

Widcombe magazine

SPRING - SUMMER 2020

WHAT'S ON
NEWS & VIEWS



BATH SHOW CHOIR

BATH'S NUMBER 1
MUSICAL THEATRE CHOIR!

NO AUDITIONS AND
PERFORMING REGULARLY
LED BY JESSICA BRODERICK
THURSDAY EVENINGS
7.30PM - 9.30PM
WIDCOMBE SOCIAL CLUB, BA2 6AA

JOIN BATH SHOW CHOIR TODAY!

bathshowchoir@gmail.com

Widcombe magazine

SPRING - SUMMER 2020

CONTENTS



www.widcombeassociation.org.uk
magazine@widcombeassociation.org.uk

- | | | | |
|----|--|----|--|
| 4 | Coronavirus
<i>An update on the Widcombe community response to the Coronavirus pandemic</i> | 34 | Art
<i>Local artistic events planned and postponed</i> |
| 7 | Editors Letter
<i>Views from our interim editor</i> | 37 | Working Widcombe
<i>Rajen Doshi of Widcombe Pharmacy</i> |
| 8 | Widcombe News
<i>News and updates from across the community</i> | 38 | Gardening
<i>A garden for a braai
Garden Club calendar</i> |
| 20 | Widcombe Life
<i>Events in pictures</i> | 40 | Local History
<i>Micellanea Widcombeana</i> |
| 24 | Widcombe People
<i>Tim Williamson from Energy
Efficient Widcombe</i> | 42 | WA Business
<i>Postponed AGM update</i> |
| 26 | Out and About
<i>Wild in Widcombe – meadow revival
A view from the field – alpacas and llamas
Getting on your bike
Prior Park Landscape Garden</i> | 47 | Observations on Widcombe Life
<i>Widcombe Jottings</i> |
| | | 54 | Widcombe History
<i>Views of old Widcombe</i> |



Photo Jeremy Boss. Widcombe Parade on a busy day during lockdown!

EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor Jeremy Boss | Design Ralph Allen Press | Advertising Ann Ashworth
Publisher Jeremy Boss | Published by the Widcombe Association

Coronavirus

Our Widcombe community response to the Coronavirus pandemic

Reluctantly the Widcombe Association (WA) Committee decided it was not safe to proceed with a Widcombe magazine during lockdown. But, as we move slowly towards more normal life, we think now is the right time to go to print. We would like to share community information, look to a positive future and support our local businesses who need our support more now than ever before.

The WA has had to suspend many of our events and social groups during the period of lock down. For example, no walking, cycling, garden visits or singing. We also have delayed our AGM to the Autumn. We have continued to push on local issues through digital means including virtual meetings and of course email. We hope to restart activities when the guidance allows it and it is safe to do so. Watch widcombeassociation.org.uk/events/ for details.

We have also been collecting images of Widcombe during lockdown and these can be seen at <http://www.widcombeassociation.org.uk/community-matters/covid-19/> Any pictures you would like to share? Then please send them in to me.

Generous community volunteers

In March we asked for volunteers to help with coordinating street level groups across Widcombe. The response was truly amazing and we quickly had volunteers coordinating some 50 of our local streets. We had over 100 people volunteering across Widcombe helping neighbours with their shopping, by picking up a prescription, helping with

information or just a friendly chat.

We worked with 3SG, the community group running the BathNES COVID support line, to coordinate support across Widcombe. Our street level groups were so successful that there were hardly any routine requests for help that have gone to 3SG from Widcombe (there have been over 6000 calls across BathNES). The Widcombe Association has signed the Compassionate Community Charter with 3SG and is committed to supporting active communities.

We want to ensure everyone knows how to ask for help if they need it and no one gets missed. The 3SG helpline is there to help with any issue that may concern you (see poster).

Amazing local businesses

Local businesses, often with their own existence threatened, have been supporting our community. They have opened with new social distancing, introduced home delivery and have stocked goods that have been in short supply. They have been fantastic and it shows how much we should value our local businesses. We encourage everyone to 'shop local' as it's definitely use it or lose it. This magazine includes adverts for many of our wonderful local businesses and organisations, please support them.

Community has never been more important

Even as we return to some more normal ways of life it still feels very different. There will be challenges ahead with both health and the economy. It remains important that we support each other, so please continue to:

- Look after and watch out for each other, in particular those who live alone, are elderly or infirm
- Agree mutual support with your neighbours, family and friends to keep in

contact (zoom, phone or email) to ensure that everyone is OK and has some personal contact especially if people have to, or choose to, self-isolate

- Help where you can, eg shopping, collecting a prescription, recycling and disposing of rubbish, keeping informed on latest Government advice and relevant websites
- Promote and support our local businesses

One of the few positives from all of this has been how we have valued our local communities, our green spaces, the traffic free streets, our local businesses and just getting to know our neighbours better. So local communities have never been so valued and important. Thank you to everyone that has helped make Widcombe a friendlier and safer place to be.

If you would like to get involved or do more to build our community that is vibrant, fair, open and inclusive to everyone who lives, works or visits our wonderful Widcombe then please contact me. If you are not a member, then consider joining the WA to voice your support (details on the back page). There is still lots to be done, something for everybody from

volunteering to improve our green areas, improve our streets, run or help with clubs and events, edit the magazine or our social media or help to give a stronger residents and local business voice for Widcombe within Bath and BathNES.

Take care, look after yourselves and look after each other ■ *Jeremy Boss, Chair Widcombe Association*
email: chairman@widcombeassociation.org.uk

Hello **COVID-19**
COMMUNITY SUPPORT

If you are concerned or need support
we have people who can help.

Helpline: 0300 247 0050

We have a team of experts who can assist, and volunteers in your area.

If you can safely get support from family or friends, or can order items online, then please continue to do so.

- 1 Delivery of urgent supplies
- 2 A friendly phone call
- 3 Collection of medication
- 4 Money matters and work
- 5 Mental wellbeing (including loneliness, low mood, anxiety)
- 6 Advice on keeping fit
- 7 Housing issues
- 8 Supporting your family
- 9 Food and cooking
- 10 Understanding public health advice

Compassionate Community 3SG Virgin Care Bath & North East Somerset Council NHS

Discover the new Honda range at Bath Honda



Bath Honda, for all your motoring needs.

- New & Approved Used Cars
- MOT Testing & Servicing
- Motability Specialists
- Choice Of Over 200 Cars In Group Stock!



Bath Honda
Part of the HSH Motor Group



Bath Honda Prior Park Road, BA2 4NF **01225 458 769**
www.hshmotorgroup.co.uk

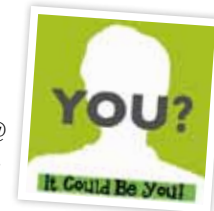
Editor's Letter

We are pleased as things return slowly to more normal times that we are able to bring you the delayed spring and summer Widcombe Magazine. Just before lockdown we were nearly ready to print and in order to bring the magazine to you as soon as we can we have re-used most of the content. Please bear with us if it's not all totally up to date.

Could it be you? After several years Liz Jeffreys is standing down as the editor of the Widcombe Magazine. She has done a fabulous job and overseen its transformation into the new modern style magazine that we now enjoy. Thank you Liz.

I am guest editing this edition but we are looking for a replacement to work alongside our professional designer and printers at Ralph Allen Press. So if you are interested in all things Widcombe and have

an editorial eye we would love to hear from you (contact me at chairman@widcombeassociation.org.uk).



There should be something for everyone in this spring and summer 2020 edition. There is a strong sustainability theme reflecting an increased focus on climate change but more importantly what we can all do in our local community and individually to start to make a difference. The sustainability theme follows through into the Widcombe People interview with Tim Williamson, a champion of Energy Efficient Widcombe and Rajen Doshi, our local pharmacist both contributing to a more sustainable Widcombe.

In Widcombe News you will find out about a number of changes happening in our area and Widcombe Life provides snapshots of some of the things that have been happening in Widcombe over the last six months ■ *Jeremy Boss, Interim Editor*

MOON'S BATH OFFICE NOW OPEN

COME AND MEET THE TEAM
AND FIND OUT HOW WE CAN
HELP TRANSFORM YOUR HOME

FIND US AT:
10 CLAVERTON BUILDINGS
WIDCOMBE PARADE
BA2 4LD

01225 312977
BATH@MOONDESIGNANDBUILD.CO.UK
MOONDESIGNANDBUILD.CO.UK

moon | DESIGN+BUILD



23 Claverton Buildings, Bath
Classic Burgers, Chicken, Fish, Pizzas
and more.....

Sun-Thur: 12 – 2pm 5.30pm – 12am

Fri & Sat 12 – 2pm 5pm – 2am

Closed Sunday lunchtime

Telephone Orders Welcome

01225 447365

Widcombe News

What does living in a Sustainable Widcombe mean? What can we proactively do as both a community and as individuals to make a difference? We know things are urgent with Bath & North East Somerset Council announcing a climate emergency. People power is making its voice heard with, for example, expansions of both Bristol Airport and Heathrow Terminal 3 brought into question.

So the Widcombe Association is looking to re-focus on what it means for us to be more sustainable. At this time we are looking at three main elements, household carbon emissions, traffic & congestion and using and enhancing our green spaces. There are articles throughout this magazine on these issues.

