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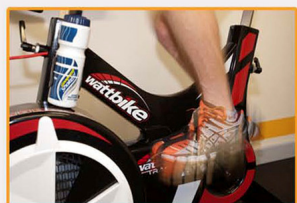
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# WIDCOMBE NEWSLETTER

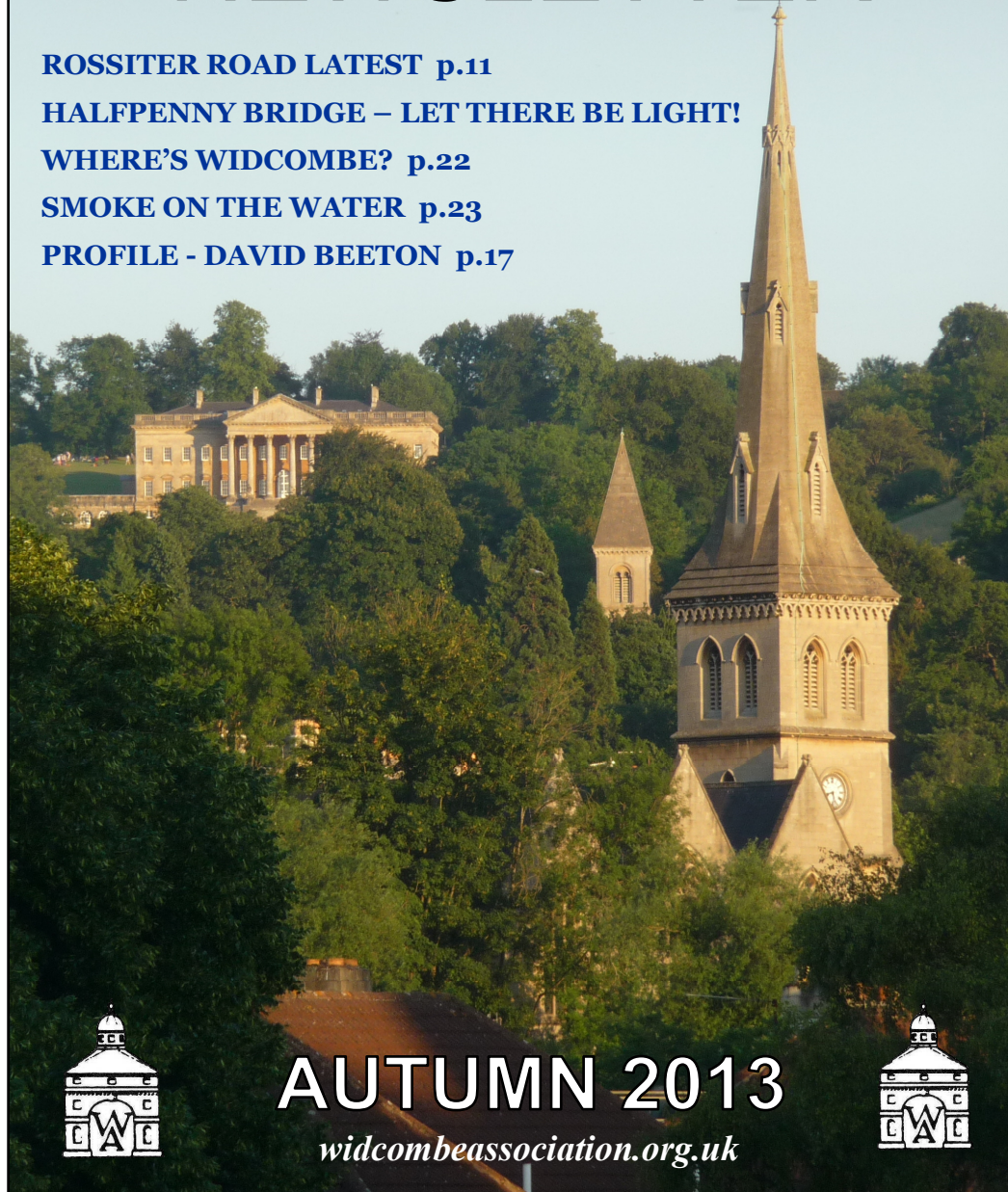
**ROSSITER ROAD LATEST p.11**

**HALFPENNY BRIDGE – LET THERE BE LIGHT!**

**WHERE'S WIDCOMBE? p.22**

**SMOKE ON THE WATER p.23**

**PROFILE - DAVID BEETON p.17**



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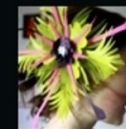
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### The Widcombe Association Autumn Meeting

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## The Widcombe Newsletter

is published by the Widcombe Association

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

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

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



### The WA Committee

**Paddy Doyle 311809**  
Chairman, Newsletter, Website

**Liz Littlewood 333044**  
Secretary, FoBRA Liaison

**Jeremy Boss 484794**  
Treasurer

**Andrew Gordon-Duff 480682**  
Vice Chairman, Planning

**Ann Ashworth 443907**  
Membership Secretary

**Rajen Doshi 447924**  
Traders' Liaison

**Hilary Furlonger 338464**  
Traffic & Highways

**Keith Palmer 284598**  
FoBRA Liaison, Interfaces initiative

**Helen Peter 334936**  
Streetscape

**Chris Rogers 448171**  
Chairman Events Sub-committee

**Richard Wales 422677**  
Chairman, Rossiter Rd Sub-committee

**Jeroen Weimar**  
Rossiter Rd Sub-committee

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Cover Photo by Paddy Doyle:  
Widcombe landmarks seen from  
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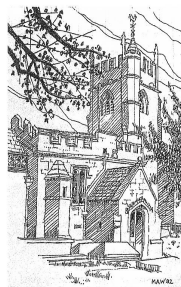
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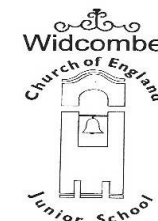
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## Chairman's Column

Your Committee were having a drink after the September meeting in the Ring o' Bells - as they are wont to do - and were looking back over the achievements of the Association, reflecting that perhaps things don't move as fast as we might like. This would be an understatement where the Rossiter Road scheme is concerned, which after well over 30 years should, we are told, come into being next year (*see p.11*). On the other hand, the extra improvements to the Halfpenny Bridge, paid for in part by the Association, were achieved in a relatively short time frame, and we have reason to be proud of all our achievements, and our excellent events which bring people together and engender community feeling.

As you may know, we have been very supportive of the plan hatched by David Beeton to persuade the National Trust to take over the management of Beechen Cliff and ownership of the Lyncombe Hill Farm fields, and were responsible for setting up a steering group, led by Paul Osborn and Sylvia Green, to lobby for this to happen. This would have ensured the protection of the Bath skyline in this area. To our disappointment, the NT has decided to decline the offer to manage the Cliff, and has refused to take over the surrounding fields. On p.17, David Beeton expresses his frustration at this outcome. I would like to express our gratitude to David for his tireless work on this project. If you read the article, you will see it is only a very small part of a very active and fruitful life.

We have felt for some time now that the pedestrian coming to this beautiful part of Bath faces many obstacles: the forbidding nature of the Claverton St underpass, the unwelcoming tunnels under the railway by the Station, and the occasional street drinkers who can make – for whatever reason – using the riverside path a less than comfortable experience. But now a new obstacle has been highlighted – the navigational challenge presented by the removal of finger posts. The issue of the difficulties of navigating to Widcombe are dealt with on p.22.

