

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

*We need your continued support for 2018!*

In 2018 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.
- Continue to address ASB, dog responsibility and litter.

To achieve all our aims for this coming year we need your continued support. Your annual membership ran for the 2017 calendar year so, if you haven't renewed it yet, now is the time to renew for 2018.

**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.

**Achievements for 2017 include;**

- Completion of the first phases of the Castle View Wildlife Walk.
- Objections to the proposed development of the Royal Hotel Carpark and Bullen's Field.
- Building stronger relationships with the Town Council, Local Police, Bath Ground neighbours and users of the Hastings Cricket Club and Ashby Bowls Club.
- Continuing with quarterly maintenance meetings with The Town Council, which have been pivotal in making improvements and raising standards.
- The planting of crocus bulbs

### MAINTENANCE

The Friends have quarterly Maintenance meetings with the Town Council to discuss improvements, raise issues and progress any agreed actions.

The Friends are now also providing a report to the **Town Council Parks and Cemeteries Committee Meetings** to keep committee members informed of what is happening on and around the Bath Grounds. We feel this is important given that the Committee have responsibility for the management and wellbeing of Ashby's parks and cemetery.

### ASHBY'S BIG TIDY UP 2018



**Ashby's 4<sup>th</sup> Big Tidy UP!**  
**Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March**  
**2018**  
**(1.45 – 4.30 pm)**

In association with NWLDC Street Action Team, Ashby Town Council and Keep Britain Tidy 'Great British Spring Clean' Campaign the fourth litter pick is being organised throughout Ashby by the Ashby Hastings Rotary Club.



The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds will be leading a litter pick on the Bath Grounds on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March as part of Ashbys Big Tidy Up.

**We will be meeting at the Prior Park entrance to the Bath Grounds at 1.45pm - Please wear suitable clothing & footwear and bring gloves**

Everyone is welcome to join us, young people under the age of 16 will need to be accompanied by a responsible adult. If you are interested in joining the Bath Grounds Litter Pick Team, please could you register your interest by; If you are interested in joining us, please could you register your interest by;

- Email - bathgroundsfriends@gmail.com
- or contacting A. Ingram, our litter pick coordinator, on 07525 339896

We can then ensure you have all the relevant H & S information before we start the litter pick and inform you of any last minute changes.

### TEAM WORK AND VOLUNTEERING

This year the Friends are keen to organize regular volunteer maintenance sessions to support the Town council in ensuring that the Bath Grounds look their best all year round.



We have already started on the south street entrance – tidying up the grass verges and cleaning underneath benches. There will be ongoing work required on the south street entrance flowerbed and around the Wildlife Walk. If you are

interested in being part of our Volunteer Team, please drop us an email or telephone Vince our secretary.

### CASTLE VIEW WILD LIFE WALK



The Castle View Wildlife Walk preparations are coming along well – over the last few weeks our volunteers have dug over and weeded as much as possible with the TC removing two large piles of waste - to get the ground ready for the Town Council to come in and rotivate in February.

Following subsequent weed treatment, the area will be prepped again by the Friends volunteers ready for re-sowing with perennial and annual wildflower seeds.

### Wildlife boxes

Bird and bat boxes have now been installed along the wildlife walk, as part of the overall wildlife walk project. A survey was carried out on Facebook to find out the most regular wildlife visitors to this area to help decide what type of accommodation to go for. A mix of woodcrete boxes for different birds and bats were chosen.



### ASB

Incidents of ASB have been much reduced over the last 6 months. As a result of regular meetings between the Friends, the Town Council, NWLDC, the police and the cricket club, a number of actions were taken to secure the bath grounds embankment from the Royal Hotel carpark with large boulders, the improved lighting on the carpark and the addition of further security cameras has significantly reduced ASB. The closing of the Cricket Club gates by the Town Council and the timely replacement of bollards again has significantly reduced ASB and damage to the Bath Grounds. The work of the police also resulted in a large number of warning letters to individuals found to be causing ASB in this area.



There have been a couple of incidences of a car driving on the bath grounds in January, access from the cricket club end where a metal bollard had been damaged. On the

second occasion the police were called by a vigilant Bath Ground user and the car was confiscated and impounded. The perpetrators were issued with warning letters as well as a fine to get their car out of police custody. So a good result! The bollard outside the cricket club has since been secured.

### DOG RESPONSIBILITY

#### 'BAG it & BIN it'

We continue to review dog responsibility on the Bath Grounds. Over the winter we have noticed and have been made aware by users that there has been an increase in dog mess on the bath grounds. The dark nights seem to be a precursor to dog owners not picking up after their dogs. We will be doing some more spot flagging over the next few weeks to raise awareness and remind dog owners of their responsibilities



### BINS

The Bath Grounds now has eight bins which are used for both general litter and disposing of dog bags. This is a system that that many councils are now using, as ultimately dog waste and general waste are combined once they arrive at waste disposal sites and are treated together.



We have had a few observations of dog walkers leaving dog bags by the side of bins rather than putting the dog bag into the bin – we will continue to monitor this situation, as it is still early days with the dual use bins for the Bath Grounds.

#### Contact details:

**J. Birch:** Chair - Tel: 07958 232281  
**V. Mott:** Secretary - Tel: 07800 765744