

BATH MATTERS

THE BATH PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

84

Autumn glow

COPPER CLADDING GLEAMS
ON THE NEW STUDENT HOUSING
BLOCK IN JAMES STREET WEST



 BATH
PRESERVATION
TRUST

COVER

Amongst many new builds coming forward in Bath at present, the cover image shows a new student housing block in James Street West, to be used by University of Bath students. The Trust originally objected to this application when six storeys were contemplated; the final application was considerably modified with a reduction in height and the building now sits more comfortably in the surrounding area.

Bath is not alone amongst historic cities in dealing with the challenges of growing student numbers. The aim of new student blocks is to increase purpose-built student capacity in order to free up some of the family housing currently taken over by students. However the pressure on numbers is such that both forms of accommodation are increasing. BPT recognises that a balance is required and is always concerned if sites previously allocated for other forms of development are given up to student housing. However we also recognise the contribution that the universities bring to the city.



Thomas Sheppard

CHAIRMAN

Earlier this year I said we would be doing some research into how the Trust is perceived. A draft report on the survey results was presented to trustees only a few days before I write this, so at this stage I can only give you some key findings.

Overall there is very positive news about our museums and our campaigning, but there is a strong reminder that we remain too much of a well-kept secret, with too many people not really understanding what the Trust does or why it does it.

We have contacted a wide group of individuals including our members, B&NES Councillors and officers, our MP, residents' associations and teachers. We have also looked at the previous survey carried out in 2006 and a members' survey of 2008 from which we can see some consistent themes.

The Trust has a threefold charitable remit of:

- Promoting high standards of planning and architecture and to secure the preservation, protection and improvement for public benefit of the character, amenities and buildings of historic interest in and around the City of Bath.
- Protecting and preserving public rights of way and the beauty for public enjoyment of the countryside around the City of Bath.
- Providing museums and other educational activities about the history, geography, architectural heritage etc. in relation to the City of Bath.

There remains strong recognition and regard for the work we are doing both to promote high standards in planning and development and also for the work of our museums but very little awareness of our remit of protecting and preserving the beauty of our environs.

The finances of the Trust are also misunderstood with the overall view that we are largely funded by our membership fees together with donations and grants. We are of course incredibly grateful for the financial support that so many give us, but the majority of our running costs are met by the success of our museums – principally No. 1 – and less than 20% of our costs come from our generous donors, grant makers and our members. The continued success of our museums is therefore a priority, but we must also look to increase our other income whilst, like so many organisations, we have to work out how to make what we have go further.

We also have to improve our communications and increase awareness of the things that we do and why we do them which might, in our modern connected world, mean some brand new thinking.

I will be providing more information when we have agreed the best way forward, but at this stage I want to thank everyone who contributed to our survey and, so that we can keep in touch, I would again encourage subscription to our electronic newsletter.

Beyond surveys and finances this organisation continues to run on the goodwill of many and I am grateful to everyone who is connected in any way with the work we do – whether employee or volunteer or donor – and I take this opportunity to thank you all and wish you a very happy and peaceful Christmas.



Caroline Kay

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Welcome to the new-look newsletter, with its title encapsulating all we do – Bath Matters.

Fortunately more people than us believe this to be true. It is because Bath matters that it is recognised as a World Heritage Site and has such a large number and concentration of nationally designated listed buildings and monuments. Bath also matters because it has such a vibrant and continuously recorded history. We recognise that to continue to matter, Bath must look to its future as well: to be a living 21st century place where people work and play as well as visit.

Much is afoot in the City to realise that future. The rail electrification creeps nearer, with new trains coming through next year. Plans for the so-called Enterprise Area are progressing, with the enabling work along the riverside now moving forward. There is barely a site in the City that doesn't either contain or look onto an area of potential development. This of course sets a number of challenges as well as opportunities, and while we have been supportive of many of the Council's policies for looking after the City's heritage, we are not always convinced that they hold up as well as we would like by the time decisions are made by the planning committee.

Far from being cautious, we would encourage the Council to be bolder: to believe in their own policies, which are quite explicitly to 'conserve and enhance' the City we have, in its green setting. There should be zero tolerance, using Compulsory Purchase Order powers were necessary, of blots on the landscape like the old King Edward's building and Hampton Row, left to deteriorate by their current owners. Planning briefs for development sites should be assertive and confident, and the City should have a (relatively) open book viability assessment process (as does Islington) so that what matters about Bath does not get diluted for the benefit of those outside the City. This would of course require the Council to practice what it preaches, on the sites it owns both in the City centre and the setting.

We hope our new magazine will have plenty to interest you and provide a place for the members' voice to be heard. A happy Christmas to all and perhaps a less turbulent New Year!

Campaigning



MAKING PLACES

BPT was represented by Caroline Kay at five sessions of the **Placemaking Plan Examination in Public**, held at the Guildhall in early October. The Inspector, Claire Sharratt, was very clear in her task which was to consider the Placemaking Plan and whether it implemented the Core Strategy (Part 1 of the Local Plan for the B&NES area). A key question of principle was raised by participants, namely that the evidence presented for the Placemaking Plan and some of its modifications necessarily re-opened the debate on the Core Strategy's deliverability; in particular whether the plan would deliver the 13,000 new homes required and if not whether further site allocations would be needed to achieve the projected targets.

The Council's position was that the Core Strategy had a five-year review built-in, and *then* would be the time and opportunity to open up the issue of housing numbers again. The clear message is that there will be considerable housing pressure in B&NES, but that the existence of constraints on the City of Bath is accepted.

