

THE ROYAL CRESCENT SOCIETY  
**NEWSLETTER**

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*Issue No. 43*

*Winter 2000*

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## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

I regret that this edition of the Newsletter is not up to the standard which we have become used to under the editorship of Caroline Carrier, who has now left the Crescent and is therefore no longer available to undertake the task of producing further editions. The Committee decided that two issues a year would suffice, so as an interim measure the Treasurer and I have agreed to step into the breach. We hope that a new editor will soon emerge, and that we can revert to a fuller edition and perhaps to three issues a year; if you have any contribution to make to future editions, please let us have them in due course. Meanwhile our thanks go to Caroline for her past sterling efforts.

The main focus of activity for the Society is now the project to restore the Railings and Ha-ha, and you will all have received (and responded to?) copies of our leaflet appealing for funds and support. Other matters of concern are B&NES' policy for events in Royal Victoria Park, and arrangements for residents' parking.

## TREASURER'S NOTES

Membership of the Society at present stands at 94 members with the funds from subscriptions being higher than last year. This is, of course, due to the fact that many of you took up the life time membership, which has helped to boost the funds.

In the Spring *Newsletter* I wrote about the need for the Society to raise the necessary 25% of the needed funds for the restoration of the Railings and Ha-ha. The total sum required for this project will be approximately £100,000. The project has already been kindly supported by Bath & North East Somerset Council through their successful Heritage Lottery bid for the Restoration of Royal Victoria Park. The Society will be expected to contribute around £27,000.

As you will already be aware from a recent leaflet and letter, fund-raising has already begun with contributions from residents and social events. (Please try to support future events, such as the Festive Dinner.) The Society was fortunate in that Bath Preservation Trust agreed to distribute around 1200 leaflets to its members in a recent mailshot. This has brought in a considerable flurry of cheques. The BPT is also helping the Society out by

accepting charity cheques (as we are not a charity we cannot accept them) on our behalf and then forwarding the funds. At present the Fund stands at over £12,000. It is now necessary to secure another £15,000, which can be done over the period of restoration, which may take three to four years.

I have also launched an appeal to Bath and the wider public for their support for this heritage landmark through Press Releases, letters to local and national companies and the distribution of the leaflet not only to residents but to other interested organisations such the Building of Bath. As a result you may have seen the Chairman on the television or heard him on the radio. This should raise a positive awareness of the fund and many people has already been supportive, but there is a long way to go yet.

The time involved with all of this has been time consuming for both Stephen and me and as a consequence things have not gone as quickly as we would have liked. We have managed to design and print the leaflet at home thus saving huge costs, and also allowing us to up-date it as the appeal progresses. Jennie Hardisty has been wonderful in her support and hours of work, especially in putting together the planning application for the ha-ha. The Society is indebted to her for all her efforts and should warmly thank her.

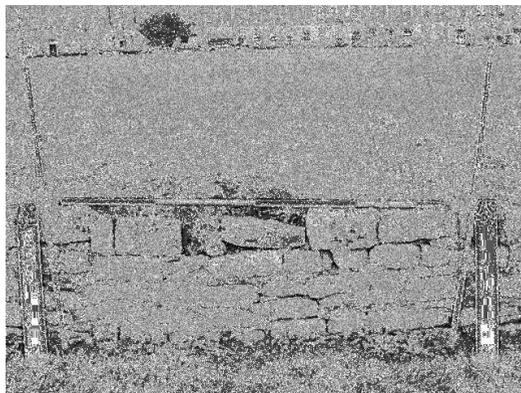
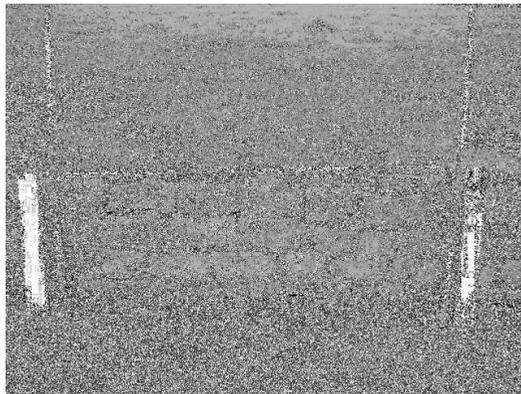
As you may recall at the last AGM I stood down from the Committee due to lack of available time to dedicate to the needs of the post of Treasurer. Unfortunately no one else has come forward to take my place, and so I have remained the phantom Treasurer this year. During this year I have managed with Stephen's help to keep on top of things, but at the next AGM the Society will need to find another Treasurer. While I am still happy to carry on helping with the fund raising I cannot commit time next year to Treasurer's duties.

