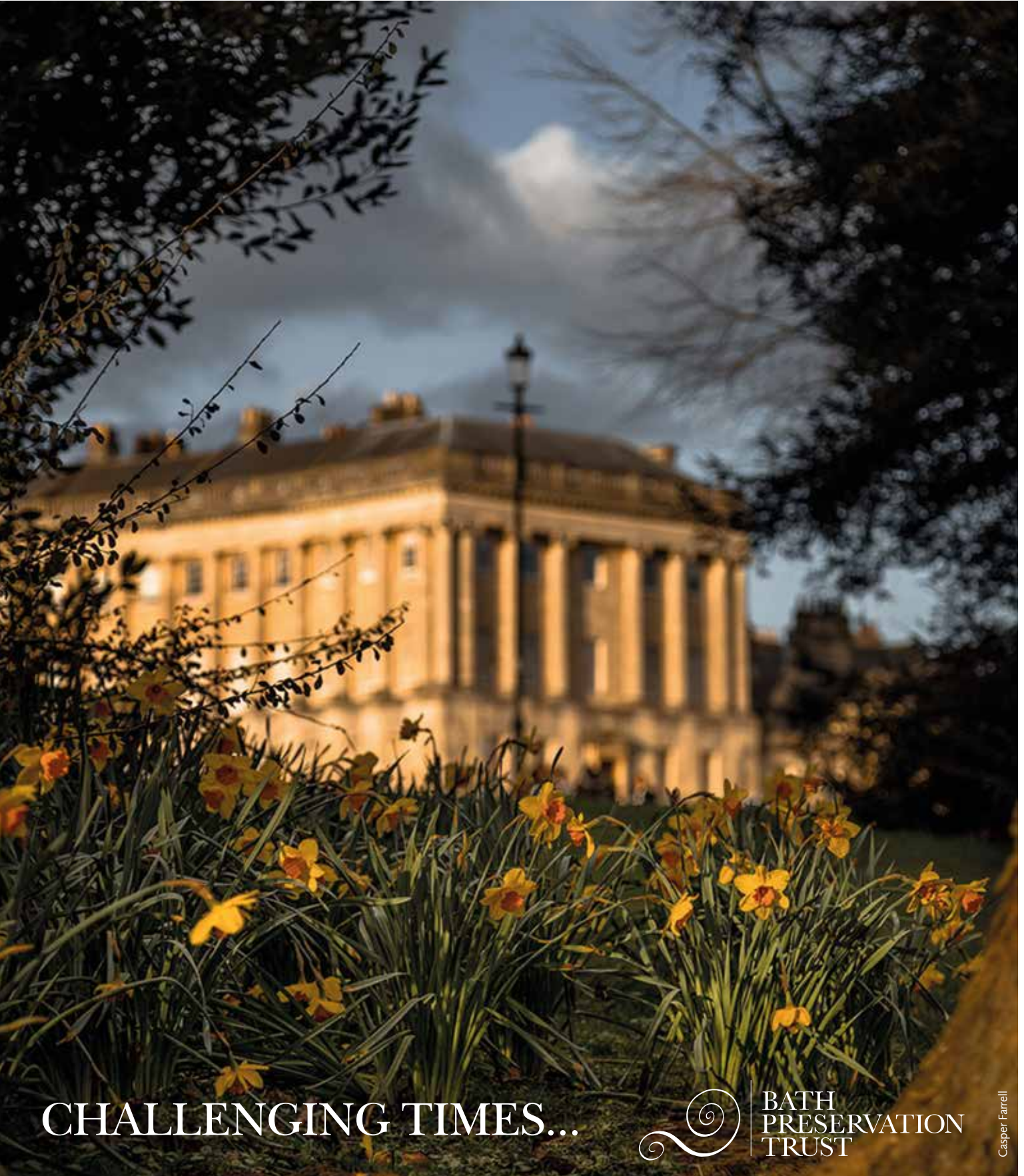


# BATH MATTERS

THE BATH PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

91



CHALLENGING TIMES...



BATH  
PRESERVATION  
TRUST

Casper Farrell



## Thomas Sheppard

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

In this edition, I had expected to be telling you about the challenging and exciting prospect of recruiting a new CEO for the Trust as our current leader, Caroline Kay, is stepping down to take a well-earned break before moving onto her next career challenge. We now face the far greater challenge of protecting the Trust during the current pandemic and Caroline has kindly put her own plans on hold to stay and help for which I am very grateful.

