

WINTER 2023

Widcombe magazine

WHAT'S ON
NEWS & VIEWS



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painters and
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WINTER 2023 Widcombe magazine

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Cover illustration: Foxes by Vikki Yeates



EDITORIAL TEAM

Editor Colette Hill | Design Ralph Allen Press | Advertising Ann Ashworth
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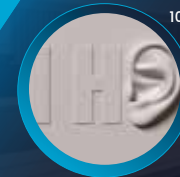
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Chair's column

Bath is renowned for its vibrant arts scene and Widcombe, which represents only a small percentage of its population, makes a considerable contribution to the cultural landscape of the city.

This issue of the magazine celebrates the arts scene in Widcombe, which covers every form, from painting and pottery to writing, designing, dancing, acting and music. We look back, too, to the historical figures, mostly literary, who had links with the area. After all, not just Jane Austen but one of her best-known fictional heroines walked through Widcombe.

We are fortunate in Widcombe to have a number of venues that can be used for a wide variety of events – music, dance, theatre and comedy, or art shows. The Widcombe Social Club has become a significant venue for local



bands and is where several choirs hold their rehearsals. St Matt's, the Baptist Church and St Mark's Community Centre are also busy venues, and no review of the arts in Widcombe is complete without reference to the Natural Theatre Company, perhaps the doyen of the arts scene in Widcombe.

The Widcombe Association takes an active role in supporting and promoting cultural events that take place through the year from classical opera to the Widcombe Mummings. We hope this edition will help you recall events that you have enjoyed in the past as well as look forward to those taking place in the future.

■ Mike Wrigley, chairman

Widcombe Heroes

Jonny Logsdon is a local architect who lives by the canal, and throughout the year, whatever the weather, he can be seen with a black bin liner picking up rubbish along an ever-growing stretch of footpaths and towpaths. He confronts the drunken, anti-social behaviour and drug-taking along the canal and assists canal boat users navigate Deep Lock. A true, unsung, local hero. *Nominated by Matthew Cook*



Isabel Clarke litter picks Widcombe Parade every Saturday, rain or shine! *Nominated by Helen Peter*

If you would like to nominate a Widcombe Hero, please email secretary@widcombeassociation.org.uk

The art of planning

The planning process is commonly viewed as a box-ticking exercise or a matter of political influence. But for the people who enter the profession hoping to make the world a better place to live and work, the role is complex and to be guided by training and experience. They will have been educated in visual and aesthetic appraisal techniques as well as the history of town and regional planning, which will be particularly valuable in dealing with new developments in conservation areas. The World Heritage status of Bath adds another layer of complexity, like having a critical tutor looking over your shoulder.

Fashions in architectural style change over time. In the post-war period and the 1960s, mistakes were made in most towns and cities, with the loss of so much of our built heritage. The 1960s version of the Southgate shopping area destroyed the original street pattern and looked much like any other modernised town centre. It took a long time to put right: perfectly good early plans for its replacement foundered on the rocks of the Georgian heritage lobby until eventually pastiche Georgian architecture was brought in by the truck-load. At least, the old townscape pattern was restored.

In Bath, change has too often been considered a dirty word and for years developers would give the city a wide berth and take their ideas elsewhere as it was seen as the most difficult place in which to secure planning permission. Many will recall the rows over the new bus station – even the very idea of moving it from Manvers Street – and attempts to get a Victorian building of little merit listed in order to thwart it.

Fortunately, recent years have seen a significant change in attitude to new development and although there have been controversies, the extension to the Holburne Museum and the Bath Spa complex have shown that modern structures, when well designed, can be satisfyingly accommodated without destroying – and can indeed complement – our heritage.

In Widcombe we are lucky to have several excellent architectural practices, each with its own particular style, which have the experience of working with our council planners and can steer clients through what can be seen as a minefield. We can also enjoy seeing examples of their 'Art' as we walk around – a showcase of how to marry the old and new. There can be hope that good quality design will continue to supplant the mediocre. ■ Jan Shepley

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Reclaiming the streets

The council acknowledged the public realm as one of Bath's most valuable assets when it produced the Public Realm and Movement Strategy in 2010. The strategy set out to calm traffic and enhance streets and other spaces in the city centre by the use of high-quality materials and exceptional design, animating the area with the movement and interaction of people.

This approach is surely as relevant to Widcombe as it is to the city centre. Indeed, these are the ideals that led Ciceley Edmunds and others to form the Widcombe Association as a campaigning group in 1981 to remove through traffic from Widcombe Parade. It took more than 30 years to get the job done and the question remains – does the scheme make the most of the potential of the Parade and its surroundings?

Undoubtedly, there has been a great improvement. Eighty percent of the traffic that used to pass through the Parade has been removed. There has been a burgeoning of street life with our cafes and pubs setting out tables and chairs, new shops opening, and more people strolling along the widened pavements. The addition of planters, the re-introduction of hanging baskets, and other work on the verges and wild-flower garden have all added to the character and vibrancy of the street.

However, it could be argued that opportunities were lost and that the design principles that underpin the strategy for the city centre were not fully extended to Widcombe. Some compromises had to be made such as the need to allow traffic through the Parade to Widcombe Hill and Prior Park Road and design decisions were made largely to ease the movement of vehicles that degrade the quality of the public realm.

Chief among these is the area in front of

the White Hart. It is a public space framed by the White Hart, the Baptist Church, the new buildings that form Widcombe Social Club, student apartments and shop, Prior Park Buildings and the shops at the eastern end of the Parade. Properly treated, this area could become a public square: imagine carefully designed paving and crossings for pedestrians – where the movement of traffic is subsidiary to these other demands. Instead, it has been designed to serve the traffic that passes through. Visually it is a large expanse of tarmac filled with painted lines directing vehicles. For pedestrians, it is a nightmare.

Urban design should be an integral part of the design of traffic management projects. The careful use of materials for paving, the minimal use of traffic signing, the alignment of the roads to restrict vehicle speed, the careful use of street lighting and the provision of street trees, all contribute to producing a successful public realm and the Widcombe Association will continue to campaign for improvements. ■ Mike Wrigley

Promoting Widcombe

The improvements brought to Widcombe Parade have again been recognised with awards from Bath in Bloom and a top award from the RHS in the It's your Neighbourhood scheme, classed as Outstanding. This was achieved through the efforts of Beverley Wallis and her team of volunteers. After many years of running the Garden Club and promoting the improvements along the Parade, Beverley is moving on to other projects, very much on a high.

Stop press: Dolemeads' thriving community garden, a little slice of tranquility, has won the RHS' South West in Bloom award. We are on something of a roll! ■ Colette Hill

Get involved!

The Widcombe Association is home to a host of social groups and clubs - from cycling with the Widcombe Wobblers, to getting grubby with the Garden Club. If singing is your thing, or walking, or local history, or quizzes orwell, you get the picture. All the events are run for you by energetic and enthusiastic volunteers – even the writing and editing of this magazine.

