

Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds

NEWSLETTER MAY 2021

Annual General Meeting Tuesday 29th June at 7:00pm at The Ivanhoe Social Club

Our AGM will be held at the Ivanhoe Social Club at 7.00pm this year. All members are welcome.

- ***Any member may put themselves forward for election as a Committee member at the AGM.***
- ***Every member attending has one vote.***

We will be having an informal AGM this year with an open Questions and Answers session so we can all share updates and ideas.

Achievements in the last 12 months

The Friends have been able to continue with quarterly maintenance meetings on site, with The Town Council in September 2020 and February 2021. Both meetings were very constructive, and actions discussed and agreed.

Throughout the autumn and the spring this year Friends volunteers have continually worked on the wildlife walk wildflower verge. Foliage was strimmed down and raked by Friends volunteers in September/October and taken away by the grounds staff.

Weeding has been going on continuously on the wildlife walk to remove unwanted nettles, dock weed and cleavers to ensure the perennial wildflowers stay as healthy as possible for spring/summer 2021. Where there are now gaps, the Friends are looking to plant further mature wildflower plants – the aim being to keep down unwanted weeds and reduce maintenance next year.



The new Beech and Oak Trees along the Bath Grounds side of the Wildlife walk were re-staked by the friend's volunteers last autumn– with the TC sourcing and paying for the materials.

A couple of leaning trees were removed by the Town Council along the walkway and one larger tree had lower branches removed. This has resulted in much more light along the walk way.

Bird and bat boxes were checked and cleaned out by friend's volunteers in December 2020 – a number of nests were removed indicating that the boxes are getting well used.

The layed section of the hawthorn hedge has filled out very successfully in the last 12 months and while working on site we have noticed a lot of bird activity in the hedging.

The Hawthorn whips planted last spring have done very well and we aim to plant a few more whips this coming autumn to plug a few more gaps.

An insect hotel was also constructed last year and is located at the back of the newly laid hawthorn hedge.

During the Autumn 2020 and early spring, at the cattle arch end of the Wildlife Walk ferns, holly whips, hawthorn whips, wild garlic, bluebell seeds have been planted. On the Bath Grounds side of the walk around the base of the avenue of trees, 250 small narcissi daffodils, cowslips, primroses, snowdrops have been planted.



The Friends continue to maintain the south street flower bed. There has been some damage to a few shrubs over the winter (mainly due to people jumping in the bed) These shrubs have been dug up or pruned and a number of new shrubs will be planted in the next 2- 3 weeks.

The friends are working with the grounds staff to clean down and repaint the benches at the south street entrance in June this year.

The Friends are keen to continue to improve the wildlife diversity of the Bath Grounds alongside the TC grounds staff to ensure we retain the prestigious Green Flag Award for the town

Royal Hotel - Planning Application update

No news on the Planning Application. The District Council is still awaiting submission of revised plans from Oaklands Hotels to take account Historic England's objections on the application submitted last year. However good news is that the Royal Hotel is finally on the English Heritage At Risk Register, following numerous requests from the Civic Society, the Friends and individual residents.

Also, there a proposal to divert the new public right of way to follow the route of the proposed new access road from Station Road onto the Bath Grounds has been submitted. It would only come into force once the new path is built.

J. Birch: Chair - Tel: 07958 232281
V. Mott: Secretary - Tel: 07800 76574
Email: bathgroundsfriends@gmail.com
Webpage: www.bathgroundsfriends.com