

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

The Friends of Troopers Hill

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆



March 2006



Benefiting the Environment

Landfill Loot!

Friends of Troopers Hill have excellent news for our first newsletter of 2006. Last year we applied for money from landfill sites. YANSEC (Yanley and North Somerset Environment Company) are a non-profit making organisation that receives contributions from landfill operators to finance projects to improve the environment of parts of North Somerset and Bristol. YANSEC, which is substantially funded by Viridor Credits, have agreed to give us £2,910.

This money will fund a path to provide wheelchair access from Troopers Hill Field to the chimney at the

top of the hill and three benches. We hope to have the work completed for July. We will be paying contractors to lay the path and arranging workshops for Friends and a youth group to make the benches. Finally, Friends and others with mobility problems will have the chance to enjoy the wonderful views from the top of Troopers Hill.

Thank you to Sally, our Local Nature Reserves Officer, who helped us to prepare the application. A condition of the grant is that we have to obtain 10% of the funding from a third party and we are extremely grateful to Bristol Parks who have agreed to provide that funding.

Susan Acton-Campbell.

Friends of Eastwood Farm

Eastwood Farm was farmland but was purchased by the council as a landfill site in the 1970s. Landscaping has resulted in the beautiful open space bordered on one side by watermeadows and the River Avon.

Swans, Kingfishers, Buzzards, Squirrels, Rabbits, Herons, and many more have been sighted and you may even see our 'Parkie', Julian Thomas who is a mine of information on the wildlife.

The Friends of Eastwood Farm was founded in 2003, and aims to improve the site and prevent anti-social behaviour problems. Working parties are held throughout the spring and autumn.

Meetings are held every three months in the meeting room above the Co-op store on Broomhill Road, starting at 7.15pm and everyone is welcome. Please contact Sally Oldfield first as we sometimes have to change the venue. Our next meeting will be the AGM on Tuesday 11th April, 2006.

The Farm can be accessed by road from Whitmore Avenue in Broomhill and by foot from Wyndham Crescent and Eastwood Road.

Work Parties

We were pleased to see four new faces at our regular first Saturday of the month event in January to tackle some more bramble. We then held an extra work party two weeks later to plant a new hedge at Greendown. This event brought the total volunteer time worked on the hill at work parties to over 500 hours.

The hedge was included in the Action Plan for 2008, but as Bristol Parks offered to fund the purchase of the plants this year we brought it forward. The hedge will form an effective but attractive boundary that will avoid the need to replace the fence and is mostly hawthorn, blackthorn and hazel, with some holly, field maple and dog rose mixed in.

The weather was superb, bright and sunny and mild for January. 18 people attended the morning session and enjoyed planting over 350 plants; Only a short length was left to complete in the afternoon.

Another good turn out in February spread mulch along the hedge and cut more bramble.

The astute amongst our readers will have noticed that it's been 3 months since our last newsletter. That's because we have been busy delivering our Events leaflet to all the homes in the area. Many, many thanks to all the volunteers who helped distribute it. If you haven't received one and would like to do so, please let us know.

It was with regret that friends decided to drop involvement in Troopers Hill field on Malvern Road. A meeting was held to see if there were enough people interested to take on the task. Sadly only 4 people turned up and Friends had to decide that although we were keen to support a willing team, we don't have enough resources ourselves to do so.

We didn't have space in the last issue to mention our new web chat forum. You can access it through the website and we are very keen for you to share your views about Troopers Hill or any other issues you want to bring up for discussion. We'd love to hear from you.

Win yourself a family sized tin of Quality Street! Return our survey or fill it in online and we will add you to the draw for the prize. Closing date 17th April.

We are now offering coffee, tea and biscuits at our work parties, so you can stay and have a chat before going home. Please come and join us – you might even enjoy it!



This edition of The Hill has very kindly been sponsored by Jason Fordham, a local Electrical contractor. He can be contacted on 07753 6013621 or 0117 971 3132 for Safety testing, Fire Alarm Certification and Installation and Maintenance.



