



Friends  
of Pittville

[www.friendsofpittville.org](http://www.friendsofpittville.org)

September 2015

*The aim of Friends of Pittville is to promote greater community involvement in the enjoyment, protection, future restoration and renewal of Pittville Park and Estate*

## Annual General Meeting

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on **Monday 19 October 2015** at Dunalley Primary School, West Drive, Cheltenham GL50 4LB. It starts at 18.30 with light refreshments from 18.00. Members of the public are welcome. The agenda and accounts will be on our website a week before. <http://www.friendsofpittville.org>



The **guest speaker** is Dr James Hodsdon, seen here on the left in another guise (green space volunteer, pruning at Pittville Gates). James is a well-known local historian and the author of *Pittville Gates: Cheltenham's 'Grand Entrance'*. We launched the Gates restoration fund-raising campaign with this booklet (now out of print). James will tell us more about architect Robert Stokes who designed Pittville Gates, the Female Orphan Asylum in Winchcombe Street (no longer) and several large houses in Pittville.

## New constitution approved on 2 September

We were thrilled that so many members (thirty-seven to be exact) turned up at the Special General Meeting to discuss, and approve unanimously, a new constitution for Friends of Pittville. We have used the Charity Commission's recommended model for unincorporated associations and this brings us into line with best practice. The main change from the current constitution is now having all twelve committee members (known as trustees) elected by the membership at the AGM and the three office bearers (chairman, secretary and treasurer) being chosen by the trustees at a subsequent meeting. We have also written our Rules (or Bye-laws) which set out the internal

procedures for running the group. These Rules and the 2015 Constitution are at <http://www.friendsofpittville.org>

## **Membership renewal time**

The Friends of Pittville membership fee is our main source of income and all members (and those recently lapsed) will receive a request relating to their membership with this newsletter. We are keeping the current fee for 2016 but will probably raise it next year (our tenth anniversary!)

## **New members**

You are always welcome and there is an application form on the back page.

**A note to all members** – please keep your original membership card as we save money by issuing only one.

## **Call for new committee members**

As mentioned earlier, we will have some extra places available on the executive committee for 2016. We want to bring new people in so that some of the jobs currently done by the secretary and the chairman are shared out, e.g. organising our events and our participation in others', such as Heritage Open Days, editing the newsletter or managing our online presence, even being the secretary! A couple of members are considering this at the moment but we would like to encourage more. Please contact the chairman on 01242 529 681 to learn more.

## **We hope you will come!**

### **'Drop-In' at the Sudeley Arms**

Members and prospective members are welcome to 'drop in' at the Sudeley Arms in Prestbury Road between 11.00 and 12.30 on Wednesday 30 September, 28 October, 25 November and 30 December 2015. For more information contact [anthea.millier@cheltenhamlawn.co.uk](mailto:anthea.millier@cheltenhamlawn.co.uk)

### **Friends of Pittville Quiz Night**

By popular demand, we are holding a second fund-raising and fun quiz night on **Monday 16 November** at The Feathered Fish, 104-106 Winchcombe Street, GL52 2NW. Be there at 19.00 for a 19.30 prompt start. Tickets cost £5 per person and there is a 2-4-1 offer on burgers. More details will be sent to members but it would be helpful if you could express your interest now by e-mailing FOP member Amanda Slayton-Joslin who has kindly offered to organise this event again. [amandaslaytonjoslin@gmail.com](mailto:amandaslaytonjoslin@gmail.com)

## **Volunteer(s) of the moment**



Who else can this be but our chairman of over five years Judy Langhorn? Judy is standing down as chair (and from the committee) at this year's AGM. Not only did she take on the role in an emergency, but she has also led the group to Cheltenham-wide recognition and admiration. At the same time she was the membership secretary for several years, an event organiser (and helper, here at the Cheltenham Horticultural Society's summer show in August), a member of the Pittville Gates Restoration Project team and the Pittville History Works team, and finally, a green space volunteer.



She has been supported by husband Terry, (on left above, at the large yew tree by the Pump Room, with Judy) who has made his own huge contribution as webmaster for eighteen months (and adviser since then), as the FOP photographer, especially recording the restoration of Pittville Gates, and also a green space volunteer. We thank them both and look forward to their continued involvement as volunteers.

## Pittville places

The entrance gates to the Pittville Pump Room on East and West Approach Drives have been in a sorry state for some years now. As noted in our July newsletter, the Green Flag judge, during his informal visit in June, said these needed attention if the borough council was to achieve Green Heritage Site Accreditation for Pittville Park in 2016. Ever willing, some of our green space volunteers are turning their hands to painting the gates and railings. Preparation is 80 per cent of the job and here they are in this hitherto unloved corner of Pittville.



