to like, and I have brought some of them in, in particular Pulmonaria, comfrey, knapweed.

I would love to have wild scabious, birds foot trefoil, wild celery, hogweed and fennel but have struggled to get these plants to thrive.

Some of the small bees can live their entire life cycle within the bounds of the garden. Most people won't be aware of the existence of these, as they are often just 5mm long, appearing as small black flies. But these are all just as interesting, and in a wider sense, just as crucial for pollination and plant diversity as the larger bees.

However, the majority of the larger bees nesting in the garden don't forage here. For many species I have no idea where they go or what

kind of pollen the return with. They may stop off for a top up of nectar before a foraging trip on some of the flowers, but there isn't nearly enough pollen in the garden for them. Some must fly a couple of miles, and so it became clear to me that over and above giving bees food, their greatest need was somewhere to nest. And a place that already had lots of bees – from a bee point of view – would therefore be a good choice. And this is where it gets complicated.

Bee hotels are great for a narrow variety of species. In my garden, they seem to prefer those made with solid wood rather than bamboo. There is a wide variety of ready made bee hotels available – but do some research. Some are made to look like bee hotels, but are of no use whatsoever. If it is made of solid wood, either in sections or one lump, and has holes between 4mm and 10mm diameter there will be species of bee happy to use it.

Rotting wood is useful for a few species, as long as it can be kept dry for the whole year.

Annoyingly, most of the bee species in my garden nest in the ground. This makes them tricky to prepare for, as they don't like too much vegetation, hate disturbance and can't survive any kind of cultivation. Quite a few like lawns with nicely kept short grass. But since they hate disturbance, mowing has to be done at dusk when they are all in bed. I use a sickle (grass hook) to minimize disturbance. Some species like to nest on the bare patches of soil from repeated walking. Others are happiest in a rockery.

In almost all cases, bees will nest where they get at least part of the day in good sun. They hate dampness and deep shade. Bee hotels should be placed south facing or south east facing. (south west facing will be damper, but will work in a sheltered location). All the bee hotels need to be kept dry.





Which brings me on to shelter. The end of my garden has a hedge of Japanese spindle on two sides. This is an interesting plant as many of the bees like to bask in its curved, shiny leaves as if they are getting reflected light (ie warmth) from the curled sides of the leaf.

On a sunny day, it gets pretty warm there, and the place is literally buzzing with hundreds of bees, hoverflies, the odd butterfly as well as quite a wide variety of wasps. It is an absolute transformation compared to when we moved in. As someone who like insects, for me it is its own kind of paradise.

### Practicalities.

#### Making your own bee hotel.

If you are going to build your own, firstly, make sure that the wood you are using hasn't been treated with insecticide or fungicide of any sort. (The bees will supply their own fungicide and antibacterial agents.)

The wood needs to be fully seasoned and dried before you drill. Use a sharp drill so there are no splinters. Longer drills than standard are good. Make the entrance around the hole sufficiently rough for a bee to be able to grip. Holes drilled along the grain seem to be more popular. Some bees like concealed entrances in which case, drilling a few holes in the back would be useful too.

Site the hotel facing south or south east, or if in a sheltered location, south west. Ideally, the location would get at least 3 or four hours of direct sun every day.

#### Identifying bees.

The difficulty with wild bees is that they are fast moving and generally quite shy. Many are tiny. If you had a special close focusing pair of binoculars – called Papilio, and made by Pentax – you will have a much better chance of seeing them than with your naked eye.

If you had a field guide to bees, such as *The Bees of Great Britain and Ireland* by Stephen Falk and Richard Lewington, you have the chance to identify them as well. In the absence of a book, the online site of BWARS (The British bees, Wasps and Ant Recording Society) can be very helpful, although more technical.

## Insecticide

If you treat your pets against fleas, be careful to make sure that none of the insecticide gets into your garden as this may well kill other insects. A recent study by Imperial College found that a single dose of Imidacloprid against fleas, contains enough poison to kill 25 million bees. Obviously any use of insecticide in your garden will hurt bees as well.

