

WIDCOMBE

NEWSLETTER

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SPRING 2015

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WIDCOMBE
BAPTIST CHURCH

Pulteney Rd, Bath, BA2 4JR, www.widcombebaptistchurch.org



Widcombe Newsletter

Published by the Widcombe Association

www.widcombeassociation.org.uk

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

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



The WA Committee

Paddy Doyle 311809

Chairman, Newsletter, Website

Liz Littlewood 333044

Secretary, FoBRA Liaison

Jeremy Boss 484794

Treasurer

Ann Ashworth 443907

Membership Sec

Siân Lewis

Chairman Events Sub-committee

David Maxwell 07807 749478

Traders' Representative

Helen Peter 334936

Streetscape

Chris Rogers 448171

Networking & Communications

Jan Shepley 834499

Planning

Richard Wales 07968 128156

Chairman, Rossiter Rd Sub-committee

Michael Wrigley 337420

Transport, Traffic & Highways

Email your Committee:

Secretary@widcombeassociation.org.uk

**Cover Photo of primroses in
Southcot Burial Ground
by Valerie Cooper**

Discounts for WA Members

Ashman Jones veterinary surgeons

10% off first consultation

Bath Lock & Key -10%

Bath Property Shop -10% on agency fees

Blazes – 5% (not installations)

Bath Spa Florists – 10%

(not Interflora, sales under £10 or
reduced items)

Core -Works Pilates - 10% off 1:1 lessons

David Maxwell Hairdressing -10%

Fab Event Management -10%

(Tickets to any Fab event)

Fine & Dandy Barbershop - 15%

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(eat-in food only)

Jessica Palmer Art Workshops -10%

Kindle Stoves -15% on logs & accessories

Moose Coffee - Double loyalty stamps
per hot drink

Kitchens of Bath - 10%

(kitchens over £3000)

Lennies - coffee for £1.50

Lumen Domus De-Clutterers -10%

Prior Park Garden Centre – 4%

St Mark's Community Centre

10% on hall hirings

Swim+Smile - 25% off first lesson

Timothy Richards Gallery - 5%+

Vibe Fitness - 10%

White Hart Restaurant - 10%

(Lunch & Dinner, Mon – Thur)

Widcombe Antiques -10%

Widcombe Dental Practice - 5%

on routine treatments (not check-ups)

Widcombe Driving School - 10%

Widcombe Pharmacy – 10%

(not prescriptions/medicines, promotions)





The Widcombe Association AGM
will be held on
Thursday 23rd April 7.30pm
in Widcombe Baptist Church Hall

President of Widcombe Social Club Sir Peter Hendy
will give a short presentation on progress with the Club's reconstruction

Following the formal meeting, there will be a hustings where you will have the opportunity to listen to and question Widcombe candidates for forthcoming Council elections

This is also a social occasion – wine and nibbles provided!

Guest tickets £3 (refunded if you join the WA on the night)

Join the best club in Widcombe



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www.thegreathallproject.org

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Calling Everyone -

Get creative for the Street Party!

For an exhibition on 7th June

"My favourite thing about Widcombe is..."

Tell us about it in a picture, a poem or
prose and you could win a prize!

Details of where/when to submit to follow



Chairman's Column

In my children's early years we lived in a Cambridgeshire village and now some twenty years on we all have happy memories of those times. We enjoyed village life and its sense of community and sometimes wondered what city life might be like. When we moved west with my job, we were fortunate enough to find a house in Widcombe, and have since been able to enjoy not only all that the city of Bath has to offer, but the rural delights of Widcombe too. Not quite a village, we thought, but getting there. Now that we have a real prospect of a 'village street' when the seemingly endless work on the Rossiter Rd scheme is complete, we can perhaps hope that Widcombe becomes more of an identifiable village, built on the secure foundations provided by shops, schools, churches, pubs and restaurants – and all of those institutions that keep our society going. Naturally we hope that the Widcombe Association (WA) can help this to happen. Many no doubt think (and with some justification) that residents' associations are for retired busybodies, but we have been trying hard to shed that image by seeking to ensure that we appeal to all sectors of the community: young, old, rich and poor. With WA involvement in the Junior School 'Hallraisers' project and hopefully more School involvement in WA events, we can start to create the cohesive village community we seek. We have seen recently how the 'Improving Widcombe' initiative has appealed to the imaginations of many, and we

already have many groups formed with different tasks to perform to make Widcombe an even better place to live in Bath: vibrant, prosperous and community-minded.

I will shortly be stepping down from the chairmanship of the Widcombe Association and would like to thank all of those wonderful committee members past and present who have made my four years in the Chair plain sailing (Well, the occasional squall, perhaps...). Our Committee members are listed on page 7, but there is also a great army of individuals who labour behind the scenes to keep the Association running, and they likewise deserve our recognition and thanks.

I feel privileged to have been in the Chair when the Rossiter Road scheme at last got under way in June, thanks to the efforts of my predecessors since the WA was founded in 1981, not least my immediate predecessor Richard Wales who remained on as Chairman of the Rossiter Road sub-committee following his term of office. I am now more than happy to hand over the reins to Jeremy Boss at the AGM on 23rd April. Jeremy is Widcombe born and bred and has Widcombe and the community very much at heart.

As I write this, chaos reigns in Widcombe and the road scheme is running at least 5 months late, but I am confident that when all is complete we will have a village street to be proud of. In the meantime let's do our best to support Widcombe's traders in testing times, and have confidence that we really will have something to celebrate at our street party on June 7th.

Paddy Doyle

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Secretary's Notes

This has been a very busy six months for your committee, as you will see from other articles in this Newsletter. One of our new initiatives, part of our endeavour to include as many members of the community as possible in maintaining and enhancing Widcombe as a wonderful place to live, is the 'Improving Widcombe' plan. The two meetings we have held so far have been well attended with a lot of interest and good ideas as to what we should be doing. We are currently setting up some groups of people to work in various ways to this end, but it is not too late to get involved. Do let us know if you would like to find out more or be a part of this enterprise.

We are always ready to welcome volunteers be it to join the main committee, help with our many and varied events or to swell the numbers of the little band of people who run our stall at three or four events during the year. I am hoping that someone will be willing to take over the running of the stall in due course. Having the stall at local events provides us with a good opportunity to promote WA, to raise some funds through sales of our books and lovely Widcombe cards and, of course, is an excellent opportunity to meet and get to know other members. We have had a good response to the 'Talking Points', which we circulate following each committee meeting. This seems to be an effective way to keep in contact with our members so they are up to date with what is going on. Please keep your comments, questions and ideas coming in to me – I will always pass them on to the appropriate committee member for a response.

Liz Littlewood

Treasurer

Report for Year Ended 31 December 2014

(see also Summary Accounts p.26)

The Association's finances remain sound. For the year to 31 December 2014 our income exceeded our expenditure by £4,790. This is because of a successful series of events, including the Opera (total surplus of around £3,350), and additional grants received (totalling £9,978) for the work of Energy Efficient Widcombe.

We have total net assets of £17,614 (last year £12,039) including £111 (last year £111) in a fund

reserved for the Abbey Cemetery.