## **RAILINGS AND HA-HA RESTORATION**

Those of you who have had occasion to apply for listed building consent will be aware of the amount of paperwork involved in such an application. Our thanks are due to former chairman Mike Daw and Jenny Hardisty who have handled this aspect of the restoration project. We are confident that consent will be granted, as English Heritage are sympathetic to our aims, but it is a long-winded process, and I fear that Jenny will be kept busy with more and more forms before we finally receive the official go-ahead.

Separate applications were required for the ha-ha and the railings, and one requirement for the ha-ha was a series of photographs showing each individual stone in the wall. The Society possesses some detailed drawings of the ha-ha from around 1991 specifying the work required, but these were not considered adequate, so one morning in October Jenny and I borrowed some surveyor's ranging rods from Bath Archeology and set out to make a photographic record of the ha-ha in its present state. We thought the job would take half the morning but it turned out to take most of the day, during which a few curious passers-by wondered what we were doing, but were regrettably not moved to contribute to the appeal fund! 75 photographs were needed to complete the task, in addition to a few general shots of the railings to add to those we already had showing the state of the stone bases. Two of the ha-ha photographs are reproduced here to illustrate the need for action.

STEPHEN LITTLE



# THE PARKERS OF BATH

Some recent changes and proposals for changes to parking regulations in our immediate neighbourhood are set to make this part of Bath a very different place for car-users. As part of the Bath Parking Strategy, the changes include Marlborough Buildings, and the proposals deal with the future of parking in the Royal Victoria Park.

## *Residents Parking*

The Royal Crescent remains within the Central Parking Zone and the scratch card system is still in place. However, on 1st November Marlborough Buildings became part of Parking Zone 7, which includes St.James's Square, Park Street and Portland Place. This means that, from Monday to Saturday 8am - 6pm, only residents of that zone may park there. Outside these hours it is open to anyone, including residents of the Royal Crescent, as previously.

## *The Royal Victoria Park Five Year Parking Plan*

We are privileged to live next to this important park, and it is a shame that the large carriage drive is used as a car park by roughly five hundred cars each working day. Residents may have read about the proposals which were publicised in September 2000. Since 1992 local government has been planning the restoration of the Park, and in May 1999 the Heritage Lottery Fund made it clear that any grant would be tied to the goal of banning parking within this site of National Historic Importance. The Council responded that it would need to conduct a city-wide parking survey. It appears that the grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund of £1,860,000 is now conditional on 'a significant reduction in the number of cars in the park to have been achieved within five years'.

Numerous car commuters will be forced out of Parking Zone 7 into the Royal Victoria Park, and in turn from there to the residential areas to the west of the Park, if and when the Park restoration goes ahead. Once the restoration begins, the Council will reconsider introducing parking controls or residents' parking to the west of the Park. Residents there did not want such schemes during the consultation exercise, but this could well change.

There is no doubt that our environment would be greatly improved by the removal of cars parked along Royal Avenue, round the Victoria Column, and elsewhere in the Park. In addition, gates missing since the 1940's would be replaced, and educational and interpretation facilities provided. I

recommend the booklet 'Historic Public Parks - Bath' by R.Gilding, first published 1997 by Avon Gardens Trust, ISBN 0 9531013 0 4, £5.95. This has a good description of how the different parts of the Park developed and tells the story of the remarkable objects and structures which it is easy to take for granted.

