

No.1 | ONE ROYAL CRESCENT | The Reopening Begins



On the 7th February Bath Preservation Trust held a private opening reception to mark the opening of the restored service wing of No.1 which was then opened to the public on Saturday 9th February.

Currently only four rooms are open – an introduction room which displays updates on the whole restoration project, a well-stocked ‘knicknackatorium’ (Georgian shop), and the Andrew Brownsword Gallery. The inaugural exhibition in the gallery showcases some of No.1’s treasures which originate from the late 18th Century but which are still used today.

The building has been redesigned both in its layout and its contemporary style. The double height atrium with glass ceiling (imitating what would have been an open courtyard) is extraordinary, and the museum is clearly embracing a more 21st century look.

The work to the main house, which includes restoring and opening up some new rooms, is on track for a June opening and will include the basement of the service wing. This will expose the original kitchens, sculleries, coal-holes, corridors and housekeeper’s room.

Alongside the opening of the new wing, the Bath Preservation Trust has launched a new website for No.1 (www.no1royalcrescent.org.uk). On it you will see that there is a new fundraising initiative to raise the final £500,000 needed to complete the project. It’s called the No.1 Fan Club and joining it does give you some nice benefits such as private champagne receptions and preview visits to the main house before opening.

We have some photographs of the new rooms which are now open and some 60 more including the reception event on our Royal Crescent Facebook pages.



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Chairman's Notes



A lot has happened since our November Newsletter.

Our Summer Ball will take place on Saturday 29th June. Details are in the Newsletter, but do place your orders quickly for I am sure it will be another sell out.

We continue to foster links with our community and support good causes. Our Lawn will be used as the centre piece for the opening ceremony of the Special Olympic Games (28th August to 1st September 2013). This promises to be a most rewarding sporting event and I am thrilled we are playing our part. The games web-site has now been launched www.bath2013.org.uk and if you would like to volunteer click on the "volunteer" tab in the main menu.

Our Heritage proposals to enable the repair and cleaning of the Crescent façade have received widespread support and we should see the first houses starting work during the summer.

A part of the Ha-Ha wall collapsed in November after yet another prolonged downpour. The insurers have rejected our claim and whilst the Crescent Lawn Company is arguing the case I am not hopeful. It will cost around £10,000 to repair the damage.

Finally, our AGMs take place on Sunday 21st April. I have invited Special Olympics to attend and showcase the plans for the opening ceremony.

I hope to see you there.

Heritage Update

With visible progress now being achieved on No.1 it is important that we continue our Heritage programme so that everyone can look forward to enjoying a consistent vista.

Following meetings with agents, freeholders and residents we are pleased that the partnership approach we have adopted has met with a positive response. We have already signed up a number of houses and we expect that two or even more will start cleaning works this year. We realise that this programme will take time and houses need to schedule it in with their other works but we are confident that the aim of having a uniform and clean Crescent for all the enjoy will be achieved.

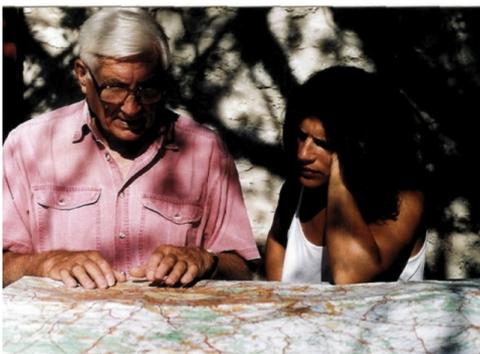
Repair and the painting of the railings opposite No. 1 and No. 30 are now in hand and thanks to David Beeton should soon be completed.

At their recent budget meeting B&NES recognised the work that was required on the roadway and pavements and that this should now be ring-fenced as heritage work and not seen within the general budget. While this is a positive step, funds have not been allocated and we have a meeting in April with B&NES to continue to press for priority to be given to this work. We are also chasing B&NES to erect replacement road signage.

The overall plan activity for the private, public and communal assets will help the Crescent truly reflect its iconic World Heritage status.

Please feel free to contact Peter White or other committee members listed on the back page.

Commander Roy Tichen



We were all saddened on the passing of Roy Tichen on new Year's Eve. Roy was a Crescent resident for some 31 years. He served as Chairman of the RCS between 1986 and 1988 and was always a strong supporter of the RCS activities and events. With kind permission of the family we have published a memoriam written by his daughter (seen here with her father) which was first posted on her web blog in 2006 and reposted after his passing.

