

## Focus on Picton Street

For almost 200 years Picton Street has been at the heart of life in Montpelier. In this issue we feature an article on its past and at our February meeting we will discuss its future.

If you have any ideas on improvements or traffic schemes that could make the street an even better place to live, work and shop come along and share them with us.

This is the chance for you to have your say. WELCOME

A number of environmental groups that have had to leave their premises at Arnos Court hope to move into 10 and 12 Picton Street, formerly Colliers, shortly.

They are: Friends of the Earth, South West Office; Worldly Goods, wholesalers for conservation groups; ECO (Environmental Educational Trust); Bristol CND; Community Recycling Network. In addition there will be a retail shop at street level.

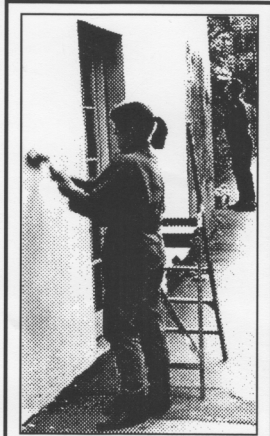
### CONGRATULATIONS

The Bristolian Café at No 2 is one of the winners of the Bristol Civic Society Environmental Awards for its transformation from a run-down shop into a café.

### Picton Street Meeting

1 February 1993 7.30pm  
at Cheltenham Road Library  
All welcome!

\*\*\* January: no meeting \*\*\*  
December 7: social gathering (see inside)



### GOODBYE TO GRAFFITI

Thanks to the anti-graffiti grant from Avon the walls opposite The Bristolian Café have been repainted.

We will supply all you need - covering paint, anti-graffiti paint, brushes etc - FREE if you organise to paint a location which is prone to graffiti within Montpelier.

The scheme organiser may be contacted

## NEWS

**SAVE THE TREES** Thursday 17 December is the date for the public inquiry into the planning application to extend Colston's Girls School and fell most of the remaining poplars. The inquiry starts at 10am in The Council House. There will be a preliminary meeting for people who wish to contribute.

**SPINE ROAD** Avon Planning, Highways and Transport Committee is concerned that Ashley has currently been withdrawn from the traffic management/traffic calming investigations related to the building of the Spine Road. Ashley area had been promised a share in the £250,000, a commitment which the Bristol Development Corporation cited in its proof of evidence at the public inquiry into the Spine Road Compulsory Purchase Order last year.

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**BRISTOLIAN**  
INTERESTING EXHIBITIONS

## NEXT MEETING

A seasonal gathering for a short slide show "The Montpelier Story" plus mince pies & wine  
Monday 7 December 7.30pm  
Cheltenham Road Library  
ALL WELCOME!

Please note: No meeting in January

**TRAVELLERS VANS** Fairfield Residents Association has been campaigning for the removal of 'travellers vans' (and permanent portaloos) from Fairfield and Fairlawn Roads. Details available at MCG meetings.

**THE FOOTBRIDGE** British Rail has agreed in principle to supply covering paint and anti-graffiti paint for the footbridge by Fairfield Grammar School. But we have to paint it! Ring

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## History Notebook: Chapter Six: Picton Street

House numbers shown in italics in the text are the current ones. The map is dated 1828.

In May 1812 "20 lots of valuable land fronting the road from Stokes Croft Turnpike to Rennison's baths" were auctioned at the Full Moon. They were bought by two local businessmen (Benjamin Ralph and John Vaughan) who divided the land into building plots which they sold off individually. By 1816 the development of Picton Street was underway. It was named in honour of Lt. General Thomas Picton who had been killed in the Battle of Waterloo the previous year.

Parish rate returns for 1824 show 48 properties occupied; they were mainly shops with a few private houses. The buildings were modest but substantial, with graceful doorways and some delicately carved shopfronts. There was ample accommodation for the families who lived above the shop and long back gardens with space to grow vegetables and keep chickens. The water supply came from a well in the cellar or garden and there was a communal pump at the bottom of the street.

