



THE EUROPEAN
ROUTE OF
HISTORIC
THERMAL
TOWNS

Cultural route
of the Council of Europe
Itinéraire culturel
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Europa Nostra UK

Annual Meeting

Bath, 13th-15th September, 2017

Programme



bathnes.co.uk

**Partners: The City of Bath World Heritage Site
The European Historic Thermal Towns Association**

Sponsors: The Leventis Foundation

Tuesday, 12th September

Welcome (a glass of wine and a first opportunity to register) **18.00-18.45**

Dinner at Hall & Woodhouse Restaurant **19.30**

Wednesday, 13th September

A Walking Tour of Bath **9.30 departure**

Although hot springs were known to exist in the valley of the River Avon from early on, it was the Romans who first developed the settlement as a spa, giving it the name *Aquae Sulis*. Baths and a temple were constructed around 60 A.D. Bath Abbey was founded in the 7th century, but it was the perceived curative properties of the waters that turned Bath into a popular and fashionable spa town in the Georgian era: Beau Nash presided over the City's social life, John Wood the Elder laid out many of the streets and squares, and its renowned architecture, crafted from Bath stone, remains one of Bath's main attractions. Jane Austen lived in the City in the early 19th century.

The tour, led by Blue Badge Guides, will view the main sights and visit two museums:

- No. 1 Royal Crescent has been decorated and furnished as it might have been during the period 1776-1796. The rooms feature period furniture, pictures and objects that reveal what life was like for Bath's residents – both upstairs and downstairs.
- The Museum of Bath Architecture explores the rich architectural history of Bath and its transformation from a provincial town into a world-famous Georgian city.

A light lunch ('a good sandwich, fruit and dessert with soft drinks') will be provided at the Museum of Bath Architecture, and we shall be given a brief introduction to the Bath Preservation Trust and its work.

The Trust encourages us to 'linger' at the Museum after the general public is admitted at 2 p.m. - that is, provided Europa Nostra UK members arrive at the Assembly Rooms (nearby) in time for our Annual General Meeting at 3 p.m.!

The afternoon events will take place in the Assembly Rooms

The Assembly Rooms constitute one of Bath's finest Georgian buildings and houses the internationally renowned Fashion Museum.

The Rooms were purpose-built in 1771 for an 18th century form of entertainment called an 'assembly'. Visitors assembled to dance, drink tea, play cards and listen to music. There are four rooms:

The Ball Room

This is the largest 18th century room in Bath. Dancing was popular and balls were held at least twice a week, attracting 800 to 1,200 guests at a time. The high ceiling provided good ventilation on crowded ball nights, and windows set at a high level prevented outsiders from looking in.

The Tea Room, sometimes known as the Concert Room, was used for both refreshments and concerts, with an interval for tea, included in the price of the ticket.

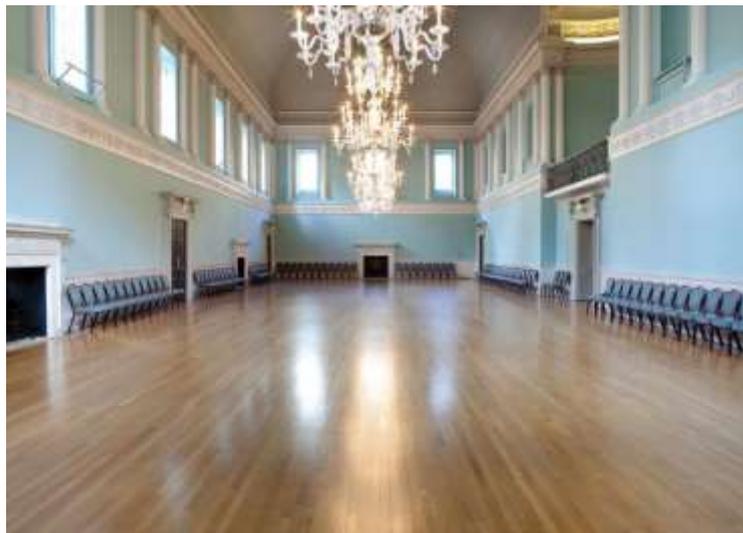
The Octagon and Card Rooms

The Ball and Tea Rooms are linked by the Octagon Room, originally intended as a circulating space, also used for music and playing cards, except on Sundays when card games were not permitted. A new Card Room was added in 1777.