If anyone else wants to help with this task, please contact as a matter of urgency [secretary@friendsofpittville.org](mailto:secretary@friendsofpittville.org) or phone 01242 227 720. We need more people if the job is to be completed by winter.

## What we've been up to



We attracted a few potential volunteers and those with an interest in Pittville and its history at the **Cheltenham Horticultural Society's summer show** at Pittville Pump Room on 16 August...

...and during **Heritage Open Days (HODs)**, 10-13 September. At time of writing we have held one walk, 'Joseph Pitt's Grand Plan for Pittville', led by committee member Graham Gage, with twenty-three participants. Sunday's walk, 'Pittville, the plan and the place', led by chairman Judy Langhorn has twenty signed up. We try to cap numbers at twenty as groups larger than that tend to break up and those at the back cannot hear! 'Pittville Houses, 1826-1860' on Friday was also over-subscribed. Thank you so much to those who agreed to open part of their houses for HODs.

## **Pittville Park play area**

Cheltenham Borough Council is moving on to the next stage of the **Play Area Rejuvenation project** as it is now called, and has invited us to a consultation meeting to discuss, in greater detail, the design elements of the proposed scheme. At time of writing we don't have a firm date but it will be in late September in or near the park and last a couple of hours. If you are keen to attend as a Friend of Pittville please contact [secretary@friendsofpittville.org](mailto:secretary@friendsofpittville.org) or 01242 227 720. She is co-ordinating as our two 'PAR' project representatives, Chris Archibald and Graham Gage, will not be available, sadly.

## **Cheltenham Half Marathon**

This is happening on Sunday 27 September 2015 with the start and finish in Evesham Road near Central Cross Café. We have fifteen Friends of Pittville volunteers helping run one of the 'energy drink' stations, thus earning FOP £100 (plus a free breakfast and other goodies for the individual volunteers).

## **Another award - almost!**

We have just received a certificate of commendation from Historic England Angel Awards. The commendation 'recognises the tremendous time, effort and determination of Friends of Pittville for the rescue of Pittville Gates'. Competition this year was 'incredibly high' and our project was not quite strong enough to achieve an award. However, we do have a nice certificate signed by the co-founder of the scheme himself, Andrew Lloyd Webber and the Chief Executive of Historic England, Duncan Wilson.



Historic England

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# THE HISTORIC ENGLAND ANGEL AWARDS

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This is to recognise the tremendous time, effort and determination of  
**Friends of Pittville**

for the rescue of  
**Pittville Gates**

which was **COMMENDED** by the judges.

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Heroic rescue projects like this make an important contribution to local and national history, to the life of the local community and to the vital task of securing England's rich and varied heritage for present and future generations.



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Andrew Lloyd Webber



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Duncan Wilson  
Historic England

August 2015

The Historic England  
Angel Awards are co-funded by  
The Andrew Lloyd Webber Foundation  
[www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com](http://www.andrewlloydwebberfoundation.com)  
and supported by The Telegraph

We must thank Cheltenham Borough Council's Heritage and Conservation Manager, Karen Radford, for submitting the application, and for her support for the Pittville Gates restoration project throughout. We wish her all the very best for her imminent retirement.

## **Friends of Pittville Christmas cards**

We have two new Christmas cards this year and a blank card (for your own message, see below). All three will be featured on our website from 1 October and you will be able to download an order form. They cost £1 per card or £4.50 for five cards, any combination of images.



If you don't have access to the internet and would like an (illustrated) order form please contact secretary Fiona on 01242 227 720.

## **Pittville Neighbourhood Co-ordination Group (NCG)**

The next meeting is on Thursday 15 October 2015 at 1900 at Pittville School. If you want to be on the mailing list to receive further information e-mail the co-ordinator Dennis Parsons at [dennisp99@hotmail.com](mailto:dennisp99@hotmail.com)

***Friends of Pittville Executive Committee:*** Judy Langhorn (Hon. Chairman), Fiona Clarke (Hon. Secretary), Wendy Acres (Hon. Treasurer). ***Committee members:*** Christopher Archibald, Graham Gage, Judie Hodsdon, Anthea Millier, David Richards, Hilary Simpson.

Photos courtesy Fiona Clarke and Terry Langhorn (for the Christmas cards).

**Enquiries: 01242 227 720**

**Newsletter editor: Fiona Clarke [secretary@friendsofpittville.org](mailto:secretary@friendsofpittville.org)**