

## Friends of Horfield Common :: March 2012 update



It's fantastic to welcome the lighter mornings and better weather heralded by Spring. The Common is beginning to show signs of life in the trees, the squirrels seem to have recovered from the rather erratic winter weather and the bulbs that were planted by FOHC and ABSC volunteers in the Autumn are beginning to come through. Keep your eyes peeled for a couple of trees which have 'surprise' bulbs planted around them! You'll know them when you see them! and we'll make sure that there are some photos in our next update. Thanks very much to Jay who led this project and to all of the volunteers who contributed their time to make the common look even more lovely for all of us through 2012.

Despite the dark days, we've been busy out and about on the common and planning for the coming year.

This is an overview of what has been happening - do let us know what you think & come along and get involved in all of the activities and events - all are very welcome!

### Overview

1. 'Please P-P-P-Pick up the Poop' Campaign (we are a glamorous bunch!)
2. The Ardagh, Children's Play area and Sports and Public Toilet Facilities
3. Horfield Common has a Village Green! ....

but it's not the one we were expecting!

4. *Reinstatement of the football pitch on Wellington Hill Playing Field.*
5. Upcoming Events:

03/03/12 - Ardagh Toddler Group's Table-top sale

**21/03/12 - 'Sing into Spring', Community Choir Launch Event**

**23/04/12 - FOHC's AGM;**

**28/04/12 - Ardagh Bowling Club's Taster Day, followed by 6-week introduction to Bowling Course**

**04/06/12 - FOHC's Annual 'Diamond Jubilee Themed' Summer Picnic;**

## 1. 'Please P-P-P-Pick up the Poop' Campaign

Please...p-p-p-pick up the

poop

If you need a  
bag, please take one...



Unfortunately - the ongoing 'Dog Poop' problem has been high on the agenda through the winter. FOHC have put out dog bags at various points around the common and posters which remind the small minority of irresponsible dog owners that they need to clear up after their pets. We have been chatting to the dog walkers on the common who suggested that we get in touch with the BCC dog warden to see what else can be done to make sure that this problem is nipped in the bud and we'll report back on any new ideas about tackling this deeply unpleasant problem. Dog walkers have also suggested that they arm themselves with additional dog bags when they go out for their daily walks so that they can offer anyone they see not picking up a bag to enable them to! With the dedicated army of dog walkers who use the common every day, we are positive that this number of sets of eyes and volunteers will have an impact. Again - thanks to all the dog walkers who are taking part in this.

FOHC have also upped our poster & dog bag campaign around the common - with a Horfield Common specific poster, & hopefully with the lighter days coming along - we will see an end to this problem.

## 2. The Ardagh, Children's Play area and Sports and Public Toilet Facilities

FOHC have been very active in working with Bristol City Council on planning for the area through the *Area Green Space Planning* (AGSP) process during the past 2 years. Having submitted the final proposals that we had worked up with members throughout the consultation period, we are now waiting to find out what is next and how the process will be moved forwards.

To view the final documents that were submitted as part of the AGSP process, and which set out FOHCs priorities for the coming year, see

<http://friendsofhorfieldcommon.weebly.com/downloads.html>

We are aware that there is a huge amount of interest in improving the facilities available to local people on Horfield Common and hope to be able to report back on this with some tangible progress and outcomes at our AGM in April.

### **3. Horfield Common has a Village Green! ....but it's not the one we were expecting!**

Whilst the Village Green Application for Wellington Hill Playing Field rumbles on in the background, we have found out some surprising news about Village Greens and Horfield since the turn of the new year. Following the publication of the AGSP plans last year which confirmed what we all thought that we knew - that Horfield Common was - as a Common - legally registered as Common Land.

It now appears that this is not the case & that the whole of Horfield Common (13.5 hectares in total) is not registered as Common land; it is in fact registered as a Village Green. This is confirmed on DEFRA's website, although the area is misspelt & registered as Harfield Common, which is perhaps why this wasn't previously picked up.

