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In this update: Ambling on the Northern Slopes - New Play Areas - Festival of Nature Events - Bristol Walking Festival - Rethinking Parks

Ambling on the Northern Slopes

A message from the NSI

We said we would be inviting people from the BPF – that means anyone from any group in the BPF....to a walk.

Thanks to our friends at KWMC where we have been having an art exhibition relating to the Slopes.....we have a walk with a bit of a difference....

Knowle West Media Centre invites you for a ramble around South Bristol to explore and celebrate the wild green spaces of the Northern Slopes. Join expert forager Trudi Clarke and Bristol's famous Ambling Band on Thursday 15th May for 'Wild City goes for a walk'.

The event will take in some of South Bristol's green spaces and will include the installation of a new artwork created by the local community and artist Synnove Fredericks. These "Portals to the Slopes" will form a novel navigation system to encourage people to discover the delights of these sometimes overlooked places. The event will conclude with a picnic and drinks on the Slopes so bring a blanket and something to share if you can. All welcome - suitable for families and young children.

The event is free but please let us know if you plan to come. Please call us on 0117 903 0444 or e-mail jen.rolfe@kwmc.org.uk

The walk will leave from Knowle West Media Centre, Leinster Avenue, at 6pm and will return there. It will last approximately 1.5 hours. Please wear footwear and clothing suitable for a countryside walk.

New Play Areas

News of two play areas which are being funded with the Capital Stimulus money that was agreed back in 2012.

At Horfield Common work started on the new play area in early April and there will be an official opening on Saturday 24th May at 10am.

Meanwhile work has started on the redevelopment of Albany Green in Montpelier which includes a new MUGA, new young children's play equipment, new pathways and grassed areas. This should be completed within about 12 weeks.

You can see the plans here: www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/AlbanyGreenFinalDesign.pdf

Festival of Nature Events

The Festival of Nature website has been updated and now has full details of all the outreach events that Lucy Gaze mentioned at our last meeting, go to www.bnhc.org.uk/festival-of-nature-type/events

They start with Oldbury Court Explorers Day on 18th May and include events at Brislington Meadows - 26th May; Brandon Hill - 27th May; Horfield Common - 31st May; Dundry Slopes - 1st June; Stoke Park - 21st June; Stockwood Open Space - 29th June; Kings Weston 6th July; The Downs - 12th July; Narrowways - 13th July; Magpie Bottom - 20th July and Callington Road - 26th July.

We are still looking for volunteers for our Festival of Nature stand over the weekend of 14th/15th June. Please email me if you are able to help out and also if you have any leaflets or other information that you would like to be displayed.

Bristol Walking Festival

A reminder that the Walking Festival is currently happening with walks at green spaces throughout Bristol, the programme can be downloaded at www.bristolwalkingfestival.co.uk The website also has some updates and a list of the walks that are now fully booked. The Festival runs until 26th May.

Rethinking Parks

As Fraser mentioned at our meeting one of the projects that we put forward to the Nesta Rethinking Parks scheme has been selected to go forward to the second stage.

The project is called 'Park Work Bristol' and 'will provide opportunities for recovering drug or alcohol dependents, ex-offenders, asylum seekers, patients with mental health issues and other marginalised members of the community to gain experience, qualifications and horticultural skills, while providing a volunteer work force to increase the human resource for Bristol's parks'.

The project has the full support of Bristol Parks and partners include the Severn Project and the SOFA Project. George Ferguson has also given his support.

You can find out more on a video produced as part of the submission here:
<https://vimeo.com/93379217>

Fraser has been leading on putting the application together (as he did in putting together the first stage applications) and it is clear from the application form that this involved a lot of work. Fingers crossed that we are successful.

More details about Rethinking Parks can be seen here: www.nesta.org.uk/project/rethinking-parks

Rob Acton-Campbell