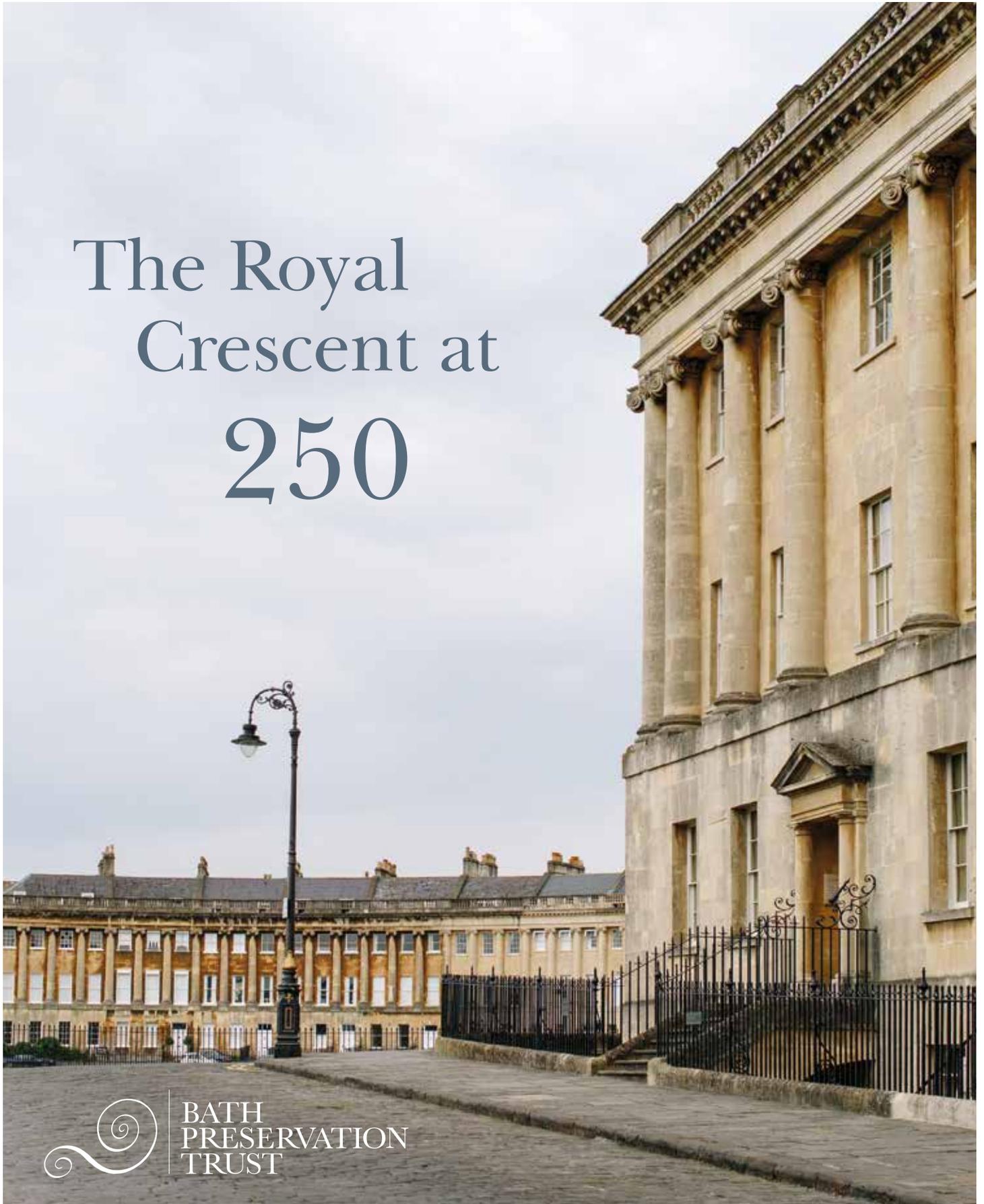


# BATH MATTERS

THE BATH PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

85

## The Royal Crescent at 250



BATH  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST



#### **COVER**

This year we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Royal Crescent with a wide variety of events and exhibitions at No.1 Royal Crescent and the Museum of Bath Architecture. Details of all the events are inside this issue.

We are pleased to welcome Bath based creative director and photographer Rich Stapleton as a member and as BPT's official architectural photographer. We extend our thanks to Rich for this photograph of the Royal Crescent and other images of the city which have been donated for use in our publications, in particular our guidance for the owners of listed buildings as featured on page 4.



## Thomas Sheppard

CHAIRMAN

One of my real pleasures is to meet volunteers who are so enthusiastic about the work they do for the Trust. We have some fantastic staff but without our volunteers we would struggle to undertake our current variety and volume of work.

A quick look at the No.1 Royal Crescent visitor experiences on TripAdvisor will show how much our volunteer guides are appreciated and we also have volunteer guides at Beckford's Tower, Herschel's House and the Museum of Bath Architecture; all are the friendly faces that thousands of visitors will remember. Behind the scenes we have many volunteers who help us with keeping our museums and also our archives and collections in good order.

We rely heavily upon volunteers to help and support our professional staff. Volunteers on our Architecture and Planning Committee help to shape our responses to planning and policy issues; and volunteers from the 14 parishes bordering Bath provide the same support to our Environs Committee. Our Museums and Education Committee and the advisory groups for Beckford's Tower and Herschel House have the skilled support of volunteers who give their time and expertise to help us keep going.

Finally the trustees are all volunteers and they take responsibility for oversight and governance of the entire organisation.

All these volunteers have one thing in common – a willingness to share their skills, knowledge and time to support what we do at BPT; they also have lots of fun at the same time.

I am looking for people to become part of our great team of volunteers and whether that is as a guide or an expert or as a trustee will depend on what you have to offer and the time you can commit. If you are interested then please make contact and we will try to match volunteers to interests and roles.



## Caroline Kay

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

'They just want Bath to be a museum.' This is a familiar statement around the city, sometimes used in anger against those who speak up for conservation and protection. I feel it is time to turn this sentiment around.

The Museums Association defines museums as follows: 'Museums enable people to explore collections for inspiration, learning and enjoyment. They are institutions that collect, safeguard and make accessible artefacts and specimens, which they hold in trust for society.'

So if Bath is a museum, what's not to like? The greatest museums – if one thinks of, for instance, the V&A, or the British Museum, or the Science Museum – can take for granted that they are filled with wonderful, world-class objects. But they are also living places, whose interpretation and experiences change over time, keep up with modern technologies and expectations, engage, enthuse and welcome the young, provide an 'ace caff' and sufficient loos to cater for the bodily needs of their visitors, and encourage a repeat visit. They are also, incidentally, significant employers, cultural and intellectual exporters and flagships of British excellence with an international reach.

To be a great museum, however, you need to recognise, care for and understand the objects at the heart of your collection – in Bath's case, the 18th century city and its green setting – and make sure your plans for the future cherish these objects. Two developments in the last six months (the Eastern Park and Ride and the early iterations of the South Quays development) have resulted in stern admonitions from Historic England about B&NES' responsibilities towards the World Heritage Site. We encourage what is called 'collections care' in the museums world to be higher on the Council's agenda.

Bath is certainly filled with wonderful, first class objects. It is the 250th birthday of one of those objects – the Royal Crescent – this year, and at BPT we are providing a number of ways for visitors to enjoy it today. One of the great strengths of Bath as a tourist city is that the main draw – the architectural heritage – is available free for all to see and enjoy. We also have a large number and range of traditional museums, ranging from the 'big beast' of the Roman Baths to the tiny independents such as the Postal Museum or our own Beckford's Tower. Bath, like a good museum, should also be a living place whose interpretation and experiences change over time, should seize the opportunity offered by new technology, have something to offer the young, feed and water its citizens and its visitors, and promote excellence both locally and round the world.

So let's reclaim the 'museum' tag as a compliment. The UK is remarkably good at lively museums, which embrace the future as well as treasure the past. If Bath aspired to be as good as a great museum – if it re-invested in itself as a city as much, proportionately, as the Heritage Lottery Fund has done in the city in recent years – it could show how being a World Heritage City means being a city of the future as well as the past.

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# Campaigning



## MAKING CHANGES

Our informative and helpful new guide book for the owners of listed buildings and those considering buying a listed building in Bath will be launched this spring.

It contains guidance to help promote the conservation and understanding of historic buildings in Bath through best practice. This will help to ensure that Bath's 5000+ listed buildings are properly managed and sustained by their owners, and that their individual and collective contribution to Bath's special historic environment is conserved and enhanced. The publication has been endorsed and financially supported by Historic England and the World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund.

