



THE BISHOPSTON SOCIETY

Winter 2012
Newsletter



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The Bishopston Society promotes high standards of planning and architecture in and around Bishopston and aims to secure the preservation, protection, development and improvement of features of historic or public interest.
www.bishopstonsociety.org.uk

Chair's Editorial

Which architectural features make Bishopston distinctive and recognisable - and so are worth conserving? To begin to answer this question, a few of the Society's members went on a walk with Peter Insole (archaeological officer on BCC and manager of the 'Know Your Place' website mapping project). A report on this walk is included in this issue. Bishopston - like other neighbourhoods - is under pressure from inappropriate, over-intensive development plans. If our members can learn to look at existing local buildings with better-educated eyes, to see features of architectural merit, it may be possible to extend the current Conservation Area further up the Gloucester Road. This might restrain developments that are out of keeping with Gloucester Road as it is now, and conserve period features of interest and good quality. This project is only just starting and we would welcome more volunteers.

Our planning sub-committee continues its active monitoring of applications and makes detailed recommendations to the council. The cricket-ground application has been refused but may possibly go to appeal. The plans for the Memorial Ground are due to appear in March. Our public meeting on Monday 26 March will focus on this project, which will affect Bishopston, though the ground itself is north of our patch. 'A different project, one that is supported by the Society, is the housing development on Pigsty Hill, where, with the recent erection of the safety hoardings, building work has at last begun. For further details on these and other developments, please see the planning report.

Since the summer, our licensing sub-committee has been working to improve its effectiveness in objecting to applications - presenting evidence to convince the licensing panel of the unpleasant effects of late-night alcohol drinking on our neighbourhood, and in some cases holding back on objecting to a license that is likely to go through, especially if permission is not requested beyond midnight. For details of applications and results, please see the licensing report in this issue.

For an update on the Neighbourhood Partnership, please see Jenny Hoadley's report. The council is consulting on various traffic improvement schemes and tree-planting (much needed in Bishopston, but a challenge in such a built-up area). However, a new green space is just about to open, on Wednesday, February 1st - the Community Allotment and Forest Garden, at the end of Monk Road, behind Bishop Road School. They have already planted an 'edible forest' - including Russian mulberry, damson and even edible bamboo.

See the article in this issue. For more information, visit their website: horfield-communityallotment@gmail.com.

The Gloucester Road Task Force continues its day-to-day work on improving the appearance and safe functioning of this unique feature of Bishopston. Liz Kew,

who leads the team, would welcome more volunteers. If you no longer have enough elbow-grease to tackle graffiti or fly posters, she can find more suitable tasks for you - there is still plenty to do! If you can contribute, telephone Jenny Jones or e-mail her at nieghbourhood.partnerships@bristol.gov.uk - to help keep Bishopston a healthful and pleasant place to live.

HowZat?

Planning Committee Refuse Cricket Ground Application!

On 11th January Gloucestershire County Cricket Club's application to develop the ground at Nevil Road was turned down by Councillors by a majority of 6 to 4. The Planning Officer's Report, while recommending that the Committee approved the application, had stated that the case was 'finely balanced'.

A detailed debate focussed on the enabling development of a block of 147 flats, rising to 7 storeys, and its impact on the Muller Orphanages (Grade II listed buildings), the Ashley Down Conservation Area and the Brunel Fields Primary School.

The scale and appearance of the proposed flats had been opposed by groups within the City Council (including the City Design Group and the Conservation Team) and outside organisations (such as English Heritage, the Urban Design Forum and of course, the Bishopston Society!)

Councillors were also concerned that, despite the multi million pound development of the ground and the flats, the GCCC was not able to make the expected contributions to the community in terms of affordable housing, and Section 106 funding for education, health and recreational facilities for the occupants of the flats. The plans also needed further investment to meet the Council's standards on carbon reduction. An independent assessment of the viability of the application had estimated the sum total of all these contributions would be around £4.4 million.

Overall, although Councillors were keen to facilitate the Club's aspirations, they felt that these could not be supported 'at any price'.

The reasons for the refusal of the application were

- * the adverse effect of the scale and massing of the flats on the listed buildings and Conservation Area
- * the lack of contributions for school places, parks and green spaces
- * the failure to comply with the Council's policy on sustainable development

What happens now?