We are very sorry to lose two key Committee members: Andrew Gordon-Duff and Alan Langton. Both have done wonderful work for the

Association - Andrew as our planning guru and Vice-chairman, and Alan as an expert in many fields, who will be remembered not only for his wisdom and knowledge, but for the expert way in which he brought several parties together to achieve the improvements to the Halfpenny Bridge which we all now enjoy (*see p.25*). I am delighted that Jeroen Weimar has joined the committee and will take over the vacant slot on the Rossiter Rd sub-committee left by Alan's departure. Please get in touch should you feel you would like to join the committee. We are particularly keen to find someone with an interest in planning, someone with a feeling for layout to compile the newsletter and someone with IT, design and communications skills who could guide us into the 21<sup>st</sup> century in these fields. We would of course be delighted to hear from someone with these skills who would prefer to help without actually joining our merry little band on the committee—we recognise that committees are not for everyone!

Another key person who has announced her retirement is Alex Nash—the indefatigable organiser of the WA Garden Club. For some years now, Alex has provided a varied and entertaining programme at the Garden centre, and outings to gardens which many of us would otherwise not get the opportunity to visit. She now intends to stand down in the Spring. We are very grateful to Alex for all her time and hard work, and realise that she will be a hard act to follow, but if you would like to talk about it, get in touch with her (*See bottom p.21*)

I hope that you will join us at the Autumn Meeting on 24th Oct (*see P.6*). It is an excellent opportunity to keep up to date on Widcombe matters and to have some wine and conversation. Our speaker will be Bath Spa Station Manager Peter Rignall, who is keen to establish strong links with Widcombe. He will, no doubt, be happy to answer any questions you might have about the Station.

The recent refurbishment of the Halfpenny Bridge was seen as an opportunity to prove that partnership with councillors and council officers can reap more benefits than confrontation. That your association and other agencies were able to put our money into doing a 'proper job' on the approaches to the bridge is a tribute to the flexible approach of councillors and the council officer involved (*p.25*) and presents a template, perhaps, for the future.

**Paddy Doyle**



## Secretary's Notes

This has been another busy six months for the committee, as you will see from other reports within these pages.

We are sorry to be losing two committee members. Alan Langton has returned to full time employment and Andrew Gordon-Duff, our Vice Chairman, is stepping down after five years on the committee. Our thanks go to both of them for all their hard work over the years and we wish them well for the future.

With this reduction in our numbers, we would like to recruit more committee members, in particular someone with an interest in branding, marketing and communications. Should you wish to offer your services, or know of anyone who might be interested, please do contact me.

I would also like to add to my list of volunteers to help with our stall. This would only take an hour or two on a few occasions a year and is an opportunity to promote Widcombe and the Association and to get to know other members. Again, if you could help, please contact me.

**Liz Littlewood**

## Treasurer's Report

The Association continues to remain in good financial health with strong membership and a successful summer events programme. At the end of August 2012 we had just over £14,000 in our bank including £111 earmarked for the Abbey Cemetery and £4,500 for Energy Efficient Widcombe.

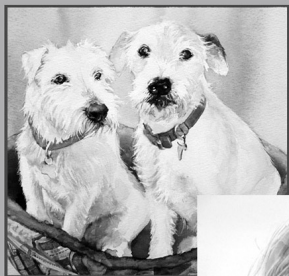
Our funds have been bolstered by a successful summer events programme. This has allowed us to support local causes including £2000 to the Bath Preservation Trust (for our share of the Halfpenny Bridge Works), £200 to the Ken Biggs Charitable Foundation and £850 to St Thomas' Church.

Our funds remain in good shape to support the objectives of the Association going forward including promoting the Rossiter Road scheme, installing lights on the Halfpenny Bridge and local events and good causes.

**Jeremy Boss**

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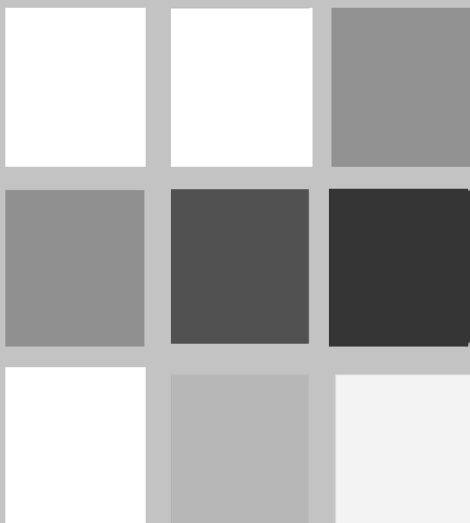
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## ROSSITER ROAD

Progress on the scheme is grindingly slow, indeed almost imperceptible, although there has been a flurry of reorganisations. Last time I reported that Roger Symonds, then Cabinet member for transport, had taken over the Chair of the Steering Group and that Derek Quilter had been given overall control of the project. Subsequently Roger was replaced by Caroline Roberts, as the Cabinet member involved. Derek Quilter is no longer involved with the project, which is back in the hands of Highways. Louise Fradd has been appointed Strategic Director, Place, as successor to Glen Chipp, and she is now the senior Council officer involved.

In April, I said that a Steering Group meeting would be arranged in the near future but, in practice, there hasn't been one since February! We met Caroline Roberts and Louise Fradd on 21<sup>st</sup> May and were told that the scheme was being redesigned to meet objections to the design of the "cross-over" junction, especially pedestrian crossing arrangements. This was supposed to be ready in 2 weeks but wasn't presented to the Widcombe representatives until 17<sup>th</sup> July when we were assured that a scheme would be ready for public presentation of the highways and public realm design by the end of October. It was arranged to meet on 13<sup>th</sup> August to agree the PR programme but, unfortunately, this was cancelled at the last minute and has now been rearranged for early October!



*Renowned Bath artist Peter Brown spotted in Widcombe Parade in early September. Like us, he will be happy to see the change of scene when through traffic is removed.*

The obvious question is "when will the scheme be implemented?" When indeed! In April I reported that work on the scheme would commence no later than immediately after the Christmas/New Year holiday. At the July meeting we were told that the main contract should be let by July 2014, but in view of the substantial subsequent delays in arranging meetings, it is difficult to believe that this will happen. I hope that I shall be able to report some good news at the Autumn meeting but one can't help despairing at the limited progress made since the Public Consultation in February 2011, more than 2 ½ years ago!!

**Richard Wales**

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## PLANNING MATTERS

**Core Strategy** Before reporting on the current progress, it may be helpful to summarise what function the Core Strategy, once approved, will serve. I can do no better than quote from BANES's appropriate literature as follows; "The Core Strategy is a key planning document that puts in place a strategic planning framework to guide change and development in the district over the next 20 years and beyond. It is shaped by the challenges that are specific to the area and the aspirations of the community". The draft document, once finalised, is subject to examination by an Inspector. This process was commenced last summer but then suspended owing to serious concerns about the scope of BANES's Strategic Housing Assessment, more particularly their projection of the housing numbers required. The Inspector queried the methodology in calculating the numbers with the likelihood now that they will almost certainly increase and more building land will be required. The examination was reconvened on 17<sup>th</sup> September. Happily we do not believe this will impact on Widcombe.

