



BATH PRESERVATION TRUST

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John Wood the Elder comes home to Bath

Inside this issue

- New Chairman of BPT
- John Wood's Drawing Set purchased
- Bonhams Valuation Event
- Summer Walks and Tours
- Notice of AGM
- Weddings at Beckford's Tower

www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk

John Wood's crest was revealed after gentle cleaning at the auction house!

Message from the Chairman

As a lifelong Bathonian I am delighted to be the new Chairman of the Trust and already it is a role I am enjoying immensely. I take over from Edward Bayntun-Coward who has lead the Trust tirelessly for the last 10 years and who will be a very hard act to follow.

Edward became Chairman in 2006, at a time when many organisations like Bath Preservation Trust were looking to find relevance in a very fast changing and connected world. Edward took his opportunity to re-organise the Trust for the 21st Century and through a period of change and investment he leaves our museums and our campaigning work in very good shape. We can confidently claim to have four of Bath's best museums, allowing us to promote our mission of education and inclusion as well as showing four very different sides of the city's history. Edward was also responsible for recruiting our CEO, Caroline Kay, and with her encouraged an approach of engagement rather than conflict; this approach has resulted in our voice being heard and listened to in Bath. We know that we cannot possibly win every argument but we can make sure the issues are understood and try to influence outcomes for the benefit of both the city and its setting.

This year we will undertake research on how the Trust is viewed both by those who know us well and also those who do not and we hope the results will help ensure that we are effective and relevant. Many members already subscribe to our electronic newsletter and I encourage every member to do so as this allows us to keep in touch and seek your views. We value our members and want to make sure we make membership attractive to new members; however I am clear that the Trust must reach out beyond its membership to those who share our passion for our city and its setting. One group we need to consider are those people who buy listed buildings in Bath: as owners they take on a significant financial responsibility and we will look for ways to thank them for that commitment and encourage them as they care for their properties.

This Trust runs on the hard work and effort of many people, from those who helped establish and endow it in the past to those who support us now. We are fortunate to have loyal and engaged employees; an army of wonderful volunteers, wise committee members, engaged and supportive trustees and of course our members. I am very happy to join this group and as someone who has lived and worked in Bath all my life I have seen the difference that committed individuals and organisations can make; I look forward to doing my part to ensure that the Trust continues to play a leading role in caring for our beautiful city.

Thomas Sheppard

Message from the Chief Executive

If ever one object could epitomise why Bath Preservation Trust fulfils its charitable remit through museums as well as through advocacy work, our recent acquisition must be it.

John Wood the Elder's Drawing Set, pictured on the cover and now on display in our Museum of Bath Architecture, demonstrates many of the characteristics of the city of Bath. It is of itself a thing of exquisite craftsmanship: it is an embodiment of the translation of great ideas into practical implementation; and it is a tangible link not just with the past but the individual people who actually created our World Heritage city.

We were hugely (over-) excited to be able to acquire this object at auction thanks to the generosity of the Arts Council England, the Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund, and several generous individuals who responded by return of email to our targeted request. I should also pay tribute to my colleague Dr. Amy Frost who coordinated the entire effort and whose knowledge of Wood assisted in confirming the original ownership.

I sometimes remind myself as a tease that the

Woods' King's Circus and Royal Crescent are examples of speculative greenfield development - just the sort of development that we might object to now. It is a useful way of reflecting on the job of the Trust and I hope that if presented with a truly visionary way forward for the city we would know it when we saw it. It would be good to feel that any development brought forward in Bath would bear in mind John Wood's Essay 'Towards a Description of Bath' - 'Even in the present age, Bath is as happily situated for beautiful works of architecture as a city can well be'. Yes, Wood worked with developers to make money. But his over-riding passion was for creating beauty, in a city that deserved it, and turning the mundanity of the terraced house into a thing of wonder.

The acquisition of this object was an end in itself but will also serve as a beginning for display, education work and further explanation of what makes Bath great. Please join us on this journey, and perhaps start by visiting the drawing set at the Museum of Bath Architecture as soon as you can!

Caroline Kay



No. 1 was floodlit for the Handover Party



Left: BPT staff enjoyed a team visit to the rooftops of Dyrham Park to observe the renovations, on 4 December 2015.

NOTICE OF AGM

Monday 11 July, 6.00pm. St Mary's Church, Bathwick
Doors open 5.30pm
Guest Speaker: Sir Peter Hendy CBE. Chairman of Network Rail and former Commissioner of Transport for London.

Papers will be mailed to members in early June.

Bath Preservation Trust Campaigning

Making Places

'Placemaking' is the current term for a people-centred approach to the planning, design and management of public space. Put simply, it involves looking at, listening to, and asking questions of the people who live, work and play in a particular space, to discover their needs and aspirations. This information is then used to create a common vision for that place and policies, and design values to guide redevelopment.

At the end of January BPT responded to the Council's consultation on their emerging Placemaking Plan, which accompanies the Core Strategy and will complete the Local Plan for Bath. We called for:

- Site-specific policies to be strengthened to facilitate the provision of affordable housing on land owned by the Council;
- Clarity about site ownership. B&NES' own site ownership, and their capacity to act as an enlightened developer rather than seeking best price, is only way to ensure that some of the higher-value aims in the plan are actually delivered. Where B&NES is the landowner they could work with developers to bring a site forward through the provision of roads and through routes and the development of smaller plots, site by site;
- Adoption of the Building Heights Strategy for Bath as a Supplementary Planning Document - and that the Local Planning Authority abides by its constraints in their decisions.
- A clear strategy for student housing, either stating that it is not possible to meet the growth aspirations of the universities, and back this up with further restrictions across Bath on Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO's), or have a positively planned solution for more purpose built accommodation to be negotiated between the Universities and the Council which recognises other housing pressures. All of the site specific policies in the Placemaking Plan exclude student housing; however, we do not see that this is compatible with the aspiration to support development of the Universities.
- The prioritisation and adoption of Conservation Area Character Appraisals for the whole of the Conservation Area.

