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THE RAILINGS ARE FINALLY BACK IN SITU!

I am sure that by now all of you will have seen that the restoration of the railings is all but completed. All that needs to be done now are the 3 single gates, and one set of double gates. These are being worked on as I write, and will be re-instated within the next few weeks. All the railings will then have a final coat of paint and the stolen trefoils atop many stanchions re-made and replaced. This will mark the end of Phase II of the 3-part Restoration Project (Phase I being the Ha-ha). All our attention will turn to Phase III; replacing the tarmac path at the foot of the railings with pennant stone.

Naturally a big celebration was needed to mark the attainment of the milestone in the Project, and a Railings Celebration Event was planned in the shape of a Hog Roast. To this end a team of residents helped Colin and Rachel Clarkson-Short and May Lindsay-Walker put on a grand celebration party. These included Tim and Roz Forester, Stuart Thomson and Natalie Forester, Sue Purdin, Barbara Walker, Mike Daw, Ian and Lesley Woodhouse, Stephen and Michelle Little, Bart Kuipers and Graham Moore.

Not only do we now have an illuminated Christmas Tree, but the unique sight of a large and glamorous marquee was erected on the Royal Crescent Lawn for the celebratory weekend. The event started at midday on Saturday 28th November by a most interesting demonstration of the work involved in restoring the railings carried out by Iron Age Forge (of Frome) using their mobile forge. The main event started at 7.00pm with a reception of a glass of wine and canapés and guests were invited to tour the 32 decorated tables. Once everyone had found their table, Colin Clarkson-Short made a brief speech of welcome to the 310 guests and thanked those who had made the event possible. After this the Bath Minuet Company gave a display of the most elegant Georgian dancing. Then the Hog Roast, baps, baked potatoes and accompaniments were served (each table made their own arrangements to provide a starter, vegetables to go with the Hog Roast, and a dessert). An ingenious raffle was held whereby each guest was provided with an envelope containing 5 strips of raffle tickets and asked to place £5 in the envelope, which was collected later and drawn out by Charlie Little and his band of young friends. A large number of generous and valuable prizes had been donated, as well as items which were entered in a silent auction. After the excitement of the raffle guests enjoyed an excellent firework display, and the evening rounded off with dancing until “carriages at midnight”.

This was a most successful and memorable evening and huge debt of thanks are due to Colin and team who not only ensured the smooth running of the whole evening, but who also cleared up after the event.

So many individuals and companies were involved to achieve this, and I would like to add my thanks to those of Colin on the night by mentioning the following (not in any particular order):-

- Andy Paradise and the Flying Pig Restoration Company – for laying in the electricity supply (andy@flyingpigbath.co.uk)
- Fred Swift – for the hog roast (chef@wiltshirepigroast.com)
- Robin Salkeld – the barman - who kept on working and helped us to clear up at the end (via Fred the Hog)
- Henry “the marquee” Parker - for creating such a grand marquee for us all – and helping to attend to matters on the night in his DJ! (info@thekismaticgroup.co.uk) or “Bath Marquee Hire”.

- Great Western Wine – who not only provided the prizes for the best dressed tables but also provided the bar on a sale or return bases (retail@greatwesternwine.co.uk)
- Gavin Lazarus & Co – who had you all up dancing and not wanting to stop (gavinlazarus55@googlemail.com)
- The Bath Minuet Company – for their splendid Georgian dancing entertainment (chairman@bathminuetcompany.co.uk)
- Iron Age Forge – for giving a grand display of traditional craft on the lawn during the day (enquiries@ironageforge.co.uk)
- And the many people from B&NES Parks and Open Spaces – who helped with our Christmas Tree, the electric power and many unseen matters that we needed to comply with to make the event a success.

And finally to all of you for turning up and making it such a great party atmosphere.

Do you want another one? If so what and when? At the same time or perhaps a different date?

Many of you have suggested a Summer Ball and / or a Halloween party next time. If so would you all come? And would those who missed out this time want to come along?

Our next planned event is “Shakespeare on the Lawn” on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th June where the Garden Players Company will be putting on a special charity production of “Much ado about Nothing” for our entertainment. Please let me know if you want to attend.

Jenny Hardisty
CLC Company Secretary