

# Camden Residents' Association

## Newsletter November 2015

**Camden Residents' Association Annual General Meeting**  
7.30pm Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in the Methodist Church, (east end  
Camden Rd opposite the health centre)

**Agenda:** 1.Welcome and Apologies 2.Minutes of the last AGM 3.Chairman's report  
4.Treasurer's report 5.Proposed amendments to constitution 6.Election of committee,  
Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer 7.New Chairman 8.Camden Crescent Railings update  
8.AOB



**Camden Crescent Railings & Road Structure**, Could 2016 be the year of refurbishment? Recently a poorly surfaced stretch of the road at the city end of the Crescent has been resurfaced. This is just maintenance, but there has been concern for a long time over the state of the underlying structure. Like many roads in Bath, Camden Crescent is raised up on stone vaults. Consultant and Council Engineers have been surveying the vaults and are now planning to do some ground investigation works at vault number1(nearest Lansdown Road). This is the area of the road where there used to be a noticeable dip in the road, but the surface was made up some years ago so this is now less pronounced. The wrought iron railings are in need of extensive repairs and repainting and it will be necessary to renew sections of the Bath stone railing bases. We understand that the Council is looking at the whole length of railings and bases. The extent of the work and these repairs has to be agreed with English Heritage and the Council's own Historic Buildings section in view of the fact that this concerns a Grade 1 Listed Building and its environs. This will not be a small job but if carried out would result in restoring this important architectural

element to its former glory. We do hope that this project will go ahead in full as Camden Crescent is one of Bath's outstanding gems. It is provisionally hoped that this will be in the summer of 2016.

**Chairman's report:** It is now ten years since I became chairman of the CRA. I am a believer that in any organisation it is vital that there is change in personnel, so that it does not become stale and that new people can bring new ideas and can look at priorities with a fresh mind. The committee has for the past year been seeking someone who is willing to join the committee and take over as a chairman. The committee delivered a note round to all Camden households to see if a resident would put him or herself forward with a view to seeking election as chairman. At last we now have someone who would like to stand for election to the committee and is prepared to take over the chairmanship. This is Richard Samuel who lives in Lower Camden Place, Camden Road and who has had local government experience at the highest level. This will of course be subject to election at the AGM as indeed the whole committee has to be elected then.

Our organisation covers the area known as Camden; I am pleased to welcome residents of Perfect View in Rivers Road, which leads off Camden Road towards the eastern end, and who have now joined with the CRA.

Looking back over the ten years there have been many achievements such as traffic calming and the 20mph zone, introduction of residents' parking, new bus shelters (one with real time information for passengers), the tidying and planting of wild flowers in the Camden Crescent meadow, clearing of the overgrown path and replacement of railings at St. Stephen's Road. It is now time to hand over to my successor to whom I wish all the very best in the coming year. I would also like to thank the committee for their hard work and support.

Nigel Sherwen.

**Adela Breton (1849-1923), Camden Crescent Resident:** Amongst Bath's many noteworthy residents, was Adela Breton (1849-1923), who lived in Bath for most of her life, and, notably, resided at 15, Camden Crescent. Adela was an internationally celebrated artist and archaeologist, and an avid traveller and adventurer. Those who have seen Adela's watercolours of antiquities have been impressed by their accuracy and the vividness of the colours. Katharine Wall, Collections Manager, Victoria Art Gallery, said the Gallery is "fortunate in having one hundred fascinating watercolours that document her life in Bath and travels in the Americas and across Europe."

The Bristol Museum and Art Gallery held an exhibition entitled 'The Art of Ruins: Adela Breton and the Temples of Mexico' on 16 December 1989-10 March 1990. Sue Giles, Senior Curator, who co-authored the exhibition catalogue, said of Adela: "her work is of international importance: not only did she preserve the imagery from a lost culture in Central America, she made it possible for researchers around the world to use the imagery in their work."

