



Kings Weston Action Group Newsletter number 1

Welcome to the first KWAG Newsletter.

We hope you enjoy following updates on present progress.

Statue returns! (Briefly)

For one brief afternoon the statue in the 'Echo' returned... albeit in cardboard form! The life-sized flat figure was enlarged from a 1927 photograph of the Vanbrugh designed pavilion that marks the termination of the southern avenue from the house. A copy of the original image was kindly donated to KWAG by Country Life Magazine and we are grateful for their support.

It's not known whom the classical marble statue represented, and its present whereabouts are unknown. It was toppled shortly after WWII and is thought to have been stored for a short time in the basement of the house. What happened to it beyond this is a mystery.

We hope that the replica will help us track down this missing sculpture whilst raising the profile of KWAG. We need to look at the feasibility of returning the statue to its original plinth, but first we must find her.

If you know anything that might help us find the statue, or know of anyone who might have been involved in the house in the 1950's please let us know.

Working with the Forest of Avon Trust

KWAG have been invited to collaborate on a project run by The Forest of Avon Trust. The programme intends to promote the use of the woodlands at Kings Weston and develop community and educational resources.

Initially we are working with the trust to explore the feasibility of providing new information and interpretation boards



at key locations on the Estate. Maps, historical information about house and park, and details on heritage and nature conservation are all part of our ambition.

It is hoped that panels, to match the existing "Legible City" initiative already established on the Blaise Castle Estate, will add to the understanding of the estate for new visitors and old regulars alike. The project is in its formative stage, but we hope to be able to report progress soon.

Call for ideas

Essential to KWAG's activity is the collection of people's ideas and how they would like to see the park improved. Whether it is as simple as more dog bins, events that could encourage the use of the park, or the grander proposals for restoration of historic features. We need to know what YOU think. It will be based on these ideas that we will be presenting a strategy for

conservation and enhancement to the City Council and other organisations likely to be able to fund the proposals. What you think really does matter and to make sure your hopes and ideas are taken into consideration please get in touch with us.

Summer plans

KWAG will be putting on a guided walk of the historic features of the estate on Sunday 2nd July at 10:30am starting from Shirehampton road car park and ending at the house.

The event has been organised through Bristol City Council and the Blaise Castle Estate and you will need to book in advance of the day, as numbers are limited. Places on the tour will cost £4 and details for booking will be announced shortly.

Later in the summer we will also be putting on a weekend exhibition on the history of the House and Estate, to be held in the Echo. It will also be an opportunity to meet with us, see our progress so far, and let us know what your ideas are for the future of Kings Weston. If you think you would like to help put the exhibition together, or would be available to help out on the day we would love you to be involved.

Don't forget! Find us on-line. Search for Kings Weston Action Group on [Facebook](#) or [Flickr](#) and follow us for more regular updates.