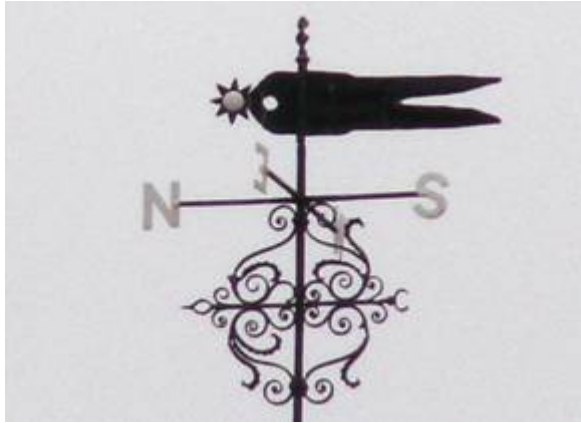


**Redland Past Revisited for the Redland Directory - No. 3 in a series.**

**'1758 weather report'** © Julian Lea-Jones. June 2007

Weather Report, relax this is nothing to do with neither hosepipe bans nor a homily about global warming but relates to a visitation that took place on the 25<sup>th</sup> December 1758. The visitation has been observed about every seventy six years since 240 BC. By now you might have guessed I'm referring to Halley's Comet, or as it officially known, 1P/Halley, in honour of Edmond Halley who first calculated the frequency of its visits. Sadly he died in 1742 before the 1758 visitation so he never got to see his own comet. But what has this to do with Redland? In 1732 Mr Cossins, the former



London Grocer whose name is commemorated by Cossins Road bought the Tudor mansion of Redland Court, and had it rebuilt in the modern style, as befitted an up and coming gentleman. His mansion, now the home of Redland High School for Girls, was built at a time of great

interest in scientific discoveries, and following the fashion Mr Cossins added a representative weather vane to commemorate the 1758 visit of Halley's comet. The 18c visit is also celebrated by the weather vane on the Unitarian Chapel at Frenchay, and even nearer at British Aerospace in Filton were the Bristol space scientists who developed the Giotto satellite that did the successful fly past of Haley's comet in 1986.