



BATH PRESERVATION TRUST

Issue number 81 | Spring 2015

World Heritage Day

Sunday 19 April, 10am-4.30PM

Prior Park Landscape Garden

Join in our celebration of World Heritage. Dress up, participate in some Georgian-style country dances, and enjoy the many free activities for the whole family whilst appreciating the landscape setting of the city.

Inside this issue

- Summer Walks and Tours Programmes
- Photos of our 80th Birthday Reception
- Planning and Campaigning updates from across B&NES
- Major exhibitions at our four museums
- Community Engagement update

www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk

Message from the Chairman



The Chairman took this photo at a Mumbai Museum and agrees with its pronouncement!

We are delighted that family visits have increased so markedly at No. 1 Royal Crescent, and that schools groups are also growing, benefiting from the use of the Servants' Hall Learning Space and the expertise of Polly Andrews in leading our educational work across all of our museums. This was an act of will from ourselves and our funders, consciously to make this happen in the context of the redevelopment of No. 1, and is a proud legacy of that project.

For Bath as a whole, the work that the Trust does depends on support from our volunteers and members as well as the financial support we can generate to undertake our work. We have no innate 'right' to exist as an organisation, and no institution funds us for our campaigning relating to planning, planning applications and developments in and around the city.

So I have two requests for this 'legacy'. First, that you think about future generations by reading the legacy leaflet enclosed with this newsletter and also about supporting our education or campaigning work; and secondly that if there are any members keen to get more closely involved with our planning or our museums, especially if they bring specific expertise from the planning, historic buildings or historic house worlds, they let me know. We are blessed with a small but strong professional team on the staff at the Trust but they always need your help.

Edward Bayntun-Coward

A lasting legacy?

Everything seems to have a legacy these days, even Magna Carta, celebrating its 800th birthday this year. UNESCO reiterates our responsibility to look forward when they say that World Heritage Sites like Bath should be conserved and enhanced 'for this and future generations'.

As we see the terrible destruction of heritage sites and whole communities in the Middle East, or enjoy the BBC's version of Wolf Hall and the physical consequences of the 'revolution from above' of the Reformation, our task in Bath seems significantly easier. Nevertheless I believe that it takes an act of will to hang on to what is best and to encourage the young to appreciate it for their future.

Message from the Chief Executive

The Sack of Bath smacks of the Sack of Rome - actually, Rome was sacked six times in all by *inter alios* the Vandals, the Visigoths, the Ostrogoths and the Saracens; so perhaps we should take that as a warning that it can happen more than once.

Adam Fergusson, Author, The Sack of Bath, in his 2013 lecture *The Sack at 40*

There's a lot going on in Bath at the moment. Major sites exist right in the heart of the World Heritage Site where significant change is anticipated; some developed already (Bath Riverside's first phases), some awaiting development (Manvers Street, Avon Street Car Park) and some with planning permission, in particular the MOD sites moving forward to create significant residential areas. Some cranes are already up and more are no doubt to come.

Other sites are waiting for the right answer; the Colonnades, the Recreation Ground, even Hampton Row, spring to mind.

The Trust has found itself objecting to an increasing number of planning applications. This gives us no satisfaction; we wish to support good development. Frequently it is because we perceive there to be a gap between the Council's fine words in the Core Strategy to 'conserve and enhance the Outstanding Universal Value of the World Heritage Site' with a strong assumption against harm, on the one hand, and the applications which come forward and are sometimes recommended for approval.

So is our City safe? Well, it would feel a bit more so if there were three guides in place and adhered to: a **Building Heights** Strategy, a **Pattern Book** for Bath, and a **Character Appraisal** for the Bath Conservation Area. The first two of these exist, but the Council has not adopted them and so they have limited weight. The third, dated 2005, is out of date and doesn't do the job it needs to. With these you could at least see how tall buildings should be, what they might be built of and how they should respect their context.

So if you have a vote in the forthcoming Council elections, do ask your candidates what they intend to do to 'conserve and enhance' the World Heritage Site and its setting, and in particular whether they will promise to prioritise the adoption of these planning documents.

In the meantime do let the Trust know what we should be focusing on in the year ahead. We always welcome your views.

Caroline Kay

AGM/New Trustees

The 2015 AGM will be held on 24th June at teatime. Formal notice and papers will be sent in early June. The Chairman and Chief Executive are always keen to hear from members with special expertise to support one of our three committees (Architecture and Planning, Museums and Education, and Finance) – we are particularly keen to hear from surveyors, PR specialists or planners.

This frequently provides the trustees with the pool from which new trustees are recommended to the AGM so any suggestions for nominations should be received by the end of April.

Planning Matters

The year began with the long awaited consultation on the **Placemaking Plan**, and options for the development of major sites in Bath and associated development management policies. The Trust will be continuing to work with B&NES in the development of design values for the Bath sites. The Placemaking Plan is Part 2 of the Council's principal local plan alongside Part 1: the Core Strategy (adopted 2014).

In February a number of planning applications for development on prominent sites was determined by B&NES Development Control Committee. Caroline Kay made a powerful statement to Council Members at the committee meeting in February, warning the planning authority of the potential risk or cumulative harm to the World Heritage Site caused by the piecemeal approval of mediocre design responses. It seems this had some effect and resulted in the recommendations to approve developments at Pinesgate and the **Grand Parade Colonnades** being overturned and refused by the planning committee. As in most cases the Trust was in favour of the principle of development and engaged in the development of proposals at an early stage, but stressed concerns about harmful potential impact.

We fully supported the intention to open up the Grand Parade Colonnades and encourage a scheme which creates access from Parade Gardens. However the proposal presented substantial harm to the setting Grade I Pulteney Bridge, with very little public benefit. The Trust hopes to have a role in the development of any further proposals for this significant site. The proposal for an office block on the **Pinesway site**, at 6 storeys, failed to accord with the Council's policies on heights, and we objected to excessive height and massing.

Revised proposals for the **Bath Press site** are expected to be submitted this spring. The Committee met with the developers who are working on welcomed new plans for a mixed use scheme to provide housing, including smaller affordable units, and offices. Initial concerns have been expressed about building heights and the retention of the Bath Press façade as an integral part of the new structure is supported in principle.