If you'd like to be the first to hear about events and news in your Widcombe neighbourhood, you can become an illustrious member of the WA – it costs just £10 a year per household or £20 for a business, and you'll receive regular emails about what's on. Plus, you'll be supporting your local Widcombe community. To sign up or find out more, head to <https://widcombe-association.whitefuse.net/pages/7-become-a-member-today> ■ Biddy Walcot



PS The Widcombe Association, like all residents' associations, depends entirely on the goodwill and generosity of volunteers. New volunteers are always sought, not just to keep Widcombe beautiful, but to help with the many events we run. There are also vacancies for key roles on the committee. If you would like to get involved, please email secretary@widcombeassociation.org.

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Widcombe People

In the picture

Print Room proprietor Joan Keightley's degree was in English Language and Literature, but she has, as she puts it, 'always loved images'. As a new graduate in 1960s London, she was thrilled to be offered a job in Art Publishing at The Medici Society. The company's aim since 1908 has been to bring artists' work to the wider public through high-quality printing and Joan's job was to edit a series of art pamphlets for schools. She also helped oversee the company's archive of fine art prints, from old masters to the present day, as well as commissioning new titles and engaging with artists and printers in Medici's printing works.

Her artistic eye led her and her late partner to open their own shop in Bloomsbury, incorporating prints and framing with giftware. The business expanded and they soon had a small chain of shops and framing workshops across the South of England – in London, Oxford, Cambridge, Brighton, and Bath. Later, new shops were opened in Bath, specialising in picture framing and restoration with original artwork and prints



on display, first in the London Road, then in Camden and Widcombe, where Joan has had a business for almost four decades.

Most of Print Room's business is picture framing, catering for a whole range of customers, commercial and retail, large and small, from conservation framing for private collections to framed prints for the hotel industry.

Joan also continues to sell prints and original artwork alongside the framing business because she loves the visual arts and the pictures 'cheer me up, whatever the day brings'. ■ Colette Hill

Joyful interiors

James Sale is designer, architect, father of two and part-time lecturer at Bath Spa University. He went to school at Widcombe Juniors and now lives in Twerton, cycling along the river to work in Dolemeads. 'This is where good life is,' he says as the sun spills through the arch into his immaculate workshop under the arches.

Growing up in Widcombe, he often walked past the arches and always fancied one – he now occupies two! 'It's one of the few places in Bath where you get manufacturing space, right in the heart of town.'

The first company he launched uses computer-controlled machining to cut the plywood for large-scale bespoke pieces. As a natural by-product, James finds himself with lots of odd-shaped smaller pieces which would have gone to landfill but which he uses as the base material for his second company, LUXPLY.

LUXPLY creates a colourful range of children's chairs, jaunty shelving, funky-shaped handles and lots more – in every colour combination. 'They're pretty sturdy little things,' James says as I knock one of the chairs over while taking his picture.

In all his endeavours, James has an incredible passion for genuine collaboration



and sustainability, which feels like where we all should be. He saves time in the design process by working directly with the end user, whether an office worker, a schoolchild or a teacher. His LUXPLY pieces are solid and stylish, and he's proud to use mainly UK-based processes and to work in one of these very special railway arches.

■ Rachel Meyrick

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Art for art's sake?

Widcombe is unusually full of artists and craftspeople. For some, art is a livelihood, for others a hobby – challenging, addictive, relaxing, fun. Some are confident of their artistic skills – others really not; but the Widcombe community provides support, friendship and encouragement for everyone dipping a toe in the watercolour or jumping right in.

The hugely popular Widcombe Art Trail is now in its 15th year (give or take a year for lockdown) and going from strength to strength, popular for both professional and amateur artists, some of whom will be showing their work for the first time. Its website, <https://widcombeartrail.com>, features a huge range of work including sculpture, painting in oil, watercolour, handmade screen printing, and collage.

Currently at the helm – and assisted by an indispensable team of volunteers – is Pippa Wrigley, retired architect and now a painter: 'The trail began in 2007 – a walking route around Widcombe, stopping off at artists' studios, houses and venues along the way to look at art and crafts. It proved a hit and in 2012, Bath Open Studios was formed to co-ordinate the now seven art trails around the city.'

If you'd like to join the 2024 Widcombe Art Trail, get in touch with Pippa at mandp@wrigleyrosebank.co.uk



Pippa Wrigley



Angie Frith

For Angie Frith painting is a pastime, not a job, and for her it has been a lifesaver over the past 28 years.

She says: 'I was a single parent working full-time for the pharmaceutical industry and travelling a lot. Lovely friends stepped in and offered to give me a night off, by babysitting once a week, and I found an evening class in watercolours.'

'I've always liked watercolour – it's translucent, delicate and clever and you can take the kit anywhere. It dries quickly so you can do something in the evening and take it home without smudging it. The downside is that you can't make an error in watercolour because you can't cover it up.'

Angie's original watercolour group has changed but a couple of members still get together to paint. She says: 'It's an incredibly relaxing thing to do. I think it's more the process than the finished product but it's also trying to capture a feeling rather than slavishly copying something. There's a wonderful feeling of camaraderie with other people who are doing the same thing and an enjoyment of seeing art in different ways.'



Sarah Turrell

Sarah Turrell trained as a musician, but ceramics was something she'd always wanted to do, so when her youngest child went to nursery, she started pottery classes.

'It was a while before I got my own wheel and then of course you've got to fire the stuff. That means you've got to get a kiln.'

'So, I got myself a kiln. It was a very old front loader and weighed a ton. I don't know how they got it through the door. I didn't go to the classes anymore. I thought "you've just got to get on with it now and learn from your mistakes".'

And Sarah learnt a lot of lessons - the perils of packaging, the vagaries of gas firing, and then how to market what she'd made. 'Friends were buying my pottery to help me out with materials. And then I think I had the courage to try and sell at a gallery. I had to tote my stuff around and say: "What do you think?" and have people say, "it's very nice, but it's not quite what we want".'

'Anyway, I did find somebody who absolutely loved the stuff and she took boxes and boxes of it. When you've got someone who is confident in your work, it's a real boost. I have constant enthusiasm for what I do. Opening the kiln after a glaze firing is like Christmas.'

You can find Sarah's work at Luca and Fig in Widcombe, at the Newton St Loe Farm shop, and at the Widcombe Christmas Market.

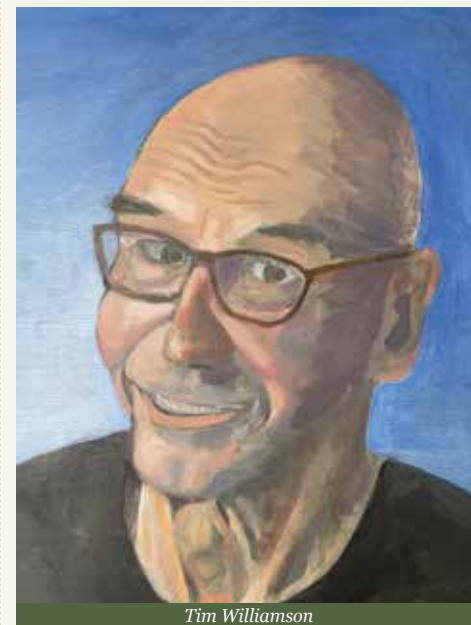
When medic Tim Williamson retired 15 years ago, he had lots of work-related projects planned but took up painting instead.

