

Redland Past Revisited for the Redland Directory - No. 1 in a series
Redland Green Fountain - its history

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The delightful little fountain, decorated with carved Irises, set in the wall on the Redland Hill corner of Redland Green is dedicated to the memory of, 'John Bryant and Emily Clifford'. However because of the 'and' between their names it was believed by many that they were brother and sister, - they were in fact Husband and Wife. The inscription actually refers to the Reverend John Bryant Clifford, 1804 – 1886, the much loved incumbent for many years of St Matthews Church, just at the other end of the road, (well almost), together with his wife Emily who died in 1870. In the church there are fine memorials both of them. Perhaps the congregation paid for the fountain in their honour, but whoever paid it was certainly a nice memorial. I wonder if the selection of Irises as decoration was for aesthetic reasons or did they represent something more personal? Whatever the story behind the presence of their names on this delightful little fountain, we were pleased some years ago to have been invited to contribute to its restoration celebrations and congratulate the enthusiasts of Redland & Cotham Amenity Society whose hard work made it possible. As part of the celebrations I placed a page on our website which is a freely downloadable description and tour of many of Bristol's fountains ancient and modern – some of the new ones are both imaginative and visually stunning.

Thank you RCAS for restoring this bit of Bristol's history for the rest of us to enjoy.