Our response aims to ensure that heritage and landscape considerations are at the forefront of policy, design and planning.

Green Belt under siege

In January the Trust responded to the Joint West of England Spatial Plan Issues and Options for Consultation, which sets out a planning strategy for building 85,000 new homes within the four counties of B&NES, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucester. BPT believes we need more homes in the right places, and more of them need to be affordable homes. Our response emphasised that housing should be provided within existing cities and towns on previously developed brownfield land. We will continue to resist pressure for an Urban Extension to Bath. However, we think that there may need to be reserved land for housing within B&NES but outside Bath and its Green Belt.

The Housing and Planning Bill, which continues its journey through Parliament, guarantees the provision of 200,000 Starter Homes on all reasonably sized development sites, automatic planning 'permission in principle' for housing on brownfield sites, and planning reforms to support small builds. Whilst the Government is fixated on the planning system to bring forward more housing the real issue is that developers are not building the homes for which they have permission.

Proposed changes to how planning works in the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) aim to increase housing supply, affordable housing, and access to home ownership. Whilst the Trust is supportive of measures to provide more affordable housing we have stressed that it must be in perpetuity and our response to the consultation on the NPPF raised serious concerns about the pressure it would put on the Green Belt.

East of Bath Park and Ride

The three location options for a Park and Ride to the east of Bath were strongly opposed by the Trust. We will continue to object unless B&NES can demonstrate that the public benefit outweighs the significant harm to the Green Belt and setting of the World Heritage city. We are prepared to scrutinise any future developments carefully as they come forward this year.

Bath Preservation Trust Campaigning

Rail Electrification

Since the two listed building applications for alterations to listed bridges in B&NES (Pixash Bridge and Clay Lane Bridge) were withdrawn Network Rail has since made considerable efforts to take on board the concerns of the Trust. We attended a meeting in November to view new proposals and we were very pleased with the outcome. The pictures below show the changes in approach from the start of the project. The first shows the original proposal for parapets involving removal and loss of historic copings, raising of bridge parapets to 1.5m, and the insertion of steel plate. The second is the sample railings solution which will involve no change to historic copings (the sample is mounted on a new stone wall but the intention is not to add additional stone), no solid sheet (there will be a visually transparent grille as seen in the middle section). This is a visually pleasing version and importantly, more or less completely reversible. The Trust will be participating in further stakeholder meetings with other statutory consultees and local authority officers to review the emerging design proposals for overbridges and the overhead line equipment.



Pinesgate

Plans for a major new office, academic and student housing development which were previously refused by the planning authority were re-submitted in late 2015. The Trust opposed both applications, for reasons of inappropriate height, scale and massing.

The Trust addressed the Development Management Committee (for the third time concerning this site) in February. However the Committee approved the planning application against the officer recommendation to refuse (serious concerns were also raised by the urban design team and Historic England, amongst others). The reason for approval was given as (unquantified) economic benefit. This has raised serious doubts within the Trust regarding the Committee's ability to assess applications against national and local policy on heritage and the protection of listed buildings, conservation areas and World Heritage sites. The Trust immediately made a 'call-in' request to the Secretary of State to review the Committee's decision, citing firstly that the decision conflicted with national policies on important matters and that secondly the application raises significant architectural and urban design issues. Disappointingly our request has been declined.

The Trust does not in any way reject the contemporary approach or the need for modern office space in Bath; however we cannot support schemes of an overbearing mass and height that would intrude into views and harm the special qualities of the World Heritage site, in particular the long views and landscape that are a cherished part of our city. The developer claimed that the building conformed with the Council's own guidance in the Building Heights Strategy and the Bath Western Riverside

Supplementary Planning Document, yet not one Councillor sought clarification of the officer's report which had stated that the building's height exceeded both of these policies. As such the decision was left with ambiguity about these cornerstone policies which determine the capacity to protect Bath. The Trust will raise this with the Inspector at the Examination in Public of the Placemaking Plan as this Committee decision undermines the soundness of the Plan.

Beckford's Garden

Following the unauthorised demolition of a section of the southern boundary wall of the garden to create access to the site (which was reported in the Autumn newsletter), the Trust has successfully convinced B&NES that any works to this structure not only required planning permission but also listed building consent. This is on the basis that these surviving remnants of wall represent 'part of the land', in use and form, of Beckford's Gate and garden and are therefore curtilage listed. We are now awaiting the submission for retrospective listed building consent for these works, and at this stage we will respond with a strong objection on the grounds that any development over any of this highly significant historic landscape site cannot be justified under national heritage protection law. Currently the wall is unrepaired and semi-demolished, whilst these planning matters are processed and decided.

Jolly's Flags

The Trust has welcomed the move by House of Fraser to withdraw their appeal against the enforcement of removal of the 9 large black advertising flags which have negatively dominated Milsom Street for much of 2015. We have strongly objected at every stage to these flags which interrupted important historic views, cluttering the group's architectural composition and damaging historic fabric. We are very pleased to see that the flag poles have been removed in the interest of the harmonious architectural splendour of Milsom Street.

Are you confused about Bath's planning system?

Questions about latest development plans?

Drop in to one of our free planning surgeries

Tuesdays 31 May and early July (Date TBD)

6.00 - 7.30pm at the Museum of Bath Architecture

What does this planning application mean for my street?

Planning jargon explained

Can I influence a local proposal?

What is the Trust's position on...?

