

**EVENTS for your Dairy for 2018**

AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> March at St. Mary's Church Hall from 7:00

Open Gardens - Planned for the middle section of the Hill on June 16<sup>th</sup>

Autumn event to be arranged – give us your suggestions at the AGM

**Colin Martin**

We were very sorry to hear of the passing of Colin Martin our former chairman and long-time resident of Bathwick Hill. He died peacefully after a long illness on February 5<sup>th</sup> at the age of 84. Colin stepped in as chairman of BHRA on a temporary basis, when we were on the verge of folding due to lack of volunteers for the committee and stayed for 5 years. He stepped down in 2015 due to ill health. He and Sue lived in Sydney Wharf for many years and worked hard to support BHRA and attended all our events, despite his health problems. He was full of life, took a keen interest in several local community projects and was a well-known and liked member of the Bathwick hill community as well as a staunch supporter of Bath Rugby.

Colin's funeral is at Haycombe Crematorium on Monday 26 Feb at 12.15, and afterwards at The Globe. It will be a strictly non-religious ceremony, with no hymn singing, according to his wishes. No flowers thank you, but donations if wished to The Kennet & Avon Canal Trust c/o Funeral Directors G Mannings.

Sue has said it would give her great pleasure and comfort if Colin's old friends from Bathwick Hill can join her on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

**News**

Last year we reduced the number of events we arranged, mainly due to low attendance, we also asked residents at the AGM what events they would like to see. The main focus was about getting more discussion around traffic management – parking, buses, and pollution. We spent some time with the help of Matt, our councillor, looking at parking and our November meeting focused on the buses, with panel made up of James Freeman from First buses, Martin Whalley, Estate Manager at Bath University and council Leader Tim Warren, who stood in for Mark Shelford at the last minute. They answered prepared questions and then questions from the floor. It gave us a greater understanding of the challenges of running the University bus service, and the plans for improving the service. Now that First is our only provider, due to Wessex Connect's withdrawing its service, the service is being tailored more to demand. Also, First have 8 Euro 6 buses and some more on loan so we are seeing cleaner and more efficient buses on the Hill. They were working on some glitches in the system, such as, the real time indicators don't fully reflect the actual service and the buses did not have radio contact, so many were diverting down North parade avoiding the Abbey, leading long waits there. However, this seems to have improved since our meeting.

We start this year with our AGM and after the success of last year's format we will look to the membership for suggestions for events. The calendar is above, updates will be posted on our web site.

The Open gardens in June is a summer social event that we think is still relevant. This year we are hoping to open a selection of gardens in the middle of the Hill, please let us know if you would like to open your garden.

Our AGM will include what promises to be an interesting talk on Bath's World Heritage status. The Agenda is below. We will be collecting annual subscriptions of £5 per household from those of you who still pay cash. If you are unable to attend please drop off your sub with our treasurer (details later in newsletter).

As usual we will have a raffle and the proceeds will go to the local charity we chose for this year. If you would like to nominate a charity or donate a raffle prize, please contact us.

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

**At St Mary's Church Hall, Arrivals 7.00-7.30 pm for drinks and nibbles**

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2018 starting at 7.30 pm Welcome from the Chair**

**7:30 Guest Speaker : Professor Barry Gilbertson** 'The City of Bath as a World Heritage site'

In July 2017, Barry took up a three-year tenure as the (pro bono) Chairman of the City of Bath UNESCO World Heritage Site. Bath is one of only two cities in Europe with a citywide World Heritage Site (WHS) designation, he will explain the five aspects of Outstanding Universal Value attributed to the City of Bath in the UNESCO Inscription, and why the Inscription is so valuable to Bath's future and its economy.

**8:30 Selection of our chosen charity and raffle flowed by The AGM**

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the AGM held in March 2017
3. Chairperson's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Federation of Bath Residents' Associations Report
6. Election of Chairperson
7. Election of the Officers and Committee
8. Annual Programme of Events
9. Local Councillors' Report
10. Any other business

**Nominations for committee members may be made on the night or should be submitted one week in advance to Claire Jackson (Secretary) 3 Woodland Place, Bathwick Hill [Claire.jackson77@btinternet.com](mailto:Claire.jackson77@btinternet.com)**

**We are looking for new committee members please volunteer - The places include:**

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

## **Other News :**

### **Federation of Bath Resident's Associations Report from Colin Clarke**

**Traffic and Pollution** : Important transport issues are coming to a head, with BANES consulting on air quality, traffic, parking and coaches.

