



Bristol Onion  
*Allium sphaerocephalon*

The Bristol Onion or Round Headed Leek, has a wide distribution from central to southern Europe through to the Iberian Peninsular. However, its only mainland British locality is the Avon Gorge in Bristol, where it thrives on sunny rock ledges in the warm microclimate.



A Working Partnership





## Contents

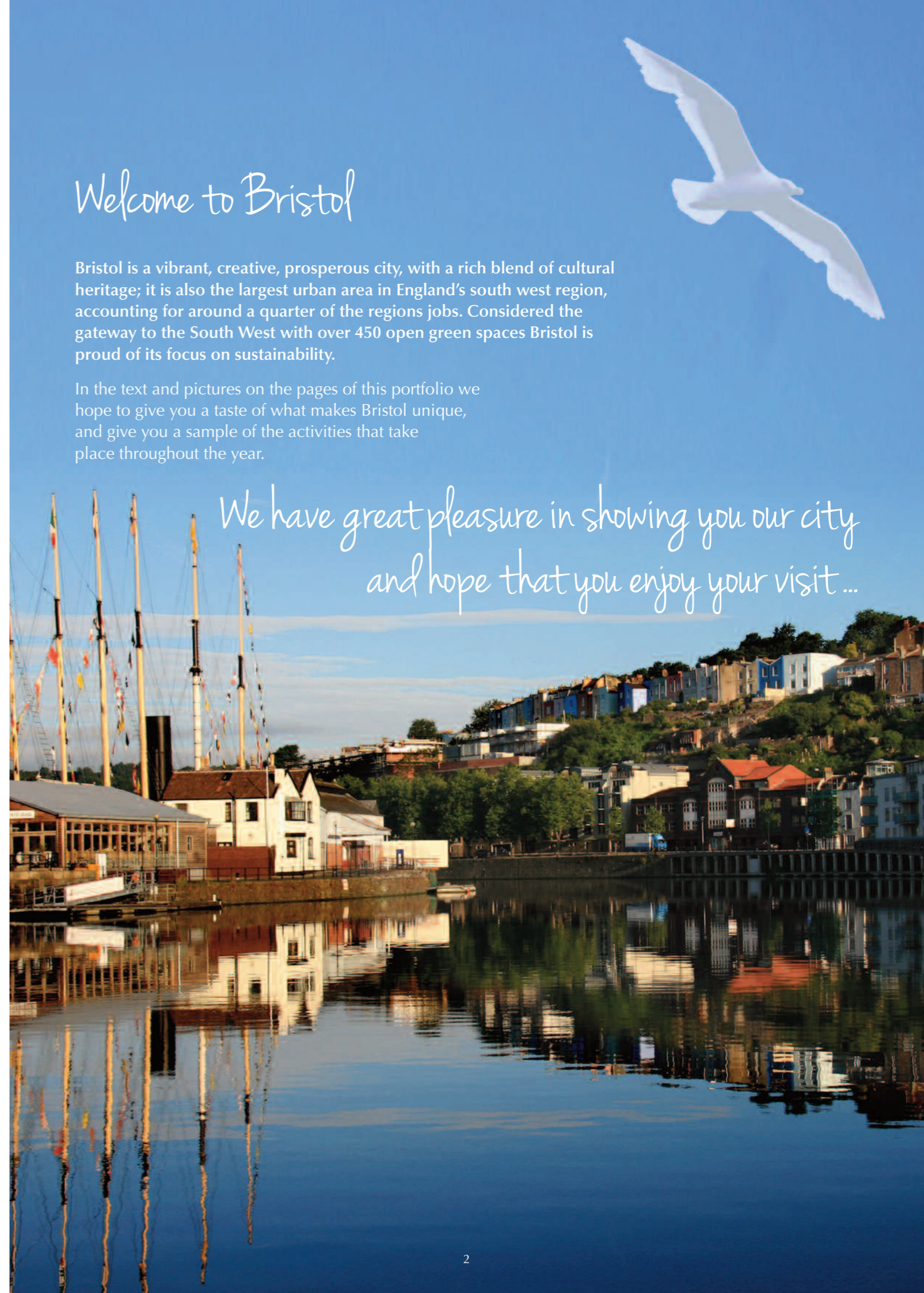
Welcome to Bristol	2
Bristol's Route 2013	3
Our Green City	4
Landscape, Open Green Spaces and Planting	5
Spring Planting	7
Environmental Education	9
Children - Our Future	11
Bristol Big Green Week	13
Get Growing Garden Trail	15
Food Growing in Bristol	16
It's Your Neighbourhood	17
Bristol Community Plant Collection	19
Businesses Help Funding	20
Trees for Bristol	21
Bristol's Green Space Network	22
An Exciting Future....	23
...with Echoes of the Past	24
How Will Bristol Develop?	25
Media Coverage	27
Promotion and Communication	29
A Working Partnership	30

## Welcome to Bristol

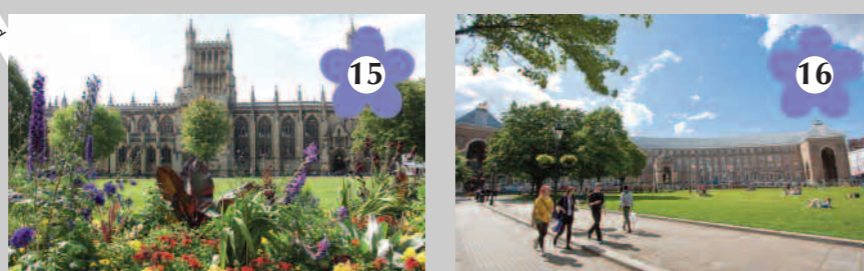
Bristol is a vibrant, creative, prosperous city, with a rich blend of cultural heritage; it is also the largest urban area in England's south west region, accounting for around a quarter of the regions jobs. Considered the gateway to the South West with over 450 open green spaces Bristol is proud of its focus on sustainability.

In the text and pictures on the pages of this portfolio we hope to give you a taste of what makes Bristol unique, and give you a sample of the activities that take place throughout the year.

*We have great pleasure in showing you our city  
and hope that you enjoy your visit ...*



# Bristol's Route 2013



## Our Green City

Bristol is green in more ways than just its landscape. It is home to national environmental organisations such as the Soil Association, Sustrans, the Federation of City Farms, and the Environment Agency, as well as the BBC's famous Natural History Unit. It has a fantastic track record in developing new green technology, programmes in renewable energy and an innovative recycling programme, ensuring that local people and businesses do their bit to protect and enhance the environment and the quality of life of all Bristol's residents and visitors.

Bristol continues to build on a history of environmental events such as the annual Festival of Nature, Bristol's Biggest Bike Ride and the Organic Food Festival as well as regular farmers' markets supporting local food growing. Bristol has also received Government funding alongside its neighbouring local authorities to improve sustainable transport and get people out of their cars. Bristol is a 'Cycling City' with investment in off-road routes, cycle lanes, new routes to connect key destinations and a comprehensive training and education programme for both adults and children.

