



THE ROYAL CRESCENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 Issue No.7

Spring 2012

**All residents are cordially invited by the Committee
of the Royal Crescent Society to attend the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT 6.30 PM ON SUNDAY 22nd APRIL 2012
by kind permission of
THE ROYAL CRESCENT HOTEL**

Main Contents

Chairman’s Notes	page 2
Bath Preservation Trust	page 3
Midsummer Ball	page 5
Waste collection	page 5
Barbecue	page 6
European Consumer Centre for Services	page 7
Television Aerials	page 8

Chairman’s Notes

The calling notice for the Society’s AGM accompanies this Newsletter, and it is hoped that there will again be a healthy attendance. Part of the function of the Society is to foster community spirit, and such get-togethers afford a chance not only to mingle with neighbours but also to discuss local matters and quiz our ward councillors about local issues.

The meeting also includes election of officers and Committee. I am hopeful that a volunteer to take over as chairman will at last emerge; I am willing to continue on the Committee as treasurer if required, but equally content to hand that function over to anyone who wishes to take this simple task on. An Editor for the Newsletter is also required.

I hope that a change of personnel will lead to a revival of interest in the Society, leading to more social functions and outings as in former years. Meanwhile your attention is drawn to the dates of the Midsummer Ball (June 23rd; priority booking for RC residents until March 31st) and the Summer Barbecue (August 21st), details of which are in later pages.

Arrangements for the hosting and management of the Society's website will be discussed at the AGM. Please ensure that we have your current email address if you wish to be kept informed of this and other news and developments between Newsletters.

Stephen Little

Chairman

Bath Preservation Trust News

The Whole Story project has begun! Residents will be aware that work on No 1A Royal Crescent has started, funded by the Brownsword Charitable Foundation, and already is it possible to glimpse the restoration of the venetian windows on the Upper Church Street façade which will do so much to improve the approach to the Royal Crescent.



The Trust has also been working hard on developing its own programme of works at No 1 which will take over when the 1A capital works are complete. Residents should be aware that No 1 will close to visitors in the early autumn this year and be closed well into spring next year, so this year constitutes your 'last chance to see' before the reconfigured attraction opens in 2013. Fridays are free for Discovery Card holders and of course every day is free for Bath Preservation Trust individual members. There is still a considerable funding gap on the

Trust's part of the project and we have a number of attractive funding packages for potential funders. Please contact Claire Owen at the Trust (cowen@bptrust.org.uk) if you would like to know more or can help in any way.

Events to the Royal Crescent include World Heritage Day, which will be celebrated again below the Crescent on Sunday 21 April, and we all await further information on the Torch relay event on 22 May. More details on all the Trust's events, talks, walks and tours are available on our website – or you can sign up for our regular email update by contacting Janey Abbott on jabbott@bptrust.org.uk.

On the campaigning side, the big date for your diary is Thursday 26 March, when the Council will launch its draft Supplementary Planning Document on Retrofitting, at the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel, which builds on the Trust's work on making historic buildings more energy efficient. The Trust's own work on this (Warmer Bath, still obtainable by download from our website), won an RTPI National Award earlier this month

We are always pleased to hear from Royal Crescent residents. Do be in touch about anything, from the 'Whole Story' project to pennant paving, on admin@bptrust.org.uk in the first instance.

Caroline Kay
Chief Executive

Bath Preservation Trust
Campaigning~Learning~Museums

Olympic Torch Relay

The Olympic Torch is due to come to the Royal Crescent between 3.30pm and 5pm on May 22nd en route for the Games in London. It is likely that the Crescent will be closed to traffic, with parking suspended until the Torch has passed on; further details will be available at www.bathnes.gov.uk/torch2012. There will also be an attempt in Royal Avenue on the same day to set a record for the number of humans to form the Olympic rings, for which 5000 volunteers are sought.

