

Castle View Wildlife Walk



The volunteer work on the newly named Castle View Wildlife Walk is progressing. Further funding has been secured by the Friends from the District Council Green Grant Scheme and Hicks Lodge Trust.

Progress as follows;

- The hedge improvements for this year are now complete. Removal of a large amount of elder and the planting of over 300 hawthorn whip. The hedge will now be monitored and left to grow for the next 2 years, as the plan is to eventually lay the hedge to thicken out the base and make it more conducive to bird nesting.
- Improvements to the grass verge adjacent to the existing hedge have started with the rotivation of the verge now complete. The verge is to be treated and then prepared for a seeding with a larger range of wild flowers to sustain a wider diversity of wildlife during the growing season in April/May

We are looking for volunteers to spare a few hours in April/May to prepare the verge for seeding. If you are interested in getting involved in this exciting community project, please call Clare Birch on 07958 232291 or contact us via our email; bathgroundsfriends@gmail.com

Friends General Meeting 24th April 2017 at the Ivanhoe Social Club, 7:30 – 9:00 pm

We will be having our General Meeting on Monday 24th April at the Ivanhoe Social Club.

This is an informal get together and gives our members the chance to find out about what we are up to, ask questions and have some input into future projects.

Membership renewal

*We need your continued support for
2017!*

In 2017 our aims are to;

- Complete the Castle View Wildlife Walk project
- Continue to fight ASB on the Bath Grounds
- Work with the Town Council to improve planting and maintenance standards

To achieve all our aims for this coming year we need your continued support. Your annual membership ran for the 2016 calendar year so, if you haven't renewed it yet, now is the time to renew for 2017.

**Please pay your £5 renewal subscription by;
Bank transfer to Acc no. 30039268 sort code 77-15-13 (please provide your name so we know who sent the money), or Send a cheque payable to;**

**“Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds” to Geoff Bibby,
Treasurer, 46 Pennine Way, Ashby LE65 1EW**

Alternatively, you can also pay in cash and drop your monies off to the address above. Please ensure you write your name and address on the envelope and what the payment is for.

We are also encouraging our members to set up a standing order for annual membership subscription

'All waste' bin strategy for the bath grounds

Our Pride co-ordinator A. Ingram has been working closely with the Town Council over the last 6 months to agree and implement a new bin strategy on the Bath Grounds.

Over the summer the red dog waste bins will be removed and two new larger 'ALL WASTE' bins installed.

The District Council are paid by the Town Council to empty 8 bins on the Bath Grounds whatever the size or content. All waste from each of the 8 bins is mixed together when emptied.

Therefore, having done research and also listened to our members about the issues surrounding waste capacity of the Bath Grounds especially during high season -- we found that a number of towns and villages



are getting rid of the standard red dog bins, and using the same general bin regardless of the waste.

Changing to 'ALL WASTE' bins on the Bath Grounds means that we can have increased capacity for waste by having an additional two large bins in new locations - keeping us the 8 bins in total

Please support this change by ensuring that bagged and tied dog waste goes into any of the larger waste bins as well as general litter and cigarette ends.

There will be stickers applied to the larger bins during the next few weeks to inform the public of this change

Posters have already gone up around the Bath Grounds to inform the public.

Update on agreed actions following vehicle vandalism on bath grounds

Following meetings instigated by the Friends earlier this year between the Town Council, District Council, the Royal Hotel, the Cricket Club and the Police. A number of preventative actions to protect the Bath Grounds and the public against unauthorised cars have now been put in place as follows;

- The Town Council have had authorisation from the Royal Hotel to close the gates behind the cricket club in the evenings – this arrangement will continue for the foreseeable future and will be co-ordinated by the Town Council with co-operation and support from the cricket club.
- The Royal Hotel have now installed large boulders at the top of the back of the Royal Hotel carpark to prevent access by vehicles onto the Bath Grounds. The Hotel are also carrying out a review of the lighting at the back of the hotel car park, with improvements to be carried out as soon as possible.

During the recent Town Council Parks and Cemeteries meeting on 6th March, the Friends presented a long term strategy for the replacements of bollards along both the South Street entrance and the Cricket carpark with options and costings, but the Town Council did not approve due to a claimed lack of funding.

In the short-term the Town Council have agreed to replace the missing eleven bollards with like for like bollards but using a better installation method to tackle the rotting of the bollards and secure them in place. The Town Council also agreed that any further

damaged bollards will, in the short term be replaced in a timely manner.

In meantime, again, if anyone has any information relating to this recent vandalism on the Bath Grounds i.e car types, registration numbers etc, please contact the police directly on 101 or contact the Friends and we'll be happy to pass on any information to the police. Any information will help the police build up a case against the perpetrators

Another meeting has been arranged with all parties during the summer months, and we will keep updating progress on our facebook site and newsletters.

Footpath Potholes Update

The Friends have been working with the Town Council, who are now responsible for the maintenance of the Heritage footpath, to resolve the pot holes that have appeared between the bowling club and the Prior Park entrance. Independent advisors have been consulted and actions have now been agreed to repair the damage to the path on both a temporary and long-term basis and for the Town Council to have an annual strategy for path maintenance.

Dog responsibility

Flash dog flagging and stenciling has continued over the last 3 months to re enforce the importance of picking up dog mess and keeping the Bath Grounds a safe place for everyone

Contact details:

C. Birch: Chair - Tel: 07958 232291
V. Mott: Secretary - Tel :07800 765744