

Historic Street Signs: Phase 9 of the continuing conservation programme

Four painted street signs were restored this year by Cliveden Conservation, at Gracious Court in Broad Street, Bridewell Lane, York Street, and Cheap Street.

The sign for York Street was conserved in time for the opening of the new World Heritage Site Centre on the street in 2022. This takes the number of signs in the award-winning WHSEF programme to sixty four.

£6,900



Bridewell Lane October 2021



Cheap Street October 2021

Management and Fundraising

The World Heritage Enhancement Fund is financed by a partnership between Bath & North East Somerset Council, and Bath Preservation Trust. The Fund is controlled by a Management Committee comprising three representatives from the Council, from Bath Preservation Trust, and from the World Heritage Site Advisory Board.

Call for projects

The Fund is always looking for more inspiring and interesting projects which will conserve and enhance the public realm and the historic fabric of the unique World Heritage City of Bath. To suggest a project, please contact Ainslie Ensom at whsef@bptrust.org.uk.

Contacts


For further information and questions about the Fund, please contact the Fund Administrator, Ainslie Ensom, at whsef@bptrust.org.uk

For general World Heritage information, please contact Bath and NE Somerset World Heritage Manager, Tony Crouch at tony_crouch@bathnes.gov.uk

To find out more about World Heritage in Bath please go to www.bathworldheritage.org.uk

**Bath & North East
Somerset Council**

 **BATH
PRESERVATION
TRUST**


United Nations
Educational, Scientific and
Cultural Organization


City of Bath
Inscribed on the World
Heritage List in 1987

**GREAT
SPAS of Europe**



Chair's Introduction

Another good year for the Fund busy solving problems in the public realm with projects of conservation, restoration, and repair. It was, of course, a strange year with lockdowns and pandemic regulations making life difficult for the Fund's Working Group. They deserve our thanks for their inspiration, their counsel, and their time freely given for the benefit of our World Heritage City.

2021 marked the fifth year of my tenure as Chair of the City of Bath UNESCO World Heritage Site. It was also the year in which were awarded the almost (but not quite) unique accolade of a second World Heritage Inscription to accompany the first one in 1987. This time Bath played a leading role as one of the eleven towns and cities forming the Great Spa Towns of Europe, to whom a transnational World Heritage Inscription was granted in 2021. My expectation is that even more visitors will arrive in our city through tour itineraries arranged by the other ten Spa Towns.

I would also like to use this opportunity to thank all twenty five members of our World Heritage Advisory Board, and to thank the team (led by Paul Simons and Tony Crouch) who worked tirelessly for almost ten years to secure our second World Heritage inscription. Thanks must also go to the Council and its various Councillors and Officers who have supported the Fund during the past year, to Bath Preservation Trust without whose ongoing support we would find our work even more difficult, and lastly to our World Heritage Manager, Tony Crouch and to our Fund Administrator, Ainslie Ensom, without whom none of these projects would come to fruition.

Professor Barry Gilbertson
Chair, The City of Bath
UNESCO World Heritage Site,
Advisory Board and Enhancement Fund

Sydney Gardens Edwardian cast-iron Ladies' and Gentlemen's WC's

**PROJECT
REPORT
FOR 2022**

These two cast-iron Edwardian structures have now been fully restored as part of the current major scheme of £2.5 million to restore and enhance Sydney Gardens. Fragile in their construction, few such pre-fabricated buildings have survived; they are a significant element in the history of the Gardens, and will form an interesting part of the interpretation story to be woven around the site. The WHSEF contributed £5,000 towards the overall cost of about £60,000 for their conservation. This contribution has enabled the installation of a coloured glass roof for the Ladies, and also some glass panels within the walls of the Gentlemen's. The glass panels to the Gentlemen's replace some which were too badly damaged to restore; they are etched with a replica of the original design and will allow views into the structure. The restoration work was carried out by Ironart and Ironage Forge.

£5,000



Gentlemen's
and Ladies' in
Sydney Gardens
September 2021

Granville Road Tree Planting: Broad-Leaf Saplings

£622.34

In December, Stage 2 completed the planting for this on-going project to screen the impact on Bath's skyline created by the housing development on Granville Road. Bath's skyline is an important element in the Picturesque Landscape setting, cited as one of the city's Outstanding Universal Values. The saplings from Chew Valley Trees of Chew Magna include *Acer campestre*, *Fagus sylvatica*, *Quercus robur*, *Sorbus aucuparia* and *Tilia cordata*. The planting was carried out by volunteers from Charlcombe Parish, Bath Preservation Trust, and Levels 1 & 2 City and Guilds Practical Horticulture students from Grow Yourself, a Bath-based Community Interest charity. More Trees, a Bath and NE Somerset charity which receives donations to plant trees, has contributed £1,000 to this project.

