

## 11 July 2013 - No 127

In this update: BPF Meeting 29 June - Positive Views of Bristol - Trees on the Map - Management Plan Workshop - Kings Weston - Town & Village Green Update - RHS Wildlife Gardens Week - Free Conservation lectures - State of Nature 2013 - Bristol Parks on Twitter

BPF Meeting 29 June

The minutes from the meeting are now on the website at [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFMinutes290613.pdf](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFMinutes290613.pdf)

After the meeting we had an apology from Gemma Dando who is now on maternity leave and had a baby arrival false alarm that morning. There will be plenty of time to discuss NPs at future meetings!

You will also see at the end of the meeting a note that 'The Council can confirm the appointment of RF as Parks Operations Manager.' Congratulations to Richard on this permanent appointment to the job that he has been doing as an interim measure for the last six months.

-----

Positive Views of Bristol

Some feedback from the Festival of Nature, as we were discussing Saturday.

You'd probably agree that it's always a feel-good event, drawing people who love the outdoors, enjoy walking or cycling and are keen to find new places to visit in Bristol & who often comment on what good green spaces Bristol has. It's a free day out for families & attracts people of all ages including students and young workers fairly new to Bristol.

In these times, many of these young people don't have a solid future to look forward to and are living rather precarious lives. They value places they can cycle or walk to and relax in and unwind for free. One young man told me he'd recently moved here - came looking for a job and is now working in telemarketing. He was so enthusiastic about how great a city Bristol is & said how amazed he'd been a couple of weeks previously in May when he'd visited Queen Square and had come upon a big food event. He could not believe that people, tents etc. were allowed on the grass. He said his city never puts on anything for its residents, and that every grassy area seems to have signs saying "Keep Off". Events like the Festival of Nature and that food event really make him feel welcome as a Bristol resident. Yes, the Queen Square grass got blitzed in places; a few days later when he passed through, the bare areas had already been re-seeded.

I tend to sympathise with people who complain when their park is turned over to a big event and the grass ends up trampled out of existence (even though BCC does replace it quickly). This boy made me see things in a very different light.

Just after he left, an older man came over to the BPF stand who was just as complimentary about Bristol, our local council and parks dept. As an example, he said that BCC was so generous and forward thinking in allowing for many years, from the 1970s, a free outdoor music festival in Ashton Court, mainly for local residents but becoming the largest free music festival in Britain, featuring local and nationally known bands.

People including me often complain about BCC and its perverse and inefficient ways, so it was really refreshing to hear people so wholeheartedly passionate about Bristol and the way it's run.

Cheryl (Friends of Stoke Lodge; Snuff Mills Action Group)

P.S. And as you noticed, people were very much interested in the Bristol map you displayed showing Bristol's parks and green spaces, and many took time to see how many green spaces they live near and hadn't known about. Quite a few asked where they could get one; we suggested looking for that or something similar on the BPF website.

-----

#### Trees on the Map

Further to Cheryl's comments above I have made the map of Bristol's parks more obvious on the website. You may also like to know you can also select 'Trees' as an option under 'Environment' on the left hand side. If you zoom in, the map will then show you the location of all BCC managed trees both on streets and in parks. Click on the tree and you will find its species as well as a plot number and site code. Tree stumps are also included.

-----

#### Management Plan Workshop

One thing we didn't mention at the meeting was the management plan workshop that took place the week before. The meeting was well attended and as a result at least one group is now pushing ahead with producing a management plan for their park.

One of the key messages was that you must involve your Area Environment Officer in producing the plan and also in deciding the extent of consultation that is necessary. It is important that the plans have support from as many users and local residents as possible. AEOs will be able to access information held by Bristol Parks about the site, including the results of past consultations.

It was also made clear that although there is a template that can be used the format of the plan will depend on its purpose and the size of the site. Richard Fletcher made the point that it is possible to produce a plan on one side of A4. On the other hand a large site with lots of heritage interest will need much more.

-----

#### Kings Weston

Somewhere that needs an extensive management plan is Kings Weston and work is under way to produce one. You can see the latest draft via the KWAG facebook page at [www.facebook.com/KingsWestonActionGroup](http://www.facebook.com/KingsWestonActionGroup) It is a very impressive document with lots of very interesting historical background. If you haven't been to Kings Weston yet then this should inspire you to go and look around.

-----

#### Town & Village Green Update

As Mark mentioned at the meeting the PROWG committee met on Monday. They agreed to ignore the inspector's view on the Laundry Field and allow the change to the application area so that the agreement could go ahead, there is an article from the Bristol Post here: <http://tinyurl.com/k4g53bl>  
The BPF committee submitted a statement to the meeting that can be seen here: [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFStatementPROWG080713.pdf](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFStatementPROWG080713.pdf)

The committee also considered Stoke Lodge and agreed to make a final decision at its next meeting in October as reported here <http://tinyurl.com/laelh2r>

Following the recent changes to TGV legislation through the Growth and Infrastructure Act 2013 a new Consultation on registration of new town or village greens runs until Monday 19 August 2013 and can be read here <http://tinyurl.com/lyqlzst> The new Act has restricted the right to apply for land to be a TGV where it has been listed for development of a planning application has been submitted for the land. The consultation considers extending the restrictions where land is part of a neighbourhood planning process.

