

The residents of Horfield and Stapleton, nearby,  
Have suffered much in recent years and here's the reasons why.  
First there came the Motorway. That tore the place in two  
Bringing with it noise and smells as highways always do.  
While 'quiet' tarmacadam and 'noise buffers' abound  
Elsewhere throughout the country, none for us are found.

The motorway brought with it, the Eastgate roundabout,  
Where countless drivers 'jump the lights' and then, at others shout  
While lifting up their fingers, one and sometimes two  
In gestures of annoyance – all is blamed on you!  
Then, there is the rubbish left from takeaways and Tesco,  
Negating every litter-pick. The whole thing, a fiasco.

Now, here comes the Metrobus, its route a crude destruction  
Of good and healthy greenery and allotments' vegetation.  
The land is being scarred and ruined, nesting sites destroyed  
To save a couple of minutes, the motorway to avoid.  
So here we are, Green Capital of Europe for a year  
And Bristol that we know and love begins to disappear.

Now fears return for Purdown, as surveyors pace the land  
Measuring for playing fields. Shall we all be banned  
From walking, playing, picnicking and standing still to stare?  
Just so an 'Academy' can take the lion's share?  
This simply mustn't happen, for Purdown South is ours  
And generations after us should walk among the flowers.

If all this is not enough, there are plans to deliver  
Twelve, inappropriate houses on land beside our River -  
The Frome and its green valley which we walk along and love  
That cheers and helps ameliorate all that's written about, above.  
But we'll not lie down meekly, accepting dreadful plans  
Which ruin even more of our once green and pleasant land.

These are such special places with which we feel a bond.  
And there are many 'brown field' sites in Bristol and beyond.  
Let's fill these places first, use compulsory purchase orders.  
But greedy owners 'sit on them' like mean and selfish hoarders  
Waiting for the moment when prices feel just right  
For them to make another fortune out of others' plight.

So take heed Colston's, Fairfield and Bristol City Council,  
We'll fight to save all living things from butterfly to groundsel  
The residents of Stapleton, Eastville, Horfield, and around  
Have risen up again to say "we'll save this precious ground"  
So our children and their children can continue to enjoy  
**Green Capital of Europe** – every girl and every boy!

The Rowland Rhymer!