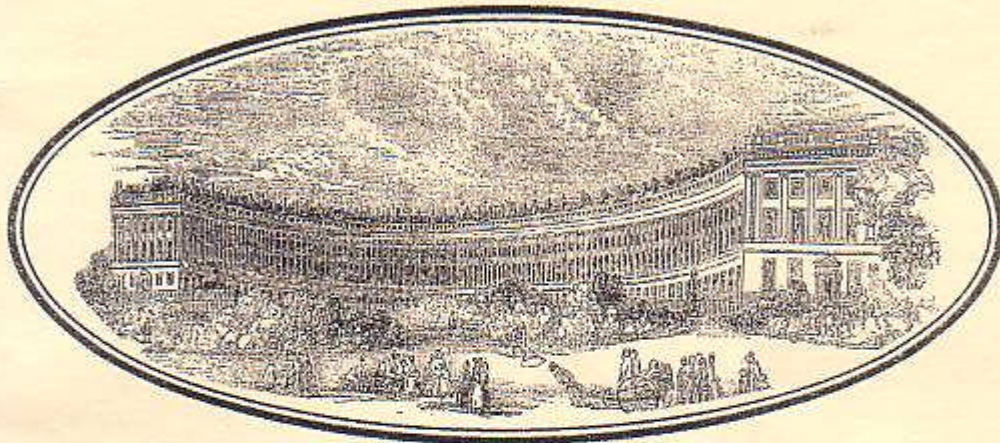


THE ROYAL CRESCENT SOCIETY
NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NUMBER 51

AUTUMN 2003



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THE THREE TENORS

Letter from the Editor

Dear Residents and Members,

It has been a remarkable summer in the Crescent. Many people thought that we had had our summer in the weeks leading up to Easter, but it has turned into an exceptional season. The Three Tenors Concert gave us the luxury of security staff on the Lawn for over two weeks of the hottest part of the year.

What a pleasure it was to see the Crescent cleared of traffic for the concert - perhaps we should have the opportunity to see and experience this on a regular basis as part of the annual Heritage Days.

You may have noticed the 'tuk-tuk' vehicles bringing visitors to the Crescent. Painted in very bright colours, they sometimes blast out music from the 1970s, or broadcast a commentary. If they prove popular, no doubt there will be strings of them, wending their way along the Crescent like *ersatz* coaches.

My particular thanks go to our Treasurer, Jennifer Bereska, for the advertising that she has obtained for this issue. Please support the businesses that support the Newsletter.

Stephen Conlin, No.29.

Telephone: 331656. E-mail: info@stephenconlin.com

Published by the Royal Crescent Society

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<i>Editor</i>	<i>Stephen Conlin</i>

Those who prayed for a fine night for the Three Tenors Concert were rewarded with one of the hottest spells ever known, and it seems that the high expectations for the event were fully met. But the prayers might have been a bit too earnest, as the dry weather that persisted for weeks afterwards did nothing to aid the recovery of the Lawn! However Wessex Water have ensured that B&NES Parks Department have harrowed and watered it, and reseeded the small areas of damage. At the time of writing, rain is falling, and this should accelerate the disappearance of the discoloured patches.

Wessex Water have also agreed that the parts of the Ha-ha which suffered during their occupation will receive temporary repairs pending the full restoration. Your views on all aspects of the Concert are invited at the Special General Meeting at the Royal Crescent Hotel on September 21st, for which you should have received an agenda.

At the same meeting the Crescent Lawn Company will be seeking approval from the Society's members for its plans to alter its Articles so that the Lottery grant can be made for the Railings and Ha-ha restoration and so that the application for charitable status can proceed. Further details accompany the agenda, and questions before or at the meeting will be welcomed. This is an important landmark not only in the Society's 30-year history, but also in the two or a quarter centuries history of the Royal Crescent itself. I therefore hope that a representative number will attend and ensure that the Company's directors are aware of the consensus of opinion.

Anticipation of, and preparation for, the Concert diverted attention away from the organisation of the Society's customary Summer Outing. Instead the Social Committee are in the process of arranging an event at the Hotel in November, in conjunction with the Hotel's Royal Crescent Club, please see page 23 of this issue.

