



BATH PRESERVATION TRUST

Issue number 82 | Winter 2015

A New Age

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www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk

Welcome

Message from the Chairman

We have had some beautiful autumnal weather this year, with Bath looking her best in the sunshine and giving us repeated reminders of the privilege and delight that can be found in the City. As I see young and old enjoying our streets, I feel very optimistic that Bath will continue to be a jewel in England's crown, worthy of its World Heritage status and loved and visited by millions from all over the world.

Such optimism might surprise some. There is, after all, a period of great change upon us; the world is an uncertain place, the cranes are looming over many new developments, the streets are still messy, the seagulls still live here, the paving stones are still cracked. But I do believe that we can all assist in improving things, with a will, with funding, and with determination that Bath deserves only the very best.

In my time as Chairman Bath Preservation Trust has done its bit: I am told that we are more visible as an organisation, but respected by those in positions of responsibility rather than being seen as an irritant. At the same time we have expanded our contribution to the visitor economy through our four museums, with the expansion of No 1, the revitalising of the Museum of Bath Architecture and the Herschel Museum having now fully joined the BPT 'family'. Of course we do not get everything right and we would love to have even more members than we currently do.

I shall be stepping down as Chair at the end of January 2016 and, as announced at this year's AGM, will be succeeded by Thomas Sheppard. I hope he will feel that this is no 'hospital pass' but instead will be as proud as I am to go forward into 2016 with a sense that in its own way the Trust can carry on making a difference.

I should like to thank all the members for the many interactions over the years – congratulatory, vitriolic and everything in between! I must also thank especially those generous individuals who have given financially or in kind to support our work and projects, and to the memory of those who have remembered the Trust in their wills. It is ultimately though these acts that the Trust remains vital and relevant and long may it continue.

May I wish you all a Happy Christmas and optimistic New Year.

Edward Bayntun-Coward

Message from the Chief Executive

In the early 1980s a British Rail advertising campaign proudly announced that 'This is the age of the train'. One could argue that in Bath the age of the train arrived much earlier, and very rapidly, in 1841 after the completion of the Box Tunnel. This year, 2015, has felt like the new 'age of the train' as the works have begun for the electrification of our line. The Trust has worked tirelessly to ensure that the inevitable changes imposed by overhead lines and added safety requirements are matched by as sensitive as possible a solution to the conundrum of Bath's 34 listed railway structures, 28 of which will require some degree of change to accommodate the new technology.

Bath Preservation Trust has been involved since February this year in encouraging Network Rail to minimise harm to historic fabric and make any interventions reversible so that when further changes come to locomotive transmission in future, Brunel's masterpiece can still be admired as intended. For a while it looked as if we were not getting anywhere, but at time of writing the planning applications to which we had objected have been withdrawn and we are awaiting new and, we hope, much more acceptable proposals.

The Network Rail story exemplifies much of the work that BPT does to fulfil its charitable remit 'to preserve for the benefit of the public the historic character and amenities of the city of Bath and its surroundings'. We have persistently held a line in negotiations, brought others along with us and worked closely where appropriate with B&NES Council, Historic England, the Georgian Group, the Victorian Society and indeed Network Rail itself. We have, it could be argued, pursued doggedly the art of the possible while recognising that the desirable outcomes of modernisation may mean that we have to accept some less-than-perfect change. No placards have been waved; nobody has chained themselves to a railing.

This is the challenge of a 'campaigning' remit. How are you seen to make a difference without getting histrionic about it? We hope that in reading this newsletter and following our website and social media, our members can see that we are trying hard to do the best for Bath, and sometimes even achieving it. As ever more change comes towards Bath with many sites up for development, we need our members' support – and that of their friends – more than ever.

Caroline Kay



Right: Caroline talks to ITV West viewers on 7 May 2015 about the damage being done to two historic pillars erected at the entrance of Prior Park in 1740. They were being hit almost daily by lorries and buses because of a new road layout.

Bath Preservation Trust Campaigning



Tom Marshall has recently taken the Chairmanship of the Architecture and Planning Committee. Tom is a retired Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and a commercial property consultant specialising in development and real estate, and has held a number of senior roles in this sector.



Sacha Hunter was appointed to the Architecture and Planning Assistant internship post in May. The Committee will also be supported by a student placement from Bath Spa University in the autumn.

The Committee has been busy reviewing and setting out its position in relation to a number of planning issues including hanging signs, signs and adverts, building heights and materials. A position on the appropriateness of materials which can be used alongside Bath stone is being developed through workshops taking place in November. The Trust will publish these position statements alongside established guidance for the energy efficiency of traditional homes, stone cleaning and new architecture.

We are always interested to hear our Members' views on planning issues, and we are currently seeking the input of a specialist transport advisor. If you have such skills and would like to volunteer with the Trust please do get in touch.

Planning Matters



Twerton Mill

There are significant sites in development at present: Roseberry Place (Lower Bristol Road), Windsor Bridge (north side), Pinesgate (Lower Bristol Road), Hinton Motors (Upper Bristol Road) and the continuing build-out of Bath Riverside. All propose buildings which are much taller than the existing townscape. The Trust's principle concern is that **The Building Heights Strategy** published by B&NES Council has not been adopted, nor is a 'supplementary planning document'; therefore a policy vacuum exists.

The Trust has been impressed by the high quality design, creative plan form and refreshingly interesting roof treatments of the **Twerton Mill** development which sit very comfortably within its local context (indeed enhancing it) but is contemporary. It also satisfies local need for high density units.

