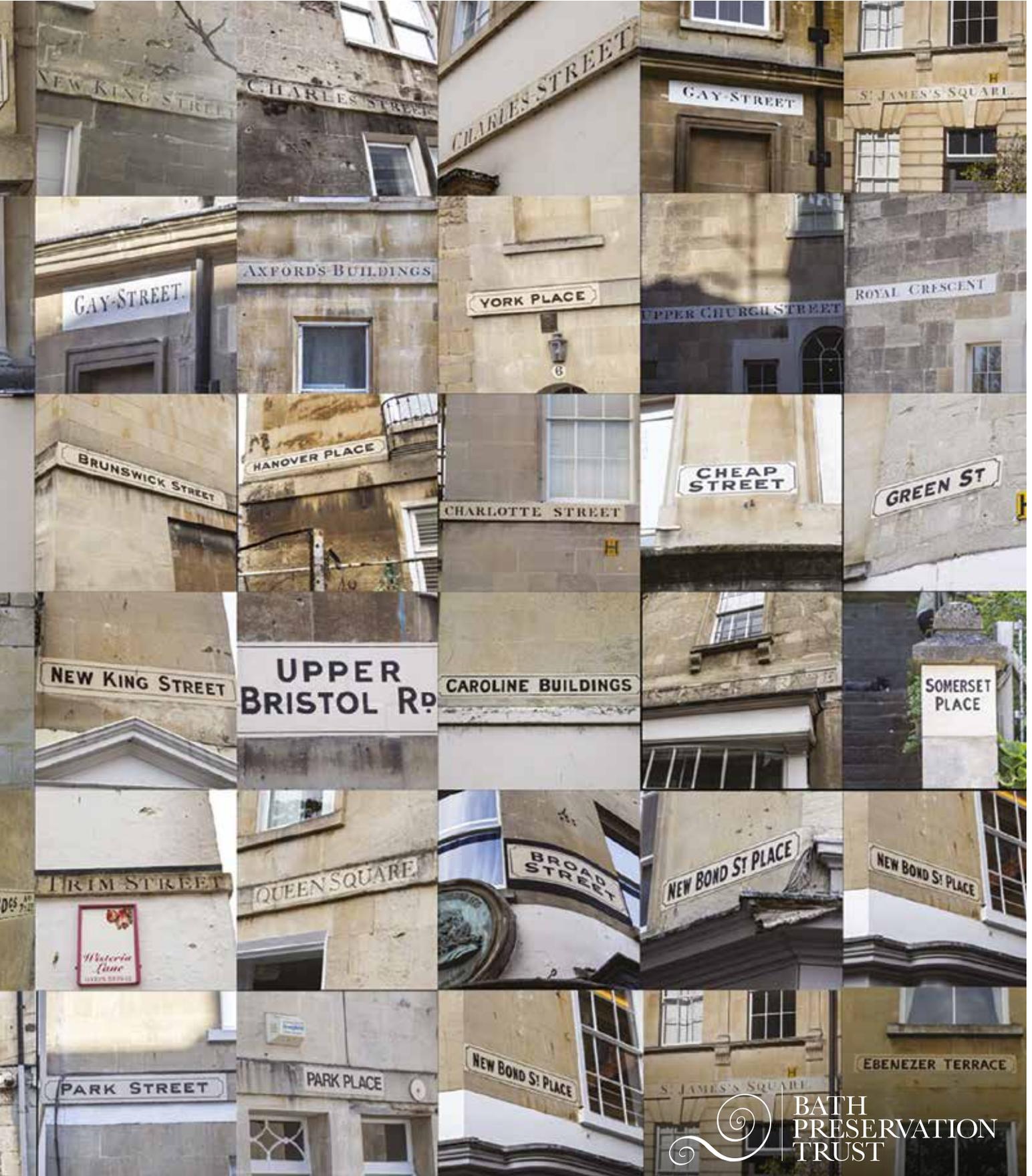


BATH MATTERS

THE BATH PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER





SPENCERS BELLEVUE INCISED STREET SIGN, BEFORE AND AFTER

BATH HISTORIC STREET SIGN RESTORATION SCHEME.

THE GEORGIAN GROUP ARCHITECTURAL AWARDS 2019.

Repairing and reinstating historic street signs in Bath began in 2010, and soon became an on-going programme, organised and funded by the Bath World Heritage Enhancement Fund, which is a partnership between The City of Bath UNESCO World Heritage Site Advisory Board, Bath and North East Somerset Council, and Bath Preservation Trust.

By the end of 2018, in the fiftieth anniversary of the designation of the Bath city-wide conservation area, 50 signs had been completed, and since then four more have been conserved.

The work entails sensitive cleaning of the signs, repairs with matching lime mortar and Bath stone, re-carving of worn or missing letters, if appropriate, and re-painting the incised letters if previously painted, which is usually the case. Signs that are not incised but simply painted on the wall are re-painted in the existing style using mineral paints matched to the existing colours.

Georgian Bath is a city which was built by hand and the historic street signs, many incised in a bold and flowing English Vernacular, are the handwriting of those skilled stonemasons. Restoration of the signs, some on the verge of extinction, has rescued and preserved the authentic touch of those hands.

Iain Cotton and Mark Holland, experts in historic conservation and very highly skilled in letter carving, have between them restored the incised signs, and Brian Bentley, of the local branch of Cliveden Conservation, has restored the painted ones. Their work means that the signs will continue to add character and beauty to Bath's terraces; it also means that the signs continue to fulfil their practical role and precludes the need for modern metal signs to be attached on top of them to maintain street identification.

The restored signs, as with much of the WHEF work, are noticed and very much appreciated by local residents – and also by

visitors who can be spotted photographing them.

The work on the signs is always carried out with regard to the highest conservation principles and practices, which gives our local Council conservation officers pleasure as well as confidence in the integrity of the WHEF standards. In return, we receive much support and expert advice from this group of helpful and knowledgeable specialists.

The honour of winning a Georgian Group Architectural Award is wonderful recognition for the achievements of our small team, and we are delighted that another project supported by the WHEF, restoration of Great Pulteney Estate Overthrow Lighting, jointly won the award.

Ainslie Ensom WHEF Administrator
whsef@bptrust.org.uk





Thomas Sheppard

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

We are a busy organisation and I am grateful to all our staff for the contribution they make to our success. I am pleased to welcome a number of new colleagues who have joined recently. To provide maternity cover we have recruited Victoria Northwood as Director of Museums, Jo Johnston into Archives, and Assistant Curator Bethany Pleydell. In permanent roles we welcome Alex Best who has stepped into the space left by Sacha Hunter as Planning and Conservation Assistant and Alison Coleman-Smith who joins as our Membership Engagement Officer. This last role is a new position and builds on the work of Jan Hull and my fellow trustee Peta Hall. Alison is well used to working in the cultural sector and some of you will recognise her from her time working at the Holburne Museum. With a real passion for Bath, Alison will be looking at ways to attract new members and she is already organising our calendar of membership activity for next year. In the short time Alison has been with us she has been impressed with the levels of engagement by so many of our members; I am sure you will be meeting her before too long.

