

Redland Past Revisited for the Redland Directory - No. 10

‘Recycling - without messy pavements’

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One of Bristol City Council’s ‘new’ recycling initiatives is now two years old. I am referring to the collection of food waste from households as an extension of the existing ‘Black Box’ collections for glass, metal and paper. I am sure that when it was announced with a great flourish by BCC it raised a wry smile on the faces of many of our older readers, who will recognise this month’s item, as the modern equivalent of the war time household ‘Pig-Bin’. The difference being that the bin in the picture is nearly sixty years old and still perfectly functional unlike many of its modern cheap plastic equivalents – now seen split open disgorging their smelly contents all over the pavements. Good news for the rats but bad news for the householders and pedestrians!

These innocuous looking items were an important part of the ‘Growing Food for Britain’ programme. The fox and cat proof aluminium clip top bin held about two gallons of household food waste; potato peelings and such like, and each week would be put out at the roadside for collection. These were then collected and sent to the local farmers who processed the contents into pig swill – thus the contents eventually returned, albeit via the limitations of the ration book, to the householder as bacon! I expect some of our readers will remember these Pig-Bins being collected right up until the late 1950’s.

