

Cumberland Piazza Report AGM 2021

Introduction

The highlights for this year were a couple of new murals, the crowd funding and creation of new skate ramps for the Skate Spot, Hotwells Community Well-Being Festival and seeing the planters and sedum beds flourish with minimal maintenance.

Original aims for 2021

- To continue maintenance of the space adding soil to planters and gravel to beds
- To continue to meet and talk with interested people while gardening in the space
- To support and facilitate locals with their ideas and proposals
- To write and share blog and social media posts about activities on site
- To respond to the Covid situation in the safest and most productive way we can
- To produce a community event

Achievements

Maintenance

- Weeding sedum beds
- Engaging locals to help with gardening
- Repainting over tagging and litter picking
- restoring and renewing murals
- Communicating with Bristol Waste

Community engagement

About 500 people have been actively engaged in creative and maintenance activities at the piazza in the following ways:

- Via arts activities & festival
- Meeting and talking with interested people while gardening in the space
- Writing, sharing and responding to blog and social media posts about activities and progress

December to March

Minimal maintenance carried out and a Happy New Year Mural. We increased the DIY skate ramps in February half term with about 10 local young people

March to July

We engaged locals in the following ways:

This was a lively period of time. The **skate ramps** were removed and it took a long time to find out that it had been a council team and in response to local complaints about fly-tipping. Anna did a

GoFundMe campaign and raised nearly £900 from local people including Johnny Palmer donating £300. More locals arranged professional designs and built new ramps which were installed in June (if we'd paid for their services they would have been over £3k!). During this time we also discovered that noise complaints were the actual reason for the skate ramps removal and Anna had to communicate with the local resident who was finding the noise difficult and sound proofed the ramps with sand bags. <https://www.gofundme.com/manage/help-hotwells-teenagers-build-new-skate-ramps>

We also had five **Duke of Edinburgh Award volunteers from Cathedral School** (14/15years) working at the Piazza every Monday after school from March to June. They helped paint over graffiti, do gardening and litter picking.

And we were approached for a meeting by Kerry Rowe, the **Community Engagement officer from BCC Communities and Public Health**, to say what an asset the work we do at the Piazza is and can she help in any way.

We had one **community gardening session** on June 7th which had a good attendance totalling about 15 people of all ages and got the site nice and tidy with new trees planted.

The **Well-being festival** was really successful. So many locals got involved and contributed to the organisation and activities and, considering it was 30 degrees on the day but loads of people turned up. Again, big thanks to Johnny Palmer for his generous donation of music equipment and staff. Also thanks Bob and Carol Walton for the poetry activities, Chai Shai for providing food for all the volunteers, H&CCA MC for welcoming people into the space and all the artists and others who helped make the festival fun. Details of the people who made it happen can be seen here <https://artundertheflyover.com/2021/06/30/come-rain-come-shine/>

A video will be played at the AGM and available online afterwards.

August to November

Kids Summer Activities <https://artundertheflyover.com/2021/07/27/summer-fun-for-families/>

Anna & Mhairi facilitated 4 days of art activities for children of all ages with the aim of letting them have some creative fun. We had an average of 5 children on most days Ages varied from 3-13. We had an average of 4 adults per day who joined in the art activities with the kids or conversed with us.

Over the 6 sessions we engaged 6 adults and 10 children.

Community gardening sessions

There was one community gardening session arranged during this time.

Maintenance to Suspension Bridge Mural

Hotwells Panto have generously offered to donate £500 so that Luke Palmer can repair the damage to the Suspension Bridge mural. This will happen as soon as Luke has a bit of time. Delays are due to children isolating and unpredictable weather. Big thanks to the Panto committee.

Independent groups using the space

There are several exercise classes per week which are really well attended. The Saturday morning group uses the blocks as an 'outdoor gym'. There's also a capoeira group and musicians occasionally play

To see images from all of these activities please visit <https://artundertheflyover.com>

The Future

Plans for 2022 include another festival onsite as everyone was keen to do more. We'd also like to establish regular community gardening and creative activities and would love advice from people at this meeting about how best to organise this.

We're also aware that the architects commissioned for the Harbour Hopes engagement programme specialise in meanwhile spaces, so it would be interesting to find out if they have any plans to do things on the Cumberland Piazza.

We may also need to think about raising more funds or work out what we can achieve without capital. We welcome your ideas.