

BATH MATTERS

THE BATH PRESERVATION TRUST NEWSLETTER

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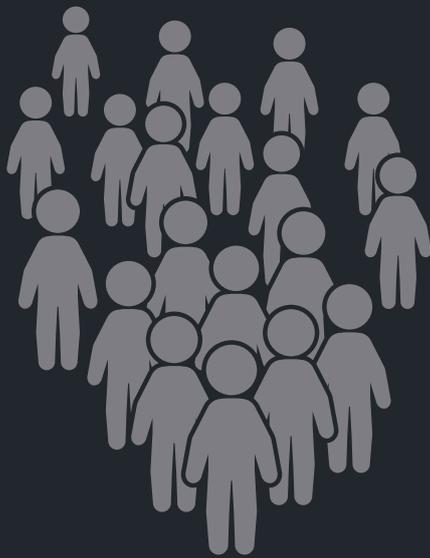
BATH
PRESERVATION
TRUST

We would like to thank all our members sincerely for all their support throughout the trials and tribulations of the last year.

It has been a difficult period for BPT, and your backing has been vital in sustaining our important campaigning, educational work and museums. We have been blown away by generosity, whether that be in memberships, donations, or volunteering, and have received many lovely messages of solidarity from members old and new.

More than ever we would encourage you to support us by renewing your membership and inviting family and friends to see what we have to offer. We can't wait until we are able to invite you back into our museums and to exciting walks and talks in Bath and beyond.

Email membership@bptrust.org.uk to join now and get involved in BPT's invaluable work.



TOURS AND WALKS 2021

We are hopeful that we may be able to go ahead in some way with the visits that we had planned for 2020 to Cirencester Park, Bristol Cathedral and Lord Mayor's Chapel, as well as Compton Verney. We will be reviewing this as a priority for the autumn, although coach travel is unlikely. If the trips if they can go ahead, will be run differently to ensure everyone's safety.



AGM

Due to government restrictions, the Annual General Meeting (AGM) scheduled for the 1 October 2020 was postponed.

BPT held its 78th Annual General Meeting on 23 March 2021 to update members and trustees on the status of the organisation and its museums after a year of closure. But with a difference – this year for the first time members joined virtually via Zoom! We were thrilled that so many of you were able to attend, and after a year apart it was great to have our members virtually 'back in one room'. A Special Resolution to extend the possibility of holding virtual AGMs in future was unanimously agreed, but we look forward to resuming in-person meetings when it is safe to do so again. In the meantime, we continue to thank all our trustees, members, volunteers, and staff for all the exceptional work they have put into supporting the BPT this year.



BPT 2018 AGM AT ELIM CHURCH.



Thomas Sheppard

CHAIRMAN

As we emerge from the third lockdown it is very important to acknowledge the contribution of BPT's employees who have shown initiative and worked tirelessly despite the uncertainty of home working, furlough and the redundancy of many colleagues. My fellow trustees have also played their part in making tough decisions and giving their skill and time to help an organisation under great pressure.

We have adopted new ways of working and whilst Zoom is no substitute for meeting in person, it will continue as a quick and easy way to keep in touch and share information. It has allowed us to continue our engagement with development processes and make timely contributions. Thank you to those who were able to join our virtual AGM and I hope you will be able to join us, in person, for the AGM in the Autumn.

At our next AGM we will be able to say a proper thank you to Caroline Kay who stood down, at the end of April, after almost 14 years as our CEO. Caroline has led BPT from the front and has been a powerful advocate for both our City and work of BPT. The hunt for our new CEO is underway and I look forward to introducing that person to you before too long.

The relaunch of our museum at No.1 Royal Crescent is an important first step to achieving our long-term plans; but there is much more to do. The project at Beckford's Tower is now in hand and we have new faces joining our team to help us. The generosity of Stephen Morant has allowed us to acquire the site of both Beckford's Grotto and his avenue of lime trees and we look forward to starting on our programme of restoration.

Despite the pandemic Bath is full of cranes with many major projects across the City. We have been kept busy ensuring that setting and good design are not lost in the rush to build and I am grateful to all involved for remaining vigilant and engaged in the face of so many planning applications. Elsewhere it is tremendous to see the Abbey's Footprint project nearing completion with the use of thermal water to heat the building; BPT is committed to showing that older buildings can really be an asset, and not a liability, as we all face the challenges of climate change.

The pause in visitors to Bath has allowed us the opportunity to enjoy the beauty of the empty streets but we are a City built for visitors. Let us hope that the coming year will see a recovery of the local economy with empty shops filled and a renaissance of our City centre spaces.

The work at No.1 will allow us to give a new experience to our visitors and one which we can continue to adapt. We will reopen in June and I encourage you to come and see what we have done and let us have your feedback.

Thank you for your continued support and interest in our work and I look forward to meeting all of you in person before too long.



Caroline Kay

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

By the time this newsletter is distributed, I will have left BPT.

Back in the days BC (Before COVID) I had decided that after more than 12 years it was time for me to flex my personal and professional skills elsewhere. I felt BPT was in good shape, that I had taken it some way in the previous years, but there was another change and development to go through which would be best done with new people, with new ideas, able to build on the past and take BPT into the future.

With the pandemic upon us, the Trustees asked me to stay on to see the organisation through to a position where it could again look positively to its future. I was happy to do this and although it was a tough and rollercoaster year, I am pleased to say that I leave confident that this is the case.

This is down to four factors: Firstly the generous financial support we have received from the Government's Cultural Recovery Fund, first in October 2020 and then in April 2021; secondly the initial financial support we received from the National Lottery Heritage Fund's Emergency Fund in July 2020 as well as the practical support we received through both these funding streams from our Lottery Case Officer Kirsty Wallace; thirdly the amazing team of staff who, without exception, worked their socks off to get through the last year, going beyond the call of duty in terms of hours put in, loyalty shown and creativity and effort applied; and last but not least, our members, who stuck with us and in some cases generously financially supported us in our hour of need.

So, this newsletter is about BPT looking forward. I hope that by the end of this year those of you who enjoy our member events will have had the chance to join in some again, and all of you who take an interest in the museums will be able to come and see how we have invested in No.1 Royal Crescent using the grants we received. I hope that you may have discovered new ways of working during the pandemic that have allowed you to reach us through the website and social media. I hope that you will agree with me that BPT still has a really important role in the protection and development of our beautiful City, and that it will keep pursuing this whatever adversity is thrown at us.

