

# THE ROYAL CRESCENT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

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*Issue No 38*

*Winter 1998*

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## **A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT SIR JOHN BARRACLOUGH**

The Editor has asked me for a Christmas Message for this Newsletter which I am delighted to send with warm Seasonal Greetings in this the 25th Anniversary Year of our Society. With all the challenges that have been met in that time some of us could be forgiven for thinking that we had been on the war-path for even longer! But this year of course we reflect in gratitude on the success of our efforts in getting through-traffic banned from the Crescent. It was especially gratifying to see so many of the points advanced from our side reproduced in the Inspector's unequivocal recommendation. Well done indeed to our Chairman and the Committee and to others who contributed with such conviction and gave so much of their time, thought and energy to the cause before and during the week-long inquiry.



Just two reminders if I may: it will still take time and money to implement the decision and on past experience we will need to keep up the pressure - this you may be assured we will do. Secondly please remember that the case was won on the grounds of the damage that the traffic has done and is doing to the Crescent, a principal jewel in our City's crown of Georgian splendour; and here we are particularly indebted to our good friend Dr Peter Woodward whose professional testimony was so very telling. Finally, despite understandable exasperation on hot summer days, it was not a campaign against tourism which we have always accepted is a vital part of our City's economy.

For next year there is plenty to tackle. We need to take the Committee's very effective idea of letting longer grass bring the lawn back into private ownership further by giving the final effect more style and finesse. We have already had helpful discussions with the Council's Chief Horticultural Officer about this. Then we must pick-up the challenge once more of restoring the railings and the Ha Ha on which we had to call a halt because of our limited resources being diverted to the traffic issue. It really would be great if we could get both those developments safely in the bag by the new millenium - so let's try and take that as our target.

Many members will know of the further accolades won by the Hotel and in welcoming its new owners I know you will want me to send our congratulations and best wishes to the General Manager, Ross Stevenson for the high international standing that the Hotel now enjoys. That standing undoubtedly contributed to the success of our traffic campaign when the Hotel came in with strong support as did the welcome pleas from both National and International conservation bodies together with the high profile that the Crescent now enjoys with the national media. Ross now goes on to even bigger things at Cliveden and he and his family carry with them our very best wishes for the future.

Each year inevitably brings its own sorrows as well as successes and I write this in the aftermath of the sad news that one of our most stalwart, loyal and devoted members has died after a short illness. Dr Monica Baly's association with the Crescent and with Bath, which was longer than that of any other resident, has been a major factor in the 25 years of our existence. Underlying her wise and practical advice as a committee member and as Editor was a deep love of the Royal Crescent in particular and of the City in general. Her contributions in the field of nursing, at both the practical level and as a social historian will be an enduring and fine testimony to a truly remarkable lady of whom it could be said that while always a busy person was never a busybody. She will be greatly missed and our sympathy goes out to her brother Patrick and his family.

John Barraclough

## CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

So, the die is finally cast. After 10 years of hard campaigning nothing, except bureaucratic delay, can now stop closure of the West end of the Crescent and elimination of the damaging buses (one is tempted to omit the second and third syllables of that adjective!)

It will certainly happen by April 2000. It could happen by April 1999. Thanks are due to all who worked for it - your Committee, Residents, Councillors and widespread local, national and international supporters. The full stories are in this issue.

In some respects, the case to save this Crescent was always winnable. A non-arterial street, the likelihood of benefits to adjacent streets, our unique nature, few and insignificant disbenefits to anyone. All these factors formed the core of our case and the Inspector's Recommendation.



However, there were serious doubters, particularly those in adjacent streets. I strongly believe that their fears will prove groundless. An immediate consequence of closure will almost certainly be the buses using only one third of the Circus and none of Brock Street or Marlborough Buildings (except for the Bath Bus Co). I find it very difficult to believe that the buses will find the Crescent Lane route attractive or convenient.

Success here must set a precedent for protection of other streets, but residents there must campaign with self-help, vigour, stamina and persistence: street banners are one-day headlines and seldom move the bureaucratic mind. We look forward to helping their campaigns as far as we can.

