

A Summer of Fun



Music on the Hill



Bugs and Beasties



Shepherds Way

I'm going to start this article with "well, September is with us again", which indeed it is. But I'm also going to look back over the last few months at one particular event which has, and will continue, to take place in many of the fantastic green spaces around this vibrantly green city, and that is the 'BioBlitz'.

So, what is a **BioBlitz**? In short, it is an intense period of biological surveying in an attempt to record all the living species within a designated area. Generally, a BioBlitz will be conducted within a specific timeframe of 24-48 hours. Organisers want the general public, schools and children to get involved. These events are fantastic opportunities for everybody to engage with green spaces and learn the importance of them and the diverse array of nature and wildlife within them. It helps people to have a better understanding and a greater respect for the vulnerable wildlife within these environments and the world in general. They are manned and organised by unpaid volunteers, and they are free!

There are many BioBlitzes throughout the year in Bristol. Many groups and organisations run these events. They are an essential means to gather vital information which, when collected and collated, then goes to local records offices, where it is available to any interested parties.

Experts are on hand to answer your questions. Scientific equipment is available, and a wealth of information passed around which will hopefully encourage visitors to have a greater understanding of our natural world. Believe me, you do not need to watch television to see nature at its best. It's already there - and in your own back yard!

At these BioBlitzes, schoolchildren and youngsters are encouraged to get involved with wildlife. This is fantastic, because it's a cheap hobby. It's a good way of getting exercise and good, clean, fresh air. It has huge educational value, and is a fun way to engage with a vitally important, interesting and fascinating topic.

I believe that, over the years, many of us have lost contact with wildlife and nature. I'm not sure why, but we've become disengaged from it, and it seems to have become an elitist's pastime! I always live in hope that if you can educate the child, then the child will educate the adult - their parents.

These events are there for all to enjoy, including the family pet. I often hear from people who attend BioBlitzes and I notice myself, when walking around parks and wildlife reserves, the good old friendly family pet: Patch the Jack Russell, Sid the Spaniel, Poppet the Pomeranian and Truffles. Truffles has a pedigree as long as your arm, a fine

thoroughbred history. Related to lines of well-bred and distinguished dogs, Truffles is as unruly as any of the finest mongrels that she is distantly related to. It seems as soon as the family arrives, Truffles is 'let off the leash'. Well, we know what comes next!

Squirrels shoot up trees faster than a ferret up a drainpipe, birds are chased, and all manner of creatures worried and stressed. In some instances, I have heard of dogs actually catching these creatures with an unpleasant end result.

So why do we allow Truffles and her mates to behave in this unruly manner? Responsible dog owners and wildlife lovers will keep their dogs on a lead or let them run around on a field area. Of course, family events mean family events, and our beloved pet is part of the family. BUT, please let's keep them under control and not allow them to destroy or upset the wildlife that, as humans, we are trying to protect.

So here endeth my lesson. Go out, take advantage of and enjoy these marvellous events. Take home the knowledge that you gain from them, but please keep Truffles on her lead to no longer hassle or torment the fantastic and beautiful wildlife that is there for us all to admire and enjoy.

Steve Shepherd

It's Back!

The Friends of Troopers Hill

Family Fun Dog Show

Sunday 11th October

Troopers Hill Field **Registration from 1.30pm**
Malvern Rd BS5 8JB **Judging from 2pm**



All classes free
to enter

Classes:

- 1) Handsomest Dog
- 2) Prettiest Bitch
- 3) Cutest puppy
- 4) Best rescued dog
- 5) Best Child Handler
(12 and under)
- 6) Waggiest Tail
- 7) Best veteran (10 and over)
- 8) Best "Bristol Green Capital"
fancy dress dog (and owner)



Rosettes
to 3rd place



Please keep your dog on a lead when not competing and clean up after them. You are responsible for your pet at all times.

For directions and latest information: 0753 161 5983



Friends of
Troopers Hill

Supported by a Wellbeing Grant from



St George
Neighbourhood Partnership



BRISTOL
CITY COUNCIL



Highcroft
VET GROUP

Seven new trees for Troopers Hill Field?