The subject of extended opening hours for nightclubs in and around Bath has been a hot topic for city centre residents for some time. There will be an informal public meeting on the subject at

10am on Friday 3rd October at the Guildhall, at which an Overview and Scrutiny Panel of councillors will gather facts and opinions on the impact of having extended nightclub hours past 2am on Fridays and Saturdays.

If you have anything to contribute to the debate on this subject, contact Kirsty Denley of B&NES Democratic Services on 394452 (e-mail: kirsty_denley@bathnes.gov.uk), or FBRA (Federation of Bath Residents' Associations) at 8 Sion Hill, BA1 2UH (e-mail: fearn.wilson@virgin.net), who will be submitting a report to the Panel. By the time this reaches you, the deadline for written submissions of 19th September will be imminent, but it is not clear whether this will be strictly applied to all contributions. A search for 'night-clubs' on the B&NES website (www.bathnes.gov.uk) will yield more information.

The Museum of East Asian Art

Death & Burial:
The Chinese and The Afterlife
(23rd Sept 2003 - 11th Jan 2004)

Death & Burial:
Treasures of The Chinese Tomb
(14th Oct 2003 - 11th Jan 2004)



Bath Open Week (25th Oct- 2nd Nov)

Join the Museum for a fun packed Open week for all the family. (BANES Residents Free)

The Big Draw (& Very Long Draw)

Take part in the Nationwide Campaign 'The Big Draw' throughout October, and help the Museum create a really long Chinese Scroll. Just pick up that pencil and start drawing!

Christmas Shopping/Mah Jongg Evening

Thursday 4th December, Museum Shop and Galleries open until 7pm

Christmas Opening Hours

The Museum & Shop will be closed from 24th December 2003 to 2nd January 2004 inclusive.



Coming Up in 2004 ... Year of The Monkey
Visit the museum free on the 22nd January to celebrate Chinese New Year



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ROYAL CRESCENT SOCIETY - SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
Sunday 21st September 2003 at 6pm in the Royal Crescent Hotel

Convening Notice

A Special General Meeting of the Royal Crescent Society will be held at 6pm on Sunday 21st September in the Royal Crescent Hotel by the kind permission of the Hotel. The agenda is set out below.

1. Proposed alteration to Crescent Lawn Company dissolution clause to enable the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) grant.
2. Proposed alterations to Crescent Lawn Company Memorandum and Articles of Association to enable application for Charity Commission.
3. Three Tenors Concert, 7th August, 2003.

Please make every effort to attend this important meeting, so that directors of the Crescent Lawn Company can ensure that they are acting in accordance with the wishes of the Society's members. Further details are in the notes below and overleaf. The agenda has been kept short, with a 6pm start, so that it should not take up too much of your Sunday evening.

Agenda notes

1 Crescent Lawn Company dissolution clause

The HLF has indicated that it cannot make the promised 75% grant which is necessary to enable the Railings & Ha-ha restoration project to proceed unless the present dissolution clause is altered to ensure that no individuals can profit from the grant if the Company is ever wound up. It is therefore proposed to alter the present dissolution clause:

- 1) If upon the winding up of the Company there remains after the satisfaction of all its debts and liabilities any property whatsoever the same shall be paid to the individuals who were paid up members of the Royal Crescent Society.

Society at the beginning of the accounting year of the said Society during which such winding up commenced (as defined in the Insolvency Act 1986).

to one based on the Charity Commission's model as follows:

1) The members of the Company may at any time before, and in expectation of, its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the Company after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision has been made for them, shall on or before the dissolution of the Company be applied or transferred in any of the following ways:

- a) directly for the Objects; or
- b) by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
- c) to any charity for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects;

2) Subject to any such resolution of the members of the Company, the Directors of the Company may at any time before and in expectation of its dissolution resolve that any net assets of the Company after all its debts and liabilities have been paid, or provision made for them, shall on dissolution of the Company be applied or transferred:

- a) directly for the Objects; or
- b) by transfer to any charity or charities for purposes similar to the Objects; or
- c) to any charity or charities for use for particular purposes that fall within the Objects.

