



FRIENDS of
CASTLE GREEN

NEWSLETTER

November 2007

*Celebration, Education, Recreation
A Park for People!*

www.friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk

Words from the Chair

Firstly I should apologise. It is 7 months since our last newsletter – far too big a gap to keep people informed of what is happening. I blame my own decision to stand for election to Herefordshire Council in May this year and the deluge of duties, committee meetings and paperwork I have had to keep up with ever since winning! We have also lost our Membership Secretary, Lara Latcham, who was appointed as Manager of the new Kindle Centre in South Wye. We wish her all the best in this all consuming role and many thanks for all the support she has given the Friends over the years. Anyone interested in filling her shoes, please get in contact!

You will notice our new logo at the top of the page – it is much better in colour! Keeping costs down necessitates a black ink only newsletter, but the committee were extremely pleased with the result (and the cost!). Paid for by our Awards for All grant and designed by Southpaw Designs, we feel it encapsulates the green, the community approach and the River Wye all in one little logo. The colour version will soon be on display on the Friends' notice board in Quay Street.

Problems with vandals have meant that the notice board has been very difficult to keep up to date – it can take up to 40 minutes just to get it open. New doors have been delivered and they will soon be fitted by a willing volunteer – many thanks to him. We also have a local Friend who has offered to be “notice board monitor” again many thanks.

I hope you enjoy this newsletter and feel able to respond to the various projects and pleas for help contained within. Don't hesitate to get in touch about anything.

Mark Hubbard, Chair of FOCG.

Mark can be contacted on 01432 272684

The Committee:

Chair: Mark Hubbard

Treasurer: Georgina Miller

Secretary: Lisa Richardson

Membership: Vacant

Events Officer: Rebecca Saunders

Press Officer: George Thomas

St James CA Rep: Lucy Marder

Civic Soc Rep: Andree Poppleston

Guild of Guides: Julie Orton-Davies

Member: David Whitehead

Christmas Fayre 2007

This year's Christmas Fayre will be held on Sunday 9th December from 10am – 4.30pm. There will be dozens of stalls selling all sorts of locally made products, an in-house café (hot soup and rolls, cakes, mince pies and drinks), plenty of mulled wine as usual and local schools providing some seasonal entertainment rounded off by local group Bandemonium. There are lots of jobs to do in the run up to the fayre – making decorations for the tents in the afternoon on Saturday 8th December is a great thing for kids to get involved with and happens on the lawn at Castle Cliffe. Anyone willing to help set up and take down on the day is also really welcome – please get in touch! **Anyone wanting to book a stall or volunteer for the day should contact Rebecca Saunders on 01432 272605.**

We shall be running a bottle stall as our fundraiser again this year. All donations of bottles gratefully received – look out for the local flyer telling you how to donate or bring your bottle with you on the day! *The better the bottle the more we make!*

Contacting FOCG:

By Mail:

The Secretary, FOCG,
7 St Ethelbert Street,
HEREFORD
HR1 2NR

By E-mail:

events@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk
chair@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk

The Riverbank Project – we NEED your feedback!

This is such an exciting new project for the Friends and the biggest one we have run to date. We expect to start in a couple of months. Please visit our website – www.friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk and read the project proposal by clicking on to “The Riverbank Project” icon. Please read the whole thing and then let us know what you think by email. Your opinions are vital to show our funders that we are consulting our membership.

Annual General Meeting 2007

At 7.30pm on November 6th 2007 the Friends held their Annual General Meeting at the WRVS Centre in Vicarage Road. 24 people braved the dark evening to listen to the Chair's report of the past year:

Hogg's Mount Steps

Finally underway after much consultation and wrangling, the steps from Mill St to Hogg's Mount will include a new handrail, anti-vandal bulkhead lighting to light up the new steps and a retaining wall beautifully finished in red sandstone. The handrail will be in keeping with its surroundings and the workmen will re-use the lovely old stone from the old steps where they can. The whole project should be finished by Xmas and should be of really good quality.

The Riverbank Project – please see over leaf & visit the website.

Elections

The committee was re-elected en bloc, with the exception of Keith James, our fantastic photographer and hardworking member. Although Keith has stepped down, he has offered to carry on taking photographs for us. Many thanks Keith for all your hard work – past & future!

Money Matters

Our Treasurer's report showed our income was still healthy at around £5,000 for the year. The small loss taken on the two fairs pleased the committee, particularly as the summer event only lost £96.78 and was held on the same day as a severe weather warning – particular thanks to everyone for coming & supporting this event. At least we now know we can do a wet one! The committee have decided to buy a small marquee which is needed for extra space at the Christmas Fayre. It will also mean there will be no need to rent one in the summer, so it should pay for itself within 12 months. Membership fees will remain at £5 per household (donations welcome), but we shall be encouraging the use of standing orders and eventually move to an annual renewal date for all members.

Motions

2 motions gained unanimous approval from the AGM. Firstly the committee decision to pursue the registration of the FOCG as a not for profit company limited by guarantee was ratified. This will make little difference to the actual running of the Friends, but will provide some protection for the committee from being personally liable should anything go wrong. It also ensures that we are more open to public scrutiny, have to maintain certain financial standards and should aid future fundraising. Secondly, the Treasurer was given permission to change the bank account for the Friends to a high street bank of her choosing – she is finding working with the Abbey a nightmare. Membership will remain at £5 (donations always welcome) but we shall be encouraging the use of standing orders and eventually have one renewal date.

Membership Fees

We are somewhat down on the renewal of membership fees – probably due to the smaller turnout at the very wet summer fayre when most people pay their subs. If you don't know your renewal date please phone Lisa on 01432 352287. Although membership is still very cheap at £5 per household per year, it is a valuable income for the group. We have been very lenient, but once we are registered as a company we will have to police the books a little more thoroughly.

Castle Green Bowling Club

Having been told the bowlers were leaving Castle Green for Aylestone Park the committee have discovered that they would really rather stay. We have decided that we should give them our full support, not least because next year they will celebrate their centenary! 100 years of bowling on the green is something to celebrate and we will do all we can to help them to stay. We shall shortly be talking to their committee about the problems they face and how we can help resolve them collectively – watch this space.

Why have you been sent two Newsletters?

In an attempt to boost membership, we are sending every member a 2nd Newsletter. Please pass this on to your neighbour or a friend and encourage them to join the Friends of Castle Green – for people who love parks! Just send a cheque made payable to the Friends of Castle Green and send it with their details to the address overleaf. Also visit our website www.friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk