

PRESS RELEASE

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**Bath Preservation Trust celebrates Heritage Open Week
Sat 24 October – Sun 1 November 2009**

Saturday 24 October sees the start of the annual Bath Heritage Open Week, and Bath Preservation Trust will be joining the action by opening the doors to their four unique Bath museums – **Number 1 Royal Crescent; the Building of Bath Collection; Beckford’s Tower & Museum; and the Herschel Museum of Astronomy** - and welcoming local visitors with a B&NES Discovery Card* free of charge.

Bath’s Heritage Open Week has been taking place annually, during the autumn half-term break, for 20 years now. Coordinated by Bath & North East Somerset Council, the week is designed to celebrate the remarkable range of collections and activities available in the City, and encourage residents to visit their local museums.

As well as free entry, Bath Preservation Trust will be running a number of celebratory events in their buildings to mark this special week:

Over the first weekend, the curator at **Beckford’s Tower and Museum**, Amy Frost, will be offering guided tours at 11am and 2pm. Numbers are limited so advance booking is essential.

The Herschel Museum of Astronomy will be running a *Bright Stars Family Trail* all week at the museum, to complement the current exhibition there *Bright Stars: Daughters of Urania*, which is a celebration of the history of women in astronomy running until November 16.

The Herschel Museum team are also venturing out into the night with a series of *Autumn Moonwatches*, which offer a unique opportunity to look at the sky through a telescope with the help and expertise of the Wiltshire Astronomical Society. On

Monday 26 the star party takes place at Cumberwell Park Golf Club in Bradford-on-Avon at 9pm. There will be telescopes on the driving range there, parking and a bar will also be available. On Friday 30 and Saturday 31 (Halloween, of course) the stargazing returns to the City centre with telescopes in front of No 1 Royal Crescent from 8pm. (NB: These events are weather dependent).

At the **Building of Bath Collection**, in the Countess of Huntingdon's Chapel on The Paragon, visitors are invited to join sculptor Laurence Tindall on Monday 26 and Friday 30 from 11am to 3.30pm. To complement the fascinating *Stones of Bath* exhibition which runs until 1 November, Lawrence will be showing visitors some stone carving techniques, and there will be opportunities to have a go yourself. The *Streets of Stone* project aims to create a street of houses made from Bath stone (see pic attached).

Barefoot storyteller, Sheila Stansfield, will also be dropping into the Building of Bath Collection on Tuesday 27 and Thursday 29 to reveal the secrets of magical creatures whose gaze can turn you to stone. Join Sheila at 11am if you want to be petrified!

On Wednesday 28 October at **Number 1 Royal Crescent** visitors can drop in between 11.00am and 12.30pm to see and handle ingenious objects used in the 18th Century, as part of that museum's *Intriguing Inventions* exhibition.

For further details about Bath Preservation Trust's Heritage Week events or about No 1 Royal Crescent, the Building of Bath Collection, Beckford's Tower or Herschel Museum of Astronomy please visit www.bath-preservation-trust.org.uk.

- Ends -

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Editors' Notes:

- A Bath Preservation Trust 75th anniversary logo is attached, plus images from the Stones of Bath exhibition at the Building of Bath Collection.
- The Bath Preservation Trust was founded in 1934 as a small pressure group, with the object of protecting the City's unique architectural heritage. Today it has some 1,400 subscribing members supporting its work. It is an independent charity.
- All Heritage Week events are free to holders of a B&NES Discovery Card. These are free and available from the Pump Room, Bath to all B&NES residents. For further information visit www.bathnes.gov.uk or email Discovery_Card@bathnes.gov.uk.