

The Two Tunnels - Threat or opportunity?

The Widcombe Association's Annual General Meeting will be held on
Wednesday, 30th April at 7:30 pm
at St Matthew's Church

The recent award to Sustrans to develop cycleways throughout Britain means that the development of the two tunnels from Bath to Midford and beyond should go ahead. What will it mean for us?

Following the AGM there will be a presentation by Adrian Roper,
SW Regional Director for Sustrans, on

The Two Tunnels Greenway

where you will have the opportunity to find out.

Followed by refreshments

Guest tickets £3

The Widcombe Association Committee

Mayveen Blackwell 429729
(Chairman)
Rosemary Emsley 337865
(Secretary)
Rupert Rhymes OBE 834188
(Vice Chairman)
Richard Wales 422677
(Treasurer)
Sarah Lewis 315491
(Events)
Brenda Beeton 317026
(Traders' liaison)
G.Ramasamy (Samy) 429463
(Traffic, Highways, Local Planning)
Ken Scott 420966
(Streetscape, Police)
Robert Hornyold-Strickland 484282
(Planning, Major Projects)
Paddy Doyle 311809
(Newsletter, website)
David Waterstone CBE 427346
(Abbey Cemetery)

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Hedonism Hair – 10%
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Prior Park Garden Centre – 5%
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prices to WA members only on orders over £10
for their vegetarian pies, savouries and cakes.
Royal Oak – 20% on main courses
but not on Sundays
Tim Richards Architecture Gallery – 5%+
Widcombe Health Foods – 10%
Wide Range Key and Security – 5%
but not on keys.
Wild Thyme Music Promotions
10% on all tickets if booked directly through
Wild Thyme.

The Widcombe Association



April 2008 Newsletter

www.widcombeassociation.org.uk



Published by the Widcombe Association.
Chairman: Mrs Mayveen Blackwell, Apt 1, 10 Catharine Place, Bath BA1 2PR
Vice Chairman: Rupert Rhymes, Honeyuckle Farm, Perryemead, Bath BA2 5AU





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details.

The WA Website – have you logged on yet?

Paddy Doyle



The Association website is one of which we can be justly proud, mainly because of the design skills of Jamie Law, who put it together. Jamie has been coaching me in the maintenance of the site, although I am very happy to leave the more esoteric operations to him. Amongst recent innovations are links to the B&NES planning site and to those local businesses who are members and have websites of their own. There are lots of photos there now of the Abbey Cemetery, of mummung on New Year's day, of work at the Abbey cemetery, Beating the Bounds and other social and community events.

One item of particular interest is the report by Dr Phil Bendall on the Abbey Cemetery. Phil has provided some very interesting statistics culled from the data obtained so far from monumental inscriptions. For instance there is a list of all names found there so far; who knows, an ancestor of yours might be amongst them. There are further plans for providing full census details which should prove invaluable for genealogists.

The Rossiter Rd issue is well explained, along with a link to a Google map of the area. Advertisements for our business members will be placed on the site as soon as we can decide how best to do it.

I would be very interested in photos of reasonable quality, not only for the website, but for the cover of our new-look newsletter as well. Perhaps you have a unique view of Widcombe from your house you might like to share. I would also be interested in artwork that might be suitable for the newsletter cover.

One thing I am very aware of is that this website belongs to you, the members. So please Email me your ideas, input and feedback. And how can you best do this? Through the website of course!

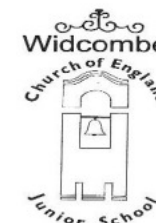
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Why not put it in your desktop favourites? And for those uncertain travellers in Cyberspace, fear not! There's always the cleft stick - or the telephone.

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and to all our other supporters.

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History Study Group

The Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group Members are encouraged to pursue their own research and to present findings to the group and ultimately to the archive, which is housed in the Tower Room of St Mark's Community Centre. The archivists are: Jenny and Tim McGrath Tel 447204.

For further information about the Group's
activities contact:

Margaret Burrows 480749
Fay Briddon 310127
Doreen Collyer 311723

The AGM will take place at St Marks
Community Centre on
Thursday 10th April at 7.30pm.

