

# Newsletter

## GOODBYE TO GRAFFITI?

**Avon County Council has granted Montpelier Conservation Group £500 specifically for special anti-graffiti paint – a positive way for us to improve our environment!**


It is up to Montpelier residents (who need not be members of the Conservation Group) to identify vulnerable walls etc within the area which we feel would be improved if anti-graffiti paint were used. They may be owned by private individuals, companies, the City Council, British Rail etc.

We hope to spend the grant on materials and to use local voluntary labour to apply the paint. There is a suggestion form on the back page – so please offer your suggestions and hopefully your services.

We have to keep a strict spending record and provide relevant photos. Summer's just about here and we have a time limit

during which we have to use the grant, so we must get it done before the winter. The scheme organiser may be contacted

**RESTORED TO FORMER GLORY!**



The Victorian lamp at the top of St Andrews Road has now been restored, with the top replaced by a replica.

The work was done by the City Engineer's Department, with part of the costs met by the 'Better Your Bristol' scheme.

## Montpelier Conservation Group

Montpelier Conservation Group is concerned with all local issues.

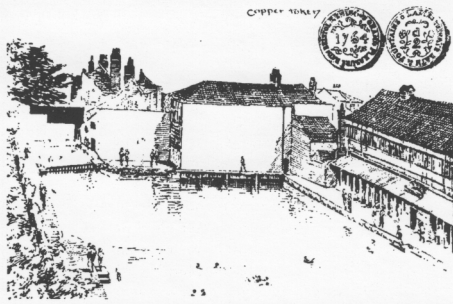
### Notice of AGM

Next meeting: **1 June 1992 at 7.30pm at Cheltenham Road Library** to get the GOODBYE TO GRAFFITI scheme under way and to hold our AGM. At this meeting we hope to find a regular evening to meet which does not clash with other commitments and a location which suits everyone – come along and have your say – **all welcome!**

Montpelier Conservation Group may be contacted via the Chair,

## History Notebook: Chapter Four: Rennison's Baths

About 1747 a threadmaker named Thomas Rennison took a lease on Territt's Mill, at 'a suburban place near the upper end of Stokes Croft'. The mill, used for snuff and threadmaking, stood beside a large pond which was fed by Cutlers Mills



*Drawing of the baths. The entrance tokens are in the City Museum.*

brook. The pond was already popular with swimmers and Rennison, not a man to miss an opportunity, soon converted it into a Grand Pleasure Bath, 400ft in circumference. To this he added a smaller Ladies Bath, complete with fountains, and charged 2d for admission.

As people flocked to this pleasant rural spot more facilities were provided: a coffee house, a tavern (it became the Old England), tea gardens, a bowling green and evening concerts twice a week in the summer season. Rennison styled himself Governor of the Colony of Newfoundland and held an annual Bean Feast at which a mock mayor, sheriff and other dignitaries were chosen. According to contemporary writers it was not the most sober of gatherings but the revellers knew that the law was unlikely to be enforced in an area like this which was beyond the city boundaries.

After Rennison died in 1799 the baths remained in use but declined in popularity. In 1892 they were bought by the Corporation for £1500 and were finally closed in 1916. Montpelier Health Centre now occupies part of the site.

Next issue: Georgian suburb

Extract from the Baths Committee Minutes, July 1911:

Complaints have been received from the occupants of property in Shaftesbury Avenue about the flooding of their gardens, alleged to be due to the discharge of waste water from Rennison's Baths into Cutlers Mills Brook; a right has probably existed since the erection of the Baths.



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## NEWS

**Cable television is coming** .... eventually. At the February meeting, United Artists informed us that most trenches here will be hand-dug ... but not until the end of 1993.

**The 2 road blocks** (described in May 1991 newsletter) should go ahead soon and are of an experimental nature so that we, and the emergency services, can assess the effects. **Ashley Hill Trading Estate** has new agents – perhaps they will reinstate the access paths... The March meeting "Is Montpelier taken seriously by the planners?", at which we welcomed Cllr Andy May, was well attended and a slide show presented. All those who attended will know the answer!

**The Churches of St James and St Paul** were opened especially for the Local History Group on April 6 and both proved very interesting.

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**Under old management!**  
**Restaurant Pacifica**  
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Fabulous food with a Pacific flavour  
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(previously of Pictons)

## NEW NAME

A name will be needed for the (proposed) new development on the Old Full Marks Site. Wellington House (below), which stood there from 1816 to 1963 was built for Abraham Cutto, Customs and Excise Officer for Bristol. In the mid-19th Century it was the home of Dr Joseph Williams, the 'Hero of St Paul's'. Adjacent to it stood the Turnpike House.



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## PLANNING Update

There are planning applications in for:

- Dual carriageway from Lawrence Hill to Barrow Road bridge (joins the Spine Road)
- 119 Ashley Road – demolish rear wall and rebuild to incorporate existing vehicle gates
- 127 Ashley Road – demolish rear wall and renew with gates and hardstanding
- 133/135 Ashley Road – demolition of coachhouses
- 4/10 Stokes Croft – shop to taxi control
- 3 Richmond Road – fell/replace lime tree
- Unit 6, Ashley Hill – loading bay extension
- 158-164 Cheltenham Road – replacement of access doors to main frontage
- Station Road – NTL relay station cabin
- 117 Ashley Road, tree lopping
- 196 Cheltenham Road – from delicatessen to restaurant
- 43 Upper Cheltenham Place – from picture restoration workshop to single house
- 55 Sussex Place – works to sycamores

Approvals have been given for:

- 1 Richmond Road – partial demolish/rebuild
- 24 Picton Street – garden shed
- 126 Cheltenham Road – create flats
- 57 Cobourg Road – works to chestnut tree
- 137 York Road – various tree works
- 57/59 Ashley Road – various tree works
- 22 Albert Part – front elevation (retro)

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- 62 York Road – tree works
- Brooks Textiles – colour-coated steel in place of clay tiles on part of factory roof
- Rear of 121 Ashley Road – light commercial storage, lock-up
- 7 East Grove – reconstruction of side wall
- 140/142 Cheltenham Road – use of mezzanine to restaurant, deletion of condition re amplified music

Refusals have been given for:

- Colston's Girls' School – felling poplars/ construction of new hall and classrooms
- 166 Cheltenham Road – residential to office
- 180c Cheltenham Road – estate agents to taxi cab business
- 133 Lwr Cheltenham Place – demolish (appeal pending)
- 117 Lwr Cheltenham Place – 3 townhouses
- 64 Bath Buildings – roller shutter (retro)

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.

## SUGGESTION FORM FOR THE 'GOODBYE TO GRAFFITI' SCHEME

At which location would the paint be used?:

Who owns the property?:

Will you be willing to do the painting yourself or help with other locations?:

Approximate colour:

Approximate area in square metres:

Other relevant information if necessary:

Suggested by (your name, address and phone number):

Please bring this form to the Montpelier Conservation Group meeting at Cheltenham Road Library, 7.30pm on 1 June 1992.