-----

### RHS Wildlife Gardens Week

The RHS is urging community groups across the UK to join together to make a difference to their local biodiversity. To get involved, all you need to do is organise a volunteering event to support local wildlife between 25th and 31st October and add it to the RHS website.

The RHS suggest that groups might build a bug hotel or bat box, plant nectar-rich spring bulbs or create a 'dead hedge'. Alternatively why not set up a bird feeding station, plant fruit trees or plants with autumn berries, dig a pond or create a log pile. To help get you started the RHS will be giving the first 200 registered groups (including RHS It's Your Neighbourhood groups) that add events to the Wildlife Gardens Week website free bulbs to plant at their events.

Find out more at [www.rhs.org.uk/wildlifegardenweek](http://www.rhs.org.uk/wildlifegardenweek)

-----

### Free Conservation lectures

You may be interested in some lectures at the Zoo. They are open to all interested people free of charge. The talks span a wide range of topics and usually have a strong focus on conservation-relevant research. They are 5.30pm on Wednesdays, details are at [www.bcsf.org.uk/research-colloquium](http://www.bcsf.org.uk/research-colloquium)

-----

### State of Nature 2013

You may have seen coverage of this, if you haven't read the details there is a useful briefing from the Local Government Information unit here: <http://tinyurl.com/qb49j83>

-----

### Bristol Parks on Twitter

You may be interested to know that there is now a Bristol Parks twitter account see <https://twitter.com/bristolparks> This is part of the increasing use of Twitter by BCC. You can see their tweets without having to sign up to twitter yourself.

If you tweet them information about goings on in your park then they will retweet it to their followers. This is potentially an excellent way of promoting parks and parks events.

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

Bristol Parks Forum

[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk](http://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)

## **26 July 2013 - No 128**

In this update: BPF Website - Parks Forum Manifesto - Green Flag Awards - A Plea for Trees - Eastwood Farm Walks - Northern Slopes Walks

BPF Website

The BPF website has changed....

I set up the BPF website in January 2008 at the time when the then Labour administration was proposing to to adopt a Parks & Green Spaces Strategy with a financial model that would have required the disposal of 166 acres of Bristol's parks\*. At the time we thought the website would be needed to run a campaign. Following talks a campaign wasn't needed at that time, but we kept the website and soon afterwards I started to send out these updates.

\*'Parks' includes all publicly accessible green space.

Because of the way the website was set up I was the only person who could update it and as the information on it increased that needed more time. Also the front page has got too long and the navigation isn't as clear as it could be.

I have now changed the website so that it is run on Wordpress.

This means that several people can have logins and add posts, Mark Logan has already volunteered please let me know if you would also like to help.

The URL is unchanged so you can see the new site at [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk)

Please let us know what you think.

I will still be sending out these emails but some of the information will also be added to the website as posts and I will then just put a link to it in the email.

-----

## Parks Forum Manifesto

Following the discussions about the Green Capital success at our last meeting and the need to raise the profile of Bristol's parks and green spaces the committee are putting together a 'Manifesto' for Bristol's parks.

The Manifesto will be published on the new site once it is finalised at [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/manifesto](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/manifesto) - we hope that will be during Love Parks Week, next week.

-----

## Green Flag Awards

Also as part of Love Parks Week, this year's Green Flag Awards will be announced on Monday. The results will be posted on the new website as soon as they are released.

<http://greenflag.keepbritaintidy.org/>

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

-----

## A Plea for Trees

TreeBristol are asking for help to keep trees alive during the dry spell - they say:

'We have been increasing our watering rounds so the contractors are working flat out to ensure all the recently planted trees are being watered once a week.

However, if you have a few minutes and a handy bucket or watering-can to spare, the extra water will make a big difference to the trees during this hot weather.'

This appeal can also be seen on a Tree Information page on our new website which also includes news of a grants available for the next round of the Big Tree Plant.

See [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/information/bristols-trees/](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/information/bristols-trees/)

-----

## Eastwood Farm Walks

The next 'Wild Wednesday' walk at Eastwood farm is next week (31st July) with Ed Drewitt.

Details at <http://eastwoodfarm.org.uk/>

-----

## Northern Slopes Walks

There have also been a series of wildlife walks this year on the Northern Slopes, here are details of the next:

"Night Wings" A bats & moths night, weather permitting, on 8 August 2013.

Meeting in reception at The Park, Local Opportunity Centre, BS4 1QD.

We'll use bat detectors to find out which species hunt around the Northern Slopes, and use a lamp to attract and identify moths.

Cost - £2 per adult, £1 per child. Children under 16 must be accompanied.

Poster with more details: [www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/MothPosterAug.pdf](http://www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/MothPosterAug.pdf)

-----

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

Bristol Parks Forum

[www.bristolparksforum.org.uk](http://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)