We are lucky that Widcombe is such a green oasis on the edge of the City. It looks like we are moving towards reaching an agreement with the council to manage under license the Lyncombe fields. This will most likely be through a new community interest company called the Friends of Lyncombe Hill Fields, supported by several local residents groups. Watch out for more details over the summer. We are also working on



several fronts on the various pocket parks in Widcombe and I am particularly pleased that the Friends of Widcombe Crescent gardens have formally joined as a sub-group of the Widcombe Association. Flowers in the parade will also contribute to a greener and more pleasant place.

So back to what can we do? Shop local and support local businesses and staying out of our cars seems a good place to start. Along with improving the energy efficiency of our homes (see Energy Efficient Widcombe) and nurturing our green spaces. So there is a lot going on.

This is set to be an increased focus for the association and is a theme of our AGM in the autumn. So if you would like to be more involved come along to our meetings or please let me know. ■ *Jeremy Boss, Chair of the Widcombe Association*

New Emphasis for the Widcombe Association

Over the past two or three years there has been a change in the types of issue on which the Widcombe Association has been engaged. Stemming from the increasing financial constraints imposed on the Council by Government, the Widcombe Association has been involved in projects that would normally have been carried out solely by BathNES. This work has been carried out pro bono with the objective of ensuring that important local priorities are met.

Past examples include the survey of all residents in Greenway, Lyncombe and Perrymead to assess their views on the need for the extension of the residents parking zone. The Widcombe Association was also instrumental in designing, part-funding and installing a handrail alongside the steep footpath at the bottom of Lyncombe Hill.

There are three current projects on which the Association is involved which will help to maintain or improve the quality of life in Widcombe.

Land adjacent to No.8, Claverton Buildings

This small area of land at the western end of Widcombe Parade was left over from the Rossiter Road scheme. It became unkempt and an informal muddy track was formed by people taking a shortcut to the crossing of Rossiter Road. A low-cost scheme was developed to improve the land with bulb and wild flower seeding. This was a joint initiative between the Widcombe Association and the Council's Parks Department with the active support of Anita Breeze who has pioneered wild planting in Lansdown and now in Widcombe. The scheme includes a handrail around the site to deter short cuts and to aid pedestrians on the sloping path in icy conditions.

The handrail is being funded with a grant from the Community Infrastructure Levy Fund (CIL), topped-up with a contribution



from the Widcombe Association. The handrail is due to be installed by Iron Art in early March using the same design, by the late Prof. Mike Barnes, that was used on Lyncombe Hill. The bulbs that were planted in the Autumn are now coming into flower.

This project is part of a wider scheme to improve the Widcombe Parade. Beverley Wallis is proposing to install planters along the length of Claverton Street/Widcombe Parade now that the Council's consent has been obtained, and the former telephone box in front of the White Hart has been adopted by the Widcombe Association and is being converted to display flowers.

Playground, Calton Road

The future of the small playground on Calton Road, adjacent to the path onto Beechen Cliff, has been questioned by the Council which has a need to cut expenditure on maintenance of fixed play equipment. The Council wants to remove the active equipment and replace it with static low maintenance play features. Following a meeting with residents concerned at the loss of an important local facility, the WA was encouraged to apply for grant funding from a Government initiative called the Pocket Park Scheme. The Widcombe Association, with the help and support of the Council's Parks Department, took the lead in applying for a Government grant of £25,000. It had been agreed that a more ambitious scheme could be implemented with the future day to day maintenance being carried out by volunteers from the local community. Unfortunately the application for Government grant was unsuccessful. Talks with the Council are due to resume, and alternative funding sources are being sought.



Jonathan Logsdon Architect

Telephone 07790 525 573 Deep Lock House,
info@jlarchitects.co.uk St Matthew's Place,
www.jlarchitects.co.uk Pulteney Road, Bath BA2 4JJ



Bath Spa Florists

We cater for all your floristry needs
WEDDINGS, FUNERALS & SPECIAL DAYS
Open 6 Days a week - Local & worldwide deliveries
6 Sussex Place, Widcombe Parade, Bath BA2 4NE
Tel: 01225 460121
bathspafloirists@yahoo.co.uk
www.bathspafloirists.co.uk

10% Discount on sales over £10 (except Interflora and reduced items) to Widcombe Association Members.

What is being done about our congested roads?

Cleveland Bridge Closure

No one questions the need for impending repairs to Cleveland Bridge Road, an historic listed structure. Earlier this year, in advance of repair works, the Council introduced an 18 tonnes weight limit, intended as a temporary measure. The alternative through route envisaged during the 18 tonnes restriction is via the A350 around the Chippenham bypass and south to re-join the A36 outside Warminster.

During the repair works there will be further traffic restrictions on the bridge, either one-way movements or, at times, complete closure. This will severely disrupt traffic around the City, and the consequent re-routing is likely to have an impact on traffic through Widcombe, which will be monitored.

The 18 tonnes limit has already brought significant improvements to London Road and Bathwick Street. Along with other organisations, Widcombe Association is pressing for this limit to be made permanent. Or better, for it to be reduced to 7.5 tonnes, as in the city centre, in conjunction with strategic rerouting of the heaviest through vehicles away from the city altogether.

Clean Air Zone for Bath

Towards the end of 2018, the Council initiated consultations on a Clean Air Zone for Bath. As things stand, pollution levels are illegal on the worst affected traffic routes: in particular nitrous oxide and minute particles are health risks, especially for children and anyone with a respiratory condition. The initial proposals, however, attracted widespread criticism – not least here in Widcombe. Owners of somewhat

older cars faced substantial daily charges while anyone who could afford a newer vehicle was to be exempt; the limited extent of the proposed zone invited additional rat running around its periphery (a major concern in Widcombe).

Concerted representations led to all private cars being exempt and the zone enlarged in an attempt to deter generated rat running around it. A 'throttle' on through traffic around Queen Square has been deemed necessary to offset the higher number of exempt cars; preparatory work on this is well advanced. Scope for dodging around the zone has not been fully eliminated, and it remains to be seen what level of thought, if any, is given to urban design. Anyway implementation is due this autumn, although it is still not clear if all of the Government grant required will be made available.

Residents' Parking Zone

In 2018 Widcombe Association surveyed all residents along Perrymead, Lyncombe Vale, Lyncombe Vale Road, Rosemount Lane and Greenway Lane to gauge views on extending a Residents' Parking Zone to their roads. Most supported doing so, especially on Lyncombe Vale, and the Council budgeted for the next steps towards such a Zone. Increased commuter parking along Greenway Lane following the Bear Flat Parking Zone introduced last year has given an extra impetus. Widcombe Association continues to push the Council on this.

The new Council is conducting a rigorous review of Residents' Parking Zones with a view to extending them further beyond the City Centre. This could affect the timing of the introduction of the zone for Greenway, Lyncombe and Perrymead.

Forefield Rise and Rosemount Lane

Forefield Rise and Rosemount Lane are notoriously steep, narrow local thoroughfares. Long memories recall Chris Patten, while still our MP, being shown their traffic problems prior to his

departure in 1992. Over recent years more vehicles are being driven up, as well as down, Forefield Rise in order to avoid congestion stemming from the Travelodge traffic signals on Pulteney Road. This has led to confrontations and on one occasion coffee being thrown from a car at a local dog walker. Rosemount Lane has its own issues, being part of the informal clockwise one way system used for The Paragon School and fronted by cottages with no off-street parking. The Council is proposing one-way traffic along sections of both roads. At the time of writing these proposals are being consulted on.

White Hart Junction

The mini roundabouts outside the White Hart were never satisfactorily laid out either for drivers or pedestrians. Last year, following local pressure, the Council took some steps to improve the layout and road markings, with limited success.

Recent discussions have been held with Councillors and officials, and further revisions are being developed to improve traffic movements, to deter vehicles from entering the Parade in the wrong direction, and, hopefully, to help pedestrians in crossing Widcombe Hill and Prior Park Road.

Low Traffic Neighbourhoods

It is often remarked that what is needed in Bath is a more comprehensive and consistent approach to traffic management in place of ad hoc measures introduced in response to problems and lobbying. One such dramatic approach has been taken by the London Borough of Waltham Forest in its 'mini Holland' Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. The Council is actively considering the introduction of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods, but whether these are the answer for Bath must be open to question. But not the need for boldness and fresh thinking!



Hot Spots by Alison Harper. Installed in February opposite Widcombe Junior School to highlight and make tangible the issue of air pollution. The 69 red wheels represent the dangerous levels of nitrous oxide in the air in Bath. 69 micrograms per cubic metre is the highest result in Bath compared to the European guidelines for a safe level of 40 micrograms.

Unsung Heros

We thought it would be a good idea to give some recognition to those people who help make Widcombe a better place:

Robin Archer

He sweeps our streets and is especially vigilant in the newly refurbished subway, even cleaning the mirrors and dried on tomato ketchup to keep the subway clean and welcoming. The Widcombe Association would very much like to praise his efforts and thank him for his hard work and dedication.

Do thank him if you see him sweeping our mess away every day. He is a shy and modest man, but we are sure that having his efforts recognised will be a huge boost to him.

Thank you, Robin!

Dale Mynett

Dale is a BathNES engineer, in charge of refurbishing and snagging the subway. He has been fantastically helpful, always responsive and he goes beyond his role in always doing his very best to help us and keep the subway flood and rubbish free. He has also quickly sorted several other streetscape issues in Widcombe.

Thank you, Dale!