The Trust is well run, it has budgeted and reserved for periods of downturn in visitor income but nothing on the current scale. Our museum admission revenue accounts for 90% of our annual income but with everything closed, no organisation can run on its reserves alone for an extended period. In planning it is becoming clear that we should expect significant restrictions to our ability to re-open our museums until the autumn but with our reserves, and the governments employee support scheme, we can start to look after our staff and also meet our running costs for a while, but not for an extended period.

With the Government's employee furlough scheme the majority of our staff have been sent home and are not able to work for the Trust. We will receive 80% of the full employment costs of our furloughed staff but we still have to find costs and also pay for a small group of staff who will keep working, mostly from home, to make sure the Trust is able to reopen its museums when visitors start to return to Bath. All of this is a complex task with difficult decisions and financial pressures. It is therefore very disappointing that our insurers (in common with most of the insurance industry) have found novel ways to avoid claims on our business interruption insurance cover. However they still require a level of physical presence and checking to maintain our building and contents insurance.

The current lockdown does not prevent the B&NES Planning Committee continuing with virtual meetings to consider what appears to be a steady stream of planning applications. We intend to maintain our scrutiny and comment on the monthly planning applications, keep a close eye on what is going on and help the planning officers and the Planning Committee at a time when it will be difficult to visit properties or have proper debate.

We started this new calendar year with several projects and initiatives many of which have had to be shelved; but where we have funds specifically restricted to a project – such as from the Lottery for the Beckford Tower project – we will be able to keep working albeit in a reduced and 'socially distant' manner. I know that many of you have been very generous to us over the years but now is the time when we really need financial help from our friends and supporters just to keep going. We would be delighted to hear from you with any support you feel able to give us which (with the benefit of Gift Aid) will allow us to keep going until this crisis is over; we really need your help so please contact [Caroline ckay@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:Caroline_ckay@bptrust.org.uk) or me [tsheppard@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:tsheppard@bptrust.org.uk) if you feel able to make a donation.

Finally we are a membership organisation and I wanted to record our sadness at the passing of John Fairbairn; he was a life member of the Trust, with his wife Felicity and was a generous donor and supporter of the Trust both personally and also through the work of the Esmée Fairbairn Charitable Trust.

We will be postponing our AGM in the summer and will rearrange this important event as things become clearer. In the meanwhile I hope that you are keeping well and safe.



## Caroline Kay

### FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

#### Treasuring the past, embracing the future – surviving the present?

Extract from my Coronavirus journal, 18th March 2020

*"I should have started this diary yesterday: that was the day which felt like 'Day Zero'. The day after the announcement by the Government that we should all move to 'social distancing'; the day that I decided that all BPT's museums should close, with the associated potential impact on jobs, livelihoods, wellbeing and confidence of 25+staff.*

*For much of the morning, we carried on believing there was a model by which we could open the doors with 'social distancing'. The staff, in the main, were gung-ho; they developed plans, thought creatively, hoped it could all be all right. But as the day progressed, as more institutions turned to closure as the only way forward, it became apparent that we must too. Somehow it was the closure of Tate Modern which was the game-changer – if that vast, cavernous institution could not maintain 'social distance', then how could four domestic-scale buildings in Bath?"*

We've all lived several lifetimes, it seems, since 18th March: and the focus now, for all of us and even for BPT, is one of survival; for our loved ones, for our children's and grandchildren's education, for our household livelihoods. But we will get through this at some point, and the priority for Bath Preservation Trust is first of all, indeed, to survive; the museums bring in the vast proportion of our income, which has now been cut to zero. Beyond survival we want to be in a fit state to emerge, to return to being a key part of the city again through our campaigning, our museums and our activities, and to discover together whatever the 'new normal' may be for us all.

For while there's life, they say, there's hope. We hope to be able to sustain, mostly by an online presence, our planning and conservation advice and commentary, and our learning and outreach work building on the collections of the museums. We will be able to do this as long as the money holds out: and we are actively seeking grants and donations to support this.

Without Bath Preservation Trust over the last 86 years, Bath would have become a lesser place. We want to continue our positive role long into the future. If there is anything you can do to support us at this time please consider it.

**Do you have any #Coronaviruschronicles to share?** We are keen that our archives should include this extraordinary period in Bath's history. Please send photos, reminiscences or impressions to [admin@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:admin@bptrust.org.uk)

Bath Preservation Trust's four museums are closed until it is safe for our visitors, volunteers and staff to re-open. They still maintain an online presence. Most of our paid staff are 'furloughed'.

Our campaigning work currently continues online and the local planning authority continues to make decisions.

