

Bristol Parks Forum Directory

Park and River Community Groups 2007–08



Community Groups Directory 2007–08

This is the second edition of the Parks Forum Directory, updated in 2007. It includes brief descriptions of voluntary organisations that have been established to support many of the parks, rivers and other green spaces in Bristol.

Also listed are some of the organisations that work with these groups and assist them, for example, with advice or resources.

Contact details are included to facilitate links between groups.

Not all of the relevant organisations are included in this edition.

And, of course, thanks to the groups, not just for sending in their information, but for the brilliant contribution that they make to the greening of Bristol.

This directory was produced with the support of:



Bristol Parks Forum

representing resident led
park groups and citywide organisations
involved in protecting and improving
Bristol's green spaces

PEOPLE
PARKS &
NATURE
working
together

Bristol Parks



VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS

acta Community Theatre (ACTA)

acta Community Theatre work in and around the Bristol area delivering participatory community arts. We are based in Bedminster at the acta centre, where we have our community garden open to everyone all year round.

Rebecca Allen, *Marketing and Admin Co-ordinator*
ACTA, Gladstone Street, Bedminster, Bristol, BS3 3AY
tel: 0117 953 2448
email: rebecca@acta-bristol.com
website: www.acta-bristol.com

ACTIVATE – Forging Fishponds Forward

ACTIVATE was formed in 2004 by a group of local residents with the aim of improving the area for everyone.

Fishponds Park is in the centre of Fishponds shopping area and we are involved in the general upkeep and care of the flowerbeds and general tidiness. A Sensory Garden has been created and children from local schools have helped in planting spring bulbs surrounding the War Memorial at the centre of the park.

We aim to make the park a welcoming green area for local people, for those who work in the area and for visitors.

We have also successfully introduced a Farmers' Market to the area on the second Thursday each month at Straits Parade, and hold drop-in musical concerts on the second Friday each month at Fishponds Methodist Church, Guinea Lane, Fishponds.

Jean Mason
tel: 0117 965 0442, email: jcmason@masdafish.com

Arno's Park Action Group (APAG)

Officially formed in November 2006, APAG aims to improve and promote Arno's Court Park for the benefit of all park users, the local community and wildlife. APAG is keen to involve all who are interested. We feel passionately about our park and wish to continue to enjoy it and see others do the same. This year we are focussing on play in the park as a priority identified by the community. This covers muddy play such as bulb planting, accessing new play equipment and our Family Day in the Park.

If you would like to join or tell us your views please get in touch – it would be great to hear from you.

Becky Thoburn

9 Kings Road, Kensington Park, Brislington, Bristol, BS4 3HH
email: apag@hotmail.co.uk

Arnos Vale Cemetery, *Friends of*

A support group formed in 1987 to save this Victorian Cemetery from commercial development. The Friends now support the Arnos Vale Cemetery Trust in their work to manage, improve and restore the cemetery.

Volunteers meet at the cemetery every Saturday morning to carry out practical work, open up pathways and generally helping to manage the ecology of the site which is finely balanced between a heritage working cemetery and a significant wildlife area. New volunteers are always welcome. The Friends are affiliated to BTCV.

Volunteer enquiries:

Chris Everett

46 Calcott Road, Knowle, Bristol, BS4 2HD

tel: 0117 971 7633

email: volunteers@arnosvalefriends.org.uk

General enquiries:

Stephen Barrow

68 Cairns Road, Westbury Park, Bristol, BS6 7TH

tel: 0117 9240653

email: chairman@arnosvalefrinds.org.uk

website: www.arnosvalefrinds.org.uk

Avon New Cut (*FrANC*), *Friends of the*

Most members of FrANC live near to the Avon New Cut, which was excavated between 1804 and 1809. The group was founded in 2004. Membership is free.

FrANC organises walks around the Cut to identify historic and wildlife features; organises riverbank clean-ups; runs occasional arts and promotional events; and has installed interpretation boards, published wildlife information leaflets and contributed to “A Celebration of the Avon New Cut” (a local history book available for £7 from the Southville Centre).

Friends of the Avon New Cut

John Purkiss, *Secretary*

c/o Southville Centre, Beaulley Road, Bristol BS3 1QG

tel: 0117 923 1039

email: johnpurkiss@talk21.com

web pages on www.southvillecentre.org.uk

Badock's Wood, *Friends of*

Badock's Wood is situated in north Bristol, between Southmead, Henleaze and Westbury-on-Trym. The area covers approximately 8 hectares and can be readily accessed from Lakewood Road and Doncaster Road. The Woods were given to the City by Sir Stanley Badock (a local industrialist) in 1937 and consist of a large grassed area and a beautiful wooded valley, with the River Trym in the valley floor. The woodland is at least 400 years old in parts and a Bronze Age burial mound (tumulus) gives added interest to the site.

The Friends of Badock's Wood is an enthusiastic local amenity group who provide a focus for local residents with an interest in protecting and enhancing the woods – this includes workdays and community events. In 2006, a Wild Flower Meadow was sown in order to enhance the appearance of the grassland area, which had previously been a site for 81 prefabs that were demolished in 1979/82.

Tarmaced paths throughout the majority of the site provide good access and are wheelchair friendly.

Friends of Badock's Wood
c/o Richard Fletcher
Bristol Parks
tel: 0117 922 3896
email: richard.fletcher@bristol.gov.uk
website: www.fobw.org.uk

Barton Fields Trust

We are a group of trustees made up from the community. The National Playing Fields Association now own the field and it is the Trust's responsibility to maintain the field. At present the field is used for rugby. Our aim is to provide a play area, soft landscaping, seating, and wildlife areas and make it a safe, inviting area for the whole community.

Claire Good,
 c/o Barton Hill Rugby Club, Duncombe Lane,
 Speedwell, Bristol, BS15 1NR
 tel: 0117 965 8351
 email: bartonfieldstrust@hotmail.co.uk

Bristol in Bloom community organisation (*Bristol in Bloom*)

The purpose of the Bristol in Bloom initiative is to promote Bristol's interests and maximise the opportunities for improving the environment in partnership with communities in both private and public sectors.

