



### TEAM WORK

The Friends continue to have a close working relationship with the Town Councils Parks Team through their periodic maintenance meetings with the Town Clerk. These help us to co-ordinate the work of our volunteers in co-operation with the Town Council's team with benefits all around.

Our volunteers are able to contribute to improving the Bath Grounds by undertaking work which wouldn't normally be done by the Town Council. Their support is however essential in keeping our own costs down and of course in encouraging you, our supporters and volunteers, to continue protecting and improving this lovely part of our town.



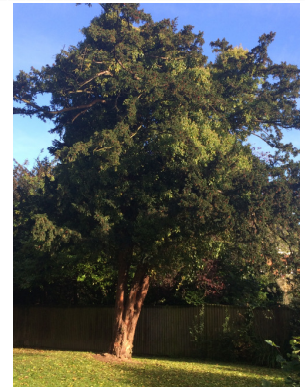
Over the winter we will be looking to undertake work around the Grounds to tidy up path edges between the South Street entrance and the cricket club with the Parks team removing resulting debris. They will also support us by removing the debris from work we will be carrying out along the wildlife walk.

We appreciate that the Town Councils parks team have a wide range of responsibilities around the Town and surrounding villages but with the help of the Friends, priorities are identified early, allowing the team to target remedial and maintenance work at the earliest opportunity.

Quarterly maintenance meetings continue throughout the year between the Friends and the Town Council. The following is an update on some key issues:

- Footpath potholes – have now been temporarily repaired by the Town Council who will continue carrying out temporary repairs when necessary until a more permanent solution can be arranged.
- Ongoing meetings with the Royal Hotel, the police, the cricket club, the District and Town Council to improve ASB around the Royal Hotel carpark and cricket Club. The pro-active approach being taken to address ASB, particularly around the Royal Hotel car park area late at night and the closing of the gates at the back of the Cricket Club have made a significant difference to ASB in this area.
- The Town Council are now replacing any damaged bollards in a timely manner. This work by the Council and the stones placed at the back of the Royal Hotel carpark, by Oaklands Hotels, has made a significant difference to the amount of damage to the Bath Grounds that we were seeing by vehicles early on this year.

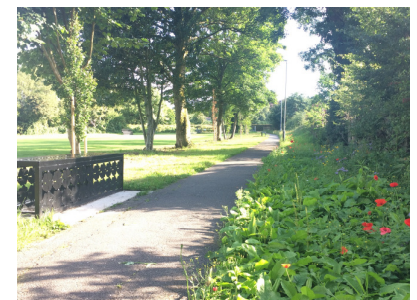
- The yew tree at South Street entrance is a very good example of how our meetings with the council works. We highlighted that this lovely old yew was being smothered by ivy and the council reacted quickly to remove it. Free the Tree in action!



### CASTLE VIEW WILD LIFE WALK

As you are aware the newly sown wild flower bed on the Prior Park path, part of the Castle View Wildlife Walk Project, which was just about coming into flower, was mistakenly mown by the Town Council's grounds staff in June.

The Friends had been working with the Town Council to ensure that the wildflowers along this verge are re-established for next summer. To that end we have now agreed a schedule with the Town Council to re-prepare the verge and re-sow wild flowers next spring. Watch this space!!



The Town Council have been working on the opposite verge, on the Bath Grounds side, to add top soil, treat weeds and level this area so that it is easier to mow and maintain. They have also planted an assortment of bulbs along the walkway so it will be interesting to see what comes up in spring.

Unfortunately, one of the new Oak trees has died but the good news is that the Town Council have agreed to get this replaced.

The Friends have informed the sponsors and we will carry on with the remaining parts of the project over the winter including the procurement and installation of wildlife boxes and some maintenance work, including planting additional whips, along the hawthorn hedge which runs the length of the Prior Park Bungalows fencing

The Friends will of course keep all our sponsors and the public up to date as the project continues.



# Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds



NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2017

## BATH GROUNDS REPAIRS

### The Interpretation board – South Street entrance

The main interpretation board that was damaged during the summer has now been repaired and replaced.



### The Ivanhoe Mosaic



The Mosaic by the South Street flowerbed was removed following severe vandalism in May, and has now had repairs completed. The Friends are looking into options for protecting the mosaic from

future attacks before it is re-installed in 2018

## DEVELOPMENT OF THE ROYAL HOTEL CAR PARK 17/00761/FULM

There have been a large number of objections from the public against the current application for the development of the Royal Hotel carpark. Development of the northern car park of The Royal Hotel to provide B1 office accommodation and 28 residential apartments alongside associated access, parking and amenity site.

**We have not been informed of any further progression with this application.**

## BULLENS FIELD DEVELOPMENT PROPOSAL – 17/01445/OUTM

Again, there have also been a large number of objections to this application. There was a Town Council Planning Committee meeting on the 13<sup>th</sup> November to discuss the Bullen's Field application – thanks everyone who came along to support our objection.

Members of Friends raised the following concerns about the application 17/01445/OUTM for land adjoining The Bield, Prior Park Road, Ashby de la Zouch:

- The land formed part of the medieval castle gardens and form part of the historic setting of the castle.
- Objections have been raised by English Heritage.
- The site has been designated as a Local Green Space within the Ashby de la Zouch Neighbourhood Plan.
- The site is essential in maintaining views from the Bath Grounds and the Castle.
- The site falls in flood zones 2 and 3.

The Town Council voted to object to this application on the following grounds;

- The application is for land designated as Local Green Space within policy NE1 of the Examination Ashby de la Zouch Neighbourhood Plan. Local Green Spaces should only be developed in very special circumstances and these have not been demonstrated.
- Flood risk as the land falls within areas of medium and high flood risk (flood zones 2 and 3).
- The archaeological and historic importance of the site. Formerly containing the Castle fish ponds and forming part of the historic setting of the castle.

**We have not been informed of any further progression with this application.**

## ATTENTION!

### WE ARE LOOKING FOR NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**For 2018 we have places on the Friends of Ashby Bath Grounds committee.**

**If you are passionate about the Bath Grounds and would like to be more involved, please drop us an email or contact our secretary on the telephone number below**

*Finally, the Committee would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your support over the last year without which we would be unable to carry out the work of maintaining and improving this beautiful corner of our Town.*

*We hope you will continue your support into 2018 and wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!*



### Contact details:

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