## ARCHITECTURE, PLANNING AND PLACE

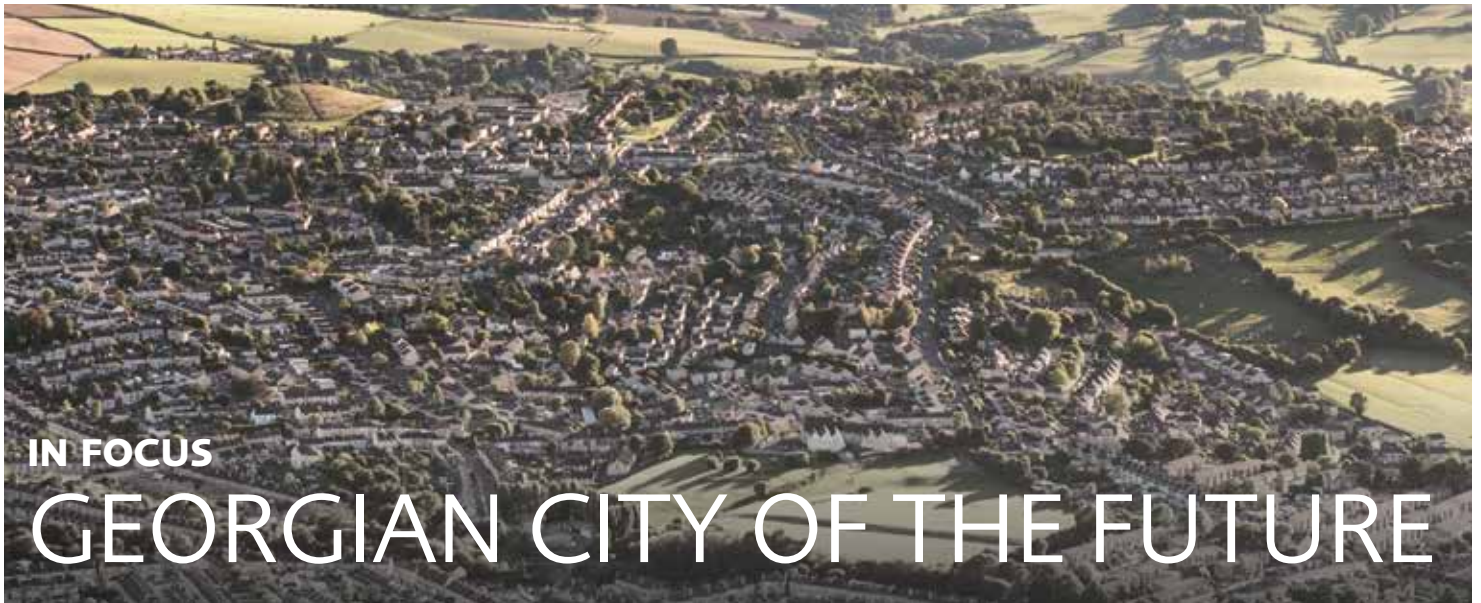
### Introducing Chair Victoria Thornton, OBE

*Treasuring the past, embracing the future* is at the heart of the work of the Architecture, Planning and Place Committee and I am honoured to have become its new Chair since January 2020, having been handed the baton by Tom Marshall who has led it for the past 5 years. The committee consists of a range of experts which provide a balanced view when assessing applications and helping to define future initiatives and policy alongside a small and dedicated team.

My own background has been one of championing the value of design, be it architecture or urban design, to create vibrant and liveable environments which are inclusive to all. In many respects Bath epitomises this view, but there is always room for improvement, whether in the stewardship of the existing or the nurturing of the future. I look forward to this challenge in my new role over the coming period as Bath shapes its own future in the 21st century, particularly with the challenge of climate emergency.



VICTORIA THORNTON OBE



IN FOCUS

## GEORGIAN CITY OF THE FUTURE

WE ARE CALLING FOR BETTER DATA ON THE ENERGY EFFICIENCY OF ALL HOUSE TYPES ACROSS BATH

Following the declaration of Climate Emergency by B&NES Council, their report to Cabinet set out how they will encourage others to meet zero carbon targets. BPT has urged the Council to 'show not tell' as well. We would like to work at pace either with the Council, or a private sector owner, on a 'demonstration of a Georgian House of the Future'.

Since 2011, when BPT, with the Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE), Bristol produced 'Warmer Bath', award-winning guidance for energy efficiency in Bath's traditional buildings, there have been 8 lost years when changes that should be possible and straightforward could have been achieved by many households, including across all of the Council's traditional commercial estate. 'Warmer Bath' and B&NES Council planning guidance for listed buildings will be updated in the context of the Emergency but most of it still pertains. For

traditional buildings, we would recommend the 'whole house' approach advocated by Warmer Bath, Historic England and CSE. Bath should be leading the way on developing expertise in this field. With our World Heritage status, we have a unique opportunity.

