

# BATH MATTERS

THE BATH PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

88



BATH  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST



## TRANSPORT SOLUTION?

Have we come up with the solution to Bath's air pollution problems? Perhaps those Georgians had the answer all along. Whatever your thoughts, it is certainly a welcome sight to see a 'new' sedan chair out on the pavement in front of No. 1 Royal Crescent. Hawker Joinery was commissioned to make the chair which we hope residents and visitors alike will enjoy sitting in for photographs.

From the start, the joke has been that building a modernised sedan chair may indeed be a portent for the future. Caroline Kay said "Bath's transport and pollution problems are perennial. This chair has been 250 years in the research and development phase and comes already equipped with human sat nav and Intelligent Parking Sensors. It is a low-emission vehicle so won't be subject to the Clean Air Zone charge. I worry that it will be easier finding passengers than drivers, however".

She added "BPT is delighted that the outstanding craftsmanship of Hawker Joinery alongside the Connelly hide leather interiors and Farrow & Ball colour choices are on show outside No. 1. We would like to thank Hawker both for their collaboration as well as spirit of fun!"





## Thomas Sheppard

CHAIRMAN

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter. I am happy to tell you that the Trust is in good health and full of ambition; much of this is due to the support of our members and also the engagement and enthusiasm of our volunteers and staff, who make it possible for the Trust to do so much in our city.

This summer we held our AGM at the Elim Bath Church in Charlotte Street; we all enjoyed the opportunity to see the magnificent roof of this flamboyant non-conformist chapel. We are always looking for unusual and lesser-known buildings in Bath in which to hold our annual meetings; if you have any ideas for interesting venues within the city, do please let us know.

The AGM was an opportunity to say thank you and farewell to departing trustees but this year we also welcomed seven new trustees who I am confident will bring us new perspectives and also put us in good shape for the future. Now is exactly the right time for us to start taking a longer view for the Trust – both in campaigning and our museums – with individuals who will hopefully be around to see those plans into proper fruition.

Our city continues to absorb a frantic pace of development and we are being kept very busy with plenty for us to consider and to comment upon; there are also important and complex issues with traffic, affordable housing and working with the success of our universities. As part of our response we have moved our planning team from No. 1 Royal Crescent to create an accessible and identifiable point of contact for our campaigning and advisory work at the Schoolhouse next to our Museum of Bath Architecture on the Paragon. Do feel free to visit them there.

I am sure you are all aware of the educational work our museums undertake, particularly with primary and secondary schools across Bath; our purpose is to encourage the city's younger citizens to engage with the importance of Bath's heritage so that we can pass that responsibility on to them in the future. Unfortunately many of our city's schools cannot afford the travel cost of bringing their pupils across the city to us and the few hundred pounds to hire a coach is beyond their current funding. We want to engage with these pupils and if members feel they would like to help sponsor such costs please see page 8 for more details.



## Caroline Kay

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

I know that the British only talk about the weather, but gosh! what a year so far. Snow actually closed the museums for a couple of days, and the second blast of cold weather over Easter depressed the tourist market nationwide. We then had the most gloriously hot, sunny and extended summer. Neither of the above scenarios are great for museums visits, but despite these setbacks, we are more than holding our own, and some of our museums – take a bow, Herschel Museum of Astronomy – have had record visitors. We like to think that this is because we continue to tell stories which are, with our themed programming across all museums, of relevance and interest today.

In our core role promoting the protection and preservation of the city and its countryside, we also seek to be as accessible and meaningful to people's everyday lives as we can be. The new-look website is part of this, as is our use of social media and our availability to drop-in callers at the new offices in the Schoolhouse. We are acutely aware of the pressures placed upon local authority planning officers as a result of cutbacks and while we neither could nor would be able to replace formal advice from the planning authority, we do seek to provide an easy way for householders and developers to garner information about how to do things in Bath which work with rather than against our special city. The major developments coming forward – North and South Quays, the Rec – will always attract significant officer time, but the warp and weft of the city is as much made up with the less dramatic changes, such as the choice of materials, public realm, shopfronts and householder developments.

So now it is Autumn and our thoughts will be turning to Christmas; this year we will be opening No. 1 Royal Crescent from Friday 30th November for atmospheric evenings from 6pm – 10pm when the house (and room guides and staff) will be dressed for a Georgian Christmas and there will be various activities that relate to the festive period as it would have been celebrated 250 years ago. These and other events will continue to be promoted on our website so please take a look!



We congratulate Caroline on her recent appointment to the National Trust's Board of Trustees. She was first elected to the Council in 2017 and was a member of the South West Regional Advisory Board from 2013-18. We anticipate that her appointment can only strengthen the already excellent working partnership we have with the National Trust on key developments in and around Bath.

# Campaigning



In the 50th year of the Conservation Area, the World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund has now restored 50 incised street signs on listed buildings across the city.

## 50 YEARS ON

5th November 2018 is the 50th Anniversary of the designation of six conservation areas in the city of Bath. After extensions and consolidations in the 70s, 80s and 00s, we now have the 'Bath city-wide conservation area' covering 60% of the city.

As early as 1937, the Bath Act designated certain buildings worthy of preservation, and in 1963, as post-war development gathered momentum, Bath Preservation Trust produced a pamphlet 'Preservation Essentials for the Georgian City' calling for a positive preservation policy and the idea of 'a unity of expression within a limiting boundary'. Conservation Areas were finally brought in by the Civic Amenities Act 1967, legislation introduced as a Private Members' Bill.

In 1967 in support of the Civic Amenities Act, the Ministry of Housing set up the Preservation Policy Group and commissioned pilot studies for four conservation areas: Bath, York, Chichester and Chester. The Bath report was to be written by Colin Buchanan, famous for his plan two years earlier for a tunnel under the city but shown in this publication *Bath: A Study in Conservation*, Buchanan and Partners 1968, to have a sensitive understanding of the need to modernise and preserve together with a plea for authenticity in architectural design. There is little in this Buchanan report to disagree with

today and it is worth a read.

Unfortunately the production of Buchanan's report took so long that the city had drawn up its own plans, in advance of its publication. With tragic irony, the focus of Bath as a city worthy of special conservation coincided with the acceleration of the worst depredations of the 'Sack of Bath' (widespread demolition). In the end, the Dept of the Environment felt the need to remove temporarily Bath's role in the determination of planning, as actions in Bath had become contrary to late '60s policy for historic cities.

The conservation area today gives protection to spaces in between the buildings and recognises that the ensemble of buildings, beyond any one building's boundary, is part of the understanding of the whole. Its character is described in a number of zoned Character Appraisals (currently being refreshed) which are available on the B&NES website.

All documents, (and many more) referred to in this article may be examined in the BPT archives via the website. Some facts and figures about conservation areas nationally can be found at [www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/conservation-areas/](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/what-is-designation/local/conservation-areas/)



## LISTING SUCCESS

Historic England (HE) has considered the evidence we submitted to justify extending the listing of Beckford's Garden above Lansdown Crescent to include the west and south walls. The site is a series of terraces and pathways which form the created setting of Beckford's picturesque Embattled Gateway and they encircle Dixon Gardens, once the site of the nursery gardens. The east and north walls and revetments were listed Grade II but the west and south were not. We are pleased to report that HE have included these walls in the Grade II designation; the listing now includes all the remaining structures and terraces of the garden and provides a level of heritage protection for the whole site. We maintain concern regarding the threat of development on this important historic site.



