

07 March 2013 - No 120

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Bristol 99 Update

Latest update from Lucy Gaze:

I thought that now might be an appropriate time to give you all a Bristol99 update, as it's been a few weeks since I emailed you to introduce the project.

Well, it's good news! A BIG thank you to all of you who have jumped on board so far to help organise events. Please look at the table via the link below (and I apologise, because it is a very large one!) which shows our current progress - all the sites covered by events are highlighted in green – and as you can see, there are quite a few of them!

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/Bristol99eventsUpdate.pdf

However, a lot of sites are still unspoken for, so if any of you have ideas on how they might be incorporated, or know of groups, or individuals who might be keen to get involved, please let me know. It would be fantastic if we could arrange something on as many of these special sites as possible - there are only 99 after all!!

For those of you who are still thinking about taking part, but are worried about the organisational aspect (in particular, the time factor) please get in touch so I can explain fully how we can facilitate your event. It might be easier than you think. Likewise, if you are interested in taking part, but simply struggling for ideas, it's worth having a glance through the events below, and if you still need help, contact us and we will be delighted to suggest activities that might fit your particular site.

One last thing, some of the events are still very much in their preliminary stages, so if any of the groups involved with these, could update me as soon as details are firmed up I would be really grateful. That way, I can start publicising them on the Bristol99 website straight-away.

Once again, thanks for everyone's hard work and enthusiasm to date!

Kind regards

Lucy

lucy@bnhc.org.uk

<http://bristol99.org.uk>

Shepherds Way

Shepherds Way is an award winning wildlife show on BCfm on Wednesday evenings at 7pm. You can listen to it on 93.2fm or live and via podcasts on the BCfm website at:

<http://bcfm.org.uk/category/shows/shepherds-way>

It gets a plug, because it is great to have a show dedicated to Bristol's wildlife and because three members of the BPF committee have been on the show over the last few weeks, on 13 Feb Mark was talking about Snuff Mills, Fraser was interviewed on Brandon Hill for the 27 Feb show and then this week (6 Mar) I was in the studio with the Troopers Hill gang. All these shows can still be heard on the website.

Richard Bland is one of the regular team and next week you will be able to hear Lucy talking about Bristol 99.

There is also a facebook page at: www.facebook.com/pages/Shepherds-Way/399262763460755

If you would like to talk to Steve on the show about your green space he would be pleased to hear from you, email steve@shepherdsway.org.uk

Stoke Park Management Plan

There is a public consultation on the draft Management Plan for Stoke Park.

The online consultation is live until the 4th April:

www.citizenspace.com/bristol/bristol-city-council/stokeparkplan

Feedback can also be made verbally or in writing at the public exhibitions. For directions or access information email sarah.tyler@bristol.gov.uk

12th March 2pm – 5.30pm Stoke Park Estate, Romney Road entrance next to Play Area.

13th March 3pm – 6.30pm Thames Room, UWE Frenchay Campus

19th March 4.30pm – 7pm Cameron Centre, Lockleaze

21st March 8am – 11am Stoke Park Estate, next to fishing lake.

Why Volunteer?

We have been contacted by Sarah Plaskett, a third year occupational therapy student at Cardiff University, who is doing a research project called

"How does volunteering as part of a green community group affect the health and well-being of the volunteer and the wider community?"

She would be very grateful if you would complete her questionnaire on <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/VVQ8B7F> about green volunteering.

It is only a small number of questions, taking 10 minutes or so to answer, you might find it makes you think about why you are involved with a park group.

Rob Acton-Campbell
<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

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15 March 2013

Monitoring grounds maintenance performance

The minutes of the last BPF meeting are now on the website at
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/index.htm#meetings

At the meeting and at previous meetings we highlighted an opportunity for park groups to support monitoring of the performance of Bristol Parks contractors and in-house teams grounds maintenance teams.

Using a simple monitoring form, you can report on the park overall or on particular features. Each feature is scored as good, fair or poor with a chance to add comments and a photo if you wish.

