



THE ROYAL CRESCENT SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

www.royalcrescentbath.com

Vol. 2 Issue No.5

Summer 2010

Main Contents

Chairman's Notes.....	page 2
Dr Sandilands.....	page 3
Shakespeare On The Lawn.....	page 4
St Andrew's School Picnic.....	page 6
RCS Barbecue	page 7
TV Aerials.....	page 8

Chairman's Notes

The Sky Ride on July 25th was not universally welcomed, as it involved closing a 5-mile route in Bath, including the Royal Crescent, and clearing those streets of cars for much of the day to enable cyclists of all ages and experience levels to cover the route safely. Organisation of the event had been rushed because of the short notice the Council had of the event, and little thought had been given to alternative parking for the hundreds of displaced cars. Further, advance warning had not been distributed as efficiently as it should have been. If that or anything similar is to become an annual fixture like the Bath Half-Marathon, which fortunately has had little or no direct impact on the Crescent, the Society will insist on proper arrangements for alternative parking.

However there were positive aspects. We had a rare opportunity to see the Crescent as John Wood intended, without the encroachment of the motor car; the view of The Circus was similarly improved. Perhaps it will serve as an incentive to work towards the dream of an underground car park beneath the Lawn! It is estimated that around 6,000 took part on the day, and if the Sky Ride is at all successful in its aim of promoting cycling as an alternative to car use, that will help to reduce congestion and pollution in Bath. Even the most fervent anti-cyclist motorist must wish, when stuck in a traffic jam, that a dozen of the drivers in front of him had got on their bikes.

The gull problem in Bath continues to worsen, but efforts to persuade the Council to resume basement collections of refuse as a partial solution continue to fall on stony ground. The forthcoming waste food recycling due to start on October 4th after the distribution in September to all households of separate bins for all waste food should help to make the bags less appealing to gulls, but meanwhile we remain obliged to throw a party for them every Wednesday evening and Thursday morning.

It has been suggested that residents should combine to find a private contractor to lift rubbish up to street level shortly before the council collection is made. If you might be interested in participating in such a scheme, or have any ideas how it would best be implemented, please let one of the Society's Committee know; if there is sufficient interest, the Society will look at the practicalities.

The Society remains in need of an Editor and, as the reduction in size of this issue bears witness, contributions of copy of any form or type (within reason). The doubling up of Editor and almost sole author is not sustainable for the continuance of the Newsletter in its present form.

Stephen Little,

Chairman

Dr David Sandilands

As briefly reported in the last issue Dr David Sandilands, of Birmingham and 17 Royal Crescent, died in February.

Born in Birmingham in 1930 as the son of two doctors, he was evacuated during the war to family in Maybole, Ayrshire, while his father was serving in France and Africa. During this time he won a scholarship to Epsom College, from where he won another scholarship to Corpus Christie College, Cambridge to study medicine. After further study at St Thomas' Hospital in London, he qualified in 1953, and completed his National Service in the RAMC with the rank of Captain. He joined his father Ian in general practice in 1959, by which time he had married his first wife Anne. He became senior partner in the practice on the death of his father in 1969. During his time as a GP, he also worked at Sorento Maternity Hospital and as a police surgeon for West Midlands Constabulary. After retiring in 1991 he continued with consultancy work for West Midland Fire Service and the Birmingham Taxi Service.

His many interests outside medicine included music, gardening and sport. He sang in the Birmingham Cathedral Choir and, contrastingly, loved swing and jazz. Having played tennis, cricket and rugby at school, he played serious tennis at Cambridge, and also became Medical Officer to Warwickshire Co. Cricket Club in the 1970's.

He leaves a sister Diana, wife Madeline, who he married in 1978, son Jonathan, daughters Penny and Sue in the USA, and stepson Jonathan Sapey. They miss him sadly, as do his fellow occupants of no. 17.

SHAKESPEARE ON THE LAWN

The Garden Players' presentation of Much Ado About Nothing on June 11th and 12th was enjoyed by all who were lucky enough to attend any of the three performances. The huge task undertaken by Colin and Rachel Clarkson-Short of organising it all was justly rewarded by the raising of around £15,000, including Gift Aid, for Children With Leukaemia and Child Bereavement Charity. The charities have asked for their thanks to go to those who helped out, donated and attended – and our thanks go to Colin and Rachel.