Marcus Francis

Marcus is the BathNES graffiti remover. He works tirelessly to remove unsightly graffiti all over BathNES, but he worked closely with us to clean up the walls along the riverside and is always helpful and cheerful in what must seem like an endless task.

Thank you, Marcus!



Paul Pearce

Paul from BathNES Trees & Parks has been incredibly supportive on various issues and advice with our green spaces. For example, he worked over the weekend, even drafting in his girlfriend Tess, to help plant the bee-friendly area at the west end of Widcombe Parade.

Thank you, Paul!

Matthew Eggleston

Matthew works for cleansing enforcement - that means that he investigates and prosecutes people leaving mess out, fly tipping etc. He has been working closely with us on Widcombe Parade, to great effect, and on Lower Wellsway, where we are making some progress. Thank you, Matthew, your efforts are fully appreciated by all of us in Widcombe and beyond!

If you would like to put someone forward for going above and beyond in Widcombe, do let us know, by emailing magazine@widcombeassociation.org.uk



The Friends of Widcombe Crescent

I formed the Friends of Widcombe Crescent in 2017, in order to care for the lovely green space in the Crescent and to formalise a relationship with BathNES parks and green spaces department. Members and residents help to look after the grass and shrubs, and make good use of the area, especially in warmer weather. In the autumn children planted 300 crocus bulbs donated by BathNES

We are delighted to have recently become a formal sub-group of the Widcombe Association, and have brought our constitution in line with theirs. Our aims are to continue to improve the green space, raise funds to finance projects (for example a notice board, football goal, picnic table and benches) and organise events for local residents ■ *Annie Hastings, Chair*



Pledge of Respect

On Thursday 12th December, Beechen Cliff School unveiled a display called the 'Pledge of Respect'.

Set across nine A3 photo frames containing the signatures of all pupils, students, staff and Governors, the Pledge is a symbol of the school community's commitment to uphold its values and respect everyone within it.

The unveiling ceremony was attended by representatives from members of the wider Beechen Cliff community, including Alan Langton on behalf of the Widcombe Association, who also signed the Pledge. Other groups included the PTA, partners such as Southampton Football Club and Bath Rugby, and organisations with whom the school works closely such as Off the Record, Solution Revolution, Mentoring Plus and Bath Black Families.

The Pledge is accompanied by a document written by the school's E-Team (equalities team) setting out a number of definitions, including respect as "Showing an understanding of the feelings, wishes and

rights of others through words and actions." Four statements linked to the school's values gave further detail on its intent:

"We **ASPIRE** to be a community where everyone is free to be themselves; We **BALANCE** the rights and needs of every member of our school community; We treat all people with **COMPASSION**; and We support and protect peoples' right to be **INDEPENDENT** in their thoughts and expression."

Visitors to the school are welcome to ask to view the Pledge and the school is grateful for the community's support.



Bath Conservation Area Character Appraisals

As custodian of the Bath Conservation Area the Council is required to prepare and publish a character appraisal of the conservation area in order to identify its significance and to provide the context for new development. The citywide appraisal was last undertaken in 2005 and the Council is currently updating it. Given the size and complexity of the Bath Conservation Area, it has been divided into sixteen character areas, and a separate appraisal is being prepared for each one.

A number have already been written and are available on the Council's web-site. The first ones were prepared either by the Council itself or by consultants. As resources have become scarcer the Council has invited local residents associations to help in the preparation of the appraisals for their areas. This also saves the council significant consultants fees.

Over the past eighteen months the Widcombe Association has co-ordinated

the preparation of two of the character area appraisals, one for Widcombe and the Kennet and Avon Canal, and the other for Alexandra Park and Beechen Cliff. A team was assembled for each appraisal from local residents from widcombewest, Greenway, The Friends of Alexandra Park and the Widcombe Association. Hilary Furlonger co-ordinated the work on both appraisals.

The texts for both appraisals have been submitted to the Council and it is hoped that they will be available on the Council's web-site later this year. Each appraisal will include 50 to 60 photographs illustrating the characteristics of the area, identifying both highlights and problems.

The structure of all sixteen appraisals across the City is the same, with a summary of key characteristics covering historic development, built form and architectural quality, materials and architectural detailing. The assessment includes a record of buildings of merit, both listed and unlisted. The presence of trees, open space, parks and gardens is also an important part of the appraisals. A key part of all the appraisals is the assessment of issues affecting the character area, and of measures that might be taken to improve them.

■ *Mike Wrigley*



Widcombe Baptist revamp

Planning permission has been granted and work is due to commence soon to improve the Baptist church. This is for an extension to the existing building

including introduction of new facade, associated external works and internal rearrangement. Here is an architects drawing of the planned front elevation..



Canal Towpath

The canal towpath from Bathwick Hill to Widcombe has been a problem for some time with mud, puddles and uneven surfaces hardly encouraging walking and cycling. The Widcombe Association has been pushing both the Canal & River Trust and BathNES to make longer term improvements.

There has recently been some work and the council has told us these patch repairs are a relatively short term solution but hopefully they will help to make the path more usable for now. The Canal & River Trust has confirmed that it has recently purchased materials to repair the worst affected areas and the work will be carried out with the help of the Waterspace workboat volunteers.

The Waterspace Partnership recognises that this is an important strategic route and a key link for people walking and cycling into the city and so it is planning to produce a set of detailed, costed plans as part of the development of the wider Bath River Line project, and will be used to inform a funding plan for a longer term solution for surfacing and the improvement of the route and its connections more generally.

So whilst another patch solution is frustrating hopefully there is some light at the end on the (canal) tunnel!

■ *Mary Young*



ROMAN CITY PROPERTY

BATH'S LEADING STUDENT LETTING AGENT, ESTABLISHED OVER 30 YEARS AND WITH THE LARGEST STUDENT HOUSING PORTFOLIO IN THE CITY, WE WELCOME ENQUIRIES FROM LANDLORDS, PROSPECTIVE LANDLORDS AND TENANTS.

Contact us now on :
01225 332030
office@romancity.co.uk

www.romancity.co.uk

Lots going on at Alexandra Park

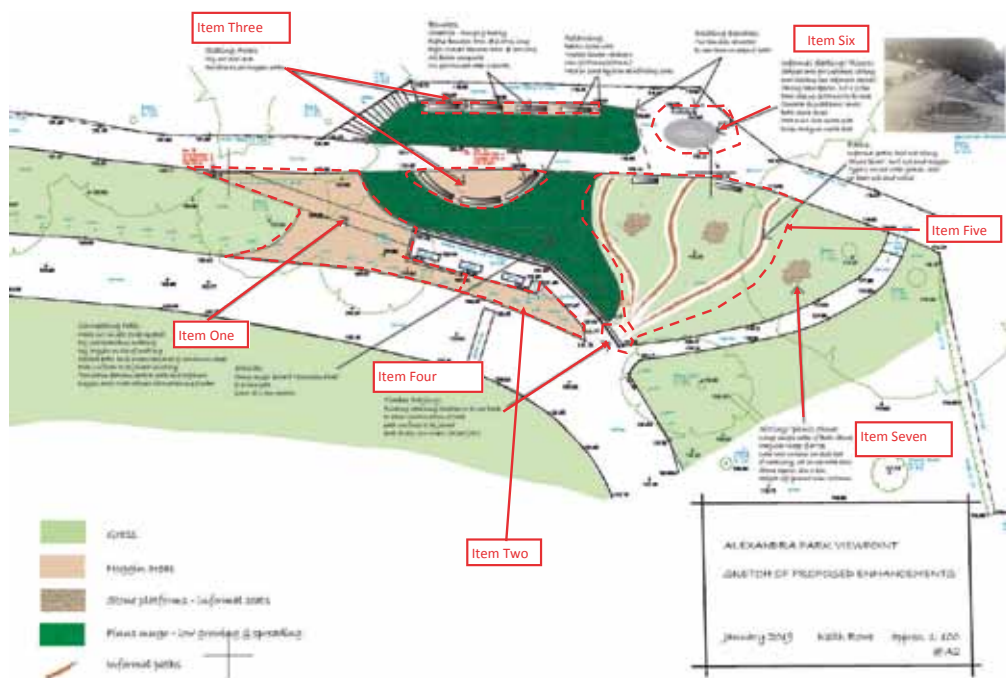
On a spring day there is no finer view over the City than from Alexandra Park ever popular with tourists and locals alike and fittingly the main view at the start of the new McDonald & Dodds ITV detective series set in the City.

The Friends of Alexandra Park are doing a fabulous job in improving the park working with the Council and Bathspace Partnership. Community planting events, a fabulous new play park area and the popular summer Picnic in the Park all make more use of this fabulous green space. Also work has started on a complete makeover of the main viewpoint that will make it a real feature to make the best of that amazing view.



The new play area: "the first public park the council has equipped specifically so children of all abilities can play together in one area". Picture of our two councillors Alison Born and Winston Duguid and friends Andrew Lawrence and Colin Carr at the official opening.

Picnic in the Park: unfortunately this year's picnic has had to be cancelled but save the date for next year provisionally Sunday 4th July.



We are offering
10% discount
to Widcombe
Association Members
on production of a
Membership Card.



THE BATH PROPERTY SHOP

We would be pleased to help you find your next home.
If you have a property you would like to let or be managed,
please contact us. We offer a professional,
friendly and highly efficient service.