STEPHEN CONLIN

## **A MAJESTIC PAINT JOB**

About three years ago our lamp-posts were delightfully embellished by the gold-coloured highlighting of some of their decorative cast-iron flourishes. Sadly, just one coat (of a well-known DIY paint, it is rumoured) was no match for the ravages of time and the gold colour soon faded to a silvery tone.

Now the new electricity company has, with B&NES Council, treated the flourishes with what is hoped will be a more durable 'gold'. Certainly the technique's pedigree speaks well; it is used in other prestigious locations such as the Houses of Parliament, the British Museum and Mentmore Towers, and the manufacturers have been in successful business since 1927. The paint is described as "the finest you can buy" and is appropriately priced. It is estimated that the paint alone cost nearly £100 and the required two coats of the manufacturer's protective lacquer could bring the materials bill to about £150.

The contractor carrying out the work was Peter Hamblin, under contract to Southern Electric. We were reluctant to enquire about his labour costs, since it has been such a skilled and carefully executed piece of work. It delicately enhances the Crescent and will also glow nicely in the many souvenir photographs our visitors take of the Crescent with the posts in the foreground.

Residents were amused to learn that the particular shade of gold selected is called "Sovereign" – so suitably royal!

MICHAEL DAW

# ROYAL CRESCENT HOTEL

A time for reflection and celebration was the order of the day on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> September for many past and present visitors to one of Bath's most famous hotels, The Royal Crescent Hotel, as it celebrated its "coming of age". Laurence Beere, General Manager commented "Both past guests, business colleagues and our many regular local guests were invited for what was a splendid and memorable occasion." "We toasted 21 years of the Royal Crescent Hotel with champagne and friends and wished success and good fortune to the property for the next 21 years, as being one of the important historical features of the Bath community"

Looking back at the history of the site of the hotel, we see the property has had an interesting and varied past. As early as 21 May 1767, The Bath Chronicle noted: "No. 1, the first house, was built for Thomas Brock and forms the eastern end of the Crescent". However it was eight years before the Crescent was completed with some of the grandest houses in Bath becoming occupied either all year round or merely for the season. The author Baroness D'Orczy's fictional character Sir Percy Blakeney - "The Scarlet Pimpernel" - married and lived at no. 16, following his exploits in Revolutionary France. In 1797 Frederick Augustus, Duke of York, second son of George III and grandson of Frederick, Prince of Wales, rented the house for the very large sum of £5,000. A pre-cursor to the celebrities and dignitaries who visit the hotel today, there is evidence of these past flamboyant residents throughout the hotel, in the form of splendid suites bearing the names of past residents, including the award-winning restaurant – Pimpernel's.

From 1950, no. 16 changed ownership several times until in late 1978 the property, which now also included no. 15, was bought with the intention of developing the site into a luxury hotel, restoring it to its original splendour, including all decorative and plasterwork features. The result of this was a unique hotel, decorated in period style with all the appropriate furniture and eighteenth century paintings and prints – yet all with bathrooms ensuite! Acclaim was quick to follow and in 1980 The Royal Crescent Hotel received the Egon Ronay Hotel of the Year Gold Plate Award – one of the highest accolades of the time. During the 1980's the hotel was developed further and changed ownership on several occasions. In 1997 a further major refurbishment was instigated and this included the renovation of a coach house into The Bath House, an incredible and unique spa creating an oasis of tranquillity in the bustling city of Bath.

The prestigious awards received over the years, including AA Hotel of the Year, have attracted regular interest from both television and film.

In 1979 the exciting developments were based around providing bathrooms ensuite and a return to the atmosphere of Georgian splendour. There is now an unquestionable classical air to this most elegant of properties, with its six unique buildings surrounding the tranquil and gracious gardens. The installation of air-conditioning and state-of-the-art meeting rooms would seem to confirm that the Royal Crescent Hotel is moving from strength to strength and has entered the 21st century with a fresh approach - providing the elegance of a bygone era, without compromising on the comforts of today.

