

## Cotham Hill Scores a Fourth Gold!

Although the flower enhancement scheme in Cotham Hill is over, there is still one piece of good news to relay.

Our entry into the Bristol in Bloom's Garden Competition won yet another Gold Award; in the "ShoppingArea / Street Category".

The Cotham Hill in Bloom scheme has been running for five years and this is the fourth Gold Award in a row! Congratulations to all who participated.

Each summer the scheme has been promoted by RCAS as a not-for-profit initiative. It is intended to help make the street a colourful attractive environment in which to shop, reinforcing community spirit and neighbourhood identity. There have been planters on the pavements and hanging baskets on premises mostly sponsored by

traders and all implemented by the Council's Blaise Nursery.

As the grants for this project have now come to an end (which previously had helped pay for lamp post baskets as well), this year the Cotham Hill in Bloom Scheme will be the last that RCAS promotes.

Hopefully traders and residents will organise it themselves next year. So we thank the following traders and residents for their support in 2017 and encourage even more RCAS members to shop in Cotham Hill:

Travis Perkins, Costa Coffee, BS6 Community Magazine, Ministry of Beauty, Simon Lee's Aesthetic Clinic, Rubicon Too, Residents of Cotham and Westfield Park

**Gillian Penrose**

## A Visit from the CHEESE Team

Readers of the newsletter may remember a previous article on the Cold Homes Energy Efficiency Survey Experts. The CHEESE project is a Bristol based not-for-profit community enterprise that aims to reduce energy bills, improve health and wellbeing, and reduce our carbon emissions.

The unique aspect is that their technical experts have devised very low cost thermal imaging using adapted iPhones and laptops. Their trained surveyors visit your home, looking at all your nooks and crannies, and very quickly identify cold spots, draft entry and a variety of other energy wasting issues.

Although our Victorian house was in reasonable shape with double glazing in most large windows, we were surprised to find drafty spots round windows, cold air

coming down chimneys, unlagged hot pipes in the cellar and several places where heat was being wasted. The good news was that most of the findings were relatively easy and cheap to remedy.

The CHEESE business model is great, charging (reasonably) for those who can afford a survey and doing free work for those in fuel poverty who are struggling with the pennies.

We highly recommend this approach which is a 'win-win' project.

More details are on their website:

<https://cheeseproject.co.uk>

**Peter Wilde**