

Since March

Since the March update we have had five meetings of the Gates sub-committee. These have focussed on preparing to submit three applications for funding in September and thinking about the learning and social participation element of the HLF application.

Applications for funding

The initial applications will be to the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust, the Summerfield Trust and a second pre-application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's 'Your Heritage'.

Public fund-raising

The launch of the public fund-raising effort on 7 April at the Cheltenham Townhouse in Pittville Lawn and our launch event for members of Friends of Pittville on 27 April at the Royal Oak in Prestbury went well, with excellent support at the initial launch from the local MP and borough council staff and office bearers.

We have now produced a publicity leaflet which includes a donation form. This was distributed to households and businesses in Pittville, and in parts of St Paul's and Fairview, with our May newsletter. We were very pleased with the generous response from over twenty people, Friends and the general public alike.

We have participated in four summer events in Cheltenham over the summer, the aim being to raise awareness of the restoration project, attract more members and volunteers, and at the same time raise some funds. We recognise that events such as these are not going to bring in substantial amounts, but as we say in the leaflet, 'every penny counts'.

The events include our own 'Virtual treasure hunt' on 2 and 3 July in the Long Garden, Pittville Lawn; the Midsummer Fiesta in Montpellier Gardens on 9 July; Pittville School's Summer Fair on 16 July and an 'Open Garden' in Hatherley, courtesy of Executive Committee member David Richards. Combined these events raised over £400 through the treasure hunt, a 'land on the £5 note with a golf ball'; a lucky dip; a raffle; sale of our history of Pittville Gates, plants and postcards

Plans and drawings

We have arrived at a landscaping plan which is simpler and less costly than earlier ones. This is on the website at <http://www.friendsofpittville.org/docs/PGfinalplanrev3aJune2011.pdf>

Learning and social participation

These are central to successful HLF applications and we are very happy to report that we will have three, perhaps four, projects with Pittville School next term. The Design and Technology and the History department will organise these and we have the help of Friend of Pittville, Anthea Millier. Anthea is a former design teacher and head of department at secondary schools in Cheshire and an artist.

The Holst Birthplace Museum is developing its links with the school for their own forthcoming HLF application which will feature Pittville Gates and we hope to work with them on this as well.

Future activities

We will be participating in the national Heritage Open Days in September, see <http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>. Together, with the Holst Birthplace Museum and All Saints' Church, we hope to bring more people to Pittville over the four day period. We will be at Pittville Gates on Saturday and Sunday 10 and 11 September and offering a guided walk from the Gates to the Pump Room in both days.

Before that, we will be at Cheltenham Horticultural Society's Summer Flower and Craft Show in Pittville Pump Room on Sunday 21 August.