

BRIGHTON & HOVE GREEN SPACES FORUM NEWSLETTER

November 2018



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. We currently have 77 groups featured on our website which has been updated to make it easier to add events.

To upload your groups events and workdays please see here (you only have to register once) and also see other groups' events that you might want to attend.

<http://bhgreenspaceforum.org.uk/event-directory/>

Volunteer Path Warden Scheme



Brighton & Hove has 150km of public footpaths, bridleways and byways. These paths stretch from the seafront, through the city and out into the South Downs National Park, As part of their commitment to improving access the council would like to inspect every path regularly but don't have the resources to do this. The Volunteer Path Warden scheme encourages volunteers to adopt paths they use frequently. Training is provided, cover under their insurance, loan of gloves and tools. If you are interested see here:-

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/sites/brighton-hove.gov.uk/files/Volunteer%20path%20wardens%20DL%20leaflet%20FINAL.pdf>

To locate the paths on Brighton & Hove's rights of way see here:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/highway-search-information-map>

Charter for Parks



142 regional organisations have joined the 24 National organisations supporting the Charter for Parks. A coalition of countryside groups and environmentalists are calling on the government to protect the UK's parks and green spaces which are at 'crisis point'.

The following from our area have signed up:-

Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum

Friends of Preston Park

Friends of Hove Park

Brunswick Town in Bloom

Lansdowne Area Residents Association

Friends of Blakers Park
Brighton Climate Action Network
Patcham Memorial Peace Garden
Brighton and Hove City In Bloom
To add your voice to “promote, protect and improve local public green spaces”
add your group here <https://www.parkscharter.org.uk/#add>

Bees’ Needs – Green Flag Award



The Level had another success this year after winning a national Bees’ Needs Award for 2018. The award was presented at Kew Gardens on Tuesday 13 November to head gardener Steve Peters and was accompanied to the awards by Sarah Carlisle Operation Manager Cityparks.

The award, which is run in conjunction with Defra and Keep Britain Tidy, is for Green Flag Award winning parks and green spaces in England that have made improvements to encourage bees. Supported by Defra and the National Pollinator Strategy,

Bees’ Needs Award



Congratulations also to Rob Fowler, technical coordinator at University of Sussex School of Sciences and coordinator at The Buzz Club who was also at the event and received a Bees’ Needs award to recognise work promoting wild bee foraging and nesting habitat at the Sussex University campus.

Citizen Science Project



Gardeners in Brighton & Hove have been taking part in a Citizen Science Project, helping researchers at the University of Sussex understand more about food grown in the city and the need for pollinating insects.

It is estimated that around 70% of food harvested in the city is ‘owed’ to pollinators, equating to around £380 worth of produce per grower.

Team PollinATE is holding a Results Event, at 7pm on Wednesday 28th November, at the Brighthelm Centre, North Road. More info: <https://teampollinateresults.eventbrite.co.uk>

Annual Lighting of Brighton & Hove Christmas Tree



Join the Brunswick Town in Bloom team on Tuesday 4th December at 3.45 in St.John's Church Palmeira Square for Carols by Brunswick Primary School Choir then at 4.30 for the lighting of the tree by the Fairy Godmother who will be joined by Deputy Mayor Cllr. Alex Phillips while the Rotary Club Choir accompanies.

Funding & Value: Parks Countryside Solutions for 2020 20th November



Committee members of The Forum accompanied David Larkin Conservation Manager of Brighton & Hove City council to a seminar organised in response to Kent Parks Forum. Bournemouth Parks Foundation are developing a Trust ie Parks Foundation and spoke about the challenges that entails. The seminar explored the issues of valuation, parks service models and commercial funding for parks.

When notes from the seminar are available we will send them out to all.

South & South East in Bloom awards 2018 14th September



Congratulations to Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum member groups who entered into this year's RHS South & South East In Bloom Awards. 29 award submissions were made from across the City, 18 of which were in the free to enter, community focused 'Its Your Neighbourhood' category.

For more information on the competition and South East Awards event, see the Council press release at:

<https://www.brighton-hove.gov.uk/content/press-release/community-groups-are-blooming-brilliant>

More information on the RHS 'Its Your Neighbourhood' programme can be found at:

<https://www.rhs.org.uk/get-involved/its-your-neighbourhood>

Prize giving event – The Forum in partnership with B & H City in Bloom



The Forum also partnered with Brighton & Hove City in Bloom to present a local awards evening on 15th October. This was hosted by local writer and broadcaster Simon Fanshawe

with awards being presented by Brighton & Hove Mayor Dee Simson, and the Speakers were Cllr. Gill Mitchell and Assistant Director of CityParks Rachel Chassead.

Partnership with Living Coast



Brighton & Lewes Downs
UNESCO World Biosphere Region

Brighton & Hove Green Spaces Forum is the newest formal partner of 'The Living Coast'. This is the body set up to maximise the benefits of being in a UNESCO World Biosphere Region. The partnership enables the Forum to represent green space volunteers with 'The Living Coast' and all its other partners.

This month 'The Living Coast' website included a blog about the Forum which can be seen at:

<https://www.thelivingcoast.org.uk/news/uniting-our-natural-volunteer-community>

Dates for your diary!

30th January 2019 – Forum Members Meeting

At Friends Meeting House in Ship Street Brighton. This meeting will start at 5pm and is open to all members. In addition to a report on Forum activity, there will be an open discussion on what member groups are doing and would like from the Forum. A formal invite will be sent shortly.

6th March 2019 – Forum Spring Seminar - Brighthelm Centre in North Road Brighton.



This is free and starts with refreshments at 5pm. The headline subject is 'Find out more about how to encourage bio-diversity in your green space'. The event includes keynote speakers Dave Goulson from the School of Life Sciences at Sussex University and Steve Peters, the award winning Park manager at The Level. We will also be joined by the 'Wildflower Conservation Society, Brighton & Beyond'. Please register your interest here bhgsforum@gmail.com



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