There were three other key areas of BPT participation:

- 🔊 **Planning Framework** – BPT argued that the 'conserve and enhance' strictures on new sites in Bath were necessary, and needed to be written into planning policy in order to be referenced to in land values (citing the Islington case). We were asked by the planning policy team to suggest some wording.
- 🔊 **Universities** – BPT argued that the Placemaking Plan lacked any clarity between the needs of Universities and those of the Council. How was the amount of student housing required to be delivered without significant deleterious effect on the general housing market? We also argued that at the moment student housing was being developer-led rather than University-led and that an 'Article 4 Direction' for Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) did not adequately take into account purpose built student accommodation.
- 🔊 **Transport** – There was a full session on the East of Bath Park and Ride, including the reinserted reference to an A36/46 link. On the former, the Inspector made clear that she thought the Council's own policy ST6 would make it very difficult to build a P&R in the Green Belt and WHS Setting. She also understood that the argument for need was questionable and it is notable that the Council's argument has moved completely away from air quality and congestion to the need for more parking given the development of the Enterprise Zone. It emerged that the City's traffic is deemed currently to be at 96% capacity and is likely to rise to 98% capacity even with an additional P&R so measures need to be directed to other issues than parking in order to address these problems. It is unclear how the Council will respond to that session and it may be that they will seek to dilute the wording of ST6; however, Historic England may be concerned if this were the case. As the Inspector is unlikely to report before the New Year, it is doubtful whether B&NES could force through a decision on the P&R before then without being vulnerable to judicial review.

On the A36/46 issue, BPT suggested another form of wording which highlighted that the problem was through-traffic and while this was compounded by the incompleteness of the trunk road system to the east, the A36/46 was not necessarily the solution. The Council accepted our form of wording and this has been submitted to the Inspector.

After a further hearing on 13th October (not relevant to BPT) the Inspector issues a 'closing statement'. The Inspector may issue an interim report to deal with the substantive issue of whether or not the Placemaking Plan has constituted a partial review of the Core Strategy. It is anticipated that there will not be a final report until January or February, and any 'main modifications' after that would be subject to a further consultation process.

YOUR VIEWS

Rugby on the Rec can cause controversy, but everyone is agreed that there are views which need protecting if a new rugby venue is developed. Please send us images of your favourite views in and around the Rec, or let us know what you think the more significant and valuable views are, together with your reasons.

Please email jrobinson@bptrust.org.uk

BUILDING TRUST

Not so many years ago the City's buildings were blacked by the smoke of coal fires and very many of our wonderful listed terraces were in poor condition. It has been the investment and enthusiasm of many individuals which has returned our listed buildings to good condition, improving not only individual houses but streetscapes and the overall feel of the City.

There is always a risk that as a Preservation Trust we are perceived as being at odds with property owners when the reality could not be more different. To promote the good work that the Trust does, and get our message across, we are producing a booklet aimed specifically at the new owners of listed buildings in Bath. This new publication will be given as a thank-you for investing in our City. It contains all the useful information required when owning a listed building; the content ranges from maintenance to energy efficiency and also provides contacts and references.

Our booklet will be published in the New Year and will be part of an ongoing project to spread the positive message about the Trust and the work we do.

MIND THE GAP

Alterations are proposed to widen the platform to Grade II* listed Bath Spa Station to accommodate new trains and overhead lines. The current solution successfully negates any necessity to alter the platform canopy. Planning applications for extending the heights of Pixash and Clay overbridges by adding more visually pleasing railings have now been approved. A planning application for a new pedestrian footbridge at Hampton Row has been withdrawn. BPT had raised concerns about the appearance of the bridge and the absence of an adequate assessment of the impact on the setting of Hampton Row. We will continue to participate in stakeholder consultations as the project progresses.



Mews News

The Trust was very pleased to learn recently that the appeal against enforcement in relation to the unauthorised demolition of a portion of historic wall in Lansdown Mews had been dismissed. We were looking forward to seeing this important old wall rebuilt. However, we hear that the appellant is now challenging the Inspector's decision in High Court on a point of law. We will report on the latest outcome in our spring newsletter.

TOP TIPS

for staying warm this winter

Many of us live in poorly insulated and draughty homes and over the coming months our winter energy bills are likely to rise. The most effective way to save energy and reduce bills is to set your timer so that heating comes on early and only when you need it. Here are five ways to stay snug at little extra cost.

1. Close curtains and shutters immediately after dusk to keep the heat in! Line curtains with thermal lining. Let the sunshine in during the day to warm the room and keep doors closed to stop the heat escaping.
2. Cover your walls and floors. Framed pictures, books on shelves, wall hangings and rugs all add an extra layer of insulation.
3. Insulate your front door and seal mini-drafts by draught proofing letterboxes and gaps along the bottom. Use draft excluders and add thick curtain over the inside of the door.
4. Position furniture within the centre of a room and against internal walls rather than external walls.
5. Use heat reflective foil (or good quality tin foil) behind your radiators to stop heat from being lost through Bath stone walls. Move furniture away from radiators and consider placing a shelf above a radiator to help stop hot air rising. This is particularly effective if the radiator is below a window with curtains, where warm air would be trapped between the window and the curtain. And turn radiators off or down in unused rooms.

Remember that it's important that old buildings are properly ventilated and are allowed to breathe!



QUAYS TO THE CITY

Master-planning is in progress for the development of underused land north and south of the river to the west of the City centre, to create a large new business district. The development will contribute to the Bath Riverside Enterprise Area. **Bath Quays** will offer up to 25,000m² of office space, up to 200 homes, new cafés and restaurants all along the riverside.

Bath Quays North covers the current car and coach park on Avon Street and will provide up to 17,000m² of office space. Flood mitigation works along the river will introduce upper and lower level river promenades, defined cycle and walking routes, natural landscaping and ecology, and a large riverside public space. BPT has met with the master-planners for the site, Allies and Morrison. We have broadly welcomed their approach to connect the City with the river and reinstate street networks in the North Quays area, as well as variety in the scale of development. We will comment on further iterations as they are presented to us.

