

# BATH MATTERS

THE BATH PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

87





## Thomas Sheppard

CHAIRMAN

Change is frequently the theme of these introductions and the pace of change does not seem to be slowing down in 2018. My perception is that the Trust is in robust health, with an injection of new staff bringing a different energy to the museums and on the campaigning side a growing confidence that we can contribute in ways that are valued and respected by others. In turn we are bringing new members onto the Board of Trustees and as ever at this time of year I welcome approaches from any member who would like to find out more about getting involved at Board or Committee level and who feels they have professional expertise or significant experience to bring to our labours.

Continuing squeezes on public expenditure mean that other organisations are not necessarily so secure and the charitable sector is having to take on more and more. Local authority cuts mean that free advice from planning officers, which had in the past contributed so much to keeping Bath looking good, is hard to come by. Bath Preservation Trust does, however, continue to offer such advice, both through our responses to planning applications and, more importantly, through our publications, website and daily responses to individual email and telephone enquiries. We do not seek to replace the local planning authority but we will always try to help as part of the public benefit we, as a charity, offer. Nobody pays us to do this and securing regular funding for this service is a priority to us in seeking donations and legacies.

Our theme for 2018 across our museums is a particular emphasis on women's suffrage and the contribution of women to the life and work of society as a whole and Bath in particular. With subjects ranging from Caroline Herschel, the first-ever salaried woman astronomer, through William Beckford's fascinating sisters and the Blue Stockings Society to some of the Trust's own twentieth century campaigning women, it is clear that there is a story to be told, and we are proud to tell this story in this special anniversary year.

We have plenty to be getting on with but that does not stop us listening to what you want to see from the Trust. In the meanwhile I hope we will meet or even exceed your expectations, with the support of our members, volunteers and staff.



## Caroline Kay

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

“We can see it now. Sane people in the year 2018 will be yearning for a return to simpler times and the ‘good old days’ of the 1970s.”

This was one newspaper's contemporaneous response to a 1968 publication by the American Foreign Policy Association “Toward the year 2018”. It was a publication which did well in predicting the internet, mobile phones and the decline in significance of manned space travel, but also got much wrong, as most futurology is doomed to do.

Unlike the reviewing newspaper, however, I should like to make a case for 2018 over the 1970s, at least in the world of building preservation. In Bath the 1970s started very badly, with the Sack of Bath in full swing and the new Bath Conservation Area, whose 50th anniversary we celebrate this year, not yet comprehensive enough or well enough established to protect the Georgian “artisan utility buildings”, which, for those that are left, change hands for so many hundreds of thousands of pounds today. Bath was not yet a World Heritage Site, and the threat of the Buchanan tunnel project still hung over Walcot and the inner city.

BPT in 2018 must aim to be an organisation for the twenty-first century, “treasuring the past and embracing the future”. The World Wide Web is one of our many tools for communication about what we do. We still love our print: this newsletter, our annual review and our Making Changes document, recently shortlisted for a national Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) Award, are testimony to that; but we also use email and comprehensive websites, have a growing online shop, sell tickets for events online and express ourselves daily on the social media of Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

These media must be used responsibly; included with the newsletter is a form about our privacy policy and how we communicate with you, which we would like members to complete and return to us. We have also used it to ask you a few questions about why you are a member, and what you seek from membership of this and other organisations. I do hope you will fill this in so that we can not only continue to be responsive to your needs but also create membership communications fit for the next generation.

Whatever your reason for membership, I do hope there is something in this newsletter of interest to you. Certainly true of 2018 is that there continues to be a lot going on in Bath and at BPT!

## COVER

THE RECREATION GROUND BY RICH STAPLETON

See page 4 for latest news on the Stadium for Bath and visit [www.stadiumforbath.com](http://www.stadiumforbath.com) for emerging details on the new home for Bath Rugby.

# Campaigning



## STADIUM FOR BATH

By the end of the year, the company Arena 1865, as agent for Bath Rugby, aims to submit a planning application for a permanent 18,000 capacity stadium, including community use and public space on the riverside. Grimshaw Architects have been appointed to lead the Stadium for Bath project to build “something exceptional” in the heart of the city. Representatives from BPT met the architects Kirsten Lees (lead partner) and Ben Heath (Principal) in January. We were presented with concepts around “Bath-ness” and seven design criteria, which now, at BPT’s request, include craftsmanship.

Their approach to the site was the creation of three “outdoor rooms”: 1. The Riverside (from Parade Gardens and the Colonnades, over the river to a new active frontage for the stadium set back from the river); 2. The Cauldron – the pitch; and 3. The Rec – the “left over” Recreation Ground open space with a frontage on the back of the east stand.

Within this there are some other key markers. Grimshaw Architects think they should aim for an “unashamedly modern” approach. They may align the centre of the pitch with Johnstone Street, to give more riverside space and to mediate the impact of height; introduce a fixed east side, but with much more of a “face” to the Recreation Ground; and look at the potential for a new bridge north of North Parade Bridge and crossing to Parade Gardens.

Grimshaw Architects have worked in Bath

with distinction in the past (Thermae Bath Spa) and more recently on the old Herman Miller building for Bath Spa University. This should make them fully aware of the sensitivity of Bath as a World Heritage City. We will continue to offer BPT’s long-term knowledge of Bath and its significant historic environment to ensure that the development brief that comes forward fully takes into account the constraints and challenges of the Recreation Ground site. We are also working on our own assessment of important views within and around the Recreation Ground so that we can make a proper evaluation of the impact.

Throughout 2017 we offered expert advice to the project team on context, landscape, heritage, designations, policy and design considerations. There will be considerable information to be studied in the emerging development brief, concept designs and development planning and any planning application. We will wish to be assured that the design of a stadium has responded to the specific qualities of Bath, the historic environment and the landscape setting of the Recreation Ground and will be built to sufficient quality for the centre of the World Heritage Site.

We will reserve our final formal position until any detailed design and planning application is in the public domain, and following review by our Architecture & Planning Committee, BPT’s own experienced Planning & Conservation Officer and Trustees.

## COMMUNITY CONSERVATION

We are pleased to report a brilliant response from our members and volunteers to our request for help with assessing the character of the Lower Lansdown and Camden area. Responses will inform our work, which will feed into a new Bath City-Wide Conservation Area Character Appraisal. We have received 22 written responses, comments and surveys.

The top five concerns from the community relate to:

- 1 Inappropriate/unsympathetic development;
- 2 Traffic and parking;
- 3 Loss of independent shops;
- 4 Loss/damage to historic fabric;
- 5 Housing mix – increase of short-term housing (Airbnb) and student lets.

The issues will be identified in the appraisal along with the appropriate opportunities to enhance the area. We extend a big thank you to all who have contributed and participants will be invited to review the work as it progresses.



