

Doors Open Day at the University of Bristol

Saturday 10 September 2011



A brief guide to the buildings open between 10 am and 4 pm

- Wills Memorial Building
- Royal Fort House
- Bristol Heart Institute
- Clifton Hill House

bristol.ac.uk/doorsopenday

The University of Bristol is pleased to participate once more in Bristol Doors Open Day 2011. We hope you enjoy visiting the buildings in this year's programme: the Wills Memorial Building, Royal Fort House, the Bristol Heart Institute and Clifton Hill House. There will also be a chance to find out about our latest research and talk to researchers at an exhibition in the Wills Memorial Building.

UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL



Research exhibition at the Wills Memorial Building

This booklet gives you:

- Times of free tours taking place at the venues open today
- Short histories of the buildings
- Notes on what to look out for while you are visiting.

If you require additional support at any of these events, such as wheelchair access or sign language interpretation, please contact Diane Thorne; tel: +44 (0)117 331 8318, email: diane.thorne@bristol.ac.uk, at the earliest opportunity.

FREE ADMISSION

For further information, contact:
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Download extra copies of this booklet from our website: bristol.ac.uk/doorsopenday

Guided tours

- There will be free tours to the top of the Tower. These must be booked on the day, on a first come, first served basis.†
- Visit the reception desk on the first floor to reserve a place.
- Tour times: 9.55 am, 10.15 am, 10.35 am, 10.55 am, 11.15 am, 11.35 am, 11.55 am, 12.15 pm, 12.35 pm, 13.15 pm, 13.35 pm, 13.55 pm, 14.15 pm, 14.35 pm, 14.55 pm, 15.15 pm.
- Tours also take place on the first Wednesday of every month from 12.30 - 2.00 pm. Information from Dave Skelhorne; tel: 0777 0265108 email: dave.skelhorne@bristol.ac.uk
- The Entrance Hall, Great Hall, Reception Room, Council Chamber and Library will all be open for free public viewing.

A short history

George and Henry Wills of the Wills Tobacco Company, who wanted to create a lasting memorial to their father, Henry Overton Wills III, paid for the Wills Memorial Building to be built. Henry Overton Wills III's pledge of £100,000 in 1908 made the foundation of the University possible the following year. The brothers wanted to give the new University an impressive main building on a conspicuous site. The final bill came to £500,000.

† **Health and safety** Unfortunately, children under 8 are not allowed to go up the Tower. There are more than 200 steps and some enclosed spaces. When a tour coincides with Great George chiming the hour, disposable earplugs will be provided.



Wills Memorial Building

The building

The building was designed in 1912 by George Oatley (1863-1950) who was knighted for his work. It was constructed by the builders Henry Willcock & Co of Wolverhampton and was one of the last buildings in this country to be built using wooden scaffolding. The First World War held up construction of the building and it was not until 9 June 1925 that King George V opened it. The building is now Grade II* listed.

Hands-on research

An exhibition of research will take place in the Reception Room. Learn about our work on subjects including dinosaurs, ancient artifacts and strategic decision-making games. Come along and talk to our researchers and try out the hands-on activities. The exhibition is free and open from 10 am to 4 pm.

Wills Memorial Building

Queen's Road, BS8 1RJ

Although to many Bristolians, the Wills Memorial Building **is** the whole of the University, today it only houses part of it: the Department of Earth Sciences and the School of Law, together with their libraries.

Restoration

The Tower has recently been subject to a £750,000 restoration, the main contractors for which were W. R. Bedford, Stonemasons. This included cleaning the stonework, repainting the shields on the exterior and installing discreet, energy-efficient floodlights to illuminate it at night.

The scaffolding consisted of a network of 9,000 steel tubes, which weighed a total of 300 tons and which, if laid end to end, would run for 56 kilometres, or all the way to Taunton. There were also 30 tons of clips and fittings, 40 tons of beams to create bridges and 90 tons of scaffold

boards equivalent to 50 lorry-loads of materials, all handled and erected by a team of just seven men.

