



Bristol and Bath Railway Path Quarterly Update

No.2, Spring 2010

Welcome to the spring edition of the Quarterly Update for news and events relating to the Bristol and Bath Railway Path. The next edition is due out in June - please let us know if there's anything you'd like to see included. Enjoy the sunshine!

Bristol & Bath Railway Path Topic Group

Are you a user or neighbour of the Bristol & Bath Railway Path?

The Avon Frome Partnership organises Topic Group meetings to discuss matters relating to the Railway Path. These evening meetings are an important means of communication with the wide range of people and organisations with an interest in the Path. Come along to learn more about current projects, walking and cycling, heritage and wildlife, or talk about Path issues that concern you.

Meetings this year: Tuesday 13th April (Bristol) and Tuesday 12th October (Kingswood), starting at 6.30pm. A summer evening site visit is also planned - details to be confirmed.

For details contact Paula Spiers on 0117 922 4325 or paula.spiers@bristol.gov.uk

Cycling City News from Bristol City Council

Several Cycling City projects linked to the Railway Path have been completed this spring:

- New lighting along the section between Alcove Road (Fishponds) and Staple Hill tunnel has been installed
- A new link to St George Park is now open - improvements to the route include a new crossing phase at Whitehall Road and a contraflow cycle facility on Johnson's Lane
- A new route through Ridgeway Playing Fields has been completed that now links the Railway Path to residential properties in Speedwell

For details of these and other Cycling City initiatives visit:

<http://www.betterbybike.info/cycling-city-project>



Community Payback Helps our Open Spaces

Offenders from the Bristol area are putting something back into the community on South Gloucestershire's open spaces and there are plans afoot for the Railway Path to benefit.

Since 2007 South Gloucestershire Council has had a partnership with Avon and Somerset Probation Service when a Community Payback group was set up at Grimsbury Farm, Kingswood's community farm. Since then permanent groups have been set up at Page Park and Ventura Farm estate with many other open spaces being used for one off projects.

Offenders, who are carefully vetted for working on public open spaces, get great benefit from being involved in tasks where they can make a difference to the community – often the community they have previously offended against. Katherine Kearns who helped set up the placements, said "It's very rewarding to watch offenders become involved in the community and see the difference they can make".

People on Community Payback orders come from all walks of life and many have valuable skills that can be used to benefit our communities. The Community Payback team also work to pass on these skills to others and so help get unemployed offenders back into work.

Over the past three years Community Payback have helped restore a stable block at Grimsbury Farm, refurbished a tennis pavilion and tend the Sensory Garden at Page Park. Planning has started for a further group to work from the visitor's centre at Warmley Forest Park to help maintain the Warmley section of the Railway Path.

To learn more about Community Payback groups get in touch with Katherine Kearns from South Gloucestershire Council on 01454 865 877.

On Track: NOW weekly! As of April 2010 (12 - 12.30pm every Tuesday)

On Track is a beginner walk for residents of Easton and neighbouring areas. It is suitable for those new to walking or people recovering from illness or injury.

Enjoy a stroll on the Bristol & Bath Railway Path. Go at your own pace and in the safety and company of a group with trained walk leaders. Meet at Easton Community Centre on Kilburn Street, BS5. Led by Bristol Health Trainers.

Phone Morowa for more information or if you have reservations or mobility restrictions: 07789 943146.



Family Cycle Ride Events

► Sunday 18th April 10am-3pm: Family Cycle Nature Trail

Families are invited to take part in a free cycling nature trail.

You can start at any of the stalls and cycle as far as you want. There is a choice of routes from a couple of miles to the whole route. Medals are up for grabs for those who find two or more clues.

There will be face painting, owls, falconry displays, bird games and activities along the route.

Start at; Fishponds, Staple Hill, Mangotsfield, Siston Common, Warmley Station and Grimsbury Farm.

Find out more at www.betterbybike.info or phone 01454 863640.

► Sunday 13th June 10am-3pm: Family Cycle Treasure Hunt

Families are invited to take part in a free cycling treasure hunt.

You can start at any of the stalls and cycle as far as you want. There is a choice of routes from a couple of miles to the whole route. The challenge is to find the dinosaur clues along the route and great prizes are up for grabs.

There will be entertainment along the path and there is a free drink and snack for everyone who takes part.

Start at; Whitehall, Fishponds, Staple Hill, Mangotsfield, Warmley, Bitton, Saltford or Bath.

Find out more at www.betterbybike.info or phone 01454 863640.

Hire a Hand Cranked Bike for Free!