The book will provide information on the local and national planning context and best practice advice on repairing, altering, and extending listed buildings in Bath. It will also be of interest to tenants, estate agents, solicitors, surveyors, architects, tradespeople and anyone who deals with listed buildings.

To receive a copy, please send a postage paid self-addressed envelope to BPT with a voluntary donation of £5. We can also send electronic copies if you provide us with your email address. Contact Joanna Robinson [jrobinson@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:jrobinson@bptrust.org.uk)

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## Placemaking Plan

The Inspector issued her Interim Report in December, and B&NES have subsequently consulted upon the Main Modifications to the Plan (Main Modifications are those changes requested by the Inspector in order to make the Plan sound and legally compliant). These include a re-writing of Policy ST6 regarding the East of Bath Park & Ride. Amongst other comments, the Trust has responded to object to the loss of the word 'setting' regarding the World Heritage Site in the Policy, as the Setting of the WHS is included in the WHS designation and therefore should be a key part of any heritage impact assessments and justifications brought forward as part of a planning application. We have supported the insertion of extra wording within the Plan to request that developers ensure that the policy requirement to sustain and enhance the District's historic environment is factored into land values and demonstrated in viability assessments. The next stage is for the Inspector to issue her Final Report, and then the Plan will move forward in 2017 to adoption as local policy, Part 2 of the Local Plan.

Our website [www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk](http://www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk) contains news on all major planning and policy development, detailed information relating to all aspects of our campaigning work and a who's who of our staff and expert Architecture & Planning committee members.



## Park & Ride

BPT has been heavily involved in the recent activity regarding an East of Bath Park and Ride site. As members may know, on 25 January B&NES Cabinet decided on Site B in Bathampton Meadows as their preferred option for a Park & Ride site, with Site F as a back-up option. Caroline Kay made a strong representation at the meeting, warning the Cabinet that their briefing report was misleading, incomplete and inaccurate, and that any planning application could potentially risk referral to UNESCO on the basis of unacceptable and insufficiently justified harm to the setting of the World Heritage site. This has since been confirmed in a letter from Historic England to B&NES warning that in their view the Council have not sufficiently assessed the heritage impacts of such a scheme and the report underplays the importance of the WHS and how decisions affecting its Outstanding Universal Value need to be made.

The Cabinet decision was 'called-in' by 13 concerned councillors and was subject to a Scrutiny Panel on 23 February where BPT also gave a further statement regretting the politicisation of the issue and that decisions on sites have been taken prior to the finalisation of the Placemaking Plan. The Cabinet decision was upheld at the Scrutiny Day, with councillors appearing to vote on party lines. The next stage is for B&NES to announce the site they can actually proceed with, and for a planning application to be submitted. We will continue to strongly oppose any development on the meadows due to the significant harm this will cause to the setting of the World Heritage Site and the lack of evidence of proportionate public benefit.

## ‘Time Traveller’ Know Your Place

Have you ever wished you could travel back in time and discover how your local area has changed over the years? The Know Your Place website now includes B&NES and features historic maps and extraordinary images from archives, museums and heritage collections across the West of England. This fantastic resource gives a unique insight into the history of the places where we live, work and visit every day. Beware, the website should come with a health warning, you could get lost on here for days! [www.kypwest.org.uk](http://www.kypwest.org.uk)

### HOUSING UNDER REVIEW

The Government's long awaited Housing White Paper – ‘Fixing Our Broken Housing Market’ arrived with a thump in February and the full effects will take some time to unfold. The details are linked to an expected update to the National Planning Policy Framework later this year. The good news is the recognition of the failings of the housing market, and promises for the continued protection of the Green Belt, as well as stronger support for ‘brownfield’ development and regeneration. It also addresses areas with empty houses, second homes and houses used as holiday lets, and the impact on local housing which is an issue acute in Bath. The consultation which extends until 1st May raises questions about how to calculate for housing need, which is a critical factor in preventing urban sprawl. BPT will be responding.

### ENRICHING THE LIST

## Are you ready to make your mark on history?

Historic England are undertaking a project to keep the list of listed buildings relevant and up to date and are inviting the public to share their knowledge and photographs of listed places so that they can record important facts, and even unlock the secrets of some places. We are calling on our members and the people of Bath to share images, insights and secrets of Bath's special places, and capture them for future generations.

What can be added?

- Photos – new or old!
- Historical events and social history
- Later changes since a building was listed
- Information about the architecture or archaeology

Anyone can become a contributor via the Historic England website, and contributions will appear on their website after they have been checked.

Go to [www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list) for details.



RICH STAPLETON

# CONSERVATION CONVERSATION

2017 marks the 50th Anniversary of conservation areas. Bath's city wide conservation area was first designated in 1968, following the introduction of the Civic Amenities Act in 1967. So it's timely to raise awareness of ongoing work to develop a full and comprehensive character appraisal for the conservation area, to better understand all aspects of its importance and support ongoing and future management. This work is being developed by B&NES Council with input from heritage consultants and the Bath Preservation Trust. So far appraisals of 6 (of 16) character areas across the city, including the city centre pictured above, have been completed in draft. There will be further opportunity for the public and local people who are familiar with the heritage of their neighbourhood to review the work and have an input through public participation and consultation in the near future. Prior to that we would value expert input in drafting the appraisals for the remaining character areas. If you have heritage, planning and conservation skills and are interested in helping with this project then please get in touch with Joanna Robinson, Bath Preservation Trust [jrobinson@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:jrobinson@bptrust.org.uk); or Paula Freeland, Bath and North East Somerset Council [paula\\_freeland@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:paula_freeland@bathnes.gov.uk)



As part of this year's national Civic Day celebrations on **17 June**, and in celebration of the Conservation Area, we would like to invite anyone interested to come to a guided walk around one of the character areas **Lower Lansdown and Camden** where we will identify and talk about the matters that the character appraisal will address. Please contact us or sign up to our Email newsletter for details.

# Campaigning

## Network Rail

BPT has commented on two further NR applications associated with the electrification of the line through Bath; the widening of the Bath Spa Station platforms (to accommodate the new trains), and alterations to the Skew Bridge. We had no major concerns regarding the platform widening, largely because the method of widening does not involve major intervention into historic fabric and is largely reversible. Similarly the Skew Bridge works are necessary to widen the 20th century metal bridge framework (the bridge is a mix of 1840s, 1870s and 20th century structures); there is some intervention to the historic stone cutwater with an extra column being added to the plinth, however no historic fabric is lost. We continue to comment where we can about the most appropriate methods to better reveal and safeguard the important listed Brunel structures, and also for these electrification works to be a great opportunity for repair and maintenance of stone work that is failing in parts, dirty and clogged with vegetation.

Recent local publicity suggested that the transport Minister, Chris Grayling, had said that heritage constraints in Bath may mean the Bath section of the line may not be electrified. BPT published a statement to highlight that heritage should not be used as an excuse for the postponement of modernisation in Bath. Network Rail has been working for over five years on this section of the project and from the start the Trust has been very vocal on the subject of the special requirements of the listed group of railway structures in the World Heritage site. Over the past three years we have also been attending stakeholder workshops to consult upon specific solutions to the Bath issues. Therefore in our view, NR has always had a full understanding of the constraint considerations in Bath. It is our understanding that overspend elsewhere in the electrification project has impacted on NR's ability to deliver the Bath section of the project and NR have recently released a statement to confirm that electrification in Bath has been delayed, not cancelled.

### ORANGERY UPDATE

Members may remember the case of the orangery roof in the garden of 23 Royal Crescent, and that we had objected to the awkwardly shaped visually discordant roof which was built without permission and for which the applicant then applied for retrospective permission. Following refusal of permission for the as built roof, the applicant took the case to appeal. Despite the strong representations made by B&NES, ourselves and local residents, the Inspector decided to uphold the appeal and allow the roof to remain as built and to be completed subject to a series of conditions which will be monitored.



THE PROPOSED OFFICE BUILDING ON SOUTH QUAYS. THE RED LINE SHOWS THE HEIGHT OF THE BUILDING AS PREVIOUSLY PROPOSED.

### YOUR MATTERS

The South Quays development (see page 7) and other applications have raised a number of queries about 'call-in'. For example one email received about South Quays read,

*"Is it not time that someone needs to be considering asking for a call in by the Secretary of State for a decision?"*

#### Our response

This raises the question of when a decision on an application can be called-in (referred to the Secretary of State for decision) and how this happens.

