

20 December 2014 - No 165

In this update: BPF Meeting 31st January - BPF Bank Account - Green Capital Grants - Events Training - News from Green Connect - News from Kings Weston - Fruit & Ornamental Trees from Forest of Avon Trust - APE Project on Horfield Common - Happy City Index

BPF Meeting 31st January

The venue for our next meeting on 31st January (and all our meetings for 2015) has been confirmed as Windmill Hill City Farm. The agenda will be available from early January at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/meetings and I will send it out in my first update of the new year.

BPF Bank Account

At the AGM in October, we amended the BPF Terms of Reference so that we could have our own bank account. The account has now been set up - all we need is some money to put in it (see below).

One of the things we can do now is hold money on behalf of new or small park groups who do not have their own bank account but wish to apply for grants. If you know of anyone in this position please ask them to contact us.

Thanks go to Derek, our treasurer for his efforts in setting this up.

Green Capital Grants

We were sorry to hear that none of the BPF applications for Green Capital strategic grants were successful. The Cabinet confirmed the assessment panel's recommendations in full at its meeting on 16th December. The full list of both accepted and rejected projects can be seen in the papers for that meeting at www.tinyurl.com/pa5fk2p You will see that while we were unsuccessful a number of the projects will involve green spaces, one of them is to be run by Incredible Edible Bristol who will be coming to our meeting on 31st January to talk about their work.

The first round of awards from the Green Capital small grants funds has also been announced and several park groups were successful - these can be seen in the list of Quartet grants awarded in November here: www.quartetcf.org.uk/docs/grants/11_2014.pdf

The closing date for the next round of these grants has changed and is now 27th February, see: www.bristol2015.co.uk/get-involved/apply-grant-funding/small-grants-fund

There has also been some extra money awarded to Neighbourhood Partnership Green Capital grant funds. Each NP has separate application processes so you will need to contact your own NP for details.

Events Training

For anyone planning outdoor events next year, Bristol 2015 have teamed up with BCC Arts events team to provide free training on community event management. The timescale is quite short and registrations are needed by mid-January. Please see this link for more information:
www.bristol2015.co.uk/get-involved/community-event-training

News from Green Connect

The latest newsletter from Green Connect can be seen here:

www.tinyurl.com/GreenConnectDecNews

This edition includes lots that will be of interest to you, including an interesting item about carrying out risk / benefit analysis when considering children's play equipment and a study from Edinburgh City Council that states that for every £1 spent on maintaining the city's parks there were £12 of benefits.

News from Kings Weston

The Christmas newsletter from KWAG includes news of the completion of the memorial avenue project at Kings Weston following two days of work by Bristol City Council Tree Pips team.

www.tinyurl.com/KWAGdec14

Fruit & Ornamental Trees from Forest of Avon Trust

Due to demand we are doing a second order for collection from Ashton Court in late February.

We still have a good range of fruit trees and are now also able to offer potted ornamentals.

All are top quality and at great prices and a purchase also goes to help our work as the charity for local trees and woodlands.

The stock list and ordering details are here: www.forestofavontrust.org/services/buy-fruit-trees-and-bushes/

With many thanks,

Jon.
Jon Clark, Executive Director- Forest of Avon Trust

APE Project on Horfield Common

Friends of Horfield Common are very excited to be bringing incredible outdoor play opportunities for children and young people back to Horfield Common in 2015!

Last year the APE Project on Horfield Common (which was funded through a charitable grant) saw 30-40 local children at EVERY session! We want this to continue!

Over the course of 2015, APE Project will be delivering amazing outdoor play sessions on Horfield Common every week during term time - for 39 weeks - but we need to pay for it. In day-to-day terms, it means a donation of £50 would cost a family less than £1.30 a session for one child! For a family with 2 children - it would be less than 0.65p each.

This is a brilliant opportunity & in terms of value for money - it would be difficult to find anything that comes close.

These weekly sessions give local children a chance to get away from the screen, take some risks outdoors, and learn through craft, co-operation, creative and adventurous play - which they also love!

But we can't do it without your support and donations.

Our Fundsurfer campaign offers unique opportunities, photographs, and experiences in return for your donations! Perfect as a Christmas gift to yourself or for friends and family :)

Our goal is to raise enough money to fund the APE Projects weekly sessions on Horfield Common for a year - donate today and help us make it happen:

www.fundsurfer.com/project/ape-project-stay-and-play-sessions

The online Fundsurfer Campaign runs until 31st December.

Happy City Index

As part of the Happy City Index Project, we are inviting community organisations to disseminate an online version of the Happy City Survey to their members in January 2015. The project is being piloted in Bristol in 2015 by Happy City, in partnership with Bristol City Council and University of Bristol. It is the first attempt to measure and understand city 'well-being' – how well people are feeling and functioning across the city.

You can view the online version of the survey here www.happycityindex.org/long-survey

If you are interested in using the Happy City Survey to evaluate the well-being of your members, please email samwrenlewis@happycity.org.uk by January 5th stating your interest. We will then provide you with instructions about how to disseminate the survey to your members. The survey is free to use and your results will be comparable to other community organisations across the city.

We are planning a targeted offline approach in February 2015, in order to fill in the gaps left from disseminating the online survey. Please do get in touch by 5th January if you are interested in using the survey offline, either as well as or instead of sharing the online survey.

For more information about the Happy City Index Project, the online survey, and the benefits of

having a well-being evidence base, see www.happycityindex.org

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Sam

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Sam Wren-Lewis

Happy City Index Project Manager, Happy City Initiative

Seasons Greetings and best wishes for 2015 from Rob and all members of the BPF Committee.

Rob Acton-Campbell

www.twitter.com/RobCrewsHole

Bristol Parks Forum

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

Meeting dates for 2015: 31 Jan - 18 Apr - 27 June - 10 Oct (all at Windmill Hill City Farm)