

THE ROYAL CRESCENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

www.royalcrescentbath.com

Vol. 2 Issue No.4

Spring 2010

**All residents are cordially invited by the Committee
of the Royal Crescent Society to attend the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT 7.15 PM ON SUNDAY 25TH APRIL 2010
by kind permission of
THE ROYAL CRESCENT HOTEL**

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Chairman's Notes

Once again all residents are invited to attend and participate in the Society's AGM in the Royal Crescent Hotel on April 25th, and to join the Society if not already members. Last year enough new Committee members came forward to ensure the Society could continue in its present form, but there remains a need for a treasurer and an editor. Any volunteers for these posts would be welcome – or you may feel that I have been chairman for at least long enough, as well as pro tem treasurer and editor. If succeeded as chairman, I would be available to continue as treasurer and/or editor.

As explained below, the final Railings meeting and this year's Crescent Lawn Company's AGM will also be held on the same evening to make it easier for those eligible to attend these meetings.

Among the events in Royal Victoria Park listed later in this issue is the Bath Food & Drink Festival, which has no connection with recent Taste of Bath events. The organisers have kindly promised two free tickets for each Royal Crescent household, which will be distributed in due course – further details can be found on the back page advert.

I regret to inform you that Dr David Sandilands, long-time owner of a flat in no. 17, died at his home in Birmingham in February at the age of 79. Our sympathies are extended to his wife Madeline and children Penny, Sue and Jonathan and step-son Jonathan Sapey.

Stephen Little,

Chairman

Railings Restoration Fund

Colin Clarkson-Short has arranged what he hopes will be the final residents and freeholders meeting for the railings restoration fund for Sunday 25th April for 6pm in the Royal Crescent Hotel. It will be a short 30 to 45 minute meeting where Colin will bring the fund to a close and present the final management accounts to us all.

Following the completion of the railings and the return of the gates, Colin now hopes to be able to announce some very good news about the pavement restoration and the borders to the Lawn.

Colin's meeting will be followed by a short CLC AGM and then the RCS AGM – hence the 6pm start time.

Please mark the time in your diary and let Colin (cclarksonhort@deloitte.co.uk) know if you will be attending so he can sort the numbers out with the Hotel.

Railings restoration project

The gates have now been put back into their spaces to complete the restoration work on the railings and foundations and provide once again a secure and safe boundary to our Lawn.

We have started the grass cutting and will mow the Lawn once a week (weather permitting) to keep a low cut and a good appearance. We cannot guarantee the stripes every time we cut, but the surface will be kept in good order. It is likely that there will be some weed and feed work early on so please do look out for the signs warning you to avoid using the lawn whilst the weed and feed works its magic.

We have ordered a dry and sunny summer - so please do now get out and enjoy the Lawn. And do remember the picnic club - there are but two rules.

- First: if there is someone on the Lawn enjoying a picnic – pack your basket and join in;
- Second, if there is no one on the Lawn enjoying a picnic – still pack your basket – for rule 1 now applies.

Keys to the lawn

Keys to the lawn are available from Rachel Clarkson-Short at a price of £5 per key. Please email rachel@theroyalcrestbath.com to request a key and post your £5 note through No 29.

Bath Half Marathon

The Royal Crescent Hotel was well represented in the Bath Half Marathon on March 7th:

- Peter Mikolas (Concierge) ran it in a lively 1hr 18min 31sec
- Greg Broad (ex Deputy GM – now in Taunton) in 1hr 59mins
- Peter Pratelli (Restaurant) in 1hr 58mins
- Liz Ballinger (DGM) in a more leisurely 3hrs 35mins (for Dorothy House).

Festive Dinner 2010



The Society's annual Festive Dinner reverted to the Royal Crescent Hotel after an absence of a few years. Although numbers were considerably less than many previous dinners, this made for a more intimate atmosphere, and those who attended praised both the food and the service provided by the Hotel's staff, to whom, along with organiser Michelle Little, our thanks are due. We now look forward to equally successful repeats in future years.