Every month, any reports received will be taken into consideration by Bristol Parks' Monitoring Panel. The Panel meets to discuss the results of its own monitoring regime and would welcome a community view from Forum members at that meeting. By telling the Council what you think it is doing well and not-so-well, you can help officers take actions to improve things if needed.

The Panel will be meeting on 4th April to discuss ground maintenance performance in March. If you want to carry out any monitoring for your park, please make sure you send in any complete forms to monitoring@bristolparksforum.org.uk by 25th March for them to be considered by the Panel. If you have any difficulty with the form send your score and comments by email.

The form (an excel spreadsheet) and more information can be found at
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/Monitoring

If you have any questions please contact me or Chris Hammond at Bristol Parks on 0117 922 3719.

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21 March 2013 - No 121

In this update: BPF Meeting 13 April - Bristol 99 - Ashton Court Mansion - Kings Weston House - Lamplighter Marsh - Eastwood Farm & Beeses

BPF Meeting 13 April

As I mentioned in my email last week about monitoring, the minutes from the last meeting are now on the website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/index.htm#meetings

We are putting together the agenda for the next meeting over the next few days, please let us know if there is anything you would like us to include.

Bristol 99

Matt has been talking about Bristol 99 on the award winning Shepherds Way this evening, you can hear the programme on the BCfm website at <http://bcfm.org.uk/category/shows/shepherds-way>

Lucy was due to be on last week, but unfortunately she has been struck down with tonsillitis.

Ashton Court Mansion

Press Release issued by the Council today:

Ashton Court Mansion - reviving the mansion, the future starts here

Bold steps to secure the sustainable future of Ashton Court Mansion are set to be taken when a public consultation exercise is launched on Thursday, March 21, 2013.

The aim of the consultation is to ask local people, Ashton Court Estate users, interest groups and key stakeholders for their ideas and thoughts on what possible uses for the building could help secure the future of the much-loved mansion.

Visitors to the mansion will know its grand façade, the mellow stone frontage, imposing oak entrance hall and stunning reception room with magnificent fireplace. Without doubt, the Grade 1 listed mansion, set in 850 acres of historic parkland is amongst Bristol's most unique architectural gems and one of the region's best venues for weddings and corporate events.

However, behind the scenes, not too far away from the public eye, the mansion - some of it dating back over 400 years - is in need of TLC. A major restoration and conservation programme is required along with an imaginative and creative solution for its future use.

"Now is the time for us to find a viable solution to secure the mansion's future," says Councillor Simon Cook, Bristol's cabinet member for culture, sport and capital programme. "The city council can't do this alone. We need to work with all our partners and stakeholders - and we want everyone who loves and uses the mansion and the vast estate to join with us and give us their ideas. The consultation is the first step in a long process - but it's important that everyone feels they have a say in the mansion's future.

"We know that the current business-side of the mansion, like the weddings, events and conferences is successful and it has huge potential to be further developed. What we need however, is a robust plan that will put the whole mansion on a sound commercial footing that will not only stop the decay but will sympathetically restore and conserve this beautiful building for future generations to enjoy."

- Following the official launch of the Ashton Court Mansion consultation process, members of the public will be able to give their views at the mansion, or in writing and online. An exhibition will be on show at the courtyard café in Ashton Court Estate from 10am to 4pm from Thursday, March 21 to Friday, April 26.

- A copy of the exhibition will also be available for viewing and comment at: Colston Hall from Tuesday, April 2 to Monday, April 15 from 9am to 5pm; at Central Library from Tuesday, April 16 to Friday, April 19 from 10am to 5pm and at M Shed from Tuesday, April 23 to Friday, April 26 from 10am to 5pm.

- Seven drop-in sessions at the exhibition sites will take place throughout the consultation period, with staff on hand to help with any queries about the consultation. The first drop in session is on launch day, Thursday, March 21 at the mansion stable yard from 1pm to 5pm - for full details see the website www.bristol.gov.uk/acmfuture

- A special 15-minute video giving a virtual tour of the mansion with commentary is available for viewing at www.bristol.gov.uk/acmfuture

- For more information about Ashton Court Mansion and how to get involved visit www.bristol.gov.uk/acmfuture

- The consultation findings will be published in June/July 2013. The next steps will be to identify a preferred option with a business plan of how to fund the development and take it forward.

