## The Widcombe Association's Autumn Meeting

will be held on

## Thursday, 27th October 7:30 pm at Widcombe C of E Junior School

Following the formal meeting there will be an illustrated talk by Bath artist

## **Peter Brown**

("Pete the Street")

Probably Bath's best-known artist, Peter will talk about painting Bath

This is also a Social Occasion - wine & nibbles provided!

Guest tickets £3 (refunded if you join the WA on the night)

## The Widcombe Association Committee (at 1 Oct 2011)

Paddy Doyle 311809

Chairman, Newsletter, Website

Liz Littlewood 333044

Secretary, FoBRA Liaison

Jeremy Boss 484794 Treasurer

Ann Ashworth 443907 Membership Secretary

Andrew Gordon-Duff 480682

Planning

Chris Rogers 448171

Chairman Events Committee

Julian Williams 422761

Vice Chairman, Traders' Liaison, Traffic & Highways

Helen Peter 334936

Streetscape

Maggie Turner 338583

Chair, Church St sub-ctte

Ozzie ffield 314345

Energy Efficient Widcombe

**Email your Committee:** Secretary@widcombeassociation.org.uk

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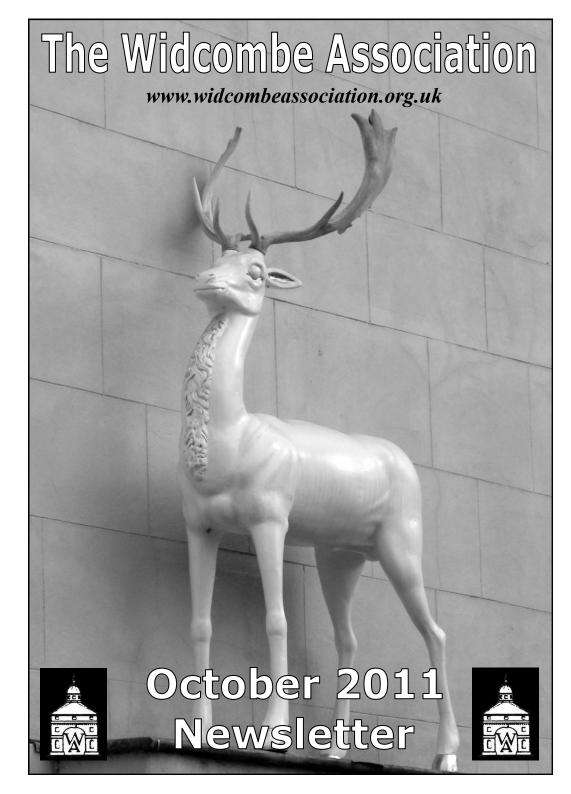
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## Chairman's Column Paddy Doyle

One of the big subjects that has been thrust into the laps of residents' associations throughout the land is the Localism bill, due to become law in November this year. How it will affect us in Widcombe is not yet altogether clear. Some have called it a developers' charter, saving it puts our green belt in danger, and that it will lead to unfettered development of the sort not seen since the 1930's. We are not against development, but only when it accords with our avowed intent to preserve and enhance wonderful Widcombe. Two of our committee members have already attended a one-day seminar on the subject of Localism, and our Planning member, Andrew Gordon-Duff, also sits on a FoBRA (Federation of Bath Residents' Associations) group which is examining the matter in detail so that we can be fully equipped to deal with the provisions of the bill when it becomes law. You will find an article by Andrew in these pages which gives us an insight into this important change in local government.

Hand-in hand with Localism goes the muchvaunted Big Society . Many of us could be forgiven for feeling that the Big Society is already at work. After all, that is what we are about - from the 30-year-plus campaign for a two-way Rossiter Rd to our own redoubtable Helen Peter keeping Council grass-cutters on their toes. We have also fostered community spirit with our events programme, and will continue to do so. The Widcombe Association is the biggest residents' association in Bath, and under the expert chairmanship of my predecessors has made great strides in forging a real working relationship with the Council. In the early days of the Rossiter Rd campaign, we had the wonderful polemic of the Bath Spark (see it on the website) but although the prose was sparkling, it is questionable whether these confrontational tactics achieved much more than a smile from readers. Recently we have extended our support to Energy Efficient Widcombe (EEW - more inside). We feel it makes sense in these days of high energy prices and the potentially disastrous effects on our planet of carbon emissions to do this, but we wouldn't wish to lecture - merely to help. Ozzie ffield of EEW is also now a valuable member of the WA Committee and explains in these pages what Energy Efficient Widcombe is about, and what progress the fledgling organization is making. We are members of FoBRA because we are dedicated to a successful future for our World Heritage City.

We don't necessarily agree with all that FoBRA decides but we take part in the process and we all share the same aim of a clean and people-friendly city.

The new permissive path through the Abbey Cemetery is a good example of the Big Society at work and how the WA can oil the wheels of community endeavour. When Widcombe resident and Chairman of the Cotswold Wardens David Waterstone had the brainwave of installing a kissing-gate from the Cemetery to Blind Lane to provide a splendid rural path to Prior Park Landscape Gardens the WA lent a hand. More than a thousand man-hours of work later the visitor to Bath can now arrive at the Station and with map in hand, downloaded from the WA website, savour the delights of Widcombe Parade and rather than face the remorseless drudgery of Ralph Allen Drive, progress through the Abbey Cemetery with its views of the City and fascinating glimpses of Bath's past before progressing southbound through the new gate. The map (designed by Rob Clements) also suggests a return to Widcombe via Bathwick Hill and the Canal providing the visitor with a wonderful introduction to Bath (and if the timing is right, a fine lunch in Widcombe!).

