

# BATHWICK HILL RESIDENT'S ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER AUGUST 2019

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY :

### **18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER ABBEY TOUR, NOW BOOKING**

We have organised a guided tour of the works at the Abbey which will take place on Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September at 6.30pm and will be no more than 20 people hopefully all members of BHRA. The tour will take approximately 90 minutes and will cost £9 per head. After the tour we are hoping some of you will want to meet at the Crystal Palace for a drink to round off the evening. Please reply with names and numbers to the email address [BHRAevent@gmail.com](mailto:BHRAevent@gmail.com)

### **21<sup>ST</sup> NOVEMBER BHRA AUTUMN EVENT – SOCIAL GET TOGETHER MEET YOUR NEIGHBOURS NEW & OLD, AND A CHANCE TO MEET AND QUESTION OUR COUNCILLORS**

Thursday November 21st at St Mary's Church Hall, Bathwick Hill 7:00pm to 9:00pm

Drinks and nibbles at 7:00 pm

Introduction to the new Councillors and Q&A session with Dr Kumar & Manda Rigby at 7:30 pm

Entrance fee of £5.00 payable at the door in cash only or in advance by online payment or cash only.

Please RSVP with names and numbers to [BHRAevent@gmail.com](mailto:BHRAevent@gmail.com) to help us cater for numbers. Also if you have specific issues you would like to raise with our councillors.

**IN 2020 WE WILL HAVE THE AGM IN MARCH, DATE TO BE ANNOUNCED.**

## NEWS

### OUR EVENTS

Our events are open to Bathwick Hill members, and where reasonable friends or family.

The committee have responded to concerns about our dwindling reserves by agreeing to make a small charge per person at all our events. This is to cover our expenses for the event. Our reserve will cover expenses such as maintaining the website, newsletter production, insurance, and any overheads that do occur at events.

Email for booking our events : We now have a dedicated email for events which enables us to keep track of numbers. This is [BHRAevent@gmail.com](mailto:BHRAevent@gmail.com).

The majority of our membership are now online and consult our website and use email. We keep you up to date with items of interest by posts & emails. However we do have some members who are not online and will continue to provide paper newsletters to them, and other lines of contact that can be used. We do not have the time or resources to keep them up to date with events, particularly at short notice. If you have a friend or neighbour who's not online please let them know if you think they are missing out on a relevant post.

### THE COMMITTEE

We have 2 new committee members : Wendy Stockley, who joined the committee at the AGM. William Hubbard also volunteered to join, but unfortunately due to pressure of work has had to drop out. Luckily, Michelle Sheppard has taken his place and is organising our Abbey tour in September. We are always looking for new committee members as we need new ideas and input.

### American Museum Garden Tour

The evening at the American Museum Gardens on the 5th June was a very enjoyable event. A welcome by Julian Blades, the Deputy Director, was followed by an impressive power point presentation by Andrew, the head gardener, who then led a guided tour of the gardens. The evening was rounded off with wine and homemade canapés in the Orangery. The recently landscaped gardens have been planted up with American plants and shrubs, and it will be a delight to see how the Gardens develop over the seasons.

BHRA didn't have an open gardens as this would have been very close to the American museum garden tour. Although we do hope to have one next year and have several volunteers in the middle of the Hill, so if anyone in the middle of the Hill would like to open their garden next year around the beginning of June please get in touch.

### FOBRA REPORT

We are members of FoBRA ( Federation of Bath Residents associations), Colin Clark represents us and they look at BATH WIDE ISSUES.

A sunny but challenging summer as the Government opens a new Brexit chapter and in Bath the new Lib Dem Council establishes its programme, with no certainty about future government funding. Meanwhile FOBRA is establishing relations with the new Council, especially the Cabinet members responsible for Resources; Transport; Housing, Planning and Economic Development; Climate Emergency, Neighbourhood Services, Refuse, Pollution, Clean Air Zone.

As a founder member of the Bath City Forum, which considers issues of particular concern to the city, as distinct from the whole of BANES, FoBRA welcomes Council leader, Dine Romero's announcement of a review of the Forum to increase participation and resident engagement.

### PROGRESS TOWARDS THE CLEAN AIR ZONE

BANES has now received Government funding of up to £10 million to help soften the impact of the CAZ, which is to launch in 2021.

The class C CAZ is being introduced to reduce harmful levels of nitrogen oxide. Private cars and motorbikes will not be charged but higher emission commercial vehicles such as vans, lorries, buses, and taxis will be affected. The £10 million will be used to help bus companies upgrade older buses and help businesses affected by charges. The Council will continue to make the case for full government funding to deliver the whole CAZ scheme successfully and any future revenue from the zone will be reinvested in sustainable transport and travel. The Council will consult this autumn on the draft order establishing the scheme.