We also think the Council should be braver in using every lever they possess to help Bath become a 'World Heritage City of the Future', including differential parking pricing to discourage fossil-fuel-based personal transport of any sort. Any new car parking should have the potential for 100% electric charging points. Cars must be made fit for Bath, not vice versa.

BPT Trustees and staff met at the end of 2019 to consider every measure that BPT can take both as a property owner and advocate. As a charity, we are actively pursuing grants for physical changes to our own listed buildings.

Local priorities we will campaign for include:

- Better data on the energy efficiency of all house types across Bath.
- Better use of strategic planning for zero carbon development in sustainable places.
- Solar PV integrated into the design of new development and no more missed opportunities.
- Best practice sensitive retrofitting of heritage buildings.
- Making listed building consent easier and cheaper for improving non-historic windows.
- A standardised approach to draught proofing windows without listed building consent.
- Updated retrofitting supplementary guidance.
- B&NES to showcase its own 'Georgian House of the Future'.
- Whole house retrofitting as part of any old home refurbishment.

Contact [jrobinson@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:jrobinson@bptrust.org.uk) if you would be willing to showcase your home retrofits.

# Campaigning and Conservation

## IN FOCUS

# BUILDING BEAUTIFUL

In September 2019 the Planning Inspectorate, following an Examination in Public at Bath's Guildhall, recommended that the Councils involved in the West of England Joint Spatial Plan (JSP) including B&NES should withdraw their plan for future development and start again. This followed concerns that alternatives to major housing sites were not properly considered. A delay to a sub-regional strategy for development means a delay to an up-to-date Local Plan for Bath (this guides local development and house building in the district). The 'Core Strategy' (part one of the Local Plan) which sets out the local housing development requirement was adopted more than five years ago and is now out of date.

In the context of this delay the Council is reconsidering planning policy options to address short term issues and challenges facing the district, including the climate emergency. Once decisions on the short-term policy framework are made the Council will publish an updated 'Local Development Scheme' which will provide clarity on future planning policy projects and their programmes. (This is likely to include the Buildings of Local Importance Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) and an updated energy efficiency and retrofitting SPD).



NEW HOMES BUILT AT MULBERRY PARK INCLUDE AFFORDABLE, SOCIAL RENT AND SHARED OWNERSHIP HOUSING.

We are keen to influence the Council's planning policy priorities. For example, a residential design guide for Bath and space standards for housing would help our local planning authority consistently achieve higher standards, build greener, build better and build beautifully. This would follow the advice set out in the government's new National Design Guide (standards to measure the quality of new homes and rate the development against ten characteristics) and 'Living with Beauty', a new report by the Building Better Building Beautiful Commission which makes recommendations for the delivery of more beautiful housing and communities across the country.

The report calls for three aims to be embedded in the planning system: Ask for Beauty, Refuse Ugliness and Promote Stewardship. We promote these aims at every opportunity through our involvement in the planning process. A number of changes to national planning policy that we strongly support and advocate are also proposed, including master planning, standards for permitted development, design codes and pattern books, adaptability of buildings, tree planting, early public engagement and ensuring enforcement.

The report also recommends that Local Authorities appoint a 'chief placemaker' and a Cabinet member for Place, who work to create places not just houses. It refers to 'design review' as a useful way of bringing in skilled professionals to scrutinise complex projects and supports design review grounded in empirical evidence on local public preferences, based on definitions of beauty that reflect the local community. Such panels should include members of the community or representatives of community groups.

BPT will therefore be requesting that it has a representative on the new design review panel for B&NES.

 [@BathPresTrust](https://twitter.com/BathPresTrust)

 [Bath\\_Preservation\\_Trust](https://www.instagram.com/Bath_Preservation_Trust)

WORKING WITH VOLUNTEERS TO PLANT TREES



## TREES FOR THE SKYLINE

On a bright December morning BPT staff and volunteers planted 25 specimen trees across farmland below Granville Road following a year of consultation with the local community who initially had concerns about the impact on their panoramic views. The planting is part of a project to sustain and enhance the green setting of the Bath World Heritage Site and provide gentle softening to the appearance of new development along the ridge on the south side of Granville Road, supported by the World Heritage Enhancement Fund and the Woodland Trust.

A new hawthorn hedgerow, mixed with dog rose, guelder rose and hazel was also planted on an existing fence line, incorporating six new specimen trees into a green corridor and future habitat. This planting will be stock proof and in time provide shelter for the grazing animals on this land and improve local biodiversity.

