



## **Trustee Annual Update September 2011**

Friends of Jubilee Green (FOJG) formed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2009 as a constituted voluntary group. We were brought together by Southern Brooks Community Partnership (SBCP) and many of us were approached by SBCP at the consultation meetings for the park.

On the 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010 we became a Charity, this is our second AGM since forming. During the last 12 months the trustees can confirm FOJG have achieved the following for the benefit of the community.

### **1. Community Events**

FOJG aims for our events to be about building a community spirit and to facilitate families and groups of children playing together who may not have had the opportunity to play together before. Examples of this are; children who go to one particular school in the area mix with children from another school at the park/ event; and pre-school children playing along side teenagers on the nest swing and slide.

The trustees feel we have achieved these aims through the 7 community events we have run in 2011, these have been either free or low cost events that have been inclusive to the whole community and promoted: healthy lifestyles through the physical activities; creative development through the craft activities; and community cohesion by facilitating group play and removing cost barriers.

In April 2011 we approached Bradley Stoke Town Council for additional funding for 3 targeted events over the school summer holidays. We are very grateful for their support and for granting us the additional funding.

The following events would not have been possible without the amazing generosity of local businesses, community groups and Bradley Stoke Town Council (BSTC). See appendix for the full list of donations.

### **Easter Family Fun – April 2011**

The sun shone on a fantastic free community event.

- 54 Children enjoyed the 'find the Easter bunnies' search around the park and when they had found all the names to the 10 rabbits they returned to base for a prize.
- 60 children made Easter crowns and joined in the Easter bonnet parade.

- 3 Children won Easter Egg prizes for their creative creations
- Foam Easter eggs were decorated and bumble bees were made.
- Fun was had in the park playing with all the friends groups out door toys.

Southern Brooks Community Partnership held a teddy tombola to raise funds for their charity and Starbucks provided free refreshments.

### **Community Royal Wedding 'Street' Party- April 2011**

With the practical support of event management company Re;Energise (funded by Bradley Stoke Town Council) together we delivered a community street party. Two volunteers spent 3 months planning the event, generating publicity and engaging community groups to be involved on the day;

On the day we provided:

- 2 Free puppet shows and a free 'wedding reception' disco
- A free craft stall to make a community card to congratulate the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.
- A prince and princess fancy dress competition. The prizes were 6 free swimming sessions for each child donated by the local Leisure Centre.
- We asked the Aztec Hotel to donate a 'Wedding Cake' and a slice was given out to every one attending.

We calculated that:

- Approx 1,000 people attended over the 5 hour event
- We engaged 15 community groups into promoting their organisations at the event or having a fundraising stall.

We also invited Avon Fire brigade to attend and promote fire safety to the community and we also managed to secure BBC Radio Bristol broadcasting live from the event for 4 hours. This enabled many groups and members of the community to talk positively about their work and living in Bradley Stoke further publicising the strong, vibrant and diverse community that we have.

We were also joined on the day by the chair of South Gloucestershire Council Cllr Janet Biggin who judged the fancy dress competition and local MP Jack Lopresti.

There were also other local commercial stalls providing low cost food and entertainment for the community, these were managed by re;energise.

There was also a big screen TV to show the wedding to the community and unfortunately, the sub contractors that re;energise employed to provide the equipment and show the BBC footage failed. The picture and equipment was substandard, they refunded their charges and wrote a formal apology to the community of Bradley Stoke. When this problem came to light on the day we advised the community that the TV picture was poor and invited them to go home and watch it and return afterwards to continue to enjoy the party.

The observation that we made on the day and from feedback we got from the community is that some people did go home to watch the television footage

but returned after the wedding. The majority stayed to have fun on all the attractions and stalls and watched the highlights later in the day.

After the event we posted the community congratulations card to the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge and were delighted when we got a response from Clarence House thanking the community for the card with references to the cards design. There was also a picture of their royal highnesses enclosed with the letter and a copy of both the letter and photo are on display in the park notice board for the community to enjoy.

### **Pre-School Picnic- June 2011**

This event is a part of the Bradley Stoke Community Festival and is organised by Bradley Stoke Town Council. This year we got involved by holding a free 'treasure hunt' around the park, this involved pre-school children and their carers searching the park for 12 different stickers. Once they either had the 12 stickers on the answer sheet or their clothes they returned to base for a prize.

This activity challenged several parents conception of their childrens abilities, several parents felt that their pre-school children were too young to understand the activity but were persuaded to have a go as it was free. Their children soon got the concept of what they needed to do and it gave them the opportunity to explore the park with their carers.

Despite the hale storm and heavy showers 91 children took part in the activity.

