



Newsletter May 2019

Brighton and Hove Green Spaces Forum (BHGSF) is a volunteer organisation providing an independent voice and communication hub for volunteer groups working with Brighton & Hove's parks and open spaces.

Volunteers working in Brighton & Hove's Green Spaces – Insurance & Supervision

The following statement has been supplied by CityParks and is aimed at clarifying insurance arrangements and the level of supervision required for volunteer working. This in support of the Council's Volunteering Policy '*aim to create a consistent approach to volunteering*' and its 2017 Open Spaces Strategy (section 3.7 - Volunteering).

'Volunteers will be insured to work on council land if an appropriate council officer, or a suitably trained volunteer is in charge of the task. A first aider should be present and the work has to be agreed with the appropriate council officer. This is to ensure that appropriate risk assessments have been done and any control measures identified in them are in place. In the case where volunteers are working individually and not in a group (such as the Tidy up Team or path wardens) they will be covered if they have had suitable training and are following that training.'

Most green space volunteer groups will already meet the above requirements; with the work they are doing agreed by an appropriate council officer (eg CityParks Gardener). Many groups also now have a member who has completed the CityParks run 'Green Space Volunteer Leadership' training course and enjoy being able to work independently.

Groups with any questions about the statement, or who have individuals wishing to attend Volunteer Leadership training, can contact CityParks or B & H Green Spaces Forum.



Green space volunteers working with CityParks Gardener George Harris.

GreenSpace Volunteer Questionnaire – Results are out!

Earlier this year the BHGSF commissioned a group of Brighton University business students to undertake a membership questionnaire to help identify BHGSF member uptake of the Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) Green Spaces Volunteer Leadership Training Course (including associated First Aid package).

In addition to the insight the questionnaire results give to both The Forum and CityParks, it is hoped they will also support the Council's Volunteering Policy '*aim to create a consistent approach to volunteering*' and Open Spaces Strategy (section 3.7 – Volunteering).

A key objective was to understand the benefits of training received by green space volunteers, it also provided an opportunity to identify wishes and issues. The Forum will use the results to support the furtherance of training opportunities for its members.

The questionnaire was sent out to 75 BHGSF member groups with responses from 45. A summary of the results has been Emailed to all BHGSF member groups. The full set of reports from the survey can be found on our Forum Resources page at <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/resources/>



The BHGSF 2019 worked with Brighton University students to deliver the volunteer questionnaire.

Recent Member Events

Over thirty groups attended the Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Open Forum meeting and AGM in January. Every group gave an overview of their successes and their challenges. It was agreed that bi-annual member meeting would be beneficial. Detailed Minutes of the meeting can be found on our Forum Resources page at <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/resources/>

Our Spring Seminar was held at Brighthelm on 6th March with nearly 100 people in attendance. The slides used by Professor Dave Goulson and Head Gardener Steve Peters can be found on our Forum Resources page at <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/resources/>



Members and guests at the BHGSF 2019 Spring Seminar.

Fields in Trust Picnic Day – Saturday 6th July

The Friends of Regency Square have registered to take part in this event. It is their first venture and they are looking for tips from Forum members on how to run the event. ie has anyone provided a tray service of ice creams, a tea urn or a share table for those picnickers who may have brought spare provisions? Does anyone know of a strolling minstrel? Any tips gratefully received contact Neil Rosborough *Secretary of The Friends of Regency Square* friendsofregencysquare@gmail.com

Register for your picnic here to receive a free ‘Have a Field Day’ pack to help with your planning. As well as inspiration cards, tree spotting and bug hunt cards, as well as some bunting so the kids can get involved with decorating! There's also a couple of posters - why not let others know about your picnic and invite the community along!

http://www.fieldsintrust.org/have-a-field-day?utm_source=Sign-Up.to&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=28620-288703-Have+a+Field+Day+launch



Volunteer - Community Works

<https://www.bhcommunityworks.org.uk/volunteer/>

Community Work's mission is to connect people, business, organisations and local government in our local community for positive results.

They provide a great platform of support resources for volunteer groups. This including a search facility for potential volunteers as well as guidance on how to attract new volunteers. Altogether a great place to find all sorts of useful things for volunteers..



The BHGSF is a Community Works member and partner.

The National Federation of Parks and Green Spaces – 2019 AGM

<https://www.natfedparks.org.uk/members/>

Green Spaces Forums from all over the country, including us, met in March in Birmingham to share views and call for better public funding for our green spaces.

Some good news is that the BHGSF have been asked to host a National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces (NFPGS) regional conference in Brighton. This will happen later in this year and all members will be invited. Watch this space for further information on what looks to be a very interesting agenda.

Other good news is that Michelle Furtado from the Worthing and Adur Green spaces partnership is now in post as the new national NFPGS networks co-ordinator. We look forward to working with Michelle to the benefit of all our members.



Brighton & Hove – Active for Life Programme

The new free Brighton & Hove ‘Summer 2019 Active for Life Programme’ is now out. This includes a fully updated Healthwalks schedule.

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/6638%20Get%20Active%20Programme%20Summer%202019%20AW%20ONLINE.pdf>



Maximise the exposure of your events and news items!

It is now easy for any green space group to upload details of Events they are holding or News items they have onto the Forum's events calendar and newsboard at <http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk> .

To add Events, click on 'Submit your event' and complete the form presented, you can also upload an image or poster associated with the event (must be a photo or 'jpg' type image). To add News items just click on 'Submit your news'..

To use this facility you will need to register on the website, but only once. Then it's just a case of logging in after clicking the submit event or news buttons.. If you are not registered already, the site will prompt you on what steps to take..

Please do EMail the Forum at bhgsforum@gmail.com with any questions



The BHGSF website Home page colourfully displays member group events every month.

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