

## **Bathwick Hill Resident's Association Newsletter Feb. 2020**

**Our Website : [www.bathwickhill.info](http://www.bathwickhill.info) is open to all**

### **Date for the Diary**

**AGM Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> 7:00 for 7:30** at St. Mary's Bathwick Church hall.

Please come to our AGM – with a Guest speaker from the University ( to be confirmed) and a chance to discuss local issues, meet neighbours and our Councillors.

Drinks and nibbles served at 7 pm with a start at 7.30 pm.

See back page for the agenda

### **Summer Open Gardens – Date to be confirmed**

This year we are planning an open gardens in the Summer in the centre of the hill. If you have a garden you'd be happy to open in this part of the hill please let us know through our email

[bhraevents@gmail.com](mailto:bhraevents@gmail.com) or phone Sarah on 01225 330928.

Please check our web site for the date which will be confirmed after the AGM.

**Please join us !** : This newsletter goes to every household on the Bathwick Hill once a year to encourage those who are new to the Hill, or the association, to join us. We keep the membership up to date with emails, newsletters and our web site through the year but normally only send newsletters by email to members, unless the member requests a paper copy. Details on how to join on the back page.

**We need your views and help** : We want your ideas for events that you would like. Last year we had two very successful events, as well as the AGM and Autumn event. A visit to the American museum garden and the tour of the Abbey restoration last year. £219.20

Our last event in 2019 was the Autumn event where our new local councillors introduced themselves and answered questions regarding local issues. At the AGM & the Autumn event we traditionally have a raffle for a local charity.

We'd be interested to hear suggestions for speakers this year.

Once we have firmed up on events they will be listed on our calendar on the web site, and newsletters and posts will be emailed to members with details.

Each year we support a local charity – we take a vote on who to support at our AGM. This year we supported the Canal and River Trust to help support local footpath improvements. This year we have raised £219.20 for the Canal & River trust towards remedial work on the tow path between Bathwick Hill and Widcombe. Thanks to all the members and local traders, particularly Myrtle Mee for their generous donations of raffle prizes

**The committee is urgently in need of new committee members, please contact us if you would like to join – we have informal meetings and it is a great opportunity to get involved in our community**

The committee is depleted as sadly both Julie Haywood and Michelle Sheppard have resigned. They both worked hard Julie organised the American museum event and Michelle the Abbey event. Julie was also the guiding light behind our successful raffles.

Sarah is stepping down as Chair, she has been a fantastic Chair and we now need new committee members to bring in new ideas and help us. If you are interested in knowing more please phone Sarah or Claire Contact information on back page.

**So what do we do?** Committee members, attend FoBRA ( federation of bath Residents Associations ) meetings; the Bath University and National Trust local forums; keep up to date with Sydney gardens and Cleveland pools restoration. We are also in touch with the Canal Trust, with particular focus on hopefully improving the tow path between Bathwick Hill and Widcombe. The committee meets about 3 – 4 times a year. Any work in between is done by keeping in touch by email or What's App.

**Current Local Issues**

The issues that currently concern us are the pending sale of the Tesco Car park site, and any application the buyer may make for planning permission. The associated traffic congestion around Tesco is an ongoing problem.

In addition there are the ongoing questions of the bus service, parking, speeding and the Bath wide issues of the Rec and CAZ. We tend to focus on issues local to Bathwick Hill, while FoBRA is looking at Bath wide issues.

**Other news**

**Sydney Gardens** have national lottery funding for their restoration program. As a community project they have a very full program of activities for all ages open to all. Their newsletter is our web site. Currently weekday volunteer gardening started Feb. 5<sup>th</sup> with a free accompanying horticultural training programme starting in March. **There is a link to events on our web site.**

**2020:** Delivery of restoration, building works and landscaping throughout the year, with activities, volunteering and training opportunities.

**2021:** Completion of works with a full activity and event programme

**Broad Band Speedy Provider**

A local company True – Speed is offering to provide higher speed broadband to our area if enough people are interested. The costs are higher than current BT subscriptions but for those who want a very high speed might be of interest. If you would be interested please phone Claire – contact number on back page. There would need to be a high level of interest to go ahead

## **News from FoBRa ( Federation of Bath Residents Associations)**

### **MEETING WITH DINE ROMERO, LEADER OF BANES COUNCIL**

At her first meeting with Fobra Councillor Romero explained that the first priority of the Council is to deal with the Climate Emergency .