MOD Sites

Planning applications for residential development on all three former MOD sites have now been approved. Whilst supporting the principle of housing on the sites BPT maintained positions of objection to both the **Ensleigh** and **Warminster Road sites**. We are seriously concerned about the implications of the approved development for Endsleigh at the gateway to the World Heritage Site. We feel that the 3-4 storey heights, combined with a layout that has little regard to the setting of Beckford's Tower, compromises the value of the World Heritage Site and its setting. We recognise that the architects for the Warminster Road site made considerable effort to make changes to the scheme in response to concerns about the layout, bulk, design and materials. Our principal reason for objection relates to the design aesthetic for the whole site, which is inappropriate to the character of this part of Bath which, rather than being made up of Georgian terraces, is marked by the transition from terraces to villas during the mid-19th century.

With regard to **Foxhill**, the Trust commended the project team for their approach to the redevelopment of the site and the efforts which have been made to engage residents and stakeholders. Four storey blocks were approved following reduction from six storeys. However, BPT remains concerned that buildings at four storeys are too high, especially on an elevated site which forms part of the very beautiful and distinctive Bath skyline. Placing buildings of this height on this site, which would be visible above the trees, and through the trees in winter, may have a harmful impact on some of the most important and iconic 'green' views from significant landmarks within the Bath Conservation Area. We are particularly concerned about the impact of light spill from buildings at this height which could be very damaging to the skyline above the city which remains dark in character and an intrinsic quality of the setting of the World Heritage Site.



The four storey buildings proposed at Foxhill

Bath Preservation Trust Campaigning

Electrification of the Railway

The Trust has been pressing Network Rail for detailed information concerning alterations to bridges and new structures which are necessary for the electrification of the railway. We will continue to have input into the development of solutions for the line passing through the City of Bath World Heritage Site and its landscape setting. The approach here should see that the visual impact is minimised, and the least possible harm caused to the historic and listed fabric of Brunel's GWR.

The Rec

We are awaiting the outcome of the higher tier tribunal about the Bath Recreation Ground Scheme to be held on 18th May, and meanwhile are getting to know the new General Manager of the Rec Trust which now has trustees independent of B&NES Council, as well as maintaining a conversation with both English Heritage and Bath Rugby about this important scheme. As yet they are no nearer a planning application being made.

Sulis Down

Following Public Inquiry the Planning Inspector finally ruled on the Core Strategy in 2014, releasing land within the Green Belt for

development at South Stoke Plateau. We have been actively engaged in the development of the masterplan for the site and the Trust was represented over a week of workshops to consider matters including heritage and design, ecology, employment and access.

Fullers' Earth

Last summer Protect Bath brought a judicial review against B&NES for having given planning permission for a Waste Recycling Plant on the former Fullers' Earthworks Site, without having taken due account of the need to design the whole site in relation to the openness of the Green Belt. The point at issue hinged on whether or not the existing waste uses were to be safeguarded on the site as well as the new facility, and whether the planning officer's report was misleading. They were given leave to bring the claim and the High Court hearing took place in March. Sadly the case was comprehensively rejected by the judge, Mr Justice G Hickinbottom. So what happens next? The landowners agent said at the last enforcement hearing that if the JR was thrown out, they would withdraw their appeal against the enforcement notice so the appeal against enforcement would fall (on the basis that the breaches were regularised by the planning permission). This would leave the Council needing to drive compliance with the enforcement notice and/or delivery of the recycling plant for which the planning permission was granted. Protect Bath's solicitor will be writing to the Council to remind them of the need to see compliance.

Bath Preservation Trust

Bath Preservation Trust archives

Moving on from the sorting and re-storing, a large percentage of the original holdings in the Archive Collection have now been catalogued, adding to the initial classifications and incorporating a number of different categories.

The interest in the Bath Preservation Trust Archive continues to rise, with a regular flow of enquires and visits from local, national and international researchers. Many of the research topics focus on specific areas, streets or particular buildings; it is now possible to easily identify and locate what records we have in this respect.

To help raise awareness of our archives, an online catalogue - similar to those used by the Bath Record Office and B&NES - is due to be launched by the end of the year.



Archives are catalogued and easily identifiable

80th Birthday celebrations for Bath Preservation Trust

On Wednesday 26 March the Mayor of Bath, Cllr Cherry Beath, kindly hosted a small party of guests including long-serving members of staff, trustees, sponsors and supporters, at a Civic Reception in the Mayors' Parlour in the Guildhall, in celebration of the Trust's 80th anniversary last year.



The Mayor with Caroline Kay, Andrew Fletcher and Jane Brown

Education and Community Project update

Across the Trust's museums, efforts continue to help develop people's enjoyment and understanding of our collections. For all our different audiences, whether they are first-time visitors, families or school students, there is something exciting on offer. At No. 1 in the Servants' Hall, new family try-on costumes are proving popular and there are also board games on offer plus a booklet about Henry Sandford, No. 1's first resident.

At the Museum of Bath Architecture, a new construction work bench has been added for younger visitors to enjoy, with the aim of helping the architects of tomorrow develop their skills!

At the Herschel Museum, thanks to funding from the Ernest Cook Trust, a supply of Space Lego is allowing children (and adults!) to have fun in creating their own spaceships. A new learning trail aimed at both families and Junior (Key Stage 2) students is also available to help enable children to explore the museum in depth.



To boldly go...

At No.1, in anticipation of the expected high number of families visiting the Small Worlds exhibition, there will be plenty of opportunities to try out the skills involved in creating miniature objects. Our Family Friday drop-in sessions over the summer will include the chance to create small-scale rooms in a Georgian style.

Between May and July, a large dolls house will be designed and decorated from scratch as part of a collaborative project between Age UK members and students from St. Andrews' Primary School. Using the Small Worlds exhibition as their inspiration, the participants will work with specialist miniature artists to create their own furniture and dolls. The house will be on display throughout the project in the Servants' Hall so that visitors can see the exciting work in progress.

