



www.friendsofpittville.org

September 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

You are cordially invited to our

Annual General Meeting

at

Dunalley Primary School, West Drive, Cheltenham GL50 4LB
Wednesday 5 October 2011
7.00pm

Refreshments from 6.30 and after the meeting until 9.00

Speaker: Mr Richard Gilpin
Head, Pittville School

Executive Committee

Each year our Executive Committee steps down at the AGM and, if willing, members stand for re-election. If you would like to join the committee, please contact the Secretary on 01242 227 720. It is not a huge commitment in time unless you want to become more involved later on. There is an Executive Committee Application Form on the website www.friendsofpittville.org/archive.aspx or it can be obtained from the Secretary.

This form must be submitted at least two weeks before the AGM to the Secretary who will propose you. If you already know a Friend, he or she can propose you of course.

The Secretary's address is 3 Burston House, Pittville Circus, Cheltenham GL52 2P; email secretary@friendsofpittville.org

Our AGM speaker

Richard Gilpin took over formally as Head of Pittville School in December 2010. In the last year or so GCSE exam results have improved significantly and a partnership between Pittville and Balcarras schools promises to benefit both. Richard encourages his students to en-

gage with the other groups in the community, including Friends of Pittville, and his enthusiasm for the school and pupils will provide a new insight into Pittville School.

<http://pittville.gloucs.sch.uk/about-us.html>

Membership fees

The Executive Committee has been discussing the membership fee. It has not changed since Friends of Pittville was formed in September 2006 and, since then, costs of postage, website maintenance, production and printing have risen. We will make a final decision at our next meeting on 29 September.

If you join before the AGM you will only pay £2.00 for 2012. For this, you will continue to receive the printed newsletter as well as regular updates by e-mail or letter. The application form is on the website at [http://www.friendsofpittville.org/docs/MembershipApplication\(RevNov2010\).pdf](http://www.friendsofpittville.org/docs/MembershipApplication(RevNov2010).pdf)

Friends of Pittville Word Search

We are enclosing a word search competition in the printed version of this newsletter. It is just a bit of fun, but there's a serious prize for the winner if you like going to the cinema – two tickets for a film of your choice.

If you would like to receive a copy of the Word Search please e-mail Henry Williams at Henry19williams@btinternet.com

Pittville Gates restoration project updates and fundraising

Fundraising leaflet and events

Over 20 people responded to the publicity leaflet delivered with the May newsletter and donated nearly £500. Thank you very much indeed!

We held or participated in five events during July and August and, although they were not primarily fundraising activities, we achieved over £500. Thank you to all those who supported us one way or another, e.g. participating in the 'virtual treasure hunt', buying our booklet, postcards, raffle tickets or plants, and trying the 'lucky dip'.

And thanks to several committee members for many generous raffle prizes, and to Friend Anthea Millier for the top prize - a night for two at Cheltenham Lawn and Pittville Gallery www.cheltenhamlawn.co.uk

We are now eagerly awaiting the outcome of the Waitrose Community Matters collection. The Gates project is one of their three August charities.

Auctions and sales

We are still looking for donations which can be auctioned during the winter. We will assess items and try to match them to suitable auctions. If you have anything to contribute, contact chairman@friendsofpittville.org or telephone her on 01242 529 681. It does not have to be hugely valuable – just something that might sell quite easily!

The phone recycling is helping swell our funds, so thank you to those who have taken their unwanted phones to Central Cross Cafe. We look forward to more.

Helpers

Several people have helped us over the last few months with information and advice and we'd like to thank them, in particular Professor Michael Dower, Lorraine du Feu, Christine Sharpe, Sarah Brice, Jean Davis and Victoria Cambridge. Anthea Millier has joined the Pittville Gates sub-

committee as a volunteer and will be involved with the proposed Pittville Gates arts projects with Pittville School.

We are still looking for people with skills in PR, fundraising and website administration. If you have these, and some free time, please contact the Secretary or Judie Hodsdon on 01242 233 045.

Pittville Gates: Cheltenham's 'Grand Entrance'

This 40-page booklet, written by Friend of Pittville and historian James Hodsdon, is still available at £10, with all income going to the restoration fund. To obtain a copy please e-mail gates@friendsofpittville.org or telephone 01242 233 045.

Funding applications

Over the next few months we are submitting applications to a number of charitable trusts including the Gloucestershire Environmental Trust, the Summerfield Trust, and another pre-application to the Heritage Lottery Fund's Your Heritage.

Heritage Open Days, 8-11 September



We are participating in Heritage Open Days for the first time, on Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 September (based at Pittville Gates.)

To quote from the HODs official web-site: *'Heritage Open Days celebrates England's fantastic architecture and culture by offering free access to properties that are usually closed to the public or normally charge for admission. Every year on four days in September, buildings of every age, style and function throw open their doors, ranging from castles to factories, town halls to tithe barns, parish churches to Buddhist temples. It is a once-a-year chance to discover hidden architectural treasures and enjoy a wide range of tours, events and activities which bring to life local history and culture.'*

Free of charge and literally on people's doorstep, Heritage Open Days is an event for everyone, whatever their background, age and ability.'

Obviously Pittville Gates is not a building, so we are most grateful to the Cheltenham Civic Society for inviting us.

We will be at the Gates from 11.00-12.30 and 14.30-16.00 on 10 and 11 September. We will also be offering a fun 45 minute walking tour at 11.30, from there to the Pump Room. This will look at less well known facts about Pittville. There's no need to book.

PC Lynn Aston memorial

Some of you will have known PC Lynn Aston who, sadly, died earlier this year. Her colleagues in Gloucestershire Constabulary have initiated a movement to honour her memory.



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Several local groups are remembering her in their own way and we are planning to revamp the flower-beds near the aviaries, with the help of Cheltenham Borough Council. We will also place a plaque on the central bed.

Volunteers

Our volunteers have been busy in Pittville Park and estate over the spring and summer. We meet on the third Thursday of every month for two hours, from 0900 - 1100.



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You don't have to come every time; we average about ten from the core group of twenty volunteers. For more information please contact secretary@friendsofpittville.org

Security alert

The high Cheltenham burglary rate, bogus callers at the door, and telephone and internet scams has prompted this security item from Park Watch's Desmond Fitzgerald.

"The Police report that many properties are broken into, having being left insecure. Security - conscious Pittville residents will therefore be making their property and family more secure:

- by keeping the opportunist burglar out, by locking all doors and windows, especially at night, when in the garden, or out
- a burglar alarm, if installed, will always be part-set it at night, and fully-set it when leaving an empty house
- personally recommended builders only will be employed; no business will be conducted with door callers; and the telephone hung up on people peddling shares or advising that there is a fault on a computer which they can fix ."

Community Pride 2011

We were successful in our application to Cheltenham Borough Council for a Community Pride grant, being awarded £1000. This will go toward equipment to facilitate our promotional efforts for the Friends group and particularly the Gates project.

The Executive Committee

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

Neighbourhood Coordination Group

Please help keep the Pittville NCG alive by coming to the meeting in Pittville School on 19 September at 19.15. Not many residents came to the first two meetings, after it was separated from the St Paul's NCG. Maybe there is not a real need for a Pittville one. Have your say on this important matter.