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The Widcombe Mummers

Ian Gilchrist



The Widcombe Mummers duly rode again on New Year's Day, this being the third occasion, and as someone said, beginning to look like a tradition. Gathering at noon at St Thomas Church the Mummers were led by their 15-strong band (playing the ancient tunes 'Dr Faustus Tumblers' and the 'Prince William's March', if anyone is interested) into the grounds of Widcombe Manor. Then with the rousing words, "What ho, what ho, make way for Mummers!" the story began. There was a fight, the Turkey Snipe was slain, a cure was sought, and found in the unlikely hands of the Ghost of Churchill House and a 'busy little devil called Beelzebub'. The Doctor tried to charge too much, but the cure was administered

by King George, and the Snipe was revived to great cheering. Widcombe Fair was sung, and then we went and did it all again, at the Garden Centre and in Widcombe Crescent. A large sum of money (£167) was raised for the benefit of St Matthews, and a certain amount of mulled cider was drunk at the Social Club. Thanks to our various helpers, most specifically the Beatons, Rosemary, and Jeremy Boss who took lots of pictures. Will we do it again next year? Undoubtedly Yes, if the Widcombe Association will continue their kind sponsorship.

FedBRA Report

Rosemary Emsley

There have been two meetings of FedBRA (Federation of Bath Residents' Associations) since the last newsletter. We have had a briefing on B&NES Core Strategy, published in September 2007 which covers the period up to 2026 and outlines the growth and development of our area. A final document will be submitted to the Secretary of State in 2009 and examined by an inspector whose report will be binding on B&NES. Urban development (following government guidelines) will increase the population of Bath by 30% and will require considerable attention to traffic and transport considerations.

There is still much concern about Western Riverside with Prince Charles commenting adversely on the height of some of the buildings and ICOMOS concerned about the impact of the scheme on the World Heritage status.

There were also concerns about the planning procedure experienced during the consideration of the Holbourne Museum Planning application. It was felt there were several areas of bias in the report and

important omissions, so a letter to the ombudsman should be considered.

FedBRA has objected to 400% increases in residents' car parking charges. The level of increases should not exceed the percentage rise in council tax.

The number of visitors' permits for residents over 60 has been reduced and residents in the city centre cannot get them.

Air pollution in Bath continues to worsen and the Council's Cabinet has agreed that an Air Quality Management Area should be declared covering the whole of the main road network in the city, and that officials should draw up plans to reduce pollution within the next year.

The Federation has complained to the Environment Agency about pollution in the River Avon, which is felt might come from cattle farms which border the river. We have not had a satisfactory response.

In a private initiative, supported by the Federation, the City of Bath Forum is holding a series of meetings to discuss topical subjects affecting Bath, so the public might be informed of issues before decisions are taken. The first meeting was held in March.

Chairman's Report

Mayveen Blackwell

Has the Widcombe Association achieved anything in the last six months?

Do we fulfil our aims?

Shall we maintain our membership numbers?

Do our opinions count?

Are your subscriptions well spent?

Maybe you have other questions, perhaps more specific and detailed; the AGM will be your chance to air them publicly. The committee are always willing to deal with enquiries.

Returning to my questions, our aims arise from our constitution and so our major *raison d'être* are the removal of through traffic from our village street (see photo below), protection from unsuitable development, and the enhancement of Widcombe. The Rossiter Road sub-committee are working on the first while our planning team have made many comments on major and small local changes. The Abbey Cemetery helpers have worked wonders on that unique historic site. Many thanks to all who have taken part.

Channelling residents' opinions and maintaining a dialogue with the council is a task for all the committee, often time consuming and frustrating. Whether it be complaints about street cleaning, rubbish and litter or measures to reduce speeding, promote safety and provide parking, issues require constant contact with councillors and council officers and each item may need following up for years. But we are encouraged that extra parking has been provided for the Widcombe Parade area, the traffic calming project on Widcombe Hill is almost complete, rumble strips there are now approved; discussions on Greenway Lane, Lyncombe Vale and Lyncombe Hill are ongoing.

With Sarah in charge, the promotion of social events has never been a problem, although we none of us underestimate the organization that leads to such success. Last year the committee voted that when we have surplus funds from events, they should be spent on projects in Widcombe. The Mummers raised money to help St Matthew's Church with repairs to their paving; the Christmas concert donated the proceeds to the 2008 Widcombe Rising. That will be the destina-

tion too for the profits from our short 2008 Summer Festival. Thus, when one also considers Beating the Bounds, over £1,000 per annum goes to community activities. One day, we may be able to enhance the Halfpenny Bridge and provide seats, trees and flowers for Widcombe Parade.