Since the last newsletter, Chris Rogers has taken over WA events and has hit the ground running. He has assembled a formidable committee and I think we will find that the quality of events will remain as high as ever, and there may be some surprises in store. Sarah Lewis will continue to run the Christmas Craft Fair and the Art Trail - two events that are close to her heart.

Finally, I must pay tribute to four stalwarts of the Association who have left the Committee since the last Newsletter. They have all made outstanding contributions to our work. Chairman Richard Wales has provided wise leadership and confirmed the WA's place as the premier residents' association in Bath; Rosemary Emsley has been a super-efficient and supportive secretary; Mayveen Blackwell has served the Association in many roles over the years including Secretary, Chairman and most recently as Membership Secretary, and last but certainly not least Sarah Lewis has likewise filled many roles, but has been best known as an untiring organizer of our Widcombe events, which under her leadership are the envy of Bath. They are all hard acts to follow and are shining examples of what the Big Society is all about.

#### **Rossiter Road** Julian Williams



In the April edition of the Newsletter we printed L a summary of the Association's response to the

Council's consultation exercise in February (in brief: 'strongly in favour, but more work needed on the detail of the design'). We now know that the general response was overwhelmingly (80%) in favour of the scheme in principle. We were encouraged over the summer when the council's officers appointed consultants to advise on the urban and landscape design aspects of the scheme as it then stood. We were pleased to get to that 'So, how should it look?' stage, and had a very positive meeting with these consultants in July. However, around that time the new BANES Cabinet, elected in May, turned its attention to its capital works programme and, specifically, to the various Highways schemes awaiting approval and funding. The projected costs of the scheme were found to have increased and inadequate budgetary provision had been made by the previous administration. Nevertheless, cabinet members felt strongly that the scheme should go ahead if it could be shown to provide value for money. However, they considered that the Rossiter Road Scheme was not 'the best we could have' (Cllr Symonds, quoted in the Chronicle on 18 August) they wanted to ensure that the plan is designed to be as effective and cost-efficient as possible. The Association's Rossiter Road Sub Committee (WARRSC) met with Councillors on 3 August, and welcomed their intention to review the road engineering aspects of the design, as we had urged. The work of the design consultants has been suspended until the broader review has been completed – but that is unlikely even to start until late Oct (after a further WARRSC/Council meeting, in the

It is clear that the new Council is committed to tackling traffic congestion in the city centre and air pollution along the trunk routes through Bath. The

week of 10 Oct).

#### Secretary's Report Liz Littlewood



This is my first report since I was elected as Secretary at the April AGM, taking over from Ro Emsley. whose efficiency and practicality as Secretary I will try to emulate! Also elected at the April Meeting were Paddy Doyle as Chairman, Jul-

ian Williams as Vice-Chairman, Ann Ashworth as Membership Secretary, Ozzie ffield (Energy Efficient Widcombe) and Chris Rogers as committee members. Chris has since taken over the role of Chair of the Events Sub-Committee. Our committee continues to meet monthly.

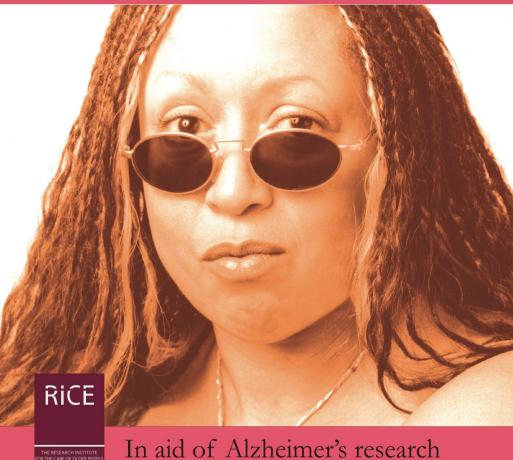
Ann Ashworth and I now have a system whereby we monthly up-date members e-mail addresses. Should you be on our membership list and have acquired an e-mail address or changed your e-mail address, please let me know. If you prefer not to receive e-mails from us, let me know as well. Please contact the Committee if you have any concerns about issues relating to Widcombe so we can do our best to help.

We have a large amount of interesting material about the history of Widcombe in our archives. It would be great if someone with an interest in our local history would like to volunteer to look after this and help us to use it effectively, for example in exhibitions at events and as a resource for enquiries about local history.

I am looking forward to meeting many of you at our Autumn Meeting when we are lucky enough to have the artist Peter (Pete the Street) Brown giving us a presentation about his work painting in Bath.

Association has emphasised that the Rossiter Road Scheme is well advanced, can contribute substantially to both objectives, is relatively inexpensive, and can be implemented within months. Cabinet Members have assured the Association that the essential milestone is to have an agreed design costed and affordable by Feb 2012, for inclusion in the proposals for the Capital Works Programme in FY 2012/13. The Association considers that Widcombe can and should be confident that Councillors will stand by their word to deliver the Scheme, most likely before the end of 2012.

# Joan Davis Friends 13th Oct KOMED

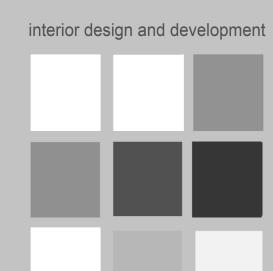


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#### Planning Andrew Gordon-Duff



We continue to monitor all planning applications to ensure that our amenity is preserved and enhanced. Over the summer months there has been an increased number of applications none of which we have felt the need to become involved with. There appears to be an emphasis on altering or extending existing dwellings which may be a sign that individuals are preferring to stay put rather than move house. Although just outside the Widcombe boundary, it is worth mentioning that an application has recently been submitted by Bloor Homes for the Lime Grove School site.

