

3 Volunteer work

The previous newsletter reported the repainting of over 100 items of street furniture, including painting 40 city coat of arms on historic lampposts, all by volunteers. This work continues, largely with work to milestones as mentioned earlier, but on other signs too and work with the probation service is also being organised.



Some of our main projects:

- Watchman's Box, Norfolk Crescent. Completed.
- Re-print of the Ordnance survey map of Georgian Bath. Completed.
- George Street railing restoration. On site now as we go to press.
- Milestone marker restorations. Largely complete – 17 now restored.
- Incised street names. On-going. 8 now completed.
- Sedan Chairman's Ramp, Portland place. Repair being prepared.
- Corridor Statues. Partially complete.
- Rebecca Fountain restoration. Planned for Summer 2012.
- Lanterns on North Parade Bridge. Preparatory work underway.
- Listed Telephone Kiosk at Brock Street. Repairs being organised.
- City entrance signs. Stalled! Further funding required.
- Beechen Cliff. Discussions with National Trust on-going.
- Lanterns in Bath Street. Preparatory works for replacement underway.
- Holloway Horse Trough. Restoration completed in 2010.
- Kennet and Avon Canal Footbridges and Chimney. Restoration completed 2011
- Landscaping improvements at Kelston Tump. Current project.
- City Trail leaflet. Very popular with 33,000 printed and distributed.
- City Trail audio tour. Completed and available on Bath Tourism Plus web-site
- Collaboration with retro-fitting of historic houses for energy efficiency work.
- Interpretation plaques at the Wansdyke. Current project.

4 Management and Funding

The Fund is controlled by a Management Committee comprising of 3 representatives each, from the Council, Bath Preservation Trust and the WHS Steering Group. The Fund is administered by Bath Preservation Trust, which has appointed a part-time Fund Administrator.

5 Contacts

If you would like further information about the Fund, or have any suggestions for future projects, please contact our Administrator, Ainslie Ensom at whsef@bptrust.org.uk

For general World Heritage information, please contact B&NES World Heritage Manager Tony Crouch 01225 477584 tony_crouch@bathnes.gov.uk

Bath & North East Somerset Council



BATH PRESERVATION TRUST



1987-2012 - 25 Years



WORLD HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT FUND

**Newsletter
2012**

Chairman's Introduction

This is the second annual newsletter of the Fund, which was established in 2009. The Fund is a partnership between the World Heritage Site Steering Group, Bath and North East Somerset Council and Bath Preservation Trust. It has 3 aims:

- To initiate and organise minor enhancements to Bath's heritage
- To assist and encourage others to undertake such work
- To organise volunteers for the same purpose

We are now working on over 25 enhancement schemes, and have an impressive array of completed projects from the award winning canal bridge repairs to 17 restored historic Turnpike and city boundary markers. These are collectively making a real difference, and tackling important tasks which other agencies might not address. We continue to be very grateful for the financial support of our partners and their continued backing has enabled us to organise or participate in over a third of a million pounds of enhancements to our city.

David Beeton
Enhancement Fund Chairman

1 Projects initiated by the Fund

The Norfolk Crescent Watchman's Box, The Fund's first project, is now complete. The sentry box is circa 1810, grade II* listed and thought to have been designed by John Palmer. It was funded by residents to shelter a private watchman, and pre-dates Robert Peel's Metropolitan police force of 1829. Described by English Heritage as a 'very rare survival', it is one of the elements lending such depth of quality and authenticity to Bath. Despite previous periodic repair, it was in a poor condition and at risk. Stonework inserts and stone cleaning were undertaken, a protective lime shelter coat applied, and a replacement oak plank door affixed. The Council's Property Services supervised work by Nimbus Conservation.



The Watchman's Box, before and after restoration

A charming characteristic of Bath's streets are the incised street names, carved into the stone string courses and displaying the care and craftsmanship which pervades the Georgian city. Sadly, many names have eroded or been defaced, and often replaced by modern street signs. The Fund has now faithfully restored 6 incised and 2 painted signs on 7 city streets. This work is especially rewarding where it reverses unsympathetic alterations, such as the removal of a plastic downpipe at Spencer's Belle Vue, and the piecing in of a lost letter 'e' at Charles Street.



