



Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds



NEWSLETTER APRIL 2016

Membership

We need your support for 2016

Without your membership we would not have been able to do all the great things we have done this year. We have some great ideas for 2016 and need your continued support to ensure;

- Continued protection of the Bath Grounds against building applications.
- Promoting the Ashby green corridor between the Bath Grounds and the Castle
- Ensuring the maintenance and continued improvements to the Bath Grounds to retain its countryside in the town feel and a lovely green space for everyone.
- Continuing our initiatives to reduce litter, antisocial behavior and promote responsible dog ownership

To renew your membership for 2016

Email: bathgroundsfriends@gmail.com

Web: www.bathgroundsfriends.com

Contact details:

Tel: Annie 07525 339896

Free Community Activities 2016

Talk and guided walk on the Bath Grounds

The Bath Grounds provide a beautiful venue for community events and sporting endeavor, with marvelous open vistas. They really are the 'countryside within the town'. But why the unusual name? As late as 1962 there stood on the site of what is now a grassy bank and car park the pride of 19th



century Ashby; the Ashby Ivanhoe Baths.

If you want to know more, a free talk on the fascinating history of Ashby Spa and the Bath Grounds followed by a guided walk around the Bath Grounds will be happening on **Saturday**

23rd April, 2pm, starting at Ivanhoe Social Club, Wilfred Place. The talk will be given by local historian Ken Hillier, from Ashby Museum, who will also lead the guided walk. The talk and walk is expected to last about 2 hours.

'Have a Go' Archaeology

Introductory talks on

Tues 12th April & Weds 4th May

There will be 2 introductory talks in April and May, and then 3 weeks of archaeological activities during May, June and July.

Anyone can take part in this exciting free opportunity to 'have a go' at archaeology. Learn how to carry out geophysical and topographic surveys of the Bath Grounds and then have a go yourself and you might just find those buried archaeological remains!



There will be lots of 2½ hour sessions, morning, afternoon or evening to choose from during three weeks of archaeological activities. Just come along for one session and see how you get on. You can always sign up for more if you like it – most people do!

Each week concentrates on a different technique.

17th to 21st May will concentrate on resistance surveys, detecting and mapping high and low resistance underground anomalies

21st to 25th June will concentrate on magnetometer surveys, detecting variations in the earth's magnetic field in the ground

20th to 23rd July will concentrate on topographic surveys, using GPS and optical survey equipment to map the surface of the ground.

All the weeks will be organised and supervised by professional archaeologists. There is no need for any prior knowledge of archaeology.

It would really help if you could let us know if you're coming along to either of the introductory talks which will take place on 12th April at the Ashby Museum and the 4th May at the Hastings Cricket Club, both starting at 7:30pm. If you are interested in one of the sessions on the Bath Grounds during the summer, you can sign up at www.bathgroundspath.com or email us on bathgroundsfriends@gmail.com or Tel: Annie 07850 053243.

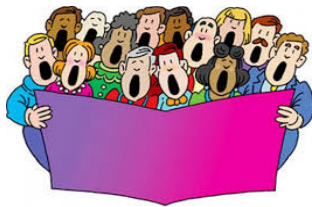
Ballad of the Bath Grounds

Would you like to have the chance to have a go in a community choir?

We need your participation – we are putting together a one off performance of 'The Ballad of the Bath Grounds' at 1pm on Sunday 29th May, a tribute to Lorna Titley who wrote the words of the Ballad.

- You don't need to be a good singer
- You don't need to read music
- You don't have to audition

It's an informal choir with easy to learn lyrics to a well-known tune. Great for all ages – please sign up and join us!



www.bathgroundspath.com

bathgroundsfriends@gmail.com

Tel: Annie 07850 053243.

If you are interested in finding out more, then please come along to our first meeting at 7.00pm on Tuesday 05 April, at the Community Centre off Prior Park Road.

Prior Park Road footpath improvements

We are working in conjunction with the Town Council to make the footpath between Prior Park Road and the "cattle arch" that leads to Mendip Close a much more pleasant and safe route to walk along. You may have noticed during recent visits to the Bath Grounds that the Friends



have been clearing away the undergrowth and self-seeded trees beside the path. This is the first phase of our Project. Once this is completed we intend to plant additional trees,

improve the hedgerow on the other side of the path, install bird/bat boxes and improve the wildflower planting for birds and insects.

We have cut down lots of self-seeded saplings that were hindering the growth of some of the beautiful trees we have along this path. Sadly a number of trees have died and we have removed a lot of rotting wood. We have taken care to do this work before the bird nesting season.

Pride in our Bath Grounds Campaign



Ashby's Big Tidy UP!

Saturday 9th April
(2.00 – 4.30 pm)

Litter – Litter bin it or take it home

The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds will be leading a litter pick on the Bath Grounds on Saturday 9th April as part of Ashbys Big Tidy Up.



Volunteers are needed to help with the litter pick. We will be meeting at the Bath Grounds Prior Park Entrance Gate at 2.00pm. 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 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.

'Bag it & Bin it' dog responsibility initiative



This initiative was very successful last year. Our statistics indicated over a 60% reduction in dog mess on the Bath Grounds during the 7 months we ran this initiative. We will be planning our strategy for 2016 over the next few weeks.

AGM 12th May – Prior Park Community Centre

Our AGM will be held at the Prior Park community Centre at 7.00pm this year. Please come along so we can answer any of your questions. We will be putting on cheese and wine.