- * It is possible that the Cricket Club may appeal against the decision.
- * The Club may also consider moving from the County Ground, although if they did so they would not be able to retain their International Matches.
- * The Club could submit a revised application for a modified development.

As an organisation HowZat? has always made it clear that we are not opposed to the redevelopment and modernisation of the Cricket Ground in order to retain International Matches, but that this needs to be on a scale which does not have an unacceptable detrimental effect on the local area.

If the GCCC intends to submit a further Planning Application we hope that they will consult local residents at an early stage when they can have the potential to make a difference, as required by Bristol City Council's Policy on Community Involvement.

For further updates visit www.howzatgcc.org.uk

Planning Update

Two planning related issues have received particular attention recently. The first is the revised Gloucester Cricket Ground application which after some delay went to Committee in January. Officers in this "very finely balanced case" had recommended granting planning permission but Councillors voted by a majority to refuse permission. Not surprisingly Councillors found the proposals unacceptable on a number of grounds including the scale and massing of the residential development (147 flats and up to 7 Storeys) The impact would not just be felt acutely by local residents and the primary school but also by a much wider area in terms of parking, traffic and pressure on local facilities. The Bishopston Society objected on several grounds, fearing the worst possible outcome: a disfigured area hugely subsidised by the local ratepayer, only for the enhancements to the club not to materialise. What happens next is not clear especially with the financial challenges faced by the GCCC. The club could appeal against the planning decision. It is still hoped that the club could come up with a viable plan to upgrade the cricket ground in a way which would be reasonably acceptable in terms of the local environment and the impact on people living nearby.

*An application for four family houses
to replace a row of garages in Arundel Road has been refused*



The second issue has of course been the opening of a café by Costa Coffee at 14 Gloucester Road, despite the fact that an application was refused by the Committee. (Costa have acted in a similar way in Whiteladies Road and elsewhere in the country.) An appeal lodged by Costa for the Gloucester Road application was to take place in February but has now been postponed. The planning grounds for refusing permission are limited (planning officers recommended approval) and Costa could be successful in its appeal. The strong groundswell opinion against Costa raises questions about the credibility of the Government's move towards "localism". Certainly local people can express their opposition to Costa Coffee by voting with their feet.

There are currently at least two other applications seeking to change from retail or other uses to cafes. Is it valid for the Bishopston Society or others to declare that we have too many cafes in the Gloucester Road? It is difficult to accept the loss of retail outlets but refusing planning permission could simply result in more vacant shops like elsewhere. However at some point the identity (and appeal) of the Gloucester Road as one of the last remaining independent High Streets of independent shops could be under threat.

We continue to comment on other applications which have might have very little publicity but can have a significant impact on immediate neighbours and their amenity. Rather than considering imaginative solutions to developing small and difficult sites, many proposals continue to seek to simply maximise housing unit numbers and profit. We objected to a proposal for four double fronted family houses to replace a row of garages in Arundel Road (which has now been refused

by the planners). We considered the proposals far too intensive for the size of the site and took little account of suggestions we made in pre-application discussions with the developer/agent. In particular we pointed out that the shadow studies, prepared for the benefit of the neighbours behind, were misleading: the two gardens behind the site would actually have the afternoon and evening sun blocked out for most of the year by the proposed new development. We also made pre-application comments and suggestions in response to a (yet another) proposal for 20 Falmouth Road which were also not taken on board. A planning application has now been submitted to demolish the garage and erect a bungalow with a car space. Our concerns again include the overshadowing and enclosing of a neighbour's garden and poor quality space standards.

There has recently been a planning application to build a 3 storey house in the back garden of 3 Claremont Road. In this case we made some suggestions as to how the appearance and other aspects could be improved. However we were critical about a revised application for four two bedroom flats on a small back land site to the rear of 233 Gloucester Road. We considered the flats too large and close to the boundary, extremely dull in appearance with sub-standard room space, dominating adjacent properties and with no provision for parking. Surprisingly, this application has recently been passed under delegated powers.

