



BATH PRESERVATION TRUST

Issue number 80 | Winter 2014



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Welcome

Message from the Chairman

I seem to have started most of my introductions to this newsletter over the years by saying that 'Bath is facing a period of great change'. As planning applications come forward for the MOD housing sites, more buildings go up on Western Riverside, Rossiter Road is reshaped and the flood defences receive their first makeover for 40 years, change really is under way.

At the Trust, we do not see this as a frightening or bad thing: we can, and do, object to certain changes, but the thrust of our activities over most of our existence has been to treasure the past, while embracing the future. Change is necessary for progress and improvement and we wish Bath to remain a beautiful and historic but also a living city. We have no plans to be twinned with Pompeii. Just as we have found at No. 1 Royal Crescent over the last year, even major change can be positive and revitalising.

This change is certainly going to create challenges for all of us in Bath in the coming months and years. There is still too little clarity about what good design should look like on major housing or commercial sites in the City, and perhaps too few unambiguous guidelines in relation to heights, materials and form given to developers by the Council. The Trust tries to contribute to these debates as well as considering individual planning applications, and we hope to engage our members in these discussions. If any member would like to play a more active role in our committees, particularly if you have planning, building surveying or development experience, do please let me know.

Meanwhile may I wish you all a jolly good remainder of 2014.

Edward Bayntun-Coward

Message from the Chief Executive

The conclusion of the Core Strategy process (after 5 years!) felt like 'won one, lost one' for the Trust, with housing ruled out in the Green Belt at Weston but permitted, albeit in a controlled manner, at South Stoke/Odd Down plateau. The Trust has been accused of not understanding that there is a housing problem in Bath because of opposing Green Belt developments. This is far from the truth; however we do believe that the qualities that make Bath special, one of which is its containment within green countryside, need preserving and protecting. Many sites are coming forward for housing development in Bath, notably the MOD sites; the Trust has supported these sites as housing, even if we have objected to elements of the plans.

More worrying is the trend for many of the brownfield sites within the City Centre (which had been earmarked for housing) being brought forward as commercial student accommodation. While purpose-built student flats can theoretically liberate family housing currently in student occupation, our concern is that once these sites are lost to student housing the opportunity is gone for housing young employed people.

Meanwhile in the other part of the Trust's forest our museums have had a strong summer and benefited from working in partnership with the Holburne and the American Museums in bringing in new audiences. We have seen high tourist numbers again, particularly from overseas visitors, and we will undoubtedly be looking to continue to refresh our museums' offers to keep attracting visitors. The experience of working in partnership has been a rewarding one and we intend to continue it.

However, some good things do come to an end. Tom Boden, who came to the Trust as a part time education officer 6 years ago and has grown and developed in the job to be Head of Museums, has recently left us to go to the National Trust as the general manager of its Bath properties. Tom has been a real asset to the Trust as well as a popular and talented colleague and we wish him very well in his new role.

Caroline Kay

Why a gift to us in your will is so important

Over the past 80 years the donations and legacies left to Bath Preservation Trust have included the remarkable gift of No. 1 Royal Crescent from Bernard Cayzer; the substantial legacies from doctors Elizabeth and Lesley Hilliard for Beckford's Tower and the Herschel Museum of Astronomy; and a recent legacy from a local gentleman who had admired our work. So if Bath has been a special place in your life then leaving a gift to BPT in your will is one way of ensuring this remarkable city and our museums are there to be enjoyed by future generations.

As we receive no public funding for core activities all gifts and bequests, however large or small, are essential. They are a vital part of our income and ensure we can continue our campaigning work to protect this historic city. They also help us manage our four museums and provide the means to run a highly successful and award winning education programme. The Trust will be very grateful for any contribution that you are able to make through a legacy.

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

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

If you would like a confidential discussion regarding leaving a legacy, or if you would like further details, please contact Jan Hull, Development Officer or Caroline Kay, Chief Executive on **01225 338727** or write to the Trust offices at 1 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LR.

Bath Preservation Trust Campaigning



Our long serving Chair of the Architecture and Planning Committee, Jane Brown, stepped down in June. Jane has steered the Trust through innumerable planning squalls and storms while running a harmonious ship in the Committee itself due to her excellent Chairmanship. We will miss her hard work, experience and wisdom immensely, and are envious of the benefits that her other commitments, notably St Andrews School and St Swithin's Church will gain by her release from 7 years at the Trust.

Changes in the Planning System

New provisions for heritage management came into effect this year which means that there are now other mechanisms in place to manage alterations to listed buildings, including Heritage Partnership Agreements and Listed Building Consent Orders, which would give pre-approval and permitted developments for listed buildings. The Trust is keen to participate in agreements that are developed for listed buildings in Bath.

Core Strategy

As mentioned, the Inspector finally ruled on the Core Strategy with the result (for Bath) that the Green Belt continues protected at Weston, but part of the Green Belt is given up for housing at South Stoke/Odd Down plateau. The Core Strategy was adopted by the Council on 10th July and can be found in its final form on the Council website. <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy/core-strategy-examination>

Since then the latter site is being progressed by the Hignett Family Trust (landowners) who have appointed Edward Nash as master planner and Bloor Homes as the house builder. A master plan will be prepared over the next few months with a view to completion in early 2015. The Trust intends to play a full part in the master planning process for the limited housing development approved by the Inspector at South Stoke/Odd Down. We will be watching closely the clear criteria laid down by the Inspector concerning heights, access, areas for exclusion from building, safeguarding the Wansdyke and respect for long views.

