



## Lower Lansdown shortlisted for Liveable Neighbourhood planning

Our Association has supported the adoption of Liveable Neighbourhood principles since our AGM in 2020. As requested by residents (keen for a joined up approach), we have collected data and liaised with neighbouring Resident Associations and a parent Rep from St Andrew's School. Cavendish Road has become significantly busier since the Queens Square changes, the annual traffic survey data collected in October 2021 showed that daily flows have increased (by up to 33%) to 4300 vehicles per day since Queen Square traffic light changes were implemented. Area wide Council consultation in December 2021 showed that local people across Lower Lansdown recognize the worsening volume situation especially at peak hours of the day. Speeding has worsened at all times of the day and we have had near misses involving pedestrians, a dog was hit by a vehicle which didn't care to stop in early March and a motorcyclist and car incident occurred too. The Highways Team will develop solutions in an iterative way seeking to reduce rat running and calm speeding. Any changes in the area must ensure emergency vehicle, taxis, disabled badge holders and carers' access. These solutions will be shared via community wide consultation later this Summer. Following this we understand that experimental TRO schemes will commence late 2022.

## Park & Ride tender

The Council and WECA are running a procurement process for the provision of Bath's Park & Ride service. We have written to Councillor Manda Rigby to emphasise the importance of the Lansdown service to our area, for local people it is our only bus service. Part journey fares are currently very expensive and hours of operation are not long enough. The Council must ensure better bus provision if local people are to be encouraged to use private cars less for short journeys as part of the Council's 2030 journey to net zero.

The Lansdown Crescent Association was formed in 1983 and represents over 180 members from All Saints Road, Dixon Gardens, Lansdown Crescent, Lansdown Place East, Lansdown Place West, Sion Hill (East), Somerset Lane, Winifred's Lane, Somerset Place, and Upper Lansdown Mews.

The area is an UNESCO World Heritage inscribed area (alongside the Royal Crescent), and our association formed to conserve and enhance the amenities of Lansdown Crescent and the surrounding streets, and to maintain and manage the grazing of the Crescent field. Conserving both the authentic heritage architecture and the pastoral environment are central to our role. Our field is a wonderful asset for both the Lansdown Crescent area and indeed for Bath. Our Trustees have a legal obligation to maintain it for grazing purposes only (no general access), this is managed very successfully in partnership with a local farmer who has been renting the field from us for approximately 40 years. Under a formal grazing licence, 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, marking the changing of the seasons.

In addition, the Association encourages community spirit, and arranges social events (garden parties, winter receptions and carol singing for a charitable cause), discuss residents' affairs (including traffic) with Ward Councillors, organize regular litter picks and working parties, examine planning proposals in the area and seek to help neighbours in need or newly arrived residents to settle in.

We are keen for new residents to the area to join us so if you are interested please contact Stephanie Higgins, the Membership Secretary, on 01225 312129 or [membership@lansdown-crescent.org.uk](mailto:membership@lansdown-crescent.org.uk), or at 2 Lansdown Crescent, Bath BA1 5EX. Membership costs just £6.00 pp per annum, which funds the running of the Association, insurance, the website and newsletter in addition to the rent and fencing of the field.



## The Field and Sheep

As we move in to Spring, the field has once more become alive with the return of our favourite Suffolk rams, Bill and Basil, plus many of the ewes who stayed with us last year. Lambing has started early in Kelston, with three born already. These lambs and their mothers have made an early appearance in March alongside the rams. The remaining ewes have joined us now the young ones are too big to squeeze between the railings.