In the last Bath Matters I commented that we

had three times as many 'followers' on Twitter as members. I have heard it suggested that this may mean we are no longer looking for new members and I want to be quite clear that is not the case. We need and value our members and are always keen to attract new members to swell our numbers. If you enjoy being a member of the Trust I urge you to consider introducing someone you know to become a member and you might also want to make the first year's (very modest) membership fee your gift to the person you introduce.

For such a small and contained city it is always surprising to see how many new large development projects are in the pipeline. We hope to see a clearer idea about the future of the Mineral Water Hospital as well as final designs for the redevelopment of the Avon Street car park (North Quays) and more detail of the significant sheltered housing scheme planned for the Homebase site. I want to thank my fellow trustee, Tom Marshall, for all his hard work and leadership as he steps down as the chair of our Architecture and Planning Committee. There are always plenty of planning issues to review each month and this

Committee works in combination with our planning staff to make sure the Trust is well informed and engaged in the city's planning applications, both large and small.

The anticipated planning application for the Recreation Ground is clearly going to be controversial when it is finally submitted. This development has already been the subject of much discussion and concern and I can assure you the Trust has made certain that it will be able to bring an objective assessment of the application when it is made. We use our website to share the Trust's responses to major schemes and we will be doing the same with this application.

Finally may I remind you to consider leaving a gift to the work of the Trust in your will. A legacy is an effective way to support either our wider charitable objectives or a particular part of our work which is important to you. I understand that for many a lifetime gift can be difficult but a legacy is often an appropriate way of giving lasting support. If you are interested in learning more please do speak to Alison or our CEO Caroline Kay; they will be very happy to answer your questions in complete confidence.

EDUCATION REWARDED

The Schools learning programme at both No.1 and the Herschel Museum has received the Sandford Award which is an independently judged, quality assured and nationally recognised assessment.

This award lasts for five years and means that schools can feel confident that they will continue to experience a high quality educational visit when they come and visit us. The assessors commented, "No. 1 Royal Crescent thoroughly deserves its second Sandford Award in recognition of the unique and compelling insight it offers visitors" and "the Herschel Museum of Astronomy... offers an excellent heritage education service delivered by a team of knowledgeable and experienced staff and volunteers".

Well done All!



Welcome



Caroline Kay

FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

A pile of rocks ceases to be a pile of rocks the moment a single man contemplates it with the internalised vision of a cathedral.

Pilote de Guerre, by Antoine de Saint Exupéry, 1942

It will take a far-reaching vision, it will take courage, it will take fierce, fierce determination to act now, to lay the foundations where we may not know all the details about how to shape the ceiling. In other words it will take cathedral thinking.

Greta Thunberg to the European Parliament, April 2019

It is not often that a teenager changes the world. We do not know, yet, whether Greta Thunberg will achieve her goal, persuading governments to drastically cut carbon emissions at a global rate far exceeding current (in)action. Whether or not she does, we must all recognise that she, in parallel with that other remarkable environmentalist David Attenborough and his war on plastics, has managed to change the dynamic of the debate on climate change and highlight the responsibility of all individuals and organisations to take it seriously.

Eight years ago now, BPT produced nationally award-winning advice (still available: Google

'Warmer Bath') on how to make traditional buildings in Bath more energy-efficient. We advocated a whole-house solution; we emphasised the art of the possible; we suggested that people put on an extra jumper; but we also emphasised that there were constraints in Bath that might not be felt elsewhere. That said, our proposals went in some cases further than Historic England and Bath's Conservation Officers were prepared to go. They came however from a perspective of energy efficiency and fuel poverty rather than climate change.

Fast forward to today. The Government have announced targets of net-zero carbon emissions by 2050. The UK Parliament has supported a (non-binding) Climate Emergency with a commitment to net-zero by 2030. Bath and North East Somerset have also announced a Climate Emergency; their targets include 'to provide leadership to enable a carbon neutral B&NES by 2030'.

Bath Preservation Trust is actively considering ways in which we can look at our own activities and behaviours in order to improve our own carbon position, including within our Grade I and II* listed properties, and also working to

update 'Warmer Bath' to include new technologies, new knowledge and the current sense of urgency. There is a recognised knowledge (and potentially leadership) deficit in this area and having led the field in 2011 we are keen to do so again.

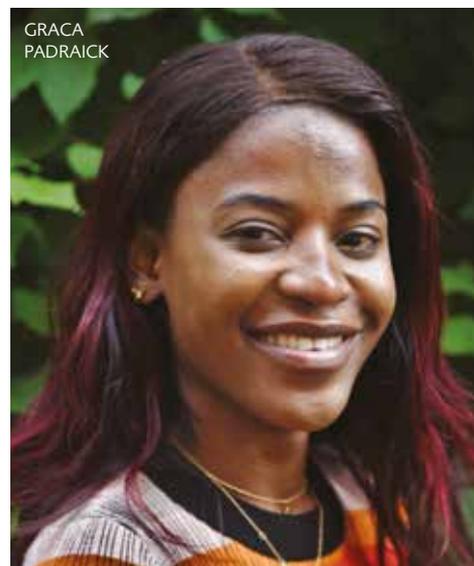
What is quite clear is that the charitable purpose of Bath Preservation Trust – the conservation of a living Georgian City in a beautiful green setting and the sharing of its stories through museums – can only have relevance in the mid-21st century if we have something to say, and to contribute to the debate, about how to place that city in a challenging environmental world.

As the Extinction Rebellion poster earlier this year said, 'You can't protect the past if you don't protect the future'. I found this slogan attractive: it recognised that even from the climate activists' perspective, protecting the past was perceived as a desirable outcome, while challenging the preservation movement to align their thinking with the reality in which we find ourselves. We welcome ideas from members and other readers of this newsletter on how we can take this thinking forward. Please let me know! ckay@bptrust.org.uk

ARCHITECTURE & PLANNING INTERN

Graca Padraick was the first beneficiary of the Carl and Jeannette Mays legacy, received by BPT last year, which we are using to support our paid training opportunities in the field of buildings conservation and planning. This role was also part funded by the University of the West of England.