This follows an earlier public consultation and is for 18 houses arranged in four terraces, 2.5 or 3 storeys high and mostly with 4 bedrooms. Parking/garaging is available for 30 cars. We believe this is a good use for the site, although some local residents have misgivings.

At the time of writing a planning application has just been submitted for the site of the public conveniences on Widcombe Parade which is for the erection of a two storey business starter unit following the demolition of the existing building. (See photo/planned elevation below) We are considering an appropriate response.

We are keeping an eye on the future of the Rec where the Committee's view is that it is important to keep Rugby there in the hope that the various bodies obtain mutual agreement on such matters as capacity, car parking, height and land use etc.

Last but not least we should like to mention Martin Ireland who continues to monitor the planning applications and reports to the Committee on a monthly basis. Our grateful thanks are due to Martin for fulfilling this important task.





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## **Cover Photo**

Widcombe's White Hart looking, perhaps, to less-polluted times taken by WA member Matt Roberts.

WA member Matt Roberts. (www.mattrobertsphotography.com)

Photos for consideration for use in the Newsletter are gratefully accepted in JPEG form via email to newsletter@widcombeassociation.org.uk

#### Events Chris Rogers

A nother summer has flown past leaving many of us in some doubt as to whether we actually had one - but we did not let the changeable weather dampen our spirits and we turned up in our droves to support another successful season of events.

We were delighted to see the opera back at Crowe Hall and we are indebted to David and Fiona Lees for kindly allowing us the use of their magnificent hall, enabling the event - which was of course sold out - to be by far the biggest fund-raiser of the season. Other memorable events included an evening of music in the former pleasure gardens at Lyncombe Court and The Grove, a book launch to mark the publication of a history of St Thomas à Becket Church, and a promenade to celebrate the history and heritage of Prior Park Buildings. This event (right) was my personal favourite, not just because I learned so much about the fascinating history of one of our notable terraces, but also because of the way all the householders got together to make the event so inclusive and welcoming - for me it admirably typified the spirit of the Widcombe Association and its mission.

Fundraising is ever more important in this economic climate, which has brought an abrupt end to Arts Council funding for many organisations including the Natural Theatre Company. It is the Nats' organization of Widcombe Rising that has consistently enabled our community to host the best street party in Bath. Your new Events Committee is determined to keep it that way and we hope you will all want to come and help us raise the funds that are needed by supporting the new and exciting events we have dreamed up for you.





I mention our new Events Committee - and I am delighted to welcome a lot of new faces to it, which is just as well because we have an unusually large gap to fill. It is the gap that has been left by our former events supremo Sarah Lewis (pictured below left at Widcombe Rising), who is leaving us after many years of masterminding, organising and personally leading countless successful events. Sarah's persistence and hard work over the years has been matched only by her extraordinary imagination: in addition to creating the immensely successful annual Art Trail and the Craft Fair. Sarah has been instrumental in bringing us events as unusual and colourful as the Beating of the Bounds, in which we celebrated a time -honoured tradition in a thoroughly enjoyable way and next year we'll be doing it all again!

Thank you Sarah, for all the enjoyment you have given us and for the wonderful legacy you have left us. We intend to build on what you've created by preserving all that is good in the annual events calendar, and adding a few new ideas of our own - starting with a family-friendly Ceilidh. Fetch out your dancing shoes and get on down to St Matthews on Saturday 26th November for an evening of good music, good food, good company - and good frolics!

Other ideas we have for new events include film and quiz nights, wine tasting, boules competition, bicycle ride, antiques road show, treasure hunt, practical arts and crafts... do please let us know if any of these get you excited, or if you have ideas of your own. We'd especially like to hear from you if you have particular knowledge, skills or interests that you'd like to share to help us create an event: come and talk to us and

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we'll work with you to make it happen, from publicising it to selling the tickets, from finding a venue to recruiting volunteers to run it. We'd particularly like to see some events for the whole family to enjoy.

Speaking of volunteers, thank you to everyone who came forward to work with us behind the scenes to make the events happen – we literally couldn't do it without you. And with an ambitious events programme for the future, we'll need even more help from our members – so please do let us know if you'd like to be involved.

Widcombe is already a great place to live - let's make it a great place to party!

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#### The Localism Bill—A Beginner's Guide Andrew Gordon-Duff

This complex piece of legislation is making its way through Parliament and is likely to become law in the coming months. It will greatly change how central and local government operate with particular relevance to planning and community empowerment. Localism is part of the Coalition's "Big Society" whereby people, neighbourhoods and communities are given more power and responsibility to create better services. It is a matter "of doing things from the bottom up rather than the top down" as at present. The intention is for Central Government to provide *Neighbourhoods* with the tools to become more involved. A *Neighbourhood* is defined as a Parish Council or an ad hoc area agreed with the Local Authority.

Under the Bill the old upper tier regional planning targets and spatial strategies are abolished with local authorities being required to draw up new ones based more on what the local community want. The first and important thing to say is that the current planning and listed building legislation remains unchanged. What is being introduced is the ability for a *Neighbourhood* to produce a Neighbourhood Development Plan dealing with more or less anything other than major infrastructure. The plan can be initiated by 21 individuals who form a *Neighbourhood Development Forum* with its own constitution. The members of the Forum must either live or work in the *Neighbourhood*. It should be emphasised that the plan has to be a well researched and presented document with clear aims and not in contravention of any National or local development framework, local plan or planning guidelines and is subject to independent examination. Once completed, it is put to a Referendum in the Neighbourhood and requires a yes vote of 50% (of those voting) to be carried. It then has a life of 5 years.