The stage is set



The Play's the thing



Off stage



Summer Serenade

Our thanks go to Amanda Aston and Serenade Strings and Chris and Denise Rogers of Good Fridays who combined to produce an excellent summer serenade.

RUH Breast Care

The RUH Breast Care Unit enjoyed a special 10th birthday party lunch on the Sunday – a hog roast with all the trimmings under canvas and making good use of our facilities. The Sunday charity collection netted almost £500 for the MIN Hospital in Bath. £500 will be just enough to upgrade the teenage treatment room at the hospital.

St Andrew's School Picnic



Dear Residents

I am writing to thank you and the CLC for allowing the Friends of St Andrew's (charity no. 1052031) to hold an end of year picnic for families from St Andrew's Primary School (Northampton Street) on the Lawn in early July. It was a very successful event, and everyone was grateful to be able to access such a special setting.

As many of you may have witnessed we did struggle to construct the gazebo against the wind and rain. We were, however, very lucky for a glorious sunny evening for the actual event with just one quick shower. Around 70 or so people came and enjoyed the beautiful surroundings, and the children had great fun playing games in between eating their picnics. One resident said that the children looked like meerkats popping up out of the long grass. Other residents commented that it was fabulous to see the Lawn animated in such a way.

Again I would like to thank the CLC and the residents for supporting us with this opportunity.

Kind regards

Michelle Little
Parent Governor

Society August Barbecue

This year's Barbecue will be take place at no. 12, courtesy of the Forester family, a little later than previous years on Sunday September 5th. Please note this date – further details will be circulated shortly.

Traffic Wardens – you have been warned!

B&NES has recruited a new set of traffic wardens and they appear to be pretty active in the Crescent particularly on Saturday mornings at 08.00.

So be aware - they will put tickets on cars wrongly parked from 08.05 on any days.

A Celebration of Christmas - Bath Abbey

Crescent resident Ian Woodhouse is on the organising committee of a very special celebratory Christmas Concert to be held on Wednesday, 8th December, 2010 at Bath Abbey in aid of the National Osteoporosis Society.

They are pleased to have secured the only Christmas performance outside of London from the renowned Bath Male Choir. Guests will also delight in the Bath Chorus and the Prior Park Senior Chapel Choir. These glorious choirs will be joined by mezzo Pamela Helen Stephen in her only public performance of 2010.

Celebrity readers will include Patron Susan Hampshire OBE, with further special guests to be revealed on the night.

Tickets, priced from £8 - £35, will be available from September from Bath Festivals Box Office at www.bathfestivals.org.uk or on 01225-463362

Midnight Walk

Residents can expect to see a late night increase in female pedestrian traffic on September 11th, when the Crescent is on the route of a fundraising walk for women in aid of Dorothy House Hospice. For further information, or to take part, ring Bath 721480 or visit www.dorothyhouse.co.uk.

Television Aerials

In the 1980's the Society resolved to persuade residents to tidy up the proliferation of rooftopTV aerials and cables running down the fronts of houses in the Crescent. Early Newsletters contain many references to this campaign, which was largely successful. However recent years have seen a steady increase in visible aerials, some more conspicuous than others, though the front remains free of unsightly cables, and it was agreed at this year's AGM that the Society should again endeavour to clear the skyline of these incongruities.

If you are replacing or resiting aerials or satellite dishes with the advent of digital TV, FreeSat, etc., please consider siting them in the hidden middle part of the mansard roof, or if feasible in the attic space.

Joint Local Transport Plan

To help shape transport policy for the next decade or so, the four regional councils (B&NES, North Somerset, Bristol and South Glos) have issued a short questionnaire seeking residents' views.

If you wish to have your say, copies are available at the Guildhall, libraries and some local shops, or it can be completed online at www.transportmatters.org.

Subscriptions

If you have overlooked paying this year's subscription to the Society, please remedy this as soon as possible by cheque to the acting treasurer at no. 22. Rates have been unchanged for several years at £8 single or £12 for a double membership (two members in the same household), or you might like to consider Life Membership at £50 single or £75 double membership.

-
- *The Newsletter is published by the Royal Crescent Society, 22 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LT and is sent to all members. Communications proposed for inclusion in a future issue, or commenting on matters reported, are welcome and should be submitted to the Editor, Stephen Little, at 22 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LT (altcar@btinternet.com), or to the Secretary, Martin Prole, 2 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LR (theproles@btinternet.com).*