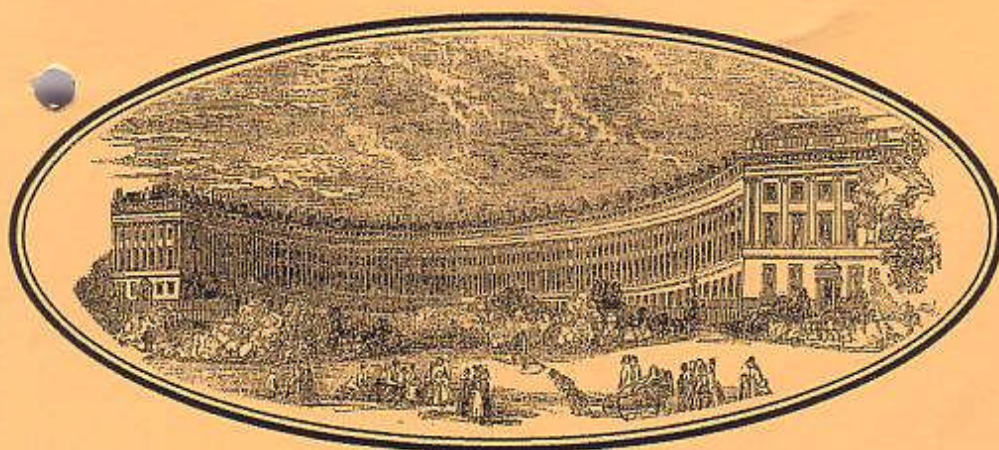


THE ROYAL CRESCENT SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 48

AUTUMN 2002



IN THIS ISSUE:

- CHAIRMAN'S NOTES*
- *CAR PARKING IN THE CRESCENT* ●
- ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES*
- *ROYAL VISITS* ● *THE JUBILEE BARBECUE*
 - *THE DISCOVERY CARD* ●
- BOOKS ABOUT BATH*

Letter from the Editor

Dear Residents and Members,

It has been a rather damp summer, but thankfully the Bath waters have all stayed in their place and we have not suffered as Prague or Dresden did at the height of the visitor season.

As I write, we are being visited by a BBC television series called *Time Team* that is hoping to unearth Roman remains in the St. Andrew's triangle behind the Crescent and on the lower Crescent Lawn. Could the site of Bath's long-lost Roman amphitheatre be found? It would be exciting to discover that the buildings in which we live do indeed echo previous Roman structures on the same site, as John Wood the elder seemed to hope.

My thanks as ever to all contributors. Please let advertisers know that you saw their businesses in this issue.

Stephen Conlin, No.29.
Telephone 331656
Facsimile 447958
email info@stephenconlin.com

Published by the Royal Crescent Society

<i>President</i>	<i>Sir John Barraclough, KCB, CBE, DFC, AFC, FRSA</i>
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	<i>The Right Hon. The Earl of Stockton</i> <i>Mr. Michael Daw</i>
<i>Chairman</i>	<i>Stephen Little</i>
<i>Vice-Chairman</i>	<i>Tim Forester</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Michelle Little</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Ian Woodhouse</i>
<i>Editor</i>	<i>Stephen Conlin</i>

Our application for a possessory title to the Lawn and its boundaries has been duly dispatched to the Land Registry, and our thanks are due to those who have helped in its preparation. The need for this was explained in a letter sent to all residents and freeholders in the Crescent, members and non-members of the Society alike. We would be waiting with bated breath if we had not been advised that it will be several weeks before we get a definitive answer! Meanwhile our efforts switch to ensuring that all is prepared so that we can swing into action once we receive a positive answer. The next steps will be to agree with English Heritage on the specifications for restoration, and then the process of inviting tenders for the work. For this we are relying on help from B&NES, who have acknowledged the importance of the project for the maintenance of the city's World Heritage Site status.