As we all become increasingly aware of the importance of our environment, the implications of initiatives that try to involve Bristolians, old and young alike, become more and more apparent.

The responsibility for the quality of our surroundings cannot be left entirely to "those in charge". We each have to take the initiative and an interest in ensuring that our future is indeed "blooming".

Sheila Stevens, *Bristol contact*
 c/o 161 East Gomeldon Rd,
 East Gomeldon, Salisbury, Wiltshire, SP4 6NB
 tel: 0117 974 2032 (Sheila)
 email: gardenshows@aol.com or
 sheilastevens16@yahoo.co.uk

Callington Road Nature Reserve, *Friends of*

This is a new Nature Reserve accessed from Callington Road, Brislington, which has been created from former allotments and a playing field. The 6.4ha site has been secured for the citizens of Bristol and has been granted S.N.C.I. status. The reserve contains extensive flora and fauna including several rare species.

The Friends Group are working with Bristol City Council and facilities have been created allowing wheelchair access to the pond area and to a grassed area on the upper slopes.

The Group are determined to preserve and protect the extensive wildlife for the benefit of current and future generations.

Denis Stuckey

tel: 0785 555 3261

email: denstuckey@waitrose.com

Castle Park and St Mary Le Port Group

We are a local, not-for-profit voluntary organisation and our vision is a flourishing and beautiful green park in the heart of Bristol.

Our aims are to protect and enhance the park and linked green spaces for the enjoyment and wellbeing of Bristol's communities and future generations. To make it a welcoming and attractive place that is used and enjoyed by everyone.

c/o Richard Fletcher

Bristol Parks, Colston 33, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4AU

tel: 0117 922 3896

email: richard.fletcher@bristol.gov.uk

Clifton and Hotwells Improvement Society (*CHIS*)

We seek to maintain, improve and develop the natural, architectural and other amenities of the neighbourhood. In particular we support improvements to Victoria Square, and St Andrew's Churchyard, and hope to play a part in the new plans for the maintenance of the Downs.

RL Bland, 11 Percival Rd BS8 3LN

tel: 0117 973 4828

email: richardbland@blueyonder.co.uk

Coombe Brook Valley (*The Gossey Group*)

We are a small, committed residents group set up to maintain and protect this small brook, woodland and grassland situated near to Lodge Causeway, Fishponds. We try to meet once a month for hard labour and the occasional BBQ. The site is owned by Bristol City Council and managed by Avon Wildlife Trust.

Clare Norrish

email: coombe_brook_valley_group@yahoo.co.uk

Dame Emily Park Project (*DEPP*)

Dame Emily Park Project has been working toward the improvement of Dame Emily Park in Bedminster as a sustainable community resource over the past eight years. Many achievements have been made. These include:

- Replacing a large area of tarmac with a grassed play area and creation of a fenced off “dog free” area.
- Installation of new play equipment for all ages and abilities.
- Nesting boxes provided throughout the park.
- A drinking fountain; new seating; the “Frog” play sculpture and a mosaic made by park users.
- Upgrading of the sports area.

Throughout this time planting schemes and park clean up days have been undertaken by volunteers. “Art in the Park” festival, held every year since 2001, has been a celebration of and for the whole community.

Hilary Irvine

**Dame Emily Park Project, c/o Southville Centre, Beaulley Road,
Southville, Bristol, BS3 1QG**

tel: 0117 923 1039

Eastville Park Action Group (EPAG)

We are a small group, formed in 2003. We have planted trees in the park and fund a “Green Gym” there. We have a BTCV People’s Places Grant to work on the renovation of a garden created from a 1905 outdoor swimming pool. We organise events to encourage people to appreciate and enjoy the park, eg nature walks, and history walks.

Rowena Harris

49 Thingwall Park, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2AJ

tel: 0117 958 3112/4715

email: rowenaharris@btconnect.com

Eastwood Farm, *Friends of*

A local community group working to improve Eastwood Farm Open Space and protect it from anti-social behaviour, etc.

New members will be made very welcome at any of our meetings, which are held on throughout the year in the meeting room above the “Co-Op Welcome” store on Broomhill Road, Brislington. Please contact us for the date of our next meeting.

Sally Oldfield

Local Nature Reserves Officer, Bristol City Council

tel: 0117 922 4429

email: sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk

Gores Marsh

Gores Marsh is in Bedminster ward. We are hoping to establish a support group for this space during 2007. Get in touch for more information.

Ben Barker

Southville Centre, Beaulley Road, BS3 1QG.

tel: 0117 923 1039.

benbarker@blueyonder.co.uk

Greville Smyth Park, Friends of (*FrOGS*)

FrOGS is a community group made up of local people of all ages working to improve and develop Greville Smyth Park. We are also registered as an environmental body.

We want to see a clean, safe park; well used by people of all ages and interests; a wonderful green space and community park for the people of Ashton, Bedminster and Southville. All new members and helpers welcome. Particular aims include:

- improving facilities for children and young people
- developing and encouraging sport
- developing the area as a green space and wildlife area
- encouraging and organising arts and events in the park
- improving maintenance
- improving services in the park

Janine Hale-Brown, Chair

18 Frayne Rd, Ashton BS3 1RU

tel: (via Southville Centre) 9231039

email: mikstiles@yahoo.co.uk

Hartcliffe Millennium Green, *Friends of*

We are a group of local people that aim to help maintain and enhance Hartcliffe Millennium Green and ensure it is a safe place for all the community to come to and enjoy.

The group encourages local people to get involved in practical projects but also acts to put on community events and raise funds to support its activities

Hartcliffe Millennium Green is a three and a half acre community owned park, which was created in January 1999 and transformed a flat green space into a well-landscaped and designed park. Facilities now include, two play areas, pond, reed bed, amphitheatre, rockery garden, willow sculpture, orchard, totem pole, volunteer cabin and plenty of seating.

We meet approximately 8 –10 times a year and organise regular practical workdays.

These have been positive steps for the Green and have made a real difference to the quality of the park. We organise yearly fun days on the green, which have had a very positive response from the community and the local press.

