



The Lansdown Crescent Association represents members in All Saints Road, Dixon Gardens, Lansdown Crescent, Lansdown Place East, Lansdown Place West, Sion Hill (East), Somerset Lane, Somerset Place, and Upper Lansdown Mews, to encourage community spirit and in the hope that residents who are not members will join us. The Association was formed in 1983, and since then we've grown to 160 members.

We are a UNESCO listed area and were founded **"to conserve and enhance the amenities of Lansdown Crescent and the surrounding streets, and to maintain and manage the grazing of the field in front of the Crescent and the area around it"**. But our duties are diverse: for example, in addition to the field, we organise regular litter picks, discuss residents' concerns with Ward Councillors, examine planning proposals in the area and seek to help neighbours in need or newly arrived residents to settle in. In pre-covid times we arranged social events (garden parties, winter receptions and carol singing) and hope to do so again once restrictions allow. The Association is a member of the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations and the Bath Preservation Trust.

Throughout this difficult year thanks must go to Committee members who organised local support and to a team of volunteers organised by Stephanie Higgins, our Membership Secretary and Treasurer. Knowing that all residents (not just members) had the reassurance of help if required is important to our Committee and at the core of our Association. This help is there for any resident that requires it. If you are a resident who needs support please contact Stephanie who can put you in touch with your closest committee member to help.

We are keen for new residents to join us so please contact:  
Stephanie Higgins, Membership Secretary,  
01225 312129  
membership@lansdown-crescent.org.uk  
2 Lansdown Crescent, Bath BA1 5EX  
Membership costs just £6.00 per person per annum.

# Newsletter 2021

## News since our last AGM

The virtual AGM held last year was a huge success and resulted in significant support for the principle of Low Traffic Neighbourhoods. Many members recognised that our UNESCO listed neighbourhood requires protection from traffic using the area as a rat run, be that private cars, taxis, or coaches and HGVs. We have also worked with residents on Cavendish Road, Somerset Lane and Winifred's Lane to help make roads in the entire area calmer and safer.

2021 will hopefully see the commencement of our Community Speedwatch and news of whether our area will be selected to proceed to formal consultation for the introduction of a trial Low Traffic Neighbourhood (experimental Traffic Regulation Order).

The Council have had many Community groups apply to participate in the scheme which they will introduce in a phased way across the city. The Association supports this approach in principle but will liaise with Councillors throughout 2021 to ensure full consultation and to ensure that if any neighbouring schemes are introduced first, no displacement occurs in our area as a result. If we consider that there would be a detrimental impact on traffic volume in our area, we will request mitigation measures from the outset.

The introduction of the CAZ in March and the traffic management at Queens Square seems to have had an effect on traffic using Cavendish road. We have requested access to monitoring data and await a response. We expect the closure of Cleveland Bridge in late April to have a significant impact for 3 months with SatNavs routing more traffic our way. This all serves to highlight the importance of our area becoming a Low Traffic Neighbourhood going into the future. Finally, as a result of the work we have done to calm traffic, many new residents from Somerset Lane have joined our Association and Winifred's Lane residents would like their area to be formally adopted into the Association. A vote will take place at our AGM to adopt this proposal.



## The Field and Sheep

Our field is a true jewel in the LCA crown! The Association was originally established to oversee it via the Trustees who have a legal obligation to maintain it for grazing purposes only (no public access).

We manage this very successfully in partnership with a local farmer who has been renting the field from us for 40 years. Under a formal grazing license, the field must be left empty for at least three months every year to allow

regrowth of the pasture. Many of you will be very familiar with the annual grazing cycle and enjoy it just as much as the changing of the seasons. In November last year, our resident rams, Bill and Ben, returned to the farm at Kelston for tugging with the ewes to start the annual lambing cycle. Sadly, Ben's health deteriorated and we lost him during the winter. Over the winter months, many of you will have noticed that the field remained empty, allowing nature to flourish once again. Bill who is now four years old, returned in March with his new pal Basil, a handsome 18 month-old Suffolk ram. Basil is easily identifiable with a little tuft of wool attached to the tag on his right ear. They both settled quickly on their return and were followed a few weeks later by two young ewes for company. All four sheep often rest by the railings and enjoy the many visitors who stop by to say hello.

Mr Creed, the farmer from Kelston, has increased his lambing numbers this year so we could well see many of them bounding around the field once they are big enough by May. Quite a treat for young children (and big ones!). The flock generally stay with us until June when they return to Kelston for shearing. During this time the field is briefly empty again which gives us time to undertake nettle clearance and general maintenance. It also allows the grass to recover a little before some of the adult sheep return for the rest of the summer.

Thank you to those who help to keep the area around the railings clear of litter. We still experience littering but this has reduced over the winter. Windy recycling collection days can prove a challenge though so all efforts to secure waste are much appreciated. Thank you to those of you who report welfare concerns about the sheep. I am always happy to be contacted.