Parking in the Crescent

On the parking issue, there has been a deafening silence from the Transport, Access and Waste Management department of B&NES which is dealing with this, but it appears that they are not convinced of our contention that the Royal Crescent, being a residential street, should be in a residential zone. The difficulty of parking has been made worse by the creation of zone 7, and those of you who feel strongly about this, which appears to be every resident owning a car but no garage, might like to express their views by writing to Rab Smith. The address is Bath Residents' Parking, B&NES, FREEPOST (SWB481), Keynsham, Bristol, BS31 1ZZ; e-mail: rab.smith@bathnes.gov.uk.

Policing

I recently met with our local policewoman Julie Shephard, who came to explain the set-up for local policing. She can be contacted via voicemail, which is regularly checked, on Bath 842496, extension 71809. The police can be reached more immediately

on (01275) 818181. Although this is a central switchboard number, she assured me that calls are rapidly connected to the relevant person.

Julie Shephard recommended that we should consider a Neighbourhood Watch scheme; this was proposed a few years ago, but met with little enthusiasm – do residents/members wish to reconsider this? I mentioned that there have been suggestions that the telephone box at the end of the Crescent is sometimes used in connection with drug dealing. If anyone can supply any information or evidence about this, even anonymously, it might help to stem the spread of this menace to our area.

Stephen Little

Exhibition: Pickpocketing the Rich

The Holburne Museum's special exhibition runs until 15th September 2002 and has been a considerable success. Its theme is portraiture in Georgian Bath, for which it has borrowed from several sources, including the Tate, Dulwich Picture Gallery and some private collections. Several of the Holburne's own pictures are also included.

The exhibition brings to life many figures of Bath's greatest period: one of the most charming pictures is of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, by the thirteen-year-old Lawrence. Also represented are two Linleys, Sarah Siddons, Garrick and the famous *castrato* Tenucci.

There are several former residents of the Royal Crescent to be seen, most surprisingly Hickey's double portrait of.....two dogs. They were canine residents of No.29, where Colonel Champion and his wife lived for many years in East Indian splendour. There is a better painting of Champion's mother-in-law by the same artist.

Stephen Conlin



*The Complete Range
of Business Services
for your Office*

Photocopying
Secretarial Services
Web, E-mail and Internet Services
Book-keeping
Accommodation Address
Telephone Answering Service

Network House, 9 Rivers Street Place, Julian Road, Bath BA1 2RS.
Telephone (01225) 330873, **Facsimile** 313327.
E-mail Network@officeontheweb.com



Smarty Dry Cleaners

11 Rivers Street Place,
Julian Road,
Bath BA1 2RS.

Telephone (01225) 444666

Opening hours:
8.30am - 6.30pm
Monday to Friday,
9am - 4pm Saturday.

Specialist services include:
Laundry - Curtains
Antique Linen and Lace
Wax Jackets - Suede

Point of View: Car Space - the final frontier?

At the Society's AGM in April last we were treated to a map of the galaxy and an explanation from our councillors that although we were concerned about parking on the Crescent, they had to go where man had not gone before and consider the universe and the greater vision that is Bath. Of course, in order to get it right and like all journeys into the unknown, they asked for time. The lack of progress some months later is of course predictable.

On the night, suggestions were made to park diagonally (her-ringbone) and thereby double the number of available slots. Watching council representatives on this was like watching a builder taking a sharp intake of breath, when asked for a quote. It was obviously off their flight path but is under consideration according to the latest update from the council in July. A simple marking of individual bays to help what is often the frustration of finding a space but not enough space to park was also suggested. This is obviously not in the grander vision of the universe and is not quoted as being under the remit of the current review.

The question of what constitutes central versus zone seven, and the Council's logic behind it, appears to be one that could be regarded by some as defying logic. That is apart from the minds of those who dreamt it up and the hotel who have gained twelve additional permits in zone seven as a result. So although there was discussion on the night, both parties appeared to be on different planets.

When you step back and look at the issue you could be pardoned by seeing a classic "no win" situation for all. The Council is not maximising its revenue potential and is failing to service its residents' and visitors' needs. The residents are failing to park and if a slot is not available have the daunting task of trying to find one, or even pay for a privilege they have already paid for.