The Bath Museums Community Engagement Project continues to grow in strength, in partnership with the Holburne and American museums. 30 Age UK members from Bath and Keynsham regularly attended talks, tours and craft activities over the winter months. This partnership is being expanded to include participants from Chew Valley too. Further workshops with Bath Area Play Project, St. Mungo's and Creativity Works will also take place at the Trust's museums over the next few months. From May to July, the FreshArt Project for people with mental health issues will use our museums' collections as inspiration for creating artwork for the walls of NHS House at the Royal United Hospital.

Have you spotted No. 1 in VisitEngland's **Discover Your England** television advert currently on our screens in the build-up to the Rugby World Cup 2015? Someone is working late in the staff office!



Margaret Alphonsi MBE represents England rugby

Awards 2014



No. 1 Royal Crescent won TWO awards at the SW Tourism Awards 2014-15. We won a **Gold Award for Access and Inclusivity** and a Highly Commended for Best Large Visitor Attraction.



No. 1 Royal Crescent is accredited as a **VisitEngland Quality Assured Visitor Attraction** with **Gold Status** in 2015. Gold Status puts us in an elite category of just 11 visitor attractions (from over 900) in England scoring over 90% in a mystery visit by judges. We are in very fine company alongside HM Tower of London, Blackpool Pleasure Beach and Beaulieu in Hampshire.



No. 1 Royal Crescent won a prestigious 'Highly Commended' certificate in the *Restoration of a Georgian Building in an Urban Setting* category of the **Georgian Group Architectural Awards 2014**. These national awards are won only by teams and/or individuals who show clear vision and a commitment to recreating Georgian buildings and landscapes across the UK.

Fundraising and Development

No.1 Royal Crescent

Our sponsorship successes from working with local businesses

There is much excitement about our next major exhibition, **Small Worlds**, and we are very privileged that Liza Antrim is allowing us to show these remarkable dolls' houses which will be on public view for the very first time.

As well as attracting significant coverage in the national press, specialist magazines and through social media, we are delighted to have secured the required funding for the exhibition through a major grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund plus support from The Jeremy and John Sacher Charitable Trust. And we have a number of the houses sponsored; the Royal Crescent Hotel is sponsoring the Elkington House (c1840), Pavey Group the Bellamy House (c1762), Cosmo and Francis Fry the Fry House (c1840), and Geoffrey Nesbitt & Henry Wray the Vickerman House (c1816). A donation has also been received from Angela Cottrell, who is a member of BPT, and we are incredibly grateful for all of this support.



The Jeremy and John Sacher
CHARITABLE TRUST

Henry Wray & Geoffrey Nesbitt
In honour of Valentine & Claire Gould

COSMO AND FRANCIS FRY



We are very keen to develop partnerships with local businesses both through corporate membership and sponsorship, and the businesses who are supporting Small Worlds will benefit from the marketing opportunities that sponsorship of the exhibition provides. As our exhibitions usually run for 6 months, rather than being a single event, our sponsorship offers are good value. Sponsors' names are placed in front of the thousands of visitors we receive at our museums and promoted to our 1500 members, the majority of whom live locally.

For more details on sponsorship and all our fundraising work please contact:

Jan Hull, Development Officer at Bath Preservation Trust,
by phone on +44 (0)1225 338727 or email
fundraising@bptrust.org.uk.

For details on corporate membership please contact Peta Hall,
Membership Secretary on email petahall@bptrust.org.uk.

Please remember us in your Will

We are fortunate to live, work or visit this extraordinary city and if Bath has been a special place in your life then leaving a gift to Bath Preservation Trust in your Will is one way of ensuring the city and our museums are there to be enjoyed by future generations.

Since our beginnings in 1934, BPT has received several remarkable gifts and legacies including two generous bequests from local residents in the last few months. As we receive no public funding for core activities all gifts and bequests are essential. They are a vital part of our income and ensure we can continue our campaigning work to protect our historic city. They also help us manage our four museums, which are the city's only museums which explain Bath's Georgian development, and provide the means to run a highly successful and award winning education programme. The Trust will therefore 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 the Bath Preservation Trust will 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 us then please let us know so 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 in writing at the Trust offices at 1 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LR.

No.1 Royal Crescent

Exhibition: Small Worlds – Historic Dolls Houses from the 18th and 19th Centuries May 9th – November 8th 2015

A magnificent collection of historic dolls houses and miniature furniture from the private collection of Liza Antrim will be exhibited in public for the first time at No.1 Royal Crescent this year. The houses date from the 18th and 19th centuries and have been collected and painstakingly restored by Liza Antrim, a former conservator, who has had a love of dolls' houses since childhood.

18th century dolls' houses were known as 'baby houses' and were not toys for children at all, but rather were commissioned by wealthy adults and furnished with miniature pieces made by the

finest craftsmen. Their accurate architectural detail and sumptuous interiors were designed to reflect the grandeur of real houses and the status of the owner. Gradually, commercially made dolls' houses became more common and were no longer just showpieces for adults; instead becoming increasingly important for girls' play and learning. Bellamy's House (c1762) is an early example of such a house, an exquisite box back two storey house with its original furnishings. It still bears a label indicating it was made by Bellamy, maker of Baby Houses, 'at the sign of the Green Parrot, near Chancery Lane, Holborn'. The Drawing Room with its neat, grey wallpaper and pale blue gathered curtains is the height of fashion, while a perfect miniature of a well equipped kitchen of the 1780's includes trivets, ladles and even a tiny, working spit jack.



Miniature 1780s kitchen with spit jack

Also included in the exhibition is the magnificent Fry House, one of the finest 19th century English Baby Houses. Made in Bristol for the children of Francis Fry, the chocolate manufacturer and leading Quaker, it also has all its original décor and furnishings, some of which were possibly copied from originals in the Fry family home, Tower House, Cotham, Bristol. The grand four poster bed, sideboard and burr elm pedestal table still bear their labels from 'Beachams Fancy Depot, 24 North Street, Bristol'.

