BRISTOL PARKHIVE
UWE/BRISTOL PARKS EXCHANGE

"Bristol Parkhive is a collaborative project between the University of the West of England (UWE) and the Bristol Parks Forum, Bristol's network of volunteer parks groups, with the support of other local partners, who in the age of ever-shrinking budgets, play an increasingly important role in maintaining city parks and green spaces.

The project began as a contribution to the wide-ranging programme of activity taking place in Bristol in celebration of the achievement of the title of European Green Capital City 2015—the first UK city to hold this prestigious award.
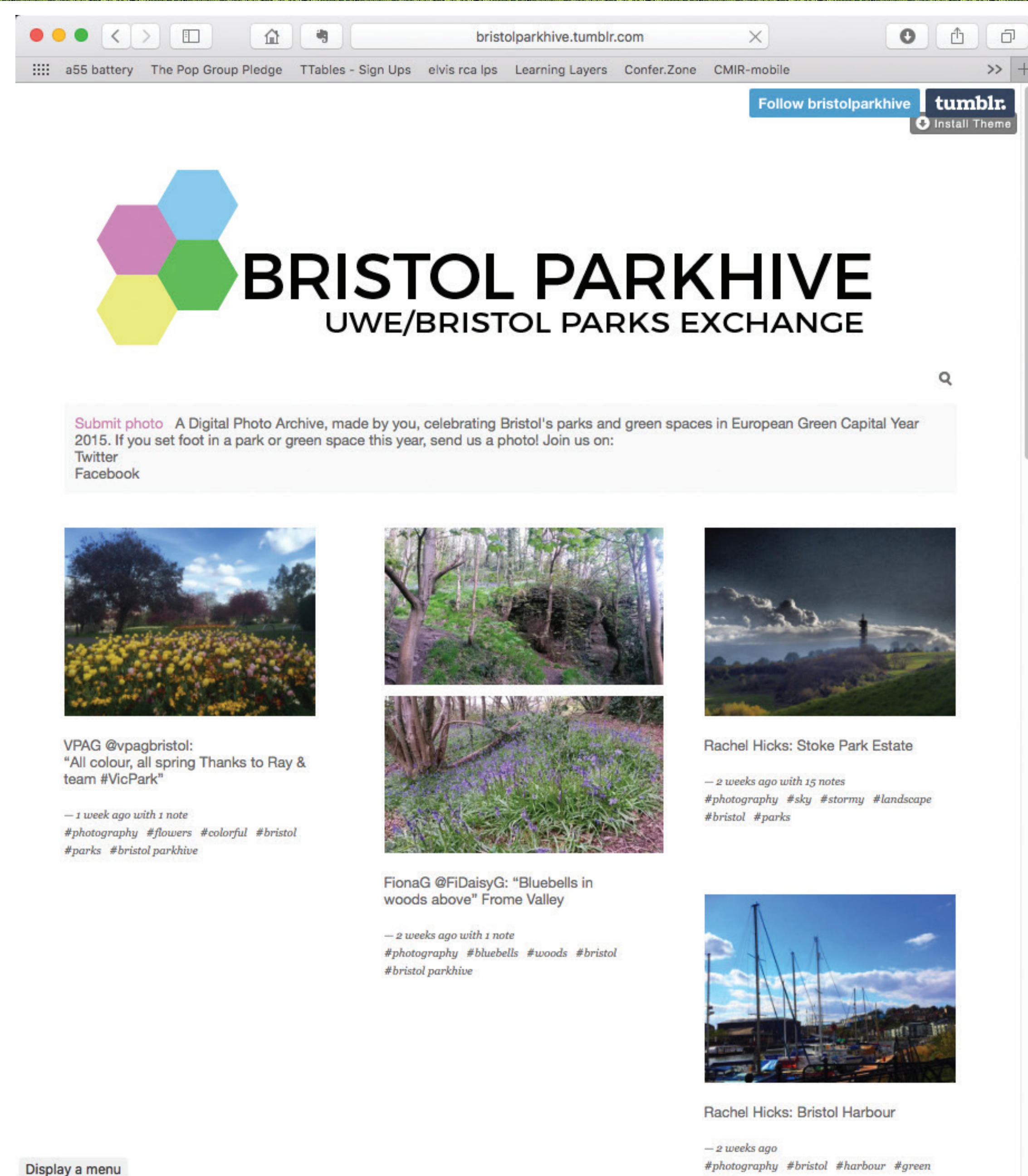
The aim of this project is three-fold:

1. To help build up the skills and capacity of parks groups volunteers to innovate and do their work, by delivering training in volunteer management, activities and event organisation, app and website development, and social media usage.

