

Heritage Plans Take Shape

Peter White and the team have been making significant progress on developing a Heritage plan for the Royal Crescent. After many discussions with B&NES, heritage, planning bodies and others including our MP Don Foster, they now have formulated a plan which sets out a compelling and cost effective way of achieving a more uniform look and feel to our famous façade. The Committee believe that we have now reached a significant milestone which enables us to share our thinking and vision and also introduce the plan to the community. We have arranged an open meeting on 2nd December to both share our plan and hopefully gain the community engagement and consensus that will enable the plan to progress for the benefit of all.

Over the last few years the RCS together with the Crescent Lawn Company (CLC) have improved; the Ha-ha, Lawn, railings, pavement and lamp posts, but we now need to do more and propose that:

- CLC will continue to manage **Communal assets** by completing the railings project and manage ongoing maintenance of Lawn, railings and ha-ha, including repairing damage from recent heavy rain.
- The RCS will work closely with B&NES on **Public assets** such as; restoring the railings either end of the Crescent, relaying cobblestones, repairing the pavement adjacent to houses and to improving the parking and waste disposal arrangements.
- The RCS will facilitate addressing **Private assets** and the challenge of cleaning, repairing and restoring the visual integrity of John Wood's design.

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Chairman's Notes



As I write this, it is raining – yet again! And as I look back over the last 6 months I have to ask “what has been different?” Over 200 residents and friends of the Crescent thoroughly enjoyed themselves at the Midsummer “Rain” Ball back in June and a number of us gathered again for the annual “No12” BBQ in August. We

can only hope for much better weather next year as Sue Purdin and the events team are organising a series of events that I am sure will appeal to us all. Meanwhile, our next event, the “King’s Dinner” on 6 January already looks to be a sell-out.

Peter White has driven the Heritage agenda forward on a number of fronts and we will soon be in a position to publish our plans. One particular item has attracted incredible support from all heritage bodies and if we can pull it off will result in a significant improvement to the Royal Crescent. **Find out more at the open meetings on Sunday 2nd December.**

We have continued to develop relationships with our community and local schools. The Olympic torch came past our front doors in May, our local schools held their “schoolympics” and then recreated the world heritage symbol on the Lawn in June, and a platoon of Georgian soldiers marched and fired their guns as part of the Jane Austen festival in September.

Read more to find out more – and what is planned for next year.

www.royalcrescentbath.co.uk (Click to Link)

- [General information](#); tourists guides, Bath calendar and events, links to other sites
- [Gallery](#); [plates going back to 1750s](#), [photographs going back to 1850s](#), [filmography](#), [bibliography](#)
- [History](#); [the Crescent](#), [the Lawn](#), [the people](#), [Bath](#), [War](#)
- [News and Events](#)

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Heritage Plans take Shape (Cont.)

Our proposed process is aimed at creating a plan that improves and thereafter maintains major elements of our shared environment, creates a common specification for repair, restoration, selective cleaning and décor of the façade, obtains a single Listed Building Consent (LBC) for the RCS on behalf of all, works within individual houses' needs, budgets and timing issues and saves us all money and time.

Tremendous progress has been made and we have:

- Received pre-application advice from B&NES
- Prepared a contract with architects Harrison Brookes
- Secured Funds CLC, RCS and World Heritage Fund to obtain LBC for RCS
- Assessed quotations from national and local specialist contractors qualified to undertake work on heritage buildings
- Determined that substantial savings in time and money would result from acting together under the RCS umbrella

We estimate that the approach through a single LBC would save each house c.£5,000 and avoid the current planning delay of up to six months. To facilitate this significant cost reduction we have had detailed contractor discussions and by adopting, a community approach under a common LBC and by appointing nominated contractors we could achieve a 50% cost saving for each house.

Once community consensus is achieved it is planned to proceed with the LBC to enable work to start in Spring 2013. This will be on those houses that want or need undertake work as soon as possible. The other houses can then schedule their works in line with other activity and in doing so, know that they will **benefit from the cost savings on offer.**

The RCS is also planning to also share the proposals with management agents which may help communications and also ensure that they are fully conversant with the details of our plans.

The overall plan activity for the private, public and communal assets will help the Crescent truly reflect its iconic World Heritage status.

Please feel free to contact Peter White or other committee members listed on the back page.



The Christmas Tree is coming once again to the Lawn to brighten up those dark nights and bring festive cheer to Bath

Number 1 Just Got Grander

The progress at Number One is now clearly visible for all to enjoy and although the Museum has been closed to facilitate the internal work, it truly promises to be not only bigger and grander when it returns to service next year, but will be an even greater magnet for visitors and friends of the Crescent.