Europa Nostra Annual General Meeting

The Ball Room

15.00-16.00



The Ball Room, Assembly Rooms

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Tea The Octagon Room

16.00-16.30

Duncan-Sandys Lecture

The Ball Room

16.30-17.30

The Lecture commemorates Lord Duncan-Sandys who was for many years President of Europa Nostra and led the organisation actively during its early and formative years. It will be given this year by **Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe**. Sir Barry is Emeritus Professor of European Archaeology at the University of Oxford. His interests - and many of his books - have focused on social and economic dynamics

and the relationships between the Mediterranean world and ‘barbarian’ Europe, and his work on Bath includes a celebrated monograph. The title of his lecture is

‘Sulis and the healing spring at Bath’

The Lecture will be followed by a **Reception** (canapés and wine) in the **Octagon Room**.



The Octagon Room, Assembly Rooms

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Thursday, 14th September

Morning and afternoon in the Assembly Rooms

Conference: ‘European Heritage Spa Towns’

9.00-17.30

Speakers will tell us about heritage spa towns across Europe and there will be panel discussions at the end of both morning and afternoon sessions. Lunch is included.

Speakers include **Tony Crouch** (Manager of the City of Bath’s World Heritage Site), **Professor Mario Crescente** (architect and spa specialist, Vice-President of the EHTTA Scientific Committee, A Coruña), **Professor Marguerite Dupree** (Glasgow University), **Professor Dominique Jarrassé** (Ecole du Louvre, Paris), **Christopher Pound** (consultant, writer and UNECSO project expert) and **Paul Simons** (heritage, tourism and spa specialist, Director of the ‘Thermae Bath Spa’ project, President of the EHTTA Scientific Committee).

Topics to be discussed include ‘The History and Significance of Spa Towns’, ‘The “internationalism” of the spa town phenomenon’, ‘The Thermal Atlas of Europe’, ‘The Thermae Bath Spa project, as a flagship to revive British spa culture’ and ‘The development of hydropathic establishments in Scotland c.1840-1939’.

Evening Reception and Dinner

The Roman Baths

19.00 for 19.30

The Reception and Conference Dinner will be held in the Roman Baths complex.

The Baths themselves are below the modern street level. There are four main features: the Sacred Spring, the Roman Temple, the Roman Bath House and the Museum. The buildings above street level date from the 19th century.



The Roman Baths

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Friday, 15th September

A Visit to the City of Wells

9.30-16.00

The Cathedral City of Wells, lying at the foot of the Mendip Hills, is often described as England's smallest city. It takes its name from three wells dedicated to Saint Andrew; one in the market place and two within the grounds of the Bishop's Palace and Cathedral. A small Roman settlement grew in importance and size under the Anglo-Saxons who founded a minster church there in 704. The community became a trading centre based on cloth-making.

The **Cathedral Church of Saint Andrew** has been described as 'unquestionably one of the most beautiful' and as 'the most poetic' of English cathedrals.



Wells Cathedral

wells cathedral.org.uk

The Cathedral's architecture presents an harmonious whole which is entirely Gothic and mostly in the Early English Gothic style of the late 12th and 13th centuries. In this respect Wells differs from most other English medieval cathedrals which have parts in the earlier Romanesque style introduced to Britain by the Normans in the 11th century.

Work commenced in about 1175 at the east end with the building of the choir. The historian John Harvey considers it to be the first truly Gothic structure in Europe, having broken from the last constraints of Romanesque, and he describes its façade, which displays more than 300 sculpted figures, as 'the supreme triumph of the combined plastic arts in England'. The east end retains much ancient glass, which is rare in England.

Unlike many English cathedrals of monastic foundation, Wells has an exceptional number of secular buildings associated with its Chapter of Secular Canons, including the Bishop's Palace and Vicars' Close.

The **Bishop's Palace** has been the home of the Bishops of the Diocese of Bath and Wells for 800 years. The Palace was originally surrounded by a medieval deer park. When the walls were built, streams were diverted to form the moat. In the 1820s, the grounds within the walls were planted and laid out as pleasure grounds with a reflecting pond.

Vicars' Close, claimed to be the 'oldest purely residential street with original buildings surviving intact in Europe', is referred to by John Julius Norwich as 'that rarest of survivals, a planned street of the mid-14th century'. It comprises 27 residences (originally 44), a chapel and library at the north end and a hall at the south end.

Farewell Dinner at Hall & Woodhouse Bath Restaurant

19.30