2018 marks the 50th anniversary of the Bath City-wide Conservation Area, which was designated in 1968. Please sign up to our e-newsletters and check our website for details of Civic Day activities and other events to celebrate this anniversary.

## SKYLINE STOREYS

Bath is a World Heritage Site of global significance. The attributes that define its status do not just relate to the built city. The landscape setting and the appearance of the city within the “green bowl” is of equal importance to the Roman remains, the eighteenth century town planning and neo-classical architecture. The maintenance of the appearance of the city within the hollow of the hills, or the green bowl, and the trees and woodlands which populate the skyline are vital to the sustainability of the World Heritage Site designation. In recent years we have seen development appearing on some parts of the undeveloped skyline which is damaging the sense of Bath within its green bowl and harming the special landscape character of the city within its landscape setting.

Each of the plots along Granville Road tells a similar story. Since 2005 single-storey bungalows on each plot have been demolished and either replaced with up to five new houses on each site, or permission exists for the land to be developed in the future. The consequences have been disastrous for the skyline, viewed from the valley,



as new two- to three-storey buildings with large expanses of glass and designs more suited to Sandbanks Beach than Bath have appeared over the green ridge, positioned to make the most of the panoramic views over Bath. The result is that half of Bath now has a view of these houses rather than the natural treeline which has to date surrounded the city.

Permissions were granted by the Local Planning Authority, who, having considered the potential effect on landscape character, and having consulted their own Landscape Officers, did not consider the impact harmful enough to warrant refusal. BPT’s questioning of this has given rise to reassurances that future planning

decisions would take account of cumulative detrimental impact.

We are now focussing our attention on mitigating harm and the possibilities of reducing the visual impact of these developments. We will be starting by asking the Local Planning Authority to check that each permission accords with the conditions which may have been attached to secure landscaping and boundary treatments and checking compliance.

BPT also remains concerned about other parts of the Bath Skyline, in particular at Foxhill/Mulberry Park, where new residential development is proposed.

## PLANNING FOR LOCAL HOUSING

BPT has submitted comments on two important consultations which consider housing numbers and associated spatial strategy for B&NES and the wider region. The Joint West of England Plan attempts to find solutions to the very large housing need across the region and demonstrates an alarming current shortfall in affordable housing. The B&NES Core Strategy Review is an update of the existing local plan, reappraising housing needs.

The key messages BPT has put across are:

- 1 That market-led student housing should not go on land suitable for other purposes and there should be control of the type of student housing built so it meets actual student needs rather than being only for the richer overseas market;
- 2 That better ways of ensuring delivery of affordable housing should be found in order to resist calls for over-provision of market housing and ever-expanding use of greenfield/green belt land;
- 3 That both plans fail to properly address the “duty to cooperate” in relation to the spill-over of Bath’s housing and transport market area into West Wilts and Mendip.

B&NES will be consulting on the next stages of the process in summer 2018 and we will report back in our autumn newsletter.



## SYDNEY GARDENS MASTERPLAN

The HLF grant project team for the regeneration of Sydney Gardens consulted on their masterplan for the gardens in late 2017 and the Trust was pleased to be able to offer some observations and advice on their plans (which will form part of their stage 2 grant bid in summer this year). We were largely supportive of plans to create a play space on the current tennis courts (leaving courts elsewhere on the site) with a new café. Our main focus was on the options for repairing and restoring the heritage assets within the park (the Edwardian toilets, boundary railings and temple buildings) and we urged the team to fully engage with all the heritage considerations of this Georgian pleasure ground as well as the exciting new spaces being delivered. We were disappointed that the poor and vandalised condition of the Victorian railway structures within the park – “the theatre of rail” as created by Brunel – were largely ignored in the masterplan; we understand that these are outside the scope of the project but we will still urge the team to have constructive talks with Network Rail.

EMMA BRIDGEWATER

## Dotty about Bath

Polka-dot pottery designer, business woman and President of Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) will be giving a public talk at a joint fundraising event for BPT and CPRE in Bath on World Heritage Day (18 April 2018). Emma’s mission at CPRE is to encourage continuing development on suitable brownfield sites and so help to drive the dynamism that development will bring to our towns and cities – and in doing so protect our countryside. Details of how to book tickets will be announced shortly. Please do keep an eye on our e-news, website and social media.

 World Heritage Day  
18 April 2018

## INSTA STORY

We have recently joined Instagram as a way of communicating our news and events using appealing imagery to activate and contribute to debate. We already have over 1000 followers. If you are inspired to follow us sign up via your smart phone or go to [www.instagram.com/bath\\_preservation\\_trust](http://www.instagram.com/bath_preservation_trust) to keep track of our activities.



## School Scandal

The former King Edwards School, Broad Street, was vandalised recently with the front door being kicked in. This instigated some welcome local publicity for this neglected building, including a statement from Caroline Kay calling for the owners of the building (Samuel Smith Brewery) to stop “sitting on” the building and to start the works to repair and convert it into the “pub with rooms”, for which planning permission was given in 2009 (this permission is still extant due to a couple of conditions being discharged following a renewal of permission in 2014). We sincerely hope that this important building can soon be brought back into active use as this is the best way to secure its ongoing conservation. We have urged robust efforts by B&NES’ Historic Environment team and strategic intervention to get the owner to focus on the building. It is understood that Local Planning Authority have a meeting arranged with a representative from Samuel Smith in the near future and we will urge them to put any outcomes in the public domain.

### YOUR MATTERS

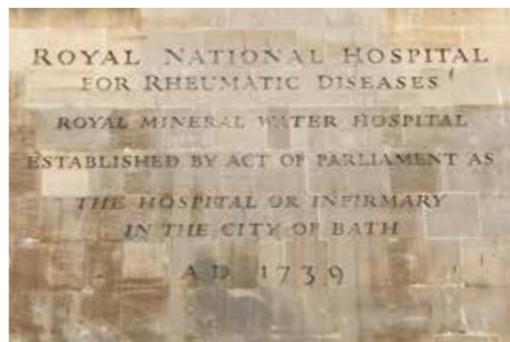
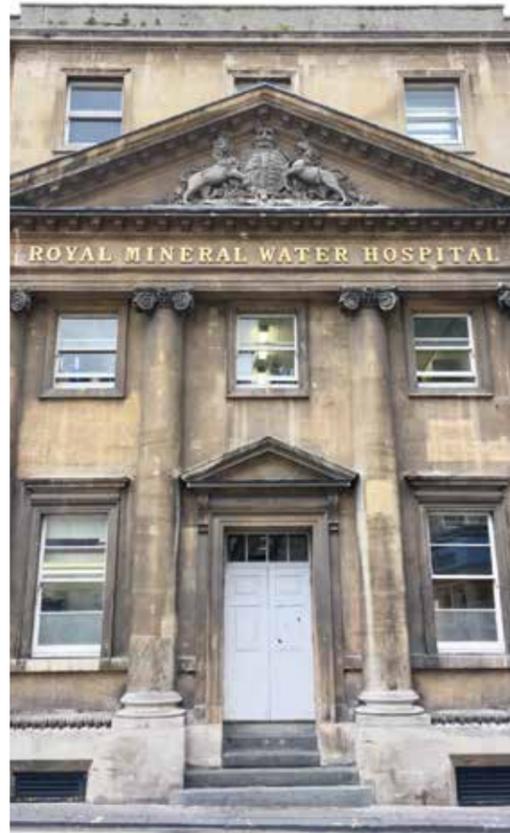
#### Email from a member

