

The Superhighway Arrives in the Crescent

High speed broadband access is now regarded by authorities as a utility service alongside water, gas and electricity, so it was a surprise to discover that the upgrade of the BT service box on Gravel Walk, which feeds both Brock Street and Royal Crescent, was outside the BT High speed broadband rollout programme. This City centre and iconic location was deemed uneconomic.

Our special thanks must go to ex Crescent resident Chris Gilbert, who through his extensive contacts and experience and on behalf of the community was able to negotiate with BT. In partnership with Brock Street residents, the Society committed to the upgrade. The RCS asked for and received contributions from all houses and the businesses in the Crescent and we are pleased to say that most have now made their contributions. The total costs secured by Chris were significantly less than previously quoted. Those houses still wishing to make their contribution and help share the cost of this community project please contact Stephen Little at number 22 for details

The work is now completed and a new green service box has been installed with high speed capacity to supply all households. Individual notices will be sent to everyone and you will need to sign up with your service provider to take advantage of the new speeds. Already residents have signed up and are now looking forward to enjoying the new high speed service.

No more twiddling your thumbs watching that circle loop whilst waiting for that screen to refresh. High speed connection is now available to all and should also add value to property. So in the words of Toy Story's Buzz Lightyear and BT's own high speed service, we are now going 'to Infinity and Beyond!'

A White Wedding

In 973AD, Edgar was crowned King of the English on the site of Bath Abbey which marked the joining of the Wessex and Mercian kingdoms. 1000 plus years later marked the occasion of Christopher and Laura White's wedding in Bath Abbey this June, which felt just as regal a bonding.

Christopher is one of the sons of Peter and Olga White from 23 (see right). He had proposed to the beautiful Canadian Laura in no more regal a venue than Buckingham Palace gardens at the Queen's Coronation celebrations.

Family and guests from all over the world attended the wedding and returned to the Crescent and a marquee on the Lawn to celebrate the occasion and party into the evening.



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Chairman's Notes



We have sadly lost our past President and community activist Mike Daw. He was a stalwart of the community and we hope that our special newsletter devoted to him reflected the man and friend many of us have sadly lost. Also it is sad to have lost two other Crescent characters; Lois Myers who lived at 27/28 for many years and Charles Ware

who was a flamboyant property developer and car restorer. Both were characters it's hard to replace.

Our Councillor of some twenty years Andy Furse is now joined by Chris Pearce who many on the Crescent know from when he lived at number 27/28. They may belong to different political parties, but it is fair to say that we now have the strongest representation that we have had for a long time with two men committed to many of the improvements we would like to see happen.

Our community and heritage projects continue albeit slowly and the incidents of falling masonry have clearly demonstrated what we knew from the initial report, that inspections are needed and repairs may be required. It is now possible to see a time when the façade is returned to its former glory and many thanks must go to Peter White for his hard work in making this happen.

The progress with the setts is dependent on Highways and Heritage. It would be a shame if we have to return the foundations of the road to what was not designed for today's traffic. It reminds us of the days when tourist buses were allowed to come up and down the Crescent every twenty minutes. However we now need to repair the damage to the road surface and ensure the Crescent continues to retain its unique character and heritage.

Welcome Our New Councillor



Chris Pearce was elected as a Conservative Councillor representing the Crescent within the Kingsmead Ward in the local elections in May.

Although he has spent most of his life in Johannesburg

and London and wasn't born or brought up in Bath, Chris's parents met in Bath at the bandstand in Parade Gardens. They were married four years later and Chris came along soon after. So Chris believes that makes him a Bathonian.

Chris and his wife Dominique have lived in Bath a number of years, moving first to 27 Royal Crescent, before their current home in Brock Street. Chris is very familiar with many of the local issues, challenges and friends with Crescent folk.

He initially signed up to help Ben Howlett and the Conservatives regain Bath's parliamentary seat at the general election. Noting his enthusiasm and Commitment, Chris was soon asked if he would like stand to become a councillor. He didn't take on a safe seat, but choose instead to stand for Kingsmead where he felt he could achieve most for the community.

Chris may be new to the job but he is already getting to grips with being a councillor and helping residents get the best out of the Council. He says "It's about making lots of small steps that make a difference."

