



WIDCOMBE

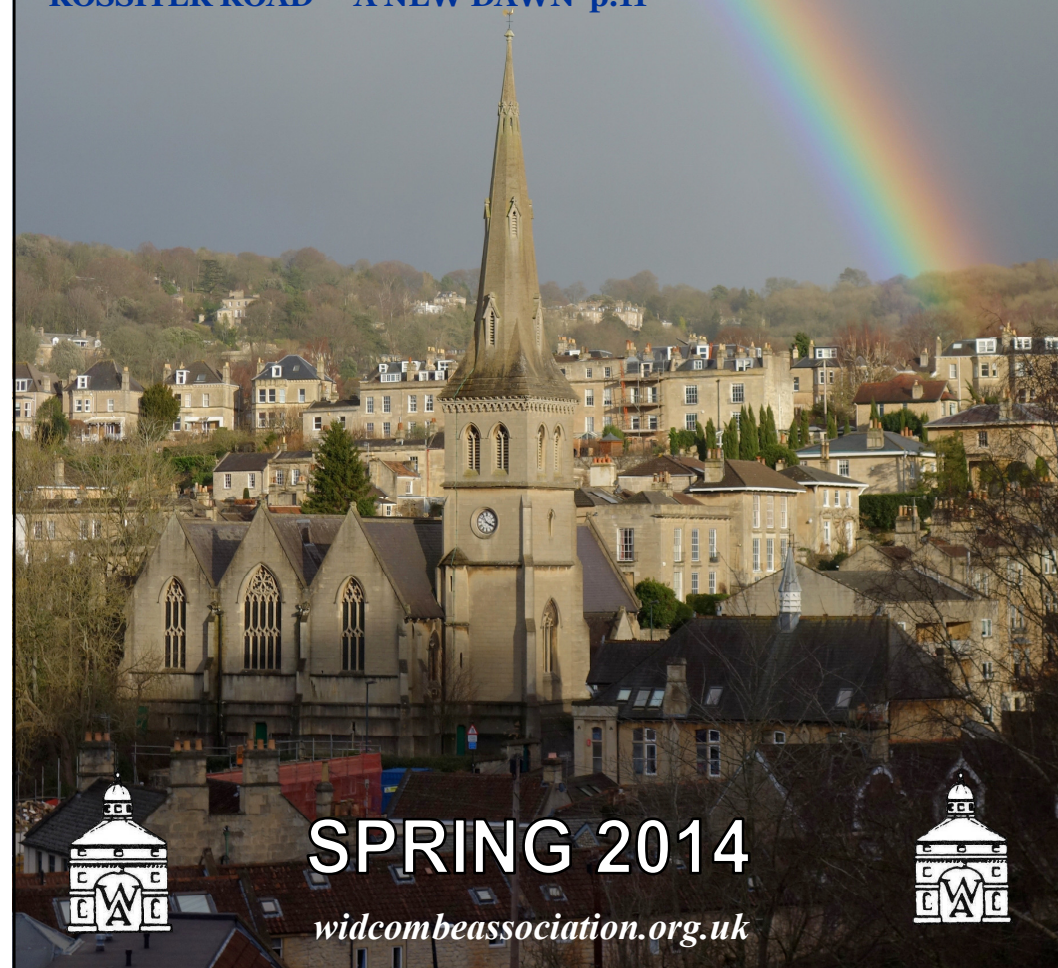
NEWSLETTER

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Widcombe Newsletter



Published by the Widcombe Association

www.widcombeassociation.org.uk

Chairman: Paddy Doyle, 86 Greenway Lane, Bath BA2 4LN

Secretary: Liz Littlewood, 34 Green Park, Bath BA1 1HZ



The WA Committee

Paddy Doyle 311809

Chairman, Newsletter, Website

Liz Littlewood 333044

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Treasurer

Keith Palmer 284598

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Planning

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Rossiter Rd Traders' Liaison

Email your Committee:

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Chairman's Column

As I write this, I have just been to see the large alder tree which stood at the western end of Widcombe Parade being felled. However sad it might be to see the destruction of a living thing, any feelings of regret were dispelled by the exciting thought that 'This was it!' Yes - this was the start of a process which would give us back our village street - something that so many have fought for over a period of 33 years. More trees will be replanted than were felled, and we should have a mature London Plane tree to enhance our view as we make our way westward down a Parade now thankfully free of the noise and pollution of heavy traffic. It's true that the tenders are still out for the main contract, and that an act of God or man could still halt the process, but the fact that this first step has been made gives hope that all will be well and that we will have the Parade we desire by the end of October. There is huge determination amongst B&NES councillors and officers to see this through, and that in itself is very heartening. Place Studios, who have designed the way our village street will look at the end of this process, have written an update which you will find in these pages. Congratulations are due to Richard Wales and his brilliant sub-committee for bringing us to this point.

As the Rossiter Road scheme, Widcombe Association's *raison d'être* since its birth in 1981, comes closer to reality, we have been asking ourselves fundamental questions about the organisation: what we are, what we are doing, what we should be doing and our relevance to the community at large. There is no suggestion that we do not fulfil an important role (indeed I would not be writing this if there were) but it is healthy not to be complacent and to accept change where it is needed. If you have any views on this, please let us know. In February I went to meet the Chair and Vice Chair of Governors of Beechen Cliff School and had a friendly and constructive discussion about how we can improve relations between the School and Widcombe residents. As you know, the WA has opposed plans to extend the operating hours of the school's all-weather pitch lighting on the grounds that the lights were damaging to the night skyline of our World Heritage City. We made representations to that effect, along with FoBRA



and the Bath Preservation Trust, to the B&NES Development Control Committee last October, but failed to make our case, despite support from our local councillors. The School's application for extended hours was approved, and we decided we should draw a line under this matter and try to rebuild relations with the school. As I write, I am waiting to hear from the school governors about how the school intends to communicate with residents in the future, thus hopefully paving the way for an improved relationship.