He says: 'I really like painting in oils – you get some fabulous colours. And you can move the paint around and just squish it on the board. And if you make mistakes, you can rectify them. Oils are very forgiving.'

'I'll start with some drawings and maybe photographs and work it up in different layers. So, if it's a portrait, I'm trying to make it look like the subject, but the rest of the picture, I can do what I want with.'

Tim once took his paintings on the Widcombe Art Trail 'to see what happened'. He was delighted to sell a painting, but concluded selling wasn't the right thing for him.. 'I like the sense of freedom of doing what I want. I don't want to paint for other people.'

'I think it's partly process - the actual act and sometimes the concentration that I like – often mistakes happen and then you have to change them or make the mistake part of the picture. Sometimes, I like looking at the paintings and they're the ones that are still hanging around.'



Tim Williamson



Rachel Ward



Jessica Palmer

Fifteen years ago, Rachel Ward was working for the local council in Keynsham and writing fiction in her spare time. When her first novel was published in 2009 she took a sabbatical to pursue writing and never looked back. She has published novels for young adults and two psychological thrillers – she is currently writing books four and five in a cosy crime series.

Painting came later. She says: 'I did a weekend at Bath Artist Studios. I tried oil painting and then watercolours and drawing. Then I began doing pet portraits, just selling to friends.'

Rachel decided to try selling her paintings, so she joined the Widcombe Art Trail, then the Widcombe Christmas Market, then other art trails and art fairs, selling her paintings and Widcombe calendars.

'Then I just thought, I'm spread too thin. I need not worry so much about selling art and enjoy doing it instead. I actually stopped drawing and painting for a while, but my New Year's resolution this year was to paint on Sundays, just for fun.

'I also do drawings every day through August and post them on Twitter – that gets you into the habit of drawing and looking again at things – you never know which way it's going to take you. I get inspired by the things I see.

'And photography is part of that. I take tons of photographs. I'm always looking at things. I'm looking at light or details or water – some reflection, and what the sky's doing. It's a challenge. I like that – the challenge is what got me writing as well.'

Professional artist Jessica Palmer's work centres on collage and painting to depict real and imagined landscapes. She is inspired by our natural surroundings and the impact of human activity on nature. Her work spans digital images for English Heritage and giant forest drawings for the windows of the Holburne Museum to playful collage for Bath City Farm and best-selling colouring books.

Wetlands are a particular source of ideas and she paints to evoke the mood, atmosphere, weather, and life of the marshes and meadowlands as seen in *Wetland Spring*, her 2023 exhibition at the Victoria Art Gallery.

Jessica is also a paper cutter and maker of 3D objects and installations using paper and card. Among her work is a huge paper maze for the Forest of Imagination and a paper Tudor galleon for Southampton's Tudor House Museum.



Catherine Day

Catherine Day worked for 20 years in the fashion industry as a shoe designer. 'I loved my job but as the fashion industry became less and less creative, I decided to turn to a former love – ceramics.'

She enrolled in a ceramics course in Kent and then worked with her former tutor before moving to Bath just before lockdown. It was a brave time to open her own studio but this is what she did with advice from local business adviser Cool Ventures. Claybox Studio has been open for two years, running classes four days a week. Between classes, Catherine produces her own pieces to sell from the studio and in local markets.

'I totally love what I do. I get to use my creativity again, learn new skills and teach some amazing people.'



When Sarah Lewis moved to Bath, and the children were settled at school, she realised that it was the perfect time for her to do something new. She enrolled at Bath Spa University and found that block printing really suited her. 'I bagged a space at home to be my studio, and began my solo relationship with dyeing and printing.'



Sarah Lewis

'Silk scarves can be acquired ready hemmed, I am terrible at sewing so this was a wonderful discovery. I dye them to suit my current projects, and as the 1.5m long scarves are 40cm wide, I discovered that making a printing block 8cm wide fits perfectly across the scarf width and comfortably in my hand. I mount the lino on wood, so I can manoeuvre it easily, and make a print pad for each colour.'



'I take inspiration from wherever I can as a starting point for the next thing – from books or museums, or from the garden.'

■ Biddy Walcot

Out & About



Bath Show Choir

Sing! Sing! Sing!

It is a truth universally acknowledged that you don't have to go very far in Widcombe to find a choir or singing group.

In 2012 the Widcombe Association decided to establish a choir and the **Widcombe Choir** was born. The choir meets on Thursday afternoons during term time at Widcombe Social Club, and sings a wide range of songs from classical to contemporary and everything in between. <https://widcombe-choir.mailchimpsites.com/>

Singing songs from smash hit West End musicals as well as lesser-known off-Broadway gems, all a cappella, **Bath Show Choir** is exciting, fast-paced and a whole load of fun. The choir rehearses at Widcombe Social Club on Thursday evenings during term-time. www.bathshowchoir.com.

The **u3a** choir meets on Monday mornings in term time at Widcombe Baptist Church. Its repertoire ranges from madrigals, rounds and part-songs to larger choral works. The emphasis is on enjoyment, making friends, and simply singing. www.u3ainbath.uk/ourgroups.

Bath Good Afternoon Choir meets at Widcombe Baptist Church on Thursday afternoons. Its music varies from unison folk songs through to popular and well-loved pieces in harmony. www.goodafternoonchoir.org.

Sassparella meets once a fortnight on Monday evenings at Widcombe Junior School. A fabulous, 'sassy' all female choir, its repertoire mostly focuses on upbeat,

popular material. Sassparella currently has space to welcome new singers. If you are interested in joining, email Cindy Stratton at cstrat99@gmail.com for more information.

Sasspafellas meets alternate Monday evenings at Widcombe Junior School. An all-male choir, it's a much smaller group than Sassparella but likes to make a big sound. From sea shanties to soul, from Elvis to songs that highlight environmental issues, Sasspafellas sing about anything and everything, and always have a good time doing so. If you are interested in joining, please contact Marius Frank at Sassparellauk@gmail.com. ■ *Ann Ashworth*

Arts Society Bath meets in Widcombe

The Arts Society Bath runs its lecture programme from the Widcombe Social Club with nine lectures on fine and decorative arts each season (running from October to June).

On 4 November, the Society is hosting a talk on Gilbert & Sullivan. Their Savoy operas celebrate the quirks and foibles of the British nation and are as alive today as in the 1880s.

On 14 November, join its Special Interest Day on The Art of Collecting, featuring sessions on The Anatomy of Collecting with Antiques Roadshow specialist Marc Allum, followed by an object talk about items brought in by attendees as well as a session of fakes and forgeries. ■ *Colette Hill*

Let there be fun!

Whether it's music, from jazz to folk, rock'n'roll to swing, disco to soul, or the arts, literature, comedy, or quizzes – there is something for everyone in Widcombe.



Widcombe Social Club

Every Friday, Widcombe Waterside Nights. Free entry, with live music and pizza. Coming up in November - Lauren Bradford (17th), Pasha (24th), and in early December, Lloyd Edwards (1st), and Maximus Manouche (8th).