Last year the sheep brought much pleasure to residents and visitors alike. Despite the odd incident, it was a largely quiet season. Thank you to the many concerned residents who spotted flystrike on

the rams. These external parasites are quickly treatable and Mr Creed was timely in his response (as always) to welfare concerns. The rams made a speedy recovery in time to ensure a strong lambing season this year! I've had the most wonderful three years holding Committee responsibility for the field and sheep. Alongside my husband Pete, we have thoroughly enjoyed maintaining the field and ensuring daily contact for sheep matters. In many ways, it has been a great privilege to hold such a unique and special role in Bath. I've taken the decision however to step down this year at the AGM and pass on this position to a new willing resident. Thank you to everyone who has been kind enough to offer support, and also to those who have expressed their enjoyment of our little Lansdown flock.

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 (available on our website), I encourage you to approach me or any other committee member if you have concerns.

Beckford Gate continues to be a sensitive issue which is being observed by the Association and the Bath Preservation Trust. Any moves to dismantle/rebuild the gateway on Upper Lansdown Mews which is now a protected and listed structure will be opposed by our Association. Lydia Fay

## Community Speedwatch

Some members of our Association have joined with residents from the Cavendish Crescent, Cavendish Road and St James's Square Associations to form a resident Community Speedwatch team on Cavendish Road. We have helped Marlborough Buildings Residents form a scheme too. This scheme operates in partnership with the police who encourage local neighbourhood groups to remind drivers of the 20mph speed limit and help make our residential streets safer for pedestrians and other road users. Neil Dickinson

## Development of the Bath Spa Campus at Sion Hill/Winifred's Lane

Members provided responses to the LPPU planning consultation in Autumn 2021. This proposal to allocate the campus to residential use is supported by the Association in principle, however we raised several important concerns. The possible displacement of traffic from Winifred's Lane onto Somerset Lane, Sion Hill and Lansdown Crescent were of major concern to us. We want to ensure that no construction traffic violates the TRO width restriction. Traffic should not use Lansdown Crescent, Somerset Lane or Winifred's Lane to access or exit the site. The lack of affordable housing provision within the allocation was challenged by us too. The protection of the parkland and treescape and reference to the historical importance of the entire area the site sits within showed a lack of detail for how sensitive the site is within a heritage context and the high level of design quality that must be required of any development. Local people felt very strongly that the community gain was significant for public footpaths to be opened within and through the parkland South/North (running in parallel with Winifred's Lane), and East/West. These routes would be safe pedestrian and cycling routes for school children to local schools, we also support the provision of a pedestrian crossing at the Sion Road junction at Lansdown Road. These aspects should be conditions of the allocation.

The Government Inspector will hold a hearing this Summer, Our Chair will attend on behalf of our Association.



## **The High Common**

We have been informed that the Council will be looking to tender for a new golf provider on the High Common . Many members provided feedback that the public access and right to roam the entire green space enjoyed by residents for decades must be safeguarded alongside continued protection of the historic landscape and trees, also that there should be no further use of chemical inputs onto the greens if golf returns. We have ensured that these views have been shared with our Councillors, also with Jess David, Councillor in charge of this process.

## **Association Events 2022**

In 2021 we were able to have a late Summer drinks open to all on the pavement of the Crescent and were blessed with lovely weather and a fun atmosphere. It was an informal event which meant that new neighbours could easily pop in and also doubled as a goodbye and thank you to the Derry-Evans who faithfully helped the committee for so many years.

We also had an informal carols and drinks evening before Christmas – which was again held outside. We really appreciated the Branfoots hosting the drinks in the Mews where we could gather and catch up in their lovely garden. Donations were given to Genesis Trust for their Christmas campaign and were gratefully received.

This year we are looking forward to celebrating the Queen’s Jubilee with a pavement party tea on the afternoon of 5th June, all residents are welcome. We are arranging the closure of the Crescent for this from midday on the 5th. Please bring some cakes and drinks to share and dress in red, white and blue!

Megan Dalton

## **Community project 2022**

### **Slippery pathway to Park Street and the Dell**

You may recall that one of our members raised the issue of the pathway from the Dell down to Park street as an improvement project. It is extremely slippery through the winter months and a non-slip “treatment” or surface was investigated to improve the old tarmac section of the footpath used by many local residents. The Highway’s Council Officer responsible (it is a public Highway) has confirmed that the planned works to replace the tarmac have moved to April/May 2022 due to a change in Council Contractor. Given the Council’s Liveable Neighbourhood policy we think that improving the safety of walking routes are important for our area. We continue to chase for a confirmed date .

