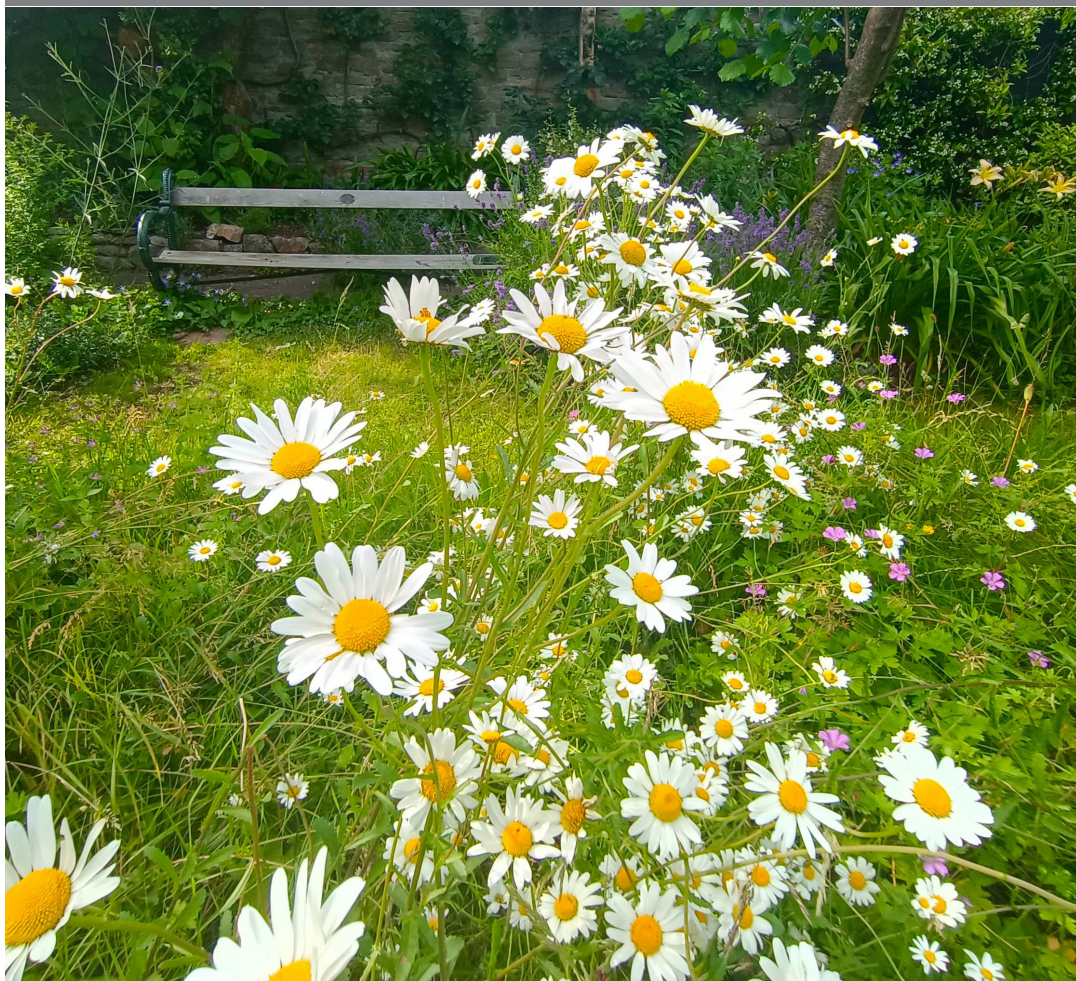


Redland & Cotham Amenities Society



**Annual Report
Open Gardens
Student Liaison
Planning, Parks, Trees
Cotham Hill Planters**



Number 212 - September 2026

ANNUAL REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

This year has been the first year that membership fees have been changed to a voluntary donation to support the work of the RCAS. So far, it appears that around four-fifths of the members are happy to continue to contribute towards the costs of printing the newsletter and supporting projects such as the replacement of the sundial bench in Cotham Gardens. The standing orders that continue to be paid are now treated as donations and are very welcome.

Our funds are used to produce the newsletter and to support the administration of the society, but mainly to support projects such as the replacement of the bench in Cotham Gardens, supporting the work in the park including buying materials to carry out the remedial works, and sponsoring tree planting across the Redland & Cotham area. We have also continued to help with funding for defib machines and for the new Redland Station planter.