BECKFORD'S GARDEN AT THE REAR OF LANSDOWN CRESCENT 1971. MUSEUM OF BATH ARCHITECTURE.

## Making Changes Shortlisted

This year our guidance for the owners of listed buildings in Bath, *Making Changes*, was shortlisted as a finalist in the Royal Town Planning Institutes (RTPI) National Award for Planning Excellence. The guidance published by BPT with funding from Historic England is up for a second award from the South West RTPI. Please check our website and social media for news.



## CONSULTATION KICKS OFF

This summer concept designs for the new Stadium for Bath on the Recreation Ground were released for public consultation. Many of our members and trustees are interested in the future of rugby on the Rec. Our charitable remit, however, must keep its focus on heritage protection and managing change in a way that ensures the future success of our city as both a World Heritage Site and as a place to live, work and enjoy. In order to ensure there is no possible perceived conflict of interest, BPT Trustees who are season ticket holders will not participate in any votes or decisions taken in response to development proposals.

Our comments on the summer consultation highlighted that the concept proposals did not flesh out the areas in which BPT will have most interest: the views into and across the Rec, the height of the stands, the actual visual appearance, and the roofscape. We have

emphasised that the upper levels must not be allowed to dominate the design, and must allow for some visual transparency of the stadium to the hills beyond and the creation of sightlines and eyecatcher 'gaps' in the structure; and that the spread east must take into account the listed cricket pavilion and other listed structures. It is however too early properly to assess the impact on the historic environment, although we will be keen to see how this develops over the course of the design process.

We understand that there will be a next stage of public consultation on emerging designs prior to a formal application before being submitted to the Local Planning Authority. Please do check our website or contact us if you would like details of our responses.

[www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk/our-response-to-the-rec-consultation/](http://www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk/our-response-to-the-rec-consultation/)

## SCHOOLHOUSE MOVE

Our conservation officers have now relocated from No. 1 Royal Crescent to the Schoolhouse adjoining the Museum of Bath Architecture, with other core BPT functions – membership and fundraising, and sometimes the CEO – joining them. The office is accessible to the public and we welcome visitors to drop in with questions and queries. The co-location next to MoBA means that we are handy for visitors who also want to research our archives (by appointment on [archives@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:archives@bptrust.org.uk)). The office is a resource for planning, conservation and membership queries and general information about the Trust. The office is open Monday-Thursday 9.30am-5.00pm.

We would like to thank the Medlock Charitable Foundation and a private donor for supporting this move and for fantastic sponsorship in kind from Herman Miller Inc in the form of new office chairs.



A RECENT MEETING AT THE SCHOOLHOUSE TO DISCUSS BATH'S SPECIAL LANDSCAPE.

## BATHSCAPE LANDSCAPE SUCCESS

Bath Preservation Trust is a partner in this initiative, along with other conservation organisations, community groups, businesses, universities and the Council, and we're delighted that the ambitious scheme to restore local natural heritage and improve access to the stunning landscape surrounding Bath has secured £1.65 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund. For more information please visit [www.bathscape.co.uk](http://www.bathscape.co.uk)





## NEW PLANNING RULE BOOK

A new National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), which aims to provide a comprehensive approach for planners, developers and councils to build more homes, more quickly and in the places where people want to live, was published in July. The focus of our response to the consultation draft earlier this year was to continue to recommend the strengthening of the protection of the Green Belt via the use of brownfield sites and densification of urban environments, and to call for viability assessments to be scrutinised and judged in a transparent and fair way. We welcomed a strengthening of the status of World Heritage Sites within the policy wording. The heritage sector responded to the NPPF consultation, and several points raised have been reflected in the final version. For instance, greater clarity is given to ensure that practices which protect heritage assets must be adhered to and are not simply recommended. Additionally it stipulates that local planning authorities maintain or have access to an up-to-date historic environment record (HER), a key factor in the safeguarding of heritage. However, while some positive changes have been noted, there is a general overarching push for development in the new NPPF. [www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-planning-policy-framework-2)

## SQUEEZE AT B&NES

B&NES is experiencing budget cuts and some internal reorganisation. Two key heritage officers, Richard Sermon, Senior Archaeological Officer, and Andrew Sharland, Senior Landscape Architect are leaving the council and their roles are to be absorbed by other staff. Both Andrew and Richard contributed much to planning, by ensuring their specialist areas (reviewing the impact of development on both archaeology and on Bath's landscape and setting) were appropriately scrutinised and included in planning decisions. The loss or dilution of the appropriate level of scrutiny for these elements could result in harm to Bath's heritage and WHS status and we sincerely hope that B&NES will have the staff capacity to ensure that this does not happen.

## WE'VE HAD OUR SAY...

The B&NES Core Strategy is under review this year and BPT took part in the first stage, the Issues and Options Review last winter (which we reported on in the last newsletter). The next stage: Local Plan Options will be sent out for consultation in November 2018 and we will be scrutinising the proposals and responding then. Please sign up for our e-news on our website to be kept up to date. The Joint West of England Spatial plan is currently awaiting its examination stage, with a delayed schedule of May 2019, and we will continue to report on developments as they happen.

BPT's staff attended a lively and interesting transport and pollution conference organised by Wera Hobhouse MP in June. The aim of the day was to examine and discuss the issues and possible solutions to Bath's pollution and traffic problems. Speakers included our CEO Caroline Kay (on what B&NES could do in the short term

to help Bath's traffic problems), Mark Shelford, B&NES Cabinet Member for Transport and Adam Reynolds from Cycle Bath. For full details of the day go to: [www.werahobhouse.co.uk/transport\\_and\\_pollution\\_conference\\_summary](http://www.werahobhouse.co.uk/transport_and_pollution_conference_summary)

Alongside the conference, 2018 has been the year where B&NES has kickstarted a Clean Air Zone initiative, where a charging zone in the city centre is to be introduced which should discourage certain polluting vehicles. B&NES has until 2021 to make significant improvements to its air quality or risk punitive fines from central government. The Trust gave feedback at consultation stages; we are supportive of the overall concept and encourage B&NES to ensure that the charging zone includes areas where through traffic affects the city and to include as many of the worst polluting vehicles as possible in the charging scheme.

## YOUR MATTERS

### Email from a member of the public:

I have attached a picture of the hotel on North Parade, taken this morning, to show a large piece of ugly plastic grass that has been in-situ for weeks and as far as I can see serves no purpose other than to cover up the historical fabric of the pavement and collect cigarette ends, just revolting!

They have no permission to put anything on that area of pavement and they should be asked to remove it immediately and the plastic grass under their seating area.

I would also comment that while the pavement is not 'listed' it is part of a UNESCO world heritage area and therefore the whole setting is of 'special historical interest'. I find it astonishing that anyone is allowed to cover it up with fake grass. Can I lay carpet all around my listed property with no requirement for planning permission?