Fullers Earth

In July, the Council's Development Control Committee approved by a large majority to give outline planning permission to a residual waste facility on part of the site which is disputed in the enforcement appeal, leaving the applicant with permission to carry on the other activities on the site in the former industrial area. The negotiations about the waste facilities finished off the previous enforcement proceedings in 2010. The Development Control Committee were advised that there was no impact on the enforcement case as they had considered the application 'as if' the land was in the Green Belt i.e. in line with their legal position in the enforcement case. However their consultants claim somewhat implausibly that a major industrial site with 286 HGV movements a day and several new 12m high buildings will have no adverse impact on the setting of the World Heritage Site or other landscape factors. The Trust spoke against the planning application at the meeting, both in its own right and for fear it would compromise the outstanding enforcement proceedings appeal pending.

Since then the lobby group 'Protect Bath' has instigated judicial

review proceedings against the Council for making this decision and have been granted a hearing. As a consequence the enforcement appeal has - with the consent of all parties - been put into abeyance until the outcome of the judicial review is known.

Bath Green Homes 2014

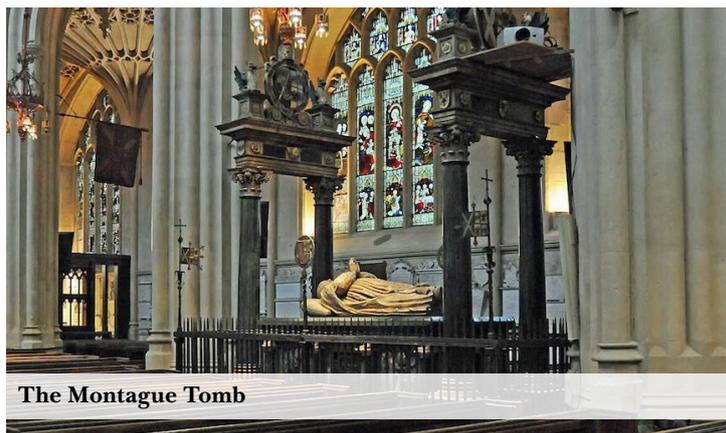
The Bath Green Homes open homes event took place over the weekend of 27/28 September. This allowed people to visit real homes which have been adapted to make them warmer and cheaper to heat and to learn from the experiences of others. The weekend was supported by a range of great talks, workshops and activities on many aspects of home energy efficiency which ran until the end of November. The event's success is a result of the commitment and enthusiasm from our home openers, stewards and volunteers. A party at No. 1 was the perfect way to say thank you to all the volunteers and people involved! We are always looking for new homes and approaches to inspire others and we welcome hearing from anyone who would like to participate.



The thank-you party at No. 1!

Bath Abbey

Since the approval of proposals to improve facilities at the Abbey the Trust has maintained concerns about possible repositioning of the Montague Tomb. We are pleased to have received confirmation that the Tomb will remain in its current position and will not be part of the 'Footprint Project'. Other areas currently under discussion with the Abbey team as part of a group of statutory and non-statutory consultees are the removal of the pews, the inclusion of an immersion font and a flexible (raising and lowering) dais under the crossing.



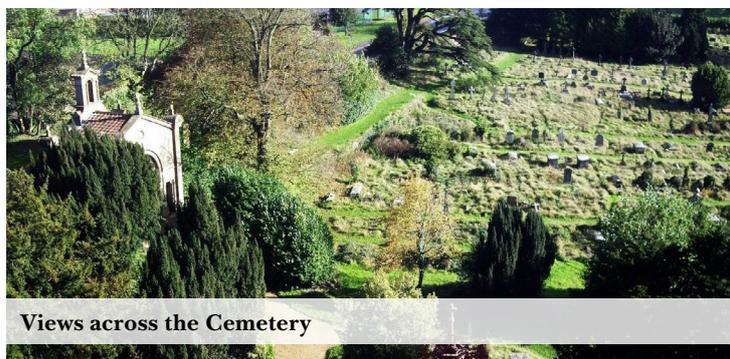
The Montague Tomb

Bath Preservation Trust Campaigning

MOD sites

BPT has welcomed the principle of housing development on the former MOD sites which will meet some of the City's housing need on brownfield sites. Redevelopment offers the potential for enhancement of currently unappealing, though relatively unobtrusive areas of the city.

The Trust submitted a strong objection to the planning application for 180 houses on the Ensleigh site. The architects have made amendments to the proposals in response to our concerns. However, we continue to object to three-storey buildings across the site which goes against the Council's own concept statement and the Bath Building Heights Strategy. Furthermore the layout of the site, the axis of roads and creation of vistas still fail properly to take account of views of Beckford's Tower.



Views across the Cemetery

The Trust's response to the planning application for 189 houses on the Warminster Road site called for reconsideration of the classical town house design approach uncharacteristic of this part of the city, which is marked by the transition from terraces to villas in the mid to late 19th century. There have been some amendments to parts of the scheme to which BPT objected which address the relationship of the elevations to Warminster Road and the inconsistent use of materials throughout the site.