MELANIE HEATH

## **TO ‘THE’ OR NOT TO ‘THE’? THAT IS THE QUESTION**

Tourists talk about it. Residents with pretensions anguish about it. Residents with fuller lives don’t even think about it. The Royal Mail doesn’t mind about it. Iconoclasts titter about it. The Hotel lays claim to it.

What is it that causes so many varied reactions? It is the burning – well, smouldering - question of whether our address should be “The Royal Crescent” or just “Royal Crescent”. Esoteric one may think, even pedantic (perish the thought), but an issue brought into less fuzzy focus by a new development on the other side of Bath.

To a design by the local David Brian Partnership, three houses in a curve, just off Bathwick Hill and illustrated below, are being marketed as “Combe Royal Crescent”, with a very large and distinctive capital “R” to the word Royal in the agent’s (Crisp Cowley) advertising.

So, might confusion arise? Taxi drivers, visitors seeking directions, even some local people may need to be informed specifically about the two Royal Crescents which now exist and invited to define which one is actually being sought. Our street signs, cast in bronze, incised in stone and emblazoned on bus banning notices, all say simply “Royal Crescent” , so no help there.

Only the Hotel has it right (if somewhat presumptively). Their switchboard operators answer calls with a cheery “The Royal Crescent” usually without mentioning the word “Hotel”.

But what is historically correct? When built, as the first urban terrace in such a shape, the Bath Chronicle of 21<sup>st</sup> May 1767 announced “Tuesday last, the foundation stone was laid of the first house of the intended new building .... called the Crescent”. And in a contract between John Wood the Younger and builder Michael Hemmings, conveying the ground for the building of no. 7, the land is referred to as “the Royal Crescent”.

Also in general life the prefixing of any name with “the” has come to confer some mark of distinction, separating the thing so prefixed from others with the same name. So, despite our centuries-old urban and architectural pre-eminence, perhaps the arrival in the same city of a similarly named, albeit smaller, building does call for us to confirm and proclaim our status whenever we give our address, as the one, the only, the original: “The Royal Crescent”!

MICHAEL DAW



## SUMMER OUTING

At a little after 6.00 o'clock on a perfect July evening, the *John Rennie* ('Bath's most luxurious floating gin palace') slipped her moorings at Sydney Wharf in Bathwick Hill and set off for uncharted territory.

The distinguished gathering had received their briefing from the skipper – to the effect that if anyone fell overboard we were not to worry as they were more likely to float than drown – and in no time the only risk to life and limb was getting in the way of those filling up at the ship's bar (I could name a name or two but of course I won't).

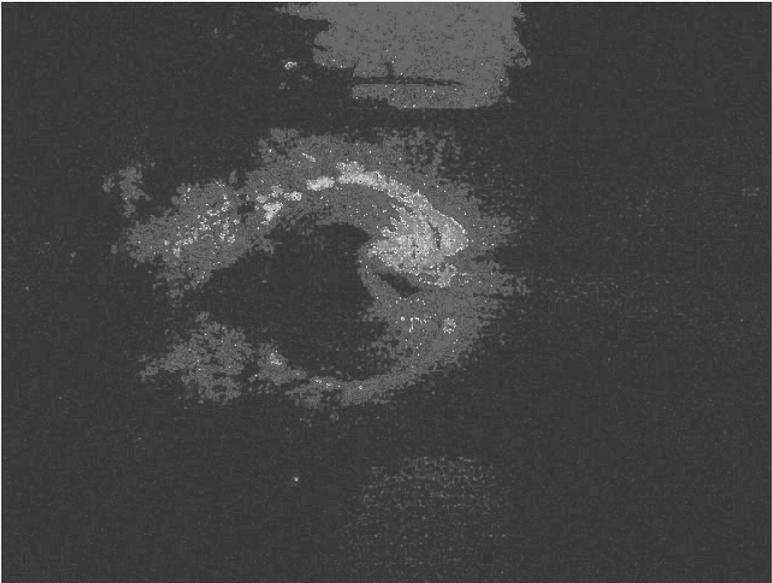
The noise of laughter and happy conversation sent the wildlife scuttling but after a while envious glances started to be cast at other people's hampers. Appetites vastly increased as we looked at joggers and cyclists tiring themselves out on the towpath. Suddenly, almost as if a gong had sounded, the entire assembly headed for the dining tables and set to. Nevertheless good manners prevailed and many a tasty morsel from one person's hamper was politely exchanged for another.

