



Chair's Introduction

Our Enhancement Fund celebrated its 11th Anniversary in 2020, and what a strange year it was, too. However, the Fund's team has not been idle, as we have taken on some new projects, revitalised old plans and generally kept ourselves ticking over, albeit that both our sources of annual funding, the Council and the Preservation Trust, were unable to support us financially during the pandemic. However, both funders have indicated their willingness to restore their annual contributions (£20k and £5k respectively) during 2021/22. Many of our projects are sufficiently below local authority funding radar, yet make a significant difference to the look and feel of our World Heritage City. We postponed our review of past projects, and plan to restart in late 2021: there will be valuable lessons to learn. We are pleased to be able to digitise our Annual Report, making it much easier to distribute to you, our funders, our partners, our contractors and all who have contributed, each in your own way, to the projects highlighted in this year's Annual Report: Thank you

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**PROJECT
REPORT
FOR 2020**

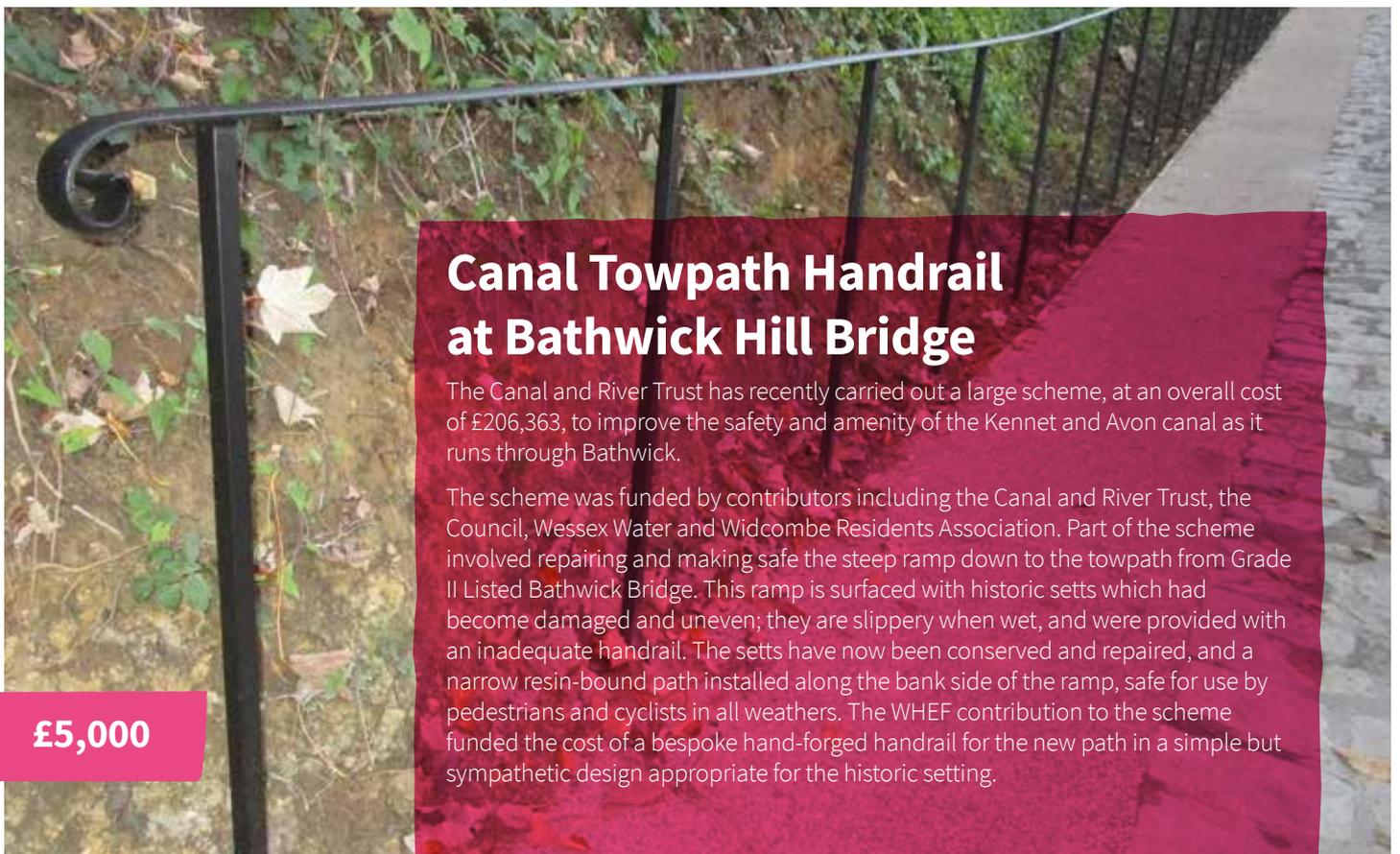
Granville Road Tree Planting: Hedgeline Fence