You can look at the Crescent at almost any time of the day and

hardly find a legal space. You will nearly always find cars parked opposite the Hotel at the centre of the Crescent and over night and on a Sunday both sides of the road are often full. There are about forty available legal spaces on the Crescent, but there are thirty houses and that the majority of these are apartments.

According to the Council in July ninety-one permits are allocated against the Crescent, which includes zone seven permits (twelve) and fifteen and forty permits allocated against Upper Church Street and Catherine Place respectfully. The logic for the Crescent to be residents only makes sense as clearly ninety-one cars into forty spaces, even allowing for the twelve allocated to zone 7 and the spaces on the adjacent streets, does not allow for the obvious flood of tourists, Crescent visitors and workers. After all, for a resident to be able to park they have had to have paid their fee and having done so they should expect the service to be weighted in their favour.

The hotel is of course a challenge. Given the number of guests and even recognising their extra zone seven allocation, they have a problem that often results in not just parking on both sides of the street but quite often double parking. How can it be that a car, double-parked outside the hotel all day, is not ticketed, despite a parking attendant's presence?

● So what options exist? Dig up the lawn and build an underground car park, I don't think so. Ask Scottie to "beam them up" to some virtual park, dream on trekkies.

A potential solution would be to restrict the current parking space to residents only. Give that side of the road the same status as zone seven and even mark the bays out better. It would make a lot of sense but would not help the Hotel or visitors. However, this could be addressed by simply removing the single yellow line area on the opposite side of the street and allocate this as residents plus pay by

meter as per the current designation and effectively move zone seven down the middle of the Crescent.

Who would gain be such a move? The residents will have a better chance to park in front of their homes, a reasonable benefit. The muted concerns of current zone seven residents about being flooded by Crescent overflow would be abated. Upper Church Street and Catherine Place residents will have a better allocation. The council will get more revenue from non-residents' parking fees. The hotel could even be allocated a drop-down bay in front of them with even an allotted number of slots opposite.

Some may argue that it's not pretty to have cars parked on both sides of the street, but they do on Lansdown Crescent and after six or on a Sunday we have it anyway. Some may not like diagonal parking such as on Cavendish Crescent or straight on as in front of the Assembly rooms but the precedent is there for all to see. Some may argue about access for emergency vehicles.

However, once the emergency services have negotiated their way around the idling tourist bus, the sloppily parked ice cream van and of course the legally parked cars, on ironically, both sides of the road outside number one, even with double parking the Crescent is sufficient wide. The Crescent is after all a *cul de sac* and therefore it does not have the through traffic of other roads and should be reviewed properly in light of this change.

So could such an opportunity be taken? Would the council listen, acknowledge and move? Will these councillors and their engineers boldly go where others have obviously feared to tread and take the first step and make the giant leap forward for Crescentkind?

Martyn Daniels



A well-dressed couple was observed promenading in the Crescent this spring. These persons of obvious distinction permitted "take their likenesses by mechanical means", as they put it. I learned that they are often to be seen in No.1 The Royal Crescent

Books about Bath: Have You Ever Read...?

If you've ever wondered why, when and how Bath grew up to be such a fashionable and historic city do try to read David Gadd's *Georgian Summer*. His style is a pleasure to read and the book is so full of information you will want to read and re-read it over and over again. When I became a guide at No. 1 The Royal Crescent it was recommended reading and I was able to draw on the knowledge I gained from it to regale the visitors with all sorts of anecdotes.

After a chapter of pre-Georgian history, there follows chapters of the life and works of Beau Nash, Ralph Allen and John Wood, and much else besides. Of the three, Beau Nash was the most colourful, being something of a ne'er-do-well in London before he found his *forte* as Master of Ceremonies in Bath. He had a great civilising effect on many areas of life in Bath, insisting on more paving and street lighting, licences for sedan chair men, improved standards of lodging houses, and at the regular Balls in the Assembly Rooms men were not allowed to wear boots, nor women their aprons.