Where we get our money from We have a total income, including from subscriptions, grants and events of £30,974 (last year £23,312). Grants were received this year from BANES £180 to support the Mummerys and from BANES (£3,688), BGC (£2,290), Continuum (£2,000) and Quartet (£2,000) all to support the work of Energy Efficient Widcombe.

How we spend our money Our income was used to fund our activities and events, cover our running costs and make donations to relevant local causes. Donations in 2014 were made to Widcombe Junior School Robotics (£200), Widcombe Junior School Great Hall (£318) and St Thomas Church (£216). 2014 saw the continued work of the Energy Efficient Widcombe (EEW) initiative with new income in the year of £9,987 and expenditure of £7,586. Further work is continuing in 2015 funded by the grants received in 2014.

The Widcombe Choir goes from strength to strength with income fully covering the choir's running costs since its formation.

For the first time we have developed a Widcombe Calendar and post cards for sale. Once final sales are received in January this will show a reasonable surplus.

The remainder of funds were used to run our events and clubs (£8,731), administration costs and general purchases (£2,490).

We are holding some additional reserves in case funds are needed to support the completion of the Rossiter Road scheme and to underwrite the proposed Widcombe Street Party.

A summary of the accounts is included below. These have been subject to an independent review. Full accounts, are available at the AGM and subsequently on our website.

Membership Renewal Membership is due for the 2014 year from 1 January 2014 at the new rates of £10 for Housholds, £20 for Businesses and £5 for individual students. So you should have now paid. Thank you for everyone that has. This can be via direct debit, standing order, Paypal (via the website site) or by cash payment to the membership secretary. Please, if you have not done so, make sure if you have a standing order that it is for the right amount of £10 (or £20 for business members) and if you pay by direct debit you must cancel any pre-existing standing orders with your bank (we can not do this for you).

Jeremy Boss

Widcombe Celebrates - Sunday 7th June!



The Widcombe Mummers will be taking part - here seen looking forward to the 'café society' in Widcombe Parade at their New Year gig at Widcombe Manor

We've been waiting 34 years for this party - so let's make it a good one! The spectacular festival that was Widcombe Rising certainly put Widcombe Parade on the map. Now it falls to the community of Widcombe to come together and make that map something to be proud of by helping to regenerate a High Street which, vibrant as it is, has suffered for far too long from the noise, nuisance and pollution of through traffic. This is a party organised by the community, for the community, bringing together residents, schools, churches and community groups to celebrate our new Parade and enjoy our pubs, cafes, restaurants and shops - as well as a wonderful programme of music and entertainment from both new and familiar bands and performers - and **Lady M** has graciously promised to emerge from retirement just for us! We're closing the Parade to

traffic for the day and there'll be a full 6 hours of frolics and fun **starting at 1:30pm**. Whether you come and help us organise and run this historic event, or simply come and celebrate with us, make sure you come! And if you have a Widcombe connection and can play an instrument, sing, dance, do a turn or tell a joke, then it's not too late to support us by being part of the entertainment - **call Chris on 01225 448171** or email chris@lyncombecourt.com with your offer of support!

Chris Rogers

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Rossiter Road Scheme



In the October newsletter I wrote about the project moving at “breathtaking speed” and the efforts of the contractors “to keep us all informed”. Almost as soon as the Newsletter went to press, it was revealed that the contractors had encountered “financial difficulties” and work stopped. Unfortunately, ours was only one of several projects that ERH were undertaking for the Council and it seems that overall the workforce has reduced and that the remaining personnel are being juggled between projects. The result is, that although work has recommenced, progress is slow and target dates are not being met. At the time of writing, works on the south side of the Parade (*see completed stretch in picture*) which, under the revised programme, were

due to be finished by the end of February were then scheduled for the 13th March and at the time of writing have already yet again overrun. We’ve been promised completion by the end of April but, in the absence of a detailed implementation plan, this seems extremely unlikely. By the time you read this, we might have a clearer picture. In the meantime, in the absence of a plan, communications can be summed up as “too little too late”.

What a pity that after over 30 years of campaigning, implementation of the scheme is causing such inconvenience for local residents and, worse still, such a dreadful impact on our traders.

Richard Wales

Rail Electrification

Works on the project to electrify the GWR line from London Paddington to Bristol are due to start this summer. There will be short term impacts including line closures as the track is lowered in places to provide height for the overhead gear. There will also be long terms impacts including the introduction of the pylons and overhead wires, and the need to carry out some felling or trimming of vegetation adjacent to the line. Given its status as a World Heritage Site and Conservation Area, special supports for the overhead lines are being designed for the section through Bath, but the designs are

not yet available. A further major issue is that, for safety reasons, all road and pedestrian bridges over the railway will have to have their parapets raised. In Bath many of these structures are listed or are protected, being within the Conservation Area. Again, the detailed designs for the new parapet extensions have not yet been made available. Network Rail, which is responsible for the electrification of the line, is discussing the design issues with Bath and North East Somerset Council and with English Heritage. Regular monthly drop-in sessions are held in the Guildhall, open to all, where Network Rail staff are available to discuss all aspects of the project.

Michael Wrigley



Planning

Widcombe Parade – recognition as local centre

One of the issues we have raised in response to the Council's Place-making Plan Options is that the area currently defined on the Local Plan Proposals Map as Widcombe's local centre is too restrained, particularly now that we have the new Morrisons store at the eastern end. We have made the case that it should be extended east to include this (and the White Hart) and west to include the Widcombe Surgery and offices.

We have registered WA support for the protection from future development of a number of important local green spaces. We are also supporting a number of allotment sites in Widcombe, being promoted by Virginia Williamson, who has done a great deal of research into these sites.

Widcombe Old School The WA were approached towards the end of last year regarding a concept for redevelopment of Widcombe Old School, adjacent to St Mark's cemetery. It is currently in use by Tim

be for between six and eight townhouses which should not be higher than the existing building. Access could be an issue as well as the loss of employment space - which Council policy seeks to protect.

Beechen Cliff School Floodlights Sadly, the floodlighting to the all-weather MUGA pitches continue to cause considerable disturbance and distress to local residents – apparently often unnecessarily (when the pitches are not in use). There has been no evidence of the usage of the independent switching which we understood to have been installed. This indicates that the management plan the school was required to prepare is not being put into effect and is also in our view a clear breach of their planning conditions which require compliance with the lighting institute's guidelines. This has been brought to the attention of the Council and we wait to see what enforcement action will be taken. At the event to showcase the School's new master plan (see p.16) a number of discussions were had with governors and the design consultants who were generally sympathetic with the concerns of local residents over the problems with the current floodlights and there seemed a real interest in finding solutions.

Jan Shepley



Richards' architectural modelling practice, but the building is understood to be in poor condition. No plans have yet been seen but the owner is proposing to demolish the existing building and to build new homes on the site. The most likely plan would



As we go to press, we expect the imminent confirmation of the Traffic Order for the introduction of the extended 20MPH zone within Lyncombe and Widcombe. WA has requested that 20mph zones extend

from Widcombe Parade to just beyond the Tynning on Widcombe Hill, and just beyond Perrymead/Church St on Ralph Allen Drive. We have also emphasised the importance of minimising signage to avoid street clutter.

