

Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 October 2020 to 30 September 2021

Charity Name: **Friends of Pittville**

Registered Charity Number: 1146790

Charity's principal address: 65 Prestbury Road, Cheltenham GL52 2BY

Names of Trustees:

Judie Hodsdon
Sally Thomas
Alexandra Marshall
Paul Benfield

Chairman, website editor
Deputy Chairman
Secretary
Treasurer

Chris Archibald
Andy Hopkins
Janina Kay

Volunteers Organiser
Newsletter Editor, Facebook editor
Membership Secretary

Rob Hyatt-Williams
Philippa Howell
David Richards
Henry Williams

Joc Potter is Minutes Secretary (but not a trustee)

The charity is an association with a constitution. The trustees are elected by the membership. Further details about the charity can be found at www.friendsofpittville.org.uk

In summary, **the objects of the charity** are to promote the use, preservation, improvement and conservation of the environment, facilities and heritage of Pittville Park and the open spaces of the historic Pittville Estate for public benefit.

The charity's **main activities** are:

- Working parties in the Park and other green spaces, under the guidance of Cheltenham Borough Council's community park rangers
- Disseminating information and learning material about Pittville and its open spaces on websites, quarterly newsletters, emails and noticeboards and through occasional public events and other events
- Researching and publishing information about Pittville's past.
- Organising a range of events for members and to raise funds to support the charity's activities
- Undertaking major projects to enhance Pittville's environment.

Funding for the charity's activities come from members' subscriptions and donations, and fundraising events, and, for major projects, from fundraising campaigns and grant applications.

The paid-up **membership** for the year was just under 300, down on previous years where we averaged around 350. It has proved more difficult to recruit new members since the Covid 19–related precautions ruled out holding events and distributing the newsletter as widely. However, the first distribution in September of a hard copy newsletter for 18 months led to a welcome renewed interest in taking out membership.

The charity has various groups of **volunteers**, including the Green Space volunteers, the researchers in the Pittville History Works group, the numerous volunteers who deliver newsletters, plus the trustees and ad hoc groups who run events and projects.

Major achievements and events during the year:

The **Green Space Volunteers** were unable to meet for four months of the last year (November 2020 and January to March 2021). However, working party numbers averaged 27, more than pre-covid, so the total of volunteering hours for the year was 896, not much less than two years ago.

Highlights of the year included planting up the western rockery, a start on clearing the banks of the lower lake and some planting in Bed 38 (at the corner of Wellington and Evesham Roads). The gaps imposed by the lockdowns unfortunately allowed the weeds to flourish in both the rockery and Bed 38 so extra work was needed to get them ready for planting and to keep them looking good. In addition, the usual maintenance work and litter picking was carried out throughout the Park, on occasion helped by volunteers including a Duke of Edinburgh Award participant, a trainee solicitor, 3 GE Aviation and Pittville Swans and Friends group members. As before the work of the volunteers was celebrated with coffee and cakes at the Central Cross Café.

Progress on the **Masterplan** improvements for the upper East Park included the completion of the western rockery and securing permissions to proceed with the projects (restitution of the steps and two replacement gateways) at the Pump Room.

An additional project this year was the replacement of three **heritage information boards**, one near the Play Area and two by Pittville Gates. Their condition had deteriorated badly so that they were becoming difficult to read. The updating work has nearly been completed, and funding secured from a Community Pride grant from CBC and generous donations from Cheltenham Arts Council and The History Press. These will cover most of the cost.

Pittville History Works has continued to meet every two months, with the September 2021 meeting being the first to be held face-to-face since the beginning of the pandemic. There are currently nine volunteers (plus a website consultant based in New Jersey, USA, who was able to join several Zoom meetings).

During the year the group have completed the final census and directory transcriptions, the ambitious project which had begun in 2014, and there are now records on the website [www.http://pittvillehistory.org.uk](http://pittvillehistory.org.uk) in varying amounts of detail, of almost 19,000 individual Pittville residents from the 1830s until 1945.

Other additions to the website include reproductions of two photograph albums dating from the late 19th century chronicling the life of a young lady of leisure in Pittville, a gazeteer of over 200 house names and a number of house biographies. Members have also contributed to the work of other organisations such as Holst Victorian house and Cheltenham Local History Society.

The first 3 editions of the quarterly **newsletter** appeared only in an online version this year (with a few hard copy versions for members without email). This meant that the normal large distribution to 2000 households in April did not happen. However,

the September edition was delivered to the large distribution thanks to volunteers being prepared to resume their work. The newsletter also appears on the FoP website.

During **Heritage Open Days**, PHW organised a joint event with Pittville Pump Room Revival entitled “These Magnificent Rooms – the season at Pittville Spa”. There were talks on various subjects such as what happened on a typical day during “the season”, why the Pittville mineral water was special, what was a public breakfast and who lived at the Pump Room, with edible treats from the period provided. The talks will be published on the website. Another FoP event were two walks featuring the Park’s special trees, led by Rob Hyatt-Williams

Inevitably Covid-19 affected the **events** we could hold during this year. The annual May plant sale was cancelled as were the two Cheltenham Horticultural Society shows at which FoP has a stall, and the summer garden party for members could not be held. The quiz night, normally held in February, was also put on hold. However, the monthly Drop-in coffee mornings, for members and friends, were held at the open air café at the Pump Room whenever possible.