Association of
Residential Letting Agents

- THE DISPUTE SERVICE
- OMBUSMAN FOR ESTATE AGENTS
- THE NATIONAL APPROVED LETTING SCHEME

- Letting
- Management

tel: 01225 464400 www.bathpropshop.co.uk
info@bathpropshop.co.uk 7 Sussex Place, Claverton Street, Bath BA2 4LA

IN THESE WORRYING TIMES... YOUR FAMILY COMES FIRST

Making your **WILL** is one of the most important and loving things you can do for your family... it gives them - and you - vital peace of mind

Our professional, friendly, local staff come to your home at a time to suit you and will explain our full range of services to suit your particular circumstances.

To arrange an appointment please call
0845 0573254


ACCORD
LEGAL SERVICES LTD

www.accordwills.co.uk

- PROTECTIVE PROPERTY TRUSTS
- LASTING POWERS OF ATTORNEY
- STORAGE • CHILDRENS TRUSTS
- PROBATE SERVICES/FAMILY PROTECTION WILLS

IN THE HEART OF BATH

Bikano's
Authentic Indian Cuisine



5 COURSE DAILY MENU
25 Claverton Buildings, Bath, BA2 4LD
Served 12pm to 3pm
01225 533581 | info@bikanos.co.uk
www.bikanos.co.uk

HOUSE SPECIALS
Lamb Rogan Josh
Chicken Chettinad
Papdi Chaat
Lamb Bhuna Sarabi
King Prawn Masala
Bikano Chana Masala

THE SUNSHINE

**BREAKFAST, ELEVENSES, LUNCH,
TEA & CAKES & THE FINEST COFFEE**

9A CLAVERTON BUILDINGS, WIDCOMBE, BATH BA2 4LD

B
HAIRDRESSING

HAIRDRESSING OUTSIDE THE LINES
Choose a salon where everything is personalised for you
from the hair colour to the music we play
01225 311332 www.bhairdressing.co.uk
bookings@bhairdressing.co.uk

THE PUMPSHED



Visit the Pumpshed for delicious
homemade cakes, ice cream,
hot & cold drinks and snacks

Open weekends and bank holidays
from March to October and daily
from June to end of September

Situated at Lock 11, Horseshoe Pond,
Kennet and Avon Canal, Widcombe, Bath

Tel 01225 319743


WIDCOMBE
CHURCH OF ENGLAND
• JUNIOR SCHOOL •

Headteacher: Claire Taylor

Bath Pilates Academy

Pilates is for everyone, whatever your fitness level

Improve your posture, balance and movement with Pilates.
We offer classes, one to one and two to one individual sessions
designed for your body in a fully equipped studio.



Classes at Widcombe Social Club
Thursday 9.15am

info@bathpilatesacademy.uk 07939994757
WWW.BATHPILATESACADEMY.UK

Podiatrist
Clare Travers BSc (hons)
MClin DipPodM SRCh

Widcombe Surgery
3-4 Widcombe Parade, Bath
BA2 4JT
01225 310 883

Green Park Podiatrists
38 Green Park, Bath
BA1 1HZ
01225 424 784

HPC registered

Light your fire...
...at BLAZES

Britain's biggest fireplace specialist

Visit our Bath showroom
in Widcombe
01225 465000
www.blazes.co.uk


BLAZES
FIREPLACE & HEATING CENTRES
www.blazes.co.uk

**CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
SOCIETY, BATH**

All are very welcome at our service
on Sundays at 10.30am.

Please visit christiansciencebath.org.uk
for details of meetings and information on
Christian Science.

Widcombe
Social Club,
Widcombe Hill,
Bath BA2 6AA



Widcombe Life

Telephone Box Reborn

You may have seen lots of activity at the telephone box outside the White Hart. The box has now been formally adopted by the Widcombe Association, and the electricity cut off, thanks to the persistence of Beverley Wallis the garden club organiser. It is now being cleaned, repainted and transformed into a flower garden to add colour to this part of Widcombe. Thanks to Beverley, Alan and Adrian for their hard work and to the White Hart and Fine and Dandy for supplying coffee and volunteering to water the plants going forward. Finally thank you to David for his gold leaf on both the box and the adjacent lamppost bringing it back to its former glory

Post lockdown the transformation is complete and the new box and flowers are in full bloom.



Widcombe Welcomes Christmas



Widcombe Christmas Market



Garden club talk on scented plants



WSC Friday Night Jazz



McDonald & Dodds, ITV filming at Crowe Hall



Full moon over a Christmas Widcombe Parade



Parliamentary Hustings 2019

THE CURTAIN EXCHANGE

*For the best dressed windows
IN BATH*



11 WIDCOMBE PARADE, BATH, BA2 4JT
TEL 01225 422078
WWW.CURTAINEXCHANGEATH.CO.UK



FINE and DANDY BARBERSHOP
Est. 2014

Traditional Gentlemen's Barber

TUESDAY - FRIDAY	10am - 7pm
SATURDAY	9am - 3pm
SUNDAY - MONDAY	CLOSED

4 PRIOR PARK ROAD WIDCOMBE
NO APPOINTMENTS TEL: 01225 461846
WWW.FINEANDDANDYBARBERS.COM



KATE GARDEN
HEALTH

'Looking after all your nutritional needs at Widcombe Surgery'



For more information about our new clinic, please visit
www.kategarden.co.uk



Looking for a gift for a friend or your family?

How about a colourful collage which tells a story?

Email me at jessica.palmer@hotmail.com
to chat about your ideas.

You can see more of my artwork at
www.jessicapalmerart.com




"Thanks for the lovely collage. What an amazing surprise."

RICE
The Research Institute for the Care of Older People

RICE – The Research Institute for the Care of Older People, the internationally renowned dementia research and treatment centre, based in Bath and serving the city of Bath and the surrounding areas.



RICE is a research and treatment centre, dedicated to improving the lives of people with dementia through innovative research and treatment. We also provide support for those with dementia, as well as their families and carers.

The impact of dementia can be devastating for both the person diagnosed and for family, friends and the wider community.

So help us transform dementia research and treatment by supporting us.

I would like to support RICE and I enclose a cheque for £ Please return this form to The RICE Centre, Royal United Hospital, Combe Park, Bath, BA1 3NG

Name:
Address:
Post code: Phone:
Email:
Date:

Registered Charity No. 1042559 

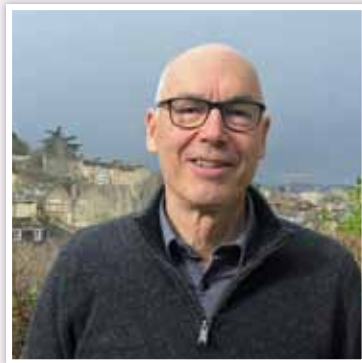
Widcombe People

Tim Williamson of Energy Efficient Widcombe

Wanting a greener Widcombe any will know of Tim through his work with Energy Efficient Widcombe (EEW) helping us all to reduce the carbon from heating our homes. Some 40% of BathNES carbon emissions are from our houses. A challenge for Widcombe with old Georgian and Victorian housing. Tim qualified as a Doctor and moved to Widcombe in 1971. He worked locally at St Martin's Hospital and as a local GP before finishing his career in community paediatrics. He always had an interest in public health and very early on recognised the risks of climate change. He had of course been in Bristol listening to Greta Thunberg the day before we met.

From the 1970s he was an active campaigner. He saw the early predictions for climate change and they worried him. I asked him why he is so passionate. 'I am seriously worried about the future for my children and grandchildren. The future is bleak unless we do something about it now. All those predictions I saw in the 1970s are coming true.' A good panic, he says, is necessary. Greta is spot on. 'I firmly believe this is not something just for politicians but we all have to take action, changing our behaviours. A good life yes, but sustainable.' He reflects on some positive signs of change, for example the climate emergency declared in BathNES and people power challenging the Bristol Airport expansion and Heathrow's third runway.

But he also believes in direct action. As a GP for a time he used to do home visits on his little moped, his doctor's bag strapped on the back. 'My colleagues thought I was



mad,' he recalls. But improving home efficiency is where he has focused. He used to live in a heat-leaking Victorian house in Carlton Road. The main challenge was a single block, Bath ashlar stone, west facing wall which was cold and caused condensation. External wall insulation was the answer. The planning bureaucracy nearly beat him but he fought through and finally permission was granted. He also added water-heating panels on the roof and sustainable log burners. Reducing carbon use and home running costs.

Tim loves living in Widcombe. 'I can't think of a nicer place to live; views, plenty of green space and a great sense of community.' And, we agree, somewhere you can live sustainably. So he stayed, moving to Abbey View Gardens. Here he has given his new home a full sustainability make-over with under floor insulation, filled-in cavity walls and solar panels which generate half the family's electricity.

Remaining concerned about climate change Tim willingly volunteered, alongside Ozzie Ffield, when BathNES called for energy champions. Together, they set up EEW bringing a community focus to energy efficiency in Widcombe. Ten years later numerous houses have been thermally surveyed, school children educated and businesses advised. All leading to small but vital changes in the way we live and making a real difference – there are lots of practical tips on the website. EEW is looking to the future and needs more help, so if you want to make a personal difference contact Tim via EEW ■ Interview by Jeremy Boss

In need of a Life Detox?

Let me help you organise
your home or life and
conquer your To Do Lists!