Saturday 9 December. Christmas party night with Bill Smarme's Rock'n'Roll Trio, and Cajun and Swing from Ponchartrain.

Friday 15 December. An evening of Christmas music and magic featuring Cindy and Marius with members of Sassparella and Sasspafellas in various guises! It promises to be a wonderfully warm and special evening with lots of audience participation and one or two extra special guests.

Friday 22 December. A welcome return for Somewhere Over England who emerged from the local music scene of the 1980s.

Friday 5 to Sunday 7 January 2024. Fourth Annual Bath Jazz Weekend. Fill the 'no-mans-land-downtime' of the first week in January with some of the best and highest quality contemporary jazz.

DJ Nights

Friday 17 November, Bath Soul Club. All-vinyl night of the best northern soul with guest DJs from across the UK.

Saturday 18 November. Frug: spin the best dance music from across the decades and genres from the 60s to now.

Saturday 2 December. Transmission: alternative sounds from the 80s, 90s and beyond.

Saturday 16 December. Electric Dreams: the biggest 80s night in the city.

Sunday 31 December. See in the New Year with WSC's resident DJs.

Film Bath

A new monthly film club starts on Sunday **28 January 2024**.

Book Group

Last Tuesday of the month, Widcombe Book Group. If you love reading and would like to share your thoughts on a wide and far reaching choice of books with a friendly group of fellow enthusiasts, then come and try out Widcombe Book Group. New members always welcome. Contact: Jocelyn Ridley at jocridley@gmail.com.

St Mark's Community Centre

Saturday 2 December. Dance your socks off at a centenary charity bop! Pay on the door; all proceeds to Bath Foodbank.

Saturday 20 January 2024. Test your knowledge with a friendly quiz in aid of Genesis Trust.

Down the pub!

Thursday 30 November. Bath Comedy Club at The Ring o' Bells: Alistair Barrie and Bennett Arron, two of the best solo shows from the Edinburgh Fringe 2023. www.bathcomedy.com

Saturday 25 November. Music at The Ram: Mireille Mathlener Band.

Friday 8 December. Music at The Ram: Jon Amor Trio. ■ *Ann Ashworth*



It is with great sadness that the Widcombe Deli will no longer trade on Widcombe Parade from 1st December. It is with heartfelt thanks to all our customers, suppliers, visitors that we bid farewell to this lovely community....
Please come and visit us at Larkhall Deli and The Abbey Deli on Abbey Green....we would love to see you :)

WIDCOMBE CHRISTMAS MARKET

Handmade gifts by local artisans

**SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 11**
10.30am-5pm

**SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 12**
10.30am-4pm



**Widcombe Social Club,
The Natural Theatre Co. & St Matthews
Church Hall, Widcombe Hill, Bath BA2 6AA**

f Widcombe Christmas Market www.widcombechristmasmarket.com

Christmas Market

The Widcombe Christmas Market comes early this year with a record number of over 50 exhibitors taking part. It is the perfect chance to get your Christmas shopping done, so do come and support our wonderful local artists, makers and craftspeople.

Stalls are being set up in three venues on Widcombe Hill: St Matthew's Church Hall, Widcombe Social Club and the Natural Theatre Company, and with so much on offer there truly will be something for everyone. We look forward to welcoming you.

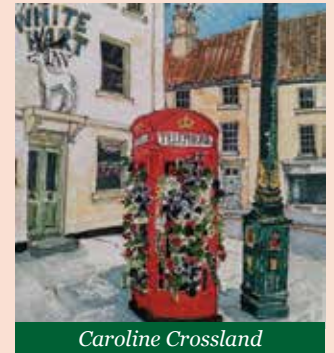
www.widcombechrismasmarket.com



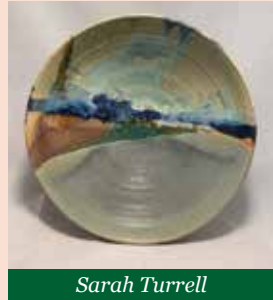
Joanne Slade



Isabell Browell



Caroline Crossland



Sarah Turrell



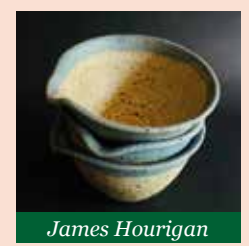
Bianca Moore



Sally Merrett



Emma de Vries



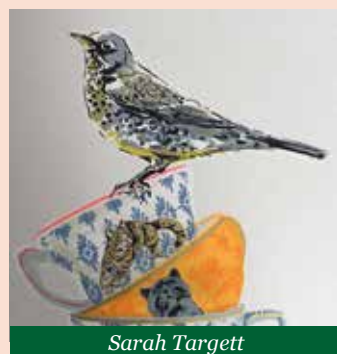
James Hourigan



Jo Willis



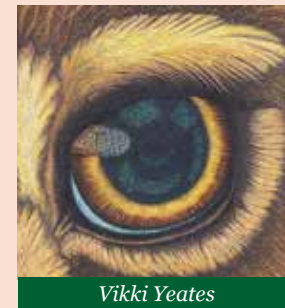
Charlotte Farmer



Sarah Targett



Hilary Strickland



Vikki Yeates



Annelie Hammer



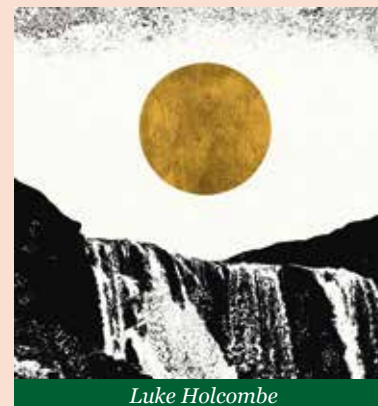
Kelly Chan



Yvonne Elston



Jo Grimes



Luke Holcombe



Brigit Baker



Cathy Biggs



Millie Turrell

In its 17th year, the Widcombe Christmas Market features locally handmade Christmas gifts perfect for all the family. Look forward to an array of carefully curated, affordable gifts on offer. Widcombe Social Club and The Natural Theatre Company are wheelchair accessible.

2023 EXHIBITORS

Bridget Baker Small wire animals and mobiles

Lucy Begent Illustrated cards and prints

Isabell Browell Handcrafted silk sari and Ikat fabric lampshades

Copse and Cotton Eclectic mix of homeware, decorations & gifts

Caroline Crossland Locally inspired Christmas & other cards

Design Vaults Jewellery Handmade, contemporary & distinctive

Yvonne Elston Sculptural ceramic birds & festive decorations

Charlotte Farmer Screen printed animals and biscuits

Fioglass Handmade fused glass gifts

Laura Flora Artisan flower craft (wreaths, bouquets, gardenalia)

Luke Holcombe Studio Prints and cards

Nicola Hyman Arty jewellery from upcycled materials

Sarah Lewis Handblocked scarves in silk and wool

Limelight Handmade home fragrance based near Bath

Little Acorn Makes Handmade organic children's clothing

Loves Lane Pots Decorated handmade & hand-cast pottery

Bianca Moore Studio Art, prints and gifts

Nellie & Pickles Stitchery Hand-crafted home decor and accessories

Karen Parker Jewellery Unique contemporary jewellery

Pebble and Felt Needle felted sculptures and pebble pictures

Perryspace Arts Decorative and functional handmade ceramics

Agnes Pollock Art Contemporary Still Life (paintings and prints)

Paradise Pots Decorated festive terracotta pots

Sorisi Ceramics Various colourful hand-built and cast pottery

Stanson Ceramics Thrown and hand built earthenware pottery

Stitchmap Embroideries of maps

Hilary Strickland Art, nature and tranquility in your home

Sarah Targett Contemporary, screenprints, cards & decorations.

