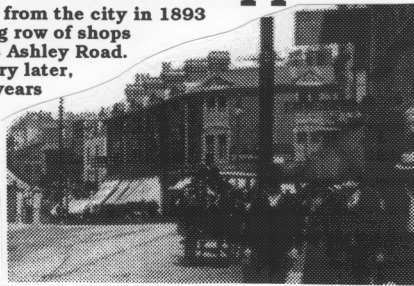


Buildings in need of support

Making your way up Stokes Croft from the city in 1893 you would have noticed a pleasing row of shops curving round the corner towards Ashley Road. Making the same journey a century later, you may have been saddened by years of scaffolding, hoardings, and recently a lack of roof.

The 'Full Marks Site', as it is locally known, was acquired by Avon during the 1970s for demolition to widen the road junction. This was very much opposed by local people, who did not want the increase in heavy traffic along Ashley Road, and the scheme has since been shelved.



However, Avon has continued to own the site and it has been of interest to various developers, including housing associations, not all of whom wanted to retain the original building. Despite years of neglect, a survey in March 1988 showed the buildings still to be structurally sound, but in January of this year, Bristol City Council agreed to allow Avon to carry out limited works on safety grounds. Avon exceeded this brief by carrying out partial demolition which included the removal of the roof. Obviously, this has serious implications for the ongoing soundness of the building. Avon has yet to comply with the City Council's request to apply for retrospective Conservation Area consent for these works.

But there is a ray of hope! A local architectural practice has come up with proposals to restore the original building and the later brick workshop at the back, and build along the road line towards Picton Street. As a mixed development, this would give local people - including the architectural practice itself - the opportunity to have local business premises. There would be residences on the upper floors.

We think this scheme deserves support - it is geared towards local needs and character and is not over-intensive. If you wish to see the plans - or invest in the scheme - look out for posters announcing the public meeting or contact Montpelier Conservation Group.

- Montpelier Conservation Group is concerned with all local issues and meets on the first Monday of every month (except January 94) at 7.30pm at The Brew House, Stokes Croft - all welcome! Montpelier Conservation Group may also be contacted via the Secretary
- writing to Montpelier Conservation Group, PO Box 969, Bristol BS99 1ZH.

History Notebook: Chapter Nine: The 20th Century

During the first half of the 20th Century, as many of its more affluent residents moved out to the suburbs, Montpelier declined in status. It did, however, retain a large and diverse population, an economic base and its lively atmosphere. Mr Eric Green, who lived at 40 Picton Street from 1911 to 1938, described it as a self-contained village where every need could be met locally. The family businesses in Picton Street provided everything from groceries to piano tuning and larger items like furniture could be bought in nearby Stokes Croft. Matthews, predecessors of Herberts, delivered their bread by horse and cart and local children took a special interest in the chocolate factory at 9 Richmond Road.

Employment was available locally but some travelled to work at Avonmouth Docks on an early train from Montpelier Station. In the summer, trains to Severn Beach ran so frequently that no-one bothered to read the timetable: they could always spend the few minutes admiring the window boxes and hanging baskets of flowers around the ticket office.

In the 1930s the Metropole Picture House in Ashley Road was replaced by a smart new cinema which had deep plush seats and, on the first floor, a carpeted tearoom with glass-topped tables and Lloyd Loom chairs. At weekends the cinema queues often stretched around Brook Road.

During the Second World War, houses in Ashley Road and Richmond Road were bombed and their occupants killed. When an unexploded bomb fell at the bottom of Picton Street, the residents were evacuated from their homes.

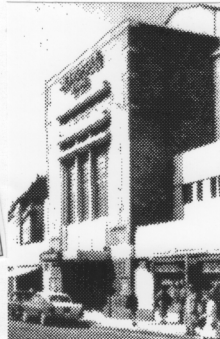
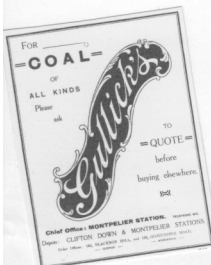
After the war the drift away from the city continued. More houses went into multi-occupation and were often neglected by absentee owners. Investors were further deterred when plans for the Outer Circuit Road were revealed in the 1960s. This would have cut a swath through Montpelier and other 19th Century suburbs with widespread property clearances. The Montpelier Residents Association and other groups conducted a well-orchestrated campaign against the road and this, together with a belated recognition of the cost of the scheme, forced the City Council to abandon it.

Its legacy was the blighting of Montpelier for over a decade: morale and property prices plummeted and dereliction reinforced the downward spiral. This only began to be reversed when, in 1978, the City Council declared it a Housing Action Area, thus making grants available for house improvements. In the same year it became a Conservation Area.

STATION ROAD When the access road was owned by British Rail it was the practice on Good Fridays to put up a rope barrier across the road to indicate it was not a public highway.
from 'Origin of Street Names In Bristol' by H G Harris

Gullick's advertisement, 1909

Matthews advertisement, 1920s



The Metropole Picture House, built in the 1930s

Architectural Notebook begins in the next issue. This will be articles on architectural subjects with particular reference to Montpelier (the local materials, styles etc) to aid sympathetic restoration and conservation of buildings and their surroundings. If you wish to send in an article or if you have queries about restoration, come to a meeting or write to the box number.