Black Tie Midsummer Ball

Join other residents and friends of the Royal Crescent

Saturday 23rd June 2012

7.00pm till midnight

Drinks and Canapé Reception

A three-course dinner

Tea, coffee and petit fours

Cash Bar

Live entertainment from Good Fridays

Good friends and great company

Under a Marquee on the Royal Crescent Lawn

Tickets are priced at £65 each or a table of 10 for £600

To order your tickets please send an email to

tickets@royalcrescentevents.com

Tickets are strictly limited to 220 so get your requests in early

Priority booking for residents and friends of the Royal Crescent until

31st March 2012

We all look forward to seeing you there

. Waste collection

Last October I met with Cllr David Dixon, Council cabinet member for Neighbourhoods, to discuss arrangements for waste collection in the Crescent. I again failed to elicit any consideration of resumption of collections from basements, but was pleased to hear that both wheely-bins and fortnightly collections had been rejected. We agreed that when routes are re-organised this year the current arrangements, i.e. waste collection shortly after 7am and recycling collection not long after that, should continue, though the possibility of waste collection between 8pm and midnight the previous evening is also being explored. Empty boxes and bags will be returned to doorways (behind the railings line) to keep the Crescent looking tidy, so please remove them as soon as practicable. Waxed drinks cartons etc. can now be recycled in your blue cardboard bags.

Society August Barbecue

This year's Summer Barbecue, once again kindly hosted, organised and cooked by Tim and Roz Forester at no. 12, is planned for 12 noon on Sunday August 12th. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.



A scene from the 2011 barbecue

This is the final day of the Olympics; during the hours of the Barbecue the following sports will be in progress:- Water Polo, Basketball, Handball, Wrestling, Volleyball, Boxing, Cycling, Rhythmic Gymnastics and the Marathon. The Closing Ceremony is not until the evening.

On Yer Bike!

This year's Sky Ride is planned for 10am to 3pm on June 3rd. Details of the 6 km route are not yet to hand, but the route will probably again include the Royal Crescent, Marlborough Lane, Upper Church Street and Julian Road. We shall be pressing for better alternative parking arrangements than last year. Although there may not be many residents wishing to take part, encouragement of cycling as an alternative to short car journeys should be welcomed if it leads to a reduction in congestion and pollution.

Pavement Restoration Project

Work on the completion of this last phase of the Ha-ha and Railings Restoration is now proceeding. We hope to persuade the Council to turn their attention to the remaining railings in the area, and the road surface, so that the whole area is brought up to a standard befitting its iconic status as one of the jewels in the crown of our World Heritage Site city.

European Consumer Centre for Services

Do you know your shopping rights? Do you know how you can get help if something goes wrong?

The European Consumer Centre for Services (ECCS) is a free advice service offered by the Trading Standards Institute. The ECCS can advise local residents on a wide range of shopping issues.

- Online shopping and delivery of goods
- Timeshare and Holiday Clubs
- Hotels and Holiday accommodation
- Car Rental
- Builders, Plumbers, Electricians
- Ticket services eg. Concerts
- Educational services eg. Language courses, driving tuition
- Estate and letting agents
- Lawyers and legal services
- Home removals and furniture storage
- Water and energy suppliers

With the ever increasing popularity of buying across the EU, from online shopping to purchases on your holidays, the ECCS can assist consumers in knowing their rights and how they are protected when paying for goods or services both in Europe and at home.

If you are looking to make a purchase and would like to be sure of how you are protected, want tips on what to look out for or want to know who can help if something goes wrong, then ECCS can advise.

The European Consumer Centre for Services- www.ukecc-services.net or 08456 08 94 94

Notes

European Consumer Centre for Services offers free advice to consumers. ECCS is delivered by the Trading Standards Institute and funded by the Department for Business Innovation and Skills.

Consumers can contact ECCS through 08456 089494 www.ukecc-services.net or email: eccs@tsi.org.uk

Phone lines open between 10am-3pm Monday- Friday (excluding bank holidays)

Television Aerials

The proposal for a common aerial to serve the entire Crescent was considered by the Committee. In view of the high cost, and the difficulties envisaged in reaching universal agreement by all freeholders both to contribute to that cost and to allow all the necessary cabling through their properties, it was decided not to proceed. The problem of unsightly aerials is not as great as when the Society tackled this issue many years ago, but it is hoped that any new aerials, or ones being resited, will be positioned out of view from the ground as far as possible.

Subscriptions

This year's subscription to the Society is now due 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).*