



FRIENDS OF CASTLE GREEN NEWSLETTER

“celebration, education, recreation - a park for people!”
September 2012

WORDS FROM THE CHAIR

It is incredible to think that in 2004, when the Friends was first formed, the only event to be held regularly on Hereford's Castle Green was the Trooping of the Colour for a few hours each year. Eight years later.....

2012 has been an amazing year for events, our Diamond Day celebration in June was attended by a HUGE crowd from across the city, we have had fundraising walks in aid of Guide Dogs for the Blind, Historical Hereford Day, a theatre production of 'Private Lives', a Wizards & Cloisters day, the hugely successful Allpay Flavours of Herefordshire Festival and numerous other events both organised and impromptu! The Friends have certainly put the Castle Green on the map for community events that can be enjoyed by all.

It is a mark of our success that we have now been entrusted with developing plans for the Old Art College building. We have signed a temporary tenancy on the building and put together a steering group, largely made up of local people with the set of skills we are going to need to restore the building to its Georgian splendour and develop a real community hub for Hereford City.

To make a truly sustainable project work in such austere times will be difficult, but not impossible. With your help we can make this happen, so here are two things you can do to help:

COME TO THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE – not just because it is a great day out, with a brilliant Christmas Market for those locally sourced gifts and presents, but also because the building will be open to the public for the first time in many years. Take a look round this lovely Georgian building and tell us what you think of our emerging plans to turn it into something that can be enjoyed by everyone.

JOIN THE FRIENDS – we need as much support as we can get. It only costs £5 per household per year. We shall keep you up to date with our progress, but more importantly you get to come to our very popular AGM to decide on the future direction of one of the most dynamic community groups in the city. Details of how to join are overleaf.

MERRY CHRISTMAS EVERYONE!

Mark Hubbard – Chair, Friends of Castle Green
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Castle Green Christmas Fayre 2012

Sunday 2nd December 10am – 4pm

**Cafe, music, Christmas Market, mulled wine,
carols, bottle stall, Carnival Arts running
activities for kids & much more!**

PLUS – come and look round the Old Art College which will be open for the day. Comment on the Friends' plans for this magnificent Georgian building becoming a centre for the community in the future!

CHRISTMAS CARDS WITH A DIFFERENCE!

I had the great good fortune to experience the hoar-frost during the winter of 2010/11. Castle Green looked at its most majestic in the pale sunlight of the following day with ice crystals covering everything – truly magical. We have selected 5 pictures taken that day and turned them in to Christmas cards, packed with local connection. Available for sale at our Christmas Fayre, these cards are both good value and a quality buy. Proceeds go to supporting the fantastic work being done by the Friends to promote the area and improve the park – all done by volunteers!

**5 Assorted Christmas Cards
£2.50 per pack
5 packs for £10**

Available at the Christmas Fayre!

CASTLE GREEN YOUTH CANOE CENTRE IN PERIL!

The budget cuts at Herefordshire Council are really beginning to bite and one of the first casualties is set to be the outdoor river activities run for young people on the Castle Green. Started in the late 1960's by volunteer and local man, Vic Gammage, there has been a centre where the young people of Hereford can access cheap, good quality instruction on using canoes on the River Wye ever since.

Sadly the Council have decided they can no longer afford to run the service and it is set to be closed at the end of the financial year.

Luckily this has coincided with the Friends of Castle Green bid to take over the building it is run from and we have given a clear commitment to keeping the service running. Talks can now begin to find a way of financing the service, with local man and entrepreneur, Will Vaughan (of Pedicab fame) stepping in to help steer and advise. Volunteer Vic has also joined the steering group for the building project and has also vowed to keep the service going.

Things are going to be tight for the next couple of years, but if we put the right package together and attract a decent level of funding, we should be able to provide this valuable service for years to come!

PLEASE JOIN THE FRIENDS OF CASTLE GREEN

MEMBERSHIP ONLY COSTS £5 PER HOUSEHOLD PER YEAR, BUT THE MORE PEOPLE WHO JOIN THE STRONGER OUR VOICE WILL BE TO KEEP THE CASTLE GREEN SPECIAL.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO JOIN PLEASE SEND A CHEQUE, YOUR NAME AND ADDRESS TO 7 ST ETHELBERT ST, HEREFORD HR1 2NR. ALTERNATIVELY COME TO THE CHRISTMAS FAYRE AND JOIN AT THE FRIENDS STALL.

COME & JOIN ONE OF THE MOST PROGRESSIVE AND ACTIVE COMMUNITY GROUPS IN THE CITY!