Heather Williams, *Chair*

9 Shortwood Road, Hartcliffe, Bristol, BS13 0QR

tel: 0117 978 3320

email: hartcliffegreen@fsmail.net

Henbury Conservation Society (HCS)

Henbury Conservation Society is dedicated to preserving and improving of the Henbury conservation area, which is centered on the historic buildings around St Mary's Church, the old Blaise village itself and all along Henbury Road. The Hazel Brook passes through the conservation area and is an important wildlife corridor.

Tim Parkinson

The Old House, Rectory Gardens, Bristol BS10 7AQ

tel: 0117 950 8033

email: tim.timparkinson@gmail.com

Henleaze Society, *the* (THS)

The Henleaze Society, which was founded in 1973, is established as a charity and has a membership of 1500 households.

It aims to ensure Henleaze remains a good place to live and is always looking for ways of improving the facilities available to the community. Recent activities include the refurbishment of Old Quarry Park and providing shrubs and flowers along Henleaze Road.

Mrs Valerie Bishop, *Chair*

The Henleaze Society,

92 The Crescent, Henleaze, Bristol, BS9 4RT

tel: 0117 962 9313

email: valbishop1@tiscali.co.uk

Hillfields Park, *Friends of*

Our group was formed in 2003. Our main aim is to raise funds for new facilities on Hillfields Recreational Ground. Our group is made up of local residents who have come together to improve the “Rec” for all to use. We always welcome new members and ideas.

We have raised money for new play equipment, paths, benches, bins and 5-a-side football posts.

c/o Richard Fletcher

Bristol Parks, Colston 33, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4AU

tel: 0117 922 3896

email: richard.fletcher@bristol.gov.uk

Horfield Common, *Friends of*

We are a new group committed to working to improve Horfield Common for the benefit of all users and the local community.

c/o Richard Fletcher

Bristol Parks, Colston 33, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4AU

tel: 0117 922 3896

email: richard.fletcher@bristol.gov.uk

Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association (HCCA)

The Hotwells and Cliftonwood Community Association was founded in 1972 and aims to improve the quality of life for those that live and work in Hotwells and Cliftonwood.

The HCCA is run on a voluntary basis and is a registered charity and limited company. Our work includes running a youth theatre group (Kick-Off Youth Theatre); working with socially disadvantaged people; improving local amenities; encouraging regeneration and local business; creating and maintaining information networks including a community newsletter, a website and several noticeboards; facilitating partnership working with the local authority, community groups and local businesses.

The HCCA also has links with various groups in the local community including the Argyll Place Playground Group and Cliftonwood Green, a group maintaining a woodland/green space below Cliftonwood Terrace.

There are currently three publicly maintained open spaces in Hotwells and Cliftonwood: Cliftonwood Green, Argyll Place Play Park and Charles Place Play Park.

HCCA

14 Hotwell Rd, Bristol, BS8 4UD

tel: 0117 929 1883

email: admin@hotwellsandcliftonwood.org.uk

Kingfisher Group (*Malago River*)

Kingfisher is a group of residents who look after the Malago and adjacent land through the Windmill Hill area of Bristol.

This is an important wildlife corridor and Avon Wildlife Trust identified over 30 species of plants and 12 species of birds in a survey of this area. Our name reflects our ambition to once again see kingfishers regularly nesting along this urban waterway.

The Malago runs alongside a foot/cycle path, which links some of the most deprived areas of Bedminster to the city centre. This side of the riverbank is the responsibility of the city council. However, the bank at the end of the gardens is not owned by anyone and had not been maintained until our involvement.

The stream also runs alongside an open space which we call Cotswold Meadow and we have plans to improve this space for both wildlife and users in co-operation with Bristol City Council Parks Department.

Kingfisher have organised clear-ups, applied for funding for tree pruning and wildflowers planting, helped control Japanese Knotweed and supported the painting of a mural.

We currently have 16 active members and we also act as a focus for the local residents' association and Neighbourhood Watch scheme.

Nancy Carlton

66 Cotswold Road, Windmill Hill, Bristol, BS3 4NT

Kings Head Park Local Action Group

Excellent, and promised continuing support from Bishopsworth Police, has resulted in a marked reduction in anti-social behaviour.

Kings Head Lane residents are suffering because of a number of incidents, (burglaries/vandalism), via the lane at the back of the houses. Police and residents are anxious to have this lane secured with gates and fencing as a means of dealing with these problems.

The Parks Dept have made positive promises over the last few years but the final answer is always “sorry no more money left in the budget”. The same answer is given to our requests for further litter/dog bins. Can you believe it, one litterbin and three dog waste bins for the whole park! This is disheartening, we are trying to enhance the Park, we are not asking for repeat expenditure due to vandalism. Park cleaning services also leave a lot to be desired.

John Collins

30 Vicarage Road, Bishopsworth, BS13 8ES

tel: 0117 940 5070

Malago Valley Conservation Group (MVCG)

We are a voluntary group with members from all parts of southwest Bristol. We cover the BS13 postal area.

- We monitor the Planning Applications Register and comment on schemes which affect our area.
- We run regular litter clearances to help keep our neighbourhood tidy, including an annual “amphibious garbage raid” on the Malago.
- We have an extensive programme of talks and visits which are open to our members and the general public.
- We publish a regular newsletter every other month to let people know what is happening in our area.

- We have prepared an enhancement plan for “Elm Tree corner” and planted trees and daffodils.
- We have published My Manor Woods Book, an interactive guide book to the Manor Woods Valley LNR.
- We “turn cans into daffodils” throughout BS13 by collecting drinks cans for recycling. The aluminium ones are sold and the money is used to buy daffodil bulbs which we plant on open spaces.
- We liaise with the Bristol City Council over the grass cutting regime in Manor Woods Valley and at Highridge Common and help them to monitor its correct implementation.
- We are actively involved with the Malago and Pigeonhouse Improvement Alliance (MaPhIA) to make the streams in BS13 better for wildlife and for people.