Bird Box Builders at Work

The weather was superb, the activities fun, the turnout great and Troopers Hill and Crews Hole Woodland benefited from 10 donated bird boxes.

Sally Oldfield, was able to obtain funding from Bristol Parks to pay for an event to celebrate National Birdbox week and encourage an interest in birdlife. This subsidised the provision of over 30 birdbox kits and help for adults and children making bird boxes and feeders. It also paid for the materials for other craft activities such as making bird masks, taking rubbings of birds, making bird mobiles and using the outline of your hands to make and decorate your own "hand" bird swinging on a perch.

Many thanks to all the volunteers who turned out to prepare the craft activities and then spent Saturday afternoon putting up 3 gazebos, selling drinks and helping children. The last of the bird boxes were put up in Crews Hole woodland as dusk fell over the hill. Luxury family apartments now available for nesting tits and robins!

A New Life for Troopers Hill

As it looks down on the River Avon,
Troopers Hill provides a nature haven,
For myriad butterflies, animals, birds,
With its history written in many words.

When Cromwell's army to Bristol laid siege,
This wide, grassy hill met the Troopers' needs,
Then came the brass works, later Butler's tar,
Making goods and oil products, in peace and war.

This nature reserve provides a green lung,
Where morning songbirds happily give tongue,
But keeping bracken and brambles under control,

On willing workers can take a heavy toll.

A flight of wooden steps down the hill,
To the curving path, invites walkers still,
With fences repaired and a new wooden seat,
Sometimes deer come on their dawn, twilight beat.

It's an evening stroll for red urban foxes,
Fun for children sliding in cardboard boxes,
With a new hedge planted and plans galore,
Who knows what improvements lie in store?

Molly Setter, January 2006

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 18th March: Troopers Hill Exhibition. 2—5pm, Wesley Memorial Church Hall.

Saturday 1st April: Work Party on the hill. 10am—midday. Meet at corner of Troopers Hill Road and Greendown.

Wednesday 5th April: Meeting. 7.15—9.00pm. Wesley Memorial Church Hall.

Friday 14th April: Good Friday Service. 11.00am onwards. On the Hill, by the Chimney

Saturday 6th May: Work Party on the Hill. 10am—midday. Meet at corner of Troopers Hill Road and Greendown.

Sunday 7th May: Dawn Chorus Walk. 6.30am. Meet at the end of Malvern Road.

Thursday 18th May: Meeting. 7.15—9.00pm. Wesley Memorial Church Hall.

CONTACT US

If you want to talk to us about issues raised in this newsletter, or anything else, please contact:

Susan Acton-Campbell (Chair)

Tel. **0117 947 5037** or write to

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

email: chair@troopers-hill.org.uk

Sally Oldfield (Bristol Council Local Nature Reserves Officer)

Tel. **0117 922 4429**

email:

sally_oldfield@bristol-city.gov.uk

or

Post a message on the new Forum at:

www.troopers-hill.org.uk

IF YOU DON'T ASK....

Liz, one of our Friends, found out that her employers have a scheme that will give money to causes nominated by their employees. She asked and was given £100 for Friends of Troopers Hill. Thank you, Liz. If you have similar schemes where you work and would like to help us, please contact Susan if you need information to support an application.

By the way, if any wheelchair users do not have the correct key for the kissing gates on Malvern Rd and Summerhill Terrace leading to Troopers Hill Field, please contact Susan.

Stop Press Stop Press

Our chair, Susan Acton-Campbell, was nominated by Sally for a "Women Who Make a Difference" award. We've just received great news: she is indeed a winner. We don't yet know what the actual award will say but expect to hear more in our next edition. All of us would like to say a big "Very well done" to Susan.

No More Books Please

Sixty pounds went to the bank,
For all your books we you do thank.

But now that books no longer sell,
We have to say that "we did well."

So now we bring this to a close,
Please give your books to another cause.