



www.friendsofpittville.org

December 2011

The aim of Friends of Pittville is to promote greater community involvement in the enjoyment, protection, future restoration and renewal of Pittville Park and Estate



Wishing all Friends a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

This unusual image was the third choice in our Christmas card vote. For more information about the selection process in 2012, details about this year's cards, and how to order, please turn the page!

And welcome to this issue

Those of you who were at the Annual General Meeting in October will have learned that we plan to issue four newsletters over the next twelve months. The December and June issues will be distributed to members only, while those in March and September will be distributed, as in previous years, in Pittville and parts of St Paul's and Fairview. These issues will include a membership application form and the September one will also have the public announcement of the forthcoming AGM.

This decision is partly to reduce costs, but also to provide something for members only. We would like to hold one or two events or activities for members if there is interest – please tell us what you would like.

Membership fees

These have been increased for the first time since we were set up in 2006. The fee is now £5.00 per person and £7.50 for a couple, payable in October for the following calendar year. We invite you to renew your subscription now if you haven't already done so – contact the Membership Secretary, 8 Albert Drive, Cheltenham GL52 3JH.

Annual General Meeting 2011

Richard Gilpin, the headmaster of Pittville School, gave a short enthusiastic talk about the school, the pupils and the ambitions of both. He was keen to dispel any

notion of a failing school, but rather that it was achieving very good results, especially in mathematics, where the link with Balcarras School has been of benefit.

He invited the audience to visit any time. A longer version of the talk is at <http://www.friendsofpittville.org/docs/AGM%202011%20Talk%20by%20Richard%20Gilpin.pdf>

The winner of the Pittville Word Search was Mrs Colin Eynon. Her name was drawn from the hat as there were over 20 correct responses. Thank you to committee member Henry Williams for designing, printing and scoring the word search.

PC Lynn Aston memorial

We apologise to those who came on 17 November to the unveiling of the plaque to PC Lynn Aston to find that it was not happening. This was due to unforeseen circumstances. We will write again when we have another date.

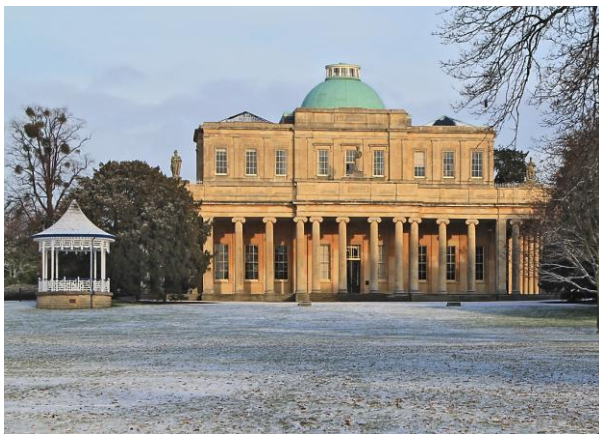
Proposed ice rink in the Long Garden

The proposal from Central Cross Cafe to install an artificial ice-rink near the cafe raised strong feelings, for and against. In cases like this, we suggest that Members and the public give their views to the two ward councillors, who represent the people of Pittville.

Christmas cards 2011

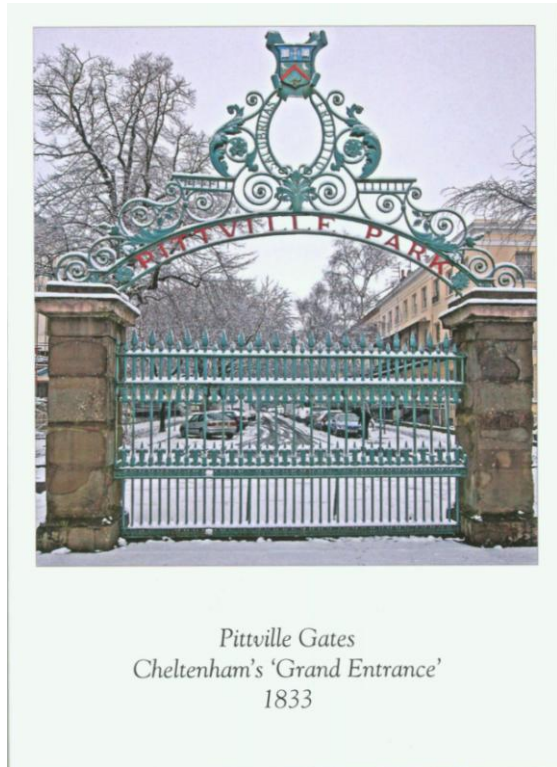
We have two cards to choose from this year. They are 6 x 4 inches (or 4 x 6 inches for the Gates). They are available with a message, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year, or without. The blank cards can be an ideal 'stocking filler' or gift. Prices (almost the same as last year) and an order form are at <http://www.friendsofpittville.org/news.aspx>

We are most grateful to member, Terry Langhorn, for these images. Three other people offered photos or art work but these did not get the votes at the AGM.



