

VPAG Newsletter May 2026

 **Spring Clean** You wait for ages and then three come along at once! We had over 30 volunteers for the VPAG event but they didn't have as much rubbish to collect as previously, we had had a group of corporate volunteers and the Eco Team from St Mary Redcliffe Primary school doing their own litter picks. What a fantastic community effort! Thank you to everyone involved.

 **Bristol Walk Fest** This runs throughout May and is in full swing. The South Bristol Skyline Walk (<https://bssw.org.uk/>) takes place on Saturday 23rd May at 10.30am from Temple Meads. For more details of the Walk Fest, visit <https://www.bristolwalkfest.com/>

 **Lodge News** VPAG has been working with Windmill Hill City Farm to put forward a proposal to transfer the Lodge from Bristol City Council on a lease. To find out more, come along to the park on June 6th, where you can have your say as part of initial consultations. If you can't make this date, there will be another opportunity at Windmill Hill City Farm on 27th June.

 **Bristol Community Festival's week** VPAG will be marking this week-long festival by having an event in the park on June 6th from 10 - 3. Come and see us by the lodge where you can take part in a Bioblitz, find out more about our Nature Recovery Project and meet Treeburt from [Sarah's Wildlife Project](#) as he helps to launch a new Tree Trail in the park. There will also be an opportunity to learn more about the lodge plans and VPAG's response to the Princess St developments. Community festival details can be found at : <https://candobristol.co.uk/campaign/bristol-community-festival>

 **Wildlife News** Thanks to community and corporate volunteers, the boundary around our dead hedge has now been completed! The brambles have also been removed, giving the other plants a chance to thrive. You can join the Wildlife Volunteer WhatsApp notice board by following this link: https://chat.whatsapp.com/C5ZrnYGq6YKHqDCqVPepii?mode=gi_t

Princess Street/Whitehouse St development The plans were passed at a heated meeting on 22nd April. Since then, community groups have been crowdfunding to challenge this decision via judicial review. For more details, please see the additional information page and VPAG's view at the end of this newsletter.

Dates for your diary

- **Saturday 6th June** - Bristol Community Festival Week. VPAG will be running a bioblitz and Sarah's Wildlife Project will be inaugurating their tree walk in the park.
- **Thursday 11th June** Bristol Older People's Forum (BOPF) - Roll and Stroll in the Park - see attached flyer for details. Please note, numbers are limited.
- **Saturday 27th June** - Windmill Hill City Farm - opportunity to have your say about the Lodge
- **7-9th August** - Bristol Balloon Fiesta - watch the balloons from our wonderful park!
- **Saturday 12th September** - Windmill Hill City Farm Golden Anniversary Fayre
- **Saturday 19th September** - VPAG Victoria Park Festival including Dog Show
- **Thursday 5th November** - VPAG Bonfire Night event

The next VPAG meeting will take place at 7.30 on Monday 1st June at Victoria Park Bowls club. All welcome.

Princes Street - Planning Committee A passed this controversial application on Wednesday 22nd April. Build Bedminster Better - Stop the Princess Street Towers Campaign are continuing their legal challenge to this decision by way of Judicial Review.

VPAG maintains that this development will cause irreparable harm to Victoria Park. This historic view from the park towards the city, with St Mary Redcliffe as a Grade 1 listed church, should be protected under the Local Plan and under the Whitehouse Street Regeneration Framework. The highest student tower will be visible from many areas in the park and will negate the feeling of open green space and the visual amenity of greenery and sky which has always been there. The City of Bristol's heritage should not be cast aside lightly.

We are not alone in thinking this: Historic England has written to say

"We are concerned at the visual impact of the proposed development, particularly in the context of views from Victoria Park."

"The proposed development would harm the setting of a wide range of heritage assets across the city and the integrity of Bristol's distinctive and historic skyline."

Link to the campaign fundraiser for the legal challenge:

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/stop-the-princess-st-towerblocks-bedminster>

Links to petitions here:

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/restore-confidence-in-bristol-s-planning-system>

<https://you.38degrees.org.uk/petitions/build-bedminster-better-stop-the-princess-street-towers>



If you could display an A4 window poster, please send street name and number to hello@vpag.org.uk

Picture copyright - Liz Lake Associates, Taken from Galliard Apsely planning application to Bristol City Council.

Roll & Stroll in Victoria Park for over 55s

10:30AM - 1:30PM
Thursday 11th of June

What to expect?

Meet new people, enjoy and explore the park with community volunteers and ecology experts.

Timings:

- 10:30 - Meet at Victoria Park Bowls Club
- 10:40 - 12:00 Walk
- 12:00- 13:30 Shared lunch with light refreshments (bring your own lunch!) and creative activity.

Accessibility info:

- Wheelchair accessible
- The route includes lots of resting areas so we can accommodate many levels of mobility.
- Please wear suitable clothing; be prepared if it rains. If it is hot, please bring plenty of water and sun protection.

To book a place call 0117 927 9222 or use the QR code. Spaces are limited.



If you have any questions, call 0117 927 9222 or contact info@bopf.org.uk.

