

VPAG News – October 2023

VPAG Bonfire – Sun. 5th Nov., near Hill Ave/ Nutgrove Ave corner: Our annual big bonfire will be lit at 6.15pm. A range of refreshments will be available, plus a first aid and lost-children's point, but no fireworks are allowed due to park regulations and insurance costs. Helpers will be needed in a variety of roles – more details in a separate email soon.

VPAG Festival: Despite the overcast weather, the Festival was a resounding success last month and huge thanks go to Shaun Hennessy for organising it. £2,363 was raised in total, but substantial extra running costs led to an overall loss of £72. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way on the day.

Coffee van: After a long licensing process, Amir is now able to serve refreshments from his Afista Barista van up by the Lodge and should be there daily excluding Tuesdays as follows: Mon-Fri: 8am-4pm and weekends 9am-4pm.

Outdoor gym: the new gym facilities near the MUGA are being well used but we have been asked to remind park-users that they were designed for adult use. Whilst children are welcome to use the equipment under supervision when it is free, parents should ensure that priority is given to adults.

Supporting visually impaired park-users – Guide Dogs have offered us a free 3-hour training session which will enable you to safely guide someone with a visual impairment round the park and give you a Community Sighted Guide certificate. Please get back to me if you are interested.

Reporting anti-social behaviour in the park: As well as bad behaviour by e-scooter and electric motorbike riders, some stolen motorbikes have been torched in the park, which is upsetting for everyone. Please report **all** such incidents that you see to the Police - either ring 101 or via <https://www.avonandsomerset.police.uk/report/crime-or-incident/#/> - the more reports received, the more action is taken. Also, please let the Council know via <https://digital.bristol.gov.uk/museums-parks-sports-culture/report-problem-in-park>

For other local concerns: Monthly meetings with local police are held at Windmill Hill Community Centre on Vivian St (BS3 4LW) – the next is on **Tues. 17th Oct.** from 6.00-7.00pm. Our local Councillors also have a monthly surgery there – next one is on **Tues. 7th Nov.** from 4.30-6.00pm.

Windmill Hill Community Association (WHCA): New local residents may be unaware of the extensive range of activities and classes that are organised by WHCA and held in their Community Centre on Vivian St. See <https://www.whca.org.uk/> for more details.

St Mary Redcliffe Pipe Walk: The annual walk which follows the medieval water pipe that brought clean water from a spring in Knowle to near St Mary Redcliffe Church, across what is now Victoria Park, takes place on **Sat. 21st Oct.**, starting at 10.00 at St Barnabas Church on Daventry Rd. Book a free space via <https://www.stmaryredcliffe.co.uk/the-pipe-walk> .

South Bristol History Festival includes a 90 min. walk which goes through Victoria Park on **Sun. 29th Oct.** It starts at 2.00pm from the Ropewalk pub on Bedminster Parade. More here: <https://www.brh.org.uk/site/events/the-radical-face-of-bedminster-in-the-early-20th-century/>

The next VPAG meeting is on **Mon. 6th Nov.** at 7.30pm in the Bowling Club. Everyone welcome!