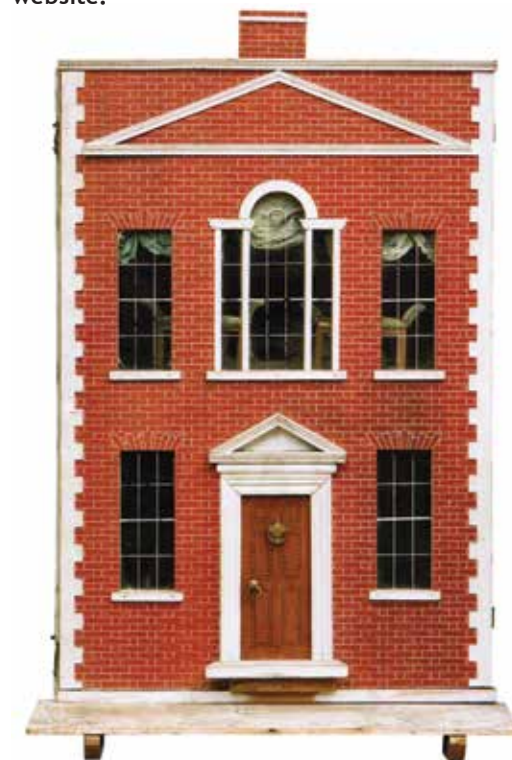
But the exhibition also reveals a hidden history because many of these houses made for the pleasure of better-off children were furnished with the labours of the poorest. Children from the Ragged Schools, set up in the 19th century to provide free education for destitute children, learnt needlework skills under the direction of Octavia Hill by making upholstered items to furnish elegant dolls' houses. The exhibition also includes a display of miniature tin furniture made by Evans & Cartwright which was to a large extent made using child labour because their tiny fingers were ideally suited to every stage of manufacture from pressing and soldering to japanning and painting.

Other houses in the exhibition have been restored beautifully to their original condition by Liza Antrim whose approach has always been to restore with sensitivity, not to redecorate, as can be seen in her restoration of Swallowcliffe, originally made for Emma Mayo (b. 1819) of Yeovil. Visitors will also be able to see a fascinating miniature kitchen displayed in the actual kitchen at No.1, as well as a tiny shop and traditional pedlar dolls.

Dolls' houses have held a special fascination for generations of children. They offer a perfect, miniature world which inspires us to create stories and imagine the lives of the tiny people who might live within. Small Worlds offers a unique opportunity to see many beautiful houses from this important collection for the first time and it will inspire and delight in equal measure.

An extensive programme of lectures, workshops and events will support the exhibition, including a symposium on Friday 6th November.

Further details of all these events will be listed on the museum website.



The front of the
Bellamy House
(c 1762)

No.1 Royal Crescent

Behind the Scenes Tours in January

This winter we embarked on a new venture at No.1 Royal Crescent with the introduction of weekend 'behind the scenes' pre-booked guided tours. Although the house is closed to ordinary visitors over these winter weeks to allow us to undertake our regular housekeeping tasks, it provided an ideal opportunity to take a closer look at 18th century housekeeping, in particular some of the extraordinary methods and materials used to keep a home clean and sparkling. Visitors were fascinated to hear how tealeaves were used to clean carpets and how a goose wing made an ideal feather duster!

Our team of volunteer guides brought the house to life with fascinating stories about life below stairs and the tours proved so popular we certainly hope to repeat them next year.

BBC Countryfile at No.1 Royal Crescent

We were delighted when the BBC asked to film at No.1 Royal Crescent last November for their special Christmas edition of Countryfile. As usual, the house had been beautifully decorated for Christmas by our volunteer guides under the direction of Jean Boardman. In particular the Dining Room, with its wonderful display of natural greenery and festive feasting, provided an ideal backdrop for a feature about Georgian Christmas Decorations. Presenter Ellie Harrison brought with her a traditional 'kissing bough' which we hung in the hall and she then visited the kitchen to see 18th century mince pies being made. We had a fantastic response to the programme and No.1 Royal Crescent certainly looked spectacular.



Ellie Harrison with 250-year-old mince pies (!)

Museum of Bath Architecture

New Name



Ever since its creation in 1992 the Building of Bath Collection has long been an essential visit to anyone wanting to understand the City of Bath, but over the last few years we had become concerned about low visitor numbers. Extensive research undertaken over the last

18 months by the ACE-funded Bath Museums Partnership revealed that while the experience our visitors had when they got to us was excellent, it was actually getting them to us that was the problem, and at the core of that problem was the fact that many visitors to the city were confused by our name and unclear as to what we were. So we used the opportunity of the ongoing museum partnership research to consult visitors to the city about what name would encourage them to visit us. This research coincided with the process of re-applying for Accreditation, which is the national standard for museums that we all have to regularly reapply for to show that we are caring for our collections, providing for our visitors, and establishing a sustainable financial and organisational structure for our museums (all BPT museums were recently awarded Full Accreditation). The results of the research and the discussion during the Accreditation process were fascinating and immensely helpful as staff and trustees decided to change the name to the Museum of Bath Architecture.

The core narrative of the museum and collection remains unchanged, telling the story of the construction of the 18th and

early 19th century city and revealing the skill of the craftsmen who built it, and we have used the name change as an opportunity to begin freshening up the presentation of the permanent displays.

However, the change in name was more than just responding to a need to encourage increased visitors; it was also driven by a desire to more fully incorporate the campaigning work of the Trust into the museum. Recent temporary exhibitions and public lectures have proven how capable we are of revealing to residents and visitors the ideas behind all periods of the city's built heritage, and highlight the conservation issues that we face in the future. And we hope to continue to do this at the museum, through exhibitions and events. The first step to enhancing our ability to do this has been the introduction of a wall in the museum dedicated to campaigns, issues and ideas in Bath. On this wall we will be putting up changing information about current campaigning work, planning applications and development plans in the city, as well as notices about events, lectures and projects that visitors may be interested in.

And it is here that Members can help.