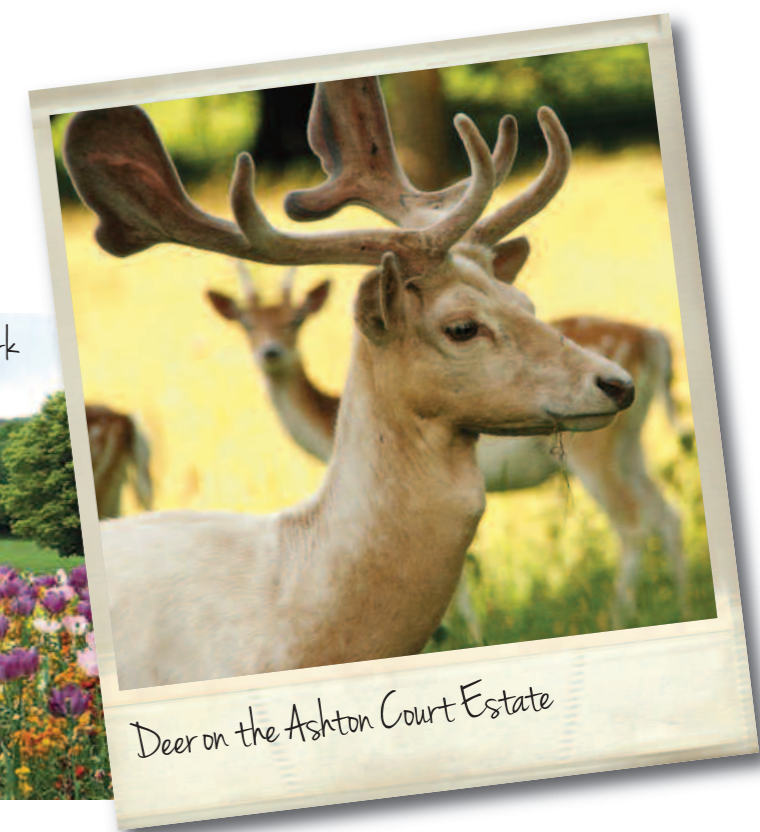
Bristol has significant open green spaces and green corridors supporting a rich array of habitats for wildlife as well as recreational opportunities for Bristol people. Supported by Bristol's Parks and Green Space Strategy and the new Bristol

Development Framework, a 20 year investment strategy is in place to guide development plans and ensure that good quality green spaces are available for all to use in a green network spread across the city.

Environmentally it's a very exciting time for Bristol.

### Green Flag Awards – a sign of quality

Eleven of Bristol's parks have won the prestigious Green Flag Award, the national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales. They include: Ashton Court Estate, Blaise Castle Estate, The Downs, Netham Park, Queen Square, St Andrew's Park, St Paul's Park, Troopers Hill Local Nature Reserve, Canford Park, Greville Smyth and Redcatch Park. Each have active groups who have worked with the city council to develop management plans for their sites. To retain green flag status each site must demonstrate that it is moving forward to implement its management plan, and this is monitored each year.



# Landscape, Open Green Spaces and Planting

Bristol has over 450 parks and green spaces which are open and free to the public, managed and maintained by Bristol City Council. In addition to this space, allotments along with city farms, botanical gardens, cemeteries, highway landscapes and grazing land contribute significantly to the urban green infrastructure of the city for wildlife, leisure and gardening. Whether big or small they all have their place in making Bristol the green city it is and in shaping the urban landscape.

## Open green spaces

Open green spaces come in many guises and Bristol is rightly proud of its green space heritage. As well as the many natural green spaces which are protected Bristol has a range of green spaces, from heritage estates, nature reserves, playgrounds and sports fields, all offering different recreational opportunities for local people and visitors: going for a walk, taking children to play, playing tennis or football, simply relaxing and watching the world go by.

Bristol's Parks and Green Space Strategy guides investment in parks and funding is sought from a range of grant funders as well as core council budgets. Many improvements that have been made to parks have active support from local people with groups developing improvement plans and carrying out work themselves on many sites.

## Planting schemes

Bristol's parks, green spaces and streetscape contain a mix of permanent planting and seasonal planting. The core aim is to make planting sustainable, aesthetic, economical and maintainable.

Spring and summer see many seasonal planting schemes throughout Bristol, around the city centre at College Green and on many of our roundabouts around the city. These roundabouts are often part of business sponsorship schemes supporting the Bristol in Bloom initiative.



Planting scheme for GBBN

Each year sees an increase in the number of baskets installed on lamp columns as Neighbourhood Partnerships now have devolved budgets to enable them to determine how to spend money to enhance their local neighbourhood. Schools, volunteer groups, local people and Community Payback take part in bulb planting across the city to ensure a constant array of colour within our public spaces.

## Planting schemes for the Greater Bristol Bus Network (GBBN)

Planting schemes have been at the heart of recent plans for the Greater Bristol Bus Network (GBBN). From the outset, the environmental content of this project was seen as integral to the overall design approach to be taken, with landscape architects and associated disciplines working alongside transport planners and highway engineers.

Whiteladies Road is a key route for the GBBN – a popular shopping street with bars and cafes, that passes through a number of conservation areas. Proposals sought to extend on the existing areas of magnificent Plane and Lime trees, with bold

planting of trees in the middle of the road, with attractive low level planting below; helping to engender a greater sense that this is a street for people and not just traffic.

The road environment is harsh for any plant due to the openness, exposure and road salt. The perennial plants chosen for the Whiteladies Road planting are all natural sea side plants evolved to cope with some salt spray and salt in the ground. Other considerations included ensuring sightlines (plant height no more than 60cm) and how the planting influences different road users. To help slow down the traffic a mainly blue calming colour scheme was chosen, with some white accents to be brighter in dark conditions, beautiful flower heads were chosen for pedestrians to enjoy creating seasonal variety with different flowering times through the year.