"As my time at the Bath Preservation Trust comes to an end I am saddened to leave but I come away after a wonderful experience. Although just an Intern I was given real work which was a great motivator that 'I can do this'. Initially I feared that I would be making tea and photocopying for three months, however these worries were immediately dismissed. Over the last three months I have spent a great deal of time developing and discovering what it's really like to use my planning knowledge from university in a real-life context. From responding to planning applications, assisting in organising the Architecture & Planning Committee meetings to shadowing consultee meetings each task has been fundamental in boosting my skills and confidence in planning. I now have experiences that are valuable and real. Even the little duties such as distributing the Making Changes publication to local estate agents in Bath felt important. I have also developed an immense appreciation and understanding of the hard work that goes behind keeping this Trust alive. Each member of staff offers unique expertise and skills that I have never witnessed before. Working with Joanna Robinson, Senior Planning and Conservation Officer, along with the volunteers who truly enjoy and value conservation, has been inspiring. Contributing that 1% to support the Trust's mission to protect and conserve Bath's heritage has been delightful."



GRACA
PADRAICK

Campaigning and Conservation



CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Further to Caroline's comments earlier BPT is considering its part in the global challenge to reduce carbon emissions. Funding is available for community environmental projects (www.3sg.org.uk/resources) and our priority is to carry out energy audits for our own buildings which would lead to the identification of appropriate carbon saving measures.

This summer we met with Robin Kerr, Chairman of the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations, who asked us what homeowners should be doing to their buildings in response

to Climate Emergency. Our advice was simple: homeowners need to first consider what could be adjusted in their behaviour to reduce energy need, use and waste, and take a 'whole home' approach to draft-proofing, insulation and energy efficiency before any green energy measures.

If you have undertaken a whole home approach, and have obtained permissions for energy efficiency measures or green energy generation, we would love to hear from you. Please contact jrobinson@bptrust.org.uk



WEATHERPROOF FOR WINTER

In 2019 Bath has had the highest level of rainfall this decade, with June being one of the wettest on record. This summer all four of our buildings sprung leaks, (all repaired) and many homeowners have reported similar problems requiring urgent attention and repair. It is critical that owners and custodians of our built heritage undertake regular maintenance to prevent damage and decay caused by water ingress.

Investing in repairs now can mitigate the risk of having to pay for more substantial work further down the line. Maintenance is also the starting point before any consideration of energy efficiency.

During autumn and winter it is important to remove vegetation, clear gutters, check and clear hoppers and check that rainwater goods are functioning properly and, along with leadwork, is directing water away from the building and any flat roof areas.

Bath's green landscape has a vital role as a carbon absorber and we are actively promoting the enhancement of Bath's wooded setting and skyline through tree planting. We anticipate tree planting being part of the Bathscape project and we always encourage tree planting on development sites.



We have recently been considering the impact of a new prototype wind turbine which has been installed for a trial period on the slope below Kelston Roundhill, in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and Greenbelt. Kelston Roundhill are looking to submit a planning application and are seeking the views of the community. We undertook a rapid opinion poll using Instagram and found that 79% of 133 respondents considered it to be acceptable in the landscape.



TRIAL WIND ARRAY AT KELSTON ROUNDHILL

Campaigning and Conservation

WE'VE HAD OUR SAY...

This summer we participated in the Joint West of England Spatial Strategy Examination in Public. The West of England Joint Spatial Plan sets out the long-term housing and infrastructure needs of the region to 2036. Following the Examination in Public, attended by Caroline Kay who made representations against soundness of Plan, the Inspector concluded that the Plan was not "robust, consistent or objective". Local Authorities across the region have been advised to withdraw the existing proposal and start again. The inspectors specifically criticised the way the locations for up to 12 new housing developments were selected and said 'reasonable alternatives' had 'not been considered'.



We have also submitted comments on Historic England's draft guidance for terraced housing and the energy efficiency of traditional homes which we were pleased to see directs readers to our Warmer Bath publication.

The Rec.: updated statement

BPT has been engaged in stakeholder workshops with officers and statutory consultees throughout the year. A recent statement from Bath Rugby shows that the design has changed. This reinforces the Trust's point of view that it is still premature to take a firm position on the design and why we reiterate our previously stated position which can be summarised as "Rugby on the Rec, but not 'at any price'". Our full updated position statement is available on our website. Also visit www.stadiumforbath.com for the latest from Bath Rugby.

Bath Quays North – mixed use and office development

Since the approval of the masterplan (by Allies & Morrison Architects) for Bath Quays North we have helped B&NES select a development partner to design the scheme for full detailed planning consent. B&NES have selected AHMM architects and we will continue to have a dialogue with them as the design progresses.

Homebase Site

We have met with developers Guild Living who are developing proposals for assisted living retirement housing. There would be a provision of onsite facilities for residents, food and drink units and a nursery school. We have raised concerns about heights of buildings and the lack of key worker housing to support the creation of jobs. There is an open consultation at www.guildliving.com.

The Scala Building

The development proposals for this site in Oldfield Park include a new Co-op convenience store, refurbished space for the successful dance studio 'Freedom through Dance', student housing, residential units, affordable housing and parking. We support the principle of development and mix of uses proposed. While we are concerned with the impact of student housing across Bath we take the view that it is justified and sustainable in this location where it directly relates to Norland College. Student housing for the college in this location could help reduce the impact on housing in Oldfield Park.



Pre-application consultation & stakeholder engagement

The Mineral Hospital

BPT has been invited to engage in the development of proposals by architect Stride Treglown on behalf of the Fragrance Group who are looking to redevelop the building as a 4-5* hotel. There is a consultation page at www.theminexhibition.co.uk under Feedback.

YOUR VOICE

"I have just moved into the top floor flat of a listed building with a decaying casement window. Do I need consent, and can I make any alterations to it? I'd like to make it a better window."

We'd love to hear your views and queries on heritage and planning issues that matter most to you.



Please write to us at

conservation@bptrust.org.uk
or call **01225 338727**



Our response

Whilst BPT welcomes the opportunity to give advice we are not the planning authority and any alterations to a listed building should be discussed with a Conservation Officer at B&NES Council. They would need to assess if the window is beyond repair. Like-for-like replacement may be agreed without the need for an application but any proposed change in design or appearance will need listed building consent. Officers have recently approved a planning application for a listed building in Batheaston which is comparable: a window was beyond repair but consent was given for timber slim-line double glazing. The planning application 19/02768/LBA is extremely instructive and may help you submit a listed building consent application straight away without a need for paid-for pre-application advice. We also refer you to the Council's supplementary guidance for sustainable construction and retrofitting.

Planning applications at a glance

Full and detailed responses are available online



Freshford Church School – Solar PV

A revised proposal for solar PV panels on the rear slope of the school's modern extension was supported by BPT and approved by B&NES. Although at odds with the school's palette of traditional materials, we felt that engaging with future generations about climate and green energy was of great importance.