There will be a new CEO in the autumn; I look forward very much to meeting them and telling them all those things it is difficult to set out in a formal handover note. BPT is in safe hands and in calmer waters now and I wish all its members a very happy summer and second half of 2021.

Campaigning and Conservation

IN FOCUS

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE

A stream of Government consultations on radical reforms to the planning system intended to help Britain bounce back from the pandemic have faced fierce national, and local opposition. Some of the changes set out include a zonal approach to plan making, 'permission in principle' for 'renewal areas', changes to publicity requirements, the prioritisation of 'first homes' over affordable homes, digitalisation and a stronger focus on design. In summary our serious concerns in response to the Government's 2020 *Planning for the Future White Paper*, and *Proposed Changes to the Current Planning System* consultations are linked to:

- Inadvertent weakening of environmental, heritage and green space protection
- Loss of local democracy and community engagement
- The failure to address true housing affordability
- The challenge of resourcing, particularly in Local Authority and statutory consultees, to deliver the requirements of the reforms.

Decades of experience leads us to conclude that a coalition of interests in planning processes is most likely to result in a successful outcome: this principle can and should be applied in turn to reform of the planning system. A fit-for-purpose and adequately resourced planning system, with participation at its heart, has the power to enhance and sustain the natural and historic environment, create and maintain healthy and sustainable communities, meet the challenges of climate change in practical ways, and ensure everyone has a decent home that meets their needs and that they can afford.

A major concern for BPT locally is the potential broadening of Permitted Development Rights (PDR) outlined in the recent Government consultation on Supporting Housing Delivery and Public Infrastructure for land and properties within conservation areas, specifically to enable changes of use to residential. Diversity is critical to the vitality and vibrancy of historic towns and shopping streets – current planning legislation enables exemptions from PDR and therefore, greater protection to 'preserve or enhance' a range of uses that sustains the character, amenity and community of towns, rather than allowing a profitable single use to dominate.

Our response to the 2021 consultation on *Proposed changes to the National Planning Policy Framework and National Model Design Codes* emphasised concern that the delivery of high-quality design will be undermined by the proposed widening of permitted development rights preventing a planned approach to our town and city centres and risking harm to historic character.

Broadening PDR would risk:

- Lead to the loss of historic character within our conservation areas through inappropriate development and unsympathetic alterations
- Harm the diversity and vitality of our high streets, town, and city centres
- Facilitate the creation of poor-quality homes and living environments.

We believe that the existing statutory and policy framework for heritage works well. However, most development needs to be of a far better quality, and we support the need to examine ways in which this can be improved. And a greater focus on delivering high quality design in the planning system through design



codes and appointing Chief Design & Placemaking Officers within each Local Authority seems like a good idea. However, raising the ambition on design quality has to be followed through with resourcing.

Planning reform will take time and investment and without the latter it will fail.

Given this, and recognising that many elements of the reforms are intended to aid economic recovery, we question why it is the right thing to do now and at speed, particularly given the economic shock of COVID-19.

'Demolishing' the existing planning system at a time when there is no capacity to invest properly in its successor would be entirely counterproductive. In the current economic climate, resources would be better spent on refocusing training and time on proper place-shaping through the existing planning system.

The urgent priority at this time must be to use the current system to incentivise the building of already-permitted houses, to mitigate climate change and to enhance biodiversity. We believe that a different set of changes is needed in order to maintain a balance between speedy development, better places, and environmental protection.

"The Government has long recognised the large and irreplaceable contribution that voluntary organisations make to heritage protection, including through the planning system."

HISTORIC ENGLAND

ASK AN ARCHITECT

Virtual 'Ask an Architect' sessions are available on Saturday 5 June and Saturday 4 September.

To be held over Zoom, so you can schedule a meeting with a RIBA-certified architect from the comfort of your own home. Booking is required, for more information go to

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/bath-preservation-trust-17074758462>

Suggested donation £25

INTERN'S VOICE

YONAS BERHE REFLECTS ON HIS 2020 INTERNSHIP WITH BPT

It was a privilege to have been offered this internship and I feel grateful both to UWE and BPT for the opportunity. During my short time as an intern, my main work focused on collating retrofit information for listed buildings using the Bath and North East Somerset Council planning portal. The aim was to create a spreadsheet containing good and bad case studies which could be used to inform future decisions and act as an archival resource.

Coming with a background of very limited professional work experience I was keen on learning and making the most of this internship. Whilst COVID-19 restrictions meant that I was not able to attend the office in person this also introduced me to the world of remote working which had its advantages. I particularly enjoyed the flexibility it offered in terms of being able to manage the workload according to my schedule. I also think that this was only possible due to the clear information that was given to me throughout the

internship which helped to ensure there was no ambiguity.

Looking back, one of the most interesting and memorable elements of the work was attending the decision-making/board meetings at which I also had the chance to help make one of the presentations. Getting to see how decisions are agreed upon as well as the number of people that are involved and the way they express their views was something that caught my attention. This also reinforced to me the need to be clear and concise when conveying complex ideas and opinions which is particularly important in a professional setting with a limited time.

Overall, I felt as though this was a great chance to see and experience a different side of a conventional architectural career. Conservation had been something that I looked into in my dissertation and actually being able to work in this field further enhanced my understanding of its application in the real world. If I had the chance to work

here again I would definitely do so and recommend it to anyone who might be interested.



Yonas joined the team on a fully funded internship supported by the University of the West of England, and BPT's Carl and Jeanette Mays Conservation Education fund.

THE LOCAL AGENDA

B&NES Council recently consulted on new Local Plan policies based on changes in local circumstances and national policy and legislation since the 2014-2017 Core Strategy and Placemaking Plan.

Proposed revisions intend to address the Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency and Ecological Emergency, update the local authority housing supply to ensure the Core Strategy requirement can be met, and update specific policies addressing issues such as parking standards, purpose-built student accommodation, and Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs).

BPT has welcomed ambitions for the development of greener policies in response to the Climate Emergency and increased energy efficiency targets for new builds, although we continue to encourage an increased cross-border collaboration to address proposals such as large-scale renewable energy generation (wind and solar farms) and sustainable transport strategies.

