

Redland & Cotham Amenities Society



Report from the Chair
AGM Minutes and Accounts
Planning
Student Liaison
Pull-out Information Section



Number 209- December 2025

Report from the Chair

We had an impressive number of members who turned out for the 53rd AGM and it was good to see so many of you there. This year the weather was kinder than the last couple of years!

Following a discussion, the proposed changes were passed with a majority vote of 43 to 1 and so the committee will now start work on how the changes can be made to support the continuation of the society most effectively. Many people said how much they valued the printed newsletter and would miss it, should it be replaced by an online version. The committee will look at how RCAS communications can be made more responsive to current and future members and consider whether changes could be made eg to the current practice of distributing 4 newsletters each year, that take into account the value that people place on receiving a hard copy newsletter.

Taking away the responsibility for collecting membership fees from the distributors should make the job less onerous and we were very pleased that 3 people at the AGM offered to do more to help with distribution. Loss of distributors over the years has meant that some rounds have become very large for the rest of the team; a few more volunteers will help with addressing this problem. We are reliant on our amazing team of distributors to get the newsletter out in good time, this is currently especially time sensitive for the May edition when it carries the programme for Open Gardens each year.

After the business of the AGM, we were spellbound by the talk about Bees from Martin Dohrn who is a wildlife photographer with an immense knowledge of his subject. Many of us will be planning to create 'bee hotels' by drilling deep holes into blocks of wood in the garden, and reconsidering some of our planting to make it more attractive to the many species of bees. Martin was full of examples of many types of bees, small and large, that nest in the ground, particularly in short grass areas which have been compacted, in wood and between stone paving and walls. He also recommended plants such as Ragwort, Knapweed, Thistle and Forget-me-not which are particularly favoured by many species of bee, as well as other more commonly known pollinator friendly plants.

After the talk, many people took the opportunity of purchasing some artworks by Roger and Nicola Mortimer. We are delighted to say that we have already received £375 from sale of the donated items. There are still some ceramics and many prints available to purchase; the photo below shows the remaining ceramics by Nicola and we will be putting information about Roger's lithograph prints, showing local views, on the website shortly. If you are interested in any of the pieces please contact me.

Thank you for your support over the year. If you have any ideas for projects, particularly if you are able to help bring them about, do let us know.

Best wishes for the rest of 2025 and for the new year in 2026!

Alison Bromilow



Minutes of the 53rd RCAS AGM

Wednesday 5th November 2025

Apologies have been received from Cllr Martin Fodor, Nell Dand and Anthony Richards, Angela Stagg, Warren Marsh, Mon Lougee, Ant Draper, Graham Rogers, Chris Shelley, Paul Jagroop, Janet Dixon, Di and Geoff Swain

There were 48 people present at the meeting 46 of whom were RCAS members.

Welcome to the 53rd Redland & Cotham Amenities Society AGM.

This address combined with the individual reports in our September newsletter is the RCAS Annual Report for 2025

This year, the committee has continued to

- monitor planning applications, including applications for works to trees,
- to work with others to make improvements to our parks and greenspaces, and our streets
- to work with others to address issues such as the impact of the large student HMO population in part of our area and of antisocial behaviour
- support a number of small grant projects including sponsoring some tree planting in our streets and parks and supporting the parks groups.

One of the highlights of the RCAS year is the Open Gardens Day. We had a wonderful selection of gardens to visit this year again thanks to the efforts of the new Open Gardens team, Dave, Serena and Meg. We really appreciate the hard work that goes into making this event such a highlight of the RCAS calendar and thank the volunteers who make this happen. The team would welcome an additional member so if you are interested do volunteer.

As always, my thanks go to the core group of committee members who have worked hard as ever this year to administer the society, Peter, Melanie and Kathryn. And to Melanie for her work on the quarterly newsletter which is much enjoyed by members.

Thanks too to the other people who work on behalf of the members in our task groups but don't attend committee meetings, that includes the planning group, the Open Gardens team and the parks workparty members.