*Michelle Maguire*

## Planning and development

The Association is constituted to "conserve and enhance the amenities of Lansdown Crescent and its environs". Planning applications are continuously monitored and the committee may comment on applications in line with this guiding principle. We welcome neighbours who want to discuss their plans. As a Residents' Association, we also keep a close eye on the conduct of construction professionals. We encourage considerate behaviour through written guidelines (see our website), and through occasional direct approaches to firms operating in the local area. This has been a particular priority since I took up this post and I encourage you to approach me or any other committee member if you have concerns.

*Adam Barnes*

## Lansdown Crescent Association Annual General Meeting 2021

*To be held virtually on Thursday 13th May at 7 - 9pm via Zoom.*

AGM papers will have been circulated prior to distribution of this newsletter so any member who has not received them should contact Sarah Garrett, our new Secretary [secretary@lansdown-crescent.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lansdown-crescent.org.uk)

Joining instructions and the Zoom link will be sent via email and made available on our website. If you would like to attend the meeting you need to ensure that you are a fully paid up member so please contact Stephanie Higgins if your subscription is due. If you cannot attend the meeting you can give your vote to a proxy who will represent you at the meeting. Please email James Freeman to confirm if you wish to do this. He will need to receive this request in writing or via email a full 24 hours prior to the AGM. [jdfreeman@hotmail.com](mailto:jdfreeman@hotmail.com) or at 16 LPE

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The LCA is a member of the Federation of Bath Residents' Associations. Summaries of FoBRA activities, and a link to its Committee minutes, will be found on their website [www.bathresidents.org.uk](http://www.bathresidents.org.uk)

We are eligible to attend FoBRA social functions, to which Councillors are invited.

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The LCA is a corporate member of the Bath Preservation Trust. [www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk](http://www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk)  
We hold two tickets for the Trust's museum at No.1 Royal Crescent. To apply to use these, free of charge, contact Stephanie Higgins.

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### Generous Donations

Following an email to our members, personal donations were received by St Andrews Primary School on Julian Road. This has helped the school during difficult budgetary conditions. The school and their Friends Group have written to thank all neighbours who kindly donated.

Also, thanks to the party of 6 pre-lockdown Carol singers and members who donated directly to Genesis Trust.



## The High Common/Approach Golf Course

Earlier this year, the Council conducted a procurement process which could have seen the land leased for up to 20 years. Many residents in our area were concerned about the implications for continued public access to the space and the protection of the landscape.

Cavendish Crescent Association coordinated all local Residents Associations in a joined up campaign which included: sending a legal letter to the Council requesting a delay of any decision to appoint a new provider and sign a lease; an application to Historic England to register the High Common and afford it more protected status; an audit of the Tree Protection Orders in place on the Common; supporting a petition to seek a delay on the decision making; the preparation of posters and communication through social media to publicise the issue; and the Chairs of each Association (including Rachael) speaking at the Council's Cabinet meeting. The Lansdown Crescent Association Committee and Trustees played an important part in all of these decisions. In addition, members of our Association provided invaluable local knowledge which helped the legal and planning experts submit their letters. Our focus was to ensure that any decision regarding the High Common should be made with full public consultation and that all public access should be safeguarded. Following this campaign, Councillor Paul Crossley announced that the Common would revert to use as a local park, open to all users, for the foreseeable future. This protects public access and the beautiful landscape which so many residents have enjoyed for decades. Maintenance of the space for the medium term will be the responsibility of the parks department, the council will cease to spray herbicides and the grass will be cut less frequently than previously. The golf kiosk, which closed during Covid measures, will remain closed, although a volunteer group are seeking to reopen this provision. Some of our members are keen for the previous status quo of shared use to be accommodated. Throughout the entire process our Committee and individual Association members have shown consistent concern for maintaining public access and use of the space and for protecting this important part of Bath's landscape heritage.

## Guerrilla Gardeners tidying up the Snicket



Thank you to Anthony from Upper Lansdown Mews who has worked very hard to tidy up the pathway to the rear of Lansdown Place East, known locally as the "Snicket". It looks so cared for and loved now, so thank you Anthony! In addition, more local "guerrilla gardeners" have tidied up the land at the top of Park street. Tim Allsop has been busy tending to that space (interestingly he used to own Anthony's house in ULM) so thanks to Tim also.

## Police, Neighbourhood Watch and BNES Council: Beat Surgeries

Lansdown Crescent and environs has its own Beat Officer, Raymond Kelly, who can be consulted in face-to-face meetings at St Stephen's Church foyer. Scheduled dates will be listed on our web site once available.

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**Neighbourhood Watch** schemes are an important tool for fighting crime.

Delia Jay is our local coordinator and does a brilliant job to coordinate the local 'Watchers', and provide training and advice on what to look for, whom to report to, and action to be taken when suspecting criminal activity. We have a track record of sharing information with other areas across Bath and providing information to the police. For more information, please contact Delia Jay on 426215 or [policenw@lansdown-crescent.org.uk](mailto:policenw@lansdown-crescent.org.uk).