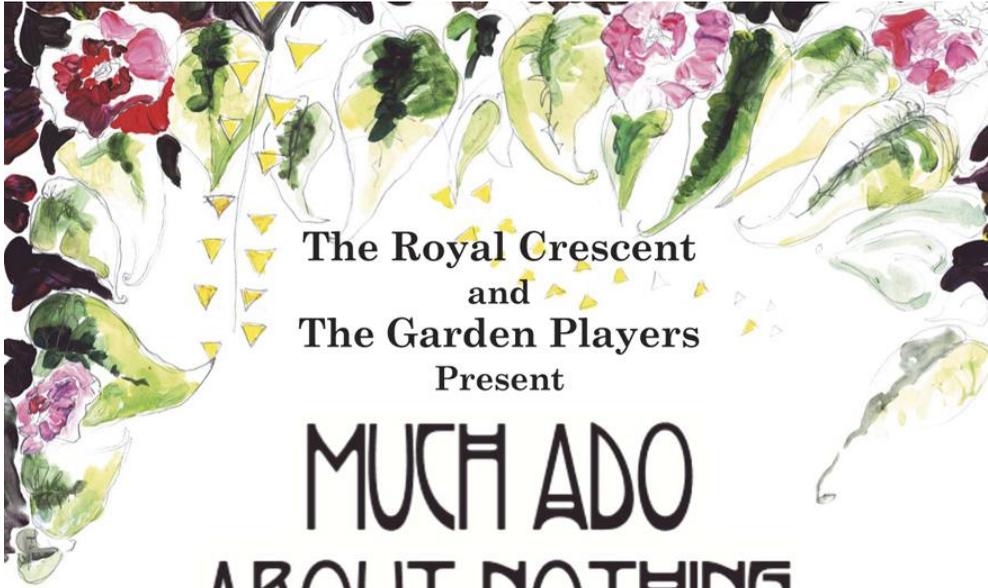
SHAKESPEARE ON THE LAWN

We are delighted to invite you to these unique and very special parties in the most beautiful (and private) location in Bath – The Royal Crescent Lawn. Three separate occasions, designed to enable everyone to join in; to eat, drink and be merry and watch a live performance of William Shakespeare’s “Much Ado About Nothing”. All profits will be donated to the Child Bereavement Charity and CHILDREN with LEUKAEMIA. In addition to attending these fabulous performances you can offer sponsorship and/or donate to these charities.

Shakespeare’s Party Night ***“Much Ado About Nothing” directed by John Timewell.*** ***On the Royal Crescent Lawn***

<i>Friday 11th June A Summers Evening on The Lawn</i>	<i>Enjoy a glass of wine and a BBQ grill on the Royal Crescent Lawn from 6.00 pm before settling down to watch the play. Dancing to live music after the performance through till midnight. Admission £30 (Concessions £20)</i>	<i>Lawn Opens 6.00 pm Performance 7.30 pm Carriages at midnight</i>
<i>Saturday 12th June Family Matinee</i>	<i>A summer treat for family and friends – bring your own picnic take advantage of the cash BBQ, before settling down to watch this hilarious play. Admission £15 (Concessions £10)</i>	<i>Lawn Opens 12.30 pm Performance 2.30 pm Close 5.30 pm</i>
<i>Saturday 12th June Saturday Night Finale</i>	<i>Enjoy a glass of champagne on arrival at 6pm followed by a gourmet grill on the lawn (cash bar available thereafter) before the performance at 7.30pm. Then join the cast and party with live music till midnight. Dress code is Black Tie. Admission £35 (no Concessions)</i>	<i>Lawn Opens 6.00 pm Performance 7.30 pm Carriages at midnight</i>

Bookings: 07775 573 553 or
rachel@theroyalcrescentbath.com



The Royal Crescent
and
The Garden Players
Present

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING

By William Shakespeare

Directed by John Timewell
Three exclusive open air performances on the famous

Royal Crescent Lawn

In aid of



Friday 11th June Evening
Shakespeare's Party Night
Opens 6.00pm – Starts 7.30pm

Saturday 12th June Matinee
Bring Your Own Picnic
Opens 12.30pm – Starts 2.30pm

Saturday 12th June Evening
Black Tie Gala Performance
Opens 6.00pm – Starts 7.30pm

Box Office
07775 573553 or rachel@theroyalcrescentbath.com

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The Bath Preservation Trust
Forthcoming Events at No.1 Royal Crescent

Sunday 18th April

World Heritage Day

The Crescent will become the focus for an exciting day of living history events on 18th April illustrating Bath's past and celebrating World Heritage Day.

At No.1 Royal Crescent, there will be a chance to join Mr. Tyson, Master of Ceremonies at Georgian Bath, when he visits the house and becomes involved in Scandal at the Spa! Downstairs in the historic kitchen at No.1 you can see the cook preparing a sumptuous Georgian feast and hear tales of what visitors to 18th century Bath ate for dinner, while the resident housekeeper has her day disrupted by the arrival of visitors.

Gossip and drama will be centre stage as costumed interpreters bring the house to life with entertainment and stories throughout the day, depicting how life might have been for our 18th century residents.

Costumed performances continually throughout the day between 10.30 am - 17.00 pm (last admission at 16.30 pm).

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**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> May at 6.30 pm**

**‘My Dear Howie’: The letters of Georgiana, first Countess Spencer, to her lifelong Friend, Mrs. Howe.**

A play performed by Pauline Gray

Adapted and directed by Colin Wakefield.

Join us for a very special performance in the Drawing Room at No.1, telling a poignant story of love and loss. The first Countess Spencer was the mother of Georgiana, Duchess of Devonshire, but her

own love story was equally fascinating. This is a one-off performance and the only opportunity to see in Bath the play described by one critic as, ‘a scintillating performance....Georgiana clearly was a witty, intelligent and compassionate woman, and Pauline Gray’s superlative performance conveys this with ease’.

Includes wine and canapés and to be followed by a discussion facilitated by Elaine Chalus of Bath Spa University.

Places are very limited so early booking is recommended.