Leading on from the theme of protecting our heritage, you might be interested to know that an organisation called the Landscape Partnership seeks, over the next five years, to better look after the setting of Bath and to ensure that all benefit from the landscape. Amongst those involved are Bath's universities, B&NES Council, the National Trust, Bath Preservation Trust and the Avon Wildlife Trust. They are putting together a bid for £3m from the Heritage Lottery Fund and would welcome

ideas to be included in the bid. One idea that has been already put forward (by the Alexandra Park Forum) is for an orientation table overlooking the city to be installed in the Park. The bid must be submitted by the end of May. We would be pleased to hear from anybody with ideas which might be included. The latest update on the work of the partnership can be found on the WA website.

Many thanks to all the photographers who submitted some very fine photos for inclusion in the magazine. Your editor simply couldn't resist Alasdair Campbell's cover photo of brooding skies over Widcombe cheered up by a rainbow, narrowly pipping Jeremy Boss' picture of dawn breaking over Rossiter Road, seen on p.11). Both pictures could be regarded as allegories for Widcombe. Alasdair's photo is of particular interest because it reveals the full western façade of St Matt's - something not seen since the 60's and which will have disappeared again by the end of the year when the new social club is built and our village centre will be home to 30 students - another reason for us to examine how we cater for a changing community.

Finally, you will see in our treasurer's report that we plan to raise membership subscriptions from 1st January 2015. This will be the first rise in over 6 years and we feel it is necessary in order to cover running costs and enable us to feel comfortable about covering likely expenditure in the future. If you have an opinion about this, you will be able to voice it at the association's **AGM on 24th April**. Please come along anyway (see the ad on p.26). You can also listen to guest speaker Peter Rignall, Bath Spa Station Manager and enjoy a glass of wine afterwards.

Paddy Doyle

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Secretary's Notes

Since our Autumn Meeting we have welcomed Jan Shepley to our committee. She will be formally elected at the AGM and has taken over responsibility for planning issues. So, a little belatedly, welcome, Jan.

Over the past few months we have moved all our membership details to GroupSpaces and I hope that, by the time you receive the Newsletter, we will have correct e-mail addresses for all members who wish to be included on our mailing list. Should you have recently acquired an e-mail address or not be receiving WA e-mail correspondence and would like to, please do let me have your correct address. I hope you all like the new, more professional appearance of our 'Round Robin' letters. Following my previous appeal, several kind people volunteered to give occasional help with our stall. This is great, but I could do with a few more people to help out once or twice a year, so please let me know if you would be willing to give a hand from time to time. We would also welcome anyone who would like to become involved, in however small or large a way, with the organising and running of our varied and exciting events programme.

Please continue to contact committee members with any local concerns, suggestions or queries you may have – this is your association so your input is valued.

Liz Littlewood

secretary@widcombeassociation.org.uk

NUTS IN MAY

In January many Widcombe residents attended a meeting at Smallcombe Cemetery organised by the Friends of the Cemetery. Since then the Friends group have made great strides and are presently, with the assistance of Bathwick's Parish Priest, obtaining the necessary permission from the Church to carry out tree work in the Cemetery, along with repairs to the wall, the re-erection of crosses laid flat, and work on the gate and path from Smallcombe Wood. In time the Cemetery should be a place for Widcombe residents and skyline walkers alike to visit and enjoy.

Meanwhile the Nuttery in Smallcombe is also thriving, and should provide a pleasant experience for those who venture there this Summer. Virginia Williamson of the Transition Bath food group writes: "It is hard to believe that it's three years since the nuttery was planted. All 37 nut trees (cobnuts, walnuts, almonds and sweet chestnuts) have survived and a quince, medlar and mulberry were added in 2012. Although the trees are still quite small, most of them are already producing nuts. However, this was always going to be a long-term project. The planting spacing was calculated on the trees' potential full height and spread. By that time, the trees will form



a canopy creating a woodland environment.

Last summer, teenagers from the Woodcraft Folk helped rake up the grass and this month we will welcome some carpentry students from the City of Bath College coming as volunteers to cut down branches from the overgrown hazel hedge and create some rustic fencing. From time to time we organise picnics and other social events, so please check the noticeboard whenever you pass by. This summer we plan to cut a meandering path from the stile down to the seating area in the bottom corner of the field. Everyone is welcome to go into the nuttery, so do please take a break in your walk – even bring a picnic – and enjoy its tranquillity and beauty. The almonds are just coming into blossom!"



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TEA AND HISTORY



St Mark's Road Residents organised a very well-attended History tea on Sunday March 16th. Stuart Burroughs gave an interesting short talk about local history, followed by Dr Phil Bendall, who spoke about the churchyard and the fascinating fact that about 50% of the graves were babies and children, many buried in paupers' graves for 2/6d (12p in today's terms). There could be up to six burials a day and bodies were often crammed 6 to a grave and hastened on their way with quicklime.

The floor was then opened up to encourage attendees to share memories. These were fascinating and ranged from recalling roller skating round Holloway, to buying a 6d piece of fried fish at Emery's fish shop on the High Street, to skipping school. There was even a story of a murder committed in the road with the murderer being tied to a table inside number 20 by locals! Many people brought fascinating photos, reports, deeds and other records, many of which were scanned for the archives. Several people had gone to the St Mark's schools and been baptized or married at the church. Helen Peter had put together a PowerPoint of many old photos to show the changes. Delicious home-made cakes and tea were served, so it was an enjoyable and relaxing afternoon. Anyone wanting to see the archives or contribute to them can contact Helen Peter on h.peter@talktalk.net or 01225 334936.