We have supported the work of the Cotham Hill planter maintenance group and are delighted that a volunteer from RCAS has come forward to work with the local community from Hampton Park and Cotham Hill Community Group to keep the planters looking good. An article from Penny Dobson from HPCHCG is included in the newsletter. RCAS has supported the project including paying for the plaques showing who has adopted the planters and the input from Henry Seaman, gardener and bee, butterfly and wildflower enthusiast, who has replanted those planters which have not been adopted by traders with perennial plants. You can follow Henry on Instagram @hengardens. If anyone is happy to help with continuing the work to maintain the planters, do get in touch. There is an active group so it can be quite a social occasion- if that is what you want!

The Treasurer and the Membership Secretary have been reconciling the payments and Gift Aid declarations but as we no longer are asking newsletter distributors to collect membership fees, the administration burden is reduced going forwards. Perhaps you might be interested in being part of the committee now the tedious bit is easier to deal with? Have you a particular interest or idea for a project which you would like to share with us? Do get in touch and do offer your help to get the project off the ground.

We now have a new Email News format. We have transferred all the names and email addresses that we have been provided by members, when they joined or through signing up for the email alerts, to our new EmailOctopus account and have sent out August and September Email News. However, over 50 email addresses which were transferred over have been 'bounced' as they are out of date or incorrect.

If you have not received the Email News, please check your spam folders and if they are not there and you do want to receive the monthly updates, please do sign up with your current email address via our website Member Pages. If you are now using a different email and want to change your records, please sign up again with your new email and unsubscribe your old email.

Everyone who is in the BS6 postal district will be counted as a member for the purposes of our membership numbers; People outside the BS6 area are welcome to sign up if they are interested in the local news but will not be counted in our membership numbers.

As always, we are very grateful to the members who help with the distribution of the printed newsletter. It would be great too, if members encouraged their friends and neighbours to join up online now there is no joining fee. And do get in touch to tell us about things you would like us to share with others through our News Posts and News emails.

We look forward to seeing you in November at the Redland Club when Mark Aston from University of Bristol will be there to talk about his work in the community liaison/student resolution department. There will be plenty of opportunity to talk to RCAS committee about your interests and ideas, and to meet other members of the community over a drink. We hope to see you there.

Alison Bromilow

GOLD STAR AWARDS

There haven't been many completed development projects in our area in the past year, certainly none that could be described as high quality and as making a positive contribution to the appearance of Redland and Cotham. As a consequence, we will not be making any Gold Star awards this year. We hope for better projects next year.

Simon Birch

AUTUMN MEETING

An Autumn Meeting will take place
on Thursday 12th November 2026

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.

Mark Aston, Student Resolution Service Officer for the University of Bristol, will be there to talk about how the University is working with other agencies to address the relationship between student and permanent residents. Mark's previous title as Community Liaison officer has been revised to reflect the changed University of Bristol organisation which has brought the Community Liaison department into the Student Resolution department.

ANNUAL PLANNING REPORT

The face of planning in England is changing with recent national policy changes in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). The changes are resulting in a reduction in how much local opinion can shape development and further restrictions to community input such as consideration of the number of responses and the ability of councillors to call for committee decisions on particular applications will mean that the planning officers will be making more decisions under 'delegated powers'. The decisions will be made in accordance with central government rules with much less scope for community and local input to affect development in their area. Although the NPPF pays lip service to the desire for public engagement, there are no provisions made to support this.

Bristol is still in the process of signing off the Local Plan 2022 to 2040, which has been under review since 2022 and is now back with the inspector, following revisions to reflect responses in 24-26.

Meanwhile a new policy plan, under a new process, started in June 2026 for Local Plan 2045, which should be adopted in 2029. This is being brought forward under a much tighter programme schedule of 30 months.

Bristol is under considerable pressure to increase the number of residential units to be planned for and provided. Bristol has a particular problem; according to a recent study by Arcadis, the cost of building in Bristol is one of the highest in the world (9th) and second highest in the UK. House prices are among the most expensive and the city is the least affordable for private renters; 20,000 people are on the waiting list for a social home. We feel that the pressure to address the problem of undersupply of housing and homelessness, on top of the lack of an approved current plan, is having a significant effect on local decision-making, and we have more recently seen a number of applications unexpectedly approved.

Bristol is also being hit by having to pay costs after developers successfully appeal against a number of planning application refusals, when planning inspectors give greater weight to the NPPF presumption in favour of sustainable development. This inevitably has an impact on officer recommendations.