When the Council is both applicant and decision-maker, as is the case with South Quays and Newark Works, the Secretary of State has to be notified, but unless other agencies or individuals approach for call-in, the decision is likely to be taken at the local level, after which there is no third-party right of appeal.

Anyone (individual or organisation) may request for an application to be 'called-in'. The grounds to do so must be expressed in planning terms, i.e. The letter must set out the planning reasons why the application should not be approved, if there is conflict with national planning policy and that conflict is of national significance. A request should be sent to the National Planning Casework Unit (see below for contact details).

A call-in can only be directly triggered by the 'statutory planning consultees'. These include Historic England, the Georgian Group, the Victorian Society and various other specialist amenity groups. They do NOT include local amenity groups such as Bath Preservation Trust as we are a local group rather than a national group.

The threshold for call-in is relatively high, as central government resists interfering in local planning decision-making if possible.

If an application is called-in, there will be a Public Inquiry and the Planning Inspector appointed by the Secretary of State will determine the application rather than the local planning authority. The Secretary of State will then choose either to accept or (rarely) overturn the decision of the Inspector to give the final ruling.

A 'call-in' only deals with planning matters. Other routes of redress include contacting the Local government ombudsman (for matters of maladministration) and Judicial Review (if the decision making has been flawed in law).

The contact details for the NPCU are: 5 St Philips Place, Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2PW. Email: [npcu@communities.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:npcu@communities.gsi.gov.uk)



We'd love to hear your views on the heritage and planning issues that matter most to you. Please write to us at [conservation@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:conservation@bptrust.org.uk)

# Planning applications at a glance



THE PROPOSED ROTORK HEADQUARTERS ON BRASSMILL LANE

## South Quays

The South Quays planning application has taken up much of our time and attention!

The scheme proposes two residential buildings (in outline) and one landmark office building (in detail) on the site of the Old Newark Works yards opposite Green Park (with a listed building consent application for the repair and conversion of the Newark Works building to become creative workspace). We strongly support the regeneration of this site and the creation of a landmark building as a focal point to the Enterprise Area. However, we have objected to the first and second iterations of the scheme which were excessive in height, scale and massing. We also felt the scheme did not adequately reflect, in its design, the significant industrial heritage of the site.

B&NES and the architect are to be commended for their very consultative process, which has seen them return to the drawing board several times to solve the issues outlined by stakeholders, a strongly worded letter from Historic England, and concerns raised by B&NES' own planning, conservation, landscape and urban design officers, amongst others. The third version of this scheme sees a much reduced height to both the business and residential buildings, a change to Bath stone and dark brick, and significant other design revisions to the elevations that have allayed some of our concerns about the impact of this building within the historic cityscape and in long views. However, the success of the scheme will very much rely on the quality and finish of the materials which have yet to be agreed.

## Rotork HQ

We are pleased to have been able to support a recent planning application from international engineering firm Rotork for a landmark headquarters building on the site of their current premises on Brassmill Lane. The scheme proposes a striking and contemporary glazed building with excellent low carbon and sustainability credentials and incorporating landscaping improvements to the local public realm and streetscape. BPT has emphasised the importance of the rural character of the river path and has encouraged the effective management of light spill.

## Land at the rear of Argos

There have been various iterations for development on land at the rear of Argos (adjacent to the new Destructor Bridge), including permission granted for townhouses in 2013. In 2016 a planning application was submitted for student studio units in a large riverside building. Our response centred on the issue of 'need' for student housing on this brownfield site that could otherwise be developed for much needed residential housing.

## Hinton Motors

An application made last year for a large scheme on the site of the Hinton Motors Garage on Upper Bristol Road, for 68 assisted living apartments was refused by the case officer because of the excessive height of the riverside building and the associated harm to nearby heritage assets. That application has gone to appeal but more recently a second application has been submitted for the same

scheme, though with a reduction in height and some design changes to the riverside building to lessen the impact of the appearance of the roofscape. Whilst BPT had some concerns regarding design and height in the first iteration of this proposal, we have since been satisfied with the appearance and scale of the scheme.

## Lower Bristol Road (site of Pickford's Storage)

Yet more student housing has been proposed on the site of the current Pickford's Storage on Lower Bristol Road (opposite Newark Works). Prior to amendments, which included a set-back storey, we were largely satisfied with the designed scheme. A semi-industrial bonded warehouse aesthetic was strongly evident and the articulated roof forms, the interest and detail provided by the varied brickwork and the oxidised metal cladding and roofing worked well together and appeared to sit comfortably in the streetscape. Again we have objected to the proposed use of the site for student accommodation on a prime central location more suited to housing for young professionals and key workers.

## Cleveland Pools

We were pleased to support the detailed plans recently submitted for the refurbishment of the Cleveland Pools in Bathwick. The proposals to repair, restore the site and convert the existing pool to modern standards have been the subject of detailed historic impact assessments and in our view the new swimming complex will be a great addition to the leisure offering in Bath, as well as allowing the important historic asset to be better revealed and appreciated by the general public.

# No.1 Royal Crescent

EXHIBITION:

## A VIEW FROM THE CRESCENT

### Celebrating the 250th Anniversary of Bath's Landmark Building

 24 June – 19 November

On Tuesday 19 May, 1767 the foundation stone was laid for the first house in the Royal Crescent. In the same house, in its 250th anniversary year, we celebrate the significance of this iconic landmark with an exhibition which reveals the part the Royal Crescent has played in the story of the City.

From the outset, the Royal Crescent was admired for its perfect blend of architecture with landscape setting and it soon became the most desirable address in Georgian Bath. Home to Royalty, the elegant and the eccentric, a setting for elopements, wild parties and controversy, threatened by redevelopment and enemy bombs, the Crescent has witnessed both crisis and celebration throughout its history.

The Royal Crescent took over from the Parades as the fashionable promenade almost immediately on completion in 1775. According to writer Pierce Egan, *"...in the season, of a Sunday, it is crowded with fashionables of every rank; and with the addition of the splendid barouche, dashing curricule, elegant tandem, gentleman on horseback, &c. the ROYAL CRESCENT strongly reminds the spectator of Hyde Park, Rotten Row, and Kensington Gardens, when adorned with all their brilliant company."*

The Crescent has also provided inspiration for artists, writers and filmmakers. The novelist Jane Austen mentioned in her letters the practise within her own family of walking here, recounting in her novel *Northanger Abbey* how the Thorpe and Allen families *'...hastened away to the Crescent, to breath the fresh air of better company.'*

In more recent years the Crescent has provided the backdrop for feature films such as *Joseph Andrews* in 1977 and the 2008 production of *The Duchess* starring Kiera Knightley, as well as sporting events and the Olympic Torch.

From mass gatherings at the end of the Great War to the story of the renowned 'yellow door', the exhibition will take a closer look at the Crescent's history and personalities through paintings, prints and photographs, as well as considering what it means to everyone who enjoys, admires and responds to the beauty of this iconic image.

## Shop till you drop

No.1 Royal Crescent shop has started the new season with a new till system more suited to the needs of a museum and is designed for both, admissions and retail. More new products will be brought into the shop this year, to complement the Royal Crescent 250 exhibition. One of the new prominent stock lines will be the reprinted book *From A to Z of the Royal Crescent*, written by Colin Fisher and published last year. Visit [no1royalcrescent.org.uk/shop](http://no1royalcrescent.org.uk/shop)



EXHIBITION:

## From Rome to the Royal Crescent

 Exhibition continues until 4 June

To celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Royal Crescent the exhibition traces the evolution of classical architecture from the ancient monuments of Rome and the innovation of the Renaissance to the modern designs of 18th century England through the beautiful models of the Timothy Richards Model Making Workshop.

Models include the Pantheon, Palladio's Villa Cornaro, Chiswick House and the No.1 Royal Crescent model created as part of the Whole Story Project.



## Tea for 2017

Towards the end of last year No.1 Royal Crescent opened a 'Pop-Up Cafe' at weekends in the Servant's Hall at No.1 Royal Crescent, serving tea, coffee and cakes. The idea of a cafe at the Museum has always been supported by staff and volunteers and we wanted to trial the offering and see how our visitors responded. The cafe was very well received and we were able to understand how a more permanent offering would work within the building and how the finances looked. Following on, we are working towards establishing a small cafe in the Museum in May, opening initially only at weekends, and will keep members informed of any news.



# DRESSED TO IMPRESS

Blandford Fashion Museum has generously lent an elegant 18th century robe and silk petticoats for display in the Ladies' Bedroom for the 2017 season.