The Bill also provides for a local planning authority to issue *Neighbourhood Development Orders* on the application of a qualifying local body but again this is subject to independent examination. A *Neighbourhood Development Order* amounts to a planning consent. Estimates of costs of an order range from 20k-60k depending on the circumstances but there are no provisions for any central government funding!

Other important matters in the Bill relate to Community Empowerment with the main issues as follows:

- The ability for 5% of electors in a relevant area to request a Referendum on a particular question but the Local Authority does not have to abide by the result!
- A Community Right to Challenge by a "Relevant Body" in relation to the provision of an existing service, ie to force a particular service to be retendered. A "Relevant Body" is described as "Voluntary and community bodies, charitable trusts, parish councils, etc".
- A Right to Buy giving communities the right to bid to take over community assets but there is no mention of where the money is going to come from!

It has to be said that there are doubts as to how popular and effective much of this legislation will prove and indeed whether it will be manipulated by those with a vested interest such as builders and developers. At this stage it is difficult to understand how any of these changes may affect us here in Widcombe but we are carefully monitoring the Bill's passage. Two committee members recently attended a seminar run by the Historic Towns Forum and we are represented on the FoBRA sub-committee recently set up to consider the implications.

## **WA Autumn Meeting**

The WA Autumn meeting will be held in Widcombe C of E Junior School on Thursday, 27th October at 7.30 pm. There will be a vote to re-elect Treasurer Jeremy Boss, proposed by Liz Littlewood, seconded by Paddy Doyle.

There will also be a proposal to amend a typographical error in the wording of para 5.5 of the constitution. This currently reads "Nominations for honorary officers or members of the Association must be made by full members of the Association and must .....". The word "Association" in the first instance should read "Committee"

The full Constitution can be viewed on the Association website, or is available from the Secretary. The formal meeting will be followed by a talk by famous Bath Artist Peter Brown followed by sociable drinks.

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#### **Two Tunnels Greenway** Chris Rogers



Sustrans, the sustainable transport charity building the so-called Two Tunnels Greenway - the cycle path from the centre of Bath out into the Midford valley following the old railway line through Lyncombe Vale - is proposing to build an access ramp at the western end of the vale. The Widcombe Association and other residents' groups support this initiative because it will allow local residents easy access to this new amenity - and encourage us all to get fit and get cycling! This access will be designed for local residents' use, and not as part of a major cycle route in or out of the City Centre.

Sustrans will be holding an exhibition to illustrate the plans they are submitting for the approval of the Planners, which is expected to take place very soon after the publication of this newsletter - please go along and have a look for yourself. Details will be published on the WA website. You will be able to comment on the planning application to the Council in the usual way.

The Two Tunnels Greenway is scheduled for completion at the end of March and more information can be found at www.twotunnels.org.uk.

#### Julian Williams

Shortly before we went to press, we learnt that Julian Williams, our Vice Chairman, will be moving out of Widcombe, and leaving the Committee. Julian will be sadly missed. He has given enormous amounts of hard work to the Association and his incisive mind has been invaluable particularly in his work on Traffic and Highways and the Rossiter Rd sub-committee. We wish him and his wife Jan every success and happiness in the future.

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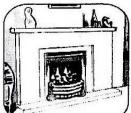
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# 20

## Traffic and Highways Julian Williams



Greenway Lane, Lyncombe Hill and adjoining roads. Speed-reducing tables (full width of road) and cushions (isolated in the carriageway) were installed in Greenway Lane in April but appear to have had little effect – nor has the 20mph local speed limit introduced for this part of Widcombe at around the same time. BANES' officers advise that new schemes such as this one take some time to 'settle in' – but five months seems adequate to expect to observe some positive effect. Recent (mid Sept) unofficial monitoring arranged by Cllr Ian Gilchrist has shown that, on average, at least 17% of vehicles using these roads exceed the new limit, as do 56% of afternoon traffic on Greenway Lane (and 33% on Lyncombe Hill). This is despite all the tables, cushions, painted roundels and the (far too many) '20' signposts which have been put in place. Additionally, it as yet far from clear whether the No Right Turn from Wellsway into Greenway Lane is having any useful impact on traffic volumes and speeds. The Association will work with local Councillors to press for follow-up action to be taken to ensure a proper return on the considerable investment in this scheme – which, at present, appears to be a waste of money.

**Lyncombe Vale.** The Council has started a consultation exercise on establishing a Residents' Parking Zone in the Vale. People there and the Paragon School have devised a Local Voluntary One Way Scheme, designed to minimise congestion at peak hours. (See opposite)

Church Street – enforcement of 'Access Only' restriction, and deterrence of HGV traffic. There seems to have been no progress recently, despite best efforts of the Church St Association.

**Speed monitoring on Widcombe Hill**. The Council installed a speed monitoring device for two weeks at end August. We await the results with interest. If, as in both previous instances, they show that daytime speeds are on average below the 30mph limit, then we must accept that no traffic calming action is ever likely to gain Council support and funding.

Relocation of the Pedestrian Crossing on Wells Road and Pedestrian Crossing on Prior Park Road abreast Widcome Rise and Forefield Rise. Both of these aspirations remain unfunded in the Council's capital works programme, and are likely to remain so until the local authority funding situation improves. BANES' Consultation on Pavement Obstructions. This consultation in March/April sought views on a proposal to introduce a licensing regime for the display of 'A' boards by shopkeepers and others. In the WA's view the proposal was petty and ran counter to central government directives to minimise regulation. The WA's line was that if this were to be introduced at all it should apply within the City Centre only. Many other objections were received and, sensibly, the Council has withdrawn the proposal. It intends to issue 'best practice guidance' instead.