Wild area beside the M32



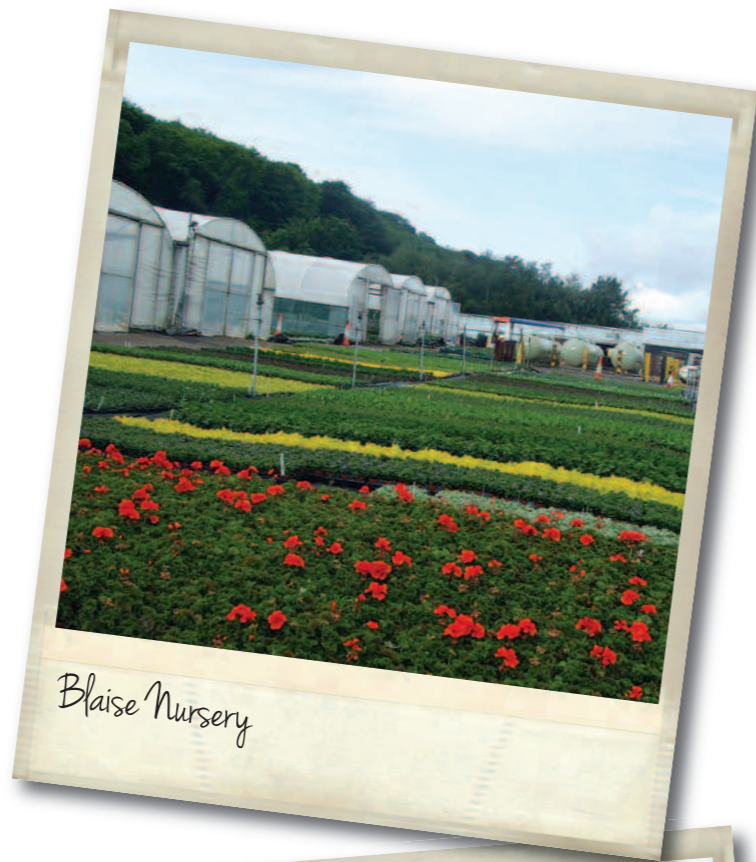
# Spring Planting

## Blaise Nursery

Bristol City Council's accredited plant nursery at Blaise Castle Estate produces approx 2.5 million plants per year. Not only does the nursery supply plants for Bristol but it supplies and delivers plants for around 30 other local authorities. Careful consideration is given to the suitability of plants for individual situations, and stable growing processes are used to ensure good quality. Modern methods are used for efficient and prolific production – compressed air driven transplanting machines are capable of potting over 10,000 plants an hour.

The nursery grows and supplies around 5,000 hanging baskets and troughs a year, helping to make Bristol a beautiful floral city. The nursery can plan flower and plant displays of any scale, and the nursery team includes a qualified florist who supplies and maintains indoor decorations and office plants.

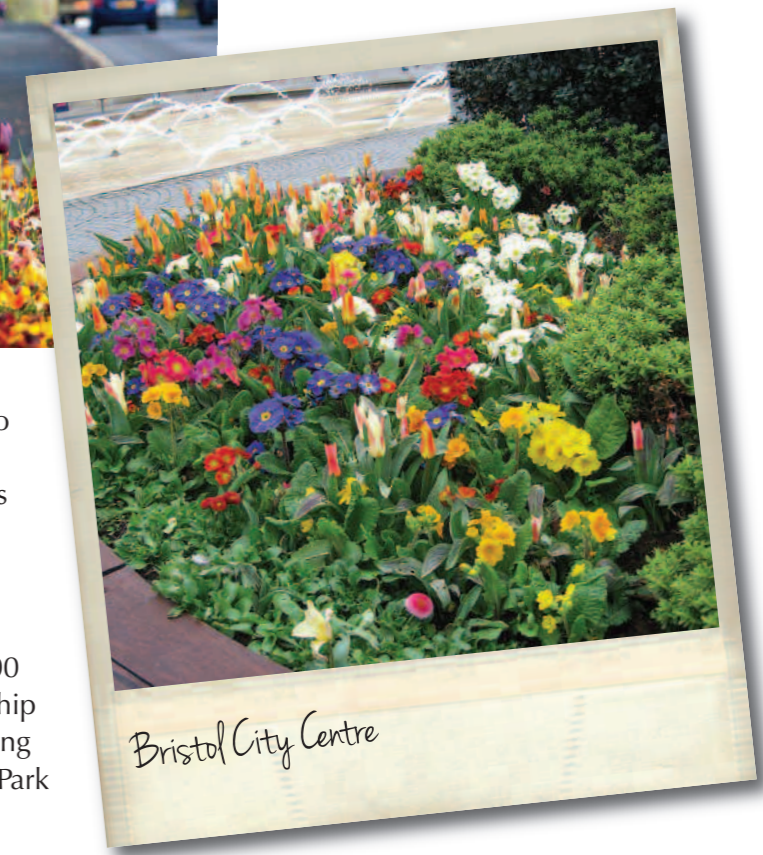
The water used comes from a bore hole on the Blaise Estate, and a biomass boiler has been installed (which runs on waste woodchip) to heat the nursery. The use of pesticides and fungicides are kept to a minimum.



Blaise Nursery



Millenium Square



Bristol City Centre

Spring planting across the city is a wonderful way to banish the dull winter days; whether it is natural planting under trees, on bank-sides or in flowerbeds it all lifts the spirits and gives promise of summer days to come.

Community and Friends of Groups, along with Community Payback helped to plant out over 30,000 spring bulbs across the 14 Neighbourhood Partnership areas; in addition to the thousands of speciality spring bulbs that were planted in St George's Park, by the Park Keeper and the Horticultural Improvements Team.

### Location

### Group Involved

Meg Thatchers Open Space – St George	Community Payback
St George Pre School	Parents and Children
Rodney Road Playing Fields – St George	Kingsway Youth Group
St George Park – speciality bulbs	Park Keeper & Friends of Group
Plummers Hill Playing Fields – St George	Local residents
East Park Open Space - Eastville	Community Payback
Lodge Hill Open Space and PROW - Hillfields	Community Payback
Coombe Brook Valley - Hillfields	Community Payback
Barton Fields - Hillfields	Community Payback
Hillfields Park	Friends of Group
Snuff Mills – Stapleton – speciality bulbs	Snuff Mills Action Group
Little Hayes Nursery - Stapleton	Parents and Children
Avery Road - Stapleton	Colston's Collegiate School Pupils
Crosscombe Drive - Hartcliffe	Community Payback
Muller Road Recreation Ground - Lockleaze	Friends of Muller Road
Dovercourt Open Space - Lockleaze	Local residents
Lawrence Hill Roundabout	Community Payback
Arlington Villas	Local Residents
Ambra Vale Community Garden	Friends of Group
Greater Bedminster – various locations	Local Community Groups
Redcatch Park	Friends of Group
Upper Horfield Community Garden	Garden Group

# Environmental Education

Environmental education takes place right across the city.

## Recycling education for schools

Waste Watch and Bristol City Council developed a two year education programme that comprehensively educates Bristol students, teachers and school staff about sustainable waste management.

The project focused on waste and develops links to other climate change aspects such as sustainable energy management and sustainable procurement.

The education programme aimed to deliver a whole-school approach to recycling and waste minimisation in school but it also sought to send the messages home via pupils to reduce waste and improve recycling at home as well.

Over a two year period pupils in Bristol were encouraged to live more sustainably, by increasing their knowledge of the “reduce, reuse, recycle waste” messages and linking this to the effects that our waste has on climate change.