André Coutanche

14 Queens Road, Bishopsworth, Bristol BS13 8LB

tel: 0117 964 3106

email: andrec@mvcg.org.uk

Manor Farm Action Group (MAG)

We are Manor Farm Action Group (MAG). We are a local Tenants’ and Residents’ Association and have had several works done in our area to enhance the community we live in. We are currently waiting for our new park to be finished so our community will have somewhere to watch their children play safely. We do various things in the community including coffee mornings, bingo and even Funday. For more details please contact:

Kay Armstrong, *Secretary*

Manor Farm Action Group

tel: (0117) 330 9579

email: kaytons@blueyonder.co.uk

Mina Road Park Group

The group was formally established in 1997, it meets monthly and has about a dozen members. Working with Bristol Parks we have raised funding for the replacement of paths, railings, seats and bins , re-equipped the play area and had the Grade II listed urinal completely restored.

- We have now undertaken the total renovation of the stream (Horfield Brook), and it's Georgian boundary wall, with funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund and Living Spaces. Using surplus funds(!) we've had a second footbridge installed, and hope to do extra planting round the stream this summer.
- We have spent the last eight years trying, and mostly failing, to get the basic maintenance done to a decent standard in the Park. In particular we're concerned at the deteriorating condition of the grass, a problem common to Bristol's parks.
- Mina Road Park Group is an active supporter of, and participant in, the Bristol Parks Forum, regarding its existence as essential to secure the future of Bristol's parks and green spaces.

Hugh Holden, *Chair*

135 Mina Road, St Werburghs, Bristol

tel: 0117 955 5752

Montpelier Park Group

We are a small group who focus solely on our park . There have been two successful improvement programmes completed in the last few years and we are expecting more in the future as a result of some major local developments. Direct discussions with the council are ongoing to establish the extent of our next improvement phase. As a group we would welcome input from any part of the local community to scope out the potential for this small urban space .

Will Boulton

10 St Andrews Road, Montpelier, Bristol BS6 5EH

tel: 0117 942 2921

email: will.boulton@virgin.net

Narrowways Millennium Green Trust (*NMGT*)

Established in 2000 to act as guardians for the area of Narrowways in St Werburghs, on behalf of the local community and for the benefit of wildlife.

Narrowways is a quiet, wild space in the inner city that provides a breathing space for local people and an amazing array of wildlife. It is also being designated a local nature reserve.

Harry McPhillimy

**c/o St Werburghs City Farm, Watercress Road, St Werburghs,
Bristol BS2 9YJ**

email: narrowways@netscape.net

Nightingale Valley, *Friends of*

We are a small group involved with the maintenance and general upkeep of a small valley. Most of the valley is woodland with a small meadow, a pond and with a stream running through it.

We do litter picking and clearance. We also clean and maintain our pond to help the wildlife that live there.

Andrew Grant

tel.: 0117 9850366

email: cg007g1770@blueyonder.co.uk

Northern Slopes Initiative

The Northern Slopes are three linked areas of public open space, located between the north of Knowle West and the southern edge of Bedminster/Windmill Hill. The slopes are made up of undulating, steep terrain and escarpment, with a mixture of semi-improved grassland, woodland and scrub. They are used by local people for getting around, dog walking, cycling, informal play, watching wildlife, and for admiring spectacular views across Bristol.

The Northern Slopes Initiative is a group of people seeking to maintain, conserve and enhance the Northern Slopes. Originally set up to protect the areas from housing development, the Group has expanded its work to encourage others to join with them to work for the benefit of the people and communities that live around the Slopes; and the features that make the Slopes what they are.

Northern Slopes Initiative

c/o Regeneration Team, The Park Local Opportunity Centre
Davenry Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 1QD

tel: 07810 474558

email: enquiries@northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk

website: www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk

Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve, *Friends of (FOSPNR)*

The aims of the group are conservation and environmental education through practical work, talks, field meetings and a newsletter issued quarterly.

We aim to protect and enhance the biodiversity at Old Sneed Park Nature Reserve through good management, appropriate planting and removal of undesirable species eg Japanese knotweed.

We aim to maintain the quiet, peaceful atmosphere which is conducive to a wildlife habitat. The Friends group has been going for over 11 years. New members are always welcome. Guided walks can be arranged for interested groups.

Eileen J Stonebridge

59 Glenavon Park, Bristol BS9 1RW

tel: 0117 968 6799

email: stonebridges@blueyonder.co.uk

Perrett's Park, *The Community of (COPP)*

COPP is the newly formed group of people from the local community who are concerned with improving Perrett's Park. Our aims are:

- To co-operate with Bristol City Council in caring for the Park
- To liaise with the Council regarding Park maintenance and improvements.
- To encourage local people to be actively involved in caring for the Park.
- To encourage responsible use of the Park
- To raise the profile of the Park in the community and organise community events.

Laurie Burn

Tel: 0117 977 8040

Quaker Burial Ground Working Group

Many of Bristol's Parks and open spaces are tucked away where people don't notice them but there are acres of public green space of all shapes and sizes throughout Bristol. The Quaker Burial Ground, opposite St Mary Redcliffe, is one of these lesser-known gardens.

The garden used to be a Quaker Burial Ground and it was used for burials for about three hundred years. In the sixties the Quakers gave it to the council so that some of the land could become the new roundabout. The headstones were removed, and the human remains were re-interred elsewhere. The ground was planted as a leisure garden. However, the space became overgrown, dark and unwelcoming.

That was three years ago. Local residents have now changed all that. The shrubs have been cut back, elder and ivy all but banished, new planting has enlivened the beds. It has been turned into an attractive place where local residents, visitors and office workers can escape from the bustle of the streets and the reek of motor exhaust. And it is used for wedding photos after a marriage ceremony in St Mary Redcliffe.

The garden has a unique treasure: a fourteenth century hermitage – that is another story...

Contact: Graham Balfry

tel: 0117 926 4982

email: graham@balfry.co.uk

Redcatch Park, *Friends of*

Redcatch Park is a well used park in Knowle close to the Broadwalk shopping centre. Facilities include a small car park and toilets, two football pitches for league matches, three tennis courts, a five-a-side kick-about area with basketball hoops, a bowling green and pavilion and a safe, enclosed, non-dog, children's play area.

