



THE ROYAL CRESCENT SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 2 Issue No.6

Spring 2011

**All residents are cordially invited by the Committee
of the Royal Crescent Society to attend the
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
AT 6.30 PM ON SUNDAY 17TH APRIL 2011
by kind permission of
THE ROYAL CRESCENT HOTEL**

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Chairman's Notes

The calling notice for the Society's AGM accompanies this Newsletter, and it is hoped that there will again be a healthy attendance. Part of the function of the Society is to foster community spirit, and such get-togethers afford a chance not only to mingle with neighbours but also to discuss local matters and quiz our ward councillors about local issues in advance of the Council elections on May 5th. The meeting also includes election of officers and Committee; the Society remains in need of a Newsletter Editor and Treasurer, and you may think that it is also time to choose a new Chairman. If you wish to see the Society continue in its present form, please consider volunteering for one (or more!) of these posts.

The Society's website is currently unavailable, but our Secretary is working on restoring it to its former glory with a different host, and probably a slightly different address. Please ensure that we have your current email address if you wish to be kept informed of this and other news and developments between Newsletters.

Stephen Little,

Chairman

Bath Preservation Trust - Campaigning~Learning~Museums

Re-opening for the season and project update

No. 1 Royal Crescent re-opened on 19th February with a ‘flower’ theme, and as the year progresses will be celebrating Georgian fashion and in particular (and in honour of A Certain Event) Georgian weddings, with the Dining Room laid out for a wedding breakfast and a Georgian wedding dress in the bedroom. An events leaflet is available from No. 1 or on the website. The house is open every day except Mondays.

Bath Preservation Trust’s plans for No 1 and No 1A - The Whole Story - have gone a bit quiet as we awaited planning permission (recently received) and the Heritage Lottery Fund outcome (end March). Fundraising has begun in earnest as we still need to raise around £600,000 to meet our target. Any Crescent residents who would like to see round 1A before any work starts, and/or who thinks they might be able to help with fundraising, are encouraged to contact Caroline Kay at the Trust by email (ckay@bptrust.org.uk) or 01225 338727.

Meanwhile at the Countess of Huntingdon’s Chapel on the Paragon, the Building of Bath Collection is hosting a fascinating exhibition of Bath maps from 1605 to the present day, one sequence of which show the progressive development of the Circus and Crescent in the late 18th Century. A must for Crescent residents! (‘Putting Bath on the Map’: open Saturday, Sundays and Mondays from mid Feb to mid November).

Date for your diary

‘Morning concert with an internationally renowned flautist and pianist duo, Royal Crescent Hotel, 11 July’

More details will be circulated nearer the time but please let Caroline Kay at the Trust know if you would like further information.

Caroline Kay
Chief Executive BPT

Railings and Pavement Restoration

Railings Restoration Fund

After paying all invoices the balance of the Railings Restoration Fund stood at £39,070. As agreed at last year's AGM of the CLC and RCS, I have transferred this fund to the CLC where it has been placed into a separate "pavement" fund. The final retention for the railings restoration work is to be taken from these funds and the remainder (£36,142) is to be made available for the pavement project. The amount in the pavement fund includes the £12,368 raised by BPT, £12,000 I obtained from B&NES, £6,500 provided by RCS, £5,000 from CLC with the balance being from the residents and interest.

I have also transferred the donations to the Railings Restoration Fund earmarked by the donors for the future maintenance of the railings (£15,070) to the CLC and this has been placed to a separate "maintenance" reserve fund.

Railings Restoration Work Update

Snagging work on the railings and stone bases was completed during the summer of 2010, and the final retention payment of £2,928 is now due. There has been some frost damage to the stone bases over the winter and I propose to ask Ellis & Co to inspect and undertake the necessary repairs.

Ellis & Co has provided a maintenance plan for the railings and stonework. They recommend annual inspection and attention to defects to both the railings and stonework during the summer each year with a full survey of the railings and repainting every 5 to 7 years.

As you can all see, we have tidied the borders and applied a weed treatment, weed block and laid down a border of small stones of a type commensurate with the Georgian style. The cost of this was covered from the railings restoration fund. Regular attendance and weed treating will be needed to maintain appearance.

The electrical installation has been completed, and it is planned to provide a 'stone look' cover is to protect and 'hide' the electricity outlet. The cost of this was met by CLC.

Pavement Restoration Project

B&NES has now accepted responsibility for restoring the pavement and has included the work in their schedule for 2011. I spoke to Kelvin Packer (Highways) on Friday 18th Feb and he confirmed that he now has everything sorted, contracts are being let, the work is in his budget and work schedule, and is planned for June 2011.

The latest estimated cost of the pavement restoration is £58,000. I will transfer our contribution to B&NES soon after April 5th 2011 and B&NES has now agreed to fund the balance required to take the project through to completion.

Colin Clarkson-Short, Railings Restoration Programme

Midnight Memory Walk

The Children's Hospice South West Midnight Memory Walk will take place on the night of Friday, July 1. All the money raised will go to the charity's hospices, for children who have illnesses that mean they will die before adulthood.



The seven-mile memory walk lets families and friends remember children who have died as well as raising money to support the work of the centres. It will start on the stroke of midnight at Royal Victoria Park after a candlelit ceremony and take in the Royal Crescent.