Plans for **Bath Quays South** include up to 3,800m² of office and studio space and up to 70 homes. The new headquarters of BMT Defence Ltd will ensure 500 local jobs stay local. New office and studio space will make use of the vacant historic industrial buildings at Newark Works. We have received preliminary heritage statements and proposals for new buildings and have provided feedback. We fully support the intention to revitalise the Newark Works building and bring it back into use. We have accepted the loss of the Foundry Building on the basis that the site is not viable to develop if this unlisted building is retained. We see that there is a balance to be found between the undeniable benefit of developing this site, and the harm to the industrial heritage. However, the quality of new architecture and public realm will need to compensate for this loss. We have raised some concerns about design detail and orientation of the new buildings and their roof profiles. A primary concern is the interaction of these buildings with the Newark Works building.

Campaigning

YOUR MATTERS



Email from Rachael Hushon

I recently wrote to the Lansdown Ward Councillors on behalf of the Lansdown Crescent Association regarding an issue which I believe could further blight Georgian areas of Bath.

I am deeply concerned that the plan to introduce fortnightly waste collections (retaining weekly recycling collection) in Bath will worsen the proliferation of filthy gull sacks and associated overspill refuse hanging on front railings around our city.

Georgian terraced housing around the City centre, most of which is now in multiple occupancy without external or concealed bin storage areas, is not suitable for this fortnightly plan. B&NES are expecting these residents to either store (sometimes unsanitary) waste inside their property for two weeks, or (the more worrying option) expect that people will hang refuse and gull sacks from railings on jack arches permanently.

I have photographed areas of Bath to illustrate areas already blighted by filthy gull sacks and waste left permanently outside the Georgian terraces: areas where there is no enforcement. By ignoring the reality of what is already soiling our heritage assets (which I might add generate millions in tourist and Council Tax revenues), B&NES Councillors and Officers are demonstrating little civic pride in our city.

I fully understand that single family dwellings (in a more suburban setting and with independent external storage) can manage refuse fortnightly and this could encourage food waste recycling. But I want to highlight the impact of more and more disgusting gull sacks (and the overspill refuse) as permanent street fixtures on the centre of our heritage city.

rchushon@hotmail.co.uk

BPT response

Dear Rachael, thank you for your email. We entirely agree with your concerns about the proliferation of rubbish bags in our heritage city and the harmful impact on the streetscene which detracts from the setting of our many listed buildings. We also support, however, the ambition to achieve higher recycling waste levels within Bath as this supports a sustainable future for the City. The issue of the frequency and type of waste collections in the Georgian city core does indeed need further thought and analysis, perhaps via research into effective strategies adopted in other EU heritage cities such as Bruges and Florence. The use of enforcement by B&NES is also another area which should be intensified in order to ensure that households are taking full responsibility for their own waste and its impact on the public realm. We strongly advocate a 'joined up' approach by the various stakeholders in B&NES with regards to this issue.



If you'd like to join the debate on any of the issues we campaign on please do write to us. We'd love to hear your views about the heritage and planning issues that matter most to you. Letters or emails may be printed in our forthcoming newsletters with a response from BPT.

Planning applications at a glance



MOD Sites

The Trust has recently responded to further planning applications for amendments to the permitted **Warminster Road** scheme. The main revisions incorporate changes from townhouses to blocks of flats, with design changes to a further four blocks of flats. The Trust has concerns about the lack of affordable housing provision in the 43 newly created dwellings (the developer cites unforeseen construction costs and land value). Our primary concern mirrors our original concern from the 2014 application: the grandiose, monumental and eclectic classical styling adopted for much of the scheme is inappropriate and fails to reflect the local context of this suburban area characterised by mixed 20th century housing and 19th century Regency villas.

Construction has started for Phase 1 of **Mulberry Park** at Foxhill (276 dwellings), and the Trust recently reviewed and supported plans for an impressively contemporary Community Hub, school and nursery at the centre of the development. We have also had early sight of the regeneration master-planning for the existing Foxhill site.

Construction has also commenced on the eastern ridge of the MOD **Ensleigh** site, with some buildings now being visible from the east of the City. Members may remember the Trust objected strongly to this scheme and requested that it be 'called-in' to the Secretary of State – a request which was refused.

Roseberry Place

The development of Phase 1 of Roseberry Place on the Lower Bristol Road proposes 171 flats with local-needs shops and covers the eastern part of the site adjacent to Windsor Bridge. BPT objected to the design of the large corner 'nodal' building which fails to respond to its local context. The excessive height (eight storeys) would dominate the largely domestic-scale local townscape and interrupt long views across the City. We were broadly supportive of one of the buildings which was designed with a bonded warehouse aesthetic which appropriately reflects the historic architectural traditions of the industrial riverside. Still pending.

The Old Gasworks

Despite some concerns, we were mostly satisfied with the overall designed appearance of a building accommodating 394 student rooms on the northern side of Windsor Bridge Road. Our disappointment was with design revisions which proposed stepped-back roofs on the riverside rather than mansard roofs. Our primary objection centred on the principle of student housing; we would have preferred to see a mixed scheme that incorporated some business space and much-needed housing for key workers. The scheme was recently refused on the basis that it falls within the Bath Western Riverside which is a residential-led area, therefore student accommodation use on this site is contrary to Core Strategy policies and

would adversely affect the delivery of much needed housing in the City.

Sulis Down

Developers will soon consult publically on plans for a circa 200 dwelling scheme on part of the Sulis Plateau, with a view to submitting a planning application in the New Year. We have been vocal in voicing our fears that the lack of an overall high-level masterplan for the site will mean that this sensitive and important piece of land within the Green Belt and AONB will be developed piecemeal (with the associated 'disconnects' – in terms of design and infrastructure – of such a process) and will run the risk of being overdeveloped.

23 Royal Crescent

A retrospective application for planning permission for an orangery roof to the rear of 23 Royal Crescent, which has been built contrary to approved plans, was recently refused. The applicant has appealed and the Trust has submitted an appeal representation in addition to objecting to the planning application. The as-built roof is disproportionate and awkward (and includes an unauthorised window) and thus harms the setting of the Grade I listed crescent. The Trust has urged the inspector to dismiss the appeal and instruct the appellant to return the roof to its permitted form.