CRAFTY SUCCESS



The Widcombe Craft Fair in November saw St Matthews transformed - with more stalls - all manned by local people selling their own wares. In the church, gazebos gave a market feel to the scene, and the choir set the seasonal merry tone. The church fundraisers excelled themselves with soup and other lunchtime fare as well as tea and cakes, and raised over £600 towards refurbishment. Visitor numbers were excellent and most stallholders reported very good sales.

Sarah Lewis

Rossiter Road

A New Dawn for Widcombe!

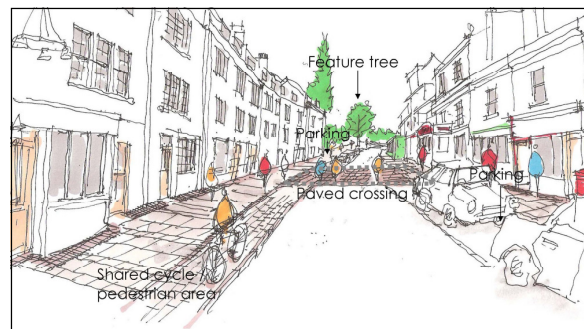
Despite my very downbeat report in the autumn newsletter, all readers will be aware that work has actually started on the scheme. Louise Fradd, the recently appointed Strategic Director, Place, has taken control of the project and is driving it forward for completion by Christmas. The timetable is too tight for comfort but, after years of procrastination, it is refreshing to see a real will to deliver. This is the first time that a senior Council officer has taken personal responsibility for the scheme and the results of her involvement can be seen clearly. Although invitations to tender have been issued, there are still some details to be resolved and minor changes can be accommodated. A contractor should be appointed by the end of this month and

it is intended then to have a meeting of the Steering Group to consider the outstanding issues and any financial consequences from the quotations received.

The WA website will keep you up to date on progress - you will find convenient links there to the council website which will be constantly updated. Of interest at the moment is the plan for new tree planting.

I reproduce below a sketch of the design looking west down the Parade, and a report from Katie Lea from Place Studio, designers of our new-look village street..

Richard Wales



Work has already begun to transform Widcombe Parade into a more pleasant environment for people on foot, cyclists and shoppers, removing A36 through traffic, including HGV's from The Parade. The scheme will deliver significant improvements that will enable The Parade to once again be a vibrant 'village' High Street.

The scheme will include the redirection of A36 through traffic onto Rossiter Road and a 20 mph speed limit in Widcombe Parade

and Pulteney Road South. There will be new pavements and pedestrian crossings and two-way facilities for cyclists. Additional trees will be planted including a new landmark London Plane tree at the western gateway to The Parade.

The first essential piece of the enabling work was the removal and trimming of trees in Rossiter Road to make way for the improvements. This took place at the beginning of March to avoid harm to nesting

birds. Eight trees were removed, including the Alder tree at the western end of Widcombe Parade. Wood from the Alder tree was not wasted. It was sliced into timber rings and delivered to Bathford Primary School which is using them for their outdoor classroom.

The Widcombe Association will be working with The Council to provide further information on upcoming work for local businesses and residents to help ensure inconvenience is minimised throughout the construction period, which is scheduled to commence in the summer.

To find out more and for regular updates visit the WA website or:

Search Twitter via: **#widcombescheme**

Email: **widcombescheme@bathnes.gov.uk**

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Katie Lea

place

PLANNING MATTERS

Widcombe Social Club

Following the signing of a Section 106 Agreement (by which the developer agrees to pay for works in the local area which will benefit the community) planning permission was issued last summer for the revised scheme and demolition works are now complete in preparation for the construction works, with completion due by the end of the year.

What to do with the old loo

Planning permission was eventually refused early this year for the proposed redevelopment of the former public toilet block on the south side of Claverton Street. The proposed two-storey studio was considered to have an adverse effect on the adjacent property including the listed wall at the rear of this small site. The owners have a right of appeal but may be reviewing the scheme to reduce its impact.

Beechen Cliff School

Sports Floodlighting The school's application to vary the conditions of the original planning permission – which restricted the use of the floodlights to 6pm to protect local residents' amenity – was approved by B&NES Development Control Committee despite numerous objections. The lights may now be used until 9pm on weekdays. However, local residents suffering most from the very bright and intrusive lights have employed their own lighting experts who have reported that the lights in current use fail to satisfy the industry's own guidelines – as they are required to do under the planning permission. On a positive note, they have advised that there are better light fittings on the market which would focus the light on the pitches and reduce extraneous spillage and glare.

We are hoping an effective solution can be agreed once the school's consultants have provided the necessary data for a full and accurate assessment to be made.



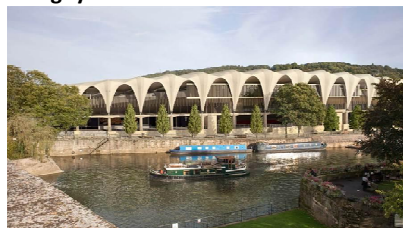
The Widcombe Association is acting in a mediation role between the school and residents with our chairman having met the Chair of Governors at the school to explore the scope for improving relationships and local Councillor Ian Gilchrist assisting in maintaining a dialogue with the planners.

New proposals The school has secured planning approval for a redevelopment of the Bolton Suite and atrium link to the sixth form accommodation. Meanwhile the severe storms in January caused significant damage to the roof of one of the newest buildings which is now under repair.

Smallcombe Farm

The proposed footpath diversion (to which WA objected) was amended and WA felt that the new proposal was acceptable, but it was turned down by the National Trust as owners of the fields over which the new footpath would run.

Bath Rugby Club: new stadium



Latest plan—view from Grand Parade

Through FoBRA the WA is maintaining a review of the development plans for the new stadium at the Rec and will be keen to ensure that the scheme as eventually submitted includes improvements to the riverside footpath which is part of the route to Widcombe from the city centre. Some concerns remain over the height of the new structure and we believe the design team is currently testing the potential for reducing this further.