The Tower

The Tower, in the Gothic Perpendicular style, is one of Bristol's most prominent landmarks and is 215 feet (or 65.5 metres) high.

Great George

The nine-and-a-half-ton bell at the top of the Tower is known as 'Great George' after the architect, Sir George Oatley, King George V and George Wills. Great George is the sixth heaviest bell in Britain and the third largest bell that can be swung by rope and wheel in the country. The bell's note is E-flat and it was the deepest-toned in the UK when it was made. It is now usually struck externally between 7 am and 11 pm.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

Entrance Hall – ground floor

This is one of the most impressive rooms in the building and is 75 feet (or 23 metres) high. Notice the massive double staircases to the first floor and Gothic fan vaulting on the ceiling. In the middle of the vaulting is a decorative oak cover over the aperture where the bell, 'Great George', was hoisted into the belfry.

The original Founder's Window lost its glass in the Second World War and the existing window is a new design showing the shields of all the early supporters of the University.

Reception Room – first floor

The Reception Room is 64 feet (or 19.5 metres) long, with a Minstrels' Gallery at one end and an oriel window at the other. It has a beautiful plasterwork ceiling and oak panelling on the walls. On each oak pilaster are the arms of University tributary counties and cities. The portraits are of distinguished officers of the University, including George and Henry Wills and Sir Winston Churchill, Chancellor of the University from 1929 to 1965.

Great Hall – first floor

The magnificent 100-foot (or 30.5 metres) long Great Hall can seat 1,000 people for graduation ceremonies (February and July) and other important occasions. There is a beautiful hammer-beam roof in English oak and linen-fold panelling on the walls, all of which had to be restored after the building was bombed in 1940.

Council Chamber – first floor

This room was originally used for meetings of the University's Council. It is semi-polygonal in shape, with an impressive glass ceiling above a stone vault. On the longest wall are the shields of benefactors of the University.

Library – first floor

A bust of the architect of the building, Sir George Oatley, can be found near the entrance to the library. The oldest part of the library is 100 feet (or 30.5 metres) long and has a beautiful 16th-century style plaster ceiling.

Centenary garden

Outside the building is the Centenary garden, a public space designed by Anne de Verteuil in celebration of the University's centenary in 2009.

Hands-on research

Research exhibition, 10 am to 4 pm
Reception Room, Wills Memorial Building.

Explore how people negotiate and make choices with a real Game Theory experiment. Will you share or take it all? What can we learn from pre-history? Erupt a volcano and watch earthquakes across the world. Dig up a dinosaur or become a Palaeodetective and see the messages uncovered from a collection of ancient artefacts. Meet researchers from the University and make your own discoveries.

RICHARD EDWARDS



Recent restoration of the Tower

ALISON NEEDLER



Entrance Hall

Royal Fort House

off Tyndall Avenue, BS8 1UJ



Royal Fort House

Guided tours

- There will be free guided tours at 10 am, 11 am, 12 noon, 1 pm, 2 pm and 3 pm
- Places are limited and are on a first come, first served basis.

A short history

Thomas Tyndall, who built Royal Fort House on the site of the old Royalist Fort, leased the land from Bristol Corporation in 1737, and for some years continued to buy up the leases of more of the surrounding land. The family's wealth had been acquired over many years through trade with Africa and the West Indies. The architect, James Bridges, who had come from the American Colonies and set up his premises on St Michael's Hill, was commissioned by Thomas Tyndall to

prepare designs for a new house at Royal Fort. The building was eventually finished in approximately 1761. Bridges is known as the designer of the original Bristol Bridge.

Thomas Tyndall lived at Royal Fort House for about 30 years until his death in 1790 when Thomas Tyndall II inherited the building. Unfortunately the latter was unable to prevent the sale, in 1791, of many of the surrounding acres to a syndicate, though the land reverted to the Tyndalls in 1798. Humphrey Repton, who was employed to remake the park around the house, removed all traces of the syndicate's activities.