**Tickets:** £28.50 per ticket. To book or for further information tel: 01225 428126

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Saturday 15th May from 5.30 pm – 8.00 pm

Museums at Night

Now a popular event, No.1 joins with other museums in Bath for a special open evening. Enjoy the magical atmosphere of No.1 at twilight and meet **Samuel Adams, the Georgian Butler**, who will be preparing the house for a night of hospitality and fine dining! Learn how to set the table for dinner and discover the etiquette of the Georgian Table, as Mr. Adams demonstrates his skills to all novice servants!

Upstairs, in the ladies bedroom, there’s an opportunity to have a closer look at real Georgian lace, hats, fans and other feminine finery with lots of lovely things to handle and try on.

Free for B&NES residents.

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## Lectures:

### Meet the Middling Sort

A series of lectures in collaboration with the Herschel Museum of Astronomy and held at No.1 Royal Crescent.

**Tickets:** lecture only £5, lecture and sandwich lunch £8. Please book in advance on 01225 428126

**May 17<sup>th</sup> Georgian Kitchen Stuff.** A fascinating look at life ‘below stairs’ and how houses were serviced and kitchens developed throughout the 18<sup>th</sup> century. By David Eveleigh, Curator of the Black Country Living Museum.

**June 7<sup>th</sup> A Diverse Lot: The Women of New King Street.** The varied experiences of middle-class women in the 1760’s – 1780’s. By Jackie Collier, Bath Spa University

**May 24<sup>th</sup> Georgian Furnishing: Popularity versus Comfort.** By Lisa White, Director of the Attingham Summer School.

**June 14<sup>th</sup> From Monarchs to the Middling Sort.** The conversation piece and the emerging middle class. By Leonora Martin, Curator of Corsham Court

**June 21<sup>st</sup> Silhouette – A History of the Shadow Portrait.** From Greek vases to the bustling ‘shew rooms’ of fashionable Bath. By Emma Rutherford, former Director of Silhouettes and Portrait Miniatures at Bonhams and author of the recently published and highly acclaimed, ‘**Silhouette: The Art of the Shadow**’.

### Britain's most picturesque street

In a recent survey by Google Street View to find Britain’s most picturesque street, the Royal Crescent was nominated in a short list but came second to The Shambles in York. Grey Street in Newcastle came third. However local pride was restored with Milsom Street being voted the best fashion street.

## **Society August Barbecue**

This year's Barbecue will be take place at no. 12, courtesy of the Forester family, a little later than previous years on Sunday September 5<sup>th</sup>. Please note this date now – further details nearer the time.

## **Forthcoming Events in Royal Victoria Park 2010**

March 25 to April 10

Rogers Fun Fair

April 18

World Heritage Day

May 1 to 3 10am to 5.30pm

Bath Spring Flower Show

May to September

Summer Band Concerts

May 28, 7.30pm, May 29, 3pm and 7.30pm, Botanical Gardens

The Lord Chamberlain's Men – Shakespeare's The Tempest

June 16 to 19, 7pm, Botanical Gardens, Shakespeare In The Park

Rondo Theatre Co. – Merry Wives of Windsor

July 3 & 4

Bath Food & Drink Festival

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- *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](mailto:altcar@btinternet.com)), or to the Secretary, Martin Prole, 2 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LR ([theproles@btinternet.com](mailto:theproles@btinternet.com)).*

# Bath

## Food & Drink Festival



Antonio Carluccio

## A Taste of Summer

**The Bath Food & Drink Festival 3rd and 4th July** is a gastronomic delight, with over 130 exhibitors; the scope of local & national products on show ensures there is something for everyone. You'll find an astonishing variety of victuals from oatcakes to aphrodisiac Quince, the widest range of baked goods, meats, fish, cheeses, jams, chutneys and much more on offer; this is the regional food event not

to be missed. **Jarvis of St James** Champagne Garden, an exclusive corner of Victoria Park, invites you to enjoy the finest perfectly chilled glass of champagne or why not sample the full decadent experience and share a bottle of Champagne on ice, with friends. **Antonio Carluccio**, the much loved and respected Italian cookery writer cooks up a storm of genuine regional Italian food that will inspire your taste-buds, this is an experience not to be missed. Michelin Star chef **Martin Blunos** will be joined by leading local chefs in showcasing local and regional produce in the Kitchen. Join the experts in the **Wine, Spirit & Ale Theatre** and take part in informal tutored tasting's, a chance to develop a greater appreciation about wine from the old world to the new world. Don't forget the inspiring breweries showcasing a wide range of **Real Ale** from the region with fine ale from Abbey Ales, Cotswold Spring Brewery, true Cider from Gaymer Cider, Gwatkins Cider and Orchards Cider to name just a few. Join friends and family and relax in the **Gaymer Cider Garden** and enjoy the best of the region, raising a glass to summer.

£6 on the day. Accompanied children under 16 FREE.  
Pre-booked ticket discounts available.

**Bath Ticket Hotline: T: 0844 847 5256**  
**Book on Line: w: [visitbathshop.co.uk](http://visitbathshop.co.uk)**  
**In Person: Bath Tourist Information Centre Abbey Churchyard**  
**For a FREE Programme visit w: [garden-events.com](http://garden-events.com)**