



Newsletter January 2020

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.

Since our last Newsletter the Forum has been building relationships with neighbouring green space volunteer networks. The first meeting of the South Coast Green Space Network Alliance was held at the end of November with representatives from the BHGSF, Greenhavens, Green Tides and Eastbourne Networks.

Greenhavens Network

This network of green space volunteer groups covers the area from Saltdean to Seaford. For more information please do visit their website at <https://greenhavens.network/>



Green Tides Network

This network of green space volunteer groups, covers the area from Southwick to Worthing. For more information please do visit their website at <https://greentides.org.uk/>



The Forum has also been building relationships at National level:

The National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces

The NFPGS is the democratic umbrella organisation for the UK-wide movement of over 7,000 local Friends Groups. It aims to support their activities, amplify their voices and influence the key policies affecting green spaces.

For more information please visit their website at <https://www.natfedparks.org.uk/>



The latest NFPGS Newsletter, as well as past issues, can be found at <https://us12.campaign-archive.com/?u=cf4ddd6403dff776642c637e6&id=75b1cbf74f>

Parks Action Group

The NFPGS sits on the Government ‘Parks Action Group’ (PAG) which is part of ‘The Parks Alliance’. The PAG is chaired by the Parks Minister and includes experts from the world of parks and green spaces. It is tasked with bringing forward proposals to address issues faced by public parks and other green spaces across England.



For more information please visit the PAG website at <https://www.theparksalliance.org/the-parks-action-group/>

The latest Parks Alliance Newsletter including The Future of Public Parks, Crowdfund your Park, Why Parks Matter and much more, can be found at <https://www.theparksalliance.org/november-newsletter-from-the-parks-alliance/>

The Charter for Parks

The Charter for Parks is being championed by the NFPGS. It aims to make the management of Parks to a good standard a statutory requirement of local councils.

For more information please visit their website at <https://parkscharter.org.uk/>

Parks and People - Stronger Together



At the end of last year members of our Forum attended a regional Community Empowerment Conference held in Brighton by the National Federation of Parks & Green Spaces (NFPGS) and Parks Action Group. The theme being ‘Parks & People - Stronger Together’.

At the conference, Friends Groups’ issues were discussed and learning shared. The following website has been developed specifically for green space volunteer groups. There are links to Case studies, How To guides, and lots more:

www.parkscommunity.org.uk

Brighton & Hove Tree strategy

Brighton & Hove City Council is launching a public consultation on the management of all trees and woodland in the City, both now and into the future. This will cover the 13,000 street trees across the city; 504 hectares of woodlands open the public as well as hundreds of other trees in parks, open spaces and housing estates. The Forum will forward details of how to take part in the consultation as soon as they are published.

A full copy of the latest draft tree strategy can be seen at <https://present.brighton-hove.gov.uk/documents/s145330/BHCC%20Tree%20Strategy%20working%20draft%209%20small.pdf>



UK Emergency Tree Plan – The Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust have just published this policy paper which sets out how it proposes to increase tree cover and address the nature and climate emergency. See following link:

<https://www.woodlandtrust.org.uk/media/47692/emergency-tree-plan.pdf>

Trouble with Trees & Re-Wilding

With all the recent talk and priority being placed on planting trees / re-wilding, here are three articles to get you thinking. The first is this short '*Trouble with Trees*' article by Dr Tony Whitbread who is the President of Sussex Wildlife Trust.

<https://sussexwildlifetrust.org.uk/news/the-trouble-with-trees>

The second is from Chris Todd from Brighton & Hove Friends of the Earth, who talks about the proposals and pitfalls associated with re-wilding two local golf courses.

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/18186135.opinion-absolutely-vital-rewilding-managed-correctly/>

The third is by Prof Dave Goulson called '*Re-wilding: the 'Marmite' effect*'. This looks at re-wilding as part of a sustainable garden.

<https://bhorganicgardeninggroup.org/2019/11/02/rewilding-the-marmite-effect/?fbclid=IwAR0R2qTFoRc4EOArFbtAzMXN9jw55UaJfcWiJTj-fqPPTcsWvfN5KR2VpW8>



Brighton & Hove Organic Gardening Group

Do check out the numerous easy to read and uplifting news articles put together by BHOOG. You can also sign up to go on their Newsletter distribution.

<https://bhorganicgardeninggroup.org/category/news/>



Every Flower Counts

A citizen science survey, Every Flower Counts, organised by Plantlife at www.plantlife.org.uk/uk revealed that in lawns across the country:

- Daisies are by far the most common lawn flower, followed by white clover and then selfheal.
- But while daisies dominate in May, by July white clover has taken over.
- Most of the nectar produced by our lawns comes from white clover.

All together, the flowers in 4,950 individual square metre quadrats were counted in the survey. That's an area equivalent to 1.2 acres examined in detail on hands and knees. 500 participants counted over 100 daisies in their quadrats and 9 people counted more than 1000!

Urban Shepherds

To support its chalk downland conservation grazing programme, B&H Council recruits volunteer urban shepherds or 'lookers' to help keep an eye on their livestock (mainly sheep with a few ponies).