PENDING DETERMINATION

Hartwells of Bath, Newbridge Road

This application proposes a mixed-use scheme including housing, student accommodation, and commercial space. While BPT supports redevelopment in principle the buildings proposed would block landscape views that contribute to Bath's World Heritage value and be at odds with the local character. The inclusion of student housing instead of a larger percentage of affordable homes was a further disappointment; in line with Bath's Local Plan, we are emphatic that brownfield sites should be used to fulfil Bath's housing target and objected on these grounds.

Bath City Football Club – new stand, facilities, student housing and housing

BPT supports the retention of Bath City Football Club in its historic location and the principle of redevelopment. However, the lack of affordable housing, the superfluous addition of student accommodation and the inappropriate massing of the six and seven storey buildings supported grounds for objecting.

All Saints Weston – Extension and internal reordering

We provided pre-application advice in December 2018 raising our considerable concerns. Although the design for an extension was amended slightly as a result, we still objected to the application made in September on the grounds of its size and impact on the church and its wooded setting. We do not consider this justifies the proposed relocation of the significant Grade II listed tomb of Dr. William Oliver.

Kennet House, Sydney Road – New dwelling

BPT has objected to the fourth iteration of a design for a new house on land created by the subdivision of the historic garden curtilage of Grade II listed Kennet House. We have an in principle objection to the development of this garden site in the conservation area which contributes to the verdant picturesque character of Bathwick. The proposed dwelling would impact on the setting and views of both Kennet House and Cleveland House, listed Grade II*. The latest design is for a single storey house; the previous iterations had a second storey with timber cladding which thankfully has been removed.

The next 'Ask an Architect' session is on Saturday 16 November

Ann Ross – Hetreed Ross Architects, Bath www.hetreedross.com

Booking is required, for more information go to www.eventbrite.co.uk

Suggested donation £25

Learning and Community Engagement



TAKING ON HISTORY

This new exhibition at MoBA, continues until Sunday 24 November and is free with normal admission. In 2019, BPT has collaborated with 10 school and community groups to invite them to respond to these inspiring stories through the use of a variety of artforms including photography and mixed media. The work by older people from Age UK (Bath & North East Somerset) is included, plus local schoolchildren and mental health support groups such as @freshart. Every participant has their own personal 'take' on the stories our Museums tell and the exhibition is an exciting celebration of their creativity.

HARRY AND THE EXHIBITION POSTER



HALF TERM IS MUSEUMS WEEK

BPT Museums continue to offer fun and informative activities for visiting families. During Museums' Week from Saturday 26 October to Sunday 3 November, entry to our Museums was free to Discovery Card holders.

There were lots of exciting events, from 'Design a Constellation Key Ring' at the Herschel Museum to a new trail at MoBA helping children to 'Zoom in' on the details of Bath's buildings. Sophie Piddock, an artist who specialises in working with families and community groups, passed on her expertise at three special workshops. With her guidance, families sculpted patterns in clay at MoBA, created a self-portrait using an infra-red camera at the Herschel and channelled their inner Picasso with colourful abstract picture-making at No.1.

There will be an opportunity for more crafting fun in the run up to Christmas with a nature themed festive card activity, free to all visitors at No.1.



VISITORS IN GARDEN WITH TELESCOPE

Starry starry night

The Starseekers learning and engagement project at the Herschel Museum continues to go from strength to strength. New funding has just been announced from the Wonder project run by the Science and Technology Facilities Council. It will enable an upgrade of the Herschel's characterful 'star vault' cinema. The aim is to show a range of exciting films about

the Herschel family plus link students with astronomy experts across the country through live interviews and stargazing events. In addition, we plan to continue to build our community links to offer families, older people and those with mental health issues an inspirational experience using the latest technology including a pop-up planetarium.

JOIN US MEMBERSHIP AND MORE

TREASURING THE PAST. EMBRACING THE FUTURE.

Thank you to all our members who continue to support BPT with their annual membership. Your help is enormously important to us as we continue our campaigning and education work across the region, keeping Bath's heritage beautiful forever. But do please spread the word to friends, family and colleagues; we are always keen to welcome more members who will stand with us and enjoy unlimited free entry to our four fantastic award-winning Museums. BPT Membership would also make an ideal Christmas gift for someone special.

For more information see our website under Join Us, or contact acolemansmith@bptrust.org for more information.



TOURS & WALKS 2020

One of the great benefits of your membership is the opportunity to join us on some wonderful tours, walks and events with like-minded friends to interesting places. The new Membership Engagement Officer is currently working on the programme for 2020 which will be finalised in the New Year. Moving forward, and keeping in with BPT's "climate emergency" message, we hope to let Members know about our events and tours via email and our website.

If you prefer to receive your programme of events via post kindly send the Membership Engagement Officer an s.a.e. by the New Year to

Lower Schoolhouse, The Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, The Vineyards, Paragon, Bath BA1 5NA.



Welcome to your new Membership Engagement Officer

"Hello, I started at BPT in September and I already feel at home. It's good to be back in Bath among people who care so much about their cultural heritage. I have quite a few tasks and plans ahead whilst in this post and I'm currently preparing some interesting tours and events for 2020. My thanks to Jan Hull who did the job so well before me and got to know many of you well. Thanks too to Peta Hall and all those who have helped with the successful tours over past years. If you have any suggestions of places you would like to visit, have ideas on how Members can further support the work of BPT or just want to introduce yourself then please do get in touch: acolemansmith@bptrust.org.

A few other things to know about me: I've worked in the culture/heritage sector in Bristol and Bath for many years and it has increased my love of historic buildings, beautiful gardens and people who volunteer. I can't live without museums, paintings, Wycombe Wanderers, Rembrandt, red wine, great curry, playing golf, driving with the windows down, my family and friends. I hope to meet you soon at the Members' Christmas Drinks (see back page) on **Thursday 5 December**, 4.30pm, so please do come along and say hello."

Alison Coleman-Smith



ALISON COLEMAN-SMITH



"It's just so fruitful. Bit nervous to begin with but I really enjoy meeting people from all over the world."

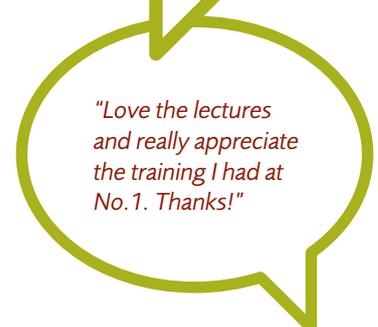
VOLUNTEERING TIME TO LEND A HAND?

Our four Museums simply couldn't do the job they do without our wonderfully committed volunteers. Many of our Members are also volunteers and do regular shifts ranging from a couple of hours a month to a regular weekly slot. So, if your passion is architecture, science, collections, arts, social media, cataloguing, back of house, front of house, gardening, painting, DIY, admin, guided tours or events then we would love to hear from you.

