

04 August 2013 - No 129

Posts on Parks Forum Website since my last update:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/green-flag-awards-2013/

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/refurbished-old-bowling-green-on-brandon-hill/

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/kings-weston-walks/

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks-byelaws-consultation/

In this update: BPF Website - What is a 'park'? - Parks Forum Manifesto - Events in Parks - Community Assets Grants

BPF Website

It was good to get some positive feedback on the new look website after my last update. As you may have noticed there is a list of links to Park Groups' websites, facebook pages and twitter accounts. If your group's site is not listed then please let me know; it is probably because your entry at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks-forum-members/ doesn't include the website so please also let me know if that needs updating.

What is a 'park'?

In my last update I mentioned that the BPF website was originally set up due to proposals in 2008 to sell off parks. I'm sure that as a regular reader of these emails you will realise that 'parks' in the context of these emails (and indeed in the title of the Bristol Parks Forum) means all publicly accessible green space in Bristol, but that is perhaps not clear to everyone and for many people the word parks refers only to traditional Victorian style parks.

I have added a paragraph to try to clarify that the Parks Forum covers all types of green space on the 'About' page on the website www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/bristol-parks-forum/

As reported in Horticulture Week here: <http://tinyurl.com/odjj4yo> a new national 'Parks Alliance' is being formed. They have also stated that they will 'Use the word "parks" to mean all public green infrastructure'.

Parks Forum Manifesto

I mentioned in the last update that the BPF committee were putting together a 'Manifesto' for Bristol's parks. You can now see the Manifesto at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/manifesto/ We will be asking the BPF to formally adopt this manifesto at the meeting in October.

In the meantime we would be happy to have any feedback.

Events in Parks

You may have seen a news story on Bristol 24-7 calling for better protection for Castle Park from events (<http://tinyurl.com/n9f28mp>). This followed a press release from Living Heart for Bristol www.livingheart.org.uk

This issue has been discussed at our last few meetings and there has been a clear view that the BPF objects to whole parks being fenced off and that there should be adequate notice of any events. We have been told that 85% of the fees charged for events go back to the maintenance of parks but there was concern that organisers were not being charged for the whole time they occupy the park. Organisers should be required to clear the park as soon as possible after the event ends.

At a meeting last year the question was raised as to whether it was legal to fence off parks for commercial events. We raised this with Bristol Parks and the legal advice that they received from the BCC legal department was that the the provision of public entertainment in an open space is legal and that fencing off the park for an event is also legal so long as it is an event that is open to the public (even if there is a need to buy tickets).

Community Assets Grants

Interested in taking over a local service or in buying local land or buildings that matter to your community and taking over the ownership of land and buildings through asset transfer?

There are grants available to help in this process, see www.sibgroup.org.uk/communityrights/programme/

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

Bristol Parks Forum

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Next meeting: Sat 12 October - 9.30am at Windmill Hill City Farm.

2014 meeting dates: Sat 25th Jan - Sat 12th April (venues tbc)

16 August 2013 - No 130

Posts on Parks Forum Website since my last update:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/you-make-bristol/

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/work-for-treebristol/

In this update: Tree Pips - Bristol Festival of Nature 2014 - Bristol Meadows - Kings Weston Walks - Northern Slopes Walk

Tree Pips

Following my email about the opportunity to work for TreeBristol, an update from Richard Ennion on the Tree Pips project:

Dear Park Group

I am writing to all Parks' Groups to let you know about a new three-year tree planting initiative that has been endorsed by the Mayor of Bristol. This new project, called Tree Pips, will involve teaching all Bristol's 36,000 primary school aged children about the value of trees and see each child plant a tree.

We want to work with communities to see these trees planted in a variety of locations including school grounds, green spaces, streets and private gardens.

I want to say from the start that we will only be planting trees where people want them. We want to work with your group to develop tree planting plans for your park in accordance with good design principles based on the doctrine of 'right place, right tree'.

We very much want primary school aged children to plant these trees as part of a community event. As such, we would prefer to select sites for tree planting that are in walking distance of the school i.e. around 300 metres. Hopefully, this will be a good way to promote schools' use of their local parks, accepting that many schools / parks groups have good links already. Some schools have no parks or green spaces within this distance and some sites with good tree potential to plant trees are further than 300 metres. As such, 300 metres is a guide not a rule.

Currently, we are recruiting three officers who will lead this project and work with partners including the Woodland Trust and Forest of Avon Trust. Once this team is in place, we will be contacting parks' groups to seek your support including ideas for tree planting. We remain committed to develop tree planting plans for sites already agreed by the Neighbourhood Partnership. This project will give us the resource to support the development of more than one tree planting plan per Neighbourhood Partnership per year as has been the case.

I am very happy to discuss this further, you can either email me at richard.ennion@bristol.gov.uk or call 0117 9222001. More information is available at www.treebristol.com under 'News and Events'.

Bristol Festival of Nature 2014

The dates for next year's Festival of Nature have now been fixed, so make a note in your diary that it will be open to the public on the weekend of the 14th/15th June 2014.

Bristol Meadows

The wonderful meadows in various parks and the University of Bristol Urban Pollinators Project have received a lot of publicity recently.

There was an article on the BBC website here:
www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-23669941

You can find out more at www.urbanpollinators.org

There is also a page on the Bristol City Council website that can be found at www.meadowbristol.co.uk which includes details of how you can sponsor meadows in parks.