Kings Weston House

Another important Bristol house in need of TLC...

The Kings Weston Action Group (KWAG) in partnership with Norman Routledge and his new team at Kings Weston House invite the local community to come along to Kings Weston House on the

afternoon of Saturday, 6th April to take a look at the restoration challenges ahead for the Grade I Listed house and the historic parkland.

This event is the first joint project between the Kings Weston Action Group and Norman Routledge's team where both hope to showcase their aspirations together. KWAG invites its members, the local community, users of the park, and anyone with an interest in the natural history and architecture of Kings Weston to come and see how new research is informing the forthcoming Conservation Management Plan, presently being drafted by the City Council.

Norman Routledge purchased the lease of the historic building in December 2012 and this event offers the first opportunity for the public to look inside since it closed in August last year. The condition of the building deteriorated quickly during 2012 though restoration work has now started to arrest further decay. The public are invited to come along to see the condition of the house, the work already achieved, and to find out more about the plans for the future.

KWAG will be showcasing our research and conservation progress at the event which also coincides with the group's second anniversary. Over the last twenty-four months they have achieved an enormous amount through our working party events and pushing for better recognition of the public park from its owners, Bristol City Council and the National Trust, as well as with English Heritage and other national and local groups.

Meet the Neighbours will be a great opportunity for everyone to come along and get to know us a bit better. We are always keen to hear what people think of the work that's been started and we know the future of Kings Weston has to be shaped by the community that use it. The whole estate is on the verge of a really exciting time in its history. It should be a good chance for people to get involved, share their thoughts, and help us get things moving in the right direction.

Kings Weston house will be open from Noon until 4pm on Saturday 6th April and refreshments will be available in the vaulted tearooms. There will be the opportunity to tour the house including some areas not previously accessible to the public. Representatives of KWAG and Norman Routledge's new team will be available to discuss the challenges ahead and take on board any concerns as the Kings Weston 'revival' gathers pace.

Lamplighter Marsh

Bristol Parks and Estates is undertaking a public consultation with the local community and other stakeholders on a revised management plan for Lamplighters Marsh open space located on the banks of the river Avon in Shirehampton.

The public consultation closes at 5pm on Monday 15th April 2013.

Funded by Bristol's Wild City Project this management plan is a major review and update of the sites previous and current management and will be used to support the future designation of Lamplighters Marsh as a new Local Nature Reserve.

A copy of the Lamplighters Marsh draft management plan and accompanying plans and appendices and consultation questions can be down loaded from the following Bristol City Council web page:- www.citizenspace.com/bristol/consultation_finder

If you have any comments you wish to make about the draft management plan and its content you may provide these via the web site or alternatively return them by email to mark.gundry@bristol.gov.uk by the consultation deadline of 5pm Monday 15th April 2013.

This management plan which is draft only has been formatted to meet the council's standard management plan template used for other parks and open spaces. Following consultation the draft plan will be revised to take into account consultation feedback after which a final draft with photographs, plans integrated into the text and printed in colour will be prepared and circulated before final adoption by the council and the local community.

A pdf of a leaflet advertising a consultation event on the site at 2pm on Sunday (24th March) can be seen at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/Lamplighter.pdf.

Eastwood Farm & Beeses

There is an opportunity to explore another of Bristol's nature reserves on Easter Monday (1st April) when Friends of Eastwood Farm will be holding a fun day and dog show in the afternoon.

Details can be seen at www.eastwoodfarm.org.uk

The show will be on the area next to Beeses Bar & Tea Garden and the Beeses ferry will be running from Conham.

Beeses - www.beeses.co.uk - which re-opens for the season on Good Friday, are helping to organise the show along with Wild City. Beeses are strong supporters of both Friends of Eastwood Farm and Friends of Troopers Hill. During the afternoon they will be handing over cheques to both organisations with money raised for the groups from their Beer Festival and other events last year.

Beeses also donated some stone to improve the steps down to Eastwood Farm from their car parking area. The steps had been constructed originally by staff from Lloyds Bank on a team building day and the stone was added by Community Payback.

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