Hannah



### → Our response

Many thanks, Hannah, for bringing this topic up and you are right we are seeing more fake grass outside businesses in Bath and it does harm both the historic environment and the streetscene. The fake grass planning situation is a complicated issue. We have asked the Manager of the Historic Environment Planning team at B&NES and she has agreed with our concern regarding visual impact as we see more of this appearing but she has said that in strict planning terms fake grass is not classed as 'development' and therefore does not require planning permission. If the grass was placed on a listed structure, it would require listed building consent but pavements are not listed though they do form part of the setting of listed buildings. They are however part of the character of the conservation area. B&NES is looking at an approach which involves education and encouragement to dissuade businesses from using fake grass in terms of impact on visual amenity in the WHS, and we support this approach.



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

## Chivers House

In March 2018 the Trust issued a very strong objection to proposed student accommodation on a small site on Windsor Bridge, adjacent to Roseberry Place which is currently under construction. The scheme included two buildings of nine and seven storeys, sitting high and tight on the site. The applicant argued that a new townscape height 'norm' had been established with the Egret West riverside buildings at Bath Western Riverside (BWR). The Trust discredited this argument by explaining that the Egret buildings were masterplanned into the BWR site as out-of-the-ordinary landmark buildings. The scheme as proposed was far too high and would dominate the local domestic scale townscape and riverside, as well as having a harmful impact on long views across the World Heritage Site. We were pleased when the application was withdrawn and we are now reviewing a slightly more modest revised scheme.

## Mulberry Park Phase 2

In our Spring newsletter we reported on our serious concerns regarding the height of the Phase 2 landmark buildings facing the city on the Mulberry Park development at Foxhill. We predicted they would overtop the wooded ridgeline of the city, causing lasting visual harm to one of the special criteria for which Bath is designated a World Heritage Site (the city sitting in a bowl with an undeveloped wooded rim) by introducing hard urban forms to this ridge. We also had serious concerns regarding design and materials. Revised plans submitted over the summer have done nothing to allay our fears; the height has been reduced marginally but not enough to reduce the potential visibility of the buildings on the Bath skyline. Design changes have done nothing to enhance this scheme nor elevate it to the quality we have seen in Phases 1 and 3 of this development. We have again strongly objected.

## Kennet House

Kennet House is a picturesque listed Gothic Revival cottage from the mid-19th century set in an attractive garden plot on Sydney Road opposite Sydney Gardens. The owner of Kennet House has sequestered the front part of the garden as a building plot and in March this year submitted an application for a large neo-Georgian house on the site facing the road. We submitted a strong objection on multiple grounds including the principle of building on this land, harm to the WHS, the conservation area, to the nearby listed buildings and to the setting and significance of Kennet House. We were pleased the application was withdrawn, however in September a new application was submitted for a slightly smaller gothic style 'cottage' on the site and is now under consideration. We continue to object to the principle of building on this piece of garden that forms the intended setting of Kennet House and hope the planning authority will refuse this application and retain this area's special and distinct 19th century garden suburb character.

93 SYDNEY PLACE, BATH



## 93 Sydney Place

The history of blocked windows on Georgian buildings became a hot topic for the Trust over the summer when an application to unblock an historic blind window was received for an apartment in Sydney Place. The apartment is important because it was Queen Charlotte's ballroom and the window in question was located in the ballroom. It is clear that blind windows are an historical feature of Sydney Place and many are symmetrically placed along the terrace facades. The application gave no justification for the unblocking and offered no convincing historical evidence that it was originally unblocked. The Trust therefore objected to the loss of this feature which is an element of the building's historic and architectural significance.

## [www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk](http://www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk)

Our new-look website was launched over the summer in order to make it more attractive and user-friendly. We were keen that our wide ranging planning and conservation work should be more accessible and easy to find and promote the services we offer, and we hope the new site achieves this as well as being visually engaging. We now have an easy to navigate section on all the planning applications we have responded to and a section on all the major sites and developments in Bath with relevant news stories attached. The search function has been upgraded so that topics pop up as you type and should lead you very quickly to the information you are looking for. Please send us any feedback on the new look.

We would also like to thank the Hendy and Pendle Charitable Trust for their generous grant which supported our development of the website.

# Fundraising and Development

## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH BUSINESS

We were delighted that Aaron Evans Architects and Rotork joined us as sponsors of our exhibitions this year. We really appreciate their assistance and love working with local businesses. We close the year with a unique opportunity to see photos of Peter Gabriel in Bath by celebrity photographer, Clive Arrowsmith. The Exhibition at the Museum of Bath Architecture is sponsored by No. 15 Great

Pulteney Street Hotel and we're very pleased to be working with them.

We have an exciting programme of exhibitions for 2019 in our museums and were pleased that our applications to B&NES for small grants towards their costs was successful. This funding is very helpful but we still require sponsorship to make these exhibitions available to the widest possible audiences. A call out to

local businesses to work with us will be made shortly and if you would like any more information, please contact Jan Hull or Claire Dixon on 01225 338727.

**AARON  
EVANS**  
ARCHITECTS

XV No.15  
Great  
Pulteney

**rotork**



STUDENTS ENJOYING A SCHOOL VISIT



## WILL YOU SPONSOR BATH'S CHILDREN TO LOVE THEIR PAST?

A recent small-scale audience survey of B&NES primary schools for BPT by an MA Heritage Studies student at Bath Spa University revealed that 78% of respondents said that the cost of transport is their primary obstacle to visiting a Bath museum.

For BPT, being able to offer targeted state schools in less advantaged areas subsidised coach travel would reduce the cost per student from around £15 to £5, making it much more likely that schools will consider a visit. There is a

wide range of academic research showing that museum visits have a profound impact not only on knowledge and understanding but also creativity, shared values and attitudes and improved behaviour. Teachers work hard to harness the excitement and interest of an immersive experience at a BPT museum in creative ways. One commented that "a great museum visit is much more valuable than several weeks of work on history in the classroom."

We are therefore starting a campaign to raise funds to pay for the coaches for these schools. We have already been given one donation by local author Gordon Bloor and are making approaches to charitable trusts but we are also seeking member involvement in this campaign. A donation of £250-£300 would pay for a coach for a day and we will acknowledge all those supporting this campaign. For more information, please contact Jan Hull – [jhull@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:jhull@bptrust.org.uk) or see our website.



# Learning and Community Engagement



THIS IMAGE OF A REFLECTION IN GLASSES WAS TAKEN BY A MEMBER OF THE SNAP AND STROLL GROUP

The exhibition at No. 1 about Bath's Suffragettes will be a source of inspiration this autumn for a photographic project with the Snap and Stroll group. In partnership with Creativity Works, photographer Sally Collister will enable people experiencing mental health challenges to take photos of key Suffragette sites around Bath and the work will be displayed in the Servants' Hall at No. 1.



ONE OF OUR YOUNG VISITORS DISPLAYING THE LEGO™ SHE HAS MADE

Families enjoyed fun activities throughout the summer holidays at all the museums. Architectural Lego™ was popular at MoBA with some highly imaginative designs from young builders. At No. 1, stylish collage versions of the house's facade were produced in abundance, while at the Herschel, there was the chance to create Lego 'women of NASA'™ which celebrates the contribution of women to space discovery.