Getting dressed, for the fashionable lady in the late 18th century, was a complicated business requiring the services of a well-trained maid skilled in hairdressing, sewing and laundry. The dress on loan is a 'morning dress' suitable for informal wear at home. Dating from the 1780s it is open at the front and was put on like a coat and worn over a petticoat.

The fabric is cotton with a block printed floral pattern which shows the influence of both imported Indian textiles and the patterns seen on contemporary woven silks. They were expensive to produce because a different carved block was needed for each colour. Visitors to Bath in the 1780s had the choice of several drapers, such as Percival & Cunditt in Milsom Street, providing a wide choice of fabrics.

The bodice is lined with cotton and the neck edge can be adjusted with a narrow drawstring. The edges of the bodice are simply pinned together below the neckline and the lace ruffles on the sleeve are loosely stitched so they can be easily removed for washing by the maid.

The gold silk petticoat is of the same date and lined with a thin worsted woollen fabric called 'calamanco' which has been glazed by passing it through heated rollers to make it dirt resistant and the two fabrics have been quilted together. It is shown alongside a slightly older cream petticoat, also quilted. A change of petticoat was one way to refresh an outfit and the fine quilting and stitching is testament to the skills of the 18th century dressmaker.

The outfit would have been completed with a large square muslin handkerchief or 'buffon' which was tied around the neck to create the desired full and rounded bosom.

Blandford Museum has also kindly lent a gentleman's waistcoat which is not currently on permanent display but will be available for special group visits.

## EVENTS

There is a full programme of events and activities throughout the year to celebrate Royal Crescent 250 with further details on the website, but three events to note are:

### Foundation Stone Day

Museums at Night

Party in the City – Words on Stone

 19 May

Poetry specially commissioned by Bath Festival and inspired by the Royal Crescent will be projected onto the façade of No.1 Royal Crescent to launch the 2017 Bath Festival on the 250th anniversary day of the laying of the foundation stone. Includes free music performances as part of Party in the City.



### Foundation Stone Day

Free Outdoor Public Event

 21 May

A special event celebrating the laying of the foundation stone of the Royal Crescent 250 years ago.

The Natural Theatre Co. will create one of their 'scenarios' taking a piece of Bath Stone from Combe Down where it would have been mined, across the River Avon and up through Bath to lay it at the Royal Crescent, collecting people through the city on the way to create a celebratory foundation stone procession. Includes stone carving and carpentry demonstrations on the Crescent lawn and special walking tours.

### A Day in the Life of the Royal Crescent

Free Public Event

 29 July

Bringing the Royal Crescent to life by taking it back in time.

The Royal Crescent will be cleared of cars and made pedestrian only for one day. Costumed interpreters will perform sketches and scenes from the Crescent's history on the Royal Crescent lawn and within the rooms of No. 1 Royal Crescent. Georgian cookery, sewing and costume events. Bring a picnic and enjoy the celebrations!

# Museum of Bath Architecture



The Bath Preservation Trust library collection, housed at the Museum of Bath Architecture has seen much activity over the last few years. The redevelopment of No.1 Royal Crescent led to the library (previously across two sites) coming together, and the number of books in the collection rapidly growing. Donations of book collections in recent years has seen the collection swell, until it reached a stage where there were boxes and boxes of books lining the gallery at the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, with no way of knowing exactly what treasures were inside. A brave volunteer took on the task of taming the collection, cataloguing the new items from these donations, as well as new books acquired through several exhibitions, research projects and the endless pile of books hidden in the curator's office. As the process of sorting the library has progressed we have found several duplicates and works that we felt were not right for our library so we have been removing these and selling them through the Museum shop. For all the book addicts it is always worth popping into the shop to see what books are available. Judith Bell, our heroic library volunteer, has been steadily working through the collection and we hope to get the library catalogue searchable on-line soon.

## ANNUAL REPORT REQUEST

We are missing copies of past annual reports. These are a significant part of the Archive Collection, highlighting the history, structure and key activities of Bath Preservation Trust. In the Archive we are looking to ensure that our collection of annual reports is complete.

The first annual report was published to cover the first year of the formation of Bath Preservation Trust in 1935. We have gaps in the Collection for the following years:

**1948–1949, 1952–1953, 1956, 1957, 1958, 1959  
1969–1970, 1973–1974**

If you have any spare copies of the annual reports for these years, that you would be happy to donate, or know where any can be obtained, please let the Archivist know – 01225 333895 or email: [archives@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:archives@bptrust.org.uk). Ideally, we need at least two copies of each of these annual reports, but any contributions gratefully received.

The research library at the Museum of Bath Architecture is accessible by appointment. Volunteers at the Museum are allowed to borrow books, so an inducement to consider volunteering. For library appointments and more information on volunteering contact [jhunter@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:jhunter@bptrust.org.uk)



## EXHIBITION:

# A SUPER MODEL

We spend so much time thinking about, talking about and glimpsing whole buildings in Bath that we often forget that these designs rely on the individual elements that come together to create them. This spring the exhibition at the Museum of Bath Architecture explores the parts that make up the whole of the Royal Crescent through a new installation. A model of No.1 Royal Crescent that has been in pieces for quite some time was the inspiration for this project. Rather than the parts of the model continuing to live in a box in our store, we tasked Amalgam models in Bristol putting it back together in such a way that it was not quite whole. They produced an acrylic body upon which elements of the model are hung allowing a view through the corners, windows and door to whatever image we decide should be seen through these parts. For now we have used the incredible 1769 view of the Royal Crescent under construction by Thomas Malton thanks to the Victoria Art Gallery in Bath. Breaking down the parts of the house into design, doors, windows and other key elements, we have made trails through the Museum to connect these parts to the process behind their construction, so visitors can follow these paths and learn about the parts in order to then be able to 'reconstruct' the whole building. It is the first time we have ever tried an installation in the Museum, and so is an experiment for us in a different way of interpreting the collection and the stories that it tells. As part of Royal Crescent at 250 celebrations the installation will hopefully inspire people to look more closely at the Royal Crescent and other buildings in Bath, and see the details of not just design but the craftsmanship that went into creating the Georgian city.



*The Royal Crescent deconstructed/reconstructed* is at the Museum of Bath Architecture until 4 June 2017 and has been generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and B&NES Council.

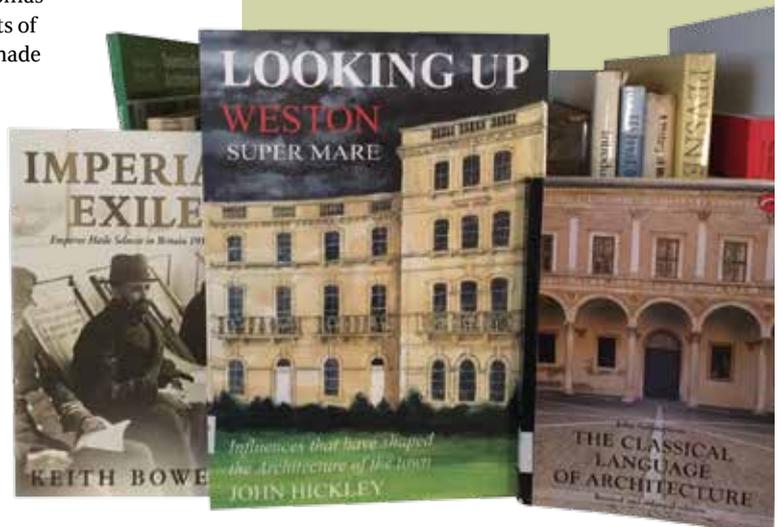
## On the Museum bookshelf...

an Ethiopian Emperor, the hidden gems of a seaside town and understanding classicism.

Just because the Museum was closed over the winter did not mean we stopped adding things to our library collection, and providing material for our On the Museum Bookshelf this Month noticeboard. Recent books have included *Imperial Exile: Emperor Haile Salassie in Britain 1939–40* by Keith Bowers. The exiled Ethiopian Emperor has to be one of Bath's most fascinating residents in the recent history of the city and this book offers an insight into his time in Bath and inspires readers to visit Fairfield House where Salassie lived in Weston [houseofhismajesty.com](http://houseofhismajesty.com) Following a lecture in Weston Super Mare the Museum's curator enjoyed a tour and discovered fascinating 19th century architecture of a quality and interest often overlooked in this seaside resort. *Looking up – The Architecture of Weston Super Mare* by John Hickley is a wonderfully illustrated book that will encourage any visitor to do exactly what the title suggests, look up, look around and discover. [www.westoncivicsociety.org.uk/news/Looking-Up-The-Architecture-of-Weston.aspx](http://www.westoncivicsociety.org.uk/news/Looking-Up-The-Architecture-of-Weston.aspx)

With all our work on the Royal Crescent this year, our first bookshelf book when the Museum reopened for the season in February is an essential work for any bookshelf lover interested in classical architecture and its expression from Antiquity to the 19th century, *The Classical Language of Architecture* by John Summerson, now over 50 years old but still the best introduction to classicism you can read John Summerson. Now over 50 years old, but still.