3) In no circumstances shall the net assets of the charity be paid to or distributed among the members of the Company (except to a member that is itself a charity) and if no such resolution is passed by the members or the Directors the net assets of the Company shall be applied for charitable purposes as directed by the court or the Commission.

There is of course no intention of ever letting the Company be wound up, but only if this alteration is made can the grant be given and the restoration proceed. If approved this alteration will be implemented separately to enable the HLF grant to be confirmed and the restoration proceed as soon as possible. whereas the charity applica-

In order to take advantage of the benefits of charitable status, we are mainly concerned with taxation and fund-raising, it will be necessary to alter the Company's Memorandum and Articles of Association to make them acceptable to the Charity Commission. It is therefore proposed to adopt the Charity Commission's model governing document, with the inclusion of the following charitable objects, and alteration of clause 8 to allow a quorum of the greater of 3.33 of Company's members:

- to protect, conserve, maintain and enhance the scenic beauty, the visual and landscape setting of the Royal Crescent in the City of Bath and its architectural integrity within that landscape setting for the benefit of the public
- to ensure continuance of visual access for the public to that entire view from all public viewpoints
- to preserve, maintain, and manage the Royal Crescent Lawn and its boundaries (registered at HM Land Registry under Title no. ST208515)
- to advance public knowledge in relation to the Royal Crescent and the other features mentioned above, and in particular (but not confined to) their natural beauty, historical, architectural and archaeological interest within their overall landscape setting.

The model governing document is too bulky to circulate but may be found on the Charity Commission's website at www.charity-commission.gov.uk/publications/pdfs/gd1text.pdf (copies will be available at the meeting). The Memorandum and Articles of Association would only be changed subject to legal advice, and only if the Charity Commission indicates that our application would thereby be successful. It should be stressed that none of the above alterations would adversely affect residents' rights to use the Lawn.

3 Concert

Your views on the staging and impact of the recent Three Tenors Concert are invited, as the Committee wishes to learn any lessons that may be relevant should the opportunity arise to permit a suitable event in the future.

Questions on all the above issues will be welcome at the meeting, but will receive a fuller reply if submitted in advance to the Secretary, Mr Ian Woodhouse at Number 14 Royal Crescent.

The Lawn: The Royal Crescent Committee and their Paddock

The Royal Crescent Society is lucky enough to hold the records of the precursor of their Society. The records run, with three gaps of several years each, from 1825 to 1899. Originally six Gentlemen residents formed "A Committee for Improving the Royal Crescent". To support our application for permission to restore the Ha-ha and railings, I have recently been delving into the records and thought you may be interested to learn of some of the work and problems the original Committee dealt with over the years.

There must have been some grumbling amongst the Residents about the inadequate street lighting because the first thing the Committee arranged was the purchase of ten extra "Bat's Wing" gas lamps and poles. These were placed between the existing lamps, and the Gas Company generally supplied two extra lamps free of charge, which were placed at each extremity. Each house paid £2.10s.0d per year for the gas and for the lamps to be painted and re-glazed as necessary. This charge stayed the same for 22 years, when it was argued the Gas Company was only maintaining their own lamps, and not the privately purchased ones, and the charge was reduced to £2.0s.0d per house.

On 29th June 1854 a meeting of the inhabitants of The Crescent was called to discuss the advisability of renting the field between the Royal Crescent Lawn and the Park. This field was called the Marlborough Buildings Paddock. This idea was agreed to unanimously and arrangements were started to rent the Field from the owners, the Royal Victoria Park. It had been hoped the take over the Field at Michaelmas, but the tenant, Mrs Saltford declared that "she could not surrender possession without receiving compensation for the crop of grass for the remainder of the year". This was not forthcoming and so after a year's delay a formal Agreement was drawn up in 1855 between Mr Keating of behalf of the residents of Royal Crescent and Jacob Smith acting for the Royal Victoria Park Committee. The Agreement ensured that the field would be kept as pasturage for
... and was closed in any way was not mown more than once a

year and the crop removed, with three loads of good rotten dung spread for every load of hay removed. The iron railings, fences and hedges maintained. No horses or horned cattle allowed. A rental of £20 per annum was to be paid.