STUDENTS AND AN OLDER PARTICIPANT MAKING A BANNER TO MARK THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF WOMEN GAINING THE VOTE.

An intergenerational project at No. 1 in the spring brought together members of Age UK (B&NES) and Bath Soroptomists with students from St. Andrew's C of E Primary school. They explored the exhibition at No. 1 which includes the story of Mary Blathwayt, a Bath Suffragette. They then made rosettes and sashes and planted flowers to celebrate the Suffragettes' achievements and to mark the 100th anniversary of women gaining the vote.

A final celebratory parade of banners along the Crescent was held, with songs and readings. The Mayor attended alongside families and other students from the school. It was a fitting way to end this collaborative project which brought old and young together to explore an important moment in Bath's history.

The Herschel Museum has started offering visitors the chance to study the skies through telescopes, thanks to the expert guidance of members of Bath Astronomers. On 21 June, several hundred people, including some who had come from the Summer solstice celebrations at Stonehenge, viewed the sun safely through a solar telescope. Visitors of all ages will now be able to see both sun and stars at special 'skygazing' sessions in the garden of the Herschel Museum, a very special opportunity as it is the place where Uranus was identified in 1781.

A VISITOR USING A TELESCOPE ON THE SUMMER SOLSTICE





# No. 1 Royal Crescent



NO. 1 DINING ROOM  
PRESENTED FOR CHRISTMAS,  
FEATURING ONE OF OUR  
COSTUMED INTERPRETERS,  
DAVID SYMINGTON

## A Georgian Christmas

This year we will again decorate No. 1 Royal Crescent, telling a 'story' of Mr Sandford's Christmas, how he and his family might have celebrated the festive season and how the household, especially the servants, prepared the house for Christmas.

Christmas was very different in the 18th century, being much more 'low key' with celebrations extending over the whole traditional 'twelve days of Christmas'. The most exuberant celebrations were held on Twelfth Night, not Christmas Day.

In towns, Christmas Day was marked by going to church, and charity to the poor. Public entertainments were limited and instead there were sociable gatherings of friends and a Christmas Dinner in the evening.

Many people returned to their country estates, where Christmas was celebrated more traditionally with carol singers, bell ringers and mummers. Estate workers and servants were usually treated to a dinner and Christmas boxes or tips.

Christmas decorations were simple, mainly consisting of 'bringing in the greens', foliage including bay, yew or herbs added fragrance to the house. Some of these traditions dated back to pre-Christian times: both the Druids and the Vikings celebrated the winter solstice, marking the dark winter days with feasting and festivities.

The house is open and dressed for Christmas from Saturday 1st December – Monday 1st January (excluding Christmas Day and Boxing Day when we are closed).

## A NEW GIFT – BOURDALOUE

Here at No. 1, we're always looking for ways to explore and explain Georgian history better to our visitors. The boat-shaped vessel with a handle forms part of a rather niche piece of history that never fails to catch the eyes and ears of our visitors. As the lavatory (as we know it now) didn't exist in the 1700s, simple chamber pots were used. Most were stored under the bed and in various hidey holes for people to use throughout the house. However, when out and about, ladies concerned about being caught short could carry around a bourdaloue – a small portable chamber pot!

The typical habit before the bourdaloue was for ladies to simply relieve themselves where they stood—you'll be reassured to know that knickers had not yet been invented! The bourdaloue allowed for a more dignified method of relieving oneself in public.

As Georgian bathroom habits have long been of interest to our visitors, one of our staff members very kindly raised some money so we could acquire a bourdaloue for the collection. This bourdaloue was most likely made around the 1740s, dating to the Qianlong period. Made in China for European markets, this example is decorated with Chinese lakeside scenes, painted with a blue underglaze and iron red overglaze.

Did you know the name 'bourdaloue' is rumoured to be named after the French cardinal, Louis Bourdaloue? His sermons were said to be so long that ladies often needed to relieve themselves and thus the name and pot came into being.



THE NEW BOURDALOUE BEING HELD IN THE LADIES BEDROOM BY ISRAA GETGOOD, THE MEMBER OF STAFF WHO KINDLY RAISED THE FUNDS TO ENABLE ITS PURCHASE



# No. 1 Royal Crescent

A RECENT VOLUNTEER LECTURE HELD AT MUSEUM OF BATH ARCHITECTURE



## FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their continued commitment and support. Recruitment remains challenging, although we have welcomed many new volunteers to the team. Throughout our very busy summer, visitors have continued to provide exceptional feedback about their visits with many specific mentions of the museum team, so thank you.

One of the things that we have been working hard on this year is volunteer communications. Using feedback from our first annual BPT volunteer survey, a monthly newsletter has been created and shared with all volunteers across the Trust.

This has become a place for our collections to be highlighted, colleagues to be introduced, and for the acknowledgement of the hard work of our volunteers via internal nominations and external feedback through websites such as TripAdvisor. It has also grown into something that volunteers are able to feed into and get involved with, by writing articles.

Although purposefully kept light-hearted, it has also proven useful for the most up to date information on events, lectures, exhibitions and volunteer get-togethers. It also introduces a number of themes, for example September's issue launched the new BPT Volunteer Forum and in our October issue we focused on our Trustees and the work of the Board.

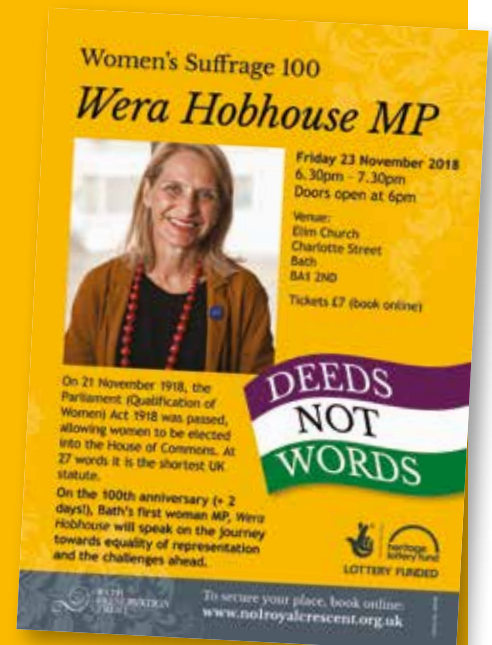
Another change this year has been to recognise the importance of all museum teams having the opportunity to come together in an informal setting to enjoy activities such as lectures and coffee mornings. These events are also open to BPT staff, Trustees and Committee Members.

## DIARY DATES

### **Friday 23 November, Elim Church, Bath**

Wera Hobhouse MP: Lecture to mark 100 years of the passing of the Act of Parliament that enabled women to stand for parliament. This is a significant event within our Women's Suffrage 100 programme so please join us for a timely opportunity to reflect on everything that has been achieved.

6.30pm. £7



### **Every Friday and Saturday, 30 Nov – 22 December**

No. 1 will be hosting some rather different evening events throughout December. We'll be opening up parts of the house through games, crafting, music and live performances. Each evening will explore different themes including a Georgian murder mystery, Christmas decoration making and women's suffrage. Full details are available on the website.

