

Ashton Court *continued*

The restoration of Clarkencombe Lodge has been allocated funding. We understand that upon completion it is probable that it will be let for residential use. There is a problem about bats which have taken over since the building became derelict. This will probably be resolved by retaining the 20th century kitchen, which was originally to be removed, as a 'bat haven'. (A 'battery' perhaps?)

The Ashton Park Lodge on the A370 was due to be part of the Lottery Fund programme at least to make it wind and water tight. However the funding will not now stretch to this and so the problem

remains. We have suggested that it must have potential for modest commercial use and a function as an architect's office is an example.

We would ask that members of the Civic Society 'watch this space' and if possible come up with further solutions to these issues and lobby accordingly. We believe that the City Authorities will be receptive to suggestions that have feasibility. We are very grateful to Mr. Wilkinson and his staff for bearing with us thus far!

Martin Lee
Member, Amenity and Trees Group



FROM THE AMENITY AND TREES GROUP

New members of our Group

I realise I failed to report that **Derek Beer**, who lives in Kingswood, has been an eager participant since May last year. Being an extensive bus user, he has an intimate knowledge of the efficiency of First Bus (or not, as is the case), and as

a guide for Bristol and Bath, is a hive of knowledge of both cities.

We shall also look forward to being joined by **Pat Roberts** who, by no longer being a councillor, delightfully is finding some time to help the Society, by so far being co-opted to the Executive Committee. She hopes to be with my Group on 29 June when it walks around **Castle Park** with Paul Manton the Council's Central Spaces Manager; the aim is to review the physical state of the park, the state of interpretation panels, and discuss possible influences from pending developments at Courages Brewery, Broadmead extension, and the St Mary le Port area.

The Street Clutter Audit

So, now you have it ---- at long last -- and this is your chance to help the council with the task it has over the mess our streets are in.

Don't be shy, and don't tarry!

After all the *angst* and *sturm und drang* I have endured these past months, please give me the satisfaction of knowing it was all worth while by auditing your street (with supplementary information sheets if needed). Then send the research to your local councillor (NOT to me) who can be found via the website noted in the Audit book or by ringing the Council on 0117 922 2000.

Skating away from the problem:

Despite many years of the uncontrolled skateboarding activity in College Green, the Council is still no nearer providing a Skateboard Park in the central area.

Architects Reckless Orchard, were appointed last year to look at a location east of St Peter's Square in Castle Park, a spot I had suggested several years ago, as you know. They discussed very outline proposals with my Group last October, and, not surprisingly, had been given far too small a budget, which was also to include, curiously, for an archaeological dig --- surely the responsibility of the Council as client? As the Park also needs looking at regarding its current state, and influences from surrounding developments, how matters are progressing were unknown at the time of writing, but might be clearer after the visit with Paul Manton (see above).

Meantime, what's happening to the beautiful stone paving around College Green, all laid as part of its multiple award winning Pedestrianisation Scheme? It's being bashed to hell by skateboard wheels. And worse still, tarmac has replaced some of the totally destroyed slabs! This is quite outrageous. However until the skateboarders are relocated, the damage will continue, with repairs at *our* expense, and to the continued shame of the Council, right under its nose. Isn't there any spare temporary space nearby? Or what about converting part of the "Lloyds" Arena (actually "Bristol's" Arena) into one - after all, the skateboarders have been so at home there for years that it features on a web site!

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