We have encouraged policies to link student accommodation developments with education

providers to ensure proposed sites meet demonstrated demand, and do not take up sites that could be used to provide housing. We have raised serious concerns in response to the proposed 'destination' function of Park and Rides; we maintain these sites should be primarily multimodal in their usage. We are opposed to any proposed removal of these sites from the Green Belt as we consider this could lead to 'free-for-all' development on these sites, at the gateways to the City.

In the coming months we will maintain engagement in the Local Plan and emerging plans for public space along the 'river-line', and master planning for a new 'Milsom Street Quarter'. And as updated local authority guidance for retrofitting and renewable energy comes forward this summer we will be reviewing our position on energy saving measures and promoting best practice approaches.



UPDATED GUIDANCE MAY SUPPORT LISTED BUILDING CONSENT APPLICATIONS FOR SLIM PROFILE DOUBLE GLAZING.

Campaigning and Conservation

YOUR VOICE



I wanted to express my concerns about the new LED lighting that's going in around the City. Traditional, soft-glowing street lamps, which illuminated the City in a gentle, calm manner, are being swapped for revolting cool white LEDs. The result is that the City feels like an interrogation cell at night. It's such a shame the Council has been allowed to do this, and I feel it's so vital that the way in which our World Heritage Site is lit at night is properly considered.

I get the argument for the use of LED – makes total sense. But surely a warmer white LED lamp should be used?

I am not the only one who feels this way. I am conscious that they are going round in a cherry picker (at vast expense no doubt) swapping over these light fittings across the City as I type, and action ought to be taken swiftly if anything's to be done about it.

Am I alone in my objection? What is the BPT's stance, I wonder?

Patrick Williams

Our response

We are aware that B&NES originally undertook an LED streetlight upgrade in 2016 to replace its less energy efficient sodium lighting. BPT has previously explored and supported the use of LEDs within historic homes as a low energy alternative, although we have recognised issues with the 'warmth' of different lights and have expressed a preference for lower colour temperatures such as 'warm white' which are less harsh in appearance in our guidance on improving the energy efficiency of Bath's historic housing stock, *Warmer Bath*.

The World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund Working Group continues to be involved in historic street-lighting programmes such as the restoration of the Sydney Buildings lanterns. B&NES cooperated as part of this project as a trial for a type of LED street light with a colour value suitable for Bath stone in its initial phase, and was supported by local residents. The recent completion of works to fit replacement lanterns in a traditional style on Walcot Steps by the Working Group also used LED lighting, in consultation with the B&NES Council's Historic Environment team.

Ongoing works by the Enhancement Fund include the reinstatement of the Cavendish Place overthrows and lanterns with LED lighting which BPT has supported.

Therefore, whilst we acknowledge the need for LED retrofits as part of the Council's commitment to energy consumption and carbon emission reductions, we agree an appropriate, warm colour should be selected to complement the City's distinctive night time character and appearance and low-level illumination.

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**



PARISH BEAT

Our remit extends beyond the City of Bath to the 14 rural parishes that surround the City. We have consulted with parish council representatives for input on the Local Plan Partial Update and how new and revised policy could affect the special qualities of Bath's landscape setting, such as proposals for the harnessing of wind power and the implementation of further Park & Ride sites.

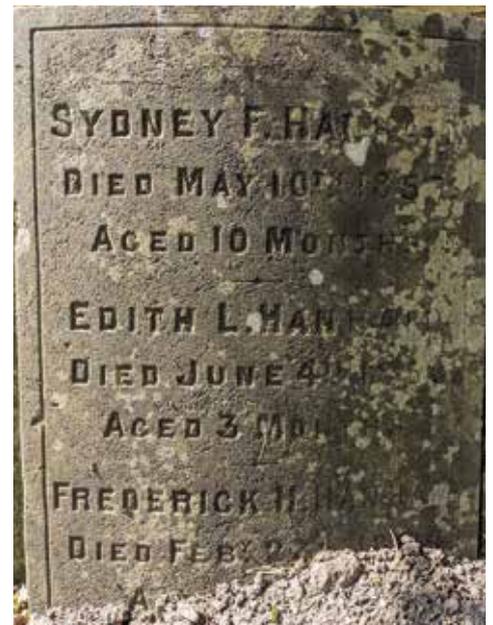
We continue to watch for further proposals for the installation of telecommunications masts within the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty and emphasise the need for local policy or guidance to manage the location and design of future masts, in collaboration with local communities.

We are also monitoring a number of planning enforcement cases in the environs of Bath.

A 'GRAVE' MATTER

BPT recently reviewed proposals relating to an unusual garden site at Moravian Cottages in Weston, formerly a late 18th century Moravian Burial Ground in use up until 1904. The site has since been divided to provide private garden space for cottage inhabitants. Works included new decking, a new stepped close-board timber dividing fence, and the relocation of the original grave markers to sit along the boundary wall, having previously been moved from their historic horizontal position to form raised flower beds. BPT was supportive of the more sensitive relocation of the grave markers and offered advice on the creation of a recording of the stone markers and any surviving inscriptions. However, we felt that the proposed fence would be too solid in appearance and harm the historic readability of the site as a whole. In response the applicant proposed a more permeable willow-weave fence to help preserve the open character of the site.

Consent has been granted, with a condition that a photographic and written record of all grave markers is created. With input from BPT, plans for the Level 2 survey of the site are in progress and will be made available via the B&NES Historic Environment Record.



MORAVIAN BURIAL GROUND GRAVE MARKER

Planning applications at a glance

Full and detailed responses are available online

The Royal Mineral Water Hospital

Following the refusal of proposals for an extension and hotel conversion in 2020 BPT was consulted with revised plans. We have maintained the importance of finding a sustainable reuse for this Grade II* listed building and continue to encourage the inclusion of public access. The relocation of the extension's roof plant and reduction in height is welcomed, and we are broadly supportive of the revised extension's more 'polite' design, although we regret that the opportunity may have been missed for more exciting and innovative design.

Bath Quays North

A detailed application was submitted in December 2020 outlining the proposed appearance, materials, scale, and landscaping. Whilst supportive of the regeneration and reintegration of this site, we have expressed concerns regarding the horizontal architectural emphasis, and a lack of locally distinctive or varied design. We are generally supportive of an 'active' roofscape, with gardens and solar panels, and feel this is a more honest design than a 'mock mansard' profile, but emphasise a strong reliance on high quality landscaping and maintenance to ensure successful delivery.