Turning to different matters at last, the Society's Festive Dinner will this season be on Tuesday 5th January, at the Royal Crescent Hotel, with improved facilities. A separate note will be out soon and your Committee hopes that you will come. It will be a fine opportunity to enjoy what is now the Best Hotel in England, with its new five star rating.

These are two major successes for Ross Stevenson's General Managership and congratulations go to him and his staff who have worked so hard to achieve them; I hear more awards are on their way.

Regrettably this success has something of a downside for us in that Ross has been promoted to General Manager of the much larger Cliveden Hotel. We of course congratulate him on that too, and wish him well; he has always been very supportive of the Society and has managed the interface of commercial and residential needs with courtesy and style. At the same time we welcome the new General Manager here, Laurence Veere who comes from being Deputy General Manager at Cliveden.

I wish all Members a very enjoyable Festive Season and look forward to seeing you at the Dinner.

## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Members

Since the Summer Newsletter much has happened in the Crescent.

We at last have the outcome of the Bus Inquiry for which so many people worked so hard and so deserved the successful outcome.

We have some fascinating contributions to this Christmas Newsletter - Veronique Oswald has given us a delicious recipe for pâté which I can personally recommend and she has also suggested some most timely hints for decorating the Christmas tree - the Oswald's tree is always a picture!

Michelle Morgan has written a marvellous article on the acquisition of a Chinese Armorial plate by the Museum of Asian Art, and its relationship with Bath. We have a photograph of the plate together with photographs taken at the R.C.S. Cocktail Party on August 23rd.

Very sadly we record the death of Dr Monica Baly, the previous Editor of this Newsletter and I know that she did far more for the Royal Crescent Society including the very witty history of the Society in the Summer Newsletter. She was very kind and encouraging to me when I took over as Editor - her example will be much missed as well as her elegant and determined walk to and from the Crescent.

I hope that you will enjoy the 38th Newsletter.

A very Happy Christmas to everybody.

Caroline Carrier  
No 5 Royal Crescent



## THE BUSES - THE NEWS

As the Bath Chronicle quaintly put it "Victory Looms" in residents' campaign to close one end of the Crescent and thus to stop the damaging Open Top Bus traffic.

Since the last Newsletter (Summer '98), the Lord Chancellor's Inspector, Mr J.E. Coyne, has presented his Report on the June Public Inquiry with his Recommendation to B&NES Council that it should proceed with its proposed Traffic Order.

The Council has decided, unanimously, to accept the Recommendation. It has directed the Head of Engineering Services to try to implement the closure by the end of Financial Year 1998/9 (by using any unused funds), and if not, to do it in the next Financial Year.

Neither the bus operators nor any other objectors to the proposal attempted to raise any obstacles to this decision and there is now no further avenue for them to do so. The case is settled and closure will happen.

The question is: when? Well, certainly by April 2000. Possibly by April 1999. To be more precise is not possible. The steps on the way to the physical closure include much scope for bureaucratic delay, claims of other more urgent work, etc. In other words your Committee and your hard working Councillors will have to continue to keep up the pressure for the thing to actually happen.

The steps include: re-advertising of the intention to proceed; design of the closure structure (pavement? bollards? other?); approval of the design by various departments: highways, legal, built heritage; costing; budget/funding provision; resource allocation in the works programme (or tendering and contracting if sub-contracted). The recent record of the officials involved is not encouraging: vigilance by the Society will be essential.

## THE BUSES - THE INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The Inspector's Report runs to some 28 pages of text, two Annexes and 43 documents. No-one could accuse him of not being thorough. Any member wishing to read the text may borrow a copy (call Chairman on 315529). Meanwhile a few salient points are quoted below:

The final words are worth quoting first:

*"... I am satisfied that the outstanding importance of the Royal Crescent justifies the restrictions proposed in the Order". And, earlier: "I consider the Royal Crescent to be a special case".*

These sentences vindicate the whole of the Society's approach to the campaign. This was based on the uniqueness of this Crescent. Our refusal to join it with the causes of surrounding streets would clearly have ruined our case. Their battles must be fought, but separately. Though their solutions will be more difficult than for the Crescent, they will gain strength from the precedent set here. Your Committee will aim to support their campaigns - providing residents there work hard themselves.

