

The Widcombe Association's Autumn Meeting will be held on

**Thursday, 30th October at 7:30 pm**  
in  
**Widcombe Baptist Church Hall**

Following the meeting there will be a presentation by Peter Andrews  
of  
***Transition Bath***  
on  
**A World without Cheap Energy – what it means for Bath**

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*Followed by refreshments*

**Guest tickets £3**

**The Widcombe Association  
Committee**

**Richard Wales** 422677  
(Chairman)  
**Rupert Rhymes OBE** 834188  
(Vice Chairman)  
**Rosemary Emsley** 337865  
(Secretary)  
**Jeremy Boss** 484794  
(Treasurer)  
**Brenda Beeton** 317026  
(Events, Streetscape)  
**Graham Cox** 310339  
(Police Liaison)  
**Paddy Doyle** 311809  
(Newsletter, Website)  
**Robert Hornyold-Strickland** 484282  
(Planning)  
**G.Ramasamy (Samy)** 429463  
(Rossiter Road)  
**David Waterstone CBE** 427346  
(Membership, Abbey Cemetery)  
**Julian Williams** 422761  
(Traders' Liaison, Traffic & Highways)

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# The Widcombe Association

[www.widcombeassociation.org.uk](http://www.widcombeassociation.org.uk)



Published by the Widcombe Association.

Chairman: Richard Wales, Violet Bank Farm, Prospect Rd, Bath BA2 6AY  
Vice Chairman: Rupert Rhymes, Honeysuckle Farm, Perrymead, Bath BA2 5AU





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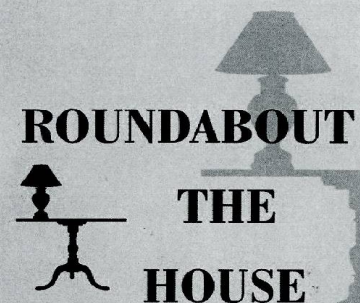
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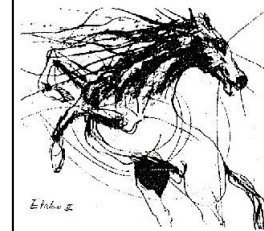


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## Chairman's Report

### Richard Wales

At the Annual General Meeting in April, Mayveen Blackwell announced that she was standing down from the office of Chairman. Widcombe born and bred, she has always been involved in community affairs and gave many years service to this Association, including terms of office as Secretary and then Chairman. Subsequent to Mayveen's retirement, your Committee gave me the honour of appointment as your Chairman and you will be asked to confirm this at the forthcoming Autumn General Meeting. Mayveen will be a hard act to follow; when I moved from across the river it was immediately obvious that the Widcombe Association under her guidance was quite different from other residents' associations in Bath in that it actually fostered a real sense of community. My wife and I joined immediately as we were keen to become involved in community affairs. Little did I realise quite how involved I would become!

We have had a number of other changes to Committee membership. Jeremy Boss, another person born and bred in Widcombe, has taken over my previous role as Treasurer. After some 10 years of outstandingly successful work in many roles, most recently as our events organizer, Sarah Lewis has handed over her responsibilities to Brenda Beeton. Although she has left the committee, Sarah will still be working on the Events sub-committee so we shall continue to have the benefit of her advice, experience and organizing skills. Also, since the AGM, Ken Scott has resigned and Julian Williams and Graham Cox have joined the Committee. Julian is looking after traffic, safety and parking issues and Graham is handling Police liaison and environmental issues, as well as supporting Brenda Beeton with Events and Streetscape. I am delighted to welcome our new committee members who will be a great support and I hope you will confirm their appointments at the General Meeting on October 30th.

The major event in the last six months has been Widcombe Rising. It is commonly acknowledged that Ralph Osrick and Nick Steele produced the best Rising yet. The Association provided its usual support through fund raising and assistance on the ground both at the Rising itself and at the Palladian Bridge festivities on the previous evening.

