

01 March 2010 – No 10

Hi,

H&S Training for Events

Bristol City Council are subsidising a one day entry level training course for community festival and event managers.

The course costs £20 for community organisers, and is only open to the organisers of not-for-profit groups or organisations that already/want to run their own festivals or events.

Raquib has agreed that Parks will pay for representatives of park groups that are BPF members to attend.

The event is being held on the 5th May 2010 at the Pavilion, No. 1 Hannover Quay, Harbourside, BS1 5JE

There are only 14 places on the course and spaces are going quickly.

To apply to attend please email claire.teasdale@bristol.gov.uk by 26th March 2010, with :

your name, phone number and email
your position in the group/organisation
The name and details of your organisation
The event you run/wish to run.

More details of the course can be seen here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/MES.pdf

Cabot Tower

You may have seen or heard coverage in the local media about the £400,000 repair work that is planned for Cabot Tower. There are links to some of the reports and the facebook page at www.cabottower.com

Events Licensing

One of the issues that is still to be resolved around Park Groups holding events is the question of the charge for the 'site licence'. This is currently £42 for community events. Obviously larger commercial events pay much more and this a significant income stream for Parks, together with the similar fees for filming. There is more detail about licensing in a presentation that Jenny Crook prepared for our October meeting that can be seen here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BPFOct%2009LicensingOverview.pdf

The Bristol Parks Forum Committee remain opposed to this charge being due from Park Groups for holding small scale events on their 'own' parks. We feel that it is wrong to charge for these events

which help to achieve the aims set out in the Parks & Green Spaces Strategy to encourage use of parks.

It has also been pointed out that some parks host community events organised by other groups that are currently not licensed and probably wouldn't happen if the charge had to be paid.

We will be raising this with Tracey Morgan when the BPF committee meets her next week and in the next events workshop which will be held at the end of the month.

Next BPF Meeting 10th April

We have a list of topics for the next meeting and many of these will also form the basis for our discussions with Tracey next week but it is not too late to raise any issues that you wish to be included.

One issue that has been raised is whether we can improve the way park groups learn from each other and help each other. This is of course one of the aims of the BPF meetings, I am also happy to pass on any requests for help or advice through these emails. If you have any ideas for other ways in which our communication can be improved please let us know.

BPF Membership

Groups that have returned our membership forms and are therefore official members of the BPF can now be seen via the link from the website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/#membership

If your group isn't listed or if you know of people in other groups who aren't on the list, we would still like to receive a form. Replies we receive now might still get in the printed 2010 directory and will certainly be added to the website.

Rob Acton-Campbell
BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

BPF Meetings: Saturday 10th April

at Netham Pavilion, Avonvale Road, Redfield, Bristol BS5 9RN

Saturday 17 July; Saturday 9 October - venues to be confirmed

Visit us at the Bristol Festival of Nature 12th and 13th June 2010 www.festivalofnature.org

11 March 2010 – No 11

Meeting with Tracey Morgan

The BPF Committee had a very positive and constructive meeting with Tracey Morgan earlier this week. It seems that Tracey has taken on board the comments from various groups that I have included in earlier emails and is aiming to do what she can to improve things. Tracey is holding

various meetings with Parks staff and some changes in the organisation are taking place. As Tracey mentioned at our last meeting she is hoping that the changes can be introduced by agreement rather than through formal process.

Tracey has promised to give us an update within the next couple of weeks and I will then include the details in one of these emails.

Other issues we discussed included events licensing and Parks budgets. There will be an update on these at the next BPF meeting on 10th April. We are aiming to get some information on the various issues sent out with the agenda for that meeting so that you will have time to look at it before the meeting and consider any questions you want to ask. Hopefully this will give more time for discussion.

BPF Membership

Over 50 groups are now official members of the BPF. The list can be seen at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/directory.htm

The printed version of the BPF 2010 Directory should be ready in time for the Festival of Nature.

Invasive Weeds

BCC and the Environment Agency are planning a number of Action days in May, June and July. These will see volunteers targeting the invasive plant Himalayan Balsam. I will include more details in future updates.

Drinking Fountains

At our October 2008 meeting we had an address from Tom Alcott of Frank Water, a Bristol based charity who fund sustainable clean water projects in developing countries www.frankwater.com

We have now received an update from Frank Water's Matthew Mellor who would like to invite the members of Bristol Parks Forum to join in supporting two public campaigns:

1. Drinking water in parks

This campaign is run by Sustain, the alliance for better food and farming, that is calling on local authorities to provide adequate drinking water in all public parks across the UK to ensure that children have access to free drinking water. This is part of their wider Children's Food Campaign. <http://refill.ning.com/group/drinkingwaterinparks>

2. Turn Me On - a campaign to bring back public drinking fountains in Bristol

The aim is to restore the old Victorian fountains in parks and open spaces across the city, as well as erect new ones in busy public spaces like shopping centres.

<http://refill.ning.com/group/fountains>

As part of the campaign, there is an epetition on Bristol City Council's website, which calls on the Council to "erect and maintain public drinking fountains in proper working order in the busiest public spaces across the city".

To sign the petition (and to get more information), please visit:
http://epetitions.bristol.gov.uk/epetition_core/community/petition/681

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