



# Events 2007/8

Autumn/Winter



# Newsletter

Autumn/Winter 2007/8

**Events** — FREE but **BOOKING IS ESSENTIAL**. To book your place email: [sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk) or call 922 44 29

All walks are taken at a gentle pace, although they may involve steps, steep slopes or muddy paths (ring for details). Sturdy footwear is recommended.

## NOVEMBER

### Owl Prowl – Manor Woods Valley

Thursday 22nd November, 7pm to 9pm

Join expert Ian McGuire on an exciting night-time hunt for owls.

Meet at St. Peter's Rise in Bishopsworth (behind the library). Please bring a torch.

### Owl Prowl – Badock's Wood

Tuesday 27th November, 7pm to 9pm

Join expert Ian McGuire on an exciting night-time hunt for owls.

Meet at Doncaster Road in Southmead. Please bring a torch.

## DECEMBER

### Through the seasons walk – Troopers Hill

Friday 7th December, 10.30am-12 noon

Join Rob Acton-Campbell of the Friends of Troopers Hill on a guided walk to discover Troopers Hill in winter. Learn all about the history of this fascinating area of Bristol.

Meet at the end of Malvern Road in St George

### Owl Prowl – Narrowways

Thursday 13th December, 7pm to 8.30pm

Join expert Ian McGuire on an exciting night-time hunt for owls.

Meet beside the church (climbing centre) on Mina Road, St Werburghs. Please bring a torch.

## FEBRUARY

### Birds and Beasts – Northern Slopes

Saturday 16th February, 12pm to 4pm

Bird box and bird feeder making, plus your chance to have a go at wooden creature creation. Make a box for the Northern Slopes for free or take one home for £3. Lots to do for all the family.

Meet on the site near Kenmare Road entrance, next to the Cloverdown building (Knowle West).

### Bird Bonanza – Narrowways

Sunday 10th February, 1pm to 3pm

Bird box and bird feeder making.

Meet on Narrowways Hill – access from beside the church (climbing centre) on Mina Road, St. Werburghs.

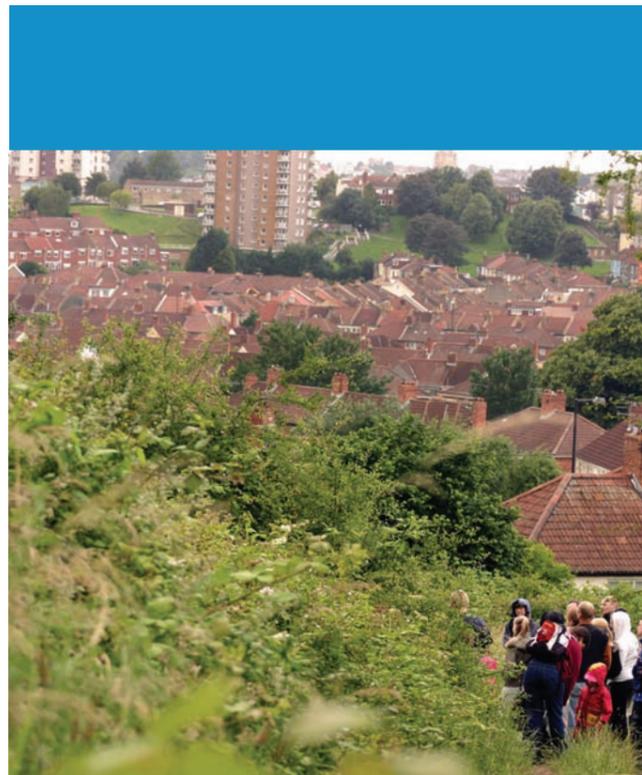
## MARCH

### The Geology of Troopers Hill

Sunday 2nd March, 10.30am to 12pm

Take a trip back through prehistoric time with geologist Eileen Stonebridge as we explore the rocks beneath our feet at Troopers Hill.

Meet at the end of Malvern Road, St. George.



Walkers at the Northern Slopes. Photo by Sean Tutton



Ian McGuire with Barn Owl at the Raptor Ramble Event, Northern Slopes. Photo by Sean Tutton



Making Bird Cakes at the Northern Slopes, Wildflower Walk at Narrowways, Pond-dipping at Eastwood Farm

## Wild Walks in Summer Showers

In spite of the summer showers, lots of people ventured out to discover Bristol's amazing wildlife. Almost 1000 people turned up to 32 events organised by the Nature in the City Project this year.

At the Northern Slopes we made bird boxes and bird cakes, explored trees and herbal folklore, learnt about owls and went out after dark in search of bats. At Eastwood Farm families had a go at pond-dipping and a hardy audience braved the rain to enjoy hearing poems about plants!

At Troopers Hill we heard the story behind the famous chimney, went bug hunting and took in the wonderful sight of the purple heather in bloom. Manor Woods Valley played host to a Minibeast Magic Event as well as tree gazing and bat detecting walks.

Geology, history, wildflowers and birds were all explored at Narrowways, whilst at Badock's Wood we showed off our wildflower meadow and went in search of early morning birdsong in spring.

Turn to the back page to find out about winter wildlife events on offer.