Wansdyke Business Centre

The Trust has strongly objected to this student accommodation scheme in Oldfield Park (which proposed to demolish much of the existing buildings) because of its height, density, designed appearance and the harmful impact on the setting of important local heritage assets. Primarily, however, our objection centred on the proposed use; in our opinion the area does not need and cannot accommodate more student housing!



The Keeping of Christmas

28 NOVEMBER – 11 DECEMBER



Decorating No. 1 Royal Crescent for the Christmas season is one of the highlights of our year and is made possible with the support of a talented team of dedicated volunteers. This year's displays will be more sumptuous than ever, showing how Christmas was really celebrated in Georgian Bath, as well as exploring how some of the traditions of Christmas, which we usually assume to be Victorian, actually date back much further.

The darkest days of winter have been associated with celebrations and feasting since pagan times when the burning of the Yule log marked the end of the winter solstice. Yet the boisterous Christmas celebrations of earlier days had been prohibited in Puritan England and many of the old traditions lost. By the 18th century, Christmas had become a much more restrained occasion with little mention in diaries and letters of the time of how people actually celebrated.

In Bath, the main social season had come to an end by December and regular activities were suspended for Christmas rather than special ones arranged. In 1788, Richard Tyson, Master of Ceremonies at the New Assembly Rooms announced, 'Tomorrow being Christmas Day there will be no Cotillion Ball until Thursday 1st January'. An exception was Venanzio Rauzzini's benefit performance of Handel's 'Messiah', held regularly in Bath on Christmas Eve.

Many people left the City to return to their country estates where it was possible to entertain on a grander scale, extending over the traditional twelve days of Christmas and culminating with Twelfth Night dancing and feasting. Large estates welcomed numerous guests, and household records show extra provisions being ordered, such as 'lemons for mince pyes' and 'cranberries for tarts'. Servants, too, were treated to a sit-down dinner and traditional entertainments like carol singers and mummers were enjoyed.

For those still in town Christmas Day was low key. Most people went to church or to the service at the Abbey where they sang psalms rather than Christmas carols. Business letters prove that some offices were open on Christmas Day. Socialite Elizabeth Montagu, sometime resident of the Royal Crescent, complained in 1781 that 'at this time of the year the great City [London] is solitary, silent and quiet' although luckily 'as always one finds some friends in town'.

For the 'polite' residents of the Crescent, such as Henry Sandford here at No.1, the 'keeping of Christmas' meant elegant entertaining.

The Dining Table at No. 1 recreates a typical festive table resplendent with hams, pies and puddings. Turkey was also served although not exclusively at Christmas. Early mincemeat recipes contained beef or tongue and mince pies were boat shaped to represent a cradle. It was still customary to welcome guests with a bowl of punch, inspired by one of the oldest English traditions, the Wassail Bowl. Steaming wine infused with roasted apples, sugar and spices might have been prepared by the host himself, it being a potion 'too abstruse and complex for the comprehension of an ordinary servant'.



The Twelfth Night cake, shown on the Withdrawing Room tea table, was at its most popular in the late 18th century. It was a beautifully iced creation, often containing beans to determine the King and Queen for the evening. The inner layer of marzipan was inspired by the gilded 'marchpane', the centrepiece of Tudor banquets and now remembered only as the marzipan layer in the modern Christmas Cake.

After dinner the Withdrawing Room was also the setting for a variety of seasonal parlour games, usually involving the humiliation of participants. Bullet Pudding required the removal of a 'slice' from a pudding made entirely of flour without



disturbing the bullet on the top, for whoever caused it to fall had to pick the bullet out of the flour with their teeth!

Christmas decorations were simple and restrained. Evergreens were customary and prints of the period show holly sprigs above picture frames or boughs of mistletoe, an embrace under the traditional 'kissing bough' symbolising goodwill. Swiss traveller Cesar de Saussure wrote to his family that in England 'on this festival day churches, the entrance of houses, rooms, kitchens and halls are decked with laurels, rosemary and other greenery', a description which has inspired our decorations.

Although generally assumed to be Victorian, Christmas Trees were introduced to England from Germany as early as the 1790s when German born Queen Charlotte had one at Windsor Castle. Our recreation of Queen Charlotte's tree is decorated with nuts, lace and tiny treats. Presents were given at Christmas or New Year and 18th century Bath offered plenty of ideas for Christmas shopping although 'a Christmas present, Evening Amusement, or original Anecdotes for the Ladies in letters intended to promote a Love of Virtue in young minds, price 2/6d from all booksellers in Bath' may not have generated universal excitement on Christmas morning!

It was a time for charity; in February 1793 the Bath Chronicle announced that 'Mr. And Mrs. Smith of Prior Park have for the last ten years distributed one fat ox (and sometimes near two) to the poor of the surrounding villages'. Left-over food or gifts would be boxed up and distributed to servants the day after Christmas, hence 'Boxing Day'. 'I shall be undone with Christmas Boxes' complained Jonathan Swift, a sentiment clearly shared by others because on 26 December 1782 the Commissioners for paving and lighting placed an advert in the Bath papers asking 'Bath inhabitants not to encourage the nightwatchmen, lamplighters and scavengers in soliciting gratuities as Christmas Box money or New Year's Gifts'!

With greenery, gilded fruit, spices and sparkling candles in every room we explore many of these themes, as well as imagining the story of Henry Sandford's own Christmas celebrations at No.1 Royal Crescent.

Christmas at No.1 Royal Crescent



New for this year are a limited number of special Twilight Evening Openings on 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 8th, 9th, 10th December when the house will be brought atmospherically to life. Mulled wine and mince pies available. See website for further details. Tickets on the door or bookable online.

New online shop

No.1 Royal Crescent has now launched an online shop on the new website. The starting offer consists of bespoke products and books published by Bath Preservation Trust. Currently only No.1 and MoBA products are listed, but we hope to include Herschel and Beckford products in the future. New items are being added every week. This shop sells internationally and we have already received our first order from the USA.