MW



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WA Membership

Membership currently stands in excess of **860** individual members, in over **500 households**.

Many thanks to those members who have paid their subscription promptly but I regret to say that some members have yet to pay their subscription for 2015. Please check your membership card and if it is not valid to the end of January 2016, do get in touch to renew your subscription by cash or cheque for £10 per household. We also now have the facility to pay online. Even better, a direct debit is an excellent way of ensuring that your membership payments are up to date. A form can be downloaded from the website and this process is fully supported by the direct debit guarantee.

Increasingly we are using an on-line system to manage the membership database and send messages to members. Please do not unsubscribe to those messages as that will remove you from the database altogether (which we wouldn't want!); if you don't wish to receive emails from us, let us know and we will update the system.

For any queries about your membership, please email me:

membership@widcombeassociation.org.uk



One of the significant benefits of membership is the discount given by many of the local traders. We have more **new businesses** opening up in Widcombe, bringing business membership to over 60.

We welcome **Moose Coffee** to Claverton Buildings. Owner Tim Sellick is happy to offer WA members double loyalty stamps on hot drinks. For professional car body repairs, why not consider **ChipsAway**, now at Ferry Court, Ferry Lane. Stuart Fowler would be pleased to provide a free estimate for dealing with those scuffs, scrapes and scratches. See Stuart's ad below. **Widcombe Therapy Room**, just off the Parade in Millbrook Place, provides a tranquil space for a range of psychotherapy services, reflexology and holistic massage. WA members have the benefit of a 10% discount.

We are sorry to report that Simon Wynne is moving on from The Royal Oak and we wish him success in his future endeavours.

A full list of discounts provided by local businesses is shown on p.7 and on the website. Do give our traders all your support, particularly whilst the road improvement works continue.

Ann Ashworth

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Improving Widcombe

Since the members' meetings in December and January work has been proceeding on the implementation of the ideas for Improving Widcombe. Future action is being planned under four main topics : Entry to Widcombe, Environment and Planning, Transport and Widcombe Parade. Small groups are being formed from those who volunteered at the two meetings, and these groups will be charged both with promoting improvements to Widcombe, and seeking action to address problems that are identified within the area.

Much of the work identified is already underway, for example, the improvement of local signing to and within Widcombe led by Sarah Lewis, and the completion of the works in the Parade and on Rossiter Road with the sub- committee headed by Richard Wales. New groups are being formed, notably a rail group that will be keeping a close watch on the potential impacts on Widcombe of the rail electrification programme, a cycling group to promote cycling within Widcombe, and a group to promote sustainability.

Other projects that continue to be pursued under the umbrella of Improving Widcombe are improvements to the underpass by the Churchill roundabout (Helen Peter) and new lighting on the Ha'penny bridge (Paddy Doyle). Jan Shepley and Mike Wrigley will continue to monitor and report on planning and transport issues. There is also interest in forming a group to promote improvements to the natural environment, and another to focus attention on the western parts of Widcombe. Finally a group is being formed that will consider the river and the canal as they pass through Widcombe, both in terms of access and use.

It is anticipated that once the Rossiter Road scheme is finally completed, the sub-committee that has pressed for the implementation of the project will be retained, perhaps in a different form and with different people, to monitor the operation of the scheme and to promote further improvements.

A summary of the groups and people who have agreed to be on them will be posted on the website shortly. Anyone else who would like to be involved in any of the groups should contact me. (info@wrigleyassociates.co.uk).

Michael Wrigley



Michael, Sue & Liz
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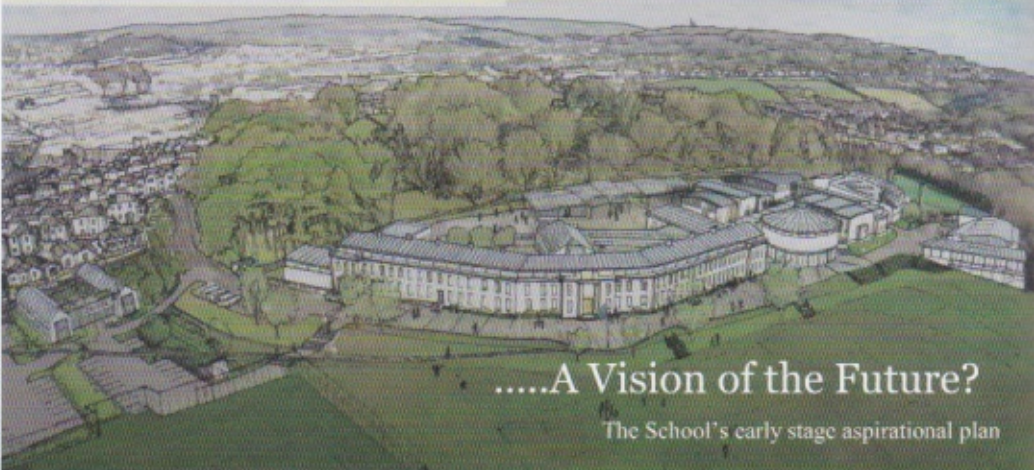
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Beechen Cliff School



.....A Vision of the Future?

The School's early stage aspirational plan

There was a good turnout on 19th March for the event at OFSTED-rated 'outstanding' Beechen Cliff School to publicise their new master plan for the development of the school over the next 10 years. The plans are certainly aspirational, one of the four values the school seeks to embrace (along with compassion, independence and balance) and the concept designs are striking.

Headmaster Andrew Davies explained that there are no plans to increase the school roll, which has now reached 1200, but that the spatial needs of this number of pupils exceed the current provision by about 1,000 sq m, in relation to modern standards. Much of the existing accommodation is unsuitable for delivering today's curriculum and is also in poor condition.

The new plans, which have been realised with the help of consultants Batterham Matthews Design Ltd (studios in Batheaston), are bold and befitting of a school of the high reputation of Bath's former grammar school.

The proposals involve a new science centre, theatre/performing arts space, new sports centre and pavilion and construction of an additional floor across the whole of the original main building, to accommodate arts studios. The plans also include a new boarding house (for 40-45 boarders) for which 3 siting options are suggested - two on either end of the lower playing field alongside Greenway Lane (which WA would not support, as we have supported Greenway in its efforts to have this field designated a local green space) and the third to replace

an existing bungalow at the main entrance to the School. No parking will be provided to serve this building.

Other aspects of the plan involve the use of the current tennis courts to create more on-site parking (an increase of 195% according to the architects) a loop road for access instead of the present cul-de-sac and the creation of two new pitches on levelled lower fields, one of which to be all-weather (but unlit, we are assured) and providing new tennis courts, available for use by the local community.

The school hopes that this aspirational plan will provide the basis for funding bids and planning applications and will be achievable over the course of the next ten years.

The school is to be applauded for its clarity of vision for its future and these early designs are exciting. There is, however, the potential for the amenity of local residents to be affected, and assessments will have to be made not only of the impacts of the development proposals on surrounding residential areas but on the World Heritage City. In addition, there may be concerns particularly in relation to accompanying lighting of the site and buildings on what is a very prominent location.