From the ensuing bills from then only I believe the east and west sides of the field were bounded by iron railings, and a hedge ran along the south side. The north side edged by the wall and Ha-ha.

All went well, the rentals being paid regularly by the Committee. In the first two years no less than ten loads of rubbish were removed, and in 1872 ten loads of manure were spread. But in November 1876 Mr Ostler had to write on behalf of the Royal Victoria Park Committee to Mr Raymond Barker of 17 Royal Crescent (then the Hon. Sec. of the Committee) to draw attention to the delapidated condition of the hedge of the Royal Crescent Field, requesting that he will "at his earliest convenience give the necessary instructions for planting and renewing the same." This letter had some effect and "young thorns" were planted. However the following February another letter arrived from Mr Ostler complaining of the delapidated state of the hedge, and repeated in May, this time sternly reminding Mr Barker of the terms of the Agreement which specified he kept the iron railings, hedge and fences in a satisfactory condition. So in May Jesse Hayward of 34 Belvedere charged £6 for altering and providing new rails and base bars, repairs to bases, straighten and repair several bars at the east end, and 3 new bars at the west end, and to repaint all the new work.

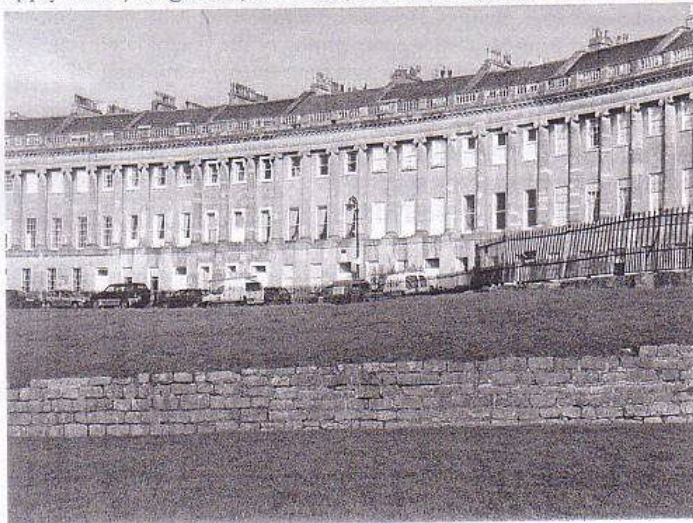
In April 1884 Mr Henderson of 9 Royal Crescent wrote to Mr Stone, the new Hon. Sec., stating that he "had observed nine boys playing on the lawn field. Something should be done to stop this." Sounds familiar?

At some time the Field was sub-let to William Cornish of 13 Cheap Street, as he wrote giving notice to quit the Field in March 1888. No doubt this prompted the meeting of the residents to discuss the desirability of continuing to rent the field. They agreed

unanimously to continue for two reasons, firstly they could have some degree of control over it and secondly they made a small profit by its sub-letting, which defrayed cost of maintenance. In 1888 Mr George Pyatt, Dairyman and Farmer, of Bath Park Farm Dairy in the Royal Victoria Park saying that he had heard that Mr Cornish was giving up the field and saying that he would like to rent it.

A letter arrived from Thomas Hays of 8 Marlborough Buildings in which he complained about the neglected state of the field, particularly about the "nettles which were spreading over the pasture adjoining the quick". Also a pair of oak posts and repairs to the iron gate cost £3.12.0, on top of more repairs to the railings. Luckily the Committee were able to have the rental reduced from £20 to £16 per annum, which would have helped balance the books.

In 1890 advertisements went into several local papers and directories declaring "To be let from 25 March the Royal Crescent Field - Apply Stone, King & Co, Solicitors, Bath." George Pyatt was success-



ful in renting the field, but in July 1893 he sent a letter to Mr Stone enclosing £9.0.0 for the March rental, "with thanks for kindly waiting his convenience. This has been a very expensive summer to all of the keepers of stock, and has kept me doing little else but paying for cattle foods"

In March 1897 a meeting of the Residents was called. The funds were £14 in debt as Mr Pyatt has not paid his rent for eighteen months. It was feared he was in an insolvent state and unable to pay his arrears. However, it was unanimously agreed not to give up the field but "to continue control over it and so prevent it being used for football or other undesirable purposes". (Oh, if they could just see it now!) It was agreed that Mr Pyatt should be given notice to quit and another tenant sought.