Bristol schools now recycle 53% more than ‘pre-programme’, and 150 teachers and schools staff attended Waste Education themed training sessions to learn about food waste and composting, sustainable procurement and energy management in schools. Training sessions provided a clear and intensive approach on how to manage their schools’ environmental behaviour.



Shirehampton Primary School

meet discover  
**create**  
rethink



Training

Community



Create Ecohome

**Create** is Bristol’s vibrant environment centre whose mission is to inspire people to reduce their environmental impact through a programme of events, exhibitions and displays. The centre also features a demonstrations Ecohome, which is a purpose built show home full of practical ideas for greener living. If you need some inspiration, or want to find out how to make your next DIY project more eco-friendly, the Ecohome offers a wide range of resources and information, and volunteer guides are on hand to answer your questions.

Education

Create has a schools programme, focusing on Key Stage2 and Key Stage3 pupils; offering a range of innovative learning experiences to encourage children towards more sustainable lifestyles.

Environment

Action



Recycling

# Children - Our Future

Bristol in Bloom actively encourages children and young people to take a 'hands on' approach to learning about horticulture and the natural environment. The 'Edible Garden' is run in conjunction with the Bristol Zoo Garden and 'Learning Through Gardening' is supported by staff of Bristol City Council Allotment Department.



Samuel Carlton, eager to plant out his winning garden.

## Edible Garden - sponsored by

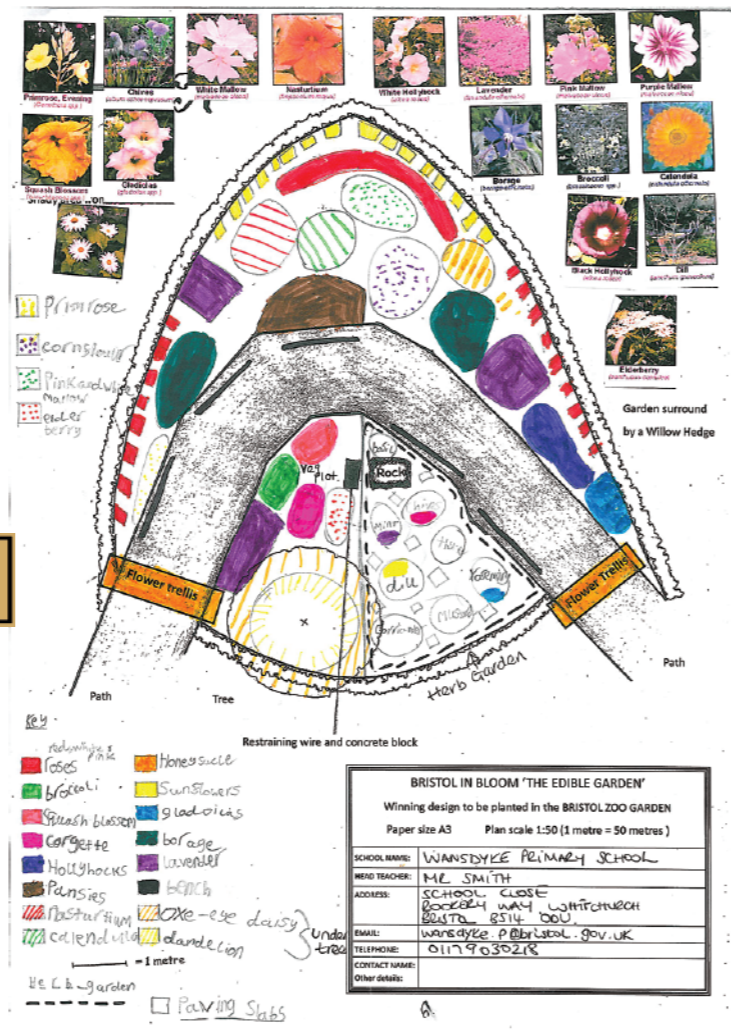


'THE CHALLENGE' in 2013 was to design a garden on the plan provided using 'Edible Flowers', other years themes have included 'Feed the Animals' and 'Feed the Visitors'. The competition is open to all playgroups, schools & youth clubs in the Bristol City area and has been running for five years; each year has seen quite different ideas and the competition remains a firm favourite.

Samuel Carlton, a member of the Gardening Club at Wansdyke Primary School, beat off stiff competition to win the top prize in 2013; and had his competition entry become a reality in the Bristol Zoo Garden.



Susie, from Natracare, with members of the Gardening Club



The 2013 winning plan from Wansdyke Primary School



Little Hayes Nursery School

## Learning Through Gardening

The emphasis of this competition is the involvement of the children, encouraging awareness of their 'natural' surroundings with a hands-on approach to learning. It doesn't have to be whole classes; small numbers of children participating are just as eligible as Gardening Clubs. Neither does it have to be the whole garden – even a school with a small area for growing can enter a project using pots and containers. Every school that enters gets detailed 'Judges Feedback' to encourage and help them in their endeavours, and garden vouchers to help with funding growing projects.

The top two schools were at either end of the age range, Little Hayes Nursery School just taking the top place; and Briarwood School 6th Form Centre coming in a close second.



Wednesday  
Today our garden is being judged in the "Bristol in Bloom" Competition.  
We will be making soda bread in the kitchen.

**Little Hayes Nursery School:** This is an amazing garden to visit, where gardening and the outdoor learning environment is seen as a vital part of the day to day curriculum; the dedication, commitment and enthusiasm of the staff is clearly evident. The school has maximized every potential learning opportunity and was seen by the judges as being a model of outstanding good practice working within an excellent on-going development plan.

It is evident the schoolchildren have been given an excellent start to their lifelong learning.

**Briarwood School 6th Form Centre:** This is an attractive and innovative garden which meets the needs of a wide range of students with special needs. It was evident the students had been actively engaged in this project from start to finish, and the garden is seen as an integrated part of their overall learning; with clear attention to detail in encouraging each student to be as involved and hands on as possible.

The school is developing opportunities for the students to receive accreditation in horticulture and other life skills through this project.



Briarwood School

Visit [www.flickr.com/photos/bristolinbloom](http://www.flickr.com/photos/bristolinbloom) to see a range of the other schools that took part

# Bristol Big Green Week

Bristol created the UK's biggest festival of sustainability in 2012 and its tremendous success has ensured its continuation.

Taking place in the centre of Bristol in mid-June, and spanning 2 week-ends, Bristol's 'Big Green Week' is the UK's festival of eco ideas, art and entertainment. More than 40,000 visitors will start early and stay late to enjoy free family entertainment and nine days of inspiring talks, workshops, art, music, poetry, comedy and films.

**Big Green Week** has shown the passion of Bristolians to share their experience and to inspire change; this is a great way to promote the 'Green' ethos and encourage people to embrace it as a way of living. Alongside the 'official' programme community groups and businesses have created 'fringe' events – each using its own resources and the creativity of local communities.