A shop survey was held among No.1 volunteers in the summer which revealed a need for more unique and expensive products for gifts. Since then, several bespoke product lines have been added including silk bookmarks of the Royal Crescent, a coaster set depicting the Gilmore map of Bath (which also sells at the Museum of Bath Architecture), and wooden jigsaw puzzles of No.1 (similar ones at the Herschel have always been best sellers).

One of the most successful new product ranges is Georgian-inspired jewellery: necklaces, bracelets and earrings that are hand made in Bath by Anna Tham. She is also a guide at No. 1. Her lovely pineapple shaped earrings are often sold out and several necklaces (£69) have been bought by overseas customers.



Museum of Bath Architecture

ARCHIVES FROM THE
BATH BUILDINGS RECORD
AT THE MUSEUM OF
BATH ARCHITECTURE

Bath Buildings Record

One of the largest collections at the Museum of Bath Architecture is the Bath Buildings Record (BBR), a collection of archives, objects and drawings created in 1964-75 by volunteers during the infamous Sack of Bath. The items in the BBR document the hundreds of buildings that were lost during the systematic demolition of whole areas of the City. Through the collection many of those lost buildings can be rediscovered, including the lost buildings of Avon Street and the riverside currently being master-planned for the redevelopment of North Quays.

The ability to illustrate the development of a street or site in the City through such archives and images make the BBR a vital source for recording and understanding the history of Bath. The BBR has featured in many exhibitions at the museum and is frequently used by students, architects and historians researching the City. Thanks to the work of volunteer Yvonne Gilbertson we hope soon to have the archives of the BBR searchable on the BPT on-line archive database, complementing the drawings of BBR member Peter Coard that can be searched at bathintime.co.uk and making this incredibly significant collection more accessible to researchers (and staff).



ARCHITECTURE IS...

Next year will see the launch of a new project developed in collaboration with the Bath Architects Group, RIBA South West, the University of Bath and Bath Festivals called **Architecture Is...**

Architecture Is... is an idea that grew from the late Richard Feilden's plans for an architecture festival in Bath based around events that could both celebrate the City and open up debate and encourage ideas about its future. With thanks to the support of the RIBA Local Initiative Fund in 2017 a series of activities, walks, talks, film screenings and events will offer a wide audience the opportunity to explore and learn about architecture. Keep an eye out on our websites and at our museums as we develop the project and let you know how you can be involved.

A wartime vision

This year's exhibition at the Museum of Bath Architecture – Planning for Peace – explores the 1916 proposals for the City by Robert Atkinson and has brought to light a period of the City's architecture that is frequently overlooked. Our understanding of the 20th century built heritage of the City is often dominated by the bombing of 1942 or the Sack of Bath in the 1960s-70s, but the lesser known early 20th century architecture of Bath offers a fascinating insight into the use of classicism during the rise of modernism. Atkinson's proposed designs for a Concert Hall, Hotel and new Baths in 1916 took inspiration from both the historic city he was designing for and his modern interpretation of the style. The 1923-7 Post Office building on Broad Street by Sir Richard John Allison and the Co-Op in Westgate Buildings by L. G. Wilkins in 1932 both illustrate how classicism was being used in 20th century Bath to sit harmoniously in the City yet showcase new design. Just as the Beau Nash Picture House on Westgate Street of 1926 by A. J. Taylor, with its striking broken pediment and Art Deco detailing, illustrates how elements of the classical style could be innovated and experimented with to inspire a modern architectural style. Taking the time to seek out what was built in the first few decades of the 20th century reminds us of the variety of classicism that can be seen in Bath when you take the time to really look around you.



Planning of Peace: Redesigning Bath in the First World War
Museum of Bath Architecture until 26 November 2016



BEAU NASH PICTURE HOUSE (NOW KOMEDIA)
WESTGATE STREET DESIGNED BY A. J. TAYLOR IN 1926



LED BY IWM



LOTTERY FUNDED



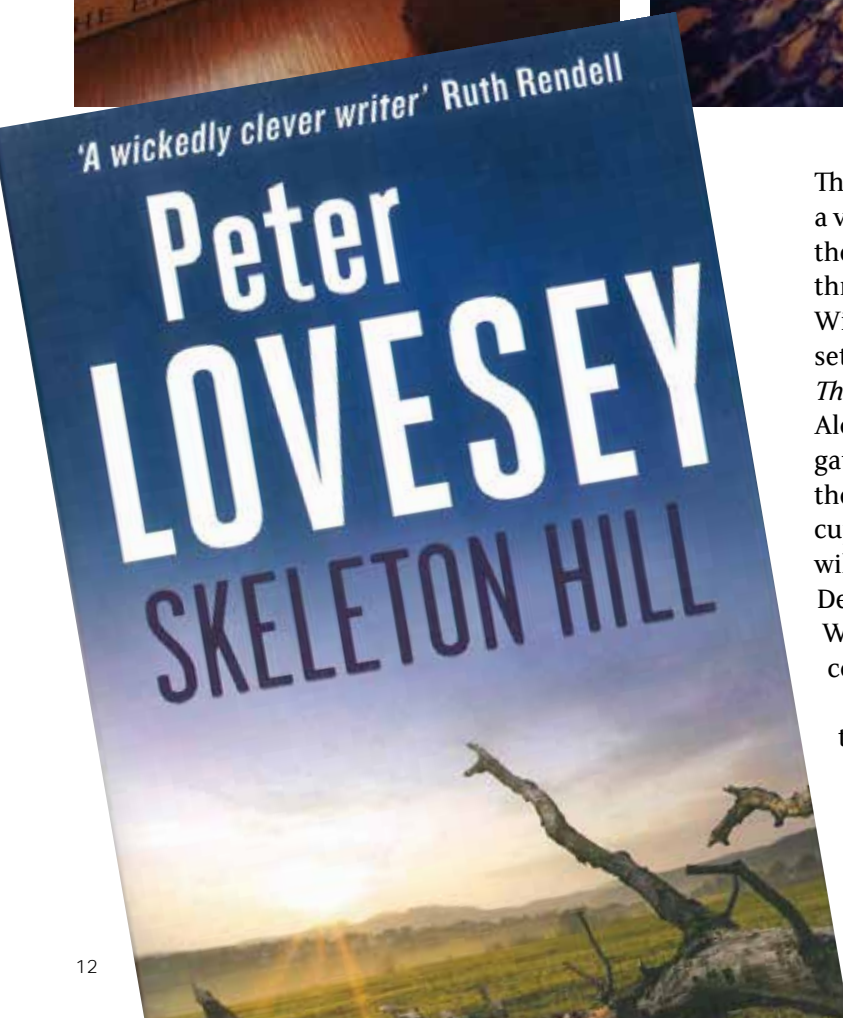
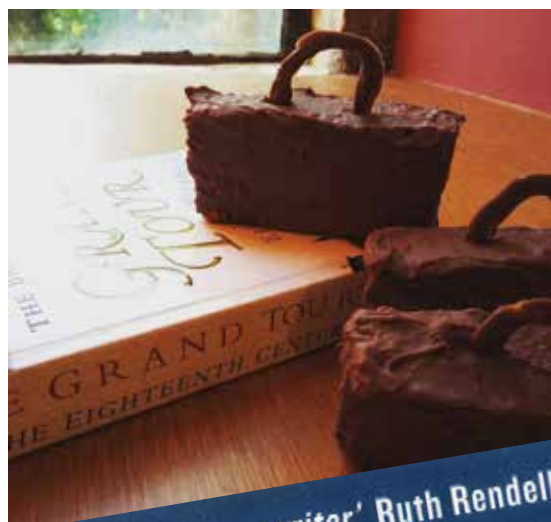
Mells Manor