Kings Weston Walks

Dates for the next two FREE nature walks Kings Weston Action Group have organised as part of the Heritage Lottery Funded project. The recent wild food walk went brilliantly and you can see some of the fun on our photos on Flickr here <http://www.flickr.com/photos/kwag/>

The next walk in the programme will be a night time BAT WALK! This will be led by David Brown of the Avon Bat Group on Friday 23rd August and, as before, you need to book a place if you would like to go along. There will be bat-detecting equipment in use to help identify the different calls and apparently Kings Weston has all but one of the native UK species so come along to find out more. You can see a poster with more details here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/KWAGBatWalk.pdf

The third walk will be on Saturday 31st August and will be focussing in the trees on the estate with Richard Bland. Keep up to date at www.facebook.com/KingsWestonActionGroup

Northern Slopes Walk

The next guided walk on the Northern Slopes is called Dog Days.

The Romans noticed that the hottest days in the summer coincided with the appearance of Sirius the Dog Star in the same area of sky as the Sun. They thought that Sirius contributed to the heat, and so named them Dog Days.

In celebration of this, come for a special dog walk on the Northern Slopes, and learn more about how you can enjoy the green spaces with your dog, while still protecting wildlife for future generations.

Saturday 24 August 2013
10.30am-12.30pm

The walk starts from The Park in Daventry Road, BS4 1DQ

Poster here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/WalkPosterAugust.pdf

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

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25 August 2013 - No 131

Posts on Parks Forum Website since my last update:

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/cinema-in-parks/

- Screenings in St George Park, Victoria Park & Greville Smyth Park

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/guided-walks-in-parks-green-spaces/

- Includes walks in Stoke Park, Kings Weston, Eastwood Farm & Northern Slopes and link to Estates What's On Guide

In this update: BPF Meeting with Mayor - Byelaws Consultation - Bristol 99 - Shepherds Way - Drink Beer, Help Nature

BPF Meeting with Mayor

We are arranging an additional BPF meeting which will be attended by Bristol Mayor, George Ferguson. This will be a chance to discuss with the Mayor how park groups can build upon the work they are already doing to help promote Bristol as a Green Capital.

We will also be able to get an update on the budget situation and discuss alternative funding and/or alternative ways of doing things.

***** The meeting will be on the morning of Saturday 5th October *****

We have not yet finalised times or a venue but we expect the meeting to be popular with BPF members and we will have to restrict numbers to suit the venue. In order to ensure that as many groups as possible can be represented we will be taking bookings for places.

Please email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk if you would like to attend including your name and the group(s) you will be representing.

Our regular meeting (which will be our AGM) will still continue as normal the following week.

Byelaws Consultation

Don't forget you have until Friday 13th September to respond to the byelaws consultation, see

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/parks-byelaws-consultation/

Bristol 99

Lucy Gaze has been busy updating the Bristol 99 blog with some of the stories from the summer. Read through the blog and you get a great introduction to the great range of wildlife sites in Bristol. See <http://bristol99.org.uk/blog/>

The Bristol 99 project has been short-listed for for the TalkTalk Digital Heroes Awards for 2013 and would like you to vote for them. To vote go to www.talktalkdigitalheroes.co.uk then click on the south west region of the map and vote for Savita Custead. She is at the top of the page – so isn't too difficult to find!!!

You may also be interested to know that Bristol Water's family bird watching day, taking place on Saturday 31st August at Chew Valley Lake will include the unveiling of the Festival of Nature artwork. Details are at www.bristolwater.co.uk/birds/

Shepherds Way

Shepherds Way is on BCfm on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. The show hosted by Steve Shepherd focuses on wildlife in and around Bristol and is well worth a listen, Richard Bland is a regular contributor. Several of Bristol's green spaces and their park groups have been featured along with Bristol 99. In June there was an interesting interview about the imminent badger cull.

All the past programmes are available on the BCfm website at www.bcfmradio.com/category/shows/shepherds-way so you can catch up. Some of the shows you might find particularly interesting, with some voices you might recognise:

14 August - Matt & Kelly - Avon Wildlife Trust

24 July - Lucy Gaze - Bristol99

17 July - Len & Mil - Northern Slopes

26 June - Dr Chris Cheeseman - Badger Cull

19 June - Report on Festival of Nature

29 May - Paula Spiers - Wild City

17 April - Justin Smith - Fungi

20 March - Matt - Bristol99

6 March - Rob, Susan & Kit - Troopers Hill

27 February - Fraser - Brandon Hill

13 February - Mark - Snuff Mills

Drink Beer, Help Nature

The 8th Beese's Beer Festival is on 13th & 14th September. As in previous years they have kindly agreed to give some of the proceeds to Friends of Troopers Hill & Friends of Eastwood Farm; so you can buy tickets in the knowledge that you are helping local nature reserves.

Details are at www.beeses.co.uk/beerfest.php tickets are selling fast, so don't leave it too long to buy them and keep an eye open on the website for a competition you can enter in the run up to the event.

While you are at Beese's you can also pick up one of the new leaflets about Eastwood Farm LNR which have been funded by Wild City and don't forget the Wild Wednesday Moth hunt this week, see www.eastwoodfarm.org.uk

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