

The HLF bid

As most of you will know, Cheltenham was not successful in its bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Parks for People Programme. Rob Bell, Assistant Director Operations, CBC has provided us with this statement.

"The feedback we received via the HLF SW regional office indicated that the bid was strong in all areas, in fact it was put forward as the highest priority for the region. When it was assessed nationally, despite maximising all the evidence available, Cheltenham did not appear as "needy" as some of the other bidders who we understand represented large towns with high levels of deprivation.

The bid was fully supported by the council and was given priority. Following the decision of HLF not to award funding to Pittville Park a bid relating to the art gallery and museum, which had been waiting in the wings, has now been submitted. I also understand that the Everyman Theatre, independent of the council, may be making a bid for HLF funding.

My team are working with the council's executive to identify options for future investment in the park and a report will be presented at full council on 12th October 2009."

PARA members

Those of you who were members of PARA are especially welcome to attend the Friends of Pittville AGM. If you decide to join the Friends group before the AGM, and wish to stand for election to the Executive Committee, please download the form referred to on page 1 and get the Secretary or an existing member of the Friends to nominate you.

Thank you to **Coco's Cafe** in Prestbury Road for partial sponsorship of this issue of the newsletter. Sadly, the owners of Coco's had to give it up as they were travelling from Swindon each day. We hope to tell you about Coco's successor, Tote Sweet American Diner, in the next issue.



www.friendsofpittville.org
September 2009

Would you like to see the plans for the proposed bridge across the 'lower lake'? Are you interested in volunteering in Pittville Park? How can we help protect, yet also develop, the park and other green spaces in Pittville?

To have your say, and to learn more, please come to our

Annual General Meeting

**This will be held at Dunalley Primary School, in West Drive,
on Tuesday 20 October 2009 at 7.00 p.m.**

You do not have to be a member of Friends of Pittville to attend. If you decide to join, you can do this after the meeting, when we will also have some refreshments and a chance to chat.

If you are already a Friend, you'll be able to renew your membership and also collect a voting card. There are some minor changes to the constitution, about which you have already been informed by e-mail.

We are keen to fill several places on the Executive Committee. We meet every two to three months for two hours maximum, in the Municipal Offices, on a week day, in the early evening. If you would like to stand for election to the committee, please download an Executive Committee Application Form at www.friendsofpittville.org/archive.aspx or write to the address below, asking for a hard copy.

Fill in your name and membership number, sign the form and send or deliver it to the Secretary, Friends of Pittville, 3 Burston House, Pittville Circus, Cheltenham GL52 2PU at least one week before the AGM. The Secretary will propose you, so you do not need to find another Friend – unless you know one of course!

Membership

We had an excellent response to our invitation in the January 2009 newsletter to join the Friends of Pittville. We are sorry there has not been a lot of activity since then, but we were waiting for news on the HLF bid. It proved rather difficult to learn why the bid was unsuccessful. We now have a statement from Cheltenham Borough Council which sets out the reasons and the current situation with HLF funding bids. This statement is on page 4 of this newsletter.

The challenge now is to see what can be achieved without a large injection of one-off funds. We will be discussing some of the ideas at the Annual General Meeting - and hope for both new ideas and, indeed, new people to come forward to work with us.

We will be introducing an easier way of paying the membership fee – by Standing Order. This will take effect from October 2009 for calendar year 2010. Forms will be available at the AGM and are also on the web-site.

<http://www.friendsofpittville.org/docs/MembershipApplicationForm.pdf>

The membership fee remains at £2 or 50p for students and pensioners. However, you can pay more if you like. As noted on page 3, quite a few people who responded to the survey thought that £5.00 was a reasonable fee. Please encourage your family and friends to join if they have not already. Here is a simple membership application form:

NAME

E-MAIL ADDRESS

POSTAL ADDRESS

Please post or deliver the membership application form to **The Treasurer, Friends of Pittville, 11 Monica Drive, Cheltenham, Glos. GL50 4NQ**

Thank you for your feedback

Thank you all for filling out the survey form in the January 2009 newsletter. We received some really useful feedback and comments from fifty-four people – this is an impressive response rate to a questionnaire so again, thank you.

What is especially pleasing is the number of non-members who responded – 24 people, which is 44%. And, over 40 people have joined Friends of Pittville since the AGM in October, most after 1 January 09.

Members and non-members thought we'd kept you well informed about the HLF bid progress and other matters, though a significant proportion (eight members/27% and eleven non-members/46%) thought it was just 'OK'. We need to improve our communications with you.

Members, in general, check the web-site at least once a month and your comments were very complimentary. Obviously non-members checked it less often, but we hope that those of you have joined will be 'regulars'.

The main reason non-members had not joined was 'not getting around to it', rather than difficulty in paying the membership fee, or that it was too expensive. As you'll see on page 2 we are, nevertheless, trying to make payment easier.

Finally, 33% of non-members thought £5 for adult membership for a year was reasonable; 46% were happy to pay £2.

And the prize-winners:

The winner of the cinema gift card to the value of two adult tickets was **Mr Trevor Brown**. The original winner was **Mrs P A Wiggall** but she was not able to use them and kindly gave someone else a chance.

And the two winners of the photo enlargements were:
David G Rowley, and John and Val Sanders.