Feedback on the concept plan was invited, particularly on the location of the boarding house. The WA will be making its own comments, and you can send yours via email to

headmaster@beechencliff.org.uk.

Jan Shepley

Summer Events 2015—A Feast of things to do!

One of the reasons that Widcombe is such a fantastic place to live is that there is always so much going on and the Events Committee has been as busy as ever in putting together a programme for the coming spring and summer. As well as our own bespoke events, we are delighted to spread the word about all the exciting things going on, so please keep a regular eye on 'What's on in Widcombe' on the WA website to see what is happening and sign up for our email alerts.

So what do we have in store for you this year? Without doubt, our showcase event of the year is

the **Widcombe Street Party on Sunday 7 June**. Everyone is invited and it's our way of saying 'thank-you' to all residents for their patience and support during the renovations to our high street. It will be a celebration of Widcombe by its residents for its residents, and we are working with businesses, schools, churches and community groups to give everyone the opportunity to be involved.

We will be **'Beating the Bounds'** again this year on **Sunday 10 May**. As well as the full scenic walk of the boundary, there will be a shorter, family-friendly, route complete with treasure hunt. Lady Margaret will be sending us on our merry way, along with a song or two from the Widcombe Choir. The Junior School will be serving teas and cakes to hungry walkers, as well as organising an Art Competition and a performance from the Widcombe Mummers; the whole event will be supporting the Junior School Hall Raisers Appeal.

An exciting development this year is the launch of the **'Widcombe Wobblers' cycling group**. Rides will be gently paced and reasonably short, with the aim of visiting at least one hostelry en route. Anyone who can ride a bike can take part, but do keep an eye on the website for any alterations to plans due to bad weather.

We are also working much more closely with the **Widcombe and Lyncombe History Society** in planning and promoting talks. There will be a number of 'Guest Speakers', with illustrated talks of general interest as well as a 'Research Group', who will

meet to share 'work in progress' on the local history of Widcombe and Lyncombe. Added to this, there will be a number of local history walks to surprise and enlighten us about the fascinating history of the place where we live.



And keep the **weekend of the 26-28 June** free in your diary as we have two exclusive **members-only events**: Bath Opera performing *La Traviata* in the grounds of Widcombe Manor (by kind permission of the owners) as well as beautiful **'Open Gardens'** to visit on Widcombe Hill. And while we're on the gar-

den theme, make a note to come to Fairstowe's **enchanted garden on 5th July**. Bring a blanket and a picnic and enjoy cool music and spectacular views of Bath.

There are so many more exciting things going on that you can read about in the What's On, including the continuing programme of amazing talks at the Garden Club, the fabulous Widcombe Choir, a community ceilidh at St Marks, a fascinating talk on **'Wild Widcombe'** courtesy of Professor David Goode, and a visit to Timothy Richards' model workshop. Added to these, our tried and tested favourites of the Summer Art Trail, Pass on a Poem and the Chapels Trail in September.

Our events need volunteers to help with everything from setting out chairs, selling tickets, tending a bar - so please get in touch if you would like to go on our volunteer list.

Siân Lewis

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Bath Opera's La Traviata comes to Widcombe Manor

WA Events is delighted to announce that Widcombe Manor is to be this Summer's venue for our annual flagship event, and this year Bath Opera bring us La Traviata, Verdi's stirring tale of love and sacrifice. There will be performances on **Friday 26th and Saturday 27th June at 7:30pm** in a marquee in the grounds of the Manor and tickets are priced at £30 (under 18s and students £20). WA members have priority booking until the end of April and can buy tickets online by following the What's On link on the web site - or by calling Denise on 01225 448171 to pay by cheque. If you're not a WA member, this would be a good time to join (only £10, do it online) to make sure you get tickets before they sell out - which they will, very quickly!

Widcombe Manor's owners invite you to enjoy the gardens and picnic in the grounds of the Manor from 4:30pm. Dress in Black Tie (optional) and order bubbly from our Champagne Bar (mandatory!) to make this the most memorable cultural event of your Summer...

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the **Annual General Meeting of the Widcombe Association** will be held at

Widcombe C of E Junior School, Pulteney Rd, Bath
on **Thursday, 23rd April, 2015 at 7.30pm** to transact the following business:

1. To receive the Chairman's Report
2. To receive the Treasurer's Report and approve the Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 2014.
3. To reappoint Marilyn Philips as Examiner of Accounts
4. To elect Jeremy Boss as Chairman
5. To re-elect Jeremy Boss as Treasurer

Presentation on Widcombe Social Club by Sir Peter Hendy
Hustings: Candidates standing for election as Councillors for Widcombe Ward.

Minutes of the 2014 AGM will be made available at the meeting, and can be read now on the WA website: www.widcombeassociation.org.uk

Liz Littlewood , Secretary



Orthodox Parish of Saint John of Kronstadt

Vigil: 5pm Saturdays
Divine Liturgy: 10.30am Sundays
at St Matthews Church, Widcombe Hill

www.bath-orthodox.org.uk

Archdiocese of Thyateira and Great Britain

The Friends of Widcombe Surgery



Our main objectives are to help improve services by giving feedback to the practice and providing patients with the means to make positive suggestions about their own health. We also encourage health education activities.

To volunteer to help or for more information call at the surgery or check our website:

www.widcombesurgery.nhs.uk

or contact

Margaret Dagger 01225 835604

modins@tiscali.co.uk



MAGDALEN CHAPEL

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Weekly Sunday Services:

8.00 am Holy Communion (Book of Common Prayer)

10.00 am Sung Eucharist (Common Worship)