If you have any suggestions for the Museum bookshelf contact Dr Amy Frost [beckford@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:beckford@bptrust.org.uk)

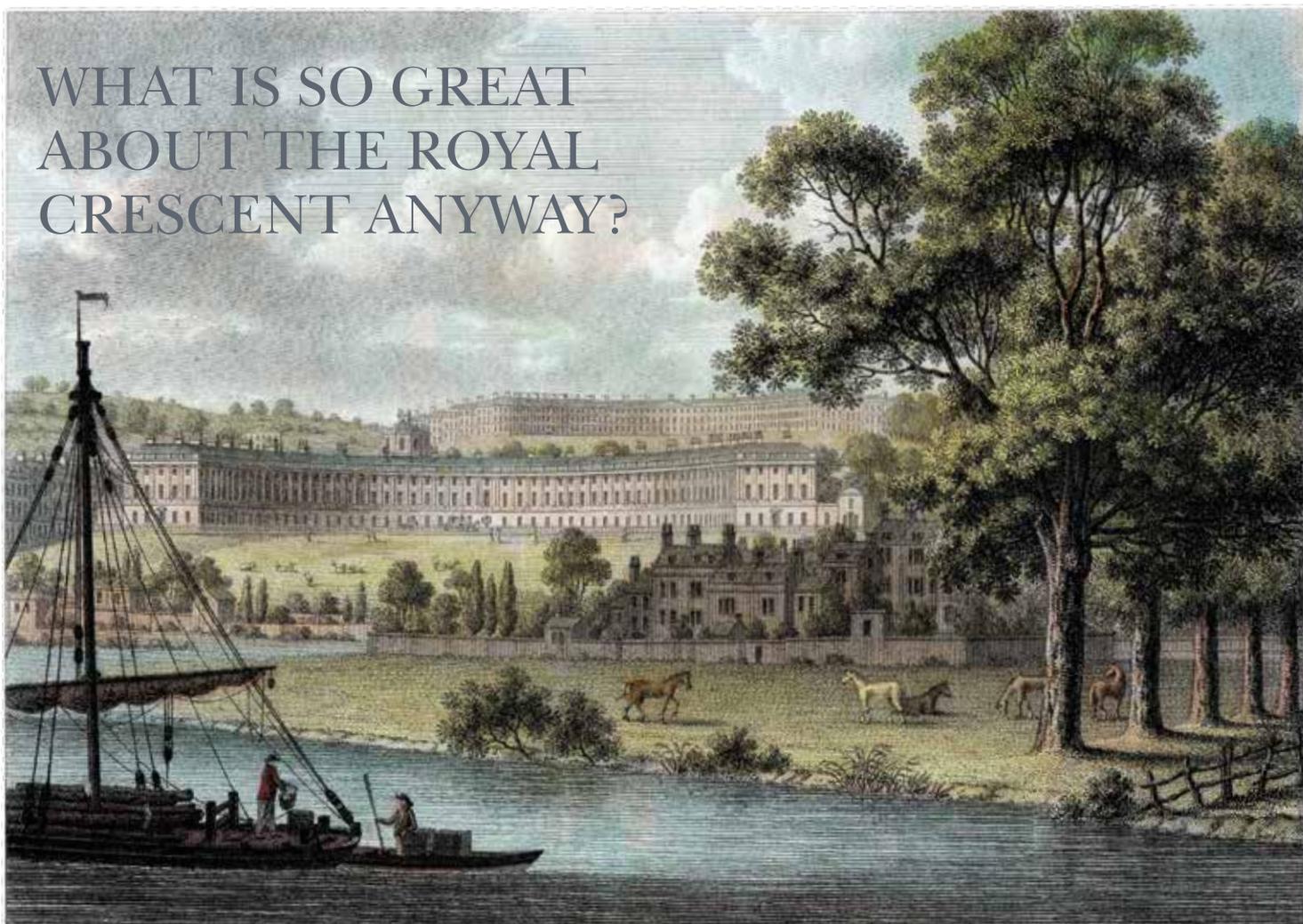


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# Beckford's Tower and Museum

## WHAT IS SO GREAT ABOUT THE ROYAL CRESCENT ANYWAY?



## Why Beckford chose a different crescent in Bath

In this year of celebrating the Royal Crescent across all the museums of Bath Preservation Trust, Beckford's Tower & Museum offers an alternative view, and shows that not everyone in the city thought it was the best address in Bath. When William Beckford moved to Bath in 1822 he initially rented a house on Great Pulteney Street while deciding where to make his permanent residence. He eventually settled on No.20 Lansdown Crescent, purchasing No.1 the West Wing (now 1 Lansdown Place West) and connecting the two properties with first floor gallery over the road to the mews behind. Ten years later Beckford sold the West Wing house and purchased the neighbouring 19 Lansdown Crescent. So why did he choose Lansdown rather than Royal Crescent? Having moved from the extensive lands he had recently sold at Fonthill in Wiltshire, Beckford found himself in the position of downsizing from the magnificent Fonthill Abbey to a terraced house in a city he had once referred to as being full of 'idlers and corpses'. Lansdown Crescent was at the time the northern most developed part of Bath, and had then, as it retains today, a striking view of the natural landscape setting of Bath. This relationship with the landscape would have been key to Beckford's choice of settling there, giving him a way to retain some sense of living in the landscape that he had so enjoyed in Wiltshire and sacrificed when he moved to Bath.

Our alternative take on the glory of the Royal Crescent will be further explored through two events



**Not for him?**

**Why Beckford did not live at the Royal Crescent?**

Lecture at Beckford's Tower

Wednesday, 5 April, 18:30, £5.00

As we celebrate 250 years of the Royal Crescent join Tower Curator Dr Amy Frost as she explores why William Beckford chose a different crescent to live in when he came to Bath.



**Crescent vs Crescent**

Wednesday, 19 July, 18.30, £5.00

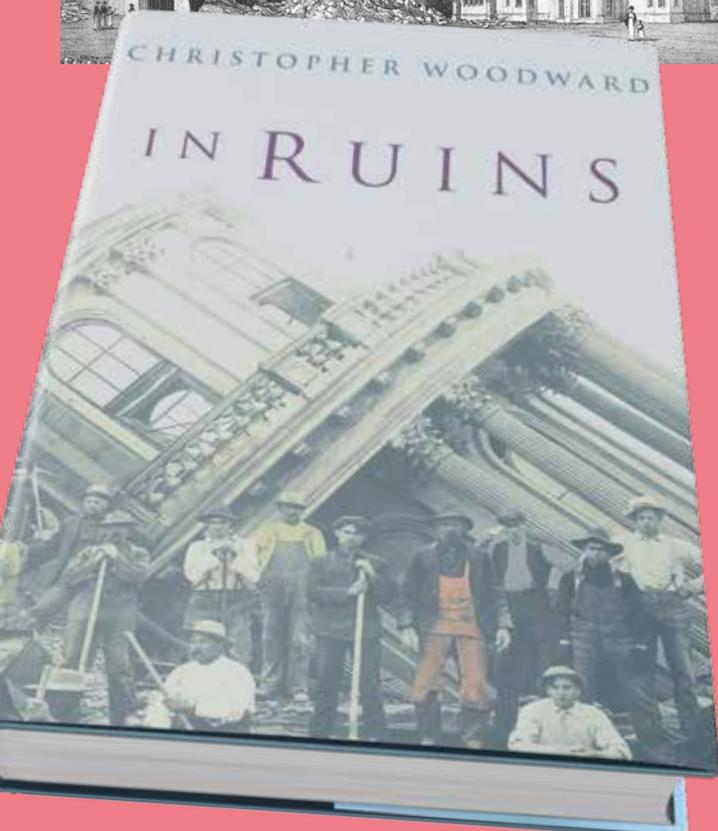
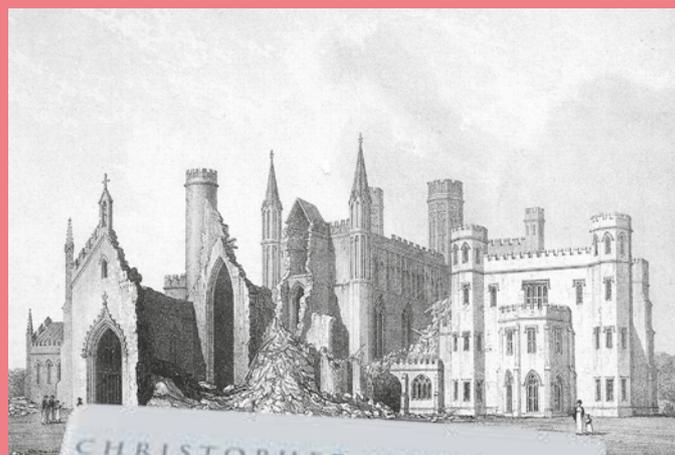
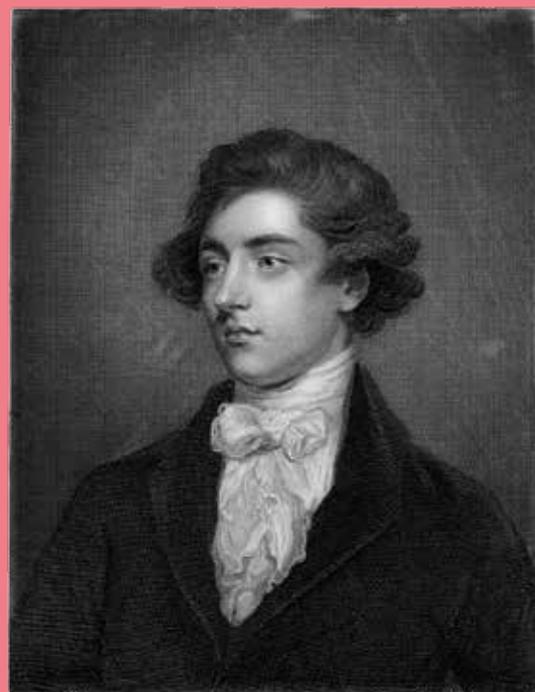
Walking tour with Dr Amy Frost from the Royal Crescent to Lansdown Crescent, via Camden Crescent and Cavendish Crescent, exploring the influence the Royal Crescent had on the others that followed, what makes it superior (or inferior in Beckford's eyes) and how Bath and its architectural heritage and social history changed during the period between the two crescents being constructed.