Tilian Kids Hand-knitted clothes and handmade wooden toys

Ruth Thorp Colourful illustrated cards, prints and books

Sarah Turrell Finely thrown stoneware pottery

The Tweed Squirrel Hand-stitched gifts for animal lovers

Vitrific Colourful, unique enamelled jewellery and art

Wheel & Lathe Collaboration of wood & clay

Jess Whittingham Photography Handmade cards and frames

Jo Willis Handmade millinery

Vikki Yeates British wildlife paintings, prints and cards

Saturday Only

Bath RUH Fundraising Group Handmade decorations and gifts

Bath Spa Skincare Organic skincare. Pure, effective and kind

The Bead Garden Beaded jewellery and ornaments

Block House Bath Handprinted bold and colourful designs

Heidi Boo Crafts Fabric decorations of birds, fantasy & more

Colebrooke Stone and Clay Stoneware pottery

Fabriclove Bath Fabric craft with beautiful, locally-sourced fabric

Fine & Scandi Scandi-influenced silver & copper jewellery

Annelie Hammer Pompom and crocheted gifts

Hebe Designs Colourful cards & prints to bring joy

Lucy Higgins Handmade children's clothes, toys, homeware

Rosemary Le Fevre Quilts, Tote bags, Xmas decoration, jewellery.

Like No Other Reworked bespoke vintage sweatshirts

Lee Owen Designs Christmas cards of Bath, animal collage prints

Judith Robertson Collage packs, cards, activity books, bracelets

Jo Slade Art Paintings of local landscapes, drawings and cards

Liz Taylor Patchwork, applique & needlepoint

Sunday Only

Achieve Together Gifts made by deaf people with additional needs

Divya Atkins Preserves, natural decorations and candles

Daggers Veil Wire-wrapped crystal jewellery & greeting cards

Kay & Ellie Gifts Real flower resin jewellery

Rika Knits High-quality hand-knitted gifts

Full details of the artisans will be on our website and, in the run up to the event, we'll share previews of Christmas gifts on Facebook.

f Widcombe Christmas Market

🐦 @WidcombeXmasMkt

www.widcombechrismasmarket.com

Widcombe Christmas Market is run by the Widcombe Association




CHRISTMAS

AT WIDCOMBE BAPTIST CHURCH

Carols at the Rec Wed 13th Dec, 6.00 pm
Christmas in Art Sat 16th Dec, 7.30 pm
Carols by Candlelight Sun 17th Dec, 6.00 pm
Big Interactive Nativity Sat 23rd Dec, 3.15 pm

More events and full details on the website.

• widcombebaptist.org/christmas •

Out & About

The Mummers are coming!

‘Why not in Widcombe?’ In the Summer of 2005, a Marshfield Paper Boys’ performance piqued Ian Gilchrist’s interest, and, supported by his wife, Gordana, he recruited actors and musicians; organised rehearsals; secured WA backing and so created the Widcombe Mummers.

Mummers plays are a common part of folklore throughout England and, with few exceptions, are performed over Christmas. Our first performance was on New Year’s Day 2006 against the splendid backdrop of Widcombe Manor. The tunes of the musician-led procession enthused Widcombe to join the fun and Rob Miller’s beautifully crafted hobby horse elicited much admiration. Almost 20 years on, we continue to be invited to numerous events and have been featured in books, films, and the London Olympics!

Ian organised workshops on mumming traditions, sword fighting, and pyrotechnics; he often recruited performers with no acting experience; and Elisabeth Jenkins directed many plays.

Our scripts weave together traditional elements including stupendous fights,



with parodies of local faits-divers enacted by exuberant characters such as Cristina Lopez’s alluring Condesa de Widcombe and Doris Bechstein’s ravishing Mme Butterfly. Peter Barrett gifted us with unforgettable roles including that of a five-meter dragon. Our much-loved anthem was recently created by possibly the most enduring King Bladud yet, singer-songwriter and multi-instrumentalist Patrick Roe.

We credit our talented families for their contributions as scriptwriters, costume designers, actors, musicians, directors, photographers, documentary makers and after-party organisers. The Sandbrooks, the Shorts, and the Garcia Halliwells spring to mind, and in our early days, the Barretts, the Davies and the Chapmans. The Borns, the Bosses and the Coughlan Rogers have also been longstanding providers of talent and support, while Sally Harries coordinates the musicians’ procession.

Ian taught us that impactful performances require surprising levels of dedication. Wherever we are in the world, we rehearse our lines and practise our moves. On the day, we feel free to indulge in ad-libbing with great gusto, enticed by the sounds of Widcombe roaring with laughter. And we will be back on New Year’s Day 2024.

■ Margarida Dolan



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Working Widcombe

Natural Talent

Across the street from the Widcombe Social Club, at the bottom of Widcombe Hill, the Natural Theatre Company gives ‘surprising performances in surprising places’ from National Trust properties to the Glastonbury Festival and corporate events at home and abroad, all developed and rehearsed in the enigmatic building originally built as St Matthew’s Church Hall.



Ralph Oswick was the Company’s first director and the flower-pot headed sculpture that greets you at the doors of the building is an homage to the flower-pot people he created for a flower festival thirty years ago. Inside, the building is a maze of offices, prop



shelves, costume stores, laundry, repair corner, all crowned by the fine rehearsal room, which has become a much-loved community space, welcoming yoga classes, private parties, the Widcombe Art Trail and, of course, the Widcombe Christmas Market. To further hone the building’s creative credentials, Bath Philharmonia has its offices in a bright room beyond the laundry.

Bath-born Andy Burden took on the role of director in 2014. Prior to that, his directorial career had taken him to the Rondo, the Tobacco Factory, Bristol Old Vic Theatre School, and the Ustinov, as well as a stint at the Leicester Haymarket. Like the whole Natural Theatre team, Andy is a passionate believer in doing art with people, not at people. ‘We get everywhere. You can catch us at Bath Christmas Market or at the Roman Baths; you can come to our theatre school, invite us to your corporate event or involve us in your community project.’

The Naturals comprise 35 actors, with newcomers trained and mentored by the veterans, picking up the company’s DNA on the way. Far from placing their work at the modest end of the acting profession, Andy argues that it takes very particular skill to work with the Naturals: ‘We look for people who have instinctive humour and the quick wit you need for improvisation. They need to have real compassion to interact well with people, and they need to have curiosity about history and a willingness to grow.’