Not only had Mr Pyatt failed to pay his rent, but he had built a hay rick in front of No. 30 Royal Crescent. Letters of complaint about this were received oddly from numbers 4, 5, 6 and 9 - the far side of the Crescent. No. 9 also adding he had "scared away a dozen juvenile trespassers this morning" and suggests a notice board be erected as this would "minimise trespassing, but nothing will entirely stop it until the gaps in the hedge are repaired"

News about Mr Pyatt's financial difficulties travelled to Frank Shackell, of 6 Margaret Buildings who wrote to the effect that he had heard that the field probably be let, and would be glad to learn of the terms. But in September a new tenant was decided on - Mr Alexander Wyatt of 3 St James Street, St James Square, Butcher. An Agreement was drawn up whereby he was to keep all fences, walls and gates in good repair, not to plough, mow more than once a year, not to stack hay or fodder, to manure, cut out weeds, remove mole-hills and ant banks, and to keep sheep and up to two horses at a time, but no horned cattle.

Mr Pyatt gave up the field on 29 September 1897. In fact he sold up completely on 18 August, the Catalogue for which shows 19 dairy cows, a two-year-old bull, two strong cart horses, two useful cobs,

Carts, Wagons, Implements, Dairy utensils and effects, a Rick of exceptionally prime Meadow Hay, an important Milk Round and about a hundred lots of household furniture.

In February of 1898 the Headmistress of the Bath College Junior and Preparatory School at 20 Portland Place wrote to Mr Stone that she had in her charge "fifteen tiny boys aged five - nine taught by Governesses". Anxious to find a field in which they can play during the summer she asks if there was any chance of hiring a portion of the field for this purpose. She had searched all round and can find no other level ground for these small boys. As an extra inducement for a favourable reply she adds that the grandson of Mr Henderson of No. 9 Royal Crescent attends her school. Records do not show the result of this plea. Perhaps it was positive, as in April of the same year Mr Henderson wrote that the boys had stopped playing in the lower field and thanks Mr Stone for mending the hedge.

However, this state of affairs was not to last and in desperation Mr Adolphus Murckhardt at No. 6 wrote expressing his belief that "nothing short of an unclimbable fence on the side of the Royal Crescent Field will effectually put a stop to the trespass nuisance, adding that the cost of this ought to be met by the Corporation". (I think he would have approved of chain link fencing.)

Our detailed records end here. There is only one more document dated 29 September 1905 recording an Agreement between William Charles Mercer Adam of 26 Royal Crescent (Agent for the Owners and Occupiers of the houses in Royal Crescent) and Robert Preston Jones of 6 Margaret Buildings, Butcher to let the pasture known as Royal Crescent Field lately in the occupation of Henry Gould at £18 per annum (this was increased to £30 in 1921). He was allowed to keep his mowing machine and tool houses on the premises and stack hay from the pasture only in the south west corner. Again he was only allowed to keep sheep and up to two horses at a