Chaplain: Fr David Prothero
















This Logo Indicates a WA EVENT

What's On In Widcombe Spring and Summer 2015

Monday 30 March – Thursday 2 April	Camp Teepee Outdoor adventures for 6-11 year olds. www.paragonschool.co.uk/Camp-Teepee.asp
Wednesday 1 April 6:00pm for 6:30pm	Bath Comedy Festival Amy Howerska – Sasspot Amy was raised by a pack of wild skydivers... in Swansea. Tickets £5 Ring O Bells, 10 Widcombe Parade, Bath BA2 4JT
Wednesday 1 April 7:30pm for 8:00pm	Bath Comedy Festival Matt Green – Groom For Improvement Matt's now a husband and not too sure... Tickets £8/£5 concs Ring O Bells, 10 Widcombe Parade, Bath BA2 4JT
Wednesday 1 April 9:00pm for 9:30pm	Bath Comedy Festival Gary Colman – Tickling Mice Did you know that only rats and humans laugh when tickled? Tickets £5 Ring O Bells, 10 Widcombe Parade, Bath BA2 4JT
Thursday 2 April 6:00pm for 6:30pm	Bath Comedy Festival Sam Carrington – The Labour of Laugh When we aren't at work we relax thanks to others working... Tickets £5 Ring O Bells, 10 Widcombe Parade, Bath BA2 4JT
Thursday 2 April 7:00pm	Eucharist of The Last Supper Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
Thursday 2 April 7:30pm	Maundy Thursday Contemplative Service St Matthew's Church, Widcombe Hill, BA2 6AA
Thursday 2 April 7:30pm for 8:00pm	Bath Comedy Festival Bec Hill – Bec to the Drawing Board A mix of stand-up, storytelling and paper-puppetry. Tickets £8/£5 concs Ring O Bells, 10 Widcombe Hill, Bath BA2 4JT
Thursday 2 April 9:00pm for 9:30pm	Bath Comedy Festival Neil McFarlane – Tell It Like It Isn't Remember McFarlane from last year's programme? Tickets £6/£4 concs Ring O Bells, 10 Widcombe Parade, Bath BA2 4JT
Friday 3 April 9:00am	Good Friday Cross Walk to Bath Abbey St Thomas à Becket Church, Church Street, BA1 6AZ
Friday 3 April 10:30am	Good Friday Communion Service Widcombe Baptist Church, Pulteney Road, BA2 4JR
Friday 3 April 12:00noon – 3:00pm	Good Friday Reflection St Thomas à Becket Church, Church Street, BA1 6AZ
Friday 3 April 2:00pm, 3:00pm	Walk The Stations of the Cross Celebration of the Passion Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
Friday 3 April 2:30pm – 4:00pm	Easter Egg Hunt Widcombe Baptist Church, Pulteney Road, BA2 4JR
Friday 3 April 5:30pm for 6:30pm	Bath Comedy Festival The Real MacGuffins & Fol Espoir Inspired by the 1942 pamphlet for American soldiers on their way to Blighty. Tickets £8/£5 concs Bath Cricket Club, North Parade Bridge Road, BA2 4EX
Friday 3 April 7:30pm for 8:30pm	Bath Comedy Festival Ronnie Golden – New Age Pensioner Tickets £8/£6 concs Bath Cricket Club, North Parade Bridge Road, BA2 4EX
Saturday 4 April 4:00pm for 5:00pm	Bath Comedy Festival Helen Lederer – Losing It Helen talks about her new novel, followed by Q&A and book signing. Tickets £8/£6 concs Bath Cricket Club, North Parade Bridge Road, BA2 4EX
Saturday 4 April 7:00pm	Easter Vigil, Eucharist and Festival of Light Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
Saturday 4 April 6:45pm for 7:30pm	Bath Comedy Festival New Act Competition – Grand Final The nine best acts battle it out judged by a panel of comedy heavyweights. Tickets £8.50 Bath Cricket Club, North Parade Bridge Road, BA2 4EX
Sunday 5 April 8:00am, 10:00am	Easter Day Holy Communion Sung Eucharist Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
Sunday 5 April 8:00am, 10:30am	Easter Day Holy Communion St Thomas à Becket Church, Church Street, BA1 6AZ
Sunday 5 April 10:30am	Easter Family Service Widcombe Baptist Church, Pulteney Road, BA2 4JR
Sunday 5 April 6:00pm – 7:00pm	Contemporary Guest Service and Café (opens 5:30pm) St Matthew's Church,

<p>Sunday 5 April 6:30pm for 7:00</p>	<p>Bath Comedy Festival Nick Doody One of the brightest live performers and comedy writers. Tickets £8/£5 concs Bath Cricket Club, North Parade Bridge Road, BA2 4EX</p>
<p>Sunday 5 April 8:30pm for 9:00pm</p>	<p>Bath Comedy Festival Jess Robinson – The Mighty Voice Join the star of BBC1's Dead Ringers, Impressions Show and Little Voice. Tickets £10/£7 concs Bath Cricket Club, North Parade Bridge Road, BA2 4EX</p>
<p>Monday 6 April 6:00pm for 6:30pm</p>	<p>Bath Comedy Festival Carey Marx – Abominable Tearing himself to pieces, putting them back together: an abominable mess. Tickets £8/£5 concs Bath Cricket Club, North Parade Bridge Road, BA2 4EX</p>
<p>Monday 6 April 8:00pm for 8:30pm</p>	<p>Bath Comedy Festival Arthur Smith – Sings Leonard Cohen Arthur and The Smithereens sing The Extended Mix of Cohen songs. Tickets £15/£12 concs Bath Cricket Club, North Parade Bridge Road, BA2 4EX</p>
<p> Wednesday 15 April 7:30pm</p>	<p>History Talk by Tony Coverdale Restoration of Salford Brass Mill, Listed Building and Ancient Monument. Tickets £3 on the door to include tea, coffee and biscuits Widcombe Baptist Church, Pulteney Road, BA2 4JR</p>
<p>Thursday 16 April</p>	<p>Paragon Art School Art workshop for 8-11 year olds. www.paragonschool.co.uk/Paragon-Art-School.asp</p>
<p> Thursday 16 April 7:30pm</p>	<p>Wild Widcombe Local resident Professor David Goode describes the remarkable variety of plants, birds and other creatures that thrive within green Widcombe. Tickets £3 on the door to include tea, coffee and biscuits Widcombe Baptist Church, Pulteney Road, BA2 4JR</p>
<p>Friday 17 April</p>	<p>Paragon Art School Art workshop for 4-7 year olds. www.paragonschool.co.uk/Paragon-Art-School.asp</p>
<p>Sunday 19 April 10:00am – 4:30pm</p>	<p>World Heritage Day Free to Discovery Card holders. Prior Park Landscape Garden, Ralph Allen Drive, BA2 5AH</p>
<p>Sunday 19 April 12:00noon – 2:30pm</p>	<p>Widcombe Mummers perform on Bath Heritage Day Prior Park Landscape Garden, Ralph Allen Drive, BA2 5AH</p>
<p> Wednesday 22 April 7:00pm</p>	<p>Traditional Architecture in Oman Model maker Timothy Richards focuses on his specially commissioned series of large models for the National Museum of Oman. Tickets £6 in advance (to include a glass of wine) 01225 448171 Widcombe Old School, Alton Place, BA2 4PR</p>
<p> Wednesday 22 April 7:30pm</p>	<p>Widcombe Garden Club Colour in the Garden Jane Moore, Head Gardener, The Bath Priory Tickets £4/NVA members £3 on the door Prior Park Garden Centre's Secret Garden Café, BA2 4NF</p>
<p> Thursday 23 April 7:30pm</p>	<p>WIDCOMBE ASSOCIATION AGM Candidates for election as Widcombe councillors will be invited to take part in a brief hustings. Comments and ideas from members welcome. Members free. Guests £3.00 per head (refunded if one joins on the night) Widcombe Baptist Church, Pulteney Road, BA2 4JR</p>
<p>Saturday 25 April 6:30pm – 10.00pm</p>	<p>Community Ceilidh An evening of Scottish/Irish folk music, singing and traditional dancing. Tickets on the door: Adults £5, Students £3, Under 16s £3 St Mark's Community Centre, St Mark's Road, BA2 4PA</p>
<p> Sunday 26 April 10:45am</p>	<p>Widcombe Wobblers Cycle Ride Along the canal to the Wheelwright Arms and back through the tunnel, a gentle 14-mile cycle ride. Depart outside Prior Park Garden Centre, BA2 4NF</p>
<p>Friday 1 May 9:30am – 11:30am</p>	<p>Open Morning Prospective parents and pupils are invited to visit the school. Paragon School, Lyncombe House, Lyncombe Vale, BA2 4LT</p>
<p> Sunday 10 May 1:30pm</p>	<p>Beating the Bounds Walk the scenic boundaries of Widcombe, sent off by Lady Margaret, with a song or two from the Widcombe Choir. Look out for treasure hunt clues, followed by tea and cakes at the Junior School, an Art Competition and performance by the Widcombe Mummers. Donations to the Junior School Great Hall Appeal. Meet at Ferry Lane (back of the Cricket Ground by the river), BA2 4HS</p>