Members who wish to volunteer can get in touch through the Membership Engagement Officer acolemansmith@bptrust.org



"When my work commitments changed recently I had a regular slot I could give each month and was wondering what I could do. Science is my thing so volunteering with the Herschel has been great."



"Love the lectures and really appreciate the training I had at No.1. Thanks!"

No. 1 Royal Crescent



‘TIS THE SEASON...’

CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE AGES

Discover the true spirit of Christmas Past this festive season as we reveal how Christmas was enjoyed through the Ages. We will be celebrating in style by exploring the history of Christmas from the Georgians right up to modern day.

Christmas is often seen as a magical season, filled with joy and laughter, evoking nostalgic memories and images of snowy fields, ice skating, hot chocolate by a roaring fire and the excitement of seeing the Christmas tree with presents from Father Christmas underneath its green branches. But where has this image of Christmas come from?

This festive season each room at No. 1 will be decorated to showcase different aspects of the history of Christmas. Starting with the elegant simplicity of the Georgians with flowers and greenery we then move on to the Victorians

with their heavily decorated trees, stockings and Christmas cards. Wartime Christmases with homemade decorations and presents give way to the extravagantly colourful Christmases of the 1960s and 70s before we look at how current sustainability and environmental concerns create new traditions.

We have been working with our wonderful team of Christmas volunteers to produce these displays and if you are interested in joining us please do get in touch no1royalcrescent@bptrust.org.uk

CHRISTMAS THROUGH THE AGES OPENING TIMES



Saturday 30 November to Sunday 5 January
(closed Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day)
10am-5pm (last entry 4pm).

No. 1 Royal Crescent



**IMAGE
CONTROL**



A CONTEMPORARY TAKE ON HENRY SANDFORD

As part of our 'Image Control' exhibition we commissioned three artists to create their own interpretation of Henry Sandford, first resident of No. 1.

As far as we are aware there is no known portrait of him, yet we know him intimately through the historic record and clues he left behind through his writings, career and family. Not having a likeness impacts how we craft his story.

Zoë Woolley, Jan Dunning and Broose Dickinson have each created a contemporary portrait using different techniques and materials, giving us an idea of what he may have looked like and who he was as a person. All three pieces are on display on the ground floor of the Museum. Visit us before Sunday 5 January 2020 to see them in context, although we will create a more permanent home to display them as part of Henry Sandford's story.



ZOË WOOLLEY



JAN DUNNING



BROOSE DICKINSON

EVENTS

A Day in the Life...

**Saturday 26 October,
Saturday 16 November and
Saturday 7 December**

Our volunteer room guides will be in costume bringing the 18th century to life and uncovering fascinating features and facts about the Gorgeous Georgians and their servants.

10am – 3pm. FREE with normal admission

Christmas Lates

**Open until 7pm
Friday 6 December,
Friday 20 December and
Saturday 21 December**

*'Twas the night before Christmas,
when all through the house...*

Enter into the Christmas spirit with our festively dressed house and celebrate at night-time with a pop-up bar and Christmas wreath making; and don't forget those last minute presents from our Georgian Shop!

4pm – 7pm

Christmas admission prices apply
(see website)

Musical chairs

Up in the Withdrawing Room at No. 1 sits the walnut and oak veneered Kirkman family harpsichord dating from 1770. Instead of 'special occasions only' we have garnered a small cohort of accredited musicians and harpsichord players (all volunteers) who now play – entertaining visitors and fellow volunteers alike – several times a week.

Do ring in advance of your next visit if you wish to know their timetable.



Museum of Bath Architecture

BATH CITY MODEL

Our largest and most popular object at the Museum of Bath Architecture is unquestionably the Bath City Model and this winter it will be the focus of new interpretation which we are working on.

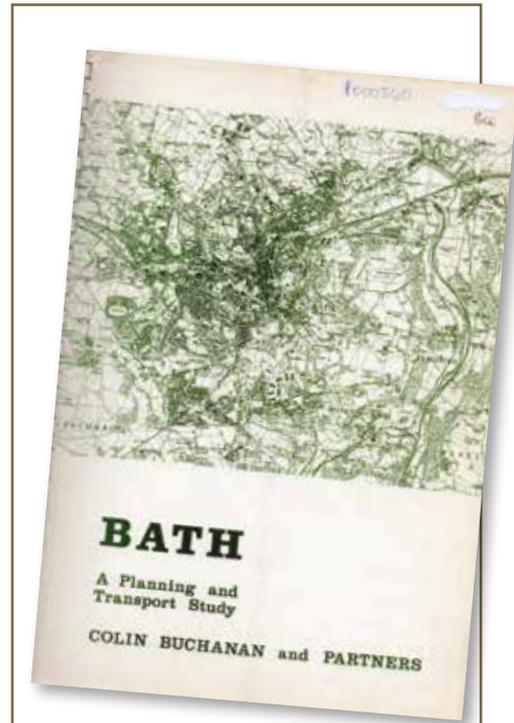
Made by Hugh Watson Associates in 1965 the model was commissioned by BPT with sponsorship from the Bath & Portland Stone Group. It took over 10,000 hours of skilled and painstakingly detailed work to create. At the time modern building conservation as we now know it was still in its infancy; many conservation bodies were campaigning for new forms of heritage protection. Coinciding with the feasibility studies undertaken to assess Colin Buchanan's traffic and transport study and proposals for changes in the City, the model was to highlight the significance of the historic city and show new buildings in the context of their city wide impact. Buildings detailed with black drawn-in windows illustrated the Georgian architecture which those (in 1965) deemed worthy of preservation. Everything else was in block form and clearly not seen as being so important and thus more disposable.

The model was moved to the newly created Building of Bath Museum in 1992 and became the centrepiece of the Museum. The intention was that developers and architects would create models of proposed new buildings to slot into the model and show their proposals in

context; the last new building to be added was the Green Park Sainsbury's supermarket building in 1992. As computer modelling overtook the production of architectural models, the city model has been out of date for quite some time. In 2017 the model underwent minor repairs and cleaning as we moved it out of the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel to be displayed at the Assembly Rooms as part of the Festival of the Future City. A small team of architects worked in the evenings over several months to create new cardboard buildings for the model to show developments that had been added to the City since the 1990s. Thanks to a B&NES Council grant these new buildings will return to the model this winter as we add new sections to the Museum displays about the architectural contribution of the 19th and 20th centuries. With the increase in 3D printing we have seen models returning as key tools for architects to illustrate their ideas. We hope to encourage more developers and design teams to produce models of completed projects that we can add to the city model. Don't miss a visit to the Museum in the New Year to see the new displays and model updates.



