

Meeting Cancelled due to Coronavirus (COVID-19)



Update sent by email 2nd April 2020

From Susan Acton-Campbell,
Chair of Friends of Troopers Hill

Hello everyone,

I do hope you, your friends and family are safe and well.

Unsurprisingly, but with apologies for taking so long to formally, directly advise you of this, Friends of Troopers Hill meetings are postponed until further notice.

Quickly running through the minutes of our last meeting (many thanks, Adam)

<http://www.troopers-hill.org.uk/minutes/Min300120.pdf>

the only necessary updates are listed below using the section numbers used in the minutes:

2a) Paths - sadly, but sensibly, work has come to a halt on Troopers Hill Field. We hope the work will be progressed as quickly as possibly once we are through this difficult time. The main funders are being very helpful so at the moment it does not look as if we will lose our grant funding, which had a looming expiry date.

2b) The John James Bristol Foundation have not granted funding for our Wild Play and Natural Learners project. However this is what I wrote to Amy of Natural Learners, who put the application together for us:

"Sadly they have said "no" but I think you will be pleased with their feedback about the application (see attached). Very well written, Amy.

In the current circumstances it may be a bit of a blessing in disguise. I think I mentioned in another email exchange, maybe just with Amy, that there was another source of funding that might be possible. I will see if I can track that down. When we all have more headspace and are clearer about what is happening we may be able to plan another application and have it ready to fire off when we are prepared and the opportunities are available."

Margaret and I had a really useful meeting with the Hive. Notes attached.

2c) Protecting Nature Project - I have written the end of project report for the National Lottery Heritage Fund. We managed to spend 90% of the amount agreed as funding so don't need to draw down the final 10% because costs of the fencing and gates were considerably cheaper than anticipated, as we used a local firm who did not need a compound, and I allowed for 5% contingency. We did, as per the minutes, get agreement to use money left at the time of our last meeting to follow up on Richard's suggestion. However today I have been told by the Lottery that according to the figures we have presented, we owe them about £9,000. Don't panic - I believe this is because I failed to include the expenditure of monies

given to us by other funders which made up the match funding for the whole project. This will be sorted out shortly.

3a) Conservation work - winter works - much of the winter works was done however Covid-19 has meant they have not been completed and are unlikely to be for this year. Susan to make a list and when it is appropriate to raise this with Parks she will do so.

Action (1) Susan

All work parties, events and meetings are currently postponed.

4a) The slide and public art

A GoFundMe appeal <https://www.gofundme.com/f/a-new-red-slide> was launched in February and attracted £229. This, minus the percentage GoFundMe takes should now have been transferred to our bank account. I am not expecting more funds to come in during this period of uncertainty so intend to mothball the project until we come out the other side. We have had a lovely oil painting of the slide donated to us by Redfield artist Oliver Sidaway which would usually be priced at around £300. He wanted us to use this to raise funds for the slide. Image on <https://tinyurl.com/v2muakb>. When it is appropriate I will either launch a sealed bid auction for the painting, having set a reserve, or take up a better idea. Please do let me know your ideas - please do not say raffle, unless you understand the law concerning this and will do all the hard work to organise it and the necessary volunteers ;-). Probably sounds a bit more negative than intended but we have had some experience of what hard work it is and the law is quite complicated.

Action(2) Everyone to think about ideas for raising money from the painting.

4b) Brownie wildflower planting suspended due to Covid-19. Huge thanks though to Freya for putting in a lot to planning this and for coming up with the idea in the first place. Also to Susan Barker of the RHS (Royal Horticultural Society) who came out, at short notice, to give Freya advice on what and how to plant and wrote a really excellent note summarising her advice. While we are going to miss the planting season the knowledge has now been collated so it can be done next year. FoTH tools (spades and forks) are currently in Freya's custody until it is safe to retrieve them.

4c) Soil and water testing - I reported the results in an update to our membership which can be read on

<https://mailchi.mp/65c25716731e/new-slide-for-troopers-hill>

5. Art Competition - I am delighted to say that this competition could have been designed for current conditions. You can read how we have publicised the fact it is still on via this link

<https://mailchi.mp/85387cb2ee09/troopers-hill-and-the-art-competition-are-both-open>

6. Events

6b) 25th Anniversary - I have failed to investigate Fabian's suggestion of having the Bristol City Poet Vanessa Kisuule write a poem. This might actually be a good time to ask her. I will carry that action over.

Action (3) Susan

6c) St Aidan's Community Fair - this was cancelled due to Covid-19. Display boards and materials for Friends of Troopers Hill and St George Strollers are in Adam's custody until it is safe to retrieve them.

6d) Sadly we had to cancel the planetarium shows, which would have been fundraisers for the slide. We are fortunate in that Mario Di Maggio, owner of Immersive Theatres, is happy to offer another afternoon of free shows at a mutually convenient date when we are in a situation when this will be a safe and viable event.

7a) Networking

The history talk Rob gave for the Barton Hill History Group, on the topic of Troopers Hill, was absolutely packed. It was much enjoyed and Rob has given the donation that arose from the talk to Friends of Troopers Hill.

The date of the next meeting is currently Thursday 25th June, 7.15pm, in the back room of Summerhill Methodist Church, 5, Air Balloon Rd, BS5 8LB. Please await confirmation of that date.

If anyone is not on our free membership emailing list they can add themselves via www.tinyurl.com/fothmail

A particular thank you to Margaret who has been doing a lot in her Treasurer role with both Strollers and FoTH, particularly checking my figures with the Lottery grant and covering the friends@ email address during the short period Rob and I were away in early -mid-March.

Stay safe and well everyone and thank you so much to everyone contributing to our safety.

Best wishes,

Susan

The image is a black poster with white and green text. In the top left corner is the HM Government logo. In the top right corner is the NHS logo. The main text on the left reads 'CORONAVIRUS STAY AT HOME SAVE LIVES' in large, bold, green and white letters. To the right of this, the text says 'The only reasons to leave home are to:' followed by two bullet points: a green checkmark for 'shop for basic necessities, pick up medicine, travel to work when you absolutely cannot work from home and exercise once a day - alone or with members of your household.' and a red X for 'Do not meet others, even friends or family.' In the bottom right corner, there is a green-bordered box containing the text 'CORONAVIRUS STAY HOME PROTECT THE NHS SAVE LIVES'.