There may be a small amount of further expenditure on tree-ties etc, but thanks to grants, help from volunteers and the invaluable assistance of the landowner Peter Griffin, the final expenditure will amount to around £2,500 against an original allocation of £10,000. This includes a contingency fund for future maintenance.

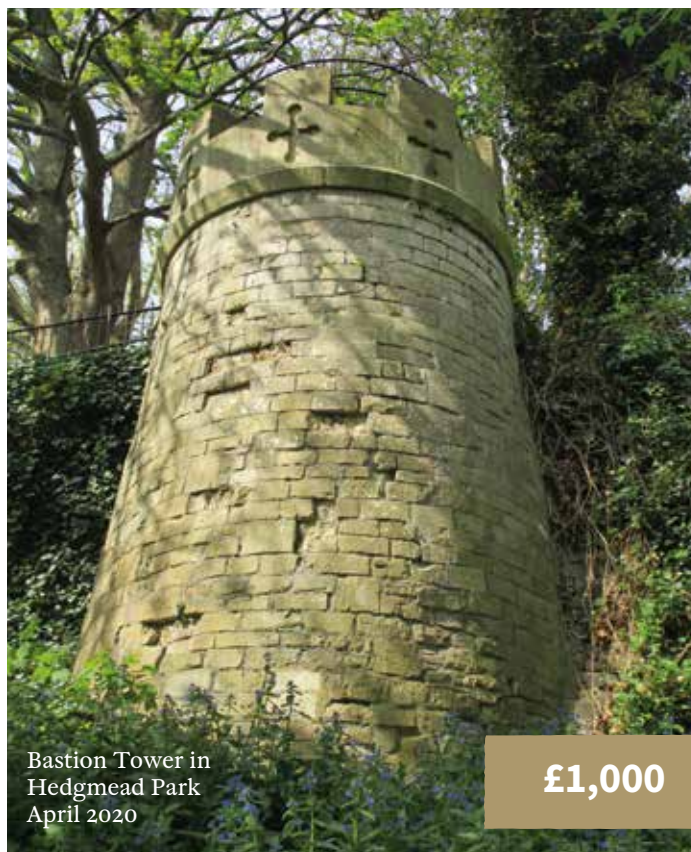
Jewish Burial Ground in Bradford Road, Combe Down

The Jewish Burial Ground is important evidence of a small Jewish community in Bath dating back to the 1750's. The land was acquired from local quarry owners in 1812 and in use for burials from then until 1921; it is a rare survivor, and significant culturally as a focal point for understanding the hidden diversity of Bath. The site was falling into dereliction until the Friends of the Jewish Burial Ground, an active group established about fifteen years ago, began a comprehensive restoration programme. The surrounding walls have been repaired, many of the tombs conserved, and a small quarryman's cottage on site is being restored to provide an interpretation and education centre.

The WHSEF has supported this programme together with other funders, including the Leche Trust. £650 was contributed in 2013 towards the conservation of the Georgian chest tombs of Joseph Sigismund, a prominent Georgian dentist in Bath, and his wife Catherine. A further £3,500 in this year has assisted the conservation of other fragile memorials and of the Blue Lias flagstone floor in the quarryman's cottage, by Sally Strachey Conservation. The Burial ground is open regularly for Heritage and other Open Days, and by appointment.

£3,500

Restored Blue Lias
flagstones in the
cottage Sept. 2021



Bastion Tower in
Hedgemoor Park
April 2020

£1,000

Survey of Listed Structures in Hedgemoor Park

There are a number of Listed structures in Hedgemoor Park, including a battlemented revetment wall incorporating a bastion look-out tower. These picturesque elements, which form part of the retaining structure for the sloping Park, have recently been cleared of encroaching ivy to allow their condition to be assessed. The WHSEF grant is a contribution towards the overall cost of £5,940 for a comprehensive survey by Fergusson Mann of all the Listed structures, to inform and enable a planned programme of repair and restoration. Hedgemoor Park has a recently formed group of Friends, and their activities in co-operation with the Council's Park's Department have resulted in a Green Flag Award.



Heritage Lighting on Walcot Passage Steps

Following the repair and conservation of the stone and ironwork at the upper entrance to Walcot Passage Steps, and the two incised street signs on Bladud's Buildings, the third phase of this conservation programme by the WHSEF is now complete.