Further gems from the Report draw on the evidence your Committee presented:

*"... I am in no doubt that the amount of Open Topped Bus traffic has now reached a level which is quite unacceptable...."*

*"There is an abundance of evidence of the noise, exhaust emissions, visual intrusion, traffic congestion and loss of privacy the (buses) are creating, to convince me they are seriously damaging the amenities of Royal Crescent.... and the level of use is of a kind which is unsuitable having regard to the existing character of Royal Crescent, a road of international significance".*



*"The significant enhancement... which the proposal will achieve by removing the buses is something which will benefit all visitors to Bath".*

*"... (bus travel) is not the only way or necessarily the best way to fully appreciate the Royal Crescent".*

*"I do not believe it will deter visitors from coming to Bath".*

*"There is no doubt that the buses are the main cause of environmental damage in the Royal Crescent".*

## **BUSES - THE COUNCIL'S DECISION**

The Inspector's Report was produced very quickly on 15 July - a mere five weeks after the Inquiry. Officials took much longer to digest it and present it, with their comments, to Councillors for decision - another 14 weeks in fact! Even then the covering remarks were inaccurate and misleading - details which Committee picked up and which Councillor Hawkins drew publicly to officials' attention in Council.

However officials were clear in advising Councillors to go ahead and - with one last minute hiccup, rescued by Councillor Curran very effectively - the proposal was carried through. All parties were in no doubt that it was the right way ahead. Let us hope they will see it through soon: it is, after all, as much a triumph for the Council as for the Society.

BBCtv2 climbed on the bandwagon too, delaying transmission of their "Close-Up" programme on the city-wide bus problem until the Inspector's Report was released. The half-hour was very thoroughly researched and balanced, but - and the BBC surely has no axe to grind - came out in favour of even more restrictions. Chairman was interviewed for about 2 hours, filmed for 15 minutes and appeared on screen for 30 seconds!

## **SNIPPETS**

### **On-Street Parking Charges**

The proposal to extend parking charges by 2 hours etc was, thankfully, deferred to a later date. The Society and many residents wrote letters of objection highlighting the absurdities of the proposal.

### **Another Book on Bath**

A member of Cliveden's board, James Crathorne has produced an elegant book on Bath which distinguishes itself from the many others by being called "The Royal Crescent Book of Bath". Copiously illustrated with engravings and contemporary paintings and with a photograph of the Crescent on the cover, it will no doubt grace many local coffee tables. It is priced at £25.

### **Lectures**

The Bath Society with which we have reciprocal membership cordially invites members to its Lecture Series at the Meeting Room above Green Park Station, all at 7.30pm, Admission £1.

21st January: "Mahogany" by Lisa White.

18th February: "Palladio and Palladianism: Architecture in Britain and America" by Cicely Grinling.

18th March: "Black Robinson of Widcombe and the Aborigines" by Vivienne Rae Ellis.



### **Bandstands Music**

Following our representations about over-loud "musical" events at the Victoria Park bandstand, reported in the last issue, a further event was moved away, to Middle Common. This does not please our neighbours in Marlborough Buildings, however, and they are arranging a further discussion on the matter in which your Committee will participate.

### **Cocktail Party**

A quiet and restrained but affable cocktail party was held at the Royal Crescent Hotel (by kind co-operation of General Manager, Ross Stevenson) on 23rd August. The aim was modest celebrations of the Public Inquiry and our 25th Anniversary. In keeping with the relaxed and low key tone there were no speeches, which came as a disappointment to some, but a relief both to those who usually speak - Chairman and President - and to those who'd rather just enjoy themselves. Thanks to Tim Forester for setting it up.





## **THE ROYAL CRESCENT HOTEL**

October proved a particularly exciting month at the Royal Crescent as the new Bath House opened its doors to guests and Members for the first time on Sunday 4 October. For avid readers of *Vogue*, the Bath House will be featured in their January issue and the photo shoot for the article was undertaken at the end of October.

