

01 May 2013 - No 124

In this update: Bristol 99 - BPF Committee - AEO Update - H&S Scheme - Bristol Walking Festival - Barefoot Coaching - Life Cycle UK

Bristol 99

Bristol 99 is launching at the weekend with the Bristol Bio-Blitz at Kings Weston, there are then events all over Bristol leading up to the Festival of Nature on the 14th / 16th June.

More details on these websites:

Bristol 99 - <http://bristol99.org.uk>

Bristol Bio-Blitz - <http://bristol99.org.uk/bristol-bioblitz>

New KWAG website - www.kwag.org.uk/

Festival of Nature - www.festivalofnature.org

BPF Committee

Alison Bromilow has been an active member of the BPF committee ever since it was formed and has been chair and vice-chair in the past. As you probably know she is also a leading member of the Bristol Planning Network and (like all of us) is involved in many other groups and committees.

Alison has decided that the time has come to leave the BPF committee and focus on these other activities.

Alison's input and knowledge will be missed but she has promised to keep us informed of any relevant planning issues and I'm sure we will be asking her to explain some of the mysteries of planning to us from time to time.

I'm sure you will join me and the rest of the committee in thanking Alison for all the work she has put into the BPF over the years. Certainly I wouldn't have got so involved if it hadn't been for her enthusiasm and encouragement.

The BPF committee as it stands at the moment is:

Chair - Nancy from Kingfisher Group & Windmill Hill Community Orchard

Vice Chair - Fraser from Friends of Brandon Hill

Other committee members:

Rob, Friends of Troopers Hill;

Roland, Mina Rd Park Group;

Hugh, Mina Road Park Group;

Mark, Snuff Mills Action Group;

Derek, Friends of Stoke Lodge;

Lesley, Friends of St George Park.

Emails sent to info@bristolparksforum.org.uk will be seen by all committee members. Please use this address rather than mine when replying to these emails as that will ensure that someone will see it if I am away.

AEO Update

An updated map with names and contact details for Area Environment Officers is on our website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AEOMapApril13.pdf

H&S Scheme

As announced by Richard Fletcher at the last meeting, a review of the Health & Safety process for groups to be able to carry out work in Bristol's parks while being covered by BCC insurance has confirmed that it can continue in its present form.

Richard is going to organise some training sessions. Once you have had the training you can lead groups to carry out work provided a work plan and risk assessment is agreed with Bristol Parks beforehand. Only one person from the group needs to have done the training, but it is a good idea to have two or three people qualified to cover in the event of illness etc.

The training gives you a piece of paper saying that you are a 'competent person' which is valid for three years.

Bristol Walking Festival

This festival starts next weekend has lots of opportunities to explore Bristol's parks & green spaces, find out more at www.bristolwalkingfestival.co.uk

Barefoot Coaching

Fraser mentioned Barefoot Coaching at the last meeting. They provide coaching for community groups as well as running courses.

General flyer about the coaching: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BarefootCoaching.pdf

Flyer with course details and dates: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/BarefootCourses.pdf

Below is a bit more information about the coaches and some examples of groups that they have worked with:

The coaches are volunteers and will agree with the group the amount of time they will work with

them when they first meet and then review this at the end of this period. They work with groups to assess what their current need is and then signpost and support them to move forward. They will agree an action plan and the signposting will be to specialist support organisation with detailed knowledge in the particular area. The coach will then support them in implementing the info that they get, as the support organisations often do not have resources to do this.

If the coach identifies a training need they can support the group in both finding the training and funding it.

Examples of previous groups include:

Local community action groups – support with becoming constituted, fundraising and developing projects

Pressure / campaigning groups – support with formulating campaigns, signposting, group dynamics

Emerging social enterprises – assisting groups to work as a team, share responsibilities and workload, signposting to specialist support and assisting them to use the info given

They can work with any group that fits with the following:

- * A group should be at least 2 people but preferably more and be either new or emerging
- * The group does not need to be constituted or have a formal agreement of how they work.
- * The group must have charitable or social aims in the work that they aim to do but they do not have to be a registered charity
- * Emerging groups will be looking to take the next step in their development. They will either want to or need to make a change in the way that they operate. This could include stepping up their level of activity, increasing their area of operation or becoming more prominent in their local area in the work that they do.
- * All groups will have in common that they are currently operating under the radar of VCS infrastructure organisations and are not fully linked in to the support that they can provide.

Life Cycle UK

Local charity Life Cycle UK is seeking donations of unwanted bikes to refurbish. The charity's innovative "BikeBack" project takes unused bikes and teaches prisoners at Horfield Prison how to fix them up, getting old bikes back on the road at affordable prices. BikeBack:

- * Saves old bikes from landfill
- * Teaches prisoners new skills
- * Helps people on low incomes start cycling

But the project needs your unwanted bikes to keep going!

To donate your unwanted bike, or find details of upcoming refurbished bike sales see:
<http://www.lifecycleuk.org.uk/bike-recycling> or email bikebackinfo@lifecycleuk.org.uk

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

Bristol Parks Forum

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2013 meeting dates: Sat 29 June - Sat 12 October - Both 9.30am at Windmill Hill City Farm.

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

31 May 2013 - No 125

In this update: BPF Meetings - Festival of Nature - Bristol 99 - Bristol Zoo Walk of Fame - Northern Slopes

BPF Meetings

The minutes from the last meeting are now on the website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/#meetings along with notes from the workshop sessions.

If you received these minutes from Bristol Parks, please note that it is the charity GreenSpace that has folded, not the National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces which is intending to continue despite the loss of support from GreenSpace.

We are now finalising the agenda for the next meeting on 29th June, please let us know in the next few days if there is anything you want included.

Unfortunately we have still not been able to find a date for the workshop on Management Plans when everybody who will be involved in running it is available - there seems to be too much happening in Bristol at weekends! However, it has not been forgotten.

Festival of Nature

Bristol Parks Forum will again have a stand at this year's festival. If you would be willing to man the stand for us for a 2hr session on either the Saturday or Sunday, please email info@bristolparksforum.org.uk letting us know when you would be available.

The Festival is open 10am to 6pm on Saturday 15th June and 11am to 5pm on the Sunday so there are 4 sessions on the Saturday and three on the Sunday.

If you volunteer to man the stand then you can of course also advertise your own park and park group. If you have any leaflets or posters you would like displayed then please drop them off at the stand on the Saturday morning.

More details on the Festival at www.festivalofnature.org

Bristol 99

Bristol 99 continues with four events this weekend at the Downs & Snuff Mills on Saturday and

Long Cross Tip & Badock's Wood on Sunday.

More details at - <http://bristol99.org.uk>

Bristol Zoo Walk of Fame

Congratulations to Steve England, who now appears on the Zoo Walk of Fame having won in the category as 'Local Conservation Educator'.

The full list of those on the Walk of Fame can be found here:
www.bristolzoo.org.uk/walk-of-fame-icons

Northern Slopes

Redevelopment plans at Kingswear are still threatening some of the wonderful green space that forms the Northern Slopes.

You can read the latest news on the NSI website at :
www.northern-slopes-initiative.co.uk/Kingswearthehedgehog

This also includes a link to the recent story in the Bristol Post. Following a BPF committee meeting a couple of weeks ago the committee wrote to support the groups position.

Rob Acton-Campbell

<http://twitter.com/RobCrewsHole>

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