From 6pm. £5

## PETER GABRIEL REFLECTIONS

**ICONIC PHOTOGRAPHS  
IN BATH BY CLIVE  
ARROWSMITH  
FRPS (1978)**

**1 DECEMBER – 3 FEBRUARY**

PETER GABRIEL WITH  
BATH ABBEY IN THE  
BACKGROUND

The Museum of Bath Architecture is delighted to announce an amazing exhibition of previously unseen photographs by internationally acclaimed photographer Clive Arrowsmith FRPS. Clive is famous for his work with Vogue, The Pirelli calendar and his images of global superstars.

In 1978 Clive Arrowsmith photographed Peter Gabriel in a number of key architectural locations around Bath, including the Abbey, Roman Baths and near Solsbury Hill (which is the title of a

classic Gabriel track released in 1977). Clive had previously photographed Peter Gabriel for Vogue in the early '70s when he was still with Genesis. Bath was their second shoot together and pursues a more surrealistic and intimate impression than the earlier shoot. Visitors will see images from both shoots in the exhibition.

Other images from Clive's extensive body of work on show will include pictures of The Dalai Lama, David Bowie and Sir Paul McCartney amongst others.





# Museum of Bath Architecture

CLIVE ARROWSMITH



## UPCOMING EVENTS

As part of the Peter Gabriel Reflections exhibition we will be running a series of events in December. For full details and to book, please see our website or contact the museum:

**Live Photo Booths** – Offering visitors the opportunity to have their portrait taken by Clive Arrowsmith FRPS

**In conversation with Clive Arrowsmith FRPS** – An intimate evening with Clive at 15 Great Pulteney Street Hotel. Drinks and canapés included.

**Studio Photography workshop** – An evening of photography with studio set up that aims to give photographers of all levels the chance to gain experience in using studio lighting to create amazing images.

## VOLUNTEERS

This summer we welcomed two new volunteers; James, a primary school teacher taking a year out to complete his MA in Heritage Management, and Matt, a year four Architecture student. At weekends during July and August Matt, Geni and James ran a series of stone carving demonstrations for visitors to watch and try. These proved very popular and we look to roll them out regularly in the future.

On 1 October we had the pleasure of hosting the volunteers coffee morning, bringing volunteers together from across all areas of Bath Preservation Trust to meet and enjoy an informal chat.



VOLUNTEERS GATHER AT THE MUSEUM OF BATH ARCHITECTURE FOR AN INFORMAL COFFEE MORNING

## ARCHIVES

The archives are busier than ever with three new volunteers joining the team. Browsing through the Bath Preservation Trust archive is a great way to discover the lost streets and buildings of Bath. A recent search of Broad Quay, part of the site for the proposed Bath Quays North development, revealed the Bath Buildings Record drawing of the Baird's Maltings building that was demolished in 1974 when much of the Avon Street area was cleared. Files from the Trust's Architecture and Planning Committee record BPT's objections to the proposed development of the site, including a five storey office block with dark tinted windows, citing a concern



MEMBERS OF THE BPT ARCHIVE TEAM AT WORK IN THE ARCHIVE ROOM AT THE MUSEUM OF BATH ARCHITECTURE

for overdevelopment in the conservation area. To view images of what once stood on Broad Quay and Avon Street search [www.bathintime.co.uk](http://www.bathintime.co.uk)

# THE FOUR BATH WORTHIES

For the past eighteen months *The Four Bath Worthies* painting, one of our key objects, has undergone conservation treatment funded through the Woodmansterne Art Conservation Awards. Painted c.1734 by an unknown artist, the work is in the form of a conversation piece or group portrait depicting four gentlemen in a library setting.

The title of this painting, found in pencil on the rear of the canvas, refers to the importance and prominence of the Bath men it's believed to depict. On the right stands John Wood in surveyor's clothes with an architectural drawing or deed tucked under his arm, and next to him sits Robert Gay, who inherited the manor of Walcot in 1699, making him one of Bath's major landowners. To the left of Gay, also seated, is Ralph Allen, the owner of the Combe Down stone quarries and Wood's patron-client. The fourth figure is Richard Jones, the Clerk of

Works who eventually replaced Wood as the builder-surveyor of Allen's mansion house, Prior Park.

While not the highest quality of work, the social significance of the picture is important, and several rounds of repainting in areas and attempts to correct damage, as well as the need to be relined and varnished, all added up to a significant amount of work. The conservation process has cleaned up the picture and revealed a little more detail about the interior in which it is set, and current research is underway to see if it shows the library or study at Ralph Allen's Townhouse rather than any room at Prior Park.

The picture will soon be returning to the Museum of Bath Architecture where it will feature in the section on John Wood and Town Planning, between the two new display cases recently purchased through a South West Museum Development grant.

THE FOUR BATH WORTHIES IN THE CONSERVATION STUDIO.