Incised street names, before and after restoration

01225 477584 • whsef@bptrust.org.uk

The conservation programme of Bath Turnpike boundary markers continues, with 17 markers now restored. In many cases, this involved rub down and re-paint of the iron structures, using rust resistant finishes. The work has largely been undertaken by volunteers. In some instances however, more significant work was required, with the Widcombe Hill marker badly damaged by successive vehicle strikes. Another hit would undoubtedly have destroyed the marker, but expert repair work by Ironart of Walcot has restored its structural integrity. These attractive and locally distinct features add colour and interest to communities across the city, and thanks to repair work by the Fund will continue to do so for many years.



2 Partnership Projects

Kennet and Avon Canal bridges and chimney

Last year's newsletter reported the Fund's support of a British Waterways lottery bid to restore 'at risk' grade II listed canal footbridges and a Pumphouse Chimney at Widcombe. A year later, funding has been secured, and works completed. The early nineteenth century iron bridges were reputedly the first two structures manufactured by the Stothert (later Stothert and Pitt) foundry, established 1785 in Bath. The Wash House Bridge in particular required serious restoration and was removed from site and thoroughly made over by specialists Dorothea Restorations, Bristol. The work was officially opened by British Waterways and the Mayor of Bath in July 2011, and subsequently received an Institute of Civil Engineers award. It is alarming to think that without timely intervention these unique structures may have been lost.



Stothert canal bridge, before and after restoration

Pulteney estate overthrows and lanterns

Also reported last year was the Fund's work with The Pulteney Estate Residents' Association to restore historically correct overthrows and lights above Georgian gateways. The Association can now offer residents the execution of works to a standard design at about half the cost of an individual scheme. The scheme has been a great success, with 10 'new' overthrows now adorning the estate and road that Nicholas Pevsner described as being amongst 'England's finest formal streets'.

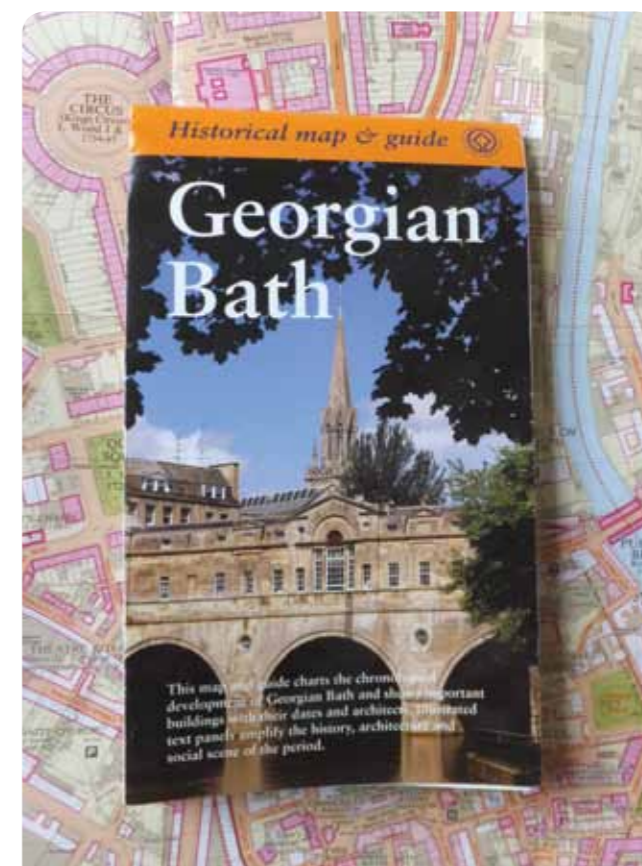


Restored historically correct overthrows and lights



City of Bath College lecturer Nigel Bryant works on the statue

Another partnership project is the restoration of two Grecian female statues which previously adorned a balcony in The Corridor. Stories surrounding the 1974 IRA bombing led to the belief that both were completely destroyed. However, by chance, Bath Preservation Trust Chairman Edward Bayntun-Coward discovered one of the figures in an antique shop. The second came to light soon after, but was in a bad way. City of Bath College Masonry Dept set students to work on piecing together over 100 fragments, and removing more than 50 layers of paint. One of the statues is now complete, with work well underway on the second. The Corridor owners have kindly consented to have both statues returned to their original positions upon completion.



Ordnance Survey formerly published a map of Georgian Bath, showing the eighteenth century city overlaid on a modern base map. The map also showed dates of buildings and named the architect responsible. Of particular interest are the demolished streets and buildings, such as Peter Street, part of the notoriously seedy Avon Street area. This accessible and valuable interpretation of Bath was popular locally but sadly went out of print. The Fund has secured the copyright and re-published the map, which is now on sale through Bath bookshops.