For 2014 we will develop this approach – reaching out to every neighbourhood of Bristol and across Europe, through the Learning Cloud – with satellite events and shared experiences.



## Big Insect Walk

Big Insect Walk is just one of the hugely popular events that inspire children and adults alike~ Explore Arnos Vale in search of bugs and creepy crawlies, led by insect-expert Ray Barnett. Discover the sort of insects and other creatures which live in this wildlife refuge, and learn how they survive and what role they play in keeping our environment healthy. Who knows what will be discovered on the day!



## Festival of Nature

Another incredibly popular part of the Big Green Week, this is the UK's largest FREE natural history event: giving wildlife enthusiasts of all ages the opportunity to explore, and enjoy the natural world in the heart of the city. The Festival brings together over 150 organisations for a programme of interactive activities, live entertainment, hands-on experiences and a market packed with local produce.



## Bio Blitz Bristol

By the end of this year's epic 30 hour BioBlitz, at Kings Weston House, we had identified and recorded an amazing total of 463 species, beating last years' figure of 454. This number might well rise in the coming days as the more obscure species that the team recorded are correctly identified. A wonderful result for all those, old and young alike, who took part in the count and participated in the learning activities.





# Get Growing Garden Trail

Allotments and food growing projects all over Bristol are being showcased for the third annual Get Growing Garden Trail, which is Bristol's biggest celebration of urban growing. Taking place in June, it is part of the Big Green Week.

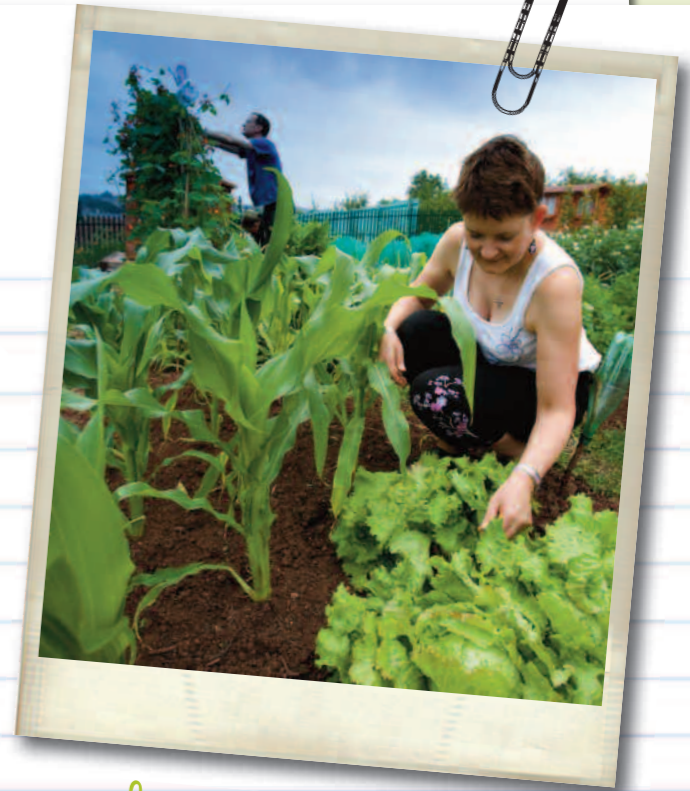
Twenty-seven sites are open at various times over the weekend, showcasing a diverse range of growing projects. There will be:

- garden tours and gardening tips
- opportunities to meet the farm animals
- information about cooking from plot to plate
- vegetable growing workshops
- plant sales and plenty of tea and cake.

## Eureka moment!

One thousand old wheelie bins have been provided by waste contractors May Gurney, and adapted using taps from Bristol Water to convert them into water butts. Both companies plan to work with the city council to make the new water butts available to community groups and projects across the city.

This is a really innovative scheme that benefits the local community; whilst at the same time helps the environment by re-using rainwater.



## Food Growing in Bristol

### Bristol Food Network

is an umbrella group, made up of individuals, community projects, organisations and businesses who share a vision to transform Bristol into a sustainable food city. The Network connects people working on diverse food-related issues – from getting more people growing, to developing healthy-eating projects; from tackling food waste, to making Bristol more self-sufficient.

### Feed Bristol

is a project specifically targets marginalised groups who normally find it hard to grow their own food, so far we have supported many different community groups including those with learning difficulties, mental health issues, asylum seekers and schools, as well as people who just want to learn about 'growing your own' and have a share of the produce. It is ideal for people who would not have the knowledge or the confidence to tackle their own allotment, but who want to grow their own food.

### Bristol Allotments

is the third largest allotment provider in the UK, with 4,500 plots enabling people to grow food for themselves and their families and thus reducing food miles, contributing to the city's reputation as a 'green city'. Recycling is encouraged on our sites, providing leaves and green waste compost to many plots. In addition recycled guttering enables tenants to collect rain water to reduce the need for mains water. This compliments the water butt scheme spoken of on page 15.

## It's Your Neighbourhood

2013 sees an increase of almost 14% in our entries into the South West in Bloom 'It's Your Neighbourhood'. The 42 entries this year are representative of an extremely diverse selection of community groups across the city. Each of these groups displays enthusiasm, dedication and commitment to their local projects, as well as having an interest in the environment of the city as a whole, for now and for future generations.

For the third year running residents of **Morgan Street** took part in a hanging basket workshop. The heavy downpours did not put them off from sharing skills and showing new neighbours in the street how to plant up their baskets and containers. They are preparing for this year's RHS 'It's Your Neighbourhood' initiative and Bristol in Bloom's annual '**Garden for Bristol**' competition in the 'It's Your Street' category; they hope that their street which will be adorned with hanging baskets and containers will WOW the judges. The workshop was funded through their local Ashley, Easton & Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Partnership.



Abda Parveen, a resident of Morgan Street has organised this event for the last three years, said "This is a great way of getting to know your neighbours, everyone in the street looks forward to this time of the year, it's a real community event".

They are now also planning a new project in the street, and will soon be developing their own community garden, where residents can grow and share in the harvest of vegetables.



Residents from **Kensington Road**, St George also shared their gardening skills in a hanging basket and container workshop. Grenville Johnson, Neighbourhood Watch Coordinator & Chair of Kensington Road Residents Association, said, "The purpose of the workshop was to extend our existing It's Your Neighbourhood scheme to the adjoining streets and encourage our neighbours to brighten up their community with baskets and containers. We wanted to demonstrate this type of initiative is very easy to adapt to other areas, and we hope that next year will see other communities in St George carry out similar schemes".

A number of residents from adjoining streets, who came to the event, said "We have always admired and envied the house frontages and street scene in Kensington Road and make a point of walking down the street on our way to the local shops. We are very happy to have been invited to take part in this year's In Bloom schemes, and will be taking away new skills and knowledge to share with our neighbours".