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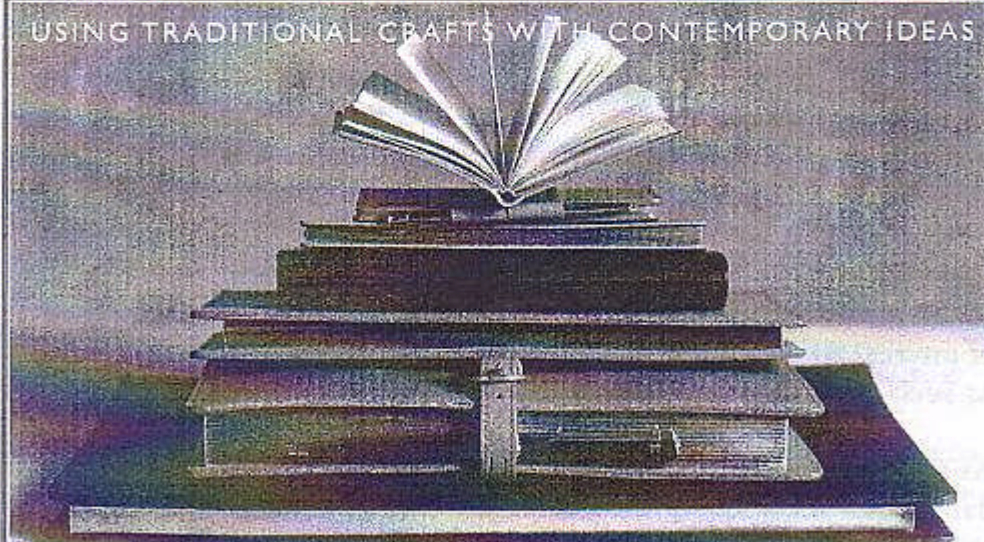
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English Heritage etc.

The entire Royal Crescent is Grade I Listed, and the Listed area extends to the Lawn and the ha-ha. The Lawn is included in the Historic Parks & Gardens Register compiled by English Heritage (ref SMR 4284). Statements from Bath Preservation Trust, the Georgian Group, Bath & Bristol Tourism Bureau, Bath Film Office and the Building of Bath Museum emphasise the importance of the Lawn to the setting of the architecture of the Royal Crescent behind it.

Why the setting should be preserved in its original glory

In his book, *Image of Georgian Bath* Peter Borsay made an analysis of forty-three Official Guides from 1900-1994 and twelve Bath Railway Posters from 1926-1962. He found that 'The Abbey was the most-represented individual building, with the Roman Bath and the Royal Crescent a not-too-distant second and third.' The Royal Crescent continues to be much used as an icon of Bath, as shown by local publications. An example of the international renown which the Royal Crescent enjoys there is an illustrated article from the Montreal Gazette, which describes the Royal Crescent as 'Bath's signature landmark'.

The importance attached by ICOMOS (International Council on Monuments and Sites) to historic gardens is made clear in its 1982 Florence Charter, an addendum to the Venice Charter. This states *inter alia*:

'An historic garden is an architectural and horticultural composition of interest to the public from the historical or artistic point of view. As such, it is to be considered as a monument.'

'As a monument, the historic garden must be preserved in accordance with the spirit of the Venice Charter. The architectural composition of the historic garden includes its plan and its topography - its structural and decorative features.'

'As the expression of the direct affinity between civilization and nature, and as a place of enjoyment suited to meditation or repose,

the garden thus acquires the cosmic significance of an idealized image of the world, a 'paradise' in the etymological sense of the term, and yet a testimony to a culture, a style, an age, and often to the originality of a creative artist.'

'The term 'historic garden' is equally applicable to small gardens and to large parks, whether formal or 'landscape'.'

'Whether or not it is associated with a building in which case it is an inseparable complement, the historic garden cannot be isolated from its own particular environment, whether urban or rural, artificial or natural.'

'The preservation of historic gardens depends on their identification and listing. They require several kinds of action, namely maintenance, conservation and restoration.'

'While any historic garden is designed to be seen and walked about in, access to it must be restricted to the extent demanded by its size and vulnerability, so that its physical fabric and cultural message may be preserved.'

'The work of maintenance and conservation...must always take precedence over the requirements of public use.'

Similarly, the currently published Planning Policy Guidance Note 15 recognises the need to preserve the setting of sites such as the Royal Crescent *in toto*:

'2.24 Again no additional statutory controls follow from the inclusion of a site in English Heritage's Register of Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest but local planning authorities should protect registered parks and gardens in preparing development plans and in determining planning applications. The effect of proposed development on a registered park or garden or its setting is a material consideration in the determination of a planning application. Planning and highway authorities should also safeguard registered

parcs or gardens when themselves planning new developments or road schemes.'