Following on from our First World War themed exhibition, the volunteers from the Museum of Bath Architecture (following in the footsteps of the BPT Members Tour earlier in the summer) enjoyed a wonderful visit to Mells Manor thanks to the generosity of Lord and Lady Oxford and Asquith. It was fascinating to see the early 20th century additions to the building made by Lutyens and to trace other works by the architect around the village (bus stops in particular are worth looking out for). Perhaps most powerful, however, was the memorial in St Andrew's Church (above) to Edward Horner who died at the Battle of Cambrai in 1917. The bronze sculpture by Alfred Mannings sits atop a plinth designed by Lutyens the form of which echoes his familiar design for the Cenotaph: a strong and bold modern classicism that in many ways defines how we picture WW1 memorials. It is a form closely linked to the memorials or Pylons seen in Robert Atkinson's 1916 proposed designs for Bath.

Beckford's Tower and Museum

BOOKS AND BAKES

Beckford Book Group



The Beckford Book Group continues to grow as we explore a variety of books vaguely connected to either Beckford or the Tower. Recent evenings have seen us discovering Naples through the eyes of Beckford and his second cousin Sir William Hamilton in Susan Sontag's *The Volcano Lover*, and setting sail in Beckford's footsteps through Jeremy Black's *The British Abroad: The Grand Tour in the Eighteenth Century*. Alongside lively discussions the highlight of the Book Group gatherings is rapidly becoming the baking creations of the Tower Administrator who has wowed us with volcano cupcakes and chocolate cake suitcases. For our next book we will be catching up with the popular Bath fictional character Detective Peter Diamond in *Skeleton Hill* by Peter Lovesey. We await with bated breath the cakes our Administrator will come up with for that one!

The Beckford Book Group is open to anyone who wants to come along (we don't mind if you haven't actually read the book) for a contribution of £5 (towards the wine/tea/coffee and cake which help the discussions).



Skeleton Hill 1 December, 7pm at Beckford's Tower
beckfordstower.org.uk



To have and to hold; from this day forward

In September we enjoyed the first ever wedding at Beckford's Tower complete with beautiful bride and lovely guests. Following the ceremony which took place with 35 guests in the Lansdown Room at the Tower (the main museum room) Champagne and chocolates were served and plenty of fabulous wedding photographs taken around the Tower and cemetery. We have two more bookings for 2017 and several appointments for viewings, so hopefully weddings at the Tower will soon be going from strength to strength.

beckfordstower.org.uk/weddings

Queer History

For the last year and more Historic England has been working on a research project exploring England's Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender and Queer history (LGBTQ). The Pride of Place project has seen several buildings and sites being recently listed or re-graded in recognition of their untold queer history and much of the findings from this research, including an interactive LGBTQ Heritage Map that members of the public can contribute to, can be found through the Historic England website. William Beckford features prominently in the discussions of LGBTQ architecture and in 2017 we will be exploring his place in the country's queer history in more detail as the UK marks fifty years since the decriminalisation of homosexuality.

To find out more about Pride of Place and Beckford visit historicengland.org.uk

STEPS TO REPAIR

For some years now the 1972 entrance steps at Beckford's Tower have been suffering from frost damage and stone decay. What appeared to be damage caused by movement of the treads had led to large sections of the stone work making up the outer walls of the steps being lost. Although everyone who came to assess the steps had an idea of what the root of the problem was likely to be, we remained unsure and therefore unable to determine appropriate repairs. The solution came through researching the Tower's archives and discovering how the stones were originally constructed during the restoration of the building (by Leslie and Elizabeth Hilliard) in 1972.

The original steps seen in H E Goodridge's drawings from 1828 were most probably dismantled in the late 1840s or early 1850s when the building was converted into a mortuary chapel. They were replaced by a ramp before being reinstated in 1972. Armed with the information found in the archives we lifted some of the steps to explore how they had been constructed and what was happening beneath. With listed building consent in place we embarked on the repairs, which are almost complete. This project shows how important research is when considering making repairs or alterations to a building, and how before embarking upon any conservation project it is vital to be as informed as possible.