It was promising to see some residents were also taking care to fill gaps in their boundary hedges with new planting and that developers Kersfield had planted trees in the gardens of new homes. This all contributes to sustaining the green setting of Bath. Planting more hedgerows and trees across Bath would help capture carbon dioxide and slow the rate of climate breakdown. The project would not have been possible without the dedication of the farmer/landowner who is committed to the ongoing sustainable management of the land and the wider environment. We particularly thank Rob Mitchell, and Mitchell Eley Gould Architects for their support with landscape visual impact assessments and help with tree planting, Grant Associates for their work on the planting plans, and Charlcombe Parish Council for their support.

## YOUR MATTERS

### Development of private gardens within the Bath World Heritage Site

"I would be very interested to know Bath Preservation Trust's position on the stream of Planning Applications for new properties, or enlarged or remodelled properties, in private gardens within the context of the Bath World Heritage Site and Conservation areas?"

Sites for new buildings in Bath are extremely rare but it occurred to me that over the years there must have been 100s perhaps 1000s of approvals for new houses within these green spaces and at what point does this incremental erosion of the mature landscape flip into serious damage to the balance of landscape and architecture we all appreciate and which is the basis of the World Heritage citation? It seems to me this is especially pertinent when the proposals are to build within woodland or where large mature trees are lost from the city tree canopy.

I also note that many residential applications for such sensitive places are branded something like 'Ecohome' or 'Green Building' as a way of implying they are somehow appropriate but I suggest they barely ever stand up to objective environmental scrutiny and can never replace the landscape character they seek to remove.

Of course there will be places that are entirely suited to a contemporary, net zero carbon architectural design and Bath needs these injections of modern ingenuity to refresh its architectural heritage. However, there are other places which have retained their historic fabric for centuries and where listed buildings nestle into a timeless landscape of woodlands, grasslands and gardens which we must conserve at all cost.

With Climate and Nature driving many new transformational policies is it now time for the Council to advise there will be a presumption against built development within gardens and green spaces in the city and especially within conservation areas and areas of mature woodland and ecological value?"

Andrew Grant

### Our response

We have commented on a number of such applications and we are equally concerned about the potential for 'cumulative harm' to the landscape which in part has earned Bath its World Heritage Site designation.

We recognise that in the right place intensification of density within the City has its benefits and may contribute towards meeting local housing requirements. While we assess each application case by case, our position in relation to a number of applications for new buildings on garden sites has been fairly consistent resistance where they have demonstrated the erosion of the verdant arcadian character, which contributes so significantly to parts of the Conservation Area and the special qualities of the WHS, or harm to the historic garden settings of listed buildings. However, a balance must be struck between these competing demands.

We agree that if development is accepted in principle by the planning authority on some garden sites ingenuity is key and we encourage low impact, contemporary, zero carbon design, and suitable new landscaping. Rigorous sustainability appraisals and impact assessments must be submitted with these types of applications which consider the neighbourhood impact, views, and mitigation of harm. We consider that the embedded carbon in a property should form a part of a sustainability assessment: this is often overlooked when replacement 'eco-homes' are suggested.

All trees (including woodland) in the Conservation Area are protected by a blanket Tree Preservation Order so very strong justification is required for their removal. Impact on protected trees and potential loss, either by felling or root damage, have been effective grounds for refusal of some proposed dwellings in gardens.

The purpose of local landscape designations and local plan policies are to protect and enhance landscape character and ecology of the City, while allowing it to evolve in an appropriate way. Looking forward, other Local Planning Authorities have Supplementary Planning Documents to guide decision making in relation to garden sites and this is something we will encourage B&NES Council to include in their revised Local Development Scheme, creating an opportunity to put greater emphasis on climate and nature in planning policies locally.



We love receiving your questions and views about heritage and planning in Bath.



Contact us at [conservation@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:conservation@bptrust.org.uk) or call **01225 338727**

## Parish beat

Our remit extends beyond the City of Bath to the 14 rural parishes that surround the City. We remain vigilant over land at South Stoke Plateau where there has been a succession of planning applications without a comprehensive master plan and recent scoping report for land released from the Green Belt. We are concerned that piecemeal applications and further housing could have a serious impact on multiple heritage assets including the World Heritage Site setting, South Stoke Conservation Area, and the Wansdyke SAM. We are also monitoring a number of planning enforcement cases in the environs of Bath.

