



## WORLD HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT FUND

### Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to this year's Newsletter. With the Fund now in its eighth year of operation, I was delighted to take over the reins, as Chairman, in July 2017. The Fund is a vital source of conservation and enhancement work in and around the City of Bath. Our projects are often minor in scale and our funding sums are restricted. However, over the eight years we have spent a total of around £193,000 but leveraged that amount up to around £600,000 with the support of charitable trusts, various sponsors and local residents, to whom we (and the people of Bath) owe our grateful thanks for their continued financial support.

A special mention must go to the volunteers who serve on our Working Group and to all those individuals who deliver the projects, alongside the financial support given by Bath & North East Somerset Council and the Bath Preservation Trust.

This newsletter shows a range of works including historical gems such as Queen Charlotte's Coat of Arms and St. Alphege's statue. Also shown is investment in major new projects (such as Archway and Bathscape) and continuing to care for the locally important details, through the on-going street names conservation programme.

We would like to hear your suggestions for potential new projects. The City of Bath World Heritage Site is exceptional, in that it covers the entire City – one of only two such cities in Europe, the other being Venice. We would particularly like to identify new projects in areas where we have (to date) been less active than in, say, the historic core.

We shall not rest on our laurels – we have around 35 projects under consideration and underway. There's much to do. If you are interested in helping us in some way or other, please do contact me via our website [www.bathworldheritage.org.uk](http://www.bathworldheritage.org.uk)

**Professor Barry Gilbertson**  
Enhancement Fund Chairman

### St Alphege, Weston Village

Conservation of the statue at No.43 Church Road, Weston Village, Bath, encapsulates the often small but important projects that add quality and local distinctiveness to the area.

This charming statue is of the ill-fated St Alphege. Alphege was born in Weston in 953AD and is remembered as an anchorite (hermit), monk and a martyr. During his career he was appointed Abbot of Bath (by Saint Dunstan) and later went on to be Bishop of Winchester (984AD) and Archbishop of Canterbury (1005AD). He died in 1012 in Greenwich, London, at the hands of invading Danes who took him for ransom at Canterbury after plundering the city and burning the cathedral.

Alphege declared that his ransom was too high and that it should not be paid, and so, whilst still in captivity, he was pelted to death by ox bones and finally murdered with an axe. It is said that Thomas Becket prayed to him in 1170 just before his own murder.

Funding for the conservation work came from the property owner, Weston History Society and the Enhancement Fund.



St Alphege

## Queen Charlotte's Coat of Arms

A H Hale Ltd at No.8 Argyle Street provides one of the finest examples of a late Georgian shopfront in the country and is deserving of its Grade II\* listing. Above the shopfront is the coat of arms of Queen Charlotte and two hundred years after her visit to Bath in the late autumn of 1817, they are to be refurbished.

The Coat of Arms consist of the Arms of George III (to the left) and Queen Charlotte (right). Between Nov 3rd and Dec 22nd 1817, just a year before her death, Queen Charlotte Sophia, (wife of King George III) stayed in Sydney Place. The Queen was visiting Bath to take the waters when she learned that her granddaughter Charlotte had died in childbirth, along with the child who would have been the future George IV. Queen Charlotte is the second longest serving British consort after the present Duke of Edinburgh.

It is tempting to think that the coat of arms (date unknown) was placed here as a mark of royal favour and patronage, but records suggest not. Although the buildings are old enough to have served Queen Charlotte, documentary evidence suggests the coat of arms may have been placed on a shop in Milsom Street, before being in stored in the basement of 36 Milsom Street for some time.

After being rescued from basement storage in the 1950s, they were repainted by boys of the King Edward's School, (under supervision by the Bursar – a founding member of the Bath Heraldic Society) and initially displayed in the Guildhall before being put back into storage. In the early 1980s the Arms were restored again. No fewer than 16 coats of paint were removed. They were conserved and put back into Argyle Street in 1982. They were again repainted in situ in 2000.



