

16 December 2014

**Bath’s No.1 Royal Crescent wins a ‘Highly Commended’ at one of the UK’s most prestigious architectural awards**

**Bath’s famous Georgian townhouse museum, No. 1 Royal Crescent, has been Highly Commended in the *Restoration of a Georgian Building in an Urban Setting* category of the Georgian Group Architectural Awards 2014. Sponsored by Savills, these prestigious annual awards are won only by teams and/or individuals who show clear vision and a commitment to recreating Georgian buildings and landscapes across the United Kingdom.**

Collecting the award from His Grace The Duke of Buccleuch and Queensberry KBE on Thursday 11th December at Christie’s SW1, lead architect Simon Morray-Jones said:

*“We are delighted to accept this Certificate on behalf of the contractors, engineers, specialists and advisors who worked so hard on this beautiful building. Dedication, expertise and a highly organised management plan helped us to overcome many challenges, including how to fit a new lift into a Grade 1 listed building with 14 different floor levels! Great teamwork meant we finished ahead of schedule and within budget. No. 1 Royal Crescent is a museum that now brings the world to Bath, and that Bath can rightly be proud of.”*

Crispin Holborow of Savills’ Country Department who was a member of the judging panel, said:

*“This year’s shortlisted entries showed the depths of imagination and ingenuity of the architects and of the property owners. The painstaking research required to bring Georgian splendour back to life in the restoration category was a highlight.”*

The project to restore **Llanelly House in Carmarthenshire** was the overall winner, recognised for bringing new life not just to a building but to a town badly in need of regeneration.

**Further information:** [www.no1royalcrescent.org.uk](http://www.no1royalcrescent.org.uk)

**Notes for editors**

During 2012 and 2013, **Bath Preservation Trust** implemented a £5 million project to reunite the historic house museum at No. 1 Royal Crescent with its original service wing, which had stood empty for some years and was gradually becoming derelict. This iconic Georgian building was the first house to be occupied on Bath’s spectacular Royal Crescent in the late 1700s, but its division into apartments during the early 20th century and subsequent decay was putting at risk one of the best-loved Georgian townscapes in the UK. A gloriously-restored and extended historic house museum which now tells *The Whole Story* of life in late 18th Century Georgian Bath was opened to the public in June 2013.

**No.1 Royal Crescent** offers visitors from all over the world the chance to explore the recreated historic interiors of a late 18th century Bath Town House of distinction. With more than twice the number of fully-dressed heritage rooms, additional galleries, an education centre, an extended shop and free introduction room, the house reveals what life was really like for our ancestors – upstairs and downstairs – nearly 250 years ago.

The imaginative approach to the ways in which the house can now be interpreted, together with its excellent accessibility and the quality of its permanent collections, have each been recognised with national awards since its reopening.

The museum receives some 60,000 visitors per year. It recently won:

* 'Highly Commended' at the **2014 Museums+Heritage Awards** for **Best Permanent Collection**
* **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
* **Leisure and Tourism Award** at the **Bath Business Awards 2014.**
* **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 reopens on 1 February 2015. **Its major exhibition in 2015 is “Small Worlds: Historic Dolls Houses from the 18th and 19th Centuries”, and will showcase the Countess of Antrim’s remarkable private collection which has never before been on public display. It runs from 9 May to 8 November.**

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