Jan Shepley

For instance: there is at the Visitor Centre a published £1 map with a little arrow off Claverton St - to Prior Park! It's all centred on the north side of the river. Widcombe needs to have its profile raised. I would like to see Widcombe Parade becoming like Moorland Rd - a living shopping centre, and Widcombe developing a thread of linkages to show what's fun about being here and living here - we don't sell ourselves'.

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DESIGNS FOR BATH

Peter Metcalfe spent 15 years as a Widcombe Ward Councillor (including a spell as Bath's Mayor) and in his time has been a College principal and run a successful company. He is Chairman of the Bath - Kaspovar Twinning Association, and a year ago took on the challenge of chairing the World Heritage Site Steering Group (WHSSG). He was a stout Liberal/Lib Democrat supporter for 45 years until 2010, when he left the party over the issue of fees for higher education. Peter was born in 1934 in 'comfortable' circumstances in West London. He went to a prep school until the age of 15, but, he says, 'I was academically not very strong - except in the arts. My parents at one stage thought what on earth are they going to do with me, so they decided it was far better for me to go to the Willesden College of Art'. Then came two years of National Service in the Air Force: 'It was a growing-up experience, but I wouldn't recommend bringing it back'. He was very influenced by the 1951 Festival of Britain which inspired him to enter the world of design, so following National Service he applied and got into the Central School of Art & Crafts, where he 'became more serious', and realised, he says, that he 'had to make a living'. Later he was to be senior designer at Bath Cabinet Makers and Principal of the London College of Furniture. In 1973 he started his own design consultancy. He feels, not surprisingly, that his experience in design gives him some advantages when dealing with Heritage matters.

And why on earth would anyone want to be a Councillor? 'Well, in 1990 I was approached by ward councillors who asked me to stand as a paper candidate. This meant you didn't have a chance of winning - but surprise, surprise, I won the seat by 150 votes! I couldn't believe it.' He gave up his seat in 2007 (to be succeeded by our present councillor, Ian Gilchrist).

Moving on to his chairmanship of the WHSSG, he says that David Beeton, his predecessor, 'did a fantastic job setting up the Enhancement Fund' but says



Paddy Doyle talks to
Peter Metcalfe
Chairman of the World Heritage
Site Steering Group

that he comes from a slightly different perspective: 'I believe that unless we get community ownership of the site, we will never generate enough interest and enthusiasm to ensure the site becomes sustainable.' Of the management plan for 2016 - 22, he says it builds upon the existing plan, though there appears to be a need to address the issues of pollution from particulates as well as light pollution and dark skies issues. He is shortly to encourage all 32 Bath Ward councillors to identify sites and activities which can be seen as significant to the World Heritage Site. Amongst the projects he is involved with is the development of a topic for all primary schools in Bath which would encourage children to learn about 'the unique city in which we live', and the development of an app to promote buildings and aspects of the city of interest to visitors and residents alike.

And what about clouds on Bath's horizon? 'Well, I believe in a 21st Century City, but one of the dangers could be mismanaged development'. However, 'living in a museum', he says, 'would be a disaster.' How the river is used is 'crucial'. Peter wears his years lightly, remaining active and apparently never happy just doing nothing. When I ask him about how he relaxes, he thinks for a moment: 'I don't really' he says, 'see any division between my voluntary work and relaxing'. However it turns out that he loves foreign travel (only by rail or sea), the opera and theatre, and Bath's festivals - and he is an avid reader of newspapers, particularly the weekend Financial Times, which, he says, is 'written for grownups'. The first record he ever bought was Sibelius' *The Swan of Tuonela* at the age of 11, but he likes jazz, and he enjoyed the parties that went with pop music, but never got involved.

'I love Widcombe'

And what would be Peter Metcalfe's wish for Widcombe? 'I love Widcombe - I've lived here for over 40 years. I would like to see a real recognition of the value of Widcombe within the World Heritage Site.

SUMMER EVENTS



Crowe Hall in Winter Photo by Paul Waldron

The big news from the team that organises your events is the return of **Bath Opera to Crowe Hall** this summer!

We are indeed grateful to Fiona and David Lees for permitting the jewel in the crown of our events year to return to the Hall, which has been shrouded in the mystery of extensive refurbishment for the last two years. This year Bath Opera will perform Mozart's "Magic Flute" for us on Friday 27th and Saturday 28th June, with priority booking for Association members. Come and picnic in the grounds and enjoy a drink from our celebratory champagne bar before the event. But get your tickets early to avoid disappointment - this event will sell out fast!

The two other events you need to buy your tickets for now (because they will also be sell-outs) are the **Magical Mystery Garden Tour** and **Music in an English Country Garden**. This year for our mystery garden we are very fortunate to have secured an exclusive visit to the grounds of a 15th Century manor house characterised by unusual water features, imaginative vistas and romantic grottos. And later in the year we are delighted to be able to invite you to enjoy music in the magical garden world of Fairstowe, lovingly created by David and Krin Embleton.

Tickets for all three events are available now from our online box office - go to the main web site and follow the "What's on in Widcombe" link. Those who have difficulty getting online are invited to call Denise on 448171 who will help you get your tickets.

Another unmissable event in our calendar is the ever-popular **Art Trail** on the weekend of

17th/18th May which gives you a chance to stretch your legs and discover an inspiring range of unusual and creative arts and crafts from the busy artisans of Widcombe.

For those who prefer exercise of a more energetic sort, we are pleased to offer family-friendly guided **cycle rides** centred on the new Two Tunnels Greenway in July and September.

There's plenty more to enjoy in our summer events programme, including the welcome return to St Thomas à Becket of **Susan Sheppard (cello) and Alison Townley (violin)** who are playing in support of the church's restoration fund. Have a look at the listing in the centre pages of this newsletter and on the web site. If you're on our events mailing list we'll send you emails reminding you of the events as they come up - and if you're not getting the emails, you can join our mailing list by following the link on the "What's on in Widcombe" listing on the web site. And do keep checking the web site, because we'll list all of the Widcombe-based events that we hear about - not just the ones we organise. Have a great Widcombe summer!

