



# FRIENDS OF CASTLE GREEN NEWSLETTER

## ***VOLUNTEER SPECIAL***

*“celebration, education, recreation - a park for people!”*  
September 2015

# ***PARKS NEED PEOPLE!***

The Friends of Castle Green has been running since 2003 & has gradually grown into one of the biggest and most successful community groups in the City. This year's Summer Fair was one of our biggest yet, with thousands of people coming to enjoy a 'free to attend' family event in the heart of the city – the weather was great & so was the day! **AND IT WAS ALL DONE BY VOLUNTEERS.....**

We have recognised that, for the Friends of Castle Green to keep growing as we have done, we are going to need a significant influx of new volunteers to help with specific jobs throughout the year – improving the Green, helping expand our events programme & ensuring that the people who use the park have a big say in its future. Most of these things are already being done, so there will be someone available to show you the ropes.

We have also learnt from experience that the more fun people have, the more willing they are to participate & help out. And we are getting much better at the FUN side by being a bit more relaxed about everything!

We also have a lot to offer – especially to people looking to beef up their CV's or learn new skills. Younger people can get a lot of solid volunteer experience out of a group like the Friends of Castle Green. Sharing skills is an important part of community spirit and anyone wanting to gain event management experience need look no further – just come and talk to us.

So this **VOLUNTEER SPECIAL** newsletter is one of our most important yet. Please take some time to read through it – think about who you know & how you could have fun together by helping out on Castle Green. If there's just you, that's brilliant too! People have fun in different ways – it's what makes us human. When we all pool our enjoyment for a common cause – it's what makes us a community!

Read through all of the opportunities on offer, think about your friends & who would be fun to spend time with doing something for Castle Green. Is there anyone you know who would be good in one of these roles? Tell them about it! Is there a young person you know looking to gain experience? Give them a prod in our direction.

If you are interested in finding out more please contact our Operations Manager, Katie Bott, as follows:

**email:** [operations@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk](mailto:operations@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk) **Tel:** 07939 261640

**or by letter:** The Friends of Castle Green, The Pavilion, Castle Green, Hereford HR1 2NW

Thanks a lot

Mark Hubbard – Events Director

## ***FOOD GLORIOUS FOOD!***

We have a great cafe team who turn up and serve homemade food at all of our events. This is one of the ways we make income to keep our events free to attend. Most people do a two hour shift, although many stay longer! We can always do with extra help, as this year we have had to turn down opportunities to run a cafe due to a lack of volunteers. You need to be confident handling cash (don't worry the sums are always easy), serving food with a smile & an understanding of basic food hygiene helps. We can provide training on food health & safety.

Our cafe can get very busy so it helps if you are not easily flustered. Other duties include helping to fill rolls and lay food out at the beginning of the day & tidying up at the end.

## ***GREEN FINGERS?***

As the council budget reduces, the amount of maintenance they are able to do also diminishes. Some of you may have noticed the flower beds by the Victoria footbridge have now been planted with perennials – most of the annuals have long gone as they were too expensive to run! We are looking for a group of people who know a thing or two about flowering plants & designing a good flower bed, to take on some regular maintenance of this lovely area. Most of the plants will need lifting & dividing soon, so there will be an opportunity to re-jig the beds to best effect.

Do you have a couple of friends who you could get together with to help? Are you someone with a bit of knowledge about plants with a few hours to spare during the year? If so, get in touch.

## **POST IT!**

We have a fantastic team of people who deliver these newsletters about 4 or 5 times a year. They are amazing as this job is mostly done on your own. I am aware that some of the areas that people are delivering to are a little large & some of them may need a break. Would you be happy to deliver to your road? Areas we particularly need help with are the Portfield Estate (Central Avenue area), but also St James too.

We should also like to expand delivery to Hinton. Do you know anyone living in the Hinton area that you could ask? Would you mind volunteering to do this valuable job? If we have just one person in each street this job would be sooooo much easier!

### **Coming up Roses!**

Do you know about growing roses? The Castle Green area has two rose beds that could really do with some input – one by the Victoria Bridge entrance to the Green and one around the base of the monument. A rose lover (or two) with time on their hands would be a great find!

### **A couple of Sparks?**

Are there a couple of friendly electricians out there that could help advise on our electricity supply at events? Help with recommending the right kit & setting up so that we stay safe. Please get in touch.....

### **FANCY A FLUTTER?**

We have a great group of friends who always turn up to help run the raffle at our two big events each year, but sadly at this year's Summer Fair we didn't run one as I just didn't have time to organise it. This is really valuable income for the events and can add £800 to our profit on a good day – all helping to keep the events free.

We are looking for someone or some people to take on the responsibility of organising two raffle type stalls each year. Many of the connections with donor businesses are already made – they are really happy to donate the prizes. But someone needs to visit them all, buy the raffle tickets, make the signs & just keep everything on track. Could you and a couple of friends volunteer to do this? What would be great would be getting **two** teams – one for Summer & one for Christmas. Please get in touch if this is something you think you could do.

### **Here we go.....!**

Able bodied people who can carry chairs & tables, erect gazebos & set up folding trestle tables are always needed to help set up our events & then help take them down again. I am aware that many of the people who come and help have been doing so for years. If we get enough people coming forward we could arrange a rota so no one would have to do it more than once a year. That would be four teams of 5 to 6 people – about 20-25 of you!. A relatively early start is required for setting up – about 8am, but if later in the day is your thing, the Summer fair strike happens at about 9.30pm. Lugging kit with a smile is an art – I'm sure there are some lads & lasses out there willing enough.

Also, is there one person out there who would be happy to organise all of this? You don't need to be able bodied for this one – just a really **really** nice person, who is good at organising others in a friendly way. This person would need to ring round everyone a few weeks before each event to get it in their diaries and make sure enough of them turn up at the right time to get the job done.

### **INCREDIBLY EDIBLE...**

We are testing the water to see if there is anyone out there who thinks this is an excellent idea – like we do! The incredible edible movement has been turning local parks across the country into places where people come together to grow fruit and vegetables communally. There have been some great success stories, especially amongst people who would love an allotment, but don't quite have the time for one. Now I'm not saying this would be possible on Castle Green, but Redcliffe Gardens or Cantilupe Gardens might be a great place to start. Would this be something that would interest you? Google it & see other great projects around the country (particularly the Edible Bus Stop!). Growing vegetables in a flower bed in a park can look fantastic & provide healthy locally grown food for the table. There will need to be a lot of preparation to get this off the ground, but with the right group of people (I think we need 5 or 6 enthusiasts to begin with) it would be a great little project. Get in touch if you are one of them!

### **A lick of paint.....**

You may have noticed the benches around the Castle Green are slowly changing. Copies of the original Edwardian benches are being commissioned in memory of people who have recently died or just through generous donations. Proper benches need a bit more care & attention than bog standard plastic. Is there anyone out there who is happy to take responsibility for checking the benches & giving them a lick of paint when they need it? They are fiddly so some decorating experience would help.

**THANKS FOR READING!**