**Houses in Multiple Occupation** A couple of amendments have come into operation during the summer with respect to the control of HMO's. Firstly planning permission will be required for all changes of use from a dwelling to a house for multiple occupation that is to be occupied by 3-6 unrelated individuals with shared facilities. Secondly, and possibly of more interest, is that all HMOs will now be required to obtain a licence from BANES. These provisions are broadly to be welcomed as they give a greater degree of control.

**Foxhill MOD Site** In March this year this site was acquired by Curo - which is the new name of the amalgamated housing associations; Somer, Redland (Bristol) and Shape (Weston Super Mare). A residential development of some 700 houses with appropriate amenities is proposed. Curo undertook a local consultation in May to which we responded on the issues of increased traffic and also the importance of any development not being visible from the north side of the skyline.



**Beechen Cliff School - Sports Lighting to Artificial Turf Pitches** This concerns the application to vary the curfew time of the flood lighting from 1800hrs to 2100hrs on weekdays. Still no decision has been given due to the absence of ecological information requested by BANES's planners concerning bats and wildlife. We understand that the applicant's ecologist wishes to provide information about the Autumn period, for the sake of completeness. We have objected to this application on the grounds that lighting of this sort in this sensitive position damages the setting of our World Heritage City.

**Closed Public Toilets, Claverton Street, Widcombe** This application was submitted in January and still no decision has been given which suggests that there are aspects which the planners are not happy with.

**Smallcombe Farm** - Proposal to divert the footpath that currently runs from Bathwick Hill down the side of the field, down steps and through the farmyard to the track leading to Smallcombe Cemetery to a route mainly across the National Trust fields to the west and then along the side of an orchard. We reported in the April edition that we had objected to this. Further developments are awaited.

**Andrew Gordon-Duff**

## MEET YOUR LOCAL BOBBY



If you have something on your mind that you would like to share with your local police, Widcombe's Beat Manager, PC Malcolm Webley, has arranged a series of surgeries at **Prior Park Garden Centre** on the **first and third Wednesday of each month** (except January 14th). This is your opportunity to share your concerns—just drop in between

**11am and 12** on these dates. Meanwhile the future of the police PACT initiative (Partners & Communities Together) seems in doubt, as recent meetings have been so badly attended. You can contact Malcolm by phoning 101

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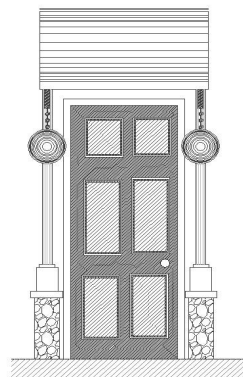
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**CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF ENTERTAINING BATH**




JULY 2013 FEB 2014

Zenith Youth Theatre Company (formerly known as Bodlets) is a completely voluntary run organisation that has been producing musical theatre in Bath for almost half a century.

From May 2013 we will be entering our Golden Anniversary year and we plan a whole series of events and performances to celebrate 50 years of entertaining Bath. Visit [www.zenithytc.co.uk](http://www.zenithytc.co.uk) for further details.

As part of the centenary year, we are launching a £50k for 50 years fundraising appeal, not only to ensure that Zenith is here for another 50 years, but to help nurture home grown talent in Bath and to donate some investment capital to our community shared rehearsal and storage space in Bath - St Marks Community Centre

## WORKING TOGETHER



Those who attended the AGM in April will recall that we are very keen to make sure that we work as well as we can with all the other groups and organisations in the area. We also want to ensure that the Association activities truly reflect the concerns and interests of the full diversity of people who live and trade in Widcombe.

Things we've done over the last few months in this context include:

- Individual committee members taking responsibility for developing links with over 20 groups in and around Widcombe, including churches, schools and local resident groups.
- Sharing the key issues from WA Committee meetings with these groups and on the WA website so that everyone can know what's going on.
- Widening the distribution of the WA newsletter, developing a new WA events leaflet and using Facebook to share information more widely
- Getting ideas from people across a wide age-range to help us find new ways of increasing awareness about Widcombe and the Widcombe Association. One example was the "Spin-the-roulette- bicycle" (See picture above) that you may have played on at the Two Tunnels opening. We're already starting to see the benefits of doing this, including a number of opportunities for working with other groups on issues of shared interest as well as participation in each other's events. And we've already received early feedback that the Association appears to be more open and inclusive. We want to build on what we've started, so

amongst our priorities for the coming period is to continue to develop the relationships with other groups and organisations.

We're also making a conscious effort to get more people involved in the work of the Association, both to broaden our representation and to draw from the wide range of skills, capabilities and insights of people in the area. So if you're not already involved in the work of the Association but are interested in doing so please let us know. There's a wide variety of opportunities available, ranging from looking at how the Association can communicate more effectively to helping to organise some of our events and being part of the team on the WA Stall. You don't have to commit to lots of meetings for all of these things, so if you're interested in finding out more, please speak to any Committee member or email:

**[secretary@widcombeassociation.org.uk](mailto:secretary@widcombeassociation.org.uk)**

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

**Keith Palmer**

## Acorns

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## PARKING ISSUES

WA's Hilary Furlonger recently attended a meeting with councillors and parking services officers to ensure that Widcombe residents' views were adequately represented in the forthcoming review of parking in zone 3, which covers much of the Widcombe area. Proposed options should be available by the time the newsletter goes to press, and an informal public consultation should take place in October. Any changes would then be implemented in spring 2014.

Individual spaces will not be marked, as the standard space length would be longer than that needed by smaller vehicles. In general, orderly parking should allow for a greater number of vehicles to park, although careless parking can reduce numbers.

Parking Services are considering a number of requests from individuals:

- Convert one car length to "disabled parking bay" on Widcombe Hill, by the Natural Theatre Company
- Convert "limited waiting bay" to dual purpose "limited waiting" and "resident permit holder" on Prior Park Rd (outside garden centre)
- Extend "no waiting" marking and reduce resident parking bay by one car length on Lyncombe Hill. There might be room to compensate by adding a further car length to residents' parking a little further up the hill
- Consider whether any single yellow line areas can be changed to residents' parking in lower Widcombe Hill

Points raised by Hilary included the lack of resident-only spaces in St Marks Rd and general safety concerns arising from dropping off and picking up there, and extending the operating time for residents' parking in zone 3. Councillor Ian Gilchrist, however, said he did not believe that residents in general were seeking extended hours. He had also received a request to change single yellow lines into residents' parking at the lower part of Widcombe Hill, and had been asked by residents in Hatfield Buildings to be allowed to buy residents' permits, but not to mark out spaces in Hatfield buildings as part of the zone. It was felt that other zone 3 residents may object unless a compensating increase in residents' spaces can be offered on Widcombe Hill.

Parking Services agreed to consider these comments in drawing up proposals. In particular, for St

Marks Road they indicated that provision of some permit holder only spaces should be provided along with a reduced period for public parking in any remaining dual use spaces. They also acknowledged the need for "drop off" at the Community Centre along with the need to reduce traffic entering St Marks Rd eg: if public use/drop off spaces are at the entrance to the road, less traffic will enter the road to look for spaces.

Levels of enforcement in our area were discussed. Although the new system improves speed and coverage, resources are very restricted and in practice streets are only likely to be tested 2 to 3 times per month. There would be some focus on St Marks Rd to fully test the issue of "overstayers" in the 2 hour parking – something which had been noted by residents for some time.