Bath Preservation Trust Archive

The recent focus for the Archive has been the sorting, cataloguing and storing of drawings, maps and plans. The extent of the mainly modern records includes:

- Drawings of the establishment of Bath as a Spa and the restoration; various landmarks such as The Podium; St. Anne's Place and Southgate.
- Maps/Plans of Green Park Shopping Precinct; Walcot Yard; Sydney Wharf; Widcombe Parade; Cross Bath Spa; Sawclose
- Theatre Royal and various maps of the City of Bath, including a copy of a map with marked Parish Boundaries dating from 1852.
- View of proposed new buildings of Southgate Development looking up Manvers Street (image opposite). From Bath Preservation Trust Archive Collection.

Interested in Volunteering? A number of our volunteers have moved on so if anyone is interested in joining the team then please contact the Archivist on 01225 333895 or archives@bptrust.org.uk.



A Museums Report

Plans for Beckford's Tower and the Museum of Bath Architecture

Beckford's Tower is the only surviving building created by the grandiose collector and gothic novelist William Beckford, famed in his lifetime as a builder of towers: Fonthill Abbey (the spire of which catastrophically collapsed in 1825) being the most famous of these undertakings. Following the delivery of a full condition survey of Beckford's Tower in December 2014, a much clearer understanding was gained of the scale of remedial works needed to safeguard this building and its story for the benefit of the people of Bath and the city's many visitors.

This golden pinnacle would have been originally situated in a theatrical landscape - a progression of staged 'eye catchers' to delight and surprise the viewer as they made their way from the city of Bath to the Tower. Designed for Beckford by Bathonian Henry Goodridge, the Tower was essentially a reading room 'on high', where Beckford could relax, surrounded by favourite books, cabinet pictures and exquisite decorative pieces. As well as undertaking remedial work on the fabric of this unique building, we are now hoping to reintegrate the Tower better into its landscape setting - the immediate surroundings being an historic cemetery where Beckford himself is entombed.

How we integrate the building and its historical setting is now being reviewed. Work on a housing development (with school) immediately opposite the cemetery is presently underway. This moment in time therefore provides us with opportunities to build engagement with this entirely new community, as well as undertake remedial work on the building and its surrounding green spaces.

We are also considering a major programme of improvements for the **Museum of Bath Architecture**. Thanks to its recent name change, MoBA enjoyed a surge in visitation in 2015: 17% more visitors than in the previous year. To continue to build visitation, we need to extend what is on offer to visitors by improving facilities, presentation, and object displays.

Housed in the gothic Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, MoBA is in the centre of Bath and has the potential to become the recognised public platform for the BPT's campaigning work - a

means of generating local interest, corporate membership, and donations for conservation. There are various courses of action available to us, which include a complete gallery refit (whereby museum displays and storage areas are emptied and reinstalled in one go), as well as a staggered programme of improvements over several years (with refurbishment work taking place in the annual closed season).

There is concern that these two projects will stretch staff resources (since several key members of staff will be heavily involved in delivering both projects) and will also compete against each other for grants. We are now talking with various funding bodies to enable us to make decisions about what is feasible and sustainable in the long-term.

On another note, all four museums have benefited from new libraries of photographs, taken by Chris Lacy (Head of Photography for the National Trust) and a legacy of the Joint Museums Partnership. The images appear on our websites and those of VisitBath. Another legacy, as the project winds up (but NOT the partnership), is a very bright and engaging map of Bath's museums with themed trails to follow. It will be available (free to pick up or download) shortly.



No. 1 Royal Crescent

Indulgence: Daily Delights of Georgian Bath

14 May - 11 December 2016

Georgian visitors to Bath enjoyed life to the full: the pleasures of eating, dancing, gambling and flirting and other leisure pursuits were keenly pursued. Bath was a place of glorious excess as well as glorious architecture and this exhibition explores the range of amusements Bath had to offer, using a rare set of Thomas Rowlandson's famous satirical etchings 'The Comforts of Bath' (1798) as inspiration.

Bath was a vast social mix, attracting up to 30,000 visitors a year and providing ideal subjects for Rowlandson's satirical eye. The portly gentleman having his portrait painted in The Artist's Studio is completely unaware that his wife is amusing herself with a dashing young beau, while the tables groaning with food in *The Gourmet's Dinner* show that indulgence too easily became over-indulgence. Only those with time and money to spare could afford to come to Bath for the social season. The shops were unsurpassed for the variety and quality of luxury goods on offer; from silks and laces to gold buckles and trinkets, flamboyant hats to mouth-watering confectionary. Shop windows were filled with temptations. Gossip, love affairs, dinners with twenty different dishes and card games where £10,000 could be lost in one sitting were just some of the delights on offer to divert the idle rich.

Rarely seen items from private and local collections will illuminate these often expensive and decadent pastimes. The collection of the Bath Reference Library reveals special treasures, such as wine merchants' bills showing vast sums spent, the hand written cookery book of celebrated actress Sarah Siddons, even bills listing the costs for hiring a male escort to take a lady to a ball! Bath souvenir fans, elegant ceramics and extraordinary medical devices all illustrate the variety of life in Georgian Bath.

In addition, new illustrations by renowned cartoonist Adrian Teal show a humorous link between Bath's 18th century pleasures and those enjoyed by contemporary visitors.



Portrait of a Lady with a Blue Cloak, c. 1765 by Thomas Gainsborough (1727-1788)



Thomas Gainsborough was the most celebrated portrait painter working in 18th century Bath but none of his portraits were on view at No. 1 Royal Crescent until this year. The Holburne Museum, Bath, have been supportive lenders to No. 1 for many years and this year they kindly agreed to lend this portrait by Gainsborough to replace temporarily another of their loans, 'Market Woman with Fruit', which is at present on display back at the Holburne.