The Trust has continued to object to the retention of the unauthorised development at **43 Upper Oldfield Park**. Whilst we are sympathetic to viewpoints concerning the environmental and economic waste were this building to be demolished, we remain unconvinced that the proposed changes sufficiently mitigate the substantial harm to the character of Bath which is caused by its dominating impact on the street scene and longer views. At the Council's Development Management Committee (DMC) meeting in September Councillors approved the retrospective planning application which proposed minor changes to the roofscape and top floor 'wings'. With these alterations completed the building will accord with its approved planning application. We await further notification on the situation regarding the enforcement notice and the outstanding appeal.

The idea of the 'Aqueye', an oval viewing ball on stem which takes passengers 65m above the World Heritage city to admire its landmarks is being promoted by Bath architect Nicolas Stubbs. The Trust thinks that the design is exemplary, but the proposed positioning, in front of the Grade I listed Pulteney Bridge would have a harmful impact on views of one of Bath's most iconic historic structures. The project would require planning permission and funding.

Housing developments on all of the former **MOD** sites have approval. Development is underway at Enleigh and the Foxhill site has been cleared.

The Trust has repeated the desire of a majority of its members that Bath Rugby stays at the **Rec**: after taking part in consultations, stadium design workshops, and considering (now defunct) design proposals, our position is still that we cannot take a formal stance until there is a formal planning application. We have not objected to successive temporary planning applications for incremental changes to the existing stands.

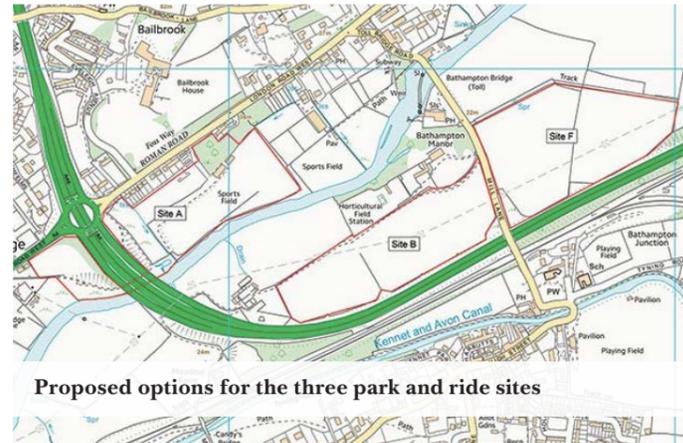
The Trust has reviewed with interest the high-calibre submissions for the **Bath Quays Bridge** design competition, and has commended B&NES on their innovative and collaborative approach to new high-quality design for Bath. We have submitted a commentary response to B&NES detailing our thoughts on the six bridge designs and await the outcome of the competition.



The Trust's favourite design, after canvassing staff and trustees

Bath Preservation Trust Campaigning

East of Bath Park & Ride



The previously approved (and now expired) planning application for a park and ride facility on land east of Mill Lane (Bathampton Meadow) was strongly objected to by BPT because of its harmful impact on the landscape setting of the World Heritage Site and the absence of any evidence supporting the assertion that a park and ride would reduce traffic congestion. In September the Council consulted the public on three options for park and ride sites to the east of Bath, including land east of Mill Lane, land east of the A46/A4 junction, and land west of Mill Lane.

Since the last planning application further empirical studies have gone some way to questioning the benefits of park and rides, by publishing data that shows in many cases local traffic congestion and car use can increase with a park and ride facility, and this has a negative impact on the provision of local and regional public transport. Put simply: park and rides can entice consumers away from public transport (for the whole journey) and into their cars (for most of the journey); the net result being directly opposed to the central aims published in the Transport Strategy for Bath (less car use, increased public transport). There is also no survey evidence of 'assessed demand' from the east of Bath rural areas.

Therefore the Trust has issued an objection to the overall consultation, citing it as premature and calling for detailed factual evidence from B&NES to support their assertion of need and public benefits which they claim outweigh the significant harm to the Green Belt and landscape setting.

Without evidence that the benefits will outweigh the harm we cannot approve any of the proposed sites. You can see our full consultation response at www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk.

A46/A36 Link Road

The Trust has consistently opposed a link road, participating in inquiries and maintaining close contact with campaigning groups, because of landscape impact and the limited evidence that the suggested benefit would accrue.

Rail Electrification

Caroline Kay and Joanna Robinson (Conservation Officer) have been attending ongoing stakeholder workshops regarding the impact of the electrification of the railway which is going to result in physical change of the Brunel structures across Bath and B&NES. B&NES contains by far the highest number of listed structures of any section of the line, including listed overbridges, station, viaducts and the complex landscape of Sydney Gardens. The inevitable interventions are overhead wires and gantries and safety measures to prevent access to cables.

BPT was originally consulted by Network Rail in 2012, before a long period of silence until stakeholder design meetings were initiated in early 2015, to which BPT was invited. At this stage we were presented with design solutions to the overbridges (developed by Alan Baxter Associates) which involved irreversible alteration and harm to all the listed overbridges and parapets.

The Trust has worked closely with the Council, Historic England, the Georgian Group and indeed Network Rail since then. During the stakeholder meetings the Trust insisted that solutions which involved less intervention and harm should be pursued. As a result the Sydney Gardens proposals (subject to listed building consent) are now much improved. BPT submitted strong objections to the listed building applications for Pixash Lane and the Clay Lane bridges which proposed a harmful and standardised model to Brunel's bridges. These applications have now been withdrawn. Other overbridge proposals are also being reconsidered in light of our objections.