Together with Andy Furse, we now have probably the strongest representation at local level than we have had for many years.

Dr. Lois Myers

Lois Myers lived for over 20 years with her friend Sheila McCullough OBE at 27/28 Royal Crescent. Lois was a distinguished oncologist and conservationist in her native Canada. Together, they travelled the world, journeying to the Antarctic with artists and naturalists Peter Scott and Keith Shackleton in the 1970s and far flung places such as Easter Island, Madagascar, and the Galapagos Islands. She had a formidable collection of natural history books and fine art and was always generous offering champagne to visitors!

Progress update on...

The work being done under the Heritage Project and Localism Act continues.

Repairs and Cleaning of the Façade: It should be noted that masonry has now fallen off the Hotel's frontage and another house. The size of the pieces of stonework which fell down was not insignificant. Fortunately did not cause any injury or damage. The state of the masonry especially around the volutes is visibly showing signs of age. It is nearly 250 after all!

The current state of the masonry and obvious liabilities has helped the project take a major step forward with numbers 27, 28 and 29 now agreeing to jointly clean and repair their frontages in early 2016.

Road Setts: The Society is now engaged in detailed discussion with the Highways department and Heritage to undertake the repair of the road outside number one. The challenge is finding a sensible compromise between retuning the road to that originally built for carts and horses in the late 18th century and laying an under layer of concrete suitable for a sustainable road surface in the 21st century. Some may suggest it is a debate between the economic, sensible and sustainable and the historically correct.

We are extremely grateful for the support of our local councillors and the Highways department in the efforts to resolve this issue.

Parking: We continue detailed discussions with the Parking department to seek an agreeable short and longer term parking solution on Royal Crescent.

Filming: The Society continues to seek to create a partnership programme with the Film Office which will continue to encourage commercial filming on the Crescent whilst ensuring that they donate towards the upkeep of the iconic backdrop film companies wish to be associated with. We must thank Councillor Andy Furse who has taken special interest in this and on our behalf has continued to fight our corner. We are requesting a rate card be applied to all commercial shoots and that the rates charged reflect the scale of filming and inconvenience incurred, such as parking . Our Chairman Colin has continued to collect donations from many film production companies but often the notice given and accepted by the Film Office is too short to even contact the companies. It is hoped that a partnership agreement will cover not just donations and notice but also ensure the community has some say in the licence process.

Racing Over The Setts

Why cyclists want to race over the setts on the Crescent is a mystery. It can't be good for the bikes, let alone the cyclists, but they continue to want to do it!

After last year's Tour of France, Bath was host in June to the grand final of the Pearl Izumi Tour Series, a unique team-based closed circuit cycling series that visited ten UK towns and cities. Teams formed by English cricketer Matt Prior and Tour De France winner Sir Bradley Wiggins raced wheel-to-wheel through the city.



Thanks to our councillors we were able to secure alternative parking arrangements for residents. The Crescent may have been free of cars but was full of crowd barriers, bikes and men and women in lycra.

The HaHa is always in demand

Whether it is for a wedding reception, a school sports day, a backdrop for a cycle race and balloon take off or just for residents to sit and relax and soak up the ambiance, the Lawn continues to be enjoyed by many and is a perfect complement to the Crescent.

As in previous years, we have continued to welcome the local children, teachers and parents of St Andrew's School who not only used the facilities for their annual Sports Day but this year gathered with others to glimpse at the historic solar eclipse.

This year the long grass strip has once again deterred trespass from the park and has been helped by the Parks Department now not cutting the grass in the ditch. With the glorious weather the grass has swayed and seeded to create a natural and environmental wall and it will be interesting to see what it uncovers when it is cut!



Summer BBQ

This year the brollies weren't needed to keep off the rain but to shade Crescent folk from the sun! Yes, the sun shone and a glorious day was had again at the annual Summer Barbeque generously hosted once again by Tim and Roz at number 12. Thanks to Sue Purdin and the team for organizing what was a most enjoyable social gathering.



Facebook

The Crescent has its own Facebook Group which is a closed group so it is only visible to its members. We share photos, events and can keep everyone informed all of filming and other events.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/royalcrescentbath/>



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