Chris Rogers

The Widcombe Art Trail

Widcombe Association Sponsored by the Bath office of Knight Frank

Saturday 17 and Sunday 18 May 2014
10.30am to 5.30pm

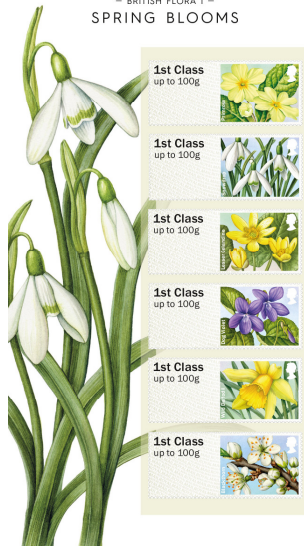


More details on www.widcombeartrail.com
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SPRING BLOOMS



Baptists will also be exhibiting, as will a couple of new venues in Tynning End. The Ring o Bells' upstairs room will be resplendent after its refurbishment, and although quite a few regulars are taking a year out, 14 venues are hosting an excellent line-up - over 50 artists/artisans are taking part.

Highlights will include botanical painter Julia Trickey discussing her Royal Mail stamp designs (*left*) and Jessica Palmer's new project "Glorious Paper Georgians". In St Matthew's, Jane Sargeant and Sarah McCurdie will be demonstrating the processes that go into making their work, and in St Mark's Eloise Scotland will be using her sewing machine to show some of the free machine embroidery techniques she uses. Catherine Beale will be offering adults and older kids "wide-eyed watercolour workshops" and younger children will be entertained collecting stamps at each venue in a special passport. Children's workshops are also on offer at Widcombe Baptists. (*see Jessica's ad on P.37 and Catherine's on P.3*)

Do make an effort to visit Action on Hearing Loss at the bottom of Wellsway, where 12 of the talented team that provide workshops for their deaf clients are also exhibiting, including a spinner demonstrating her techniques on

Saturday, alongside work produced in the workshops. The photo at right gives some indication of the treats in store, and it will provide a lovely opportunity to see what this organisation achieves on our doorstep. Invite your friends to join you exploring Widcombe and enjoying the work on show, as well as sampling the refreshments available en route! The garden of Violet Bank Farm will also be open in aid of Dorothy House - and Teas!

Check the website for updates on all the activities.

www.widcombeartrail.com

The **Widcombe Art Trail** is all set for 17/18 May. No schools are taking part this year, but St Mark's Community centre is a new venue, and the Widcombe



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TREASURER'S REPORT for year ended 31 DECEMBER 2013

The Association's finances remain sound. For the year to 31 December 2013 our expenditure exceeded our income by £3,514. This is because the bought forward surplus of £5,728 from 2012 was spent as expected on the Choir, Energy Efficient Widcombe and for donations to good causes.

We have total net assets of £12,039 (last year £14,779) including £111 (last year £111) in a fund reserved for the Abbey Cemetery.

Where we get our money from We have a total income, including from subscriptions, grants and events, of £23,312 (last year £84,122). The big difference was the grant we received from central government in 2012 of £61,727 for the Warmer Widcombe project. So we have returned to a more normal position. Grants were received this year from BANES £180 to support the Mummerys and from BANES (£400), CSE (£1,670) and Quartet (£470) all to support the work of Energy Efficient Widcombe.

How we spend our money Our income was used to fund our activities and events, cover our running costs and make donations to relevant local causes.

Donations in 2013 were made to Bath Preservation Trust for works on the Halfpenny Bridge (£2,000) St Matthews (£850) Ken Biggs Foundation (£200), Church Street (£120) and Widcombe Rising (£70).

2013 saw the continued work of the Energy Efficient Widcombe (EEW) initiative with new income in the year of £2,540 and expenditure of £6,916.

The Widcombe Choir goes from strength to strength with income from subs of £6,751 in its first full year. This fully covers the choir's running costs.

The remainder of funds were used to run our events and clubs (£7,984), administration costs and general purchases (£2,745).

A summary of the accounts is included below. These have been subject to an independent review. Full accounts, are available at the AGM and subsequently on our website.

Membership Renewal Membership is due for the 2014 year from 1 January 2014 so you should have now paid. Thank you for everyone that has. This can be via direct debit, standing order or by cash payment to the membership secretary. Please, if you have not done so, make sure if you have a standing order that it is for the right amount of £6 (or £15 for business members) and if you pay by direct debit you must cancel any pre-existing standing orders with your bank (we cannot do this for you).

Increase in Annual Subscription We propose to increase the fees for 2015 to £10 for Household Members and £20 for business members for 2015. This is the first increase for 6 years. We believe WA membership continues to offer great value for money. You can get discounts at local businesses that will quickly pay back your fee. You will also be helping local firms and helping to keep Widcombe vibrant.

Summary Accounts

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Membership fees	3,018	Administration expenses	2,745
Grants		Donations	3,237
Events takings	17,754	Events and publications costs	13,928
- Garden Club £705		- Garden Club £764	
- Choir £6,751		- Choir £5,180	
- Tickets, sponsors, £10,298		- Events costs £7,984	
sales and donations			
Energy Efficient Widcombe income	2,540	Energy Efficient Costs	6,916
Excess of expenses over income	3,514		
- Abbey Cemetery Group £0			
- Widcombe Association £3,514			
	26,826		26,826

Jeremy Boss - WA Treasurer

Through its membership of the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations, (FoBRA), the Widcombe Association can influence Bath-wide issues. For example, FoBRA is engaged with the work of the Bath Transport Commission in formulating a transport plan for the city. This is currently at the strategic stage and FoBRA has emphasised that this work requires a citywide approach rather than development in a piecemeal way.