A recently revised application for 78 Claremont Road has abandoned the original scheme and reduced the content down to six townhouses, each with its own garage. On the face of it this proposal is much more appropriate in an area



*Site to the rear of 233 Gloucester Road
which has been given planning permission for flats*

of family houses and significantly less intensive. A more unusual application we have commented on is a revised application to convert the (closed) public conveniences alongside the railway bridge (the Arches) on Cheltenham Road into a creperie and build a new flat above. We remain to be convinced that it is achievable to build the first floor in detailed stonework to match the elaborate workmanship of the original building. Among other concerns is whether it is appropriate to propose a flat which will be subject to considerable noise and vibration from the railway bridge directly alongside. On balance, we have suggested that the original building is restored and converted into a commercial unit, but without the proposal to add a first floor with a living unit.

On the wider front we have recently had a meeting with Sainsbury's representatives who are now consulting on a proposal for a sizeable supermarket (larger than Tesco's Golden Hill) to take the place of the rugby/football pitch at the Memorial Ground. This will be the main topic for discussion at our Public Meeting on the 26th March (see notice on p??). The (single storey) development is likely to be about 50,000 sq ft. of retail floor space. Proposals also include underground parking and houses which are intended to have the effect of screening on two sides of the boundary of the site for the benefit of the local community. It is likely to have a particular impact on residents living nearby who will no doubt have to weigh up the benefits and drawbacks compared to what they have to live with at present. It will of course have wider implications including traffic on the Gloucester Road and local shops, which is what our public meeting will try and address.

Another article in this Newsletter describes a local Conservation Area walk that took place in January led by Peter Insole, archaeologist from Conservation in Bristol City Council which involved several of our Committee members. The walk not only covered the newly created Conservation Area at the bottom of the Gloucester Road but also slightly further up this road and a few nearby residential streets. Many streets outside the Conservation Area whilst of historical and architectural interest might not necessarily merit Conservation Area status. However this exercise could be seen as a first step in a "Character Assessment" of the wider area which could be an input into a Neighbourhood Plan. The Localism Bill (coming into effect in April) makes provision for local communities and businesses to produce Neighbourhood Plans which will influence local planning decisions. Ideally (at least from our point of view) such a plan should embrace the interests, views, skills and knowledge of a wide section of the community, which is quite a challenge!

Neil Embleton and Nigel Tibbs

Licensing Report

In the 18 months since the introduction of the CIA (Cumulative Impact Area) on the Gloucester Road, applications for new or extended alcohol licenses have continued. Our licensing sub-committee continues to be active, determined to keep noise, squalor and late-night nuisance from spreading. At our request the council now have supplied a list of licensed premises and opening hours, which will make it easier to monitor applications.

Since the summer, our objections to applications have had a mixed response. 'Number 1's application to sell alcohol round the clock was refused, to our relief. The Vietnamese restaurant Huong Que and the Polish Market can sell alcohol, but late-night sales are not allowed.

At the most recent hearing, a request for a licensing extension at The Bishop's Tavern, near the Arches, concern was expressed about the size of the venue (250 customer spaces) and at the effect on neighbouring streets of a crowd of drinkers spilling out between 1-2am. We objected, as did Redland and Cotham Amenity Society and Cllr Neil Harrison. The extension of hours was refused.

A representative of the police also attended the hearing. Interestingly, the police mentioned a discrepancy between the experiences we have reported (and the photographs we showed) and the lack of complaints they had received. Our reply was that very few people who suffer noise nuisance, intimidation, or



Shops are being demolished on Pigsty Hill to make way for an affordable housing development.



The Costa Boycott Campaign

low-level criminal damage think that complaining to the police will make any difference. The police say they want to know - even if nothing is solved immediately - to help them build up a more accurate picture of what residents undergo, living near late-night alcohol venues.

So if, on a Saturday or Sunday morning, you find your wing-mirror smashed or your bin overturned, please report it to the police on their non-emergency number. If you can take a photograph of damage or early morning squalor, even better. We could use it as evidence at a hearing, to back up our objections and strengthen our case. We want to avoid Bishopston becoming a late-night drinking destination or an extension of the city centre. The society is striving to balance the area's variety and vitality with the needs of residents who need peacefulness.

Elinor Edwards

Gloucester Road: A Great Local Asset But Let's Not Take It For Granted!

In recent years local people, the media and the rest of the world it seems have taken an interest in the Gloucester Road. It is increasingly regarded as an asset to be cherished and supported. This appreciation partly comes from witnessing the decline of local high streets elsewhere together with their loss of identity and dominance of national chains. As well as receiving awards and accolades, the Gloucester Road is now firmly on the map as a place you have to experience (and hopefully spend at) when visiting Bristol! It seems to have a sufficient number of shops ("a critical mass" in the jargon) to have established a "niche" in the Bristol inner city retail market.