**BANES' Consultation on the Halfpenny Bridge**. This consultation in May/June sought views on a proposal that the Bridge, and adjacent pavements on the north side of Rossiter Road, might be designated for shared use by cyclists and pedestrians. The Association objected to this proposal, which took no account of Dept of Transport design guidelines nor, apparently, of the works under way or planned at both ends of the Bridge. No feedback has been received as yet.

Considering the valuable opportunity that is offered to local residents to voice to police and councillors their concerns on matters which affect them, the last PACT meeting, at Hayesfield School on 14th June, was poorly attended. Priorities decided upon for our community policemen to attend to were:

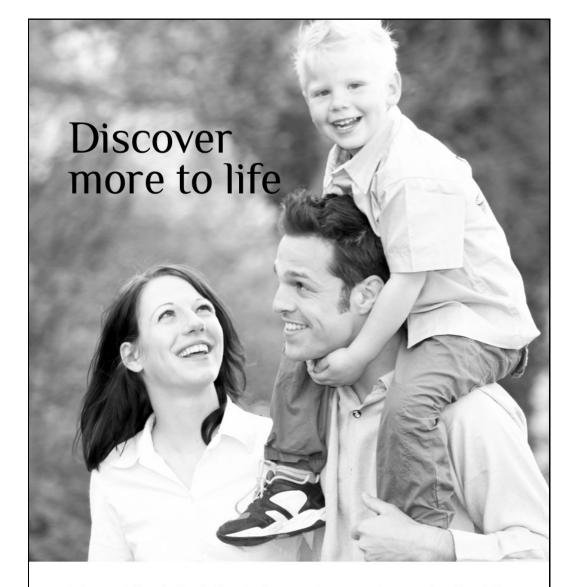
1.Street drinkers,

2. Speeding in Greenway Lane and Lyncombe Vale

3. Enforcing 'Access only' to Church St.

PACT
Partners &
Communities
Together

The next PACT meeting will be held at Widcombe C of E Junior School at 7pm on Thursday 13th Oct



Welcome to Widcombe Baptist Church, where we strive to serve the community with activities for all ages. For information on youth, toddlers, the elderly, small group Bible studies, Exploring Christianity workshops, students, Sunday services and much more, visit www.widcombebaptistchurch.org, or call the church office on 01225 316 358, we'd love to hear from you.



widbapchch@talktalk.net | Widcombe Baptist Church | Pulteney Road | Bath, BA2 4JR



THE ORTHODOX PARISH OF ST JOHN OF KRONSTADT

Ватн

Services are held at 48 Lyncombe Hill, Bath BA2 4PW Vigil: Saturday, 5 pm Divine Liturgy: Sunday, 10.30am

Every Third Sunday of the Month the Divine Liturgy is held at St. John's Bathwick at 10.30 am
Please telephone ahead to confirm times and places:
Fr. Seraphim 01225-317604
Fr. Yves 01225-318338
Mother Sarah 01225-330651

For further information, please see our website. www.bath-orthodox.org.uk

# WIDCOMBE PARISH St Thomas à Becket Church Church Street BA2 6AZ



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For contact and other information - www.widcombebenefice.org.uk

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#### <u>Lyncombe Vale—Voluntary One-way Traffic System</u> <u>Chris Rogers</u>

As a result of concerns chiefly related to traffic, parking and road safety in respect of the normal activities of the Paragon School, the residents of Lyncombe Vale have developed a local Traffic Code which they are asking all users of the roads in the vale to observe during school drop-off and pick-up times in term-time.

The Code has been developed with the co-operation of the school and the support of the Council's Highways Department and Safe Routes To Schools Officer, as well as the Avon & Somerset Constabulary. The full background to the development of the Code can be found on the WA web site, together with a diagramatic representation - which can be downloaded - to illustrate in simple terms how it works.

The Code will operate from 8:00am to 9:00am and from 3:00pm to 4:30pm during term time. Between these times all vehicle drivers are requested to observe a one-way system as follows:

**WEST** along Lyncombe Vale from the junction with Ralph Allen Drive up to the gates of the Paragon School.

**EAST** along Lyncombe Vale Road from the rear gate of the Paragon School up to the junction with Lyncombe Hill.

**SOUTH** down Rosemount Lane with **NO LEFT TURN** at the junction with Lyncombe Vale at the bottom.

Although the Code is voluntary and unofficial, and in certain circumstances it may not be possible for drivers to comply completely, the Widcombe Association hopes that all users of Lyncombe Vale - residents, Paragon parents, and all other visitors - will do their best to support and abide by it, in the interests of ensuring good traffic flow and promoting road safety for all.

## **National Trust**



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OPENING HOURS: Mon—Fri 8.30am-6pm

Sat 9am-2pm



Widcombe Pharmacy are pleased to offer WA members 10% off purchases. (excluding NHS prescriptions, medicines & promotional items)

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## Streetscape

#### Helen Peter

Widcombe Parade - Rough Sleepers. There were several concerns raised over rough sleepers on Widcombe Parade, which have been fairly controversial. We spoke to them and asked that they tidy up litter & stop leaving used needles behind the bushes. The local authority has removed the stones used as seats & will plant more bushes in the gaps to deter the rough sleepers. We are very aware that this does not tackle the root problem.