For the RCAS area, the potential for new development is restricted by the availability of new sites, as evidenced by the lack of Gold Star candidates for the last few years. Most of the development in our area is conversions and extensions, many more loft conversions have been applied for this year as people decide to stay in their current home rather than move to larger properties.

The need for even more student housing because of the continued expansion of the University of Bristol continues to impact our area (see Andrew Waller's report for more detail on this). There have been a number of retrospective applications by landlords who can gain Lawful Development Certificates for HMOs which do not have planning approval if they can show that they have been using the property as a HMO for 10 years continuously by producing evidence such as tenancy agreements. This LDC exempts them from enforcement action. A number of HMOs still do not have planning approval despite having licenses. It is important that HMOs are identified so that the council has an accurate picture of the location and density of HMO residential accommodation so that new applications can be considered against the planning policies which have been drawn up to avoid harmful impacts of concentrations of HMO development. The proposed conversion of St Joseph's, Cotham Hill, from a former nursing home into a 'Purpose Built Student Accommodation' is dealt with in more detail by Andrew Waller. The planning committee decided to refuse the application against the officer recommendation for approval and the officer is currently revising his report for a future committee meeting decision.

On the brighter side, possibly as a result of changes to buy to let arrangements, we are now seeing some conversions of HMOs back to family housing.

Living in the Redland and Cotham area is still a joy but the negative impact of an increasing transitory population is changing the neighbourhood and adversely affecting the living conditions of the more permanent residents. The local planning policy was drawn up in consultation with residents and developers and included a number of policies which addressed that concern; it would be regrettable if the top-down, rules-based approach currently being introduced negated all the hard work of those people who engaged in the planning policy drafting process, including the planning officers and councillors.

The loss of front gardens to create off street parking bays continues to trouble RCAS. The increased number of electric cars and the need for charging bays is leading to more applications for removal of front garden walls and replacement of garden plants with hard surfacing. We feel that insufficient consideration is given to the impact of the loss of truly permeable ground surfaces like grass and planting beds with regard to the increased volume of surface water run-off. Water runs off the hard surfaces to streets where the drains and gulleys are permanently blocked, and leads to local flooding issues, which are expected to become more of a problem with climate change and El Nino impacts. Even so-called permeable paving cannot absorb the volume of rain we currently experience and when the paving slopes towards the road, additional water run-off is inevitable. The failure of the government and the council to address this issue at the outset is regrettable, and leaving it to the market to provide charging stations has not proved the solution. The increased number of off-street parking bays results in a reduction in the number of publicly available on-street parking spaces, effectively privatising the road in front of the property.

Another recent change has been the introduction of ‘plug-in’ solar panels, much touted in the press lately. A reminder: for most of the RCAS area that is in a Conservation Area, planning permission will be required before a panel is installed on the street facing frontage of a property. As much of RCAS is in a Conservation Area, applications for works to trees are the largest volume of planning applications we see. After a summer like this one, the value of tree canopy in reducing temperatures in built up areas is obvious; we hope that this increases the number of trees planted in our area as people see the benefits they provide.

Earlier this year, RCAS objected to the application for Licensing extension of hours. Unfortunately, the Cotham Hill Whitmore tap now has permission to open at the weekends until 1.00am with 30 minutes for customers to leave, meaning that groups will be dissipating through the area between 1 and 2am, past many residential properties. Again, this has the potential to adversely impact on the local residents and it is to be hoped that the other licensed premises in the area do not also seek to extend their opening hours.

Recent Planning Applications:

26/11841/F | Change of use from a residential institution / care home (Class C2) to student accommodation (Sui Generis) together with associated external alterations, landscaping, access and servicing arrangements. | St Josephs 66 Cotham Hill Bristol BS6 6JT RCAS has commented supporting retention of the building but objecting to the proposed use as student accommodation. Revisions have been made to improve the living conditions of future residents but RCAS objection stands. Planning Committee decision Sept 2nd was to reject the application . Officer’s report recommended approval. The application is to be brought back to the October committee meeting. During the interval the planning officer will re-evaluate the reasons for refusal and make recommendations for grounds for the committee to agree.

26/12201/F| Erection of new dwelling and demolition of rear lean to, new windows in rear elevation, and roof replacement with rear dormer roof extension with Velux to existing dwelling. 23 Kersteman Road Bristol BS6 7BX | RCAS objected APPROVED

26/13257/F | Partial demolition (with front and side facade retention), alteration and extension of existing dwelling house and outbuildings to form 9 new apartments | 43 Aberdeen Road Bristol BS6 6HY RCAS not commenting

Still waiting

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. Planning committee decision still pending.