A particular thanks to the newsletter distribution leader Kate Reading, and to all the members who have helped with the newsletter deliveries and with collecting the subscriptions from those members who do not pay by standing order. The society relies on their help to get the newsletter and the Open Gardens programme out to members and is always very grateful to the team for their invaluable input.

We also are very grateful to the local residents who are part of the Street Scene group and who litter pick and clean up tagging in our area and across into St Andrews and up the Gloucester Road. Their quick response to clean off or paint over graffiti is the most effective way of tackling this blight; they are on the lookout for new members- do let me know if you are interested in taking on a part of your neighbourhood.

People who spot fly-tipping and tagging and report it are also making a big contribution to our community and it is easy to take this action even if you are not able to deal with it yourself- do let the council and Bristol Waste know about any issues so they can send people out to clear it up- they are very responsive. The report forms are on the Bristol City Council website under Report a Street Issue.

We would also like to thank the members of the guerilla painting party who prepared and repainted the pedestrian bridge at Redland Station. RCAS had been pressing for remedial work for this listed structure and were initially told that it would be done in 2019/20. This would include replacing the concrete deck and mending the ironwork. As we know, this did not happen and the project date that we have now been given is 2034. Network Rail were not able to give permission for volunteers to do the work needed on the exterior of the bridge because of health and safety considerations but the painting party were able to deal with the spalling paint and rust on the pavement side during the school holidays and the

bridge looks much better able to resist further degradation.

The Friends of Cotham Gardens have met each month to look after the park and to plant and tend the flower bed at the south end of the park. Recently, they have also repainted two of the lampposts on Lovers' Walk and plan to do the rest. Local residents have also cut back the epicormic growth on the Redland Grove greenspace and another group have maintained the greenspace at the top of Elm Lane.

Now to the main item on the agenda for tonight.

Last year, the committee brought a proposal to the members that RCAS should suspend the membership fee as the society was finding it difficult to identify projects to support and was uncomfortable with continuing to accrue funds which it could not spend. After a debate last year, it was agreed that the fee would be suspended for 2 years for new members to enable existing members to encourage their neighbours to join the society without the embarrassment of asking for payment. A number of other suggestions were made for widening the membership including a marketing exercise but unfortunately the current committee of 5 was not able to take this on without additional help. Following requests in newsletters for some input to help with this work, which did not result in any volunteers, the committee was unable to take on the task.

We are therefore bringing a set of proposals to the AGM for discussion which will reduce the administrative burden on the core committee of maintaining a membership list and pursuing annual subscriptions, and, we hope, making committee work less off-putting for people who might like to take the society's work forwards.

The proposals as circulated and printed in the newsletter are

- RCAS will move away from being a membership fee organisation. However, members will still be invited to donate an annual sum to support RCAS projects; so the current £10 fee will be treated as a donation in future.

- RCAS will continue to be a charitable body that can fundraise for

specific projects as they arise.

- RCAS will move towards being a mailing list/ social media follower membership organisation without a fee.

- RCAS will move towards using more electronic communications including an online only newsletter.

We propose that the meeting discuss these proposals and then a vote will be taken on whether they should be adopted.

Please can we have a show of hands for approval of the proposals And those against. Votes were 44 for and 1 against.
Postal comments received were 5 for and 1 against.

Business-

1.Approval of Minutes. The 2024 Minutes were circulated in the email alert on Monday 3rd November and previously in the December 2024 Newsletter.

Approved by a show of hands

2.Annual Report and Accounts

The Treasurer, Peter Dunscombe, introduced the accounts and answered questions

- Adoption of the accounts
proposed by Richard Jarrett
seconded by Russell Boyes
Approved by a show of hands.

3.Election of officers and committee members

Each year we have to elect the secretary and treasurer to the society at the AGM.

- Secretary Melanie Gallop
proposed by Judith Headley
seconded by Russell Boyes
Approved by a show of hands.

- Treasurer Peter Dunscombe
proposed by Rosemary Russell
seconded by Julie Hart
Approved by a show of hands.

