

PERA

PULTENEY

ESTATE

RESIDENTS'

ASSOCIATION

Summer 2008

The area covered by the Pulteney Estate includes:

Great Pulteney Street, Pulteney Mews, Laura Place, William Street, Sunderland Street, Johnstone Street, Edward Street, Vane Street, Henrietta Street, Sutton Street, Daniel Street, Daniel Mews, Sydney Place, Beckford Road, Bathwick Street, Sydney Mews, Darlington Street, Vellore Lane, Sydney Road.

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Sydney Gardens

Sydney Gardens Residents Association (SGRA), now merged with PERA, held quarterly community meetings with B&NES Parks Officers. SGRA took on the responsibility of caring (with some professional help from B&NES) of the sustainable bed in the lawn in front of the education centre. Nicola Hanscombe (SGRA and now PERA Committee member) has enthusiastically tended the bed for over a year now and it is looking exceedingly good! The advantage to B&NES, and particularly for the *Bath in Bloom*, is the interaction and fellowship of local people with the Parks Officers.

The Community meetings will continue under PERA: they include the Police Community Support Officers for the area. Reporting and sharing of information and ideas for improvement promotes better security and helps to preserve the Gardens as a safe and most enjoyable place for locals and visitors to relax amongst the lovely flora and foliage.

The community meetings also provide updates on future plans for not just Sydney Gardens but other Parks in Bath. Such information, in agreement with the Parks Officers, will be included in future editions of the PERA newsletter.

Overthrows update

We have had several discussions with the B&NES Planning Department on our application for Overthrows on many of our properties. Whilst the complete lack of progress has been hugely frustrating, we are now confident of the support (subject of course to any resident objections) of the Planning Department to our proposals.

However, we are now required to file a complete new application, as the forms changed in April of this year, and also complete new ownership certificates. This means that we have to have the current ownership details of all the relevant houses. Nigel Websper will therefore be contacting the owners of all the relevant houses to check that we have the correct ownership data. We hope to re-file everything by the end of August, and subject to no sensible objections, gain consent in early November.



Cycling on Pavements - Have your say

People cycle on pavements because:

- They are unaware that it is illegal and that they can be fined £30
- They are aware of this and flout the law
- They believe it is safer to ride on the pavement than on the road.

The solution put forward by Bath & North East Somerset Council is.... *"to investigate why cyclists are using the footways and to establish whether a suitable cycle route (e.g. in the PERA area) can be signed."*

However their comments on signs are somewhat at variance with this. To quote from their response:

(B&NES) *".....do not believe it wise to erect cycling prohibited signs as -*

- *It should be common knowledge that cycling on footways is illegal*
- *Such signs would most likely be ignored by cyclists who are aware they are acting illegally*
- *It would set an unfortunate precedent whereby residents could ask for such signs all over the city, leading to an expensive and unsightly proliferation of signs, to little effect."*

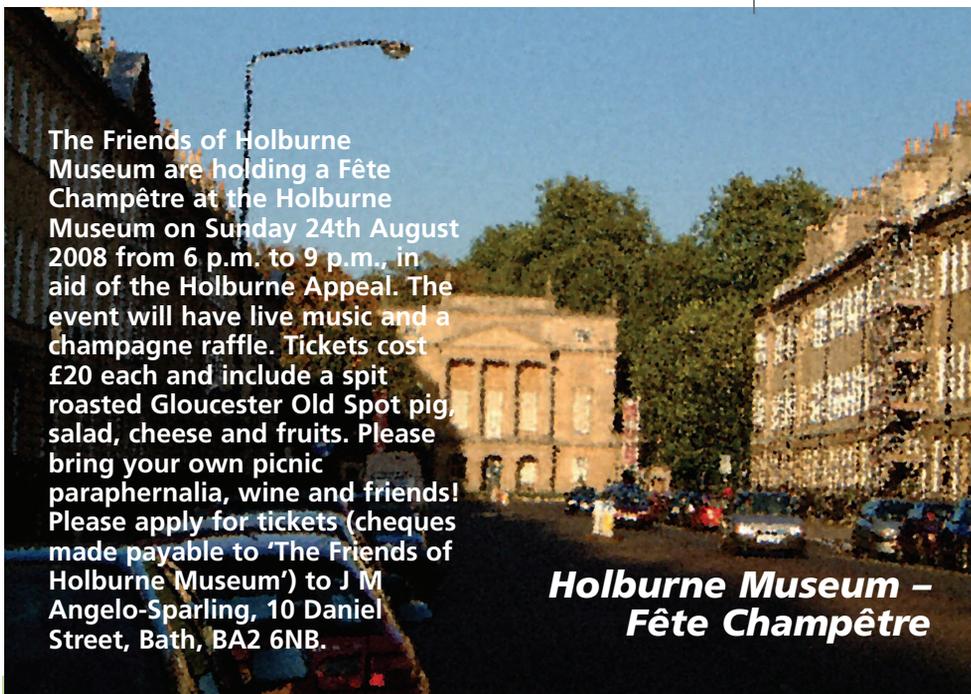
Meetings are ongoing between the Council and the Police to establish a way ahead.