The "Friends" aim is simply to improve the park for all the people who use it. Safety measures recently introduced have markedly reduced vandalism and noise disturbance. Working with young park users initiated the idea of a multi-use shelter which is now in place and used by all age groups.

The "Friends" group has been up and going for over five years and works closely with local councillors, police and Bristol Parks. The group is open to all and welcomes new members.

Peggie Jennings

29 Melbury Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 2RR

tel: 0117 977 9230

email: pegjennwhistle@blueyonder.co.uk

Redcliffe Open Spaces Group

Local community group formed in 2004 to maintain and develop the open spaces in South Redcliffe and to work towards environmental improvements in the area.

Volunteers and the project coordinator get together regularly for practical workdays. We meet every month and organise events, trips and training for the group. New volunteers are always welcome.

Di Appleyard

0117 927 2407

environment@redcliffecommunityforum.org.uk

Redland and Cotham Amenities Society (RCAS)

We are a local amenities society, with a membership of 1450, which aims to protect and enhance the area, its architecture, trees, parks and amenities for present and future residents.

We have raised funds for and helped design the play areas in Redland Green and Cotham Gardens. We also have funded information boards and tree planting. We monitor maintenance of the parks and other green spaces in our area. We have an annual “Bramble Bash” working party at Redland Green.

We organise the annual May Fair on Redland Green; we also organise garden talks and guided walks in the area, as well as an Open Gardens event.

The society comments on planning, tree works and licensing applications. We have written and published four local history books and a book on “Our Garden Trees, conservation and new planting.”

Alison Bromilow

52 Clarendon Road, Redland, Bristol. BS6 7ET

website: www.rcas.org.uk

Royate Hill Volunteers

Royate Hill Volunteers are a small and friendly group of local residents concerned with the preservation and maintenance of this unusual inner city site. Limestone grassland flowers and fine city views are our highlights. We meet on the second Sunday of the month from 11am from May to December for seasonal tasks and for a chat and cuppa.

Contact Julian for more info on:

tel: 07932 595435

email: julian.ainsley@gmail.com

St George Park, *Friends of*

Friends of St George Park is a recently formed park group. We aim to work with the community and the council to improve the facilities of this very popular park. We will be looking at improving play facilities, updating the sports facilities, improving the environment within the park and ensuring facilities are maintained to a good standard. We also hope to put on events in the park in the future. Please contact us if you would like to get involved.

email: stgeorgepark@hotmail.co.uk

tel: 0117 960 6249

St Paul's Unlimited (*Parks subgroup*)

St Paul's Unlimited Community Partnership is a resident-led group working together with other voluntary, statutory and commercial organisations towards improving the overall quality of life in St Pauls. The SPU Parks subgroup is working with the city council to improve all the green spaces in the area and provide high quality, local parks and play areas for all members of the community.

Pete Bullard, *Chair*

St Agnes Lodge, Thomas Street, St Paul's, Bristol BS2 9LJ

tel: 0796 0275513

St Werburghs City Farm

St Werburghs City Farm was started by local people in 1980. It is an independent registered charity providing recreational and educational services alongside running a working livestock farm.

The Farm and adventure playground are open every day, including bank holidays (9am–5pm summer, 9am–4pm winter). **Entry free.**

Animals include pigs, goats, sheep, ducks, geese, turkeys, hens and rabbits. Our café is open from Wednesday to Sunday (10am–5pm). Other services and facilities include:

- Horticultural training for adults with learning difficulties
- Group visits
- Animal Husbandry training
- Youth work, incl. environment, arts projects etc at our nature reserve on Boiling Wells Lane
- Community events
- Sale of produce – eggs, plants etc
- Community building for hire
- Open access Community Garden with wildlife pond

Mina Road

St Werburghs City Farm, Watercress Road, Bristol, BS2 9YJ.

tel: 0117 942 8241.

email: st.werburghs@btconnect.com

Shirehampton Greens

We are a small local group mostly concerned with green space along the Portway, known as The Daisy Field. This is part of the area within The Lamplighters Marsh Management Plan.

We have worked with the council to improve the Daisy Field by planting bulbs, hedging and orchard trees. The children at Portway School built a bench for walkers. We are pleased to have the support of Bristol Parks Forum.

We do schedule occasional activities: planting and litter-pick in the Daisy Field; wildflower walks along the river with an excellent botanist guide; a wildlife census is proposed. Anyone interested would be welcome.

Renee Slater

91 Station Road, Shirehampton, Bristol BS11 9XA

tel: 0117 938 1709

email: renee.slater@blueyonder.co.uk or

ash@shirecas.org.uk or 0117 982 9963

South Purdown, *Friends of (FOSP)*

South Purdown is an area of grassland in the south of Lockleaze, lying roughly between Heath House and Muller Road, and between Elmcroft Crescent and Heyford Avenue. The land was purchased by Bristol Corporation in 1938 from the Cottrell-Dormer Estate for use as Public Open Space.

The area is known for its wildlife and flower meadow as well as its wide outlook over the City and is traversed by a number of public footpaths.

The Friends group was formed in 2006 to campaign for Town Green status in order to protect the area from threatened unsightly and damaging development and to safeguard its use by the whole local

community for lawful sports and pastimes. The constitution contains other worthy aims.

Friends Of South Purdown
c/o 12 Tackley Road, BS5 6UQ
tel: 0117 951 1118

South Street Park Group (SPIG)

The group has grown to 20 members is a constituted body, has a website and has applied to become an environmental body. It has been awarded funding from BCC Clean and Green award and has a volunteer fund raiser.

West St developers are providing their landscape designer to draw up plan from the needs and wishes drawn from the groups public consultations. S106 money from several developments will be available from 2007 onwards.

The South Street Group is supported by South Street School, Southville CDA, Bristol City Council and Developers Firmac

Clodagh Scott, *Chair* tel: 07752 341 340.
Gareth Rae, *Secretary* tel: 07752 136 213
email: southstreetpark@hotmail.co.uk
website: www.southstreetpark.org.uk

Troopers Hill, *Friends of*

The Friends of Troopers Hill are a group of local residents who share an interest in Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve. We aim to:

- Provide a friendly community focus for people who care about Troopers Hill
- Carry out practical conservation work to help look after Troopers Hill
- Organise public events such as walks and talks
- Work with Bristol City Council to make sure that Troopers Hill is well looked after.