Other committee members stand for re-election this year as they were all elected in 2022 and serve for a 3-year term.

Kathryn Armitstead and Alison Bromilow stand for re-election to the committee.

Election approved by a show of hands.

Chris Shelley has decided to stand down as a committee member because of work pressures but will continue to lead the Friends of Cotham Gardens group which is supported by RCAS. We thank him for his input over the last 3 years and for his ongoing work with the group. The friends group is v well supported by the local community and there are nearly 60 members of the group, many of whom actively support the monthly workparties and social gatherings in the park.

Andrew Waller has joined the RCAS team as a task group member to work with the other community groups in discussions with the Universities. We have been without a representative since Rob Harris stood down but have continued to be kept updated by Fiona McVey and Derrick Collier, both RCAS members also members of the Chandos Neighbourhood Association.

We thank Fiona for all her hard work in coordinating the group communications and to Derrick for his updates in the newsletters. He will be handing that over to Andrew who has been instrumental in raising the profile of the impact of student residents in our community because of the very high concentration of HMOs in our area, through his work on drawing attention to the impact of student anti social behaviour in The Noise Pages.

It has long been of concern that RCAS has not had a seat at the table in the Bristol Student Community Partnership meetings (partly due to the fact that the number of representatives that the community were allowed was restricted to 2 despite the fact that there are 12 residents groups across Redland Cotham and Clifton represented) – we are very pleased that RCAS will be able to have more of a role in future discussions. Thanks to Andrew.

Any Other Business

Planting plan for Cotham Gardens. A consultation about the proposed tree planting in Cotham Gardens closes shortly. If you have comments to make about the proposed trees, do respond to the consultation. Some people have contacted us expressing their concern about tree planting within the fenced area because of the impact on play and leisure greenspace in a park which is already full of trees. A comment has also been made about the location of the trees which do not respect the line of the existing avenue- a tree has already been planted inside the line of limes and another is proposed.

Members were invited to make comments on the proposal at the meeting.



Wildlife on our streets

A hawk on Waverley Road

and a less welcome visitor at
Redland Green



Planning

25/12584/F | Demolition of the existing garage and construction of a two storey dwelling in its place to provide a one bedroom dwelling, with associated works. | 19 Burlington Road Bristol BS6 6TJ

RCAS has objected on design grounds and on loss of parking, also on living standards of future residents because of lack of natural daylight, view and outlook and insufficient outdoor amenity space. WITHDRAWN

25/13723/F | Retention of two external seating areas used in association with Bravas restaurant. | 7 Cotham Hill RCAS has objected to the retention of the permanent structure directly in front of the premises on the former parking bay area. There have been a v large number of comments in support and the local councillor asked us to reconsider our objection. The planning officer is apparently minded to refuse based on the objections of the two local residents groups. We are concerned about the principle of privatisation of public space and access for emergency vehicles if this is allowed for any of the Cotham Hill premises. DECISION DELAYED

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 taken to APPEAL

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 taken to APPEAL

23/02829/F | 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. Revisions have been submitted which reduce the height of the new houses on the corner of Hartfield Avenue. APPROVED

24/02738/F | Roof extension works to create additional floor for a new dwelling. | 22 Chandos Road Chandos Neighbourhood Association objected. Taken to APPEAL on grounds on non-determination REFUSED

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 APPROVED

25/13330/CE | Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for an Existing Use or Operation or Activity - Continue the use of the property as a 6 person (Use Class C4) House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) | 27 Elliston Road Bristol BS6 6QQ GRANTED

Existing planning applications: not decided/ updates

23/02025/H | Retrospective application for demolition of front boundary wall and creation of driveway. | 63 Salisbury Road Redland RCAS objected. Still no decision despite extension of time agreement to May 2024. AB chasing planners and councillor for updates.

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. Planning committee delayed decision pending a site visit.

25/10166/F | Proposed floodlighting to grass Tennis Courts. Proposed fencing. | Bristol Lawn Tennis And Squash Centre Redland Green Road Bristol BS6 7HF – no decision.