Proposed solution for Iron bridge and low balustrade wall at Sydney Gardens

The Character of Bath

BPT is working closely with B&NES Council and the appointed consultants Donald Insall Associates to bring forward character appraisals for parts of the Bath city-wide Conservation Area. We have been pressuring for this to happen for a long time. The work will rapidly identify the defining characteristics of the development sites within the emerging **Placemaking Plan** (the second part of the Local Plan for Bath, which includes planning policies for the city. It is the planning blueprint for B&NES until 2029). An options consultation took place earlier this year and the draft plan will go out to consultation at the end of 2015. Within the Placemaking Plan are several large city sites: Manvers Street East, North and South Quays (aka Avon St Car Park/Newark Works), the Enterprise Area (comprising a string of many large sites along the river corridor), the Cattle Market, Podium, Hilton and the MOD sites.

Bath Preservation Trust Campaigning

Beckford's Garden



Demolition of the south wall was halted after swift action from local residents and BPT

A planning application to build on the north terrace was withdrawn earlier in the year. But, recently, a section of the south wall was demolished without planning approval. The owner has since been requested to submit a retrospective planning application for the demolition, though this has meant that Historic England's review of the re-grading application has been postponed whilst a planning application is considered. The Trust has submitted a detailed justification to the planning authority that the whole garden and all the associated structures are *part of the land of Beckford's Gate* and are curtilage listed, therefore works to any part of the garden should also require Listed Building Consent. We wait whilst our case is considered by B&NES and hope that our efforts can protect this nationally important heritage asset.

Street Clutter

The Trust has become increasingly concerned about the intrusion of poor quality street clutter and unauthorised advertising in our public realm. Cumulative clutter on buildings and in the streetscape results in a sense of disorder that is directly at odds with the unique character of Bath; that is to say the harmony, simplicity and elegance of Georgian architecture and town planning. We have launched a campaign to collate evidence of the worst examples of street clutter (for example where it involves harm to listed buildings or a proliferation of poorly placed A-Boards) and to report this to B&NES in the hope that, in collaboration, we can eradicate this from our streets. We urge businesses to focus on high quality bespoke approaches to advertising that are informed by, and respect, the special qualities of our city. Please send any photos of street clutter (with the name and address of the property) to Sacha Hunter: conservation@bptrust.org.uk.

The Trust has been concerned for some time about the future of Beckford's Garden which surrounds Beckford's embattled Gate behind Lansdown Crescent. The garden was an integral part of Beckford's Ride, a unique and historically important Picturesque landscape created by Beckford, running from his house in Lansdown Crescent to Beckford's Tower. The site of the nursery garden was developed in 1972 as Dixon Gardens but the east, west and north terraces (forming a horseshoe around Dixon Gardens) are still in situ, as are the walls, revetments and vaults which form the boundaries and retaining structures of Beckford's masterful creation. The Trust's concerns centre around the desire of the owner of the garden (separate to the owner of the Gate) to develop the site. To pre-empt this, the Trust has submitted a detailed application to Historic England to upgrade the designation of Beckford's Gate to II* and to include the south and west structures in the overall listing.

Bath Preservation Trust Archive

The cataloguing of the Collection has revealed a number of interesting records:

- The Architecture and Planning (A&P) files highlight specific projects including: Bath Western Riverside; Combe Down Stone Mine; Green Park; (Hot Bath) Spa Renovation; Midford Road – St. Martin's Hospital; Monmouth Street; Northgate Street (Podium) and Southgate.
- The Interiors Surveys, where the extensive research carried out by NADFAS has proved very useful for researchers.

We will continue enhancing and expanding the Archive Collection by encouraging donations more widely, especially those records of particular relevance and importance to Bath Preservation Trust activities.

Interested in Volunteering?

A number of our volunteers have moved on so if anyone is interested in joining the team then please contact the Archivist on:

- 01225 333895 or
- archives@bptrust.org.uk

A Museums Report

No. 1 Royal Crescent

Herschel Museum of Astronomy

At the end of July, Bath Preservation Trust became sole trustee of the Herschel House Trust. This means that the Herschel Museum of Astronomy is now officially one of the four distinct and exceptional historic Bath buildings that make up the BPT's portfolio of museums. It is an astonishing place. Where else can you stand on the very spot where a planet was discovered? This achievement is all the more remarkable because the discovery was made by an amateur astronomer using his homemade telescope, which he set up in his back garden in New King Street.

We are indebted to the former trustees of the Herschel House Trust, who have kindly agreed to be members of the museum's newly created Advisory Panel. This will enable the Herschel Museum and BPT to continue to benefit from the expertise of these individuals and their organisations, and maintain the friendships that have been established over many years. Advisory Panel members represent the William Herschel Society, the Royal Society, the Royal Astronomical Society and the University of Bath.

We are also grateful for the generous contributions that have been made by former trustees this financial year which enabled a very smooth transition.

Capital Works for Beckford's Tower and the Museum of Bath Architecture

Following on from the success of *The Whole Story* project which transformed No. 1 Royal Crescent, we are now putting together proposals for improvement works at both Beckford's Tower and the Museum of Bath Architecture.

Consolidation of the fabric of Beckford's Tower can now be programmed more effectively following the completion of a full Condition Survey. The costings supplied in that document can be used as baseline figures for expenditure and so we can begin

developing options for capital works and supporting activity plans. We will look to finance the project from major funding bodies which will have different set criteria for us to meet, related to levels of community engagement and the educational activities programme.