An outline planning application for Foxhill was submitted in October. The proposal is for 700 dwellings, new infrastructure, open space, retail, employment, community and education spaces and a new primary school. BPT has engaged with Curo and provided feedback on earlier stages of the development. Curo seem to be trying hard to engage the local community and other interest groups in the development of proposals. Permission is being sought for buildings of up to six-storeys on parts of the site facing onto open space. BPT has objected to heights which would be much taller than any existing buildings in this area, and seen above the tree line. Development will be subject to the approval of further detailed applications.



Indicative image of 6 storey buildings proposed within the outline planning application courtesy of Curo

The Recreation Ground

The submission of a planning application for a new rugby stadium on the Recreation Ground was halted by an appeal allowed over the ruling which would have restricted the amount of land available to Bath Rugby at The Rec. The tribunal judge (who earlier this year made the ruling that only the land currently occupied by the club could be used in future) has now agreed that the Recreation Ground Trust can try to have the stipulation overturned. The issue will now go to a higher level charity tribunal, with tribunal judge Peter Hinchcliffe agreeing that there needs to be "a definite determination" of the matter. The decision has prevented Bath Rugby from increasing its footprint and the club has put long-term development of a new stadium on temporary hold. Instead, Bath Rugby applied for planning permission to add extra temporary seating to boost capacity for the next two seasons.

Grand Parade & Undercroft

BPT is supportive in principle of opening up the colonnade to the public and bringing this dormant space back into use. The Trust has objected to the planning application on a number of issues including the use, design, access buildings and phasing. Fundamentally we consider that B&NES Council is premature with these plans and that, for the scheme to be viable and of real public benefit, pedestrian access through to Parade Gardens should first be established. The visual impact of the access 'beacons' upon the setting of Pulteney Bridge was of serious concern to us, the Georgian Group and English Heritage, who did not support the application prior to the amendments submitted in September. The revised plans show a reduction in the size of the access beacons; however, the collective impact of 'clutter' in this sensitive location, and the intrusive nature of the 'beacons' are still of concern.

Western Riverside

The planning applications for two riverside 'landmark' buildings by Studio Egret West are pending decision. In objecting to this application we considered that there were many aspects of the design and the process by which it was reached which are to be commended. The purpose of our objection was to reiterate our concerns about the height of these buildings at eight and nine storeys, for which outline permission has been approved. More recently we have also been engaged in application consultation for the development of the gas works site on the Upper Bristol Road for student accommodation and an application is expected to be submitted early in 2015.

What is happening in Queen Square?

B&NES Council has released a budget of £100k for the delivery of improvements to Queen Square by Christmas 2014 which means that the square will be closed for approximately 6 weeks in the autumn. The works are to include new east and west gateways, works to trees, landscape conservation, restoring and repairing paths, cleaning and repainting benches and potentially repositioning litter bins. The Trust was supportive of the approved 2012 planning application for the works.

Bath Preservation Trust Campaigning

Student Accommodation Proposals

We are particularly concerned about an oversupply of student housing which will use up brownfield sites within the city centre. A report obtained from B&NES Planning Policy team concludes that there is a forecast shortfall in deliverable supply of student housing to 2021 of only 203 bed spaces. This contrasts with the following planning applications:

- Green Park - 461 bed spaces;
- James Street West - 250 (min) bed spaces;

- Transport Depot, Brougham Hayes - 103 bed spaces;
- Site of Old Gas Works, Upper Bristol Road - 404 bed spaces;
- Transport Depot, Brougham Hayes - 104 bed spaces.

This is a massive overprovision when one compares applications against need. However, the planning policy analysis does not seem to allow for displacement of students from Houses in Multiple Occupancy (HMOs) in Oldfield Park, which is potentially desirable. B&NES Council states this is not a specific policy. The key issue here is that in the provision of student housing this prevents much needed affordable housing within the city being developed on these sites.

Education and Community Project update

The number of school visits to No. 1 is continuing to grow and, excitingly, a large number of the pupils are first time visitors to the house. Subjects covered have included entertaining and cooking at No. 1, laundry techniques and fashion.

Activities for families have included drop-in sessions linked to objects in the house including the Cabinet of Curiosities. Children and adults alike had fun making tribal jewellery and African inspired masks.

The quality of learning provision at No. 1 has recently been recognised through receiving the Sandford Award. Ratified by the Heritage Education Trust, this national award recognises quality and excellence in the education service at an historic site. The judge's report stated that

"No. 1 Royal Crescent deservedly receives its first Sandford Award. Students who are lucky enough to find themselves attending a workshop under the guidance of the Education Officer can be assured of an inspiring day during which their understanding of the lives, social attitudes and daily occupations of eighteenth century society will be explained through the use of artefacts, illustrations and practical experiences."



Polly with some of her school visitors

For World Heritage Day in June, families had the chance to try out 18th Century games and replica costumes in Sydney Gardens. Southcot burial ground, owned and managed by BPT, was open to visitors who always enjoy this secret haven for wildlife in Widcombe.

On page 6 Tom mentions our ACE-funded Bath Museums Community Engagement project. Different groups explored No. 1 and used it as inspiration for their artwork. Age UK members created their own ceramic tea service which is on display in the Servants' Hall. The participants on the FreshArt@Hillview project used paint, pastels, charcoal and inks to produce stunning work. Their pictures are now on the walls of the Hillview Lodge psychiatric ward at the RUH in Bath, helping to inspire and uplift service users there. Families from the Bath Area Play Project also enjoyed their time at No. 1 and made 18th Century reticule-style bags.