The Bath Royal Literary and Scientific Institution, is planning an exhibition of her works and collections to be held in 2016 in cooperation with the Bristol Museum and Art Gallery and the Victoria Art Gallery. It has named one of its rooms at 16 Queen Square in honour of Adela, in recognition of her various contributions. BRLSI is also supporting efforts to have a plaque put at 15 Camden Crescent where she lived, and is looking forward to the Council

making this possible. Betty Suchar, Vice Chair BRLSI Directors, is currently researching Adela Breton's life, if interested you can contact her at: [suchcam@msn.com](mailto:suchcam@msn.com).

Deepali Gaskell

### **HEDGEMEAD PARK**

I am sure all who walk through Hedgemead Park will welcome the long awaited replacement of a number of the Litter Bins. While one site appears to have been permanently asphalted over, we are thankful for those that have been replaced and thank the Council for the works. One is shown here, and while on this view, it should be also be recorded that the long fought battle to highlight the view of our Grade 1 listed Camden Crescent is again receding fast and that the Council could save considerable monies by doing a more substantial scrub and tree removal this winter rather than a minor pruning.



Returning to the main park, having thanked the Council for the replacement of litter bins, it would also be nice to see the benches replaced! There used to be one adjacent to the bin in the above photograph and along the bandstand terrace we are now reduced to just two out of five. A further, final gripe is the lack of any action on the renovation of the bothy above Guinea Lane, which has been in this sorry state for months, if not years.



Hedgemead Park could and should be one of Bath's most beautiful hidden gems, and if better maintained and promoted more widely would be better used by both residents and tourists.

Nigel Pollard



**Camden Road Repairs** The speed table located between Gay's Hill and Bennett's Lane junctions has been in a poor state of repair for some time. The patch repairs over a number of years have not made too much difference. Dips in the road result in vehicles grounding which must cause annoyance to local residents as well as the occupants of vehicles. The omission of drainage channels has caused large puddles to form in heavy rain sometimes resulting in a soaking to pedestrians. We were very pleased therefore to see that at last the speed table has recently been removed, including the prefabricated sections and a new bitumen macadam speed table installed. This should overcome the problems I have referred to and hopefully it will still be effective in reducing speeds of vehicles here.

It is disappointing to see potholes forming in sections of Camden Road that were completely resurfaced only a few years ago. These have mainly occurred at the junction between the east and west carriageway widths (the work was carried out in two widths of the road divided along the centre line). We will need to be vigilant in ensuring the Council carry out proper effective repairs. It is worth reporting potholes on the road and disrepair to pavements to the Council Connect help line (01225 394041 option 2) so that they can be attended to.

Nigel Sherwen

#### **Proposed Amendment to the CRA Constitution - Number 4 Executive Committee**

Current relevant wording: No more than one person shall be elected from the same household.

Proposed relevant wording: In general no more than one person shall be elected from the same household; in special circumstances this rule may be waived by a vote at the AGM or an extraordinary meeting of the CRA, provided not more than one of the following three executive committee posts shall be held by members of the same household: Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer.

*Note: details of the relevant paragraph (number 4) will be available at the AGM along with the full constitution of the CRA.*

#### **Camden Residents' Association Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee of the CRA under our constitution conducts the business of the CRA. Members of the Committee hold office for one year and are available for re-election in following years. If you wish to stand for election to the Committee please forward your name with a seconder to the Secretary. Please include your name address and contact details, also for your seconder, and send this in writing to the secretary by E-mail or by post by 15<sup>th</sup> November 2015. It may be necessary to hold an election at the AGM if more than ten people wish to be on the committee.

**Contact details:** Chairman: Nigel Sherwen 3 Stanley Villas, Camden Road (331377)  
Secretary: Janet Anderson: 31 Prospect Place, Camden Rd, BA1 5JD (429574)  
E mail: [janetandtonyanderson@talktalk.net](mailto:janetandtonyanderson@talktalk.net)  
Treasurer: Julie Platt - Lower Camden Place, Camden Rd  
You can also contact us on our website at [www.camdenresidents.org.uk](http://www.camdenresidents.org.uk)

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