

 For immediate release

**“Small Worlds”**

**Exhibition of Historic Dolls’ Houses from the 18th and 19th Centuries**

A collection of historic dolls’ houses and miniature furniture made in the 1700s and 1800s, which have never before been on public display, will be exhibited at No. 1 Royal Crescent in Bath from 9 May - 8 November 2015.

These amazing objects are part of the private collection of Liza Antrim and will be on display for the first time. This is a rare opportunity to engage a wide range of people with the heritage of childhood and will reveal a fascinating social history of the period.

Ten dolls’ houses will be on show in the Brownsword Gallery and within the rooms of No. 1 itself, an authentic Georgian townhouse revealing life above and below stairs nearly 250 years ago. The **Small Worlds** exhibition will include a dolls’ house made in Bristol for the children of local chocolate maker Francis Fry in c1840 (“The Fry House”). The oldest dolls’ house “Bellamy’s House” was made c1762 and shows little evidence of having been played with. Displays of miniature furniture, textiles and dolls will be displayed alongside information about who made these items and how they have survived.

Often it was the children from impoverished backgrounds who made the houses and furniture these two centuries ago, to be played with by those in wealthier households. Children from the Ragged Schools, under the direction of Octavia Hill, made fine and intricate items to be sold by the Ladies’ Guild in 19th Century London under the label of “Art Toys”. The more robust furniture made by Evans & Cartwright was also to a large extent made using child labour, with the workers involved in every stage of manufacture from pressing and soldering to japanning and painting. With examples on display, **Small Worlds** will enlighten as well as delight.



The exhibition will be supported by a variety of lectures and events, including creative workshops, storytelling and handling collection sessions.

Generously supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund

The exhibition will run from 9 May to 8 Nov 2015 and is free to visit with normal admission to the museum (Adult £9, Conc £7, Child £4, Group £6.50, Family £22).

-Ends-

For further information please contact:

Janey Abbott, Communications Officer, Bath Preservation Trust

Telephone: 01225 338727 Email: jabbott@bptrust.org.uk

**Notes for editors** [www.no1royalcrescent.org.uk](http://www.no1royalcrescent.org.uk)

No.1 Royal Crescent enables people to explore the recreated historic interiors of a late 18th century Bath Town House of distinction. Built on the realistic presentation of authentic historic objects in period room settings, No.1 deploys a wide range of interpretation to bring the house to life for all visitors.

Recently renovated, the museum has 10 display rooms as well as a dedicated exhibition gallery. The museum receives approximately 60,000 visitors per year and is currently ranked by Trip Advisor as the second best museum in Bath, behind the Roman Baths.

Highly Commended at the **2014 Museums and Heritage Awards** in the Best Permanent Exhibition category. Second only to The New Mary Rose Museum.