



www.friendsofpittville.org

May 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

Welcome

Perhaps because of our 'new look' printed newsletter, we have had 39 new members since January. This is marvellous, because we rely on Friends' subscriptions to underpin our day-to-day work. We are about to embark on serious fund-raising for the restoration of Pittville Gates. There is more on that later in this newsletter.

Catering facilities - Central Cross Cafe

Many of you will have seen that Central Cross Cafe has re-opened. It is now managed by Cheltenham Café Co. which has been awarded the three year contract for Central Cross Café, the Pittville Boathouse and Montpellier Cafe.

<http://www.cheltenhamcafeco.com/>



© Tom Clarke

The company's three partners all live close to the park, and have enjoyed visiting it for many years.

They are committed to ethical and environmentally friendly practices and are keen to work with Friends of Pittville to enhance people's enjoyment of the park and to provide a real asset to the local community.

The opening hours are Monday – Friday 8am-6pm; Saturday – Sunday 9am-6pm. Telephone: 01242 234907.

The Boathouse



© Terry Langhorn

Pittville Boathouse has a new roof and re-opened on 2 April with the same opening hours as the cafe. Telephone: 01242 519215.

Golf, tennis, boating, fishing

These can now be booked through the Boathouse. For out of hours enquiries, including tennis block blocking, contact 07982 422762 or leisure@cheltenhamcafeco.com

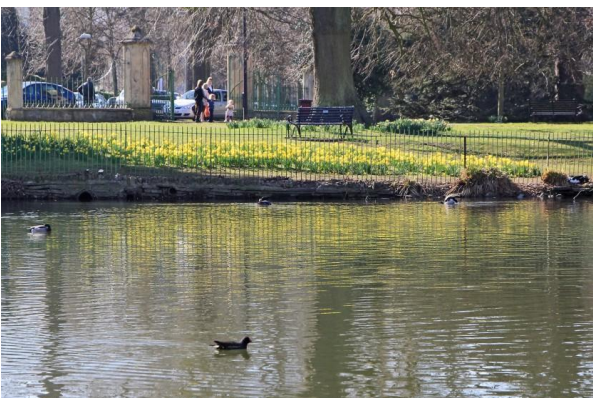
Duck food dispensers

The Borough Council has agreed to purchase one dispenser for us to trial on the Upper Lake, below the Pump Room. Friends of Pittville will manage them and we have four people interested in helping (more welcome).

We hope the trial will begin in the next month.

Vista across the Upper Lake

Our volunteer working party has met on six occasions this year, twice with Borough Council staff, clocking up over 100 hours. We've now cleared the southern edge of the Upper Lake and the early daffodils could be seen from across the water. The berberis and cherry trees by the Residuum on Albert Road are now clear of ivy and the steps down to the lake fully revealed. Thanks to everyone who has worked so hard.



© Terry Langhorn

We have recently agreed a 'Work Plan' with the Borough Council, which sets out short, medium and long term projects. If you want to know more or to join the volunteer team, e-mail secretary@friendsofpittville.org

Pittville Gates restoration project updates and fundraising

Gathering at Pittville Gates, Saturday 26 February 2011

This event was a great success. We had designed a structured interview covering the key proposals, and there was almost unanimous agreement on several questions, e.g. the colour of the iron work, replacement of the current lamps with period ones, information boards, removing the footpath in front of the wooden fence and having railings along the grassed area beside Prestbury Road.

Funding applications

Our application in January to Community Spaces was not successful – this was the last opportunity and competition was strong. We will submit another pre-application to the Heritage Lottery Fund – this time to ‘Your Heritage’ rather than the much larger ‘Heritage Grants’. <http://www.hlf.org.uk>

HLF’s focus is on learning and participation and we have sought advice on how to develop that aspect of our application. We have had encouraging discussions with Pittville School and will devise a range of activities based on the social and economic history of the Gates and the park.

We have had useful meetings with other funding agencies and will submit applications later in the year.