CITY MODEL DETAIL



THE CURSE OF CARS?

Traffic in Bath is one of the City's most damaging and challenging problems. As the City commits to new clean air zone initiatives a project to catalogue the traffic and transport collection within the BPT's archives comes to completion.

Thanks to the work of our small team of archive volunteers the boxes overflowing with reports, minutes and memos have been tamed into order and are available on-line via the archive catalogue. Highlights of the Colin Buchanan's collection are the much maligned 1965 *Bath: A Traffic and Transport Study* along with the feasibility study commissioned by the Council for the infamous tunnel. But the collection also includes reports on traffic management, parking and environmental impact studies from the 1960s onwards.

The collection is an important resource for understanding the history of how the City has been adapted and impacted by the creation of new roads and the increased volume of vehicles travelling on them.

Museum of Bath Architecture

Entries close
Saturday
30 November
2019



**Architectural
Photographer
of the Year 2019**

This year's competition has three categories:

ARCHITECTURE OF ENTERTAINMENT

From ancient amphitheatres to multiplex cinemas architects have been designing entertainment spaces for thousands of years. The challenge: to capture images of architecture (interior or exterior) which have an entertainment theme, from anywhere in the world.

BATH: AFTER THE GEORGIANS

Our Georgian city is world famous. But architectural styles from other periods, from Victorian to Brutalist, are here and deserve some limelight too. Which catches your eye?

JUNIOR ARCHITECTURAL PHOTOGRAPHER OF THE YEAR

Open to photographers under the age of 19. We want to see what architecture inspires you. Do you prefer old buildings or ultra-modern? What's the coolest building you've ever seen?

This year's judges:

Jonathan Walker: MD of No.15 Great Pulteney Street Hotel.

A photographer and collector of photographic works by the likes of David Bailey, Clive Arrowsmith and Andre Kertsz.

Benedict Brain ARPS: Writer for Future Publishing photographic magazines and assessor for RPS.

Stephen Crisp: Former Chief Photographer in the Middle East for Reuters.

Eleanor Young: Executive Editor for the RIBA journal.

Prizes Prizes Prizes

- A voucher to have your work printed by DS Colour Labs on 20"x30" acrylic.
- One night's stay and dinner (for two) at No.15 Great Pulteney Street.
- A range of camera equipment supplied by K&F Concepts.

To enter or for more details visit www.museumofbatharchitecture.org.uk

A NEW CAPITAL



TAKEN FROM THE CIRCUS IN 1992;
ON LOAN FROM B&NES

This year we have been working closely with the Stonemasons Guild of St Stephens & St George who gave a hands-on demonstration for the Open Palaces morning. The Master Mason will be recreating our Corinthian capital over the next 10 weeks which we will film and include as part of our Museum interpretation. The capital will then become part of the permanent collection.

FASCINATING FACTS:

- 1 It takes 40 years for a stonemason to go from apprentice to Master Mason.
- 2 The Stonemasons Guild of St Stephens & St George was formed in 936AD.
- 3 Stonemasons have their own language that is used internationally.

The stone was kindly donated by Lovel Stone Quarry.



Keep an eye on our website and social media for demonstration days by the Master Mason.

PETER GABRIEL REFLECTIONS: REVISITED

**Monday 6 January
to Sunday 16 February 2020**

This is an exciting second chance to see selected images from the hugely successful 2018 exhibition of photos by internationally acclaimed photographer Clive Arrowsmith. Using images from our store the exhibition will feature many of the Peter Gabriel portraits taken around Bath's architectural landmarks. All images will be available to buy.



EVENTS



Eastern Strings

Thursday 14 November

Bristol based duo "Eastern Strings" feature the combined 15 strings of double bass and oud. The repertoire includes music from both the Middle Eastern and Ladino repertoire as well as originals.

7pm

£7 in advance or £8 on the door.

Beckford's Tower and Museum



As a part of our 'Pictures and Postcards: Beckford's Souvenirs' exhibition we displayed a collection of vintage postcards which people had sent from the Tower over the years. We also asked those visitors who came to the Tower this year to send us their own postcards. Some visitors even left postcards in the places Beckford himself visited during his life, asking those who found them to write us a message inspired by Beckford's own experiences.

The postcards have engaged visitors of all ages and from all over the world. Staff and volunteers at the Tower have been diligently checking our post box for the cards and we have been sharing our favourites on social media as well as inside the Museum. From Cornwall to the Scottish Isles, all across Europe and in far reaching parts of Asia and New Zealand we have received drawings, poems, messages, compliments and stories.



Keep an eye on our social media and webpage for a celebratory roundup of all of the postcards towards the end of the year and our thanks to staff, trustees and members who took part!

Beckford's Tower and Museum

WEDDINGS

Beckford's Tower wedding leaflets are now available across our Museums, at our partner shops and venues and in PDF format on our website. We have been working with local wedding fairs to distribute the flyers and hope to increase the number of bookings for 2020 and beyond.

Please help us to spread the word about this unique venue and get in touch if you have any questions.



'OUR TOWER'

In the Spring edition of 'Bath Matters' we reported on our bid to the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) for a programme of works to the Tower including conservation, new interpretation and community projects. We received very positive feedback in June. However, there were a couple of areas which needed further clarification; we submitted a revised application in August and expect to hear back before the end of November.

The primary driver for the works is an urgent conservation need owing to water ingress at the top of the Tower. The Tower's position on an exposed escarpment outside Bath is vulnerable to the effects of increasingly frequent extreme weather conditions. Despite regular maintenance the timber construction of the Tower lantern together with the fragile metal window frames have resulted in some risk to the fabric. It is therefore a matter of urgency to raise the funds to restore and repair the lantern and windows.

We hope that our revised application to NLHF will be successful, but will continue to raise funds to support the urgent conservation needs of the Tower whatever the result.

If you can help with fundraising or supporting the project, please contact Victoria Northwood vnorthwood@bptrust.org.uk who would like to hear from you.

NEW FACES

We have recently welcomed three new volunteer guides to the Beckford team and continue to recruit. During our closed period, from early November to the end of February, we will be launching a recruitment campaign at Enleigh, the new housing estate opposite the Tower. We hope this will encourage more local residents to engage with the Tower and its landscape, learn about its history, our plans for the future and join us as members and volunteers.