We would welcome contributions to the content for this wall relating to the history, conservation and future development of Bath such as posters or flyers for events or even interesting photos or snippets of information. If you would like to send us something for the campaigning wall you can drop it into the museum or email it to either Jill on jhunter@bptrust.org.uk or Amy on beckford@bptrust.org.uk

Museum of Bath Architecture

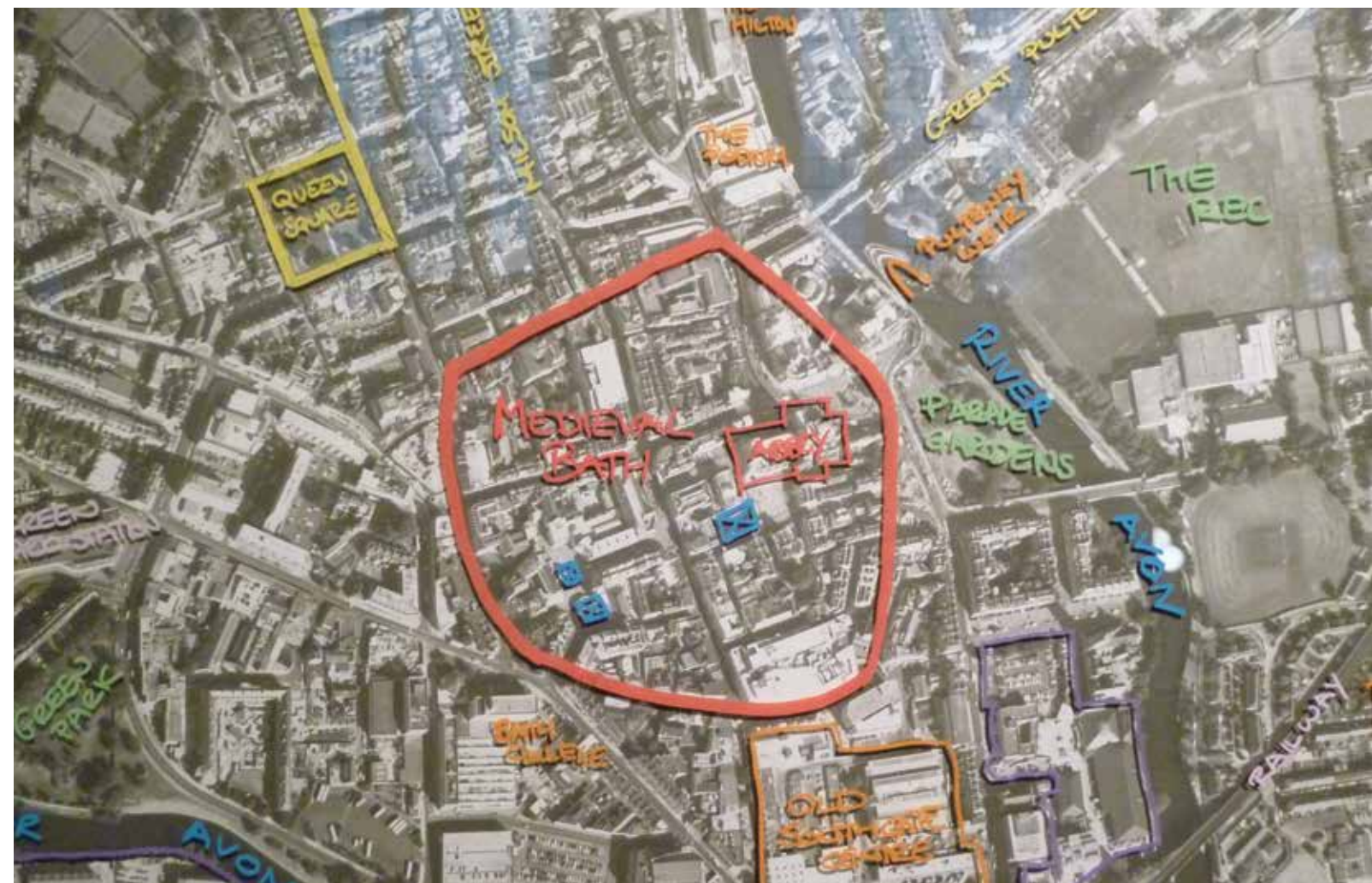
Bath: Buildings in Landscape Exhibition at the Museum of Bath Architecture

One of the Trust's concerns has long been the threat to the natural environs of Bath through development. Recent years have seen those concerns increase as our Architecture & Planning Committee review and consult on proposals for housing in and around the Green Belt and World Heritage Site. So the time for stressing the significance of the extraordinary landscape setting that Bath is surrounded by has never been stronger. In light of this our exhibition at the museum this year focuses on the connection between buildings and landscape, through a series of historic views of Bath most of which are on loan from the Bath Central Library Collection. The views show the growth of the city within the river valley, steadily spreading but always within an unbroken backdrop of green hills, and highlights the role of the River Avon in that development. Added to the exhibition is the most recent acquisition to the museum, a triptych of paintings by Peter Brown of Bath from Beechen Cliff, generously gifted to the museum by two members of the Bath Preservation Trust. The exhibition has been supported by a small museums grant from B&NES Council, and is informing the Bath Landscape Partnership Bid working towards a grant to conserve and enhance the landscape around the city.

We are asking visitors to tell us what the landscape around Bath means to them and we would like to know what you think too. So either visit the exhibition and jot down your thoughts, or download the short questionnaire from our website <http://museumofbatharchitecture.org.uk/whats-on/exhibitions/> and send it to Amy at beckford@bptrust.org.uk.



Photograph of Bath's landscape setting

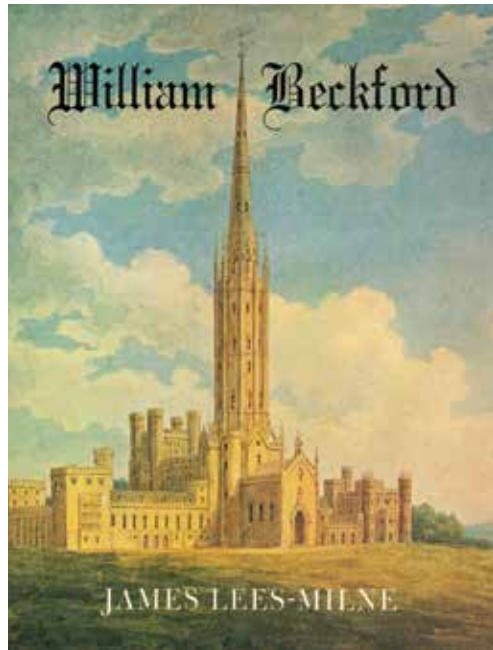


The large aerial photograph of Bath now being used to highlight different periods of development of the city to visitors.

