



## Newsletter September 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.

### New volunteer leaders

Fifty Forum members are now accredited by Brighton & Hove Council as green space volunteer leaders. We think this is impressive! This accreditation entitles them to independently lead work sessions for green space groups working on council land. This unique, Council led, day-long course covers the basics of tool use, risk assessment, health and safety plus general advice on leading groups of volunteers on workdays. The next course will take place in November. Contact: CityParks Ranger: [emma.keane@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:emma.keane@brighton-hove.gov.uk)

### Wildflower haven

More than 30 wild flower enthusiasts turned up to the launch of Brighton's Wild Flower Conservation Society on a sunny August afternoon in a wild flower meadow in Stanmer Park. John Gapper, Brighton's legendary 'green man' and his son, Mark Gapper, a CityParks gardener, explained what they are doing to propagate wild flowers from locally collected seeds for planting out across the city. If you are interested in finding out more or getting involved contact: [wildflower.brighton@gmail.com](mailto:wildflower.brighton@gmail.com)



## Trees please

Local resident, Luke Jones works as a tree warden for the Tree Council, a network that works across the UK helping local councils with tree related concerns. Recently Luke, helped by eight volunteers from the Friends of Woodbourne Meadows, planted 600 native tree whips alongside a fence line below Ditchling road. 'We started at 9am in the morning and we were done by 1pm,' said Luke.' This was achieved very simply and efficiently at zero cost to the taxpayer.'

Luke wants to see similar initiatives in other green spaces to support efforts to provide more habitable space for wildlife and increase biodiversity across the city, as well as adding interest and variety to the landscape. Contact: [lukequade3d@hotmail.com](mailto:lukequade3d@hotmail.com)



## Elm disease spreads

Brighton's National Elm Collection is threatened with an increase this year in the deadly Dutch elm disease – a tiny beetle which spreads bacteria resulting in the leaves turning yellow or brown or having a scorched look during the growing season. Once the fungus reaches the roots the tree has to be felled and removed to stop the disease spreading. You may have seen trees in parks and road-sides which have recently had their trunks girdled – this is a temporary technique to arrest the disease's progress before the tree has to be felled. Dozens of trees have been felled this year. Thirty in Coldean woods.



Residents are being urged to stop buying mixed bags of logs for wood burning stoves which may contain elm logs. Many of these logs may contain the deadly bark beetle and if the logs are stored for any length of time the beetles emerge and fly to breed elsewhere. If you are worried about an Elm tree, or you suspect your logs may be affected, contact B&H Council's [alister.peters@brighton-hove.gov.uk](mailto:alister.peters@brighton-hove.gov.uk) .

## Seed Swap



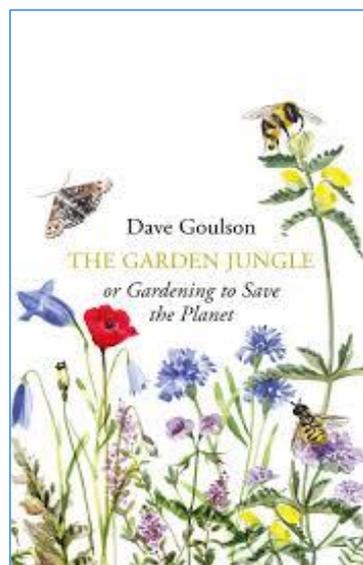
Check out the new seed swapping station at Supermarket 'Rebels' HISBE (20 York Place Brighton – near St Peters Church) which will be open all year round. Just bring along a packet of labelled seeds from your garden or allotment and swap them with someone else's seeds. No money is exchanged.

For more information see the following link

<https://www.facebook.com/HISBEFood/posts/seed-swapping-exclusive-pop-by-and-check-out-our-new-seed-swapping-station-which/2376389879063699/>

## Garden Jungles

The 'Garden Jungle', a new book by Dave Goulson, from the School of Life Sciences, University of Sussex has shot straight to the Sunday Times best seller list. The book explores one of the issues Dave Goulson raised at the Forum's Spring Seminar earlier this year, when he talked about the environmental harm done by gardeners who buy intensively reared plants in disposable plastic pots, sprayed with pesticides and grown in peat. The Sunday Times review says that Goulson believes that gardens could become places where we can reconnect with nature and rediscover where food comes from. With just a few small changes, our gardens could become a vast network of tiny nature reserves, where humans and wildlife can thrive together in harmony.



## Compost champions

The food partnership is looking for volunteers willing to look after community compost schemes across the city. Training and support will be provided. Free compost is available from local schemes.