As a result of its new name, the striking marketing campaign to launch this change, and its inclusion in packaged ticket offers, the **Museum of Bath Architecture** is enjoying a very successful year. To continue to build numbers and a higher public profile for MoBA, we need to extend what is on offer to visitors with a rolling programme of exhibition improvements. Members of the BPT Museums' team are none-the-less planning ahead for when work at the Tower is underway and we can move ahead with refurbishing MoBA.

New Initiatives

The Bath Museums Partnership (funded by a series of generous grants from Arts Council England) has been expanded this year to include B&NES Council's Heritage Services museums (excepting The Roman Baths), as well as other local independent museums. Working with this partnership and the Business Improvement District to target new audiences, No. 1 and MoBA extended their Thursday hours throughout August, offering guided tours and entertainment (storytelling and music). People looking for something to do in the early evening were delighted to have the opportunity to visit these special places at twilight.

Representatives of BPT Museums regularly contribute to the Bristol and Bath Cultural Destinations Project – a cross-city, cross-sector heritage forum to assess ways that Bath can improve its cultural and creative offer in partnership with Bristol. While recognising the differences between the tourist packages and cultural offers of the two cities, this project seeks to increase partnership working to capitalise on bringing the cities together – sixteen miles apart, sixteen minutes together by train.



Evans and Cartwright miniature furniture, c. 1820s

Small Worlds – Historic Dolls Houses from the 18th and 19th Centuries

9 May – 8 November 2015

This year's major exhibition of historic dolls' houses and miniature furniture from the private collection of Liza Antrim has delighted both general visitors and specialist collectors over the summer months. The houses date from the 18th and 19th centuries and have been collected and painstakingly restored by Liza Antrim, a former conservator, who has had a love of dolls' houses since she was a child. This is the first time that her important collection has been exhibited in public and it has proved especially popular because it reveals so many hidden histories, not only about the original owners, but also about those who made them. These were playthings for better-off children, often furnished with the labours of the poorest. Children from the Ragged Schools, set up in the 19th century to provide free education for destitute children, learnt needlework skills under the direction of Octavia Hill by making upholstered items to furnish elegant dolls' houses.

Many of these fascinating themes will be explored further at a day **symposium** to be held in connection with the exhibition on Friday 6 November at Bath's Royal Literary and Scientific Institute. Speakers include Lisa Antrim in conversation with Antique Roadshow's Fergus Gambon; Kathryn Jones, Curator of the Royal Collection revealing new research about Queen Mary's famous dolls' house at Windsor Castle; Patricia Ferguson of the National Trust talking about 18th century 'Baby Houses', including the famous Nostell Priory dolls' house; and Lucy Arnold of Leeds University taking a spine-chilling look at dolls' houses as a ghostly theme for writers and film makers in a splendidly named paper called 'Shrinking in Terror'.

Tickets £55, Students £35. To include lunch and an evening drinks reception. It's not too late to book: visit www.no1royalcrescent.org.uk or call 01225 428126.



New promotion image for MoBA, displayed at Bath rail station, greeting passengers from London



Bath museums offered an 'Alive after 5pm' option on Thursdays in August

No. 1 Royal Crescent

New Displays for the Dining Room



A replica flummery – a starch-based sweet and semi-set pudding, popular in Britain and Ireland from the 17th to 19th centuries

We have been fortunate to have been awarded a grant as part of the South West Museums Development Programme to produce a new and historically accurate replica dessert course for the Dining Room table. Part of the recent *Whole Story* redevelopment project included the sensitive integration of carefully chosen replicas to better illustrate how rooms and objects were used in the 18th century, and we want to continue the idea of using the historic room interiors themselves as settings for changing displays – to improve interpretation.

To start, artist Jean Boardman is creating some spectacular Georgian foodstuffs for the display. Jean has worked with us before and produced several wonderful but temporary sugar sculptures for the Dining Room, as well as masterminding our Christmas decorations, but these new items will give us a permanent display on which to build. As one of our current guides has told us, “Jean’s Christmas displays are fantastic, so realistic. They bring the room to life and really help us to talk about it.”

Each element will be based on research of historic recipes of the period to show how Mr. Sandford, the first resident of No. 1 Royal Crescent, may have entertained his guests and Jean is using a specific technique of moulding and casting with air drying and polymer clay. Resin and silicon will be used to make clear jellies and flummeries, sufficiently realistic to wobble, while interchangeable, faux sugar architectural elements will form a basis for the display and can be repositioned to create variations. Other elements can be changed with the seasons e.g. sugar spring flowers or autumn fruits, or tailored to special events, thus allowing the displays to be continually refreshed and developed in the future. In addition, our own collection of historic moulds will be used where possible to ensure authenticity.



Volunteer’s Outing to the Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum

The volunteer’s annual outing is always a highlight of the year, both to improve our learning as well as being a rare opportunity to get everyone together. The suggestion to visit the Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum came from Matthew White, one of our volunteers whose brother Sam is Chairman of the Royal Worcester Museum and who welcomed us to make our visit even more special.

We enjoyed a splendid talk which revealed many fascinating stories about the porcelain’s manufacture and the skilled craftsmen and craftswomen, each with their specialist area of expertise, who produced so many wonderful designs. We had an opportunity to handle some porcelain, plenty of time to look around the extensive collection and the afternoon was rounded off with a delicious cream tea served in the gallery, where we were surrounded by one of the finest collections of tea-ware in the country. Our thanks go not only to Matthew for his suggestion but also to Guide Mentor Barbara Chappell who helped arrange the trip.