Researching local history has been confined to our recordings at Abbey Cemetery. Dr Philip Bendall has focused our clearing efforts and is establishing an amazing review of those buried and their lives. To sample his results please peruse the revamped Widcombe Association website. Can we look forward to a future exhibition by the Abbey Cemetery team?

But exhibitions have fallen off the agenda recently and we still have a committee vacancy for someone creative and artistic with interests in local history and in this varied parish of Widcombe. Mike Mapstone has kindly agreed to start sorting out our archive and we hope to be able to store it more accessibly in the near future. So please come forward, and if the role appeals to you, contact Rosemary Emsley. What about "Artisans of Widcombe", "Shopping in our Street in the Forties", "Wildlife on our Waterways", "Gracious Houses"? I'm sure you can do better.

Membership numbers have been in decline over the last two years. We have boasted over 700 during my time as Chairman and in order to add weight to our views, and to finance our activities, we need to maintain such a total. The possible reasons may be the change of due date for subscriptions to 1st January, lack of effective reminders at the end of January, or forgetfulness (which would be my excuse). Generally your enthusiastic support does not seem to wane. Certainly recent reminders have lifted our present total.

We hope you will understand our switch from standing orders to direct debits to greatly reduce our administration time. Please do adopt the new system. You may of course still pay by cash or cheque if you prefer.

In fact membership administration has proved a weighty task and Myra Brown has resigned. We are very pleased that David Waterstone has volunteered to take it on. Many thanks to Myra and welcome to David.

Chairman's Report (cont)

Sadly too Stuart McAndrew has resigned from the committee but will still help at meetings and with newsletter distribution. He has been very successful on our "Sales" table and Sandie enjoys helping with refreshments at meetings so we shall see them often. Please do not forget Stuart's continuing role in organising all that stuffing of envelopes which convey newsletters to you. Thank you Stuart!

Ken Scott is new to the committee and will continue much of Stuart's other work.

We have studied members' recent lists of key issues and have successfully achieved 10 out of 15. We are pressing for action on three more. Of the other two, one is currently impossible to implement and lastly the plea for improvements to the Widcombe play area is under consideration but total funding for such work has to be shared throughout B&NES and we shall have to wait and see.

And now a last and important request; we know you enjoy at our general meetings the refreshments which have been made by committee or committee wives. We believe that members would be pleased to help, so now we are going to depend on you. Rosemary has agreed to organize the shopping for the meeting on 30th April and would welcome about four volunteers to help on that afternoon. So please add your name to our list by letting her know if you would like to be involved now or in the future. Her number is 337865.

I look forward to seeing you at the AGM.



Goodbye to HGVs? - We hope so!

Secretary's Report

Rosemary Emsley

We are pleased to have found a new membership secretary, Myra Brown, to look after our membership data-base. Our membership numbers are at present 566 private members, which represents 307 households, and 28 businesses.

58 households have not yet renewed their membership from 2007. If you have still to renew, and pay by cash or cheque, please send your £4 subscription to the Treasurer: Richard Wales, Violet Bank Farm, Prospect Road, Bath BA2 6AY as soon as possible. You will then receive your new membership card. We are enclosing a separate letter about our new Direct Debit scheme, which now replaces the standing order scheme.

We have been working hard to increase our business membership and last month held a very successful meeting which 17 traders and 9 of our committee attended. This was a chance to find out about our local traders' concerns, talk about advertising in the newsletter and on the website, update them on Rossiter Road and this year's Widcombe Rising, and ask them if they would consider giving a small discount to WA members. 12 traders agreed.

With this newsletter, paid up members will find a new gold membership card for the two main members of the household. This is a permanent card. Please sign it. The dated sticky label gives a list of traders offering discounts. It will be replaced annually and sent to current members with the spring newsletter. Cards will therefore be valid from April to April each year. Traders offering discounts are shown on the rear cover. Discounts will only be given on sight of signed and valid cards.

The maximum number of cards per household is two, and for businesses up to four. We are sending out cards on this basis according to the names we hold on our database. Businesses requiring more cards should let us have the card-holders' names. If your name is incorrect, or you would prefer another format (full name for example) please let us know and we will alter the database for next year. Finally, if you lose your card, there will be a small charge to replace it.

*Use your card, support local business,
enjoy your discounts!*

Abbey Cemetery Report

Brenda Beeton



The Working Parties have made huge progress with clearing and recording the monuments in Abbey Cemetery. B&NES always do an annual trim in the Winter. When completed this year it revealed not only the primroses but just how much progress we have achieved. Well done everyone!