After completing a day's training course, 'looker' volunteers get to choose the sites they will cover and then the dates on which they can go and check the livestock. It's a great excuse for getting out into the fresh air with a real sense of purpose.



For more information and to submit an application, visit the site at <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/leisure-and-libraries/parks-and-green-spaces/lookers-volunteer-livestock-checkers>

'Bees' Needs' Award

The University of Sussex campus is one of 33 winners of a 2019 '*Bees' Needs'* award for its bee conservation efforts.



It's the second year running that the University has won this award, following projects to build 'bee hotels' and grow pollinator-friendly plants.

2019 judges were impressed the colourful wildflower beds, which are mixed from 40 species of nectar-rich flowers, to support the behaviours and needs of local bee populations in specific locations on campus. Ten new wildflower areas - by Sussex House, the Meeting House, Falmer House, Arts, ACCA and the subway under the A27 - have attracted a diverse range of bees and social insects.

See full article at <http://www.sussex.ac.uk/staff/newsandevents/?id=50144>

Stanmer Estate Restoration Project

Construction on the Stanmer Estate Restoration Project started on in June 2019 in the walled garden area and is due to be completed in autumn 2020.

Plumpton College will be responsible for the walled garden once it opens this Spring. The formal planted area of the walled garden has been designed by renowned landscape architect Dominic Cole. The garden will be free to enter, and will also have a farm shop and cafe. The shop will include produce from Plumpton Estate and feature plants from the formal gardens. The plants will be available to buy. The café will have food from local artisan producers.

The restoration area covers 20 hectares of the 485 hectare park. It is being funded by nearly £4 million from the National Lottery Heritage fund and BIG Lottery Fund's Parks for People scheme.

The project focuses on history in the park because its 18th century design was a key period in British landscape history. This was the last time the park was designed and managed as a single estate.

For more information on the project, visit the site at <https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/leisure-and-libraries/parks-and-green-spaces/stanmer-park-restoration-project>



Plot 22 – Garden Saturdays

Plot 22 are an open community group who are based at Weald Allotments in Hove. On one Saturday every month they hold an open session for adults and accompanied children age 10+.

Tools and refreshments provided, no experience necessary. These sessions are FREE but booking is essential. Suggested donation of £1 to cover refreshments <https://www.plot22.org/garden-saturdays>



CityParks Ranger Volunteers



The CityParks Ranger volunteer team is unique in that it works at different locations across the city every week. The team are happy to help other green space volunteer groups with any larger tasks that need extra people or expertise. The team are always open to new members joining and now come together on both Wednesdays and Fridays.

For more information see the article at:

<https://new.brighton-hove.gov.uk/news/2019/ranger-volunteer-team-set-expand?fbclid=IwAR29CMwrzmHKVOU8oMGfuVIL1roYzw1i8cZmANvdkSLw-b5ZjOmKecO4cko>

Two dates for your diaries!

Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum - Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Wednesday 26th February 2020 – 5pm to 6pm

Room 6, Friends Meeting House, Ship Street, Brighton

All Forum positions will be up for election, including Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Communications Co-ordinator, Ordinary Committee Member.

Please send nominations for any of the positions above to the Forum Secretary at bhgsforum@gmail.com These to include candidate name, Email address, nominator name, Community Group name and position held? If anyone is interested in taking on a committee role and would like more information, please do contact the Forum Secretary at bhgsforum@gmail.com

Please could you confirm your attendance by Emailing the Forum Secretary at bhgsforum@gmail.com so that we can cater for numbers.

Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum – Spring Seminar

Trees & Wildlife in our Green Spaces

With presentations from Chris Collins & Kate Bradbury

Tuesday 10th March 2020 – from 5pm (ending at 7.30pm)

Brighthelm Main Auditorium, North Road, Brighton, BN1 1YD

Following the success of last year's Spring Seminar, we are delighted this year to have secured two great guest presenters. The theme for the event will be trees and wildlife in our green spaces.

The event is free and open to all. To help us cater appropriately, please could you let us know you are coming by emailing your names to bhgsforum@gmail.com

CHRIS COLLINS

Chris Collins began life as a gardener with a traditional style apprenticeship with Brighton Parks & Gardens in the mid-eighties, going on to do his degree at the Royal Botanic garden, Edinburgh. He spent 2 years at the Royal Botanic Gardens in Kew, between 1999 and 2012 he was Head Gardener at Westminster Abbey. Chris was the Blue Peter Gardener for 9 years. In recent years he presented the science documentary on BBC4 '*The wonder of Weeds*' and BBC 3's young gardener of the year. He is currently Head of Horticulture at Garden Organic.

KATE BRADBURY

Kate Bradbury is passionate about organic, wildlife-friendly gardening and gardens on a small patch of land in Brighton. She is the author of '*The Wildlife Gardener*', and writes for a number of publications including the Guardian. She can occasionally be heard talking about garden wildlife on '*Gardeners' Question Time*'.

We are also aiming to have an update on the restoration project and woodland management in Stanmer Park. There will also be opportunity for questions and networking.

Sandwiches and drinks will be served from 5pm with the event commencing at 5.30 and ending at 7.30.

We look forward to seeing you at our Spring Seminar.

End



**BRIGHTON & HOVE
GREEN SPACES FORUM**