We also took the opportunity to carry out a public consultation on our projects and obtain feedback from the community.

We are grateful to Bradley Stoke Matters for their sponsorship- this covered the printing costs of the stickers and the answer sheets and enabled us to provide this activity for free.

### **Summer of Fun- August/ September 2011**

We secured additional funding from Bradley Stoke Town Council to facilitate 3 age targeted events over the school holidays, we matched this funding with community group involvement.

#### **Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> June- Pre-School Event**

300 people enjoyed this event in spectacular sunshine. This free event provided:

- 2 professional story telling sessions
- Bouncy Castle
- Animal Hoppers
- Extra giant outdoor toys
- 2 craft activities; Making funny fish and funky flowers
- Musical parade through the park using various instruments.

We also provided temporary tattoos at a very low 20p cost and engaged Holy Trinity Church to provide a low cost tuck shop that proved to be

popular amongst the younger members as they could buy 10 sweets for 10p.

The event was also supported by The Woodcraft Folk who brought their giant parachute for group games on the green.

### **Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> August- 5-12 years event**

The weather was not kind for this event and we estimated 150 people attended. This free event provided:

- 50ft Inflatable assault course
- HoolaHooping workshop
- Skipping workshop and competition with prizes
- Shots on target and competition with prizes
- 3 craft activities; crazy collages and hair band and bracelet making.

Holy Trinity Church returned with their popular tuck shop and The Woodcraft Folk also carried out their parachute games. We have received the following feedback from the woodcraft folk:

*'It was great to be invited back to the summer events this year to run parachute games. We are a small group so it's nice to feel part of a wider community and it's been great publicity for the group too.'*

We were also joined at this event by Stokes Cycling Club who offered free bike check ups to the community. They had a steady stream of bikes to look over and make recommendations on. When the event finished at 12o'clock they invited the people attending to join them on a family bike ride to Bakers Ground park and back again. 3 families took up the challenge and braved the heavy showers to take a ride to another park and several joined the cycling club. One of the mums attending the event said:

*'The children really enjoyed both the fun days, it's always nice to have something marked in the calendar over the summer holidays that doesn't cost a fortune. The hula hooping was great fun and we enjoyed the cycle ride afterwards and even joined the cycling club.'*

### **Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> September- Youth Event**

This was a pilot event as this was the first time we had run a community event for this age group. For this event we engaged the senior youth club at Brook Way to help organise the event, we attended 2 of their Friday night clubs and planned the event together.

The initial meeting involved brainstorming ideas of what entertainment they would like, this identified that the young people also wanted to fundraise for FOJG and raise funds for youth club. The second stage involved how they were going to volunteer for the event and which activities were feasible within the budget.

Unfortunately, the young peoples plans were cut back dramatically due to the notice to close Brook Way Youth Centre and the subsequent ill health

of the youth leader who had personally pledged his time and some personal contacts for entertainment.

The remainder of the Brook Way Youth team stepped in to support this event and we also had the support of the Youth Worker from Church of Christ the King, she provided first aid cover for the event and extra supervision.

The event saw approx 100 young people enjoying inflatable human table football, pillow bash and disco.

We provided a low cost BBQ and refreshments. This was charged at a rate that allowed us to cover expenses. The BBQ was incredibly popular with the young people and we sold out of hot dogs and burgers.

This event gave us the opportunity to discuss freely and openly with the young people about voluntary work and make them more aware that everyone they come in contact with aren't necessarily paid to engage with them. It also made us aware of exactly how much money the young people do not have available to them as we were expecting them to buy multiple items from the BBQ and in reality they were only buying one item and a drink.

The young people also invited the Mayor of Bradley Stoke Town Council and he was able to attend a part of the event and the young people attending took the opportunity to discuss directly with Cllr Walker their frustrations with Youth Provision in Bradley Stoke. We were also joined for a few minutes by local MP Jack Lopresti who was attending a meeting at the Jubilee Centre.

## **2. Development of the park**

The trustees have also continued to work for the public's benefit by;

### Enablement Project

We successfully fundraised £990 to enable us to engage the services of South Glos Council Landscape Architect to draw professional plans and provide costings for the development of the pond, construction of a willow 'fence' and installation of dog grids, develop the second mound, construct a community veg garden and construct a second amphitheatre with a story chair. When these plans have been drawn up and the costing received it will enable us to commence fundraising.

### Community views

We have carried out 2 public consultations in 2011 the first was for the enablement project and the second was for the Art Enrichment Project. These views have helped us to shape our plans and will help us to achieve funding for the projects.

### Youth Structure and Flying Carpet

We have continued our attempts to secure funding for this project.