The Widcombe Association is most grateful to Phil Bendall for the enormous amount of work he is putting into researching the inscriptions and preparing them for inclusion on our web site. His master file is now on page 1,611! Phil has worked out that we have completed about 80% of the work. Not bad in one year.

However this means we still have 20% to do and needless to say it is the most overgrown part of the site. So please do note down the dates for the next working parties and come along. Visitors to Bath especially welcome!

12 th & 26 th April	10 th & 24 th May
7 th & 21 st June	5 th & 19 th July
2nd, 16th & 30th August	

People may have noticed the reappearance of the travellers and their blue tent. Thankfully Gerry Monks, our Community Beat Officer, and colleagues have persuaded them to move on. The Abbey are to investigate putting up a sign forbidding camping and alcohol.

It was interesting to read that cemeteries are being championed as valuable open spaces for the public. The Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment believes cemeteries are "untapped resources", offering the same environmental and amenity benefits as parks. As such they should be included in the management strategies for parks and green spaces, so that sufficient financial, landscaping and maintenance resources can be allocated.

From 2003-2007 the number of Cemeteries receiving a Green Flag Award (A recognised national standard of excellence for parks and gardens in England and Wales) rose from three to 14. It would be nice if we were to receive similar recognition for our efforts.

We look forward to seeing you at the next working party—it's a lovely place to be on a nice day!



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The relaunched Widcombe Association Garden Club got off to a flying start at the Prior Park Garden Centre in October. 50-60 people have been attending the monthly meetings in the café.

Highlights have included Mary Payne, the well-known horticulturalist and radio contributor, who drew in the crowds at our first meeting with an illustrated talk about her award-winning garden at the Hampton Court Flower Show.

A Gardeners' Question time proved very popular with the famous 'Two Johns' from the garden centre and Jane Moore, head gardener at the Priory Hotel, making up the team of experts.

Charles Dowding, author and an early pioneer of vegetable boxes, extolled the virtues of his no-dig vegetable growing, showing us slides of the wonderful salad crops he grows on his smallholding in Somerset.

The season ends on 28th April with a demonstration by John Tucker on 'Making the Most of your Summer Containers'.

There are still spaces on the coach for the outing on Saturday May 10th, to the gardens at Forde Abbey and Lower Severalls. Please contact Alex Nash on 01225 314924 or Eileen Rodger on 01225 424873 if you would like to book a seat.

Apart from great speakers, free gifts for everyone, (generously donated by the Garden Centre), wine, nibbles and lots of raffle prizes have all helped to make the meetings interesting, informative and sociable events. Look out for the next series, starting in September, and come and join us!

Alex Nash

Two Tunnels

Rupert Rhymes



Dog walkers and other aficionados of rambling in Lyncombe Vale may have noticed recently that the old railway track has been cleared of saplings and brambles by industrious working parties. This is part of preparations by the Two Tunnels group for the foot and cycle path from the Linear Park out to Midford. Walkers in Watery bottom may also be concerned by the activities of heavy earth-moving equipment. The application has received planning permission from B&NES, but the details of access etc in Lyncombe Vale have not yet been published.

There are obviously issues connected with how the path will be used and maintained which our speaker at the AGM will hopefully be able to answer. Come along on 30th April to hear more and ask any questions you have about this new route.

DKC

Councillor Ian Gilchrist has organised a Deep Clean Keep Clean effort for Widcombe, probably in September. What we need now are suggestions (to committee member Ken Scott or to Ian) of areas where that is necessary and if possible some volunteers, as this would be a Council/Community venture.

Cleaning up the Calton estate—a Pat on the Back!

After years of complaints, B&NES has sent two young men to do a wonderful job on the paths and steps around Calton Walk and residents have given praise and appreciation.

Please keep it up, B&NES!

**Widcombe Rising
2006**

WIDCOMBE RISING!

Yes, Bath's best family fun day is back! On Sunday, June 15th, subject to permits, the traffic in Claverton Street will halt and a whole day of music, food, flags, theatre and fun will begin. There is a village theme this year, and the Mayors of Trumpton and Chigley Green will be celebrating their twinning with Widcombe. There will be lots of new surprises too! Most of the rides and attractions will be free this year, but we do need help - such as kindly stewards on the gates, picnic table tidiers to keep the dining areas tidy throughout (food outlet staff are meant to do this but they get overwhelmed and it is our trademark that everything is nice to the end), Litter pickers at the end, and a few other nice little jobs. And of course, any donations to the funds, however small are most welcome.

