



Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds

NEWSLETTER May 2022

New Committee Members

In our last newsletter we updated you on the new committee and we have some more announcements to make in this issue. Geoff Bibby, our Treasurer has now stepped down and we wanted to take the chance to thank Geoff for all his hard work looking after the group's finances. He will be greatly missed by all of us on the committee and we wish him well for the future.

While we seek a permanent replacement for Geoff, SJ Statham has offered to fulfil the function of Treasurer, and in her expert hands we can all be assured our funds will be managed carefully and professionally and of course be independently audited. We'd like to take the chance to thank SJ for taking on this important work on behalf of the Friends.

Finally, we are delighted to welcome back Dave Simkins, who re-joins the committee after taking a break.

The committee members are listed below

- Dave Bigby
- Dan Cooper- Secretary
- Tim Jones – Chair
- Chris Smith
- Dave Simkins
- SJ Statham- Interim Treasurer

The new committee has a number of immediate goals, these include increasing our membership, working with the Town Council and the Bath Grounds Advisory Group to retain the Green Flag award, achieved last year, and continuing work to improve the much-loved Ashby Bath Grounds.

General Meeting

The Committee are pleased to announce we will hold an informal General Meeting on Thursday 23 June at the Ashby Hastings Cricket Club. The club's bar will be open and we will be serving sandwiches and snacks for members attending.

The meeting will start at 7pm with an update from the committee to members, followed by

an open Questions and Answers session. We'd also be pleased to hear any updates and ideas you'd like to share.

It will be a fun and relaxed chance to enjoy the Bath Grounds and chat to like-minded people, we hope you can join us. It would help enormously if you could indicate your attendance by simply emailing us on bathgroundsfriends@gmail.com

Clean for the Queen, Bath Grounds, Saturday 21st May

There will be a litter pick taking place across Ashby and this will include the Bath Grounds on Saturday 21st May. **Meet at the Prior Park Road entrance at 1:45 pm.**

We are asking our members to get involved by volunteering to help "Clean for the Queen." We'd like the whole town and of course the magnificent Bath Grounds to look amazing in readiness for the Jubilee celebration weekend.

We'd like to give a shout out to the Rotary Club for their work in organising this litter pick.

Finally, on litter picking, thanks to those of you who joined committee members on 9th April for a dedicated Bath Grounds litter pick, it was great to meet a few of our members on what was a glorious spring day for a tidy up.

Community Ownership of the Bath Grounds - Update

The Friends warmly welcome the decision made by Ashby Town Council on Monday 24th January 2022 to press ahead with purchasing the freehold of the Bath Grounds.

In our last newsletter we told you about the proposed legal arrangements which aimed to separate the Bath Grounds purchase from the planning application for development around the Royal Hotel. The money paid (£620k) would have to be used by the Royal owners to undertake major repairs to the fabric of the building, particularly the roof, whether or not

their planning application for apartments and an old people's home is approved.

Sadly, the agreement is not yet 'over the line' so we will be continuing in our efforts to encourage all parties involved to find a solution.

Community ownership of the Bath Grounds was one of the Friends' four prime objectives when we were established back in 2014. We hope the completion of the purchase will happen soon and we will of course let you know about this in our next newsletter.

As a reminder, the Town Council have requested that the Town Clerk explores means of ensuring that the Bath Grounds now remain in community ownership in perpetuity, so a successor council could not decide to sell them off. We support this move and we recommend changing the Friends' community ownership aim to ensuring continuous community ownership. We will ask our members to endorse this change at our next General Meeting.

Bath Grounds Advisory Group

Committee members continue to attend the BGAG meetings and the opinion survey we told you about in our last newsletter is now ready. The aim is to gather your views on the state of maintenance and to find out what you enjoy about the Bath Grounds. It's quick and easy to take part simply scan the QR Code below or access the survey at:

bit.ly/BathGroundSurvey

We are encouraging all members to complete the survey.



Bath Grounds Maintenance

We are delighted to tell you that following our call for volunteers in our last issue, Jane Plackett, owner of a local gardening company, Clean and Garden has offered to advise on, and maintain the oval flower bed at the South Street entrance.

Our thanks go to Jane and her team for doing this, we know this beautiful Bath Grounds feature is now in good hands.

If you need help with your own garden, Jane can be contacted on 07954 746616

Also, we'd like to thank Delyth Perry and Ben Field who have cleaned and painted the three benches located near the Prior Park Road entrance.



And finally, a big well done to Network Rail, who have painted the Railway arch entrance, which is now graffiti-free and looking much better.

Membership Renewals

We are calling on all past members to renew for 2022, and many thanks to all those who have done so already. If you would like to be a member simply visit the [website](#) and hit the [Join page link](#), it only takes a few minutes to fill out the renewal form and please do not forget to then pay your £5 subscription by any of the available methods.

Contact us with your comments and suggestions

If you'd like to talk to us about any topics raised in this newsletter or you just have suggestions for us we can be reached at:

Email: bathgroundsfriends@gmail.com

Webpage: www.bathgroundsfriends.com