



FRIENDS of CASTLE GREEN

NEWSLETTER

Celebration - Education - Recreation
A Park for People!

Words from The Chair

At the time of writing it is early May, the blossom is out everywhere and I am praying that the glorious April weather we have had isn't our summer over! This year we saw the best display of spring flowering bulbs on the riverbank we have ever seen. After years of growing and reproducing under a thick mat of undergrowth, the spring bulbs that must have been planted 30 years ago surged into the best ever flowering display I have ever seen. The extremely cold winter probably helped, but there is no doubt that allowing the bulbs plenty of sunlight last year, in their newly cleared riverbank, did them a world of good. As a great poet friend of mine put it, "Last year's flowers ate light and grew again" (Sarah Reilly). My photographs don't do them justice, but I hope you like them.

Regular visitors to the green will also have noticed a plethora of bat boxes have been placed in the trees along the riverbank. Hereford Action for mammals paid for and installed them and Widemarsh Workshop made them. We are hoping they provide summer nesting sites for the pipistrelle bats that can be seen feeding along the length of the Wye at dusk. The Riverbank team have also introduced a wild flower seed mix which includes teasel, purple loose strife, foxglove and common toad flax. We are not sure whether they will take off this year or next, but I for one am keeping my fingers crossed. They have also experimented with a few native junipers and some spindle which, if it takes, will bring some lovely winter colour. On top of all that, there have been some natural arrivals. Three or four honesty plants have taken hold with their gorgeous pink/purple flowers - lets' hope they spread. *Mark Hubbard*

Annual General Meeting

The Friends of Castle Green will be holding an Annual General Meeting on Thursday 15 July, starting at 6pm with drinks on the lawn at Castle Cliffe followed by a tour of the Castle Green Training Centre Building with a brief historical commentary provided by David Whitehead. The meeting will be followed by a barbecue and drinks. All members are invited to join us and please bring a bottle! If you are not a member you can always join on the night.



Litter Pick

After a very successful event in April, the St James & Bartonsham Greening the Village Project will be running a second litter pick on Saturday 31 July at 2pm, meeting at the field end of Green Street. We are hoping a band of Friends will join them and head off to the Castle Green to get all those bits of litter that are missed by the regular paid litter pickers - especially the area between the Mill Street/Hoggs Mount steps and Castle Pool. Come and join us and do your bit to keep the Castle Green looking special.




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Painting the Town Green!

On a remarkably cold May bank holiday Monday, about thirty five people responded to a very well publicised volunteer day on Castle Green to help paint the railings. Whilst we were probably a little over ambitious in our hopes to get them all done in a day, we did do extremely well finishing off about a third of all the railings in the green. The small army of helpers cut back undergrowth, exposed bottom rails, did lots of scraping and sanding and then applied the special rust-eating one coat paint donated by Amey. It's quite amazing the effect a lick of paint on railings can have on the way a flower bed can look. As they say, a beautiful picture deserves a proper frame and our little flower bed by the training centre is now as pretty as a picture.

The best bit about the day was the feel good factor. There were lots of people who didn't necessarily know each other pitching in together to get something done, people from all sorts of backgrounds just getting on with the job and each other. So much so that there was a lot of pressure to do it again to finish the job off!

Now we know what we are doing we should be a little quicker and it will give a chance to all those people who were doing Bank Holiday things that day to come and lend a hand. Saturday 12 June will be your next chance to **PAINT THE TOWN GREEN!**



Bringing History to the Castle Green

The Castle Green is an amazing space allowing everyone an opportunity to enjoy a green open area for the purposes of relaxation and recreation. However within this context there remains another hidden dimension - the Green's historic past. For the past two thousand years and beyond this special site has played a dominant role in the lives of all the local inhabitants. It is therefore the Friends' intention to interpret this story in a series of focus points positioned around the Green where the public will be introduced to various aspects of the Green and the part it has played in Hereford's rich heritage.

At this stage it is not our intention to overwhelm the interested public but simply to provide a low budget information source to enable an appreciation of how the site has developed throughout the centuries. From a practical viewpoint information stations will be temporary and information sheets disposable - vandalism should therefore not be a problem.

Why not come along and meet the Friends at the Summer Fayre and see for yourselves how this scheme will be introduced and if appropriate provide input for this new venture. *Julie Orton Davies*

Committee Members

Chair: Mark Hubbard - chair@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk

Secretary: Lisa Richardson - mail@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk

Treasurer: Georgina Miller - treasurer@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk

Events: Rebecca Saunders - events@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk

Membership: Anthony Edwards - member@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk

Other members: Julie Orton-Davies, David Whitehead, Andree Poppleston, Mo Burns.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Saturday June 12 10am-4pm** – come & help paint the railings on the Castle Green. Big barbecue lunch provided free of charge, bring a small paint brush, wire brush or scraper and wear grubby old clothes!
- **Saturday 3 July 10am-9pm** – the Castle Green Summer Fayre. All day event with market stalls, music, bouncy castles, kids stuff and much more.
- **Thursday 15 July 6pm-10pm** – The Friends of Castle Green AGM followed by a barbecue. Held in the garden of Castle Cliffe with tours of the Castle Green Training Centre with a brief account of its history, by local historian, David Whitehead. Fabulous free food - please bring a bottle!
- **Saturday 31 July 2pm** – join the Greening the Village litter pick meeting at the field end of Green Street.

Details of all our events can be found on our website www.friendsofcastlegreen.org