There are certain characteristics that help give the Gloucester Road its appeal and a "buzz" (certainly on Saturdays with large numbers of visitors). The lower end of the road is narrow with some attractive architectural features which help to create an intimacy and familiarity (you can call to somebody across the road!). It has a high proportion of independent shops, many specialised or unusual including some charity shops. (And let's not forget the Amnesty Bookshop which is a big draw). It also has some good pubs, bars and cafes including on the Promenade where people can sit outside in all seasons.

Doubtless the "gentrification" of the surrounding area with an influx of professional families (traditionally public sector) over several decades is beginning to rub off on the Gloucester Road. New developments like the affordable housing project now being built on Pigsty Hill and the refurbishment and development of the old North Bristol Baths (into health centre, a library and some apartments) will only increase the activity and attraction of the lower section of the Gloucester Road.

However to use an old cliché, it is possible to "kill the golden goose". The very success of the Gloucester Road could be its downfall as Costa and the like (including bars), estate agents and others move in to capitalise on its popularity. The powers of local people (and planners) to resist unwelcome change and threats are limited. The arrival of smaller local convenience branches of supermarkets has had mixed benefits. It very likely that damage to the health of the Gloucester Road has been done over time by larger supermarkets elsewhere, particularly to the upper end of the road as a result of Tesco at Golden Hill. A medium size Sainsburys ("Storegap") proposal near Ashley Down Road might have had local regenerative effect but this was refused planning permission partly on traffic and access grounds. We now are faced with the possibility of a much larger Sainsburys beyond the Gloucester Road at the Memorial Ground. The Bishopston Society Spring Public Meeting on the 26th March (see elsewhere for details) is addressing the implications for the Gloucester Road of the Sainsbury's proposals.

A continuing commitment is required from the local community if the character of the Gloucester Road is to be maintained. Clearly local independent shops need our financial support particularly on weekdays during these recessionary times. As well as ourselves, community based support comes from many quarters including the local media (e.g. Bishopston Matters), Sustainable Bishopston and the efforts of individuals working as part of the Gloucester Road Task Group, often linked with the local Neighbourhood Partnership.

Much of the Bishopston Society's day to day efforts go into monitoring and responding to planning and licensing applications. We are trying to have a measured and realistic approach in seeking to resist the endless growth of cafes (which otherwise can rapidly replace shops). We are certainly trying to curb the growth in the number of bars and restaurants (which can take the place of cafes and shops) and we oppose opening hours and licensing hours being repeatedly extended. This can be a lucrative side of the trade which can eventually increase rents and in many ways change the character of the area. Do we really want the Gloucester Road to become another Whiteladies Road catering for a "24 hour economy"?

A recent short piece by Brian Leith, in the Redland and Westbury Park Directory, looks at signs of deterioration on the Whiteladies Road (WLR). He laments the fact that WLR has somehow got tatty, unlike the present Gloucester Road. He counts 17 empty shops, bars and restaurants with a number of once lively places in "the strip" now boarded up. This is in contrast to the Gloucester Road, which he sees as a lively "happening" spot full of thriving local shops and cafes e.g. Licata, Olive Shed, Breadstore and Tart. He theorises that WLR rents are more expensive so only large companies with big budgets can comfortably run a business there. With a falling economy, with fewer of these 'big boys' spending less money, the shops and bars on WLR can no longer pay their way, so they cut their losses and close up shop. A number of 'big boys' that opened on WLR, such as McDonalds, KFC and Borders (further south), have closed within a few years when profits did not match expectations. The real sadness here, he notes, is that the invasion of big boys precipitated the demise of small local businesses.

Brian Leith thinks that Gloucester Road by contrast is thriving on home-grown businesses that cater for the locals. The local community uses and values its local shops. Witness the protests that accompanied the opening of Tesco on Stokes Croft and more recently the new Costa on the Promenade. He observes that when he visited Costa, Tart next door was buzzing with about four times the number of customers. He argues that it's local people who are responsible for ensuring the survival of the independents and therefore maybe have to be prepared to pay a little extra to keep local places alive.

