

Cable is coming

Montpelier Conservation Group is to host the briefing meeting to be given by United Artists prior to cable television being laid throughout the area.

The meeting is on February 3 at Cheltenham Road Library at 7.30pm. It is open to all.

This is your chance to ask any questions you may have on what benefits Cable will bring and how it will be laid around the roads of Montpelier and to your property.



It is important that the special problems with Montpelier such as stone paving and kerbs, tree roots, cellars, boundary walls, parking etc are addressed at this meeting and that we all know what is required of United Artists.

There will be some briefing packs available from United Artists for attendees and an example of the type of cabinet which will have to be put up around the streets should be on show.

Cable: February 3rd Cable: February 3rd Cable: February 3rd

Montpelier - who cares?

Montpelier Conservation Group is concerned with all local issues. We meet on the **first Monday** of every month at 7.30pm in Cheltenham Road Library.

We need more members - please come along!



History Notebook: Chapter Three: Montpelier in the Civil War

In the summer of 1645 Bristol was at the centre of the struggle between Charles I and Parliament. The city was occupied by the Royalists but the Roundheads, under General Fairfax (left) aided by Lt Gen Cromwell (right), were advancing rapidly. The Royalists had suffered a crushing defeat at Naseby and had lost Bridgwater, Bath and Sherborne Castle. If they were to recover the initiative they had to retain Bristol, the second port in the kingdom and their only remaining stronghold in the west.

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They provisioned their troops to withstand a long siege and reinforced the city's extensive fortifications. Prior's Hill Fort, at the top of Ninetree Hill, was the strongest bastioned fort. From its great height it commanded the city and the castle and, for this reason, was regarded as the key to the capture of Bristol.

Fairfax considered it to be of such importance that he moved his headquarters from Stoke House to a 'humble farmhouse on the brow of Ashley Down' which overlooked the fort. The house, later known as Montpelier Farm, stood at the top of the present Cromwell Road. Fairfax complained of its smallness but decided that its strategic position more than compensated for his discomfort. Cannon were set up in the adjacent fields, ready for the attack.

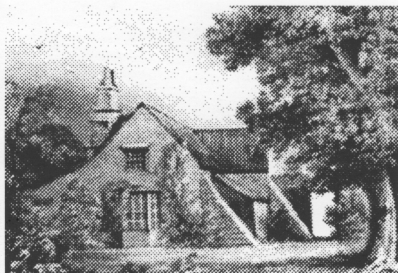
The signal was given at 1am on September 10 by the firing of cannon and the lighting of a beacon on the hill at Montpelier. Advancing in the darkness, under a hail of shot from Prior's Hill Fort and ramparts, the Roundheads encountered fierce resistance. With its high walls and deep ditch the fort appeared impregnable and they almost despaired of taking it. The breakthrough finally came when a contingent blasted through the Stokes Croft sallyport (at Ashley Road corner) and stormed up the Hillgrove, to join up with other forces and enter the fort at its weaker rear side. After more than 4 hours of savage fighting the Roundheads were in no mood to be merciful and most of the Royalists inside the fort were put to the sword.

By dawn it was all over and the triumphant Fairfax and Cromwell rode down from Montpelier into the city.

The farmhouse (right), which had such momentous associations, was demolished in 1886.

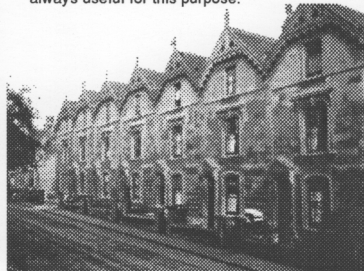
The fields where the trenches had been, known to local children as "The Dumps", were filled in and levelled for house building in the 1890s. Although the historical importance of the farmhouse and its surroundings were well documented, no attempt appears to have been made to save it or to excavate the area.

Next issue: Renssion's Baths



NOTICES

Montpelier Conservation Group will be holding more meetings with a 'theme' in future, usually with a speaker. These will generally cover planning issues but also advice to property owners who may wish to know how their property used to look. Photos, like this one of York Road, are always useful for this purpose.



Mike Tozer Collection

There is also a need for advice locally on which tree works require planning permission etc and we hope to address this too.

Montpelier Greenspace Group is actively trying to enhance the green areas of Montpelier. If you would like to join, please contact [redacted]

Exhaust fumes getting to you? To report a car which you feel is exceeding the limits telephone 223364, quoting the registration number.

DEMBO

THE INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENT
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MOTs now have exhaust checks

HAPPENINGS

The auction of part of the tarmac area in St Andrews Road Park took place in October. It was owned by BR and let to the City Council. Bidding went to £900: it failed to reach the reserve and was sold to a mystery buyer afterwards.

The demonstration against blocking the footpaths from Ashley Trading Estate was followed by a petition to the city council, and a meeting with the managing agents J P Sturge, whose planning application we now await.

Our photographic exhibition will be at the Central Library from 16 March to 4 April. This will change during this time to cover Montpelier, St Pauls and Stokes Croft.

The Churches of St James and St Paul will be opened especially for the Local History Group on a date yet to be set. If you wish to be included in the party, please phone [redacted]

The Old Full Marks Site open meeting: the developers and architects explained the proposed plans, on view at The Bristolian Cafe.

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PLANNING Update

There are planning applications in for:

- 1 Richmond Road - partial demolition and rebuild
- 117 Lower Cheltenham Place - three town houses
- 133 Lower Cheltenham Place - demolish
- 57 and 59 Ashley Road - works to sycamores
- 119 Ashley Road - demolish rear wall and rebuild to incorporate existing vehicle gates
- 127 Ashley Road - demolish rear wall and renew with vehicle entrance gates and hardstanding
- 133/135 Ashley Road - demolition of coachhouses
- 4/10 Stokes Croft - from shop to taxi control
- 140/142 Cheltenham Road - use of mezzanine to restaurant, deletion of condition re amplified music
- Rear of 121 Ashley Road - light commercial storage, lock-up
- 166 Cheltenham Road - residential unit to offices
- 126 Cheltenham Road - refurbish to create two flats on each upper floor
- 57 Cobourg Road - works to chestnut tree
- 3 Richmond Road - fell lime tree and replace
- 64 Bath Buildings - installation of roller shutter (retrospective)
- 62 York Road - fell sycamore

Application withdrawn:

- Corner plot at Tudor Road/Lower Ashley Road - car park

Under old management!
Restaurant Pacifica
Picton Street
Fabulous food with a Pacific flavour as cooked by James West (previously of Pictons)

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Refusal has been given for:

- 152 Ashley Road - butcher to take-away
- Compulsory purchase is under way for:**
- 33 Sussex Place

Approvals have been given for:

- 67 Ashley Road (Hurley House site) - demolish garage plus new building of 6 flats and 1 bedsit (materials to be approved)
- 45 York Road - demolish and rebuild as two units, with six new 3-bed houses on empty site alongside
- St Werburghs Church - freestanding climbing structure and viewing gallery
- 117 Richmond Road - replacement of roof
- 82 Ashley Road - from offices to parish centre, residential
- 125 Richmond Road - felling willow tree
- 4 Fairlawn Road - rebuild garage and make house into 2 flats
- 14 Milverton Gardens - extensions
- 18/19/20 West Grove - renew rear walls, party walls, vehicle standing; 11 East Grove - renew blockwork rear wall

Whilst we endeavour to be accurate at the time of going to press, we cannot guarantee it and recommend checking details at Bristol Planning Department.

MONTPELIER GRAPHIC DESIGN
for stationery, brochures, newsletters etc.....