From 1798 until 1916, the Tyndalls lived at Royal Fort House. In 1916 the house and surrounding land were sold to the University.

The building

James Bridges began work on Royal Fort House by preparing a wooden model that can still be seen in the House today. In the design and building of the House, Bridges collaborated with Thomas Paty* who did both the stone carving and rococo woodcarving, and with Thomas Stocking** who did the decorative rococo plaster work. The mason who was responsible for the stonework is thought to be Robert Gray who had done other work for Bridges. Of Bridges' elevations for Royal Fort

House, Ison*** writes: "*The elevations are typical Georgian Classical designs of an effective but slightly commonplace character...*" but Ison also suggests that they are redeemed by the high quality of the interiors of the ground floor rooms, unrivalled in the South West.

Paintings on display from the Theatre Collection

The Theatre Collection is an accredited museum and one of the world's largest archives for British theatre and Live Art. Founded in 1951 to serve the newly formed Drama Department (the first in any UK university), it is now a research facility open to all. The collections cover all aspects of theatre history to the present day, and visitors include everyone from international scholars to family historians.

The Mander & Mitchenson collection was acquired in 2011 by the University, and amongst its vast holdings are over 400 artworks, including a large number of oil paintings. A selection of the new acquisitions are on display here in Royal Fort House, alongside other theatrical portraits from the existing holdings of the Theatre Collection. These artworks have been collected for their theatrical theme but are stunning pieces of art in their own right.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

Entrance Hall

- On the walls, four decorative brackets whose original purpose was to carry lamps (note their representation of the four seasons)
- The 18th-century brass floor heating inlets can still be seen.



On display in the Hallway: 'Herbert Beerbohm Tree as Gringoire in *The Ballad Monger*' by Charles A. Buchel c.1912



On display in the Drawing Room: 'Anne Brunton (Mrs Merry) and Joseph Holman as Romeo and Juliet (Act V)' by Mather Brown (c.1763-1831), late 18th century

* Paty worked in Bristol as an architect and carver, designing many Clifton houses. **Stocking was the City's best-known plaster worker with an international reputation. *** Ison, Walter, *The Georgian Buildings of Bristol* (1978).

The Dining Room (facing the front entrance door)

- Stocking's fine ceiling (note his handling of the cornice)
- Paty's (probably) Quebec pine carving on the walls
- Note the vigorous design of the door surround
- The small painting in the carving of the door surround is attributed to Michael Edkins.

The Staircase Hall

- Thomas Stocking's rococo stucco work on the walls
- The Edwardian chandelier, hanging over the staircase
- The floor surface, made up of two coloured slate and stone.



The staircase

The Library

- Currently used as a meeting room with views on to the lake and gardens.

The Drawing/Withdrawing Rooms

- Ceiling by Stocking; the little pineapple leaves in the ceiling boss are made of lead
- The carved heads on either side of the fireplace are probably those of Thomas Tyndall and his wife
- Over the fireplace is a piece of 18th-century wallpaper that was unearthed some time ago
- The sills of the three windows on the west side appear to have been lowered, and this change is reflected in the decoration of the adjoining dado rails.



On display in the Withdrawing Room: 'Camille Clifford' by Dorothy Reynolds, early 20th century. All three images of paintings courtesy of the University of Bristol Theatre Collection

JAMIE WOODLEY



'Follow Me' sculpture by Jeppe Hein with new sound installation

In Royal Fort Gardens you will find the sculpture 'Follow Me' by Jeppe Hein, commissioned by the University as part of its centenary celebrations. The artwork comprises a square labyrinth of 76 vertical polished steel plates. For Doors Open Day we have projected onto the mirrors a sound installation by third year drama student Francesca Murray to create a new experience for visitors to the labyrinth entitled 'Living with austerity'.