Particular thanks must go to Andrew and Monique Davisson for allowing us to use their wonderful garden at Widcombe Manor for an evening garden party. Despite disappointing weather, not only did we manage to raise over £700 for Widcombe Rising, there was also an opportunity to make a presentation to Ralph and Nick in recognition of the fantastic job they had done to make the Rising such a success (*see centre spread photos - ed.*)

The Association continues to pursue issues of concern to residents and I have to acknowledge the dogged persistence shown by our councillors Ian Gilchrist and Brook Whelan in following up the matters we raise. The Rossiter Road scheme remains high on our agenda but other issues of concern include the disgraceful state of the railway arches and the pedestrian underpass at the bottom of Wellsway, the dilapidation of Halfpenny Bridge and the parking arrangements on Widcombe Hill. We have provided support to the smaller residents' associations within our area, in particular in relation to the maintenance of the foot-path and stream in front of Prior Park Buildings and the repeated accidents involving speeding cyclists at Macaulay Buildings.

Climate change and sustainability are now the watchwords and all socially conscious organizations seem to be taking note. A major local initiative is Transition Bath and we have invited a speaker from this organization to make a presentation at our Autumn General Meeting, so we can be better informed on what could be an important influence on our future way of life. I therefore hope that I will have an opportunity to meet you on 30<sup>th</sup> October.

## Membership

### David Waterstone

The main effort of the period has been to transfer our data into Microsoft Access. This gives us the advantage of some built-in protection against error, and an enhanced ability to analyse our information.

Membership currently stands at: 423 Households containing 750 individuals and 43 Business members.

If you wish to join the WA, log on to the website [www.widcombeassociation.org](http://www.widcombeassociation.org) or call any committee member (numbers on rear cover).



## Secretary's Report

*Rosemary Emsley*

**New Email Account.** We have recently set up a new email account specifically for the Widcombe Association. We shall be using it in future to contact members with information about the Association or ask your opinion on matters which affect Widcombe. The address is **memsecwida@gmail.com** and if you want to contact us, please use the subject box to make it clear who the message is for eg Chairman, Secretary, Events, Membership etc. You can also use the link at the top of the 'contact/join' page on the website. We now have 266 households and businesses on our email list and if you are on email and have not received a message about the new address, then please email the secretary and she will add your details.

Our main way of communicating with members is still our newsletters but email is obviously extremely useful and labour and cost free so we would like as many people as possible on our list.

**FoBRA**, the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations, to which we belong, meets five or six times a year. Twenty five associations belong and they have all been consulted in some detail by the new Chair and Vice-Chair to review FoBRA's work and ensure that the voice of residents is heard and respected in the city and that FoBRA has a clear response to the important issues facing Bath. These include major planning applications such as Western Riverside, licensing problems, night time behaviour in the city centre, long term transport policy, the public realm and its maintenance, litter, pedestrianization and many more which we are all concerned about. FoBRA will try to respond with speed and clarity to these issues which affect residents' quality of life.

### Holloway Exhibition

The Museum of Bath at Work will be holding an exhibition about 'Holloway - Now and Then' next spring, starting in April and running for several months. It is being prepared by the Widcombe Association History Study group with some help from the Survey of Old Bath. If you have any personal memories, stories handed down or family photographs, please could you get in touch with: Ms E. Holland, 16 Prior Park Buildings, Bath. BA2 4NP, in the first instance by letter. Do not send any original photos. There will be a show case devoted to personal histories. More in the next Newsletter.

## Treasurer's Report

*Jeremy Boss*

I took over as Treasurer from Richard Wales in May 2008 after he accepted the role of Chairman of the Association. I found the newly computerised records in very good order and the transfer to me has been smooth.

I am pleased to say the Association is in a satisfactory financial position with just under £5,000 in our bank accounts and just under a £1,000 in the WA Abbey Cemetery Action Group Account.

This is after a series of successful events in the summer and donations totalling £1,417 to Widcombe Rising representing the proceeds from the Widcombe Manor Garden Party and the Palladian Bridge Picnic.

**Convert to Direct Debit!** In an effort to improve administration and to ensure greater flexibility we are encouraging all members to convert from Standing Orders to Direct Debit. Thank you to the 157 members who have already completed DD forms and I would encourage other members to complete a form in time for the next subscription round. If you have not received a DD form with this newsletter, you can download one from the 'contact/join' page on the website.