The current owners of A H Hale, Mr & Mrs Balwant Doshi have given their permission for the works to be carried out, which should be completed by Cliveden Conservation by the end of Summer 2017.

## 1 Projects Initiated by the Fund

### Incised Street Names

The ongoing work of conserving Bath's incised and painted street name signs is progressing well. 11 are being restored this year, meaning that in total just over 40 will have been completed by the end of 2017. If you know of an incised or painted sign which needs some repair or restoration, please contact the Fund. Queen Square, Gay Street, New King Street, Upper Bristol Road, Caroline Buildings, Ebenezer Terrace and Macaulay Buildings are all in preparation.

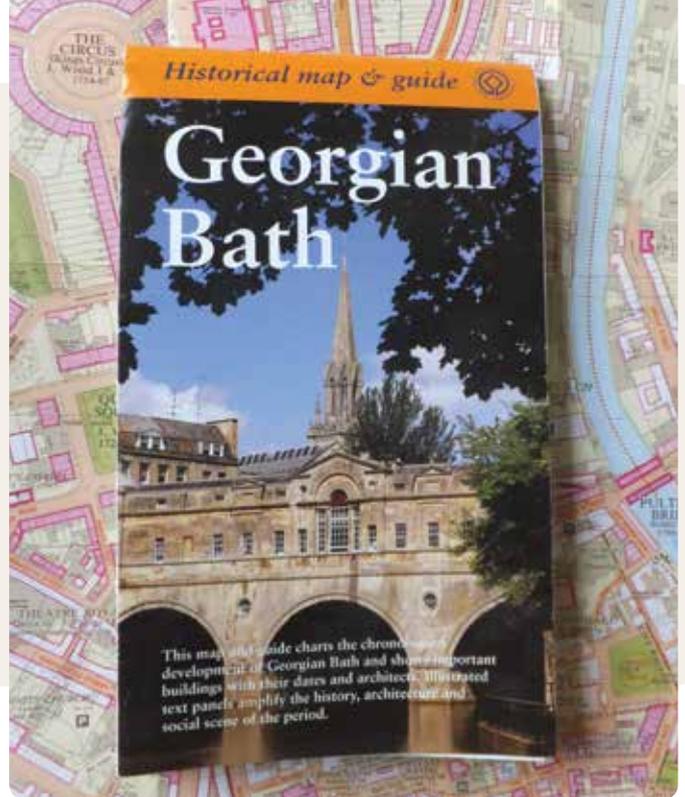


### The Georgian Map of Bath

The Georgian Map of Bath has been a popular publication for many years. With Georgian buildings and street patterns overlaid on a modern base map of Bath, it is an accessible and valuable interpretation of the development of Georgian Bath. Back in 2012 the Bath Preservation Trust secured the copyright from Ordnance Survey after it went out of print, and republished it, and it has been available in local book and museum shops ever since.

Having sold out once more, the Enhancement Fund has financed the second printing of the map so that the history, geography, architecture and social scene of Bath can be brought to life for curious visitors.

The World Heritage City Trail will also be updated and reprinted this year, with the help of the Enhancement Fund.



## 2 Partnership Projects

### Funding Progress and backing partnerships in Bath

The Fund has contributed to three funding bids, which have helped several important projects to unlock more Heritage Lottery funding.

### Archway project £10,000

The Archway project in the former Victorian spa buildings in Swallow Street will include a World Heritage Centre, a much needed resource for visitors and residents alike to find out more about Bath as a World Heritage Site. In October 2016, the Archway Project received a £3.4m National Lottery grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and later in March 2017, reached a fundraising milestone. There are now enough funds to start the project but fundraising continues. Building work is set to start in early 2018, and the Clore Learning Centre and World Heritage Centre are due to open in 2019.

