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This leaflet can be found on the Bath & North East Somerset Council website at: <http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/BathNes/leisureandculture/artsandentertainment/artsdevelopment/default.htm>

For further information:
Other public art in Bath and North East Somerset:
www.bathnes.gov.uk/publicart

For information on Bath:
Visit Bath website: www.visitbath.co.uk

There is also a City Trail guide **By Way of Walcot** with historical information about the street available from the Tourist Information Centre, Kingston Parade, Bath.

Map illustration: **Jane Randfield.**
Photos courtesy of
Peter Salt: **Floating Globe by William Pye, 2010.**
© Bath in Time - Bath Central Library: **Walcot Street 1950's.**
Caroline Thibeaud: **Walcot Street 2009.**
Roger Houghton: **Cycle Racks, Walcot Street.**
Caroline Thibeaud: **all other photos.**

Key for map

- 1** 'Draw near to God ...'
St Michael's Without Church
- 2** **Cycle Racks**
Bottom of Walcot Street
- 3** 'Floating Globe'
Broad Street Place
- 4** **Gates**
Beehive Yard
- 5** **Bollards**
Shannon and Johns Bikes
- 6** **Ladymead Fountain & Horse Trough**
- 7** **Bench**
Next to Ladymead Fountain & Horse Trough
- 8** **Cycle Racks**
Johns Bikes
- 9** **Gates**
Old Orchard
- 10** 'Offspring'
Next to St Swithin's Church
- 11** 'Divine Influx'
Bath Street (off the map)

This leaflet about Walcot Street Artworks can be made available in a range of community languages, large print, Braille, on tape, electronic and accessible formats from the Arts Development Team on 01225 396432

Walcot Street Artworks

Walcot Street is full of independent shops and small businesses with plenty to explore. There's an imaginative variety of the creative, quirky and unusual.

Local businesses and residents, together with Bath & North East Somerset Council, wanted to celebrate Walcot Street's special qualities and make improvements to the area. In 1999, the Walcot Street Artworks project was conceived: a collection of works of art and artist-designed street furniture which reflects the creativity of the street. The Walcot Street Artworks have become part of the daily lives of those who live and work here, and form an intriguing and varied collection for the visitor to explore.

Floating Globe by William Pye, 2010 (No.3), and the Walcot Street Cycle Racks, just above Beehive Yard, by Nigel Keegan and Richard Cooper, 2003 (No.2) are at the southern end of the street. Walk up the street to explore the rest of the collection, including the restored Ladymead Fountain & Horse Trough, C.E Davis, 1860 (No.6) with Offspring by William Pye, 2008 (No.10) at the junction with The Paragon and London Street.



A Brief History of Walcot

Walcot Street has a long history dating back to Roman times, with archaeology showing signs of an ancient settlement with a similar character to that of today: shops, living accommodation, artisans' workshops and small industry.

By AD50, Walcot Street was attracting travellers, traders and artisans such as glassmakers, ironsmiths and tile makers from all corners of the Roman Empire. The Saxons later gave the street its name 'Walcot', meaning the place of strangers, thus highlighting its cosmopolitan character.

In the Middle Ages, Walcot retreated to become a small village community gathered around St Swithin's Church, its many gardens providing green produce for the city. We also know that a weaving community had settled around St Michael's Without (so called because it lay outside the city walls).

Bustling activity resumed in the 18th century, with a flourishing wool and cloth trade. Pubs and inns opened, offering entertainment for locals and visitors. Being outside the city wall made Walcot pubs safer places to voice political dissent, and sometimes just an outlet for misbehaviour - it was not unusual to see intoxicated men racing their carts down the street. By the 19th century, a wealth of crafts and trades could be found on Walcot Street: basket makers, tailors, locksmiths and printers had established their workshops. In 1855 the Corporation of Bath built a Corn Market, still in existence today, to store grain and house the slaughterhouses.

Ladymead House pointed out the sad fate of the 'Fallen Women' who were housed in this penitentiary. Today it is sheltered accommodation for retired people. The old Tram Shed is another of Walcot Street's landmarks, formerly used to house a power station and the city's trams until 1939. It was redeveloped in 2000 and now offers flats, offices and a bar/restaurant.