## COVID-19 RESPONSE

The planning and campaigning team will be continuing to review and respond to planning applications for as long as possible. Our Architecture Planning and Place Committee meetings will be happening by video conference. Likewise, we believe that measures are progressing by the Local Planning Authority for Planning Committee meetings to take place online, technology clearance permitting. We therefore hope to be able to participate in meetings determining planning applications and represent others who unable to do so when we share the same views. The team will be exploring ways to support civic and community projects with external funding. We are also looking at launching a student planning forum to support conservation education and planning and architecture students at this time. We are regularly updating our social media and website with news and activities to support our work and our staff are currently available to offer planning and conservation advice. Please do keep in touch.

# Campaigning and Conservation

## Planning applications at a glance

### Ardenlee

This application proposes a contemporary three-bed dwelling on land that once formed the ancillary garden setting of Grade II listed Ardenlee. BPT generally resists the principle of development on gardens when they contribute to the verdant character of the area. While the design was of architectural merit, BPT raised concerns regarding potential harm to the green, low-density character and setting of this Grade II listed building.

### Little Claverton, Bathwick Hill

Little Claverton is an unlisted 19th century gatehouse ancillary to the Grade II listed Claverton Lodge on Bathwick Hill. A new dwelling is proposed on the land between the two buildings, historically used as an access route for the Lodge. The appearance of the proposed house was considered detrimental to the landscape setting and views in the conservation area and World Heritage site.

### The Royal Mineral Water Hospital

BPT is pleased to see a revised scheme for the conversion of the Royal Mineral Water Hospital into a hotel as part of pre-application consultations with the Fragrance Group. We are supportive of the reduced height of the rear extension and use of split face Bath stone to reflect the backland character of Parsonage Lane. The improved incorporation of the garden space into the hotel scheme for guests and visitors will enhance the local amenity of the site.

### Holburne Park, Warminster Road

Proposals for the construction of additional housing on the Holburne Park site could not be supported on the grounds of insufficient provision of affordable housing, and overdevelopment. We have serious concerns regarding proposed bulk and height of blocks of flats, their over-dominating 'watchtower' like appearance, and their encroachment into the setting of the Kennet and Avon Canal. We maintain concerns regarding the relationship of the development with the local townscape character of the conservation area and World Heritage Site.



### Sydney Gardens Project

BPT supported the latest iteration of the Sydney Gardens project and are pleased to see the intended conservation and repurposing of the Edwardian Ladies' Lavatory with potential for significant educational and communal benefit. The repaired canal wall and access to the canal walk will improve accessibility.

### Homebase Site, Lower Bristol Road

This scheme proposes the redevelopment of the riverside site to provide new assisted living care with mixed communal, office, commercial and childcare facilities. We do not consider that the dominance of a single residential use is acceptable. The application fails to provide housing to meet local need or affordable housing. We raised concerns about building heights and the amount of brick.

### Telecommunication Mast 54146

A 5G monopole is proposed on Charlcombe Lane outside of the Charlcombe village conservation area, and within the Green Belt and AONB. Our response has called for a considered and co-ordinated approach to the design for 5G telecoms in the Bath setting. The height and bulk of the proposed mast would be visually detrimental to the verdant character of Charlcombe Lane. With the potential loss of trees this would have a harmful impact on the rural character, views and setting of the Charlcombe Conservation Area and the skyline and setting of the World Heritage Site.

### PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION

**THE REC** We are awaiting further opportunity to comment on revised plans and documents including a visual impact assessment prior to the submission of a planning application. Our current position statement is available on our website and can be summarised as 'Rugby on the Rec, but not at any price'.

**BATH QUAYS NORTH** We have been very actively engaged with the developers, architects (AHMM) and the local authority in the review of developing proposals for a mixed-use office development. An application is expected to be submitted this year.

### STOP PRESS

Twerton Park Football Club and Hartwells Garage site proposals which included student housing have been refused by Planning Committee, primarily on grounds of harm to local townscape character. BPT objected to both and made statements to the Committee. We have offered support to the Football Club to reach an improved proposal



## MUSEUMS OVERVIEW

It is very strange to be writing to you as the Director of four museums that are now closed to the public with no known or fast-approaching date for reopening. When we received the news that Coronavirus had reached the UK our team worked hard to put in many different measures to keep everyone safe and still enable a great experience for our visitors. Acting before supplies of hand-sanitiser ran out, we were able to manage this for as long as it felt safe to do so!