From an outside perspective the traders and local people are doing some things right but there is no room for complacency....

Nigel Tibbs

NEWS FROM THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP JANUARY 2012



So, what has been happening since the summer?! There have been two full Neighbourhood Partnership meetings: in October and January this year, as well as the usual quarterly Public Forums.

There has been plenty of activity going on - for example, funding, through the area Green Space Plan, could be providing opportunities for St Andrew's Park as outlined in the article on the front page of the Bishopston Society website. The local Neighbourhood Forums have been meeting as usual every three months, where generally the concerns expressed are about parking, speeding, dog mess and bicycles. Good news on speeding - the police have secured funding for local residents to be trained to use speed guns to monitor this hazard to our safety on our local roads (see the article on the website) - and on bicycles - an audit has been undertaken of the use of bikes on pavements on the Gloucester Road and I hope this will be discussed at the next Neighbourhood Forum meeting on January 25th. Kings Drive has been surface-dressed, and the Council are undertaking a feasibility study on how to improve the traffic flow around the Longmead Avenue and Gloucester Road junction and the pedestrian crossing outside Sainsbury's.



Over the last few months public money has been allocated to improve the quality of life within the Bishopston area. "Section 106 money" (money paid to the Council by developers to offset the consequences of new developments) to the tune of £8683 is to be spent on St Andrews Park and Horfield Common, as a result of the development at 288 Gloucester Road. There is a possibility of a further £60,000, arising from developments at the Ashley Down City of Bristol site: a possible option is to assist the rebuilding of the Scout Hut in Bartholomew Road. Both parks and the Scout Hut are facilities enjoyed by many people of all ages within both Bishopston and Redland wards. In addition further funding was approved at the October and January meetings of the Neighbourhood Forum from the Wellbeing Budget:

Bishopston and Redland Anti Graffiti Project

This is an ongoing project, using volunteers, to work in tandem with Bristol City Council in monitoring and removing graffiti

Noah's Ark, Cairns Road

A community pre-school education and parent support project

**Ashley Down Rd
Schools PSA**

A professional artist to work with junior school classes to produce a mural facing Tortworth Rd

**Chess in Schools
and the Community**

To promote the opportunity for all children in Year 3 to learn chess at Colston and St Bonaventures primary schools by

- a) establishing it as part of the curriculum
- b) the school developing a chess club for those interested to play more
- c) using volunteers to run a drop in chess club on Saturdays in a local library for players of all ages.

**BC&R Partnership
Business develop-
ment worker for the
Cotham
Hill/Whiteladies Road
area**

- a) facilitate the local businesses to set up their own trade organisation
- b) to work with the Council's initiative to encourage small businesses to flourish
- c) facilitate a range of promotional events.

This leaves a balance of just over £15,000 to be allocated during 2011/12. **The next deadline for funding is February 20th 2012.** The application form and details of the criteria are available from jenny.jones@bristol.gov.uk. Please let local organisations know about this fund if you think they might benefit by a small grant.

Trees will be a candidate for some of this money as the Neighbourhood Partnership is planning to plant more trees in 2012/13. Thirty possible sites (24 of them in Bishopston and Redland wards) have been forwarded to the Council to be assessed for suitability and will be agreed at the April or June full Partnership meeting (see below for the dates). Then private money will be sought to match fund money from the Wellbeing Fund

Finally, £30,000 from the Bristol City Council's sustainable transport bid is earmarked to improve the Gloucester Road area north of the junction with Zetland Road. This might mean that the Promenade area will be tidied up... watch this space! The Council is working with the Gloucester Road Task Force to ensure that the money will be well spent (see the website article Gloucester Road Makeover).



Improvements to our roads and the flow of traffic will

be decided at the Neighbourhood Partnership meeting on April 2nd. There are likely to be some in the Bishopston area. You have an opportunity to comment on the options at the Public Forums in March, and your views will be taken into account by the Partnership at the April meeting. So do make sure your voice is heard - the dates of the Forums and Partnership meetings are below.

Jenny Hoadley

Bishopston Society representative on the Neighbourhood Partnership

DATES FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD FORUMS

March to July 2012

These are public meetings open to all local residents. They usually start at 7pm. Check the website www.bristolpartnership.org/neighbourhood-partnerships for the venue.