Widcombe Street cleaning - alleyways & bins I had a good response from the local authority, who swept up various alleyways which had been neglected.

Underpass Mirrors After long campaigning for their reinstatement, we managed to get new,

vandal-proof mirrors to make the underpass slightly

**Bulb planting & Beautification** B&NES have bulbs they will donate if anyone is interested in improving their area - subject to permission, of course. We successfully planted up the empty St Mark's cemetery to beautify the alleyway to Holloway & are always interested in improving the appearance of Widcombe.

Preparations for Winter You may have seen reports in the press about the Council's scheme for volunteer Snow Wardens for Bath's streets. The WA will be keen to take part in what seems like a very good idea. Meanwhile we will endeavour to make sure that the grit bins are full & would ask members to consider clearing their pavements of snow and ice as soon as possible after any freeze to help all citizens, especially the frail. Do feel free to contact me if you have any concerns.

## All Change at Widcombe Social Club Chris Rogers



What do you know about the Widcombe Social Club, other than combe Social Club – other than the fact that it's the ugliest building in the High Street? You may be aware that it's the home of Somerset County Darts, and that people go there to play skittles. You may have dropped in to have a laugh with the performers of a Bon Bon Cabaret, or enjoyed an evening of lively folk music at the Bath Folk Club.

But did you know that it was once the social heart and soul of the community and that it has plans to regain that status? It's fair to say that times have changed, but that - until now - the So-

cial Club has not changed with the times. Well that itself is set to change.

The Club has opened a dialogue with a number of developers over a plan which will deliver a new, state-of -the-art, multi-function facility which will be a social meeting place with bar, café and catering facilities for daytime as well as evening use. It will incorporate a performance space for cabaret, bands, concerts, discos, and so on – and offer meeting rooms and recreational space for clubs and businesses. The premises will be welcoming and open to families and children. In short, its vision is to become a community centre for today's community, offering everyone – regardless of age or background - the opportunity to use and enjoy its facilities.

In order to achieve its vision, the Club recognises that it needs to engage with the wider community, and to listen to the ideas we all have for how we'd like to use it. Widcombe Social Club is owned and run entirely by its members, and though its doors are open to all, there is no better way to become part of its exciting future than by joining. The fee is a very modest £10 per annum. Why not drop in and pick up a membership application form? And at the same time ask Bob about booking the Club for your meetings, parties and celebrations. Its rates are very reasonable and you will be supporting a creditable community cause!

The Widcombe Association will be keeping in touch with developments at the Club and we'd like to hear your views on how you think the Club can develop to serve the changing needs of our community.



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## SOS, one of the UK's leading developers of specialist software to the legal profession, is based in Widcombe.

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## Treasurer's Report

#### Jeremy Boss

The Association continues to remain in good financial health with growing membership and a successful summer events programme. At the end of August 2011 we had just over £8,400 in our bank including £111 earmarked for the Abbey Cemetery

Our funds have been bolstered by a successful summer events programme with the Crowe Hall opera being a particular financial success. This has allowed us to support local causes including the Bath Folk Festival, the Mummers Unconvention, Prior Park Buildings Association and Widcombe PCC (St Matthews) as well as funding all our running costs.

We have also received grant support from Bath & North East Somerset PCC for nearly £5000 to support the Energy Efficient Widcombe initiative.

Our funds are in good shape to support the objectives of the Association going forward including for the promoting the Rossiter Road scheme and local events such as Widcombe Rising 2012.

## Membership Ann Ashworth

Over the past year membership numbers have been steadily increasing and, at the time of writing, we have 400 households signed up, giving us a total of 684 individual members.

Subscriptions for 2012 will be due on 1 January so please make a note now to let us have your payment in good time to ensure you continue to have uninterrupted access to Association activities and services, particularly those useful local traders' discounts. For those members who pay by direct debit, the payment will automatically be taken from your nominated bank account. If you happen to have changed your bank details during the past year, please ensure we have the up to date information.

If you happen to be reading a friend or neighbour's copy of this Newsletter but you are not yet a member, we would encourage you to join us for the modest annual subscription which is currently £6 per household. Joining information can be found on the website or use the contact details on the back of the newsletter. Subscriptions for anyone joining after 1 October 2011 run through to 31 December 2012.

## **Energy Efficient Widcombe**

### Ozzie ffield

Energy Efficient Widcombe is a volunteer group within *Transition Bath*, working with the *Widcombe Association* and other local volunteer and professional groups. We are supported by *Age Concern* and *B&NES Council* and have been successfully registered as a Community Project with the *CSE* (Centre for Sustainable Energy). Our aim is to involve and assist as many Widcombe residents as possible to save energy and reduce carbon emissions. We want to identify those in fuel poverty, and those at risk of early death because of cold houses. We offer services to all, including insulation surveys, free insulation for over 70's, use of energy monitors, advice for those worried about fuel bills - and these services are being trialled locally. If you would like to be part of these trials, or you know an older person who might be at risk of cold please contact us. We are continuing to develop three approaches: working through community and neighbourhood groups, working through professionals in touch with older people, and simply knocking on people's doors. We welcome invitations to talk to any neighbourhood or social groups.

The best way to reduce energy bills is with loft and walls insulation. There are many insulation installers who are subsidised by the energy companies. The Mark Group have told us they will soon be working in Widcombe using their *heat seekers* data. The Heat Seeker van drives up and down a street in cold winter and stores thermal images (not photographs). B&NES have approved them. We have had one meeting with them and plan another to clarify their operation. Please contact us if you want more information about approved installers of insulation.