Shop News



The summer months were busy as usual, with everyone looking for a souvenir or two. Some of our visitors came only to buy and did not visit the house. So it is important that we continue to allow and advertise free entry into the shop.

Recently we sourced a new range of Georgian board games, including Fox and Geese, Nine Men’s Morris and Nim. They are simple in design, made up of leather boards and wooden counters, but people took a liking to them as soon as they appeared on the shelves. They are available to play with in the Servants’ Hall.

The Jane Austen Festival has always brought people to our shop and this year we marked the September event with a new range of jewellery, made with antique pages from the writer’s most famous novels *Persuasion* and *Pride & Prejudice*. The earrings sell for £19 and pendants for £25.

Interested in Volunteering?

We are looking for enthusiastic people to volunteer in the shop and join our team. Please contact Mari-Liis Konts shop@bptrust.org.uk. We are also advertising the role to the students of the University of Bath and Bath Spa University.

Museum of Bath Architecture

Volunteers’ trip to Minterne House

The annual trip is something of highlight for volunteers at the museum, and a great way for us to say thank you for all the hard work the volunteers do during the year. A few years ago we visited Sherborne Castle, stronghold of the Digby family and we followed up on the Digby theme this year with a trip to Minterne House in Dorset, home of The Lord and Lady Digby and the Hon. Henry Digby. The house sits in the Minterne Magna valley in the shadow of the Cerne Abbas Giant, on a site inhabited by the Churchill and Digby families since 1620. The current house was built in 1905 and designed by Leonard Stokes, an architect at the heart of the arts and crafts movement and the tutor of Edwin Lutyens. The influence Stokes had on his pupil Lutyens was clear to see, with elements of the house, in particular a strong square tower, hinting at the forms Lutyens would create later at Castle Drogo. Visiting a twentieth century house made an interesting change and what became apparent immediately was how this house was designed as, and remains still, a family home.

Lord and Lady Digby guided us around while recounting stories

from various periods of the history of this extraordinary family. Of particular interest was the decision by Lord Digby to split the house and convert half into rentable apartments in order to sustain the upkeep and running of the house and estate. A solution that has clearly proven very effective, as the house and grounds are beautifully maintained. While the house is not open to the public with the exception of group visits, the wonderful gardens are. The Digbys have always been, and continue to be sponsors of plant hunting expeditions throughout the world and the garden at Minterne is famed for its collection of Rhododendron.

For the last few years the volunteers trip has been masterfully organised by volunteer John Holmes, and the staff and volunteers of the museum are hugely grateful for his work and ability to find us interesting and stimulating visits (that always include a very good lunch!)

If you would like to join our group of volunteers then please contact Jill Hunter: jhunter@bptrust.org.uk 01225 333895.



MoBA volunteers at Minterne House September 2015

Museum of Bath Architecture

Beckford's Tower

Master Builders at the Museum of Bath Architecture

Mini-cities, houses and towers are regularly constructed at the Museum as visitors of all ages enjoy playing with our box of Lego. Here are some of the highlights from this summer's visiting master builders.



Lego buildings created at the Museum

Music at the Museum of Bath Architecture

During August Bath trailed a series of evening openings for its museums, offering visitors something to do between 5-7pm. During the four Thursdays in August visitors were entertained by Richard Selby who explored the Myth of Bladud through stories, and by the Bath City Waits who filled the chapel with music.

Originally designed to ensure that the sermons preached from the pulpit would be heard throughout the whole building, the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel is the ideal venue for performances of spoken word and music. The acoustics of the Chapel will be put to good use again this autumn with our annual season of lunchtime concerts put together for us by Stephen Hollis. This year's concerts include bagpipes and a return of Men with Horns, a hit during last year's season.

Lunchtime concert programme
Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel
1-1:40pm. £5 on the door.

- 4 November – George White *viola* and Alexander White *tenor*: Purcell & Telemann
- 11 November – Owen Morse-Brown *recorder & bagpipes*: Telemann & van Eyck
- 18 November – Cantamus Chamber Choir with Stephen Hollas *organ*: Rheinberger Mass in E major
- 25 November – Men with Horns: Schumann, Bruckner, Brahms

Touring Salisbury Cathedral Tower

Not content with ascending the heights of Beckford's Tower on a regular basis, this summer the Tower volunteers enjoyed a wonderful tour of the tower at Salisbury Cathedral. Our guide led us on a fascinating journey above the vaulted ceiling of the nave and up the various stages of the tower, until we reached the spire. Experiencing the anatomy of such an iconic building first hand was extraordinary and the views from the top well worth the climb.



Beckford volunteers at Salisbury Cathedral

Beckford's Tower

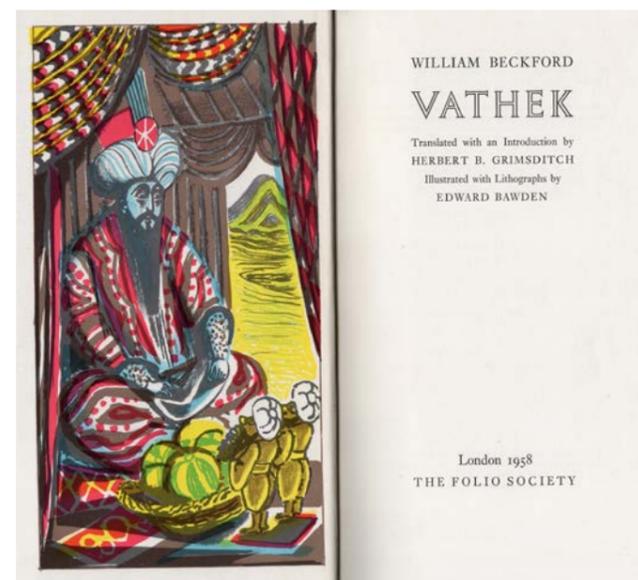
Dissecting Vathek with the Beckford Book Group

When we launched the Beckford Book Group earlier this year we decided to lead up to reading Beckford's own novel *Vathek*, rather than start with it. So over the past nine months we have enjoyed the terrors of Frankenstein, explored the world through factual travel writing and encountered the curiosities of fictional journeys. In September – the month of Beckford's birth – we considered ourselves ready to embark on *Vathek*. The genesis of the oriental tale came from Beckford's experiences at his lavish 21st birthday party in September 1781.