25/13320/F | Change of Use from dwelling house (C3) to small House in Multiple Occupation (Use Class C4). No internal or external alteration proposed. | First Floor Flat 71 Cranbrook Road RCAS has objected.

25/14105/F | Creation of one parking space in the front garden of the property with associated EV charging point on the side elevation of entrance porch. | 20 South Road RCAS has objected on grounds of loss of on-street parking bays and front boundary hedge.

Alison Bromilow and Simon Birch

Gift Aid

Many of you have kindly completed Gift Aid declarations, enabling RCAS to reclaim tax on your subscription/donation.

For a Gift Aid claim to be valid, you must have paid or will pay an amount of Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) which you donate to will reclaim on your gifts for that tax year. Other taxes such as VAT and Council Tax do not qualify. RCAS will reclaim 25p of tax on every £1 of your subscription or donation.

If you have any concerns that your Gift Aid declaration may no longer be valid, please contact Treasurer Peter Dunscombe through the RCAS website (rcas.org.uk) or peterdunscombe@gmail.com



2026 PULL-OUT GUIDE

EVENTS AND DATES

COMMITTEE CONTACTS

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION



OPEN GARDENS Sunday 14th June 2026
Redland West, 2.00 - 5.30 pm



ARE YOU ON EMAIL?

If so, do we have your current email address? We would like to use this quick and economic way to draw your attention to matters of particular interest, especially where planning matters arise in your vicinity which might need urgent action. Sign up for email alerts on the website <https://rcas.org.uk/member-page/email-alerts/>

Please send an email to membership@rcas.org.uk with RCAS EMAIL in the 'Subject' line, and your email address will be added to our records. It will only be used in connection with Society matters.

Make sure to add RCAS as a trusted contact so our emails don't go into your spam folder by accident.

RCAS COMMITTEE

CHAIR

Alison Bromilow 5 Grove Park BS6 6PP

alison@rcas.org.uk
942 5420

VICE-CHAIR

Vacant

SECRETARY

Melanie Gallop 1 Limerick Road BS6 7DX

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TREASURER

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COMMITTEE

Kathryn Armitstead 52 Redland Court Road BS6 7EH

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973 6070

PROJECTS/SMALL GRANTS

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

Planning

Alison Bromilow
Dave Jones (Trees)
Simon Birch

dij@trenance.net
simon.birch7@gmail.com

PARKS

Chris Shelley
Melanie Gallop

UNIVERSITY LIAISON

Andrew Waller

adw.rcas@gmail.com
thenoisepages@gmail.com

EVENTS

OPEN GARDENS

Dave Jones
Meg Thomas
Serena Jones

rcasopengardens@gmail.com

COMMUNICATION

Membership
Distribution
Newsletter

Kathryn Armistead
Kate Floyd
Melanie Gallop

OUR PUBLIC SERVICES

The Committee encourages members to make full use of the information and other services provided to them by the Council and other public bodies, including the various helplines and internet reporting arrangements. We often hear of problems and find that that no one has reported them, so nothing has been done. Regular reporting does raise standards.

The contacts given here are believed to be correct as at November 2025



USEFUL CONTACTS

BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL (BCC)

Reporting street issues

Litter, fly-tipping, fly-posting, graffiti or tagging, roads that need cleaning, overgrown trees or hedges blocking pavements, potholes, blocked drains and street light problems.

The best way to report these issues to Bristol City Council is to use the Report a street issue page on the BCC website. <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/report-a-street-issue>.

You can report most issues there by completing the online reporting form. Remember to record the reference number so that you can chase this up, if necessary.

(You can telephone the Customer services number 0117 922 2100 but it is an automated service which is very slow to respond, and requires the service officer to complete the form for you.)