A request from someone who is a keen cyclist and wheelchair user gave South Gloucestershire Council the idea of providing a hand cranked bike for people to try on the Bristol & Bath Railway Path for free. Webbs of Warmley are kindly working with the Council to store, maintain and adjust the cycle to suit anyone wishing to get in the seat and pedal by hand. It's also a good tool for anyone who wants to work on their arm muscles! Webbs previously had enquiries to buy such a machine but nowhere else locally could offer a 'try before you buy' service. Now they can! ***See the attached flyer for details.***

Emersons Green Community Corridor

South Gloucestershire Council is working on the construction of Cycling City demonstration route all the way from the Bristol & Bath Railway Path to Emerson's Green shopping centre. This will link all the houses, shops, schools, pubs, cafes, libraries and commons to the Path. The route will be completely traffic free or use very quiet lanes. Where the route meets a busy road, the road surface will be raised up to footway level to give pedestrians and cyclists priority. Work has started on site and will progress over the next year until a properly signed corridor is completed.

Consultation on this route has now closed but plans and the consultation results can be viewed at www.southglos.gov.uk/consultations

Bike Week: 19 - 27 June 2010

Bike Week is an annual opportunity to promote cycling and show how cycling can easily be part of everyday life. Demonstrating the social, health and environmental benefits of cycling, the week aims to get people to give cycling a go all over the UK.

Find your nearest event (or register your own event) at: www.bikeweek.org.uk

Sustrans Volunteer Rangers

Sustrans Volunteer Rangers look after and promote a section of the National Cycle Network (NCN) near their home to encourage more people to walk and cycle. They deal with minor problems themselves and report major problems so they get dealt with rapidly.

Two Rangers groups cover the Railway Path. The East Bristol Group covers the NCN Route 4 from Bristol Bridge to Saltford and the Bath Group cover from Saltford east to Bath. As well as organising regular work days, Rangers do their own rides along a portion of the route every couple of weeks to check and sort out minor problems with litter, signs and other items.

Forthcoming events:

April 2010 - the East Bristol Group are running two signing rides with the aim of improving signage from nearby roads to the Path.

23rd May 2010 (10:30am-3:30pm) - a work day along the Bitton to Saltford section. Provisional activity - seat repairs, with lunch at a nearby pub.

For details contact Richard Dyson, Liaison Ranger - East Bristol, at richard.dyson@tiscali.co.uk

Warmley and Siston Community Gardens Group

The Warmley and Siston Community Gardens group was formed as a spin off from the Save Warmley and Siston Green Spaces campaigning group when it received requests from the local community to do something about 'gardens'.

The group has a wide remit and interest and considers anything that improves the quality of life, enhances the environment and stimulates local interest in the community can be seen as a 'garden'. To that end they see no difference between the creation of a garden area next to the signal box, the restoration of the signal box or the creation of a community orchard next to Warmley Scout hut. They are all gardens in their own way.

Following a period of information gathering and a couple of public meetings a plan was put together of the sort of projects the community would like to see happen. The group is working very closely with South Gloucestershire Council, who own most of the land, and the local Safer Siston Group.

So far the group has:

- cleared bramble next to the Warmley Signal Box in readiness for a community garden to produce free vegetables
- cleared an adjacent area in order to install picnic tables
- undertaken a 'litter pick' along the cycle track (a skip of rubbish was collected from that small area)
- planted apple trees next to Warmley Scout Hut

In the next couple of weeks the group will be planting a variety of fruit trees and measuring the Signal Box in advance of seeking funding for its restoration.

Anyone who is interested in volunteering or just taking an interest can email Steve Reade, StLister1962@yahoo.co.uk. The group operates two email (google) groups to keep people informed, one for day to day communication and one for distributing a periodic newsletter.

Better By Bike Website

Visit the new cycling website - www.betterbybike.info - to discover everything you need to get on your bike and out riding in Bristol, Bath, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire.



Got a problem?

Please report problems to:

St Philip's Road to Railway Terrace
Bristol City Council (0117) 922 3719 | bristolparks@bristol.gov.uk

Railway Terrace to Avon Bridge, Bitton
South Gloucestershire Council
(01454) 868000 | streetcare@southglos.gov.uk

Avon Bridge, Bitton to Bath
Bath & North East Somerset Council
(01225) 394041 | Minicom: (01225) 394166 | councilconnect@bathnes.gov.uk

Report criminal activity to the Police: 0845 4567000

Contact us:

For queries relating to the Bristol & Bath Railway Path or items in this Quarterly Update, or to request a leaflet, please contact Paula Spiers, Avon Frome Development Officer on 0117 922 4325 or paula.spiers@bristol.gov.uk

The Avon Frome Partnership works with organisations and communities to promote and enhance the Avon and Frome river valleys and the Bristol & Bath Railway Path in terms of their accessibility, wildlife, landscapes and heritage. The Partnership is co-ordinated by a steering group that includes representatives from Bath & North East Somerset Council, Bristol City Council, South Gloucestershire Council, the Environment Agency and BTCV.