A novel in which the blurred lines between fact and fiction have long been noted, *Vathek* offers an insight into not just Beckford's 21-year-old mind, but also into the level of his interest in the distant exotic world of the East. Seen by many as a key work in the development of Gothic fiction, *Vathek* is first and foremost an oriental novel in which the author displays his understanding of the manners and behaviour of the east; an extraordinary feat when one considers that he never travelled east and gleaned his knowledge from others. Many of the group agreed that on re-reading the selfishness of the principal characters appears more sinister than humorous. Our thanks to those Beckfordians who shared some early and illustrated editions.

We're a lively group where members are keen to explore related books and take recommendations for other Beckford-inspired subjects. The final meeting takes place on Thursday 3 December when we will be looking at *A Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens; a story you may all be familiar with, but when did you last actually read it?

All are welcome at the Beckford Book Group so if you fancy an evening of lively discussion and stimulating company – with wine and refreshments – come along and join us! Thursday 3 December. 7pm at Beckford's Tower. £5 on the door.

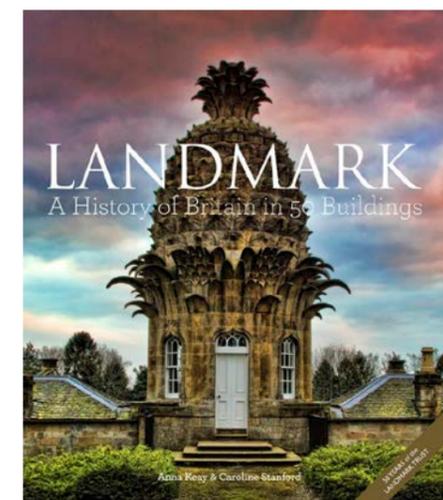


Vathek, 1958. Folio Society edition illustrated by Edward Bawden

Book Review:

Landmark: A History of Britain in 50 Buildings, by Anna Keay and Caroline Stanford

This year The Landmark Trust celebrates its 50th Anniversary with the publication of a book exploring the history of British buildings through 50 Landmark Trust properties. The Landmark Trust was established in 1965 by Sir John Smith and his wife Christian and over the last fifty years it has successfully saved and restored nearly 200 buildings. *Landmark: A History of Britain in 50 Buildings*, by Anna Keay and Caroline Stanford is an exploration of 50 of Landmark's properties that together chart 900 years of social, economic and architectural development. It is a beautifully illustrated book and highlights the depth of research that the Landmark Trust undertakes when embarking on a restoration project. For Beckford's Tower this research was clearly seen in the wonderful reconstruction of Beckford's Scarlet Drawing Room. Landmark became involved at Beckford's Tower in 1999 taking on a lease of the ground floor of the building and renting it as a holiday apartment. Landmarkers can regularly be found at the top of the tower enjoying the views or reading. The Landmark Trust's involvement with Beckford's Tower is essential for the continuing maintenance of the building and the opening of the Museum to the public and is something we are enormously thankful for. This book is well worth reading for anyone interested in seeing architectural history through unique and sometimes eccentric buildings that have been restored with great passion and care.



BPT Member's offer: To order *Landmark* at the discounted price of £20 including p&p* (RRP: £25), telephone 01903 828503 or email mailorders@lbsltd.co.uk and quote the offer code APG352. *UK ONLY – Please add £2.50 if ordering from overseas.

Reliving Waterloo



The Duchess of Richmond's Ball by Robert Alexander Hillingford (1870s)

Much of 2015 has been dominated by the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo, with the exhibition **Waterloo and the March of Science** opening on the anniversary of the battle on the 18 June. The lectures, workshops and events programme accompanying the exhibition continues.

One of the most interesting exhibitions to mount, it has also been the most challenging with expectations running high after being granted generous funding. A major issue was the plethora of competing exhibitions in this commemorative year, limiting the number of artefacts available to borrow. But London auctioneers Bonhams had permitted us to contact collectors after a sale of Waterloo memorabilia held in April, and several of them agreed to immediately loan their 'new' objects. The booty from Bath's Royal Literary and Scientific Institution included a cuirass or breastplate worn by a French soldier and a French sword as well as cannon and musket shot fired during the battle.

Although concentrated in the Caroline Lucretia Gallery, parts of the exhibition feature in other rooms including the entrance hall where a large display informs visitors about the 'Most Famous Ball in History', hosted by the Duchess of Richmond the evening before hostilities commenced. The dining table is laid for a Waterloo victory dinner, complete with replicas of the many courses to be eaten, silverware and place settings. Caroline and William Herschel's dinner guests include Captain Alexander Cavalié Mercer, Commander of G Troop Royal Horse Artillery and Major General Thomas Brisbane, a Waterloo veteran, astronomer and first Governor of Australia.