It was agreed that Rossiter Rd plans should not be mixed into the review of zone 3 (as one could delay the other) but the plan should be monitored and where possible take account of any increased parking there to increase permit spaces for St Marks Road and Widcombe Hill.

WA members who would like more information on parking issues should contact Hilary Furlonger. Details of the consultation will appear on the WA website.



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## ARTS & CRAFTS



The 2013 **Widcombe Art Trail**, held in May, was double in size of the original event in 2007. Quality remained high as we were joined by new venues, including the Paragon and Junior Schools. Innovations included artists demonstrating their work, children's workshops and a Passport for children in which to collect venue stamps. The latter a slightly mixed blessing in some cases as children were too keen on the stamps at the expense of allowing their parents to view the art! An adjustment on this theme perhaps for next year! The weather was much kinder than usual and some central venues received huge numbers of visitors. Our new date in May, linked in with our association with Bath Open Studios. Another innovation was our own website:

[www.widcombeartrail.com](http://www.widcombeartrail.com)

A new website is also up and running for the forthcoming **Craft Fair** in November and here you will find details of all the exhibiting artists and craftspeople. St Matthews will be crammed with excellent stalls, and the St Matthew's catering team will be providing lunches - soup and good bread and maybe more will be on offer as well as coffee and cake in aid of the refurbishment of the building. Entrance is free and the Widcombe Choir will be performing! Bring your friends and come and hunt your special gifts directly from the people who made them! See you there on Saturday 23 November 10.30-5pm!

[www.widcombecraftfair.com](http://www.widcombecraftfair.com)

*Sarah Lewis*



## MEMBERSHIP



WA membership continues to grow at a steady pace, with over 800 individual members in almost 470 households.

Many thanks to those members who have paid their subscription promptly. It is once again timely to remind everyone to make a note in your 2014 diary that subscriptions, still capped at a very modest £6 per household, are due on 1 January. A direct debit is of course the best way of ensuring that your membership payments are up to date. We would encourage you to fill in a form if you haven't already done so. A form can be downloaded from the website and this process is supported by the direct debit guarantee. One of the significant benefits of membership is the discount given by many of the local traders. Members can easily defray the cost of their membership by supporting local businesses.

During the course of the year, Charity Shop Yakaar has unfortunately closed due to family illness. 'Widcombe Antiques' will be opening in its place. Bus Station Florists is now called 'Bath Spa Florists', offering the same good

value and service. The Widcombe Dental Practice (see P3) has become a business member and is pleased to offer WA members a 5% discount for routine treatments (excluding check-ups). A full list of discounts provided by local businesses is shown on P.7 and on the website. Do give them all your support.

*Ann Ashworth*

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## MELLOW WELLOW



Maurice hand-tying a fly

oak. Autumn is a riot of colour as you'd expect with winter offering the chance of uninterrupted views across the valleys. Spring offers young leaves along with catkins which are highlighted by drifts of snowdrop and primrose, soon followed by wild garlic and iris. As the weather warms up the surface of the water is broken by the daisy flowers of crowfoot with moth-like mayflies, followed by damsel and dragon flies. Move quietly and you might get to spot heron, deer, mallard, pheasant, water vole, egret and increasingly, otters.

For me, all of this is just the background to my passion: catching trout on (home-tied) artificial flies in stunning surroundings. There has been a great deal of work to encourage wild trout to thrive in all three brooks and only the Midford and part of the Wellow are artificially stocked. The waters are preserved by The Avon and Tributaries Angling Association and annual membership is presently available at [www.ataafishing.net](http://www.ataafishing.net).

**Maurice Tennenhaus**

## MIDSUMMER MADNESS



Lady Margaret & David Embleton

lers improved their understanding and painting skills immediately. In the photo you can see the results being inspected by host David Embleton. A big thank you to our hosts and the organiser for a wonderful evening!

**Denise Rogers**

We all know this to be true beyond any reasonable doubt: Widcombe is one of the unsung delights of Bath. You could say the same for the largely unknown valleys of the *Midford, Wellow and Cam Brooks*. To get to see them, it used to be a bit of a hike up to Combe Down and then down Brassknocker Hill (or via Southdown if you prefer) but the opening of the Combe Down Tunnel should make it a gentle stroll or free-wheel down to the viaduct at Tucking Mill.

Once in the area, there are a range of interesting itineraries along drover's roads and sections of tow paths by the redundant Somerset Coal Canal, or the track bed of the Radstock Tramway.

The brooks themselves are a delight in every season, lined mainly with alder, willow, hazel and

On Midsummer Night Widcombe Association members and guests were treated to a right royal pageant! Our hosts David and Krin Embleton welcomed us into their spectacular gardens at Fairstowe in Prospect Road.

Musical entertainment was provided by Sere-nade Strings and friends who played until late. Ambulatory musical entertainment was also provided by the pramophone - making a welcome return. On descending into the Rose Garden revellers could take part in a highly unusual tombola run by three very enthusiastic theatrical ladies. Prizes were most unusual and exciting to win. There were also lessons in Painting By Numbers under the auspicious tuition of none other than the redoubtable Lady Margaret herself! Such were her tuition skills that many revel-

lers improved their understanding and painting skills immediately. In the photo you can see the results being inspected by host David Embleton. A big thank you to our hosts and the organiser for a wonderful evening!

## energy efficient widcombe

Energy Efficient Widcombe (EEW) continues with activities aimed at making our buildings in Widcombe warmer with less energy, cheaper to run and a smaller carbon footprint. We ran two events in April: a draught-proofing workshop run by Centre for Sustainable Energy (CSE) and a Low Energy Lighting workshop by Paul Ruffles, of Lighting Design and Technology, about choosing and installing low energy lighting.

Over the summer term, EEW gave work placements to 5 students from Bath Spa University. The benefit from their work can be seen on our improved website.

EEW was invited to participate in promoting the Green Deal (where you can make energy saving improvements to your home, paid out of the savings made on your fuel bills). Because of our community network, being part of WA, we were able to offer free Green Deal Assessments, and 66 residents took up the offer. EEW attracted more responses than other group across Somerset, Bristol and BANES. In July, EEW volunteer, Jon McChesney, who is an expert in the Green Deal and Energy Performance Certificates, ran a Q&A session on the Green Deal for us. This was a really excellent session and answered all our questions. We plan to repeat it this autumn.

The process of getting planning permission is a potential barrier to insulating the walls of your house. In July EEW gave a 3 minute presentation in the Council chamber making the case for easier planning regulations. We are pursuing this ambitious project.

We are now planning our autumn activities. Again we have the opportunity to give work placements to BSU students. We are also applying to the Zurich Community Trust, who are working with the University of Bath. They are asking for simple projects that a team of 8 -10 students can carry out. We are suggesting they support our saving energy training sessions in the Widcombe schools, by delivering creative, interactive, informative age appropriate sessions. Finally we are investigating how we can best use a thermal imaging camera for our Widcombe homes. These only work in conditions under 5<sup>o</sup> C – so we are not there yet!

**Tim Williamson**

## SOMETHING TO SING ABOUT!



**Widcombe Choir** is one year old! The choir had a hugely successful first year, with an excellent turnout of forty regular members, meeting on Monday nights to sing with enthusiasm and gusto. A new season is about to begin and the choir will continue to meet at St Matthews Church, Widcombe Hill from 7.30 to 9.30pm on Monday evenings.

