

VPAG NEWS – November 2023

Bonfire report: Huge thanks go to Shaun and Roger for organising such a successful bonfire event on 5th Nov and to all those who provided wood, helped build the bonfire, stewarded during the evening and cleared up afterwards. There were hundreds of people there, despite the rain, and the event almost broke even financially.

Totterdown Arts Trail: this weekend, from **Fri.17th- Sun.19th Nov.**, Totterdown hosts the oldest art trail in Bristol. With 160 creatives exhibiting in over 50 venues it should be well worth a visit. More details here: <https://totterdownartstrail.org/>

Skate Park update: BCC says that the skatepark will be closed from **Mon. 20th Nov.** whilst the old equipment is removed and a new skate and wheels park built, further west, with different areas created for differing abilities. They reckon it will take 8 weeks, during which time the nearest alternative skatepark is at Dame Emily Park.

UWE MA Architecture Project: 8 students from this course are doing a project about how the Lodge in the park might be restored and put into use. They would be grateful if you would complete their survey: <https://forms.gle/GfUfc22oNbigXhPA7> Also, they will be up near the Lodge next **Tues 21st Nov.** from ~ 2.30-3.30pm, with an interactive mapping activity.

Bowling Club coffee morning: On **Sat 2nd Dec.** from 10.00-12.00 the Bowling Club is selling coffee & mince pies in aid of charity and there will be carols and a raffle. It's also a great opportunity to see inside the bowling club building which is up near the Lodge.

Christmas trees for sale: On **Sat. 2nd & 9th Dec** (10am-3.30pm) and **Sun. 3rd & 10th Dec.** (10am- 2.30pm), Ali & Joe will be selling Christmas trees near Nutgrove Ave/ Hill Ave corner. Do support them: every year they make a contribution from sales to VPAG funds.

New accessible recreation area: the all-age, all-ability recreation area that was to go where the old skatepark is currently located may have to move to a different site, to avoid damaging the roots of the old London plane trees there. It is still at the design stage with more consultation to come.

VPAG Clean-up and Repair Crew coming soon: ongoing Council cutbacks mean staff are no longer available for less-urgent cleaning and repair tasks in the park. BCC will provide VPAG volunteers with tools & materials if we will paint over graffiti, remove old/ tatty notices & stickers from entrances, litter-pick difficult areas, mend benches, etc. What else needs doing?

Panorama over Bristol: The panoramic viewfinder that looks over Bristol from the hill east of the school has been restored and a plaque added in memory of Alf Havvock, a local Councillor who was very active in VPAG for many years.

Next meeting: Monday 4th Dec at 7.30pm in the Bowling Club at the top of the park. Everyone is welcome!