### LOCAL PLANNING

Every month the committee monitors the local planning applications in Widcombe and always hope that neighbours will join together if they object strongly to any proposals as in the case of mobile masts in the last few years. Recently, four applications in the Calton Gardens area have been refused. Local residents got together to object to the conversion of these family houses to flats and studio apartments. The area already suffers from multiple occupancy and residents do not want the character of the estate altered any further. An application to cut down a tree on a small green corner and convert it to a hard core parking space was also refused. People power works!



## The Friends of Widcombe Surgery



Our main objectives are to help improve services by giving feedback to the practice and providing patients with the means to make positive suggestions about their own health. We also encourage health education activities. To volunteer to help or for more information call at the surgery or contact:

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**Transition Bath** *A speaker from Transition Bath  
will make a presentation to the WA Autumn Meeting on Oct  
30th. Here is a short introduction to the organization.*

Inspired by the fast growing international movement, Transition Bath is planning a positive future for the city in a world without cheap energy. The challenges presented to us today by global warming and peak oil (and gas) prices are perhaps the greatest that humanity has ever faced. This time brings a great opportunity for rethinking the way we live and making conscious choices about what kind of community and world we would like to live in. Transition Bath believes that only by involving all of us - residents, businesses, public bodies, community organisations and schools - will we come up with the most innovative, effective and practical ideas, and have the energy and skills to carry them out. We are aiming to explore and then follow pathways of practical action that will reduce our carbon emissions and dependence on fossil fuels. Accomplishing this will also help to build the city's resilience, that is, its ability to withstand shocks from the outside, through being more self-reliant in areas such as food, energy, health care, jobs and economics. We currently have issue groups looking at local solutions for energy generation, food production and transportation. Our programme of events for the autumn can be found on our website [www.transitionbath.org.uk](http://www.transitionbath.org.uk) along with more information about who we are, what we're doing and how you can get involved. We hold a monthly social event at Widcombe Social Club involving food (bring along a dish to share) and discussion.

## Widcombe

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27<sup>th</sup> October 2008

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30<sup>th</sup> March 2009

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27<sup>th</sup> April 2009

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A rural meadow?

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Garden Centre!

The Widcombe Loos  
—What's Next?

*The Newsletter sent its cub reporter to ask Rachel Hird of  
Hambury-Hird Design, who with her husband Mark has  
bought the Widcombe public toilets in auction, about their  
plans for their purchase:*

**'I** still haven't been brave enough to collect the keys to the  
WCs – still nervous about what we might find behind  
those walls!

Mark and I both have a background in design. He is an architect and I was trained as a theatre designer and then as an interior designer. We met through work, married and decided to start a company together about 4 years ago. Our work is principally very commercially based, the majority of our clients being large corporates based in London. Consequently we found the WCs an attractive proposition. We thought it would be lovely to do a project locally and to be 'our own client' able to enjoy and develop the design process, absent of time/ cost pressures. Also we love Widcombe and think it has a lovely community feel with its mix of pubs, restaurants, shops and businesses and have always talked of owning a property there. Finally, we thought it would be a good investment, as the site is so near the station and the new development that is going up (fast!) but balanced with the 'village' feel of Widcombe high street.

'We had a family trip to the auction at Bath Racecourse. We hadn't been to an auction before so it was very nerve-wracking! I made Mark do all the bidding, and there was a lot of interest. I think we were lucky to get it at the price we did! Now that we are the owners of the WCs (my children are thrilled and love it when we drive past!) we have to decide what to do with them.

'We know that, from the previous applications, it has demolition consent, so I am sure we will be knocking it down....but what to build in its place? We want to build something that has an identity of its own, but also contributes to the local environment. As it is a 'stand-alone' site there are some lovely possibilities....it is one of the first things you see as you cross the pedestrian bridge from the station, so we are hoping that it will enhance the 'arrival' of anyone into Widcombe! We have been pleasantly surprised by the level of interest in the project and hope to begin designing a scheme shortly'.



**Lyn Brook**  
**David Waterstone**



Lyn Brook is the stream which runs in front of Prior Park Buildings. Although owned by the householders, it is an amenity enjoyed by Widcombe residents who can enjoy its tranquillity away from the traffic of Prior Park Rd. Recognizing this, in 1970 the then Bath City Council decided they would like to take over this "public space", and under a legal agreement, the Council took over maintenance whilst ownership continued to rest with the householders.