“Devastating news for the city of Bath that our ‘Royal Min’ has been sold to private residential developers after 300 years of serving patients. Funds were raised over many years by Beau Nash in the 18thC to create a mineral water hospital in this spa town, built by John Wood and Ralph Allen, to serve the local poor and the visiting wealthy unhealthy. Now, BANES council has thwarted applications and bids to keep this as a Community Asset, which could have been for all manner of local uses for the arts, history, public, retail, but instead it will be ripped apart internally to create so-called luxury executive flats which will no doubt sit empty in the middle of our biggest retail area, for most of the time. BANES think it is ‘not useful enough’ to keep public. Can we as a community save it? Its social and cultural importance surely can transcend the sad outcome of making money for developers and losing part of Bath’s spa offering? Some ideas for a better use are: library, studios and treatment rooms, nice public areas with museum and a much-needed home for a central police counter and office, smart retail, artistic workshop spaces and practise rooms, office space, extra public records space and facilities, visitor left luggage storage, a shoppers crèche for children; a combination of many of these would fit its size and location. Once we’ve sold off our assets, we can’t get them back!!!”

Lucy Simon via Instagram

#### Trust response

Lucy, we wholeheartedly agree with you that the Min is a city treasure, both as a grade II\* listed building over a Scheduled Ancient Monument and for its social history, which should be sensitively conserved for future generations. We took a lead role in the team that put forward a detailed proposal to B&NES to register the building as a community asset. Our vision for the building was similar to yours in that, in partnership with a sympathetic private developer, a diverse range of community-focused uses could be included within the buildings. As you mention this was disappointingly refused by B&NES. We are keen to make representations to the buyer (Versant Developments) asking them to engage early with BPT, Historic England and B&NES’s Historic Environment team once the sale goes through to discuss the building and his plans and we will be keeping a very close watch on developments.



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



### Sulis Down

In response to a revised application we welcome that Derryman’s Field (not released from the green belt) is to have no use beyond open green space and additional landscaping proposals, would strengthen a green suburban character. Regrettably, further work to the masterplan has not gone far enough and we do not regard it as comprehensive. We are concerned that the allotments and recreation areas have now been moved to a field earmarked for agriculture, again opening up the risk of urbanising more open land. The scheme, for 173 houses on land released from the green belt, is designed by Ben Pentreath in a “garden suburb” arts and crafts style. Whilst we are comfortable with design we are continuing to object to this phase 1 application on the basis that the absence of a comprehensive masterplan is contrary to policy. We believe the entire site should be planned in detail to protect against overdevelopment of the site and further loss of green belt land.

### Bath Quays North

We have commented on the outline planning permission currently being sought by B&NES Council for mixed-use, high-quality office development on the Bath Quays North site. The redevelopment of the Avon Street car park site brings the potential for significant public benefits. In particular, in the local context, high-quality development would repair a fragmented townscape, reconnect the riverside to the city, and create new homes and public realm, employment and leisure opportunities. The historic Broad Quay area provides a unique opportunity for the former industrial nature of the site and historic street pattern to inform future development.

The Trust has been closely involved in stakeholder sessions reviewing developing plans, and we have been impressed with the

consultative approach of the project team from B&NES and architects Allies & Morrison and the extensive research work undertaken to understand the site context, constraints and opportunities.

The Trust has commented favourably on large parts of the scheme and expressed concerns about heights. We were extremely concerned to learn of the lack of affordable housing provision in the scheme but understand that efforts are being made to secure this.

### Allen Building

The new owners of the Bath College Allen Building on James Street West have recently submitted an application to demolish the current 1980s building and build a new boutique hotel in its place. We objected to the scale, height and massing of the scheme. We also questioned whether Bath needed another hotel rather than important employment space or residential units.

### Mulberry Phase 2

Too high! Was our immediate concern regarding the proposals for phase 2 of Mulberry Park (ex MOD Foxhill) which includes “landmark” buildings fronting the new park at the south of the site overlooking the city. In our strong objection we stated that the six-storey flat-roofed buildings are too high, and the “could be anywhere” design and detail appears alien to the character of phase 1, the local area and the wider city. Orange coloured brick and large expanses of a grey cladding material also added to the sense of departure from context. Our primary concern is that these buildings will overtop and urbanise the wooded ridge that overlooks the city, which specifically links to the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site – the green rim of the bowl of the city. We very much hope the

planning officers will ask Curo to return to the drawing board with this scheme.

### Student accommodation

We were dismayed to learn of proposals to erect a bulky student accommodation scheme on the site of the Cricket Club car park on North Parade. The subsequent planning application gave us no comfort. The proposed use is unacceptable in the context of a housing shortage in Bath, and we also we felt that the scale, height and massing of the scheme was too great for the site and too dominant and imposing in the townscape. A strong objection was submitted.

Yet more student accommodation is proposed in Twerton. An application was received in autumn 2017 for a student block on the site of the Jubilee Centre near the Weston Lock Bus Depot. Again we felt the student accommodation use was unjustifiable on a site more suited to key workers needing housing. The scheme was in our opinion too high, and of a scale and massing that dominated and overdeveloped the small site and harmed the amenity and character of the riverside and the local street scene. We were pleased to learn recently that this application has been refused.

### Green belt threats

Two applications of note recently have threatened the green belt to the east of Bath. Network Rail applied for a railway “yard” on a site adjacent to the line on the valley floor in Bathampton. This is a highly sensitive site with specific ecological interest and environmental constraints, including difficult access and nearby heritage assets. Network Rail has withdrawn the application and now states that the scheme is permitted development under national transport infrastructure planning law. Recently the site of Bathford Nurseries has come under some controversy as the owner of the site put forward an application to develop the site for eight houses. The Trust objected, expressing concern regarding the intensified use of a green belt site which would affect the openness of the green belt and have a harmful impact on the local landscape character and nearby Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB). We were pleased to learn at the time of going to press that the application has been refused.

The Trust will keep a close watch on both sites and will consider our next steps to try to help prevent harmful developments.