	Friday 15 May 7:00pm for 7:30pm	40th Anniversary Auction of Promises Widcombe Infant School, Archway Street, BA2 4JG
	Friday 15 May 6:00pm – 6:30pm	Widcombe Choir The Choir performs at Bath's Music Festival Party in the City. Bath Central United Reformed Church, 7 Argyle Street, BA2 4BA
	Friday 15 May 7:00 – 8:00pm	Widcombe Mummers The Mummers perform at Bath's Music Festival Party in the City. Near Bath Abbey
	Saturday 16 May Sunday 17 May 10:30am – 5:30pm	Widcombe Art Trail Over 50 artists and artisans display in 14 venues: paintings, photographs, ceramics, textiles and jewellery, workshops and demonstrations. Art Trail map and brochure to be distributed in Widcombe. Teas available. Further details: www.widcombeartrail.com
	Saturday 16 May Sunday 17 May 10:30am – 5:30pm	Open Garden at Violet Bank Farm To coincide with the Widcombe Art Trail with tea and cake available. Art Trail free; Open Garden £3 in aid of Dorothy House Hospice. Violet Bank Farm, Prospect Road, Widcombe Hill, BA2 6AY
	Sunday 17 May 6:30pm	Widcombe Social Club AGM Widcombe Junior School, Pulteney Road, BA2 4JG
	Thursday 21 May 7:30pm	History Research Group Margaret Burrows continues the story of Claverton Street from the Old Bridge to Spring Gardens Road. Tickets £1.50 on the door. Widcombe Baptist Church, Pulteney Road, BA2 4JR
	Saturday 23 May Sunday 24 May Monday 25 May	Bear Flat Artists Exhibition Details: www.bearflatartists.co.uk Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
	Wednesday 27 May Thursday 28 May	Camp Teepee Outdoor adventures for 6 – 11 year olds. www.paragonschool.co.uk/Camp-Teepee.asp
	Sunday 7 June 12:30pm	ARCH and St Mark's Road Group Street Party Details: www.widcombestwest.uk St Mark's Road, BA2 4PA
	Sunday 7 June 1:30pm – 7:30pm	WIDCOMBE STREET PARTY Celebrate the completion of Widcombe's new traffic scheme with musical and theatrical performances, craft and market stalls, food, drink, the Widcombe Mummers and a special guest appearance by Lady Margaret! Widcombe Parade closed to traffic on the day. Widcombe Parade, WA2 4JR
	Sunday 7 June 6:30pm	Choral Evensong & Benediction Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
	Tuesday 9 June 7:30 pm for 8:00pm	Pass on a Poem Lovely evening, lovely venue. Read or just listen. Refreshments available. Further information mail@radnclements.co.uk or 01225 469322. St Thomas à Becket Church, Church Street, BA1 6AZ
	Thursday 18 June 7:00pm	History Walk Stroll along Church Street, Church Lane, Prior Park and back along the Dell for a glass of wine in St Thomas à Becket churchyard. Register in advance with Ailie Wade 01225 480749. Depart in Church Street, BA1 6AZ
	Sunday 21 June	Picnic in the Park The theme of the picnic will be 'United Nations'. Children will be invited to dress in Costumes of the World. Activities, music, food, drinks, fun! Alexandra Park, BA2 4PS
	Thursday 25 June 6:30pm	Widcombe Wobblers Cycle Ride A gentle two-mile round trip evening cycle to the Hope and Anchor at Midford. Depart Prior Park Garden Centre, Prior Park Road, BA2 4NF
	Friday 26 June Saturday 27 June 7:30pm	Bath Opera presents La Traviata at Widcombe Manor Picnic in the grounds, Champagne Bar, black tie optional! Tickets £30, students, under 18 £20. Buy online or ring 01225 448171. Widcombe Manor, Church Lane, BA2 6AZ
	Sunday 27 June 2:00pm – 5:00pm	Widcombe Open Gardens Widcombe Association members only. £5 to include tea. Widcombe Hill Area

Tuesday 30 June 1:30pm – 2:30pm	Open Afternoon for Prospective Parents Widcombe Infant School, Archway Street, BA2 4JG
Saturday 4 July 7:30pm	The Chandos Singers Summer Concert of Choral Works. Details: www.chandossingers.co.uk Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
Sunday 5 July From 4:00pm	Music in an Enchanted Garden Bring a blanket and picnic, sip a glass of chilled white wine from the alfresco bar and swing to Big Ten's traditional rhythm and blues. English gardens in Summer don't come better than this! £6 on the gate, shuttle taxi from Prior Park Garden Centre Fairstowe, Widcombe Hill, BA2 6AU
 Saturday 11 July 4:00pm	Annual Festival of St Mary Magdalen Afternoon Tea followed by Evensong and Music for a Summer Evening. Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
Sunday 12 July 10:00am	Annual Festival of St Mary Magdalen Eucharist followed by Party Lunch. Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
Sunday 12 July 10:00am – 4:00pm	The Free Range Garden Party Part of the egg theatre festival for 0-5 years. http://www.theatreroyal.org.uk/the-egg Paragon School
Sunday 12 July 5:00pm	ARCH and St Mark's Road Group Picnic and Barbecue. Details: www.widcombewest.uk St Mark's Community Centre
Monday 20 July – Friday 24 July	Camp Teepee Outdoor adventures for 6 – 11 year olds. www.paragonschool.co.uk/Camp-Teepee.asp
Monday 3 August – Wednesday 5 August	Paragon Art School Three-day workshop for 8-11 year olds. www.paragonschool.co.uk/Paragon-Art-School.asp
Monday 24 August Tuesday 25 August	Paragon Art School Two-day workshop for 5-7 year olds. www.paragonschool.co.uk/Paragon-Art-School.asp
Monday 24 August – Friday 28 August	Camp Teepee Outdoor adventures for 6 – 13 year olds. www.paragonschool.co.uk/Camp-Teepee.asp
 Sunday 6 September 10:45am	Widcombe Wobblers Cycle Ride A gentle 12-mile cycle to coffee at the Jolly Sailor at Saltford and back, mostly on river path and Bristol Cycle Path. Depart Prior Park Gardening Centre
Saturday 12 September 10:30am – 2:00pm	Open House with Exhibition of the History of the Chapel Lecture by the Chaplain: 'Get to know the Chapel' with Q&As at 11:00am. Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
 Sunday 13 September 2:00pm – 5:00pm	Heritage Open Day Chapels Walk Enjoy Widcombe's fascinating religious buildings. Teas available at St Thomas à Becket Church. Information and map available in the summer from Bath Visitor Information Centre, Prior Park Garden Centre or online. Throughout Widcombe
Sunday 13 September 2:00pm – 5:00pm	Open House with Exhibition of the History of the Chapel Magdalen Chapel, Holloway, BA2 4PX
 Thursday 17 September 7:30pm	History Talk by Stuart Burroughs, Curator Bath at Work The Bath at Work Museum and the 18 th Century Real Tennis court. Tickets £3 on the door to include tea and biscuits. Widcombe Baptist Church, Pulteney Road, BA2 4JR