Alison Bromilow and Simon Birch

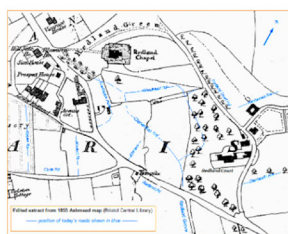
RCAS Publications

Alison has reformatted the Living Here books which tell the history of various parts of Cotham and Redland. Some books are still available to buy, others are available to read only online.

You can see them here

<https://rcas.org.uk/publications/books-and-cards/>

Below 2 of the titles are shown. There are several more...



Published by
Redland & Cotham Amenities Society

R&C
A&S

**ESTATES of
REDLAND**

Account No. 4
The area between Redland Green and Redland Road



Redland & Cotham Amenities Society
LIVING HERE
THE REDLAND ASSOCIATION

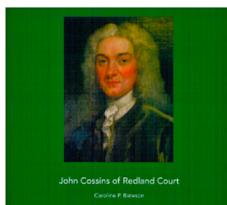
The RCAS 'Living Here' project Account No. 4
ESTATES of REDLAND

Sorry - SOLD OUT

From mansions to middle class homes.
The area between Redland Green and Redland Road

by Alison Bromilow, Elizabeth Scott, Joan Hill, Rose Jennings, Mark Hill,
Gerry Calderbank and John Morse.

read online



John Cossins of Redland Court
Caroline P. Bateson

John Cossins of Redland Court

History of the founder of Redland Court

By Caroline Bateson

32 pages, 24 illustrations

PARKS REPORT

Cotham Gardens

We would like to thank the local residents who regularly work in the park to keep it looking so good for the benefit of the whole community. The monthly workparties continue to attract support with people giving what time they can, when available, to sweep paths, cut back overhanging branches/epicormic growth and clean up litter and tagging/ graffiti.

The flower beds are also weeded and dead headed, and supplemented with additional appropriate planting to keep them looking good and providing a resource for the wildlife. Many people remark how much they appreciate the work of the volunteers when they pass by; some even join up to help!

The council has now replaced the panels on the Coach and Horse play equipment; the panels have been installed with the logo and coated side outwards. We have asked whether it is possible to reverse them so that we can paint the side panels blue as we did formerly. Having the coated side inside also makes it easier to remove tagging/graffiti, so, as the coach is regularly used and abused in the evenings, it reduces the amount of work cleaning off the tags.

We and the park users are delighted by the new Sundial bench, which should withstand attack better than the previous timber slats. It will also stand up better to use as a workout bench by the keep-fit enthusiasts. The bench was paid for using RCAS funds, so by you, the members.



The July Pizza in the Park event was a great success, and we worked with the Cotham Gardens Primary School PTA to encourage parents and children to come and celebrate the end of term in the park. We were perhaps too successful as the Pizzas had all sold out by 6.30pm leaving late-comers disappointed. Many thanks to Lucy of Roam Wild Coffee who helped with the refreshments, providing bar staff and drinks for the evening. There was a small profit from the event which we donated to the PTA.

The Lampposts along Lovers' Walk, the railway bridge and some of the litter bins have been given a new coat of paint and are looking much better.

Last planting season, the council introduced a large number of new trees in the park. It has been a difficult year for them given the weather. New trees have been nursed through the extended period of drought, and many thanks are given to the local residents who have been watering the trees that are not being supported by the council. We had some reservations about introducing trees in the large grass area inside the fence but this summer, people have been very grateful for the additional areas of shade!

Alison Bromilow



Redland Green

Despite the heatwaves over the summer months Redland Green did not suffer as much as many other open spaces. The meadow was glorious with cranesbill, daisies, yellow rattle and various grasses. We have been bewildered by the cutting of the rope around the meadow area over the last few months though.

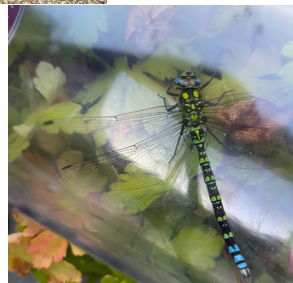
The mowing regime was greatly reduced in the Green and city wide. We noticed that on the access road to the allotments and Farm, the grass next to the play area which was mown stayed greener than the grass by the Dell which wasn't mown and left to grow long and seed. This latter policy which was seen in various areas of the city could lead to dry grass acting as fuel for fires and reduced ability of the grass to recover when the rains eventually come. It also makes a reduced grassy area for recreation.