Contact Kimberley Delius
07903 135 230
lumendomus.com

LumenDomus
(bright ideas for your home)

Free coding taster sessions

at 1 Widcombe Crescent
Workshop 5 Aug, Q&A 19 Aug,
Workshop 30 Sep



www.maydenacademy.co.uk

FLAMINGO

Award Winning Independent Shop in Widcombe



Colourful
cards, art and
gifts designed
and produced
locally

Commissions
welcomed

7 Widcombe Parade, Bath, BA2 4JT
www.flamingobath.co.uk 01225 333619



Home to great cooking

Discover AGA cooking at AGA Bath
12 Widcombe Parade, Bath, BA2 4JT
01225 335237 | agaliving.com



BATH BOTANICS LTD GIN DISTILLERY & HERBAL APOTHECARY



www.bathbotanics.co.uk
1a Prior Park Rd Bath BA2 4NG 01225 635782

Out & About

Wild in Widcombe

We hear a lot about Extinction Rebellion and the loss of biodiversity. People frequently ask me what they can do as individuals, apart from feeding birds in the garden. One thing we can do in Widcombe, and elsewhere on the hillsides around Bath, is to offer help with looking after some of our greatest natural assets - our meadows.

Meadows are having a great revival. The number of books describing the wildlife and ecology of these special places is very impressive. They are part of a new genre of nature writing that has blossomed enormously. *Meadowland* by John Lewis-Stempel, and *A Buzz in the Meadow* by Dave Goulson are two of my favourites. Recently we had a full house for George Peterken's talk to the Bath Natural History Society on the Cultural History of Meadows. His book on Meadows is a great delight and provides a wealth of ecological knowledge.



The national lottery grant to Bathscape has enabled a number of new initiatives to get off the ground. Free advice and small grants are now available for owners of species-rich grasslands to improve the biodiversity of their patch. A seed harvester has been bought and the National Trust has collected wildflower seeds from several meadows to diversify the meadows on Bathwick Hill and elsewhere. Parks are benefitting too. Wildflower seed has been sown on Innox Park in Twerton and on Kensington Meadows. Under the Bathscape umbrella the National Trust and Avon Wildlife Trust are together responsible for organising a weekly team of conservation volunteers who carry out practical work to restore and enhance our species-rich grasslands. If you would like to join them contact the volunteer coordinator julia.kennaby@bathscape.co.uk.

For those of you who might like to learn more about the orchids and other wildflowers growing in our meadows the Avon Wildlife Trust will be organising meadow surveys, with training sessions to help with identification. Specialists from Bath Natural History Society will be helping with these sessions. When traditional haymaking practices were reintroduced at Smallcombe Cemetery there was a good deal of support from the local community. It's a great opportunity to regain links with nature. Here in Widcombe I am hopeful that progress is being made and we can look forward to having our own patch of meadow at Lyncombe Fields ■ *David Goode*

Photos: Bathscape Landscape Partnership

A View from the Field

Hola Widcombe, once again! Zippy here with your latest alpaca news.

We have been very much enjoying the quizzes over the winter months at one of our favourite watering holes – the Widcombe Social Club – in aid of various very wonderful causes. Jorge and I like trying to answer the questions – which can be challenging even for alpacas (I don't include Bungle in this description, he isn't very bright, but he loves the prize-giving and the cheering and applause at the end of the evening).

Although Widcombe is clearly full of some obviously super clever people, we are somewhat perplexed by the clear confusion that exists with regard to alpacas and llamas – and this in a small area of Bath with its very own alpaca herd! So, we thought we'd give you a quick revision guide to camelids and how to spot them.

APPEARANCE

Alpacas are comparatively small – about 1.8 metres and llamas are taller – around 2 metres. Llamas have weird banana-shaped ears and long faces, while alpacas have straight, perky little ears and cute, smiley faces. Llamas are extremely ugly,



Ugly llama



Cute alpaca

and smelly, and they are of very little use to anyone, except to carry bags.

Which brings me on to:

PURPOSE

Alpacas have the most amazing fleece - warm, soft and - because it doesn't contain lanolin (unlike sheep fleece) - is suitable for people with allergies. And there are 23 recognised natural colours of alpaca fleece, so you don't even have to dye it!

Llamas on the other hand are covered in dreadful scratchy hair which you can't even make rugs out of. You can eat llama, although we wouldn't advise it. Bungle assures us llama meat is tough as old boots, with a bitter aftertaste (although not sure how he knows this as he is a life-long vegan).

Which brings me on to:

DISPOSITION

Alpacas are naturally curious and amiable, each of us with our own unique, wonderful personality.

Llamas are none of the above and will spit at you rather than say Hola!

Hopefully, this will help you all sort your alpacas from your llamas. Looking forward to the "camelids of South America" round at the next quiz!

Out & About

Getting on your bike!

An interview with Geraldine Stork

How did you hear about the Wobblers?

I was part of a small group who met to think about setting up a 'slow' cycling group in Widcombe.

Did you have much cycling experience?

I hadn't ridden a bike for a very long time and initially I wasn't sure about my levels of fitness. I was nervous of cycling on roads and in traffic. What gave me courage to try it out was knowing that the Wobblers only cycle off-road or on small country lanes.

How have you found the experience of cycling with the Wobblers?

There have been so many benefits.

It's been fun getting to know people who

live locally and like cycling. Also I don't drive a car so it's been liberating learning how to access the beautiful countryside around Bath; it's given me a real sense of freedom.

I've gained in confidence too from riding with people who know a lot about bikes. They have given me support and advice and eventually I felt confident enough to buy an electric bike and cycle to work.

When the Wobblers began to offer 'challenge rides' I thought at first I wouldn't be able to manage a longer ride but everyone said I'd be fine and so I was. The first time I cycled to Mells and back felt like a massive achievement. I wouldn't have had the strength of will to challenge myself.

And now in turn I've been encouraging others to have the confidence to try cycling again.

As we come out of lockdown keep a look out on widcombeassociation.org.uk/events/ for the up to date news on when the Wobblers rides and Wayfarers walks can be safely restarted.



lordarchitecture

bespoke architecture & interiors

Lord Architecture is a vibrant Widcombe based architectural practice with a passion for design, contemporary architecture and the enhancement and adaptation of historic buildings. We offer a bespoke service tailored to each project, working across a range of scales, budgets and at all RIBA stages. Our services include design consultation, feasibility, pre-application, full planning submission and listed building applications, through to implementation and construction.



E : info@lordarchitecture.co.uk
W : www.lordarchitecture.co.uk
@lord_architecture

arb
Architects Registration Board

RIBA
Chartered Practice

Out & About

Prior Park Landscape Garden

A beautiful and intimate 18th-century garden in Bath undergoing an exciting, yet crucial, restoration project on the dams.

Dams Project

Prior Park is currently restoring the Georgian dams this year and there will be a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to see this grand restoration project in action on your doorstep. Built in the mid-1700s, both time and the destructive American signal crayfish have taken their toll on these structures, and the dams need major and expert attention to make them fit for the 21st century. During weekdays, visitors will get a good overview of what it takes to restore Prior Park's lakes back to its 18th century glory. At weekends, diggers will fall silent and allow for peaceful strolls and mindful moments in some of the hidden parts of the garden.

Cabinet of Curiosities

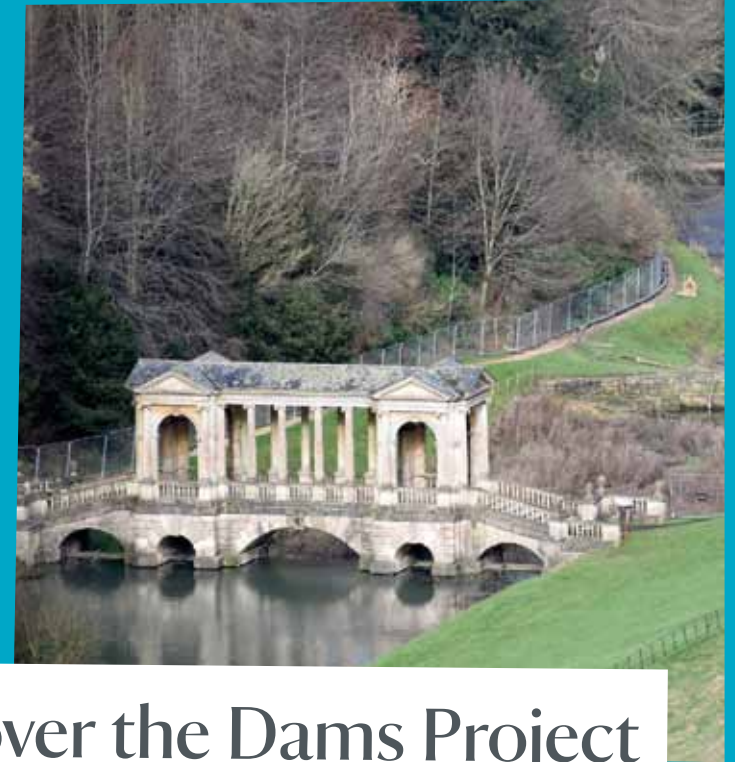
Our Cabinet of Curiosities is a series of talks throughout the year at the Cabinet allowing



visitors to discover more about topics of the Dams Project such as the waterway system, impact of the American Signal Crayfish, archaeological finds, history of the design of the landscape and many more. Check the website for more details for dates of these events.

Garden tours

On Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11.30am, wander through historic Prior Park on this free and informative guided tour. This will give you a good history of the garden and a summary of the project, keeping you up to date throughout the year on the engineering works.