NICK SMITH



The Theatre Collection, 21 Park Row, BS1 5LY 'Unfur!' exhibition



The Theatre Collection is holding a special public preview of the 'Unfur!' exhibition by Artist in Residence, Clare Thornton (exhibition runs 26 September - 11 November). Clare will be focusing on the recently acquired Mander & Mitchenson Theatre Collection, revealing some of its hidden treasures and making new work inspired by its holdings. This small exhibition is framed by the artist's research into depictions of folds and drapery in paintings, historical interiors and through her production of objects, garments and installations that explore ideas of display, concealment and transformation. The 'Unfur!' Artist in Residence project also celebrates the Theatre Collection's 60th Anniversary. This project has been developed in collaboration with the nearby Red Lodge Museum and has been supported by an Arts Council England Grants for the Arts Award.

Bristol Heart Institute

Bristol Royal Infirmary, BS2 8HW

Designed in partnership with patients, staff and the public, the Bristol Heart Institute (BHI) provides a full range of diagnostic and interventional treatments for heart conditions to the people of Bristol, the South West and beyond.

The BHI opened its doors to patients in May 2009. Funded by the Department of Health, this state-of-the-art £60 million centre brings cardiology and cardiac surgery services, as well as cardiac imaging and research under one roof, allowing staff to provide seamless care

for heart patients. The centre is part of University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust working in partnership with the University of Bristol. In an average year, around 1,700 heart operations are carried out, 4,000 cardiology procedures performed, and 15,000 outpatients are treated at the BHI.

The surgery facility consists of three dedicated cardiac surgery operating theatres as well as a further hybrid theatre. The facility is supported by 36 ward beds and a critical care area

Research

Research in the area of cardiovascular disease is very much at the heart of the University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust vision and strategy, and the opening of the BHI has helped the Trust to further develop its research into cardiovascular disease. Research at the BHI has also been greatly enhanced by its designation as a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Biomedical Research Unit in Cardiovascular Medicine. The NIHR Biomedical Research Unit is a partnership between the Trust and the University of Bristol, enabling some of our best health researchers and clinicians to work together. The BHI has recently installed a magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) facility.



Bristol Heart Institute (BHI)

of 24 beds, where post-operative care is provided by a team led by 13 consultant anaesthetists in association with specialist intensive care nurses.

The cardiology department has an extensive outpatient area, with room for consultations and one-stop clinics offering echo and electrocardiography (ECG), chest X-rays and pacemaker checks, as well as exercise ECG and ambulatory ECG monitoring. The three catheter laboratories include rooms for angiography and angioplasty with facilities for intravascular ultrasound, along with a dedicated electrophysiology laboratory with conventional and elector-spatial mapping facilities. All labs are linked via an advanced audiovisual system. There is a large coronary care unit, a day-case unit and there are 34 inpatient beds.

The BHI has received several awards for its innovative design and patient environment, including a prestigious Building Better Healthcare award for Best Use of Visual Art in Healthcare, a 2009 blue plaque from the Bristol Civic Society's Environmental Awards and the Royal Institute of British Architects Ibstock Premier Award and Best Public Sector Building. The building was officially opened by HRH Princess Anne in October 2009.

The design of the building includes a tree-lined atrium to provide a welcoming and calm space for patients. A self-guided tour will be available with the opportunity to view some clinical areas.



Tree-lined atrium

Clifton Hill House

Lower Clifton Hill, BS8 1BX

Guided tours

There are no guided tours but staff will be on hand throughout the day to answer questions about the building.

A short history

Clifton Hill House was built between 1746 and 1750 as an imposing semi-rural mansion of Palladian inspiration for Paul Fisher, a highly successful and wealthy merchant and ship-owner. He was described by his contemporaries as a benevolent man and a great benefactor for the poor of the community. He was most prominent in the foundation of the Bristol Infirmary in 1735.

In 1851, Clifton Hill House was bought by Dr John Addington Symonds, a well-known Bristol physician who was famous not only for his medical proficiency but also for his gift at entertaining the literary and artistic élite of his time. The house was filled with many distinguished and talented people like Lord Lansdowne, Jowett, Percival (Clifton College's first Headmaster) and Jenny Lind, the celebrated Victorian singer known as the Swedish Nightingale. She sang several times at the Victoria Rooms and in 1862, stayed at Clifton Hill House when she sang in what is now the Symonds Music Room. The pitch of her exceptional voice

was such that it broke a fine crystal glass. Other guests included John Masefield, the Poet Laureate and Dame Clara Butt, the Bristol-born contralto.