'Portrait of a Lady with a Blue Cloak' was painted when the artist was living in Bath, where the wealthy and fashionable visitors provided a regularly changing market of potential sitters. Gainsborough came to Bath from Suffolk in 1759 and over the next fifteen years his career as a portrait painter flourished. His house and studio (now demolished) in Abbey Street was at the bustling heart of the city and ideally placed to attract passers-by, as well as providing good light and sufficient room to paint and display full length portraits. A later move to No. 17, the Circus only confirmed his status as part of fashionable society.

Although the sitter in this portrait is unknown, her cloak of fashionable blue and elegant neck ruffle mark her out as a lady of distinction and the detail of elaborate lace is painted with all the dash and liveliness which set him apart. On her right wrist she wears a miniature of a gentleman in a red coat, a lovely detail showing how miniatures of loved ones were often worn as bracelets. The painting's finely carved frame is particularly splendid.

Intriguingly, the portrait also tells us something about Gainsborough's working methods because it shows evidence of pentimenti, or alterations, in the face and hair. A headdress in the hair has been removed, the ear and earring slightly raised and the neck ruffle changed. Gainsborough was known for altering details of hair and costume to accommodate a sitter's desire to keep up with fashion but this time the artist's amendments made the condition of the face and hair deteriorate. However, the painting has recently been conserved with great sensitivity and we are delighted to have it on view in the Withdrawing Room for 2016.

Georgian Desserts in the Dining Room

Last year we were fortunate to secure a grant from the South West Museum Development Small Grant: Big Improvement scheme funded by the Arts Council England to allow us to work with artist Jean Boardman to recreate a new display of replica Georgian desserts for the Dining Room. This magnificent new display is now astonishing visitors with its remarkable detail.

The dessert course was the showpiece of an 18th century formal dinner. In high status houses elaborately crafted sugar sculpture, or 'pastillage' embellished the Georgian dining table with classical motifs such as urns, temples and flowers.

The display recreates this most delicate and ephemeral of art forms, evidence for which now exists only in 18th century cook books and confectioners' guides, as well as surviving moulds. Every element of the display has been made by Jean down to the smallest petal and some of the moulds in our kitchen collection provided a source for the faux jellies and flummeries.



Events

To support the new Dining Room display food historian Jean Seymour will be in the historic kitchen on three days throughout the year demonstrating and talking about different types of Georgian dessert. These family friendly 'drop in' events will bring the kitchen to life with mouth-watering creations and showcase the skills of the Georgian cook!

Saturday 18 June - **Puddings**

Saturday 30 July - **Possets, Syllabubs and Trifles**

Saturday 20 August - **Banqueting 'Stuffe'**

All three events start at 11.00 am. Free with normal admission.

Exclusive Georgian Makeovers

Saturday 23 April

Choose a costume, have your hair and make-up done by Bath Academy of Media Makeup artists, followed by a professional photo-shoot with photographer Simon Withyman.

Tickets £15 (includes admission to No. 1 Royal Crescent). To book a timeslot please call 01225 428126 or book online.



Wednesday 8th June 2016

10.30am - 1.00 pm

Bonhams Auctioneers Charity Valuation Day at No. 1 Royal Crescent

We invite you to bring general antiques, jewellery, watches and pictures to discover what the team of experts from Bonhams Auctioneers can tell you about them and what price they might make at auction.

Cost £3.00 for the first item and £1.00 per item thereafter to a maximum of 4 items.

All funds raised donated to No. 1 Royal Crescent.

No large items of furniture, stamps, toys or musical instruments please. Views expressed are those of Bonhams Auctioneers, not No. 1 Royal Crescent.

For enquiries tel: 01225 428126

No booking required.

No. 1 Royal Crescent shop

No. 1 Royal Crescent shop became VAT registered in December 2015, after a successful year. We met and exceeded our set budget targets that were based on 2014 takings. This has only been possible thanks to the concentrated effort of our dedicated volunteer team. Special thanks to Christina Nesbitt who has been covering at least five shifts per week, Sonya Low who has been helping with deliveries, and Sue Blundell who has been helping with recruitment.

Our Servants' Hall Rules tea towel still remains our best seller, but we are looking at producing more bespoke merchandise to represent No. 1 Royal Crescent, one of the most famous landmarks in Bath. This year we have introduced some exciting new product ranges. Scented candles are still popular in Bath and we are offering them in elegant Meissen teacup reproductions. They are of premium quality and sell at £27.

Last year's *Small Worlds* exhibition inspired us to source German-made porcelain doll's house miniatures. These have been so popular that we are continuing to stock them into the future. They come assorted, as food on plates, tea services or household accessories. Prices start from £15. The blue and gold tea sets have proved to be especially popular.



The Herschel Museum shop

The Herschel Museum shop is little more than some shelves and display stands, but we do endeavour to make good use of the space we have and sell a range of books, both academic and

popular, ranging from science and astronomy to biographies and more general guides to Bath and particularly life in the Georgian period. Ever popular are a series of small books about William, Caroline and John Herschel by the late Sir Patrick Moore and an exploration of the Cosmos by our Patron, Brian May. The Museum also sells a guidebook which gives a comprehensive, well-illustrated overview of the house and its famous former residents. We stock a few bespoke items such as pens, jigsaw puzzles and key rings, and we will shortly be using an original letter as an image for a new range of tea towels which we hope will be appreciated by our visitors. Greetings cards are also best sellers and we stock a very attractive selection from the Fitzwilliam Museum, whilst Frederica Cards supply us with a range of Georgian people, objects and places.

Our selection of space and science-related toys and models hold great appeal to younger visitors particularly, and we are always looking to add new lines.