As we move into autumn after this unforgettable summer there are different maintenance commitments which include planting daffodil bulbs, and we are again thankful to Bristol Lions via Duncan White for their donation of bulbs. It is also the season for pressing spare apples from the allotments and the wider local community. Over 200 litres was pressed last Sunday at Redland Green Farm by many local families. The event is always enjoyed by adults and children alike participating in all the stages of the process.

You may have noticed the many dragon flies that have been seen flying around the park and we managed to get a close-up photo of one of them. They need their wings to be warm to fly and their presence indicates a healthy pesticide free habitat. They are not the only large wildlife species that thrive in Redland Green. A buzzard was recently seen in a tree having just killed a pigeon, it was being mobbed by crows and other corvids. Owls, badgers, foxes and squirrels also populate the area provoking mixed emotions from allotment holders and local residents hoping to have some crops left for their tables and for preserving.

We hope to see you all at winter activities which will be posted up on the RGCG website and mail shots.

Lois Goddard
Redland Green Community Group



OPEN GARDENS

What a fabulous weekend we had in June! I say 'weekend' because those who were opening their gardens on the Sunday were invited to visit each other's gardens on the Saturday, which were as always very special. Most of the gardeners didn't know each other beforehand but made some lovely connections that day.

The theme of connections and of sharing information continued on the Sunday. People shared their spaces and knowledge generously, telling how their garden had evolved, and was still evolving, what they enjoyed or found frustrating, where they had obtained certain plants from and how they controlled various pests and diseases.

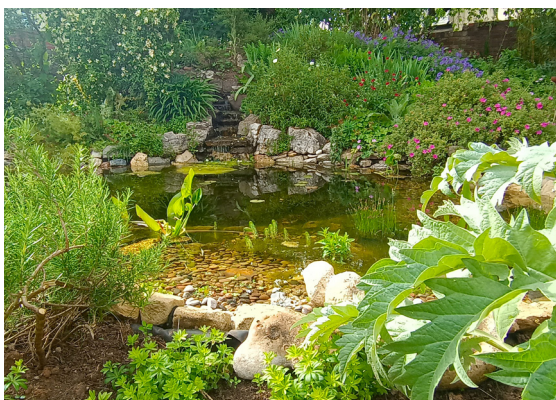
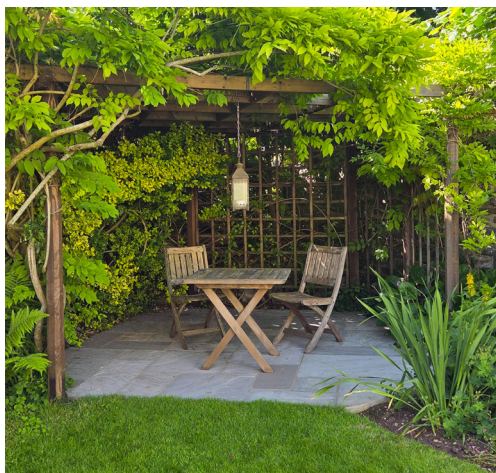
There were some lovely seating arrangements for a moment's rest either in sun or shade, and often refreshments to recharge and enable us to get to the next garden in the programme. The few months of successive heatwaves since Open Gardens have reminded us how important it is to have shaded areas in our gardens. Refreshments on the day raised over £1,000 for the gardeners' own nominated charities.

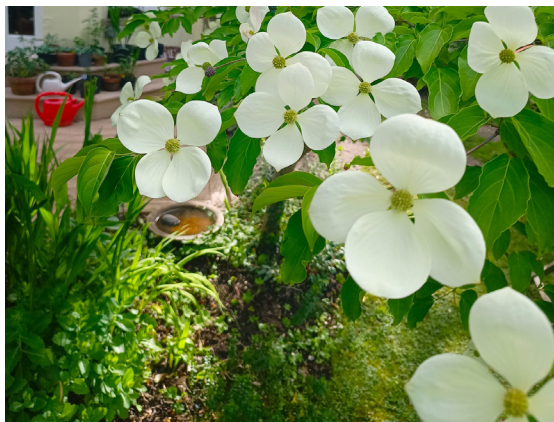
It is always fascinating that however well we think we know the Redland and Cotham area from travelling around, the gardens we can't see from the road hold so many surprises. The small selection of photos shown in this newsletter cover only a fraction of the colour and tranquility which people have created in their various spaces. Thank you so much to all the garden openers who welcomed us in.