[Click to read this insight into Roy and his life at sea.](#)

The Midsummer Ball

Following last year's successful Midsummer Ball on the Lawn we are pleased to invite all members, residents and friends to join us this year once again on that which promises to be one of the Bath summer's must go to' events.

The evening will start with a drinks and canapés reception at 7pm, followed by a three course dinner, finished off with fresh coffee, mint tea and chocolate truffles. Live entertainment will be provided by Gavin Lazarus. Your coaches, or a stroll across the Crescent, will await all at midnight.

Tickets are priced at £75 each for RCS members (£80 each for non members) and a table of ten can be secured for £750. Tickets can be ordered now by emailing ticketsatroyalcrescent@gmail.com, or phoning Ian Woodhouse on 07923 132588. Ticket sales are restricted to RCS members, residents and friends of the Society until 31st March before becoming available to the general public. Hurry and book as numbers are strictly limited to 220 and last year was a sell out.

After the Ball, Bath Opera will be using the marquee on the 30th to perform Mozart's "Don Giovanni". The event is sponsored by Widcombe Association who are planning a champagne reception and also encouraging people to bring their own picnics and make a day of it. Until the end of May tickets will be exclusive to WA member and Crescent Residents at £25 (under 18s £15) and people can buy through their web site: <http://www.members.widcombeassociation.org.uk/>.



We were more than happy to welcome some 300 runners and supporters of 'Team Jackie' who gathered on the lawn for a photo shoot before this year's Bath Half Marathon. 200 runners competed in the Bath Half marathon, and a team of 100 children ran in the family fun run. 'Team Jackie' were running to raise money for pancreatic research in remembrance of local mother Jackie Orme who passed away from pancreatic cancer last year. They have already raised over £90k and aim to raise £100k in order to fund a 3 year research post into pancreatic cancer. Please feel free to help this effort by giving via Just Giving www.justgiving.com/David-Orme1

Facebook Community

The Facebook RCS group is a private group that any member, resident and friend of the Crescent can join by befriending 'Royal Crescent'.

You can upload your own photos, videos and start new or add comments to entries or read and view other members' pieces. It is designed for more informal social communication and is already full of photos, videos, B&NES notices, such as collections, parking and also FOBRA minutes and the latest information.

An instruction handbook on how easy it is to use, navigate and enjoy our Facebook pages is available on request from: editorsroyalcrescent@gmail.com.

Spaces to Rent or Park?

As of 11th March the B&NES resident parking permits change once again and go, in their words, 'virtual'. B&NES have installed a new MiPermit system which means that there is no need to display the permits currently used. Their wardens will be able to check valid registrations of all parked cars against their database in real time.

As central zone residents we still don't have visitor permits and still only one car is permitted against the permit at any point in time. So if you have two cars you will have to change the registration on the database each time you swap over cars. To facilitate this they have enabled those texters with agile fingers to update their records by SMS and also provided a premium phone line to register the car and make changes. In addition there is a full online service to facilitate new registrations and changes

www.wanttopark.com/bathnes.

So no longer will we be able to spot the non-resident parking in a resident spot and the wardens may well have to enter every registration number!

It got us thinking about setting up a space swapping service where all residents, when they are away, could re-sell or give their slot allocation to others who may have a visitor or a second car. But nobody would want to do that, surely?

So we still have the ambiguity of single, or maybe double, yellow lines at the West end of the Crescent, motor bikes remain exempt and have a system which is grossly over-subscribed for the spaces available, plus a service fee that has just risen in price. Do we hear some say, 'Let's have that underground Car Park.'



Deep and Crisp and even. This year's snow caught perfectly by Rachel Clarkson-Short (all rights reserved)

The RCS Committee:

Officers:

Chairman: Colin Clarkson-Short

Vice Chairman : Paul Dowling

Secretary : Martin Prole

Treasurer : Stephen Little

Heritage: Peter White

Bath City Liaison: Stephen Little

Events: Sue Purdin

Communications: Martyn Daniels

Committee Members:

Rosemary Moore

Annie Daniels

Tim Forester

John Foster

David Beeton (BPT)

Sharon Love (Royal Crescent Hotel)

The RCS Festive Dinner:

Our traditional annual Royal Crescent black tie festive dinner at the Hotel on January 6th was enjoyed by all. To celebrate the Day of Kings or Twelfth Night, crowns and tiaras were donned in the Hotel's Montague room.

The winning Crown was borne by David Beeton whose top hatted affair added to his height and dwarfed many in its shadow.

Thanks go to Sue Purdin for yet another first class event!



To contact the Editor with photos, ideas, articles and corrections: editorsroyalcrescent@gmail.com

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