Beckford's Tower & Museum

Exhibition: Beckford's Biographers

Telling the story of a life as rich and complex as that of William Beckford (1760-1844) is no easy task. This year's exhibition at Beckford's Tower focuses on a series of writers who have produced full biographies of Beckford. From Cyrus Redding, (the only one to have had personal contact with Beckford) to the most recent by Timothy Mowl, each biographer paints a picture of a charismatic, frequently charming, often mercurial and intensely intelligent character. Yet none quite fully capture every aspect of Beckford (some come close), and perhaps none ever will. Each biographer leaves you wanting to discover more about their elusive subject, as all biography should.



Front cover of **William Beckford** by James Lees-Milne, a founding trustee of the Beckford Tower Trust, published in 1976

The exhibition features first editions of each work alongside archive material from the personal papers of several of the biographers featured. The archive material is on loan from a private collection and documents wonderfully the process of attempting to capture Beckford's life on paper. Correspondence between Boyd Alexander (*England's Wealthiest Son, A Study of William Beckford published 1962*) and Brian Fothergill (*Beckford of Fonthill published 1979*) complains about how James Lees-Milne (*William Beckford published 1976*) quoted extensively from Alexander's translation of Beckford's letters without referencing the translator. This has been displayed next to a letter from Lees-Milne to Fothergill attempting to justify why Lees-Milne was starting to write about Beckford when he knew Fothergill was already working on the same subject. It offers a fascinating insight into the delicacies of writing a biography of a subject other writers have recently published on. The process of writing a biography also comes through in Fothergill's original notebooks, where the steps of his research are recorded and his corrections and additions of footnotes during editing shown. The exhibition runs all year at the Tower until we close on 1 November.

Fonthill Abbey model heads to Salisbury

Following its starring performance in the Terror and Wonder: The Gothic Imagination exhibition at the British Library last year, the Wyatt model of Fonthill Abbey has left the Tower again, this time on loan to Salisbury Museum for the exhibition *Turner's Wessex: Architecture and Ambition*. The exhibition looks at Turner's commissions for Sir Richard Colt Hoare of Stourhead, his thirty years depicting southern England, and his work for Beckford at Fonthill. The model of Fonthill Abbey will feature alongside many of the original Turner sketches of the Abbey under construction, which offer a fascinating insight into the architecture of the building and the processes involved in constructing it. Some of Turner's finished watercolours of Fonthill will also feature in the exhibition, which has been curated by Turner scholar Ian Warrell. The compassion between the original Gothic of Salisbury Cathedral and the Gothic Revival of Fonthill Abbey is fascinating, particularly because James Wyatt worked at the Cathedral before embarking on designing Fonthill Abbey.



Model of Fonthill Abbey at Beckford's Tower

Wyatt's work at Salisbury controversially included the removal of remaining medieval glass and the whitewashing or removing of medieval wall paintings and vaulting decoration, actions that there and at other buildings earned him the name of Wyatt the Destroyer. Beckford himself was quite dismissive of Salisbury Cathedral, writing in 1808 'I have always found the said Cathedral poor, bare and insipid, without mystery, without ecclesiastical pomp; only the Tower is any good.' (1 June 1808, *Life at Fonthill*, Boyd Alexander, 1957).

Turner's Wessex: Architecture and Ambition runs from 22 May - 27 September 2015 at the Salisbury Museum. For more information visit the museum website www.salisburymuseum.org.uk

Herschel Museum of Astronomy



Experts from the Herschel Museum helped young stargazers from St Andrew's Primary School safely observe the solar eclipse from the Royal Crescent Lawn on the morning of Friday 20 March.

Entrance Hall Refurbishment

It is over a decade since the major refurbishment of 19 New King Street, home to the Herschel Museum of Astronomy. Rooms were redecorated in period style, with new carpets and wall papers copied from 18th century designs. Now it is time to give some attention to the entrance hall, staircases and landings of this historic Grade II starred, listed building.

Many of the original features remain in these areas, including the door furniture and joinery as well as the sash windows, dado rails, banisters and plasterwork. However, the modern lights and carpets have no connection with the 18th century, whilst the paintwork is also in need of an overhaul.

We are currently seeking funding to facilitate the works, whilst investigation into paint colours is being undertaken as well as designs for carpets in late Georgian style, and replicas of drop lanterns.

It is hoped that by late summer visitors to the Museum will be greeted by the newly inviting and attractive interpretation of the entrance hall and stairs.

Exhibition: Waterloo and the March of Science

2015 marks the bicentenary of the Battle of Waterloo, a pivotal moment in European history marking the end of the Napoleonic wars and a period of unparalleled uncertainty. Generous awards from the Heritage Lottery Fund and B&NES Council have enabled the Herschel Museum to create an exhibition and events programme around *Waterloo and the March of Science* which will run until the end of the year.

Astronomer William Herschel visited Napoleon and the Empress Josephine in Paris during the fragile Peace of Amiens in 1801, and like many of his contemporaries, considered him to be a very good thing. But the succeeding years took a terrible toll on the countries of Europe and the exhibition examines the impact of the Napoleonic wars at local level and questions how science and technology responded to the decisive battle which concluded nearly two decades of war with France. The reaction by the poets and writers of the Regency period to Waterloo and the events leading up to it will also form a feature of the exhibition.

The return of the Duke of Wellington and some of his officers after the battle was marked by a famous dinner at Broadstairs in Kent, whilst victory celebrations took place across the nation. Although William and Caroline Herschel no longer lived in Bath in 1815, the dining room of the house will be decorated and displayed with our own version of a Waterloo dinner.