The Handbags choir will be back and will be battling it out with Bath's newly formed Male Voice Choir (totalling over 100 singers!). The Baptist Church is promising an even more spectacular transformation of their car park in true Chelsea Flower Show style. And just wait and see what's going to appear slap bang in the middle of it all this time: a 50-foot ferris wheel, our own Widcombe Eye (sponsored by MG Pharmacy). It'll give you a whole new viewpoint, as it were!

Boring details: Claverton Street, Widcombe Hill from St. Matthew's Church downwards (access available to Glebe House residents), Pulteney Road from the canal bridge junction and the very bottom of Prior Park Road will be closed from 8am to 10.30pm. Rossiter Road will be two-way. Access for emergency vehicles is possible to all areas.

Ralph Oswick and Nick Steel, organisers c/o Natural Theatre, Widcombe Institute, Widcombe Hill, Bath BA2 6AA Tel: 01225 469131

Treasurer's Report

Richard Wales

A copy of the Association's accounts for 2007 will be available for your perusal at the AGM on 30th April. As you will see from the Notes to the Accounts, there have been some changes in presentation. The overall result for the year is satisfactory; the excess of expenditure over income for the Abbey Cemetery Action Group is entirely due to the excess of production costs over grants received from B&NES Council in respect of the Tombstone Trail booklet. The remainder of the Association's activities broke even, with a marginal excess of income over expenditure.

As previously announced, we are adopting the Direct Debit system for collection of subscriptions in place of Standing Orders. Use of Direct Debits will result in a considerable reduction in the administrative burden for those members of the Committee who are involved in the processing of membership and subscriptions. Please therefore complete the form enclosed with this newsletter and return it to me. Rest assured that moving to Direct Debits does not expose you to risk, as is explained in the Direct Debit Guarantee attached to the enclosed form.

Events

Sarah Lewis

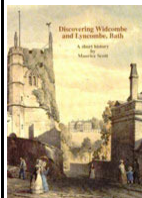
Saturday 8 December was a busy day in Widcombe, with some members of the Widcombe Art Trail taking part in a Christmas Fair, Lady Margaret tuning on Widcombe's Christmas lights and finishing with a candlelit concert in St Matthews, which was transformed with Christmas decorations including a hugely tall tree. The concert was very well attended and the Handful of Singers gave us a wonderful evening with a very varied repertoire. We had a grant to help with the costs, and were very pleased that we were able to send Widcombe Rising a cheque for £572 as a result.

Being a street party year it is technically an off-year as far as Widcombe Summer Festivities go, but we would like to raise some more money to support Widcombe Rising, and also some musicians would like to perform for us – Bath Opera have a new production – so you will find a short programme included in this mailing, together with a What's On featuring other local events.

The day before the street party we shall again be encouraging you to bring your picnics to the Palladian Bridge as the ladies with the pink feather boas – The Handbags of Harmony – the dynamic ladies choir from Chester, are coming again to give us a concert which will be another Widcombe Rising fundraiser.

We are very pleased to have an opportunity to enjoy the gardens at Widcombe Manor – this is an event for WA members and their friends only. The Widcombe Art Trail is having its second year – we hope for better weather this time!

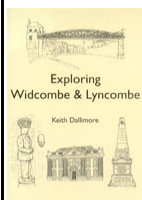
Widcombe Association Publications



Discovering Widcombe and Lyncombe

by Maurice Scott.

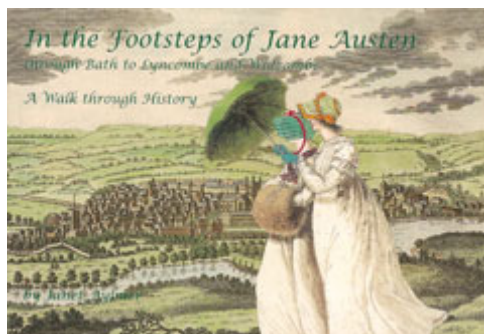
This is a short history in 124 pages, with 38 illustrations and 5 maps. An interesting and invaluable background to our parishes. **Price £6.50.**



Exploring Widcombe and Lyncombe

by Keith Dallimore. The sketches and illustrations help you to see much more of the fascinating detail that exists around us, often overlooked. **Price £3.50**

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by Janet Aylmer.