Former Bath Press Site

Revised proposals have been submitted for 286 dwellings, a 42 dwelling increase on the previously permitted scheme. Bath Press was demolished in 2017, retaining only the early 20th century Bath stone façade and chimney which remains a prominent local landmark. BPT supports the principle of residential redevelopment on this brownfield site, however, we are resistant to the loss of the locally distinctive chimney. We are also concerned about the absence of affordable housing provision.



BATH PRESS REDEVELOPMENT, LOWER BRISTOL ROAD
©ABERDEENSTANDARDINVESTMENTS



OLD KING EDWARD'S
SCHOOL, BROAD STREET

Casper Farrell

Old King Edward's School

Revised plans to convert the Grade II* mid-18th century building into a hotel, with ground floor restaurant and bar, are the latest in a string of planning consents for change of use since 2010. The building has been vacant since 1986 and is on the national Heritage at Risk register. BPT continues to support reuse appropriate to significance to secure the building's upkeep and survival. However, we maintain some concerns regarding the proposed scale of bar use on the ground floor and the treatment of internal historic fabric as part of the proposed conversion works.

Waterworks Cottage

BPT has opposed the unjustified demolition of a mid-19th century cottage, a locally listed heritage asset overlooking the Green Belt and Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The proposed development of three dwellings would harm the landscape setting of the World Heritage Site. Amended plans propose the retention of the cottage; however, the subdivision of the garden for housing constitutes overdevelopment of the site out of character with the area's semi-rural and verdant appearance and character. In relation to this we can report that an appeal for a proposed house in the former garden of Grade II Kennet House, Sydney Road has been dismissed on grounds of harm. An appeal has been lodged against the refusal of a house proposed on a woodland site which forms part of the garden setting of Grade II Lyncombe Court, and previously formed part of the 18th century King James's Palace pleasure garden.

Riverside Enterprise Zone

Proposed large-scale development at the Homebase site (appeal inquiry in June) and the Dick Lovett car dealerships risk having a cumulative impact on Bath's riverside. BPT has expressed concerns regarding the excessive height of proposed developments and resulting detriment to townscape and views into and across the World Heritage Site. Here we are concerned by the predominant use of brick and an increasing variety of designs. We continue to emphasise the need for locally distinctive and cohesive design for major contemporary developments in this area.

The Scala

Student accommodation proposed alongside the residential conversion of the 1920s cinema is intended for use by Norland College. BPT has expressed concerns with the proposed scale of the central block of student accommodation, and the loss of floor space for community use as a popular dance studio. The application was refused by Planning Committee in May on grounds of over development.



HARTWELLS
©OAKHILLGROUP

Hartwells Garage Site, Newbridge Road

Proposals for a mixed-use development of housing and student accommodation on the former Hartwells Garage site were refused unanimously at Planning Committee in 2020 on grounds of overdevelopment. BPT spoke against the plans at an appeal inquiry in March which has allowed development to proceed. The planning inspector considered that the proposed delivery of 104 dwellings on the site would exceed the local policy housing target, and would not exclude the provision of student accommodation. Whilst the massing and deep plan of the proposed housing blocks were acknowledged to be different from the surrounding Victorian houses on Newbridge Road, the inspector concluded that the scheme would be an improvement on the current Garage site which had been identified as a 'detractor' to the local area by B&NES Council.

Education and Community Engagement



Thanks to financial support from the National Lottery Heritage and Cultural Recovery Funds, we have had the opportunity to invest in the sustainability of our educational offer across BPT. Building on our commitment to free public

access to No.1 Royal Crescent, the Brownsword Gallery will become a free to access exhibition space later this year.

From summer 2021, visitors to the gallery will be able to explore the history of the house and

who lived there, the building of the Royal Crescent and the work of BPT to ensure its ongoing presence as a publicly accessible museum with the generous support of the Brownsword Foundation.

HERSCHEL
INSPIRED
ARTWORK
PRODUCED BY
A PATHWAYS
TO WELLBEING
PARTICIPANT

PATHWAYS TO WELLBEING GOES DIGITAL

BPT's community engagement work has continued online this year with several projects supporting mental health. This February and March the group produced textile wall hangings inspired by the Herschel family and their discoveries. These pieces will be brought together with work produced at the other project museums in a group exhibition later this year.

Education and Community Engagement



WE ARE WORKING WITH ANNIE GRAY TO PRODUCE HISTORICAL COOK-ALONG VIDEOS

David Bickerstaff

Following the success of our 'Is it True about the Apple Mr Newton?' online event during February half term, families will have a chance to meet our very own Caroline Herschel in another interactive time travelling adventure

this May half term. We'll also be uploading family friendly historical cook-along films featuring the fabulous Annie Gray onto our YouTube channel and families will soon have the chance to book stargazing sessions led by

Bath Astronomers in the Herschel Museum garden. For families visiting our museums we will also have takeaway explorer packs available this summer, in place of our usual drop-in craft sessions.

SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

We are currently developing a brand new curriculum-linked range of Handling and Discovery Boxes for schools to borrow from September. Each box will be filled to the brim with artefacts, costumes and equipment designed to bring learning to life. Some boxes will follow historical themes such as life below stairs, whilst others will offer scientific materials and experiments for the classroom.



OUR NEW LOAN BOXES WILL INCLUDE A RANGE OF HISTORICAL AND SCIENTIFIC ARTEFACTS TO BRING LEARNING TO LIFE IN THE CLASSROOM

Membership



VOLUNTEERING

At BPT we continue to rely on the generosity of volunteers who give their time to support the organisation and contribute to its success.

Volunteering will still look quite different for many months, with our committees, forum and advisory groups meeting virtually and many of our projects taking place remotely, such as archive research.

We are looking forward to welcoming back some of our volunteers to help us prepare to open our museums to the public. There will be painting, repairs and maintenance work taking place and we are managing this safely and according to the COVID-19 guidelines for volunteer activity.

As our museums start to open, we are hoping that we may see some volunteers returning to help at The Herschel Museum of Astronomy, as well as provide guided tours across all of the museums and guided walks in the City.

Whilst the social calendar and training programme continues to be a challenge, we are hopeful of being able to run a summer event that will, within the COVID-19 guidelines, enable larger numbers of staff and volunteers to come together outdoors.

We would like to say thank you to all of the volunteers who have remained committed to BPT and we look forward to seeing you all again soon.