The first thing the Council did was to uplift the priceless york stone flags which paved the path between the houses and the stream, for use elsewhere in the city, and replace them with the present drab concrete pavements. In other respects, however, the arrangement worked well, and residents can remember when the stream held trout and many other fish, herons strutted about on the grass and kingfishers perched on the railings. But with the conversion of Bath City Council into B&NES, officials seemed to lose interest and efforts were made to pass the maintenance burden back to the householders.

Two crises have made the position considerably worse. About five years ago someone carrying out a house conversion somewhere up the hill managed to discharge heating oil into the stream which wiped out the wildlife and poisoned the stream bed. Some effort has been made to clean things up but there are still no fish. Later the dredging of some ponds uphill had the effect of sluicing the silt which was dislodged down into the stream, which means it is now very shallow and badly in need of dredging.

Councillors Gerrish, Gilchrist and Whelan have recently come to see Lyn Brook for themselves and we are hopeful of their support in getting something done to put matters right. The WA has written formally to the Council to remind them of their legal obligations to the maintenance of an amenity which is of benefit not only to those who live nearby, but to anyone who strolls through this lovely spot.

**Business Matters**  
**Julian Williams**

In Widcombe Parade deli and coffee shop Lennies has taken over from The Widcombe Pantry. Around the corner in Prior Park Rd the Garden Centre have opened a farm shop, supplying fresh meat and vegetables, milk and bread. Planning permission has been obtained to improve the shop front at No 10 Claverton Buildings, but it is not known when the work will go ahead. Meanwhile McColls regrettably continue to display their 'Boozebuster' sign.

2009 will see a strong effort to build our Business Membership to 50 or more members. Given the number of new businesses opening in the Parade, this should be easily achievable. For the first time we will provide Business Members with an eye-catching membership logo for their shop or office window, which should bring benefits both for them and for the Association. The cost of the logos will be included in the annual subscription. All Business Members will be contacted in person by the end of 2008, and invited to take up this offer.

Meanwhile let us not forget to support our local businesses and take advantage of the discounts that WA members can achieve by showing their membership cards. Discounts are listed on the rear cover.



**The New Business Members' Logo—Soon to be seen in Widcombe's shop windows.**

**Social Events**

**Brenda Beeton**

Planning of the Widcombe Summer Festival 2009 is coming along nicely. We have some of the usual favourites eg the opera and a marvellous garden visit. The History Group has researched an exhibition about Hollo-way to be put on at the Museum of Bath at Work. They have also promised to do a walk and talk on the subject. There will also be a walk round some of the more interesting, newly-revealed monuments in the Abbey Cemetery and a talk on family history. We hope to have a WA walk through the "Sustrans" tunnel. Some new ideas include: a boules tournament, a bicycle ride, showcases for local

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## The Two Tunnels Greenway



Lyncombe Vale

Ever wishing to stay abreast of the times, The Widcombe Association invited Adrian Roper of Sustrans to make a presentation on the Two Tunnels Greenway at the AGM in April. The award to Sustrans to develop cycleways throughout Britain means that the development of the Devonshire tunnel and Combe Down tunnels from Bath to Midford and beyond is going ahead, and so far B&NES has pledged £200,000, with the prospect of another £200,000. This is potentially an exciting project, designed to get people off their sofas and out of their cars to discover the joys of cycling and walking, not only for leisure but for commuting as well. But what will it mean for us in Widcombe and Lyncombe Vale – apart from contributing to it with our Council Tax? Those who attended the meeting had the opportunity to raise questions about security issues in and around the tunnels and how potential users could enjoy the facilities on offer safely and without causing problems for local residents and fellow-users.

The WA believes that despite the benefits the scheme could bring to Bath, this should not be at the expense of local residents. The issues of security for those who use the tunnels and quality of life for local residents, particularly in Lyncombe Vale, are important. There are issues including potential noise, nuisance and increases in car traffic and parking in connection with the use of the new pathway which will have to be addressed and which the WA will be keen to monitor.

Perhaps we should remember that when Rossiter Road was created, many campaigned for traffic to continue along Claverton St to avoid it becoming a backwater. History shows that this was a mistake. We know that there have been many problems with antisocial behaviour along the disused railway line and in the tunnels in the past, so perhaps we should bear this in mind and be careful not to ignore history.