Discover the Dams Project

at Prior Park

A once in a lifetime opportunity to see large scale conservation in action at your front door.

nationaltrust.org.uk/prior-park

For everyone, for ever





Widcombe Wayfarers 2020



Join us for a friendly stroll, making the most of the beautiful countryside on our doorstep.

We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of every month, starting at 10am at the west end of Widcombe Parade.

Walks last between 1-2 hours and are medium paced.

Come dressed for the weather, with suitable footwear and be prepared for a few climbs.

All walks are free.

Keep an eye on our website for dates when walks can be safely restarted

For further information contact events@widcombeassociation.org.uk

Organised by WA Events: www.widcombeassociation.org.uk/events



Master Locksmiths

SHOP ENQUIRIES

01225 425533

ENGINEER/FITTER

01225 835500

MOBILE

078 4343 3386

16 Claverton Buildings Widcombe Bath BA2 4LD

info@bathlockandkey.co.uk

WWW.BATHLOCKANDKEY.CO.UK

**BATH
LOCK
& KEY**

Be secure...



Room to be me



Prior Park College

Part of the Prior Park Schools family

Where students discover
their true potential

11-18 years | priorparkcollege.com

Widcombe Art Trail

Local artists and makers were gearing up again for this year's Widcombe Art Trail, which sadly had to be cancelled. The art trail is a fascinating mix of professional and amateur artists, with many opening their own homes to give visitors a glimpse of the creativity that goes on behind closed doors. We hope to be back next year with new venues and new artists, with painting, drawing, printing, ceramics, sculpture, jewellery-making and textile work all represented.

Here are some tasters on what you might have seen. You will have to wait to next year for this wonderful chance to explore this beautiful part of Bath, at a fabulous time of year, with a walking route which allows you to take in quaint backstreets, Widcombe's vibrant main street and maybe enjoy a stroll along a picturesque section of the Kennet and Avon canal, too. You can join the trail at any point and visit one or two venues or try and see them all!

For artists, this is a chance to showcase what we do, sell direct to customers and talk about commissions. They would still love to hear from you and if you are looking for a special present or hoping to fill a space on



your own walls or shelves at home, there is a great opportunity to buy something unique and support a local artist.



In the meantime for further information, do check www.widcombearttrail.com



Mummers strike for the environment

The New Year was welcomed as ever with a traditional mummers play with Mayor of Bath in attendance. This year it had a decidedly green theme with two new players – Greta Widcomberg and Junior Attenborough who together with the more traditional St George saw off the climate change denier the Polluter. More information photos and video at www.widcombermummers.org.uk



Photos with thanks to Joe Short Wedding Photography (Greta's dad)

Bath Comedy Festival 2020 - POSTPONED

Following the latest advice from the Government on public gatherings, we have decided to postpone Bath Comedy Festival until later this year. We are working to move the 300+ comedians, 170+ event festival sponsored by Lovehoney.co.uk, provisionally to September 2020.

Our Festival director Nick Steel says: "It is with much regret and sadness that we have taken the decision to postpone the 12th Bath Comedy Festival, but along with many other event organisations, we must honour our duty of care to audiences and performers alike. We worked incredibly hard to bring these

amazing names to perform in our beautiful city, and will be working even harder now to ensure we can still provide much needed entertainment to The City of Bath with a rescheduled event later this year. In these difficult times, comedy is more important than ever and we want to bring laughter back to this city as soon as possible."



Working Widcombe

Rajen Doshi of Widcombe Pharmacy

With coronavirus circulating it seems an opportune time to meet Widcombe's qualified dispenser of medicines.

Raj Doshi took over the established Widcombe Pharmacy in 2011 from long-term Widcombe pharmacist and entrepreneur Steve Barton. Originally, the chemist was on the other side of the road in what is now Roman City. If you look up you can still see the old advertisements on the front wall. It moved across the road to alongside the Widcombe Surgery when it was opened in 1996.

Raj comes from a family of medical practitioners and his father convinced him to train as a pharmacist so that he'd have a profession he could always fall back on. 'I think on reflection that perhaps it was all part of my father's elaborate retirement planning!' he laughs. He now splits his time between Widcombe and the pharmacy in Argyle Street.

A H Hale Ltd is considered to be one of the oldest original condition pharmacies dating back to 1826. Complete with fixtures, fittings and artefacts.



Community pharmacies are the corner stone of local NHS services, and we are all being encouraged to seek advice from our pharmacist. Raj believes in the importance of a local service where you can seek advice and buy quality-assured products from an accountable professional. As you would expect most of his business is in dispensing prescriptions from the GPs next door and further afield (in 2017 there were over 1.1 billion items prescribed in England). Somewhere, locally, a pharmacist will be open every day of the year.

'Pharmacists could do so much more to help take the pressure off the NHS and GPs,' says Raj, 'for example by being allowed to undertake basic prescribing.'

But it's an increasingly tough business with in-store pharmacies in large chains and, of course, people choosing more and more to buy on-line. But it shouldn't just be about price. Raj is proud of the local service he offers and how he can select the best value products with a 'fleet of foot' in sourcing that the chains just can't match.

Finally, we reflect on the changes that have happened in the ten years he has been trading. 'It's so much better with the new road layout, although parking in particular remains an issue,' he says, adding 'It's a more vibrant street now with a great community spirit and there is always somewhere to go where you are welcome and can relax after a tough day'.

I reflect how really important it is for us to support these independently owned local businesses. It's either use them or lose them ■ **Jeremy Boss**



ONE OF BATH'S OLDEST GALLERY/
WORKSHOPS
RESTORATION OF WATERCOLOURS,
PRINTS AND OILS
RENOVATION OF FRAMES
ORIGINAL WORK AND LIMITED
EDITION PRINTS
FINE ART PRINT GALLERY AND
FRAMING SERVICE

OPENING TIMES: MON - FRI 9AM - 5PM
SATURDAYS 10AM - 4PM



1 Sussex Place, Widcombe, Bath BA2 4LA Tel 01225 447877 www.printroombath.co.uk

ENJOY SINGING?



THEN COME ALONG TO...

WIDCOMBE CHOIR

(<http://groupsites.com/WidcombeChoir>)

New Term Starts WHEN SAFE TO DO SO
Hopefully in Autumn 2020
(Check the website for actual date)

Monday Nights
From 7:30pm to 9:30pm
Upstairs at Widcombe Social Club
Widcombe Hill, BA2 6AA

This is a no-audition Community Choir that meets weekly, on Mondays. Your first choir session is free; after that there are modest weekly charges.

Widcombe Therapy Room

A beautiful, tranquil space located just behind Widcombe Parade.

Available at Widcombe Therapy Room

- Psychotherapy (with both qualified and trainee psychotherapists)
- Clinical Psychology
- Reflexology
- Holistic massage

Please see our website for contact details of therapists and contact them directly for appointments.

www.therapyroombath.co.uk

Therapists working from Widcombe Therapy Room are all accredited with and follow the codes of conduct of their professional bodies, including committing to the process of ongoing professional development and supervision. They hold their own insurance.

Gardening

A garden for a braai

Gordon Road was built on the market gardens site behind the White Hart in 1887. The present owners moved from Cape Town, South Africa to Widcombe via Circus Mews and Lansdown some five years ago.

The tired back garden had a small patio area, an apple tree, a few vegetables and two huge conifers. They could see there was scope to stamp their South African heritage here, but they decided to leave it for a while to see which plants would appear!

Their first task was to create more space by removing the trees, making way for a rose garden built within a newly constructed gabion wall. The garden included David Austins *Rosa* 'Roald Dahl' - named to mark the centenary of the artists birth. The Soft orange-red buds open into medium-sized, cupped rosettes of perfect apricot that have a lovely fruity tea scent. 'Gertrude Jekyll' an early flowering English rose, (twice voted the nations favourite) with its bright glowing pink rosette-shaped flowers and gorgeous quintessential old rose scent and



'Golden Celebration' one of the largest flowering English roses with its giant cupped rich yellow blooms with a fragrance of wonderfully combined notes of Sauternes and strawberries.

In 2017 work started in earnest. The old patio and shed were removed and footings were laid for their beloved braai. The 'braai' or BBQ is an integral part of the South African Culture. (The Afrikaans word derives from the Dutch word for roast, isn't specific to one ethnic or cultural group. It's a tradition that ties the nation together). It was created from Bath like stone to blend in with the local area and the patio was complemented with Indian sandstone. Stairs and a store shed were also built.

At the top of the braai a small area was planted up to soften the area. The upright herbaceous perennial *Gaura lindheimeri* 'Whirling Butterflies' with its airy spires of delicate white flowers and long white stamens and *Stipa tenuissima* 'Mexican feather grass' with its attractive arching, rolled and linear leaves have done particularly well.

A new lawn was laid along with borders especially designed for the new planting which included *Agapanthus* 'Midnight Star' (African Lily Midnight Star) with its rounded umbels of dark blue flowers and narrow strap-like leaves; *Geum*



'Totally tangerine' with lovely peachy – orange saucer shaped flowers and basal rosette of pinnately lobed leaves and the bushy, butterfly favourite - dwarf evergreen *Lavandula angustifolia* 'Hidcote' English lavender from the Lamiaceae family was planted for contrast. The small deep-purple violet flowers with silvery-grey leaves are vibrant and versatile.

