

Overthrows

After almost 7 years consent has finally been granted for the installation of overthrows and lanterns on 36 houses in Great Pulteney Street, Edward Street, Laura Place, Henrietta Street and Sydney Place.

This has involved a great deal of work by both past and present members of the PERA Committee. We are grateful to the support given by the Bath Preservation Trust, Rhys Brooks (Conservation Architect), and Adrian Neilson (B&NES Planning Dept). The fact that we ended up with consent to a significant restoration of many Grade 1 listed Buildings is a testimony to the afore-mentioned who all worked closely together with PERA, to achieve the desired high quality result. You can view the application, Ref 08/04746/LBA, on the B&NES web site, or in person at Trimbridge House. We hope to have a prototype erected ASAP this year, so that any snags/issues can be addressed. We will then be able to finally pin down the costs so that all others who want to go ahead can do so with certainty of price and design. The end result of many Overthrows and Lanterns will further enhance the architectural beauty of this area, and in a manner totally in keeping with the history of the buildings.

Recreation Ground

The Better Bath Forum held a public meeting recently to discuss the future of the Recreation Ground with attendance from Councillor Chris Watt, Chair of the Board of Trustees of the Recreation Ground; Peter Downey from Real Friends of the Rec and Nick Blofeld, CEO of Bath Rugby.

It was noted that the Rugby Club's current 60 year lease was signed in good faith in 1995, and is legally valid. The lease though, is unsatisfactory in that it does not deliver an appropriate level of income for the Trust. Further, inappropriate custom and practice has grown up around the Rugby Club's use of the land. The Charity Commission insists that the situation must be regularised.

It is also clear that Bath Rugby wish to build a Stadium with capacity for up to 25,000 spectators, about double the current capacity. To justify this, conference and other eating/drinking facilities along the River side would need to be planned into this new facility.

PERA's primary concerns include (a) the impact of an all day, every day facility which would involve significantly more vehicles, and pedestrian traffic, and more noise. This is all a huge detriment to this neighbourhood. (b) The look of the new Stadium. It will be at the centre of only 2 World Heritage Cities, and surrounded on 3 sides by Grade 1 and 2 listed buildings. It is difficult to imagine how a Stadium would look, let alone be funded, that would be an appropriate "fit". Surprisingly, no "artists impressions" are in the public domain.

Whilst applauding the prospect of a bigger and better funded Rugby Club, with

potentially double the current capacity, it is very unlikely that the Rec is the right place to locate such a Stadium. The Western Riverside, or another venue within Bath, would surely be better?

A summary of the discussions and the actions arising from the meeting can be viewed at www.betterbath.org.uk

Recent PERA Activities

Committee Members have been actively involved in a number of local issues over recent months. Nigel Websper has worked hard with B&NES, Bath Preservation Trust and local artisans with regard to the planning application for overthrows (see article above), Nigel also lobbies for transport and parking improvements in our area; various Committee Members attend the Partners and Communities Together (PACT) meetings and raise issues of concern; Peter Turner and Julia Virley liaise with both the Police and B&NES regarding improvements to and anti-social behaviour in Henrietta Park and Sydney Gardens and Carole King liaises with B&NES regarding street cleaning and waste issues (frequently!) and also monitors Planning Applications in the area. If there are issues or area improvements you believe we should be providing a representative voice on then please let us know.

PERA PULTENEY ESTATE RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

Autumn 2009

The Pulteney Estate area includes:
Great Pulteney Street, Pulteney Mews, Laura Place, William Street, Sunderland Street, Johnstone Street, Edward Street, Vane Street, Henrietta Street, Sutton Street, Daniel Street, Daniel Mews, Sydney Place, Beckford Road, Bathwick Street, Sydney Mews, Darlington Street, Vellore Lane, Sydney Road.

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PERA needs you!

We are looking to recruit new Committee Members and particularly a new Secretary to the Committee. If you are interested in local issues, and have some time to spare, please email or call Nigel Websper (details above) for a chat about what's involved.

HGVs

The Council are looking at implementing a ban on HGVs within the core historic area of the City. This would include Great Pulteney Street and Edward Street. There are already HGV bans on Henrietta Street and Sutton Street. The Police are also seeking to enforce HGV bans more actively, as might have been seen from the Police stopping all HGVs for checks in various Bath locations over the last few weeks.

This year's party is on **Sunday 29 November, 12-2.30pm**
Bath Bowling Club, Pulteney Road, Bath

Come along and enjoy a Lunchtime party, with entertainment by the 'Shantymen', who will sing Shanties and local Somerset Carols.

Wine and Nibbles will be provided. We have decided to hold this year's party at lunchtime because members have told us of their reluctance to attend events at night in the Winter months.

The cost per ticket is £6.50. A raffle for charity will take place. Please fill in your detail (right) to reserve a place(s).

Name _____

Address _____

No. of tickets required _____

Please tear off this form and send with your remittance to Chris McGinn, Alexander House, Pulteney Mews, Bath, BA2 4DS

PERA
Christmas
Party



The Holburne is swathed in scaffolding and sits beneath a protective white canopy. Under this shelter activity is unceasing both on the refurbishment of the existing building and the construction of our new extension. On 5 November we celebrated the topping out of the extension which now stands at its full height giving us a real sense of the spaces that it will provide. In the basement we can walk from the old building into the new areas that will become our archive, library and picture store and look up the new lift-shaft that rises through the building. On the floors above we can pace about what will become our café and galleries.