Getting creative at No. 1

A Museums Report

Farewell from Tom Boden, Head of Museums

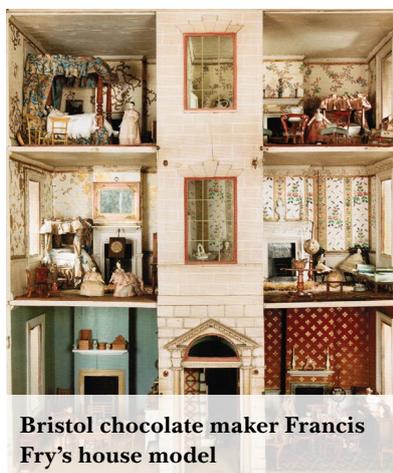


After six incredibly rewarding years at BPT, I left last month and am now General Manager, Bath City Portfolio for the National Trust. I want to pay tribute to the hard work, commitment and creativity contributed by all the staff and volunteers who together create inspiring museums and great experiences for our many visitors.

We are particularly excited about our forthcoming major exhibition at No. 1 Royal Crescent: **'Small Worlds - Historic Dolls' Houses from the 18th**

and 19th centuries' which will see an important private collection go on public display for the first time in May 2015.

This will build on the success of the 2014 exhibition 'Portrait of a Lady? Ruin and Reputation in the Georgian Era', curated by historian Hallie Rubenhold, which has attracted national interest and a fabulous review in the Museums Journal.



Bristol chocolate maker Francis Fry's house model

The Building of Bath Collection, Beckford's Tower and the Herschel Museum of Astronomy have also benefited this year from new interpretation supported by a major grant from the Arts Council England (ACE) for a partnership project with the Holburne Museum of Art and the American Museum in Britain 'Developing Audiences for Bath's Museums'. The Building of Bath Collection has a series of short films showing historic building processes installed as part of the permanent displays. Beckford's Tower now has two audio points with extracts from Beckford's writing beautifully read by actor Richard Heffer. The Herschel Museum of Astronomy now has labels with QR codes that enable visitors to read text in a variety of different languages on their smart phones. All these new developments were created in response to visitor research carried out in 2013 (supported by ACE) and they provide a good base for further reviewing and developing the visitor experience at our museums.

Alongside these exciting developments, Polly Andrews our Education Officer has been managing an innovative and impressive community engagement programme as part of the ACE project. This work has brought a wide range of new audiences into our museums who have engaged with our collections in diverse ways. See more on page 5. Through this project we now have much stronger connections with the local community and are well positioned to seek funding for future work to build on this success.

You might have also noticed that Bath museums have come together to promote themselves as a group - first through a campaign known as 'George-dropping museums' and more recently in our autumn campaign 'Soak up some Culture'. These campaigns have also been supported by the ACE project and show that working in partnership with other museums in the City can reap great rewards for all the participants and create better experiences for our audiences. BPT has played a leading role in bringing museums together across the City and I hope that this spirit of partnership can be developed and extended to ensure our future resilience whilst making sure each museum remains distinctive and true to its individual mission.

I am sure you will keep supporting BPT museums and give my successor, Laura Beresford, formerly Curator at The American Museum in Britain, a warm welcome.



The wall of shame!



Visitors to Bath pay full admission to one of the 13 museums participating and can then save 10% off admission at any of the other museums simply by showing the first receipt. All museums, accommodation providers and tourist information areas are displaying the scheme, which is encouraging many more museum visits. The campaign ends on 31 December 2014.

New staff members

Left: Emily Hellewell, Volunteer Co-ordinator at No. 1. A one-year post funded by the HLF;

Right: Sue Perrott ACA Head of Finance BPT.



Latest Awards



No. 1 Royal Crescent has achieved a superb 90% score by a 'mystery shopper' assessing attractions for Visit England's **Visitor Attraction Quality Assurance Scheme**. We now display the logo but are waiting for confirmation that we can upgrade this to the Gold Award, due to our high score!



No. 1 has been shortlisted for a **Georgian Group Architectural Award** in the Restoration of a Georgian Building in an Urban Setting category. We shall hear who has won on 11 December 2014. These are national awards and there were over 60 entries, so getting to the final 3 is already an achievement we are very proud of.



No. 1 has also been shortlisted for a **South West Tourism Award** in the Access for All category. The judges recently visited to inspect how we welcome and accommodate visitors with differing needs and we await the result with baited breath.



No. 1 Royal Crescent won a 'Highly Commended' (i.e. Runner-Up) at the **2014 Museums+Heritage Awards** for Best Permanent Collection. Losing out to the new Mary Rose Museum, but beating the likes of Historic Royal Palaces and the Birmingham Science Museum, meant that we were absolutely thrilled at the recognition!



No. 1 Royal Crescent and The Herschel Museum of Astronomy have each been awarded a 2014 **Certificate of Excellence** by Trip Advisor.



No. 1 Royal Crescent won the award for the **Best Visitor Attraction** in the over 50,000 visitors per year category at Bath's Events, Hospitality and Tourism Awards 2014.