We were also the proud recipients of AA Hotel of the Year Award presented at the Royal Garden Hotel, London on 19 October. The luncheon was enjoyed by myself and Nicholas Chalmers, Lauren Bright and Sarah Jones and we also collected along with the award, a beautiful watercolour painting of No. 16 to mark the occasion.

The Royal Crescent Club is now gathering members daily and Stephanie Macdonald is available each day to answer queries regarding memberships and future social events for the Club. She is ably assisted by Lindsay Lancaster who has worked at the Hotel for a number of years.

You will now have heard that I am moving on from the Royal Crescent and although it will not be with a little regret, I am delighted to have been offered the position of General Manager at Cliveden, Taplow. Thank you for all your kindness and support during my time at the Royal Crescent and I do hope that you will take the time to visit me down by the Thames.

Ross Stevenson

## **FIGURES IN THE CRESCENT**

**Ross Stevenson**

Scottish hospitality is known throughout the world and that is appropriately where Ross started his career. His father was in the forces and so the family had lived and travelled abroad including stints in Germany and Singapore and then in Scotland. A summer job at St Andrews gave him his first taste of what hotel work could be like. It was interesting to hear Ross speak about the attraction of its mixture of freedom and security and of how he enjoyed being part of a community yet still retaining contact with a transient way of life. He has worked at prestigious hotels in Scotland and England and has had the good fortune to meet and work for people who have taught him so much. From one he learnt about pride and the need for attention to detail and from another the need to listen to staff in order to motivate them.

His present post at The Royal Crescent Hotel is wide-ranging to encompass accounts, development, personnel, and sales. Paperwork is his least favourite task. He does believe in having a strong management presence in the hotel and also in making time for the staff so that they have the opportunity to talk with guests if that is what the guests want. I have always marvelled at how Bath is a beautiful façade behind which are surprises - some pleasant and some less so. Guests at the hotel are surprised by the spaciousness of the garden and value the privacy that is afforded them there.

One of Ross's pleasures is eating out and he particularly relishes the adventure of the unexpected 'find'. He talked of a 'boys' cycling holiday where he and some friends cycled down to Northern Spain through France and enjoyed the exercise, good food and the pleasure of chance encounters. He said he would like to go to the airport and look at the departures board and say 'take me there'.



Ross met his wife when they worked at Gleneagles and for those who think these things significant it is worth noting that they have the same birthday although different years. Their 7 year old children are twins and a new baby is due in November. It is going to be a busy end to the year but I am quite sure that Ross and Annabel will manage everything with style and aplomb.

Meeting someone who is clearly so successful begs two questions. To what do you attribute this success? Ross claims common sense and opportunity. I felt that just as his life blends almost conflicting tributes he himself is an interesting mixture of the determined, reserved, ambitious and enquiring...

So, having arrived at the position of managing one of the top hotels in the country, what next? In December Ross is off to manage Cliveden. Where managing The Royal Crescent Hotel has been a challenge in terms of establishing it and developing it, Cliveden will present the opportunity to build on a high profile 'product'.

Ross is certainly one of that small group of people to keep an eye on. Progression has meant moving on after three years or so - it will be fascinating to see what he and the fates carve out for him in the future.

Lesley Brain  
No 30 Royal Crescent

## PÂTÉ DE CAMPAGNE COUNTRY TERRINE

The simple French country terrine, if made at home with fresh ingredients and served chilled with a few gherkins, some olives and some sweet summer tomatoes, is one of the finest hors d'oeuvres there is. Recipes vary from area to area, but they are all roughly based on pork, veal and pig's liver, and they tend to be quite fatty and crumbly, which is nice. Here is a typical version.

*Serves 4 to 8*

- 1lb (500g) belly of pork, finely chopped *not minced*
- 8oz (250g) pigs liver, minced
- 12oz (350g) veal, minced
- 4oz (125g) sheet of pork fat or slice of speck (cured pork fat), half cut into ½" (1cm) thick strips and half cut into little cubes
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 6 black peppercorns, crushed
- 4 juniper berries, crushed
- pinch of ground mace
- salt and pepper
- 1 large glass dry white wine
- 1 generous splash brandy

Mix everything except the strips of fat together and leave to stand for a couple of hours in a cool place.

