

05 November 2012 - No 111

In this update: Don't forget to vote! - Public Parklets - Green Volunteers Awards - Tim Denning, KWAG

Don't forget to vote!

Mayoral & PCC Elections 15th November

I have now added the candidates' responses to questions asked by the Tree Forum to our website at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/#mayor

There are also the answers we have received to questions from the BPF (including an additional candidate since my last email) and links to other information about the election, including PCC candidates.

Public Parklets

A video on the Design Bristol website about San Francisco, with some ideas the new Mayor might want to try, including 'public parklets' - <http://tinyurl.com/azfhpcc>

Green Volunteers Awards

Nominations are now open for the Green Volunteers Awards 2012 (the closing date is 25th November).

The Green Volunteers Bristol Awards are an annual celebration of the achievements of the past year for green volunteers and organisations alike, they will be presented at an Awards Ceremony on December 5th.

Nominations can be made via the Green Volunteers website at www.greenvolunteersbristol.co.uk/green-volunteers-awards-nominations-2012

Tim Denning, KWAG

I end this update with some sad news. I have mentioned Kings Weston Action Group (KWAG) several times in these emails; they have very quickly become a very active group. It came as a shock to hear of the sudden death of one of their co-founders, Tim Denning. Tim was only 47 and his loss is obviously a massive blow to his family, friends and everyone involved with KWAG.

David Martyn sent this message to KWAG members:

'Some of you will have known Tim through emails, perhaps met him at KWAG events, or at one of the dozens of meetings that KWAG attends that go unreported, but that KWAG exists at all is

entirely due to his enthusiasm and efforts. Since it's founding Tim had been instrumental in turning KWAG from a couple of aimless Vanbrugh enthusiasts into a thriving active and respected action group. His passion and commitment to Kings Weston were tireless. Much of the work in designing and producing our newsletters, exhibitions, walking guides and flyers was done by him. Tim developed and nurtured our relationship with the National Trust, the University of Bristol, and groups in Sea Mills and Lawrence Weston and was always innovating new ideas and directions that KWAG could explore to promote and restore the estate.

He also contributed massively to our understanding of the history of the Kings Weston. Tim confessed he hated history at school but quickly got bitten by a passion for Kings Weston and could fill the KWAG email inbox with twenty emails in a day detailing new discoveries or new strands of research to explore. Amongst his most important discoveries were letters detailing C17th plants being sent from America to the estate, relationships between the Southwell's and other plant collectors, and a great deal of new material relating to the Family's Irish and Continental connections. He was always identifying new archives to explore, turning up undiscovered illustrations of the estate, and most recently uncovered connections between Kings Weston and the Scientist Robert Hooke that are summarised in this edition of the newsletter.

Tim's sudden passing has come as a massive blow both to KWAG and those who knew him personally. So fundamental was his role it is impossible to separate the extent of Tim's achievements from KWAGs. In the days running up to his death we were working producing the next newsletter and it seems appropriate to issue it now as a celebration of just a few of those achievements. The scale of what he achieved for the Kings Weston Action Group can't be underestimated and he leaves a massive hole that will be impossible to fill. KWAG will continue in its efforts to promote, conserve and enhance Kings Weston with renewed cause and determination in his memory.' Tim's funeral will be held at 1.30pm, on Wednesday, at South Bristol Crematorium, followed by a wake at the Concorde pub, Stockwood.

There is also a tribute to Tim in today's Post which can be seen here: <http://tinyurl.com/TimDenning>

The KWAG facebook page is at www.facebook.com/KingsWestonActionGroup

Rob Acton-Campbell

BPF

www.bristolparksforum.org.uk

2013 meetings: Sat 19 January - Sat 13 April - Sat 29 June - Sat 12 October

(all 9.30 to 12.30, venues tbc)

22 November 2012 - No 112

In this update: Mayor of Bristol - Green Volunteers Awards - KWAG Success - Growth and Infrastructure Bill - GreenSpace Update - Events for 2013 - Cycling in Parks

Mayor of Bristol

So we now have a Mayor of Bristol. Congratulations George!

We have written inviting George Ferguson to the next BPF meeting and we look forward to working with him and whoever is given responsibility for parks in his new cabinet.

