



Kings Weston Action Group Newsletter number 3

Exhibition spreads the word

A major milestone reached and the green light for action on the estate...

One of our lesser ambitions for Kings Weston was achieved earlier in September when the Echo was briefly converted to use as a KWAG exhibition venue. With the kind support of the Bristol Port Company the exhibition, pulled together in less than four weeks, covered the history of the house and estate and was planned to coincide with Bristol Doors Open Day weekend.

The exhibition ran on the Saturday and Sunday that the main house was open and focused on just some of the history that makes Kings Weston such a unique and important place. KWAG sourced many unique and previously unseen photographs and drawings to illustrate the story from the Seventeenth Century to the condition of the park today. The cut-out statue was returned to her plinth again and formed the centrepiece to the event and a small cabinet of artefacts and books focusing on Kings Weston completed the exhibition.

Although the unsettled weather is likely to have put off some potential visitors, and a couple of brief downpours delayed play we were delighted with the number of people that came up to the Echo to see us. In total 438 visitors passed through over the course of the two-day event and on occasion it was genuinely difficult to move in the Echo because of the crowd. The reaction of everyone to the exhibition has been fantastic and we have received some great positive feedback. A good number of flyers were completed and returned and our membership has swelled since the event. The event proved a great success and has really helped in raising the profile of KWAG. Our thanks go out to everyone who helped the weekend go so well, and also to everyone who took the time to visit it.

Special Thanks must go to The Bristol Port Company for supporting the event, the KWAG volunteers who stewarded it,



Above: Two visitors inspect the KWAG exhibition in the Echo. The full exhibition will be available online soon through our Facebook and Flickr pages.

and to Andy Foyle for proofreading the text. Our sponsorship has enabled us to invest in heavy-duty panels to enable us to tour the exhibition around the City. If you were unable to make the exhibition over the weekend we hope that it will come to a venue close to you soon. We will keep everyone posted on its future travels.

Inching towards action

KWAG is not of course only about celebrating the history of Kings Weston Estate and we remain focussed on helping maintain and restore the estate through direct action. We have come a step closer to forming larger working parties with the training of three of our members as group supervisors. These volunteers have received basic health and safety, and tools training that will enable us to undertake clearance and planting work and ensure we are all covered under Bristol City Council's insurance. This will only enable us to work within the public park areas but

presently excludes any work planned for the National Trust owned land in Shirehampton Park. We hope to continue developing our relationship with the NT so we could look at this in the future. For now there is an awful lot to keep us busy closer to the house!

Our first project is to continue the salvage of the lime avenue to the west of the house. The trees along the path in this location are said to be the oldest such specimens in Bristol, but have become densely overgrown by brambles and suckers springing-up from the base of the trunks. We hope to progressively clear the remaining bays of the avenue so it can be read as a clear line of trees again rather than an overgrown hedge!

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