Museum of Bath Architecture shop

The layout of the shop, mostly selling books and cards, was re-arranged before opening this year. The Bath Museums Partnership gave us the opportunity to have a one-to-one consultation with professional retail expert Jane Lavender, who re-merchandised the displays to make them more attractive. We are currently stocking some wonderful cards and tea towels of London Housing Estates designed by London based studio Oscar Francis. They have a very personal significance to us in that one of their designers is Sarah Evans who is the daughter of Aaron Evans of Aaron Evans Architects who renovated The Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel for the Trust. The guidebook 'Building of Bath' is also selling well; not only at MoBA but also at No. 1 and other bookshops in Bath.

Beckford's Tower shop

The shop at Beckford Tower sells books related to William Beckford, his career and collections. The best seller is the book written by Beckford himself: 'The History of Caliph Vathek'; a dark fantasy based on the Arabian Nights.

Museum of Bath Architecture

Planning for Peace

The idea of an exhibition exploring the plans for Bath made during the First World War began three years ago and with the help of grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund and B&NES Council that exhibition is now open to the public. **Planning for Peace: Redesigning Bath during the First World War** explores the extraordinary vision of architect Robert Atkinson who was commissioned to draw up proposals for the improvement of the city centre in December 1915 by the Bath City Council. Presented to the Council in January 1916 Atkinson's large scale watercolour drawings are wonderful examples of skilled architectural draughtsmanship. Based around the redevelopment of the Baths as well as the provision of a new concert hall in the city, Atkinson's designs are infused with the influence of John Wood and Thomas Baldwin, while also being examples of the monumental classism of the

early 20th century. Although a few of the drawings were exhibited at the Victoria Art Gallery in 2008, the complete set of drawings has not been exhibited altogether since they were first presented in 1916. It seems a fitting way of marking the First World War centenary by showing these wartime proposals for Bath a hundred years after they were first presented to the public.

Planning for Peace: Redesigning Bath during the First World War is at the Museum of Bath Architecture until 27 November. A series of events to coincide with the exhibition will be running throughout 2016 so please keep an eye on the Museum events pages on the website for more information.

Exhibition Lecture 17 May 6.00pm £5 on the door
Dr Amy Frost **Planning for Peace: Robert Atkinson's designs for Bath**

Museum of Bath Architecture



New family trail – Tom and Lizzie’s Georgian House Trail

This year we launched a brand new children’s trail of the museum as well as new costumes based on those worn by the stars of the trail Tom and Lizzie. Children can try on Tom or Lizzie’s clothes and explore the museum and its collection through tasks and questions in *Tom and Lizzie’s Georgian House Trail* to discover how a Georgian townhouse was constructed and fitted out. Brilliantly illustrated by artist Hannah Carding, the trail has already proved to be a hit with young visitors.

Both the trail and the brand new costumes were made possible thanks to grant support from the South West Museums Development programme.

South West
Museum
Development
Programme

1916 image, courtesy of Bath Record Office



Bath & North East
Somerset Council



month...’ where books that the Curator has been reading are reviewed and suggested to visitors. Past suggestions have included Danny Dorling’s excellent *All that is Solid*, a cutting and sometimes terrifying insight into the UK’s housing crisis, and *The View from the Train* by Patrick Keiller, a must read for anyone interested in architecture and film. The current featured book is *Towns in Britain: Jones the Planner*, a journey through British towns taken from and inspired by the www.jonestheplanner.co.uk blog. Written by Adrian Jones and presented by Chris Matthews the blog, and the book, are amusing and insightful and a must for anyone interested in urban design. If you have any recommendations for books you would like to share please email Dr Amy Frost on beckford@bptrust.org.uk

On the Museum bookshelf this month...



Since last year we have been regularly updating our ‘Campaigns, Issues and Ideas’ wall at the Museum with news of events, developments and ideas in Bath and beyond. This wall provides the opportunity to communicate to visitors not just issues that relate to the conservation and future development of Bath, but also any news stories or photos of interesting buildings that the museum staff and members of Bath Preservation Trust come across. A regular feature is ‘On the Museum bookshelf this

Back by popular demand

If you missed the first part of our **Introduction to British Architecture** short course we are offering you a second chance to explore the architectural history of 1600-1800 in Britain as we rerun the course as an evening class.

Wednesdays 6 - 8pm at the Museum of Bath Architecture

13 April: Inigo Jones and the Stuart court
20 April: Wren and the Baroque
27 April: Kent, Burlington and Palladianism
4 May: The Gothic Revival
11 May: Adam and Soane

£100 course fee or £25 per session, including refreshments (tea/coffee/wine)

For full details and to book visit:

www.museumofbatharchitecture.org.uk or contact Jill Hunter on 01225 333895 jhunter@bptrust.org.uk

Towers of Bath

Our 2016 exhibition sees us working in partnership with Bath Abbey in a project to link the Towers of Bath. The main aspect of the project will be a printed leaflet, also available for download, which will guide visitors around Bath's many towers, and offer discounted entry to Beckford's Tower, which will feature a small 'Towers' display and the Abbey's Tower Tour. The project will include several churches in Bath, some with towers not usually accessible to the public, as well as a few towers that no longer exist.

Alongside we will also be running a series of talks and walks around the city itself. There is also a slightly ambitious plan to run a tour of all of the towers in Bath using only public transport!

The exhibition opens on 4 June and will run until the end of the summer.

During his second tour of Europe in 1780, Beckford visited his cousin, Sir William Hamilton, at his residence in Naples. Twenty years later he would play host to Sir William, his new wife Emma, and their friend Admiral Nelson at Fonthill Abbey.

Our next Book Group text, *The Volcano Lover* by Susan Sontag, explores the life of Sir William Hamilton in Naples, his fascination with Vesuvius and his first marriage. Beckford features as a key character through whom aspects of the personality of the first Lady Hamilton is revealed. The book goes on to explore William Hamilton's subsequent relationship with Emma Hamilton and her affair with Admiral Nelson.