# No.1 Royal Crescent



KATY JANE AS ELIZABETH MONTAGU AND LIZZIE CRARER AS MARY BLATHWAYT AT NO.1 ROYAL CRESCENT

## EXHIBITION:

# Women and Protest in Bath

Exhibition continues until 1 January 2019

What would the eighteenth century founder of the Blue Stockings Society talk to a twentieth century Bath suffragette about? This was the question we posed to Alison Farina from Butterfly Psyche Theatre Company when we commissioned a new piece of theatre for No.1 Royal Crescent this year. The idea was inspired by the lives of bluestocking Elizabeth Montagu, one time resident of the Royal Crescent, and suffragette Mary Blathwayt of Eagle House in Batheaston. Alison's response is *Temples of Minerva*, a brilliant piece of theatre in which the two women discuss the politics and protest of their respective times. The live performance of the piece was filmed and can be seen projected in the setting of a salon we have created in the Brownsword Exhibition Gallery at No.1.

The process of creating the piece has been fascinating, and Alison and the two actors Katy Jane (Elizabeth Montagu) and Lizzie Crarer (Mary Blathwayt) undertook significant archival research. The dialogue in the play is based on the original letters of Elizabeth Montagu in the Bath Reference Library collection and Mary Blathwayt's journals, which are in the Gloucester Record Office. Mary's journals in particular reveal the amount of hard work she did running the Bath branch of the Women's Social and Political Union and how that tireless administration has been overlooked in favour of the more headline-grabbing forms of protest.

This idea of quiet yet powerful protest inspired us to look further at the history of Bath Preservation Trust itself, and think about the women who have played a vital role in the saving and protecting of the city. Through research, photographs and surveys, Ruth Coard, Lesley Green-Armytage, Jean Pratt and Gillian Sladen created incredible archives that underpin our understanding of Bath. They may not have been shouting the loudest during periods of demolition and threat to Bath's architectural heritage, but like Mary Blathwayt, their dedication and hard work is fundamental to the work we do today.

Celebrating these women in 2018 is the ideal way to mark the centenary of women getting the vote and being able to stand for parliament. The exhibition can be seen at No.1 Royal Crescent until 1 Jan 2019 and is generously sponsored by Rotorok.

## SHOPS

2018 sees a new look for the No.1 Royal Crescent shop after some impressive work with an external retail consultant. The display area has also been increased by incorporating the window sills which are currently used for Carole Waller scarves and BPT membership gift packs. We are also looking into an opportunity to work with another consultant to develop our product selections and retail lines.

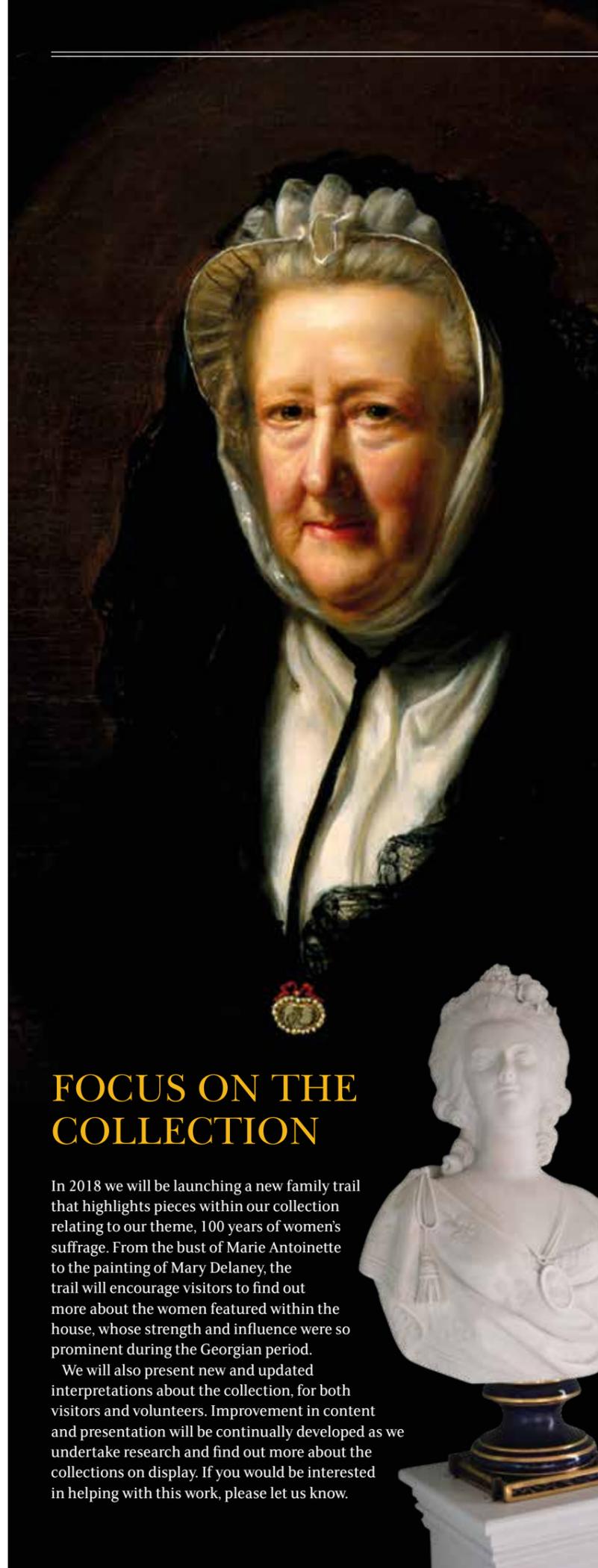
In line with the 2018 programming theme 100 years of women's suffrage, we will be stocking relevant products, including some suffragette products and feminist literature. As always, members are very welcome in our shop – we hope you will visit to see what is new in 2018 and think of us when you need that perfect gift for someone special, which will also provide financial support so that BPT can continue its great work in the city.

## VOLUNTEERS

In 2018 we welcome back all of our returning volunteers to No. 1. The volunteer room has been revamped and new coffee machines are making very good coffee from bean to cup! This year we are committed to increased recruitment of new volunteers and the success of our recent open days has led us to make plans for some new drop-in sessions later in the year. We are working on new interpretation guides for those volunteering in the house rooms as well as delivering refresher sessions with the help of our guide mentors.

If you fancy coming along to see what it is like to volunteer, why not look out for an open day or contact us? If you already volunteer and have a friend who might be interested, why not bring them with you for one of your shifts so that they can see what you get up to? Please do let us know if you are interested in seeing what is involved or would like to bring someone along.

Please also look out for our new staff members, Lizzie Johansson-Hartley (Museum Manager) and Jayne Lister (Assistant Museum Administrator), who will work alongside Charlotte Tyler (Museum Administrator) and Julie Beaumont (Conservation Housekeeper).



## FOCUS ON THE COLLECTION

In 2018 we will be launching a new family trail that highlights pieces within our collection relating to our theme, 100 years of women's suffrage. From the bust of Marie Antoinette to the painting of Mary Delaney, the trail will encourage visitors to find out more about the women featured within the house, whose strength and influence were so prominent during the Georgian period.

