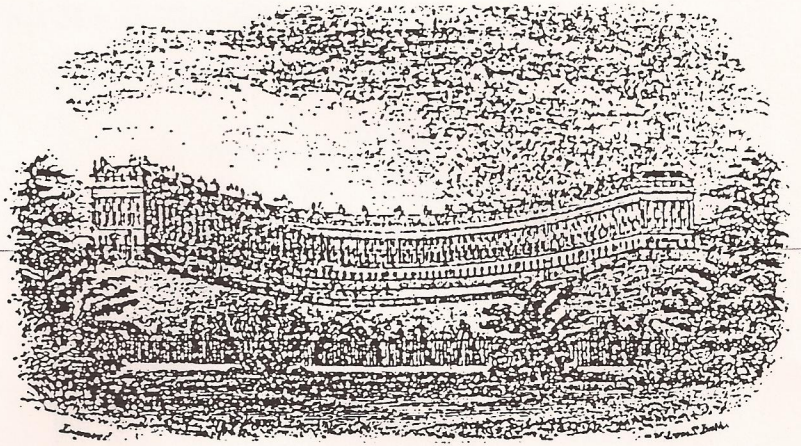


# The Royal Crescent Society Newsletter



Issue No. 4

Summer 1986

## COACHES - SUCCESS!

At its meeting on July 14, Bath City Council's Public Protection and Works Committee voted to support Avon County Council's intention to ban all coaches and buses from the Royal Crescent.

This represents a major success for your Traffic Committee, strengthened by your strong feelings expressed at the last 2 AGMs. The Campaign, conducted by the Committee over the last 7 months has been ably led by its indefatigable Chairman, Captain Francis Burne. Many public figures and national organisations with an interest in our historic environment have, with his encouragement, lent their support. Two questions have been asked in the House of Lords; our MP the Rt Hon Christopher Patten and Bath City and Avon County officials have participated very helpfully in lengthy discussions and now we have the prospect of action.

The intention is that the ban shall be in place by Easter 1987 - after the various technical and implementation details have been resolved. The Bath City Tour buses will continue, but is it hoped to reduce their physical size. Roman City also have a short term existing contract. Your Traffic Committee will continue to involve itself in these matters and report in future Newsletters. The Society's aim is that the ban shall be made permanent after the initial 12 month trial planned by the 2 Councils.

### Reaction

Already the decision has brought reactions from other groups who feel it will adversely affect them. Your Traffic Committee is carefully monitoring these activities and will take whatever action is necessary to maintain the Society's lead position.

## 1985 GARDEN COMPETITION

The Garden Competition this year was won by No. 3, Mr John Thornton. In kindly judging and presenting the prize Mr Hitt, Bath City Council Parks Superintendent, praised the efforts of all who so carefully nurture their Basement Gardens. They made a major contribution to the floral delights of the City.

### City-Wide Success

As well as presenting the Society's prize, Mr Hitt awarded a silver cup to Mr Thornton for the most attractive garden in the whole city. This is a great achievement for Mr. Thornton and the Crescent.



From Friday August 8th until August 15 BBCtv will be with us, filming sequences for a film of Jane Austen's "Northanger Abbey". Full details are contained in their July letter reprinted in this Newsletter, which many residents will already have seen. Most of the activity will centre on No. 1, but more general use of the Crescent is planned for Sunday August 10th.

**Funds**

In return for our cooperation the BBC has agreed to make a substantial contribution to Society funds. Your Committee believes that in these circumstances this prestigious production is an appropriate use of the Crescent. Accordingly residents are

encouraged to cooperate as much as possible with the BBC staffs, to make the film a success.

**TV Aerials - An Opportunity**

A main concern will be TV aerials - as described in the letter. As residents know, the Society is keen to improve the appearance of the Crescent by the removal of visible TV aerials. When the BBC staff temporarily "lay" them - with your permission of course - it is a golden opportunity to remove non-functioning ones altogether, and to replace working aerials with in-roof, or rear-mounted aerials. One firm offering an inexpensive and effective in-roof service is COLMERS, Top Street, Farrington Gurney, Telephone 0761 52108.



TO ALL THE RESIDENTS OF THE ROYAL CRESCENT, BATH

July 1986

Dear Resident

We are filming NORTHANGER ABBEY in Bath in August, and we would very much like to use The Royal Crescent as one of our locations. We are setting the film in 1790, so we would need your help in the making of the sequence of which the Royal Crescent would be a part. We would like to use The Royal Crescent as part of a scene which involves two gigs (small open carriages) coming round the Crescent, and the arrival in Bath from the country of our leading characters. These scenes will involve horses, carriages and extras plus our leading actors. We would like to do this sequence with your approval.