HIGH STREET STORE WIDCOMBE



Claverton Buildings, Widcombe, Bath BA2 4LD

Bath Philharmonia on our doorstep



concerts and projects in local communities.

Bath Philharmonia brings world class orchestral music to the city and its base is The Forum. This Christmas, its concerts at The Forum will feature violinists Arabella Steinbacher and Nicola Benedetti and pianist Lara Melda.

The orchestra is opening the concert hall to those who may have never heard the

Bath Philharmonia, the city’s professional orchestra, is run from the basement of the Natural Theatre company’s wonderful building at the bottom of Widcombe Hill. It is from here that it arranges its tours across the South-West of England and beyond, reaching 12,000 people each year through a combination of

magic of a live orchestra before or want to try something new, gifting free tickets to local residents to enjoy a musical night out. Tickets can be booked at Bath Box Office and full details on the concerts and further special offers can be found at www.bathphil.co.uk/bathphilforfree.

■ Colette Hill

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NT update

As the darker months set in and thoughts turn to Christmas, it's a wonderful time of year to plan festive adventures with friends and family. Bath Skyline is full of fungi and berries and on cold crisp days offers far-reaching views over the city. Prior Park Landscape Garden has lots to look forward to over the winter months and offers a peaceful escape from the hustle and bustle of the city.

- Prior Park is open weekends only from 4 November to 11 February (with the exception of Christmas).
- Christmas opening: Monday 18 December to Monday 1 January (closed 24-25 December). Tea Shed open 20 December to 1 January (closed 24-25 December) 10.30am-3pm. The Palladian Bridge will be decorated with Christmas garlands and wreaths will be hung on the Tea Shed and at Visitor Reception.
- Family Christmas advent trail: the ever-popular family advent trail will return to Prior Park from the first weekend in December; 24 doors are hidden in the garden with seasonal pictures, quotes and clues to find.
- February half-term (12 – 18 February 2024) sees the return of seven-day opening and the hours change to 10am-5pm, with last entry at 4pm. In 2024, Prior Park will offer a half-term adventure for families and we'll be celebrating Valentine's Day.
- Wild garlic is in abundance from March onwards and visitors are always welcome to pick some to try at home.
- Easter falls early in 2024 and the excellent Easter trail will be available from 29 March to 1 April. ■ *Ruth Newell*

Our resident owls

As the nights draw in I am always pleased to hear the owls of Widcombe claiming their territories. Sometimes it's a male bird with its wavering hoot, or more often a female repeating a sharp Ki-wick. If you are lucky you might hear a conversation between the two. These are tawny owls, also known as brown owls.

My first experience with a tawny owl was at school. A teacher came into class to ask me to come and sort out a problem: a strange bird had been found in a cupboard in the woodwork room. As I was known to be interested in birds I was the first port of call. I opened a window, then scooped up the owl and threw it out. At that time I didn't know that the famous bird photographer Eric Hosking had lost an eye in an incident with a tawny owl. I was lucky not to have any injuries.

Here in Widcombe, we must have quite a few pairs of tawny owls. They can frequently be seen sitting on rooftops or sometimes even on the top of a lamp-post. Their hearing is amazingly acute. Once located, a vole moving through grass even in pitch darkness stands little chance of escape. Lyncombe Hill Fields, Alexandra Park, Abbey Cemetery and Prior Park Gardens are all perfect hunting grounds, as are the many large gardens in Widcombe. Tawny owls will mostly use holes in large trees for nesting. The huge beeches on Beechen Cliff are perfect. But they will also use large nest boxes attached to trees, designed specially for owls.

We may have other kinds of owl in our neighbourhood. The closer you live to open country the greater your chance of seeing barn owls or little owls. Ten years ago, there were records of barn owls hunting at Bath City Farm, but I haven't heard of any in recent years. The closest I have been to a barn owl was in the grounds of the American



Museum. It was a very beautiful bird, used in a demonstration of birds of prey. Little owls use trees riddled with holes, or dilapidated buildings for nesting. I should be interested to know if you have seen either a barn owl or little owl in Widcombe recently. ■ *David Goode*

In the garden

A good warm coat, comfortable boots and a pair of gardening gloves are all you need to get out into the garden in the winter, and you will feel so good after some fresh air and exercise.



Winter is the perfect time to plant trees and deciduous shrubs as they will start to root out into the soil over the winter. Always apply a generous amount of planting compost, a handful of slow release fertiliser such as bonemeal and a sachet of Rootgrow mycorrhizal fungi to give them the best possible start.

Check for plants that need protection from severe frost such as fuchsias and salvias. Plants in tubs can suffer from their roots being frosted and can be protected with bubble wrap or hessian. Always ensure that pots can drain properly by standing them on blocks as plants really suffer in frozen waterlogged pots. It is a good idea to have horticultural fleece to hand so that the more tender plants can be wrapped up when frost is expected. Tender plants in borders can often be protected by mounding dry leaves around the base so that even if the top growth is killed the crown of the plant is safe.

The winter months are the ideal time to prune many trees and shrubs. Apples and pears can be thinned out and shoots shortened. Hedges such as beech can be renovated by cutting back hard. Maples and birch trees should be pruned before the end of the year to avoid bleeding of sap from cuts.

In the vegetable garden clear vegetable rubbish onto your compost heap. (You do have a compost heap I hope!) Spread the composted contents of your bin over the bare soil for the worms and micro-organisms to work their magic over the winter ready for bumper crops next year.

Don't neglect your lawn over the winter. Sweep up fallen leaves for the compost bin and during mild weather, if the grass is long, give it a light trim with the mower blades lifted. A dressing of autumn lawn food can be really effective and can be applied at any time during the winter. Happy gardening. ■ *John Leach, Prior Park Garden Centre*



Widcombe
ST THOMAS & ST MATT'S

We offer a mixture of vibrant band-led contemporary worship at our larger Victorian church, St Matt's, and traditional Sunday services in our beautiful historic parish church, St Thomas à Becket.

St Thomas à Becket, Church Street

Traditional services

Times vary, please see website for more information

Join us for our **Christmas** services this December.

St Matt's, Widcombe Hill

Contemporary service

Times vary, please see website for more information

www.widcombe.church



7-9 NORTH PARADE BUILDINGS BATH BA11NS

www.lordarchitecture.co.uk | info.lordarchitecture.co.uk

A short literary walk in Widcombe



An eclectic collection of great and not so great literary figures lived once in Widcombe's fine houses.

Climb up Widcombe Hill to Macaulay Buildings. Towards the end of the Second World War, a Mrs Helen Holmes at number 16 took in a new lodger who was about to start work drafting internal publications for P Branch of the Admiralty (then based in the Empire Hotel opposite Parade Gardens). The lodger found the work exceedingly dull but loved Bath's Georgian architecture. His name was John Betjeman and he went on to become the nation's favourite (although perhaps not best) versifier and Poet Laureate in 1972.

Walk back down Widcombe Hill and turn left into Widcombe Crescent. Edward Trapp Pilgrim lived at number 2 between 1818 and 1820. He was the author of *Poetical Trifles* and by all accounts a truly awful poet.