Monday 5th March(Memorial Ground)	Bishopston
Wednesday 14th March (venue tbc)	Cotham
Wednesday 7th March (Cairns Rd Baptist Church)	Redland
Wednesday 16th May (venue tbc)	Bishopston
Monday 14th May (venue tbc)	Cotham
Wednesday 9th May (venue tbc)	Redland
Wednesday 5th September (venue tbc)	Bishopston
Tuesday 4th September (venue tbc)	Cotham
Thursday 6th September	Redland

DATES FOR THE NEIGHBOURHOOD PARTNERSHIP

MEETINGS 2012

These are public meetings open to all local residents at 7pm. If possible have a look at the agenda and reports beforehand on the Council website (see above for the web address) and check the venue.

Monday 2nd April 2012

Monday 18th June 2012

Monday 7th October 2012

Horfield accessible allotment and edible forest

There is exciting work underway at the local allotment site, just behind Bishop Road School, on a new community project. A formerly boggy and derelict area is being turned into an accessible community allotment and edible forest.

Horfield and District Allotment Association has set up a new community growing project, with funding from The Big Lottery Fund's Local Food programme and Bristol City Council's Green Capital Programme. The project is funded until March 2014, and will create a community allotment and forest garden accessible to volunteers and community groups.

Clare Hanson Kahn, a plot holder and local volunteer, said: "We've been working on this project for the past three years raising the funding, and it is so rewarding to see it finally taking shape. We want this to be a local resource which will make a difference! We hope that people in the area will be as excited about the project as we are."

The aim of the project is to increase the skills and confidence of local people in growing food through volunteering and training. There is an emphasis on involving people with physical and/or mental ill-health and people with learning difficulties.

The project site is being developed accessibly, with wide level path paths, raised beds and a wheelchair accessible compost toilet. It will run regular drop-in volunteer days, group sessions, community events and workshops.

The community allotment will act as a demonstration garden, showing people what they can grow at different times of year in a small space. The edible forest (or forest garden) will be a many layered garden at different heights, a bit like a natural jungle, planted up with all kinds of different cropping trees, bushes and plants.

The project also includes a composting area and sizeable pond. The project recently won an additional £1,000 from Bristol's Green Capital Community Challenge Fund to renovate the pond. This means the pond can be cleared and deepened and two dipping platforms can be built. Local children from Bishop Road Primary School helped with the funding application and are looking forward to being able to use the dipping platforms later in the year.

The essential infrastructure will be finished by Feb 1st and we look forward to welcoming local people to the site to help turn this huge blank canvas into a fantastic community resource. We'll open every Wednesday 10am -4pm from February for anyone to drop in to start planting, help get the site ready for our big spring opening or just to say hello!

April 28th 12-4pm will be our grand opening. A plant sale and family fun day so come and support your local community project, buy some plants for your garden or allotment. There will be music from Pip the human jukebox, face-painting, planting workshops, and more.

To get involved or to be put on our mailing list for more information about Wednesday and Saturday volunteer days, workshops and community events please email Lucy at horfieldcommunityallotment@gmail or phone/text 07506 905 394

Please get in touch with any comments, suggestions or questions.

Would you like to know more about where you live?

Then you have the chance to do so with the Bishopston, Horfield and Ashley Down Local History Society (BHALHS). The Society was formed in 1988 to further interest in, and knowledge of, the history of the local area.

The Society holds open meetings on the third Tuesday of each month from January to June and from September to November at the Horfield Friends' Meeting House at 300, Gloucester Road. Meetings commence at 7.30 pm and are open to full-time members who have paid the annual subscription of £10 and also to visitors who pay a fee of £2 on the night. During the half-time break tea and coffee is served and members can catch up with news.

The programme of speakers from February 2012 onwards follows below. Whilst we do not restrict ourselves only to topics which are of immediate local interest, many of the speakers do add a local slant to talks on a wider subject matter.

The Annual General Meeting is held on the third Tuesday of December and is open to all full members. After the formal AGM, refreshments are followed by a quiz.

Investigations into local topics are managed through the BHALHS Research Group which is also responsible for the compilation and publication of our research papers and books. You may have seen our recent publications, "Horfield Parish Church" and "Bishopston - The Early Years" (copies of which are still available).

The Society maintains a library of books and pamphlets on local and Bristol topics, additions to which are made regularly. Items in the library can be borrowed free by members.