No. 1 Royal Crescent won the **Leisure and Tourism Award** at the Bath Business Awards 2014.



Bath Preservation Trust won a **Sandford Award 2014**. Sandford Awards recognise the quality and excellence of education programmes run at historic sites and are ratified by the Heritage Education Trust. Please see the judge's comment on page 5.

No. 1 Royal Crescent

Portrait of a Lady? Ruin and Reputation in the Georgian Era

Our major exhibition during 2014 reveals the reality of women's lives in the 18th Century through the medium of the mezzotint and has proved both popular and thought provoking.

Flimsy, degradable and accessible to the public, the printed image was regarded as art for the masses and prints of women were especially popular. At the time the images in the exhibition were made, the law regarded most women as the property of men. Unable to own land, vote or enter the professions, the only respectable route by which a woman might better her prospects was through marriage. For women of lowly status this might be achieved only through a career on the stage or by prostitution, while the double standards of the time meant that a woman of rank might easily lose her reputation through sexual intrigue.

Filled with nuance and suggestion, these mezzotints would have been collected as much for their risqué associations as for their beauty or notoriety. Regardless of their backgrounds, accomplishments or titles, women's portraits would have appeared for sale in print shop windows, side by side, with no distinction made between them. A publically adored actress or a reviled noblewoman? Which one is truly a portrait of a lady?

Volunteer Guide News

Our team of enthusiastic and dedicated volunteer guides at No. 1 contribute greatly to the enjoyment of our visitors and we have been delighted to welcome many new volunteers during 2014. Each is allocated a Guide Mentor, who is a more experienced guide able to train and support them as they learn about the history of No. 1. We have introduced regular shadowing sessions with these mentors and are looking at some on-line training modules as well. We now hold monthly out-of-hours coffee mornings when guides can exchange ideas, handle new objects and generally socialise.

In October we took a group of guides to Kenwood House for their annual day outing. We enjoyed a guided tour of the rooms and were especially interested to see on display a 'Merlin' wheelchair, designed by the 18th Century inventor John Joseph Merlin (1735-1803) because it is almost certainly the type of chair owned by Henry Sandford, first resident of No. 1 Royal Crescent, which was mentioned in the sale of house contents after Sandford died.

Shop News

The shop at No. 1 Royal Crescent has changed ownership and is now being managed in-house by our new Shop Manager, Mari-Liis Konts. Brimming with new ideas, Mari-Liis aims to build on the shop's popularity and will add many more bespoke and branded items, several linked to the current exhibition upstairs. In extending our range of best-sellers such as guide-books and tea-towels (particularly of the Servants' Hall rules!), we will introduce more collection-related products and build up a museum-inspired display. There is always a balance to be found between the popular and unique items. But you may have already observed a new range of Georgian greetings cards, produced in Bath; more postcards of the display rooms; and exciting new Christmas ideas. Keep shopping!

Beckford's Tower

Terror and Wonder: The Gothic Imagination

One of the most important objects in the Beckford's Tower collection is also the one that appears the most care-worn and dilapidated. Not surprising, considering it is made of paper and card and is about 215 years old. The model of Fonthill Abbey believed to be by James Wyatt (or from the office of James Wyatt) has been centre-stage at the Tower since we first acquired it through a gift from the executors of the late owner of the remains of Fonthill Abbey.

Having spent much of its life residing in the ruins of the Lancaster Tower that survives at Fonthill, and being subjected to damage inflicted by water, damp and a variety of birdlife also living in the ruin, it is remarkable that the model has survived at all.

When the model first came to the Tower initially on loan, the owner generously paid for conservation treatment that removed the mould and debris. Last year saw it have two weeks of fame in London when it featured in the anniversary exhibition on James Wyatt at Colefax and Fowler. This winter the importance of the model as a visual account of the extraordinary building Beckford created is highlighted as it joins an array of remarkable objects collected together at the British Library in the exhibition *Terror and Wonder: The Gothic Imagination*.

Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**



Artwork by Dave McLean
commissioned for the *Terror
and Wonder* exhibition at the
British Library

