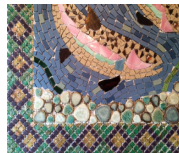


**The official opening of the new  
Bath Grounds Heritage Trail  
1pm on Sunday 31<sup>st</sup> July  
at Jims Tractor Run and family fun day**



Also the unveiling of the new Community Fish Mosaic constructed by members of the Ashby community during the heritage event day on 29<sup>th</sup> May and during another community workshop which was held in June. The mosaic commemorates the Ashby Castle's fishponds, once located on the Bath Grounds and neighboring Bullen's field.



The fish mosaic will be incorporated into the new Bath Grounds Heritage Trail

**Prior Park Road Footpath Vision  
Success!**



The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds presented the Vision for this section of footpath to the Town Council on June 20.

We can confirm that the vision presentation was very well received and the friends have successfully gained the approval of the Town Council to complete the next stage of improvements to this very important route into Ashby.

The Town Council have now agreed to fund and carry out the next stage of the improvements to this public footpath.

This involves the Town Council carrying out the following;

- Installation of bollards or a fence, across the Prior Park end of the path to prevent any vehicle access
- removal of all cut down sapling stumps to open this footpath out to the Bath Grounds

Once this stage is completed by the Town Council, the Friends can then continue to work closely with the Town Council and potential sponsors who share our vision to improve this very important footpath into and out of Ashby Town Centre.

**Our Vision:**

- We aspire to take the footpath back to what appears to have been a 'typical' Edwardian/Victorian planting scheme, of a row of trees, of mixed type
- We wish to create an open feel, with grass between the trees, that in part can be mowed to the footpath, allowing for a light, safe, open feel for users and increased views across the Bath Grounds.
- We wish to incorporate native wild flower planting which will strengthen the ecological balance on the Grounds, create a cycle of wildlife that is self-supporting and will attract more species of butterflies, moths, insect and birds.
- We aim to make the Prior Park footpath a natural continuation from the new heritage footpath

*The illustration opposite shows the 'Vision' the friends have for the Prior Park footpath – showing the removal of all stumps, opening up the footpath to the Bath Grounds and the planting of additional trees and native flowers. (The illustration was kindly painted by Di Lorriman)*

As part of our presentation to the Town Council we consulted and were supported by the following groups;

- Bowls Club and Cricket Club
- Immediate neighbours that back onto the footpath
- The local police
- The County Council
- A Local Ecologist

## Ongoing Maintenance Meetings

The Friends continue to have very constructive quarterly meetings with the Town Council which has resulted in the following maintenance and improvements to the Bath Grounds;

### Bins

A new bin will be installed alongside the new bench along the new footpath. The platform is now in place for this.

A new platform for the bin at the corner of Bullen's field is has been laid to help tidy up this corner

### Benches

A number of benches have been cleaned as they were starting to look very grubby along with cleaning underneath the benches where there had been a build-up of moss. The Tc will continue with the cleaning of the remaining benches this year

### Cattle arch

Cleaning of graffiti from underneath cattle arch

### Repair of light

Repair of light along prior park road footpath

### Japanese Knotweed

Treatment to be carried out at the end of July

## Installation of Interpretation boards and Way markers.

In May the new Bath Grounds heritage interpretation boards and way markers were installed along with the 2 new mosaics. These will form the new Bath Grounds Heritage Trail. New Bath Grounds Heritage Trail guides will be available from the Tourist Information Centre from the end of July 2016.

We hope the new Heritage Trail will help provide the Ashby community and visitors to Ashby with a very interesting walk around the Bath Grounds and why the Bath Grounds is such an important public green space and the 'Jewel in Ashby's crown'.



## FRIENDS AGM 2016

Clare Birch was voted in as Chair.

Vince Mott was voted in as Secretary

## Community Heritage Event Day

Our Heritage Day event on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> May, celebrating the heritage of the Bath Grounds was a great success. We had an ongoing community mosaic workshop which was very popular run by Mosaic artist Llynda Baugh.



Paul Smith was our special Town Cryer who introduced the Chair of the Friends, Clare Birch, who thanked everyone involved in the Heritage Footpath project including, the Heritage Lottery Fund, the District and Town Council, the Ashby Museum and Pudding Bag Productions, as well as all the hard work over the last 18 months of the friends of Ashby Bath Grounds committee members.

The Mayor, Mike Ball, then unveiled the new Ivanhoe Spa mosaic, designed by Di Lorriman and constructed by Llynda Baugh.



The new community choir then sang the 'Ballad of the Bath Grounds' written by the late Lorna Titley, a passionate committee member of the friends, to the tune of 'Tavern in the Town'. The community choir was made up of members of the Ashby community, children from Ashby C of E primary school and members of the 'Ukulele go crazy' group

The event was finished off with maypole dancing led by the Jerusalem Jammers. Lots of people joined in and had a great time!!



## Contacts

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