For Open Gardens 2027 it is the turn of the Cotham area of Redland and Cotham.

The Open Gardens Team
Dave, Serena and Meg







STUDENT LIAISON REPORT

In the realm of universities, students and city communities, the biggest event of the year happened on 7 September 2026—the opening of University of Bristol’s (UoB) new Temple Quarter Enterprise Campus.

Congratulations are in order: This is a massive project that promises to spur economic growth in the city. The gleaming new buildings next to the railway station are billed by the university as “a collection of world-class facilities orientated around frontier industries like AI, deep tech and creative tech, in addition to business, innovation and science and engineering.”

This huge investment, which will offer shared spaces to the wider public, may be a couple of miles as the crow flies from Redland and Cotham but the ripple effects are being felt throughout the city.

The new campus is visible evidence of the university’s rapid expansion. Bristol Live says this year’s combined intake at UoB and UWE (University of the West of England) is likely to be a record, possibly topping 70,000—double the 2001 tally.

Growth on this scale inevitably has consequences, and here in Redland and Cotham, close to UoB’s traditional home, we have long experience of them. All those students have to live somewhere, and for decades it was university halls for first-years and private rentals in the community (HMOs, or Houses in Multiple Occupation) for subsequent years.

Increasingly, we now also have “purpose-built student accommodation”, or PBSA—in short, blocks of flats. And despite what you may have thought, it isn’t confined to the city centre or Temple Quarter. Indeed, it may be about to expand on RCAS’s patch.

Locally, there’s been lots of focus these past few months on a developer’s plans to provide 126 student beds at the former St. Joseph’s care home

in Cotham Hill. Those plans, to which I and RCAS objected—on the grounds we have too many students already—were rejected by councillors on 2 September. Planning officers had recommended approval.

It is too soon to celebrate. The proposals will return to the planning committee for another vote in October. Even if the rejection is confirmed, the developer will most likely appeal. On past experience, there's a high chance a government planning inspector will grant approval, and the development will go ahead.

If it were just one PBSA scheme, bringing back to life a familiar local landmark, perhaps that wouldn't be too bad. But the broader question is what such a result would do to Bristol's attempts to craft planning policies that protect communities from over-concentrations of student accommodation (whether HMOs or PBSA). In the background, government-set national planning policy is evolving in ways that may also weaken those defences. (See Alison's report in this issue.)

That, then, is the backdrop to my role as student liaison representative for RCAS, which I took on last November. To summarise the past 10 months:

University Liaison: I've had several meetings with the UoB community liaison officer, Mark Aston. Early on, I emphasised RCAS's significance as the largest residents' body this side of Whiteladies Road, if not the wider area. We've invited Mark to speak at RCAS's 12 November meeting, so if you have questions, please come!

Thanks to yet another reorganisation at UoB, Mark and his assistant are now part of the Student Resolution Service, which chiefly handles internal complaints. If they were to be deployed on SRS cases, thereby reducing time for community work, we and other residents' groups would see that as a retreat. In August, UoB said community liaison will

continue to function as before, so far as residents are concerned. But its assurances were the sort that tend to confirm one's initial suspicions. We will monitor ...

Landlord Project: I also resumed attendance at quarterly meetings of the Bristol Student Community Partnership (BSCP), which comprises both universities, the Student Union, council officials, residents' groups, the police and a couple of student landlords. At the June meeting, I presented my "landlord project", securing agreement in principle from UoB and the council's Private Housing Service (PHS), which runs the HMO licensing system.

The aim is to enlist active support from landlords in areas where there are persistent complaints about student behaviour in HMOs—usually about night-time noise and poor waste management. While UoB has long tried to improve behaviour through outreach and guidance, that sometimes hasn't made much difference, leaving residents to suffer disruption year after year. I believe this will continue unless we can engage landlords. Specifically, we need them to ensure that prospective student tenants understand very clearly—before they sign a lease—what their responsibilities are.

We've selected a street in Cotham for trial purposes and UoB is currently seeking to organise a meeting with the landlords (or agents) concerned to discuss mutual support. PHS has agreed to attend to answer questions from the regulators' point of view.

