

07 April 2013 - No 122

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BPF Meeting 13 April

The agenda for Saturday's meeting is on the website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFAgenda130413.pdf

Please note that we have extended the finish time to 1pm, this was to fit in the workshop session. We felt it was better to decide this upfront than to end up short of time by trying to keep to the 12.30 finish.

Tree Forum 8 April

A reminder that the next meeting of the Tree Forum is tomorrow (Monday 8th April) at 6pm and features a talk by Bristol Water "Do the utilities still hate trees?" We are all invited, more details are here:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BristolTreeForumInvitation_8thApril.pdf

Monitoring

Hopefully the cold weather is now coming to an end! If it does then the grass will start to grow! It would be good to have more monitoring reports through the rest of the Spring, so we can track how the contractors and in-house teams are performing.

Details are at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/Monitoring

GreenSpace

Over the years several items of information in these updates have come from the charity GreenSpace, and I have often included links to their magazine 'The Bench'.

It came as a shock to hear that the charity was closing due to funding difficulties.

GreenSpace, was previously known as the Urban Parks Forum and former Bristol Parks Manager the late Alan Barber was involved in setting it up. You may remember that following Alan's death in February 2011, donations were asked to go to GreenSpace which was described as 'Alan's pride and joy as he was in at its birth.'

The official statement on the closure can be seen here:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/GreenSpaceOfficialStatement.pdf

The GreenSpace website is still up and running at www.green-space.org.uk

The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces was strongly supported by GreenSpace and its committee are holding discussions about the implications of the charity closing. This includes the future of a lottery grant that was to help encourage the formation of Friends Groups and Forums around the country. It is hoped that this and several other GreenSpace initiatives will be taken on by other charities.

You can find out more about the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces on their website at www.natfedparks.org.uk

Bristol99

Bristol 99 now have a new logo, check out their website to see it and for the latest updates.

<http://bristol99.org.uk/>

European Green Capital Award 2015

Bristol has been shortlisted as one of the four finalists for the European Green Capital Award 2015.

The city has been shortlisted alongside Brussels, Glasgow and Ljubljana for the award, with the winner being announced on June 14 in Nantes, France.

Of course an important part of the bid is the City's green spaces, this is what the 'Nature' page of <http://bristolgreencapital.org> has to say:

"Green Spaces as Communities

Bristol has an amazing amount of green space, and over 80 percent of it's residents live within the key catchment of 300 metres from a park or open space. Bristol is known for its 'green lungs' and it is important that we keep these areas, and continue to make them more accessible to citizens and visitors alike. The great thing about Bristol is the community level involvement in maintaining and improving our green spaces."

You can find out more and pledge your support for the bid as either an individual or an organisation at <http://bristolgreencapital.org/>

Neighbourhood Partnership Review

The Neighbourhood Partnership Review is now moving into the 'Design phase' with three meetings that will consider the feedback received and set the structure of NPs for the future:

10th April - 2pm - 4pm, City Hall - Councillors and residents meeting - design and quality test session for review

24th April - 6.30pm - 8.30pm, City Hall - Councillors and residents meeting - design and quality test session for review

15th May - 6.30pm - 8pm, City Hall - Final meeting for NP review before final reports produced.

More on the Council's website at www.bristol.gov.uk/node/14953

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

Bristol Parks Forum

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Future meetings: Sat 13 April - Sat 29 June - Sat 12 October
(all 9.30 to 12.30 at Windmill Hill City Farm)

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BPF Meeting 13 April

The minutes from Saturday's meeting will appear on the website in due course in the meantime we would be pleased to have any feedback, especially on the workshop sessions - should we do more like that on other subjects?

Thank you to everyone who put their name down for the Management Plan Workshops at either this or the last meeting, it is proving difficult to find a date when everyone who will be involved in running it is free, I will let you know once a date is fixed.

Tree Forum

Dear Friend of Bristol's Trees - For those of you who couldn't make last Monday's meeting please see a short write up of both presentations:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/TreeForum_PR080413.pdf

Bristol Water took up the challenge and replied to the controversial question we threw at them.

Next meeting is July 1st, City Hall at 18.00 and also we have a stand at the Redland Mayfair on Monday 6th May (1 - 5pm).

Kind regards – Clive Stevens,
Chair Bristol TreeForum

Good Gym

As briefly mentioned by Fraser on Saturday, a new community project has been launched in Bristol which combines getting fit with doing good. They have run to both Brandon Hill and Troopers Hill this year to help with Work Parties.

GoodGym is about meaningful ways to exercise. They are a group of runners who get fit by doing physical tasks which benefit the community.

They run regular group runs during which they stop and help local community organisations. They can do anything from making deliveries, shifting rubble to planting gardens and conservation work

Sessions normally involve about 45 minutes of exercise and 45 minutes of high intensity volunteering.

The Good Gym has been running in London for over a year, and is now being launched in Bristol, with regular sessions on Saturday mornings and Wednesday evenings.

They are looking for more runners of all abilities to get involved, and for community projects who are looking for help.

For more information or if you would like to get involved please contact Chris or Jes on
Bristol@goodgym.org,
07857 425667,
www.goodgym.org
www.facebook.com/GoodGymBristol
@goodgymbristol

Bristol 99

Bristol 99 launches with the Bio-Blitz at Kings Weston on 3rd & 4th May. More details here:
www.bnhc.org.uk/home/bioblitz/bristolbioblitz.html

You can find out more and read the Bristol 99 blog at <http://bristol99.org.uk/> The latest blog entry has the story of my day with Sybil at Eastwood Farm.

Walks Tomorrow

Short notice but if you are free tomorrow (Sat 20th) there are two walks you might be interested in.

There is an Early Bird Walk at Nightingale Valley organised by Rowan who spoke at the meeting about the Brislington Brook Project, details are at www.facebook.com/events/359110434210630/ The walk starts at 8am at Alison rd/Hill Lawn entrance to Nightingale Valley and is led by Richard Bland.

Later there is a walk on the Northern Slopes, starting at 10.30am from The Park in Daventry Road entitled Blackcaps & Butterflies. More details are at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/NSIWalkPosterApril.pdf

You could even do both.

Rob Acton-Campbell
<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>
Bristol Parks Forum
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk
2013 meeting dates: Sat 29 June - Sat 12 October - Both 9.30am at Windmill Hill City Farm.
2014 meeting dates: Sat 25th Jan - Sat 12th April (venues tbc)