

St Andrews Park update for the January meeting of the BCR N.P.

The Friends of St Andrews Park have been as busy as ever during 2012. Here are some bullet points giving details of our activities & work over the year:

- In May we organised a Baroque concert in St Bart's church which was attended by some 220 people and raised £246 for the organ restoration fund, and in November we organised a Ceilidh in the church hall. Nearly 100 people came to this and we raised £560 for Temwa, a Bristol-based charity which raises funds for sustainable community development in Malawi.
- In previous alternate years on a Sunday afternoon in early July, we have organised a ParkArts event at which local music and art activities are showcased. In 2013 we have decided to stage instead a Theatre-in-the-Park day which will provide a range of drama and performance events. We understand that our application to NP Wellbeing Fund for a full grant of £4,000 for the day has been short-listed by the N.P. Wellbeing Fund panel.
- In July 2011 the park was awarded Green Flag status by a panel of independent visiting judges, bringing the total number of parks within Bristol so awarded to 11. In order to maintain this status, there is an annual inspection by the judges and we were again successful this year.
- In 2010 we received grants towards the cost of six new high quality Interpretation boards, a Finger post, a locally-designed and made Community Noticeboard, and a state-of-the-art GPS Audio Guide system, with commentary by local celebrity John Telfer - who plays the Vicar of Ambridge in *The Archers*. The grants were made up of one from the National Lottery fund for £15,500, one from the BCC Parks Dept for £5,000 and one from the BC & R Neighbourhood Partnership for £5000. With the exception of the Audio Guide, which we expect to be installed by the end of January 2013, everything is now in place.
- We continue to enjoy good relations with the BCC Parks Dept and much help from our Redland Councillor, Fi Hance. We have recently agreed a draft design for the installation of fencing, together with two pairs of double gates, at the main Effingham Road entrance. This is in response to our longstanding concern for child safety with scooters, sledges, bicycles and skateboards at this entrance. We have also agreed a proposal with the Parks Dept for a Chicane to be installed at the entrance at the junction of Leopold Road and Effingham Road, for the same reason. We

understand that the costs of both these projects will be met from a combination of S106 and Capital Stimulus Fund budgets.

- A long-standing concern to the FoSAP has been the anti-social behaviour that takes place in the park during good weather. Although this was limited during 2012 by the rainy summer, meetings were held with BCC Environmental Health officers and the Redland beat police, to try to resolve means of dealing with it. The consensus among FoSAP members was that when there was a police presence in and around the park, this greatly reduced amount of ASB. Further meetings to improve things, again with BCC officers and the police, are planned commencing in February 2013.

- Representatives from the FoSAP generally attend quarterly meetings of the Bristol Parks Forum, who liaise at management level with BCC Parks Dept officers. The BPF sends us monthly updates of discussions with, and actions of, the BPF.

- We have always been active in reporting graffiti in the park, with one of our committee taking responsibility for reporting any instances to BCC. With the co-operation of our full-time park-keeper we have managed to keep graffiti down to a minimum throughout the park at all times.

- This summer saw the installation of a concrete table tennis table at the top of the play area. We successfully applied for this as part of a city-wide introduction by the “Ping! Bristol” campaign under the auspices of the BCC Sport and Health Development dept. We are grateful to the “Tea Garden” café in the park for the free provision of bats and balls.

- The finances of the FoSAP are as follows:

- Wellington Bomber Memorial Maintenance & Repair Fund - £917
- Pond area - Maintenance & Repair Fund - £1,212
- Wildlife area planting funds given by BCR NP - £570
- Balance of uncommitted funds - £686
- Park Arts reserves for future events - £1,229

J.M. 3.1.13

FoSAP Wildlife Group Report to the BCR N.P. Jan 2013.



In October this year we planted more bulbs in the Shady area as part of a 3-year NP grant. Our NP grant June 2012 application for planting a sunny bank with primroses and cowslips has been approved, and in December we received the money from the NP.

In November we applied to the NP for a grant to improve access to the wildlife pond. We received advice from several BCC staff, and hope that our

application for S106/Capital Stimulus Fund to provide decking will be successful.

Information posters at the pond are provided regularly by Friends.

The Children's Nature Guide board shown to the right has been installed in the Play area. It was written by a FoSAP member and designed for FoSAP by local artist Beth Morafon to encourage children to explore the park's wildlife.



St Andrews Park was the first park in the BCR group to be allocated a Tree Plan. FoSAP met with the BCC TreeBristol officer, Josie Sadler, in October. We went on a walkabout with her, when she noted our suggestions for 19 additional trees. We await the public consultation phase.

After the summer break in meetings, Des Bowring has again led regular bird watching groups in the park on the 3rd Sunday in the month.

J.C./S.R. 3.1.13

Redland & Cotham Amenities Society report.

