

October 2006



# FRIENDS OF CASTLE GREEN NEWSLETTER

[www.friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk) | [info@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk)

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

## Your chance to hear about new developments and have your say



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

**6PM TUESDAY 7th  
NOVEMBER 2006**

**THE WOOLHOPE ROOM  
Hereford Museum & Library  
Broad Street**

It's been a good year for the Friends of Castle Green. Over 1500 people attended the Christmas Fayre 2005, despite the pea soup fog that hung over Hereford throughout the day. We were awarded two grants, an 'Awards for All' grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund to pay for computer equipment and the West Midlands Park It! award to help pay for our biggest event to date – the Midsummer Fayre & Festival 2006 – and it was just that! Nearly 5000 people turned out to enjoy a day of music, living history and market stalls. The atmosphere was absolutely fantastic with the whole Green covered with families enjoying the fabulous weather and all of the free activities.

This autumn will see the start of our pilot

education project, with two primary schools visiting the Green for their local history project – designed to be part of their National Curriculum studies. We are also hoping that the refurbishment of the steps leading from Mill Street to Hoggs Mount will go on site during the winter. Detailed discussions about the River Bank Project will also commence, now that initial funding has been secured. A good and BUSY year!

Over the last couple of months, the committee has been having a wide-ranging discussion to formulate a full policy statement detailing the direction in which we wish to take the Castle Green over the next 30 years. We plan to publish this document early in 2007,

but we need your help. At this year's Annual General Meeting I shall be presenting our discussions so far, in order that YOU, the Friends, can give us some feedback. Following this, a draft policy statement will be circulated before Christmas for detailed comments.

So, please put the date of the AGM in your diaries and do your best to come. We are still looking for a Treasurer, a Vice Chair and committee members, so anyone wanting to be part of one of the most active community groups in the city can put themselves forward for election using the enclosed nomination forms.

*Mark Hubbard, Chair, FoCG*

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# Midsummer Fayre and Festival 2006

The Friends of Castle Green Midsummer Fayre was once again a fantastic fun-filled event. From 6 in the morning the Castle Green was a buzz of activity, with stalls being set up, tables & chairs arranged, tents pitched, crafts lovingly laid out to catch the eye, food & drink being piled up for the hungry thousands and remarkably calm organisers overseeing & making last minute adjustments.

Thanks to the "Park It!" grant from GreenSpace, this year's event had a host of attractions on offer and all for free! The medieval village provided a fascinating insight into how our ancestors did things like cooking, making cloth, what they used to hunt with and how they defended themselves. Not just a spectator event; people were able to 'have a go' – what better way to have a history lesson?

On the craft & produce market, trade was brisk all day long, with a wide range of local goods & goodies on offer! From sausages to strawberries and jewellery to juggling balls (we had to evict the baby from the pram to accommodate all of our purchases!).

As well as produce to take home there was a great choice of food to eat on the day. I'm proud to say I've yet to find anyone who tried more flavours of Sheppard's ice cream than I! I also broke our collective family record on the number of Mr Tudge's hot dogs I consumed!

As ever, the Midsummer Fayre was a showcase for local musical talent, with a great variety of styles & genres of music to delight the ear. Even the acts not to one's personal taste became more acceptable with the aid of a little lubrication from the bar, run by our local pub & brewery, The Barrels. Although I did notice quite a number of people who were obviously very discerning in their musical tastes & required a good deal of lubrication..... (the inevitable consequence of which resulted in a shortage of loo paper in the ladies; apologies, we'll have more next time!).

A special mention for Rob Ashman of Sealegs Puppet Theatre who captivated his young audience, one man in front of hordes of excited children with competition from the bands & some little people determined to be part of the show! Well done, we hope you've recovered.....

The Museum of the Move was a very good addition to the Fayre. Young people happily dug & sifted through sand to find bones & skeletons. Very appropriate for Castle Green which has centuries of history buried beneath its surface.

So we, the organisers, would like to thank everybody who gave of their time & talent, all for free, which made the Castle Green Midsummer Fayre 2006 such a wonderful day – don't rest on your laurels for too long though, we'll be starting to organise the next one soon!

*Rebecca Saunders – Events Officer*





Get interactive with the Friends!

VISIT OUR NEW WEBSITE:

[www.friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk) for

- Regularly updated news and views
- Photo galleries of Castle Green events
- Add your comments and points of view
- Contact the committee easily
- Get your friends to join the Friends!

In November/December we will be consulting on our Draft Policy Statement. This will outline the direction in which we wish to take the Green over the next 30 years. It will be published on the website where there will be a facility for discussion and comments.

**Park It!**  
celebrating people in parks



We would like to thank **Park It** for the generous funding of this issue of our newsletter, and particular thanks to **Holly** and **Amanda**, for their sterling help with our Summer Fayre.



*Roll up roll up for the Christmas Fayre!*

Plans are in full flow for the Christmas Fayre, which will be held on **SUNDAY 17TH DECEMBER 2006** - anyone wishing to book a stall please call Rebecca Saunders on 01432 272605. Volunteers will be needed for making decorations for the tent on Saturday 16th and the inevitable setting up and striking crews on the day – anyone wishing to offer please contact Mark on 01432 272096. See you there!

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# Castle Newsround



Secretary of the Friends, Mark Hubbard and Lisa Richardson, chased a block of funding donated by Laing housing developers. They had donated £10,000 towards “riverbank enhancement” as a planning contribution to Herefordshire Council for developing the old general hospital into residential housing. Mark & Lisa successfully argued that the money had been incorrectly earmarked for the refurbishment of the Victoria Footbridge as this was a long-term maintenance project and not riverside enhancement. Mike Wilson contacted the Friends in mid September to say £7,000 was available to kick start the restoration of the historic views of the River Wye from the promenade on Castle Green. Thanks Roger & Mike – we’ll make good use of the cash!

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### Education Pilot

The Friends have commissioned storyteller Carol Graham and Educational Consultant Rob Hattersley to devise a pilot primary school scheme for the Green. This will take place during the Autumn with St. James and Marlbrook Primary Schools, and will involve 4 school based sessions with one full day on the Green itself. The content is currently under development but the aim is to create a sense of awe and respect for both the past and present.

In the long term, we are seeking funding for a permanent educational programme on the Green, to allow all City children to gain a sense of respect and enjoyment from their city heritage. For more information and updates on how the project is developing, visit [www.friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk](http://www.friendsofcastlegreen.org.uk)

### Good News for the Riverbank Project!

At a recent meeting with Cllr Roger Phillips (Leader of the Council) and Cllr Mike Wilson (Cabinet Member for Resources) the Chair and

### We Desperately Need an Events Team!

I know everyone is always being asked to help out – but now we really mean it. Our two annual events have gone from success to success – the Summer Fayre attracted at least 5000 people and we are expecting at least 2000 to come to the Christmas Fayre. Up until now these events have basically been organised by Rebecca Saunders (our Events Officer) and Mark Hubbard (Chair). “If the Friends is to continue to develop as a group, I have to give up helping to run the events” said Mark, “There are funding applications and new projects to develop, which I must move on to”.

Everything is now in place for a pretty smooth run for anybody taking over, but we need 3 or 4 interested and committed people to come forward & do the organising. Please, please offer your time, you won't regret it – attending the fayres and seeing all of those happy people enjoying themselves is a great feeling when you have been part of the team putting it all together. Call Rebecca on 01432 272605 or Mark on 01432 272096 to find out more.

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