**FEATURES:** Inside – local nature reserve news  
Back – wildlife events for Autumn/Winter 07/08



# Features



# Features

## Local Nature Reserve News



There are many open spaces and local nature reserves in Bristol to visit: for more information on how to find them visit, [www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk](http://www.avonwildlifetrust.org.uk) or [www.bristol.gov.uk/parks](http://www.bristol.gov.uk/parks)

### → If you go down to the woods today....

The lovely woodland walk through Manor Woods has been given a new lease of life recently thanks to funding from Yansec and Bristol City Council. This popular route through the wood was prone to becoming muddy and hazardous after rain. The Malago Valley Conservation Group were successful in raising the funding for the new path which is now open for everyone to enjoy.

To visit Manor Woods Valley, take the entrance from St. Peter's Rise or Vale Lane in Bishopsworth.



### ← Sowing the seeds of the future

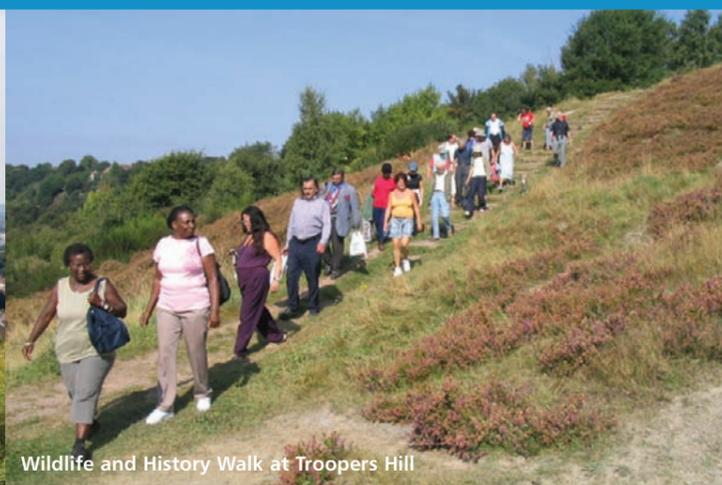


This September children from Badock's Wood Primary School in Southmead sowed an incredible 15 million seeds to create a new wildflower meadow at Badock's Wood. This is the second meadow to be sown on the site. The first was created in 2005 with stunning results. For two summers in a row the meadow has been a riot of colour, with over fifty types of plants delighting visitors to the nature reserve.

The Friends of Badock's Wood were keen to build on this success and funding for the second, larger, meadow was secured from Awards for All. We look forward to seeing the results next summer!



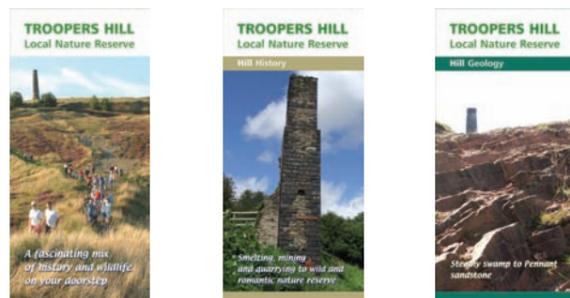
Troopers Hill Green Flag Award



Wildlife and History Walk at Troopers Hill

### ↑ Flying the Flag for Troopers Hill

Bristol Parks and the Friends of Troopers Hill are delighted at the award of a Green Flag for this wonderful Local Nature Reserve. The Green Flag Award is the national standard for parks and green spaces and is a means of highlighting the best green spaces in the country.



Troopers Hill general, geology and history leaflets.

Three new leaflets about Troopers Hill are now available. Contact Bristol Parks on 922 44 29 to order your free copies of the Troopers Hill general, geology and history leaflets.

### Badock's Wood on CD!

An audio guide to Badock's Wood, featuring interviews with experts on archaeology, birds, trees and the river, as well as people with local knowledge of the woods, has been produced by the Nature in the City Project. All the interviews were conducted by Year 6 children from Badock's Wood Primary School with the help of Avon Wildlife Trust.

For a free CD of the guide, please contact Sally Oldfield on 9224429 or email: [sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk](mailto:sally.oldfield@bristol.gov.uk)

### ↓ Giant Butterflies spotted on Narrowways

Young people from St Pauls Adventure Playground showed off their colourful creations in a butterfly parade at Narrowways in St Werburghs. The children made the butterflies from willow and tissue paper in workshops run by Nature in the City and Avon Wildlife Trust. After the butterfly parade the children enjoyed wild games and minibeast hunting.



### ↓ Connecting with nature

Nature in the City helps school children to enjoy the outdoors and learn about wildlife on their doorstep.

This summer children from Connaught School in Knowle visited the Northern Slopes to learn about minibeasts and trees. Broomhill Junior School children went pond-dipping at Eastwood Farm and spotted herons and swans on the lagoon.

At Manor Woods Valley, 250 school children took part in "Booted Up Bristol" fieldwork activities. The children explored the wildlife of the woods and the river as well as solving clues on a nature trail.

Nature in the City has enabled 500 children in total to explore their local environment this year. Partner organisations working on these projects include Avon Wildlife Trust, Living Rivers and the City Learning Centres.