Skirt the Crescent and then climb the steps into Church Street. Just before you get to Widcombe Manor (of which more below) you will notice a plaque on the wall of Widcombe Lodge which was unveiled in 1906 by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle (the creator of Sherlock Holmes). The plaque states that the writer Henry Fielding and his sister Sarah (herself a distinguished writer and translator) lived there. Sadly for Widcombe there is no (reliable) evidence that either of them did (although Henry certainly lived in Twerton and Sarah in Bathwick Street).

Walk past the Church down to Widcombe Manor. Richard Hughes, Betjeman's immediate superior at the Admiralty, lived there. Hughes's landlord, and the owner of the Manor, was an elderly and distinguished gentleman by the rather wonderful name of Horace Annesley Vachell. He is largely forgotten today but was once a popular and prolific writer of novels, plays and short stories. One of the novels, *The Golden House*, is based in the Manor. Vachell is buried in the graveyard of St Thomas à Becket opposite his Golden House. One of Betjeman's biographers records that Vachell, Hughes and Betjeman once dined together at the Manor.

Hughes was also a writer who came to fame when he was only 29 with *A High Wind in Jamaica*, a novel about a family of children captured by pirates. The novel is notable as being the first to take an unsentimental view of children, leading the way to books such as *The Lord of the Flies*.

Now walk to the end of Church Street, down Lyncombe Vale (where Jane Austen walked beside the stream) and up the very steep Rosemount. Right at the top (where it reaches the beginning of Greenway Lane) and on the left-hand side, there is a plaque to the Austrian writer Stefan Zweig who lived there in 1939-40. At the height of his fame, Zweig was one of the most popular writers in Europe, publishing fiction, biography and history (translated into many languages). He was Jewish and had to flee the rising power of the Nazis, later moving to New York and then to Brazil where, depressed about the future of humanity, he and his second wife (whom he married in Bath) took their own lives.

Go down Lyncombe Hill and then down Forefield Rise (also very steep), turn left at the bottom into Prior Park Road. The poet Sir William Watson lived at number 31 between 1930 and 1931. The Oxford Companion to English Literature isn't very kind about Watson, stating rather bluntly, 'his many...volumes of derivative, verbose, post-Tennysonian verse are now forgotten.' Ouch! ■ *Dan Lyons*

The story of Prior Park Buildings and Cottages

Two hundred years ago, an unlikely partnership was formed in Widcombe between a silversmith and jeweller, a dancing master, a tailor, and a hatter, who joined forces to build Prior Park Buildings and Prior Park Cottages. Recently, residents of the two terraces researched their story, culminating in a bicentennial celebration.



The land where the terraces now stand had been a successful market garden, feeding the growing population of Bath. Following the slump after the Napoleonic War, there was a strong economic stimulus for a building boom and in 1817, John Thomas, superintendent of works on the Kennet and Avon Canal and already the owner of Prior Park, acquired the land by auction.

At this time, the population of Bath was growing fast. In the 1820s, the population of Lyncombe and Widcombe rose from 5,900 to nearly 9,000. A significant number of residents were leisured and professional gentry, or successful tradesmen and artisans, all of whom were potential buyers or renters of new property. Landowners were keen to realise the financial benefits of selling off agricultural and horticultural land for

urban development. There was a substantial reservoir of cheap labour and credit was available.

In 1818 John Thomas offered a 999-year lease on the two plots to Matthias Harris, our silversmith and jeweller, at an annual rent of 62 pounds and 10 shillings. A deed the following year proposed the selling of plots with houses on them. A ground plan from 1820 shows that a survey was made by John Pinch, the architect, with a view to building two terraces. The expectation was that the

houses would be occupied or rented out by Harris and his partners in the development or sold to third parties.

The Cottages were built first, starting at the top of the hill. By 1822 most of the houses had been built and by 1823 a number had been sold. By 1825, the development was complete. What you see today in these two late Regency terraces are features of property development – social, architectural and financial – which were typical

of Bath at the time and very much worth celebrating two hundred years later.

■ *Rona Fineman and Jim Edmiston*

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The next edition of Widcombe Magazine will be coming your way in May 2024.
If you have any comments about this issue, we welcome your feedback.
Please email:
magazine@widcombeassociation.org.uk



MAGDALEN CHAPEL

Holloway Bath BA2 4PX

www.magdalenchapelbath.co.uk

Weekly Sunday Service
In the Chapel & on Zoom
10.00 am Sung Eucharist

Weekly on Mondays
Morning Prayer – 8:30am

Monthly on 2nd Tuesday
Quiet Service of Contemplation & Healing – 6:30pm

CHRISTMAS SERVICES 2023

10th Dec. – Carol Service – 6:30pm

24th Dec. – Early Midnight Mass - 7:00PM

25th Dec. – Christmas Day Sung Eucharist
with Carols – 9:00am

Chapel Open, for quiet reflection, prayer, or for a look around:
Wed., Thu., Fri., 4:00pm-6:00pm; Sat.: 11:00am-1:00pm

Chaplain: Rev. Jacky Wise

Please email us at magchapelbath@gmail.com for a Zoom invite.

Widcombe Foodies



French Apple Tart

Giddy Flamingo offers afternoon tea parties, buffets and afternoon tea boxes – quirky, vintage and Mad Hatter’s tea parties a speciality. Jo and Sarah say ‘This is one of our seasonal favourites, delicious served warm with clotted cream.’

Pastry

100g plain flour
50g caster sugar
50g butter
2 egg yolks

Apple filling

2 large cooking apples
50g caster sugar

Apple topping

3 peeled and sliced dessert apples

Apricot glaze (mix 1 tbsp apricot jam with 1 tbsp boiling water)

25g demerara sugar

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 180c (160c fan).
- In a bowl, mix the flour, egg yolks, butter and sugar into a pastry ball.
- Press into a fluted, loose-bottom 6-inch flan tin and pop in the fridge to rest for 10 minutes.
- Peel and rough chop the cooking apples, adding to a saucepan with a little water. Cook until they start to soften. Remove from the heat and drain.
- Remove the pastry tart from the fridge, cover with a circle of baking parchment and fill with baking beans and pop into the oven to cook the pastry for 10-15 minutes.
- Remove from oven, take out parchment and beans and add the cooked apple filling. Sprinkle with caster sugar.
- Layer the eating apple slices in circles over the cooked apple filling. Sprinkle with the demerara sugar and bake for 15 minutes.
- Remove the tart from the oven and brush the apricot glaze over the top and bake for a further 5-10 minutes.
- Place onto a cooling tray and when cooled remove from the flan ring.

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Committee Profiles

Rachel Meyrick



and edited (by Rachel), and premiered at the Toronto International Film Festival earlier this year.