2. To link up university students and course curriculum with community groups and live projects around parks and green spaces, and to harness the potential of these new networks to generate ideas and problem solving strategies to improve and develop Bristol's green spaces now and into the future.

3. To increase the visibility and awareness of the work of parks groups and highlight the critical importance of parks and green spaces to the quality of life of local residents, with the goal of increasing public engagement and participation in safeguarding their existence into the future." (www.bristolparkhive.com)

www.bristolparkhive.com

Supported by:

The Bristol ParkHive App

The app was a collaboration between the Bristol ParkHive team and digital design company Calvium to promote parks and green spaces, both large and small around the Bristol area.

It is:
- Completely free to download for Android and Apple smartphones.
- GPS powered to reveal your nearest park on location, out of over 200 public parks and green spaces
- Browsable at home
- Searchable, with a filter to find parks with specific facilities

Download the App

For Apple/iOS   For Android

The Tumblr Blog

From January 2015 an invitation was given for people to upload pictures taken around the parks of Bristol. The subject could be the park itself, views, events, daily life. The intention was to create as thorough a record of park use as possible. By the time of the November exhibtion, over 1300 had been uploaded. The blog continues, and still more images are being uploaded.
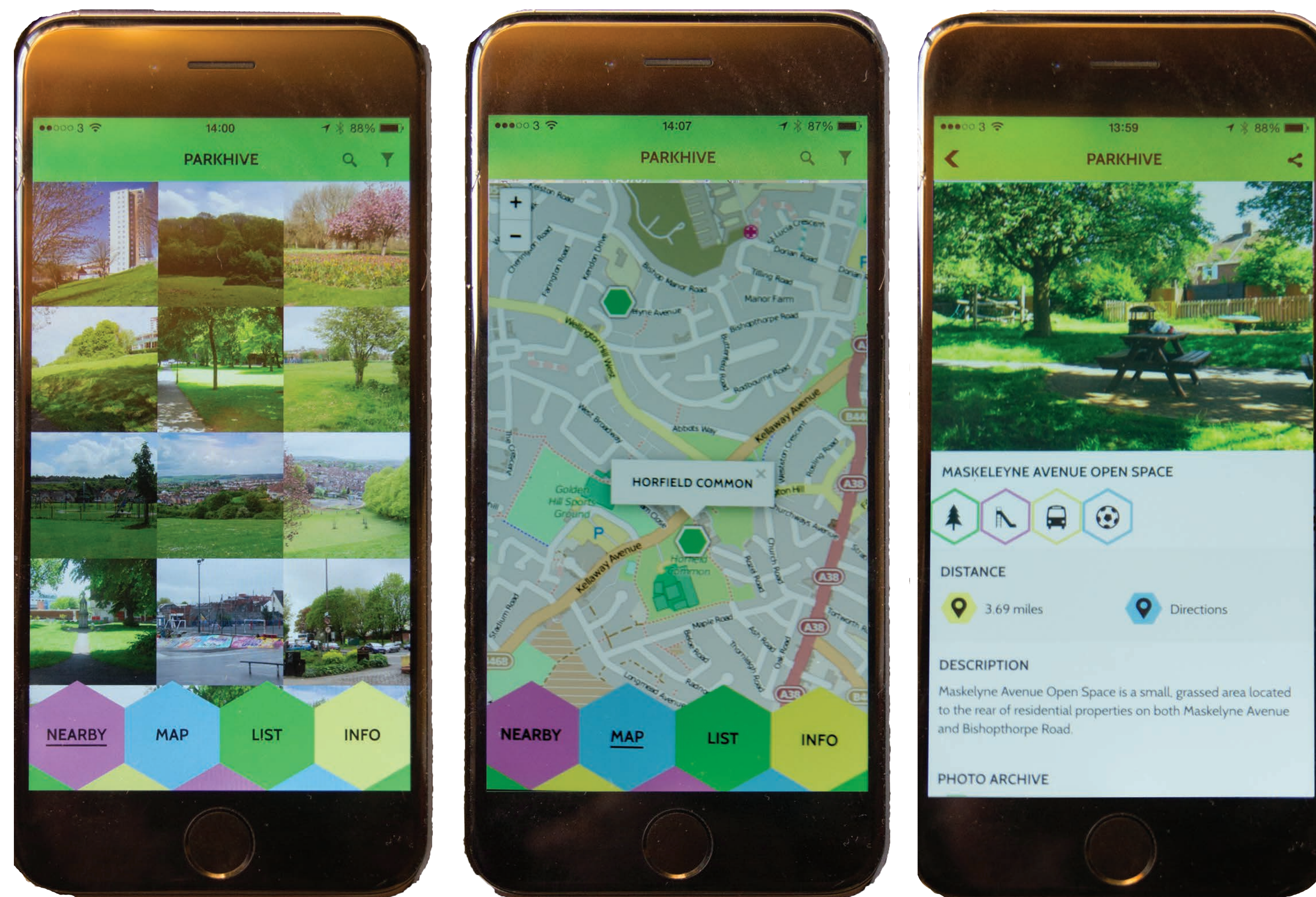
View the website