A unique feature of the choir is its two choir leaders, Ruth McKibbin and Su Hart, who offer a varied and contrasting singing experience. The choir have sung pieces from a range of musical traditions, including world music, folk songs and opera. In all, the choir performed in public at seven events over the year, including the Widcombe Christmas Craft Fair, the Bath Literature Festival, the opening of the Two Tunnels (above), the launch of the Riverside Development, and, for its showpiece event, a performance at the opening night of the Bath International Music Festival, taking the stage at St Swithin's, Walcot as part of an evening of choral music.

Widcombe Choir is for anyone and everyone. We do not have auditions and members do not need to read music. Enthusiasm is all that is required. Our main aims are to foster community spirit in Widcombe and to come together for the joy of singing. It's an amazingly friendly choir, always welcoming to new members and each session includes some social time for choir members to get to know one another as well as 'end-of-term' parties. So why not come and sing with us? Just turn up...your first session is free so you have nothing to lose!

For further details see the website:

[www.groupspaces.com/widcombechoir](http://www.groupspaces.com/widcombechoir)

**Siân Lewis**



## OPERA AT THE CRESCENT

With no suitable Opera venue available in Widcombe this year, WA's events supremo Chris Rogers took up an invitation by Royal Crescent residents to stage our Summer opera event on their lawn. This was the first operatic occasion at the Crescent since the Three Tenors appeared in 2003. **Amanda Brown** writes:



"My husband Simon and I were delighted to have secured tickets to see the WA production of Don Giovanni on the Royal Crescent lawn earlier in the summer. The tickets had sold out very quickly and a few of our friends were not so lucky! We wanted to make the most of this special event so we dressed up. I donned a summery dress that could only be worn to this kind of event and Simon went for the shorts, dinner shirt and bow tie combo, just right for a hot summer's evening in the city. On arrival we were greeted with a glass of champagne and were lucky enough to get a position in the front row of the marquee. We set up our picnic on the lawn and enjoyed the view while trying to stop salad blowing off our plates in the breeze! There was an excellent band to keep us entertained before the main event; the marquee was decorated with beautiful flower arrangements to complement the surroundings which by now were full of merry opera going picnickers. The Bath Opera performance itself was fantastic. Happily for us it was in English and the contemporary dealing room take on Mozart's classic opera was inspired. Having worked in dealing rooms in London, Simon approved of the lead Johnny's (Don Giovanni) costume of striped shirt and braces! The cast had beautiful voices and with the orchestra it all sounded wonderful. When the thoroughly enjoyable evening came to an end we followed a thoughtfully lighted path to await our carriage home.

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## BEAUTIFUL BAROQUE



On July 6<sup>th</sup>, we were lucky enough to have renowned local musicians Susan Sheppard (cello) and Alison Townley (violin) playing for us at St. Thomas à Becket Church. They performed a programme of Baroque music, entertaining us with anecdotes and information about their period instruments between the pieces. We were very grateful to them for donating their talents without a fee, as the concert was a fund-raiser for the vestry roof following the theft of lead last year. A sum of just over £800 was raised, for which we would like to thank Sue and Alison. It was a perfect summer evening so we were able to enjoy refreshments in the churchyard after the concert, when we were able to meet and chat to the performers.

**Caroline Davies**

## HALFPENNY BRIDGE

B&NES Council has recently (June 2013) refurbished this most important link with the city centre. The bridge has been repaired and resurfaced and light levels have been improved by cutting back trees at the Station end. Not only has the bridge been greatly improved, but the very ugly chain-link fencing at the northern end has been replaced, and high-quality paving has been laid to match the rear station forecourt. That these important improvements have been carried out is due to high levels of co-operation between council officers, local councillors, the Widcombe Association and Bath Preservation Trust. Funding was provided by the Trust through the World Heritage Site Enhancement Fund, our local councillors' fund, the Railway Heritage Trust, and not least Widcombe Association funds: we were pleased to be able to contribute a little over 10% of the approximately £20,000 costs for the extra work. Alan Langton of the Widcombe Association and BPT co-ordinated this partnership, and worked closely with Mohammed Rashid, the Council's engineer in charge, who ensured that all went smoothly. **Let There be Light!** A survey of the WA membership revealed an overwhelming feeling that the Bridge should be lit in the hours of darkness to enhance pedestrian comfort and safety. Kelvin Packer of the Highways Department has now agreed with this in principle and lighting designer Paul Ruffles is producing a design for LED lighting underneath the parapets. The next step will be to



obtain planning permission and we are confident that we can soon achieve our aim of ensuring that this important pedestrian route can be made equally attractive by day or night. *Photos show details of the new extra works to the Bridge and Alan Langton of the WA with Engineer Mohammed Rashid.*



FoBRA has recently been focussing on improvements to the Public Realm as a result of which a 'wish list' was submitted to the Council for consideration. Many instances of paving requiring repair were identified and the majority of these will now be included in the council's work schedule. Other areas of concern included changes or modification to street lighting, modification of parking lines in the conservation area and requests for additional signage, particularly directing people from the city towards Widcombe. The response from the council was largely helpful and positive although, as regards signage, the

Council view is that the new circular maps on monoliths are sufficient and that reinstating fingerposts would lead to street clutter. At the July meeting Tom McBain, Director of Place, gave an excellent and interesting presentation on the proposed Grand Parade and Undercroft development. On a warm and sunny June evening FoBRA held its Summer Reception at the home of the Treasurer in the Royal Crescent. This was a well-attended event and an opportunity to network with other groups so that we might work together on areas of common concern north and south of the river—and socialise with other members in lovely surroundings.

**Liz Littlewood**



## HOLLOWAY – NOT SUCH A SLEEPY HOLLOW



*Holloway is a residential cul de sac which used to be the main route for pilgrims to Wells and for travellers to the City. In recent years it has become widely used as a cut through to town and the stations. Resident **Rosemary Emsley** writes about the dangers to life and limb now posed by the various users of this erstwhile sleepy hollow.*

**Motorised traffic** Besides residents (including students) Holloway is used by drivers picking up or dropping off passengers for town and the stations. Cars hang around waiting. Parents park without permits for a few minutes while dropping children at Acorns. Delivery vans quite often come down under the impression they can get through. (Two came down in the

snow and residents had to help them dig out). There are quite a lot of deliveries to Holloway and Calton Gardens. Two cars cannot easily pass by the parked cars - one has to virtually stop.

**Pedestrians** Many people walk up and down to town, the stations, Widcombe School, Acorns etc. Many walk in the road, especially with prams and suitcases as the flags are bumpy. I think because it is a cul de sac, they don't think of it as a normal road, and don't realise the dangers, particularly from speeding bikes.

**Bikes** A surprising number of people cycle up the hill, but the real danger comes from the (usually young) people who come down at full speed and without helmets. Sometimes they have no working light and it is hard to see them in the dark. There are far more men than women. They don't realise how long and steep the hill is and that it twists, especially at the bottom where the turn is 90 degrees. They don't realise cars may be turning into or out of garages or parking spaces. They don't allow for the parked cars, especially at the bottom. There have already been some nasty accidents, and ambulances have been called on two occasions.


**Skate/Roller boarders** It is not uncommon to see youngsters roller boarding all the way down the hill. Put all this together and it is a recipe for disaster. Residents take great care but the bikes can appear so quickly and at such speed, especially if you are backing slowly out. Unless something is done, more accidents will happen.

