

SNEYD PARK RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

A newsletter for members of the SPRA, published in spring and winter each year

The Chairman's view...

After a long wet winter, it is wonderful to see spring at long last arriving, and to walk around Sneyd Park enjoying the wonderful surroundings and nature waking up.

It is hard to believe this is my last year as Chair. After eight enjoyable years, it's time to hand the reins on to Alan, although I will remain on the committee.

Your committee has been hard at work protecting and preserving the area and I trust you'll find this newsletter interesting.

I'd like to welcome our new committee members – each has written a small article introducing themselves (*see below*). With their help, SPRA will continue to flourish.

As many of you will know, we have been working with 'Protect the Downs', a group formed after our meeting last March at St Alban's Church, which more than 650 people attended. These efforts have seen Bristol City Council declare

The Downs a high-impact area and those who are vulnerable being cared for by the city. More sites are being made available, with electricity, running water and toilets, as kerbside camping cannot be correct in this day and age.

The Queen's Tree continues to flourish and our thanks go to local residents who help with watering during hot periods. We hope the tree will be enjoyed by many future generations.

The Forwards Festival last August involved us working with Team Love, checking road closures and security matters. The event this year is on 29th and 30th August and once again SPRA will be in attendance.

Our work on the Downs Advisory Panel (DAP) continues, and SPRA is the only resident group on the panel. DAP feeds directly to The Downs Committee, which runs The Downs – such an important corridor for nature in the city.

*Stephen Small
SPRA Chairman*



Many people take Sneyd Park's gems for granted, but we should not do so; like all good gardens it needs constant care, not just for this generation but generations to come. SPRA aims to protect the area but can only do so with your support.

I look forward to seeing you all at our AGM on Tuesday 12th May at St Mary's. There will be local speakers and an opportunity to share views before and after the meeting with a glass of wine.

With best wishes for a wonderful spring and summer,
Steve

Welcome to our three new committee members

Ann Moody, Membership Secretary

Ann recently moved to Sneyd Park after living in Brentry for 21 years. She says: "I went to SPRA's AGM last year while waiting to move into the area. When I learnt what a useful role it has, I immediately wanted to contribute if I was needed. Here I am!"



SPRA website clear and up to date, helping residents to find information if they want to get involved locally."

Jerry Woods, Newsletter Editor

Jerry moved to Sneyd Park just over a year ago, having lived in Redcliffe for more than 20 years. He says: "After two decades in the centre of Bristol, with lovely neighbours and in easy walking distance of everything, I was a bit nervous about how we would cope with the change. I needn't have worried: Sneyd Park has the best of both worlds with a feeling of living in the countryside on the edge of the city. I'd quite like a coffee shop nearby, but you can't have everything! Parking is much easier and it is lovely and quiet."



David Wedge, Webmaster

David grew up in Somerset but has lived half his life in Sneyd Park. He says: "Sneyd Park has been home since 1996, and I'm very pleased to give something back. My focus will be on keeping the

Pocket parks

Have you noticed a few corners of Sneyd Park that you have walked past and thought: this could look a little prettier?

Well, SPRA has identified the first of three small grassed areas (*pictured*) that we would like to plant up with spring bulbs and suitable low-level planting to jolly up some street corners.

We have been given permission by the Highways department and plan to plant these up in the spring – dates to follow.

We are keen to hear from green-fingered members who want to help, maybe to advise on the best mix of



shrubs and flowers or to donate plants if you have been digging out or splitting plants over the winter.

Please drop SPRA a line at sneydparkbristol@sp-ra.org.uk – we'd love to hear from you.

How to become a member of SPRA

SPRA has been in existence since 1969 and it is proud to be one of the longest continuously running residents' associations in Britain.

We act as your voice in the local area, tackling issues that are important to you.

Membership currently costs just £5 per household per year. If you are interested in joining, please go to our website at www.sp-ra.org.uk for more details on how to set up an annual standing order.



Dates for your diary

SPRA AGM

Tuesday 12th May at 7.30pm
St Mary's Church
There will be wine after the meeting

Forwards Festival

August bank holiday weekend
(29th and 30th)

Road captains' meeting and supper plus SPRA future plans

Friday 13th March from 7 to 9pm
Stoke Bishop Village Hall
The committee would welcome hard-working road captains and anyone else who'd like to help with improving Sneyd Park by doing small jobs such as tree and shrub planting, litter picking, phone box decorating or other occasional tasks.

Wine and nibbles will be provided.
Please email Alan Jenkinson at the address below if you are coming.

Deep litter picking

29th March, 7th June and 6th September
10am to 12 noon

Sneyd Park is rightly known as a quiet suburb with leafy streets, and there's no doubt that residents look after the area well. There is very little litter and no obvious graffiti (the hedges help with that!). Having said that, litter does get blown about and can build up in hedgerows, so the committee is keen to encourage local litter picking weekends. Our plan is to do this four times a year and encourage locals to come together (through road captains) for a couple of hours to clean their own and surrounding roads. We will provide Bristol Waste bags plus gloves, tabards and litter grabbers.

Details of the first three sessions are above, so please get in touch if you are interested in litter picking in your immediate area on any of these dates.

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