

Pittville Park

Green Space Volunteers Newsletter January 2017

We have had two working parties in January and have achieved a lot, especially pruning the shrubs at the rear of the Pump Room car park, raising the tree canopies on the Eastern border and our usual jobs such as litter picking. This is the second of our newsletters which we thought would be short this month but it turns out there are a number of items.

Green Flag/Green Heritage Site

Accreditation

Although we only received the awards last July we have to submit our application for 2017/2018 by the end of January. We have made some changes and taken on board feedback given to us with the awards. We will not be judged this year but will be visited by a 'mystery shopper'.

Mulching trees

Before Christmas we helped the Cheltenham Trees Group plant trees to the west of Tommy Taylors Lane. We have been asked by them to help mulch the trees to give them a good start for the year. It is proposed to do this at the working party on the 16th March.

Snowdrop bank

I am sure many of you have noticed how well the primroses are doing on the bank near the Evesham Road entrance to the west park. We hope to split these up and spread them at an appropriate time. The snowdrops, which several of you helped to plant, are starting to come up and we should get a good show. The cyclamens and other plants that David has been planting are doing well. We will still need to remove some brambles and other more vigorous grasses etc. To ensure the plants are not swamped.

Plant sale

We are holding our second plant sale on Saturday 6 May in front of the Scout Hut. This is advance notice for all keen gardeners, if you have spare plants or can grow them they would be very welcome. We have nurseries supplying plants as last year and our usual raffle – any prizes gratefully received. We will also need some volunteers on the day. Please let Chris know if you can help.

Car park attendants

With the agreement of Cheltenham B C we will be manning the Albermarle car park for Gold Cup week (14 – 17 March) to raise money for improvements to the park. We have a few volunteers to date but we could do with a few more. Please could you let Chris know if you could help, just one day would be great and it would only be for a few hours in the morning. The money raised will get our heritage landscape architect on board.

Disabled Toilet at play area

The council have obtained a grant to build a properly equipped disabled toilet at the play area which is great news. We do not have any details yet but hopefully this gives the opportunity to use the existing disabled facility to improve provision of toilets overall.

Tidy cuts

Andy who is the Ubico supervisor has commented that some of our pruning cuts have not been as tidy as they should be. On the basis that a workman blames their tools Janice is taking the tools to get them sharpened. Hopefully we will get Andy to give us some advice at the next working party.

George

The sad news of George being attacked with a crossbow bolt has left everyone shocked. At time of this newsletter, George was managing to stand and drink by himself but he is not out of the woods yet. Vale Wildlife Rescue and Rehabilitation centre who are treating George have set up a just giving page to help fund his treatment <https://www.justgiving.com/campaigns/charity/vwr/HelpGeorge>

New Trees in Play area

Seven new trees have been planted to replace the vandalised ones in the play area. Also in the play area work is being undertaken to improve the drainage around the rope climber. Should be completed ready for February half term.

New tennis court fencing

The new tennis court fencing has now been completed. The new fencing had been funded by Lawn Tennis Association.

Useful numbers

Trolleywise – to report abandoned trollies
Tel. +44 (0) 800 316 1241
enquiries@trolleywise.co.uk

To report street lamps not working, including parks (remember to have lamp column number when reporting)
Telephone: 08000 514514

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reportit/streetlight-fault>

Underpass light not working or damaged
Property dept. 01242 262626

Environment Agency Incident hotline:
Telephone: 0800 80 70 60

Vale Wildlife Rescue hospital and rehabilitation
<http://www.valewildlife.org.uk/>
01386 882288

Park Watch

A valuable contribution to Park Watch is the information that is provided by park users. If you see anything when you are walking or working in the park that you think is wrong please let Janice know. She will take action or inform the police.

Tree in the upper lake

It is hoped this will be removed this week.

Lake edge

Our contractor has carried out the flailing of the lake edge in preparation for spring and the new growth. Some self-sown trees also need to be removed, planned for a working party.

Events

Only one event is planned for February, 18th a cross country event with the Harriers.

Jobs for the GSV

Also when visiting the park if you see something that you think the GSV could improve please let either Janice or Chris know.

Upcoming events

Next working parties:

-Thursday 2nd February

-Thursday 16th February

Best wishes

Janice Payne - Community Ranger
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Chris Archibald - GSV coordinator
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