We will also present new and updated interpretations about the collection, for both visitors and volunteers. Improvement in content and presentation will be continually developed as we undertake research and find out more about the collections on display. If you would be interested in helping with this work, please let us know.

## EVENTS

### Easter activities

24 March – 8 April  
The suffragettes made rosettes to convey their political message. Come and make your own version to show what's important to you.

### Making their Mark

From Easter 2018  
Children will be able to complete a free trail around the house and exhibition gallery called Making their Mark. Find out more about women who, over 300 years of history, have stood up as individuals with their own opinions. Some are controversial, such as Queen Marie Antoinette of France, some are less well known, like Ruth Coard, but all have taken a stand for what they believed in.

### Twilight Tours

#### A Georgian House by Candlelight

First Friday of every month, commencing 6 April  
A rare chance to visit the museum at night, on these tours our costumed guides will show you the house and bring it to life with their stories. Our shop will also be open for these special events. Tickets £16

### World Heritage Day

#### Event

Sunday, 22 April  
A free annual celebration of Bath's special World Heritage Site status and a great opportunity to discover more about Bath's heritage. No. 1's costumed interpreters will give regular talks and handling sessions inside the house. On the lawn outside No. 1, astronomers from the Herschel Museum of Astronomy will give visitors a chance to use a solar telescope. Fun family activities with a space theme will also be available, plus the chance to dress up as William and Caroline Herschel, the famous Georgian astronomers. The Mayor of Bath's Honorary Guides will be leading regular guided tours along the Royal Crescent throughout the day. The Ermine Street Guard will set up a Roman camp on the lawn.

#### Coming soon

Look out for weekly conservation-in-action sessions and find out how we take care of this special house, maybe even taking some tips away to try in your own home. Also, our costumed interpreters will be bringing the house to life with stories and characters in rooms throughout the house once a month. Details about these new activities will be on our website once they are up and running.

EXHIBITION:

# Building memory

AT THE MUSEUM OF BATH ARCHITECTURE

 The exhibition will be at the Museum of Bath Architecture from 14 April until 25 November.



The architectural language of monuments and memorials has a particular power, which, when used well can create strong emotional responses in those who encounter it. It is this form of design that we are exploring during 2018 at MoBA in the exhibition *Building Memory: the Architecture of Death and Burial in Bath* to mark both the centenary of partial suffrage for women and the end of the First World War.

The creation of Victorian cemeteries, funerary monuments and chapels forms an introduction to the way this language of commemoration developed in Bath. The nineteenth century saw the celebration of death through elaborate tombs and substantial structures. It was a celebration matched by the obelisks and columns designed to commemorate particular events or personalities, although many, such as Henry Edmund Goodridge's proposed Reform Column in Laura Place, were never built.

Elaborate celebrations took on a far more sombre and austere form in the twentieth century when the aftermath of the First World War led to a new approach to the design of monuments. In Bath it saw an early example of public design in Robert Atkinson's unbuilt memorial pylons designed as part of the 1916 Bath Improvement Scheme plus the appearance of Commonwealth War Graves in cemeteries across the city and the eventual creation of Bath's First World War memorial. Strong, enduring and permanently carved in stone, these memorials are a marked contrast to how the women who campaigned for the right to vote were commemorated at Eagle House in Batheaston.

Between 1909 and 1912 the Blathwayt family opened up Eagle House to suffragettes recovering from imprisonment or exhaustion. These women and their fellow campaigners were honoured with tree planting ceremonies in the grounds of the house. The tree planting was soon joined by various flowers, with pathways laid out and a summerhouse built. In the creation of this arboretum, a different kind of memorial was formed, one that was based on nature with monuments that would grow and change as time passed. Now built over with most of the trees removed, the Suffragettes' Wood is one of the great lost spaces of Bath, yet it remains in memory through the wonderful photographs that survive.

We hope in the centenary year Building Memory will reveal to our visitors how the celebration of great lives and commemoration of tragic loss have produced some of Bath's most individual and often forgotten structures and spaces.

The exhibition will be at the Museum of Bath Architecture from 14 April until 25 November.

## ARCHIVES



In February we welcomed the archive volunteers back after a winter break. Our new Assistant Curator, Izzy Wall, will be working with them to develop the archive content. The team will continue to catalogue archive items and we are looking to promote the archive as a public research tool much more widely this year. It is also very exciting to be planning for the BPT campaigning team moving to the School House, where they will be much closer to the archive, opening up opportunities, linking public engagement with our campaigns and the archive, and vice versa.



## MoBA ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR 2018

As part of the recent *Architecture under the Lens* exhibition, sponsored by Aaron Evans Architects, we will be launching the 2018 MoBA Architectural Photographer of the Year competition. A national competition open to photographers of all abilities and split into an adult (20 years old and above) and a junior (up to 20 years old) category. The entries will open on 2 April and close on 2 November 2018. A panel of judges will select nine runners-up from each category and one winner from each. The images from these will make up an exhibition at MoBA in 2019.



## EVENTS

### Din Ghani Concert

 12 April, 6.30pm  
Traditional lute performance – engaging, entertaining, even educational concerts of sixteenth/seventeenth century music for voice(s) with various combos of lute, archlute, vihuela and bass viol. 6.30pm. Tickets £12.

### Building Memories Exhibition

 14 April  
The new exhibition *Building Memories: the Architecture of Death and Burial in Bath* will open.

### Dr Amy Frost Architecture course

 From 17 April  
Join Dr Amy Frost on a five-week course exploring the development of British architecture from Inigo Jones, through the Baroque of Wren to the Classicism of the eighteenth century. Sessions will include illustrated talks, walks, refreshments, discussions and access to the Museum of Bath Architecture's collection of rare British architectural books.

### Scordatura Women's Music Collective Concert

 9 May  
A mixed chamber ensemble dedicated to performing music written by women. Their repertoire reaches back to the sixteenth century and also encompasses contemporary and world music. They are committed to promoting music written by women who have been unfairly neglected, supporting and performing current composers and to inspiring the next generation of women to compose. 6.30pm £10 advance, £12 on the door.

### Catherine Lee Concert (PICTURED LEFT)

 19 May  
Cellist, Catherine Lee's eclectic performing style follows a mix of German, Russian and French tradition. 6.30pm £12 (pay bar).

### Monday Players Concert

 13 June  
Monday Players will be playing works for wind quintet by Gordon Jacob, Percy Grainger and Claude Debussy with an emphasis on late romantic and early twentieth century English and French repertoire. 6.30pm £8 advance, £10 on the door.