For more information contact 01273 234810 or email [email.compost@bhfood.org.uk](mailto:email.compost@bhfood.org.uk)



## Stanmer Park's thriving community projects

Tucked away in a corner of Stanmer Park is a thriving hub of community projects who have been growing food with the community for over 20 years. Stanmer Wellbeing Gardens is a four-acre site coordinated by the Food Partnership, which sits next to Stanmer Organics a co-operative of 15 ecological projects running 17 acres of organic land.

There are opportunities to volunteer at the gardens, in activities such as conservation management, pond-building, tree-care and more, if you would like to get involved please contact Helen Starr-Kedde.

<https://bhfood.org.uk/stanmer-wellbeing-gardens/>

## Plant Your Postcode

On the 20<sup>th</sup> June the Campaign for the Protection of Rural England (CPRE) Sussex 'Plant Your Postcode' project was launched. This new initiative is working with Hove Civic Society and B&H City Council to increase the canopy of trees across Brighton & Hove. It's supported by the National Lottery and the Rampion Fund at the Sussex Community Foundation. For more information see at <https://plantyourpostcode.org/>



## Brighton & Hove – A City in Bloom



The judges for 2019 Brighton & Hove City in Bloom visited 22 community gardens and food growing projects across the city during August. They also assessed Wildlife Gardens and Best Street/Urban Space entries as two of the five categories they organised. Focus was on eco-friendly practices with an emphasis on community and the environment. All entrants have been invited to an award ceremony on 7<sup>th</sup> October where Chris Collins, ex-Blue Peter gardener, and Wildlife author Kate Bradbury will be speakers.

## South & South East in Bloom

Congratulations to all B&H Green Spaces volunteer groups who took part in South & South East in Bloom this year. Notable successes include Stanford & Cleveland Community Garden who achieved a Gold Award and Racehill Community Orchard and who achieved Silver Gilt, both in the 'Our Community' category. Brunswick Town in Bloom won Silver Gilt and overall winner in the 'Urban Community' category.



## Fun Palaces



On Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> October between 11.30 and 1.30pm the Friends of Hove Park are organising for the first time their very own 'Fun Palace'.

A Fun Palace is both free to enter and free to take part. It is an ongoing campaign to include the community with the many different cultures that lie at its heart. It is for all ages, young and old alike and will include the opportunity to take part in various activities such as Arts, Crafts, Sports and more. Fun Palaces provide a great mechanism with which you can bring your community together.

Any Park or green space can organise their own Fun Palace, to find out more just click on the link <http://funpalaces.co.uk/>

## Free online course on sustainable food



The University of Exeter and Future Learn are offering a FREE online course about *Future Food: Sustainable Food Systems for the 21st Century*. You will be guided through the global food system, from individual food choice to the impacts of agriculture on climate change. The next start date is 14 Oct but you can begin after this date.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/future-food/1>

## **Two dates for your diaries!**

### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> September – 11.30 to 4.30 - Parks & People – Stronger Together**

The National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces have teamed up with the Parks Action Group to run a series of free Regional Events. The South East event is taking place in Brighton on 21<sup>st</sup> September and is open to all members of volunteer green space groups. The agenda includes a range of key practical issues like organising projects, fundraising, campaigning, promotion and social media, and working with green space managers and Councils. For more information and to register, visit

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/parks-and-people-stronger-together-south-east-tickets-64416967885?aff=Mailchimp1st>

### **Parks and People**



**Stronger Together**

### **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October - B&H Green Spaces Forum - Members Open Forum Meeting**

We are pleased to announce that our next B&H Green Spaces Forum Members Open Forum will take place at Brighthelm, North Road, Brighton on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> October between 5.15pm and 7.30pm. All members are welcome and light refreshments will be provided.

We are currently constructing our agenda and would like 2 or 3 group representatives to tell us (in just a few minutes) about a particular issue or problem they have experienced and overcome in the last year. Please EMail the Forum at [bhgsforum@gmail.com](mailto:bhgsforum@gmail.com) if you would be prepared to share your group's experience?

**Please put 21<sup>st</sup> October in your diaries and EMail to let us know you are coming?** The invitation is open to as many of you as want to come, we would like an idea of numbers for catering etc.

We will send out a full agenda nearer the day and look forward to seeing you on 21<sup>st</sup> October.



**BRIGHTON & HOVE  
GREEN SPACES FORUM**

## Maximise the exposure of your events and news items!

It is very 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](mailto:bhgsforum@gmail.com) with any questions



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

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