When Dr Symonds died in 1871, the house passed to his son, John Addington Symonds, the poet, historian, and literary and art critic. Though his work is little read today, he was a leading participant in the literary culture of his time, an early enthusiast of Whitman and a friend of Robert Louis Stevenson, Henry James and Edward Lear. *The Owl and the Pussy Cat* was written for Symonds's eldest daughter, Janet.

1920s, thanks to the generosity of the Wills family, enabling the creation of a new dining room on the site of the Stables. This is now known as the Wills Reception Room.

In 1909, Clifton Hill House was opened as a 'Women's Hostel', accommodating 15 young ladies. It is now a popular mixed hall of residence, housing a lively community of some 230 students from the University of Bristol. It is also well known for hosting conferences, civil weddings and special events in the restored rooms.

WHAT TO LOOK OUT FOR

Reception rooms and main staircase

There are some remarkable rococo ceiling carvings by local craftsman Joseph Thomas in the reception rooms and the main staircase – the first cantilever stone staircase in Bristol. The design of Clifton Hill House appears in Isaac Ware's book *A Complete Body of Architecture* of 1756.

The garden

The main garden at Clifton Hill House follows a traditional patte d'oie design. Its layout has not changed much since the 18th century and it is home to several rare tulip trees, the oldest of which was planted for Paul Fisher over 250 years ago.

The building

At the height of his wealth, Paul Fisher employed Isaac Ware, the Palladian architect and designer of national renown and protégé of Lord Burlington. Most of Ware's works were for private clients. His most famous surviving building is Wrotham Park, the plans of which appear in Soldi's portrait of Ware and his daughter. A copy of the plans now hangs in the Fisher Drawing Room at Clifton Hill House. Fisher chose Clifton for the location of his mansion, following the growing idea of the time that the suburbs were preferable to the bustling city.

Callander House, an eighteenth-century house next door, was bought for £4,000 by the University in 1911, also from the Symonds family. It was extended in the