## The WA Website

### *Paddy Doyle*

‘In the country of the blind, the one-eyed man is king’. I’m not sure who first said this, but it is certainly true in my case—I look after the website, but merely follow blindly in the footsteps of Jamie Law, the designer, who is certainly not a one-eyed man. I’m fairly constant in my scanning of the site, updating as needed, but I’m very open to suggestion and correction when needed, so your suggestions are welcome.

To log on, you don’t need to know the proper address, although we do try to make this prominent in all our literature; simply put ‘Widcombe Association’ (or even just ‘Widcombe’) into Google and you will get a link right away. Talking of links, I have tried to provide useful links within the website, for instance all traders with websites have links in the WA site, and if you want to track down a planning application, I have found that the link on the welcome page on our site takes you to the relevant page most easily.

Photos feature largely in the site; it is a good place to look for recent photos of Widcombe, and you have the facility to print these or download as you wish.

I expect soon to have a page dedicated to Widcombe’s Mummers, and there is also interest from at least one other residents’ association within Widcombe to have a presence.

One recent innovation is the page marked ‘Notice Board’ which is designed to allow you, the WA member, to use as you wish; you can advertise your second-hand Fisher-Price toys, make your views known on graffiti or Rossiter Rd, express opinions on local or world affairs, or submit photos, particularly, of course, of Widcombe. I will be moderating this page to ensure nothing offensive or libellous appears—all you have to do is click on it and follow the instructions!

So, whether one-eyed or fully sighted, why not log on—if you haven’t done so already, you should get a pleasant surprise!

### The Widcombe Association Committee

The WA Committee has vacancies.

If you have skills to offer, or merely want to become involved in the association that looks after Widcombe’s interests, **or you would like to help in any other way, contact Secretary Rosemary Emsley on Bath 337865,**

talent, an open day visiting local venues and community singing. However all these events are still at the planning stage so nothing has been set in stone. You will just have to wait and see! The final programme will come with your next newsletter.

In the meantime please do read the “What’s On” included with this issue, which includes details of many Widcombe happenings, including the History Group meetings, Prior Park happenings, M. Le Bon Bon’s cabaret, the great Widcombe Christmas switch-on, Church events over Christmas and the Mummers on New Year’s Day.

## Streetscape

### *Brenda Beeton*

The Widcombe Association committee feel that they should concentrate on the public domain rather than spend time on matters that private individuals can manage themselves with equal effectiveness. With this in mind an evening was set aside for a walk through Widcombe from the canal to the gyratory at the bottom of Wellsway with our councillors Ian Gilchrist and Brook Whelan. There were several small niggles but four main concerns emerged.

There is concern that unsocial activities occur behind the bushes in the green space surrounding the toilets at the bottom of Lyncombe Hill. They are certainly overgrown and the grass is thin and weedy. Brook is ensuring the grass is cut and cared for. The police have sent a report to Ian that recommends the bushes be trimmed back to a maximum height of 1 metre to discourage the above mentioned activities. The proposed development at the site will of course alleviate this problem in the future.

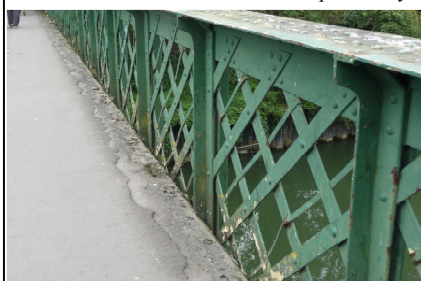


The **underpass** at the bottom of Wellsway is dirty and smelly. Council officials who look after its condition have agreed to sweep it once a day and look into the graffiti cleaning process. Evidently the complete removal of graffiti is more complicated than it would appear. They are to try a new chemical process to remove the residues from the grouting and use a more abrasive method to remove stains from the tiles.



Also hopefully the drains will be cleaned and the light fittings changed. So we look forward to a brighter route into town.

The state of the **railway arches** at the bottom of Wellsway is deplorable. They face the brand new emerging bus station. The view from there is one of total dilapidation, broken windows, rank undergrowth and peeling paint. The arches are owned by Network Rail and leased to the Council. There seems to be a possibility that one of them may



be developed as a cafe but bureaucracy seems to have overtaken the project. Again Ian is working on our behalf and has already made some progress. The photo shows clearing of undergrowth being carried out by Council workers on 24th Sep.