98% of air pollution in Bath is caused by traffic, which is above the legal limit throughout the road network and the Government requires BANES to reduce pollution below that limit. The Council's proposals cover measures to reduce traffic and protect the fabric of the World Heritage Site. These include a welcome Hierarchy of Kerb Space, which prioritises residents' parking above short-stay and long-stay parking to discouraging visitors from driving round looking for spaces.

However, Fobra has urged B&NES to rethink its proposals for a coach strategy, on the basis that coaches must be managed, not simply accommodated.

BANES is also considering a role for trams within the overall transport strategy and has received funds from the West of England Combined Authority for a feasibility study of means of reducing traffic on the A36/A46 route.

**Austerity and the universities** : BANES is facing serious challenges and pressures as demand for services increases and funding reduces and is looking at creative ways to generate additional income. While making further unavoidable cuts the Council wishes to "put residents first".

Houses in Multiple Occupation accommodating only students are exempt from Council Tax, resulting in a potential loss of £4M currently. Forecast HMO demand is likely to increase this loss to £5 or 6M within 3 years. By then an offset provided by a government Revenue Support Grant will have disappeared, exacerbating the situation. BANES receives no income from Council Tax or Business Rates levied on HMOs or Purpose Built Student Accommodation, both of which could be used for housing permanent residents or for businesses in the case of PBSAs.

Our two universities have had free rein to expand over the years and, with their charitable status, enjoy an 80% reduction in their Business Rates. Fobra appreciates all the benefits the universities bring to the city and does not wish to saddle students with more debt, but believes that it is time for the universities themselves to make a significant contribution to Council income as compensation for the loss of revenue which their expansion is causing.

Fobra also believes that Bath's student accommodation problem will not come under proper control until a workable Student Housing Policy is produced. This might follow Oxford City Council's policies which allow refusal of additional teaching space when this generates excessive demand for private-sector student accommodation.

**Rugby Stadium** : Grimshaw Architects, of Thermae Spa and Wimbledon centre court roof fame, are undertaking consultation and design work for a new stadium for Bath Rugby on the Rec. This will accommodate 18,000. The particular issues raised by Fobra and others concern height, bulk, sight lines, impact on the World Heritage Site, access, and uses other than rugby – conferences, occasional concerts etc..Further reports as discussions proceed.

### **Report back from National Trust Forum by Claire Jackson**

I attended the discussion form with local residents on 25<sup>th</sup> January. Work is proceeding on the dam project at Prior Park, they hope to keep the gardens open during the six months of works and guided tours may be arranged of the works.

The Countryside Manager, Rob Holden explained that new gates at Bathwick Field improve accessibility for all. Kissing gates have been replaced at Bushey Norwood by the University.

There is also work ongoing to improve water quality in the gardens so that only rain water comes through nearby storm drains. Watch out for signs on drains in the area that will say rain-water only.

**Parking and traffic control on the Hill.** Matt is hoping to get slow sign near Woodside and a flashing 20 at the top of the hill. Parking options to control traffic flow including staggered parking are being considered. Parking in the middle of the Hill remains unrestricted after the plan to make it no parking on either side of the road was abandoned after many objections form residents and the BHRA committee which Matt supported. We will also have a report about this at the AGM.

**University of Bath :** Have introduce the Art pass which is free to residents of BA1 and BA2 and allows access to the Edge events and its café at the university. More information on BHRA web site.

**Details of events -** more information has been posted on [www.bathwickhill.info](http://www.bathwickhill.info)

Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup> 2-:00 to 4:00 pm Wera Hobouse is hosting a session at BRSLI on Bath Issues with invited speakers talking for 10 minutes and Q&A sessions.

March 3<sup>rd</sup> 10:00 am Defibrillator awareness at St. Mary's Bathwick at 10:00 am

March 8<sup>th</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> from 2:30 starting from Roman Baths entrance a free Mayor's guide Women's Walk to celebrate international women's day with stories of Bath's suffragettes.

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### **Annual Membership due now £5 per house hold please pay cash at AGM or**

deliver to Andrea at 5, Sion Place, with your name, address and post code and phone number written clearly.

Or if you are already a member pay online or set up a standing order to

Bathwick Hill Residents Association, Santander Account : 48259801 Sort code : 09-01-55 with your surname, house name or number and Post code as a reference.

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**Contact details :** Secretary Claire Jackson : email - [clairehjackson77@btinternet.com](mailto:clairehjackson77@btinternet.com);

Treasurer : Andrea Haywood: email - [andreaHaywood@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:andreaHaywood@hotmail.co.uk)

Chair : Sarah Trimmer - [trimmer.sp@btopenworld.com](mailto:trimmer.sp@btopenworld.com)