

## Bathscape board lockdown update 17<sup>th</sup> July 2020

### General

As soon as Covid19 took hold we took the decision to cancel our public events and so when lockdown was announced shortly after we were able to shut down relatively easily. The three project staff have continued to work from home, though several of the organisations commissioned to deliver Bathscape activities, including some project partners, have furloughed their staff. During the height of the lockdown we focussed our activities on trying to cater for a home-based audience whilst also catching up on our admin and adding to the website. We looked to help our areas of greatest deprivation by putting together activity packs for families using children's centres, collecting activity sheets from Avon Wildlife Trust and the National Trust and bundling them up with bug hunting ID guides and magnifying glasses, then distributing them through to local families. We kept alive our involvement with events like April's City Nature Challenge through contributing videos and to online discussions. We've also been able to keep our volunteer 'in-kind' contributions ticking over by asking people to write articles for the learn section of our website. We have around 15 articles so far on subjects ranging from Haile Selassie in Bath to the history of Bath City Farm and we'll be making them live soon. It was frustrating not to have our planned info on local walks produced when restrictions started to ease and people began exploring their local countryside, but we collated links to the walks that are available elsewhere online as a temporary measure on our website.

### Funders

The National Lottery Heritage Fund have been very supportive (across all their projects) and the message from our project mentor is that we should firmly keep people's health above any concerns about falling behind on our targets. They have an emergency fund but it's not appropriate for us to apply for as we aren't currently struggling financially and I'm sure there are many other projects and heritage attractions where that fund can be better directed. As the restrictions continue to eat into our delivery time we could if we wished make an argument to the lottery for reducing our targets and reducing our final claim accordingly, or look at the feasibility of extending the grant end date to enable a reprofiling of delivery. The latter is what I will be looking at.

### The current position and the future

With the easing of lockdown guidance our landowner advisory services are now back up and running and the advisors are going out to see those grassland and woodland owners that have requested a visit. Our grassland restoration volunteer work parties are tentatively resuming with the National Trust ranger taking out very small groups of volunteers using a booking system to control numbers. Twerton Timebank, who deliver our weekly health walks, are also now resuming with limited numbers. Our other commissioned activities remain on hold either because of concerns about how they can be safely managed or because key staff are still furloughed. For Bathscape staff led activities we have various family fun days in our target areas still pencilled in the diary for August, but we will not be advertising them until we have greater confidence that they can safely go ahead within the guidance. The September Walking Festival is our flagship event and we are currently drawing up plans that include options for standard led walks as well as self-guided walks and virtual walks. We also now have a University of Bath psychology student placement, Seher Singh, working with us for a year. Seher will primarily be working on our Landscape on Prescription project, assessing our green prescription interventions in encouraging more active lifestyles and looking at how we can get the most from the project. We also have a graphic design student, Jack March from Bath Spa University, with us this month designing our articles and walk pdfs.