Tip the lot into a terrine and lay the strips of fat over the top. Put the terrine in a bain-marie and cook in a slow oven, gas mark 3, 325°F (170°C) for about 1½ hours. Leave to cool for 24 hours before eating.

Veronique Oswald












## DRESSING A CHRISTMAS TREE

I believe that the custom of cutting down a tree in your local wood, bringing it indoors and hanging pretty things on it at Christmas-time originated in the 19th century, most probably in Germany or Austria.

To be quite frank, the English are not terribly good at it, although with the advent of interior design and more imaginative shop window displays, they are getting better!

Now I am not for one moment suggesting that there is only one way to dress a Christmas tree; far from it. However, a few basic suggestions may help:

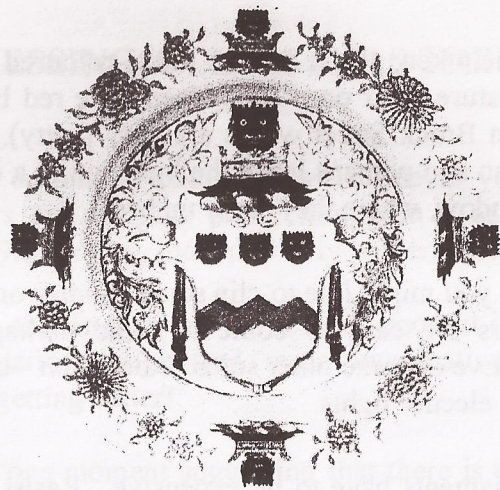
-  Artificial trees, however realistic and time saving they may be, are really not on!
-  The 'real' pine trees, although more expensive, are in my view worth the extra. They are readily recognisable by their grey-blue tinge, bushier branches and generally better overall shape. And they don't lose half their needles a week before twelfth night!
-  Even then, try to leave your tree outside until as late as you can and 'plant' it once indoors in a container that holds water.
-  Try and get some sort of theme going in your decoration, by which I mean avoid combining more than two or three colours or different types of ornament. The trick is to avoid the temptation to stick absolutely everything on.

-  By the same token, please eschew multi-coloured lights in favour of those miniature clear ones (or indeed little red balls which I have just seen in Brock Street which are very pretty). Hide the flex as best you can and perhaps leave the lights on in a darkened room, or in your window, where they show up best.
-  In addition you might like to clip some candles onto a few branches (the holders are easy to come by) and perhaps light these on Christmas Eve or some other suitable occasion - but not at the same time as the electric lights.
-  Not all ornaments have to be expensive. Resist the temptation to rush to the shops this year and paint some walnuts or tie ribbons to the branches. If matched with those ornaments you already have, bright red or green, gold or silver, the effect can be striking.
-  If you do buy ornaments, transparent glass ones, including balls, are always pretty and reflect the light. So too are painted or plain wooden ones as found in Scandinavia.
-  What to put on top? The traditional star or angel still applies.

I hope you have a lot of fun dressing your tree and, unlike us on several occasions and for a variety of reasons, manage not to knock it over at the moment of adding the finishing touches!

Veronique Oswald  
28a Royal Crescent





## DISH WITH THE ARMS OF PULTENEY

Chinese Export Armorial

Qing dynasty, Kangxi period, c. 1722

The Museum of East Asian Art has recently acquired a Pulteney arms dish with the generous funding from the National Art Collections Fund and the Friends of the Museum.

This circular dish with the arms of Pulteney in the centre and the crest of Pulteney four times on the rim was made during the Kangxi period, Qing dynasty (1644-1911) around 1722. This is one of the very few services to have a Chinese mark. Most 18th Century services were produced in Jingdezhen, China and then shipped from the port of Canton. This service was made for William Pulteney, created Earl of Bath in 1742 and is one of only two services of this design and in this palette, with four such crests on the rim. The design was painted in enamels, and the floral decoration was done in gilding.