*Since this was written, local residents and Councillor Ian Gilchrist have had an on-site meeting with traffic officer Peter Bailey. We await his recommendations.*




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## Raising Anticipation

David Beeton has walked up Lyncombe Hill to Greenway Lane and apologises for being a few minutes late. 'I learnt a fascinating lesson from the Queen's private secretary', he says, 'she must never be on time - it raises people's anticipation'. Not that David would compare himself with the monarch, although at 6 feet 7 inches tall, he's an imposing figure, but he says 'physically, maybe, but not mentally - I don't like being front of stage.' Be that as it may, practically all his working life has been 'front of stage', and I'm certainly looking forward with keen anticipation to hearing more about a brilliant career that stretches from Basutoland to Bath.

David arrived in Bath in 1970, having started life in Ipswich. 'I went to Ipswich School which had been founded by Cardinal Wolsey, whose Palace I subsequently came to run! (Hampton Court)'. My first love was to be a conservation architect (from which no doubt springs the interest in heritage and conservation), but I'm colour blind, and in those days it mattered. I couldn't play cricket, for example, because I couldn't see the ball from the grass.' I ask him if he enjoyed his schooldays: 'I don't look upon Ipswich fondly - I suffered immense bullying at school - I was so tall and thin. Once you get to a degree of maturity, being different helps, but when you're a child it certainly doesn't.'

With a law degree under his belt, he became 'fed up with the law', and went abroad for a year with Voluntary Service Overseas. 'I was sent to Basutoland [now Lesotho] a year before independence and I spent a year working with the African Minister of Local Govern-

ment setting up a system of local government. I spent 6 months hitch-hiking home through Africa and the Middle East - it cost me £60! I was 22 and you do things I'd never dare do now.' His career back in the UK took him amongst other places to Brighton where he met Brenda, his wife of 45 years. He was a Crown Prosecutor in Brighton when 'one night the Police arrested



Paddy Doyle talks to  
**David Beeton**  
Outgoing Chairman of the World  
Heritage Site Steering Group

one of the Kray twins. It's astonishing when you look back on it - you'd turn up in court and be given a bundle of 30 or 40 cases - no chance to look at them. So they wheeled this chap in and I thought: do I know him? After we had him remanded in custody, he turned to me and said: *I'll get you, you bastard!* Fortunately for the City of Bath, Reggie (or perhaps Ronnie) did not carry out his threat: 'I decided I wanted to go into local government and Bath was advertising for a job as an assistant town clerk - sounds like a sort of town image, doesn't it? -

so I applied and was successful. The Chairman of the Council was a remarkable man called Alan Berry, whose daughter you will know because she's Mary Berry

the cookery writer. He obviously decided I was a good thing, and 2 years later the job of Chief Executive was advertised and to my amazement I got the job - age 32, so I was the youngest in the country. I'm thinking: Do they realise what they've taken on? They took an immense risk.'

David was appointed in 1973, at the very peak of all the arguments about 'The Sack of Bath'. It was a difficult time, but he is proud of the fact that during his tenure the Roman Baths Museum was substantially extended, he set up the Theatre Royal Trust, thus securing the theatre's future, and most importantly he 'did not lose a single listed building.'

There followed 4 years as Secretary of the National Trust: '...an enormous education on how to achieve standards that no one else can match' and from 1989 10 years as Chief Executive of the Historic Royal Palaces (hence his reference to the Monarch's views on punctuality). This, he says, was 'the most enjoyable job. I had virtually no supervision or interference at all'. And did he rub shoulders with royalty? Well, yes - and being at Kensington Palace when Charles and Diana were there, he says, was 'some challenge'. He does not elaborate on this, but says that he loved the job, although 'the material rewards were pathetic'.

## 'I don't like being front of stage'

And how about hobbies and leisure pursuits? 'I was a workaholic all my career', he says, 'but I loved London because it is the World headquarters of classical music, and two or three times a week I'd go to concerts or the opera - classical music is my pleasure'. And what was the first record he bought? The answer is not altogether surprising: 'Bartok's Concerto for Orchestra' So all the old rock 'n rollers passed him by? 'Well they never captured me - I suppose I was a bit serious'. David has just stepped down from the job of chairing the Bath World Heritage Site Steering Group. 'Yes', he says, 'I'm the man who paints lampposts!' He was 'sceptical, he says 'to take on this job because for 20 years after Bath had been designated as a World Heritage Site not a single one of the new recommendations on the World Heritage Site management plan had been implemented, and no money had been put aside apart for administration. 'Bath', he says with a smile, 'is the World headquarters of talking shops, and I've never worked in a place where it was more difficult to make things happen'. He soon managed, however, to secure funding, including £25,000 from the Council and £5000 from the Bath Preservation Trust. During his time the project that gave him most satisfaction was

the refurbishment of the 2 cast-iron Stothert bridges and the chimney on the Widcombe locks. Despite this, however, he is hugely disappointed that the National Trust has decided not to take over the management of Beechen Cliff: 'It's the biggest failure of my career'. When he took over the Steering Group four years ago, he had no doubt that the worst part of the green hill setting of Bath - 'one of the four reasons that Bath is designated a world heritage site' - was Beechen Cliff. 'So I got together the Council and the National Trust ...and the then Conservative administration to my amazement said: we'll put half a million on the table. After 2 years intensive discussion, it went to the National Trust formal acquisitions committee who said, no, the risk is too much - we're not willing to take on the Cliff, but we are willing to take on maintenance. So back I go to start the whole process again to package it up as a maintenance scheme. The new Lib Dem administration agreed to leave the half million on the table - and then 6 weeks to 2 months ago it finally went to the acquisitions committee and they said: no the risk is too great. They could have said that 4 years ago and spared many people immense amounts of time trying to sort this out'. And did he you feel resentful about that? 'Yes I do, the NT could have come to that decision years ago'. And what does he think about their recent decision not to take over the Lyncombe Hill farm fields? 'Well, I think it's frankly absurd, but they say they're not here to take on the Council's responsibility.' Despite this setback (and I mutter something to the effect that it was hardly a failure on his part) he is proud of the fact that he steps down with 'over 50 projects completed or in hand'.

Never one to be idle for long, David is now training to be a Mayor's guide. '...quite a challenge - they gave me a reading list of 40 books to start with. They're very disciplined about maintaining standards and it's been a sharp learning experience. I think I'm going to enjoy guiding because I've succeeded in a career where I've been stage manager but never out in front.' Despite this claim, I can't see David Beeton as other than a man who leads from the front - his visitor clients are in for a treat.

## SMOKE ON THE WATER



Unfortunately one of the new restaurants in Bath Spa Station has been causing problems. Gourmet Burger Kitchen vents its kitchen fumes to the rear of the station and has been causing a nuisance to anyone exiting, and to anyone in Widcombe when the wind is blowing from the West. Thick black smoke and oily smelly fumes are pumped out on most days making visitors' first impressions of a heritage City less than positive. Regrettably, BANES' Environmental Health seem to be slow to tackle this

unpleasant pollution. Our belief is that they should never have been allowed a low vent extract since the fumes fall down, are trapped in the river corridor then blow towards Widcombe. Writing in the Bath Chronicle, a reader asks why a business has been allowed to belch out visible, carbon-filled smoke at low level, and another reader asks why the council shows such apparent disregard for its river.

Speaking to the *Newsletter*, Cllr Sarah Bevan of the River Regeneration Trust said that this was 'one more example of how the river has not been valued'. The WA intends to find a solution to this problem.