PERA members' comments on this issue would be very welcome. Please let the Committee know your views on this matter.

PERA Christmas party

A date for your diary Following the success of last years' party we have decided to hold this years' party once again at the Bath Bowls Club, Pulteney Road on 8th December 2008 from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. Tickets will be priced at £6 to include drinks and nibbles. More details to follow in the next newsletter in the autumn.





The Friends of Holburne Museum are holding a Fête Champêtre at the Holburne Museum on Sunday 24th August 2008 from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m., in aid of the Holburne Appeal. The event will have live music and a champagne raffle. Tickets cost £20 each and include a spit roasted Gloucester Old Spot pig, salad, cheese and fruits. Please bring your own picnic paraphernalia, wine and friends! Please apply for tickets (cheques made payable to 'The Friends of Holburne Museum') to J M Angelo-Sparling, 10 Daniel Street, Bath, BA2 6NB.

Holburne Museum – Fête Champêtre

Federation of Bath Residents' Association (FoBRA)

Following the leadership changes earlier this year, Henry Brown (Circus Area Residents) and Nigel Websper, the new Chairman and Vice-Chairman, have met up with about half the 22 member associations to date, to review the Federation's activities. The main issues that have emerged so far are Transport/Parking/Pollution; Rubbish Collection & Cleanliness of the Town Centre; Night-Time Economy; Crime & Anti-Social Behaviour; Open Spaces; Heritage & Planning. When the review is complete, the aim is for FoBRA to agree policies on each of these, and use its influence to effect change for the benefits of all residents.

Rubbish

We are aware that rubbish bags are frequently being left out overnight, for collection the following day, and are getting attacked by scavenging animals and birds. In addition, some people are leaving supermarket bags alongside litter bins, which again are frequently torn apart by animals.

Unfortunately the resulting mess degrades the surroundings and creates an unsightly mess. When you spot neighbours regularly doing this do please advise them on when and where rubbish bags and recycling waste should be put out (and in what sort of container). It is also noted that many people are not aware that bags and recycling are now collected on their normal collection day, even if it falls on a Bank Holiday. Christmas Day and New Years day are the only exceptions.

Committee members continue to bombard the Council with requests that they empty the litter bins in Henrietta Park and on Great Pulteney St at weekends and maintain a suitable frequency of pavement and gutter sweeping of the streets in our area. If you wish to raise an issue with the Council with regard to litter and waste collection please send an e-mail to councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk or call on 01225 39 40 41.

As at the time this newsletter went to press the Council were promising to arrange for all the gutters in Daniel St to be swept and cleared of weeds and debris. Apparently the parked cars need to be cleared from the street first before this can take place and residents notified in advance. The Committee will continue to press for this but adding your voice to the matter will strengthen the argument for action.

Members' details We are aware that we may not have members' current e-mail addresses, where people have them. Please let Carole King or Chris McGinn know your e-mail address (and home address for cross reference). This way we can ensure members receive the most up to date information in between newsletters. Thank you.

Licensing

The Abbey Residents Association and the Circus Area Residents Association have had success in representing their members at recent licensing hearings for the Adventure Café and the Porter Bar, both in George Street. The Adventure Café has to retain its meals and waitress service rather than become just a pub serving alcohol and outside drinking will have to cease at the Porter Bar by 11 p.m. and outside drinkers will have to be seated and served by waiters. This will prevent large crowds of people blocking the footpath, behaving antisocially, and intimidating residents.

The licensing sub-committee determined both these applications at its hearing on 20 June. In both cases the applicants wished to remove many of their existing license conditions in a way that would have increased the impact of their operations on the area and on residents. The Police reported at the hearing that George Street is well-known as a hotspot for alcohol-fuelled antisocial behaviour. Representations from residents associations ensured an outcome that will make the city centre a safer and more pleasant place for everyone.

UK School Games comes to the Rec

The opening event for the UK School Games 2008 will take place on the Recreation Ground (in the rugby stadium area) on Thursday 28th August 2008 between 8.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m. with a fireworks finale.

Bath and Bristol are hosting this year's games with 1500 young people between the ages of 14-19, from all over the UK, competing at different venues in the area.

Work will commence on building the stage and screen on Wednesday 27th August with a dress rehearsal with lights in the evening between 8.30 p.m. and 9.30 p.m.

The breakdown will begin on Friday 29th August from 8.30 a.m. to be completed by noon. Free tickets will be available to local residents who would like to attend.

Anti-social behaviour

Because of numerous incidents of anti-social behaviour in the area we have been lobbying the Police for a greater Police presence in both Sydney Gardens and Henrietta Park.

We are pleased to announce they have agreed to this. There will, however, continue to be times when incidents occur and the Police are not there. If you spot anything please contact the Police on 0845 4567000.

Seagulls

We have received several reports of local residents feeding the seagulls.

Considering the investment made in recent years in gull management, particularly in Daniel Street, this is galling! If you spot anyone feeding gulls please do let PERA Committee members know and we will politely write to the offender.