Ralph Allen arrived from St Columb in Cornwall at the age of eighteen to take up the post of Deputy Postmaster. He soon realised the postal system was both chaotic and corrupt, and by devising a method of delivery of letters to places not served by the main routes, he made his first fortune. By this time the rage for building in the classical style, especially in London, was at its height, and Ralph Allen had the foresight to buy the stone quarries at Combe Down and thus made his second fortune.

John Wood was only twenty-one when he sent to Ralph Allen a set of plans for the development of Bath. Luckily for us, Wood was an enthusiast for the newly fashionable Palladian style. John Wood's dream was to turn Bath into the Rome of Britain, complete with Forum and Circus. His legacy is well-known, of course, but it is sad that the only part of the Forum to be built is the extraordinarily wide pavement in front of South Parade, and he died in 1754, only three

months after building of the (King's) Circus had begun.

Another book I find I dip into frequently is *They Came to Bath* by William Lowndes, Redcliffe Press 1982, ISBN 0 905459 44X. The title tells you what it's all about, and included in it is a map of Bath covered with numbered dots. Each dot represents a famous or infamous person who lived or even visited here. A thumb-nail biography of up to three paragraphs is given in alphabetical order.

● Since writing this I find both books are out of print, so try second-hand bookshops or the library!

Jenny Hardisty



NEW HOMŒOPATHIC PRACTICE IN BATH

A CLASSICALLY TRAINED HOMŒOPATH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR THE TREATMENT OF A RANGE OF CONDITIONS AT THE BEGINNING OF NOVEMBER. AN INITIAL CONSULTATION, INCLUDING THE PRESCRIPTION OF APPROPRIATE REMEDIES, IS NORMALLY CHARGED AT £75, BUT THE SAME SERVICE IS OFFERED TO ROYAL CRESCENT SOCIETY MEMBERS AT THE REDUCED PRICE OF £50.

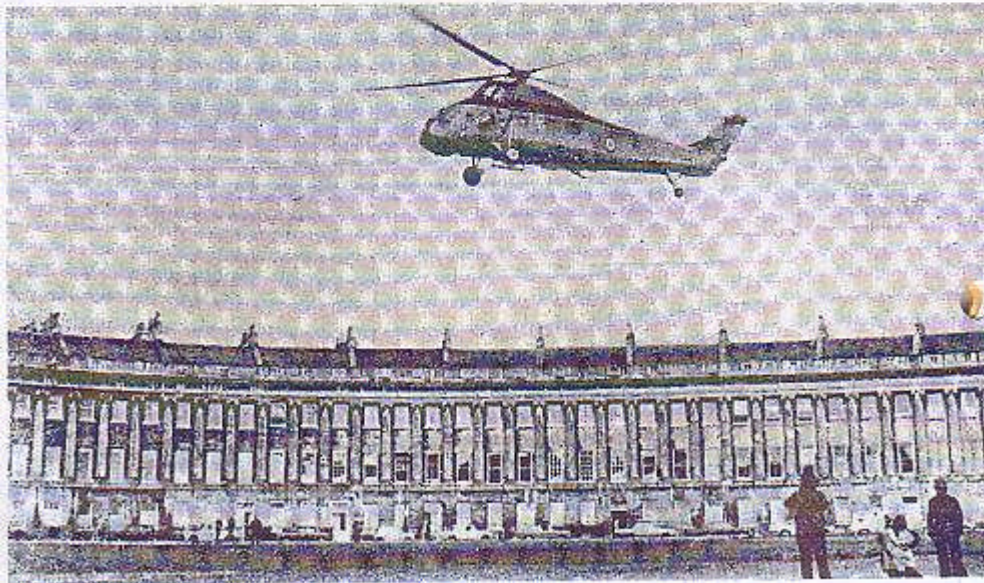
PLEASE TELEPHONE ROY MAXWELL ON
01225 - 331656 OR E-MAIL
ROY@PULSATILLA.CO.UK
FOR AN APPOINTMENT.

Visitors: When Royalty dropped in

Michael Daw kindly supplied photographs of two royal visits to Bath that began with a beating of rotors rather than a flourish of trumpets.