Jane lived in Bath from 1801 to 1806. **Price £6.99**

The Beating the Bounds Map.

An excellent and colourful overview of Widcombe ward, and a good walk, too! **Price £2**

The Abbey Cemetery Tombstone Trail.

Discover for yourself the famous and fascinating who lie at rest in Widcombe. **Price £2**

To purchase any of these publications contact Rosemary Emsley 337865

(Publications also available at the AGM on 30th April)

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Ken Scott

PACT stands for **Partnership and Communities Together**. It is a police-led initiative which invites communities to let them know their concerns and problems. The last meeting, held in January, had a small attendance, but a list of priorities was decided upon. These are as follows:

- Excessive speed in Lyncombe Vale and
- Rosemount Lane
- Begging/vagrancy on Halfpenny Bridge
- Better cycling routes

These meetings are open to all and are a good way of raising your concerns with the people who can help. The next meeting will be in May 2008. Details will be found on the Avon and Somerset Police website or by telephoning 0845 456 7000

Neighbourhood Watch. Many of our areas within Widcombe have their own Neighbourhood Watch scheme and these are an excellent way of protecting our homes and property. The Widcombe ward has its own "Beat Box" newsletter, available through Bath Police Station (0847 4567000) with lots of hints and messages to help us keep safe.

If you do not have a neighbourhood watch in your area please consider forming one. Community safety cannot be successfully achieved by the constabulary alone and these groups are extremely important partners in the process.

Greenway Lane

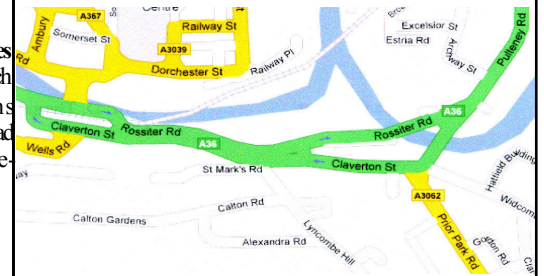
At a recent meeting between Ward Councillors, Councillor Gerish and representatives of Greenway with Andrew Moss, Interim Highways and Parking Manager, a report of residents' observations was considered in order to find possibilities for preventing traffic using Greenway Lane and Lyncombe Hill as a route to and from Wells Way to the Churchill Gyratory or Pulteney Road. A bus lane is to be introduced on Wells Way in six to twelve months time and traffic will not be able to cross to Greenway Lane from Hatfield Road nor turn right from Wells Way into Greenway Lane and the bottom of Entry Hill. That should reduce the "rat-running" and after some months the Greenway Lane traffic will be reviewed. Should further improvement be necessary, an Access Only section could be introduced on Entry Hill. This low intervention policy with evaluation at each stage should prevent the need for changes in layout, preserve the nature of the area and not restrict the use for residents in Lyncombe Vale, Lyncombe Vale Road and Rosemount Lane.

The Holloway Project

The Widcombe and Lyncombe History Study Group is engaged in research on the Holloway which used to exist before it was razed to the ground by bombs or demolition. If you were resident locally, or know someone who was, and can remember what the area was like and would like to help even in a small way, please contact Elizabeth Holland, tel. 313581.

Two-way Rossiter Road

Mayveen Blackwell



News of this project is mixed. Funding is now definitely in place for 2008/9 and so future budgets will probably allow the scheme to proceed. But at the moment there are delays, disappointing to the engineers and the sub-committee, because of necessary tasks which must be completed before actual testing and modelling can proceed. Surveyors must be brought in to do an up-to-date topographical survey. Also links with SouthGate and the Bath Package mean that traffic figures coordinating all three schemes must be established before modelling the Rossiter Road project. Together, these factors are likely to cause delay of up to two months and we are not likely to have a final feasibility report until June.

Many thanks to the Rossiter Road sub-committee especially to Don Lovell who has decided to leave us. Fortunately, Peter Metcalfe will be joining us.



Traffic, Safety and Parking

Samy Ramasamy, Mayveen Blackwell



We have asked many times for improved safety measures at the **Widcombe Junior School crossing** where the railings have now been demolished by passing traffic five times. At last some effective action is imminent. Cross hatching and lining will steer the traffic in both directions into lanes through the barriers. A tall more visible sign on the westbound side will warn approaching traffic. The reinstated railings will be painted white. Road surfacing has been applied to reduce speeds. Later when funding is released, there will be lighting. Also changes will be made to road markings near the hotel to help with speed reduction.