Events

Festival of Nature
During the 2015 Festival of Nature the Bristol parkHive team launched the ParkHive App and promoted the Tumblr Blog. The team and additional student volunteers were part of the UWE tent exhibition over the weekend.

November Exhibition
The culmination of the ParkHive project for 2015 was an exhibition held in the F-Block gallery, of the Bower Ashton campus.

It presented a collection of images submitted by the public to the Tumblr archive. Some of the contributors came along to the launch. As part of the Launch evening some park group volunteers presented the work that they carried out in their repective public space, and student volunteers presented the work they had created and shared through the year.

Student Engagement/Outreach

Big Park Draw
The Big Park Draw is an tri-annual open invitation to draw and sketch in Victoria Park, in south Bristol. For Green Capital Year Bristol ParkHive supported the event and organised student volunteers to help.

Bio-blitz events
BioBlitz events were staged by the Fesitval of Nature at a number of parks throughout Green Capital year. Students volunteers and ParkHive members took part in some these.

Downs App
The Bristol ParkHive team worked with the Friends of the Downs and Avon Gorge to produce an app. This had to be cost-effective, and easy to maintain. After some research the app was built using the AppBuilder online app building system. It was launched at the opening of the newly renovated Downs steps.

Training

As part of an ParkHive/UWE outreach program, a series of workshops were offered to members of the volunteer park groups.

These training sessions included web design, digital mapping, and promotion through social media. The important factor in the technologies we chose were that they were easy to use and free.

More sessions are planned for 2016.

The Future
The Bristol ParkHive project continues in 2016. This year ParkHive team and students on the MA History course have been working with Steve England and members of the Stoke Park Steering Group to explore the story of the Stoke Park grounds and gardens. Sam Thomson describes the ParkHive project at a Big Green Week breakfast event at the No 1 Harbourside Bar on the 12th June 2016 (below, 6 mins).

The Team
The core team of Bristol ParkHive were Sam Thomson, Lisa Friedberg, Marton Gosztonyi, Sammy Milton, Hugo de Brett and David Smith. Thanks also to all the student volunteers who helped at the events throughout the year.

blippAR
Poster powered by Blippar where you see this symbol

Download and open the Blippar app onto your smartphone, aim for the pictures with your camera, and find out more about Bristol ParkHive.

Thanks to the Education Innovation Centre for their help in producing this Augmented Reality poster.