The Book Group is open to all, so if you enjoy lively discussion, tea, coffee, (wine!), then please feel free to join us.

Beckford Book Group: 'The Volcano Lover' by Susan Sontag
Thursday 9 June at 7pm at Beckford's Tower. £5 on the door.



Weddings at Beckford's Tower

Exciting news, Beckford's Tower is now licensed for weddings!

Couples can choose from a variety of civil ceremonies, depending on numbers, in the main museum room, underneath the loggia above the front steps or in the Belvedere at the top of the Tower.



The photographs you see were taken on a very cold afternoon in January by Rebecca Faith Photography and feature the Tower's administrator, Alana, in a dress provided by Krystle Brides with flowers by Pulteney Bridge Flowers. The 'groom' was recruited on the day after he came to help move chairs and carry camera equipment, but he certainly rose to the challenge.

More information and photos can be found on our website: beckfordstower.org.uk/weddings



Herschel Museum of Astronomy

Science and Spirituality; the Astronomers of the Benedictine Order

The forthcoming exhibition at the Herschel Museum is something of a departure from **Waterloo and the March of Science**, which opened in June 2015, on the 200th anniversary of the battle which effectively ended 20 years of war with France.

Science and Spirituality has been planned as a collaboration with Downside Abbey in Somerset which, like several other religious houses, has an historic astronomical connection. A former Abbott, Bishop Walmesley knew William Herschel and corresponded with him at some length about his scientific

discoveries and observations and some of their letters will be on display at the exhibition which opens in early May. A few years after Walmesley's time, an observatory was constructed at Downside and although there are plans and drawings for this, unfortunately it burnt down within a few years, and only a telescope remains. One of the most important objects which will go on display in the exhibition is an 18th century cookbook from the archives at Downside, which contains the original recipe for Sally Lunns which



has a strong Bath connection. The significance of this particular recipe is that it probably has nothing to do with an individual, but is a reference to the Sun and Moon hence the connection with cosmology. Other interesting objects to be included are a collection of 18th century sandglasses from the NMSI, which belonged to Abbott Horne, another Downside cleric who had a fascination with astronomical time-pieces, plus some beautifully illustrated early astronomical books from the Downside archives.

Lectures and educational activities will run throughout the year, on the theme of Benedictine astronomers.

Historic Carpets

In the summer of 2015 we embarked on a project to refurbish the entrance hall and staircases at the Museum, in order to give visitors a first impression which is welcoming but also historically accurate. We were fortunate to obtain funding from the Garfield Weston Foundation and another charitable trust which enabled a scheme of decoration to be carried out using colours which were favoured in the later Georgian period, whilst the existing lights have been replaced with replica drop lanterns.



The final piece of the new interpretation is carpets for the hall and landings and runners for the staircases. Using pattern books from the archives of Brinton's factory in Kidderminster there is now a unique starry night design ready to be produced for this important area of the house. Further funding is still needed, but we are optimistic that the carpets will be in place by the summer of 2016.

Dining room interpretation

Those of you who visited the **Waterloo and the March of Science** exhibition may remember that the dining room of the house was given a special makeover, in order to represent a celebratory victory dinner, where William and Caroline Herschel were joined by illustrious battle veterans.

The dining table was decorated with table settings, candelabras and silverware as well as a display of faux food, including a plate of oysters, mussels and roast beef. Some of this material was on loan and has now been returned, but the display proved very popular with visitors and we would like to make this a permanent part of the dining room interpretation. We are therefore hoping to acquire further tableware and food which would have been popular during the period when the Herschels were in residence.

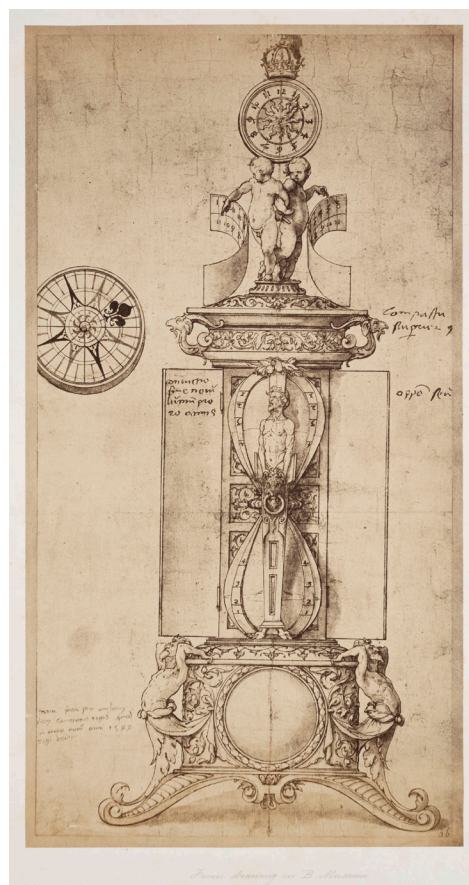


Image: An 18th century sandglass from the Abbott Horne Collection
By permission of the Science and Society Picture Library



DOWNSIDE
ABBAY



LOTTERY FUNDED

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

Obituary



Rear-Admiral Derek Satow died on 10 February at the age of 92. Pat and Derek moved to South Stoke in 1976 and were soon immersed in village life. Derek joined the Parish Council soon afterwards and served on it for nearly 25 years being Chairman for 20. He was a constant campaigner for the countryside around Bath and fought tirelessly to support the Green Belt and Cotswold AONB.

He was a prominent member of the Trust's **Environs Committee** and was always quick to flag up any potential threat to the setting of the World Heritage City of Bath.