PLANNING AND HERITAGE

One of the many benefits of a BPT membership is access to advice and support from our award-winning planning and conservation team on matters of planning policy, conservation and heritage. Our conservation officers continue to advise on planning matters both locally and nationally, and are available to help you with any of your planning or heritage queries – please do get in contact via conservation@bptrust.org.uk.



FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT

THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

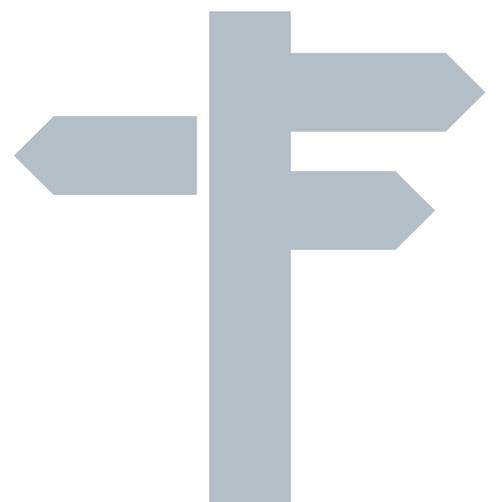
Bath Preservation Trust has received significant support from the Cultural Recovery Fund and a recent, second grant will cover our core costs until the end of June.

Whilst we are now in a viable and sustainable position, we continue to be vulnerable due to ongoing social distancing that will be in place for much longer than we had anticipated, limiting potential visitor numbers and admissions income across the museums. We therefore continue to actively fundraise to generate grants and donations that support our work across the organisation.

In particular, we are focused on raising partnership funding for our project at Beckford's Tower. We have taken the difficult

decision to extend the project timeline due to the impact of COVID-19. We recognise that meeting our fundraising target will be the driving factor in terms of building a successful bid for the second round of National Lottery Heritage Funding to enable the delivery of our project. We are required to raise over £400,000 to meet the funding gap.

If you are interested in donating to BPT and supporting our ongoing work, please get in touch with us. Every donation is hugely appreciated and makes a difference.



TAMARA SPURWAY,
SALES AND
MARKETING
MANAGER



A NEW ADDITION TO OUR TEAM!

We are excited to welcome Tamara Spurway, the new Sales and Marketing Manager for BPT who will oversee membership. We look forward to being able to offer some new and different experiences and opportunities for our members, as Tamara settles into her role and considers what might be possible and how we might also broaden and diversify our membership to ensure a sustainable and viable future.

We are very proud to have retained so many members during what has been a challenging time and will be promoting membership in the coming months. Tamara is very familiar with the City and its business networks and we hope to focus on our corporate membership as well as individuals, to increase our connections within the commercial community in Bath. In line with this, we have an opportunity to consider the membership benefits and review what we can offer, to ensure relevance and potential for growth, in line with the core purpose of BPT.

We are moving into an exciting period for BPT and its members, with new staff and a commitment to creating a new vision for the organisation that will secure our role within the City and local communities for the long term. If you would like to get involved with this new work and feed into our vision for the future, please get in touch via membership@bptrust.org.uk and take part in our evaluation and feedback sessions that will take place during 2021.

OBITUARY:

REMEMBERING MICHAEL TABB

Everyone involved in the Herschel Museum of Astronomy were saddened to hear of the death of Micheal Tabb late last year. Michael was a founder member of the Herschel Society for the Museum's opening in 1981, he invented and constructed a working replica of the 7 foot telescope that William Herschel used to discover the planet Uranus 200 years earlier. It has been a key museum attraction ever since. He subsequently helped and advised many others around the world engaged on similar projects.

An active amateur astronomer in his earlier days, he was also for many years a knowledgeable and effective local advocate for countering the light pollution that spoils our appreciation of the night sky, and was an important adviser on this for BPT. He travelled widely both to share the Herschel story, and to learn more about it. Micheal's enthusiasm, technical knowledge, and attention to detail shone through all he did. We will miss him.



WORKING REPLICA TELESCOPE
CONSTRUCTED BY MICHAEL TABB

No. 1 Royal Crescent

HOME FOR THE SEASON

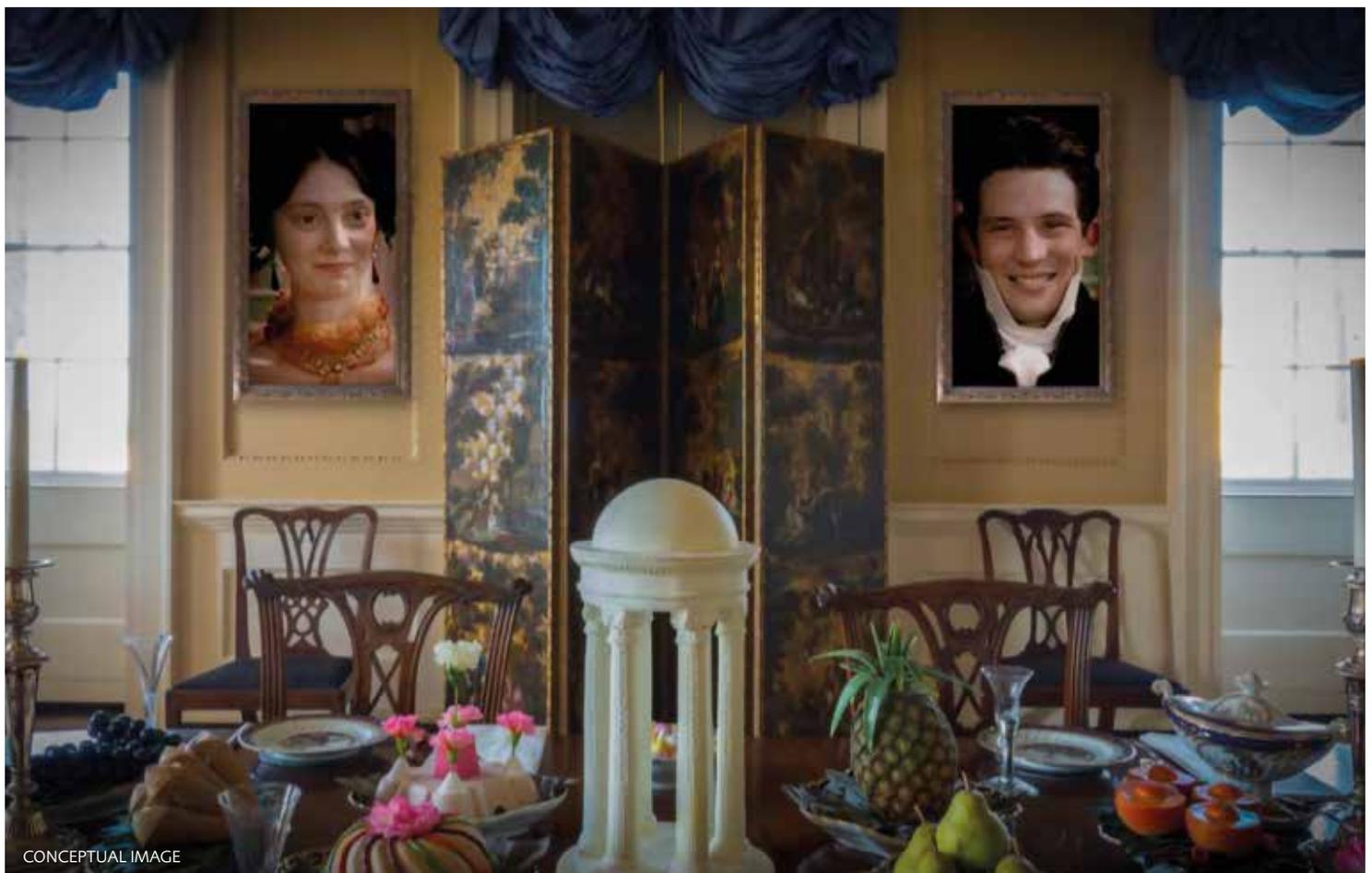
A brand-new immersive visitor experience is opening soon at No.1 Royal Crescent. Through film and sound projection, visitors will experience a day in the life of a Georgian family staying in Bath.