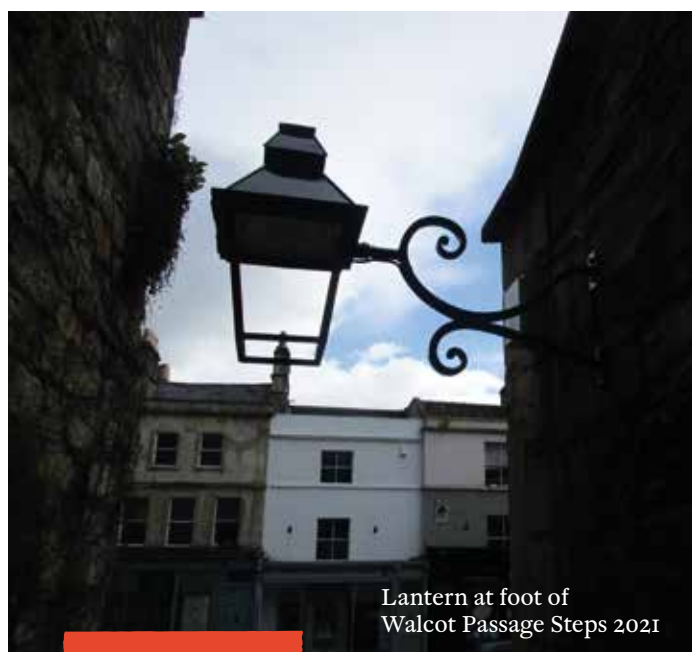
The inappropriate mid 20th century lamps on the Steps have been replaced with two newly fabricated lamps, measured replicas of the Pump Room lanterns. The existing original bracket for the upper lantern has been restored, and replicated for the lower lantern. Lit by LEDs, the new lamps provide a far better quality of light in addition to a great improvement in aesthetic terms to this picturesque little thoroughfare, and both are much appreciated by local residents.

This long-running project has finally been completed, after seven years, thanks to the help and co-operation of the lighting department of the Council, led by Stephen Burrell.

[Stephen was also instrumental in the installation of the cast-crown lanterns in Sydney Buildings, supported by the WHSEF, and by the local residents led by Steve Kerres].

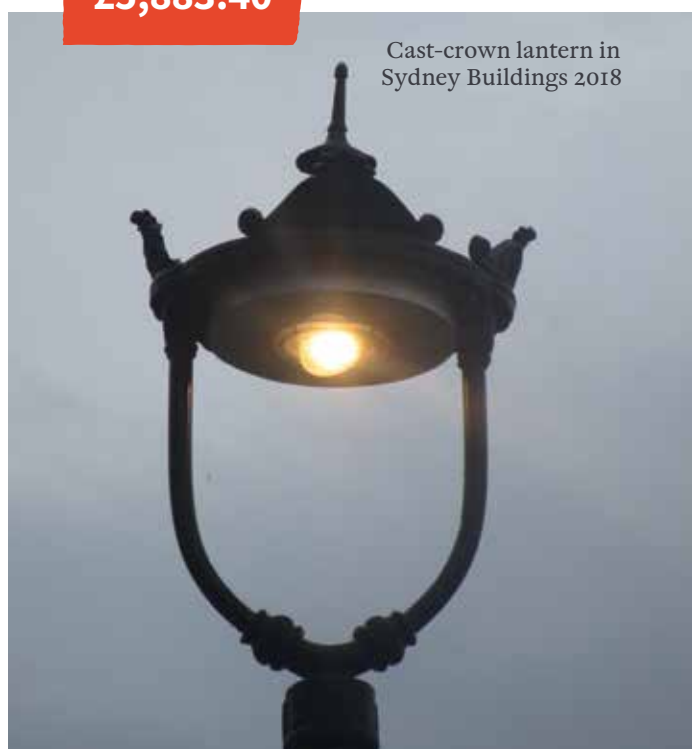
The long-term legacy of the two street lighting projects:

- The development of a quality of LED light which is suitable for use in a historic setting, and more specifically for use with Bath stone.
- Listed Building Approval of two new, historically appropriate, street lantern designs which can be used throughout the city: the replica Pump Room lantern from the days of gas lighting in the city, and the cast-crown lantern from early electric lighting at the beginning of the 20th C. Both are designed to be used without glass and with LEDs, so are low in maintenance and energy use. The mould for the cast-crown lantern, funded by the WHSEF, and a prototype and measured drawings by Steve Kerres for the Pump Room lantern, will be stored at the Museum of Bath Architecture.



Lantern at foot of Walcot Passage Steps 2021

£5,883.40



Cast-crown lantern in Sydney Buildings 2018

2020 WHSEF Newsletter Design and Print

This illustrated Newsletter listing the Projects supported and completed in 2020 by the WHSEF was produced in an on-line format to be emailed to local Councillors and other supporters and interested parties. A small number of paper copies were printed for record purposes and distribution in the future.

£550