In 1977 HRH Princess Anne, now HRH The Princess Royal, arrived by helicopter on the Upper Lawn, see below. In the early 1980s Her late Majesty The Queen Mother also arrived by the same means, eyes right.

If any resident remembers either occasion, please let the editor know. Needless to say, only Royalty would *ever* be permitted to land on the Upper Lawn of the Royal Crescent in such a manner. And that's final.





Here and There in Bath

▼ Morley Fund Management of Lime Street, London has responsibility for the financing of the Southgate scheme and informs us that the longed-for demolition and rebuilding starts in Spring 2004. Work is expected to last for about four years. Hydrology tests are being conducted, presumably to ensure that building massive underground car parks and trade/retail access does not disrupt water supplies to the new Bath Spa. More information from: www.bathsouthgate.com

▼ There is a proposed new route for the Cotswold Way in Bath City Centre. It has been a regional route for many years, but is soon to become England's 13th National Trail when officially launched in 2004. National Trails are selected on the basis of their quality and character, reflecting the most beautiful landscapes that the nation has to offer. These criteria are just as important for the route of a National Trail in an urban environment as they are in a rural area.

Improved views and access to Bath's best-known sites would result from the proposed new route via Gay Street, the Circus, Brock Street and part of the Gravel Walk and the path along the lower Crescent Lawn. Users would have a better appreciation of the Royal Crescent and they would be led past a number of shops, restaurants and bars that may benefit from passing trade.

The route has not yet been signed or identified on the ground in any way. However, the intention is that it will be clearly marked with signs appropriate to the urban setting and that the start/end point of the Cotswold Way National Trail near the Abbey will be indicated in a suitable manner. Once the route within Bath is finalised, appropriate parties will be fully consulted as to the design of these signs and markers. Should the proposal to alter the route be taken forward, a report will be submitted to the Secretary of State asking for a change in the route of the National Trail.

Cotswold Way Office, The Malthouse, Standish, Stonehouse.
Gloucestershire, GL10 3DL. Telephone (01453) 827004.

▼ New faces in the Crescent: the Society welcomes the following new residents:

Mr. Charles Tye, Mr. and Mrs. P. Jackson, Ms. L. Fay, Mr. and Mrs. A. Pascoe and Mr. and Mrs. R. Knox.

▼ Royal Victoria Park events:

-the Moscow State Circus will be camped on the Middle Common, behind Marlborough Buildings, from Tuesday 17th to Saturday 22nd September 2002.

-Annual Royal Victoria Park Road Races on the Middle Common, organised by the City of Bath Athletic Club on Saturday 9th November 2002. Details available from Ray Brigden (01225)310120.

A.E.EADES

GREENGROCER AND MARKET GARDENER

*for locally-grown, unsprayed vegetables
and a wide range of
organic and exotic produce*

●
Fruit baskets and hampers a speciality

Crescent Lane, Julian Road, Bath.
Telephone (01225) 317319.

Crescent Events: The Jubilee Barbecue

The sun may have been shining in the capital, but this June day in Bath started less than auspiciously for a midday barbecue. Rain toyed with the resolution of those who had undertaken to organise the Jubilee Barbecue on the Upper Lawn. Aptly enough, considering their surnames, the Forester and Woodhouse families had arranged suitable shelter for guests at the barbecue. This took the form of a new rectangular tent that is owned by the Royal Crescent Society and may be available for hire, subject to certain conditions and guarantees. Next came the tables, chairs and the barbecue itself.

The rain eased somewhat as residents and their guests emerged from the houses. Several of our new neighbours supported the event, so it was an excellent way to meet the new arrivals.

The savour of the barbecue filled the Crescent like some sacrifice to the gods imagined by John Wood in his recreation of ancient Rome on English soil. Delicious cream ices were also served. Nathalie and Stephanie Forester and Stephanie Woodhouse efficiently ensured that everyone received both courses.

At one point the sun put in an appearance, but not for long.