## **Lansdown Crescent Association Annual General Meeting 2021**

This will be held on Thursday 12th May at 7-9pm at St Stephen’s Church foyer . AGM papers will have been circulated before this newsletter is distributed; any member who has not received them should contact Sarah Garrett (Secretary) details on contact list. If you would like to attend the meeting you need to ensure that you are a fully paid up member so please contact Steph if your subs are due. If you cannot attend the meeting you can give your vote to a proxy to represent you at the meeting. Please email Stephanie Higgins our membership secretary to confirm if you wish to give your vote to a proxy, she must receive this request in writing or email a full 24 hours prior to the AGM.

We will serve wine and nibbles following the AGM and would love you all to join us.

## **FoBRA**

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.

*The LCA is a corporate member of the Bath Preservation Trust, [www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk](http://www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk).*

*It holds two tickets for the Trust’s museum at No.1 Royal Crescent. To apply to use these, free of charge, contact Stephanie Higgins as below.*

## **Future Local Events**

St Stephen’s Millennium Green Lansdown Open Gardens 2022

Details will be available on their website [www.millenniumgreen.org.uk](http://www.millenniumgreen.org.uk).

## Promoting our UNESCO status: Bath's Historic Walking Tour Programme

A group of Committee members are visiting Bath's new World Heritage Centre to discuss our area being included in Bath's Historic Walking Tour programme. We will report progress at the AGM. We see this as an important aspect of our area which can often be overlooked by the Council. Celebrating the beauty of our Crescent which sits within Lower Lansdown, (an intact authentic Georgian neighbourhood) with walkers via this programme is a positive way to remind the Council of their duty as co-custodians of important heritage assets such as our Crescent. Later in September we are planning an evening with Professor Barry Gilbertson our new Trustee to discuss "The role of Bath's World Heritage Committee." In his capacity as Chair of this group, Barry will speak about our wonderful city and the challenges we face retaining our UNESCO status.

### 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 as below; or follow the LCA on Twitter at @stephfhiggins. All feedback is very welcome (email: webmaster@lansdown-crescent.org.uk)

### Refuse and street cleaning

The Council refuse teams continue to do a great job in our area. If you do encounter any problems, or you want to report an overflowing public bin or a blocked drain, use the council website [fix.bathnes.gov.uk](http://fix.bathnes.gov.uk) Members of the Committee continue to 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 any changes made to collection days each year due to Christmas or public holidays.

**RACHAEL HUSHON - Chair**  
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**NEIL DICKINSON - Traffic**  
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**Trustees:** Judith Pepler, Robin Kerr, Barry Gilbertson

We are very keen for residents to join our Committee to keep the team as refreshed as much as possible. If you would like to join please contact Rachael Hushon. We also hope that you can join the Committee and Trustees at our AGM in May and look forward to seeing you then or at the Platinum Jubilee party, see website for details.

## Police, Neighbourhood Watch, and BNES Council

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 for 2022 are listed on our web site once available.

Neighbourhood Watch Schemes are an important tool for fighting crime. Delia Jay is stepping down as our local coordinator after a decade of "watching". Thank you Delia! We have a great track record of sharing information with other areas across Bath providing information to the police. Rachael will take over from Delia unless one of our members would like to take on this role. For more information, please contact :  
[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, you can call anonymously: CRIMESTOPPERS, 0800 555 111

### Rocky Road

Each winter rock salt bins are installed at either end of the Mews, and the junction of Somerset Lane/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.

### And Finally...

Happy Birthday to our "Greenfingered" Gardener! The Association would like to wish **Antony Branfoot** a very Happy 90th Birthday!