© photographybysimon.com

Herschel Museum of Astronomy

STELLAR PERFORMANCE

A huge thank you for all the support and effort our volunteers have given us over the summer period which was the busiest in the Museum's history. Thank you for making it an enjoyable experience for our visitors from countries around the world: from Chile, Uruguay, Sweden, South Africa and the Mohave Desert to name just a few! Comments have included:

'Wonderful! And thank you to the lovely volunteers.' • *'Excellent. History in every step.'* • *'Truly out of this world; fascinating experience.'*

The Herschel Museum is always looking for friendly and enthusiastic people to join the volunteer team here so please spread the word or get in touch. Contact jmiddleton@bptrust.org.uk



OBITUARY

Professor Francis Ring, 1936 – 2019

By Debbie Hodges, former Herschel Curator

Many of us are familiar with the story of how doctors Elizabeth and Leslie Hilliard saved 19 New King Street and transformed it into a place of outstanding historical significance, later to become BPT's Herschel Museum. They were greatly assisted in this labour of love by Francis Ring who over a period of more than four decades gave so much time and energy to the activities of the Herschel Museum and the William Herschel Society.

As an incoming curator with little knowledge of astronomy, I was grateful to be able to call upon Francis to answer questions or give an opinion on scientific matters and much of this information proved invaluable in assisting with the interpretation of the collection, adding a new dimension to the Museum's education programme.

Francis was perhaps best known for his work as a physician and particularly for his expertise in bone densitometry and medical thermal imaging. However, like a true man of science, he was able to transfer this expertise into other areas and particularly into the technical world of

astrophysics. Francis could give an account of the formation of a black hole but also suggest the likely cause of an aching back. His work on the infrared somehow echoed that of William Herschel over 200 years earlier and we were able to use his ideas on the subject in aspects of our temporary exhibition programme. Francis was a natural communicator and a gifted teacher and there was a memorable occasion when he ran a workshop at the Museum for primary school children who were fascinated by the thermal images of the human body he produced using an infrared camera.

As a Trustee of BPT for several years and long-time Chairman of the William Herschel Society his achievements in the medical profession earned him plaudits and letters after his name. But he was also immensely proud to have held the coveted position of Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society.

Francis will be greatly missed by his friends and family, everyone connected to the Herschel Museum, the Bath Preservation Trust and the astronomical community.

The unveiling of the statue of William and Caroline Herschel in the Museum garden by Sir Patrick Moore. Francis Ring is standing to the left of the picture.



SCIENCE TIME EVENTS

Night-time Stargazing

**Can't join us during the day?
Visit us at night for stargazing fun.
All welcome**

Friday 29 November, 8-11pm

£10/£7/£4. Contact jmiddleton@bptrust.org.uk to book

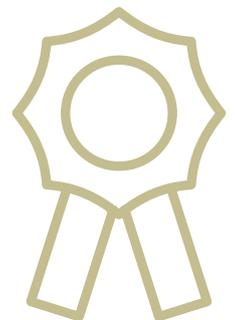
William Herschel Society Lecture

**'Moon, Art, Science, Culture'
by Dr Robert Massey and
Dr Alexandra Loske**

Friday 6 December, 7.30pm, held at the Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institute.

Tickets £5 sold on the door

LATEST AWARD NEWS

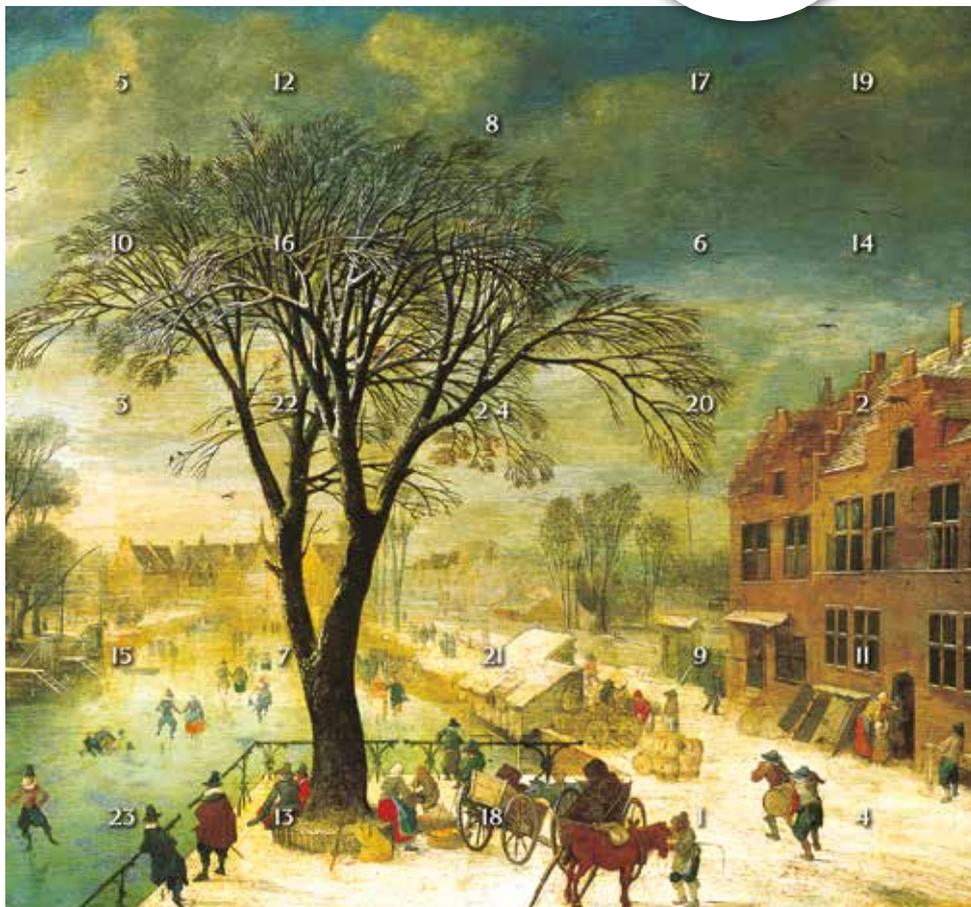


In October BPT was informed that the Herschel Museum of Astronomy has been selected as a Finalist in the Bristol, Bath and Somerset Tourism Awards (Small Visitor Attraction of the Year category). Fantastic news! The winner is to be announced at the end of November.

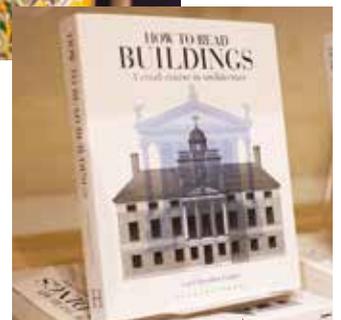
SHOP

Books have been selling well this summer across all BPT shops. At No. 1 Royal Crescent the top sellers, after the Servants' Hall Rules tea towel and guidebook, were the pop-up book 'Victorian Dolls House' at £29.90 and the little illustrated book 'A Guinea Pig Pride and Prejudice' at £7.99. The best seller at the Herschel Museum was the 'Herschel Chronicle' at £20.00, while MoBA continues to enjoy good sales of the 'Georgian Map of Bath' at £6.99.