REGULAR EVENTS

Widcombe Choir 7.30pm Mondays at St Matthew's Church www.groupspaces.com/widcombechoir
Widcombe Garden Club Beverley Wallis 01225 484794

Widcombe & Lyncombe Local History Society Margaret Burrows 01225 480749

Sunday Night Jazz and Tapas at the Ring o'Bells 8.00pm -10.00pm 01225 448870

The Holiday Lodge: Easter, Half Term, Summer Holidays www.paragonschool.co.uk/The-Holiday-Lodge.asp

FOR FURTHER DETAILS OF CURRENT EVENTS AS THEY HAPPEN
CHECK THE WHAT'S ON LISTING OF THE WIDCOMBE ASSOCIATION WEBSITE
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BATH RESIDENTS

Federation of Bath Residents' Associations

Over a considerable period of time, FoBRA has been involved in discussions about the transport situation in Bath and was pleased to welcome the adoption of the Bath Transport Strategy in November.

Jan Shepley and Mike Wrigley, two of our WA committee members, put in a considerable amount of work with the FoBRA Working Group, looking at the response to the Council's Placemaking Plan. After a number of drafts and lively consultation with member RAs, which largely reflected agreement with the Working Group findings, a response was finally submitted in January and included comments on the Transport Strategy, use of

brownfield sites before greenfield, treating central Bath as a "Place" and a student housing policy, amongst others.

FoBRA is currently discussing its priorities for the next couple of years. WA put forward the River, footpaths and the Public Realm and getting council action on publishing strategies. The long list will be reduced to a short list at the next FoBRA meeting and the final priorities agreed at the AGM in May.

The usual Winter Reception was held in Victoria Art Gallery on Tuesday 20th Jan 2015, with guests from the Council, Police, the Business Community and Parliamentary candidates. This provided an excellent opportunity for members to speak to local leaders and to share ideas.

Liz Littlewood
Jan Shepley

Widcombe Association Summary accounts for the year ending 31 Dec 2014

These are based on the final draft sent to the Independent Examiner. Her review is incomplete at the time of going to press. There may be changes before the accounts are finalised for the AGM on 23rd Oct 2015. (See also p.10 - Treasurer's Report)

Income	£	Expenditure	£
Membership fees	3,495	Administration expenses	2,489
Grants		Donations	658
Events takings	16,236	Events and publications costs	14,130
- Garden Club £815		- Garden Club £760	
- Choir £3,938		- Choir £5,399	
- Tickets, sponsors, sales and donations £11,483		- Events costs £7,971	
Calendar & Cards	1,266	Calendar & cards	1,320
Energy Efficient Widcombe income	9,978	Energy Efficient Costs	7,586
Excess of income over expenses	(4,790)		
- Abbey Cemetery Group £0			
- Widcombe Association - £4,790			
	26,183		26,183

energy efficient widcombe

Energy Efficient Widcombe have had a busy winter, thanks to the funding they received from the Quartet Community Foundation for undertaking Thermal Imaging Surveys in local homes. This funding has allowed EEW to cover an ever greater spread of Widcombe homes in our third consecutive year of Thermal Imaging. Our hardy volunteers have headed out on many a cold winter evening and morning to discover, more often than not, that many of our residents are well insulated and very much on the ball about making their homes as warm and efficient as possible. Nevertheless, through our reports we endeavour to provide useful energy efficient advice specifically targeted at each individual home. We have received some great feedback, and reports of our recommendations being actioned: *"I am working through the recommendations and had insulated the loft access door within a day of your visit."* *"I think it was a very useful and informative exercise!"*

If you or any of your neighbours have not yet availed themselves of our Thermal Imaging Scheme, then do get in touch to book a place for next winter's tranche of surveys which will begin in November 2015, kindly funded by St John's Hospital.

Also occupying our time has been our engagement with Widcombe Junior School's Great Hall Project. Now that this project has gone back to the design drawing board, so to speak, and that the school are considering the Hall to be as much a community building as a school one, Energy Efficient Widcombe feel this is a great opportunity for Widcombe to gain a landmark sustainable building. As such, we have submitted a report detailing our vision for a new sustainable building that could act as a combination of school hall, learning centre and community space. We researched similar projects and drew together a list of practical recommendations for the Great Hall Project Team to feed into their brief to architects and designers. Energy Efficient Widcombe hope to continue to be involved throughout the procurement process.

Staying with Widcombe Junior School, now that Spring has sprung, Energy Efficient Widcombe will be heading back into the classrooms to undertake workshops with each year group. We hope to cover a range of sustainable issues, including building, food and transport. We are looking for volunteers to support these workshops, which will take place in April, so please get in touch if you are interested in helping out.

I have now been the coordinator for two months and am really enjoying the position; and with the volunteer team I am looking forward to Energy Efficient Widcombe having a very productive and active 2015.

Kate Michell, EEW Coordinator



The WA Garden Club has enjoyed a variety of fabulous speakers this season - Highlights were Mary Payne, who proved a huge success in October - as did John Tucker in November with his wreath making demo. The final date for your diary will be on the 22nd April when Jane Moore from the Priory Bath will be talking us through how to provide colour in the garden this summer. Feedback would be gratefully received as to how the club could be improved in the future. The club will be sending out a questionnaire shortly to help the selection of speakers for the next season.

Beverley Wallis

Widcombe Art Trail 16/17 May 2015



This May, doors will be opening all over Widcombe to introduce you to some fantastic art - from private home studios, to joint exhibitions in Widcombe's churches, cafes and hostels. From Magdalen Avenue to Perrymead and from the Widcombe Baptists to the top of Widcombe Hill - there's plenty to see and do.

One place to start could be at **St Matthews Church**. This group of artists includes local illustrator Caroline Crossland who has designed a free drawing activity for children. You can pick up a leaflet at any venue. Also at St Matthews Alison Potter is showing her witty figurative pots and vases, and Lorelei Hunt will be showing her stunning mosaic friezes. 'Let's Create!', is a Saturday morning children's workshop at **Widcombe Baptist Church**. Book to join local artist Catherine Helps, try your hand at cushion decorating, bracelet making and canvas painting.

Why not try batik making at **St Marks**? Or decorating a bird? In **Widcombe Parade**, Catherine Beale is offering workshops at her studio to introduce adults and children to watercolours. Create "Gravity Paintings" with step-by-step tuition or hear her explain how her portraits are formed. Action on Hearing Loss supports adults who are deaf. Visit their talented staff and volunteers who will be displaying works in their centre at the bottom of **Wells Road**. There will be a Venetian marionette theatre show on Saturday, spinning demonstrations and crochet and knitting workshops on Sunday.

Part of the joy of the trail is its pockets of countryside. Why not explore the gorgeous garden of **Violet Bank Farm** and reward yourself with a tea in aid of Dorothy House? Textile artist Sarah Lewis, jewellery maker Plodge Robertson and painter Sue

Wales will be there to chat about their work - Sue's paintings frequently grace the Royal Society of British Artists shows.