Kensington Street also takes part in the 'It's Your Neighbourhood' scheme and the Bristol in Bloom 'Garden for Bristol' competitions.



# Bristol Community Plant Collection



A unique National Collection has been started in Bristol with plants being grown by gardeners of all ages around the city, from school children to elderly residents of a care home.

Most gardeners have heard of Plant Heritage's National Plant Collections but what is not obvious is that certain groups of plants are underrepresented in the National Plant Collections Scheme. One such group is hardy annuals and the reasons why are that they throw up a number of challenges as follows:

- Problems of hybridization and cross pollination
- Extra disciplines e.g. seed sowing and seed collection
- Increased administration and record keeping
- A perception that they are "easy" and "not worthwhile plant collections"

The result is that despite containing some of the most exciting plants you can grow in a UK garden e.g. sunflowers, poppies, cosmos and marigolds, hardy annuals are neglected when compared to perennials, in terms of their presence in conservation collections. By making this project a dispersed collection these challenges are easier to manage.

A dispersed plant collection is a botanical collection of plants that are managed centrally but that are grown on a number of different sites.

Calendula, commonly known as Pot Marigold, was chosen for this trial as it is well known as both a popular garden flower and also for its medicinal value. Bristol Zoo Gardens wanted to grow a mixture of species (to support the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation) and varieties. Although there are a huge number of varieties of this plant available commercially only two species of the plant are available. Since the start of the project Calendula species seed from the Botanic Gardens attached to Bayern University in Germany and 6 species from United States Department of Agriculture have been received. This brings the total of species to eight!

Very quickly a number of groups either were approached or found out about the project and asked if they could be involved.

These groups are:

- Avon Club for Young People – Lawrence Weston
- Bannerman Road Early Years Centre – Easton
- Cabot Primary School – St Pauls
- Chard Court (Sheltered Housing) – Whitchurch
- Holymead Primary School – Brislington
- North Horfield Community Garden
- Robinson House (Elderly Residential Home) – Stockwood
- Severn Project (Drug & Alcohol Rehabilitation Project)
- Stoke Bishop C of E Primary School – Stoke Bishop

The groups will be growing 30 plants for a Zoo display during the summer and keeping 20 plants on site to harvest the seed later in the year. All the groups have been provided with training from BZG gardening staff, growing equipment, information packs and site visits to give advice and support are planned throughout the process.

Plant Collection Administrator and Researcher Emma Moore, from Bristol Zoo Garden is leading this project.

Progress can be followed on the Bristol Community Plant Collection Facebook page and by following the Blog on the BGCI – Communities in Nature Wordpress site.



# Businesses Help Funding

Sponsorship opportunities are not just confined to roundabouts or flowerbeds; Bristol in Bloom runs different competitions and events to raise awareness and encourage participation in the effort to enhance our living and working environment.

There are roundabouts throughout the city that can be sponsored, this is an ideal way to get your name in the public eye on a daily basis.

Railing Baskets are a great idea to catch a shoppers eye as they cross the road, and ensures that your business is sure to be remembered.

Not just for businesses, but for less than the cost of a roundabout individuals can also sponsor a flowerbed. A different way to show your commitment to the 'in Bloom' initiative.



# Trees for Bristol

## Bristol's woodlands and trees

Bristol City Council were very proud to win the Barchams Award for Urban Forestry Management Excellence. Entrants were judged against criteria which include possession of a tree strategy and management system, community involvement, Tree Preservation Orders and development sites, and sustainable working practices.

A project to map tree canopy cover across Bristol has recently been completed to show that 14% of Bristol's land area is covered in trees and woodland. Bristol's aspiration is to have 30% tree canopy coverage and two specific initiatives in the city help to take this forward.

Bristol was the first city in the country to form a Tree Forum. The Tree Forum was formed to bring together organisations interested in the management and maintenance of council trees in Bristol, including trees in our streets, parks and green spaces. It provides a mechanism for open consultation on urban tree issues between local community groups, interested professional bodies and several Bristol City Council departments

TreeBristol was set up by Bristol City Council in 2005 to work with local groups, schools, residents and businesses to promote tree planting and plant trees, with a target of 10,000 trees planted by 2015.



Since the TreeBristol launch in 2005, the council has planted around 3,800 trees, many with the help of local communities and other partners.

The TreeBristol programme replaces lost street trees and also plants in new sites across Bristol in greatest need of more trees. The trees that are planted are usually already 3-4 metres tall to create immediate visual and environmental impact and greater resistance to vandalism. A wide range of trees are planted and the selection of species depends upon space available, other trees in the area and the local landscape and character.



# Bristol's Green Space Network

Over 25 million visits are made to parks and green spaces by Bristol's residents. We work with local people and organisations to promote involvement and action to improve the appearance, tidiness and landscape of Bristol; with many different projects taking place each year to improve the visual appeal of Bristol - 'Our City' of which we are all proud.



# An Exciting Future....

## Bristol Green Capital 2015: Helping to create a Low Carbon City with a High Quality of Life for All

Bristol is the European Green Capital 2015 beating other shortlisted finalists Brussels, Glasgow and Ljubljana.



This initiative was set up to reward cities achieving high environmental standards and to encourage them to commit to further environmental improvement and sustainable development. The winning city has to demonstrate a vision for the

future which will inspire other cities to take similar action; it needs to be a replicable model, promoting best practice to all other European cities.

Bristol submitted a technical bid which was assessed by an independent panel of experts. We are delighted to have been ranked first overall in that assessment and first in the categories of "Sustainable Land Use and Green Urban Areas" and "Nature and Biodiversity". The assessors praised Bristol's success not only in protecting green areas in the city whilst growing by developing derelict land, but also our work to improve the biodiversity of green spaces and our engagement of citizens in green space/ biodiversity action.

Bristol will hold the title for 2015 and will develop a programme of activities involving cities from across Europe, European institutions and networks, citizens and businesses. We expect this programme to reach in excess of 1 million people directly and 1 million through on-line, digital engagement.

Bristol's success in achieving 'Gold' in the Entente Florale Competition 2012 endorses our commitment to the above criteria and our involvement in the community through the Bristol in Bloom initiative.