## BROKEN HART



For those of you who might be wondering if some adventurous vandal has managed to remove the superior signs of our beloved White Hart's manhood, we are pleased to report that the damage done to this Widcombe icon could probably be construed as an act of God rather than man. In conversation with White Hart barman Adrian, the *Newsletter* learned that late one night in high Summer a passerby came into the pub with the antlers, having found them on the pavement. It seems that a combination of Winter frosts and water penetration, along with the Summer heat wave meant that the noble beast's skull developed a fissure, leading to the antlers becoming loose, and eventually falling off. Thanks to the actions of the person who found them, a prominent Widcombe landmark will soon be restored to its former glory.

## STREETSCAPE

**Graffiti** The battles continue but the new coating on the subway does seem to have deterred some of the damage & made cleaning it off easier, so it looks slightly better cared for. The graffiti wardens continue to do sterling work cleaning off attacks on street furniture, but there are still frequent attacks along the river, along the canal & up various local alleyways. The police and council work hard to tackle this unpleasant vandalism, but we ask every one to remain alert and to report any graffiti immediately using **BANES' Graffiti Hotline:**

**01225 39 40 41 Text: 07797 806545**

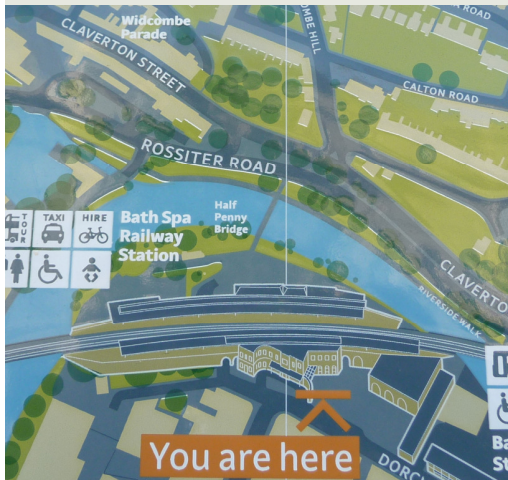
**Email: councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk**

**Rough Sleepers** The warm weather meant the return of rough sleepers to Widcombe. Some have been sleeping near the now defunct public toilets and along the canal as well as along the river. The police are aware of the problem and urge us to call **101** if you see any anti-social behaviour or street drinking.

*Helen Peter*



## WHERE'S WIDCOMBE?

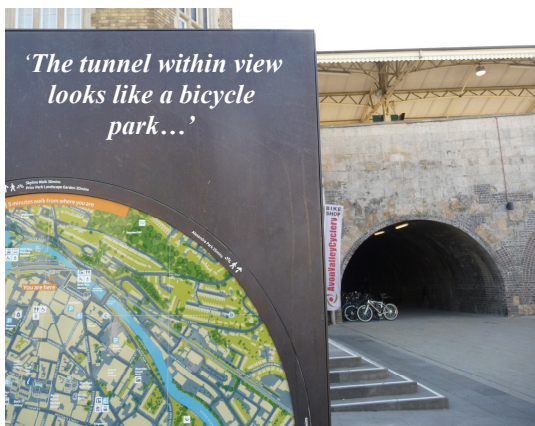


and gloomy and always has an unsavoury carpet of pigeon droppings at the northern entrance. As a visitor you would frankly need to be excessively dedicated to sampling Widcombe's delights in order to proceed further.

The monolithic maps are superbly designed, but in some cases need an additional pointing finger. It seems that the Council has now recognised its error in its stated aim to remove all finger posts, as some still remain. Not, however, the one pointing to Widcombe at the top of the Pulteney Bridge steps, so a visitor finding their way from the centre via the riverside would certainly merit a Brownie trail-blazer badge - and what is badly needed in Brunel Square is a sign pointing to the nearby tunnel labelled 'Widcombe via the Halfpenny Bridge' - or similar.

Peter Rignall, the obliging Bath Spa Station Manager, is responsible for the gloomy eastern tunnel, and is shortly to make it pigeon-proof. He will also examine ways to make it more welcoming, including providing appropriate signage to Widcombe.

We will continue to lobby for other measures — including a pointing fingers in Brunel Square and elsewhere



WA secretary Liz Littlewood came to the rescue recently of two American tourists who were obviously not getting the information they required from the monolithic map in Brunel Square by the railway station. In best hands-across-the-sea mode she enquired if she could help, to be told by the relieved visitors that they had to meet someone in Widcombe: they could see it on the map, and they could further see that there was a bridge leading to Widcombe across the river, but the question was: 'How do we get to the bridge'. The short answer for the uninitiated is: 'With difficulty'. There are two tunnels to choose from, one of which is visible to those reading the map, the other out of sight on the other side of the station entrance. Neither is labelled. The tunnel within view looks like a bicycle park, and the other, were a stranger to examine it, is unspeakably dirty



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## BEATING THE BOUNDS



A sunny afternoon provided perfect conditions for the **Beating of the Bounds** around Widcombe on Sunday 9 June. At his first official engagement, the new Mayor of Bath, Councillor Malcolm Lees, was the guest of honour at the starting point of the walk, along with Widcombe's very own Lady Margaret and the newly-formed Widcombe Choir. Around sixty walkers set off to stroll around the Parish boundary, a scenic walk of about six miles, which took in parts of the Bath Skyline, the Abbey Cemetery, Lyncombe Vale, Beechen Cliff and Holloway. 'Beating the Bounds' is an ancient tradition to mark out the boundaries of the Parish and the Widcombe Association has revived the tradition, adding in its own unique entertainment and merry-making en route. The walkers stopped for much needed tea and cakes in the Churchyard of St Thomas à Becket Church and were entertained by music from the Bath Waits as well as a short piece of improvised drama, courtesy of the Widcombe Mummers and Lady Margaret. The Association hopes to keep up the tradition and make it a bi-annual event.

*Sïan Lewis*

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# What's On in Widcombe Autumn - Winter 2013 - 2014