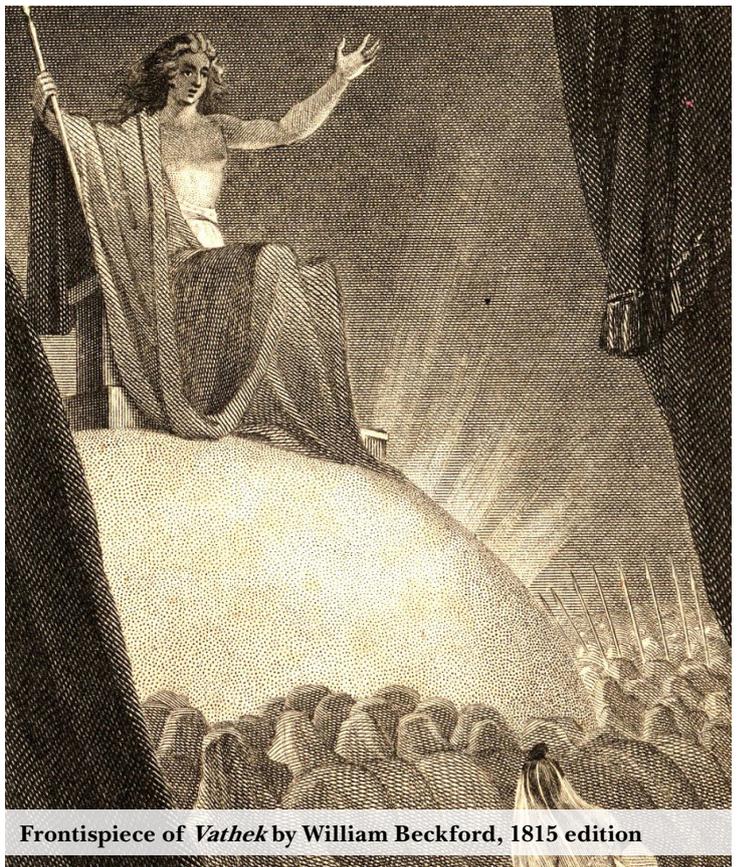
Marking the 250th anniversary of Horace Walpole's gothic novel *The Castle of Otranto*, the exhibition *Terror and Wonder* is the most comprehensive survey to date of British Gothic Literature. Starting in 1764 with Walpole's novel that gave birth to a new literary genre, the exhibition moves through the gothic novels of the 18th Century to the understanding of gothic ideas in the present day, stopping at almost every horror story, movie and graphic novel on the way. Included in it is a section devoted to William Beckford and both the writing of his novel *Vathek* and the building of Fonthill Abbey. Written when he was twenty-one following an elaborate and decadent coming of age party, *Vathek* is seen by many as not a gothic novel at all, being in parts intentionally funny and shrouded in the exotic incense of the Orient. Yet in the character of *Vathek* himself can be found a villain so tempted by his thirst for knowledge and crazed by the journey it takes him on, that he sits firmly on the shelf next to Walpole's *Manfred* and Shelley's *Dr Frankenstein*. Hugely influential on the young romantics such as Byron, Beckford's novel is a Faustian tale (and to many loosely auto-biographical) of a Caliph with unlimited wealth and power who is tempted by a Genii who offers him unlimited knowledge. The twist in the tale is revealed to *Vathek* at the end of his journey to the famed Halls of Eblis, where he discovers that in return for being granted his desires his heart will be forever tormented by flames.



Model of Fonthill Abbey on display at the British Library

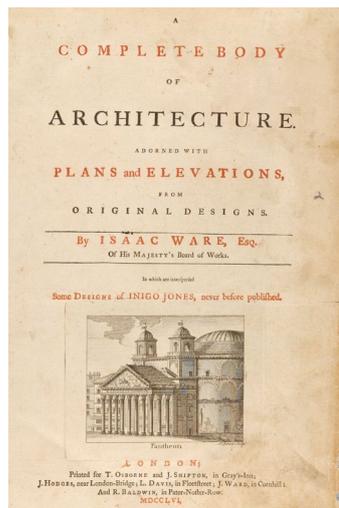
The Wyatt model of Fonthill is displayed at the British Library next to the Joshua Reynolds portrait of Beckford as a young man from the National Portrait Gallery, in which he is presented in a romantic pose that would later be referred to as Byronic. He is placed surrounded by other seminal works of 18th Century gothic, including Mary Shelley's manuscript for *Frankenstein*, the Becket casket owned by Walpole at Strawberry Hill and a sweeping painting by Henry Fuseli. It was the intensity of Beckford's passions, for writing, collecting and building that make him such a suitable personality to stand alongside the other anti-heroes of gothic literature, both real and fictional. And it is the imagination of the exhibition's curators that have brought together a fanatical collection of objects making this exhibition well worth a visit.

Terror and Wonder: The Gothic Imagination runs at the British Library until 20 January 2015. For more information and to see the programme of events and BBC broadcasts in association with it visit www.bl.uk/whatson/exhibitions/gothic/



Frontispiece of *Vathek* by William Beckford, 1815 edition

Building of Bath Collection/Museum of Bath Architecture



Short course on British Architecture

This autumn we launched a new short course: “An Introduction to British Architecture 1600-1800”. Spanning 200 years of British architectural history at a galloping pace, the course has offered the opportunity to look beyond 18th Century Bath and explore the routes through which classism was first introduced into Britain. Our first class looked at the rise of the architectural treatise and how they influenced the English

architects of the 17th Century. A romp through the life and work of Inigo Jones firmly established in the participants' minds the genius of the man, reinforced in later talks which established him as something of a hero to the designers of the 18th Century and beyond. A cracking canter through the work of Wren, Hawksmoor and Vanbrugh set the scene for the dramatic change in style that occurred during the early 1700s. The 18th Century was covered in a little more detail, but with an end date of 1800 the rise of romanticism and the age of the Victorians will have to wait until the next part of the course which runs in the spring of 2015. A highlight has been the opportunity to share with participants the wonderful collection of rare architectural books that the museum owns, including a copy of Isaac Ware's 1738 English translation of Palladio's *I Quattro Libri* as well as Ware's own work *A Complete Body of Architecture* published in 1756. More humble, but no less important, are the collection of builder's pocket books designed to distil the larger books into small volumes that could easily be used on construction sites. Volumes from the rare book collection are on display annually in the museum, but anyone wishing to take a closer look is welcome to do so by contacting Amy Frost and making an appointment.