The garden has now been beautifully transformed into an area to enjoy the increasingly warm English summers – perfect for a family gatherings and sumptuous braai cooked foods. A firm favourite is Sosaties, a kebab made from beef or chicken that is marinated overnight. You can find the recipe on the WA website.



Garden speakers 2020-2021

Widcombe Social Club

21st October	David Moon	Gardens of the rich & famous
18 th November	Ian Gilchrist	An informative talk about bees, their habitat and favourite plants!
20 th January 2021	John Tucker	A new talk for Widcombe
10 th February	Marcel Floyd	A talk on Clematis, from the owner of Floyd's Climbers To Be Confirmed
17 th March	Terry Baker	Foxgloves taking through history and medical use and hybrids, from the Botanic Garden Stonar
21 st April	Andrew Cannell	American garden meets English landscape, Head Gardner American Museum

Local History

Midnight on Beechen – Thomas Hardy

On Beechen Cliff self commune I
This night of mid-June mute and dry;
When darkness never rises higher
Than Bath's dim concave, towers and spire,
Last eveglow loitering in the sky

To feel the dawn, close lurking by,
The While the lamps as glow worms lie
In a glade, myself their lonely eyer
On Beechen Cliff:

The city sleeps below. I sigh,
For there dwells one. All testify,
To match the maddest dreams desire:
What swain with her would not aspire
To walk the world, yea, sit but nigh
On Beechen Cliff:

If you enjoyed this poem then why not join us at Pass a Poem in St Thomas a Becket church, Widcombe on 9th June.





NEWMANS JOINERY

A local business with over 30 years' experience, offering quality bespoke joinery including:

- Timber windows
- Doors and frames
- Staircases and conservatories
- Storage solutions for the modern home
- Experience of working with listed buildings

Contact us on: 01225 318378

www.newmansofbath.co.uk • Email: info@newmansofbath.co.uk

Farm Shop

NOW OPEN

- ❖ Meat and Pies
- ❖ Locally-baked bread
- ❖ Organic Jersey milk
- ❖ Fruit & Veg
- ❖ Farm Eggs



Prior Park Road, Bath, Bath & N.E. Somerset BA2 4NF
Telephone: (01225) 427175 Fax: (01225) 480576
E-mail: info@priorparkgardencentre.co.uk
www.priorparkgardencentre.co.uk

Purely Plumbing

Installation • Maintenance • Repair

Contact Tony Hill
01225 571857 • 07765 784333

purelyplumbing@mail.com

ring O bells

Mick and Liz welcome you

10 Widcombe Parade,
Bath BA2 4JT

Tel: 01225 727599
www.ringobellsbath.com

WHITESTONE

CHARTERED SURVEYORS
COMMERCIAL

CHARTERED SURVEYORS
WITH A DIFFERENCE...

EXPERTISE IN
BUSINESS RATES
&
VALUATION

01225 436464
INFO@WHITESTONECOMMERCIAL.CO.UK
WHITESTONECOMMERCIAL.CO.UK

2 SUSSEX PLACE
WIDCOMBE
BATH
BA2 4LA



RUPOSHI INDIAN TAKEAWAY

PROVIDING THE BEST TASTING
FOOD SINCE 1988

3 SUSSEX PLACE, WIDCOMBE
PARADE, BATH BA2 4LA
TEL: 01225 337294

WA Business

As you will be aware our AGM in April 2020 had to be cancelled. We are hoping that we will combine the AGM with our Autumn Members meeting, of course subject to Government guidance. If we are unable to meet as normal we will consider an on-line AGM.

In the meantime, our main committee continues to meet monthly on Zoom and we are happy for members to join us to observe or talk to the meeting. We have been kept busy over the last few months with Covid-19 community support, re-planning for when events can restart, projects to improve Widcombe, responding on BathNES

consultations and initiatives and reviewing local planning applications.

After each meeting, or if there is an important issue that members need to be made aware of, we send out 'Talking Points' to our members mailing list. These are also uploaded on to our website which also has other key information as well as a Covid-19 information page. Please visit www.widcombeassociation.org.uk for more information.

If you would like to join one of our meetings or if you have any questions please contact Alan Langton our Secretary at secretary@widcombeassociation.org.uk

COME AND PARTY WITH US

A great venue for your child's party
Space for a Bouncy Castle, Ball Pit or Soft Play

WHY MESS UP YOUR HOME?

Affordable 2 & 3 hour slots available at weekends and holidays
Includes use of kitchen, tables & chairs

www.st-marks-cc.org.uk
email: bookings@st-marks-cc.org.uk



ROWENA HUNT

Finding Balance on Life's Journey

Wellness - Breath - Yoga



Wellness Workshops & Life Coaching:
inspiring and supporting the best version of you

Breathwork & Pranayama:
manage stress & anxiety, find balance and peace

Yoga Movement & Mindfulness:
classes in Widcombe and Combe Down

WWW.ROWENAHUNT.COM

WIDCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH SAY...

Welcome!

PLEASE DO JOIN OUR ONLINE SERVICES
EVERY SUNDAY AT
10:30 AM & 6.30 PM



AVAILABLE ON THE
WIDCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH
YOUTUBE CHANNEL

CHURCH LIFE LOOKS DIFFERENT AT THE MOMENT BUT
MANY OF OUR ACTIVITIES ARE STILL RUNNING ONLINE,
FROM OUR OVER-60 COFFEE MORNING TO YOUTH GROUPS
AND OUR NEW 'COVID BLUES' COMMUNITY CAFE.
PLEASE GET IN TOUCH TO FIND OUT MORE ON:

01225 976810
OFFICE@WIDCOMBE.ORG

AS THINGS ARE CHANGING DAILY, PLEASE CHECK OUT OUR
WEBSITE AND SOCIAL MEDIA FOR UP-TO-DATE INFORMATION.



WWW.WIDCOMBEBAPTISTCHURCH.ORG

WIDCOMBE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Widcombe
Deli

Tel - 01225 313037

Email - deli@jbeans.com

17/18 Claverton Buildings, Widcombe, Bath, BA2 4LD



Breakfast, brunch, lunch & suppers to dine in or takeaway - Outside catering - Homemade delicious foods

@widcombe deli

deli at widcombe



Friends or family coming to Bath?
Give them the space they deserve

The Apartment, Bath is a luxurious two-bedroom holiday home complete with stylish interior, superfast Wi-Fi and triple aspect ideally located above Bath Property Shop on Widcombe Parade

Widcombe Association member? Call Adam on 07814 521804 or email stay@apartmentbath.com to view before you book

apartmentbath.com



Widcombe Jottings

Courtesy Street: Does anyone know what that road sign means? Be polite. By Order! What absolute nonsense. My good friend Lady Margaret misread it as 'curtsey' and wondered why nobody was dipping in obeisance as she made her stately way along Widcombe Parade.

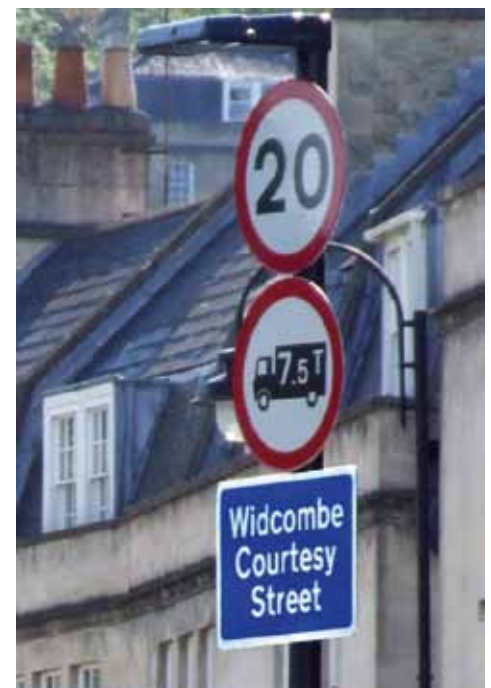
It certainly hasn't had any effect on the drivers who hoot angrily the second my taxi stops outside the surgery. I make sure I alight with much kerfuffle and then before the cab departs I slowly cross in front of the fuming motorists displaying my full repertoire of walking stick acting, my temporary mobility issues on full BAFTA-worthy display.

Kerbside, I turn, smile and raise my metaphorical hat in the most courteous manner I can muster. Ooh, if looks could kill!

It always was a courteous street, even before the official labelling (witness Walcot eons before the brown signs declaring it to be Bath's Artisan Quarter went up). I eagerly await similar signs pointing under the railway arches: Widcombe, Bath's Courtesy Quarter.

True, it does take me ten minutes to walk the twenty yards from the pharmacy to the Ring O'Bells, my frequently trodden route. Well, one needs something to wash the pills down. Even longer if I pop into Flamingo for a cup of green tea. So many people stop to say hello, make arrangements, discuss ailments (currently my favourite topic), beg for Comedy Festival tickets or comment on my latest Hawaiian shirt!

Mind you, not everyone obeys the enforced nomenclature. Don't get me on the subject of speeding cyclists. And then there was this foul-mouthed fellow and his girlfriend screaming abuse at each other in the Baptist church car park. Please stop I pleaded, rather wearily. Mind your own business came the joint reply. We don't like that sort



of thing in Widcombe says I. Who are you then, he demanded, the King of Widcombe? Go back to your boyfriend! I haven't got a boyfriend I answered. No wonder, he said, look at you, you fat @!***.