I'm not naming the street out of respect for residents' concerns. And as we're still negotiating the first hurdle, it's too soon to say more. Success would be measured in lower complaints, but that won't be clear until late 2027. (Because the key is the initial conversations landlords have with prospective tenants, the project targets students who will choose HMOs this autumn for occupation from July next year. So, not the

students who just moved in—they signed up months ago—but those who will follow them.)

Local Planning Matters: University of Bristol doesn't need planning permission to double (or quintuple) its student rolls. If it wants to, it can, and Bristol City Council has no veto. The council will nevertheless be obliged by planning rules to make provision for the student accommodation needed. Housing is a key priority for both local and central governments, and since student accommodation counts towards official housing targets, if there's a need and investors can provide the money, it will be built. The only question up for discussion is—where?

Enter, town planning. I've spent countless hours this past year participating in public consultations on Bristol's 2024 Revised Local Plan, still awaiting government approval, and on related matters, including the St Joseph's proposal, the outcome of which hinges on excruciatingly detailed arguments over town-planning documents. Those documents are tedious and boring but also unavoidable when choices have to be made about how much student housing (HMOs or PBSA) to allow in a given area.

A key concept is "harmful concentration"—broadly, where types of housing serving temporary or short-term residents reach levels that threaten the balance of a community or reduce "residential amenity" through, for example, associated noise disturbance or other impacts. Preserving the character of a district is also an objective.

In the St Joseph's case, the question is whether to allow the proposal, even though the area already has a substantial amount of student housing—196 beds in existing PBSA across the street from St Joseph's, and hundreds more in HMOs nearby. Does this amount to a "harmful concentration"? Most of the 162 objectors to the planning application thought so (versus just 3 supporters), and many cited noise and waste as

student-related impacts on the rest of the community. Yet the council's planning officers said no evidence of harm was placed before them.

Which view ultimately prevails could have far-reaching consequences for our area.

Comments? I'd love to hear them!

Andrew Waller

Email: thenoisepages@gmail.com



University Of Bristol Temple Quay Campus
Photo Credit Rosscam/University of Bristol

LEAF CLEARING THIS AUTUMN

Autumn will arrive soon together with the annual leaf drop. If you can, please get involved with leaf clearing or litter picking on your road. Do get your neighbours involved!

Bristol Waste Company (BWC) can loan you and your group Litter Picking Kits so you can safely clean streets and park areas. <https://bristolwastecompany.co.uk/litter-picking-kit/>

You can request extra bags from BWC at <https://bristolwastecompany.co.uk/extra-bags/>

Then simply contact BWC for collection at <https://bristolwastecompany.co.uk/litter-collection/>

Bags are collected very quickly by BWC



The Planters of Cotham Hill

The 32 Bristol City Council (BCC) planters along Cotham Hill have a new lease of life, thanks to the generous financial support of the RCAS. As many of you will know, they were installed in 2022 by BCC as part of the Cotham Hill pedestrianisation programme - but there was no plan to maintain them! So, by last autumn they were looking in a very sorry state! Living nearby – and as a member of the Hampton Park & Cotham Hill Community Group, as well as the RCAS - I approached the council, but clearly there was no commitment for funding.

Plan B was to ask the Cotham Hill traders whether they would “adopt” a planter. The response was largely positive, so the lengthy process of engaging and “matching” began! The RCAS agreed to take on four planters, the Hampton Park & Cotham Hill Community Group took on one – and another local resident planted a further four. We were fortunate to find a professional gardener, called Henry Seaman, who gave the project guidance – as well as doing some direct work for us.

The RCAS generously gave us funding to enable plaques to be made to attach to each planter, with details of its new sponsor (I felt that it was important for the many visitors to Cotham Hill to know who was involved). Timpson's gave us a very good price for making the plaques – and we are indebted to another local volunteer, who spent many hours drilling the plaques into place!

While we were on Cotham Hill, on our knees, drilling in the plaques – we had many interesting conversations. One lady stopped and said that she would love to be involved, another came over and asked how she could get connected with other local ventures. A young man couldn't understand why we were doing this work for no pay!

As a result of all our conversations, we have a “Planters Support group” and a “Planters Watering Group”. Local businesses are enjoying the fruits of their labours (literally – as one planter is full of courgettes and runner beans – for people to share).