## Common species

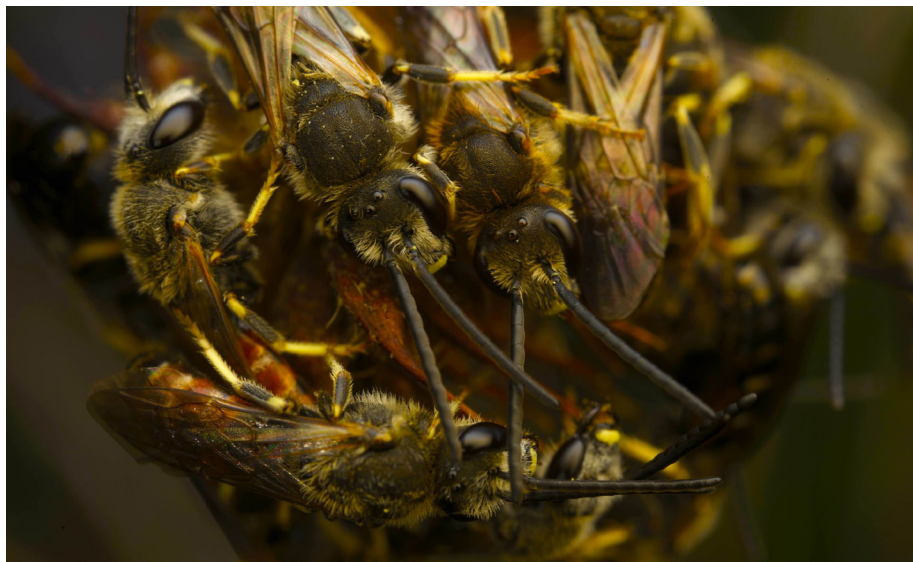
Among the mining bees (genus *Andrena*), the ashy mining bee, chocolate mining bee, red tailed mining bee and grey patched mining bee will be the most obvious. These are all ground nesters.

In the city, among the mason bees (genus *Osmia*), the red mason bee, the orange vented mason bee and the blue mason bee are all common and will happily use pretty much whatever you give them in the form of a bee hotel.

Leafcutter bees (genus *Megachile*) are almost certainly going to be one of three species: patchwork leaf cutter (likes to cut willowherb family, especially enchanters' nightshade), Willughby's leafcutter (it's the one which cuts the roses) and woodcarving leafcutter (cuts field maple and birch in my garden). Patchwork leafcutter is a creative nester, and always seems to find somewhere – but I have yet to actually find a nest. The latter two species are large and like 8mm or 10mm holes in wood.

Furrow bees are generally on the small to very small side. There are three very common species: common furrow bee, and two tiny but exquisitely beautiful, metallic green species, the green furrow bee and Smeathman's furrow bee (which I have yet to learn how to tell apart). The common furrow bee likes to nest in the ground, especially





between paving stones. One of the two green ones nests in dry ground, while the other likes crevices in walls.

There are around 6 common species of bumble bee in the city: the early bumble bee, the garden bumble bee, the red tailed bumble bee, the tree bumble bee, the buff tailed bumble bee and the common carder bumble bee. Getting these to nest in your garden is hard, but Gardner's World has a handy article if you are interested: <https://www.gardenersworld.com/how-to/diy/how-to-make-a-bumblebee-nest/>

Flower bees (genus *Anthophora*). One species is particularly visible, the hairy footed flower bee. They like to nest in walls or clay banks.

The wool carder bee (*Anthidium*) like lamb's ear and Hedge woundwort, but I haven't ever found a nest.

The cuckoo bees.

These of course need no nests, and among the most numerous are from the genus *Nomada*: Lathburn's nomad bee, Panzer's nomad bee, flavous nomad bee. These all parasitise mining bees.

The leafcutters are afflicted with the sharp tailed bees (*Coelioxys*), and the furrow bees with the blood red bees (*Sphecodes*).

Martin Dohrn

## Student Liaison

During the last academic term there were problems getting police officers to volunteer to cover Wednesday night shifts for Operation Beech resulting in no cover on those nights for the entire term. Happily, all shifts are currently covered till the end of July when there is a break until the new academic year.