<b>Autumn-Winter Term</b> <b>Sept 25, Oct 2, 9, 16, 23</b> <b>Half Term</b> <b>Nov 13, 20, 27, Dec 4, 11</b>	<b>Natural Youth Theatre: Come and Learn How to be a Natural</b> The Youth Theatre is hugely popular but there may still be some places left: Group 1: Age 11-14 Wednesdays 6.00 – 7.30pm Group 2: Age 15-18 Wednesdays 8.00 – 9.30pm £65 for the full term Further details/enrol: Mark Bishop <a href="mailto:mark@naturaltheatre.co.uk">mark@naturaltheatre.co.uk</a> 01225 469131 <b>Natural Theatre, Widcombe Hill</b>
<b>Thursday 17 October</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Widcombe and Lyncombe Local History Society</b> Stuart Burroughs, Curator of the Bath at Work Museum will talk on his exciting new local history project Widcombe Baptist Church Lower Hall
<b>Thursday 24 October</b> <b>7.30pm – 9.00pm</b> 	<b>WA EVENT Widcombe Association Autumn Meeting</b> Updates and reports on the work of the Association and the issues affecting Widcombe and its residents will be followed by a talk by Peter Rignall, Station Manager at Bath Spa Railway Station. This is also a social occasion - wine & nibbles provided! Guest tickets £3.50 (refunded if you join the WA on the night) <b>Widcombe Junior School</b>
<b>Thursday 24 October</b> <b>7.30pm for 8.00pm show</b>	<b>Nick Steel and Ralph Oswick present: Bonbon's Full Toss</b> Comedy, music and the ineffable Widcombe Players plus the quality raffle, comfy seats, posh toilets and gorgeous bar staff in Bath's newest intimate venue. £14/£12 concs (unwaged/NUS) Further information and all tickets available via Brown Paper Tickets - see <a href="http://www.widcombe.net">www.widcombe.net</a> for details <b>Bath Cricket Club</b>
<b>Monday 28 October</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Widcombe Association Garden Club: Villa Gardens of Northern Italy</b> An illustrated talk by Dr G B Hargreaves with wine and nibbles. Entry £4/£3WA members <b>Prior Park Garden Centre Café</b>
<b>Friday 15 November</b> <b>7.30pm for 8.00pm show</b>	<b>Mik Artistik's Ego Trip supported by The Belle Fleurs</b> Comedy, song, poetry, storytelling, rock music, folk and funk...and The Belle Fleurs – a Bath-based trio who take songs from pop, metal, rock and punk and 'fleurt' with them in close harmony. £14/£12 concs (unwaged/NUS) Further information and all tickets available via Brown Paper Tickets - see <a href="http://www.widcombe.net">www.widcombe.net</a> for details <b>Bath Cricket Club</b>
<b>Sunday 17 November</b> <b>11.30am – 4.00pm</b>	<b>Prior Park College Annual Yuletide Fair</b> Over 40 stalls plus a raffle with an array of fantastic prizes. Homemade refreshments available. Plenty of free parking. Entrance £2 Children free. <b>The Mansion House, Prior Park College</b>
<b>Thursday 21 November</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Widcombe and Lyncombe Local History Society</b> Claverton Street Project. An update by members of the Society. Widcombe Baptist Church Lower Hall
<b>Saturday 23 November</b> <b>10.30am – 5.00pm</b> 	<b>WA EVENT Widcombe Christmas Craft Fair</b> 2013 will see Widcombe's 7th Christmas Craft Fair, with its growing reputation for quality gifts by local makers. Entrance free <a href="http://www.widcombeartrail.com">www.widcombeartrail.com</a> <b>St Matthew's Church and Hall</b>
<b>Monday 25 November</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Widcombe Association Garden Club: Restoration and Latest Development of Prior Park by the National Trust</b> Presented by Matthew Ward, Head Gardener Entry (with wine and nibbles) £4/£3 WA members <b>Prior Park Garden Centre Café</b>
<b>Friday 29 November</b> <b>6.00pm for 6.30pm</b>	<b>Widcombe Switch-on</b> Lady Margaret and the Natural Theatre invite you to late shopping, carols, mulled wine, jazz, jolly japes and of course, all those twinkling Christmas trees. It's not Christmas in Widcombe without the Widcombe Switch-on! <b>Outside the White Hart, Widcombe Parade</b>

<b>Friday 29 November</b> <b>7.30pm for 8.00pm show</b>	<b>Lady Margaret's Surgery</b> Join Lady Margaret and her personal medical advisors as she welcomes some special guests to join her on her chaise-longue (or is it a casting couch?) after her exhausting duties at the Widcombe Switch-on. Acts, chats, beautiful singing and seasonal bar (more mulled wine? Shurely not...) £12 / £10concs (NUS, unwaged or NAT's members) Further information and all tickets available via Brown Paper Tickets - see <a href="http://www.widcombe.net">www.widcombe.net</a> for details <b>Natural Theatre Studio, Widcombe Hill</b>
<b>Friday 29 November</b> <b>7.30pm for 8.00pm show</b>	<b>The Sitcom Trials</b> Back by popular demand after this year's sell-out show at Bath Comedy Festival, The Sitcom Trials is the comedy show where brand new sitcoms compete and the audience chooses the winner. Five short sitcoms will be performed with scripts in hand, each one leading up to a cliffhanger that will leave the audience wanting to see more. In between, the audience will supply their ideas for brand new sitcoms in a "Pitch Fest" - the best idea will win a prize and be improvised at the end! £4/£3 (concs (unwaged/NUS) Further information and all tickets available via Brown Paper Tickets - see <a href="http://www.widcombe.net">www.widcombe.net</a> for details <b>Ring O'Bells, Widcombe Parade</b>
<b>Tuesday 10 December</b> <b>8.00pm</b> 	<b>WA EVENT Pass on a Poem</b> Enjoy a relaxed evening of poetry in a lovely venue. Come to read or listen. If you would like to read a favourite, contact Deborah Clements <a href="mailto:mail@radnclements.co.uk">mail@radnclements.co.uk</a> 01225 469322 by 3 December Donations for refreshments. <b>St Thomas à Becket Church</b>
<b>Thursday 12 December</b> <b>7.30 pm</b>	Widcombe & Lyncombe Local History Society Widcombe Baptist Church Lower Hall Christmas meeting, with memories of Widcombe from locals.
<b>Tuesday 24 December</b> <b>11.30pm</b>	<b>Christmas Midnight Mass</b> Led by the Rural Dean, Rev. Martin Lloyd-Williams. <b>St Thomas à Becket Church</b>
<b>Wednesday 25 December</b> <b>9.30am</b>	<b>Christmas Day Service</b> Led by the Archdeacon of Bath, the Venerable Andy Piggott. <b>St Thomas à Becket Church</b>
<b>1 January 2014</b> 	<b>WA EVENT The Widcombe Mummings</b> Check the website in due course for details: <a href="http://www.widcombemummings.org.uk">www.widcombemummings.org.uk</a> <b>Somewhere in Widcombe...</b>
<b>Monday 27 January</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Widcombe Association Garden Club: Monet's Garden</b> A lovely illustrated talk by John Tucker of the Prior Park Garden Centre. Entry (with wine and nibbles) £4/£3 WA members <b>Prior Park Garden Centre Café</b>
<b>Monday 24 February</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Widcombe Association Garden Club: The Edible Garden</b> Presented by Chris Smith of Pennard Plants. Entry (with wine and nibbles) £4/£3 WA members <b>Prior Park Garden Centre Café</b>
<b>Monday 31 March</b> <b>7.30pm</b>	<b>Widcombe Association Garden Club: Designing a Herb Garden</b> An illustrated talk by Christina Stapely. Books and herbs for sale. Entry (with wine and nibbles) £4/£3 WA members <b>Prior Park Garden Centre Café</b>

## REGULAR EVENTS

**Widcombe Association Garden Club** Alex Nash 01225 314924 [fatj@limenash.freemove.co.uk](mailto:fatj@limenash.freemove.co.uk)  
**Widcombe Choir** 7.30pm Mondays at St Matthew's Church [www.groupspaces.com/widcombechoir](http://www.groupspaces.com/widcombechoir)  
**Widcombe & Lyncombe Local History Society** Margaret Burrows 01225 480749, Ainley Wade 01225 462807  
**Quiz Night at the Royal Oak** First Thursday night of the month 01225 335220  
**Sunday Night Jazz at the Ring o'Bells** 8.00pm – 10.00pm 01225 448870 [www.ringobellswidcombe.co.uk](http://www.ringobellswidcombe.co.uk)

CHECK THE **WHAT'S ON** LISTING on THE **WIDCOMBE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE**  
[www.widcombeassociation.org.uk](http://www.widcombeassociation.org.uk)