The **Halfpenny Bridge** is rusting badly, needs painting and could do with a resurface. Evidently it is part Widcombe Ward’s and part Abbey Ward’s responsibility. Brook and Terry Gazzard are combining their Conservative efforts to investigate how this could be done, so watch this space.

Some good news is that the subsiding footpath adjoining national trust land and Ralph Allan Drive is due to be repaired at the end of the next financial year, and on a further positive note, we hear from Ian that the Council has secured a grant to improve (amongst others) Widcombe School playground. This should be a great improvement, not least for the children. Finally, our thanks go to Ian and Brook for working so hard on our behalf.



**The Abbey Cemetery** *Brenda Beeton has now handed over her stewardship of the Abbey Cemetery to David Waterstone. Their reports are below.*



The loyal members of the Cemetery Action Group met for the last time on 5<sup>th</sup> July to celebrate the end of their huge task of clearing the monuments of all-embracing ivy and recording inscriptions. There was a tour of the more interesting inhabitants of the Cemetery and the afternoon finished with a champagne tea. Phil Bendall, is a Widcombe Association member to whom we owe our great thanks. Not only has he engaged in the physical work, he has researched all the recorded names: 5000 in all, and his notes have grown into a volume of over 2000 pages. He plans to give the information in various formats to the Society of Genealogists, the local Family History Society, the Abbey Archives and the City Archives. Anyone interested in family history should now find it easy to locate their relatives. The working group found an astonishing selection of bishops, admirals, generals, slave owners,

Extreme Ivy-clearing! Sarah Lewis & Brenda Beeton



dancing masters, straw hat makers, private governesses, as well as members of the colonial civil service and missionaries who served around the world. There are men who served in the Peninsular War, at Waterloo and Trafalgar, during the Indian Mutiny, in the Crimean War, the Boer War and the First and Second World Wars. Phil has promised to do another tour of the Cemetery next June during the Widcombe summer celebrations. Meanwhile for those who cannot wait for June or prefer to do it themselves, a Tombstone Trail booklet covering a selection of memorials is available from Prior Park Garden Centre for £1.

**Brenda Beeton**

The huge task of clearing the gravestones has

Phil Bendall (c. with paper) leads grave tour



been completed under Brenda Beeton's enthusiastic leadership. A big "thank you" must go from all of us to her and also to the hard working team of volunteers who worked with her – it has been a magnificent achievement. Do go and enjoy the beautiful open space that has been created.

We are now considering how to consolidate what has been achieved and how to raise the funds that will be necessary if we are to develop from where we are. A very small working party consisting of myself and Andrew Gordon Duff representing the church, has been established to try to work out what can be done. The best bet would seem to be to build on Phil Bendall's work and to develop the cemetery as a display/lecture centre focussing on local and social history, possibly linking this with the web-site. If funding is to be raised for this we will need to link what we do in a very practical way into school and exam curricula. We are at the moment at the stage of trying to find someone with practical teaching experience to help us with expert advice. If anyone reading this is in such a position, or knows of someone who is, please get in contact with me on 01225 427346.

**David Waterstone**

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For more information on the above activities, or to find out what else is available, please call the Church Office on 01225 316358  
Or e-mail us on [widbapchch@aol.com](mailto:widbapchch@aol.com)  
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**Traffic and Parking**  
*Julian Williams*

The tragic death of a pedestrian on Rossiter Road in August highlighted the need for speed reductions there – something that the Association's long-standing proposals for the Road will undoubtedly achieve. It is to be hoped that the inquiry into that fatal accident produces a report more quickly that that into a pedestrian's death on Wells Road in 2007, which is still awaited. On other long-standing issues, the good news confidently reported in the April newsletter has not, alas, all come to pass. We still await the pedestrian crossing on Prior Park Road, for which we had been advised that funds would be available 'from April 08'. Of no less concern, we have yet to see the completion of the safety measures promised a year ago for the Widcombe Junior School crossing on Pulteney Road: the new railings have not yet been painted white, illumination has not yet been installed, and a peak-hours 20 mph zone has yet to be implemented. We continue to press for action on these and readily lend our support to events and protests by our local councillors, who both give road safety a high priority. New safety issues arise regularly. For example, the Macaulay Buildings bend on Widcombe Hill witnessed four accidents over the summer months, all involving cyclists riding too fast down the Hill and failing to negotiate the bend (which, unhelpfully, tightens unexpectedly and has, in part, unsatisfactory surfaces and cambers, aggravated by muddy detritus washed down from an adjacent footpath). The Association is participating in a B&NES consultation on a solution which will make the tightness of the bend more apparent, and encourage deceleration.