As part of Bristol City Council's One Tree Per Child tree planting project, which aims to have every one of Bristol's 36,000 primary school children planting at least one tree, it has been suggested that 7 new trees are planted in Troopers Hill Field. There would be 6 new cherry trees planted between the existing cherry trees that grow near the beech hedge on by the tarmac path on the west side of Troopers Hill Field and continuing to finish at the south west corner of the Field near the Malvern Rd entrance. A single hornbeam would be planted to restore the avenue of hornbeams that runs along the east side of the Field near the allotment fence. The proposed sites of the trees are shown in the photo by this article, marked as A and B.



If planted the trees will be "whips", that is very young trees just over a metre tall. They would be staked and enclosed in cages to protect them. If anyone would like to have a larger, sponsored or memorial tree of the same species instead, you will be able to pay Bristol City Council to do this once the plan is approved. More about tree sponsorship on www.bristol.gov.uk/page/environment/tree-bristol-sponsorship

Are you in favour of this planting scheme? If you have any comments for or against this proposal please contact Bristol City Council's Tree Officer, Josie Sadler on 0117 922 3719 or email treebristol@bristol.gov.uk. If approved, planting will be carried out this winter as part of a special tree planting event.

Susan Acton-Campbell

Dates for your Diary

Work Parties: Saturdays 3rd Oct, 7th Nov, 5th Dec and 9th Jan 10am—midday. **New meeting point: Entrance from Troopers Hill Field to Troopers Hill, by red slide.** Help us look after Troopers Hill. Gentle exercise and a bit of a laugh over some coffee.

Meetings. Thursdays 10th Sept, 12th Nov. 7.15pm, Summerhill Methodist Church, 5 Air Balloon Road. Come along and share your views on our Local Nature Reserve.

St George Strollers: Wed 7th Oct: **Pocket Parks.** Meet Old Market Island bus stop, 10.30am. Tue 20th Oct: **Partnership Walk.** Meet Pile Marsh bus stop, 9.15am. Fri 23rd Oct: **Weavers Mill to Troopers Hill and back.** Meet corner of Blackswarth Rd, by Weavers Mill, 10.30am. Tue 10th Nov: **Haunted Bristol.** Meet bus stop opp Aldi, Church Rd, 7pm or the Cascade Steps, the Centre, 7.30pm. Wed 25th Nov: **Kingswood Deer.** Meet Aldi, Church Rd 10.15am. Mon 7th Dec: **Discover the Dings.** Meet Lidl car park, Lawrence Hill, 10.30am. Thurs 17th Dec: **Christmas Walk and meeting.** Meet Summerhill Methodist Church, 10.30am. Bring Christmas fare to share.

Walks: (Booking essential—see Contacts panel) Sunday 4th Oct, 10am: **Looking at Lichens.** Join expert David Hill to look at an important aspect of the Hill's ecology that is often overlooked. Sunday 1st Nov, 10.30am: **Fungi Foray.** Join John and Doreen Bailey in a hunt for mushrooms and toadstools on Troopers Hill. Sunday 29th Nov, 2.00pm: **Geology Walk.** Join expert Andrew Mathieson exploring the geology of Troopers Hill.

Slide Show Review of 2015, Thurs 3rd Dec, 7.15-9.00pm. Summerhill Methodist Church, Summerhill Rd. Join us to find out more about what FoTH have been up to this year, followed by refreshments and a chance to chat.

Contacts

For the latest news and updates, phone our **Information line 0753 161 5983**

If you'd like to talk to us, please contact **Susan Acton-Campbell (Chair) Tel. 0117 947 5037**

You can also write to us at

3, Corkers Hill, St. George, Bristol, BS5 8DT

friends@troopers-hill.org.uk

www.facebook.com/TroopersHill

Or tweet us at

www.twitter.com/troopershill

To book a place on an event,

Phone Judith 0117 955 9819 Or email

events2015@troopers-hill.org.uk

Walking for Health (St George Strollers)

Contact Kit Elliott 02036405867

strollers@troopers-hill.org.uk

To report incidents on Troopers Hill, phone Bristol Parks 0117 922 3719

Report criminal activity to the police on 999 or Police local beat manager, Pete Crawford. He can be contacted via the Police non-urgent phone number 101 **Shepherds Way** is on BCFM, 93.2FM, every Wednesday from 6-8pm, and available online at

<http://bcfmradio.com/shepherdsway>

www.troopers-hill.org.uk