At the recent Bristol Student Community Partnership meeting on May 7th several areas of concern were discussed by resident group representatives with University of Bristol (UoB) and University of the West of England (UWE) representatives. One concern for residents in Cotham is that on some occasions when officers working on Operation Beech attend a student house gathering that has been reported by local residents the officers do not shut the party down. The Student Liaison Officer has said that although officers may not shut the party down all residents' reports of noise or anti-social behaviour are considered with importance and will form part of the disciplinary process, if one is progressed.

The Vice Chancellor (UoB) Working Parties continue to progress. There were 3 recent meetings with appropriate UoB staff, students, and local residents on different themes:

- a. Student agreement – this discussion involved the UoB legal team to make the sections relevant to community issues more prominent to students. There were small amendments to the legal document and insertion of relevant links.
- b. Waste – aiming to improve the communication campaigns about waste management. Students were particularly helpful in flagging up strategies which would engage them.
- c. Induction Module – this discussion hinged on the creation of a mandatory, dynamic and interactive induction module. Residents submitted suggestions of information to be included. The 'Welcome to Bristol' document is a useful addition. This was welcomed by the communications team.

These working parties actions are all in progress but UoB have said that communications to students will be in place for the beginning of the new academic year.

There are ongoing discussions about future of BSCP – there is a significant problem with lack of engagement by UWE, and inconsistent



messaging about community behaviour expectations between the two universities. There are also recurring discussions about issues year on year, and previous decisions and agreements are lost with a change of personnel.

The academic year is ending soon and some international students are already leaving. There will be the usual clearing out of student accommodation and we hope that all students follow the principles laid out in the Moving Out literature: Sell it, Donate it, Recycle it, Bin it.

<https://bristolwastecompany.co.uk/students-on-the-move/>

We also hope that the provision of bins at appropriate sites and the prompt emptying of full bins is effective in helping manage this process.

A representative from Bristol City Council Parks Department attended the meeting to ask the Universities to communicate with students about appropriate use of parks – no BBQs and to take litter home (do not bag up & leave bags next to bins).

A useful website for discovering information about Bristol from public data is Bristol Uncovered. The website is currently being constructed by Chris McEvoy. For those living in areas with high HMO densities the most useful section is 'What Next' and post code HMO density.

<https://bristol-uncovered.uk/hmo-data-where-is-it/>

## Gold Star Awards 2025

Once again we haven't been able to identify any suitable candidates for a Gold Star award in 2025. There is simply nothing suitable being built in our area. Possibly a positive sign that all the potential development sites have been used up.

But you might think differently. Do you have any nominations? For projects which make a positive contribution to the appearance of our area - and which are easily visible from public locations (no rear extensions). If so, please let me know.

Simon Birch

## Redland Green

First main event of the spring was the RGCG AGM held at the Redland Green Bowling Club where all the current officers were happy to carry on for another year.

What a glorious show of blossom we have been treated to this year on Redland Green. The blackthorn, hawthorn and fruit trees have put on a tremendous show and combined with the superb weather conditions for the pollinators we are hopeful of abundant fruit crops in the autumn. A thank you to Stuart Masters for making and installing the wooden sign for the orchard behind St Oswalds Road houses. The amazing weather has also brought people out to enjoy the sun sitting on the green sward and playing football and other games.

We were really pleased that John Tarlton was awarded the Lord Mayor's medal from RGCG's nomination for all his volunteer work designing and monitoring a tree planting plan with Bristol City Council and the planting of trees on Redland Green and helping them get established. Also a huge thanks to Maddie for trimming the side growth on the Maple hedge ready for laying in the winter. Maddie did this work as part of her Duke of Edinburgh Award. Three cheers for all our volunteers.

Talking of the Lord Mayor we were really pleased that the Lord Mayor (Councillor Andrew Varney) was able to attend the Redland Green Community Day on Monday 5th May centred around Redland Church Halls, the Redland Club and the Bowling Green where taster sessions were available. The Redland Green Allotment Association had a plant and rhubarb stall raising vital funds for both sites and Dr Jazz, the Velvetones (photo on the Back Cover) and the Ukraine Choir provided musical entertainment throughout the afternoon. The whole afternoon was very well attended and the free teas and cake were greatly appreciated along with the bouncy castle and face painting. Thank you to everyone who contributed and came on the day and it didn't rain once!

We look forward to seeing you at. Open Gardens on Sunday 15th June

Lois Goddard