All the while the boat meandered slowly on down the Kennet and Avon canal – at least I think that is where it went. Some say we reached Bathampton, others Claverton Pumping Station before we turned around. And, do you know what was odd? The return journey seemed quite different. Almost as if we were going another way altogether. But I suppose we couldn't have been, could we? There must have been some rational explanation although I cannot imagine what it was.

And then in the gloaming there we were, back where we started, and the spell was broken.

Members and their guests were all agreed, I think, that this year's summer outing was every bit as successful as in previous years. And we didn't lose a single person!

BILL OSWALD



# STONE CLEANING

The following article is based on technical advice available from the Council's Built Heritage Group, with some added comments relevant to the Royal Crescent.

Pollution from vehicles, especially diesel exhaust, is now a major source of soiling on buildings. Limestone is degraded by deposits of sulphuric and other acids which react with the stone to form brown crusts, prone to splitting, blistering and detaching, as seen on the capitals of numbers 23 - 29 Royal Crescent.

The business of large scale cleaning started in the 1950's. Various methods have been used, but some have been damaging to the stone in the long term. This type of work is now informally recognised as a craft trade.

Cleaning for aesthetic reasons alone may not always be justified. The cleaning of one building in a terrace of similar houses can disrupt the visual unity of the whole. Planning consent is required to clean a listed building, with the process normally taking eight weeks. The planning authority is advised to satisfy itself that cleaning is both necessary and justifiable. The applicant must demonstrate that there is an absolute minimal risk of damage to historic masonry and that the appearance and character of the building will not be adversely affected. Cleaning costs are no longer grant-aided.

The 'old soiling' of Bath, visible on the west side of Catherine Place, was clearly caused by the burning of coal and its traces can be removed quite easily. By contrast, diesel produces a 'sticky soiling', no longer treatable through simple washing. Diesel pollution becomes in effect part of the stone surface, so that even when the visible soiling has been removed, caustic agents remain. Regular, good quality cleaning can slow down their activity.

There are three principal methods of cleaning summarised below.

## *Washing*

The most common method used in Bath is water washing. There are various forms of water delivery, depending on the stone surface and its condition. This relatively cheap method is fast when used on light to medium soiling, and the risk to the stone is minimal.

Drawbacks: there is the risk of oversaturation and damage to buried timber and iron fixings; modern soiling may not be fully treatable.

### *Mechanical*

This usually involves dry-blasting, the delivery of an abrasive in a stream of compressed air, or wet-blasting, the above with the addition of water. This is a versatile and relatively fast method which may be used to remove greasy films and paint. Other mechanical methods are needed for dealing with heavy crusts and must be used carefully. Certain details of the Royal Crescent would probably benefit from this treatment.

Drawback: this methods needs sensitivity as it can easily remove the character of historic stonework and cause general damage.

### *Chemical*

An example of this approach is an acid pre-wash and an alkali after-wash, applied as liquids, gels or poultices of paper pulp and clay. It is quiet, moderately fast and involves no abrasion.

Drawbacks: this method may cause staining; damaging salt residues may remain on the stone.

### *Other treatments*

Biocides are used to remove plant and other growths on stonework, and may be needed after chemical cleaning if algae appear. Paint removal is advisable where stone has been painted to mask old soiling, for example in basement areas. For listed buildings this needs to be assessed, removed and the stone surface restored. Paint removal is usually effected using a gel or poultice application. The painting of the external masonry of a hitherto unpainted listed building requires building consent.