When we closed No. 1 Royal Crescent for two days of filming recently, we used the time to refresh the shop displays and arrange merchandise creatively into themes rather than our previous separation of products by their type. The new arrangement has worked well throughout September and most of the Jane Austen books sold out during the Jane Austen Festival. Prints by local artists (particularly Anton Grain) continue to sell well at No. 1 and MoBA.



We are currently preparing for Christmas and now is the perfect time to visit our shops at No. 1, MoBA and the Herschel Museum for that original Christmas gift and perfect stocking filler. Do come and buy. For the first time we are selling Advent Calendars supplied by Fitzwilliam Gallery Enterprises and depicting a scene with skaters (£7.50) which are sure to be a success. We hope to see you in one of our shops soon.



DON'T FORGET **BPT MEMBERSHIP** MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT



World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund



FIRS FIELD MEMORIAL

Ralph Allen's mines in Combe Down provided much of Bath's golden stone and beneath Firs Field lies a honeycomb of old quarry workings. Combe Down Heritage Society has installed an inscribed stone bench beside an erstwhile access shaft to commemorate the mines and their importance to the World Heritage Site. The installation has been supported by funders including local contributors and the WHEF.

COMBE DOWN
HERITAGE SOCIETY AND
FIRS FIELD MEMORIAL



ELIM PENTECOSTAL CHURCH QUINQUENNIAL SURVEY

The Grade II* listed Elim Church, designed by Goodridge and Sons in 1854, is well used by a lively congregation and the local community. The Quinquennial Survey is an essential first step for the church to identify and quantify necessary repairs for which funding will be available once the need is proven. Timely repair work now will safeguard the future of this significant element in the World Heritage Site.

RAILINGS AT THE COUNTESS OF HUNTINGDON'S CHAPEL

The Bath Volunteer Centre approached BPT on behalf of a group of Public Services students from Stourbridge College looking for a volunteer project in Bath. The gates and railings of the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, in need of repainting to protect the historic ironwork, were cleaned and painted in the existing colour by the students and their tutor. The WHEF contributed the cost of the paint to the project.



For further information, help and advice, or to suggest possible projects, please contact the Fund Administrator, Ainslie Ensom, on whsef@bptrust.org.uk

CHRISTMAS DRINKS



Your invitation

Thursday 5 December

4.30pm-6.30pm

Museum of Bath Architecture

We look forward to welcoming our BPT members and friends for some festive cheer as we get ready for Christmas.

Join us for festive drinks, nibbles, music and a chance to catch up with friends and staff.

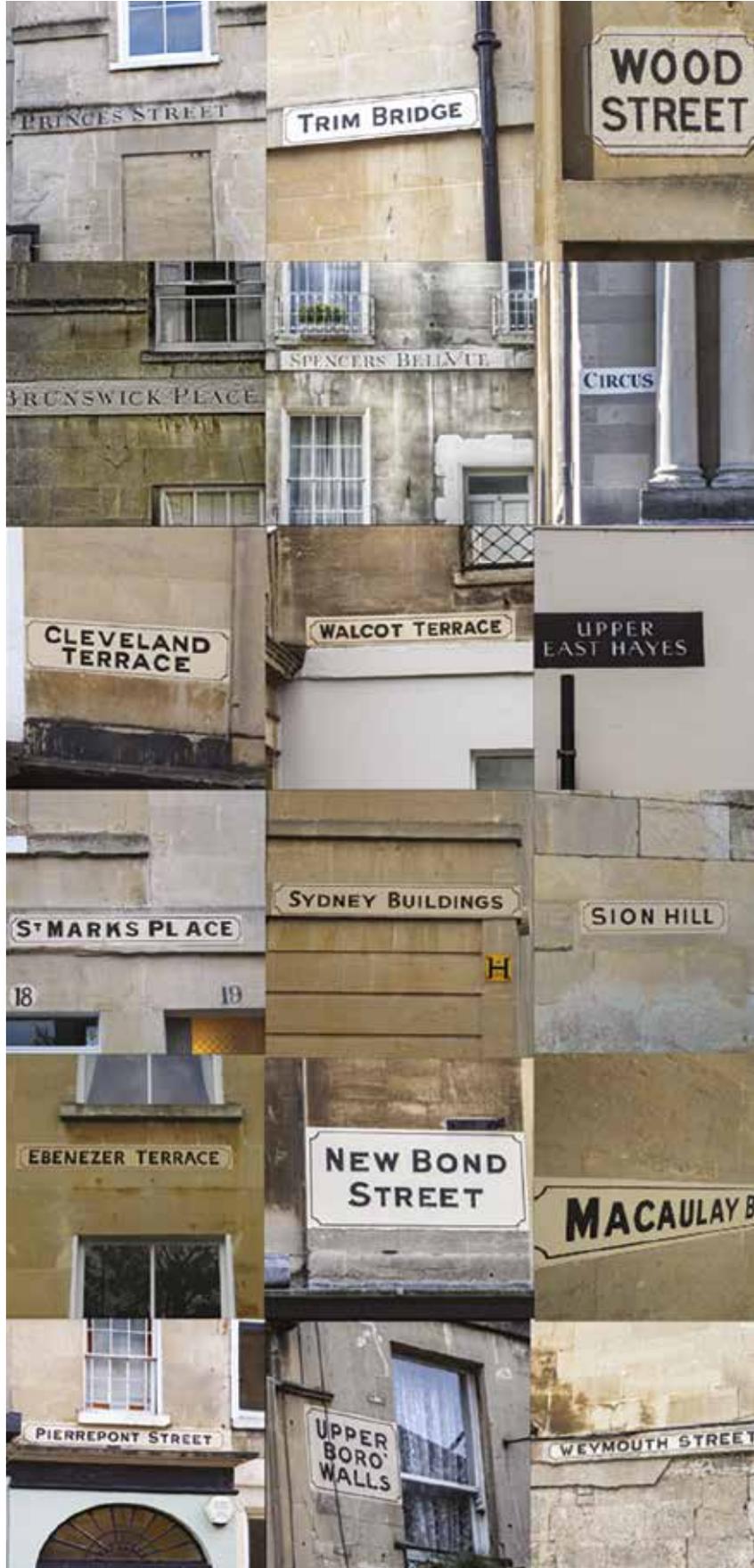
We are delighted that Senior Curator, Dr Amy Frost, will be giving a "show and tell" session on an item from our collection not normally put on display to the public.



RSVP

to Alison Coleman-Smith
on 0122 338727 or
acolemansmith@bptrust.org.uk
by Thursday 28 November.

Thank you.



**BATH
PRESERVATION
TRUST**

TREASURING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

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