Set in about 1780, we meet a family who have rented the house for the season. Visitors will move around the house with the family as they live out a typical day, discuss topical issues, famous faces, sights and attractions within the City as well as prepare for an evening ball.

This luxury living will be contrasted with the lives of servants also in the home. Through their eyes, visitors will learn more about domestic servitude and the life of servants.

In the gallery we will have a free to access exhibition about the building of the house and the Royal Crescent. This will also be a flexible learning space and create an area where we can welcome families for activities and events.

BPT members can visit free of charge, but booking is essential during pandemic restrictions. We welcome your support and there are new donation points throughout the museum.



No. 1 Royal Crescent

TIME FOR TEA

NEW ACQUISITION TO BE DISPLAYED AT THE MUSEUM



WORCESTER TEA SERVICE GIFTED TO NO. 1 ROYAL CRESCENT IN 2019

The new interpretation at No.1 Royal Crescent will see a few small changes to the display of some collection items within the house, as we move things around to match the new narrative. Needing to make some changes with the tea services presented in both the Withdrawing Room and Parlour presented the perfect opportunity to display a recent acquisition. At the end of 2019 we accepted into the collection a Worcester tea service dated c.1790, a gift from a private collector made through the Jane Austen Society. The set is made up of a teapot, cover & stand, sugar bowl and cover, milk jug, slop bowl, bread and butter dish, 6 tea bowls, 11 coffee cups and 11 saucers.

The set will be a key part of the re-presentation of the Housekeeper's Room cupboards. The housekeeper would have maintained a china closet where the porcelain for the house was stored when not in use. The glass fronted cupboard in the housekeeper's room has served as a display space for some items from our Aesop's Fables service, and we will be filling it with more items, including the new tea service, in order to emphasise the idea of a china store for the house.

EVENTS



This year we are offering opportunities for visitors to enjoy exclusive visits to No. 1 Royal Crescent. Enjoy having the house all to yourself and experience it as the Bridgertons would have!

We can offer exclusive self-led visits, either with the immersive experience or if preferred, a quiet visit for you and your group. We can also offer guided tours and if you are looking for a real treat, why not add on exclusive shopping or a glass or prosecco and some canapes.

If you are interested in booking an exclusive visit, please get in touch with the museum or visit our website for more information and to book.

Looking further ahead, during the Jane Austen Festival we will be launching our brand-new Jane Austen in Bath experience, a new immersive way to explore the house through the novels and letters of Jane Austen. Keep an eye on our website for details about this experience and how to book.



INDULGE IN RETAIL THERAPY

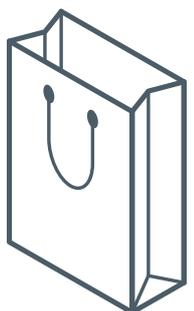
In 2021 we launch a brand new and extended shop at No.1 Royal Crescent.

We have almost doubled the floor space and have new ranges of products that have been specially selected for us by retail experts.

The shop can be visited independently of the museum so anyone can pop in off the street and browse. Why not pick up a copy of the Bridgerton novels or indulge in the new No.1 Royal Crescent range? We have new books,

jewellery, luxury food items, works from local artists and makers, children's goodies and of course, the essential postcard!

Also available is exclusive shopping. Book a private session of retail therapy or add this on to your exclusive museum tour. To find out more and book, please visit our website.



Beckford's Tower and Museum

OUR TOWER

The road to securing the future of Beckford's Tower has been a long one, made all the more difficult by the current pandemic. Through it all, however, we have continued to make progress. This includes monitoring the building with the assistance of our volunteers, Rick and Deirdre Smith, undertaking essential maintenance as necessary, while archivist Jo Johnston, and an army of volunteers, continue to explore an uncatalogued mountain of drawings, articles and correspondence relating to the Tower history.

Our next step has been to assemble the full project team. In March of this year Michelle Williams joined us, taking over the project coordinator role from Victoria Northwood, while in November 2019 we were also joined by Capital Works Director Simon Butler. Recruitment of the consultants for the project is well advanced, and our expectation is that the full design team will be in place by the end of May 2021.

This summer promises to be an exciting time for us as we explore the Tower and its landscape. Some of this work has already started, with volunteers Marion and Alan Rayner undertaking a biodiversity survey around the paddocks. You may also have

noticed the mysterious small pillars around the Tower and Cemetery. These allow us to anonymously count visitors passing them, enabling us to build a picture of how visitors currently access and use the site.

As the weather improves, we will survey the Tower to better understand the underlying causes of the water ingress, which has been a problem at the tower for many years. This, in turn, will allow the architects to develop a long-term solution to the problem.

We are also delighted to announce that the Bath & Colonialism Archive Project, a project to research Bath's links with the Transatlantic Slave Trade, has been successful in obtaining funding from The National Archives' Testbed Fund.