The Council has studied and largely accepted the Clean Air Zone proposals of the previous administration. There will now be consultation on Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, the objective being to get cars off the roads and increase public transport. In connection with this Wiltshire has proposed the Wiltshire Whippet scheme – buses would serve a string of park and rides, enabling drivers to park outside Bath. This would be a helpful development since, for example, 48% of RUH patients are from Wiltshire.

Fobra pointed out that given the objective of minimizing traffic in the centre of the city it will be vital to consider the potential problems caused by displacement of traffic to outer areas.

Councillor Romero pointed out that 60% of carbon emissions in Bath come from housing so there will have to be domestic energy saving measures, particularly in listed buildings.

The ban on lorries over 18 tonnes crossing Cleveland Bridge starts in February she explained there was little research on how traffic patterns will change. FOBRA suggested research to be carried out during the closure that might justify a continuing ban on heavy vehicles.

Councillor Romero would like action on Airbnb and student housing, as the council does not receive Council Tax on either. The Council is lobbying MPs and Ministers and is trying to work with the universities . She suggested student accommodation should be built on University land – as in Oxford.

Finally there were questions about the Democratic Deficit. The Bath City Forum had not succeeded and the Council is now in discussion with the National Association of Local Councils about how to resolve the problem of the lack in Bath of a statutory tier like Parish Councils.

### **THE REC AND PROPOSED NEW STADIUM**

The Friends of the Recreation Ground, on a crowd-funding basis, are challenging in the High Court Bath Rugby's Application to overturn the 1922 Covenant restricting development over the Rec. The hearing is expected to be in the High Court of Justice in Bristol on 6 April.

### **JOINT LOCAL TRANSPORT PLAN**

This plan, currently under discussion led by the West of England Combined Authority, working with Banes, Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire councils – sets out a vision for transport up to 2036. The aim is to achieve a well-connected sustainable transport network for residents across the region; a network offering greater travel choices while making, walking, cycling and public transport the natural way to travel. The network will also reduce congestion, improve air quality and reduce our carbon footprint.

Councillor Joanna Wright, Banes Joint Cabinet Member for Transport, describes the Plan as an opportunity to transform the way we travel and reduce the 34% of carbon emissions caused by transport.

To radically improve transport between Bath and Bristol road space will be reallocated to sustainable mass transit modes of transport - buses, trams or light rail are being considered. A mass transit network will also be developed for Bath city centre to serve low traffic neighbourhoods and provide low carbon travel choices around city.

The plan is encouraging news. Fobra has pressed over many years for radical improvement to the city's transport, to make Bath healthier and more pleasant to live in and visit and to protect the built heritage from damage by congestion, pollution and vibration.

# **Bathwick Hill Residents' Association Annual General Meeting**

**Thursday March 19<sup>th</sup> 2020.  
St Mary's Church Hall, Bathwick Hill**

**Arrivals 7.00-7.30 pm for drinks and nibbles**

**Guest Speaker University of Bath Update on working with  
the Community and university plans.**

## **The AGM**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held in March 2019
3. Chairperson's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Chairperson
6. Election of the Officers and Committee
7. Annual Programme of Events
8. Annual Charity
9. Local Councillors Manda Rigby and Dr Kumar will update us on local issues and answer questions. Colin Clark will answer any questions on FOBRA.

**We will hold a vote for a local Charity to support in 2020 – if you  
would like to suggest a charity please email [bhraevents@gmail.com](mailto:bhraevents@gmail.com) in  
advance of the AGM**

**Committee places include:**

**Chair person, Secretary, Treasurer, FOBRA representative  
Social organiser and Committee members**

### **Local Contacts**

Chair Sarah Trimmer on 01225 330928

Secretary Claire Jackson on 01225 464228

Email for booking events [bhraevents@gmail.com](mailto:bhraevents@gmail.com)

To join the Association – the fee is £5.00 per household per annum. Details on  
our web-site <http://bathwickhill.info/> Or pay by cash at the AGM