### Bathscape Project £5,000

The Bathscape project aims to connect people to the unique landscape which surrounds Bath, and which is an integral part of its World Heritage Status, as well as being a huge resource for health and recreation. Bath's countryside reaches right into the city centre along numerous valleys, providing vistas, prospects, and walks and rides, which were prescribed for health as far back as the 18th century. The Bathscape Partnership has been awarded a round 1 Heritage Lottery Fund Landscape Partnership scheme grant to improve access to and understanding of the landscape and natural environment, improve its long term management and revitalise its use for health, recreation and fun.

### Abbey Footprint Project £5,000

Work on the Abbey Footprint scheme has already started, with excavation work along the south side of the Abbey. The £19.3 million project is, among other works, adapting the Abbey's interior space for worshippers, visitors, choirs and guests, stabilising the ground beneath the Abbey floor, building a new interpretation centre, and developing a heating scheme which taps into a great unused resource – the thermal waters.

### Making Changes

'Making Changes' provides guidance for owners of historic buildings (up to the Victorian era), who are thinking about adding to, repairing or generally maintaining their historic properties. The handbook gives practical advice, as well as sources of further reading and information. It will be published in May 2017 by the Bath Preservation Trust (BTP) with copies available at the Museum of Bath Architecture or by contacting the Trust (01225 338727). Voluntary donations for the book to cover printing costs are welcomed.



### Vault Study

Bath Preservation Trust (BPT) has been studying the underground vaults which are the cellars and basements of so many of Bath's historic buildings, often reaching down to the old Roman ground level. The Fund assisted in buying some basic research equipment for a project by the Historic Vaults Group at BPT, including measuring equipment which was installed in a number of historic vaults and monitored over a period of 6 months. The research data will support the Group in their ongoing project to understand how vault structures perform under traffic and other environmental conditions.

### Ralph Allen Drive pillars

Driving up out of Bath along Ralph Allen Drive, past Prior Park, it's impossible not to see the imposing Grade 1 listed stone pillars which sit just south of a mini roundabout recently installed to ease traffic flow at the busy North Road junction. Unfortunately, last May a vehicle turned too sharply and hit the east pillar dislodging the top section of the structure. Sally Strachey Conservation were appointed by the Council to repair the structure and the Fund's contribution enabled additional conservation work to be carried out by the company.



### Pieroni Vase

This large shallow vase in Royal Victoria Park has been in the foreground of many a picture postcard of the Royal Crescent over the years. However, its use as a huge planter has taken its toll and water and soil have started to degrade the stone. The planter was made by Stefano Pieroni, the designer of the elaborate fountain which stood outside the Stall Street entrance to the Pump Room in the late 19th century. Pieroni described the vase as 'a beautiful specimen of artistic skill ... seven feet in diameter, and, therefore, one of the largest vases in the kingdom', and which, 'if filled with earth and planted with flowers would have a grand appearance'.

The vase is inscribed with Pieroni's name on the plinth and is now a familiar landmark in the flower garden by the Brock Street park entrance. By comparison with the lithograph of the first mineral water fountain, it is evident that this vase was actually the tasset taken by down by Pieroni (refurbished for some other public use) in exchange for his statue of Bladud.

The Fund initiated the conservation of the stonework, and repairing the drainage within the bowl of the vase.



## More on-going projects for 2017

The following projects have been proposed for 2017:

- Street lighting – funding the initial mould for installing historically accurate street lights in Sydney Buildings, and replacing inappropriate lanterns on Walcot Steps.
- Initiating World Heritage Site signage at Bath Spa Station, including applying decals to the glass doors of the modern exit structure and installing WHS signs at the pedestrian entrances to the site.
- Contributing to the replacement of the concrete surface in Saxon court with pennant paving
- Restoration of The Corridor canopy in the High Street and installing a sign-written history of The Corridor at the junction with Union Passage.
- Assisting the proposal for an installation commemorating Ralph Allen and the Combe Down Stone Mines in Firs Field.
- The Fund has also decided, in partnership with the Council's Parks Department, to restore the cast iron fountain in Hedgemoad Park, following a local request for help.

## 3 Management and Funding

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

## 4 Contacts

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