Pub venues will open from 11.30. Meet award-winning photographer Fez Parker upstairs at **The Ram**. At the **White Hart** view Kate Ward and Andrea Whitwell's works which will be joined on Saturday lunchtime by the Uke Can't Be Serious ukulele band.

At **4 Alton Place** print-maker David Birks will be demonstrating his skill at his studio, and Jessica Palmer will be showing her out-of-this-world paper installations and exhibits at **7 St Marks Road**. And last but not least, Zoe Jones has joined us as a new venue this year at **1 Magdalen Avenue**. Not all of the 50 or so artists can be mentioned here but their details, as well as workshops and children's activities, are posted on the website www.widcombearttrail.com.

Entrance to the Trail is free.

Catherine Beale



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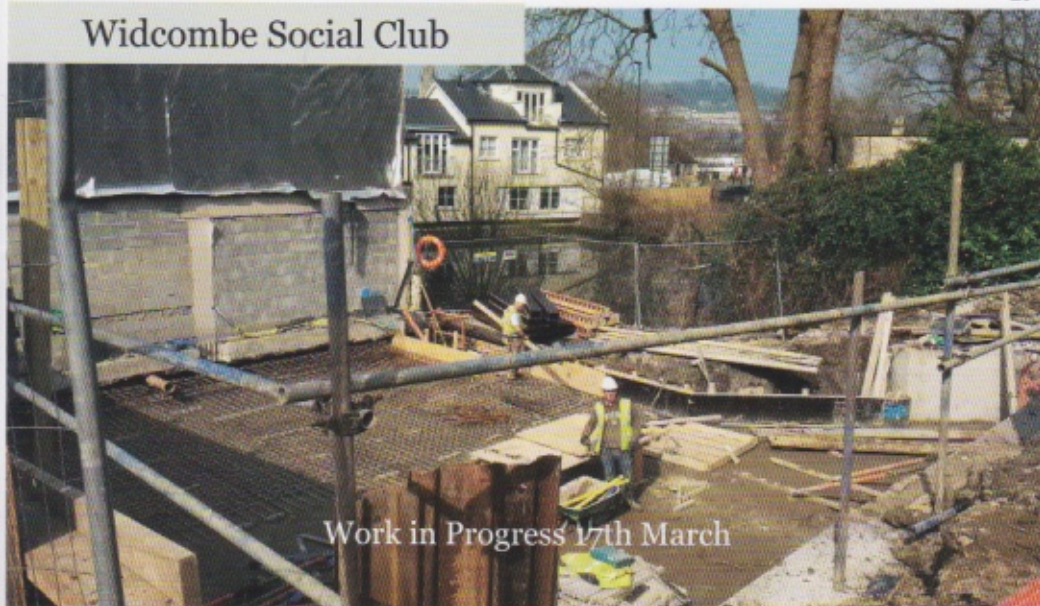
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Widcombe Social Club



Work in Progress 17th March

In such a tight area, bounded by the road and the canal basin, it has been necessary to use the Club site to work from while completing the student accommodation and Morrisons store.

Contractors are now laying foundations for the new Club premises (*see picture*) which will take up almost the whole of the site. There will be a side path, adjacent to the church wall, wide enough for a vehicle to load and unload.

The building will be on three levels, connected by stairs and a lift. There will be a public bar on the lower floor with a small outdoor deck area, and the top floor will have a large room (capacity 180) with a bar, overlooking the canal. Planning detail for interior decoration and furnishings will aim to create a comfortable, warm but unobtrusive environment with flexible and responsive lighting, and provision will be made for wifi and a hearing loop. If the fit-out budget allows, there will be flexible, demountable staging and possibly some PA and stage lighting equipment.

The new Club premises will be open 7 days a week, for daytime use as well as evenings. WSC will run its own events for members and a wider public – music, films, cabarets, dances, indoor sports (e.g. darts) family activity days, quizzes etc. Sporting teams and other interest groups will be encouraged to use the Club as a base.

Rooms will also be available for hire for all sorts of

uses including promotions (e.g. Folk Club, Comedy Festival), wedding receptions and parties, business meetings, workshops and classes, and community activities such as Mother and Toddler groups.

A professional project manager is overseeing the construction and mechanical and electrical fit-out on WSC's behalf, to ensure that the building is delivered according to the contract with the developer. Committee members and other volunteer advisers are working alongside the project manager on a detailed brief for the interior fit-out work which will be put out to tender and overseen by WSC when the building is handed over.

Others are working on plans for an initial programme of activities and events; attracting other users to hire the facilities; developing benefits and privileges of membership; and requisite marketing and PR.

The Club will soon advertise for a full-time Manager, planned to be in post from the handover of the building in order to prepare the run-up to full opening towards the end of the year.

If you have questions about the club or would like to know more, Club President **Sir Peter Hendy** will be giving a presentation at the **Widcombe Association AGM on 23rd April**. For more detailed updates and an outline of the Club's forward planning go to www.widcomesocialclub.co.uk

Nod Knowles

Widcombe Choir works Wonders!



Widcombe Choir sings at Party in the City 2014

If you Google "benefits of singing" you'll find a Hal-lelujah chorus of scientists extolling the physical, mental, spiritual and emotional advantages of singing in a choir. Local evidence of this international research is in our own Widcombe Choir that brims with endorphins, oxytocin and a general sense of well-being.

Under the direction of Su Hart, we hit musical highs and all without the rigours of auditions or sheet music.

Our choir is for anyone and everyone and we tackle a range of songs from difficult stuff like Vaughan Williams' Linden Lea or Purcell's Cakes and Ale, to easier bits of folk and blues, to cathartic chants. A lot of us don't consider ourselves at all musical and we're living proof that anybody can sing in a choir if they want to.

There are currently over thirty regulars and some – though not all – of us step out in public several times a year. Every May we perform at the Party in the City on the opening night of the Bath International Music Festival, this year at the Bath Central United Reform church next to Pulteney Bridge. Last November some twenty of us went to the Albert Hall and took part in a scratch Messiah; in December we did a performing pub crawl round Widcombe Parade. Another 2015 red-letter day will be the Widcombe Street Party on Sunday June 7. So why not come and sing with us and live a longer, happier, easier life full of tune and rhythm? We

meet every Monday in term time at St Matthew's church hall, Widcombe Hill at 7.30pm. Just turn up and the first session is free. For further details see the website - you can Google that too!

Paul Fisher



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Choir**

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www.groupspaces.com/widcombechoir

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Widcombe Association

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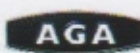
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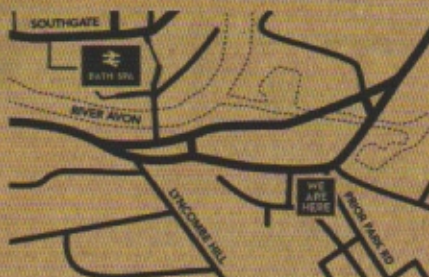
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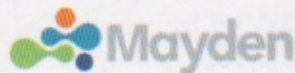
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