



## Trustees' Annual Report for the period 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2018

Charity Name: Friends of Pittville

Registered Charity Number: 1146790

Charity's principal address: 3 Burston House, Pittville Circus, Cheltenham GL52 2PU

### Names of Trustees:

Judie Hodsdon	Chairman
Fiona Clarke	Secretary
Paul Benfield	Treasurer
Gloria Jones	Membership Secretary

Chris Archibald  
Andy Hopkins  
Philippa Howell  
Sandy Marshall  
David Richards  
Hilary Simpson  
Henry Williams

from January 2018

Joc Potter became Minutes Secretary (but not a trustee) in September 2018.

The charity is an association with a constitution. The trustees are elected by the membership. Further details about the charity can be found at [www.friendsofpittville.org.uk](http://www.friendsofpittville.org.uk)

In summary, **the objects of the charity** are to promote the use, preservation, improvement and conservation of the environment, facilities and heritage of Pittville Park and the open spaces of the historic Pittville Estate for public benefit.

The charity's **main activities** are:

- Working parties in the Park and other green spaces, under the guidance of Cheltenham Borough Council's community park rangers
- Disseminating information and learning material about Pittville and its open spaces on a website, quarterly newsletters, emails and noticeboards and through occasional public events and other events
- Researching and publishing information about Pittville's past.
- Organising a range of events for members and to raise funds to support the charity's activities
- Undertaking major projects to enhance Pittville's environment.

**Funding** for the charity's activities come from members' subscriptions and donations, and fundraising events, and, for major projects, from fundraising campaigns and grant applications.

We have lost 32 members during the year but with 25 new members the **membership** total now stands at 346.

There are various groups of **volunteers** including the nearly 40 Green Space volunteers, the 10 regular researchers in the Pittville History Works group, over 40 volunteers who deliver newsletters, plus the trustees and ad hoc groups who run events and projects.

**Major achievements** during the year:

The year-round, bi-monthly Green Space working parties have kept up their record of regular gardening, maintenance and litter picking, in all weathers. They have also made significant improvements in several areas, including continuing to clear the shrubberies at the rear of the Pump Room (a huge task), completing the painting of the Scout hut on Central Cross Drive and maintaining the new trees near Tommy Taylor's Lane. The working parties were organised by Chris Archibald with help from Martin Jones. Getting on for 1000 volunteer hours were achieved for the reporting year.

The work of the volunteers helped to maintain the award of Green Flag and Green Heritage Site Accreditation status for Pittville Park (first awarded in August 2016).

Progress has been made on the set of projects to improve areas in the Park around the Upper Lake and the Pump Room. The masterplan for the projects, drawn up by landscape architects Illman Young, was completed and it is intended to begin work to clear the lakeside rockeries later in the autumn. FoP contributed £4,500 towards the cost of the plan from money raised by manning a carpark for racegoers in November and March for the last two years. This was organised by Henry Williams and Chris Archibald. A public exhibition of the plans was held on 2 September near the play area.

The Pittville History Works group, organised by Hilary and John Simpson, has continued to research aspects of Pittville history and its inhabitants, with this year marking a major change in emphasis in its work. Firstly, data collection on Pittville people and places was expanded into the twentieth century, with a new cut-off point of 1945, using information from the 1939 National Register of households, as well as from local directories. Secondly, more active exploitation the data is being achieved by giving talks, writing articles and providing analyses on the website [www.http://pittvillehistory.org.uk](http://pittvillehistory.org.uk). During the year the group has published work by Mark Penfold on preparatory schools in Pittville Circus Road, by Sandy Marshall on the inheritance of slavery in Pittville, by Hilary Simpson on Pittville casualties in WW1, by Stuart Manton on Cheltenham's Zoo Wars, and by John Simpson on Pittville house names in the nineteenth century. In addition, Steven Blake's essential background reading on Pittville, *Pittville 1824-60* (long out of print and virtually unobtainable elsewhere) has been republished online. Martin Renshaw and Hilary Simpson both gave talks on pioneering Pittville women during Heritage Open Days.

Friends of Pittville co-sponsored, with Cheltenham Civic Society, a blue plaque to Cheltenham suffrage campaigner Florence Earengy at No 3 Wellington Square. Three FoP members featured in the Channel Four programme on Cheltenham in the Historic Towns series with Fiona Clarke being interviewed by Dr Alice Roberts in the Pump Room, talking about the mineral water supply.

A significant achievement for the year has been the production of online learning material about the environment and history of the Park and Estate for schools which is now on the FoP website. The initiative, co-ordinated by Chris Archibald, is funded through the award of a borough council Community Pride grant.

Because of concern about the lack of interest in the heritage potential of the Pump Room, FoP set up an Action Group, led by Hilary Simpson, to work with the Cheltenham Trust to promote the Pump Room as a visitor attraction. A step forward

was the setting up of a group of volunteer visitor guides. FoP assisted with this initiative and a number of FoP members joined the group of guides.

The quarterly newsletter was published as usual (put together by Sandy Marshall and Andy Hopkins with the distribution organised by Gloria Jones), with two editions just for members and the others going to 2000 households in the area. Two talks on Pittville history were given to local groups and a tree walk, led by the borough council's Senior Tree Officer, Chris Chavasse, was organised for members. FoP had a stall at the August Cheltenham Horticultural Society show at the Pump Room. Contact was made with the Pittville Student Village and a visit to the site made by a group of trustees. It is hoped this will lead to their involvement in FoP activities in the Park. Unfortunately, dwindling numbers of attendees led to the monthly drop-in coffee morning for members at the Sudeley Arms being discontinued.

Events held during the year to supplement FoP funds included a well-attended quiz night in February (organised by member Amanda Slayton-Joslin with help from trustee Philippa Howell), and a plant sale in May (organised by Chris Archibald and David Richards). These raised over £800 in total. Further regular income comes from the duck feed dispenser, organised by Fiona Clarke in conjunction with St Vincent's and St George's Association (a local charity). FoP earned £488 (and StV&StG earned £1017)

FoP commissioned a new symbol to head its printed and online publications and revised its design style and editorial guidelines. This was led by Fiona Clarke and Andy Hopkins.

To conform to the new General Data Protection Regulations FoP drew up a new Privacy Policy (on the website), redesigned the membership form and made sure all membership information held is correct and up to date.

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above  
Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signatures

Full Names

Position

Date