Meanwhile in the existing building work is underway repairing and refurbishing the roof and skylights, the ground floor has been opened up, windows revealed and new spaces created, while most dramatic of all the grand staircase has been carefully removed (every tread numbered and stored) in readiness for its reconstruction in its new position.

If progress on construction has been all too apparent other vital work has been going on behind the scenes. The detail and designs of the new displays are taking exciting shape and we have recently appointed Meyvaert, whose elegant cases can be seen in the refurbished Ashmolean Museum in Oxford as our showcase manufacturers.

Thirteen of the Holburne's finest Dutch paintings will be among the highlights of a special exhibition at the Barber Institute, University of Birmingham from 13 Nov - 28 Feb 2010. The Barber's Director Professor Ann Sumner will give a "Going Dutch" lecture at 6.30pm on 11 November at BRLSI (tickets £5 on the door). www.barber.org.uk/goingdutch

The Holburne's Lantern Procession along Great Pulteney Street to the Christmas Market takes place on Thursday 3 December with free lantern making workshops in the run-up and free lantern making kits available for collection. A sparkling seasonal event not to be missed. (For further information or to book 01225 820829).

Further information on any of the Holburne's activities:
www.bath.ac.uk/holburne

Pulteney Bridge closure

The closure of Pulteney Bridge has finally been approved by the BANES Cabinet. The exact date of closure is still to be agreed, but hopefully will be by the year end.

The reasons for the closure are as follows:- Pulteney Bridge is an important and major architectural feature of Bath, and of great historical significance.

There have been a lot of safety issues with the current amount of buses and taxis. Buses are at least one/minute for most of the day. It is a narrow road, and people have been knocked down and "brushed" by traffic, with at least one person being taken to hospital.

The road surface of Pulteney Bridge is repaired regularly, and the Bridge itself is crumbling, as has been reported by the Boats' crew who regularly travel under the Bridge. Further water runs through the road surface and into the cellars underneath, undermining the fabric still further. A structural survey would be undertaken this year, 5 years after the last one.

As a result of all the above a large amount of Traders and Residents want the Bridge closed to traffic, including the majority of PERA members.

Buses from the High Street (outside the Guildhall) would travel along Grand Parade, North Parade, and Pulteney Road. The journey both ways would be as frequent, but would take slightly longer.

Parking

It is good to report that B&NES have finally removed the unnecessary double yellow lines in the vicinity of 12 and 73 Great Pulteney Street, which has created several more Resident parking spaces.

Sunday and early evening parking continues to be ever more difficult for residents. We continue to press for Residents Parking to be available Monday – Sunday 8am to 8pm. Please continue to email the B&NES Parking Manager: Dorothy_Miley@BATHNES.GOV.UK and our local Ward Councillor: Terry_Gazzard@BATHNES.GOV.UK with your support on these issues. It would also be helpful if you copied in Nigel Websper.

Partners and Communities Together (PACT)

At a recent PACT meeting B&NES Council Officers announced that the Council are to trial seagull proof waste bags. These bags have been used in Torbay, with some success, as the bags are reputed to be resistant to attack by gulls.

The Council also reiterated that there is no requirement for householders to put rubbish out in plastic bags but that plastic bags can be left in a rubbish bin from which the bin men will lift out at the time of collection.

Future PACT meetings are planned for 27th January 2010 and 13th April 2010 at the Guildhall starting at 6.30pm.

Useful numbers

The following telephone numbers and e-mail addresses may come in handy when contacting the Council.

Council Connect (for all enquiries)
01225 394041
councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk

Public Protection Service (for Animal Health and Welfare, Food Safety and Food Standards, Health Development, Health and Safety at Work, Air and Water quality)
01225 477508
Public_protection@bathnes.gov.uk

Licensing (including Alcohol, Entertainment, Taxis, Gambling, Street Trading, Street Collections, Tables and Chairs)
01225 477531
licensing@bathnes.gov.uk

Trading Standards 01225 396753
Trading_standards@bathnes.gov.uk

Environmental Protection (noise, odour and other statutory nuisance, pest control and drainage)
01225 477563
Environmental_Protection@bathnes.gov.uk

Environmental Improvement (Cleansing enforcement including graffiti, abandoned vehicles, fly tipping, Community Liaison)
01225 394041

Neighbourhood Managers (Street cleansing and grounds maintenance)
01225 394041

"Taking a line for a walk"

In September next year, there is a proposal to link together Bath's two major art galleries, the Holburne Museum of Art and the Victoria Art Gallery, by a canvas that will be stretched to create a "line" between both places along Great Pulteney Street and Pulteney Bridge. The public will be invited to draw on it, inspired by working alongside high profile artists of national repute. The canvas will be over 1000ft long.

This will be a participative activity that will raise the profile of both institutes, and promote Bath both as a creative City, and as a place to see good art.

Drawing has been chosen as an activity that everyone can take part in. It is seen as a valuable life skill, that helps us to express our thoughts, communicate ideas, and invent. It is also an activity that has few barriers to participation and can involve all members of the community.

The details are still to be finalised, including the day chosen. For part of that day, Great Pulteney Street and Pulteney Bridge, will be closed to traffic. This will be an exciting and creative event, which hopefully will have the support of Residents.

Antisocial behaviour

Avon and Somerset Police advise us They are clamping down on beggars in Argyle Street. Persistent offenders have been sent to Bath Magistrates Court and ASBOs are being considered.

Henrietta Park is frequently patrolled by Police after 3pm, together with attendance by the B&NES Council Environmental team, to deter crowds of youths gathering and causing a nuisance.

Extra patrols are in place along Grove Street following recent criminal damage to parked cars.