'3.5 The issues that are generally relevant to the consideration of all listed building consent applications are the building's setting and its contribution to the local scene, which may be very important, e.g. where it forms an element in a group, park, garden or other townscape or landscape, or where it shares particular architectural forms or details with other buildings nearby'.

The concept of '*rus in urbe*' (the country in the city) finds a modern echo in the 'Arcadia in the City' project which is part of the Thames Landscape Strategy. This concentrates on the view from Richmond Hill, which was the first view to be protected in perpetuity by an Act of Parliament. In 1998, the Petersham Trust was formed as a registered charity with the sole objective of acquiring Petersham Meadows and ensuring that they remain as part of that view. Thus there is a precedent for recognising the preservation of a vista as a charitable objective.

Throughout the two and a quarter centuries of the Crescent's existence, many artists and photographers have recorded views of the Crescent. They prefer to portray the Crescent and its Lawn as a whole, and show that the setting is as important to the visual impact as the buildings themselves. In the 21st Century the Crescent continues to be a magnet attracting tourists from around the world, and the Crescent Lawn Company is determined that the vista created as John Wood's original concept should be preserved so that it continues to do so.

Stephen Little, May 2003.

Stephen Little's examination of how the Royal Crescent has been and is currently viewed will continue in our forthcoming Christmas issue.

Mrs Garden, who died on Saturday March 26th 2003, had lived in No. 5 for many years and was just short of ninety years of age. Mr Carrier, formerly of the Crescent, remembers 'her bird-like delicacy and dark plumage'. Mrs Morel, a former neighbour, visited Mrs Garden regularly and was a good friend. She recounts Mrs Garden's married life in Sussex; after her husband's death Mrs Garden moved to Marlborough Buildings in order to be near her mother and brother who had taken up residence in Nos. 27/28 The Royal Crescent.

Mrs Garden belonged to many societies and would often travel to London to take part in their social and cultural events. Her support for the Conservative Party was unwavering. She was indomitable, outspoken and at times reclusive. No one was ever invited to her flat in the Crescent, where she lived exclusively on roast lamb, honey and yoghurt. In recent months she had been living in a nearby nursing home.

Mrs Morel says that we have lost a true eccentric, and reports that Mrs Garden grew very mellow in her last days.

Here and There in Bath

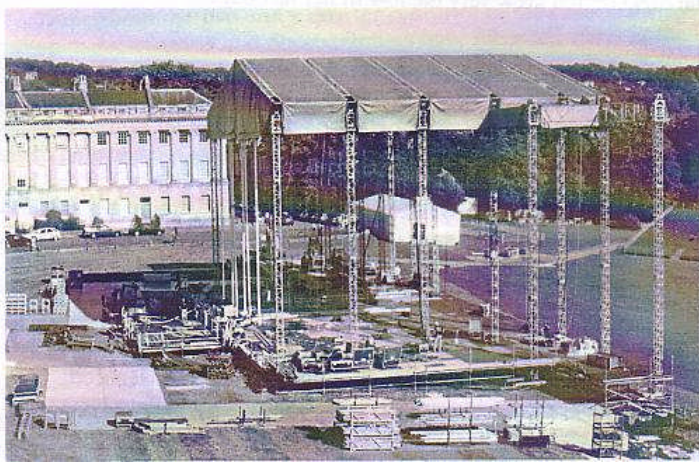
- ▼ Sunday 21 September, Royal Avenue 8am-12noon, Greenwood's Exhibitions: Bath to Bournemouth Classic Car Run.
- ▼ Tuesday 16 to Sunday 21 September, European Entertainment Corporation-Chinese State Circus.
- ▼ Saturday 8 November - back half of the Royal Victoria Park, 8am-4pm, Annual Royal Victoria Park Road Races.
- ▼ Please ensure that the roof hatches of all houses are secured, since there have been recent instances of burglars gaining access to commercial premises by coming down through roof openings.

Crescent Events: The Three Tenors Concert, 7th August 2003

Each year the Malaysian company YTL holds a concert of celebration. This year, because it fitted neatly with their acquisition from Enron of Wessex Water and 'the opening' of the Bath Spa, it was held in Bath. What good fortune for Bath, for this was not just about music, it was about a spirit of community.