For more information please visit [museumofbatharchitecture.org.uk](http://museumofbatharchitecture.org.uk) or call 01225 333895

# Beckford's Tower and Museum

## EXHIBITION: **THE BECKFORD WOMEN**



MARIA BECKFORD, WILLIAM BECKFORD'S MOTHER, BY BENJAMIN WEST 1799. IMAGE, ANDREW W. MELLON COLLECTION, NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART WASHINGTON.

Throughout his long life William Beckford was surrounded by a collection of fascinating women who played vital roles in both reality and fiction. His mother's religious piety and controlling nature had a deep-rooted and long-lasting effect on him. It was perhaps the lack of more tender motherly affection that led Beckford to form a strong attachment to Lady Catherine Hamilton, first wife of his second cousin Sir William Hamilton. It was certainly Lady Catherine's advice that he seemed to pay more attention during his youth when his sexuality first began to pose potential problems in society.

It is, however, Beckford's half-sister Elizabeth Hervey who has come increasingly into focus in recent years. William's letters and writings illustrate how he respected and ridiculed Elizabeth Hervey, but both sides of the relationship are now been revealed through the discovery of her journals (not lost, but just not really known about). Elizabeth Hervey was the author of six novels published between 1788 and 1814, the last of which was published under her own name. This year, thanks to Chawton House library, we will be displaying first editions of all but one of her works at Beckford's Tower. The books will form part of the display *The Beckford Women*, which explores the lives, loves and losses of the women who influenced and were influenced by Beckford.



REBECCA FAITH PHOTOGRAPHY

## WWWEDDINGS

Beckford's Tower continues to host weddings and this year we have launched our offers on some new websites and are getting involved in local wedding fayres. If you know someone looking for a very special venue to match their very special day, please suggest that they contact us or take a look at our website.

## EVENTS

### Helena Kelly

'She writes novels': Beckford's big sister and 18th century fiction

 10 May  
Helena Kelly (author of Jane Austen, the Secret Radical) reveals the literary work of Beckford's half-sister Elizabeth Hervey and her fellow women novelists during the late 18th century. 6.30pm. £7.



### Beckford Book Group

*The Mysteries of Udolpho*, Ann Radcliffe

 7 June  
For our summer session we are delighted to be discussing *The Mysteries of Udolpho* by Ann Radcliffe. Ann was a highly paid and very influential author in her time, and her works have inspired countless Gothic novels throughout the years. 7pm. £5 on the door, includes homemade cakes and tea/coffee.

### Sidney Blackmore

'The Three Ladies Hamilton'

 28 June  
Through his mother, William Beckford was related to the noble Hamilton family. Sidney Blackmore, Secretary of the Beckford Society, examines the lives of three Hamilton women: the two wives of Sir William Hamilton, diplomat and antiquary; and Lady Anne Hamilton, friend of Queen Caroline and guardian of Beckford's daughters. 6.30 pm. £7.

## VOLUNTEERS

Beckford's Tower is currently recruiting for volunteer guides. Our enthusiastic and friendly team work in pairs and do half-day weekend shifts when the museum is open to the public. Perks include access to the Tower library and an annual trip to the estate and remains of Fonthill Abbey. For more information email Courtney Fleming, Administrator, at tower@bptrust.org.uk.

EXHIBITION:

# THE WONDER WOMEN OF SPACE

Open 24 March 2018 to 1 January 2019



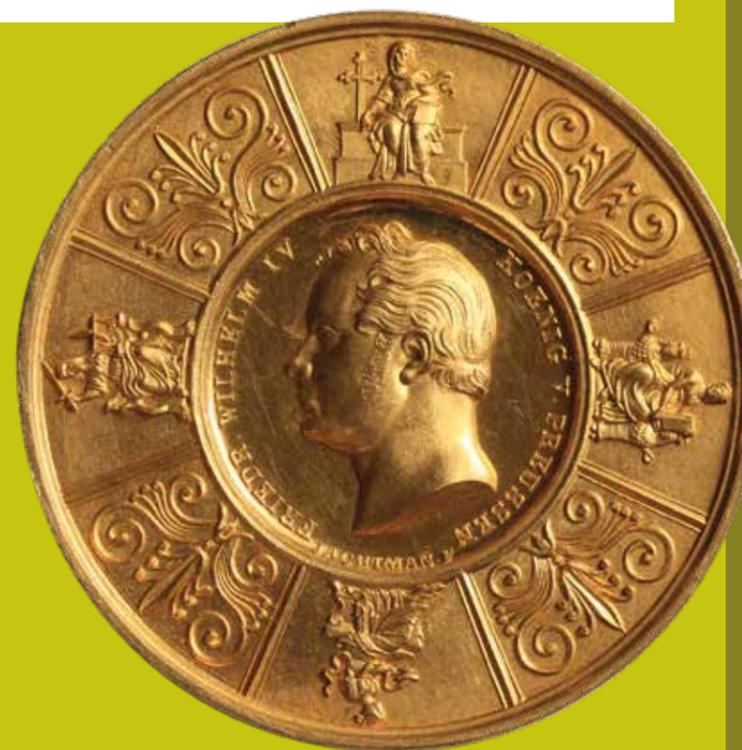
In the early 1940s, when the comic *Wonder Women* was first created, it was intended to create a role model for girls to counterbalance the male characters that were defining comic books. From the very first issue it included a series of illustrated biographies called “The Wonder Women of History” that included inspirational real-life women such as Florence Nightingale, Helen Keller and Hester Stanhope. Issue 51, published in January 1952, starred Caroline Herschel and it is from this comic, one of the many treasures of the Herschel Museum collection, that this year’s exhibition *The Wonder Women of Space* takes its inspiration.

Caroline is extremely highly regarded today owing to her success in claiming a rightful place in scientific circles through passion and dedication during times when intelligence in women was frequently disregarded. So, this year we asked four women astrophysicists, astronomers and engineers to share with us their favourite object in the museum.

Through their choices Luke Lucas, from the European Space Agency, student and amateur astronomer and blogger Chrissy Mitchell, Prof. Carole Mundell from the University of Bath and Hanny van Arkel, discoverer of Hanny’s voorwerp (a green object in space), reveal what inspires them about Caroline. Just like the historic women heroes heralded by the comic books, *The Wonder Women of Space* will celebrate modern-day role models and how they are changing the way we see the world, and beyond.

## ACROSS ALL MUSEUMS VOLUNTEER OPEN DAYS

In January we held our first two Volunteer Open Days of the year; we were supported by a wealth of guides, who in turn took our visitors around the house. Their experience was a more unusual one with the collection either carefully packed away or protected by a sea of tissue paper as staff and volunteers carry out our winter maintenance programme. We were supported by our Campaigning Team and BPT representatives and despite the weather being wet and windy we had a good turnout, from which a number have signed up to volunteer. We plan to run more Volunteer Open Days throughout the year, this time for those interested in becoming a volunteer with all aspects of our work.