# Beckford's Tower and Museum



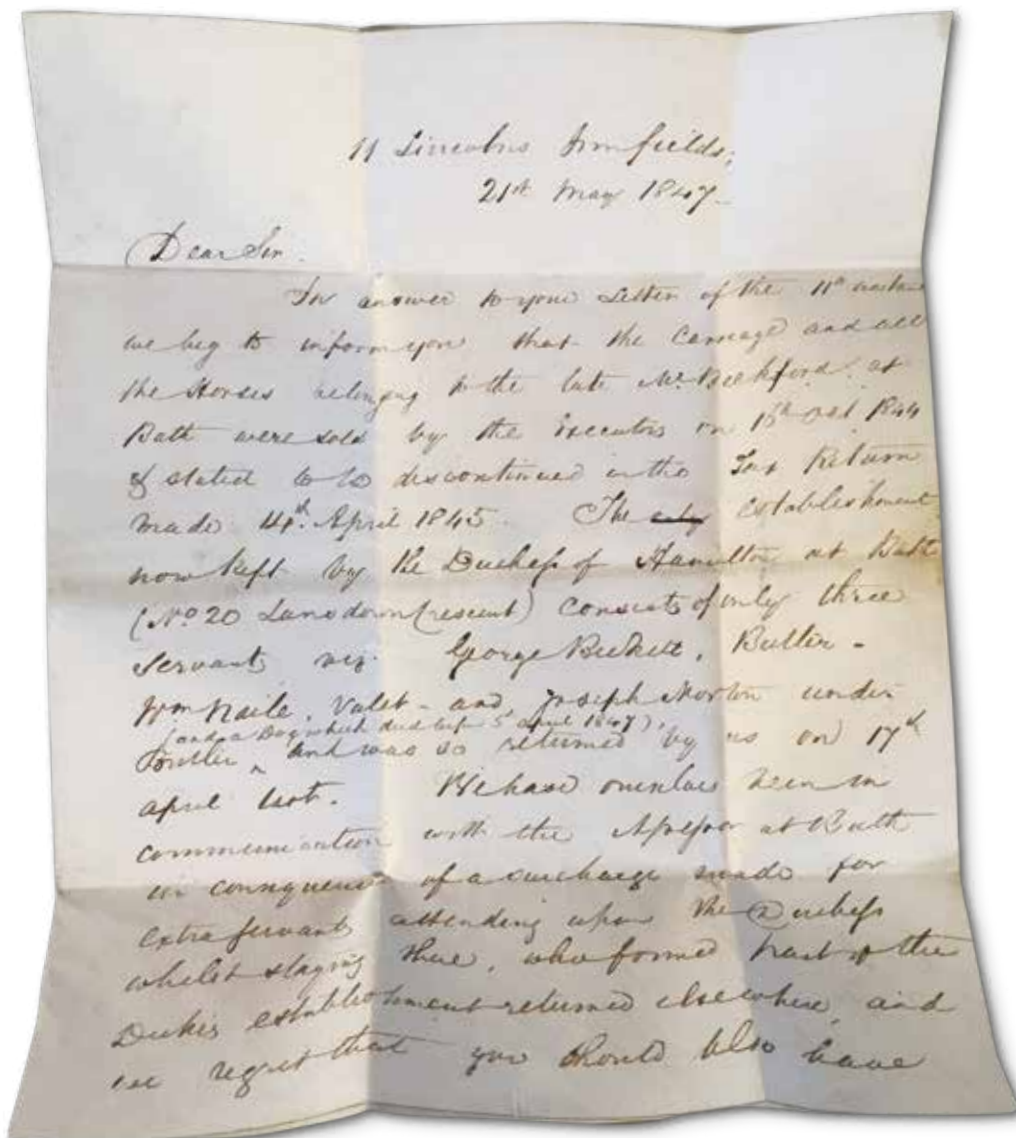
## EXHIBITION CLOSES

'The Beckford Women' has had a successful season before closing at the end of October, and visitors have loved learning about the fascinating and varied women who knew and inspired Beckford.

The exhibition was reviewed by Madeleine Pelling for BSECS, who said "Although on a modest scale, *The Beckford Women* can happily be listed alongside other, larger-scale exhibitions such as *Mrs Delany & Her Circle* (Yale Centre for British Art, 2009) and, more recently, *Enlightened Princesses* (Historic Royal Palaces, 2017) in its ambitious efforts to prioritise and advance the often-hidden histories of eighteenth-century women."

FIRST EDITION NOVELS WRITTEN BY BECKFORD'S HALF-SISTER ELIZABETH HERVEY AND ON LOAN FROM CHAWTON HOUSE LIBRARY FOR THE BECKFORD WOMEN EXHIBITION

# BECKFORD'S VALET IN BATH



A new acquisition for the Beckford's Tower collection has revealed a glimpse into the servants employed by Beckford and his daughter, the Duchess of Hamilton, at 20 Lansdown Crescent in Bath. The letter, purchased from eBay for £60, is dated 21 May 1847 and was sent from White & Sons the solicitors to William Leighton in Hamilton, Scotland. The letter relates to the settlement of William Beckford's estate when inherited by his daughter, and appears to be confirming items sold and who is employed at 20 Lansdown Crescent on behalf of the Duchess. William Leighton was employed by the Duke of Hamilton as a factor and by 1855 was living at a villa called Hutton Bank in Hamilton.

The letter notes that 20 Lansdown Crescent, 'the establishment now kept by the Duchess at Bath' had three servants in residence including William Naile the valet (an added note also confirms that there was 'a dog which died before 5th April 1847'). The reference to William Naile in particular is interesting as he was one of five servants to whom Beckford left an annuity equal to wages and board at the time of his death. Naile died in 1888 and is buried in the cemetery at Lansdown, in the shadow of the Tower. His is one of the very few headstones that can be seen in the 'common graves' area of the cemetery.

1847 LETTER FROM WHITE AND SONS TO WILLIAM LEIGHTON RECENTLY PURCHASED FOR BECKFORD'S TOWER.



# Beckford's Tower and Museum



## WEDDINGS

In September we held the first vow renewal ceremony in the Belvedere at the Tower. The Belvedere can hold up to six people for an intimate ceremony and, with its sweeping views over the landscape, is one of the most unique locations in Bath to hold your special event.

After streamlining our wedding offer and updating our pricing, we are ready to launch a new leaflet for weddings at Beckford's Tower. We have created some fantastic local partnerships including with No. 15 Great Pulteney Hotel. We hope for a very successful year in 2019 so watch this space!

BECKFORD'S TOWER – A PERFECT WEDDING VENUE AND NOW AVAILABLE FOR BOOKINGS

BECKFORD VOLUNTEERS GETTING TOGETHER  
AT THE FONTHILL ESTATE



## FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

Our volunteers have supported the Tower through a very busy year, including the Landmark Trust Open Weekend which saw nearly 100 visitors through our doors each day (huge numbers for the Tower). Our partnership with the Landmark Trust is highly valued and we have been working more closely with them as part of our project planning, in preparation for the conservation and audience work that we hope to embark on. It was thanks to the generosity of the Manifold Trust and in particular, Landmark Trust founders Sir John and Lady Smith, that we were able to achieve the first stage of this project 20 years ago. This project also secured valuable regular income for the Beckford Tower Trust, through the leasing of the flat as a holiday let within the Landmark Trust portfolio. We are again working closely with our Landmark Trust colleagues as we move forward with the next phase, which we hope will see conservation improvements and audience projects being delivered from Summer 2019 onwards.

Relating to the project, we have also enjoyed holding consultation sessions with our volunteer guides, who have fed back their ideas on how we can make the experience at the Tower more exciting and interactive for everyone who visits us, which will feed into our project plans and HLF bid.

This year we welcomed four new volunteer guides to our team: Ollie, Paul, Rick, and Deirdre. Two of our new guides have joined us from the Ensleigh residential development across the road, which is a wonderful start to the relationship we are working on building with this new community.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Thursday, 15th November – Beckford Book Group

The Beckford Book Group's most recent meeting was a very exciting one, as The Rondo Theatre was holding a production of 'Arcadia' the week after we met to discuss it (and act the first scene!). A group of our members enjoyed meeting up to watch the play.

The Beckford Book Group will meet for our final 2018 session to discuss 'The Bloody Chamber' by Angela Carter, which will round off our theme this year of 'Women in Gothic Literature'.

7pm. £5



## OUR TOWER

The *Our Tower* project aims to connect people with Beckford's Tower, its landscape and the story of William Beckford. We want to inspire an appreciation for just how extraordinary the story of William Beckford and his building is, to encourage more people to explore and discover the Tower and its landscape and to establish a communal sense that this important Bath landmark is for everyone to share and enjoy; it is not just Beckford's Tower, it is *Our Tower*. To find out more, please contact Courtney Fleming on [tower@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:tower@bptrust.org.uk)

# Herschel Museum of Astronomy



ONE OF THE BOTTLES OF WINE AVAILABLE AS PART OF THE SILENT AUCTION RUNNING AT THE HERSCHEL MUSEUM OF ASTRONOMY

## SATELLITE WINE

We are holding a silent auction for two special bottles of wine; Herschel and Planck Ontañón Rioja, 2004, gifted to us by Luke Lucas, a space engineer with the European Space Agency. Bidding runs until Christmas Eve when we'll reveal the winner. For information and how to bid please email [JMiddleton@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:JMiddleton@bptrust.org.uk).