Cycle path under Clifton Suspension Bridge

# ...with Echoes of the Past

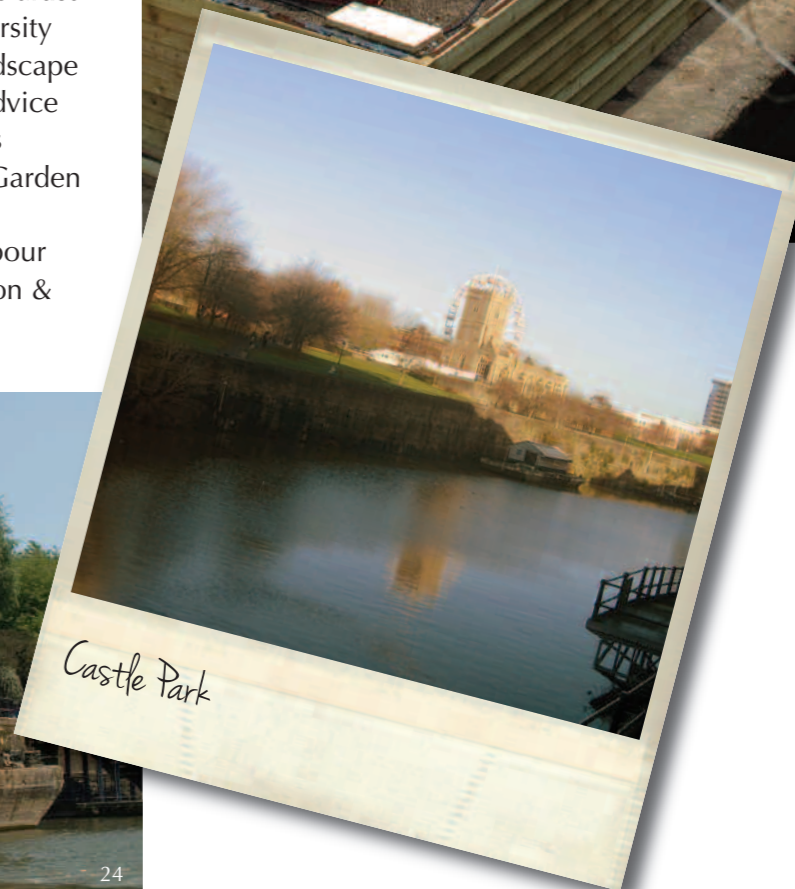
The new Floating Garden moored near Castle Park is taking shape.

Between 1680 and the early 1900's earth, stones and gravel was used as ships' ballast to weigh down the vessel. Trade boats from all over the world offloaded this ballast into the river at Bristol; it also contained the seeds of plants from wherever the ship had sailed.

These ballast seeds can lie dormant for hundreds of years, but by excavating the river bed it is possible to germinate and grow these seeds into flourishing plants.

Working together, the University of Bristol Botanic Garden, Arnolfini and Bristol City Council utilised a disused grain barge to create a Ballast Seed Garden on Bristol's Floating Harbour. These non-native plants create a living history of the city's trade and maritime past.

The design of the floating garden has been developed by German designer Gitta Gschwendtner in close collaboration with the artist Maria Thereza Alves and Nick Wray of University of Bristol Botanic Garden; Lucy Empson, landscape architect (BCC), and Arnolfini. Engineering advice courtesy of Ramboll UK, plants and materials courtesy of the University of Bristol Botanic Garden and Bristol Parks. This project has been made possible with the kind support of Bristol Harbour Authority, with funding from the Ashley, Easton & Lawrence Hill Neighbourhood Partnership



Castle Park





## How Will Bristol Develop?

Bristol has a rich natural environment with natural gorges, beautiful landscapes, and varied topography, affording views across the city skyline and into the countryside beyond. Bristol also has a good history in enhancing its natural assets, through careful care of water courses, improvements in air quality and use of renewable energy, Bristol continues to make significant strides forward.

In addition to the strategic aims for Bristol, the Bristol Development Framework considers how the city will develop over the next 15 to 20 years. The framework is used to help direct a range of implementation plans and decisions on planning applications.

The Core Strategy, the primary document in the framework, includes a key section on Green Infrastructure, which aims to protect, provide, enhance and expand the green infrastructure assets of the city, which contribute to the quality of life within and around Bristol. In protecting important open space it acknowledges that not all open land can be left unchanged and so sets a strategic framework for the choices to be made. This spatial plan looks to extend the green space network and recognises the importance of green infrastructure for the following reasons:

- Improving townscape and landscape quality and visual amenity
- Protecting and enhancing biodiversity
- Providing green active travel routes
- Improving mental and physical health of local people
- Providing space for local food production within the city
- Mitigating the effects of climate change.



Avon Gorge, St Vincents Rocks

Bristol has adopted its Parks and Green Space Strategy which set a range of quality and quantity standards for providing different types of green space across the city from children's play areas, natural green spaces and more formal landscapes. In addition it set a number of key policies for making improvements to parks and green spaces over the next 20 years. The Parks Wildlife Strategy, Allotments Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy are all sub strategies of the P&GSS which are currently being implemented.



View across the city

Bristol runs many fun activities to bring children and adults closer to nature. From practical and work days to creative activities.



# Media Coverage

Here are a very few examples of articles in our local paper, demonstrating the Bristolian's interest in all things 'Horticultural and Green'. The local radio station, Radio Bristol, is always keen to talk about the Bristol in Bloom events that place throughout the year; planting events, garden days, competitions and anything involving our budding green-fingers; giving 'live' interviews out and about around the city.

It is important that issues surrounding the 'in Bloom' are put in front of the general public, who have now taken more ownership of their surroundings through involvement with the Neighbourhood Partnership. Local communities are justly proud of their achievements and local coverage ensures that these have a knock on effect into the surrounding areas.



## Mission to transform allotment

**PUPILS at St Christopher Special School in Westbury have RWE power your thank for the new, insect polytunnel at the allotment school's six-and-a-half grounds.**

The volunteers took time to replace a pot covering, clean and tidy the allotment. Children at the school have been working on the grounds for a year, including gardening, and the new polytunnel will be a great addition to the grounds. The school's head teacher, Mrs. [Name], said: "The kind of work we can develop work situation a positive community spirit. The school will be proud to build the new Gaven-yard."



Picture of the day | Blaise Nursery prepares for Bristol in Bloom, by John Bradfield

Have your best photos published. Send by email, with Picture of the Day in the subject line, to [epictures@bapp.co.uk](mailto:epictures@bapp.co.uk). Pictures should be JPEGs from a digital camera. Please give your name, and tell us where and when the picture was taken.



## Homeless centre brightening up neighbour

A COLOURFUL floral display is brightening up the most dangerous road in Bristol but to me it's magnificent.

The plants were donated by gardener Don Ewert, of Backwell, and the Riverside Centre. I was a landscape gardener for 18 years and I wanted to do something to help the homeless.

Stapleton Road has been named the most dangerous road in Bristol but to me it's magnificent.



## City sweeps to success in annual bloom awards

BRISTOL has swept the board in the annual South West in Bloom awards.

Judges have declared the city as a "gold" winner for the seventh year in a row.

And they have awarded Bristol the South West Tourism Trophy for the third year in a row.

Bristol also took 25 awards in the "It's Your Neighbourhood" category, nine of which were for outstanding community participation.

Bristol University won the West of England award for best botanical garden and Clifton Village won the Urban Communities Trophy.

A special Sponsors' award known as the Blaise Richard was also presented to the city council for its performance.

Judges look for more than just a city with outstanding floral displays and well-tended parks and gardens.