The 1970s saw the creation of Bath Arts Workshop whose members started local institutions still with us today such as the Natural Theatre Company and the Bath Fringe Festival. Nowadays Walcot is still very much Bath's artisan quarter, a thriving and creative area with flourishing businesses and independent shops.

Walcot Street Artworks TRAIL GUIDE



www.bathnes.gov.uk

Bath & North East Somerset Council

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In the classical setting of the 18th century Cross Bath, William Pye's sculpture celebrates the emergence of the hot water spring into the spa. It bears the inscription: 'Water is the ultimate life, pure as crystal, the divine influx', attributed to the poet Ted Hughes.

Divine Influx by William Pye, 2002 at Thermae Bath Spa Cross Bath, Bath Street

And beyond Walcot Street see also....

This polished stainless steel sculpture is animated by a gentle cascade of falling water. Inspired by a photograph by Edward Weston, the sculpture is of a section through a nautilus shell.

Offspring by William Pye, 2008, next to St Swithin's Church at the Junction of the Paragon and London Street

The gates are made of galvanised steel and stainless steel wire woven into a mesh. The piers are made of Bath stone. The artists chose a mix of modern and traditional materials and used decorative methods that resonate with Georgian and Regency building practices. Across the gates' mesh, metal bees (tozenge) are randomly placed and suggest a swarm of bees.

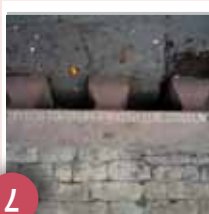
Old Orchard Gates and Beehives by Ben Gale of Stoneworks of Bath, Peter Linnett and Bronwyn Williams Ellis, 2003, Old Orchard

These are the original tubular sculptures spelling out 'Walcot' over three racks which won the street furniture design competition organised by Walcot Street residents and businesses in 2002. See also No.2.

Cycle Racks by Nigel Keegan and Richard Cooper, 2002, outside John's Bikes

The bench is made of granite and St Bees red sandstone. The carved words on the edge of the seat read 'Welcome, Reflect, I will give you Rest' and were written by Ladymead House residents in a creative writing workshop facilitated by Claire Williamson.

Stoneworks of Bath, writer and performer Claire Williamson, and residents of the Ladymead House, 2003, next to Ladymead Fountain



This drinking fountain with horse trough was commissioned by Miss Elizabeth Landon and designed by the Bath City Architect C.E Davis in 1860. Built at the time of the Temperance Movement, it was erected to provide farmers with fresh water for their animals and themselves - to encourage them to stay clear of the temptation of pubs and alcohol. The fountain was renovated in 2006 as part of Walcot Street Artworks programme.

Ladymead Fountain & Horse Trough by C.E Davis, 1860, next to the Paragon Steps

There are a total of ten powder coated steel and glass bollards each of slightly different shapes and textures, suggesting highly blurred profiles of standing human figures. The glass eyes were designed and produced by Bath Aqua Glass on Walcot Street.

Bollards by John Packer and Kevin Hughes with Bath Aqua Glass, 2002, next to Shannon, John's Bikes and the Ladymead Fountain & Horse Trough

The inspiration for Packer's sculptural work comes mainly from natural physical phenomena. These gates, made of powdered coated stainless steel, reflect the artist's interest in the themes of time, transience, illusion and the underlying mathematical rules that drive nature.

Beehive Yard Gates by John Packer and Kevin Hughes, 2003, Beehive Yard Entrance

This stainless steel globe with water flowing in shallow water is a prime example of the artist's lyrical expressions of form, rhythm, movement and reflection. See also William Pye's Offspring near St Swithin's Church (No.10) and at Thermae Bath Spa Cross Bath (No.11).

Floating Globe by William Pye, 2010, Broad Street Place

These stainless steel tubular sculptures spell out 'Walcot' over three racks. They are copies of the cycle racks opposite John's Bikes (No.8) and were originally commissioned by Total Fitness Bike Shop, formerly in Saracen Street.

Cycle Racks by Nigel Keegan and Richard Cooper, 2002, just above Beehive Yard

This piece of letter cutting on stone paving is taken from the Letter to James, Chapter 4, Verse 8. It is a welcoming gesture aimed at drawing people into the church. It was separately commissioned in 2007 as part of St Michael's Without's programme of renovation.

Draw Near to God and He will Draw Near to You by John Neilson, 2007, St Michael's Church