Despite her full work and family life, Rachel still finds time to support her local community. She joined the committee of the Widcombe Association two years ago when she set about creating a community garden in Dolemeads and needed support in her application for National Lottery Community funding. Her application was successful and the garden opened last year. She has now turned her attention to other issues affecting the area, including the renovation of the children's playground following a vandal attack and pollution levels around Widcombe Junior School and the river. She is also working with the B&NES Bee Bold Pollinator Project, which is creating new pollinator-rich habitats at eight sites plus across the district. As Rachel puts it, 'Community and the environment, those are the things that matter.' ■ *Colette Hill*

Rachel Meyrick's creative flair shines through at home and at work. The Victorian terraced house in the Dolemeads, where she lives with her daughter, is an interior design gem, in part thanks to its ITV Sixty-Minute Makeover a decade ago. Rachel bought the house five years after the show was made and still delights in her kitchen's silver floor and candy pink units, not to mention the hot tub in her garden.

As a film director and editor, Rachel works on commercials, corporate films and documentaries. Her first feature film as director was What Doesn't Kill Me, a documentary about domestic violence distributed in the USA. Coming out of that, her privately funded documentary, After Fred, was launched at the Lewes Festival in September. Next year sees the roll-out of The Contestant (the true story of a Japanese reality TV star left naked in a room for more than a year, tasked with filling out magazine sweepstakes to earn food and clothing), directed from Widcombe (by Clair Titley)

Who's Who at the WA

- **Mike Wrigley**, *Chairman*
mandp@wrigleyrosebank.co.uk
- **Ann Ashworth**, *membership@*
widcombeassociation.org.uk
- **Clare Furlonger**, *events*
cfurlonger@gmail.com
- **Colette Hill**, *editor, Widcombe Magazine*
colettesylviahill@gmail.com
- **Dan Lyons**, *history archive*
danlyons1966@icloud.com
- **Hilary Furlonger**, *treasurer@*
widcombeassociation.org.uk
- **Jan Shepley**, *planning@*
widcombeassociation.org.uk
- **Mary Young**, *secretary@*
widcombeassociation.org.uk
- **Rachel Meyrick**, *Dolemeads*
rachelmeyrick@mac.com
- **Rick Weatherhead**, *sustainability*
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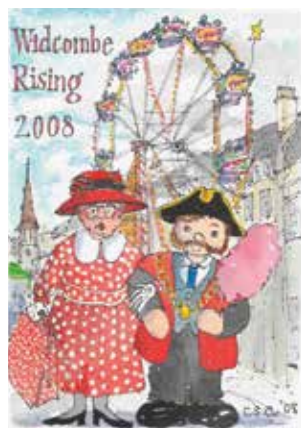
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Widcombe Jottings



Rising: A celebratory native American tribal gathering*

My partner in crime Nick Steel and I are often asked if (or more likely when) we would organise another Widcombe Rising. The answer is a tentative never, as the event grew from the modest Triple Unveiling (celebrating the restoration of the White Hart's stolen stag at bay, the vandalised Natural Theatre Flowerpot Man and the non-functioning church clock) into Bath's biggest outdoor community celebration.

Highlight of the Triple Unveiling was when, in front of around one hundred astonished attendees, Lady Margaret snipped off Don Foster's tie instead of cutting the ribbon. This became a tradition, and whenever Lord Foster is due to appear in the same room as Her Ladyship, he always takes care to pack spare neckwear.

Highlight of the final Rising was the Widcombe Eye, a giant Ferris wheel which gave residents a completely new angle on their parish and on the eight thousand happy participants crammed into the street below.

We had five stages, a dog show, and countless acts ranging from school choirs, through the Mr Widcombe contest, which saw genuine bodybuilders sharing the stage with such luminaries as Bill Smarme (in his pants), to a flamenco dance troupe. This latter was based in Spain (natch!) but half of them were appearing in France, so the logistics of getting them onto that staccato soundboard outside JCR were legion.

Needless to say, the amount of behind-the-scenes organisation grew exponentially. As did costs. I would say that the red tape associated with such happenings has substantially expanded, rather than reduced. You can't just book a burly bloke to go on

the gate nowadays. They must be trained in dealing with every conceivable mishap, from lost children to epileptic fits. They need to be certified, stamped and licenced to the hilt. Thus, you would find Nick and I wandering round the Security Trade Expo, seeking companies that didn't hire personnel with 'Murder' tattooed on their neck, as happened one year.

Lost children have to have their own refuge, with qualified attendants and calming music. At one Rising we borrowed an empty shop staffed not only by registered carers, but also by the somewhat scary looking official Olympic Mascots. I'm not sure if it was the presence of these strange constantly waving creatures, but we had zero missing children checking in that year. But a little boy did pop in to say his mum was missing!

A mere couple of days after the event, I would be sourcing safety barriers and mobile toilets for next year's effort. I challenge you to find an accessible Portaloo anywhere in the West of England when your event is scheduled around the same time as Glastonbury!

Needless to say, all this encroached on our real jobs, in Nick's case as director of Bath Comedy Festival and me as Artistic Director of the Natural Theatre Company whose HQ (or as I liked to call it, the Widcombe Rising storage facility) is up the hill in Widcombe Institute. So, with spiralling costs and ever-increasing administrative duties, we decided please God, no more, no more!

I think you will agree with me, it was great while it lasted. But life moves on and all good things come to an end. Widcombe got its bypass and café society has triumphed over the mighty juggernauts. The Risings played a modest part in achieving this.

My first ever advice to Nick as he set off on a career of event organisation was never to form a committee. In fact, we once famously filled in the methodology box on an Arts Council application with, instead of the five hundred words required, the admirably succinct 'We go to the pub. We say 'Ooh, that would be good'. Then we do it. Then we meet in the pub again and say 'Ooh, that was good not good!'

We got the grant! And we did it. Widcombe has definitely Ris!

*The nomenclature was a happy coincidence. We just meant the only way was up! Pretty woke, eh? ■ *Ralph Oswick*



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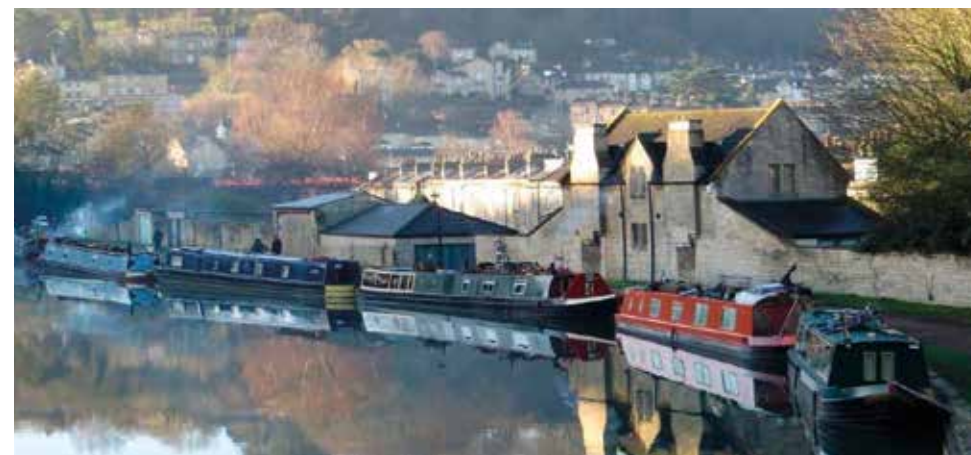
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