This year’s **fundraising** for the Masterplan projects by running a car park for racegoers in November and March, could not take place and the cancellation of the 2021 quiz night and May plant sale also reduced our fundraising opportunities. However, regular income continued to come from the duck feed dispenser, managed by Philippa Howell. This made a profit of £870. In normal years the profits are shared with St Vincent’s and St George’s Association (a local charity) which keeps the feeder topped up on term time weekdays. This arrangement was on hold from late March 2020 but resumed in September this year. Another source of regular income has come from members purchasing tickets for the weekly Cheltenham Lottery. This has been supplemented by members also donating their winnings resulting in income of £748.

Trustees held a **strategy** meeting in September which resulted in the formation of 3 groups to come up with ideas and plans for developing our communications, increasing our membership and future projects to improve the Park.

FoP were approached by a group of local skateboarders, on the recommendation of Angela Gilbert from the VCS Forum and Alex Chalk MP, to help with their idea of refurbishment of the Pittville skateboard park. They had drawn up plans for the proposed work, and ideas for fundraising. FoP acted as facilitators, arranging a meeting with Adam Reynolds from CBC. The idea has been taken forward in conjunction with local BMX users.

The **2020 AGM** which would have been held in October 2020 was replaced by a distribution of the papers to all members, with a period allowed for comments and questions. There were no objections raised. Sally Thomas was declared elected as a trustee as again there were no objections.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees’ report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity’s trustees

Signatures (signed on the original)

Full Names Judith Hodsdon

Alexandra Marshall

Position Chairman
Date 26 October 2020

Secretary
26 October 2020

**FRIENDS OF PITTVILLE ACCOUNTS
INCOME & EXPENDITURE
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

	2021	2020
	£	£
INCOME		
<u>General</u>		
Subscriptions	(2,045.00)	(2,540.00)
Bank Interest	(9.07)	(21.42)
Fund Raising Income	(1,120.20)	(1,221.70)
Lottery	(748.00)	(832.50)
Gift Aid	(438.50)	(479.68)
General (talks and donations)	(657.09)	(84.50)
Pittville History Works	(40.00)	-
Green spaces Volunteers	(250.00)	-
Sundry	0.00	-
	(5,307.86)	(5,179.80)
<u>Income for specific groups</u>		
Pittville Pump Room Revival	-	(110.02)
	-	(110.02)
<u>Projects</u>		
Events (car parking)	-	(5,480.00)
	-	(5,480.00)
Total Income	(5,307.86)	(10,769.82)
EXPENDITURE		
<u>General</u>		
Newsletter printing & postage	403.00	584.00
Office consumables	690.11	347.02
Publicity and Information	-	245.00
Events	15.00	200.00
Subscriptions	25.00	25.00
Pittville History Works	173.87	88.59
Public Liability Insurance	96.00	89.00
Website hosting etc	7.50	232.99
Fund Raising Exps	250.69	378.00
Miscellaneous	350.00	50.00
Green Spaces Volunteers	1,176.85	172.47
	3,188.02	2,412.07
<u>Expenditure for specific groups</u>		
Pittville Pump Room Revival	-	450.63
	-	450.63
<u>Projects</u>		
project expenses	0.00	0.00
	0.00	0.00
Total Expenditure	3,188.02	2,862.70
(SURPLUS)/DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR	(2,119.84)	(7,907.12)

**FRIENDS OF PITTVILLE ACCOUNTS
BALANCE SHEET
YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2021**

	2021 £	2020 £
ASSETS		
Barclays Community Account	(12,382.20)	(10,263.31)
Barclays Active Saver Account	(15,537.03)	(14,814.96)
Cash in Hand	(80.00)	(80.00)
	<u>(27,999.23)</u>	<u>(25,158.27)</u>
Debtors	-	(25.00)
Income Received Paid in Advance	764.50	127.50
Creditors outstanding	364.29	305.17
	<u>364.29</u>	<u>305.17</u>
Net Assets	<u>(26,870.44)</u>	<u>(24,750.60)</u>
REPRESENTED BY:		
Balance Brought Forward		
General	(12,177.43)	(9,750.31)
Project account	(12,573.17)	(7,093.17)
	<u>(24,750.60)</u>	<u>(16,843.48)</u>
Movement In Year		
General Fund	(2,119.84)	(2,427.12)
Project Fund	-	(5,480.00)
	<u>(2,119.84)</u>	<u>(7,907.12)</u>
Closing Balance		
General Reserves	(14,297.27)	(12,177.43)
Projects Reserve	(12,573.17)	(12,573.17)
	<u>(26,870.44)</u>	<u>(24,750.60)</u>
Total Reserves as at 30 September	<u>(26,870.44)</u>	<u>(24,750.60)</u>

Judie Hodsdon
Chairman
23rd October 2021

Paul Benfield
Hon. Treasurer
23rd October 2021

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE MEMBERS

I have examined the books and records of Friends of Pittville used to prepare, under the historical cost convention, the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Statement.

In my opinion, the aforementioned Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Statement, give a 'true and fair view' of the Society's affairs as at 30th September 2020 and for the year ending on that date.

Joe Mar
Independent Examiner
23rd October 2021