A good profit was made, to go towards the Railings and Ha-ha Restoration Fund. As soon as the tent had been taken down and everything cleared away, the sun came out and shone for the rest of the day.

Upper right: Sir John Barraclough, left, and Major General Charles West seated in the refreshment tent.

Lower right: part of the band of helpers, from left to right, Nathalie, Tim, Stephanie and Roz Forester and Stephanie Woodhouse.



The José Carreras Concert had taken place on the Crescent Lawns before an audience of fifteen thousand. The stage was placed on the Upper Lawn, for which the Society received a sum of money towards the Ha-ha restoration. Ninety-four members of the Society took up the offer of a seat for the concert.

A review by Dr. Malcolm Hill described the concert in detail. Amplifiers were used to carry the voices over such a distance, and there was some disturbance to the momentum of certain pieces, when the volume was suddenly dropped by the sound engineers.

The programme began with French and Italian music including excerpts from Donizetti's *La Favorita* and Mascagni's *Cavalleria Rusticana*. There were also highlights from lighter music, such as the evergreen *Granada* and Tosti's *Marechiaro*. The reviewer remarked on hissing from the loudspeakers and one senses that he would have preferred the intimacy of an opera at Iford, rather than the colossal effect of this type of concert, for which there was such a vogue.

Elsewhere in the *Newsletter*, Christopher Woodward wrote about the mews buildings of the Crescent:

"A feature of the finest gardens was often a decorative garden wall backing onto a coach house. These concealed the clutter and clutter and acted as an eye-catching architectural feature and a theatrical backdrop to the garden scene. The contrast between these and the simple, utilitarian elevations facing the road underlines Bath's character as a place of show. Very few of them survive in London and the sequence on Royal Crescent is by far the finest in Bath and probably in Britain."

Christopher Woodward was at one time Curator of the Building of Bath Museum: he is now Director of the Holburne Museum in Great Pulteney Street.

Royal Crescent Hotel: Letter from the General Manager

We have enjoyed a delightful summer at the hotel, with many guests visiting from overseas and enjoying the comforts of Bath. Our garden is clearly a bonus during the summer, in fact we were highly commended by the *Bath in Bloom* committee and will be presented with our award in October. The RAC have confirmed our Blue Ribbon status for 2002 and in late June we welcomed our new Food and Beverage Manager - Nicklas Folkesson; he is now engaged in training his new team for the forthcoming seasonal dining.

Our Royal Crescent Club is holding an Autumn Art Exhibition from 7th - 13th October and I do hope you will join us for our Water Week activities. There will be plenty of opportunity to experience The Bath House with its special half-day retreats, or alternatively take a two-course lunch with chilled Hildon Water - look out for the special promotional prices for this event. During the Bath Mozartfest, 8th - 17th November, we are hosting from Monday to Saturday, a two-course lunch at £10 per person.

We are all looking forward to the autumn season, which of course brings with it our Christmas and New Year house parties, together with private dining for those with celebration in mind. For any of you who do not know the hotel and are new to Bath, please call by and pick up our newsletter for the Autumn/Winter season, as there may be something of interest to you. For our regular visitors, I would like to thank you for your patronage and I look forward to meeting with you during the remainder of 2002.

With every good wish to you all for the season.

In order to enjoy the benefits of many attractions in Bath at a discount, you may apply for resident's Discovery Card. Just bring the identification described below to the Ticket Office of the Roman Baths: you will be photographed there. Allow half an hour before closing in order for your card to be produced.

- The resident's Discovery Card is available to adults, and children aged 14+, who permanently live within the boundaries of the Bath and North East Somerset Unitary Authority (B&NES).
- Holders of resident's Discovery Cards will be allowed free entry to the Roman Baths and to the Museum of Costume during normal opening hours.
- A holder of a resident's Discovery Card may also bring in up to 2 children aged 16 or under. An adult (age 17 +) must accompany children under 14.
- Proof of residence must be presented at the time of the application. This may be any document from the following list: latest utility bill showing the address (gas, electricity, water, telephone), Council Tax bill. No other documents are valid.
- Resident's Discovery Cards will normally be valid for three years from the date of issue but may be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of B&NES. The Card remains the property of B&NES.