The Society is affiliated to Avon Local History and Archaeology and is kept up to date with the programmes of speakers and visits of all the local history societies not only in Bristol but between the Mendips and the Cotswolds as well as events organised by the University of the West of England.

So why not come along and see and hear for yourselves - new members and visitors are always welcome.

PROGRAMME for 2012

Tuesday 21st February:	June Hannam "The Woman's Movement in the 19th Century"
Tuesday 20th March :	Alan Freke "The Fry Family"
Tuesday 17th April:	Cyril Routley "From Pillar to Post"
Tuesday 15th May :	Pat Hase "The Shadow of the Workhouse"
Tuesday 19th June:	John Penny "A Night at the Cinema"
Tuesday 18th September:	Linda Hall "Farm Buildings - A Vanishing Heritage"
Tuesday 16th October:	Alan Bull "Aspects of Comedy"

Derek M Wilding OBE MA, Chairman BHALHS

News from the Gloucester Road Traders Association

Gloucester Road is famous for the huge variety of shops and businesses on this unique mile of high street between Cheltenham Rod and Filton Avenue. There are probably about 250 independent businesses trading there and the association has about 120 on its mailing list. Even in good times there is a constant turnover of new businesses opening up. What is remarkable is that, despite some going to the wall during the current recession, by and large empty premises are quickly filled by new entrepreneurs.

Small businesses, who are passionate about what they do, can adapt to market conditions in hard times, where it is perhaps harder for the big ship of a larger organisation to alter course and make changes. Running a small business leaves

little time, though, for attending meetings and organising events but the association's email provides a forum for passing on news, keeping in touch and providing moral support for each other.

Our main formal activity for the last three years has been to provide a Christmas lighting scheme, supplying traders who want to take part with outside wall brackets, Christmas trees and lights to brighten up the high street in the Christmas period.

During the royal wedding in 2011 many traders used their tree brackets as sockets for flag poles to fly union jacks. We are planning to build on this by arranging facilities for shops and homes fronting the Gloucester Road to fly a rainbow assortment of international flags during the Olympics. It could be a spectacular sight. We can arrange to supply and fix brackets, poles and a range of international flags. Anyone interested, please contact Peter Browne (see below).

We are also involved in the upcoming Bristol Pound scheme. Local businesses and consumers can open an account with a Bristol Credit Union, acting as a bank. They pay in sterling which is then converted into Bristol pounds of the same value. They can then trade with other members of the scheme using their Bristol Pounds. This keeps money circulating among local businesses and consumers, to boost the local economy and stimulate a sense of community and collaboration. This is a big idea which has worked well for many years in other parts of the world.

Membership of the Gloucester Road Traders Association is free and open to any business with a Gloucester Road address. Just email your name, business name, road number and email address to the Hon Sec, Peter Browne, peter@law-shopbristol.co.uk.

Peter Browne 6 February 2012

Gloucester Road Conservation Area Walk, Jan 20th, 2012

Peter Insole, the BCC archaeologist and instigator of the fascinating historical research website, 'Know your Place', took us on a circular walk north up the Gloucester Road as far as Shadwell Road and then in an anticlockwise, circular route back to Zetland Road, finishing at the junction of North Road and Overton Road. Peter pointed out those buildings that did or might merit being part of a Conservation Area, such as the art deco frontage of the photographer's shop, ZZZone, and the decorative fascia boarding of a row of houses opposite the Parade. Because of the diversity and quality of a range of architectural features and the almost unique nature of the range and variety of independent traders, the stretch of the Gloucester Road from the junction with Zetland Road up to

Overton Road has now been given its own separate Conservation area status, distinct from the contiguous Redland Conservation area.

Peter went on to explain that local groups and interested individuals will be encouraged to make note of buildings of merit in their neighbourhoods that they think deserve to be included in a 'Local List', which, after early March this year, could then be submitted to the Council who will record and retain this information. The Local list would be referred to and sited in the event of any planning application that could result in a change to the appearance of any building on that list. While the list would not have any legal status in terms of automatically protecting the buildings on it, it might make it more difficult for planners and developers to ride roughshod over local opinion that has demonstrated its recognition of the historical and architectural value of these buildings by their inclusion in the Local list.