They also look for community-led projects and partnerships which bring people together to deliver practical, sustainable projects that promote a bright and clean city environment.

Mike Crook, chairman of the Bristol in Bloom Community Association, said: "We are delighted to have won the award for the seventh year in a row. It is a testament to the hard work of all those involved in making our city a better place to live and work."

The judges were certainly impressed... This is another feather in Bristol's cap.

Mike Crook, chairman of the Bristol in Bloom Community Association

**Jan Onions Political Editor**  
[jon@bapp.co.uk](mailto:jon@bapp.co.uk)

- Friends of Bohemia Park
- Westbury-on-Trym Community Association
- Rastington Road Residents' Association
- St Paul's Action Group
- Hovington Meads and Poole Wharf
- Friends of Ferris Park
- Holmstun Station Gardening Group
- Redmister Station Extension
- Cathedral Garden



## Our say... Entente Florale win

ALL those involved deserve praise for it was tucked away on page 23 in a corner of the Deaths and Bereavement page.

Sponsors, both business and private for providing financial support, deserve more than a few lines. Also worthy of more than a few passing comments are the City Parks Department, especially nursery staff at Blaise Castle, community groups, and many other hard work volunteers who produced stunning displays that impressed judges their visit last month.

If the Post produces a feature on this fantastic prize my confidence in the Post will have been restored.

Arthur B. Reel

Editor's note: Mr Brice, we hope this picture will go some way to restoring your confidence.

South West in Bloom forms part of the Royal Horticultural Society's Britain in Bloom competition. Bristol South West in Bloom is a regional competition.



## farm celebrates 35th birthday

We are the oldest city farm outside London and are very proud of what we have achieved over the last 35 years. We would like to share our celebrations with the local community and also promote the farm further afield. A visit to the farm is a fantastic free day out.

Bristol South MP Dawn Primarolo said: "I'm delighted to help mark the 35th birthday of Windmill Hill City Farm."

the community — offering so much to so many people. In 1976, I was one of a number of volunteers who helped to form the farm and I am delighted that it is still thriving today.

"Whether you're a regular visitor, or even if you've never been before, I'd encourage everyone who can to go along to Saturday's birthday party."

For more information, visit [www.windmillhillcityfarm.co.uk](http://www.windmillhillcityfarm.co.uk)



## Celebrating success of youngest le

Events set to focus on nurseries' achievements

THE success of education for young children in Bristol is being celebrated by a series of events across the city.

All Bristol's nursery schools are celebrating their 10th anniversary. The events are aimed at showcasing the achievements of these schools.

Pupils at Little Hayes Nursery School in Fishponds will be celebrating by holding a tea party for their parents. The event will be held in the school's hall and will be held on Saturday, June 13.

Other parties from the city will be held at the party for grandmothers and mothers of the month. Children's gardens are also being celebrated. The events are aimed at showcasing the achievements of these schools.

Linzi Tanner  
Education correspondent  
[ltanner@bapp.co.uk](mailto:ltanner@bapp.co.uk)



## Picture of the day ... by Post reader John Bradfield

Bristol in Bloom winner 'Small Front Garden'

Have your best photos published. Send by email, with Picture of the Day in the subject line, to [epictures@bapp.co.uk](mailto:epictures@bapp.co.uk). Pictures should be JPEGs from a digital camera. Please give your name, and tell us where and when the picture was taken.



A great help: Project leader at Brandon Trust Sue Barton, supported trainee Sean Toogood and Dominic Somerville of Wates Construction with Wates Construction staff who undertook a range of manual jobs at Brandon's Elm Tree Farm in Stapleton

## Staff help out at Elm Tree Farm

STAFF from a Bristol construction firm have been going down to the farm this month to help a local charity.

A team of 30 from Wates Construction were doing their bit to help the Brandon Trust, which supports people with learning difficulties.

The staff were donating their time to do manual work at Brandon's Elm Tree Farm in Stapleton. Work included new path on the side of houses and working on it was all part of Wates Community Day which all 2,000 employees everyday roles and community. Domy business manager, Construction in the said: "The whole of Wates forward to Community Day as our chance to give back to the communities in which we live and work."

## Gardeners team up and go for gold

Councillor Gary Hopkins said: "Bristol's been very successful and businesses who get involved all attractive through and make their entries sustainable planting."

"Now we are aiming for gold in the national competition and I'm convinced Bristol's entry — and I'm improving our city through creative, colourful displays."

Chair of Bristol in Bloom Community Association, Mike Crook said: "Bristol has identified a splendid route around the city, which will show the Britain in Bloom judges just how much support and enthusiasm there is across the city for this national competition."

Everyone from individuals to businesses and from schools to community groups has joined in to support Bristol's bid to win the coveted Britain in Bloom title.

For more information on the competition, contact Monica Whyte [mwhyte@bapp.co.uk](mailto:mwhyte@bapp.co.uk)

# Promotion and Communication

Environmental issues are at the heart of Bristol and are well promoted and supported by local media.

Bristol Post (formally Bristol Evening Post) has recently included a Green Supplement in its paper. The Post and Metro have both supported a number of recycling initiatives.

Radio Bristol runs regular features about the natural environment and its BBC's connection with the natural world is strong with its natural history unit in Bristol and its role as part of the Natural History Consortium, running the Festival of Nature.

A selection of the many publications produced to promote environmental issues.



# A Working Partnership



The partnership that has 'Blossomed' between Bristol in Bloom and Bristol City Council has facilitated its continued success. The importance of our surroundings is paramount to our well-being and many more council officers and Councillors are coming on-board to promote this fantastic initiative; with their help and support and the dedication of the Bristol in Bloom Community Association we ensure that Bristol will Bloom for generations to come.



Mike Crook, Chairman



Monica Whyte, Secretary & Administrator



Stephen Cook, Fishponds, Treasurer of Bristol in Bloom



Sharon Baker, CHIS (Clifton & Hotwells Improvement Society)



Delphine Lydall, Clifton Business Association



Pete Clark, Area Parks Manager, South/Central & Education



Christopher Orlik, Bedminster Station Community Project



Joy Roddy, Photographer



Sue Boyd, Westbury on Trym Society



John Bradfield, Rownham Mead & Pooles Wharf



Eddie Mole, Bristol Zoo



Grenville Johnson, Kensington Road



Joy Johnson, Canynge Square



Tracey Morgan, Service Director Environment and Leisure



Councillor Gary Hopkins



Councillor Alf Havock



Councillor Ron Stone



Rod Pooley, Manager, Blaise Nursery



Denise James, Project Officer, Clean and Green



Teija Ahjoski, Head Gardener for Horticultural Improvements



Paul James, English Landscapes



Adrian Murdoch, English Landscapes



Steve Clampin, Allotments Manager



Hazel Burston, Westbury on Trym Methodist Church



Mary Cook, Bristol Design