CITY COUNCILLORS for the Society's membership area

Redland Ward	Martin Fodor	07884 736101
	Fi Hance	0117 353 4720
Cotham Ward	Mohamed Makawi	07584 182566
	Guy Poultney	07584 202601
Clifton Down Ward	George Calascione	073866 98689
	Serena Ralston	073866 98758

Councillors' postal address: City Hall, College Green, BS1 5TR

Email addresses: cllr.first.name.surname@bristol.gov.uk

PLANNING DEPARTMENT - GENERAL ENQUIRIES

Website: <https://www.bristol.gov.uk/planning-and-building-regulations>

Planning applications can be seen online

You can look at documents and also comment on a planning application.

If you need computer access Bristol Libraries have public use computers at all libraries.

LICENSING DEPARTMENT - CONCERNS ABOUT LICENSED PREMISES

Email: licensing@bristol.gov.uk

Website: www.bristol.gov.uk/page/business-bristol/licences-and-permits

Also read blue notices on windows of licensed premises

PRIVATE HOUSING POLICIES (including landlords)

Online reporting at www.bristol.gov.uk/housing/private-tenants/problems-with-your-property

Email: private.housing@bristol.gov.uk
Website: www.bristol.gov.uk/private-landlords/private-housing-policies-and-performance

REFUSE AND RECYCLING

Make Bristol Waste Company (BWC) your first point of contact, then the council (BCC).

BWC - 0117 304 9580

<http://www.bristolwastecompany.co.uk/> for all waste and recycling issues, including new bins and missed collections

BCC Refuse & Recycling - 0117 922 2100

Information and queries: www.bristol.gov.uk/bins-recycling

NOISE POLLUTION

Report online at: www.bristol.gov.uk/pests-pollution-noise-food/noise-pollution

or email: pollution@bristol.gov.uk

To report a persistent alarm 0117 922 2500

POLICE

The Neighbourhood Policing Team can be contacted on 101

Websites www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/redland/
www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/your-area/cotham/

Redland, Cotham and Clifton Down Beats

Adam Dolling	Neighbourhood Inspector
Jonathan Scott	Neighbourhood Sergeant
Phillip Wyld (Clifton Down)	Neighbourhood Constable
Melanie Kirk (Clifton Down)	Police Community Support Officer (PCSO)
Mark Jackson (Redland & Cotham)	Neighbourhood Constable
Morgan Davies (Redland & Cotham)	Neighbourhood Constable
Charlotte Andrews (CD, R and C)	PCSO and School Link Officer
West Country Crimestoppers	0800 555 111 (call is free; your name is not required)

OPERATION BEECH POLICE PATROL

Dedicated police patrols to address student parties and anti-social behaviour by students

Patrol operates 8pm - 2am on Wednesday, Friday and Saturday **Text 07773 816248**

UNIVERSITIES

For queries or concerns about student households the relevant contacts are:

University of Bristol (UoB)

Community Liaison Officer Mark Aston
Email: community-living@bristol.ac.uk

Website: [http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/Search for Community Liaison Officer](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/accommodation/Search%20for%20Community%20Liaison%20Officer)

University of the West of England (UWE)

Community Liaison Manager Rich Barnston
Email: community@uwe.ac.uk

Website: Search 'UWE Community liaison'

If you do not know which University is involved, we suggest you contact both. It is helpful if you tell RCAS of any problems (email: info@rcas.org.uk)

RCAS Accounts 2024/2025

RCAS ACCOUNTS	2024/25	2023/24
Income		
Subscriptions	5135	5430
Gift Aid	1163	1387
Donations		
Interest	1278	762
TOTAL	7576	7597
Expenditure		
Newsletters	2723	2785
Meetings/Events	50	393
Overheads	1104	620
Cotham Gardens	1068	244
Grants (See below)	4549	455
Other	60	60
TOTAL	9554	4557
Excess Income over Expenditure	(1978)	3022
BALANCE SHEET		
Bank Accounts	40777	42253
Debtors (HMRC)	1100	1100
Held for CNA	(1145)	(640)
Net Assets	40735	42713

GRANTS – The main grants allocated during 2024/25 were:

1. £2500 towards the car park resurfacing at the Elmgrove Centre
2. £1500 contribution to 2 defibrillators
3. £374 for paint for the railway bridge at Redland station

Many thanks again this year to Julie Hart who has reviewed the figures above as the independent examiner.