The closing event was attended by

many associated with the BPT, civic dignitaries and, on behalf of the RCS, by a number of committee members.

The relocation of the shop and kitchen makes space to accommodate a new educational and community area. These, together with a new layout, entrance and visitor flow are some of the many features all aimed at enhancing the visitor experience.

The reopening is planned in two phases next year.

2012 Was An Eventful Year!

Forget the rain and look back at a summer of sizzling events that saw the Olympic torch cross over our famous cobblestones in glorious sunshine, the school children from St Andrews enjoy their own special Olympics, the Midsummer Ball on the Lawn, the summer BBQ at number 12, the vintage show after the Ball and the Jane Austen Society laid on a splendid enactment of Napoleonic military.

Sue Purdin has certainly taken the bull by the horns and if 2012 is anything to go by 2013 will be yet another eventful year!

Seeing hundreds of children enjoying playing on the Lawn was certainly a sight to remember and reinforces all the hard work the CLC has taken to get the Lawn back to its former glory and a stage to be proud of.

The Midsummer Night Ball was a great excuse to don that black tie and ball gown and not only was it a sell-out, but also a hot ticket wanted across Bath. The insightful use made of the marquee the next day to host a Vintage Fair event attracted both young and old (or should that be vintage)!

It was strange to find the Crescent full of men dressed in British uniforms from the Napoleonic War, the street full of Jane Austen Society followers all dressed in their Georgian attire and guns being fired on the Lawn. It was certainly colourful and we have three great videos of the event on the new Royal Crescent Facebook new site along with many photos from all the events.



Facebook Community

We have created a Facebook community 'Royal Crescent' that is a private group. Any resident and friend of the crescent can join by befriending 'Royal Crescent'.

The Facebook RCS group enables you to upload your own photos, videos and start new or add comments to entries. It is designed for more informal social communication and complements the official RCS website www.royalcrescentbath.co.uk

An instruction handbook on how to use, navigate and enjoy our Facebook pages is available on request from editorsroyalcrescent@gmail.com.



Events: Coming To A Crescent Near You

The Special Olympics GB

In August 2013 the Olympics return to Bath in the form of the Special Olympics GB. Over 1,700 athletes and 500 voluntary coaches, supported by a further 500 volunteers and estimated 5,000 family members will be heading to Bath for the event which takes place every four years. The Special Olympics supports sports training and competition opportunities for people with intellectual (learning) disabilities.

The 12 sports events are; Athletics, Artistic Gymnastics, Football, Boccia, Badminton, Short-mat Bowls, Golf, Rhythmic Gymnastics, Table Tennis, Ten-Pin Bowling, Tennis and Swimming. Many of these events will be hosted at the sports village at The University of Bath, which was used as a base for a number of countries competing at London 2012 Olympics.

The Lawn and the environment of the Royal Crescent is to be used as the grand centrepiece location for the opening ceremony and we not only welcome the athletes but are looking at a number of ways to help the



Special Olympics deliver a memorable opening ceremony and games.

Karen Wallin, Special Olympics GB's CEO, said; "This is a very significant sporting event and will require a large amount of assistance and energy from the local population to ensure the most successful and memorable event possible for our athletes, their families and the City."

The RCS Committee:

Officers:

Chairman: Colin Clarkson-Short

Vice Chairman : Paul Dowling

Secretary : Martin Prole

Treasurer : Stephen Little

Heritage: Peter White

Bath City Liaison: Stephen Little

Events: Sue Purdin

Communications: Martyn Daniels

Committee Members:

Rosemary Moore

Annie Daniels

Tim Forester

John Foster

Caroline Kay (BPT)

Sharon Love (Royal Crescent Hotel)

RCS Festive Dinner

Sue Purdin has organised our traditional annual Royal Crescent black tie festive dinner at the Hotel on January 6th 2013. Although one day later than Twelfth Night we are calling it "Kings' Night Festive Dinner" to celebrate the Day of Kings or Twelfth Night and crowns and tiaras are expected to be donned in the Hotel's Montague room.

Dinner will be served at 7.30pm prompt and the Hotel will have bar staff in the small room adjacent to the Montague Room for informal drinks from 7pm. Seating on the night will be informal.

The menu is now available and the Hotel has generously agreed to maintain last year's price, £35 for the meal and £26 for house wines. The hotel will also allow you to bring your own wine with no corkage fee.

So don't wait as tickets are going fast and good company and a good night is assured.

Please contact Sue at 29 for more details, menus and of course tickets.

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