



In partnership with Forestdale Hotels, the Duke Street sign being restored and completed.

An update on some of our projects:

- The Fund helped Camden Crescent Resident's Association repair railings and clear vegetation at a pathway leading up from the crescent to River's Road. The work is now complete.
- Restoration of incised and painted traditional street signs continues. The total number completed now stands at 21. Work is currently underway in London Road, with Weymouth Street and Hanover Place finished.
- The development of a heritage 'app' with Bath Tourism Plus is still underway.
- The Fund contributed to professional fees to facilitate the replacement of railing finials in Lansdown Crescent.
- The replacement of lanterns beneath the colonnades in Bath Street has been completed. There is still some adjustment required to ensure they all align properly.
- A project to enhance Gravel Walk is under discussion.
- The Fund is looking to improve lighting on the steps which lead from Bladud Buildings on the Paragon down to Walcot Street.
- A bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund under their Landscape Partnerships Programme is being prepared by the Cotswolds AONB Board in partnership with many other organisations. The bid is would secure improvements to the setting of Bath, and the Fund is currently discussing its involvement.
- We contributed this year to Pratt's Hotel, South Parade (grade 1 listed) to repair railings & re-carve the Duke St. name.
- We are working with Sydney Buildings Residents Association on a joint programme to investigate L.E.D lighting within period street lights.
- Kelston Tump has now been replanted, with Fund financial assistance going toward new estate fencing.

4 Management and Funding

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

5 Contacts

For further information about the Fund, or to suggest any future projects, please contact our Administrator, Ainslie Ensom at whsef@bptrust.org.uk

For general World Heritage information, please contact B&NES World Heritage Manager Tony Crouch
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WORLD HERITAGE ENHANCEMENT FUND

Chairman's Introduction

This is the fourth annual newsletter of the Fund, established in 2009. The Fund is a partnership between the World Heritage Site Steering Group, Bath and North East Somerset Council and Bath Preservation Trust. It has 3 aims:

- To initiate and organise minor enhancements to Bath's heritage
- To assist and encourage others to undertake such work
- To organise volunteers for the same purpose

I am delighted to take the reins of the Enhancement Fund, and to build upon the excellent achievements of this initiative to date.

Bath is exceptional in that it is a city-wide World Heritage Site, and a truly living city alongside being a visitor attraction. I am keen that the Fund tackles improvements across the city, and welcome suggestions from all Bath communities as to ways in which we can help. This newsletter shows another year of solid progress, and as ever we are grateful for the continued financial support of our partners.

Peter Metcalfe
Enhancement Fund Chairman

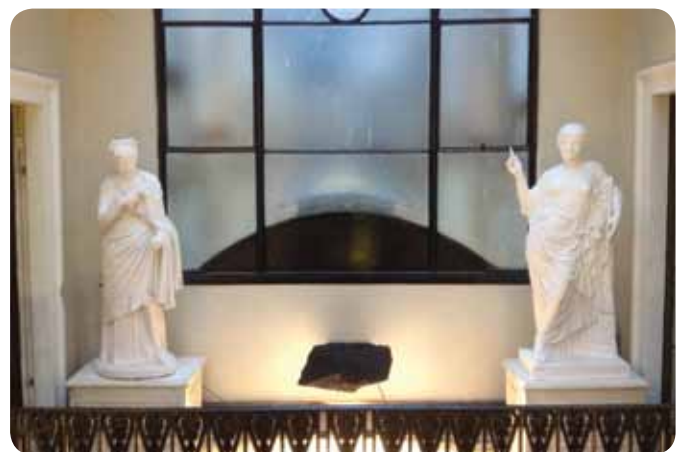
1 Projects initiated by the Fund

The 2012 newsletter described how two Grecian female statues which used to adorn The Corridor had been rescued after being found by chance. They were then expertly restored by City of Bath College masonry students. This is a great story, with the disappearance of the statues linked to the 1974 IRA bomb attack and the statues then pieced together with one being in over 100 fragments. The foresight of Bath Preservation Trust Chairman Edward Bayntun-Coward, who originally spotted and rescued the statues, and the hard work and skill of Stonemason Nigel Bryant's students was rewarded in May 2014 when the restored figures were returned home to The Corridor. The Fund supported restoration and re-instatement. Our thanks also go to Corridor owners Cushman and Wakefield LLP and their architects Insight Architects, and to Emery's Builders for skilfully putting the statues back in place.

Restoration of a missing light at North Parade Bridge was one of our earliest projects, and was completed this year. One of the iron stanchions together with the lamp it carried was knocked from the bridge in a traffic accident many years ago. The stanchion was recovered from the river, but it was beyond repair and the bridge took on an unbalanced appearance with three non-illuminated lights.