The Neighbourhood Watch national website is [www.ourwatch.org.uk](http://www.ourwatch.org.uk).

The non-emergency telephone number to contact the Police is **101**. Alternatively call anonymously **CRIMESTOPPERS, 0800 555 111**

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## Refuse and street cleaning

The Council refuse teams have maintained a high level of service throughout lockdown. We have contacted Cllr Dave Wood to thank his team for such commitment in difficult times. If you encounter any problems, or want to report an overflowing public bin or a blocked drain, use the council website: [www.fixmystreet.com](http://www.fixmystreet.com) Members of the Committee pick up litter from the area, usually the day after the rubbish collections. Details of refuse and recycling protocols are available on our website for new residents. We also post changes made to collection days due to Christmas holidays. If you would like to join our litter rota please contact Stephanie.

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**Rock salt bins** are installed each winter at either end of the Mews and Lansdown Place West. The salt is provided by the LCA. We ask that residents are considerate when using this facility, as a thin scattering of salt goes a long way.

## Community project 2021. Slippery pathway to Park Street and the Dell

One of our members raised the issue of the pathway from the Dell down to Park Street as an improvement project which the Association should consider. It is extremely slippery through the winter months and a non-slip "treatment" or surface could be investigated to improve the footpath used by many local residents. In addition, there is a section of the Dell which is missing its tarmac surface and another member has asked for us to liaise with the Council to resurface this section. Our Chair has been in contact with the Council Officer responsible (both are public Highways responsibilities). He plans to visit the site and provide the Association with a plan of action. Given the Council's Liveable Neighbourhood policy, we think that improving the safety of walking routes are important for our area.

## Association Events 2020

Sad to have missed our usual events, the Association will plan for an outdoor party in midsummer as we emerge from lockdown, and fingers crossed for our usual Christmas festivities. In addition, we will arrange relaxed get togethers in pub gardens, such as the Richmond Arms, for members to meet informally. More details will be available soon on our website for 2021.

## Future Local Events

St Stephen's Millennium Green Lansdown Open Gardens  
Details will be available on their website [www.millenniumgreen.org.uk](http://www.millenniumgreen.org.uk)

## Lansdown Crescent Association Website

[www.lansdown-crescent.org.uk](http://www.lansdown-crescent.org.uk)

We try to keep the website up to date with local information. We are always keen to receive news items, local event listings, photographs, or anything else of potential local interest. To request notification by email of newly added website information, please contact Stephanie Higgins or follow the LCA on Twitter at [@stephfiggins](https://twitter.com/stephfiggins)

## LCA Contacts, May 2021

**Trustees:** Mrs Beccy Derry-Evans, Mrs Judith Pepler, Mr Robin Kerr

**Committee:**

**Chair, Traffic:** Rachael Hushon, 07917323442,  
[chairman@lansdown-crescent.org.uk](mailto:chairman@lansdown-crescent.org.uk)

**Secretary:** Sarah Garrett, [secretary@lansdown-crescent.org.uk](mailto:secretary@lansdown-crescent.org.uk)

**Treasurer and Membership Secretary:** Stephanie Higgins, 312129,  
[membership@lansdown-crescent.org.uk](mailto:membership@lansdown-crescent.org.uk)

**Sheep, Field:** Michelle Maguire, [sheep@lansdown-crescent.org.uk](mailto:sheep@lansdown-crescent.org.uk)

**Events and Local History:** Megan Dalton, [megan@lansdown-crescent.org.uk](mailto:megan@lansdown-crescent.org.uk)

**Planning:** Adam Barnes [planning@lansdown-crescent.org.uk](mailto:planning@lansdown-crescent.org.uk)

**Webmaster:** James Burtoft, [webmaster@lansdown-crescent.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@lansdown-crescent.org.uk)

**AGM coordinator:** James Freeman, [jdfreeman@hotmail.com](mailto:jdfreeman@hotmail.com)

We are very keen for residents to join our Committee to keep the team refreshed as much as possible. If you would like to join, please contact Rachael Hushon. We hope that you can join us at the AGM in May and look forward to seeing you then or at a midsummer drinks party (details to follow).

## Sad goodbyes and tributes to Dr Marianna Clark and David Morris



**Marianna** was a trustee and benefactor of the Association and a much loved neighbour who will be remembered by many of us for her warm smiles as she sat on the Crescent bench enjoying the views on most afternoons. We miss her greatly.



**David** was a resident of Lansdown for over 20 years, an active member of the community, and an enthusiastic tenant of the Millennium Green allotments. He leaves behind his wife Stella, who hopes to see many of you at his memorial, which will be held at St Stephen's church once Covid restrictions have been lifted.

## And Finally...

Farewell to Committee members. Simon Brand and Ian Lyons are both stepping down from the Committee. Simon is leaving the area for pastures new (the Brand family are off to Widcombe). They have both been invaluable Committee members. We shall miss them and their contribution to the Association. Thank you both.

**The Committee 2021**