To book either of these events please contact [tower@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:tower@bptrust.org.uk) or call 01225 460705

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# The Beckford Scandal: HOMOSEXUALITY DECRIMINALISED

2017 marks 50 years since an Act of Parliament in the United Kingdom decriminalised homosexuality and many museums, galleries and historic buildings are marking this important anniversary by bringing to the forefront of their collections history that has been too long overlooked or hidden. At Beckford's Tower we have always known that Beckford's time in exile following the exposure of his relationship with William Courtanay in 1784 was an important factor in his creation of the Tower. Although no evidence was brought against Beckford that could have led to his imprisonment and possibly even execution, he chose to exile himself and his wife to Switzerland. Rejection by society and self-enforced exile had a lasting impact on Beckford's need to retreat into a world of his own creation both at Fonthill Abbey and in Bath. This year we have produced a new publication exploring the Beckford scandal and the impact that it had upon Beckford's life. Copies of the booklet will be available free at Beckford's Tower from the end of April and to download from our website.



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## FROM RUINS TO RIVALS

### THE BECKFORD BOOK GROUP

To correspond with this year's Royal Crescent at 250 anniversary the Beckford Book Group's first two books of 2017 coincide with two of the exhibitions. In March, we took the exhibition From Rome to the Royal Crescent as our inspiration and discovered the romance of ruins through *In Ruins* by Christopher Woodward. We discussed humanity's fascination with ruins; from the art and poetry they inspire, to the tourism they attract, from the waves of follies built in the 18th century, to the iconic appearance of the shattered Statue of Liberty in 'Planet of the Apes'. Beckford himself was, of course, a builder of follies, a visitor of ruins, and, in the case of Fonthill Abbey, an observer of the toppling of his architectural dream, so it was a great choice and led to an entertaining evening.

In the spirit of the Herschel Museum's Jubilate exhibition and in reference to Richard Sheridan's elopement with Elizabeth Linley from the Royal Crescent in Bath we will be reading *The Rivals* by Richard Sheridan. It will be the book group's first play, and hopefully will lead to an evening of book group amateur theatrics as we read through scenes.



Beckford Book Group:  
The Rivals by Richard Sheridan  
Thursday, 8 June 2017  
7pm at Beckford's Tower, £5 on the door

# Celestial & Terrestrial

## Acquisition of a pair of Dudley Adams pocket globes

In recent years, the Herschel Museum has expanded its collection of globes and planetaria with the purchase of an armillary sphere by the French maker Delamarche, and a rare example of a lunar globe which is on loan from the Royal Astronomical Society.

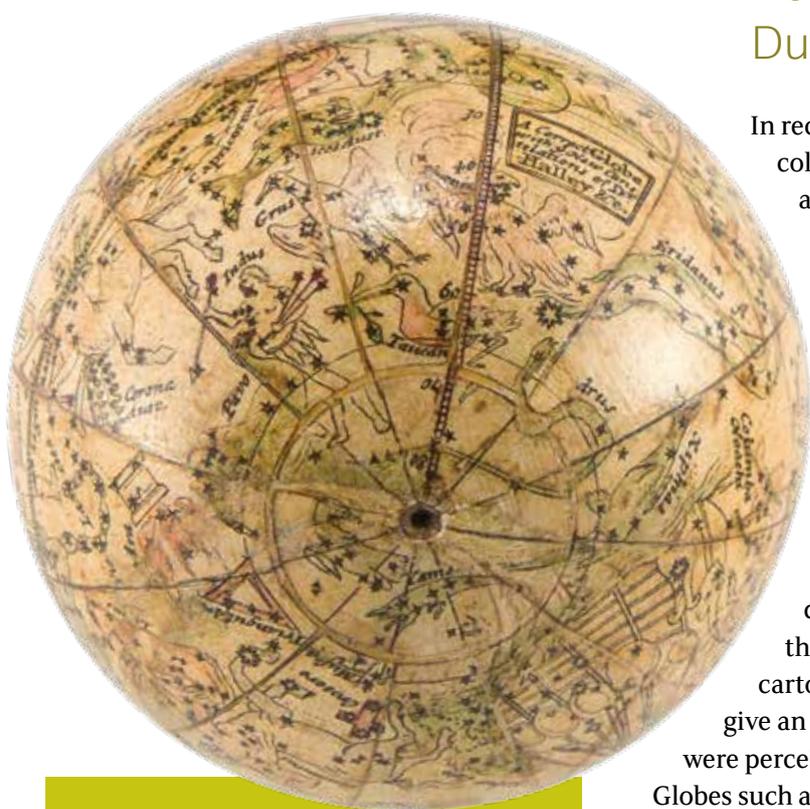
In order to complete the collection however, we have been seeking a pair of small pocket globes and because it is unusual to find a complete pair dating to the 18th rather than the 19th century, the search has taken some time. We were therefore interested to have been offered a couple of celestial and terrestrial globes from the workshop of the London maker, Dudley Adams together with their original chagreen cases and brass display stands. These exquisite tiny objects epitomise the Enlightenment, as they blend the artistic skills of the cartographer with the expansion of scientific knowledge, and give an accessible overview of the World and the Heavens as they were perceived towards the closing years of the 18th century.

Globes such as these have always been considered desirable objects to collectors and it is likely that William Herschel would have owned a pair himself and used them to illustrate his learned talks, and these are particularly fine examples, in pristine condition. Among the constellations and maps of the heavens depicted on the spheres themselves, is the massive 20ft telescope the astronomer constructed at Slough.

It is always an added bonus to establish the provenance of museum objects, and these particular globes are depicted in a family portrait of the Birmingham industrialist John Miles who was an astronomer and member of the Lunar Society. They also appear in a Christie's auction catalogue from the 1950s.