## Good as gold

One of the more significant objects in the Herschel Museum collection is Caroline Herschel’s Gold Medal of Science awarded by the King of Prussia. She received the medal in 1846 at the age of 96 in recognition of her “valuable services rendered to Astronomy”. The medal symbolises the respect and acknowledgement of her life’s work in astronomy and was one of many awards and memberships into scientific institutions she received, including becoming an honorary fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. Her niece Lady Herschel wrote on the occasion that the medal showed “how little chance you have of being forgotten” with regard to her work and discoveries.

CAROLINE HERSCHEL'S GOLD MEDAL FOR SCIENCE FROM THE KING OF PRUSSIA, 1846

## EVENTS

### *The Wonder Women of Space* Exhibition

2018 Running throughout the 2018 season is a series of lectures and talks corresponding to *The Wonder Women of Space* exhibition and a number of astronomical observing sessions from the museum garden. Full details are on the museum’s website.

### Dr Emily Winterburn Talk

5 April Caroline Herschel and the nearly all male world of eighteenth century science. An evening talk by Dr Emily Winterburn, academic, author and former Curator of Astronomy at Royal Observatory Greenwich. Based on her book, she will consider Caroline Herschel and her various tactics for encouraging support for her work in astronomy. William Herschel Society Lecture at Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, Queen Square, 7.30pm. £4.

### Solar Observing at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy

21 June Take part in daytime astronomy on the day of the summer solstice from the very garden the planet Uranus was discovered in 1781. 10.30am – 2pm. Free with museum admission.

### An evening discussion with Luke Lucas ESA Spacecraft Operations Engineer

7 September Luke Lucas, Engineer for Herschel Planck Telescopes and Mars Express joins Charles Draper, Chairman of the William Herschel Society. Luke and Charles meet in person to discuss her career and the future of engineering in space. William Herschel Society Lecture at Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, Queen Square. 7.30pm. £4.

## VOLUNTEERS

This year we will be working with our volunteers to develop more stargazing opportunities, both at the museum and in the local area. As well as our museum volunteers, we will be working closely with members of both the William Herschel Society and Bath Astronomers groups, to develop our programme. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their help with this work and are very excited to engage visitors with this important part of the story of William and Caroline Herschel.

# Learning and Community Engagement

## Family activities

No.1 in the year ahead will focus on the themes of our Women's Suffrage 100: Freedom & Fight in Bath exhibition. These will include the chance to create badges and posters for the issues our visitors care about and culminate in October with an opportunity to help staff decorate a giant banner celebrating the people who help to keep Bath a special and beautiful city. Families can also follow a free Making their Mark trail exploring dynamic and independent women such as Sarah Siddons, the eighteenth century actress, who features in our collection.



No.1's EXHIBITION FEATURES A FILM



BATH SPA DRAMA STUDENTS AT THE HERSCHEL

## Community engagement projects

In 2018 these will also explore the exhibition's themes through art and photography. The Snap and Stroll group, in partnership with Creativity Works, will visit the sites which are recorded in Lesley Green-Armytage's photographs, while the FreshArt@ project will produce mixed-media work for display in local NHS wards. At the Museum of Bath Architecture, families will continue to be offered a wide range of challenges using special Architecture Lego™ to stimulate budding designers and engineers.

The Herschel Museum continues to draw visitors keen to learn about William and Caroline Herschel's remarkable careers. A recent visit by a project team from Slough made an interesting link to their lives after they left Bath. Run by Creative Junction & Slough Museum, the project encourages local residents to connect with their famous former residents. Plans have been made to continue our collaboration. In the meantime, Bath Spa University Drama students are due to make a film about female astronomers this Easter, and special NASA themed space Lego™ will be on offer to families during the school holidays.



SNAP AND STROLL  
'MY VIEWS' PROJECT



KAREN POWER

## New staff

Karen Power began working as Learning and Engagement Assistant in November. She is involved in all aspects of the BPT's learning programme from running school workshops to designing family activities. Her career to date includes achieving an MA in Heritage Management from Bath Spa University and her enthusiasm for her new role will help ensure BPT's learning offer gets bigger and better.

# World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund

# STAR SIGN

On the corner of George Street and Miles's Buildings is the still legible advertisement for the wares of a Georgian shop; this was revealed in 2013 when render came away from the wall surface during renovations. The style of lettering dates the sign to the eighteenth century and it may be the earliest of its kind in Bath. The best methods for conserving the lettering, the exciting prospect of possibly revealing more of the advertisement, and ways of protecting this historic gem for the future are being explored. Consultation with stone conservators, the owners of the building, and the planning department Conservation Officers, is underway.



## LIGHTING THE WAY

For five years the residents of Sydney Buildings have been working to improve the quality of their street lights. The historic design chosen as most appropriate is the cast crown lantern, the first electrical lamp holder to be widely used throughout Bath, including in Sydney Buildings, from 1910 onwards. An original lantern, belonging to Simon Emery, has provided the mould for the lamps, to be illuminated by a newly developed LED light sympathetic to Bath stone. The lanterns will soon be installed, thanks to contributions from the residents and the Council street lighting team; the WHEF funded the production of the lantern mould, which can be used for future projects.

# Members

Peta Hall, in her new role as Members' Social Adviser, following her retirement at Christmas, has yet again managed to put together a marvellous set of summer tours for 2018, which are generating good bookings. All tours are special private openings for BPT members only, except for the visit to Stowe Gardens, which is National Trust (NT), but here we also have a private tour of Stowe House. Below is a summary of the tours but if you would like any more information please contact Jan Hull or Jane Ferguson at BPT on 01225 338727.

## Trust Tours 2018

**BARFORD PARK**, Bridgwater, Somerset  
Wednesday, 9 May 2018  
Dep. Bath 12.15 – return approx. 18.00  
Barford lies in parkland in the rural setting of Enmore in Somerset, is Grade II listed and presents itself as a small early- to mid-eighteenth century Baroque country house.  
Cost: £36 per person

**STOCKTON HOUSE**, near Wylde, Wiltshire  
Thursday, 24 May 2018  
Dep. Bath 13.00 – return approx. 18.30  
A return visit to this magnificent Wiltshire estate, owned by entrepreneur Nick Jenkins, who has spent several years painstakingly restoring this property with great attention to detail. Cost: £38 per person

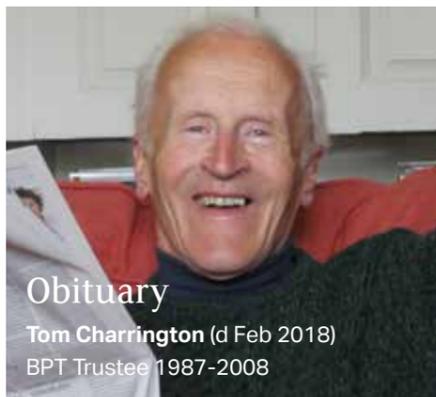
**STOWE GARDENS & STOWE SCHOOL**, Buckinghamshire Tuesday, 12 June 2018  
Dep. Bath 08.45 – return approx. 19.00  
A chance to look at the Capability Brown landscaped gardens (NT) before a private tour of the magnificent Stowe School led by the leading Stowe experts – House Custodian, Anna McEvoy, and Chief Executive of Stowe Preservation Trust, Nick Morris. Cost: £46 (NT members) or £55 (non-NT) per person