At the RCAS AGM, Clive Stevens and Alison Bromilow were re-elected as the RCAS Reps to the NP

- The headline speaker was Clive with a talk called "trees - our growing concern". Clive re-iterated the reasons for more urban tree cover and highlighted the need to plant more street trees, engage better with local schools and the develop some form of replacement approach for garden trees. He finished by asking (and receiving) some money for a new street tree.

The RCAS Planning group monitors planning applications, responds to pre application approaches from developers, circulates notifications about particular planning and licensing applications to members and generally takes an interest in any local projects that have an impact on the local environment, such as the residents parking schemes.

RCAS registered its disappointment that BCC had not engaged more effectively in more detailed discussions with local residents about the location of **the signage for the Cotham Controlled Parking Scheme**. We will write to BCC to try to ensure that the approach to signage for future extensions of the scheme north into Redland would be better coordinated.

RCAS has been advising residents of Hampton Park who report that they are suffering from more than the usual levels of late night anti-social behaviour by the student population which uses their street as a main route to return to their homes in the surrounding area, and also with residents of Manor Road who report noise problems from some student houses.

RCAS continues its efforts to help the development of the Friends of **Cotham Gardens** group and is working with Parks officers to ensure that a broad section of the local community is consulted on the use of the grant for the new equipment in the children's play area at **Redland Green**.

The scheme to improve the appearance of the Cotham Hill/ Whiteladies Gate shopping area with hanging baskets from early June to late October is developing apace. A 'Cotham in Bloom' sub-committee has been established consisting of Gillian Penrose (for RCAS), Clare Adani (for traders) and Jill White (for residents). Traders will be asked to sponsor hanging baskets and residents will be invited to make donations. RCAS will subsidise the scheme in its first year.

RCAS intends to take forward the proposal to install a notice board and placemaker at the junction of Whiteladies Road and Cotham Hill, Whiteladies Gate, this year.

Report from Bristol Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network for B.C.R. Neighbourhood Partnership January 2013 meeting

Nationally, Neighbourhood Watch has been awarded the prestigious Queen's Diamond Jubilee Volunteering Award in recognition of its work as one of the largest voluntary movements in England and Wales. Neighbourhood Watch is one of best known crime preventative initiatives across the UK. www.ourwatch.org.uk

The Chairman of National Neighbourhood Watch said: 'Volunteers by their very definition, are the people who develop community cohesion in their own time and it is this which brings people together to tackle crime issues and anti-social behaviour. It is the grassroots membership who deserve this award for their enthusiasm, hard work and commitment to preventing and reducing crime'.

The Bristol Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network, (BNHWN) is a city-wide network, set up by NW co-ordinators in June 2011, to provide a focus for all NHW schemes in Bristol, as well as a source of help, guidance, advice and support on all NHW matters outside of Neighbourhood Policing issues.

The Network acts as a united voice in local, regional and national discussions on the development and work of Neighbourhood Watch schemes.

People join Neighbourhood Watch to make the areas in which they live safe, friendly and pleasant places to be – and it works. The old stereotype of the Neighbourhood Watch 'curtain twitcher' is wrong for a very simple reason: it implies fear.

Neighbourhood Watch is about the opposite: making sure that no one has to feel afraid, vulnerable or isolated in the place where they live. It's about people looking out for each other, crossing barriers of age, gender, race and class to create real communities that benefit everyone.

To explode another myth, Neighbourhood Watch groups are owned and run by the people of their communities, not the police. So the approach taken is entirely up to them. The most impressive Neighbourhood Watch achievements result from members looking closely at the needs of their communities and meeting them with innovative and creative thinking.

The results can really be something to be proud of. Communities where Neighbourhood Watch operates become more friendly and cohesive and, research shows, experience a fall in crime.

The aim of the BNHWN Network is to develop a committee comprising of one Co-ordinator plus a deputy from each of the fourteen Neighbourhood Partnership areas

so that issues from across the whole city can be addressed and there is a balanced representation. At present, there are only two Neighbourhood Partnerships not represented on the Network

An early action taken by the Network was to join VOSCUR which has enabled some committee members to attend Training Courses.

A dedicated Network website has been set up which provides help and advice.
www.bristolnhwnetwork.org.uk

The Network does not have a funding stream as all Bristol Neighbourhood Watches are automatically members of the Network so there is no membership fee. To date it has been run on donations from some Watches.

Funding initiatives this year have included open gardens and production of a 2013 calendar.

In recognition of the need for NW Co-ordinators to be “computer wise” two successful well being bids allowed the Network to commission from BCC adult education service a specific computer and mentoring course for NW co-ordinators from Dundry View NP and Stoke Bishop/ Westbury on Trym / Henleaze NP.

Recently the Avon and Somerset police have agreed to share their data base which will allow the Network communication access to all NW co-ordinators .

Liz Kew on behalf of Bristol Neighbourhood and Home Watch Network

January 2013