Peter Dunscombe

Hon Treasurer

Student Liaison

It's a pleasure to return to these pages, after guest appearances some years ago and a few mentions in despatches. In becoming Student Liaison Representative for RCAS, I'd like to start with a few thanks: to Rob Harris, who previously held the role and was an enthusiastic supporter when I set up The Noise Pages website; to Alison Bromilow, who has likewise always responded whenever I've canvassed opinions on student-related issues; and to Derrick Collier, for keeping us up to date in the September magazine as well as being a sounding board for ideas (a recent meet-up for "a coffee" ran to four hours, which may be the record).

My experience of matters around students and universities—for us, that usually means University of Bristol (UoB)—suggests it really does require a team effort to secure our (the community's) interests. Whether it's night-time noise in student-populated streets or unsightly household waste outside their HMOs, the university, like many a large organisation, is more likely to take notice of complaints if it finds itself facing a coalition of local groups, rather than just one or two acting independently.

Fortunately, in the RCAS area such a coalition is already up and running, and I have close contact with the people within it.

RCAS is probably the largest of the dozen or so North Bristol residents' associations engaged in dialogue with the university, and by virtue of its size it has several other groups operating inside its boundaries. The biggest is Chandos Neighbourhood Association (CNA), whose area includes one of the largest clusters of student-occupied HMOs (Houses in Multiple Occupation) anywhere in the city. Another, informal, group covers Cotham Vale and Trelawney Road (CVTR), a much smaller area that nevertheless is grappling with persistent antisocial behaviour. Elsewhere, there are High Kingsdown Community Association and Hampton Park & Cotham Hill Community Group.

Please Get in Touch

All of these groups participate directly or indirectly in the Bristol Student Community Partnership (BSCP), a forum set up by UoB that links the universities, community and city council. However, there are probably also several street WhatsApp groups, or similar, dotted about—eg, in the Waverley Road area—that aren't part of the BSCP or the email conversations between groups. Feel free to get in touch with me.

I aim to monitor student-related issues (waste as well as noise) across the RCAS area. Where a local group is handling issues on its own doorstep, I'll happily stay in the background—ready to help or just to share information, if wanted.

I'm also happy to hear from individuals. Back when I started The Noise Pages in 2018 (so long ago?!), many readers of this magazine joined my newsletter list, or copied me in on complaints they'd emailed to the university. While I've stopped documenting individual incidents on the website, anecdotal evidence is always welcome. It has helped me put proposals to UoB, whether via the BSCP, with which I was heavily involved for a couple of years, or more recently in discussions created by the UoB Vice-Chancellor, Evelyn Welch.

Agenda

Mention of the Vice-Chancellor's Working Parties (VCWP) brings me to where we are now. Suffice to say, an initiative that promised so much has yielded very little. (Some of us who participated met at Redland Library on 20 November to review the state of play, and frankly the mood was downbeat.)

As their name implies, the working parties were sponsored by VC Welch, who, since arriving in 2022, has paid far more attention to community relations than her predecessor. She's met residents' association representatives several times and attended the inaugural VCWP meeting in person. (And a week ago she joined her Community Liaison team in leafleting student properties in Cotham Vale, which I see as an important signal of her intent.)

The VC had also ensured the working parties would have access to relevant UoB staff: a lawyer, senior management, and people dealing with particular subject areas such as student communications. Everything was in place to facilitate a step-change in progress. And yet the meetings fizzled out six months later with little to show—not zero, but also not much. In short, there’s lots of unfinished business to deal with.

All sides agree that, while UoB must have a robust system to deal with complaints, the long-term solutions lie not in Enforcement but in Education—telling students how they’re expected to behave when living in, or travelling through, the community.