It has been a privilege for the Herschel Museum to be included in the nationwide events programme *Waterloo 200*, set up by the National Army Museum. And have you seen the photographs on our website by museum volunteer Kieran March who attended a battle re-enactment in Belgium?

Eclipse Fever

In March 2015 most of the British Isles witnessed an almost total eclipse of the Sun. Despite gloomy weather predictions, this long-awaited astronomical event did not disappoint and here in Bath we joined/helped children from St Andrew's Primary school look at the Sun through special solar telescopes – on the Royal Crescent lawn.

2015 has been a year of several unusual astronomical events including an oversized Blue Moon in July and the supermoon eclipse (resulting in a blood moon) on 28 September.

Acquisition of a Letter

Letters to or from the Herschels rarely come onto the open market so we were particularly interested in the opportunity to acquire a letter dating from 1782 from Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, to William Herschel who was then based at Datchet. This was to congratulate Herschel again for his discovery of the planet Uranus the previous year and Banks goes on to praise his wonderful telescopes. He also offers Herschel a pair of his old shoes! Although the letter is not packed with scientific content it is, nevertheless, of great interest as it is one of the earliest pieces of correspondence between these two eminent scientists.

But why the shoes? Good footwear was an expensive luxury in the 18th century, and perhaps Banks realised that William Herschel was not in receipt of a large salary from his Patron King George III. We also know that Banks had intimated to the astronomer that he would be proposing him for election to the Fellowship of the Royal Society. Although Herschel did eventually rise to these prestigious heights it was not until several years afterwards, so perhaps the gift was a consolation prize.

The letter is unpublished and will shortly be going on display at the Museum. We are grateful to the Friends of the National Libraries for supporting its purchase.

Cheesy Macaronis



Our participation in 2015's Bath in Fashion week – in March – was marked by a demonstration of macquillage for the fashionable fop about town. George Mills, pictured here, made a very elegant but Cheesy 'Macaroni', whilst the event was preceded by a short talk on male fashion in the 18th century by the Curator.



Bath & North East Somerset Council



The Mayor of Bath, Councillor William Sandry, officially opens our replica Georgian dolls' house. Right: Workshops for the community inspired some beautiful creations.



Dolls' Houses Events

The **Small Worlds** exhibition has delighted adults and children alike over the last few months. An exciting project which linked Age UK members in Bath with students from St Andrew's Primary school has resulted in a stunning replica Georgian house which has been decorated from scratch by 25 children and 10 adults. Several professional miniature artists led workshops on how to make dolls, food and paintings and all the participants enjoyed trying out the techniques for themselves. They gained a lot of satisfaction from how professional their work looked and now, after ten weeks work, the house is full of beautifully crafted furnishings. One child commented: "It's really hard painting such small things. But it's really, really fun as well".

The house is on display to the public in the Servants' Hall and you can find out more about how it was created on the project blog: www.smallworldsproject.wordpress.com

Families have also had the chance to get creative around a dolls' house theme during the Summer Family Friday craft drop-ins. Peg dolls and giant dens were on offer and the results were impressive!

Students from Bath Spa University's Heritage degree course have used Small Worlds as the basis for an innovative research project. The result is an informative guide to visiting dolls' houses around the UK for anyone bitten by the Small Worlds bug! It's called 'Miniature Mania' and you can discover 29 unique and fascinating houses here: www.no1royalcrescent.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/smallworlds

Art Therapy

A new community project will be hosted by No. 1 this autumn,

in collaboration with the Holburne and American Museums and Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust. In weekly workshops to be held in the Servants' Hall, six people with dementia plus their carers will be offered the opportunity to work with two art therapists. They will be encouraged to explore the history of the house using objects from the handling collection plus craft activities in a relaxed and supportive environment. We look forward to welcoming the participants and helping them to learn about No. 1.

New Costumes

Dressing up in costume at No. 1 is always popular with adults and children alike and, thanks to a generous legacy to the Bath Preservation Trust by Mrs Marian Campin, twelve new floral dresses have been acquired for girls aged 5 and 6 to try on. The outfits are beautiful recreations in the late Georgian style and will be enjoyed by the many schoolchildren who attend workshops at No. 1. The dresses will be worn by students as they visit all the rooms in the house, helping them to imagine what life was like in such a grand residence.

Heritage Open Week

At time of writing Heritage Open Week is looming (24 October – 1 November). As always, it is a very busy time for the Trust's museums with exciting art and craft activities on offer which are free to local residents with a valid Discovery card. They range from Hallowe'en ghouls at the Museum of Bath Architecture to Space Lego at the Herschel museum, so for more information please visit www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk/events

Members' Christmas Drinks at the Museum of Bath Architecture

Do come and join fellow members, Trust staff and Trustees for a Festive drink and a mince pie, between 12 noon and 2:00pm on Monday 7 December 2015, at our museum in the Paragon (formerly The Building of Bath Collection). We would love to see you on what is always a very happy occasion!

RSVP: Please call Peta on 01225 338727 (Tuesdays and Thursdays) or email petahall@bptrust.org.uk to let us know if you plan to come along. We very much look forward to seeing you.

Trust Tours 2015

A full report of this summer's Trust Tours will be written up in the Annual Review, but in the meantime we would like to thank all those members who took part in this year's outings to Stockton House, Sudeley Castle, Mapperton and Forde Abbey. Thanks also to Joy Burt, Mike Dean and Amy Frost for their help with leading these tours. All tours were very well attended, and we hope for an equally busy programme next year.