FoBRA has also recently received presentations from Bath Rugby Club on their plans for development of their new stadium. As you can see in the planning report (p.12) the height of the proposed riverside stand has been reduced a little since these presentations were made, but there are still some concerns about the restriction on views looking south from Grand Parade. No formal planning application has been made at the time of writing however. A number of local partners including the Council, FoBRA and the National Trust are submitting a bid for funding from the National Lottery Heritage Fund to protect the landscape setting of our World Heritage Site. This bid has to be submitted by the end of May.

A system of sharing news among Residents' Associations has been introduced. This is an excellent way of identifying where RAs may have a common cause on which they can work together and encourages good practice.

The very successful Reception held in January at the Victoria Art Gallery gave all FoBRA reps an opportunity to discuss issues informally with one another and with B&NES officers and the Ward Councillors who attended.

Liz Littlewood and Keith Palmer

STREETSCAPE

Burger smoke Gourmet Burger Kitchen (GBK) have installed an improved filtration system to try to stop the unpleasant black smoke and smell which drifts over Widcombe. The black smoke does seem to have disappeared, but at busy periods the unpleasant odour of cooking fat and burnt burger still blows over the river to Widcombe, partly because the outlet for the extractor fans is at a very low height. It seems that GBK are now trying hard to resolve this problem. They have promised to monitor the

situation, as indeed will I. Please contact me directly if you have any views on this. We need to ensure that the riverside and Widcombe are free from smoke and smells.

Fingerposts and signage We are still working on improving signage in Widcombe by working alongside the Bath Spa Station manager, the National Trust and BANES.

Canal & River Paths The floods wreaked havoc on all the river and canal paths recently. The drier weather has improved things, but we are still hopeful of more permanent repairs to enable a more pleasant walking and cycling experience for all. The Canal Trust constantly need volunteers, so contact John Webb on **01225 836133** or email jes.webb@btinternet.com if you are interested in helping.

Litter along the River Skew Bridge has been repaired near the pedestrian archway and some of the unsightly litter removed. Other incidents of litter dumping have been swiftly removed by BANES cleansing team, so I would like to thank them for their prompt response and help. Similarly, I feel that BANES needs further praise for the anti-graffiti coatings on the subway walls. Although walking through the subway continues to be a relatively unpleasant experience, the fact that the graffiti coating has deterred the vandals has made a big difference, as has the fact that the drainage is vastly improved by gulley sucking so that, to my knowledge, the subway has not flooded at all in this past very wet weather.

Helen Peter

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WA MEMBERSHIP

Membership of the Widcombe Association currently stands at more than 820 individual members, in over 480 households.

Many thanks to those members who have paid their subscriptions promptly but I regret to say that some members have yet to pay their subscription for 2014! Please check your membership card and if it is not valid to the end of January 2015, do get in touch to renew your subscription by cash or cheque. Even better, for those of you who don't already have a direct debit in place, this is an excellent way of ensuring that your membership payments are up to date. A form can be downloaded from the website and this process is fully supported by the direct debit guarantee.

Increasingly we are using an on-line system to manage the membership database and send messages to members so please check that your email account is set up to recognise Widcombe Association messages.

One of the significant benefits of membership is the discount given by many of the local traders. We have more new businesses opening up in Widcombe, bringing the total to 57.

We welcome **Ashman Jones Vets**, who have chosen Widcombe Parade in which to open their second practice in Bath. Margo Singleton is providing **Core-Works Pilates** at St Mark's Community Centre, and if you are thinking of having a spring clean, you may wish to consider consulting Kimberley Delius of **Lumen Domus** for help with decluttering.

Traders who are members of the Widcombe Association display the logo seen at right. Most of them give discounts to WA members. A full list of discounts is shown on page 7 and on the website. Do give them all your support.

Ann Ashworth

membership@widcombeassociation.org.uk



The 20 mph speed limit is coming



Plans are well advanced for the introduction of a 20mph speed limit across residential streets in Bath. There is clear evidence of the effect of reducing traffic speeds on the reduction of collisions and casualties, and 20 mph zones and limits are now relatively wide-spread, with an estimated over 2,000 schemes in operation in England, the majority of which are 20 mph zones.

20 mph zones require traffic calming measures (e.g. speed humps, chicanes) or repeater speed limit signing and/or roundel road markings at regular intervals, so that no point within a zone is more than 50 m from such a feature. In addition, the beginning

and end of a zone is indicated by a terminal sign. Zones usually cover a number of roads.

20mph *limits* are areas where the speed limit has been reduced to 20 mph but there are no physical measures to reduce vehicle speeds within the areas so they are less costly to implement. Drivers are alerted to the speed limit with 20mph speed limit repeater signs.

In Bath the 20 mph limit is already operational in Twerton, Peasedown St John, Newbridge, Weston, Keynsham and parts of Lansdown and Kingsmead. Widcombe straddles 3 of the proposed 20 mph areas (9, 13, 14) and leaflets were sent to all households seeking residents views. The majority of residents were in favour of the proposals and a Cabinet decision has been made to proceed to implementation for area 9. Speed limit orders are due to be posted for areas 13 and 14, giving residents a final opportunity to comment prior to implementation in these areas.

The Bath proposals are for 'signs only' schemes in expectation that attitudes towards speeding in residential areas will change. Clear signage on the roads affected by the Order is placed on residential streets and the 20 mph limit becomes enforceable by the Police.

Further information on the introduction of 20 mph speed limits in Bath can be found on the B&NES website.