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In next June's newsletter we plan to call for submissions from all members. Snow is not obligatory but does seem to convey the Christmas spirit so, if there is some good snow this winter, please get your cameras out.



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Pittville Gates Restoration Project

An update from Judie Hodsdon, chair of the Pittville Gates sub-committee:

“The sub-committee has continued to meet on a monthly basis. We now have two more members, but would appreciate additional help (whether as a sub-committee member or for specific tasks) as we get busier. Contact gates@friendsofpittville.org if you are interested in lending a hand.

Funding applications

We were delighted to hear that Cheltenham Borough Council has agreed to give us £20,000 as part of their funding of community projects. Thank you to the Heritage and Conservation Manager who submitted an application on our project. This sign of support will help immensely with other applications.

We submitted applications to the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust and the Summerfield Charitable Trust in September. These will be considered later this month (i.e. November). We also submitted a pre-application to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for a ‘Your Heritage’ grant and have been encouraged to proceed with a full application, which we are now working on. We are also working through a list of national trusts and charities that might consider us for a grant.

Other fundraising

Our fund was boosted by £390 from the Waitrose ‘Community Matters’ scheme, in which our project got the most public support of the three taking part in August. Thank you too, all of you, who put their green button in our bin. We now have over £4,000 cash in the fund.”

Auctions

Thank you to everyone who kindly donated items to auction. The Cotswold Auction Company has included some items in their Cirencester sale on 2 December (starts 10.00) and some in their Cheltenham one on 13 December (starts 11.00). Viewing is on the previous day. The company is generously waiving its commission and all proceeds will go to the Gates fund.

“Pittville Gates: Cheltenham’s Grand Entrance”



If you haven't yet bought, or given, a copy of this 40-page booklet, Christmas is the time to do it! The whole £10 goes to the Gates fund.

To obtain a copy telephone 01242 233 045 or e-mail gates@friendsofpittville.org

And, last but not least, thank you to everyone who has given so generously to the Gates appeal since our last newsletter.

‘Community Bridge’

We understand that this will be installed during December 2011.

Forthcoming events

Gloucestershire Police Male Voice Choir



We are thrilled to announce a fund-raising concert on Saturday 31 March 2012, to be held at St Matthew’s Church, Clarence Street GL50 3PL, at 7.30pm

If you've not heard the choir before, you can listen to a popular piece at <http://www.gloucestershirepolicemvc.co.uk/index.html>

Tickets will cost £7.50 and will be available in January, when you will be sent an invitation to the event.

HM The Queen’s Diamond Jubilee

We are exploring ways of marking this significant milestone. The main celebrations will be held nationally from 2-5 June.

One idea is to have a Big Lunch www.thebiglunch.org on Sunday 3 June somewhere is Pittville Park or in Pittville Lawn, near the Gates. Or we could explore holding an event with another organisation, such as Pittville School.

Whatever is decided we need someone to take the lead in organising it! This is quite a task but there are plenty of willing helpers. Please put your name forward or send your ideas to secretary@friendsofpittville.org

Neighbourhood Coordination Group

These meetings are led by Gloucestershire Constabulary. The aim is to provide a forum for you to have a say in how the community is managed. Other public services are represented and twenty members of the public came to the September meeting, which was an excellent attendance.

The next meeting is on Monday 16 January 2012, at 7.15, in Pittville School. Please attend if you can, to maintain the momentum.

'Promoting Cheltenham Fund'

We have been granted £2,500 by Cheltenham Borough Council toward developing self-guided walks in Pittville, which will link to two heritage information boards. This exciting project evolved from our successful participation in Heritage Open Days in September, when we ran two walks. Despite windy and wet weather we had ten walkers on Saturday and sixteen on Sunday.



© Terry Langhorn

The walks and heritage boards will be one of the 'learning and participation' projects in our HLF bid.

Did you know?

1908 A six day historical pageant was staged at Marle Hill House, near the present Lower (west) Lake

1910 Two children rescued another child from drowning in the Upper (east) Lake and were presented with Bibles as a reward

1919 A fete held was held after 4,000 soldiers and sailors marched from Montpellier to Pittville Park; 32,000 people attended the fete

1921 Depression years: the local council authorised 90 seats in Pittville to be painted, to give employment to out-of-work painters.

Executive Committee: *Judy Langhorn (Chairman); Fiona Clarke (Secretary); Frances Gabriel (Treasurer). Committee members: Christopher Archibald, Judie Hodsdon, David Richards, Henry Williams. Co-opted members: Councillors Diane Hibbert and Tim Cooper; and Desmond Fitzgerald (Park Watch)*