We asked for measures to make **Prior Park Road** safer several years ago and now there will be some action. Measurements of speeds did not show excesses for all traffic, but many vehicles were moving too fast for pedestrian safety. Although a crossing near Lyncombe Vale was considered dangerous, the association has continued to campaign for one near the foot of Forefield Rise and today we have heard that it is approved and funds will be available from April 2008. Meanwhile, Councillor Brook Whelan has been campaigning successfully for 30mph roundels on the road.

Streetscape

Ken Scott

You may have read in the Chronicle of the campaign to reduce underage drinking by asking the McColl group of shops to remove the "Booze Buster" sign from the front of their shops. Your committee has written to McColls with the same request, and is playing an active part along with local councillors to build up a response via a petition from the whole area. Arrangements are being made to place the petition in Widcombe Surgery.

Concern has been raised on the collection or non-collection of cardboard by the council. We understand that traders who use the prepaid refuse collection can have their cardboard collected with their refuse. (The council obtains revenue from its bulk recycling.) Meanwhile normal householders can recycle theirs on the special fortnightly collections. Details and dates differ throughout the area and your own dates can be checked with the council on 01225 394041. All areas have a council Neighbourhood Enforcement Officer and good contacts for our area are Bill Waters or Wayne Honey on 396195 or 396973.

Church Street parking changes now allow access through the road where before vehicles were often impeded by parked cars. Residents were then worried about increases in traffic and speeds. In fact we learnt today that their fears were completely unfounded. In a 7-day count, very little traffic passed through, only 3 vehicles exceeded 26 mph and those were at 6am, 7am and 4pm: there was no speeding. Most vehicles in both directions passed a good deal slower than that. There were no peaks in traffic flows at school times. To prevent unsuitable vehicles trying to pass through, Brook is seeking to remove Church Street (and later Rosemount Lane) from sat nav systems.

Alternate parking, a flashing sign above Macaulay Buildings and now rumble strips to slow traffic on the Macaulay bend should at last improve safety on **Widcombe Hill**. We shall get too a couple of short term parking spaces between Tynning and Tynning End. A dangerous parking bay is being removed from **Lyncombe Hill** and broken paving is being replaced.

All in all, many of our requests have now been met and Widcombe should be a somewhat safer place.



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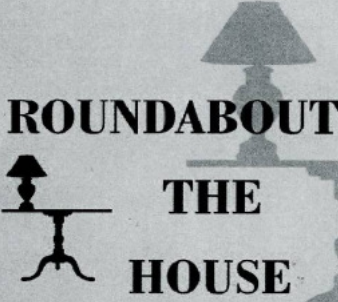
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Major Planning Projects

Robert Hornyold-Strickland

The three major sites affecting us in Widcombe have all seen some development during the six months since the last newsletter.

The 5 hectare **SouthGate** development is a hive of activity with foundations and underground car parks being dug out in some areas whilst in others structural work has reached first floor level. The developer appears to be on track to open the Bus Station and Southgate Street part of the development on time by the summer of 2009 and the remainder the following year.



6 metres lower than the existing gasometers,

The **South Quays** site (between the other two sites and adjacent to the Lower Bristol Road) is still under discussion. Sir James Dyson is hoping to build a stylish new School of Design Innovation, catering for 2,500 14 to 19-year-olds. There has been opposition to this project on the grounds of flood risk, and also because of the architectural value of the 19th-century Newark Works, which stand on the site. The design now incorporates the old façade of the Newark Works, as can be seen in the drawing at right. Last month the council's development control committee voted 7 to 5 to agree to the plans in principle, so it seems likely that the plan will go ahead. The Widcombe Association is in favour of the School, providing that studies show that local infrastructure can cope.



Local Planning

Samy Ramasamy

The Widcombe Association has been vigilant in examining the local planning applications and supporting the essential character of Widcombe. In particular, we successfully objected to the applications for converting residential houses in Holloway and Calton Walk into flats. Planning permission for the erection of a two storey house in place of the public toilet at Widcombe Parade is still pending.

University Expansion

The second stage of consultation on the expansion of the University of Bath invites residents and others to take part in an interactive exhibition in the Library and Learning Centre between April 2nd and 9th. For times and more information contact Jennifer Joynt (tel 384406).

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