This is one of the first steps in an on-going project to plant trees to screen the impact on Bath's skyline created by the height and pale colour of recently constructed houses on Granville Road.

The skyline is an important element in Bath's Picturesque Landscape Setting, cited as one of the city's Outstanding Universal Values. The planting is being carried out with the practical and financial support of the farmer who owns the land below the skyline, local councillors, and also after much negotiation, with the consent of the house owners. There is a possibility of linking the scheme with "Plant Britain", an initiative by the programme Countryfile to record tree planting across the UK.

The scheme is planned to cost just under £10,000 over four years.

£451.82



Canal Towpath Handrail at Bathwick Hill Bridge

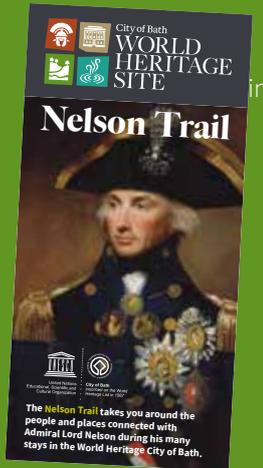
The Canal and River Trust has recently carried out a large scheme, at an overall cost of £206,363, to improve the safety and amenity of the Kennet and Avon canal as it runs through Bathwick.

The scheme was funded by contributors including the Canal and River Trust, the Council, Wessex Water and Widcombe Residents Association. Part of the scheme involved repairing and making safe the steep ramp down to the towpath from Grade II Listed Bathwick Bridge. This ramp is surfaced with historic setts which had become damaged and uneven; they are slippery when wet, and were provided with an inadequate handrail. The setts have now been conserved and repaired, and a narrow resin-bound path installed along the bank side of the ramp, safe for use by pedestrians and cyclists in all weathers. The WHEF contribution to the scheme funded the cost of a bespoke hand-forged handrail for the new path in a simple but sympathetic design appropriate for the historic setting.

£5,000

Design of Downloadable versions of the World Heritage City Trail and Nelson Trail

At the beginning of the pandemic early in 2020 with the first “lock-down” place, it became obvious that there would be no means of distributing the ever-popular printed Trail leaflets through the usual channels. Therefore, downloadable versions of both Trails were produced and made available on local websites for people to use on their daily permitted walks. The production of the Nelson Trail design was supported financially by the Nelson Society.



£456.00

Nelson <https://tinyurl.com/zzm2hzat>
World Heritage <https://tinyurl.com/h5f9z4>

Conservation of lamp standards and railings on Sydney Buildings High Pavement

The Grade II Listed High Pavement below Darlington Place on the east side of Sydney Buildings is a late example of a “promenading” terrace, evidence of the Georgian habit of exercising and meeting friends outdoors. Such evidence is an important contributor to Bath’s Social and Cultural significance, one of the Outstanding Universal Values for which the city is inscribed as a World Heritage Site. Several original lamp standards which would have held oil and gas lamps are incorporated within the railings along the pavement; this is a rare survival of evidence of both oil and gas street lighting which, taken together with the recently installed cast crown lanterns in the street (the earliest design of electrical lighting in Bath) forms a tangible history in Sydney Buildings of three centuries of Bath’s street lighting. The lamp standards were

Original gas lamp standard, carefully conserved.



falling into dereliction; together with their supporting railing attachments they have now been restored, cleaned and painted by a partnership of local residents, Councillors and the WHEF.