Meanwhile, the speed of climbing cars at the bottom of Widcombe Hill continues to concern many residents. The Council's strategy here appears to be to re-distribute residents' parking arrangements so as to create 'chicanes' and deliberately poor lines of sight; but the revised markings which were put in place earlier this year have come so long after local consultation (some four years) that they no longer reflect local needs – and have, anyway, been bodged in their execution. A meeting took place on the Hill in mid-Sept to propose solutions which should at least restore adequate parking arrangements – although the campaign to reduce traffic speed is still a long way from won.

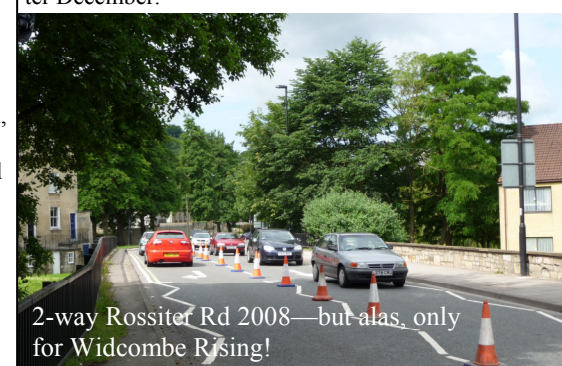
Residents of Upper Lyncombe Hill have not been forgotten – the Association is trying to restore two of the four parking bays which were removed earlier this year. Achieving this, as all the foregoing, requires steady pressure on council officers to respond to emails, to keep Widcombe residents in mind, and to fight to secure the necessary resources. Sadly, as we all know, nothing happens quickly in local government...

**Rossiter Road**  
*Mayveen Blackwell*

Members last saw a drawing of the reduced Rossiter Road scheme when it was presented by Steve Froggatt at our Planning Forum. The Rossiter Road sub-committee and our Widcombe Councillors have been fighting to translate plans into action since then and, with positive assurances of commitment from Councillor Gerish, we are optimistic that a report from the B&NES Consultants Mott McDonald will be presented at the end of September 2008. A scheme based on revised drawings will be costed, necessary surveys will be completed, various possible modifications will have been considered and traffic modelling, based on what the consultants conclude is the best solution to make the scheme work and fit into other changes in the city, should be ready; and as I write on 11 September, we are assured that all that work is on schedule for conclusion at the end of this month.

When we see the results, the sub-committee, followed by the main WA Committee, will be able to comment before the scheme goes to public consultation. If all goes well, B&NES will be ready to go ahead. Monies are in place for detailed planning and construction in the next few years.

Many thanks to the loyal expert members of the sub-committee. Samy Ramasamy will be in the chair after December.



2-way Rossiter Rd 2008—but alas, only for Widcombe Rising!





Widcombe Rising



Palladian Bridge Picnic



The Widcombe Wobblers



Nick Steele  
with pramophone

### Events

Sarah Lewis has produced some memorable social occasions during her tenure as WA events organizer. Possibly the one we shall remember most was "Beating the Bounds" in 2007, when many of us walked the boundary markers of Widcombe accompanied by our local band, the Widcombe Wobblers, and a wonderful assortment of gnomes, a man with a pram, and many other characters including "Lady Margaret". Sarah has worked incredibly hard to foster community spirit and now she has decided to move on to other things, one of which is the Art Trail. We all owe her a resounding thank you.

The pictures provide some memories of Summer 2008: Widcombe Rising, organized by the Natural Theatre Co, and the Palladian Bridge Picnic with the Widcombe Wobblers, Stocking Tops and the Pramophone, and the Widcombe Manor Garden party both organized by Sarah.



The Stocking Tops with  
director Grenville Jones



Sarah is thanked by  
WA Chairman Richard Wales...



Widcombe Manor garden Party



...and Ralph Oswick and Nick Steele for a resoundingly  
successful Widcombe Rising