The businesses in Picton Street were able to supply all the needs of the local community. In 1851 besides the usual butcher, baker and grocer there were three boot makers (one employing five men), three ironmongers, a dress and mantle maker, an organ builder, a straw hat and bonnet maker and two Dame Schools (31 and 46). In the 1870s there were three public houses: The General Picton (6), The Robert Burns (54) and The Crown and Dove (19), although the last-named was probably just a tap-room serving beer from the cask.

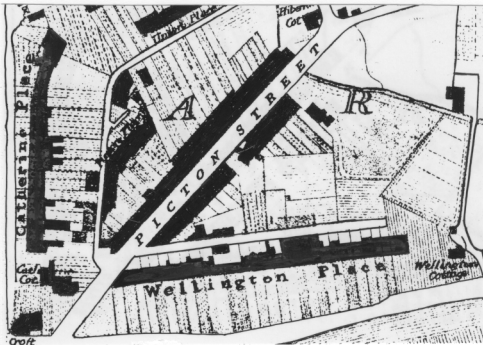
The two detached houses in the street were built for prosperous middle-class families.

An early owner of Picton House gave his occupation as 'gentleman' and Picton Lodge was for many years the office and residence of the parish Registrar of Births and Deaths. This bow-fronted Regency house originally had gardens running down to the brook and an open view to the Montpelier slopes.

Next door is the only surviving Charley-box in Bristol. It contains a nightwatchman's room and cells where those who breached the peace were locked up for the night. In the late 19th Century it became a watchmaker's workshop.

From the Bristol Mercury,  
9th November 1830

A man named Legg, employed in sinking a well in Picton Street, unfortunately met his death in consequence of the earth giving way and falling in upon him.



## PLANNING Update

There are planning applications in for:

- 219 Cheltenham Road - change of use to financial services and offices
- Metropole Site (part of ground floor), Ashley Road - vacant to letting office
- 1 Clifton Villas - conversion of existing property into 3 flats
- 3 Richmond Road - fell/replace lime tree
- 241 Cheltenham Road - satellite antenna
- 50 Richmond Road - fell eucalyptus to rear
- 107 York Road - remove or prune mature cypress at front
- 2 Stokes Croft - illuminated sign
- St Pauls Church, Portland Square - change to offices, with new driveway access to rear
- Avonmead House, 40/48 Stokes Croft - close off existing entrance porch
- 22 Fairfield Road - fell acacia, sycamore saplings and acacia stump

Approvals have been given for:

- 54 Stokes Croft - offices/takeaway/flats
- 54 Stokes Croft - internal/external alterations
- 46a Richmond Road - extend flat to provide bedroom and bathroom
- 12 Wellington Avenue - tree trimming
- Unit 3, 40-48 Stokes Croft - from shop to letting office
- 108b Cheltenham Road - extension
- 139 Lower Cheltenham Place - reduce sycamore
- 117 Lower Cheltenham Place - 3 town houses (on appeal)
- Dual carriageway from Lawrence Hill to Barrow Road bridge

Refusal has been given for:

- 1 Clifton Villas - erection of three-storey dwelling to rear

The following were withdrawn:

- 117 Ashley Road - tree lopping
  - 34 Banner Road - alter external elevation and erect external staircase at rear
- Certificate of lawful use requested for:**
- 10/12 Picton Street - retail ground floor and offices and stores to first and second floors

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.

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TIMBER  
TREATMENT  
46 RICHMOND RD  
MONTPELIER

## RECYCLING

Sincere apologies to SOFA for printing the wrong phone number for them in the last issue. Others have also changed. These are the up-to-date (and checked) numbers:  
Resourcesaver: 525100  
SOFA: 292525  
Children's Scrapstore: 252229

These are the dates of the third Fridays in coming months for Resourcesaver kerbside collection:  
November 20, December 17, January 15,  
February 19, March 19, April 16.

RE-USE • REDUCE • REPAIR • RECYCLE

## Montpelier Conservation Group

Montpelier Conservation Group is concerned with all local issues and meets on the **first Monday of every month** (except January 1993) at 7.30pm at Cheltenham Road Library - all welcome!  
Montpelier Conservation Group may be contacted via the Chair,