This starts with the contract students sign when they join UoB, and in every year of study. It’s where they agree to be bound by university discipline. But as we’ve repeatedly pointed out, the contract is opaque; the community rules are buried in “fine print”. No wonder many students don’t know about them! After detailed discussion, UoB made one small wording change and added an unhelpful hyperlink. Verdict: Fail.

We did slightly better with proposals for a mandatory online learning module, to be presented to first-years soon after they arrive. UoB created a page in an existing module and rolled it out on a software platform that tracks who’s completed it. But the content was tame and not very interactive, and we understand completions are currently well short of 100%.

Several other ideas were presented but not discussed. But there was one significant win.

Reviewing Operation Beech, the anti-noise police patrol that UoB pays for, I noted the huge disparity in outcomes. Sometimes Beech turns up at noisy parties and has instant impact; other times, nothing. This may reflect differing opinions among officers about how much noise is reasonable. For greater consistency, and to assert university authority at the moment it’s most needed, I proposed equipping Beech officers with pre-printed letters from the Vice Chancellor,

to be handed to the students; these contain direct instructions to desist and outline the disciplinary consequences of not doing so.

UoB leaped on this idea and implemented it immediately. In February, I saw the letter deployed by Beech officers at a large student party (100-plus people) in Ashgrove Road: House emptied in about 20 minutes, peace restored by half-past midnight—instead of noise disruption till dawn. Job done! Now we just need UoB to address the other items on our list ...

The Noise Pages

It's still there (www.thenoisepages.com) but I haven't updated it for 12 months because of other pressures on my time. I plan to transition to a low-maintenance format—perhaps a few pages of reference information—but haven't yet decided how to do it. Hopefully I will have more to say in a future edition.

My Noise Pages email (thenoisepages@gmail.com) still works, and will continue to do so. If you prefer a more RCAS-specific address, I've set up adw.rcas@gmail.com. Comments welcome!

Andrew Waller

Parks

Cotham Gardens

Buzz Feed! News from the pollinator bed

As we approach the end of the year, we can reflect on the progress from a scarcely recognisable muddy rectangle to a bed full of pollinator plants that delights passers-by. One of the aims was to extend the season of flower availability and this has been achieved. Even now in November there are flowers in bloom.

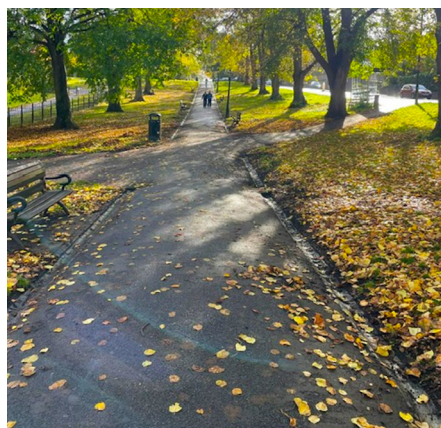
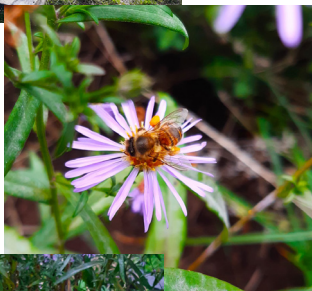
Thanks go to the volunteers who helped clear the old space, spread tons of topsoil and heave the (very heavy) edge beams into place. Thanks also to those who donated plants to help fill the gaps and the waterers over the long hot summer (remember that?).

The plot has developed from a very tentative start in Spring with transplanted forget-me-nots and a few daffodils. In high summer the bed was a glorious mixture and was full of many different types of insects. Unexpected flower superstars have been the calendulas, followed in autumn by Michaelmas daisies. The mallow also deserves a special mention as it recovered from a single tiny leaf to spectacular sprays of magenta blooms.

Looking forward the hellebores, sarcococcus and mahonia should flower early in the year followed by recently planted spring bulbs (if the squirrels don't dig them up). Next year we may be able to construct and install an insect 'hotel' and would encourage people to emulate this in their own gardens if they have room. Suggestions for new plants are welcome but need to be suitable for pollinators, usually single simple open blossoms. Flowers in shades of blue, purple, and yellow will attract bees. Red, yellow, orange, pink, and purple blooms are better for attracting butterflies. Moths, which tend to feed in the evening, gravitate towards white or cream-colored flowers having sweet scents (Cinnabar Moth in photo right).