We are also filming inside and outside No. 1 The Royal Crescent from August 11th to August 15th.

For our sequence on August 10th, we will need to lay the visible television aerials, which are in shot, on the roof, and supply you with an indoor aerial. This could be done on Friday, August 8th and be replaced on August 11th. We would also need to clear the Crescent completely of

cars between the hours of 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. We would also ask you for August 10th to open your net curtains and remove any window boxes.

I do hope that you do not find the above requests too inconvenient, or that we are imposing on your privacy and care of the Royal Crescent, but as Jane Austen set half of NORTHANGER ABBEY in Bath, the shots of The Royal Crescent in the film will say Bath to everyone who sees it worldwide and we guarantee to show it at its best in 1790!

We will be making a contribution to The Royal Crescent Fund.

If you have any queries or worries regarding our filming, please do ring our London office and reverse the charges on 01-576 1176 or at The Bath Hotel, Bath 338855 after August 3rd.

Thank you in advance for your help.

Yours faithfully

(Signed: Daphne Phipps)  
Production Manager  
NORTHANGER ABBEY

British Broadcasting Corporation  
Television Centre  
Woodhouse  
London W12 7RJ

## PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Planning Approval has been sought for various alterations in and around the Royal Crescent. Your Committee has commented on your behalf where necessary.

5 Royal Crescent. Alterations to 2nd Floor Flat. Result : Approved.

30 Royal Crescent. Alterations to Basement Flat. Result : Approved.

9 Royal Crescent. Erection of 3 Balconies on 2nd Floor Rear and installation of sash windows. Supported. Result awaited.

10 Royal Crescent. New kitchen in 3rd Floor Flat. Supported. Result awaited.

Your Committee has now decided to respond on all Planning Applications affecting the Royal Crescent. Previously only objections were registered. In future, support, where agreed, will also be registered. You can help the Committee and your Application - by letting the Secretary or any Committee member know about your plans in advance.



### Your Committee

|            |                   |     |
|------------|-------------------|-----|
| Chairman:  | Roy Titchen       | 10A |
| Secretary: | Monica Baly       | 19  |
| Treasurer: | Brian Richards    | 4   |
| Members:   | Michael Daw       | 10  |
|            | Wendy Laughlin    | 29  |
|            | Dulcie Morrell    | 17  |
|            | Patricia Richards | 4   |
|            | Fabrice Le Roux   | 9   |
|            | Annabel Trechmann | 5   |

### Your Traffic Committee

|            |                 |     |
|------------|-----------------|-----|
| Chairman:  | Francis Burne   | 1/9 |
| Secretary: | Roy Titchen     | 10A |
| Treasurer: | Brian Richards  | 4   |
| Members:   | Monica Baly     | 19  |
|            | Michael Daw     | 10  |
|            | Mrs Le Roux     | 9   |
|            | Fabrice Le Roux | 9   |

## THE LAWN

### Notices Work!

3 Notices have now been permanently fixed on the Ha Ha wall emphasising that the lawn is for subscribing residents only. This has caused a noticeable reduction in the numbers of non-residents climbing the Ha Ha wall and using the lawn, thus leaving it free for subscribing residents to use - as they alone are entitled to do. Members of the Committee have also (politely!) approached other non-residents about to climb the railings etc., and have usually found that a calm and reasonable explanation of the ownership, maintenance cost, etc., of the lawn is accepted. If you feel strongly about inappropriate use of the lawn you can help by taking similar action. We will never permanently cure the problem, but by a continuous and reasonable approach we can keep mis-use within bounds.

### Bath Festival Opening

After your Committee's discussions with the Festival authorities, the police provided low-key patrols, which effectively prevented excessive mis-use of the lawn during the Bath Festival Opening Night festivities. The Committee also ensured that the lawn gates were kept closed.

### West Gate

Acceptable estimates for repair and re-opening of the West End Gate have been received and accepted. It is hoped that the work will be completed very soon. The contractor has undertaken work for the National Trust and so the high standards of the Crescent will be maintained.

### Treasure Hunt

At the AGM it was announced that the makers of the TV programme 'Treasure Hunt' wished to land by helicopter on the lawn. After discussion the producers decided to use the Royal Victoria Park below the Ha Ha.