Trust Tours 2016 Priority Booking Information

Those of you who would like to receive a Priority Booking pack for the 2016 tours programme please either complete the enclosed flier and return it to Peta at the address stated, or email petahall@bptrust.org.uk to request a pack. Priority Booking details will be sent out in early 2016.



Members enjoying the sunshine at Mapperton House

Summer Walks 2015

All devised and led by Alan Williams, members enjoyed 6 walks, covering 3 subjects: 'Now you See it, Now you Don't', George Baytun Bookbinders and The Pulteney Estate. A report will be included in the Annual Review, but all walks were full, and thank you to all who took part. Thanks also to Alan, and to Terry Mitchell and Audrey Woods who helped guide the large groups, and to our Chairman, Edward, and his staff at Bayntun's for their generous hospitality.



Members stop outside the Theatre Royal

We always need new members!

Although our membership remains consistently strong at around 1450 members, we always need new ones to replace those we inevitably lose.

For just £20 you could give a friend a gift membership of the Trust for a year, allowing them free entry to all four of our museums for a year, along with a host of other benefits.

We are also particularly keen to strengthen our Corporate and Life membership categories, so do please let us know if you or any of your contacts might be interested in either.

Contact: Peta on 01225 338727 or petahall@bptrust.org.uk

Since May, approximately 30,000 people have visited Small Worlds, our wonderful exhibition of historic dolls' houses. This exhibition has been possible thanks to our sponsors: the Royal Crescent Hotel, the Pavey Group, Cosmo & Francis Fry, and Geoffrey Nesbitt & Henry Wray, and we are thrilled to have their support.

Bath Preservation Trust is a member of the Bath Chamber and we are keen to work with businesses in mutually beneficial partnerships. We offer several unusual corporate opportunities both at our flagship museum, No. 1 Royal Crescent, as well as at our smaller museums: The Museum of Bath Architecture, Beckford's Tower & Museum and the Herschel Museum of Astronomy.

Whether you'd like interesting places to show your clients, or the PR, social media and branding opportunities that come with sponsorship of one of our exhibitions, or to be linked to our campaigning work, we will be very pleased to talk to you. We can discuss creative ways to help you spread the word about your services and reinforce your commitment to this incredible city and our local community.

The support we receive benefits all work undertaken by Bath Preservation Trust including campaigning for the World Heritage Site, running our museums or boosting our award-winning education programme. With the majority of our members living locally, your business will receive strong exposure to this group.

World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund

Two long running projects have been completed during 2015: the painting of the Kensington Place railings following the restoration of the gate piers last year, and the painting of the final section of the Royal Crescent railings between Gravel Walk and Royal Victoria Park.

The Fund has provided essential match-funding for two projects which have been awarded Heritage Lottery Fund grants: Smallcombe Cemetery and the Cleveland Pools. At Smallcombe, interpretation panels are planned, and at Cleveland Pools the Fund has enabled investigative work in the central 'cottage', uncovering historic architectural features, including the evidence of an earlier staircase. (See the photograph of an original small range in the cottage).

Historic street sign conservation continues, currently in St. James's Square, Sydney Buildings, Charlotte Street, Sion Hill and St Mark's Place.

The Fund has supported Dr. Amy Frost's historically informative contribution to the Bath App produced by the BID initiative. In addition, a revised version of the popular World Heritage City Trail is planned, in consultation with the National Trust and the Canals and Rivers Trust, showing links to walks in the surrounding landscape which forms Bath's vitally important setting.

Further work at the Corridor entrances has been proposed, and suggestions for projects are always welcome. Please contact the Administrator, Ainslie Ensom, at whsef@bptrust.org



An original small range in the 'cottage' at Cleveland Pools

Why a gift to us in your will is so important

We are fortunate to be associated with this extraordinary city and if Bath has been a special place in your life then leaving a gift to Bath Preservation Trust in your Will is one way of ensuring the City and our museums are there to be enjoyed by future generations.

Since our beginnings in 1934, the Trust has received a number of remarkable gifts and legacies including several recent and generous bequests from local residents. As we receive no public funding for core activities all gifts and bequests are a vital part of our income and ensure we can continue our campaigning work to protect our historic city. They also help us manage our four museums, which are unique in explaining Bath's Georgian development, and provide the means to run a highly successful and award-winning education programme. The Trust will therefore be very grateful for any contribution that you are able to make through a legacy.

As a charity, bequests left to us are exempt from Inheritance Tax. In addition, a legacy of 10% or more of your net estate will reduce the rate of Inheritance Tax payable on the rest of your estate from 40% to 36%. To find out more about this benefit, please speak to your solicitor.

We will never ask about the contents of your Will but if you do plan to leave a bequest to Bath Preservation Trust please let us know so we have the opportunity to thank you for your support.

Do pick up one of our legacy leaflets and if you would like further details or a confidential discussion regarding leaving a bequest to Bath Preservation Trust, please contact Jan Hull, Development Officer or Caroline Kay, Chief Executive on 01225 338727 or in writing at 1 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LR.

Thank you to our Fan Club members



**Sir Michael Gambon & Fergus Gambon at the preview party for Small Worlds.
Fergus later spoke at a Fan Club event**

The No. 1 Fan Club, which did so much towards the completion of the interiors of No. 1 Royal Crescent, enjoyed a lovely evening in July when Liza Antrim and Fergus Gambon spoke about the historic dolls' houses that are currently on display. We heard some very amusing anecdotes about the addiction of collecting!

For more details please contact Jan Hull 01225 338727 or email fundraising@bptrust.org.uk



**BATH
PRESERVATION
TRUST**

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