### *After cleaning*

Once a limestone property in an urban setting has been cleaned, it should have regular surface washing every six to eight years. It may be possible to do this from a mobile access platform, thereby avoiding the expense of scaffolding. This maintains a clean appearance and removes loose and sticky soil which would otherwise build up.

STEPHEN CONLIN

# BATH, AT LAST

Having grown up in a small city in Ireland, much of which had the good fortune to be rebuilt in the eighteenth century, I have always felt happiest when my eyes rest upon Georgian architecture and planning. Following several years as a student in Dublin and most recently living in Bloomsbury, it seems as if I have been making my way to Bath since my earliest years.

It surprises me how vulnerable these places were until just a short time ago, and how easily they could have been lost. When I was in Dublin, its Georgian terraces were still at the mercy of developers and planners, who seemed determined to sweep away all vestiges of what had been a flourishing period of the city's history. Anglo-Irish literature was always highly valued, but the same could not be said of the remarkable architecture of the eighteenth century. In recent years protection and preservation have become real issues, now that Dubliners can make money out of their visual riches. Bloomsbury suffered a 'second blitz' in the 1960's and -70's, as the University of London demolished late Georgian terraces to provide space for Sir Denys Lasdun's monumental buildings. His vision of an almost entirely rebuilt campus was never carried to completion, but great damage was done.

And so to Bath. When first I visited the city, Adam Fergusson's book 'The Sack of Bath' was only three years in print. Many of the schemes attacked by Fergusson are now planned to be demolished, although some particularly unattractive structures have yet to be lined up for this long overdue treatment. What a pity so many small Georgian houses were lost in what would now be conservation areas had they survived, for example Ballance Street.

Architects have materials at their disposal which are more versatile than those in the 1970's, so that a facade made almost entirely of glass and metal can be an exciting foil for older buildings. It was the 'blockishness' or 'slabness' of many structures, for example the Bath Hilton Hotel, which made the architecture of the 60's and 70's difficult to digest.

I look forward to the new spa building and hope that it will be an asset for Bath, on several fronts. It may have something about it of the Centre Pompidou's initial power to shock, but Bathonians will no doubt give the finished building a fair review. I for one intend to enjoy all aspects of Bath for many years to come.

STEPHEN CONLIN

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS IN THE PARK**

- Sat 11 Nov 12 noon - 4pm City of Bath Athletic Club Annual Road Races  
Sat 18 Nov 2 - 4pm British Orienteering Federation Event

Provisional list of events scheduled for the Park in 2001 so far:-

- |                      |                |  |
|----------------------|----------------|--|
| Sat 7 Feb            | Royal Avenue   | Bath Univ Rag procession                                   |
| Wed 4 – Sat 21 April | Middle Common  | Fair (arrives 1 <sup>st</sup> , leaves 23 <sup>rd</sup> )  |
| Sat 5 - Mon 7 May    | Middle Common  | Flower Show  |
| Wed 17 – Mon 21 May  | Middle Common  | Fair (arrives 16 <sup>th</sup> , leaves 21 <sup>st</sup> ) |
| Fri 18 May           |                | Bath Festival Opening Night                                |
| Sat 19 May           | Bandstand Lawn | Children Dancing In The Park                               |
| Mon 28 May           | Bandstand Lawn | Bath Fringe & Children's<br>Festival arrive                |
| Wed 30 - Thur 31 May |                | Children's Festival  |
| Wed 30 – Sun 3 June  | (evenings)     | Bath Fringe Marquee  |
| Sat 2-Sun 3 June     | Royal Avenue   | MSA Classic Car Rally                                      |
| Sat 9 or Sat 16 June | Middle Common  | British Cycling Fed. Races                                 |
| Sat 14 – Sun 15      | Middle Common  | Motor Show   |
| Sun 9 Sept           | Royal Avenue   | Greenwoods Classic Car<br>Rally                            |

## **ROYAL VICTORIA PARK EVENTS POLICY**

For many years the Marlborough Lane & Buildings Association has been concerned about the proliferation of events in Royal Victoria Park, which comprises not only the area either side of Royal Avenue below the Crescent ha-ha, but also the larger part between Marlborough Lane and Park Lane. In June 1999 the Fringe Festival generated so many complaints that a problem which had been simmering for some time was brought to the boil.