Clifton Hill House



SARAH WHITTINGHAM

Talks and public events

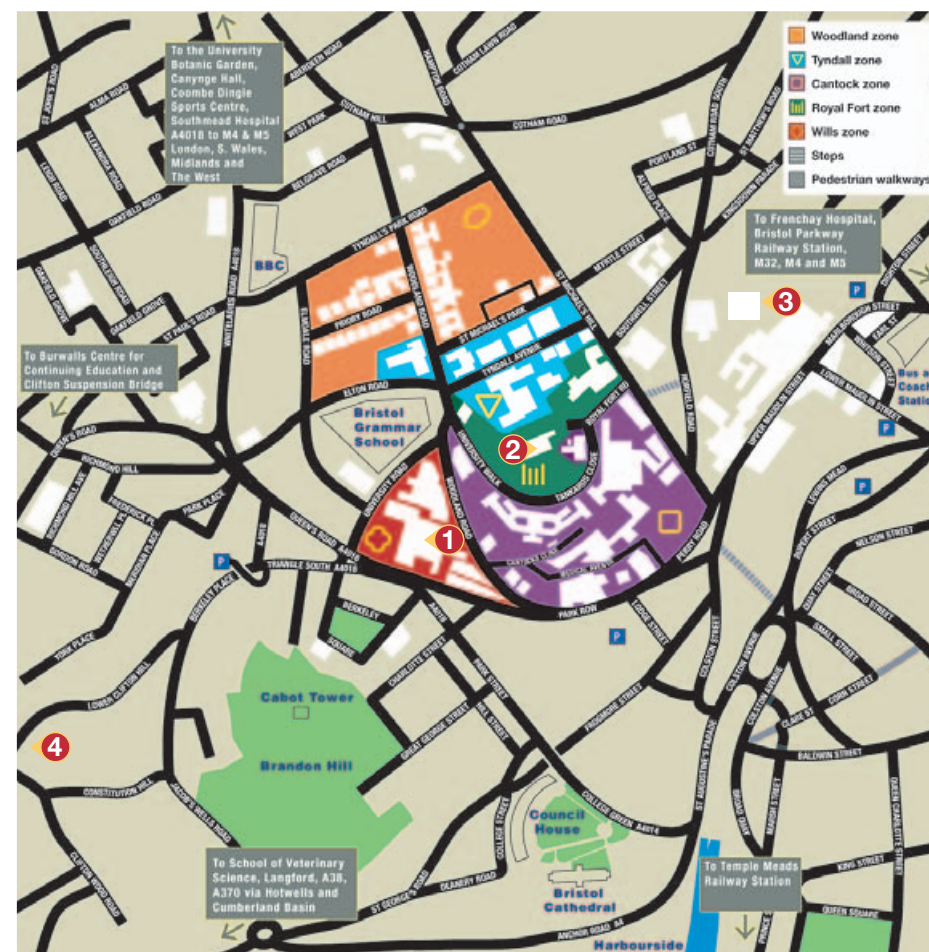
- 15 September 2011 *The Rhythm of Time – A history of heart disease in images*
Dr Jason Johnson, University of Bristol.
A talk to coincide with the *Heartfelt* exhibition which is raising money for the British Heart Foundation.
6 pm GRANT BRADLEY GALLERY, BS3 4AQ
- 25 September 2011 *Seeds of Change*
A tour and discussion of a Ballast Seed Garden being grown at the Botanic Garden. In partnership with Arnolfini.
2 pm UNIVERSITY OF BRISTOL BOTANIC GARDEN, BS9 1JG
- 17 October 2011 *Photography and the discovery of the universe*
David Malin, RMIT University, Melbourne.
6 pm THE BRISTOL GALLERY, BS1 5TY
- 21 October 2011 *The changing faces of the heavens*
Darrelyn Gunzburg, University of Bristol.
6 pm THE BRISTOL GALLERY, BS1 5TY
- 3 November 2011 *Italy at 150: The Nation and its Identities*
Dr Ruth Glynn, Professor Derek Duncan, Dr Charles Burdett and Dr Catherine O’Rawe, University of Bristol.
6 pm WATERSHED, BS1 5TX

These talks are free but booking is required in advance.
bristol.ac.uk/public-engagement/events

InsideArts

- 18 - 20 October 2011 *InsideArts – University of Bristol Festival of the Arts and Humanities*
A programme of free lectures, workshops, exhibitions and performances presenting the work of the Faculty of Arts. Various venues in the University and City
- 20 October 2011 *Art for art’s sake – How do we determine the role of the Arts and Humanities in society?*
Public discussion. Speakers include University of Bristol academics and external speakers from the city of Bristol.
7.30 pm WATERSHED, BS1 5TX

Free admission. Full programme and booking details available at:
bristol.ac.uk/inside-arts



Key

- 1 Wills Memorial Building
- 2 Royal Fort House
- 3 Bristol Heart Institute
- 4 Clifton Hill House

Access to the Bristol Heart Institute is via Horfield Road, off St Michael’s Hill. Take the turning into the Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre car park, then bear left and walk down the slope. The Bristol Heart Institute will be straight in front of you; follow the road around to the right and the entrance will be immediately on your left.



University of
BRISTOL

We value your feedback and would like to hear what you think about Doors Open Day.

You can contact us:

- by email: cpe-info@bristol.ac.uk
- through our website:
bristol.ac.uk/public-engagement/comments
- you can also leave a comment on our blog:
<http://centreforpublicengagement.blogspot.com>
- follow us on Twitter: twitter.com/cpe_bristol
- or simply telephone us on: +44 (0) 117 331 8318.

We'd love to hear from you.

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