My original intention had been to write about the music, but that would be to miss the point. Of course music was the vital ingredient and a widely varied programme had something for everyone, but this was an occasion; an experience; a party, and a party that included any- and everyone who wanted to join in.

Those of us of a certain age will be only too well aware that we are less able to do many of those things that we could do so easily a few years ago. The vanity of man does not stop at the threshold of defying time. Pete Townsend and Mick Jagger have just demonstrated this, but for whatever motives, the three tenors have shown us how pleasure can be brought to a whole community.





HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16.08.03

Dear Stephen,

Thank you so much for all you
& members of the Royal Crescent
Society did to ensure the
fantastic success of the 3 Texas
concert.

Please pass on my thanks to
your members.

Very best wishes,

Jim
JIM FOSTER D.P.



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Ten Years Ago from past Newsletters

103 residents enthusiastically signed the Petition on Avon County Council to 'investigate urgently closure of the Royal Crescent to traffic, except for residents' parking and access, as part of the phase II traffic calming measures for Bath City Centre'. This action was agreed at the AGM as a means of focusing Council attention even more vividly on this Crescent. Two months after the Petition was presented to full Council, by our indefatigable Councillor Mrs Maureen Wheadon, a report was presented to the Public Highways and Transport Committee merely listing all the difficulties which stood in the way of the action and proposing to defer anything until the end of the six-month trial of the Bus Voluntary Agreement. Our Councillor shared our view that this was quite unsatisfactory. A clear, dated plan for action was required and the matter needed to be dealt with separately from the Voluntary Agreement; she very successfully represented these views at the Committee meeting and a lengthy debate followed. The new Liberal Democrat Councillor for another area of Bath lent his strong support and officials were told to think again and report back at the next (October) meeting.

Fifteen Years Ago

In 1988 Dr Monica Baly wrote of the Crescent in the 1950s:

'If there were a dozen cars parked we thought it was excessive and wondered what was on. There were no yellow lines, no wardens, no fines, hardly any traffic and the grass grew between the setts. The war had changed the Crescent, two houses had been bombed and had by now been rebuilt, but other houses were slightly damaged and scarred and a number were empty. Nevertheless, there was still an air of faded distinction about the Crescent, it was a pleasant, peaceful and quiet place in which to live....at No 21, Mrs Thornhill... had five grand pianos. Here, in the early days of the Festival, Yehudi Menuhin used to stay. In those days the Festival was almost a family affair. People with space and pianos acted as hosts to visiting artists. Another resident associated with the musical life of Bath was Mrs Tizzard at No 15. Her musical *soirées* were in the tradition of the nineteenth-century salon, and an early memory is of seeing people in evening dress and fur wraps conversing in a manner worthy of the

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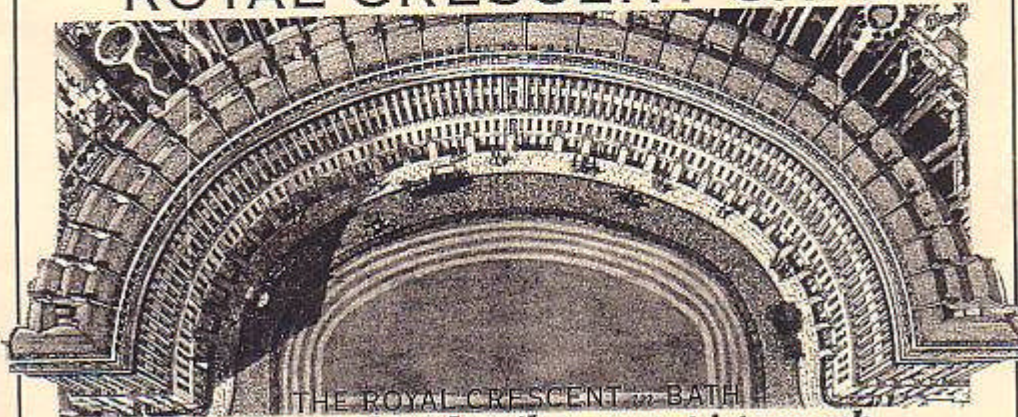
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