Peter showed us, on an early map (around 1840's) printed off from the BCC 'Know your Place' website, (<http://www.bristol.gov.uk/page/know-your-place>) how the parallel roads of Raglan, Wolseley and Shadwell on the west side of the Gloucester Road follow the original pattern of parallel narrow fields and their boundary hedges that were part of the farmland before it was built on.

At the top of Wolseley Road, we turned left along Tyne Road. Although these spacious Victorian semis, decorated with Bath stone and with green front gardens are pleasant to the eye, they represent a very common style of



Attractive and unusual

architecture in Bristol and are not sufficiently 'different' to merit conservation status. However, the solitary detached house at the end of this road and the path/alley starting alongside it and running down to Elton Road, both represent features of the area that do stand out as of sufficient interest to be placed on a 'Local List'.

In North Road, Peter pointed out a row of terraced houses that run to Overton Road. Some of these houses are constructed using a striking brickwork patterning known as 'Bristol Byzantine'. The overall design of these houses, including the angled front doors, is considered sufficiently quirky and unusual to meet the criteria that allow the conferring of Conservation status to the terrace. Consequently this part of

North Road, directly behind the main road is included as part of the Gloucester Road Conservation Area.

Researching the Bishopston area to construct a Local List would, I think, be an interesting, useful and achievable project for The Bishopston Society. How wide we might range in such a survey is something that would need to be discussed.

Simon Randolph

decorative fascia boards



Obituary

It is with regret that we have to announce that Jean Clarke has passed away on Thursday, December 1st 2011.

Jean originated from Scotland and moved to Bristol when she married Tony, living first in Muller Road, then Brynland Avenue before finally moving to Fenton Road. They celebrated their Diamond Wedding recently. They were both members of the Bishopston Society from its inception in 2002 and were regular attendees at the meetings. Jean continued to attend the meetings after Tony passed away two years ago. We offer our condolences to Alison and Philip.

Our Next Public Meeting

The next public meeting of the Bishopston Society will be the AGM which will be held on

at 7.30pm at the St. Michael and All Angels Church Hall, 160A Gloucester Road, BS7 8NT.

The main subject is planned to be the Sainsbury's Supermarket Proposal for the Memorial Ground with a panel of representatives from various interests including the Gloucester Road Traders Association, local councillors, Planning, Sustainable Bishopston and The Memorial Ground Project.

Welcome to our web site...

Welcome to our new web site which is being 'grown' slowly but surely on an organic basis. Comments and contributions are welcome, so click to let us know what you would like to see.

www.bishopstonsociety.org.uk



The screenshot shows the homepage of the Bishopston Society website. At the top, there is a search bar and the text "BISHOPSTON SOCIETY ...looking after Bishopston's heritage". Below this is a navigation menu with links for Home, About, Bishopston, Planning, Neighbourhood, Network, Join, and Contact. The main content area features a large image of a street scene, followed by the heading "Bishopston Society" and a sub-heading "Neighbourhood Partnership Report June 2010". The text below the sub-heading describes the last NP Committee Meeting and lists five subgroups: Social engagement, Wellbeing grant process, Highways and pavements, Street plant tubs, and Trees. A section titled "MOST POPULAR ARTICLES" lists several links, including "Welcome to our web site...", "We love Bishopston", "The Bishopston area", "Bishopston's geography", "History of Bishopston", "Gloucester Road", and "Aims of the Society".

Help Bishopston have the voice it deserves by becoming a member!

As a member you would receive two newsletters a year and be consulted on local issues. We hold two public meetings a year with plenty of topical discussion. Depending on your interests, you are also welcome to join the committee or become involved with its work and activities.

Name	_____
Adress (please print)	_____
Telephone (Evenings & Week-ends)	_____
E-Mail (please print)	_____
Signature:	_____

Subscriptions - cheques should be made payable to The Bishopston Society - £5 per annum for individuals or £7 per annum for two adults living at the same address. Please return this form with fee to:

Richard Farrow,
25 Monmouth Road,
Bishopston,
Bristol,
BS7 8LF

or hand in at the meeting in a sealed envelope
- if you require a receipt, please request.

NB Your details will be held on a database for contact purposes.

If you have new neighbours, perhaps you could let them know about
The Bishopston Society.

Extra copies of the booklet can be obtained from Lionel White (0117 9445687)