We have made presentations in two churches so far and not achieved as much interest as we expected it's a drip drip process - but we did run an extremely well received Energy Day at Widcombe Infant School in July 2011. All 180 pupils benefitted from activities provided by EEW and the CSE. Parents/relatives and carers were also involved and we gained some valuable support and are grateful to the school staff. In the near future we will be holding 3 free evening workshops (details elsewhere in the newsletter) and would be delighted to see you there.

My contact details are on the rear cover, or

email Tim Williams or Catherine Adams at e.e.widcombe@gmail.com.

## Widcombe Association **Publications and CDs**



## Discovering Widcombe and Lyncombe

by Maurice Scott.

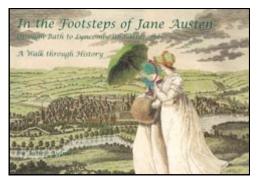
This is a short history in 124 pages, with 38 illustrations and 5 maps. An interesting and invaluable background to our parishes. **Price £6.50**.



## 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** 

In the Footsteps of Jane Aus-



## ten -through Bath to Lyncombe and Widcombe

by Janet Aylmer.

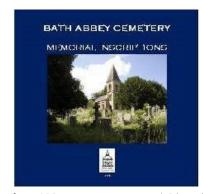
Jane lived in Bath from 1801 to 1806. Price £6.99

## The Beating the Bounds Map.

An excellent and colourful overview of Widcombe ward, and a good walk, too! Price £1

## The Abbey Cemetery Tombstone Trail.

Discover for yourself the famous and fascinating who lie at rest in Widcombe. Price £1



Data from **Abbey cemetery memorial inscriptions** have been collated in limited-edition bound volumes. The information, complete with index, is also available on an attractive CD-ROM. The pages from the volumes can be viewed as PDF files in Adobe Acrobat. **Price £10** (plus £1.50 P & P).



The **Songs for Widcombe** CD is attractively packaged with views of Widcombe and the Widcombe Rising festival and has 12 terrific tracks, all written and recorded by local (or near-local) musicians. They have given their time and talent to produce a superb tribute to Widcombe. The CD is sold in aid of Widcombe Rising. **Price £5 (plus £1.50 P&P).** 

## To purchase any of these publications or CDs contact Liz Littlewood 01225-333044 secretary@widcombeassociation.org.uk

(Publications also available at the Autumn Meeting on 27th October)

## **Chiropodists & Podiatrists**

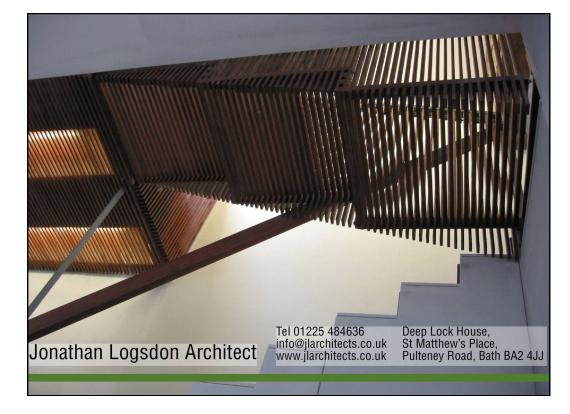
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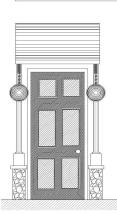




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#### History Tea 16th June 2011 Helen Peter



This event was well-attended with about 35 people arriving to partake of delicious cakes, cream teas & refreshments provided by members & ably served by Lesley and Jane with help from Shelagh & others.

Stuart Burroughs from the Museum of Bath at Work came to give a short talk on the canal & demolition of Rossiter Road & Claverton Street which was well received.

Sarah Brice from British Waterways who is project managing the 'Your Heritage' grant awarded by the Heritage Lottery Fund to promote the Bath Flight as an 'Open Air Museum' brought along Steven from Red Kite who will putting together the audio trail and the interpretation so locals and visitors can learn more about the social and cultural history of this unique length of canal. Names were collected so willing participants can have their stories recorded; some will be used for the audio trail along the canal Various attendees shared fascinating stories of their memories of the canal & the demolition of the roads

through Widcombe after the Buchanan plan failed. The stories ranged from Mayveen's lost cat, (found stranded on the deep lock gate & rescued after 3 days) to a tall story fabricated by a schoolboy claiming to have rescued a drowning child, to memories of jazz bands at pubs along the wharf, rats in the wharf shops & the difficulty of taking children to school through the rubble of the demolished Claverton Street. There were also fascinating recollections of the frozen winters with the canal frozen for weeks & ice skating high jinks to be had.

It's not too late to be part of this project - if you would like to be involved call Sarah on 01452 318049. If you prefer to write down your stories, they may be included on the trail leaflet, however all information will be archived for the interest of future generations.

Everyone worked very hard to make the meeting

a success. We raised £50 of which £25 went to WA & £25 to the History Society. British Waterways kindly paid the £20 hall hire fee.

The Bath Chronicle came to take a photo of the event which made us feel very special!

Many thanks all those who worked so hard to make the event successful - from Paddy providing technical support with the roving mike, sorting the Power point etc, Stuart for his wonderful information, resources & talk, Sarah for all her support, Lesley, Jane, Shelagh & all the tea helpers, those who provided cakes, Sarah Lewis for the A frame, tablecloths & 100% support, & all those who helped to set up & clear up.