There is a map which shows the area that is registered as Village Green on our website:

[http://friendsofhorfieldcommon.weebly.com/uploads/5/3/5/2/5352078/map\\_of\\_horfield\\_village\\_green\\_registration\\_area\\_bcc\\_vg6.pdf](http://friendsofhorfieldcommon.weebly.com/uploads/5/3/5/2/5352078/map_of_horfield_village_green_registration_area_bcc_vg6.pdf)

*A very helpful officer at the planning inspectorate confirmed that 'the land may well be common land historically, however, if it was registered as a village green, then legally it does not have common land status. Not all common land was correctly registered, and anomalies like these do exist. Village greens are protected from development under different legislation.*

### **4. Reinstatement of the football pitch on Wellington Hill Playing Field.**

*We are waiting for confirmation of the date when the football posts will be put back up in Wellington Hill Playing Field and the lines will be re-marked out so that local people and groups can use it again for a kickabout! As soon as we hear any further - we will let you know. Alongside this, we are working with Horfield Young People's Club to support an event on the field which will coincide with the Olympics and celebrate having the field back as a wonderful open green space for everyone in the local area to enjoy. Again - more info on this in the next update!*

## Upcoming Events

FOHC's committee met in late February to agree the dates for events and activities coming up over the next few months. These include:

1. Our *Annual Summer Picnic* which this year will be brought forward to *Monday 4 June 2012*, to coincide with the Diamond Jubilee Bank Holiday Weekend. We'll forward on much more detail nearer the time, but please do get this date into your diaries and come along and join us for what we very much hope will be the best FOHC Summer Picnic to date. We are already working on our Kings & Queens themed fancy dress for the day!
2. Our *Annual General Meeting* will take place at the Ardagh Pavilion on *Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> April from 7.30 - 8.30pm*. All are welcome.

At the AGM meeting we will be able to present a brief update of all of the work that we have been involved in over the last year, and alongside talking about plans for the future, we will be asking for volunteers to come forward to support efforts on the Summer Picnic day.

If you have a few hours to spare and would like to lend a hand making bunting, building cardboard props, running a stall or stewarding the pitch-and-putt course, for example - please do come along - we'll be very pleased to see you and could do with the extra pairs of hands! It's good fun to get involved in & a great opportunity to get to know a lot of lovely people in the local area.

3. There are a number of events coming up at the Ardagh over the next few weeks, including the *Toddler Group's first fundraiser this weekend - a table-top sale on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March from 10.30 - 2.30pm*.

Please dig out those pennies & come along and support them!



4. There has been a lot of interest in the proposal to develop a **Community Choir** at the Ardagh. To start to explore setting up a longer term group, local resident and singing tutor Nicola is running a fantastic, free **'Sing into Spring' event on the Spring Solstice, Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2012.**

To join in the event - no experience is necessary & all are welcome. The event will take place outside so please dress for the weather! Come along and join us to walk around the common, learn some simple songs (with harmonies all taught by ear) and sing along with the birds on the common to welcome the Spring in! There will be 2 sessions on the day - one from 7.30 - 8.30 am for dawn, and one from 6.00 - 7.00pm for dusk. Come along to one or both and support this brilliant new initiative! More info about plans for the Community Choir will be available on the day.

5. ***The Ardagh Bowling and Sports Club*** are running a free **'Introduction to Bowling' event on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April from 10.30 - 2.30pm, followed by a 6-week course on a Friday evening, which is free, open to all and offers an opportunity to learn how to play the game informally with friendly current members of the club.**

For more information about these events see:

<http://ardaghbowlingsportsclub.weebly.com/index.html>

See the current issue of Bishopston Matters for an article about Josh who is 12 years old and one of the Ardagh Bowling and Sports Club's junior members. Bowling is a great sport which can be played by all ages.

Do come along to ABSC's open events if you are interested in having a go, and lend them your support. Bowling is a great social sport and excellent for gentle, outdoor exercise too.



**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2012 :: 10.30 – 14.30**

then Fridays 4th, 11th, 18th & 25th May and 1st & 8th June from 18.30 - 20.30

Join some of our current members for a friendly and informal introduction to bowling at the Ardagh.

NO previous experience is necessary and ALL equipment will be provided.

And/Or come along to our free 6-week introductory course which will teach you the basics so that you can enjoy playing either as part of the club or independently.



Wear flat shoes & we can provide you with everything else that you will need to give bowls a try.

***Come along and join us for a fun introduction to bowling!***

Ardagh Bowling Club  
Horfield Common  
Bristol  
BS6 7YL

**ALL WELCOME**

Ffi: [www.friendsofhorfieldcommon.com](http://www.friendsofhorfieldcommon.com)

*We are currently working on plans for a number of projects which will help to improve the Horfield Common area, and which will offer lots of opportunities for the many volunteers who would like to, to get involved in a hands-on way. These include a focussed piece of work on opportunities to support Biodiversity more effectively in the area, a project to bring the Ardagh Gardens into the Bristol in Bloom programme for the Diamond Jubilee with Red, White & Blue flowers to celebrate both the jubilee itself and the beginnings of what we hope will be a new future for the site in 2012.*

*We'll let you have full details of these as soon as we have them available, and look forwards to working with you all in 2012!*