£4,437.50



Street Signs : Phase 8 of the continuing conservation of Bath’s historic street signs

Two painted signs, at Cavendish Place and Ainslie’s Belvedere, have been conserved and also four incised signs at South Parade, St. James’s Parade, Green Park and Great Stanhope Street.

The much degraded word “West” was carefully restored as part of the Green Park sign, an historic reference to the original twin terraces of Green Park West and East, the eastern terrace having been lost in Bath’s blitz. In addition, an historic painted number 40 on Green Park has had years of paint layers carefully removed and the original form of the numbers restored. This takes the number of signs in the award-winning conservation programme to sixty in total.

£7,717.24



Sydney Gardens Edwardian cast-iron WCs

This grant has acted as part of the necessary match-funding for the current National Lottery Heritage Fund scheme of about £2.5 million for the overall restoration of Sydney Gardens; it has formed a contribution towards the repair and conservation of the Grade II Listed Edwardian Ladies' and Gents' loos, structures which have been on the Historic England at-risk register for some years. Their significance lies in the intrinsic high quality of their design and manufacture, and the rarity of survival of pre-fabricated structures of this type. Once restored (with some of the original fittings retained) the loos will not be returned to their original use but will stand as an integral part of the history and interpretation of the Gardens.

£5,000



Dilapidated Edwardian Gents loo.

Listed Building Application for a group of replacement overthrows to be installed in Cavendish Road

Members of the Cavendish Road Society who live in the Grade I listed terrace, designed by John Pinch in 1810, are proposing to reinstate five of the beautifully detailed ironwork lantern overthrows which are currently missing from the terrace, and to install working lanterns in all of the overthrows. This will restore the rhythm and harmony of this elegant terrace, a significant element within the World Heritage Site. The cost of each overthrow, in the region of £6,800, and of the lanterns at approximately £1,000 will be borne by the residents. A group application for Listed Building Consent, permitted under a "Local Listed Building Consent Order", covers potential installations to all the properties; this may continue over some time, and having Consent in place will make it more straightforward (and therefore also more likely) for individuals to go ahead. The group Listed Building Application, which has been consented, was funded by the WHEF as a turn-key grant to enable the project to start, and also to show support and appreciation for this commendable example of the preservation and maintenance of Bath's historic fabric by its inhabitants.



£2,448.00

Original overthrow, to be replicated.

£2,650.00



Ralph Allen's Town House Historic Paint Analysis

This significant and beautiful building, tucked away and almost invisible between York Street and North Parade Passage, marks the birth of the remarkable association between Ralph Allen and John Wood, the creators (together with Beau Nash) of Georgian Bath. The House is in the ownership of the Council and is currently vacant, so there is a good opportunity to investigate the building's social and structural history, record its existing features, map the alterations made over the years and produce a Heritage Statement to include levels of significance within the House to guide any future plans for the building. This research has included commissioning an Historic Paint Analysis carried out by Lisa Oestreicher, which has proved to be very revealing with regard to the history and development of the joinery within the building.

Queen Square Obelisk repair

Queen Square was the first of John Wood's great architectural set pieces, begun in 1728. The Grade II* Listed obelisk, designed by Wood on behalf of Beau Nash, was set up as the centre piece of the Square in 1738 in honour of Frederick, Prince of Wales. Queen Square represents three of the Outstanding Universal Values for which Bath is inscribed, Georgian Architecture, 18th C Town Planning and Social and Cultural Values. The Listing describes the obelisk as "This notable piece of axial Neo-Roman grandeur, which plays so important a part in articulating the space of the Square". Stones at the north-east corner of the base of the obelisk were badly decayed, and some sections had broken away entirely. The necessary repairs have been carried out, organised by the WHEF and financed in partnership with the Parks Department, which contributed part of the total cost of £1,074.00.

£695



Jem Hobbs of Cliveden Conservation repairing the Obelisk in Queen Square.

Contacts

For further information about the Fund, or to suggest any 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.

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