And with that they carried on fighting. Now that's what I call discourteous!

I would have referred them to the signage but we were at the wrong end of the street ■
Ralph Osrick




The Ram reopened under new management
20 Claverton Buildings
Widcombe, Bath BA2 4LD
01225 421938



WHITEHART
Fine food and affordable accommodation in
the Historic City of Bath



• widcombe hill • bath • ba2 6aa
01225 338053
whitehartbath.co.uk



Widcombe Acorns
A City Centre Forest School

Widcombe Acorns Pre-School
Providing full day-care for children between
3 years and statutory school age.
Open to all local children regardless of
race, colour, creed or ability.
www.widcombeacorns.org.uk
E: widcombeacorns.register@googlemail.com

St Mark's Community Centre, St Mark's Road,
Widcombe,
Bath BA2 4PA
Charity No: 102949

JO BRIDGER
NUTRITION

JOIN MY
FACEBOOK
GROUP:


'Eat for health in Bath'
www.jobridger.co.uk



Bath Touch Thai Massage Spa



FULL 10% DISCOUNT
on all massage services for members of
WIDCOMBE ASSOCIATION
For further information or to
arrange a booking, please call:
07849 039247 or 07849 039204
www.bathtouchthaimassage.co.uk



**Meditative Reflexology in
Widcombe**
First session half price at £17.50
07582 111971
www.siangriffith.com



THE ROYAL OAK
ALES · GAMES · SPORT

Home Cooked Food,
Sunday Roast,
Beer Garden, TV Sports,
Skittle Alley
01225 339725

MOTIVATE ME!

Lose Weight - Get Stronger - Eat Healthy - Live Longer



Personal Training

Our trainers have over 20 years' experience using the most effective exercise techniques.



Group Training

A motivating fitness community with carefully structured sessions to suit all abilities.

10 group sessions per week,
including mums only classes
Wednesdays & Fridays at 9am.

10% discount for
Widcombe Association
members

01225 571616

www.vibefitnessbath.co.uk

4 Miles Court, Broadway, Widcombe, Bath, BA2 4JN



St Thomas à Becket, Church Street

Traditional services every Sunday Morning

Please see our website for more information
on times and services

St Matt's, Widcombe Hill

Contemporary service every Sunday

Times vary, please see website for more information

For enquiries contact the office on 01225 465065
or info@widcombe.com



www.widcombe.church

WIDCOMBE
DENTAL PRACTICE
First class family dentistry

**NEW
PATIENTS
WELCOME**



Widcombe Dental Practice
is a state-of-the-art dental
clinic offering private
dentistry for all the family.

Paul Vivian BDS GDC No. 103942

4 Sussex Place, Claverton Street, Bath BA2 4LA
enquiries@widcombedentalpractice.co.uk
 01225 317 681
www.widcombedentalpractice.co.uk





**Learn to Drive with
Widcombe and
Combe Down**



Driving School

- Friendly patient tuition
- 18 Year's Experience
- Competitive Rates
- Highest Grade DfT Instructor
- Free Theory Training • IAM Advanced Driver

Contact Gary Norcott
www.widcombeandcombedowndrivingschool.co.uk

**WIDCOMBE
PHARMACY**


OPENING HOURS
Mon-Fri: 8.30am-6pm Sat: 9am-2pm

- Free repeat prescription collection from any surgery in Bath
- Free delivery service
- Weekly medicine packs

Tel: 01225 447924

**HIGH STREET STORE
WIDCOMBE**

High Street Store Widcombe

7am - 11pm



Claverton Buildings, Widcombe, Bath BA2 4LD

ZENITH YOUTH THEATRE COMPANY

CHICAGO

HIGH SCHOOL EDITION

17-20 February 2021

KINGSWOOD THEATRE
WWW.ZENITHYTC.CO.UK

WSC IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS!

NEW! Saturday Social in the Waterside Bar – free entry – bar open from 6pm til midnight. Incorporating Saturday Night at the Movies in the Wharf Room – hand-picked films each week and full cinema experience complete with usherette, Pearl & Dean ads, Looney Tunes cartoons or B-feature, Intermission, Ice-cream and Popcorn! Relax in the bar before and after the film. Screenings start at 7.30pm. Tickets £7 or £5 for members. Programme details are available on the website.

We plan to accommodate new events as soon as permitted by government – including **LIVE MUSIC, COMEDY** and DJ nights etc. – **WATCH THIS SPACE!** www.widcombesocialclub.co.uk

We've cleaned, sanitized and risk assessed everything 100% for your comfort and safety, with table seating set for social distancing and table service from the bar.

Members and non-members are welcome as usual. To join or renew your membership and get your bar and ticket discounts go to: www.widcombesocialclub.co.uk/membership

HIRINGS: Our various sized rooms are now available again for hire, under sanitized conditions, for socially distanced meetings & classes (as permitted). We're waiting for government guidance on parties, wedding receptions, gigs etc., but future dates can be reserved in anticipation of easing regulations.

We're so pleased to be welcoming you back – see you soon!

Widcombe Social Club Widcombe Hill, Bath BA2 6AA

Enquiries: info@widcombesocialclub.co.uk

Tel: 01225 460 456 www.widcombesocialclub.co.uk

 [facebook.com/widcombesocialclub](https://www.facebook.com/widcombesocialclub)

 [@widcombesocialc](https://twitter.com/widcombesocialc)



PHOTO COURTESY / STRIDE TREGLOWN

LUCA & FIG

New independent home, lifestyle and gift shop



Open Mon – Sat 10am – 5pm

WIDCOMBE PARADE | 01225 571828 | lucaandfig@gmail.com



MAGDALEN CHAPEL

Holloway Bath BA2 4PX

www.magdalenchapelbath.co.uk



The Magdalen Chapel is open again !

You are welcome !

Please text/call 07834 269097

for latest details of Services at the Chapel, or email your contact details to host@magdalenchapelbath.co.uk

to join our Sunday Worship on Zoom.

Chaplain: Fr David Prothero

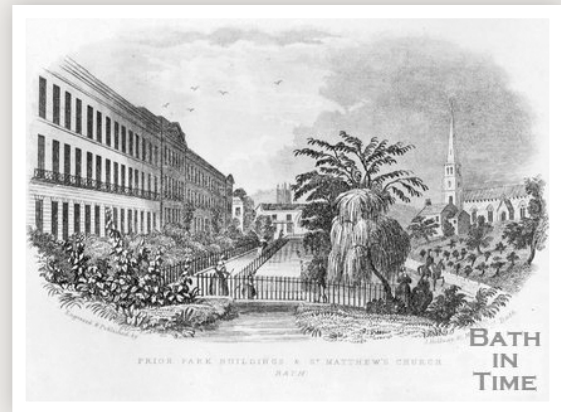
Widcombe History



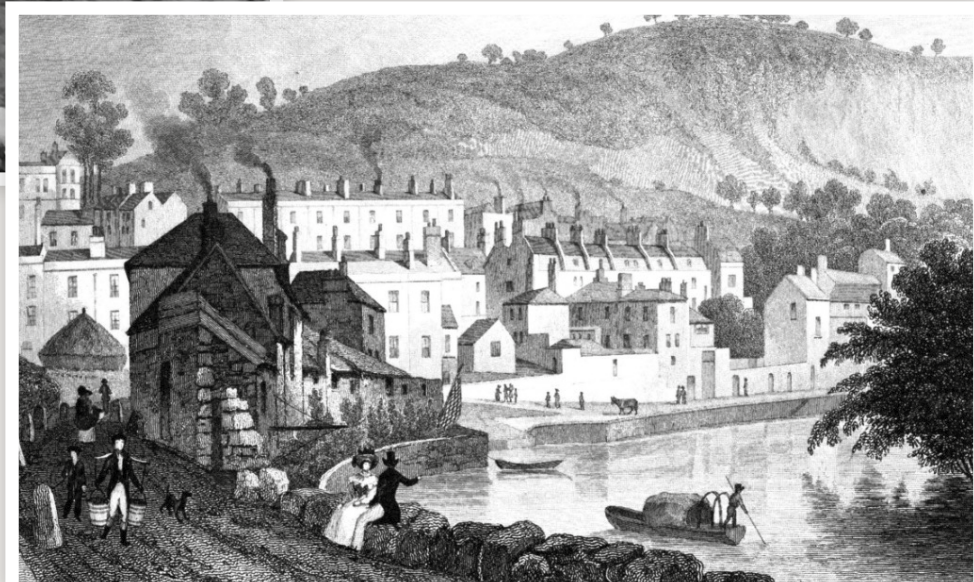
Back lock c 1950



Rossiter Road



Widcombe Parade



River & Canal



Actively Support Your Community **Join the Widcombe Association**



Love Widcombe

Join now - free membership until 1 January 2021

- get involved with the Widcombe community
- helping give Widcombe a stronger voice
- joining in with community events and activities
- improving our green spaces and sustainability
- helping protect what we value
- making improvements where we can
- support our local businesses
- its is only £10 per household per year!

Help make Widcombe a more vibrant place to live, work or visit



Household Membership Request

Join online: www.widcombeassociation.org.uk/the-association/wa-memberships

Or send to: Ann Ashworth, Membership Secretary.

Teazel Cottage, 14 Bearfield Buildings, Bradford on Avon, BA15 1RP

Name: _____

Address: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Signature: _____ (please add me to the WA mailing list)