Building of Bath Collection library

On the subject of books, the collection that was housed at the Bath Preservation Trust offices has been relocated to the Building of Bath Collection and is nearly fully catalogued. The library here was originally established as the Sainsbury Study Gallery and is dedicated to architecture, construction and conservation, available to anyone who wishes to use it. Further additions to the library have been received recently from Trust member and conservation architect James Elliott who has gifted a large selection of his own collection for other researchers and students to access. We are extremely grateful for his generosity.

Alongside our Archives, our ability to offer such a library resource to members, researchers and students is incredibly important and highlights yet another role that BPT plays in furthering understanding of the historic built environment that we seek to protect and enhance.



Name Change in 2015!

We are very excited to announce that from 1 January 2015 the Building of Bath Collection will change its name and be known henceforth as the Museum of Bath Architecture. Trustees, staff and most importantly our visitors - who we surveyed over the summer - all agree that this new name better reflects what the collection and displays are all about. We already have the new logo prepared, and you will notice a gradual changeover of the name on our websites, publications and signage in the next few months. We are grateful to Arts Council England for supporting the huge task of launching this rebrand in the New Year.



MUSEUM
OF BATH
ARCHITECTURE

Herschel Museum of Astronomy

QR Labels



The QR labelling system at the Herschel Museum was set up in the early part of 2014 with a translation into Mandarin. It has recently expanded to incorporate 9 further languages including Japanese, Russian and Italian. Visitors can select their language and access it via a smart phone or iPad; alternatively they have the option of borrowing a Nexus tablet set up with a QR reader facility, courtesy of the Herschel Museum.

The technology allows us to evaluate which translations are the most popular, and which items are viewed the most. So far, German and Spanish lead for our European visitors, whilst Brazilians are the highest users of non-European translations.

In addition to the language facility, we are also offering a special QR trail for children and families. Although popular, feedback suggests that additional photographs and images would help. We are grateful to the Arts Council for facilitating the QR scheme as part of the project Developing Audiences Across Bath's Museums.



Herschel Museum of Astronomy

Jane and her family meet the Herschels

The Jane Austen Festival, held each September, has expanded to become one of Bath's most popular and well-supported occasions. In 2014 the Herschel Museum participated in the programme with two events linking the scientific and literary heritage of the city. Writer and poet Kelley Swain used the occasion to launch her novel about the life of Caroline Herschel, *Double the Stars*, at the Herschel Museum. She followed this by a creative writing workshop aimed at Jane Austen followers.

In 1801 Jane's father, the Reverend George Austen, retired and moved to Bath with his wife and daughters Jane and Cassandra. In May that year their household possessions were put up for sale including a telescope, a microscope and an 18 inch globe by the cartographer Dudley Adams, similar to the globe by Adams which we have in the Herschel Museum collection. But one object not listed in the sale was a small desktop sundial discovered by Jane after her father's death in 1805. In a letter to her brother Frank she describes what appears to be a small portable sundial in a chagreen case, very similar to the Butterfield silver sundial and case, c.1700, which is one of the rarest and most significant objects in the Herschel Museum collection today.

Our behind-the-scenes tour 'The Reverend Austen's Sundial' proved a very popular event during the Jane Austen Festival.

History Makers of Bath

We hope you caught site of the recent open air exhibition which celebrated the personalities who, over the past two millennia, contributed to forming Bath's rich cultural heritage.

King Edgar, Thomas Gainsborough, Mary Shelley, William Beckford, John Wood and Ralph Allen were all included, with images and their history displayed on hoardings in Kingston Passage. But we were thrilled that our ground breaking astronomers William and Caroline Herschel were there too; it is encouraging to see their achievements being recognised more widely.



*Green Park Buildings
Tuesday 29 January 1805*

My dearest Frank,

My Mother has found among our dear Father's little personal property, a small astronomical Instrument which she hopes you will accept for his sake. It is I believe a Compass & Sun-dial, & is in a Black Chagreen Case. Would you have it sent to you now, & with what direction? – There is also a pair of Scissors for you. – We hope these are articles that may be useful to you, but we are sure they will be valuable. – I have not time for more.

Yours very affectionately,

*Jane Austen
Capt. Austen
HMS Leopard
Portsmouth*

**WILLIAM HERSCHEL
CAROLINE HERSCHEL**
1738–1822 | 1750–1848

Sponsored by the Meteor and Heliocentrist Club on behalf of the Bath Photographic Society and Bath Camera Group. BPCo

William Herschel first came to Bath in the 1760s to work as a musician. He was later joined by his sister Caroline, and with her assistance he began to build telescopes in order to make a complete record of the heavens. With a telescope of his own design, in March 1781 from the gardens of 19 New King Street, he made the discovery of the planet Uranus; this was the first new planet to be discovered since Ancient times and it doubled the size of the known solar system. 19 New King Street is now the Herschel Museum of Astronomy.

Ministry of Culture and Heritage
Department of Culture, Heritage and Tourism
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Bath and North East Somerset Council
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William, Caroline and Uranus as part of the 'History Makers of Bath' exhibition

Members' Page

Members' Christmas Drinks at the Building of Bath Collection, Paragon, Bath

Please join us on Monday 8 December between 12noon and 2.00pm for a festive get together of members, BPT staff and Trustees. We would love to see you and it is a great opportunity to enjoy a glass of wine and a mince pie, meet fellow members and friends, and to ask us any questions about the Trust's work.