As a result, B&NES Council is now developing its policy for Park events with some regard to the views of residents, instead of apparently being guided

solely by the lure of income generation. The problem with the Fringe Festival was two-fold. It was not a single event but a week-long series of concerts which lasted all evening. Secondly, the bass element of much of the music was such that it reverberated throughout the surrounding area, and the appropriate instrument to measure the noise was not a decibel meter but a seismometer. The license which governs such events stipulates a maximum decibel level, but it is not technical enough to recognize that that bass levels of relatively low decibel ratings can be far more intrusive. However Council officials did recognize that this is a defect which needs correction.

The process of formulating an acceptable policy which balances the legitimate interests of nearby residents and the equally legitimate desire of residents from further afield to enjoy events in the Park is somewhat long-winded, as experience has led us to expect. Meetings continue to be held at which local residents, event organisers and Council officials have aired their views. A questionnaire was sent to all areas surrounding the Park and produced a wide range of views. Legal advice was sought on the effect of the RVP bye-laws, which forbid inter alia the playing of amplified music which gives 'reasonable cause for annoyance'. The word reasonable is of course open to wide interpretation, and will no doubt keep lawyers gainfully employed for months.

In July the Bath Chronicle published an editorial which described Crescent residents as killjoys. I responded with a letter which said that we welcomed a reasonable (that word again!) number of events appropriate for a park in a residential area of a World Heritage Site, and that we sought only the same protection from noisy neighbours that any householder has. Most reasonable people would not object to the occasional party next door, but could not be blamed for complaining if the party lasted for a week!

Meanwhile the Community, Culture & Leisure Committee of B&NES met at Keynsham on July 10<sup>th</sup>, when representatives of the Circus Area and Marlborough Associations emphasised that they did not seek to ban all events. The Committee seemed to accept that residents had a valid complaint about recent use of the Park, and resolved:-

- (a) to monitor the continuing use of the Park for events broadly similar to the current programme
- (b) that major events should be considered individually by the Committee
- (c) to investigate the effect of the bye-laws on organised events

- (d) that officers should explore means of reducing the impact of some events by limiting their numbers, reducing their duration or finding alternative venues
- (e) to strengthen communication with the Council and with residents and organisers
- (f) that meetings with residents etc. should take place annually.

Consequently the meeting arranged for 20<sup>th</sup> November, at which the Society will be represented, should shed more light on the effect of the by-laws, and enable us to comment on the programme for both this year and next year, the provisional list for which is reproduced on page 15.

STEPHEN LITTLE.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Garages in Church Street

Residents of Church Street were aghast at plans to build an extra two storeys on top of the garages being refurbished behind No 2 Royal Crescent. The Committee felt that while the garages need tidying up, we should support their objections, and we recently learnt that planning permission has indeed been refused.

### Glazing Bars

Back in April Bath Preservation Trust asked us to support an appeal by Mr Price who had been refused permission to restore glazing bars at No. 25. This we readily did, as we feel that they are more appropriate in the setting of the Crescent than the Victorian style single panes which replaced them. It seems extraordinary that until recently grants were available to encourage owners to restore glazing bars, and yet now permission is refused to someone who wishes to do this at their own expense! We are happy to report that the appeal was successful, and we learn from the BPT's Annual Report that they are still willing to consider giving financial support for this purpose.