The events programme accompanying the exhibition includes educational activities for schools and families and a programme of lectures. We are particularly looking forward to the actor Richard Heffer, alias Captain Alexander Cavalié Mercer, G Troop Royal Horse Artillery, telling us about the months he spent on location in the Ukraine filming the battle scenes in the 1970 epic, *Waterloo*. The Russian/Italian production was one of the most lavish and costly of its day with 22,000 extras including an entire Russian regiment and thousands of horses and cannon. This event, entitled *Surviving Waterloo*, is in collaboration with the Jane Austen Festival and will take place at the Mission Theatre, Bath on Tuesday 15th September.

Voyager 2 Lego workshop

The challenge of planning holiday activities across the BPT museums is trying to predict how many will participate. But our Voyager 2 Lego workshop in February half-term proved a real winner with visiting families! The workshop was a totally new departure involving a considerable amount of Space Lego and three separate talks by Education Officer Polly Andrews about the Voyager Space Mission which was launched in 1977 to visit the furthest reaches of the Solar System. The Voyager space probe passed Herschel's planet Uranus in 1986 where it took a series of photographs which provided a great deal of new information about the gas giant which is the furthest planet from the Sun.

Using photographs of the Voyager 2 mission and a small part of the on-board camera—which we have in the museum—children were encouraged to model their own versions of the space probe. The result was a wonderful array of Lego models, which unfortunately had to be dismantled at the end of half-term week, and a group of children who may have been inspired to become astronauts of the future.

Members' Page

Summer Walks Programme 2015

We are delighted to reveal here our programme of Summer Walks for members. Alan Williams has devised a list of three walks, all of which will take place twice, and he will lead them himself. Our grateful thanks to Alan, once again, for his help and support with these events. We hope to see our new members and volunteers participating and thank you all for your invaluable support of our work.

Walks are planned to last for approximately one and a half hours. Four walks starting at 6.30pm and two at 2.00pm. Please take careful note of starting times. Walks are free to members but are only available to those booked in advance as numbers are often limited.

Please complete the booking form enclosed with this newsletter.

Now You See It... Now You Don't

Thursday 11th and Wednesday 17th June at 6.30PM
Meet outside the main door of Bath Abbey

Bath has a great tradition for shifting things and often putting them somewhere else. The walk will explore in a light-hearted fashion why and where these moves have taken place. They include statues, clocks, baths and buildings. We will also refer to plans which never happened including a crystal palace and a king who never turned up!

The Street that No One Could Get Right & a visit to George Bayntun, antiquarian bookshop and bindery

Wednesday 1st July and Thursday 9th July at 2.00PM
Meet on the pavement overlooking Parade Gardens opposite Terrace Walk island

A walk down Manvers Street examining its chequered history with some surprises. The walk ends with a visit by popular request to George Bayntun, antiquarian bookshop and bindery, led by Edward Bayntun-Coward, Chairman of BPT.



The Pulteney Estate

Wednesday 5th August and Thursday 13th August at 6.30PM
Meet on the pavement overlooking Pulteney Bridge and Weir

A walk examining the history of the Pulteney Estate and family, including reference to the amazing array of the famous who have lived in Pulteney Street. The walk ends with a short walk along the Kennet and Avon Canal and a visit to Sydney Gardens.

Members' Page

Trust Tours 2015

Thank you to those who took advantage of the Priority Booking Scheme and who have already secured your places. The first visit to Stockton House was full within 3 days! There are only a few spaces left to Mapperton so do please telephone or email to check for availability before booking. Sudeley Castle and Forde Abbey both have places left, and I am sure will make very enjoyable days out.

Stockton House, Wiltshire (private house - restoration project)

Thursday 14 May. Departing Bath 1.00PM
Returning approx. 6.00PM

This will be a unique visit to a magnificent Elizabethan private manor not open to the public. Owner Nick Jenkins, founder of Moonpig greeting cards, has acquired this extensive property and commenced a major restoration. Architectural historian Andrew Foyle is acting as adviser to Nick on the project, and will be present to speak to us. This Wiltshire estate, which became known in its early days as The Manor of Stockton, has a recorded history dating back to the 9th century. The property is set in parkland on the edge of the delightful village of Stockton in the Wylde Valley.

Refreshments: Tea and cake will be provided by the owner.

Cost: £40 per head, to include coach travel*, private tour and tea.

Mapperton House and Gardens, Beaminster, Dorset

Thursday 18 June. Departing Bath 9.45AM
Returning approx. 6.30PM

"The nation's finest manor house" - Country Life.
"Throughout the house the 16th, 17th and 18th centuries meet each other at every turn, but never quarrel" - Lord David Cecil.

Mapperton is listed in the Domesday Book 1086. Since 1956 it has been the home of the Montagus, currently the Earl and Countess of Sandwich. We shall be visiting Mapperton when the house is closed to the public so our tour will be private, though the gardens and tea room are open to others. You will have time to explore the gardens and All Saints Church, which is of medieval origin, remodelled in 1704.

Refreshments: The group will have a sandwich lunch at the property.

Cost: £45 per head, to include coach travel*, entry and private tour and sandwich lunch.



Please call or email Peta Hall before booking to check availability on this tour: 01225 338727 or petahall@bptrust.org.uk

Sudeley Castle and Gardens, Winchcombe, Gloucestershire



Tuesday 7 July. Departing Bath 8.30AM. Returning approx 6.00PM
On arrival, the group will have coffee and biscuits and a private talk.

The present structure was built in the 15th century with nine individual, world-renowned gardens and St Mary's Sudeley Chapel - the burial place of Queen Catherine Parr, 6th wife of Henry VIII. Currently the home of American born Lady Elizabeth Ashcombe, she took on the ownership with her son and daughter after the death of her husband Mark Dent-Brocklehurst in 1972. He had inherited the Castle in 1949 upon the death of his father. In March 2014 the castle opened up more private rooms including some which have never been open to the public before.

Refreshments: Coffee and biscuits on arrival. Picnic** or buy lunch at Sudeley.

Cost: £42 per head, to include coach travel*, private talk, entry to Sudeley, coffee and biscuits.

**One can buy nice snacks at the smart new Gloucester Services where we shall stop en route.

Members' Page

Forde Abbey and Gardens, Chard, Somerset



**Monday 7 September. Departing Bath 10.00AM
Returning approx. 6.30PM**

Our tour of the Abbey will be private, but the grounds, undercroft, tearoom, shop and plant centre are open to the public daily.