RSVP: Please call Peta on **01225 338727** (Tuesdays and Thursdays) or email petahall@bptrust.org.uk. We very much look forward to seeing you.

Trust Tours 2014

I am delighted to report another successful season of Trust Tours this year, and we were even blessed with fine weather for all four! A full report of the tours will be written up in the Annual Review, but as always I would like to thank all of you who joined us on a visit. Your support enables me to plan another season, which I am working on now for 2015.



Visit to St Giles House, Dorset

Trust Tours 2015: Priority Booking Information

If you would like to receive Priority Booking Information for next year's tours, please complete the enclosed flier and return it to me at 1 Royal Crescent, Bath BA1 2LR, with a stamped self-addressed envelope, or email me at petahall@bptrust.org.uk. I shall send out the Information packs as soon as I have them completed in early 2015. Tours which are not already full are then promoted again in the April Newsletter, along with the Summer Walks programme for 2015.

Summer Walks 2014

Alan Williams devised yet another group of fascinating summer walks for our members this year, and a report will appear in the Annual Review. Here is a picture of the Treasure-less Hunt in progress - all 50 questions set by Alan - and great fun was had by all! Our thanks to all walk leaders and of course to Alan.



Annual Membership: a £20 Christmas Gift!

Please don't forget that for as little as £20 you could give a friend a year's membership to the Trust as a Christmas present. As you will know, this allows them free access to all four of our museums for a year, and a chance to take part in all members' events, as well as helping to support our cause. You can download the application form from our website, or request an application form by post - see address in this Newsletter.

Life Membership

Life membership is a great category for both the Trust and the member. No more reminders from the Trust each year, saving admin and postage, and no more having to worry about when your membership renewal is due! If you would like to convert your annual membership to Life, please contact Peta on petahall@bptrust.org.uk or call **01225 338727**. Current rates are: £300 Single Life, £400 Double Life.

Legacies

A number of our members have been kind enough to let us know that they have included a legacy to BPT in their wills. If you have enjoyed your involvement with us, our work, our museums, our special events and tours, then perhaps you would also like to consider leaving the Trust a bequest or a pledge of support. If you would like to do this, you can contact Jan Hull or Peta Hall in confidence to discuss this. Otherwise, for more information on leaving a legacy to the Trust, please see Page 2 of this newsletter. Thank you.

World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund

The incised street sign at Axford's Buildings has been magnificently conserved and restored by Iain Cotton - please look back at the last newsletter to see its former sad state. Thanks to former Trustee Jacqueline Burrows for bringing this to our attention.

The Fund's work with the London Road Partnership continues - six painted street signs have been restored, the stone piers at the entrances to Kensington Place cleaned, repointed and given a lime shelter coat, and the Kensington Place railings are being re-painted.

Community projects supported by the Fund include new bells for Christ Church in Julian Road, re-planting of Kelston Tump, and clearing and conservation work at Smallcombe Cemetery. A pair of graceful Grecian statues now stand again on the balconies of the Corridor, thanks to the painstaking work of the stone conservation students at the City of Bath College, co-ordinated by the Fund.

More projects are in hand, including more street signs, and suggestions are always welcome to the Administrator Ainslie Ensom at whsef@bptrust.org



Fundraising update and a thank-you for our recent gifts

Since the completion of *The Whole Story* Project and fundraising specifically for No. 1 Royal Crescent, emphasis for our fundraising has widened and we are now seeking support for all our museums as well as the campaigning work of Bath Preservation Trust and, in particular, our education programme.

We are delighted that the Medlock Trust has provided us with such generous support once again through a grant towards the cost of continuing and expanding the educational work we do with local schools and community groups. We are most grateful to them and to our other donors who support our education programme. We were thrilled that our Education Programme was recognised this year with a prestigious Sandford Award - one of many awards won by No. 1 this year!

To ensure our museums continue to develop and our campaigning carries on we still need your help. It is very easy to give - just click on the donate button which you will find at the bottom of the home page of our website. And please continue to encourage your friends and family to join as members of BPT and thereby support our work.

As ever, we thank very much all of you who have supported us so generously over the years.

For more details on our fundraising work please contact Jan Hull, Development Officer at BPT, by phone on +44 (0)1225 338727 or email fundraising@bptrust.org.uk

BPT Archive

In the Archive the activities of the Trust since its formation in 1934 are documented, in particular those specific issues where BPT has been involved and campaigned. The generous support of the Heritage Lottery Fund and the continuing involvement of a dedicated group of volunteers has enabled the sorting, conservation and restoration of the material as set out under *The Whole Story* Project and the provision of enhanced conservation quality storage at both the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel and at No. 1.

Priorities were to:

- Promote and raise awareness of the Archive, showing the diversity of the material which includes photographs, architectural plans, surveys, annual reports, BPT newsletters and relevant newspaper cuttings.
- Provide greater accessibility for research purposes.

The website's online catalogue is continually updated with new records. Already we are receiving substantially more enquiries and bookings from researchers. Students from local, national and international academic establishments are visiting, along with business representatives and members of the general public. If you want to know more visit the website www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk. Perhaps we hold records about the building of your house!



We are a membership organisation and a registered charity.
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