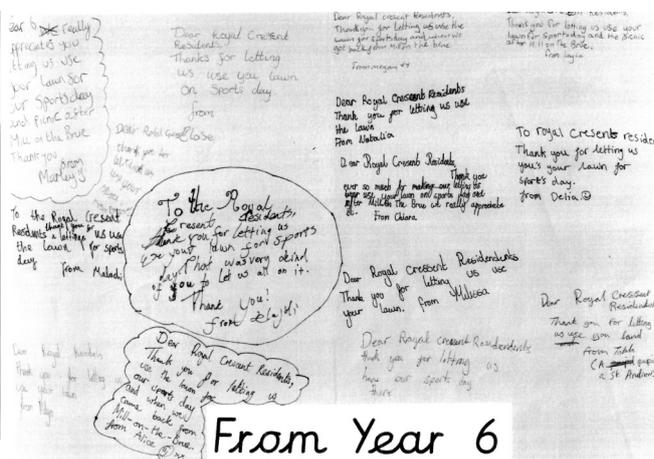
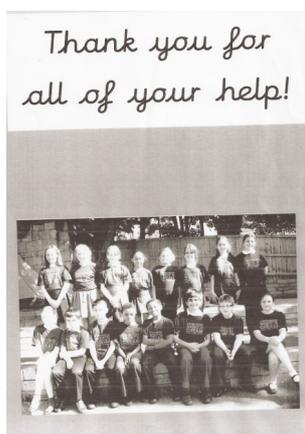


## Building the Community

The Condé Nast Traveller 17th Annual Readers' Travel Awards has again, for the second year running, voted Bath as the third Favourite UK City, beaten only by London and Edinburgh. But Bath is not just about tourists and the Crescent isn't just about an iconic World Heritage Site.

The building of relationships within our local community, residents, schools and businesses is as important as the preservation of our World Heritage site and status. We are very pleased that we have developed a very strong relationship with St Andrews School over recent years and this year was no exception. This year they again used the lawn to hold their annual sports day and the lawn was once again awash with a sea smiling faces.

We received a thank you card from the 6 form children of St Andrews, which was both touching and one we thought worthy of sharing with you all on the front page of the newsletter.



## Tour of Britain Rides Over the Crescent

In September many of the world's top cyclists raced across the Crescent's cobbles on the sixth stage of the Tour of Britain. Spot the yellow jersey race leader Alex Dowsett in the middle and superstar cyclists Sir Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish were also among the racers.



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## Chairman's Notes



Much has happened since our last Newsletter.

We have seen many enjoyable events on the lawn; weddings, parties and community events and I am pleased to report that the lawn, although it took some wear has now returned to its former glory.

Our community and heritage projects continue to make progress under the Localism Act. This not only makes it easier to represent community interests but also to engage and influence local decisions. However, these projects still need to raise money and we are actively looking at film location revenues as one source of funds. We are now in discussions with the Film Office to get a fair contribution for all commercial filming and photography on The Crescent.

We are now working with B&NES to plan and fund the relaying of the stone setts and pavement to the Royal Crescent, and with BT to upgrade the telephony and internet services they provide. We are also helping to bring a class from Hannah More primary school in Bristol on a school trip to the Crescent, Number 1 and a playful meet up with a class from St Andrews School.

On 4<sup>th</sup> August many joined together on the Crescent and paused to reflect, and to light candles and remember, with many millions around the world, on the centenary of the outbreak of The Great War. The candles remembered the poignant observation by the then British Foreign Secretary Sir Edward Grey that "The lamps are going out all over Europe, we shall not see them lit again in our life-time".

## The Wedding Party Venue?

One of the first couples to use the lawn for their wedding reception party was the Bath Jeweller Nicolas Wylde back in 2006. Since then many have followed and this year three more happy couples have joined the list of those choosing to celebrate on the Lawn.



It is a memorable backdrop and on a sunny day one that is hard to beat. This year's happy couples were;

Stephanie, daughter of Tim and Ros Forrester from number 12 and Will



Young (top), Tamsin Belding, the Deputy Head of St. Andrews

school and Neil Stephen, (above) and Sarah, the daughter of Richard and Carole Moore from number 29 and Thomas Whitlock (below).

Next year already promises to continue the tradition with

Christopher, the son of Peter and Olga White from 23 and his bride-to-be Laura.



## Sheila McCullagh MBE

For over 20 years Sheila lived with her partner Lois at 27/28 Royal Crescent and will be remembered by many. Sheila was awarded the MBE for services to children's literature. Her Library of works covers fifty years and some 300 plus children's books, which introduced many children to reading in the 70s, 80s and 90s and one series 'Puddle Lane' was made into a TV series. Her huge writing success enabled her to travel the world going to the Antarctic with artists and naturalists Peter Scott and Keith Shackleton in the 70s and far flung places such as Easter Island, Madagascar, Galapagos Islands etc.