We set up our group at the end of 2003 and are a very active group. Because of our work Bristol Parks have selected Troopers Hill as one of 3 sites that they are proposing for Green Flag status.

You are welcome to our work parties which take place on the first Saturday of every month from 10am to noon, meeting on the corner of Greendown and Troopers Hill Rd. in St. George. We also hold open meetings about every 6 weeks, send out a free newsletter every two months and hold numerous events from walks with talks to kite flying and concerts. For more information please see our website www.troopers-hill.org.uk or write to or telephone:

Susan Acton-Campbell,
3 Corkers Hill, St George, Bristol BS5 8DT
tel: 0117 947 5037
email: friends@troopers-hill.org.uk

Victoria Park Action Group

The Victoria Park Action Group was started in 2002 by people living near the park who wanted to preserve and improve its facilities. It now has around 100 members and some challenging goals for the improvement of Victoria Park.

VPAG aims to improve the facilities and infrastructure in the park, discourage crime and vandalism and promote legitimate use of the park by all members of the community.

The group meets on the first Monday of every month at Windmill Hill City Farm, at 8pm. For more information contact:

Andrew Campbell

tel: (0117) 377 5013

andrew.campbell@blueyonder.co.uk

Westbury Wildlife Park Foundation

Westbury Wildlife Park Foundation is an independent registered charity providing a sanctuary for the maintenance, preservation and breeding of wild birds, animals, plants, insects and other wildlife.

The Park is situated in the Trym Valley in the historic village of Westbury-on-Trym, downstream from Badock's Wood.

Volunteers are involved in a variety of environmental improvements, including woodland and grassland management, gardening and pond and river maintenance.

Jackie Young

**Westbury Wildlife Park, Trym Road, Westbury-on-Trym,
Bristol, BS9 3ET**

tel: 0117 950 0439

Willmott Park Group

The Willmott Park Group is an active group of local residents, established in May 2006, with the objective of enhancing Willmott Park and the surrounding streets in Hartcliffe for the use by local residents and addressing local park issues. The group also raises funds for the good of the park

It works closely with many agencies to make this happen and monitors standards in the park and surrounding streets including repairs and maintenance.

The group aims to encourage participation and use of the park through acting as a friendly and welcoming community focus. They aim to promote and improve Willmott Park so as to make it a clean and safe environment that everyone can enjoy using.

For further details or previous minutes of the group contact details are below.

Mrs. S Morgan, *Secretary*
17 Wymbush Crescent, Hartcliffe, Bristol
tel: 0117 903 8048 or 0117 946 5496

During 2007 and 2008 new community park groups are likely to be established for:

- Cilfton and Durdham Downs
- Canford Park
- Snuff Mills/Oldbury Court

Contact Bristol Parks on 0117 922 3719 if you are interested in being part of a group for any of these locations.

SUPPORT GROUPS

Avon Wildlife Trust

Avon Wildlife Trust is a membership-based organisation working throughout Bristol (and beyond) to inspire people about Avon's wildlife, act as a champion for wildlife, create wildlife havens and encourage sustainable action for wildlife.

We are involved in every type of wildlife and our aim is not just to safeguard the biodiversity of Avon, but to rebuild it and restore what has been lost over the last 200 years to create a richer biodiversity than Avon currently has.

We work to involve the widest possible cross section of people in wildlife activities, working with community organisations and providing educational programmes for all ages. We also involve people as volunteers and provide training and work with the city council in managing some key wildlife sites in the city including parts of several parks. We are a charity with 16,000 members throughout Avon, including many in Bristol.

Steve Grainger, *Chief Executive*

Avon Wildlife Trust, 32 Jacobs Wells Road, Bristol, BS8 1DR

tel: 0117 917 7270

email: mail@avonwildlifetrust.org.uk

Avon Gardens Trust

Avon Gardens Trust is one of the earliest county trusts which came out of an Avon County Council scheme (ACCES) in 1987 which conducted surveys of some 330 sites in Avon (recorded in the York database, published in a gazetteer of Historic Parks and Gardens in the County of Avon).

- **Chief areas of interest:** historic parks and gardens, public parks, communal gardens; conservation and restoration, attention to threats; response to planning applications.
- **Activities for members:** visits and talks (useful links with BAAS and CGS), Spring bulletin (out by Easter detailing coming events), Summer bulletin (out a month before AGM), as well as summer journal, autumn annual review (end October).
- **Records and recording:** queries answered from developers, researchers, students and interested individuals.
- **Education:** schools gardens – possibility of small grants to improve grounds (have given practical help and advice in the past). Attend school grounds group. Website – Park Detectives, in conjunction with Bristol Parks Department.
- **Projects:** currently only at Swainswick with Bath and North East Somerset Council. Have done work in Stoke Park and on Ham Green Gazebo.
- **Donations:** to suitable causes eg Arnos Vale Cemetery.
- **Publications in print:** Parks & Gardens of Avon, Thomas Goldney's Garden, Historic Public Parks – *Bath*, Historic Public Parks – *Bristol*. On sale in Bristol at the City Museum & Art Gallery, Tourist Office, Goldney House. Sales in Bath at Holbourne Museum.

Contact: Jonathan Holt

Registered Office: CREATE Environment Centre,
Smeaton Road, Bristol, BS1 6XN.

tel: 01225 319 333

email: avongardenstrust@yahoo.co.uk

website: www.avongardenstrust.cjb.net

Avon Youth Association (AYA)

AYA is a voluntary organisation and charity that strives to provide a positive guide and influence to the youth in our society. AYA provides information and help on important life issues such as health, education, employment and leisure activities.

AYA

Community Leisure Complex, Bath Road, Thornbury,
Bristol, BS35 2BB

tel: 01454 868 371

fax: 01454 868 372

email: aya@aya.org.uk

website: www.aya.org.uk

Black Development Agency (BDA)

BDA empowers Black and Minority Ethnic communities by building up their skills, ability and capacity to enable a sustainable Black Voluntary Community Sector.