Roman Baths opening times:

open daily

November - February 09.30-16.30

March - October 09.00-17.00

The following are examples of reductions currently available to card-holders. As the scheme increases there may be other opportunities to use it.

Avon Valley Railway - free child with one full paying adult

Bath Abbey Heritage Vaults - free entry to card holders

▼ Bath Travel Club - a new approach to sustainable travel

One of the difficulties of promoting sustainable travel is addressing the ways people approach their journey. For some, planning is a major part of the process involving looking at maps, checking bus and/or train timetables. Others simply want to jump in a car, head off in the general direction, without a thought about the cost implications or impact on the environment. Now, a new travel club is being set up to help people make informed choices about their mode of travel in a way that does not harm the environment, and supports the local economy.

Bath Travel Club aims to assist people to make the sustainable travel choice by a variety of means, including providing support and maps for cycling and walking, relevant travel information, and seeking discounts where possible. The club is currently piecing together parts of the puzzle. For further information contact Barry Maundel, Transport Officer: 01225 787

▼ 'Your-car'

Is your car serviced and washed by someone else?
Can your car change itself from a convenient city car to an estate just when you need it to? Ours does.
Your car may be costing you £1000 to £2000 per year to sit outside your house.

The 'Your-car' pay-as-you-drive deal gives you access to a new car, for as little as £10 per month: book it for an hour or as long as you need it. A choice of two cars is now available from a city centre car park. Insurance deposit £100. The Bath Car Share Club is a scheme for local residents that offers short-term car hire as an alternative to car ownership. The benefits to residents include:

- reduced traffic congestion.
- a shared car can take the place of five privately owned cars.
- reduced numbers of cars parking on the streets.
- encouraging cycling and walking, thus reducing congestion and air pollution generally.

The club has two cars parked within easy walking distance of our area in Broad Street car park, but if enough residents joined from this area it may be possible to place a car even closer to the Royal Crescent.

Rachel Hill, Administrator, Bath Car Share Club,
(01225) 787925
rachelh@envolve.co.uk

Cash Machine problems

A warning from HM Treasury advises us to be careful when using cash machines (ATMs). Criminals are inventing ever more ingenious methods of relieving you of your cash. The latest method involves thieves putting a thin, clear, rigid plastic 'sleeve' into the ATM card slot. When you insert your card, the machine can't read the strip, so it keeps asking you to re-enter your PIN number. Meanwhile, someone behind you watches as you tap in your number. Eventually you give up, thinking the machine has swallowed your card and you walk away. The thieves then remove the plastic sleeve complete with card, and empty your account. The way to avoid this is to run your finger along the card slot before you put your card in. The sleeve has a couple of tiny prongs that the thieves need to get the sleeve out of the slot, and you'll be able to feel them. The police would like as many people as possible to be aware of this danger.

Bath Postal Museum - 50% discount for card holders
Building of Bath Museum - 50p off for card holders
Holburne Museum of Art - £1 off for card holders
HorseWorld, Whitchurch - 50% discount for card-holders
Annual Summer Craft Fair at the Roman Baths - discounts on selected items for cardholders. Conditions may apply.
Jane Austen Centre - 50% discount for card holders
Museum of Bath at Work - £2 off adult admission, £ 1 off concessions
Parade Gardens - 50% discount for card-holders (summer only)
Pump Room - 50p off for every £5 spent on refreshments

Heritage Open Days

Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September 2002.

The popular open days are being held on the above dates. Among the buildings or rooms not normally on view to the public will be parts of the Guildhall, Englishcombe Tithe Barn and the apartments at Beckford's Tower. On the Sunday there is to be a special tour of the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Upper Borough Walls, known locally as the 'Min'. A booklet listing all the venues open in B&NES and further afield is usually available in early September from libraries.

Heritage Open Week

Saturday 26th October to Sunday 3rd November 2002.

During this week museums and heritage venues are open free to residents of B&NES. Details to be available from libraries and in the local