**WESTONBIRT HOUSE**, Westonbirt, Gloucestershire Thursday, 28 June 2018  
Dep. Bath 13.00 – return approx. 18.00  
Westonbirt House has been a girls' school since 1928, but from 1665 until then it was home to generations of the Holford family. The Italian garden was described by Sir Roy Strong as "one of England's best kept secrets". Cost: £40 per person

**CRICHEL HOUSE & PARK**, Wimborne, Dorset Tuesday, 11 September 2018  
Dep. Bath 11.30 – return approx. 19.00  
Cricchel stands on the site of a Jacobean predecessor that was burned down in 1742. The house was promptly rebuilt by 1747 for Sir William Napier, in English Baroque style. It has been described as "an unusual and fascinatingly complex" house, and we are very lucky to be allowed this private visit. Cost: £48 per person

*There are strict number limits for several of the tours so do book early!*

Contact [membership@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:membership@bptrust.org.uk) to make your booking.



## Obituary

**Tom Charrington** (d Feb 2018)  
BPT Trustee 1987-2008

Tom became a Trustee of BPT in 1987 and spent two years as Chair of the Membership Committee before becoming the founder Chair of the Environs Committee for 19 years. This Committee brings together the 14 rural parishes around the city, together with representation from CPRE. In Tom's time, there were some significant battles – about the A36/46 link, about the Fullers' Earth site and about inappropriate green belt development – to which he brought considerable energy, intelligence and campaigning zeal.

In his professional life Tom had been a solicitor and he brought a lawyer's forensic approach to the Trust's business. But what everyone really remembers is his charm, kindness and personability: it was a great shock to us all to hear of his unexpected death in February.

In the 2009 Annual Review as he stepped down from the Board, Tom exhorted the Trust, like Tennyson's Ulysses, "To strive, to seek, to find and not to yield". We will do our best.

## GARDEN PARTY FOR PRINCE CHARLES'S 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY

As an organisation with HRH The Prince of Wales as Patron, we have been invited to nominate five guests for a Garden Party for HRH's 70th birthday at Buckingham Palace on 22 May. The guests, we were told, should represent people who have made a "special contribution over time" to the organisation. Obviously all staff, volunteers, trustees and advisers all make a special contribution and so it was hard to select just five. We decided to take into account length of service with representatives from four areas of the Trust – museums, campaigning, volunteering and governance.



## Obituary

**Gillian Sladen** (d Dec 2017)  
BPT Trustee 1981-2009

Gillian's passion for the Georgian era and intense study of the city produced a bank of knowledge that was to prove inspirational for many people, particularly because Gillian was of such a generous nature that she shared what she had learned and did so with an infectious enthusiasm. Gillian coupled her information with physical hard work and turned information into tangible reality to the great benefit of BPT. She assembled a team of volunteers, plagued estate agents for access to empty houses and cajoled friends into allowing access to all parts of their own homes, so that every interior architectural and decorative surviving detail could be recorded in drawings, measurements and photographs. Over 350 houses all over the city were recorded and the resultant interiors archive (at the Museum of Bath Architecture) is there to help people restore and conserve properties for the future.

The gardens at the Herschel Museum and Beckford's Tower are more appropriate than they would otherwise have been and her efforts at the Baptist burial ground at Lyncombe were little short of heroic. Persuading the Trust to take it on, so preventing the Council using it for development, Gillian then set about clearing brambles and replanting with trees and shrubs with biblical connotations – the tree of heaven, the Judas tree, the devil's walking stick and the like with an under planting scheme of primrose, daffodils and bluebells – so producing an oasis of calm at any time but which in spring gives pleasure to thousands.

Bath Preservation Trust's standing as a fund of expert knowledge was immeasurably enhanced by having Gillian as a Trustee. It remains for the rest of us to perpetuate her insistence on thorough research and a commitment to getting it right.

*Michael Rowe*

# Fundraising & development

**MUSEUM OF BATH ARCHITECTURE**

**ARCHITECTURE UNDER THE LENS**  
an exhibition of architectural photography

10 Feb to 8 Apr  
Mon - Fri 1pm - 5pm  
Sat & Sun 10am - 5pm  
Bank Holidays - 10am - 5pm  
Last admission 30mins before closing

Admission:  
Adults £6.50  
Concessions £5.50  
Children £3.20  
Family £15.50  
Discovery card holders 50% off

sponsored by **AARON EVANS ARCHITECTS**

**BATH PRESERVATION TRUST**  
museumofbatharchitecture.org.uk

2018 marks two important centenaries which Bath Preservation Trust is celebrating. 100 years of women's suffrage and the end of the First World War are themes for a series of exhibitions and events at our museums. As a prelude to this we have a new exhibition at the Museum of Bath Architecture, which opened on 10 February. Architecture under the Lens, generously sponsored by Aaron Evans Architects, brings together a group of talented photographers from Bath and surrounding areas to display works which explore that intrinsic link between architecture and photography. There are some incredible images of Bath – do go and have a look before 8 April.

We continue to secure support through sponsorship of our other exhibitions and events and it is great to be working with the local business community. We are also fundraising for BPT's important campaigning work. This includes the redevelopment of the website and the provision of a proper searchable database for our campaigning and planning archive.

We have been generously supported in this work with a grant from The Hendy and Pendle Charitable Trust and from an anonymous donor and work on our new website is underway.

BPT's campaigning role continues to expand and we are planning a move to the Old School House, next to the Museum of Bath Architecture, which will enable us to respond to the increasing number of planning enquiries. We have been seeking funding for the renovation of the Old School House and our relocation and the project has been generously supported with a grant from the Medlock Charitable Trust. We have other applications pending.

As with all our work, the support we receive from donors, trusts, sponsors and our members is vital – please consider if you are able to help us in any way.

For more information contact Jan Hull, Development Officer [jhull@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:jhull@bptrust.org.uk)



BATH  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST



OWEN BENSON

[bath-preservation-trust.org.uk](http://bath-preservation-trust.org.uk)  
[admin@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@bptrust.org.uk)  
+44 (0)1225 338 727

We are a membership organisation  
and a registered charity.  
Registered office:  
The Bath Preservation Trust Limited  
1 Royal Crescent, Bath BA1 2LR  
Registered in England no. 294789  
Charity no. 203048

Design: [piersanddominic.com](http://piersanddominic.com)  
Print: [emtone.co.uk](http://emtone.co.uk)