Once described as “...the most perfect monastery in England” Forde Abbey was built almost 900 years ago by Cistercian monks. The wonderful English Gothic setting was created by the Prideaux family when they transformed the austere Abbey into a post-renaissance palace. Since 1141 Forde Abbey has been a stunning example of history preserved, but where the Kennard family continues to live and work in an informal style. We'll see the Abbey's stunning early 17th century Mortlake tapestries and there will be time to enjoy the beautiful and historically important 30-acre country garden, including arboretum, bog garden, lakes and cascades.

Refreshments: Tea and biscuit/cake included. Please bring a picnic, or you can buy lunch at Forde Abbey.

Cost: £43 to include coach travel*, entry, private tour of Forde Abbey and tea and cake or biscuits.

Booking Information

Please complete the Booking Form enclosed with this newsletter and return it by post, with a cheque made payable to Bath Preservation Trust, to: Membership Secretary, Bath Preservation Trust, 1 Royal Crescent, Bath BA1 2LR. We do not have a credit card facility for these payments. Any queries to Peta Hall on 01225 338727 (Tues/Thurs) or by email to petahall@bptrust.org.uk.

Thank you.

*costs include coach driver's tip

TERMS AND CONDITIONS:

All Tours start from Avon Street Coach Park and ticket prices include: coach travel, driver's tip, admission fees and guided tours where applicable. In order to keep ticket prices down, refreshments are not included unless specifically stated.

Trust Tours telephone number: 01225 338727

The Bath Preservation Trust Limited. Registered Office: 1 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LR

Registered in England No: 294789 Reg. Charity No:203048

1. All bookings must be made in writing and will only be confirmed on receipt of the full fare.
2. Cancellations are not normally accepted; however, if there is a waiting list, your seat will be re-sold.
3. In the unlikely event of insufficient bookings for any tour, it may be withdrawn - in which case the full fare will be refunded.
4. Trust Tours reserves the right to change itineraries or venues due to unforeseen circumstances.
5. All reasonable steps are taken to ensure that independent suppliers of services (coach operators, restaurants and the owners of properties visited - who may limit their liabilities) maintain the highest possible standards regarding safety, security and hygiene. However, neither Trust Tours nor the Bath Preservation Trust can take responsibility for personal accident, loss or damage during any of these tours.
6. Both smoking and pets are prohibited on the coach.

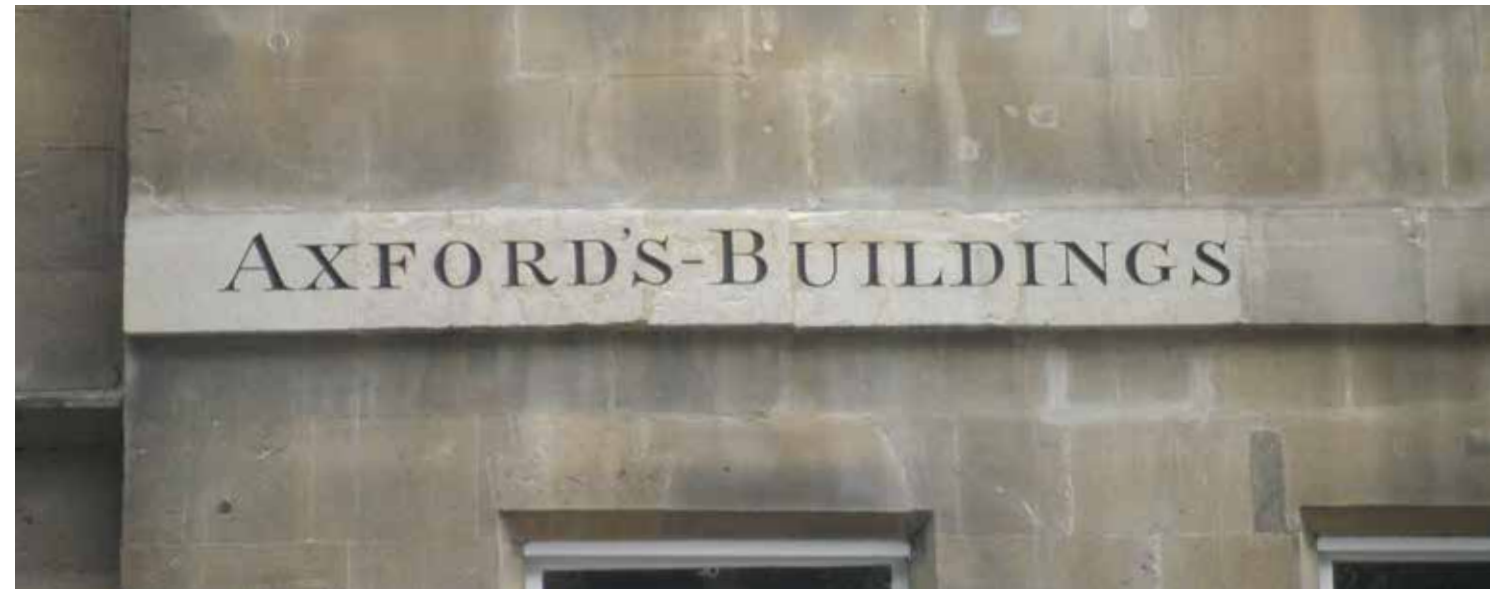
We always need new Members!

Please don't forget that for as little as £20 you could give a friend a year's membership to the Trust as a Birthday or anniversary 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 on the reverse of this Newsletter.

Life Membership

Life membership is a great option for both the Trust and the member. No more reminders from the Trust each year, saving us 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.

World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund



Recently conserved street sign

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. 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



The Mayor with the some of the Guide Mentors of No. 1 at our 80th Birthday celebrations (see p.4)



BATH
PRESERVATION
TRUST

We are a membership organisation and a registered charity.
The Bath Preservation Trust Limited - Registered Office:
1 Royal Crescent | Bath | BA1 2LR
+44 (0)1225 338 727
www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk
admin@bptrust.org.uk
Registered in England No. 294789 | Charity No. 203048