FOBRA will continue to press for a comprehensive traffic management plan, worthy of a UNESCO recognised world heritage city. A plan which will reduce and calm traffic and keep iconic places like Queen Square and the Circus largely traffic free.

### PARTY HOUSES

Having press for action on nuisance caused by houses made available for partying FOBRA is pleased that following action on one such house the appeal against a Banes Enforcement Order was rejected and the house must be closed down. This should prove a helpful precedent.

### THE REC AND NEW STADIUM PROPOSALS

Submission of the planning application for the new stadium is imminent.

The proposed stadium is almost double the size of the existing stadium. Impact on the local environment will be considerable. The proposed short stay car park will produce an additional 5,000

car movements daily on already congested and polluted streets. Yet the CAZ and other measures are intended to reduce pollution levels and congestion. Part of the green centre of the city will face intensive development. The intention of the project appears to be to provide an attractive return to financiers, - retail outlets on top of a car park - not add to the rich, two thousand year old heritage of Bath.

An alternative design might be an environment led stadium on the existing footprint, with roughly the same height, in keeping with the built and green heritage around it.

Green issues are at the heart of the new Council's policy so perhaps the issues of congestion, pollution and parking, raised by the proposed stadium, will be reviewed and reversed.

### MILSOM STREET EN FETE

As part of the Love our High Streets project part funded by the West of England Combined Authority, Milsom Street will be closed to traffic for the weekend of Saturday- Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> 22<sup>nd</sup> of September. The project is to help revitalise and rethink high streets. The closure is designed to give businesses increased footfall, with some trading stalls, and two parklets on the street to provide seating and planting. A car-free weekend will also highlight the city's commitment to bring clean air to Bath and enhance its attraction for residents and visitors.

This is exactly the sort of experiment in city centre management that Fobra has been urging for some years.

### BATH QUAYS NORTH

On a further positive note the Council has signed a contract with Legal and General to provide high quality offices and new homes on the site near Churchill Bridge It is a major part of the Council's flagship regeneration policy to retain and attract quality businesses and employment to the city. As always Bath faces a wide range of opportunities and challenges and the responses to them will be important to the lives of all residents.

### OTHER EVENTS AND NEWS

We continue to keep try to keep abreast of what is happening locally. We attend National Trust Local Forum and Bath University Local Forum Meetings which are held 3 times a year.

The Jane Austen Festival starts on 14<sup>th</sup> September and coincides with the Bath University open day!

Bath University term starts with freshers week 24<sup>th</sup> Sept – 30<sup>th</sup>. New students arriving weekend of 22<sup>nd</sup> /23<sup>rd</sup>

B&NES Heritage Open Days run from Friday 13 to Sunday 22 September

There will be something for all ages and interests, for example:

- Meet the Roman Baths team at Lansdown North Local History Store, and take a tour of the weird and wonderful spa collection
- Visit the strongrooms at Bath Record Office, where you'll get exclusive access to some of the rare books collection
- Put on a hard hat for a very special behind-the-scenes tour of Bath Abbey's Footprint Project
- Discover Bath Jewish Burial Ground, the resting place for Bath's Jewish community in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>centuries
- Visit Cleveland Pools, the oldest open-air swimming pool in the UK, which will soon be restored and brought back into use
- Explore Saltford Brass Mill with its working water wheel and water-powered mill

- Visit Somerset & Dorset Railway Museum at Midsomer Norton and see the restored station buildings, signal box, and two museums: one in a Victorian stable block and the other in a WWII pillbox.

Also we keep up to date with Sydney gardens and Cleveland pools developments,; we are pleased to hear that both groups have received Lottery funding and work is proceeding. The funding is dependent on community involvement.

**SYDNEY GARDENS** has an extensive list of events, particularly on the 14<sup>th</sup> / 15<sup>th</sup> Sept  
Grand Regency Costumed Promenade setting out from Sydney Gardens - Saturday 14th September, 11am

The Park Keepers' model railway of Sydney Gardens - Saturday 14th & Sunday 15th September, (Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 11am-4pm) Friends of Sydney Gardens Community Day - Sunday 15th September from 1.00pm - 4.00pm

Walk & Talk for those with memory loss and their carers - Tuesday 17th September from 11.00am to 12.30pm

Friends of Sydney Garden regular events are Historic tours 2:30 to 3:15 and volunteering gardening 10:00 to 12:00 every second Sunday of the month.

There are also Tai Chi & Mindfulness walks every Sunday.

On Wed. 4<sup>th</sup> Sep to 9<sup>th</sup> Oct. 3:30 to 5:30 pm Bath Play project has **after school play** for children aged 5+, under 8s need to be accompanied by an adult.

More details on <https://www.bathnes.gov.uk/services/sport-leisure-and-parks/parks-green-spaces/sydney-gardens/events-activities-sydney-gardens>

If you wish to contact us please email BHRA (except to sign up for events) [bhra21c@gmail.com](mailto:bhra21c@gmail.com) or

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