BDA

5 Russell Town Avenue, Redfield, Bristol, BS5 9LT

tel: 0117 939 6645

fax: 0117 939 6646

email: admin@blackdeva.org.uk

website: www.blackdeva.org.uk

Bristol Civic Society

The Society shall promote and encourage the following objects by charitable means:

- To stimulate public interest in and care for the beauty, history, character and future of the City of Bristol and its surroundings.
- To encourage high standards of architecture and town planning; the preservation of the best of the remaining features of the historic past of Bristol and its surroundings as well as the best of the existing features of public amenity and interest; the incorporation and blending of such features in present and future developments; the improving of existing and the creation of new features of public amenity and interest.
- To pursue these ends by means of meetings, exhibitions, lectures, publications and other forms of instruction and schemes of a charitable nature.

Gordon Tucker

16 Westfield Park, Redland, Bristol BS6 6LX

tel: 0117 973 2040

email: aandj2.s@blueyonder.co.uk

Bristol Living Rivers Project (*BLRP*)

Bristol Living Rivers was established as a partnership led by Bristol City Council and the Environment Agency in 2003. It now has two full-time officers based at the Create Centre. Community groups and businesses are also partners.

Providing accessible information about rivers: BLRP operates a comprehensive water quality monitoring network for rivers and the floating harbour, sampling and analysis, BLRP newsletter and e-bulletins and co-ordination of river information. Up to date monitoring results can be accessed online at www.bristol.gov.uk/rivers.

Improving the water quality and aesthetic quality of rivers: this involves co-ordination of operational working groups who have ownership and responsibility for rivers and the Floating Harbour. Projects have included Abandoned Supermarket Trolleys, Invasive Weeds and the Drainage arrangements of Vessels in the Floating Harbour. We investigate “wrong connections” ie drainage that pollutes watercourses through Operation Streamclean.

Providing educational opportunities: eg a fieldwork initiative, Booted Up Bristol, in partnership with the City Learning Centre, Bristol Parks and UWE.

Working with community environmental groups on a range of events and activities around rivers e.g. photographic exhibitions in 2004 and 2005, annual walks, public consultations on repainting Gaol Ferry and Vauxhall bridges on the Cut. BLRP will seed-fund small scale projects when resources allow, eg for litter clear-ups, starting new river groups etc.

Improving river liaison: networking nationally, within local agencies and communities to keep up-to-date, share information and match-make.

Give advice and answer queries if we can.

BLRP does not lead on local river projects instigated by landowners

or community groups, but will provide support in expertise and resources, where possible. Contact us to receive BLRP newsletter and occasional e-bulletins.

Please let us know how your project is getting on.

Kathy Derrick and Tanya Darch
Environmental Quality Team, Bristol City Council,
The Create Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol, BS1 6XN.
tel: 0117 9223 400
fax: 0117 9224 433.
email: Kathy.derrick@bristol.gov.uk
website: www.bristol.gov.uk/rivers

Bristol Parks – *Bristol City Council*

Bristol Parks is responsible for the management of over 450 green spaces across the city including: historic estates such as Ashton Court, formal parks and gardens and rich wildlife areas. Bristol Parks also delivers a broad range of services including children's play, sports, park and street tree management, allotments, park events and wildlife conservation.

Bristol Parks supports and encourages community involvement in the city's green spaces and supports the activities of the Bristol Parks Forum. If you are interested in helping to improve, or hold an activity on, a green space near you, or you wish to start a new community park group like those listed in this directory, please get in touch.

Bristol Parks
tel: 0117 922 3717
email: bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk

Bristol Parks Forum (BPF)

BPF is a network of individual community groups and organisations that are working to improve parks and green spaces or have an interest in them. It is supported by the council but acts independently and is currently the only “community voice” that is dedicated to all of Bristol’s green spaces. In September 2005 it had 80 member groups. Membership is free. The Forum’s 3 main roles are to:

- offer an opportunity to share ideas and experience;
- act as a consultation body for the Bristol Parks service and other agencies;
- influence decision-making, including the allocation of resources.

The forum meets four times a year, including an annual conference. Members publish a newsletter. New parks groups and similar organisations with an interest in protecting and enhancing green and open space are always welcome.

c/o Richard Fletcher

**Bristol Parks, Dept of Culture and Leisure Services,
Colston 33, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4AU.**

tel: 0117 922 3896

fax: 0117 922 3744

email: richard.fletcher@bristol.gov.uk

website: www.bristol.gov.uk/parks

website: www.bristol.gov.uk/rivers

BTCV

BTCV is the UK's leading charity creating better environments where people feel valued, included and involved. Its aim is to create a more sustainable future by inspiring people and improving places.

BTCV currently supports 2225 local community groups and provide:

- Information, advice and training to help you carry out practical environmental management tasks safely;
- Extra help for a project by bringing in a team of volunteers;
- Tools and specialist equipment for hire;
- Cheaper insurance, access to grants and discounts on tools, training and trees. Join the BTCV Community Network to take advantage of cost-saving services.

BTCV, CREATE Centre, Smeaton Road, Bristol, BS1 6XN

tel: 0117 929 1624

fax: 0117 929 8488.

email: avon@btcv.org.uk

website: www.btcv.org

CSV Environment

CSV Environment has a variety of projects involved in conservation/river watch.

Bristol Office

CSV Environment, St David's Centre, Queens Road,
Bishopsworth, Bristol BS13 8LF

tel: 0117 964 0114

email: bristol@csvgenvironment.org.uk

Federation of City Farms and Community Gardens (FCFCG)

FCFCG is a UK wide charity that promotes, supports and advocates on behalf of groups engaged in local regeneration through community managed gardening, farming and growing activities.

FCFCG currently has 25 member groups in Bristol and has produced a map detailing community farms and gardens in and around the city.

Paul Jayson

The GreenHouse, Hereford St, Bedminster, Bristol BS3 4NA

tel: 0117 9231800

email: paul@farmgarden.org.uk

website: www.farmgarden.org.uk

The Forest of Avon

The Forest of Avon is one of England's twelve Community Forests, a national programme that has seen £175 million invested in the countryside around the country's principal towns and cities.