Launch of public fundraising, Thursday 7 April 2011



This was held at the Cheltenham Townhouse in Pittville Lawn, just 100 metres from Pittville Gates. We are most grateful to Jayne and Adam Lillywhite, the owners, for their very kind sponsorship of this event. The Mayor of Cheltenham, Cllr. Anne Regan and Martin Horwood, MP for Cheltenham, were both encouraging about our determination to press on with fundraising in these difficult times and supportive of our public fundraising plans. These started excellently with brisk sales of James Hodsdon’s *‘Pittville Gates: Cheltenham’s ‘Grand Entrance’*. Our thanks also go to all the guests who came and added their support.

‘Pittville Gates: Cheltenham’s ‘Grand Entrance’

This account of Cheltenham’s Pittville Gates has been written by historian James Hodsdon in the six months since our 2010 AGM.



It sets out, for the first time ever, the story of the gates from their origin in 1833 to the present day. Contents include a full contemporary description of the gates when first built, identification of the architect, the oldest known photograph, how the arch was commissioned, how the gates survived the Second World War, and 'the great crash' of 1965. It has over 30 illustrations, many never before published, and several specially commissioned for this work.

The 40 page booklet sells at £10 with all income going to the restoration fund. To obtain a copy telephone 01242 233 045 or e-mail gates@friendsofpittville.org

Fundraising leaflet

We have produced a publicity leaflet for the restoration campaign. This contains a donation form and, if you would like to contribute even the smallest amount towards the restoration of Pittville Gates, this is the easiest way to do it.

Mobile phones



Q. Have you a mobile phone you don't use or don't want anymore? If so, is it working?

A. Not important

Q. Is it out of the ark or state of the art?

A. Not important

We can make cash for the Pittville Gates restoration by recycling it.

Collection points are the Central Cross Café and the Boathouse, or you can contact chairman@friendsofpittville.org or secretary@friendsofpittville.org to arrange collection.

Friends of Pittville 'virtual treasure hunt' and promotional event, Saturday 2 and Sunday 3 July, from 11am until 4pm

This will take place in the Long Garden (between Pittville Lawn and Evesham Road, and Central Cross Cafe and the Upper Lake).

Everyone is welcome to visit our marquee and hear more about Friends of Pittville, the Gates project, and have some fun. Cancer Research UK's 'Race for Life' is being held at the Racecourse on these two days as well.

Open garden and plant sale, 22 Harrington Drive, Cheltenham GL51 6ER, on Sunday 17 July, from 2-5pm

This is a joint event with Friends of Hatherley Park. The host is David Richards who is on our Executive Committee and is currently Cheltenham Horticultural Society's Show Co-ordinator. Entry is £2 (or a larger donation) for adults; children are free, and money raised will be shared by the two Friends' groups. There will be plants and cakes for sale, a raffle and other activities.

Sales in the autumn and winter

If you are feeling generous or de-cluttering your home please consider offering good unwanted items to Friends of Pittville for sale at Mallams Fine Art Auctioneers at the end of the year.

Mallams has kindly offered to waive their commission to support the Pittville Gates Restoration Appeal and will include suitable items donated to Friends of Pittville in an appropriate sale.

All items must come through us and we shall give further details in the September newsletter. If your item is unsuitable for Mallams, maybe we could sell it on ebay?

Events you can find us at

Saturday 9 July, Midsummer Fiesta in Montpellier

Sunday 21 August, Cheltenham Horticultural Society Summer Flower and Craft Show, Pump Room

8 – 11 September Heritage Open Days - we hope to link with All Saints Church and the Holst Birthplace Museum and have a presence at Pittville Gates during these four days.

And finally

If you are a keen gardener or garden historian, there are a few places left on a six-day trip to Cheshire and Derbyshire being organised by the Cheltenham Horticultural Society. Dates are 30 August to 4 September. For more information, contact Wendy or Richard Acres on 01242 241728.