As the situation clearly became more serious we took an early decision to close our doors; the safety of our visitors, staff and volunteers was obviously our priority. The museums fell



eerily quiet but I was hugely impressed with the energy and commitment that all of our staff showed in considering ways that we could bring our museums and collections to life in new and different ways. The passion and creativity reserved for our exhibitions, activities, events and interpretation was turned towards online storytelling, virtual audiences and alternative ways to engage people with the amazing experiences that BPT can offer. Now working as a much smaller team, we are determined to bring those ideas to life.

There is no doubt that this is a difficult and challenging time for heritage and tourism sectors but I am encouraged by the support of

the staff. I am also excited by the impressive influential network of local partners that are now focussed on re-launching Bath. This group, in which I proudly represent BPT, along with the wider network of Bath museums, will ensure that when it is safe to do so we will offer a fantastic programme of activity for everyone emerging from this global crisis.

In the meantime please keep an eye on our website, our YouTube Channel and social media pages for updates and insights. I look forward to welcoming you back to our museums as soon as possible.

**Claire Dixon, Director of Museums**

 [@Bathprestrust](https://twitter.com/Bathprestrust) [@no1Museum](https://twitter.com/no1Museum) [@MuseumBathArch](https://twitter.com/MuseumBathArch) [@BeckfordsTower](https://twitter.com/BeckfordsTower) [@HerschelMuseum](https://twitter.com/HerschelMuseum)  
 [@bath\\_preservation\\_trust](https://www.instagram.com/bath_preservation_trust) [@No1royalcrscent](https://www.instagram.com/No1royalcrscent) [@batharchitecture](https://www.instagram.com/batharchitecture) [@beckfordstower](https://www.instagram.com/beckfordstower) [@herschelmuseum](https://www.instagram.com/herschelmuseum)

## WILLIAM BECKFORD IN ISOLATION

*As we start to adjust to life in isolation and seek projects, hobbies and numerous books to fill our days, the life of one of Bath's most famous residents offers a perspective on the idea of retreating into your own private space.*

Throughout his life William Beckford sought moments of retreat from the pressures of social position and expectation. In his younger years this need to escape infused his writings. Yet as he got older, and events in his life made isolation from society something he had no choice over, the forming of spaces to retreat within became a focus of his creativity.

As a young man the wish to escape the formality and structures of society in London led Beckford to see his estate at Fonthill as a retreat, both the wilderness of the landscape and the enclosure of his rooms surrounded by his collection of books, pictures and objects. In the late 1770s he began to refer to his rooms at Fonthill House as his cell, even addressing letters as sent from 'from my cell', invoking a monastic idea of retreat for study and contemplation, like the hermit saints he was interested in such as St Bruno, St Anthony or St Jerome retreating to his cell to study.

The romantic ideas of escaping into the landscape or retreating to the library continued even during his marriage and honeymoon period, but as events in his life changed, so too did Beckford's need to escape. The exposure to the public of his homosexual relationship with William Courtenay in 1784 resulted in Beckford's enforced retreat with his wife to Fonthill and then six months later exile to Switzerland where later his wife died.

Exile from England, and most importantly from his beloved Fonthill saw Beckford make

### Some tips from William Beckford for time spent in isolation:

- Listen to Mozart not Beethoven
- Read travel books (although it will never be as good as your own writing)
- Move some objects around, decide they are not in quite the right location, and then move them around again the next day.
- Enjoy the view, whatever it may be.

alterations to his home while living in Portugal, to create a sanctuary, filled with his collection. In 1796 he began building an even greater sanctuary back on his estate in England, called Fonthill Abbey. Beckford detailed the pleasure he found creating this new 'cell in the wilderness', but as the years progressed from the 1790s into the early 19th century, his fluctuating finances saw periods of building halted due to lack of money, treasures from his collection sold, and the forests and woods of his youthful dreams stripped in order to raise funds to continue construction. When he eventually sold it in 1822 Beckford was aware of the impact leaving the Abbey would have, exclaiming that, 'The Saint who inspired me with the Abbey will also arm me with supernatural courage to do without it, and perhaps even to erect yet another monument to his glory', which of course he did in 1826, when he built Beckford's Tower in Bath.

The Tower in Bath was an intensely private place, and intended as a study, a retreat, perhaps like the cell of his favoured hermit saints, where study and contemplation would be the principal pastime. When Cyrus Redding visited Beckford at the Tower, Beckford gloried in being surround by his books; 'Here I am as usual, nestled among all the good things that intellect has produced'. Beckford would retreat to the Tower every day, spend time reading, sometimes making notes, writing letters or rearranging objects in his collection. Equally essential was the journey to and from his retreat at the Tower, spending time in the landscape observing the weather, enjoying nature and noting the changes in plant and animal life.