## What's Going On?

The work being done under the Heritage Project and Localism Act continues.

**Repairs and Cleaning of the Façade:** Number 23 has been cleaned and masonry surveys continue to be undertaken, some of which have revealed the poor state of some of the stonework in the Crescent.

**Road Setts:** The Society is in detailed discussion with the Highways department to undertake the repair of the road outside number one. The state of the road is an increasing concern and although it is accepted it needs repair, in order that it is expedited, the council is looking to us to make a contribution towards the cost of repair. Meanwhile, given the volume of foot traffic, the growing number of loose pavement slabs continues to be a concern and not just on The Crescent but on many adjacent Bath Streets.

**Parking:** We are engaged in detailed discussions with the Parking department to find an agreeable short and longer term solutions. With over 120 residences effectively sharing some 40 resident bays it is easy to see some of the challenges and the frequent practice of triple parking on Sundays is clearly not the answer.

**Internet connection:** Everyone who uses the internet on the Crescent will be aware of the poor speeds that are currently achievable. Some are fortunate to be able to get their BT service from the back of the Crescent, but it's a different story for many, who along with Brock Street and Margaret Buildings, are reliant on the old BT box at the top of the Gravel Path. OFTCOM have stated that the box doesn't warrant an upgrade under the current government programme and providing fibre optic to all houses is also economically a non starter. We are discussing with BT plans to upgrade their box which will enable houses to upgrade their individual connections and receive high speed connections. However, despite our reserves, this work will require us to collectively raise additional funds and contribute towards this work.

**Filming:** The Crescent remains in heavy demand as a filming backdrop (the picture on the right is of the recent filming of 'Our Girl' with Lacey Turner and is a long way from her exploits in Afghanistan to the Crescent.) Although filming in Bath is permitted through the Bath Film Office and we are notified of all shooting, the contributions towards our funding from the production companies has often been pitifully low and rare. The notice given to residents has also been very short and often is only a few days. The Society has long seen this as an issue and now under the Localism Act we have taken a more proactive position with respect to commercial filming location fees and notice. We are requesting a rate card be applied to all commercial shoots. The rates sought reflect the scale of filming and inconvenience incurred, such as parking and these discussions are ongoing. This may result in less commercial filming on the Crescent, but it has already raised more funds in a couple of months than were previously raised in the whole of last year. This funds can be used to offset costs of repairing the road, upgrading the BT facilities and other projects which all improve the Crescent for all.



## John Forster

John moved to the Crescent in 2005. He was a native of Cornwall, educated at Harrow and qualified as a Solicitor with his own Practice in the West Country. When he sold his practice and retired he worked part-time as a 'Head Hunter', was an active fisher and shooter and served on the Royal Crescent Society Committee in his last years. He passed away at the end of April.

## Tony Peake CBE

Tony lived at number 18, was a member Royal Crescent Society Committee for a number of years and was a keen Bath Rugby fan. He was formerly MD at VSEL (Vickers Shipbuilding and Engineering) in Barrow-in-Furness and received his CBE in June '93 for services to industry. He passed away at the age 78 in July.

## The Grass is Always Greener?

It was surprising to many how soon the lawn reacted to being under the cover of the marquee this year and how the relatively dry summer also took its toll on the grass. At times there were cracks to be seen in many places! Thanks to BNES and special thanks Michelle Little at 21, we were able to revive the lawn, it took some hundreds of litres of water and effort and it is now recovering its former glory.

On top of the wall the long grass strip has certainly played its part in deterring trespass from the park and is now becoming a permanent feature. Some would suggest that we could consider turning the strip into a flower meadow with lots of Spring and Summer colour. The summer move by the Parks Department to leave strips of grass to go to meadow, attracted much debate in the local press. Many said it was untidy, however, parks are now increasingly look towards creating meadow and wild flower areas.

Perhaps we already have the answer!



## A Ball and Food Feast on the Lawn



The Annual Midsummer Ball was again a huge success with themed tables and everyone in matching attire. The next day the marquee and lawn hosted a Street Food Festival in glorious sunshine (above).

## Bath Basements in Bloom

We often hear and see pictures of High Streets and villages in bloom and how plants in hanging baskets, or planters, can bring colour and break-up what would be otherwise hard backgrounds. In the late 80s and early 90s the Society held an annual competition to encourage and recognise its basements in bloom.

Today the Hotel's magnolia has been joined by many other courtyard plantings of wisteria, roses, passion fruit, olive trees and troughs of bedding plants at windows. Many house fronts today have also started to decorated with Bay and Box planters outside their doors. It's good to see that plants can live alongside stone and be enjoyed by both residents and visitors.

Our favourite though is still number 16 on The Circus whose camellias in bloom in late Spring add a bright red statement for all to enjoy.



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