The Forest covers most of the West of England (formerly Avon) region and is supported by a Partnership of organisations including Bristol City Council. Over the last ten years more than a million new trees have been planted, over 600 miles of paths have been created or improved and more than 12,500 people have been engaged in improving their local environment.

Local action is key to the Forest of Avon and the Forest team supports this by providing information, contacts, support, training and access to a region-wide network of partners, programmes and resources.

Duncan Bonner, Programme Support Officer

tel: 0117 953 2141

email: duncan.bonner@forestofavon.org.uk

website: www.forestofavon.org.uk

Hartcliffe Heath and Environment Action Group (HHEAG)

Our main aims are to improve the community and lives of local people by actively engaging residents in both health related and environmental activities. By working together on issues which affect people's lives, local residents have the opportunity to influence the development of their community.

One aspect of our work is encouraging local people to eat more healthily, get more exercise and improve the local environment through food growing. This includes a community garden where a group of local people are supported by a tutor growing food for themselves and their families.

We also have "Greens" Community Market Garden producing vegetables, herbs, fruit, plants and flowers using organic methods.

These are for sale (at cost) through our “Food for All” food co-op, in the BS13 area.

We also offer training and work experience opportunities in food growing and work with a number of local schools to encourage children to grow and eat their own produce.

HHEAG

**The Gatehouse Centre, Hareclive Road, Hartcliffe,
Bristol BS13 9JN**

tel: 0117 946 5285

email: office@hheag.org.uk

Imayla

IMAYLA is a community enterprise set up in 2000 by a group of individuals with a wide range of expertise in the arts, event management, youth, community work, teaching and training. Imayla has produced a great guide to holding events called:

“Doing Something Different – where, what and how: inspiration for activities with young people and community groups.”

**IMAYLA, The Annexe, Easton Community Centre,
Kilburn Street, Easton, Bristol, BS5 6AW**

tel: 0845 345 7533

email: info@imayla.co.uk

website: www.imayla.com

ProHelp

ProHelp is a national network of over 1,000 professional firms who give their time and expertise for free to local community groups and voluntary organisations.

Bristol ProHelp boasts almost 40 members offering free professional advice ranging from architects and surveyors to accountants and solicitors.

Bristol ProHelp,
Business in the Community, ITV West, Bath Road, Brislington,
Bristol BS4 3HG
tel: 0117 972 2111
www.bitc.org.uk/westofengland

Southville Community Development Association

SCDA is a multi-purpose development trust. As part of its Sustainable Southville Project, SCDA encourages local volunteers to support, green spaces such as parks and river corridors in the general Bedminster area.

We work closely with a network of “Friends” groups as part of the Greater Bedminster Community Partnership. SCDA also has a programme of “patchwork”, that is, the identification of small patches of unused and rubbish strewn land (usually owned by the council) and their conversion into small community gardens. We sponsor an annual front garden competition. Our volunteer group is known as the Green Team.

Ben Barker
Southville Centre, Beaulay Road, Bristol BS3 1QE
tel: 0117 923 1039
email: info@southvillecentre.org.uk

Volunteering Bristol

Volunteering Bristol promotes, supports and develops opportunities for people to become involved in voluntary work. It offers a variety of services including the Volunteer Centre where potential volunteers can find out more about the current opportunities; the Volunteer Organisers Forum that supports organisations on issues and information about volunteering; and specialist volunteering development programmes in local communities throughout Bristol. The centre advertises on behalf of more than 400 organisations including environmental and local community self-help groups. Its website also shows all the current vacancies and has downloadable information to help organisations set-up best practice in recruiting and retaining volunteers.

Volunteering Bristol,

Royal Oak House, Royal Oak Avenue, Bristol BS1 4GB

Volunteer Centre open weekdays 10am–4pm (closed 12–12.30pm)

tel: 0117 989 7733

email: info@bristolvolunteers.org.uk

web: www.bristolvolunteers.org.uk

Walking The Way To Health

Walking the way to health is a national campaign to encourage us all to build activity into our daily lives. Walking the Way to Health, Bristol, provides a range of walks for all ages and abilities, with the opportunity to:

- Meet local people from your area;
- Explore your parks and green spaces in a safe way;
- Take moderate exercise and keep motivated;
- Reduce the risk of various diseases such as heart disease, obesity and strokes;
- Help to recover from illness or operation
- Learn more about local history and nature.

Tai Chi taster sessions and courses we will be running over the summer in conjunction with the Bristol School of Tai Chi in a number of Bristol Parks, details to be finalized – contact Sian Davies.

Healthy walking groups are established in the following areas:

- Bedminster/Southville
- Barton Hill/The Dings
- Hartcliffe/Withywood
- Knowle West
- City Centre
- Lawrence Weston
- Hillfields
- Henbury
- Easton/St Pauls

Sian Davies, Health Walks Co-ordinator (Monday–Wednesday)
5 Knowle West Health Park, Downton Road, Knowle West,
Bristol BS4 1WH
tel: 07810 506 736 (*mobile*) or 0117 377 3458
fax: 0117 377 3462
email: sian.davies@bristol.gov.uk

WECIL

WECIL is an organisation fully managed and controlled by Disabled people.

We offer a wide range of services to Disabled people and their families including a Direct Payments Service, Disability Information and Advice Service and an Advocacy Service.

**WECIL Ltd, The Vassall Centre, Gill Ave, Fishponds,
Bristol, BS16 2QQ.**

tel: 0117 903 8900

fax: 0117 983 6765

email: reception@wecil.co.uk

website: www.wecil.co.uk

If you would like this information in a different format, for example Braille, audio tape/CD, large print or computer disc, or community languages, please contact:

c/o Richard Fletcher
Bristol Parks, Dept of Culture and Leisure Services,
Colston 33, Colston Avenue, Bristol, BS1 4AU

tel: 0117 922 3896

fax: 0117 922 3744

email: richard.fletcher@bristol.gov.uk

website: www.bristol.gov.uk/parks

website: www.bristol.gov.uk/rivers