



BATH PRESERVATION TRUST

NO. 1 ROYAL CRESCENT - THE WHOLE STORY

FEBRUARY / MARCH 2012

SHEET 1 OF 2

Progress of works in 1a

Ken Biggs Contractors have been on site for nearly three months and are making good progress with the shell works, which form the basis of the shape of the new museum. To date they have been removing inserted walls, excavating for underpinning works and shoring up the basement in preparation for the work needed to install the lift, which will make the museum much more accessible to a wide range of visitors.

One of the most exciting recent developments is the reinstatement of the Venetian windows into the south and east walls of the south ground floor room, which will be the future Introduction Room. This will help to restore some of the original character of 1a, and make it more in keeping with the surrounding buildings. Some of the stonemasons' work is being captured on camera as part of our filming project, which will record key changes and works to both No. 1 and 1a.



March 2012:
stonemasons
at work to
reinstate the
Venetian
window in the
south wall of
the future
Introduction
Room.

No. 1 Capital Works

Progress is also being made with the package of works for No. 1 and we have now begun the process of selecting the Contractor. We hope that this will give us greater certainty over programme and costs, as well as enabling the Contractor to have a significant input into the development of detailed design for the building.

Interpretation

Design of interpretation is progressing well. Designs for the shop have been signed off and Exhibition Designer David McCabe is working up detailed designs for the rest of the spaces in 1a. We are now looking at the rooms and spaces in No. 1, finalising the future location of our current collections and developing designs for appropriate 'historic' lighting in the dressed rooms

Fundraising

There is a lot of activity on the fundraising front, with approaches to a number of individuals and grant-making organisations underway.

We are very grateful to everyone who has supported the Project so far, but we still have £830,000 left to raise. If you'd like to find out more and how you can get involved, please contact Claire Owen, Head of Fundraising cown@bptrust.org.uk.

Website and Branding Refresh

It's been a behind-the-scenes few months on the website and rebranding project. Ice House Design has been designing the navigation of the refreshed BPT website and the new No. 1 website, to ensure visitors get to the right information in less than three clicks.

Ice House has also been developing an events calendar, to allow people to book events, print tickets and pay, while their details automatically feed into our databases. So there's not much to visualise yet, but there should be more to show you in our next update!

If you have any questions then please contact Janey Abbott, Communications Officer jabbott@bptrust.org.uk.

Acquisitions!

The beginning of 2012 has seen the acquisitions process for the *Whole Story Project* get very much underway, with objects being acquired for several of our new rooms. For example, our proposed second bedchamber, 'Mr Sandford's Bedroom' is now partially furnished, following a generous donation from Barnsley Arts and Museum Service of a Hepplewhite-style wardrobe (c.1790) and two Hepplewhite chairs (c.1780).

The fully interactive Gentleman's Retreat can also now boast its first acquisition, a late 18th-century pocket refracting telescope from well-known maker Jesse Ramsden of London, purchased from a recent Bonhams sale in Oxford. This item will form part of the display allowing visitors to experience the 'Enlightenment' and to share an 18th-century gentleman's interest in science and discovery.





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Activities Update

Polly Andrews, BPT's Education Officer, has been very busy this year running some great workshops for schools and for No. 1 visitors during February half-term:

- ◆ The Link School visited No.1's kitchen in January to find out more about 18th-century cooking. The students also took part in 2 workshops at their school, learning about the ritual of afternoon tea through object handling, and baking and eating their own seed cake using an 18th-century recipe.
- ◆ Twerton Infants School brought 50 students to the Building of Bath Collection to explore maps and mapping, in collaboration with the organisation 5x5x5=creativity. They continued on their learning journey in March when they visited No.1 with an artist specialising in storytelling.
- ◆ St Andrew's Primary School students have been acting as heritage consultants for the future museum, sharing their ideas for provisions for different groups, such as tourists and families. Students will also be taking over as Guides at No. 1 to tell their peers about the house!
- ◆ Younger visitors to No. 1 during half term had the opportunity to make their own Georgian bonnets and silhouettes.

Some of our young visitors with their creations!



Tom Boden, BPT's Head of Education, is working with City of Bath College's stonemasonry students on their project to design stone benches for the re-developed area at No. 1. Lisa White, former BPT Trustee and Art Historian, gave a talk to 40 students about garden furniture with a focus on stone benches, and the students then made a site visit to the museum.

Tom is also helping 4 Bath Spa University History and Heritage students to develop a portable exhibition about the *Whole Story Project*, aimed at local residents and families. The exhibition will be launched on 1st June outside the Building of Bath Collection, to coincide with Bath International Music Festival's 'Party in the City'.

Collections Access Project

On a grey but dry Monday in January, the delivery of 100 acid-free archive boxes coincided with work starting on building temporary shelving in the temporary Archive Room. After two weeks of frenetic activity, 100 boxes of archives have been re-boxed and nearly 150 boxes are sitting neatly on the new shelves.

Now there is more space, a team of six volunteers are regularly helping our Archivist, Jo Johnston, with re-packaging and cataloguing the photographic collection, the Trust's minute books and the location files of the Architecture and Planning Committee. With the help of the volunteers, work is continuing steadily but there is plenty still to be done to make the archive collection more accessible!

Progress is also being made on the design of the new Archive Room. The Archivist met with an archive shelving specialist in early March to discuss specific requirements and potential layouts.

Guide Mentors

During the museum's winter closed period, No. 1 Curator Victoria Barwell, Project Curator Louisa Hall, and our Guide Mentors held a series of 'object days' for small groups of No. 1 Guides, to share their research about their favourite objects in each room, and as an opportunity for Guides to handle museum objects. Objects presented ranged from the portrait of Mary Delany in the Drawing Room to the small silver nutmeg grater in the Dining Room. The sessions received very positive feedback, and we hope to run more in the coming months to provide an opportunity for all Guides to attend.



Guide Mentors Audrey Woods and Richard Edgar in action.

Please send any questions, suggestions or corrections to Anna Shelley, Project Assistant (ashelley@bptrust.org.uk)

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