## EXHIBITION ROUND-UP

This year's 'Wonder Women of Space' exhibition has drawn new audiences and the museum is thriving. The opportunity to partner with women working in the field of science today, whilst also considering the work of Caroline Herschel in her time, has been inspiring and engaging. We've also seen younger audiences at the museum, partly drawn to the new NASA Lego™!

Looking ahead to next year, our exhibition will be 'Invisible Light: Herschel and Infrared'. In March 1800 using three thermometers, a prism and a piece of white card William Herschel made one of science's most ground breaking discoveries, infrared radiation. Used today in devices ranging from TV remote controls to space satellites, infrared is helping us push boundaries in medicine, understand global warming, and photograph the furthest reaches of our universe. Next year we'll explore how Herschel made all this possible through his discovery of invisible light.

# HALLEY'S COMET STAMPS

Very recently, the Herschel Museum received a gift from Geoffrey Biggs, who was Director of NASA's Solar System Exploration Program and is a member of the William Herschel Society, regularly contributing to their journal.

The donation is a special collection of stamps, compiled by the European Space Agency to commemorate the Giotto mission to Comet Halley, 1986. The ESA's first deep space mission saw four national space agencies (European, Japanese, Soviet and US) collaborate in flyby missions of the comet and a telescopic campaign of observations. To the participating leaders of the four agencies, ESA presented bound collections of Comet Halley stamps issued by dozens of nations around the world.

For us, it makes a great link to Caroline Herschel, famous for discovering several comets. Only eight years old at the time of

Comet Halley's 1758 apparition, she was in her eighties and no longer an active astronomer at the time of Comet Halley's 1835 appearance. Interestingly, John Herschel, William's grandson, was yet another notable astronomer and for the comet's return in 1835 he travelled to South Africa to observe it.

It's clear that the ESA programme management team went to a surprising amount of trouble to collect commemorative stamped envelopes from around the world and we are very excited and grateful to be able to add this item to the museum's collection.



THE RECENTLY DONATED STAMP ALBUM NOW PART OF THE COLLECTION AT THE HERSCHEL MUSEUM OF ASTRONOMY



# Herschel Museum of Astronomy



VISITORS JOIN OUR TEAM OF STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS FOR A STAR GAZING EVENT AT THE HERSCHEL MUSEUM OF ASTRONOMY

## FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

Volunteers at the Herschel Museum have been supporting us through a very busy summer with record numbers visiting. We would like to thank you all for your hard work and continued commitment to the museum and hope you are enjoying the new fridge!

In particular this year, we have really enjoyed working with both the William Herschel Society and Bath Astronomers. These groups have been advising us on opportunities to diversify and expand our programme and we have seen visitor numbers rise and great levels of visitor engagement at new star and sun gazing events. We are already planning future events with both groups and are keen to establish regular star and sun gazing sessions that build the museum's reputation as the place to be when there is a significant astronomical event to be seen. We all appreciate the magic our visitors experience when they gaze from the very spot where William Herschel discovered Uranus. We would like to thank these groups for their ideas and time and for supporting World Heritage Day.

We have also met with the Herschel Advisory Panel which includes representatives from the Royal Society, Royal Astronomical Society, University of Bath and William Herschel Society. Their contribution to our long term plans ensure curatorial grounding in all we do and their continued support is also hugely appreciated.

## RETAIL MATTERS

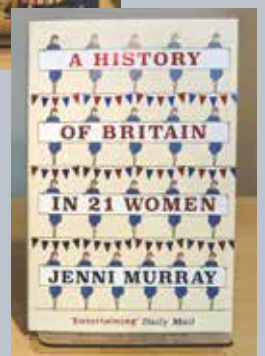
This year the shops feature a womens' suffrage theme and the extraordinary achievements of women. The topic has proved popular and we've recently obtained two books that are selling well. The first, a hardback copy of *"The Quiet Revolution of Caroline Herschel"* by Emily Winterburn concentrates mainly on the life and work of the 18th century woman astronomer and is available at the Herschel Museum of Astronomy and No. 1 Royal Crescent. The second title is more generic; *"A History of Britain in 21 Women"* by Jenni Murray and is a good summary of prominent female figures that made a difference in British history. It is also available at the Museum of Bath Architecture.

Our supplier market is changing and as some of our long time local suppliers have left Bath or finished business, we have established trade relations with several new ones. We've also extended our greetings cards offer to include the lovely designs of Anne Cotterill and Julia Trickey. Last month we started selling products from Somerset Lavender Farm – the handmade soaps are proving increasingly popular.

Soon we'll be approaching the winter season and new stock is on its way. The customers' favourite candle spinners will be back this year, including new designs. Do visit us when you are ready to face Christmas shopping!

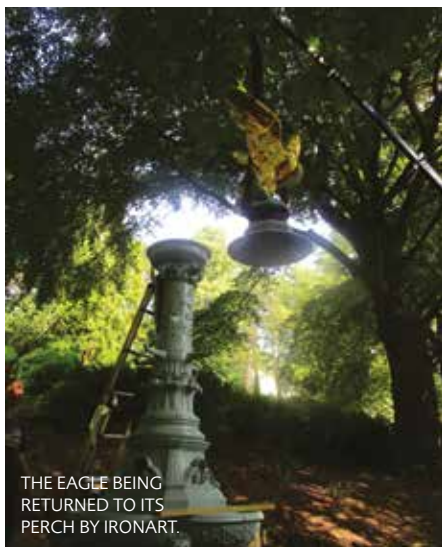


THESE TITLES ARE AMONGST THE NEW PRODUCTS NOW AVAILABLE AT NO. 1 ROYAL CRESCENT SHOP





# World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund



THE EAGLE BEING  
RETURNED TO ITS  
PERCH BY IRONART.



## THE EAGLE HAS LANDED

This long running project has reached completion thanks to close collaboration between the Fund, the Council Parks Department, and local residents led by Councillor Patrick Anketell-Jones. The Grade II listed drinking fountain in Hedgemoor Park is now repaired and repainted, and the eagle which spreads its wings on the top has been re-gilded.

## BATHIRON FESTIVAL

In June, the National Heritage Ironwork Group hosted a Festival in Bath celebrating historic ironwork and modern skills, with practical demonstrations including hands-on experience for children and adults, lectures and guided walks. In Parade Gardens blacksmiths forged a new railing for the bandstand, inspired by the musical composition of a local student.