For more information on the memory walk, or the charity, visit www.chsw.org.uk or call 01271 325270.

On Yer Bike!

The route for this year's Sky Ride on June 5th is likely to be different from last year's, but still include the Royal Crescent, Marlborough Lane, Upper Church Street and Julian Road. We shall be pressing for better alternative parking arrangements than last year. Although there may not be many residents wishing to take part, encouragement of cycling as an alternative to short car journeys should be welcomed if it leads to a reduction in congestion and pollution.

Royal Wedding, April 29th

Few details are available about B&NES' planned Picnic in the Park, except that it will be in the Middle Common (the western part) and feature the Bootleg Beatles. This will require various road closures and parking and waiting restrictions on the day, apparently in and on the northern and western sides of Middle Common.

A formal event with catering, etcetera, in a marquee was considered for the Crescent Lawn but it was thought better to suggest that residents and their guests use it for informal picnics.

Society August Barbecue

This year's Summer Barbecue, once again kindly hosted, organised and cooked by Tim and Roz Forester at no. 12, is planned for Sunday August 21st. Further details will be circulated nearer the time.

Television Aerials

Further to the article on TV aerials in the last issue, Tim Moss was asked to write the following paragraphs, in which he makes an intriguing suggestion. This will be discussed at the AGM, and if thought feasible, details will be sought and circulated for your consideration.

Listed Buildings and modern technology do not always marry well. Satellite dishes, television and radio aerials, when positioned without thought or in sympathy with the building, are a particular problem and an ugly reminder of our insatiable thirst for information and entertainment.

Moss of Bath has installed many satellite dishes at The Royal Crescent, these are positioned well within the mansard and beneath the ridge line of the roof. Local Bath Planners have a very strict policy on the positioning of satellite dishes on Listed Buildings and restrict the siting of dishes on a front, or visible, elevation of a property.

With regard to aerials, there are no such planning restrictions, television and radio aerials can, in theory be located anywhere on

a roof of any property. Installing aerials onto Listed Buildings can be unsightly and the exact positioning is obviously dependent on signal reception; however, when installing aerials Moss of Bath will always endeavour to site the aerial on the rear chimney stack, and as low as possible.

When positioning an aerial internally in a roof void or loft, up to 40% of the signal strength can be lost.

Should the members of the Royal Crescent Society wish to rid the Crescent of unsightly aerials, there is a solution. Moss of Bath could site a single high-gain television aerial that would serve all the properties in the entire Crescent, and remove all the existing aerials. If you would like to discuss this further, then I would be happy to compile a proposal.

Tim Moss, Moss of Bath

Royal Victoria Park Events

Sun 27 March - Kennel Club Grand Day Out & Sponsored Dog Walk
Fri 8 to Tues 26 April - Rogers Fair
Fri 29 April - Royal Wedding Event
Sat 7 May - Healey Car Rally (Royal Avenue)
Wed 4 May and every Wed until 27 July - Run/Cycle/Walk events
Sat May - Lord Chamberlain's Men (Botanical Gardens)
Sat 4 June - Sport & Active Leisure Family Fun Day
Sun 5 June - Bath Sky Ride
Wed 15 to Sat 18 June - Rondo Theatre (Botanical Gardens)
Fri 1 July - SW Children's Hospice Sponsored Midnight Walk
Sun 3 July - NCT Family Picnic (Bandstand Lawn)
Sun 7 August - Robin Hood Ministries Jamboree (Bandstand Lawn)
Sat 10 Sept - Dorothy House Sponsored Midnight Walk

2011 Census 27th March

The 2011 Census, carried out by the Office for National Statistics will be taking place during March 2011. Census Day is March 27th 2011. The Census has been carried out every 10 years, since 1801 (except for 1941). The information collected in the census is used to

plan vital services such as hospitals, housing, roads and emergency services. The results are used to allocate both EU funding, and Central Government funding to Local authorities and to guide, planning, transport policy and service provision generally. It is crucial that community members **complete and return the census questionnaire**, so that important decisions that will affect their community for the next decade are based on accurate and relevant details.

In March, all households get a 2011 Census questionnaire in the post. Householders can make their return using the paper form and put this in the post using the prepaid envelope, or they can make their return online if they prefer.

Café Life

Café Life, a series of Sunday teatime discussions, started on 6th March in the café at St Swithin's church in the Paragon.

This is an opportunity for non-churchgoers to ask questions about faith and Christianity in a friendly and informal atmosphere over tea, coffee and delicious cakes. There is no religious hard sell. Children are very welcome and supervised activities are provided for them.

Café Life runs from 4.00 to 5.30 pm every Sunday from 6 March to 17 April. For more information please contact Henry Brown (henrybrown@bethere.co.uk) or vicar the Rev. Simon Holland (simon@walcotchurch.org.uk)

Subscriptions

This year's subscription to the Society is now due to the acting Treasurer at no. 22. Rates have been unchanged for several years at £8 single or £12 for a double membership (two members in the same household), or you might like to consider Life Membership at £50 single or £75 double membership.

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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), or to the Secretary, Martin Prole, 2 Royal Crescent, Bath, BA1 2LR (theproles@btinternet.com).*