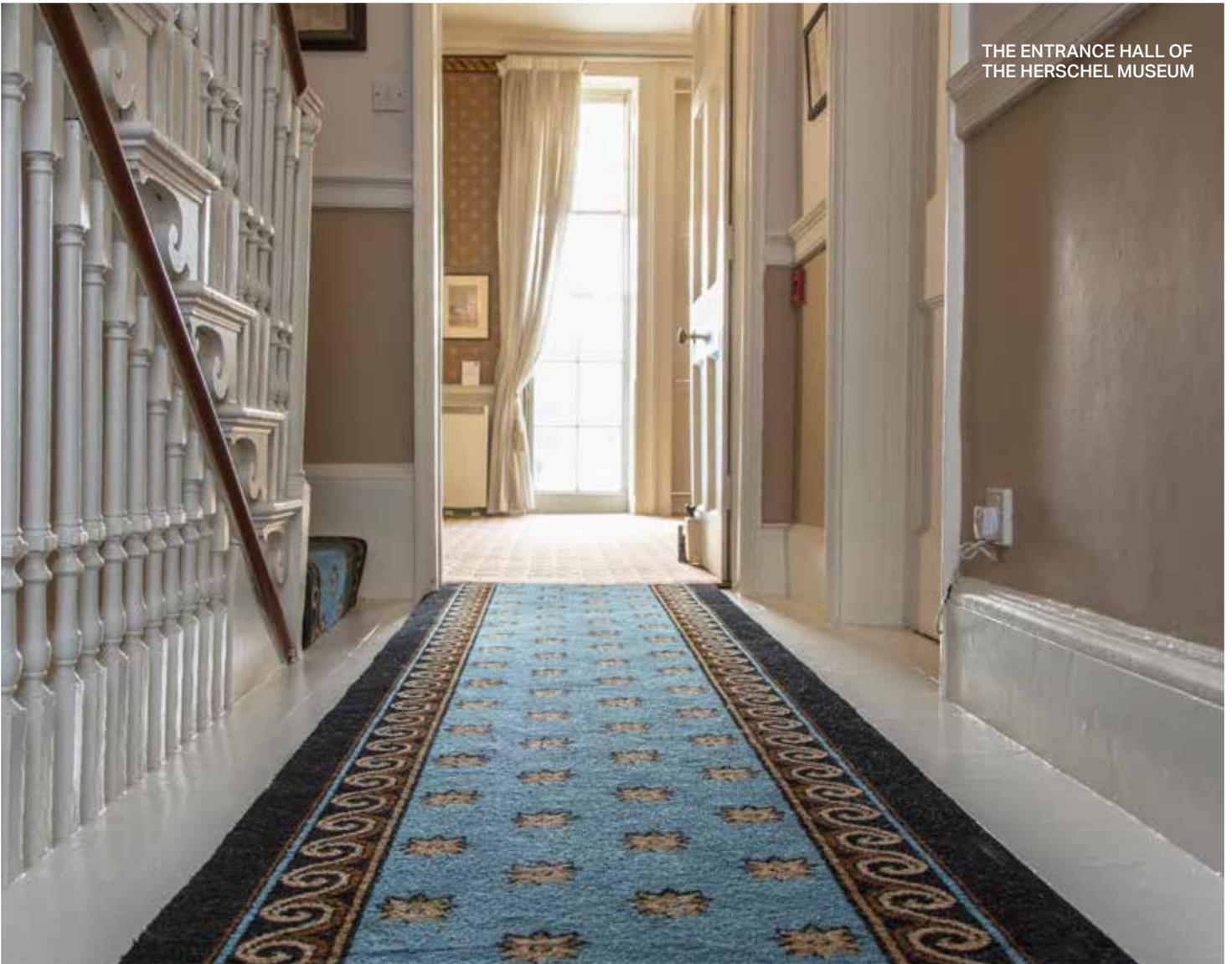
We are grateful to the Art Fund, the Beecroft Bequest, BPT members and private donors for funding this important acquisition.

POCKET GLOBE c.1772  
BY DUDLEY ADAMS, LONDON



### STAR BUY

We have recently added a new item to the various publications about the Herschel family we sell in the Herschel Museum shop. *The Forgotten Philosopher* is perhaps the definitive biography of Sir John Herschel, the only son of William and his wife Mary. The book was first started by the great granddaughter of this remarkable Victorian natural philosopher and polymath and it has evolved over several decades drawing on much of the material so carefully preserved in the Herschel family archive. We are pleased to report that it has become a best seller within a short space of time.



# Hall's well

The project to refurbish the drab and uninviting entrance hall started back in 2015 with a new scheme of decoration and the replacement of modern chandeliers with copies of Georgian period drop lanterns.

We were very fortunate to have found additional sponsorship which enabled us to complete the project in November 2016 with the addition of hall and stair carpets. The starry night motif is reminiscent of the vaults of churches of the Byzantine period, but the inspiration actually came from pattern books held in the historic archives of Brintons' carpet factory in Kidderminster. The browns, subtle blues and black which run through the design were popular Georgian colours, whilst the robust Axminster weave should prove durable in an area which experiences heavy footfall.

We are grateful to the many donors who made this project possible, including BPT and Herschel Society members, the William Herschel Society, The Golsoncott Foundation, the Garfield Weston Charitable Trust, The Clark Trust and a major trust who wish to remain anonymous.

## *Jubilate*

### Exhibition and Events programme

Throughout 2017 the Herschel Museum will be joining the other museums of the Trust in celebration of the 250th anniversary of the foundation of the Royal Crescent which also happens to coincide with the anniversary of William Herschel taking up his position as Director of Music in the City. Although the Herschels are best known for their astronomical achievements, the young Hanoverian émigré was an accomplished and versatile musician whose ambitions attracted him to Bath with its constant round of concerts and musical entertainments.

The *Jubilate* exhibition will give an insight into the music and popular instruments of the Georgian period and the personalities which gave Bath its unrivalled reputation as a cultural centre. We are looking forward to a series of recitals, talks and musical events in collaboration with the School of Music and Dramatic Arts at Bath Spa University and a concert by the traditional folk duo, Matthews and Green on Friday, 8th September at the Museum of Bath Architecture.



*Jubilate* runs from 18 April – 10 December.

# Education and Community Engagement

## In-depth involvement

Our partnership with Bath Spa University continues to grow with an exciting range of collaborative opportunities to give students practical and relevant museum experience. In May, History and Heritage students will produce a new walking tour guide to the Royal Crescent, the culmination of a five-month project. In addition, three students on placement with us are closely involved in devising resources which support the 250th project including a family learning trail and evaluation questionnaire.



STUDENT GRACE DAVIES AT WORK



THE IMAGE GROUP AT THE MUSEUM OF BATH ARCHITECTURE

## New perspectives

The BPT is part of the Pathways to Wellbeing project, funded by the Big Lottery, in partnership with the Holburne Museum. A group called IMAGE has been working at the Museum of Bath Architecture to promote inclusion and wellbeing and offer ideas on how to engage with new audiences. One of the participants kindly donated a Georgian-style dolls' house she made, so that families can enjoy playing with it when they visit.

## Building bridges

At the annual World Heritage Day on 23rd April, the BPT will once again engage with hundreds of visitors in Parade Gardens. This year, there will be a chance for families to learn about our historic city by helping to build a giant replica of Pulteney Bridge, plus use construction kits to explore the science behind arched bridges.

## Model behaviour

To help family visitors gain a greater understanding of the intricate models in our 'From Rome to Royal Crescent' exhibition, a series of model making workshops are on offer. The features of Classical Architecture are being used as inspiration for intricate patterns. Nina, a German visitor, made this detailed version of a capital.



# World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund



## SIGN OF THE TIMES

The rolling programme of the conservation of Bath's historic street signs continues, organised and funded by the WHSEF with occasional contributions from the buildings' owners or occupiers, who have always been delighted with the results of our work. Suggestions for signs to refurbish are always welcome; many of the completed ones have been drawn to our attention by interested Bath residents.

The next set of painted signs to be conserved, by Cliveden Conservation, are in Caroline Buildings, Ebenezer Terrace, Macaulay Buildings, New King Street, Upper Bristol Road and New Bond Street; work on these is expected to start fairly soon. Incised signs to be restored by Iain Cotton, whose talents are displayed in the sign on Axford's Buildings, are in Trim Street, Great Stanhope Street and Queen Square. The sign in Queen Square will be the 40th in the WHSEF programme, a fitting tribute to John Wood in this year of celebrating his son's crowning achievement at the Royal Crescent.

Suggestions for new projects, enquiries, and requests for help and advice are always welcome – please contact the Fund Administrator Ainslie Ensom, at [whsef@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:whsef@bptrust.org.uk)



## Iron works

The National Heritage Ironwork Group (NHIG), currently based in Bath, is producing a technical handbook written by experts on the correct methods and materials for conserving and repairing historic ironwork. The cost of the handbook is being shared by the WHSEF, the Leche Trust and the Radcliffe Trust; its advice will be valuable for preserving the decorative ironwork which plays such an important role in Bath's street scene.