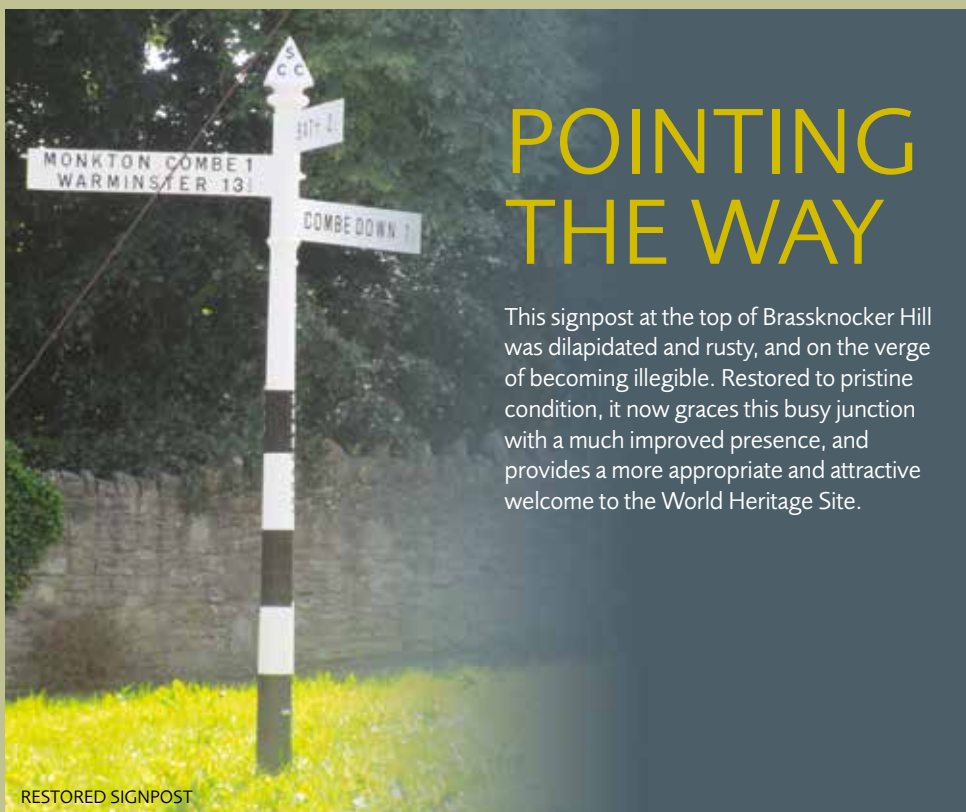
BANDSTAND PANEL SPONSORED BY THE WHSEF

THE INTERPRETATION PANEL AND NO. 1



## GRAVEL WALK TELEPHONE BOX

The Grade II Listed box, now restored, was designed in 1935 by Sir Giles Gilbert Scott; the iconic "K6" was allowed to be painted grey rather than the usual red in sensitive historic areas. An interpretation panel shows the 1769 Thomas Malton engraving of *The Royal Crescent under Construction* directly in front of its subject.



RESTORED SIGNPOST

## POINTING THE WAY

This signpost at the top of Brassknocker Hill was dilapidated and rusty, and on the verge of becoming illegible. Restored to pristine condition, it now graces this busy junction with a much improved presence, and provides a more appropriate and attractive welcome to the World Heritage Site.

For more information, help with a project, or to recommend new projects, please contact the Fund Administrator Ainslie Ensom [whsef@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:whsef@bptrust.org.uk)



MEMBERS AT STOWE HOUSE



MEMBERS ENJOYING TEA AT CRICHEL HOUSE



## We need your help

Our members help strengthen our commitment to protect and enhance Bath and its green setting and we want to increase our membership and encourage a wider representation of Bath's residents and those in the surrounding area to join us, including students at our new student rate. For more details on the benefits of membership please contact Jan Hull on 01225 338727

## New membership rates

The subscriptions and donations we earn make a vital contribution to our work. Rates have stayed the same for many years while costs have risen so Trustees have confirmed a modest increase. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of all our members.

## Walks and Tours

Members enjoyed some wonderful tours this summer, all brilliantly arranged by Peta Hall and wonderfully led by Joy Burt. As well as Stowe and Crichel House, there were visits to Barford Park and Westonbirt and a return visit to Stockton House to see further work carried out by the owner. The private visits allowed members to see houses that are not open to the public and appreciate first hand the complexities of restoring beautiful houses to high standards.

Our walks for members this year covered subjects as diverse as student housing, Combe Down's quarrying history and historic people who were married in Bath. Grateful thanks to Caroline Kay, David Stubbs, Victoria Barwell and Andrew Butterworth for their specialist knowledge and additional thanks to Andrew for organising the walks.

We're already planning tours for 2019 with priority booking available from late January.

## HANDS ON VOLUNTEERING

In July, BPT and the National Trust had a "clean up day" at Southcot Burial Ground, our first collaboration with the National Trust at this site. Many hands made light work of removing brambles, bindweed, ivy and saplings and giving the roses a good prune. We'd like to repeat this regularly so do get in touch if you'd like to come along in 2019.

Volunteers have also ably assisted with essential internal painting and at the Herschel Museum, Museum of Bath Architecture and No. 1 and we are very grateful for their assistance.

## The Schoolhouse project

A major refurbishment project for 2018 started at the end of May transforming ground floor offices in the Schoolhouse at the Museum of Bath Architecture into offices for our Conservation and Planning Department. Very little work had been done to the offices for 20 years and the shutters had possibly not seen the light of day for over 40 years. The budget stretched to redecorating the lobby area. At some point, budget allowing, we would like to have disabled access to both the offices and toilets in the Schoolhouse.

## The partnership of Bath Museums

Arts Council England (ACE) funded a four-year partnership project for Bath's 15 accredited museums to work together, share visitor data and develop marketing plans to promote the complete museum offering in Bath. The project funding ceased in 2017, but such were the benefits reaped from working together that over the summer a consortium of museum leaders has re-formed – without any additional financial resources – to continue the good work. The first output you may notice is an increase in circulation of the Bath Museums 'All Mapped Out' free maps of museum trails in Bath.

## OBITUARY

### Peter Carey 1951-2018

The world of architectural conservation is built upon the dedication of passionate people and it was with great sadness this summer that we lost one of its most enthusiastic devotees, Peter Carey. Elected as a Lethaby Scholar by the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings in 1977, Peter held the SPAB principles close as he sought to find new and respectful solutions to adapting and restoring historic buildings. In the mid-1980s he began working with the architectural practice of Donald Insall and in 1987 moved to Bath. Peter's work assisting David Brain & Partners in the city brought him into contact with Bath Preservation Trust, and a tenure sitting on the BPT Architectural Committee. Peter's knowledge and interest in the redundant spas of Bath drove him to join forces with Sir Nicholas Grimshaw and navigate the Thermae Bath Spa project. Anyone lucky enough to enjoy a Peter Carey tour of the Cross Bath could not fail to appreciate the impact that a sensitive eye and imaginative hand can have in bringing an old building brilliantly back to life.

Always keen to encourage young architects to engage with the city, Peter would regularly bring work placement or newly hired young professionals to the Museum of Bath Architecture. An ability to communicate and share his joy in his subject made him a favourite with students and he frequently gave his time to conduct and support walks, talks and events for BPT. His excited reaction on seeing the newly purchased John Wood drawing instruments (and mischievous request to take them home to use) moved seamlessly into an erudite analysis of the links between Euclid, Adelard and John Wood – an enduring memory of the depth of Peter's knowledge and his endless excitement for architecture.





# Members' Christmas drinks at the Museum of Bath Architecture

**Monday, 3 December**

Do come and join fellow members, Trust staff and Trustees for  
a festive drink and nibbles between 12 noon and 2.00pm.  
We would love to see you at what is always a very cheery occasion!

RSVP: Please call Jan Hull on 01225 338727  
or email [jhull@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:jhull@bptrust.org.uk)



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