This six-month research project, due to begin in May, brings together the archives of Bath Abbey, BPT and Bath Record Office, working together for the first time, to uncover and share evidence of the transatlantic slave trade and the historic Black presence in our City.

Since the 2020 Black Lives Matter protests and the increasing awareness of colonialism's legacy today, the partner organisations feel there is an urgent need to share a more inclusive history of the Bath World Heritage Site. The data will be made available to a diverse audience through a dedicated website with a searchable database.



Tom Burrows

Beckford's Tower and Museum



BECKFORD'S TOWER

This year visitors can book exclusive visits to the Tower for groups up to six people, or two households. You can enjoy the museum collections and stories or book a guided tour that includes the museum, staircase and belvedere with its outstanding views across Bath.

Get in touch to find out more about visiting.

PEOPLE COUNTERS
AT THE TOWER



THE NEWLY
ACQUIRED
PADDOCKS AT
LANSDOWN

Herschel Museum of Astronomy

MEET THE HERSCHELS

The Herschel Museum of Astronomy looks forward to opening its doors as soon as possible.

Museum visitors will enjoy new interpretation that reveals more about the life of the Herschel family while they lived at 19 New King Street.

We have two new digital guides to help visitors explore the museum and its collections. For adult visitors, a new audio guide provides insights into each room, the life and work of the Herschels and their significant contributions to both science and music.

For children, we have a new audio-visual guide. Meet Caroline Herschel as she takes you around the house, recalling memories and revealing how she has contributed to science and continues to influence us today.

These guides are accessible via visitor mobile phones, or available on i-pads at the museum.



All equipment is regularly cleaned in line with COVID-19 safe practices. We ask visitors to bring their own headphones.

Also **new in 2021**, the gallery presents information all about astronomy, the Herschel contribution to what we know about the sky and how to have a go at star gazing yourself. Find out more about the planet Uranus, discovered by William Herschel in 1781, and learn how to spot it in the night sky.

EVENTS



In 2021 we continue our programme of solar and star gazing, launching in time for the Summer Solstice on Monday 21 June.

There is something for everyone. Introductions to the sky are great sessions for those who are new to astronomy and keen to have a go, with help and guidance from our expert astronomers. We also make the most of special astronomical events such as meteor showers, moon and planet sightings as well as celebrating Herschel birthdays and of course, Hallowe'en!

All of our events are carried out in line with COVID-19 guidance with limited numbers and regular cleaning of equipment as well as social distancing between visitors and our team of staff and astronomers.

Visit our website for the regular programme of events. We work in partnership with Bath Astronomers and the Herschel Society and are very grateful for their on going help and support.

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF THE ROYAL ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY

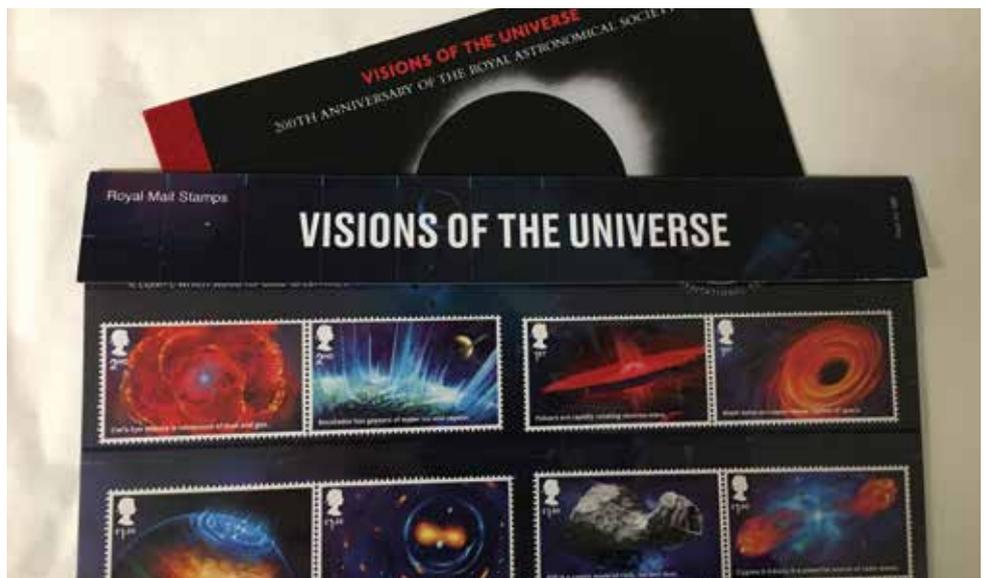
A LITTLE LATE BUT STILL GREAT!

One of the first impacts of covid in the museum last year was the closure of the exhibition created to celebrate the 200th Anniversary of the founding of the Royal Astronomical Society.

The exhibition opened on 1 February and was full of wonderful John Herschel drawings of nebulae. Herschel was one of the founders of the society, and his father William was its first president. However, even with the museum doors closed we still managed to mark the anniversary by adding to the museum collection through a gift, the 'Visions of the Universe' set of commemorative stamps issued by Royal Mail in honour of the anniversary.

The stamps were created by artist Robert Ball in collaboration with the Royal Astronomical Society and feature illustrations of eight phenomena discovered or investigated by UK astronomers and geophysicists since the RAS was founded in 1820. The set includes images of the Cat's Eye Nebula; Geysers on Saturn's moon Enceladus; Pulsars; Black Holes; Jupiter's Auroras; gravitational lensing; Comet 67P; and the Cygnus A Galaxy.

VISIONS OF THE UNIVERSE STAMPS NOW
IN THE HERSCHEL MUSEUM COLLECTION.



The stamps will join the set we were given a few years ago commemorating Halley's comet on display in the museum this year. For any astronomy fans or philatelists the stamps,

presentation packs and special edition prestige stamp book are all still available through the Royal Mail website.

