

The Community Heritage Plans Move Forward

With the transformation of No.1 Royal Crescent, it is important that the Society maintain the momentum of its Heritage programme in order that everyone can soon enjoy a consistent vista across the Crescent.

The Partnership approach towards creating this uniform vista has now taken a giant step forward.

Planning permission has been granted to the Society that covers the whole of the Royal Crescent façade. This means that individual houses can now clean and repair their frontage against a single planning consent and at preferential rates from the Society's approved Contractor Partners. A consistent appearance will be achieved over time as all future works on all houses will now have to conform to the approved cleaning process and painting materials. The approved heritage paint will not only provide uniformity, but is also less prone to weathering. We realise that this programme will take a number of years and houses need to schedule it in with their other works, and this is reflected in the fifteen year consent which the Society has been granted.

Twelve houses, including the Royal Crescent Hotel, have already fully signed up to the partnership with the Society on restoring the front of the Crescent. A number of other houses which have already been partially or fully cleaned have also expressed their full support. We would now like to achieve the full support of all the remaining houses such that we all can share the preferential rates negotiated and benefit from the standard process and materials within the contracts.

Details of the permission granted and the process and materials licenced can be obtained from Peter White at 23, or via email at heritageroyalcrescent@gmail.com, or also via Managing Agents, such as West of England, who have been fully supportive and can provide details of the Agreement and Consent.

No 3 commences work this month with other houses following suit next year.

We are confident that this is one more step along the path of restoring the Crescent to its full glory and supporting community within it, allowing visitors and future generations to appreciate fully the true glory of Bath's Royal Crescent.

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Up, up and away!

A fabulous view of the Special Olympics concert and also the Crescent and HaHa.

Chairman's Notes



Much has happened since our March Newsletter.

There appears to have been a constant stream of social events and we all appreciate the hard work of those who made them happen, especially Sue Purdin. These culminated in another successful Midsummer Ball on the lawn.

Although the HaHa is privately owned, we respect, with its iconic backdrop, that it remains a premier venue in Bath. We feel it is our mandate to continue to outreach to the community and share the lawn for selected special events.

The Special Olympics opened on the lawn and Victoria Park with thousands enjoying an evening with the athletes and stars. It was a pleasure to see the joy and excitement on the athletes' faces as they paraded into the arena and joined in the fun. Susan Boyle not only headlined the show but also attended the Games themselves to give encouragement and hand out medals.

Finally, we have to thank Peter White and his team for their tireless efforts in moving the Heritage agenda forward and in achieving the significant milestone with respect to the planning consent for the Crescent façade. Together with the successful refurbishment and reopening of No1 we are now moving forward to ensure that Royal Crescent continues to be a top tourist attraction and somewhere we are all proud to live.

Special Olympics



Teams of some 1,700 athletes from all over the country were welcomed into Bath for the Special Olympics. The athletes, all with an intellectual disability, were given the opportunity to take part in quality sports training and competition to improve their lives. They competed over three days in some 12 disciplines at the University of Bath, Bath Golf Club, Hengrove Swimming Pool in Bristol, and Bowlplex Bristol.

The Games started with an opening ceremony and concert on the HaHa and Royal Victoria Park which featured actor and Special Olympics ambassador Colin Salmon and Bath Olympic star Jason Gardener, a special video message from Prime Minister David Cameron and Chairman of the Special Olympics Tim Shriver. The star of the concert was not Danny Boyle, but Susan Boyle who sang the inspirational Les Miserables song 'I Dreamed A Dream'. The concert also featured jazz star Clare Teal.

Teams of athletes from all over the country were welcomed at the ceremony with cheers and applause from family, friends and supporters.



Bill Wallis

We were all saddened on the passing of actor, broadcaster and ex Royal Crescent resident Bill Wallis. Bill and his artist wife Karen lived for some ten years at 28A Royal Crescent and were interviewed in the Auberon Waugh BBC documentary on life in Crescent.

[Click to read the obituary of Bill Wallis in the Guardian.](#)

No 1 Re-opens with Fizz and Theatre

After some 18 months of painstaking restoration, No 1 together with 1A fully reopened this summer. The sun shone and the event was a huge success and a fitting celebration of the city's premier address and tourist attraction.

Queen of Cakes and broadcaster Mary Berry officially cut the ribbon to reopen the museum. Joining her at the celebrations were entertainer Rory Bremner, civic dignitaries, Bath MP Don Foster, Tom Wills-Sandford and his daughter Caroline Sandford-Anderson, who are direct descendants of the original resident of No 1, Bath philanthropist Andrew Brownsword, who generously bought and paid for the restoration of No.1A, and Simon Timms, Chair of the Heritage Lottery Fund South West which provided a grant of £1.4 million towards the £5 million project. Guest of honour was The Hon Elizabeth Cayzer, niece of Bernard Cayzer who acquired No.1 and gave it to the Trust in 1968. Finally the children of St Andrews Primary School, who enjoy a special education partnership with the museum, lined the railings dressed as servants and gentry.

The celebrations then moved onto the lawn and under a marquee where the supporters and people who made it all happen joined in celebrating this huge achievement. [Click here](#) to watch a video on the restoration of 1A. [Click here](#) to read about some of the major problems the project had to overcome.



Lillian May (Mickie) Kersley

We were saddened to hear that 'Mickie', the widow of Dr. George D. Kersley had passed away in May. Mickie brought much joy to many on the Crescent and was always involved in social events and often was the life and soul of the party. She lived for many years at No 20 and served on the Society Committee between 1980–85 and also 1995–2004. Mickie will be remembered for her interest in the community, her cat, her approachable manner and her generous G&Ts.

The BBC, Children, Opera and a Promenade on the Lawn

Whether it's the children from St Andrews competing for glory in their annual sports day, members of the Jane Austen Society promenading along the Crescent and BBC Breakfast Programme waking us up with a live broadcast in front of the Crescent, or the sight of pop twins Jedwood 'high fiving' to camera on the HaHa, the Special Olympics concert, the Crescent and the lawn have enjoyed a very busy summer.

We also had a very hectic weekend with the Reopening of No1. There was a special reception on the lawn on the Friday night to thank their friends and donors. This was followed on the Saturday night by the Society's Midsummer Ball with another full house of residents and guests enjoying an evening on the lawn. Lastly on the Sunday, Bath Opera who were sponsored by Widcombe Association used the marquee to perform a modern adaptation of Mozart's "Don Giovanni" set in the heady days of the early noughties.



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

David Beeton (BPT)

Sharon Love (Royal Crescent Hotel)

What's Beneath the Lawn?

The area below the Royal Crescent and Ha-ha was part of an archaeological investigation in 2002 for a Time Team television programme on Channel 4.

The team confirmed the route of and excavated a known Roman road that ran down across the lawn, and also excavated nearby burial sites. They also revealed and excavated a late Bronze Age ditch.

[Click here](#) to read how the project by Bath & Camerton Archaeological Society extended the geophysics of the earlier work, and demonstrated that the Late Bronze Age ditch extended to an enclosure. The project also investigated a large ditch-like formation running from NE towards the SW across the lawn and other features, including an area with pit-like chambers below the ground.

To contact the Editor with photos, ideas, articles and corrections: editorsroyalcrescent@gmail.com

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