

Pittville Park

Green Space Volunteers Newsletter April 2017

Our last newsletter was January and a lot has been happening. Chris has been tied up with the car parking and plant sale and Janice has had a very busy time with the end of the financial year. We cancelled a working party in February which taught us to take the BBC weather forecast more as a guide, but we do have to be mindful of health and safety. One big job we finished was cutting back the shrubs in the Pump Room car park which looks a lot better.

We have interesting things happening in the next few months and some changes. The park is looking very good at the moment, our GSV have worked very hard over the winter, so we have a high standard to maintain.

Race week parking

Firstly a big thank you to everyone who helped run the car park during the Cheltenham Festival. We collected £3549 which will go to the Friends of Pittville projects to improve the park particularly around the Pump Room and upper lake.

Rockery

We have stopped work on the rockery as we are not sure how to proceed; there are a lot of issues to be sorted out. We are hoping to employ a Heritage Landscape Architect to advise us on the projects around the Pump Room and upper lake which will include the rockery. We hope that our GSV will do a lot of the work but we need a plan.

Archaeology

At the working party on the 20th April we will be carrying out a 'dig' to discover if the steps which were once in front of the Pump Room, between the two plinths on the edge of the grass, are still there. We are looking for 6 volunteers who are prepared to dig and some of whom would be prepared to stay on a little longer.

We are only doing some trenches not uncovering the whole steps and we will put the soil and grass back afterwards.

Plant sale –Saturday 6th May

We are holding the plant sale on the 6th May between 10am and 1pm. We need a few more volunteers to help with selling plants on the day so if you can spare an hour or two could you please let Chris know. Also if you have some spare plants to sell we can collect them or you can bring them on the day.

Urban Meadows

The urban meadow project close to the tennis courts has been scaled back this year due to the number of weeds that have been thriving in the area.

The areas next to Tommy Taylors Lane should be sown in April but it will depend on the weather.

Student photos

A student has asked if she could take photos of volunteers for her University course. Generally we try to help but if any of you do not want to be photographed please let me know.

Scout hut

We carried out an inspection of the scout hut on Thursday and have worked up a list of work and materials needed. We hope to start work at the next working party on the 20th April. We are going for the lighter sample panel on the back of scout hut; the colour is 'Woodpecker'.

If you are fancy the challenge please let me know.

Tool storage

Janice has been bringing the tools to each working party on her truck. She keeps them in her garage at the depot and has to load them and unload them each time. It is also not so easy to keep track of the tools as some have got mixed up with the green stuff.

After we did not get our storage in the new cafe by the play area we had expected to build a new cupboard in the boat house. They are revamping the boat house and need all the space they can get. Therefore we have been offered a room in the pavilion. It is next to the entrance and has a solid door with a good lock and will give us room to organise the tools. There is also a toilet and wash basin. We appreciate that some of you will have to go further to collect tools but we will try and organise jobs so we can bring the tools to the east park as needed.

Gloves, secateurs and tabards

At the next working party there will be 3 lists, one for each of the above. If you have not had a pair of gloves from Janice please put your name on the list or if you need a new tabard. Janice will get a pair of

secateurs for those who would like a pair but you will have to look after them.

Useful numbers

Trolleywise – to report abandoned trollies
Tel. +44 (0) 800 316 1241
enquiries@trolleywise.co.uk

To report street lamps not working including parks, remember to have lamp column number when reporting
Telephone:08000 514514

<http://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/reportit/streetlight-fault>

Underpass light not working or damaged
Property dept. 01242 262626

Environment Agency Incident hotline:
Telephone: 0800 80 70 60

Vale Wildlife Rescue hospital and rehabilitation
<http://www.valewildlife.org.uk/>
01386 882288

Upcoming events

Next working parties:
-Thursday 20th April
-Thursday 4th May

Park Watch

A valuable contribution to Park Watch is the information that is provided by park users. If you see anything when you are walking or working in the park that you think is wrong please let Janice know. She will take action or inform the police.

Jobs for the GSV

Also when visiting the park if you see something that you think the GSV could improve please inform Janice or Chris

Janice's other working parties

Janice would like you to know about her other working parties:

Sandford Park – 2nd Thurs. 9.30 to 12.30

Hatherley Park – every Thurs 2 -4

Hatherley Court Gdns – 1st Tues 9.30 to 12.30

North Honeybourne Line – 2nd Wed 9 to 12

St Peters – 4th Tues 10 to 12

Winston Churchill Gdns – 4th Tues 9 to 12

She doesn't just sit in the office and drink tea when she is not with us!

Janice is on holiday for the next working party so we will be looked after by Malcolm – good luck Malcolm.

Best wishes

Janice Payne - Community Ranger
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Chris Archibald - GSV coordinator
(volunteer@friendsofpittville.org.uk)