

Prior Park Road Footpath Vision update



The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds presented the 'Vision' for this section of footpath that runs from the Prior Park Road gate to the railway arch that goes through onto Mendip close, 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. 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.

This work has been scheduled to start during the first 2 weeks of November

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.

We are looking for volunteers to spare a few hours late winter/ early spring 2017 to help clear roots and weeds, plant British native perennial plants, seeds and bulbs. 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

The official opening of the new Bath Grounds Heritage Trail



On Sunday 31st July during Jims Tractor Run and family fun day the new Bath Grounds Heritage trail was opened by the District Council Deputy Chair.

The Mayor, Mike Ball, unveiled the new community Fish Mosaic. This mosaic commemorates the mediaeval fishponds that used to sit on this part of the Bath Grounds (the interpretation board by prior park gate will give you more information on this)



A new Heritage Trail Guide is now available from the Tourist Information Centre which compliments the 5 interpretation boards.

Sundays opening was part of a number of special heritage activities that the Friends have organised this year to celebrate the history of our unique Bath Grounds. These heritage events are all part of the Footpath project which was started by the friends back in 2015

Friends chair, Clare Birch, thanked everyone who had been involved in the Bath Grounds Heritage project including the Heritage Lottery Fund and the District Council for the funding which allowed the community project to happen.

The chair also thanked the support of the Town Council who have worked with the friends in partnership over the last 18 months and the Friends committee members who have worked very hard over the last 18 months to bring the whole project together.

In particular, Dave Bigby for being the Friends Project Lead. Chris Smith for all his work to co-ordinate the free archaeology sessions we have had on the Bath Grounds over the summer.

Wendy Freer and Pudding Bag Productions. Wendy, who kindly took over from Lorna Titley in February to organise and conduct the Ballad of the Bath Grounds, and her ongoing work to document the whole of our

project and the fantastic Quick flick film 'Polkas and Pustules'.

The Ashby Museum for carrying out the development of education boxes.

Ken Hillier for his revised 'The Bath Grounds and Ivanhoe spa book' and for carrying out the recent talks and walks all about the history of the Bath Grounds.

Mercian Archaeology for carrying out the 3 weeks of surveys to the Bath grounds.

Llynda Baugh from Spiral Projects for the stunning mosaics that she has constructed for the Bath grounds and the mosaic workshops in May and June she kindly carried out for us to complete the community fish mosaic.

Di Lorriman, who was responsible for the design of the Ivanhoe Spa mosaic and Lynda's husband, Daryl, who has kindly carried out the mosaic installation for us.

An exhibition will take place in the Ashby library, lasting three weeks, from 21st January till 11 February. An invite will be sent to our members for this closing event.

Quarterly Maintenance Meetings

So far this year, as a result of quarterly meetings with the Town Council, we have achieved the following maintenance and improvements on the Bath Grounds;



North corner tidied, helping to reduce ASB & littering
Power hosing of the benches at the south street end of the grounds by the Town Council.

Working with local business to paint benches & bins (Gary Irons and the Ashby Decorator Centre).
Replacement of missing bollards around the grounds.
Treatment of Japanese Knotweed around north corner of grounds.
Graffiti removal to the cattle arch
Community work on prior park footpath 'Vision'
Installation of new bin & bench (donated by a member of the public),
Weed killing,
reseeded of grass, strimming,
general tidying.



Pride Campaign

November Litter pick !

The Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds have arranged their next litter pick on the Bath Grounds on Saturday 26th November 2015, in association with NWLDC Street Action Team and Ashby Town Council.



Volunteers are needed to help with the litter pick, from 11:00 a.m till 13:00 pm. Meet at the Prior Park Rd entrance. 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 co-ordinator, 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.

*The Friends now have over 130 members and growing!
We couldn't have carried out all our actions this year without your support!!
Thankyou*

Contacts

Email: bathgroundsfriends@gmail.com

Web: www.bathgroundsfriends.com

Follow us on Twitter and Facebook

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