For more information on NHIG and their activities go to [www.nhig.org.uk](http://www.nhig.org.uk)



## RALPH ALLEN GATE PIERS

In 2015 the Trust was contacted about these gate piers located at the top of Ralph Allen Drive. Due to some traffic management changes (a new mini-roundabout) the piers were being damaged by passing lorries swinging past too closely and knocking the top cornice and gouging chunks out of the stonework. Following our publicity, B&NES soon made some amendments to the traffic calming measures which stopped the lorries swinging too close to the pillar, but the damage had been done. With financial help from the World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund and B&NES, Sally Strachey Conservation (specialist stoneworker) repaired the stonework and realigned the pillar following a detailed scoping report at the end of 2016.

# LISTED BUILDINGS

Professor Barry Gilbertson, Trustee

Listed buildings are so-called because they are buildings worthy of protection that have been placed on a list, which began in 1947, and is now maintained by Historic England. Although a limited number of ‘ancient monuments’ were given protection under the Ancient Monuments Protection Act 1882, there was reluctance to restrict the owners of occupied buildings in what they could do to their property. It was the damage to buildings caused by German bombing during World War II that prompted the first listing of buildings that were deemed to be of particular architectural merit. 300 members of the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings were dispatched to prepare the list under the supervision of the Inspectorate of Ancient Monuments, with funding from the Treasury.

Historic England explain that listing helps us acknowledge and understand our shared history. It marks and celebrates a building’s special architectural and historic interest, and also brings it under the consideration of the planning system so that some thought will be taken about its future. The older a building is, the more likely it is to be listed. All buildings built before 1700 which survive in anything like their original condition are listed, as are most of those built between 1700 and 1840. Particularly careful selection is required for buildings from the period after 1945. A building has normally to be over 30 years old to be eligible for listing.

## CATEGORIES OF LISTED BUILDINGS

**Grade I** buildings are of exceptional interest, sometimes considered to be internationally important; only 2.5% of listed buildings are Grade I

**Grade II\*** buildings are particularly important buildings of more than special interest; 5.5% of listed buildings are Grade II\* (known as Grade II star)

**Grade II** buildings are nationally important and of special interest; 92% of all listed buildings are in this class and it is the most likely grade of listing for a homeowner

In England there are approximately 374,081 listed building entries. Listed Buildings represent about 2% of English building stock.

Listing is not a preservation order, preventing change. Listing is an identification stage where buildings are marked and celebrated as having exceptional architectural or historic special interest, before any planning stage that may decide a building’s future.

Listing does not freeze a building in time – it simply means that listed building consent must be applied for, and granted, in order to make any changes to that building which might affect its special interest. Listed buildings can be altered, extended and sometimes even demolished within government planning guidance. A local authority uses listed building consent to make decisions that balance the site’s historic significance against other issues such as its function, condition or viability.

The basis of the current more comprehensive listing process was developed from the wartime system and was enacted by a provision in the Town and Country Planning Act 1947 covering England and Wales. The listing process has since developed slightly differently in each part of the UK.

Bath was ahead of its time when, in 1925 and 1937, Local Acts were passed which took steps to control the designs of new buildings and the alteration of existing buildings.

*“The 1937 Act provided for the listing of buildings earlier than 1820 thought worthy of protection from unworthy additions, or from such mutilations as the throwing out of unmannerly bow windows, the cutting through of cornices and string courses and the violation of such balustrades as had not already fallen victim to the creation of attic flats.”*

In Bath, there are more than 5,000 individual properties in the 2010 Listed Buildings Register, comprising 2376 entries, which is 830 more than the previous list issued in 1975. The properties exceed the entries in number as, often, Georgian Terraces and Crescents, for example, are covered by a single list entry for a group of properties. If you have any questions about listed buildings, please ask. Visit [barrygilbertson.com](http://barrygilbertson.com)

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# Fundraising & development



## Celebrating the Royal Crescent with Bath's business community



Our celebrations for the 250th anniversary of the Royal Crescent are attracting considerable interest from many local businesses.

Sponsorship is vital to Bath Preservation Trust and we

are always keen to work with the business community. Whether it's interesting places to show your clients, or the PR, social media and branding opportunities that come with sponsorship of one of our exhibitions, or you wish to support our work by becoming one of our corporate members we will be very pleased to talk to you. Through innovative ideas, we can help companies spread the word about their services and reinforce their commitment to this incredible city and the local community.

The support we receive will benefit all work undertaken by Bath Preservation Trust including campaigning for the World Heritage Site, running our museums or providing our award winning education programme which benefits so many local school and community groups. Bath Preservation Trust has c.1500 members, the majority of whom live locally, and working with us presents an ideal opportunity for businesses to promote their services directly to this group.

Financial assistance through sponsorship, grants, donations and legacies really does make a difference to our work. Without this funding, our museums are unable to develop or provide an improved experience for our visitors. We are very grateful for all the assistance we receive and if you would like more information, please contact Jan Hull, Development Officer – [jhull@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:jhull@bptrust.org.uk)



At the start of the year, on the stunningly sunny day that superfast broadband came to BPT, our team took a country walk starting at Beckford's Tower where everyone was briefed about the conservation work needed at the Tower. A session to discuss priorities for the year ahead was then held at Kelston Round Hill barn.

### HOT OFF THE PRESS

#### Grant success for the Museum of Bath Architecture

We have just had notification of a grant from the Woodmansterne Art Conservation Award that will allow us to proceed with the conservation of the Four Bath Worthies. This is an important picture in the story of Bath's 18th century development featuring, as it does, John Wood. The picture along with his beautiful drawing instruments which we acquired last year, will allow us to explain John Wood's work in and influence on Bath in more detail. Conservation will take several months but we hope this renewed display will be completed early in 2018.

## Trust Tours 2017

At the time of going to print, the four summer tours are, with the exception of Deans Court, full or nearly full through priority booking. The tours are listed below. If you would like more information, please email Jan Hull – [jhull@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:jhull@bptrust.org.uk)

### TOUR FULL

#### Ditchley Park, Oxfordshire

*Lunch in Burford and tea at Ditchley*

Tuesday, 23 May – full day

Depart Bath 09.30 – 18.30 return (approx)



### SPACES STILL AVAILABLE

#### Deans Court (above)

*With a cream tea and a stop at Kingston Lacy*

Tuesday 20 June – full day

Depart Bath 09.00 – 18.30 return (approx)

### LIMITED AVAILABILITY

#### Milton Manor, nr Abingdon, Oxon

*With pub lunch and tea at Milton*

Wednesday, 5 July – full day

Depart Bath 10.00 – return 18.30 (approx)

### LIMITED AVAILABILITY

#### Stonor Park, nr Henley-on-Thames, Oxon

*With lunch and tea*

Thursday, 14 September – full day

Depart Bath 0930 – 18.30 return (approx)

## Summer Walks 2017

### Painting the town

Thursday, 1 June and Wednesday, 7 June

Both at 6.30pm

Leader: Victoria Barwell.

*Curator No. 1 Royal Crescent*

A walk exploring the houses, picture rooms and favourite views of some of Bath's most famous artists from Thomas Gainsborough to Walter Sickert. From the portraitists of the 18th century whose careers depended on wealthy visitors and social networking to 20th century landscape painters inspired by their surroundings. Bath's rich artistic heritage is evident throughout the city.

**Start: Orange Grove (outside Brown's)**

### A guided tour of Newton Park

Wednesday, 19 July and Thursday, 27 July

Both at 6.30pm

Leader: Felicity Medcalf

*Guide at No. 1 and Blue Badge Guide*

A repeat of a tour we did some years ago, led again by Felicity, and with a number of new additions. It will include an introductory talk on the Georgian House (now Bath Spa University) followed by a tour around the grounds designed by Capability Brown and a visit to the newly renovated walled garden.

Unusually, members will have to drive to Newton Park and although most university students will have gone parking may still be limited and it is now mostly metered parking. If there are any members who have difficulty in getting there please, contact BPT and we will see if we can help with transport.

**Start: The Atrium Building**

### A city wander with John Wood

Wednesday, 2 August and Thursday, 10 August

Both at 6.30pm

Leader: Dr Amy Frost

*BPT Senior Curator of Beckford's Tower and Archivist for BPT*

A walk exploring the work of Wood the Younger and looking beyond his landmark buildings to the streets that link them.

**Start: Duke Street** (joining South and North Parades) **Finish: Royal Crescent**

There is a maximum of twenty places on each walk. To book a place either fill in the return form for the walks or get in touch with BPT at No. 1 Royal Crescent stating the names of those requiring places. Telephone BPT to book.

Alan Williams – Walks Coordinator

Peta Hall – Membership Secretary

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