William Pulteney was a popular Whig statesman of the first half of the 18th Century. He was successful in Bath for he owned the marshland (Bathwick) opposite the Abbey. William commissioned Robert Adam to design a bridge between the city and Bathwick estate. Building began in

1769 and was completed in 1774. By building the bridge which still bears his name, and draining and raising the land, he enabled the houses on Great Pulteney Street to be built. The Pulteney arms can still be seen above the central building in Pulteney Street.

As an Educational Charity the Museum is very committed to education issues; this dish would further the Museum's aim of understanding the links between Bath and China as well as an understanding of Georgian Bath. The Pulteney dish will provide a tangible link and education material for explaining the trade between the important families in Bath and the fashionable East. It could be incorporated in a new layout for a case dedicated to these links. Its addition to the Collection will encourage local interest from the Bath community, thus enabling the Museum to fulfil its access and outreach policy.

In the last year the Museum has been actively investigating the links between the local community and China. A research post was established to produce a report and a small publication concerning the interaction between Bath and China 1680-1840. This has just been published and is now available to purchase from the Museum's shop. To support this theme last September the Museum acquired other pieces that had direct relevance to Bath. These pieces included a Holburne armorial plate, Pratt armorial tea cup and saucer, a blue and white salad strainer and a Dutch influenced blue and white plate.

If you are interested in this subject, then you may wish to visit the exhibition that is currently on display *The Chinese Junk and the Western Waggon* (8th October - 7th March). The Museum is also launching an interactive computer program called the *Festival Promenade*. This has been a collaborative project with the Building of Bath Museum funded by the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and the B&NES Museum Grants Scheme. The *Festival Promenade* looks at the trade links between Bath and the Orient as well as looking at the Georgian architecture.

Michelle Morgan - Curator  
Secretary - Royal Crescent Society



## CHRISTMAS CRACKERS

### OVERHEARD IN THE CRESCENT

*"Oh Look! I remember when I was a girl and they had sheep on the lawn. Isn't it lovely that they are back! Look - they have eaten round the edge. I can't see any - I guess they are resting."*

----- oOo -----

*"I couldn't live here Alice, with these pillars up against one. So depressing. Thank God we live in Park Street, Trowbridge!"*

----- oOo -----

*"It's cleaner now, during the War these buildings were black as ink. They pulled down the fronts and rebuilt. I think they kept the doors!"*

----- oOo -----

*"They have one of these half moon buildings on the way to Rottingdean at Brighton, where a lot of film stars live".*

----- oOo -----

*"We have to talk quiet now, we are in the Royal Crescent - they are all sleeping millionaires who live here".*

----- oOo -----

*"This is No 11 where a Miss Linley lived who was a bit of a flibberty gibbet and ran away with a bloke called Sheridan. I believe he wrote a couple of plays".*

John Carrier  
5 Royal Crescent

## MONICA BALY FRCN, SRN, SCM, HV, PHD 1914-1998

The death of Monica Baly was marked by prominent obituaries with photographs in all the broadsheet national daily newspapers and the Bath Chronicle. After the private cremation service at Haycombe, a Thanksgiving Service was held at Bath Abbey (Monica's spiritual home). Your President and Chairman attended both events and the President read the Cavafy poem Ithaca at the Thanksgiving Service. Monica had pre-arranged the format and content of both events and the Abbey event was very well attended: it included an Appreciation by the Chair of the History of Nursing Society, Royal College of Nursing and a moving but witty Address by the College's Honorary Chaplain and Monica's close friend the Reverend Dora Frost MBE. Monica's close family hosted refreshments at Pratt's Hotel afterwards.

### Dr Monica Baly: An Appreciation

WHERE TO BEGIN? There were so many facets to Monica. A great number were evident when I saw her last, a few days before her sudden death, sitting up in her hospital bed in marvellous form, vibrant, cheerful and full of life. She gave me a surprisingly powerful hug and remarked, 'a patient's life is a busy one, dear'.

And so it was: an important part of her daily routine was to read thoroughly *The Times*, but she hardly had time to do more than glance at the front page. She was considering how best to update her entry on her beloved Florence Nightingale for the *Dictionary of National Biography*. There were visitors to entertain, and to admire the more than fifty 'Get Well' cards, and the bouquets of flowers from the Royal Crescent Society and the Royal College of Nursing. And the hospital hairdresser was styling her hair so that she would look elegant for her return home.