BEFORE 1972



AFTER 1972

Herschel Museum of Astronomy



Heavens, harps
and handwriting

STAFF ROOM

Debbie James on curating this wonderfully eclectic collection

The Herschel Museum is essentially an historic house which pays tribute to two remarkable astronomers; we therefore present an eclectic mix of material, including furniture and objects of the period as well as engravings, watercolours and paintings which relate to the theme of the house. Many of the objects on display are valuable, delicate and vulnerable so they are kept behind glass in optimum environmental conditions, whilst others such as our lovely French harp and Caroline Herschel's dress are on open display in the Music Room. This mixture of material makes curatorial work both interesting and demanding, not least because we have a number of loans from national museums covered by government indemnity which require considerable attention. We are often seeking to acquire new objects which can enhance or add to the interpretation of the house and its collection but which would also enable us to 'rest' certain items for periods of time. Some additions to the collection come through loan requests, whilst other objects might be gifts or acquired through grant aid and/or donations. Sourcing new material, however, can be challenging because original Herschel letters and astronomical instruments rarely come on the market, and any potential acquisition has to be in excellent condition in order to be considered by grant-giving bodies. We largely rely on our contacts in other museums, auction houses and dealers who are known to us to spot material of possible interest.

Since 2011 there has been a new gallery at the Herschel Museum, the main purpose of which is to house temporary exhibitions, so there is now even greater emphasis on displaying objects which reflect the work of the Herschels and their place in Bath during the period of the Enlightenment.

Small world

One of our main priorities over the past few years has been to build upon the collection of material we hold at the Herschel Museum, particularly in the areas of musical and astronomical instruments dating from the Georgian period and the earlier part of the 19th century.

Also of interest to our visitors are original letters and documents which relate to the astronomical achievements of William, Caroline and Sir John Herschel and we are fortunate that their descendants are prepared to loan us material from their private archive. In addition, in 2014 and 2015 we were able to purchase two letters of great significance; one from the President of the Royal Society, Sir Joseph Banks to William Herschel, c.1782, and another of similar date from Astronomer Royal, Nevil Maskelyne to Sir Joseph Banks. We have also been successful in adding to our remarkable collection of 18th century globes and planetaria, and we are currently seeking funds to purchase a rare and unique pair of pocket globes by the famous cartographer Dudley Adams, which demonstrate the concept of the heavens and the whole world in your hand.

Exhibition

In mid-December we close the **Science and Spirituality** exhibition and return the generous loans from Downside Abbey. Working with Downside has proved an interesting and rewarding experience and we hope that there will be future opportunities for us to display some of their unique books and manuscripts.

Upcoming events

We appear to be entering a new era of anniversaries and next year BPT museums will be jointly celebrating the 250th anniversary of the foundation stone of the Royal Crescent, whilst 2017 also marks the anniversary of William Herschel taking up the post of Director of Music in Bath – which was also the beginning of his rise to fame as an astronomer.

We shall be working closely with the School of Music and Dramatic Arts at Bath Spa University and exhibiting music and science in Bath during the late 18th century accompanied with an events programme. The title is **Jubilate**. The music of William Herschel, Thomas Linley, Venanzio Rauzzini and other Bath celebrities will be featured in a series of concerts and recitals, whilst we also hope to run a programme of educational activities and a community engagement programme which combine dramatic, musical and astronomical themes.

Education and Community Engagement



JASPER'S
PATCH BOX

Family fun

Drop-in sessions continue to engage families with fun, creative activities. Museums Week in October was free to local residents and as ever a busy time across our sites. This year you could make a patch box, bind books, grind home remedies in a pestle and mortar and make Georgian-style confectionery. At the Museum of Bath Architecture a giant drawing of Big Ben was created with outsized drawing instruments.

Our partnership makes sense

BPT's partnership with the Alzheimer's Society has resulted in ongoing visits which are carefully designed for people with the condition and their carers. The chance to touch original objects from No. 1's handling collection as well as listen to Georgian music offers a multi-sensory and enjoyable experience. One participant commented "We talked lots at home and got excited about coming on our visit." Plans to develop the work to include outreach visits to care homes are currently in development.

Documenting Bath

We were delighted at an unexpected donation to the archive this summer: a collection of original manuscripts relating to a property in Grosvenor Place was brought in requiring documenting, suitable storage conditions, and being made fully accessible to researchers. The documents date from 1792 to the 20th century and include indentures, title deeds, assignments, sales, leases and mortgage agreements and refer to conveyance, rent, ownership, tenancy and the occupations of all relevant personnel; it is unusual to find such an extensive collection still in existence and in such excellent condition.

We have summarised the contents of the collection, catalogued and cross-referenced. It is hoped that the collection will eventually be stored in Bath Record Office.

BACK TO SCHOOL

School visits are going from strength to strength with more classes now taking up the offer to experience two museums in a day. At MoBA, students learn about the architecture of Georgian homes then at No. 1 they discover how people decorated and lived in them. Other tailored schools' offers include 'Bath as a Tourist Destination' and 'Fashion and Etiquette in Jane Austen's Bath'. BPT continues to contribute its resources to a range of courses at Bath Spa University including Drama, Primary Teaching and Heritage & History and, for the first time this year, Art History.



BSU DRAMA STUDENTS



ABOVE, THE CAST IRON FOUNTAIN
IN HEDGEMEAD PARK AND LEFT,
THE STATUE OF ST ALPHEGE

Looking up

The varied recent projects supported by the Fund include new interpretation boards at the beautifully restored Smallcombe Cemetery, the production by the National Heritage Ironwork Group of a technical handbook on conserving historic wrought iron, and a re-print of the popular Georgian map (available from our shop).

Currently in progress is an organised survey of the historic vaults in the City, for which the Fund has provided monitoring equipment, and the sensitive conservation of the wide shallow Pieroni vase at the west end of Gravel Walk (see front cover), a project which the Fund helped to initiate.

Future plans include the restoration of the charming little statue of St Alphege in Weston Village and of the cast iron fountain in Hedgemead Park, refurbishment of Queen Charlotte's splendid coat of arms over the bay window of A.H. Hale in Argyle Street, and restoration of the Corridor canopy in the High Street – these last dependent on discussions with the owner.