RECYCLING AND OTHER DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- Recycling kerbside collection starts at 8am
- November 19 Recycling collection
 - December 6 MCG meeting at Brew House with wine, hot mince pies and a talk!
 - December 17 Recycling collection
 - January No MCG meeting this month
 - January 21 Recycling collection
 - February 7 MCG meeting at Brew House
 - February 18 Recycling collection

BELL'S DINER Dine locally!
Only £10 for 3 courses
Also à la carte
1 YORK ROAD

DEMBO
THE INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENT
Specialist in property in Montpelier, St Werburghs, St Pauls and St Agnes
If you are thinking of buying or selling

The Bristolian Café is under new management... but keeping all the good things and adding some new ones!

Monday to Thursday 8.30 - 5.00

Friday/Saturday 8.30 - 8.30

Sunday 9.30 - 3.00

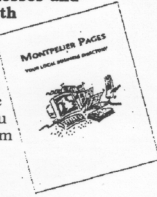
MONTPELIER PAGES UPDATE

We have received quite a few entries for the directory of local businesses and traders but we could do with more!

So if you want the phone number of your business next to every telephone in Montpelier... remember, there is no automatic inclusion - you must apply by using the form on the back page.

- These are the three types of listing:
- 1 Basic line entry - free
 - 2 1/8 page box advert - cost £5
 - 3 Basic line entry for nearby businesses - cost £2

The charges are solely to cover print costs and the directory will be delivered free to properties throughout Montpelier early in the New Year. Please post the application form, and any remittance, to Montpelier Conservation Group, PO Box 969, Bristol BS99 1ZH. All those who have applied will be contacted before publication to ensure accuracy.



Keep that car in tune at
RICHMOND MOTORS
Richmond Road
for servicing, electronic tuning, MOTs and repairs on all makes of car
MOTs now have exhaust checks

Keep your house in order with
LAURENCE
ELECTRICAL, PLUMBING & HEATING SERVICES
SPECIALIST CONTRACTORS AND ENGINEERS

PLANNING Update

There are planning applications in for:

- 119 Ashley Road - demolish and rebuild side extension, convert to 2 maisonettes and 4 flats
 - Sites in B56 - advertising panels in bus shelters
 - 39 Fairfield Road - conversion to maisonette and plus rear extension
 - 24/32 Wilson Street - demolish terrace and rebuild as 9 maisonettes and 9 flats
 - 21, 23 and 25 Brigstocke Road - demolition and reconstruction to form 1 flat and 5 maisonettes
 - 110/118 Richmond Road - each as two flats plus maisonette (confirmation of existing use)
 - 164 Cheltenham Road - 7 terraced houses
 - 1-13 St Paul Street - refurbish No1, demolish remainder and rebuild with facades in facade
 - 143 Ashley Road - remove K6 telephone kiosk from outside No. 143 and replace by public payphone KX100
 - Unit 6 Ashley Trading Estate (John Sheppards) - open storage in car park
 - 3 Richmond Road - fell/replace lime tree
 - 87 Ashley Road - work to 3 Prunus trees
- The following has been referred to DOE
- 89 Ashley Road - satellite dish

Refusal has been given for:

- Land at Fairfield Road (at the junction with Ashley Hill) - single dwelling

Approvals have been given for:

- 84 Richmond Road - fell Leylandii and Eucalyptus, prune Leylandii conifer screen
- 89 Ashley Road - satellite dish
- 49 Ashley Road - conversion to house with basement flat plus rebuilding rear wall
- 25 Sussex Place - fell sycamore and other tree works
- 24-26 Picton Street - erection of boundary wall and gates at rear
- The Malthouse, St Andrew's Road - renewal of consent to convert to 21 flats (subject to DoE listed consent)
- Montpelier Central, Station Road - new Royal Mail distribution office
- 27-35 Jamaica Street - 12 'move-on' flats
- 25 Bath Buildings - change of use to hostel for the homeless/rebuilding front boundary wall

We endeavour to be accurate at the time of going to press, but cannot guarantee it. Check details at Bristol Planning Department.

ROAD CLOSURE Update

As the 6-month experimental period came to an end in June, the 2 road closures in Montpelier were discussed at a meeting of the Avon Planning, Highways and Transport Subcommittee in October and this committee has determined that permanent closures should be installed.

If you have ideas on the form the permanent closures should take, please contact

RICHMOND BUILDERS MERCHANTS
Keep it in the area!
We have a stock of recyclable materials - from doorknobs to roof tiles
DELIVERIES TO YOUR DOORSTEP 46 RICHMOND RD MONTPELIER

MONTPELIER PAGES: Application for insert (see front page for posting address).

Circle type of entry required: basic box advert 'nearby business'. Please use block capitals and tick the box alongside those details which you agree to appear printed in the directory.

Type of business: _____

Trading name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone number: _____ Fax number: _____

Particular speciality: _____

Any other information: _____

Signature of applicant _____