The Mayor of Bristol now has his own section of the BCC website at www.bristol.gov.uk/mayor

A reminder that you can see his answers to the questions we submitted to all the Mayoral candidates at www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/MayorResponses/GeorgeFerguson.pdf

Green Volunteers Awards

The Green Volunteers Bristol Awards are an annual celebration of the achievements of the past year for green volunteers and organisations alike. Nominations for the 2012 awards close on Sunday (25th November).

Nominations can be made via the Green Volunteers website at www.greenvolunteersbristol.co.uk/green-volunteers-awards-nominations-2012 where the categories are listed.

There is also 'The Mayor's Choice Award 2012' to be presented by George Ferguson to an individual or group who has helped to bring together others by creating opportunities for everyone to get involved. The Mayor will chose the winner of this category from the nominations received in the other categories.

The winners of the awards will be announced at the Awards Ceremony;
5th of December, 7:00-9:30pm The Station, Silver Street, BS1 2AG, Bristol
Everyone is welcome to attend the event, but you must confirm your attendance to be added to the guest list.

KWAG Success

Following the untimely passing of Tim Denning, it is great to be able to pass on some good news about Kings Weston. The group has been awarded a Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) 'All Our Stories' grant of £10,000. This is to organise a 24-hour 'bio-blitz' with volunteers surveying the biodiversity of the estate.

More details are in the group's press release which can be seen here:
www.bristolparksforum.org.uk/KWAGpressrelease.pdf

The KWAG facebook page is at www.facebook.com/KingsWestonActionGroup

Growth and Infrastructure Bill

This Bill is currently going through Parliament. Included in it are proposals to change the law in respect of the designation of Town or Village Greens. This follows the consultation that Defra ran last year. In particular it will prevent applications on land with current planning applications or which have been designated for development in a local plan or draft plan.

The Bill can be seen here:

<http://services.parliament.uk/bills/2012-13/growthandinfrastructure.html>

The Public Bill Committee will meet on 22 November 2012, 27 November 2012 and 29 November 2012 to hear oral evidence. The Public Bill Committee will then scrutinise the Bill line by line.

The Public Bill Committee is expected to report to the House by 6 December 2012.

The view of the Open Spaces Society can be seen here

www.oss.org.uk/changes-to-village-green-law-will-not-fit-the-bill

Following discussions at our last committee meeting the BPF committee has made a submission to the Public Bill Committee examining the Bill, we can only publish our submission after it has been published on the Public Bill Committee webpage if they choose to do so.

GreenSpace Update

The latest GreenSpace Community update can be seen here <http://tinyurl.com/d8e1e12>

Events for 2013

Message from the Parks Events team:

Dear Event Organisers,

The clocks have gone back, the heating is slowly getting turned up more each week and its definitely glove weather. Spring / Summer 2012 is now just a distant memory - but what a Summer!

You all did Bristol proud, despite terrible weather we had an amazing year of events that saw loads of you pull together some spectacular 'Street Events' , Brisfest returned to Ashton Court, We had The Torch relay, The Olympics, See no Evil, Love Saves the Day, Eat Drink Bristol Fashion, Zombie walks and Day of the dead festival, Food Fayres, Thai festivals, Fun runs, Marathons.... I could go on.

You are all a credit to the city, animating our Parks and Open Spaces and showing the rest of the UK that Bristol is a city that leads rather than follows.

So onto 2013 - Many of you have already got in touch with us here to let us know you wish to return next summer and where possible existing bookings have been honoured, but we are yet to hear from lots of you.

Please drop me a quick line to state your intentions for 2013 - are you planning anything we should be aware of? Perhaps you know of someone that would benefit from a chat or a workshop?

The diary is quickly filling up with requests but we still have lots of opportunities at:

Castle Park
Blaise Estate
Stoke Park
Queen Square
Eastville Park

Now is the best time to contact the team as we are on hand to offer support and talk in more detail about next year. Don't be a 'Last minute Larry' and wait till March to speak to us as you may miss out!

The team would like to take this opportunity to thank each and everyone one of you for your dedication and hard work in 2012. We are looking forward to working with you in 2013.

Regards

Peter Watts
Events Licencing Team
G 27 - Council House
College Green
Opening Hours 9 - 4 Mon, Tues , Thur and fri. Closed Wednesday.
0117 9223466

Cycling in Parks

While on the subject of events in parks, you may have seen the story about this in 'The Post'
<http://tinyurl.com/d654emt>

More details, including minutes of the meeting with Bristol Parks have been published here:
<http://tinyurl.com/boxms9v>

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