His care and enthusiasm for the wider community will be sorely missed by the Trust, the Village of South Stoke, his family and many friends.

Peta Hall: Secretary

Sadly, we have to announce the retirement of Sir Peter Hall as Chairman of the Membership Committee. Peter took over from Sir Christopher Curwen in 2004 and I, personally, together with all of us at the Trust, would like to thank him for his generous contribution to the Trust's work over the past 12 years. Peter has been a skilful and extremely diplomatic Chairman and has seen the Trust's membership grow and remain at a healthy level, alongside the expansion of No. 1 Royal Crescent and the Trust's activities in general. Peter and his wife Marnie remain members of the Trust, and we send them both our very best wishes.

TRUST TOURS 2016

Two tours have already sold out through the priority booking scheme announced in the Winter Newsletter 2015. While we are delighted by the popularity of our tours, it is of course disappointing not to be able to offer places to all who wish to join. There are a few seats available on the Minterne and Athelhampton tours; please contact Peta Hall on 01225 338727 (Tues/Thurs) or petahall@bptrust.org.uk to check before booking.

To book, please complete the enclosed Booking Form and return it by post, with a cheque and stamped addressed envelope, to Membership Secretary, Bath Preservation Trust, 1 Royal Crescent, Bath BA1 2LR. We cannot accept credit card payments.

All coaches will leave from Avon Street Coach Park.

Minterne House, Dorset

Tuesday 24th May (Private visit, 9.15am to 5.00pm)



Minterne – an Elizabethan manor house

Due to the popularity of our visit in 2013 we are repeating the visit 3 years later. Minterne has been the home of the Churchill and Digby families for the last 350 years and is now the seat of the 12th Lord Digby. Rebuilt in 1905 by Leonard Stokes after being destroyed by dry rot, Minterne nestles in 1300 acres of beautiful Dorset countryside. Inside, the rooms are classically Georgian, containing many great paintings, mementoes of its past residents, antiques and the Churchill tapestries in the dining room. Simon Jenkins describes Minterne in his book *England's 1,000 Best Houses* as a "corner of paradise". The day will be hosted by Lord Digby and his son The Hon Henry Digby.

Cost: £47 (coach, private guided tour of the house and grounds, lunch). **Refreshments:** sandwich lunch with Dorset apple cake, fresh fruit platter, coffee, tea and soft drinks.

Alscot Park Estate, Warwickshire

Thursday 9th June (Private visit 9.00am to 6.30pm)

Emma Holman-West's family has lived in Alscot since 1747. A magnificently preserved Grade 1 Rococo gothic style house set in 4000 acres, Emma was awarded the prestigious Bledisloe Gold Medal for Landowners for outstanding achievement in managing and developing a rural estate, in 2011.

Cost: £48 (coach, two-course lunch, private guided tour of the house and grounds).

Mells Manor, Mells, Somerset

Thursday 23rd June (Private visit 1.00 to 6.00pm)

The present Lord Oxford inherited the Manor in 2011 following the death of his father, the 2nd Earl of Oxford and Asquith. Dating back to the 1460s in parts, the house can be glimpsed from the road, churchyard and nearby footpaths. There is no public access to Mells Manor.

Cost: £34 (coach, private guided tour of the house and grounds, and afternoon tea in the loggia/gardens).

Athelhampton House and Gardens, Dorset

Friday 9th September (Private visit 10.15am to 6.30pm)



Athelhampton's history and that of its inter-related families covers more than a thousand years. Sir William Martyn built the Hall at Athelhampton in 1485 and received a licence to enclose 160 acres of deer park and fortify his Manor. The house remained in the Martyn family for the next 4 generations when the house was then passed to four daughters. The shares of the house were not re-united until 1848. In 1957 Robert Victor Cooke purchased the house, and in 1966 he gave Athelhampton to his son Sir Robert Cooke MP. Today, Sir Robert's son Patrick and his wife Andrea run Athelhampton.

Cost: £46 (coach, entry to house and gardens with private guided tour, and lunch).

Refreshments: Lunch of homemade soup, sandwiches, drinks (wine or soft drink) and coffee.

SUMMER WALKS 2016

All walks start at 6.30pm and finish around 8.00pm. Free to Trust members but must be booked in advance. Places are allocated on a first-come-first-served basis. Booking form enclosed.

Unprecedented Development – The Future of Key Sites in Bath

Wednesday 8th June and Thursday 16th June

Led by Caroline Kay: Chief Executive of BPT
Several major sites in the centre of Bath and along the river corridor are likely to be redeveloped in the next 10 years. What should inform the plans for these sites, and what have we learned from history?

Start at Grand Parade, overlooking Pulteney Weir.

Treasure Hunt with a difference – The Upper Town

Wednesday 6th July and Thursday 14th July. Clues available from 6.00pm!

Organised by Alan and Christine Williams, Mayor's Guide and No. 1 Royal Crescent Guides.

Responding to requests for another Treasure Hunt we have decided to add a little variety. This walk will not only post a number of questions for you to answer, but will also provide plenty of factual information about the features on the route.

Start at No. 1 Royal Crescent, Servant's Hall (clues available from 6.00pm for 6.30pm start). Bring a pencil. Form a team if you wish, but pairs or individuals are also welcome. Ends at No. 1 where answers will be announced!

Improving Bath

Wednesday 3rd August and Thursday 11th August

Led by Dr Amy Frost - Curator of Beckford's Tower and Architectural Curator, BPT.

To coincide with the exhibition at the Museum of Bath Architecture, this walk explores the various Bath Improvement Schemes from the 18th to the 20th Century that have shaped the city. Revealing how some were successful, others not, and how many never made it off the drawing board.

Start outside the West Door of Bath Abbey.