In November we learned that our grant application to Biffa was unsuccessful but we received some very positive feedback; “The Board acknowledged the potential benefits to be delivered by the proposed project and felt there was merit in the scheme. However, it did not feel the application was a priority for the limited allocation available.”

In March we also learned that our grant application to Groundwork UK for The National Lottery Changing Spaces Grant had also been unsuccessful.

We will continue to apply for funding for this much needed project.

### 3. **FOJG Involvement with the wider community**

#### Conferences

We have attended several Community Volunteer Service (CVS) conferences this year; the first was in December where we had the opportunity to be involved in a ‘Big Society’ debate with local MP’s. Whilst the points that were being discussed would not effect FOJG directly it was valuable to learn how the larger charities that support us will be impacted and how that in turn could effect the support we could receive.

The second conference was in July where we were invited to a voluntary sector conference exploring ‘Building a Strong Sector’ where we had the opportunity to receive presentations from the Chief Executive of South Glos Council, the Chair of the West of England Local Enterprise Partnership and the Chief officer for CVS South Gloucestershire. We had the opportunity to listen to presentations from major funders such as Lloyds TSB. Heritage Lottery, Quartet to mention a few and we had the opportunity for a one to one consultation with the big lottery fund.

This conference gave us the knowledge of what funders are looking for in grant applications and to broaden our understanding of the grants criteria. We are applying this knowledge to our grant applications and are hoping to see some benefit. It also made us more aware of the changes that are upcoming that will impact the third sector.

#### Workshops

We were delighted to be asked to present at a childhood conference ‘Time of their lives- Changing Childhoods’ that explored how childhoods have changed, what has influenced this and the detrimental effect this is having on children’s development.

The organisers of the workshop (Southern Brooks Community Partnership) had surveyed the parents in the community and had asked us to respond to one of the slides that related to children’s play outdoors and to also take the opportunity to present to the delegates and key note speakers what work Friends of Jubilee Green undertakes and why we feel our work is important.

From the contacts we have made at this workshop we have been invited to write an article for a National Parenting Magazine to inspire other parents to

take an active interest in their local play parks, we are hoping this will be published in 2012. We have also been asked to co-facilitate a physical exploration of the park and green area for the delegates of a conference taking place in November 2011.

#### International Womens' Day

We were delighted to be appointed the charity to receive the money raised from an evening event to celebrate International Women's Day. We were able to have an information stall where we shared our project ideas with the wider community and we were able to present to all the people attending what the aims and objectives of Friends of Jubilee Green are and to make a wider appeal for people to volunteer for their communities.

#### Safer Stronger Group Meetings

We have attended three of the Safer Stronger Meetings in 2010/2011 and we have had the opportunity to listen to the concerns of local residents and share any of our concerns with the park space. We have presented an update on the progress with the youth shelter as funding for the design work was provided by the Safer Stronger Grant. We have listened to the concerns that were raised about the rubbish in the hedgerows surrounding Jubilee Green and have updated the people attending about our project ideas and how we aim to improve community engagement in this space that will hopefully reduce the amount of rubbish building up.

### **Appendix**

The following local companies and organisations have provided donations or funding to enable FOJG to operate and run community events in 2011. We are very grateful to them all for their ongoing support.

#### **Bradley Stoke Town Council**

Through their Grant Aid process they have provided us with the funds to cover our running expenses. We have used a small amount of this funding to pay for prizes and some refreshments for our events and meetings. They also provide ongoing support with promoting our events and meetings and have provided an addition £1,093 funding to run the 'summer of fun events'.

#### **Community Media**

##### **Bradley Stoke Matters:**

We received a donation of £45 to cover the expenses for the Pre-School picnic event, this enabled us to provide our activity for free. We receive on going support from BSM with regular articles in their magazine and on their website.

##### **Bradley Stoke Journal:**

We receive support from this on-line newspaper by them promoting our events with either articles or by adding them to their 'whats on' page.

#### **Aztec Hotel and Starbucks**

Aztec hotel have provided us with support by providing a free 'wedding cake' for the street party event and Starbucks provided refreshments for our Easter event.

**Community groups and local charities:**

The following organisations provided us support at our events over the last year:

- Southern Brooks Community Partnership
- Church of Christ the King
- Holy Trinity Church
- The Woodcraft Folk
- Stokes Cycling Club
- Bradley Stoke Scouts
- St Johns Ambulance
- Bradley Stoke Football Club

The following groups could not physically support our Royal Wedding Street Party event but provided information to us so we could promote them:

- Bradley Stoke Bowls Club
- National Childbirth Trust
- Little Stoke Scouts
- Bradley Stoke Guides
- Bradley Stoke Netball Club
- Bradley Stoke Radio
- Babies on Boobs