

## Fairy tale fungi on Troopers Hill

The generosity of National Lottery players continues to bring benefits to Troopers Hill. Friends of Troopers Hill used part of their National Lottery Heritage Fund grant to commission an interpretation board about the fungi to be found on Troopers Hill.

Claire Challice of Inkwood Design managed the project and carried out the overall design. The Friends supplied a number of photos for her to choose from and specified which fungi should feature as specially commissioned art works created by artist Abi Stubbs. The Friends supplied the text, having first asked John Bailey of North Somerset and Bristol Fungus group to review what they wanted to say.

Arien Designs printed the board and built the stand. They installed it with just two days to go before the Royal Horticultural Society South West in Bloom judge came to assess Troopers Hill for “Pride in Parks” and “It’s Your Neighbourhood” awards. The Friends proudly showed the judge around the site, pointing out the work that has been carried out using the National Lottery Heritage Fund grant and describing what is left to do.



*Susan Acton-Campbell, Chair, Friends of Troopers Hill & Jane Pagano, RHS South West in Bloom judge*

Thanks to savings achieved on the new Troopers Hill Rd fencing and gates, more work can be done to remove the remaining rotting wooden fencing that no longer serves a purpose because trees and brambles form an adequate barrier. This work is being costed by Bristol City Council and will then go out to tender. The Friends are hopeful that they have enough funds to pay for all the remaining unnecessary fencing to be removed, which will make life simpler when cutting machines drive up Troopers Hill Rd to cut back vegetation. The Friends have also asked ParkWork, a project to help people into work, to estimate costs to refurbish the steps leading up to the existing entrances on Troopers Hill Rd.

In autumn, there will be 25 places available on a free guided fungi walk, led by John Bailey with support from the North Somerset and Bristol Fungus, to discover many of the fungi featured on the

new interpretation board and more. The Friends will be taking booking in early October for the "Fungi Foray" which will take place on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November.

A good way to find out more about the fungi on Troopers Hill is to come on a conservation work party. Work is often done in September to remove bramble and scrub from areas where fungi have appeared in the past to give them a better opportunity to fruit. There is always great excitement when the first example of a scarlet and white fly agaric is uncovered, looking exactly like fungi that appears in children's stories often featuring a seated pixie or fairy.

**There is a conservation work party on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month, starting promptly at 10am and finishing at noon. The volunteers meet by the red slide on Troopers Hill Field.**