The rolling programme of street sign conservation continues – Queen Square, Gay Street, New King Street, Upper Bristol Road, Caroline Buildings, Ebenezer Terrace and Macaulay Buildings are all in our sights.

If you have a proposal you would like to suggest, or need help or advice with a project, please contact the Fund

Administrator, Ainslie Ensom, at whsef@bptrust.org.uk

Members



Obituary DR PETER WOODWARD

On 3 September 2016 we very sadly lost our former Trustee and Life Member Dr Peter Woodward, at the age of 93. His funeral was held near his home at Chewton Mendip on 22 September and was attended by many of his former colleagues and friends from the Trust.

Peter and his wife Elizabeth were Life Members of the Trust and he was elected Trustee in 1985, joining the Architecture Committee in the same year. Peter acted as Vice Chairman of that committee until the death of Peter Greening in December 1993, when he became Chairman. Peter was one of the key faces of the Trust for 20 years, during when he wrote a regular column on architectural matters for the Evening Chronicle and spoke impressively at public enquiries.

Peter was no 'dinosaur', opposing anything just because it was new. If he disagreed with another Trustee he would smile politely but make his views quite clear. He helped to steer the Thermae Bath Spa Project with a very careful hand. Peter stepped down as Chair of the Architecture Committee in 2002 and retired as a Trustee in 2005. His contribution to the work of the Trust is immeasurable and those of us who knew him remember him with great affection. He was predeceased by his wife and is survived by two sons, Antony and Jonathan.



MEMBERS IN THE GARDENS AT
ATHELHAMPTON – SEPTEMBER 2016

Trust Tours 2016

A full report of the 2016 season's Trust Tours will be written up in the Annual Review, but as always we would like to thank all those members who took part in our outings to Minterne, Alscot Park, Mells Manor and Athelhampton. Thanks also to Joy Burt and Amy Frost for helping Peta to lead these tours. All tours were either full or very well attended, and we hope for an equally busy programme next year.

Summer Walks 2016



MEMBERS EXAMINE SCHEMES FOR
BATH WITH DR AMY FROST

All devised by Alan Williams, members enjoyed three walks which were repeated twice and fully booked each time. Our Chief Executive started the season with Unprecedented Development, a walk which examined future key sites in Bath. Alan and Christine set another fabulous and testing Treasure Hunt around the north of Bath, and Amy Frost revealed both good and bad improvement schemes for Bath from the past. Thank you to everyone who attended, and to our leaders Alan Williams, Christine Williams, Caroline Kay and Amy Frost.

Trust Tours 2017 – priority booking information

Those of you who would like to receive a priority booking pack for the 2017 tours programme should either complete the enclosed flier and return it to Peta or email petahall@bptrust.org.uk to request a pack. Priority booking details will be sent out in early 2017.

Members' Christmas drinks at the Museum of Bath Architecture



 Monday, 5 December

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

RSVP: Please call Peta Hall on 01225 338727 (Tuesdays and Thursdays) or email petahall@bptrust.org.uk

Do you have friends who might like to join the trust ?

Although our membership remains consistently strong at just over 1,450 members, we always need new people to replace those we inevitably lose.

For just £20 you could give a friend a gift membership of the Trust for a year, allowing them free entry to all four of our museums for 12 months plus a host of other benefits.

We are also particularly keen to strengthen our Corporate and Life Membership categories, so do please let us know if you or any of your contacts might be interested in either. Contact Peta on 01225 338727 or petahall@bptrust.org.uk

History in action

Over the summer at No. 1 Royal Crescent we hosted a variety of costumed interpreters and demonstrations, including cookery in the kitchen, which were extremely popular. Evaluation and visitor feedback has shown that this method of interpretation improved visitors' understanding and made their visit more enjoyable. It encouraged conversation and participation and was enjoyed by both adults and children alike.

"We learned a lot from the butler and would have loved to have seen more costumed interpreters."

The provision of these interpreters and demonstrators has been made possible by generous funding from the BGS Cayzer Charitable Trust whose continued support is so much appreciated; it was Bernard Cayzer who bought No. 1 Royal Crescent and gave it to Bath Preservation Trust to open as a museum in 1970. The current living history project has also attracted the support of a number of private donations and there is clearly potential to develop this further with more demonstrations, re-enactments and drama to show different aspects of life in a Georgian household. We continue to seek funding and if you are able to assist us with a donation, please do get in touch.



"We must have stayed in the 18th century for at least two hours with the highlight of an excellent demonstration of cooking techniques of the time. All the guides were enthusiastic and instructive."

"All the staff were excellent, but hearing about life in the house from people dressed for the period made it feel more authentic and 'real'."

Fundraising successes and more work to do...

During the spring and summer we received a number of donations from BPT members for which we are very grateful. We have also been successful with several grant applications. These funds are essential as we receive no regular public funding. We earn revenue through museum admissions, grants from trusts and foundations and through private donations, including the valued support of our members. This allows us to carry on our important campaigning work to protect Bath and its Green Belt, run our award-winning museums and develop our renowned education and community outreach work. Being a member means being part of our work and enjoying the successes that the money we receive brings.

Applications to more trusts and foundations continue during the autumn but please consider if you are able to help us. 'Bath Matters'; please support us as generously as you can!



Christmas is just around the corner

With especial thanks to a most generous private donation we are able to increase our festive displays at No. 1 Royal Crescent this year. Do visit between 28 November and 11 December to see the house decorated with foliage, ribbons, dried fruits, spices, flowers and painted foodstuffs! This is another example of the incredible impact that an individual's generosity can provide and we are very grateful indeed.

For more information, please contact Jan Hull, Development Officer – jhull@bptrust.org.uk



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Special late nights until 8pm*

Thurs 1 - Sat 3 December

Thurs 8 - Sat 10 December

Georgian-themed Christmas Decorations
28 November - 11 December

Pop-up Christmas Café and Gift Shop

Normal admission prices

* last admission 6.30pm