There, gathered in one small space were the visible signs of her professional and her personal life: the range of occupations, from nurse to historian; the keen interest not only in the past but also in present goings-on; her wide circle and variety of friends, and her determination never to be dowdy.

At an age when many people are content to put their feet up and lapse into idleness, Monica, who had until then spent her working life among doctors as a nurse and administrator, had become a doctor herself, gaining a Ph.D for her work on the life of Florence Nightingale.

Impressed by the care she had received in hospital, she had especially enjoyed her star status among nurses, who had asked her if she was *the* Monica Baly whose chapters on Social Policy and Change in a standard textbook had helped them pass their exams.

Monica the historian, who had been working on a history of the Middlesex Hospital, where she had trained, also spent much time delving into the archives of the Crescent, and sharing her discoveries with us all in past issues of the Newsletter.

But there was also Monica the charitable, forever collecting for one good cause or another. Monica the volunteer worker, involved in many worthwhile activities, and sharing her knowledge and love of Bath and the Crescent with visitors to the Museum at No 1. Monica the good friend, whose cheerful rising laugh often echoed along the Crescent as she stopped to talk to friends.

She could be demanding, as those who worked with her when she edited the Newsletter may recall, but that was because she expected others to match her energy and her own high standards. She could be touchingly vulnerable, too. At a recent RCS cocktail party, looking resplendent as she did on festive occasions, she was, uncharacteristically, belittling

herself: none of her achievements, she felt, matched that of being a married woman. There was a sadness there, for many years ago, her fiancé had died before they could marry. Yet, as another visitor - the Rector of Bath Abbey - said as he went, 'I always feel better for seeing you, Monica'.

Sadly, that privilege is now denied us all. For no sooner had Monica returned to the flat she loved so much, and had lived in for many years, and expressed her pleasure at being home, than she was felled by a massive stroke, and died without regaining consciousness.

The world is a poorer place without her.

Barbara Walker

I shall miss Monica Baly's energy and enthusiasm a great deal. Her first love was of course the nursing profession, its improvement and recognition. Her many innovations, her erudition on all nursing related matters, especially Florence Nightingale, live on. But her second, fervent passion, was the Royal Crescent and the City of Bath. She worked tirelessly for the Crescent and - with the Society's first Chairman - she virtually was the Society for many years. Her high standards have been tough to try to live up to. Her watchword of "Eternal Vigilance" against the many threats to the Crescent must be ours who succeed her. A remarkable, lively and kindly lady whose demise mercifully took place in the place she loved so much. Current and future generations of residents owe her a considerable debt for all she did for the Crescent; she made a difference and we shall need to work harder without her.

Michael Daw  
Chairman



# STOP PRESS NEWS

*This letter arrived as we went to press - HOORAY!*



## BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET

### Engineering Services

Floor 2 South, Riverside, Temple Street, Keynsham, Bristol BS31 1LA  
Helpline: (01225) 39 40 41  
Facsimile: (01225) 394335

Date: 24 November 1998  
Our ref: KAM/T101/pw  
Your ref:  
Direct line: 01225-394258  
Fax:  
E-mail:

Mr Michael Daw  
Chairman  
The Royal Crescent Society  
10 Royal Crescent  
BATH BA1 2LR

Dear Mr Daw

### Re: Proposed Road Closure - Royal Crescent

Following your previous interest in this proposal, I am writing to confirm the latest situation.

On 20th October 1998 Bath & North East Somerset Councillors resolved to instigate a "Prohibition of Driving Order" at the western end of the Royal Crescent.

I enclose a copy of the Report which was considered by the Transportation Sub-Committee.



The Traffic Regulation Order will become operative from 15th February 1999. Initially a temporary physical barrier will be installed which will later be replaced with the construction of a footway across the entrance to the Crescent, as shown in drawing T101/138A, enclosed. If you require any further information please contact me.

Yours sincerely

Keith Marsh  
Area Traffic Engineer  
Traffic & Safety