Hilary Furlonger



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WORKING TOGETHER FOR WIDCOMBE

Thank you to everyone who has commented that the Association seems to be increasingly open and inclusive in the way it works. This is really important to members of the WA Committee as we want to make sure that we work positively with all the other groups and organisations in the area and also that the Association truly reflects the concerns and interests of the full diversity of people who live and trade in Widcombe. To help achieve this:

- Individual committee members take responsibility for maintaining links with over 30 groups in and around Widcombe, including churches, schools and local resident organisations.

- Every month we share the key issues from WA Committee meetings with these groups and put them on the WA website so that everyone can know what we've discussed.

- We've also widened the distribution of the WA newsletter and are using Facebook to share information more widely.

All of this helps us to work well with others on issues of joint concern. For example, over the last few months we've joined forces with the National Trust to try to persuade B&NES to improve signage to Widcombe and its many attractions. And we've worked positively with the manager of Bath Station to resolve areas of concern there following the recent renovations.

Most recently, we have been in discussion with representatives of students at Bath and Bath Spa universities about how students can be engaged with the local

Widcombe community. One immediate outcome is the

Ceilidh being organised by students for the community at the St Marks Centre on **12 April**. Beyond this, there is even greater potential for students being able to apply their various skills, talents and energies to a whole range of good uses in the area, which we are currently exploring. We're also continuing to make a conscious effort to get more people involved in the work of the Association, both to broaden our representation and to draw from the wide range of skills, capabilities and insights of people in the area. So if you're not already involved in the work of the Association but are interested in doing so please let us know.

There's a wide variety of opportunities available, ranging from looking at how the Association can communicate more effectively to helping to organise some of our events or being part of the team on the WA Stall. You don't have to commit to lots of meetings for all of these things, so if you're interested in finding out more, please speak to any Committee member or email Liz Littlewood, our secretary.

Last but not least, we are very keen to find out what our members want from the Association and how we can best keep you informed about what it is doing. So, again, please speak to any Committee member or email

secretary@widcombeassociation.org.uk if you have any thoughts or suggestions.

Keith Palmer

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting of the Widcombe Association** will be held at

Widcombe C of E Junior School, Pulteney Rd, Bath

on Thursday, 24th April, 2014 at 7.30 pm to transact the following business:

1. To receive the Chairman's Report
2. To receive the Treasurer's Report and approve the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2013.
3. To reappoint Marilyn Philips as Examiner of Accounts
4. To re-elect Paddy Doyle as Chairman
Liz Littlewood as Secretary
Ann Ashworth as Committee Member
Chris Rogers as Committee Member
5. To elect Jan Shepley as Committee Member

Guest Speaker: Peter Rignall, Bath Spa Station Manager

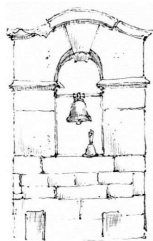
Minutes of the 2013 AGM will be made available at the meeting, and can be read now on the WA website:

www.widcombeassociation.org.uk

Liz Littlewood, Secretary

Widcombe CofE Junior School
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email: widcombe_jun@bathnes.gov.uk
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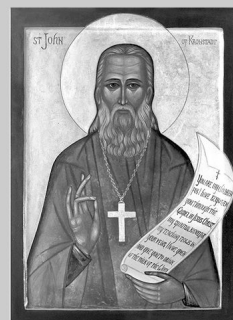
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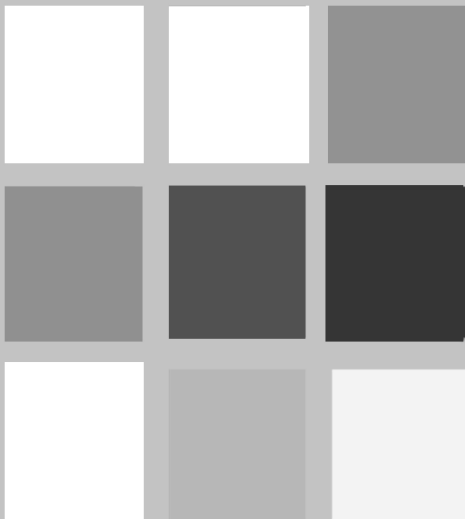
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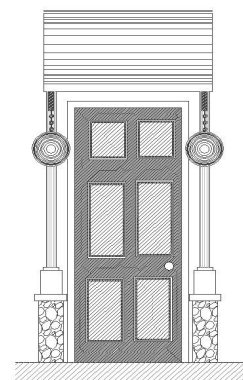
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chinese restaurant

Opening Hours
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10% Dining Discount
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25 Claverton Buildings Widcombe BA2 4LD