NEW MEMBERS

As always, we welcome those of you who have joined us recently - both as subscribers and as volunteers - and we hope you will enjoy all the benefits that membership brings. Do please recommend membership and/or volunteering to friends and relatives, as we always need new recruits!

Education and Community Engagement



Efforts continue to engage audiences in creative ways - both new and returning visitors, children and adults. Recent developments include a new trail and try-on costumes at MoBA which will help children learn about Georgian architecture and design. A recent visitor (aged 9), commented, "I had so much fun I didn't want it to end".

At No. 1, text books on subjects as varied as Georgian cookery and famous residents of the Royal Crescent have been placed in the Servants' Hall to allow visitors to browse and enjoy finding out more about the history of the house. A range of 'handling objects' in each room is now available for guides to use. The aim is to interest families by offering them items such as a patch box which they can examine while they hear more about Georgian beauty regimes.

Community partnerships continue to grow in strength with the **FreshArt Project** returning to No. 1. This year, participants who have had experience of mental health issues will use the house's beautiful décor and collection as inspiration to paint and draw new artworks to decorate the walls of St Martin's Hospital. The aim is to provide a more stimulating and uplifting atmosphere for the clients on the wards.

A Recollection project in collaboration with the Holburne Museum and Avon & Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust will also be returning to No. 1. This is a chance for people with dementia and their carers to work with art therapists to enjoy a calm and creative experience in the house.

Fundraising and Development

Building partnerships

On 1 December 2015 we were delighted to welcome the local business community for festive drinks. The house was splendidly decorated for a Georgian Christmas and it was an opportunity to show our business colleagues all that No. 1 Royal Crescent has to offer in terms of client entertainment. It was a popular and well received evening. We wish to work ever closer with local businesses and are currently seeking support, through sponsorship and donations, for **Indulgence**, our next exhibition at No. 1.

The final months of 2015 were also taken up with applications to a number of trusts and foundations and we are pleased to report we met with some success.

Applications of this kind are essential, particularly as Bath Preservation Trust receives no core funding from public sources and we must seek grants and donations both in Bath and nationally. This support is vital for our work to protect, promote and enhance our glorious architectural heritage, and to extend the educational benefit and our visitor's enjoyment of our four museums.

We are currently focussing on the further development of our award winning education and community outreach programme. This included the incredibly popular and much acclaimed

intergenerational project between Age UK members and pupils of St. Andrew's School. There is a real need to develop this type of work and funding is being sought to involve even more school children and community groups.

We also have a specific campaign for No. 1 Royal Crescent. We have recently received the offer of a grant of £16,000 but we need to provide matching funds to obtain it. Some of this is already in place but we would be so pleased if you could help with a donation. Any support will be used to increase the 'living history' offer including cookery demonstrations in the kitchen and more costumed guides/interpreters as they are incredibly popular with visitors.

If you would like to make a gift today, please contact us on 01225 338727 or email jhull@bptrust.org.uk. And please remember to add Gift Aid - your donation will be worth an extra 25% at no cost to you.

Fundraising and Development

A lasting legacy

We are fortunate to live, work and visit such an 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, Bath Preservation Trust has received several remarkable gifts and legacies including some recent and generous bequests from local residents. As we receive no public funding for core activities all gifts and bequests 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 develop our education programme. The Trust will therefore be very grateful for any contribution that you are able to make through a legacy.

As Bath Preservation Trust is a charity, bequests left to us are exempt from Inheritance Tax. In addition, a legacy of 10% or more of your net estate 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 the Trust please let us know so that we have the opportunity to thank you for your support.

Do pick up one of our legacy leaflets and if you would like further details or a confidential discussion regarding leaving a bequest then please contact Jan Hull, Development Officer or Caroline Kay, Chief Executive on 01225 338727 or in writing at 1 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LR.

The purchase of the John Wood drawing instruments would not have been possible without generous donations from:

ArtFund

V&A
Purchase Grant Fund

Arts Council England/Victoria and Albert Museum Purchase Grant Fund
The Art Fund
B&NES Heritage Services
Edward Bayntun-Coward
Simon and Jacqueline Burrows
Van and Eva DuBose
Ainslie and Dick Ensom
Dr Michael Forsyth and Dr Marion Harney
Barry and Yvonne Gilbertson
Caroline Kay
Sir Timothy and Lady Lloyd
Tom Marshall
Medlock Charitable Trust
Trevor Osborne
The family of Hugh Roberts, Bath architect
Thomas Sheppard
Verdon-Smith Family Charitable Trust
And some donors who wish to remain anonymous

World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund



An original small range in the cottage

Two long running projects have been completed during 2015: the painting of the Kensington Place railings following the restoration of the gate piers last year, and the painting of the final section of the Royal Crescent railings between Gravel Walk and Royal Victoria Park.

The Fund has provided essential match-funding for two projects which have been awarded Heritage Lottery Fund grants: Smallcombe Cemetery and the Cleveland Pools. At Smallcombe, interpretation panels are planned, and at Cleveland Pools the Fund has enabled investigative work in the central 'cottage', uncovering historic architectural features, including the evidence of an earlier staircase.

Historic street sign conservation continues, currently in St. James's Square, Sydney Buildings, Charlotte Street, Sion Hill and St Mark's Place.

The Fund has supported Dr. Amy Frost's historically informative contribution to the Bath App produced by the BID initiative. In addition, a revised version of the popular World Heritage City Trail is planned, in consultation with the National Trust and the Canals and Rivers Trust, showing links to walks in the surrounding landscape which forms Bath's vitally important setting.

Further work at the Corridor entrances has been proposed, and suggestions for projects are always welcome. Please contact the Administrator, Ainslie Ensom, at whsef@bptrust.org.uk



BATH
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