

# LEAVING THEIR MARK

## A FAMILY TRAIL

In the 18th century, few women were independent. If they were rich, their security came through marriage, but they and their children were still the property of their husbands. If they were poor and needed to work, there was little job security and they could easily end up on the streets. For women of any class, there were strict rules of behaviour and it was almost impossible for them to voice their own opinion.

Although the women highlighted in this trail did not have the same freedom of choice that we have today, they have left their mark on No. 1 Royal Crescent in interesting ways. Some of them are well known, whilst some are invisible and no portrait exists of them. Together, they give us a glimpse into their varied and challenging lives.

### Women's Suffrage 100: Freedom & Fight in Bath

Our exhibition celebrates the centenary of women winning the vote (for those aged over 30). It includes Elizabeth Montagu (1718–1800), who lived on the Royal Crescent and bravely set up her Bluestocking Society where womens' views were equal to those of men. There is a 20 minute film of an imagined encounter between her and Mary Blathwayt (1879-1961), a Bath Suffragette. It is suitable for children aged 9 and over. You will also discover 4 contemporary Bath women who left their mark by helping to protect the city.



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## Do you want to know more?



This symbol means you can ask the room guides an extra question if you wish.

## PARLOUR

A young maid, about 9 years old, would have been hard at work in this room since 6 o'clock in the morning. Her job was to clean the fireplace, set the table and empty the chamber pot in the cupboard. She would have visited her parents rarely and sent most of her salary home to them, as she was expected to earn a living, even at such a young age.



She may also have helped to mould butter into animal shaped 'pats'.  
What animal do they look like?



What other tasks did servants carry out in this room?



## DINING ROOM

Portrait of Miss Evelyn of Godstone  
by Allan Ramsay, 1742.

What is her necklace made from?

Miss Evelyn's rich satin dress and expensive pearls in this portrait would have sent out a message that she was an important and wealthy single woman who expected to find a husband of equal standing.



How were ladies expected to behave at the dining table?

## ENTRANCE HALL – CABINET OF CURIOSITIES

Zulu Ungexo Wedding Necklace,  
made between 1750 and 1880,  
South Africa

Like the portrait of Miss Evelyn, this necklace sent out a similar message, but within an African culture. It was worn by an unmarried woman of importance at a Zulu wedding ceremony to show she wanted a husband of equally high status.



What colours can you see on the necklace?

The colours had symbolic meaning: green for female, red for male and pink for high social status.

## FIRST FLOOR LANDING

Sarah Siddons (1755 – 1831)

Mezzotint Print by Sir Thomas Lawrence,  
from a painting by W. Hamilton (1751 – 1801)

Why do you think she is wearing a black veil?

In the picture, Sarah Siddons is playing a widow from a drama called 'The Tragedy of Isabella'. In her time, she was one of the most famous actresses on the stage, having started out as a maid. She lived in Bath for 4 years and had 7 children, 5 of whom died before her. She was highly respected in her own lifetime as shown by the fact that there is a statue of her in Westminster Abbey.



## WITHDRAWING ROOM

Mary Delany (1700 – 1788)

Portrait, 1782, by John Opie (1761 – 1807)

Does anything strike you as unusual about this portrait?

Mary Delany is 82 years old in this picture, wearing a plain though expensive dress. It has an unusually grand frame to show she was an important person. She overcame the pain of an unhappy marriage at 17 to a man aged 60, which left her penniless when he died. She married again happily and in her later years became a friend of King George III and Queen Charlotte, and a successful artist. She created beautiful, detailed pictures of flowers using just paper.



Would you like to see some of Mary's work? Ask the room guide to show you examples. The originals are in the British Museum.



On loan from National Portrait Gallery

The Taylor Children, 1792,  
by Isaac Taylor, their father

Jane Taylor (1783-1824) and Ann Taylor (1782-1866) grew up to write poems for children. Their books were very successful in their lifetimes but today, very few people know that they wrote the famous nursery rhyme called 'Twinkle, twinkle, little star'.

You can try on dresses like the ones Jane and Ann are wearing when you get to the servants' hall.



On loan from National Portrait Gallery



## LADY'S BEDROOM

Marie Antoinette (1755 – 1793)  
A Parisian bust, late 19th century

She has a portrait medallion  
of a man around her neck.  
Who might it be?

Marie Antoinette was Queen of France and married to King Louis XVI. She was on the throne from 1774 to 1792 when the monarchy was abolished. Despite having such an important position, she was judged harshly by the French public who condemned her as a shameful, deceitful traitor. She was executed by guillotine in 1793.



💡 Marie Antoinette spent a lot of money on her appearance. What kind of clothes and makeup did she wear?



## THE HOUSEKEEPER'S ROOM

The housekeeper at No.1 was an important person because she could read and write and so kept the household accounts. It was one of the few jobs where a working class woman could have status, as shown by the fact she had her own room. She supervised staff and kept the household keys on her belt for access to expensive items like linen and tea.

The desk shows a list of groceries and their prices. What did the housekeeper use to write her list?



## KITCHEN

Henry Sandford, who lived in the house, advertised in 1788 for:

*"A woman cook...whose family are known to keep an elegant table. She must have skill in keeping account regularly, besides the useful requisites of sobriety, honesty and good temper."*

The cook at No.1 would have been hardworking and skilled in preparing fine food. The role offered a secure position and income, as long as she was seen to have a good reputation, which meant leading a quiet life. Otherwise, women could easily be outcast and end up living in poverty.



Can you find these items, called pattens? The cook would have worn them over her normal shoes when she went outside as protection from the muddy streets of Bath.



What kinds of equipment did the cook use to make Georgian recipes?

# BROWNSWORD GALLERY

## (UP THE STAIRS BY THE SHOP)

Perfect View, Bath 1966. Lesley Green-Armytage  
(Bath in Time – Bath Preservation Trust)

Lesley Green-Armytage was not a trained photographer but, 50 years ago, she took photos of Bath because she was so concerned about the large number of houses being demolished at the time. Her pictures capture a moment in history and helped the campaign against the destruction which is referred to as 'The Sack of Bath'.



Which objects in the photograph do we still use today?  
Which are old-fashioned?

Why do you think she called this image 'Perfect View'?

Don't forget  
to visit the servants'  
hall for try-on Georgian  
costumes, toys and  
games and (during  
school holidays)  
craft activities.



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