Feedback from the passing public has been extremely positive, many people stopped to chat, offer advice, share gardening knowledge and express their appreciation. We hope it has brought a little colour and joy in a sometimes puzzling world.

Diana Wilkins



Friends of Cotham Gardens
WhatsApp group



QR code for
joining FoCG

Redland Green

The autumn leaves are still falling from the trees on Redland Green but we are still able to enjoy their glorious colours as autumn slowly passes into winter. They are not the only things that have been falling recently as the photo of one of the tree surgeons working on the ash trees in the allotment shows! We have been most impressed by the care that has been taken in removing the branches and trees suffering from ash die back and the skills of the workers, not a job many of us would like to tackle (see photo right). The brash and small branches have been piled up to make dry hedges and wildlife havens. In the past would they have been used to make charcoal?

Unfortunately yet another limb fell from the multi stemmed cherry trees and for safety reasons the remaining stems will be removed and a more robust tree will take their place. As you can see from the photo it narrowly missed a parked car (photo bottom right).

Many of you may have noticed the busy goings on in your gardens or on your patios of the spiders constructing their amazing webs over the autumn. We found this beautiful European garden spider while preparing the meadow area by the Metford Road steps for the winter. It happily scampered off when returned to the grass. Please note the style of gloves when clearing rough areas, they give excellent protection when dealing with blackberries etc.

We look forward to seeing you at the 'Christmas Sing Along' on Redland Green by the Play area on Friday 5th December. 5.30-6.30pm with hot chocolate and mince pies provided by the Redland Green Tennis Club and Redland Green Community Group.

Lois Goddard
Chair of RGCG

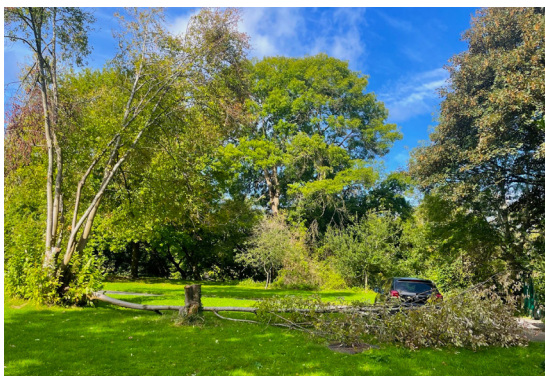




Friday,
December 5th
2025
5.30pm-6.30pm

Redland Green Community Group
invite you to Come and sing
CHRISTMAS SONGs on REDLAND
GREEN by the Play Area

with Hot Chocolate and mince pies



Street Issues



After kerbside waste and recycling collections have been made the pavement can often look like an assault course with bins, boxes and bags left everywhere. If possible, please bring your bin, recycling boxes and bags back into your property from the pavement as soon as possible so that pedestrians have an easier task navigating the pavements. Help everyone and especially those with visual impairment, mobility issues or pushchairs who really struggle with these obstacles.

If a street needs cleaning because there's litter or other mess left please use

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/streets-travel/street-that-needs-cleaning>

The Report a Street Issue page contains links to report lots of issues affecting our local streets. Please make use of this reporting service.

<https://www.bristol.gov.uk/residents/streets-travel/report-a-street-issue>



Clearing the fallen leaves as it gets wet and slippery is so important to avoid unnecessary falls and accidents. We've been made aware of several incidents recently so take care.

Please take part in street leaf cleans with your neighbours, working together makes the job so much easier and convivial.

Leaf clearing bags are available from Bristol Waste Company (BWC) at <https://bristolwastecompany.co.uk/litter-picking-kit/>

or if more bags are required
<https://bristolwastecompany.co.uk/extra-bags>

The same form can be used to let BWC know when the bags are ready for collection.