Pictured at a farewell dinner at the White Hart earlier in the year are outgoing WA Secretary Rosemary Emsley, outgoing Chairman Richard Wales, and long-serving ex-chairman and outgoing committee member Mayveen Blackwell

#### The Widcombe Association Committee



You will see elsewhere the news that ulian Williams, who has been a cornerstone of the WA Committee, will be leaving us. This means that not only will we lose Julian's talents, we will be down to 9 members - nine talented,

hard-working and enthusiastic members, but nevertheless, we would like more. You don't need any particular skills, just a wish to give a little time to the community.

Committee meetings are held in Widcombe Social Club on the first Tuesday of every month from 7.30 - 9.30 pm. They are not unduly arduous, and we usually have a sociable drink afterwards. If would like to join the committee or observe a meeting, please contact Secretary Liz Littlewood on 01225-333044.



St Thomas à Becket Church is open to visitors from April to September on Sunday afternoons and volunteer stewards are needed for the 2012 season. Should sufficient volunteers come forward, the plan is to open the church on Saturday afternoons as well. No particular expertise is required, other than to welcome visitors and keep a watchful eye over the building. If you can spare one or two afternoons in the spring and summer next year, and would like to spend some time in the peaceful tranquillity of this lovely church and its grounds, then please contact Sian Lewis on 01225 312319 or email sianmlewis@aol.com

# Wanted: IT & Editorial Skills - and Enthusiasm!

The website You may have seen on the website a plea for your views. The website functions quite well but we thought perhaps could be improved. It



lacks many of the 'functionalities' of modern sites. Chairman Paddy Doyle is webmaster at the moment using Dreamweaver software, but would gladly hand over the reins to someone with a modicum of time and IT skills who might like to take the website forward, concentrating perhaps on making it more interactive for our members.

The newsletter is another task undertaken by Paddy which he would like to hand over to some enthusiastic person who could devote the time to assembling it twice a year. If you would like to talk about filling either of these roles, let Paddy Doyle know (01225-311809) We would not ask you to join the Committee unless you wished to.

## Business Members Julian Williams



The Association is pleased to welcome four newcomers, the Widcombe-based organisations and traders who have joined as 'Business Members' over the six months since the previous edition of

this newsletter. They are: Kindle Woodburning Stoves, who are offering a 10% discount to WA members, Widcombe Acorns Pre-school, Widcombe Pharmacy, which has replaced MG Pharmacy (also offering 10% discount, but not on prescriptions or medicines) and Yakaar African Vision, which raises funds for schools in Africa.

We hope members will give their support to these and all the other 42 Widcombe Association Business Members, whose continued success is important to the future prosperity of our village. Members with shop windows all display the sign above.

#### WIDCOMBE ASSOCIATION GARDEN CLUB

Monday evening meetings at the Prior Park Garden Centre Café start at 7.30 pm

#### Saturday October 8<sup>th</sup> 2011 PRIVATE VISIT TO RIDLEYS CHEER NEAR CHIPPENHAM

To book contact Alex Nash 07891637253 - use own transport

# Monday 31st October 2011 NATURAL DRUGS AND POISONS: THE CHEMICAL WEAPONS OF GARDEN PLANTS DR MIKE ROWAN

Lecturer at Bath University Department of Pharmacy and Pharmacology

#### Monday 28<sup>th</sup> November 2011 GARDENERS' OUESTION TIME

Jane Moore Head Gardener at the Priory Hotel John Leach and John Tucker of the Prior Park Garden Centre

#### Monday 30th January 2012 <u>LAWNS</u>

The History of Lawns, How to Establish a New Lawn and How to Maintain an Existing Lawn. MICHAEL FISHER – Yew and Me Garden Services

## Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February 2012 THE GARDENS AT THE BISHOP'S PALACE WELLS

Illustrated talk - Development of the Gardens concentrating between 1824 and today

JAMES CROSS – Head Gardener at the Bishop's Palace Wells

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> March 2012 <u>WINTER VEGETABLES</u> CHARLES DOWDING – of the 'No Dig' gardening fame

Monday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2012
PROPAGATION
PENNY JONES – Chief Propagator at
Westonbirt Arboretum

## Entry £3.50~Widcombe Association members £2.50~Wine and nibbles

Contact details Alex Nash 01225 314924 e-mail fatj@limenash.freeserve.co.uk

#### The Mummers UnConvention



The Mummers' UnConvention will take place in Widcombe and Bath from Nov17th-20th. This will be the first ever international gathering of mummers, and events will be centred around St Matthews. The Widcombe Association has provided some sponsorship for this event,

and we hope members will be inclined to try some of the activities.

There is a website (to find it, Google 'Mummers unconvention'). Tickets will be available on-line and also through the Bath Festivals Box Office.

Events in Widcombe will include some 'night visits', probably on the Friday night to houses in the Lyncombe Vale area. These will form part of the 'gathering' event based at the Widcombe Social Club. On the Saturday there will be workshops in St Matthews to suit all levels of interest, and a talk from Doc Rowe at the Natural Theatre Company. Doc Rowe last visited Widcombe in October 2005 when he gave a talk on mumming to the WA autumn meeting. In the evening of the Saturday there will be a Mummers' Feast and Revels, also in St Matthews. On the Sunday morning there will be a special guest Masterclass from Mr Barry Grantham on physical aspects of making a performance funny, drawing on the ancient Commedia del Arte tradition from Italy. This too will take place in St Matthews.

Organiser Ian Gilchrist is interested to hear from any Widcombe residents who may be willing to give practical assistance in the running of the event. Ian is looking for stewards, and for tea/coffee people, and also any kind residents who may be willing to accommodate some of the special guests for a couple of nights. There is known to be a contingent of Spanish performers. If you are interested to discuss any of these with Ian his phone number is 334775, or email mike mandolin@vahoo.co.uk.