Nigel, Tanya and team ready for lift off.

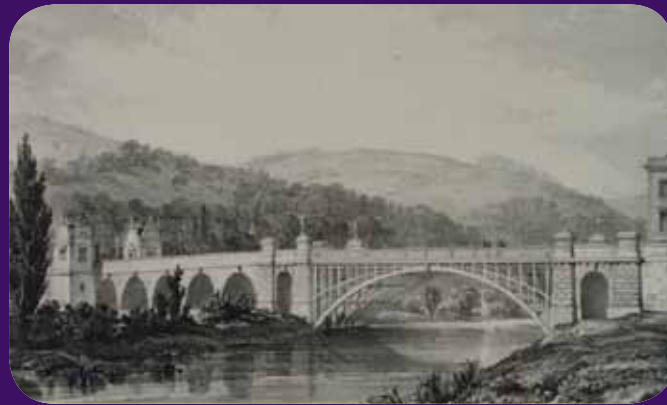


Greek Revival – The statues in place.

Projects initiated by the Fund *continued*

Restoration was not straight-forward. A new bespoke stanchion was required and fixings and cable runs proved an unusual challenge for the Council's street lighting team.

This grade II listed bridge is originally of iron construction, opened in 1836 and re-built with stone cladding in 1937. This scheme restores not only the visual symmetry of the bridge, but the lights provide an improved entrance to the city centre both day and night. We have already received written thanks from a resident who values the improved illumination on her evening walk home. Funding here was boosted by an anonymous donation, gratefully received from a local resident.



1855 print of North Parade Bridge by Louis Haghe. Courtesy of Victoria Art Gallery.



Balance restored. Four lamps all working.

2 Partnership Projects

The restoration of the 1764 grade II* Ralph Allen Mausoleum in St Mary's Churchyard, Claverton, was completed last year. Whilst Claverton lies beyond Bath, the connection between Allen and Bath World Heritage Site is obvious.

The mausoleum needed repair, with railings and iron stone cramps rusting and fracturing the stone. Detailed inspection showed that damage was worse than anticipated, costs crept up and Heritage Lottery Fund assistance was sought. £5,000 from the Enhancement Fund contributed toward an impressive £20,000 pot raised by members of the congregation, which in turn un-locked £47,000 from the HLF. Art historian Nikolaus Pevsner (The Buildings of England series) states that Allen was shown designs of the original structure the day before he died, and we hope that both Allen and Pevsner would approve of this careful restoration. This project again shows the Fund working at its best, by supporting community initiative and helping to un-lock further funds.



Ralph Allen's Mausoleum, standing as a fitting tribute to his significant contributions to Bath and the English postal system.

Halfpenny Bridge (opened 1863) carries pedestrians across the river to the rear of Bath Spa Railway Station. It is so-called because of the original toll charge. The bridge is notorious due to the collapse on 7 June 1877 of the original wooden structure, when dozens of people were hurled into the river, with 8 dead and around 50 injured.

The iron replacement bridge still stands today. In 2013 both re-painting and surface replacement were sorely needed. B&NES Council Structures Team were helped financially by donations from the Widcombe Association, local ward councillors and the Railway Heritage Trust. The proposed scope of work did not however include replacement of a stretch of scruffy chain link fencing between the bridge and the improved rail station car park. The Fund paid for the new fencing (£16k) and another gateway to the city is now dramatically uplifted. A nice touch was the attachment of a new plaque, following the traditional appreciation of the skill of the engineer. The scheme has been entered for a National Railway Heritage award.



The dramatically improved Halfpenny Bridge approach.



Not all good news...

Successful enhancements undertaken by the Fund are only part of the story. There is also the question of on-going maintenance, and the Watchman's Box at Norfolk Crescent, the plaque on Halfpenny Bridge (shown above) and the grey Brock Street 'phone box have all been subject to graffiti attack and vandalism. We have moved quickly to address these incidents, with the help of the Council's anti-graffiti service. We have also seen some specialist craft companies with whom we have worked cease trading during the recession, which is always sad.

3 Volunteer Work

We have continued to work with Avon and Somerset Probation Service's 'Community Payback Scheme'. The latest scheme, underway as this newsletter goes to print (May 2014), is the re-painting of railings at Kensington Place, London Road.

Whilst the services of the painters come free, costs must be met and in this case the Enhancement Fund has joint-funded with B&NES London Road Regeneration Scheme. Once again, the standard of workmanship is high, the job is thorough and professionally managed by the Probation Service.



Community Payback painters at work in London Road.