Museum of Bath Architecture

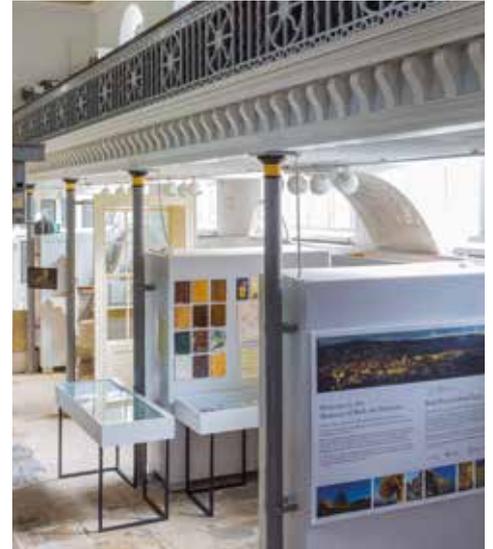
FIT FOR THE FUTURE

The pandemic has provided BPT with an opportunity to consider its role within our local community and reflect on how we serve those who live, work and visit the City of Bath.

The funding we have received means we can invest in some work with experts to create a new and exciting vision for the organisation. The Museum of Bath Architecture is housed within the Countess of Huntington's Chapel, a building that will become the home of BPT and fundamental to our future.

We are entering a very exciting time and look forward to working with a new CEO to determine how we might transform the Chapel and re-present the collections to create a new accessible community space for learning, discussion, activity and inspiration.

If you would like to contribute your thoughts and ideas about the future of this building, collection and a new approach for BPT, please get in touch with us. We would love to hear from you.



This year visitors can book exclusive tours to the museum for groups up to six people, or two households. You can enjoy the museum collections and stories or book a guided tour.

The museum is also available to hire. If you are looking for somewhere different to hold your public event, family celebration or host a community group, please get in touch. The museum provides a large, central open space surrounded by collections that tell the story of Bath's Architecture – a unique setting in which to entertain and interest your guests and groups.

We are working hard on improvements to the museum with new heating, insulation, masonry work and other repairs to create a welcoming, warm and functioning space for everyone to enjoy.

Get in touch to find out more about visiting or hiring the museum.

Archives



BATH IN LOCKDOWN

People are being asked to submit photos that document their experiences of how the three periods of lockdown affected the streets and landscape in and around Bath. BPT is inviting local residents to submit their images of the City, taken during one of the most extraordinary times in its 2,000-year history.

Whether they are of empty pavements, pictures of rainbows in front windows, signs reminding people to wash their hands or maintain social distancing, car-free roads or

socially distanced gatherings in public spaces, we'd love to receive photos that reflect the way in which our World Heritage City's appearance changed during the past year. These images will form an important historical record of lockdown life in the City, creating an accessible archive that will help to show future generations what the City was like in this historic time.

From smart phone snaps to shots taken with a professional camera, individual images or an

entire collection, if you would like to contribute to the project – with or without copyright – please send your photographs to jrobinson@bptrust.org.uk

Selected images will be shared across BPT's social media platforms with credit, and may also form part of future exhibitions. Images will be stored in the BPT archive, which is accessible to the public by appointment.



REMOTE CONTROL

The archive at BPT attracts a range of researchers, from students and architects to people wanting to find out about the original features in their home. Sadly we have not been able to welcome research visits to the archive for a year. We want to provide as much access to the archive as we can while the physical doors are closed, so we have set up a remote researching service for those enquiries that just cannot wait.

The archive catalogue is available to search online through the BPT website and copies of specific records can be requested. We will even check if the record contains the information you are after before making copies. The small fee for this service will help fund the archive. Further information about the archive and remote researching can be found at <http://www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk/archives-library/archive/>

We look forward to welcoming researchers back into the archive when restrictions allow.



World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund

CONSERVATION THROUGH COVID



WALCOT STEPS

In Spring 2020 the first two phases of work on this attractive historic passageway, which had been sadly neglected over the years, were completed; the dilapidated stone and ironwork at the Paragon entrance to the Steps, and the street signs on Bladud's Buildings, were conserved and restored. The third planned phase has now also been carried out, in partnership with the Council lighting team. The inadequate and inappropriate lighting on the steps has been replaced by new heritage-style lanterns on two wrought iron brackets, one original and one a skilful replica. LED lights provide improved, environmentally friendly, illumination.



CAVENDISH ROAD OVERTHROWS

Residents of the Grade I terrace on Cavendish Road designed by John Pinch in 1810 have banded together to reinstate five of the graceful ironwork lamp overthrows, currently missing, and to install working lanterns in all of the overthrows. The WHSEF has funded a Group application for Listed Building Consent which will cover all the proposed installations and so enable the project to go ahead. The costs of the overthrows of about £6,800 and of the lanterns of £1,000, will be borne by the householders, a commendable example of the conservation and enhancement of Bath's World Heritage Site by its residents.

THE OBELISK IN QUEEN SQUARE

Queen Square was the first of John Wood's great architectural set-pieces for Bath, begun in 1728. The Grade II* Listed Obelisk, the centrepiece of the Square, designed by John Wood on behalf of Beau Nash, was set up in 1738 in honour of Frederick Prince of Wales. The stone at the north-east corner of the base of the Obelisk was decaying badly, and some sections had broken away entirely. The necessary repairs were carried out in the autumn of 2020, organised and funded by a partnership between the WHSEF and the Council Parks department.



STREET SIGNS

The Fund's conservation programme for Bath's historic street signs was recognised in 2019 by an Architectural Award from The Georgian Group. The programme steadily continues, and in 2020 two painted signs, at Cavendish Place and Ainslie's Belvedere, and four incised signs at South Parade, Great Stanhope Street, St. James's Parade and Green Park 'West' were preserved. The word 'West' was almost lost; now carefully restored, it continues to commemorate the existence of the original twin terraces of Green Park West and East, the latter lost in Bath's Blitz. This brings the number of signs completed to 60.

For further information, or to suggest a project, please contact Fund Administrator Ainslie Ensom at whsef@bptrust.org.uk

BATH HERITAGE WEDDINGS



Rebecca Faith Photography

BPT is now licensed to hold wedding ceremonies at Beckford's Tower and No.1 Royal Crescent. Our historic buildings offer an array of unique spaces for hire, including a range of sumptuous museum rooms filled with Georgian art and objects.

From micro-weddings and vow renewals in the intimate Belvedere at the top of the Tower, to ceremonies with up to 40 guests in the No.1 courtyard with the iconic Royal Crescent as your backdrop, BPT can provide a memorable location for your small wedding.

For pricing, availability, or any other enquiries please contact Courtney Fleming, BPT Wedding Co-ordinator on: weddings@bptrust.org.uk
Instagram @bptweddings



Tim Beale Photography



TREASURING THE PAST, EMBRACING THE FUTURE

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