What's On In Widcombe Spring and Summer 2014

Tuesday 1 April 7:00pm	Bath Comedy Festival presents Phil Nichol Multi award-winning Festival favourite Phil Nichol comes to Bath to take you on his personal journey to The Weary Land. Natural Theatre Studio, Widcombe Hill
Tuesday 1 April 9:00pm	Bath Comedy Festival presents John Moloney A professional, multi award-winning comedian, John headlines all the major comedy venues, including the prestigious London Comedy Store. Natural Theatre Studio, Widcombe Hill
Wednesday 2 April 7:00pm	Bath Comedy Festival presents Harriet Kemsley + Support The quirky stand-up winner of Bath New Act of The Year 2012 blends an innocent edge with razor-sharp gags in her debut show. Natural Theatre Studio, Widcombe Hill
Wednesday 2 April 9:00pm	Bath Comedy Festival presents Mike Wozniak: Take the Hit His wife's parents have moved in. Permanently. Not so much a show as a person getting out of the house... Natural Theatre Studio, Widcombe Hill
Friday 4 April 6:00pm	Bath Comedy Festival presents The Real MacGuffins Following sell-out appearances at Edinburgh, Brighton and Leicester Festivals, the Real MacGuffins return to Bath with a fun-packed fiestathon. Natural Theatre Studio, Widcombe Hill
Friday 4 April 6:00pm	Bath Comedy Festival presents Silky Versatile, funny and hugely likeable, Silky has been a favourite. Natural Theatre Studio, Widcombe Hill
Sunday 6 April 1:00pm and 3:30pm	The Red Wine Arts Trail Bath Comedy Festival and Ralph Oswick present fun, frolics and fine wines on a comedy mystery tour. Tickets £25 from www.bathcomedy.com . Start venue revealed on booking
Friday 18 April From 2:00pm	Easter Egg Hunt and Crafts Widcombe Baptist Church
Saturday 19 April	The Widcombe Mummies St George and the Dragon return! Find details at www.widcombemummies.org.uk Bath City Centre
Sunday 20 April 10:30am	Easter Family Service Widcombe Baptist Church
Thursday 24 April 7:30pm	WIDCOMBE ASSOCIATION AGM With guest speaker Peter Rignall, Bath Spa Station Manager This is also a social occasion - wine and nibbles provided! Guest tickets £3 (refunded if you join the WA on the night) Widcombe Junior School
Thursday 1 May From 7:30pm	Craft Together Come along for an informal craft evening. Widcombe Baptist Church
Friday 2 May 11:30am – 1:30pm	Prior Park College Open Door Day Prior Park College, Ralph Allen Dr, Bath BA2 5AH
Saturday 17 May Sunday 18 May 10:30am – 5:30pm	WA EVENT Widcombe Art Trail Over 50 artists and artisans in 14 venues will be displaying their work on Widcombe's 8 th Art Trail. Paintings, photographs, ceramics, textiles and jewellery will be exhibited along with workshops and demonstrations. Teas available. Art Trail map and brochure to be distributed in Widcombe. Further details at www.widcombeartrail.com Various venues
Tuesday 10 June 8:00pm	WA EVENT Pass on a Poem Enjoy a relaxed evening of poetry in a lovely venue. If you would like to read a poem, contact Deborah Clements, mail@radnclements.co.uk or telephone 01225 469322 by 3 June. Doors open at 7:30pm. Refreshments available. St Thomas à Becket Church

Thursday 12 June 2:00pm – 5:00pm	WA EVENT Magical Mystery Garden Tour Join a mystery tour to one of Wiltshire's hidden gems rarely open to the public! There will be a private tour by the Head Gardener. Tickets £15 online or 01225 448171 for WA members and their guests to include transport by coach, admission to the garden and afternoon tea. Depart by Prior Park Garden Centre (no parking there please)
Thursday 19 June 6:30pm	Widcombe & Lyncombe Local History Society Guided Walk and Talk Enjoy a pleasant evening stroll along Lyncombe Vale, discussing the delights of Bagatelle, through the grounds of Lyncombe Spa (aka Paragon School) and up to the Pleasure Garden of Lyncombe Court, where refreshments will be available. Free but must register 01225 480749 Meet at entrance Abbey Cemetery
Friday 27 June Saturday 28 June 7:30pm	Bath Opera presents Mozart's Magic Flute Fresh from his innovative production of Verdi's <i>Nabucco</i> , John Palmer returns to direct the Opera's summer production, ensuring an entertaining and fulfilling evening. The production will be presented fully staged but without a large chorus. Tickets £25 online or 01225 448171 Crowe Hall, Widcombe Hill
Sunday 20 July 10:30am	WA EVENT Cycle a Circuit Enjoy a morning cycle along the river to Linear Park, the Two Tunnels, coffee in Monkton Combe and the canal path back to Widcombe, a distance of about 14 miles and two hours. Further information 0786487782 Meet 10:30am Prior Park Gardening Centre
Friday 25 July 7:00pm for 7:30pm	WA EVENT An Evening of Baroque Music Once again Susan Sheppard and Alison Townley, who, between them, have played with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment, the Academy of Ancient Music and the Brandenburg Consort, will present a programme of cello and violin music. Tickets £15 on the door to include glass of wine/soft drink. Parking available at Prior Park Garden Centre St Thomas à Becket Church
Saturday 6 September 4:00pm – 7:30pm	WA EVENT Music in an Enchanted Garden Once again the opportunity to enjoy an extraordinary private garden, with music provided by Big Ten Inch, Bath's newest rhythm 'n' blues sensation. Tickets £5 online/£6 on the gate for WA members, and guests only. No parking in Prospect Road. Free taxi from Prior Park Garden Centre 4:00pm – 4:15pm and return at the end of the event. Fairstowe, Prospect Road, Widcombe Hill
Sunday 7 September 11:45am	WA EVENT Cycle to Eat Depart at 12:00 noon for a three mile, 45 minute cycle saunter through the Two Tunnels to the Hope and Anchor for food and drink. Families welcome To book telephone or text Lucy on 0786487782 Meet 11:45am Prior Park Gardening Centre
Sunday 14 September 2:00pm to 5:00pm	WA EVENT Heritage Open Day Chapels Walk Enjoy a lovely walk through Widcombe, visiting the fascinating religious buildings of the area, some rarely open to the public. Teas available at St Thomas à Becket Church. Information and map available in the summer from Bath Visitor Information Centre, Prior Park Garden Centre or online. Throughout Widcombe
Thursday 25 September From 7:30pm	Craft Together Come along for an informal craft evening. Widcombe Baptist Church
<p align="center">REGULAR EVENTS</p> <p align="center">Widcombe Choir 7.30pm Mondays at St Matthew's Church www.groupspaces.com/widcombechoir Widcombe & Lyncombe Local History Society Margaret Burrows 01225 480749 Quiz Night at the Royal Oak First Thursday night of the month 01225 335220 Sunday Night Jazz and Tapas at the Ring o' Bells 8.00pm -10.00pm 01225 448870</p> <p align="center">FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF CURRENT EVENTS AS THEY HAPPEN CHECK THE WHAT'S ON LISTING OF THE WIDCOMBE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE www.widcombeassociation.org.uk</p>	