Very few people visited this cell within the wilderness in Bath, to encounter its hermit, the 'strange and original being' as one rare visitor referred to Beckford. Those that did were treated to generous visits and animated discussions. The Tower was, however, a space built for one person to enjoy all the things that isolation from outside concerns could bring. A place where Beckford could be entirely himself, without being under the constant scrutiny or judgement of others. It was a private, comfortable space, somewhere to forget about all the speed and anxiety and trials of the outside world. Above all the Tower was Beckford's favourite place to enjoy the luxury of a good book and a great view.

# Membership

We are so grateful to our members for their support and engagement with us. More than ever we would encourage you to support us by renewing your membership and letting friends and family know how to join. Email [acolemansmith@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:acolemansmith@bptrust.org.uk) to join now and help BPT continue its invaluable work.

## TOURS AND WALKS 2020

A benefit of your BPT membership is the chance to join us on our ever popular bespoke tours and walks. To book your place please email [acolemansmith@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:acolemansmith@bptrust.org.uk)

**PLEASE NOTE:** *The published dates for the walks and tours on this page are currently going ahead.* However, in the interests of keeping everyone safe following the Coronavirus outbreak, some or all of these events may have to be cancelled. A full refund will be given. Where dates are still to be finalised confirmation details will be emailed out and put on the [membership pages](#) of our website.



### BRISTOL CATHEDRAL and LORD MAYOR'S CHAPEL

#### Bring a friend trip.

Why not bring a guest along who may be interested in joining the BPT family.

**Wed 9 September. 9.30am – 4.30pm**

We invite members and friends to join us on a trip to Bristol to explore its cathedral and environs. The Grade 1 Listed cathedral was built in 1140. Our guide will give us a bespoke private tour of its history, secret rooms not open to the public and highlight its many treasures. Lunch in the cathedral café or picnic in its secluded garden before we assemble at the 'hidden gem' of the Lord Mayor's Chapel nearby and built in 1230. Bringing things up-to-date we will see Bansky's most famous Bristol mural next to the Chapel. Bring a Friend. **Cost: £35 per member, £40 per member's guest.**



### CIRENCESTER PARK, Gloucestershire

**September date to be confirmed. 12.30pm – 6.30pm**

Members will enjoy an afternoon at the glorious Bathurst Estate, privately owned for 300 years, where the Rt Hon The Countess of Bathurst will give us a bespoke tour of her beautiful home built by the 1st Earl in the 1690s. After refreshments an estate gardener will lead an informative tour of the gardens which includes the tallest yew hedge in the world.

**Cost: £50 per person, refreshments inc.**



### COMPTON VERNEY ART GALLERY AND PARK, Warwickshire

**Thursday 1 October. 8am-6pm**

Mentioned in the Domesday Book the Compton Verney estate has a long and fascinating history culminating in the rebuild of its 1750 palatial building and preservation of its Baroque style gardens and lake. Now a major art gallery we will be welcomed by Director Julie Finch and enjoy a private tour of their stunning summer exhibition *On Colour*.

**Cost: £50 per person, refreshments inc.**

## WALKS 2020

**These walks are FREE for members.**

Walks last around 1.5 hours. For more information and to book your place please email [acolemansmith@bptrust.org.uk](mailto:acolemansmith@bptrust.org.uk)

### BUSINESS AND PLEASURE

**Led by Mike Macklin**

This walk will explore the development of the Kennet and Avon Canal in Bath and the current renovations of Sydney Gardens, the famous Georgian pleasure garden.

**Starting point:** Widcombe Lock (No 7) opposite Thimble Mill

**Thursday 23 July, 10am**

**Tuesday 28 July, 6pm**

### TREASURE HUNT

**Led by Andrew Butterworth**

Join us at this family friendly summer fun walk around central Bath highlighting fascinating facts and horrible histories. Prizes available! (Good for 7-11 year olds)

**Starting point:** No.1 Royal Crescent.

**Wednesday 12 August, 10am**

**Thursday 20 August, 2pm**

### PICTURE THIS, A UNIQUE PHOTO WALK

**Led by Tim Beale**

An autumn walk along the canal to Victoria Bridge and the new riverside developments. Focus on photo composition and getting the most out of your images. Bring along any photographic medium.

**Starting point:** Green Park Station

**Tuesday 6 October, 10am**

**Thursday 8 October, 10am**

**NOTE:** All tour prices include return coach travel and driver's tip. Our coaches, supplied by Centurion Coaches, leave promptly at the stated time from the Riverside Coach Park in Bath. Return times are approximate. Unfortunately cancellation refunds cannot be made less than 14 days before tour date.