### Festive Dinner

When you get your diary for 2001, the first date to enter is **Sunday January 7<sup>th</sup>**, when we shall again hold our Festive Dinner at the Royal Crescent Hotel. Further details will be circulated nearer the time

## **.Seagulls**

The number of seagulls in the Bath area seems to have declined as forecast, but there is clearly a hard core of permanent residents. During the summer, when there were calls for a cull, it emerged that some gulls now live as far inland as Birmingham. The gasometers are a popular perch for many types of birds, recently including two gannets, so it is a useful gauge of 'who's in town'. There is a flock of at least thirty seagulls still making regular appearances to eat bread set out on the Crescent Lawn.

## **Information Sought**

A recent letter in the Bath Chronicle asked which house in Royal Crescent was used for registering marriages in the mid 1940's. Anyone who knows the answer can reply to Denise Chantrey of 118 Wellsway, tel: 313270.

## **Lost and Found Cat**

The Chairman and Treasurer would like to thank those who kept an eye out for prodigal cat Fletcher. We are pleased to report that he reappeared about eight days after disappearing, apparently none the worse for his absence, but reluctant to give any clue about where he had been. Shades of Agatha Christie!

## **Advertisers**

Please support the advertisers in this or any other issue, not forgetting to mention the Newsletter when you do so. We are constantly looking for new advertisers to help defray the production costs, so if you or anyone you know have anything to publicize please let us know.

## **New Members**

We welcome Mr Stephen Conlin, Mr Giuseppe Pascuzzi and Miss Natasha Davies, all new residents of the Crescent.

*Published by The Royal Crescent Society Bath*

<i>Hon. President:</i>	<i>Sir John Barraclough, KCB, CBE, DFC, AFC, FRSA</i>
<i>Hon. Vice-Presidents</i>	<i>The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Stockton and Michael Daw</i>
<i>Chairman:</i>	<i>Stephen Little</i>
<i>Vice-Chairman:</i>	<i>Tim Forester</i>
<i>Treasurer:</i>	<i>Michelle Morgan</i>
<i>Secretary:</i>	<i>Ian Woodhouse</i>

# Forthcoming events at THE MUSEUM OF EAST ASIAN ART

## *Colour Consultancy Workshop*

**Thursday 23rd November 2000**

Join Sheila Broun, an artist and specialist in colour consultancy, to find out more about the importance of colour and its uses in the home and on your person. Sheila will use themes highlighted in the Museum's current exhibition *Colour : A Chinese Perspective*.

Please be aware that you will be asked for your date of birth when booking a place!

2.00pm - 4.00pm; Cost: £10.00

## *Beginners' Guide to Chinese Brush Painting Workshop*

**Thursday 7th December 2000**

Swee Tan's exhibition *The West Country through Eastern Eyes* will be on display at the Museum between 20th November 2000 and 7th January 2001. Join Swee at this afternoon workshop to learn more about the basic techniques of Chinese brush painting.

2.00pm - 4.30pm; Cost: £10.00

To book your place or find out further information about these events or the exhibitions, contact the Museum on 01225 464640 or call in at 12 Bennett Street, Bath.



**The Museum of East Asian Art  
12 Bennett Street, Bath BA1 2QL  
T: 01225 464640 F: 01225 461718  
[www.east-asian-art.co.uk](http://www.east-asian-art.co.uk)**



WINE BAR & BISTRO

11 Margaret's Buildings

TEL: 01225 421251

**STARTER**



**MAIN COURSE**



**DESSERTS**



**Tfieri!**

Mince Pies & Brandy Snaps with coffee or tea

**CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH/DINNER**

1st-24th December

**£19.95**  
[4 courses]



Tomato & Orange Soup  
Melon with Kirshi &  
Marachino Cherries  
Stilton, Sesame & Whisky Pate

Roast Turkey with  
Traditional Stuffing  
Sausage, Bacon rolls  
Cranberry sauce  
Roast Rib of Beef with  
Yorkshire pudding  
Horseradish sauce

Vegetarian Dish

All served with roast & new potatoes,  
glazed carrots & button brussel sprouts.

Christmas Pudding with  
Brandy sauce  
Sherry Trifle

Bookings in advance with deposit of £5.00 per person.