This has been a real community exercise! It has been a pleasure to meet business owners and their colleagues in this way – and to better understand the many pressures on small independent traders. It is also a pleasure to see the fruits of a joint endeavour. The challenge now is to maintain the momentum, so that the planters continue to look well cared for throughout the coming seasons by a community that cares.

Dr Penny Dobson MBE

On behalf of the Hampton Park & Cotham Hill Community Group



Photos show Penny, Alison, 3 planter maintenance volunteers, Henry the gardener and Jonty who attached the plaques.



TREES

I hope we all were able to appreciate the benefits of Redland and Cotham being amongst the leafiest areas of Bristol during the astounding series of heatwaves we had this summer. The effect of 'green' shade helped us survive the heat and it was great to be able to walk along many of our streets in the shade.

The trees themselves have suffered from the dry weather though, many have had an 'early autumn' where the tree has decided to let the leaves fall because there isn't enough water available to support the photosynthesis. Some may have died from lack of water, particularly the young ones, which have shallow roots and aren't yet efficient at collecting water.

There were 5 or 6 Bristol Council tree watering teams out continuously watering during the hot weather but unfortunately, they weren't able to keep all the trees sufficiently watered. Many thanks to anyone who helped out by watering their local young street trees! Some trees will appear to have survived, but the water stress may have made them susceptible to diseases which are always around in the environment and waiting for the opportunity. Sunscald is another issue where thin tree bark, such as on Beech trees, and less water flowing up through the cambium layers which are just underneath the bark, cause the cambium to overheat and die when exposed to direct sun.

I have noticed that Hornbeam and Field maple, both of which are native, have come through the heat often looking remarkable good, see attached photo of a Hornbeam in Westbury Park at the end of the heatwave. I think there aren't enough of these trees around as both thankfully have few threatening diseases, albeit that grey squirrels enjoying stripping the bark off Hornbeam (which can be fatal!).

Another tree I have noticed that seemed to survive the heat was the Indian Horse chestnut, *Aesculus Indiana*. Bristol council started planting this on the Downs over 10 years ago, as they are more resistant to the leaf

miners' moth which make our conker trees look like autumn trees as early as August. In the photo is an Indian horse chestnut taken in September after the last of this year's heatwaves looking in good condition. Behind is a traditional (Turkish) Horse chestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*, and which is looking in a rather poor state due to damage from the leaf miner. Leaf miners do not kill the tree but adversely affects the health as the duration of normal photosynthesis in a year is reduced.

Thank you to all those who submitted comments to the planning portal, either supporting or objecting to the application to fell two large Monterey cypress trees on the northern boundary of Redland Green School. It is good to see so much interest and the council tree officer will appreciate having community input to their decision. The two trees now have TPO status, as the requested felling permission for such significant trees was considered unreasonable for the reasons given in the application.

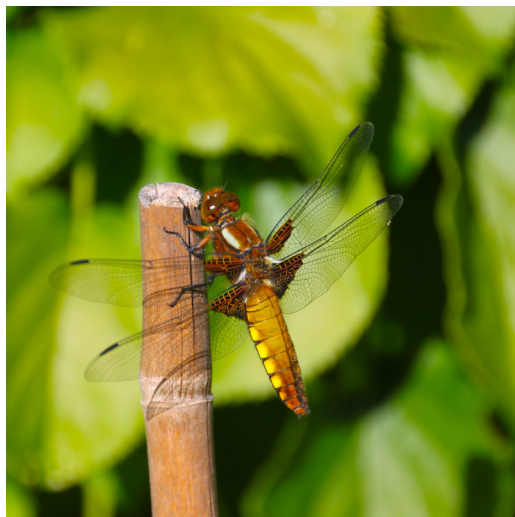
Dave Jones



Hornbeam



Indian Horse Chestnut



This photo of a broad-bodied libellula (dragonfly) was taken by Charles Ward. Their habit is to perch and dart not hover.

Please help with our drive to increase RCAS membership.

We're looking for volunteers to deliver leaflets to local venues and increase our visibility within the community.

Please contact us if you're able to help in any way.

Go to our website and use the contact us page link.

<https://rcas.org.uk/contact/contact-rcas/>



Can you help look after the 4 planters in Cotham Hill mentioned in the Chair's Report and Penny Dobson's article?

RCAS will provide all the equipment you'll need plus any extra plants/compost as required to keep the planters looking their best.

Just contact us to let us know if you're interested or have any questions.

Go to our website and use the contact us page link.

<https://rcas.org.uk/contact/contact-rcas/>

