

## 15 April 2014 - No 148

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### Parks Forum Meeting 12th April

The minutes from this meeting will appear in due course, in the meantime there are some links and information from some of the items covered below.

It would be good to have some feedback about our meetings. Are they the right length? Is Saturday morning still the best time to hold them? Should we aim for similar dates for next year? Are we covering the right subjects? If you don't attend, why not? Should there be more workshop type sessions? Any other comments?

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### Invasive Weeds

Neil Green's email address for more information is [neil.green@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:neil.green@bristol.gov.uk)

The Council's page with information about Japanese Knotweed and links to information about other invasive weeds is at: [www.bristol.gov.uk/japaneseknotweed](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/japaneseknotweed)

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### TreePips

There is an update on our website at [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/treepips-update](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/treepips-update)

This includes the papers that Mellie had available at the meeting and some information on proposed lesson plans, this follows a sample lesson that Mellie presented to the Tree Forum yesterday.

The TreePips team are keen to hear from groups with ideas for tree planting sites and also with suggestions for topics to be included in lesson plans.

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### HighWaterLine Bristol

There is a briefing paper about the project here:  
[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/HighWaterLineBristol.pdf](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/HighWaterLineBristol.pdf)

You can contact Isobel at [isobel@invisiledust.com](mailto:isobel@invisiledust.com)

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### Byelaws

As reported by Gillian Douglas at the meeting the Neighbourhoods and Communities Scrutiny Commission which met on 10th April have decided to have a further half day session to go through

the byelaws in detail. Bristol Parks Forum have been invited to be part of this process. I will give you more details when I have them.

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Festival of Nature

[www.festivalofnature.org](http://www.festivalofnature.org)

Harbourside Event: 14 & 15 June

Festival Week: 7 - 15 June

Outreach Programme: May - July

Assuming that the opening times for the weekend are the same as last year then we have at least one volunteer for each session, ideally we would have two groups represented at each time so there is still room for more volunteers. This is your chance to publicise your group and your park.

If you have leaflets or information that you would like displayed on the stand please contact me and I will try and arrange to pick it up before the weekend. The more information we have about the range of parks & green spaces in Bristol the better.

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Bristol-10K for Justin Smith

A message from Ben Wallis:

In early March, my brother-in-law and friend, Justin Smith, died suddenly, leaving very many of us shocked and bereft. He was just 46 and was the Woodland & Wildlife Officer here at Bristol City Council. Many people also knew Justin for his huge knowledge of mycology and the ecology of lower plants - and his enthusiasm to share that knowledge.

In order to create something positive from the tragic loss, his wife Lucy (my sister) is setting up a Fund in his memory. The Fund will be managed by the Avon Wildlife Trust, where Justin had worked, and is likely to take the form of a bursary in order to train young ecologists. This will go some way to continuing Justin's legacy of love for the natural environment. Recent donations from well-wishers have started that Fund.

On May 11 I will run the 2014 Bristol-10K, with family, for the Justin bursary fund. If you want to support my charity run our JustGiving donation page can be found at: [bit.ly/Run4Justin](http://bit.ly/Run4Justin) (JustGiving).

Please do share this with anyone who may have known Justin or would like to support AWT.

Thanks for your time,

Ben Wallis  
Marketing & Communications Officer  
Bristol City Council

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## Stoke Park

As you may have seen in the press the planning application for the proposed BRT route (now called Metrobus) from the Northern Fringe to Hengrove has now been submitted.

The plans for a 'bus only junction' where Stoke Lane crosses the M32 involve building one of the new slip roads on part of Stoke Park. The remainder of the junction is being built on allotments and small holdings, including the area currently occupied by the AWT Feed Bristol Project.

You can see more information on this aspect of the scheme at:  
[www.bluefingeralliance.org.uk/do-something/act-now/](http://www.bluefingeralliance.org.uk/do-something/act-now/)

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## Ashton Court

As we heard at our March meeting there is a park group being formed for Oldbury Court, that will leave Ashton Court as the only major green space in the City without a Friends group (though of course the majority of it is actually in North Somerset). If anyone is interested in starting a group please contact us.

While the park itself is not under threat, there is a proposed development adjacent to it with a large sports complex on the Bristol Cathedral Choir School playing field, entrance off Beggar Bush Lane. It is inside the perimeter of this registered grade II\* park.

The application can be seen on the N Somerset website [www.n-somerset.gov.uk](http://www.n-somerset.gov.uk) ref 14/P/0194/F.

While on the subject of Ashton Court, a quick mention that the BBC Antiques Roadshow is coming to Ashton Court on 29th May. There is a poster here:  
[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AshtonCourtPoster.pdf](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AshtonCourtPoster.pdf)

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## Walks in Green Spaces

As mentioned at the meeting the programme for the Walking Festival is now available at [www.bristolwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.bristolwalkingfestival.co.uk)

A couple of walks you might be interested in before the festival starts:

At Northern Slopes there is the latest in their series of walks this Saturday 19th April:  
Bird Flocking Behaviour - a walking talk - £3 Adults - Children £1

More details at [www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk](http://www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk) and a poster for the walk is here:  
[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/FeedFlockTalk.pdf](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/FeedFlockTalk.pdf)

At Eastwood Farm LNR Ed Drewitt is leading an evening chorus walk on Wed 30th April starting at 6.30pm at Beese's carpark. Details of this, which is the first of this year's Eastwood Farm Wild Wednesdays, are at [www.eastwoodfarm.org.uk](http://www.eastwoodfarm.org.uk)

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Rob Acton-Campbell  
[www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole](http://www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole)  
Bristol Parks Forum  
[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk)  
2014 meeting dates: Sat 28th June - Sat 11 Oct