

### 3 Volunteer work

Our volunteer work has taken a new twist recently, working with the 'Community Payback Scheme'. Bath Business Improvement District, working with Avon and Somerset Probation Services and with funding from the Council and Rotary Club, have since 2011 organised 2500 hours of work. The Fund has suggested projects and funded materials for works such as railing re-painting at George Street and Royal Crescent. The work has been undertaken to a high standard.



#### An update on some of our projects:

- George Street railings. Repaired and repainted. Completed 2012
- Milestone Markers. Completed. 17+ conserved.
- Lanterns on North Parade Bridge. Work underway, with the missing stanchion to be replaced, all four to be restored and lit.
- Bath Street Colonnade lantern replacement. Largely complete.
- Corridor statues. Restored and awaiting replacement.
- Beechen Cliff transfer from Council to National Trust management. Awaiting final sign off by national committee.
- Halfpenny Bridge. Railing replacement imminent (Summer 2013) to complete the excellent Rail Station refurbishment.
- Jewish Burial Ground, Combe Down. Conservation of Georgian chest tomb part funded.
- Ralph Allen Mausoleum, Claverton. Conservation works part funded.
- Lansdown Crescent. Missing railing finials to be restored.
- Camden Crescent. Footpath restoration by Residents Association backed.
- Pulteney Estate overthrows. Programme of restoration continuing.
- Watchmans Box, Norfolk Crescent. Conservation completed and plaque now affixed.
- Grey K6 Telephone Kiosk, Brock Street. Restored and locks fitted. Interpretation notices to be added soon.
- City Trail leaflet. 33,000 copies printed and distributed.
- Ordnance Survey map of Georgian Bath. Copyright issues successfully negotiated, map re-printed and on sale now in Bath bookshops.

### 4 Management and Funding

The Fund is controlled by a Management Committee comprising 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

For further information about the Fund, or to suggest any future projects, please contact our Administrator, Ainslie Ensom at [whsef@bptrust.org.uk](mailto: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](mailto:tony_crouch@bathnes.gov.uk)

**Bath & North East Somerset Council**



**WORLD HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT FUND**

**Newsletter  
2013**

### Chairman's Introduction

This is the third annual newsletter of the Fund, 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

The practical difference made by the Fund is visible to all. We have worked on over 30 projects city-wide, which are often important interventions no other body will fund.

But there are other unseen benefits. The Fund uses and encourages traditional craft skills, such as the City of Bath College Masonry Students work on Rebecca Fountain and the Corridor Statues, and the stone carvers who have restored incised street names and the ironworkers restoring Pulteney Estate overthrows. There is also education and interpretation, with the City Trail, the re-printed Georgian Bath map, Wansdyke boards and the emerging 'app'. We are grateful for the continued financial support of our partners in being able to make all this happen.

**David Beeton**  
Enhancement Fund Chairman

### 1 Projects initiated by the Fund

Portland Place (by John Eveleigh, 1786), sits at the top of steep Burlington Street. To level the land a high pavement stretches the length of the terrace, with continuous steps to the front. This pavement structure is listed grade II\* in its own right. These steps proved an obstacle for the Bath sedan chairmen, and most likely a discomfort for their passengers. Funded by subscription, a central stone double ramp was built with a stone obelisk to each side. This delightfully quirky Bath feature was in poor condition and the Fund paid for the Council's Highway Structures Team to carry out timely conservation work.



The Chairman's Ramp, before and after repair

The listed telephone kiosk at Brock Street/Royal Crescent has been adopted by the Council and the vandalised structure has been restored by the Fund. Designed in 1935 by Architect Sir Giles Gilbert Scott to mark King George V's jubilee, around 70, 000 K6 kiosks were installed in the UK. Such was the outcry over these new bright red features, that the General Post Office permitted muted colours of battleship grey in areas of natural and architectural beauty. This was one such area, and grey K6 kiosks are now very rare.



A rare species – the grey K6

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The programme of historic incised and painted street name restoration rolls on. 15 signs have now been restored, making a real difference around the city. Amongst recent restorations is the painted 'Kinston Bildinz' sign. Written phonetically, this honours Bath resident Sir Isaac Pitman, creator of the best known version of phoenetic shorthand and founder of Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons, a world leading educational publishing and training business. Pitman's 'Fonetic Institute' stood at 6 and 7 Kingston Buildings from 1897.



## 2 Partnership Projects

### Heritage App

Electronic interpretation offers exciting possibilities, with an ability to impart information without physical clutter. The Fund is working with Bath Tourism Plus to add a heritage layer to the 'Official Bath App'. The Fund is interested in supplying more information about those commemorated on plaques. Launched in 1898, Bath's bronze plaque scheme is one of the earliest in the country, but each plaque carries very little information. There is often a colourful story behind each person commemorated. 20,500 official bath apps have to date been downloaded (May 2013), making this an ideal opportunity to share information.



### Wansdyke Interpretation boards

The ancient bank and ditch earthwork known as the Wansdyke runs partly along the southern edge of the World Heritage Site. The reasons for construction of this boundary marker are uncertain, which makes the history all the more fascinating. Recent management of this feature has been problematic, with garden waste dumping and general neglect. The Enhancement Fund was keen to help increase interpretation, in order to raise awareness and promote care. Three information boards have been erected by South Stoke Parish Council, with financial aid from the Enhancement Fund, local ward councilors and Bath and North East Somerset Council's Heritage Services.



The Wansdyke: Heritage which needs explaining

### Roman Bath's Touchscreen

Close to 1 million people visit the Roman Baths annually. As such, this is a prime location for World Heritage Interpretation, and the Enhancement Fund has contributed toward a touch screen information point located in the Kings Lounge. The Council's Heritage Services have installed the information point, which gives details of why Bath is inscribed, a background to World Heritage inscription generally and a brief look at some other sites.



### Rebecca Fountain

The Rebecca Fountain, erected by the Bath Temperance Association in 1861, is a familiar landmark by the north side of Bath Abbey. Rebecca had been showing her age recently, with moss algae and staining disfiguring the white Sicilian marble and jointing missing on the blue pennant steps. Masonry students from City of Bath College undertook a thorough clean and conservation exercise, using this as practical training. The Fund also enlisted the help of Bath sculptor Laurence Tyndall, who restored the intricate bronze tap mechanism. The project management was co-ordinated by the Council with the adjoining High Street road works, and the overall result is a significant lift to this area.



Before and after restoration



1967 reclean



After recent restoration

### George Street Railings

Craftsmanship and authenticity are important concepts for Bath World Heritage Site. Following a vehicle strike near the elevated pavement in George Street, an ornate cast iron railing newel post had been replaced in a crude and inappropriate manner. The Fund organised an accurate re-cast through experts Ironart of Walcot, replaced the newel and gave the mould to the Council for future use. A discreet sacrificial modern bollard to prevent future damage has also been installed. These small works help guard against incremental erosion of the quality that makes Bath outstanding.